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EDITORIAL

Red Lines Do Exist; Once Crossed, There Won't Be a Second Chance

Jan. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—If you breathed a sigh of relief after last week's Ramstein Air Base meeting, because it did not succeed in pressuring Germany to send Leopard tanks to Ukraine, and that therefore tensions in the war against Russia had somewhat abated, better think again.

The disheveled vulture Boris Johnson swooped into Kiev this morning in a surprise visit to bolster the Nazi government there by pronouncing that “this is the moment to double down, and to give the Ukrainians all the tools they need.” He also denounced the German government of Olaf Scholz for failing to authorize tank deliveries. On cue, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock publicly announced a policy directly contrary to what Chancellor Scholz had established for his government, saying that Germany would allow Poland to send Leopard tanks to Ukraine if only they asked.

Last week, on Jan. 18, BoJo had provocatively advocated for crossing all of Russia's red lines, including a direct attack on Crimea and even entertained the option of a nuclear exchange with Russia. “If Russia were to use a nuclear weapon... the West, I'm afraid, will be obliged to launch retaliatory action of one kind or another... From the point of view of the ordinary Russians, it would be an absolute catastrophe.” He added that “we aren't talking about a nuclear confrontation between NATO and Russia,” and that even if the Russians were annoyed, “the probability of a nuclear attack was low.”

In response to such insanity, Russian leaders continue to speak out in the clearest terms. Deputy Director of the National Security Council Dmitry Medvedev warned yesterday that, since Ramstein showed that “our enemies will try to maul or even destroy us endlessly... a new military alliance may appear at a certain point in time” to take on the Global NATO apparatus. A day earlier, [Vyacheslav Volodin](#), the Speaker of the Russian

State Duma, stated that “deliveries of offensive weapons to the Kiev regime will lead to a global catastrophe. If Washington and NATO countries supply weapons that will be used to strike civilian cities and attempt to seize our territories, as they threaten, this will lead to retaliatory measures using more powerful weapons... Given the technological superiority of Russian weapons, foreign politicians making such decisions need to understand that this could end in a global tragedy that will destroy their countries.”

Volodin concluded with cold precision: “Arguments that the nuclear powers have not previously used weapons of mass destruction in local conflicts are untenable. Because these states did not face a situation where there was a threat to the security of their citizens and the territorial integrity of the country.”

In light of this, Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche drew the only sane conclusion possible, in a conversation today with American colleagues. “Red lines *do* exist,” she emphasized. We are currently in a countdown either to a nuclear showdown or to a new international security and development architecture, she stated, and the window of opportunity to resolve the crisis will not stay open forever. Contrary to what the majority of our fellow citizens believe, she said, history is not a Hollywood soap opera where there’s always another episode at hand.

At the same time, an entirely new financial and economic system based on real physical-economic development is being built to replace the bankrupt trans-Atlantic financial empire. And that, Zepp-LaRouche asserted, is the real bone of contention that has driven Global NATO into an all-out war mode against China and Russia.

President [Vladimir Putin](#) again posed the outlines of such a new system in a speech to the heads of state of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), posted on the Kremlin site on Jan. 23. “We propose that efforts be pooled in the development and implementation of cutting-edge scientific and technical solutions in the leading economic sectors,” for the EAEU nations

and others interested in working with them, such as Egypt, Iran, India, Indonesia and the U.A.E., Putin stated.

Leading Russian economist [Sergey Glazyev](#) elaborated on the need for a radical global shift, in a series of recent articles, calling for “the creation of a new international settlement currency instead of the current IMF reserve currencies,” and added: “Russia, together with its eastern and southern partners, has a unique chance to ‘jump off’ the sinking ship of the dollar-centric debt economy, ensuring its own development and mutual trade in the accumulated and extracted strategic resources.”

The upcoming Feb. 4 international Schiller Institute conference, “[The Age of Reason or the Annihilation of Humanity?](#)” will deliberate on both the war danger, and the economic and cultural policies needed to resume Mankind’s proper role in the universe. As President [John F. Kennedy](#) stated in his famous Commencement Address at American University on June 10, 1963: “Nuclear powers must avert those confrontations which bring an adversary to a choice of either a humiliating retreat or a nuclear war. To adopt that kind of course in the nuclear age would be evidence only of the bankruptcy of our policy—or of a collective death-wish for the world.”

- Watch [Harley’s Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday January 24, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

NEW WORLD PARADIGM

Putin Addresses EAEU, Eurasian Economic Union Should Be Major Player in Emerging New Multipolar World

Jan. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) should become a powerful pole of the emerging multipolar world, Russian President [Vladimir Putin](#) said in an address to the EAEU heads of state published on the Kremlin website on Jan. 23.

