

## EIR Daily Alert Service

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- Two Sides—The Choice for the Future Is Now
- Hungary President Had Meetings on Ukraine Peace Talks, at the Vatican with Pope Francis, in Kiev with Zelenskyy
- Iran’s Negotiations with NDB Resume after Six Years
- Character of the Expanded BRICS as Commodity Producers
- Is the ‘Global North’ Starting To Become Economically Isolated?
- U.S. Navy Commander in Manila Growls That Chinese ‘Aggression’ Must Be Confronted
- Zelenskyy Dreams of Ukraine Being Like Israel—a Lifetime in Strife
- China’s Tokamaks Keep Pacing International Fusion Power R&D
- India Is on the Moon Thanks to Fossil Fuels
- U.S. Still Trying To ‘Deal’ Saudi Arabia Away from BRICS
- Not a Thaw, but Less Acrimony in U.S.-China Economic Talks with Gina Raimondo

## EDITORIAL

### Two Sides—The Choice for the Future Is Now

Aug. 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—We are in the period in which the direction of history will be decided. Following the breakthroughs of last week—the BRICS expansion, NDB promise for development credit, India’s Moon landing—the world has before it an historic choice. There is the side of the BRICS: progress, science, justice, peace and a future. Or there is the side of the current collective West: decadence, colonialization, warfare and worse.

In this evaluation put forward today by Schiller Institute founder and leader Helga Zepp-LaRouche, she made the point once again, that the goal of the Schiller Institute is to succeed with collaborators, so that the Global North will join the side of humanity. Her international Appeal from Aug. 20 is circulating, “[Appeal to the Citizens of the Global North: We Must Support the Construction of a new Just World Economic Order!](#)”

The upcoming Schiller Institute international conference will be the opportunity for dialogue on these strategic matters. It is the weekend of Sept. 9, online, with registration open now, on the theme, “[Let Us Join Hands with the Global Majority To Create a New Chapter in World History!](#)”

Following that, on Sept. 21, the UN International Day of Peace, there will be actions around the world, with a focus on the demonstration at the United Nations in New York City.

The contrast between the “two sides” is dramatic. On the side represented by the Aug. 22-24 summit of BRICS heads of state and government, the BRICS-Plus, the China-Africa Leaders Dialogue, and the Aug. 23 landing on the South Pole of the Moon by India’s Chandrayaan-3 mission, there is now another achievement representing benefit to all humanity: Exciting new fusion energy R&D results have been achieved by China, another BRICS member.

It was announced yesterday that the Huanliu-3 (HL-3) tokamak in Sichuan Province has achieved for the first time the desired high-confinement mode (H-mode) of operation, with a stable plasma current of 1 million amperes. This current, 1 mega-ampere, is the minimum plasma current required to achieve nuclear fusion. It is the threshold towards achieving the level of plasma current at which a tokamak reactor could run and produce net power.

The other, dark side facing humanity is that presented by the West, with its self-imposed decline in energy availability, social breakdown, warfare and war economy. Today’s Western economic system is monetarism and speculation at the expense of people. There are no missions for the common

good—projects for infrastructure, space, science—inspiring the young and serving the population now and in the future. Instead, there is only living-for-the moment, bizarre entertainment, induced self-fixation (body decoration, gender flux, novelty, “fashion”) to the point of madness, dope and death.

Zepp-LaRouche outlined the case of Germany, her homeland, which is in drastic economic contraction, from falling electricity supplies, to railway malfunction, to decline in basic manufacturing and agriculture production. There are double-digit reductions in core industrial output of chemicals and machine tools. On Sept. 27, the leaders of these sectors will have a crisis meeting with Chancellor Olaf Scholz to demand emergency action. They want drastic changes to reduce energy prices, and the end of the crazed green regulations, and more.

It is time to get things straight. The Western news blackout and distortion of the significance of the BRICS and scientific advances by India and China are in large part, to prevent the populations in the West from knowing anything, because they would be ready to join in with the initiatives of leadership for a better life and future. The info-wars coverage in the U.S. capital of last week’s world-class BRICS events by the *Washington Post* is indicative and grimly ludicrous. After burying the “story” of the BRICS proceedings in South Africa inside the back pages, the *Post* then ran a ridiculous article crafted by a Bloomberg hack, “BRICS Shows It’s Little More Than a Meaningless Acronym,” lying that “Their doings and sayings ranged from the semi-farcical to the meaningless.”

The truth is, as Zepp-LaRouche put it today, the BRICS process is the “motor for the future,” and there is great excitement about it among the Global Majority. We need to connect everyone with that optimism. It’s time to go all in.