“Our close integration has become a worthy answer to such global problems aggravated by the pandemic and illegal sanctions imposed by a number of countries as poverty, climate change and a deficit of resources, including the most important ones—food, water and energy. Obviously, the Union has every opportunity to become one of the powerful, independent, self-sufficient poles of the emerging multipolar world and serve as a center of attraction for all independent states that share our values and seek to cooperate with the EAEU,” Putin said.

“We propose that efforts be pooled in the development and implementation of cutting-edge scientific and technical solutions in the leading economic sectors, such as car and chemical industries, transport machine building, microelectronics, aircraft building, ship building, pharmaceuticals, digital ecosystems, alternative energy, agricultural machine building, bio technologies and seed production.”

The development of “seamless, safe international transport corridors that connect EAEU member states acquires a special significance nowadays” was another challenge to the EAEU, said the Russian President, adding implementation of free trade agreements with third countries like Egypt, Iran, India, Indonesia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Economist Glazyev Writes, Russia Needs a Strategy of Total Victory Against the West’s Hybrid Warfare

Jan. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—In a lengthy Jan. 13 article published on *BusinessOnline*, the prominent Russian economist [Sergey Glazyev](#), Commissioner for Integration and Macroeconomics of the Eurasian Economic Commission—the EEC is executive body of the Eurasian Economic Union—warns that in the Ukraine situation “the transition to a long trench war ... is fraught with disaster for the Russian world.” He proposes that Russia shift to a war-winning strategy, which requires among other things addressing the economy’s Achilles heel of continuing capital flight and links to the international speculative financial system.

Glazyev lays the blame for this destructive policy squarely on the Bank of Russia and its head Elvira Nabiullina (although he never mentions her by

name), for facilitating the continuing looting of Russia through the export of capital, sabotaging President Vladimir Putin's stated intentions. He goes so far as to charge that "the NATO war against Russia is paid for by the Bank of Russia."

The picture Glazyev paints is stark.

"Following the seizure of more than \$300 billion in reserves, the leadership of the Bank of Russia continued to condone the export of capital, the volume of which exceeded \$200 billion last year. Of this, \$150 billion are payments abroad authorized by the monetary authorities on the debt obligations of Russian enterprises. Basically, in the jurisdiction of unfriendly countries that have begun to confiscate our foreign exchange reserves in order to use them to pay off military loans to Ukraine. Is it possible to win a war with an enemy many times superior in financial power by supplying him with money received from the export of raw materials to his own address?" Glazyev asks bitinglly.

"The cumulative outflow of capital and the seizure of foreign exchange reserves through the fault of the leadership of the Bank of Russia... last year exceeded half a trillion dollars, which is many times more than the entire defense budget of Russia. Taking into account the fact that the NATO countries officially declared the beginning of the procedure for the confiscation of this money in order to finance the costs of repaying loans issued to Ukraine, we have to state that the NATO war against Russia is paid for by the Bank of Russia. Moreover, this is being done contrary to the political will of the state, formulated in the spring decrees of the President to stop the export of capital to unfriendly countries and introduce the full sale of exporters' foreign exchange earnings."

As he has in the past, Glazyev also attacks the central bank's failure to provide credit to critical areas of the productive economy.

"In parallel with the connivance of the export of capital abroad, the Bank of Russia continues to block lending to the growth of industrial production, by setting the key interest rate excessively high and by unacceptable loan terms for machine-building enterprises. The capacity

utilization in the manufacturing sector has barely reached 50% for many years... Import substitution is proceeding extremely slowly. The export of natural resources is reoriented from West to East instead of increasing the depth of processing and production of finished products in Russia.”

He concludes that the world situation is ripe for a total change. “All more or less sovereign countries have stopped accumulating reserves in dollars and are rapidly switching to settlements in national currencies. This entails an avalanche-like collapse of the U.S.’s ability to finance a world war, which is based on a monopoly on the issuance of world currency. Trillions of previously printed dollars are returning to the U.S., causing a massive wave of inflation. And the actual refusal of external creditors to buy U.S. Treasury bonds entails their imminent bankruptcy or hyperinflation due to the collapse of the U.S. debt pyramid scheme.” Russia, Glazyev argues, must lead in bringing about international agreements for “the creation of a new international settlement currency instead of the current IMF reserve currencies and on cybersecurity. The first agreement would lead to the collapse of the American-centric financial system and would deprive the United States of the main source of superpower—the monopoly on the issue of world money.”

Argentine and Brazilian Presidents Sign Strategic Agreements To Enhance Bilateral and Regional Integration

Jan. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—Argentine President Alberto Fernández welcomed his Brazilian counterpart Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva to Buenos Aires today for a day of bilateral meetings and signing of an 82-point joint declaration outlining the multiple areas in which the two nations intend to revitalize their cooperation. There was great enthusiasm and anticipation from the Argentine side about the Lula trip, which took place on the eve of the Jan. 24 heads of state meeting of the 33-nation Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, which Lula will also attend.

As Lula stated after the two leaders had finished signing several agreements, “today we are recovering a relationship that should have never been broken.” Under the 2018-2022 Brazilian government of neocon

President Jair Bolsonaro, the bilateral relationship was badly damaged, as were Brazil's relations with CELAC —Bolsonaro withdrew from it—and with other Ibero-American integration organizations. Lula and Fernández have vowed to resuscitate the Union of South American Nations (Unasur) and revitalize the Common Market of the South (Mercosur), but there was no mention of the BRICS during their public discussions—despite the fact that Argentina has formally applied for membership in the five-country group (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).

Following a personal bilateral meeting this morning, Lula and Fernández were joined by their foreign and finance ministers and each other's ambassadors to finalize details on the specific agreements to be signed. Relevant ministers signed Letters of Intent for bilateral cooperation in the areas of defense, science and technology, health, economic and financial integration, energy, education, culture and Antarctic cooperation. In a joint document signed by the two Presidents and published in the Argentine daily *Perfil* Jan. 22, the two also emphasized that reindustrializing their economies, building joint infrastructure projects and cooperating in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in the space sector were high priorities.

Prior to Lula's visit, there had been much media speculation about whether Lula and Fernández would be discussing creating a common currency to boost trade and reduce reliance on the dollar. Asked about this by the *Financial Times*, Argentine Finance Minister Sergio Massa said there would first be a decision “to start studying the parameters needed for a common currency, which includes everything from fiscal issues to the size of the economy and the role of central banks. It would be a study of mechanisms for trade integration. I don't want to create any false expectations...it's the first step on a long road which Latin America must travel.” Initially, this would be a bilateral project and then eventually offered to other Latin American nations, he explained.

Glazyev Proposes ‘Golden Ruble 3.0’

Jan. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—In a Dec. 27, 2022 op-ed in *Vedomosti* co-authored by Russian economists Sergey Glazyev and Dmitry Mityaev, the authors make the case for using gold to protect the Russian financial system as it “jumps off” the bankrupt dollar-based system and helps establish a new international financial architecture. “Russia, together with its eastern and southern partners, has a unique chance to ‘jump off’ the sinking ship of the dollar-centric debt economy, ensuring its own development and mutual trade in the accumulated and extracted strategic resources,” Glazyev and Mityaev write. Their article was reprinted in English by “[Russia Posts English](#),” the same day.

To do that, the current shift into trade based on non-dollar “soft” currencies is a necessary step, but Russia is in danger of building up reserves in currencies that are themselves subject to market-induced devaluations. Therefore, Russia should “sterilize” these growing reserves by buying, and producing, large quantities of gold.

“The tough sanctions blockade has created the necessary prerequisites for a 180-degree turnaround in Russian foreign trade. The main foreign economic partners are the countries—members of the EAEU, China, India, Iran, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, etc. And with each of these countries, the Russian Federation has a trade surplus.... This surplus was taken out of the country (at the same time, half went to pay off the external debts of Russian companies with their replacement by domestic ruble lending) and is reflected in the balance of payments item ‘net capital outflow.’ ”

Russia now has to deal with “the accumulation of multibillion-dollar cash balances on the accounts of Russian exporters in ‘soft’ currencies in the banks of the above partner countries... This money is also subject to exchange rate and possible sanctions risks, it becomes necessary to sterilize their excess mass. The best way is to buy non-sanctioned gold...”

Glazyev and Mityaev elaborate: “Russia’s transition in relations with friendly countries to trade in national currencies is the right tactical

decision, but not a strategic one. If pricing continues in dollars on Western exchanges, trade flows are insured by British companies, then there is no real decoupling from the Western ‘distorting mirror’—derivative pricing systems.”

South Africa Warmly Receives Russia’s Foreign Minister Lavrov

Jan. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov was warmly received on his visit to South Africa on Jan. 22, holding extensive discussions with South African Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor, and being received by President Cyril Ramaphosa. In his discussions with Mrs. Pandor, they dealt with regional and international issues, both being supporters of a “more just, inclusive, democratic, polycentric architecture of the world order, which would be based on the main principle of the UN Charter,” as Lavrov expressed it.

The two discussed cooperation in a variety of fields. According to Lavrov, they are working to intensify preparations for the 17th meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation which will be held in Moscow. There they will discuss cooperative efforts in energy, including nuclear, scientific and technological cooperation, transportation and other infrastructure, and the peaceful exploration of space. They also discussed the development of the BRICS which is under South African chairmanship this year, and made preparations for the second Russia-Africa Summit which will take place in St. Petersburg at the end of July.

At their [joint press conference](#), he was also asked about “neocolonialism” practiced by the Western powers. “In characterizing the current situation in the world, Russian President Vladimir Putin did indeed mention the revival of neocolonial policy. Or rather, not even a revival. It never disappeared. The ‘collective West’ is conducting it not only in relation to the developing world. What is being done with respect to the Russian Federation is an attempt to introduce elements of neo-colonial policy. The same applies to other large states, in which the Americans are

constantly trying to create problems by imposing their own illegitimate sanctions.” Lavrov replied.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

Boris Johnson Deploys to Kiev, Again

Jan. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—Yesterday, former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson paid a “surprise” visit to Kiev. “Former Prime Minister Boris Johnson has added to the pressure on Germany to authorize tank deliveries to Ukraine during a surprise visit to Kiev,” reported the *Daily Telegraph* of London. “He said ‘this is the moment to double down, and to give the Ukrainians all the tools they need’ after touring the bombed suburbs of Ukraine’s capital. Mr. Johnson, whose firm support made him highly popular in the country, was greeted by Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy outside his presidential office. In a video, Mr. Zelenskyy thanks Mr. Johnson for Britain’s aid as the two sit face-to-face in a gilded conference room.”

The story includes a clip of Johnson greeting Zelenskyy, and shaking hands with a receiving line of 8-10 advisors/government officials, and his statement that the U.K. will stand by Ukraine all the way. The *Telegraph* plays the visit as a slap at Germany over stalling the delivery of Leopards (and cites reports of Jake Sullivan and Austin tense reprimands to the Germans). The *Telegraph* reports on discussions in the U.K. over whether Prime Minister Rishi Sunak approved the trip. (Note: The trip was likely also to ensure the Ukrainian government does not flinch).

Two Governments in Germany

Jan. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock (Greens) has shown herself openly in favor of Poland supplying Leopard tanks to Ukraine. “If we were asked, we would not stand in the way of that,” Baerbock said in an interview with French broadcaster LCI on Sunday, referring to the so-called end-use controls. At the same time, she stressed, “We have not been asked so far.”

The fact that Baerbock opened her mouth that way reflects that there are presently two governments within the German government: one comprised of Chancellor Olaf Scholz and his Social Democrats, who are against pressing ahead with even more weapons deliveries to Ukraine; and the other one with the two coalition partners, the Greens and Free Democrats, that are with the warmongers. Charging the latter two with irresponsible “blathering away,” Social Democrats’ Bundestag group leader Rolf Mützenich reminded them that the final decision on weapons will be made by the Chancellor. (Mützenich’s name is included on the Ukrainian presidency’s CCD hit list.) New Defense Minister Boris Pistorius said the same, and added that a decision to send Leopard 2 tanks to Kiev may be made at some time in the future, but not now.

Medvedev Suggests That a New Military Alliance May Form To Oppose Anglo-American War Drive

Jan. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—Former Russian President and current Deputy Chairman of the Russian Security Council [Dmitry Medvedev](#) added a new element, yesterday, to Moscow’s warnings against NATO pumping up Ukraine as a proxy against the Russian Federation. “The Ramstein meeting and heavy weapons supplies to Kiev leave no doubt that our enemies will try to maul or even destroy us endlessly,” he said on his Telegram channel, reported TASS. He said he had come to two conclusions about that.

Firstly, “it would be very difficult,” Medvedev said. Secondly, “in the event of a prolonged conflict, a new military alliance may appear at a certain moment in time, comprising those countries who will be annoyed with the Americans” and their allies, he added, referring to the history of long wars. According to him, the world will become a stable place again when the United States abandons Europe and “what will be left from poor Ukrainians, unless it is too late.”

U.S. Congressmen Demand That U.S. Send Abrams Tanks to Ukraine To ‘Unleash’ Flow of Leopard Tanks

Jan. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—In Washington, two leading members of the U.S. Congress are demanding that the Biden Administration send U.S. Army M1

Abrams tanks to Ukraine as a way to supposedly break the logjam blocking the sending of German-made Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine. “If we announced we were giving an Abrams tank, just one, that would unleash” the flow of tanks from Germany, Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX), Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, claimed during an appearance of ABC News’ [“This Week with George Stephanopoulos.”](#) He added that “What I hear is that Germany’s waiting on us to take the lead.”

Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE), on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a close ally of President Joe Biden, also spoke up for the U.S. sending Abrams. “If it requires our sending some Abrams tanks in order to unlock getting the Leopard tanks from Germany, from Poland, from other allies, I would support that,” Coons said.

Bulgarian President Warns Ukraine War Could Go Nuclear

Jan. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—The Anglo-American drive for nuclear war against Russia is being opposed by at least two of the so-called front line states—Bulgaria and Hungary. Bulgarian President [Rumen Radev](#) said in an interview with Darik Radio yesterday that sending weapons to Ukraine is like using gasoline to put out a fire. “I cannot accept the position that the war in Ukraine is a war of values, when the greatest value is peace and human life,” he said, reported the English-language news site Bulgaria Posts English. “Giving arms means putting out the fire with gasoline, agreeing that there will be many more victims and accepting the position that the war must be waged until the complete collapse of one side, which inevitably and gradually pushes us towards a global conflict with the possibility of nuclear self-destruction.”

“I continue to defend my position that Bulgaria should not send weapons to this conflict,” the President said. According to him, anyone who defends the opposite position must not only know the deep political and historical roots of the conflict, but also present an analysis of the risks and consequences of such a decision both in terms of our armaments and socio-economically. Radev said that with the calls to achieve “peace

through war” we are flying headlong towards Orwell’s dystopia *1984*, and its motto that “War Is Peace.”

Sweden Lets Racist Burn Koran at Turkish Embassy, Erdogan Tells Stockholm To Forget NATO

Jan. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—Speaking on Jan. 22 in response to the Koran burning during a demonstration in front of the Turkish Embassy, and lack of Swedish governmental reaction, Turkiye’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said, “You’re letting terrorist organizations run amok, and then expecting to join NATO. It’s not going to happen,” he said.

The Koran-burning was carried out by Rasmus Paludan, the leader of the Danish far-right party Hard Line. Paludan, who also has Swedish citizenship, has made a point of going around Sweden burning the Islamic holy book, and reportedly denounced Islam and immigrants in his hour-long diatribe before the Turkish Embassy last week. “If you love members of terrorist organizations and enemies of Islam so much and protect them, then we advise you to seek their support for your country’s security,” Erdogan remarked. Turkiye had already canceled the Jan. 27 planned visit of Sweden’s defense minister to Ankara, summoned Sweden’s ambassador the hate crime, and strongly condemned the religious assault.

COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

Lula Feeling the Pressure from London and Washington To Go Slow

Jan. 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—The London *Financial Times* did not disguise their pleasure at hearing the words of Brazil’s new Finance Minister Fernando Haddad, who told them on the sidelines of the Davos conference last week that the incoming Lula government in Brazil will be “tempering the pace” of economic reforms that he had promised during the elections, and which the City of London and Wall Street fear. These include Lula’s commitment to reverse the privatization sell off of Brazil’s crucial state-run companies—such as Petrobras with its huge pre-salt oil deposits—and to launch infrastructure and other development projects geared to reducing the country’s terrible poverty. Lula had also campaigned on the promise that

Brazil would return to intense involvement with the BRICS and their emphasis on joint economic development project.

Haddad was open about the fact that the change was a result of the Jan. 8 insurrectionary attacks on the Presidential Palace and other government buildings in Brasilia, by mobs associated with former President Jair Bolsonaro.

Haddad said the riots showed that “the opposition to Lula will be made of extremists,” and that will have an impact on the “political calculations” made by Lula. “What might happen is that the speed of the implementation of our program will need to be considered very carefully, especially at the beginning, so as to avoid being the target of fake news and rioting,” Haddad told the *FT*.

Haddad also announced that Brazil has asked its partners in the BRICS to delay its rotating presidency in the group from 2024 to 2025, arguing that Brazil is also scheduled to head the G20 and Mercosur in 2024, and that it would be too much of a burden. Observers question if that is the real reason for the request, especially since other countries, such as India, have used similar multiple presidencies to very good, combined effect.

Lula will be engaging in intense diplomacy following his current visit to Argentina. On Jan. 30 he will receive German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. On Feb. 10 he will travel to Washington to meet with President Biden. Haddad stated that the priorities of the Lula government will be: “In the first place, work for peace. The world wants to bring about peace, but you have to work to achieve that.” Secondly, “we have to take advantage of Brazil’s experience and that of other countries to put an end to hunger.” His third priority, Haddad stated, is the defense of the environment and promotion of a green economy.