There is one additional event of note last week, concerning initiatives to stop the threat of nuclear war from the persisting Global NATO provocations. The President of Hungary Ms. Katalin Novák had a number of important meetings on what can be done to get peace talks started for

Ukraine. She visited at some length with Pope Francis at the Vatican Aug. 25, on the efforts to get talks going. This follows President Novák's visit to Kiev two days earlier, where she spoke to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on this. On Aug. 21 she conferred in person on the necessity for peace talks with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, during his visit to Budapest. There is no detailed, dramatic outcome, but the diplomacy is important.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday August 29, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

## NEW STRATEGIC & ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

### **Hungary President Had Meetings on Ukraine Peace Talks, at the Vatican with Pope Francis, in Kiev with Zelenskyy**

Aug. 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—President of Hungary Ms. Katalin Novák was received at the Vatican by Pope Francis on Aug. 25, where they discussed, among other topics of common interest, actions for ending the Ukraine combat. Two days earlier she had been to Kiev, and met with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the same topic. On Monday, Aug. 21, she received Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Budapest, and media reports indicate the leaders spoke about what can be done for ending the Ukraine warfare.

The Holy See statement on her meeting with the Pope said, “The conversation proceeded with a focus on the war in Ukraine, with special reference to the humanitarian situation and efforts to end the conflict.” Following her discussion with the Pope, Novák met with Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin.

RT reported Aug. 26 that President Novák told the Italian newspaper *Il Messaggero*, after she had met with the Pope, that she “remains convinced that we are now closer to carrying out the project that we talked about with the Pontiff during his last trip to Budapest four months ago.” She said, “I

absolutely agree with Pope Francis even if I'm not in a position to make a public announcement that there is a concrete peace plan.”

In April, the Pope told reporters in Hungary that he had talked with the Hungarian President and others, saying, “There is a mission on course now but it is not yet public. When it is public, I will reveal it.” Also at that April meeting were Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and Metropolitan Hilarion, Metropolitan of Budapest and Hungary, of the Russian Orthodox Church.

In Kiev on Wednesday, Aug. 23, President Novák attended the Crimea Platform, which is a yearly summit Zelenskyy initiated in 2022 to increase diplomatic pressure against Russia, over Crimea's affiliation with the Russian Federation.

### **Iran's Negotiations with NDB Resume after Six Years**

Aug. 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mehdi Safari reported Aug. 25, after having met on the sidelines of the BRICS summit with New Development Bank President Dilma Rousseff and her staff, that Iran has restarted negotiations to join the NDB. These negotiations had been suspended when they were about to begin, in 2017, at the time of the “extreme” punitive financial and economic sanctions imposed on Iran by the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump. Iran is one of the six new invitees to join the BRICS group of nations, whose five original members, Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, established the NDB in 2015.

The *Tehran Times* reported Aug. 26 that Safari invited Rousseff to visit Iran “so that the country can have a share as a new member state in the bank, and utilize its potential to finance projects.” The *Tehran Times* added that “the parties appointed their representatives to pursue the membership of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the New Development Bank.”

### **Character of the Expanded BRICS as Commodity Producers**

Aug. 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—Two experts from the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Gracelin Baskaran and Ben Cahill, published an

analysis, “[Six New BRICS: Implications for Energy Trade](#),” on Aug. 25 which included the expanded BRICS’ capacities in various important commodities.

Regarding lithium, “The addition of Argentina would position BRICS with three of the five largest lithium producers in the world, alongside China and Brazil...” they wrote. “An expanded BRICS would have 72% of rare earths (and three of the five countries with the largest reserves). The expanded bloc would also hold 75% of world’s manganese, 50% of the world’s graphite, 28% of the world’s nickel, and 10% of the world’s copper (excluding Iran’s reserves)....

“Iran is a good example. The country has significant amounts of critical minerals, including the largest zinc reserves in the world and the second-largest copper deposit in its Sarcheshmeh mine. However, Iran has been unable to mobilize investment to increase production due to rigid economic sanctions.... This grouping will likely get some investment flowing into Iran.”

Regarding oil and gas, the expanded BRICS would include four of the world’s largest oil exporters (Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iran, and the U.A.E.) and its two largest importers (China and India). The level of potential trade will be a strong driver for shifting to national currencies of the two importers—as the CSIS analysts put it, “mechanisms to trade commodities outside the reach of the G7 financial sector.”

## COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

### Is the ‘Global North’ Starting To Become Economically Isolated?

Aug. 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—[Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud](#) made the nation’s statement on Aug. 24, upon receiving its invitation to join the BRICS. The minister expressed Saudi Arabia’s respect for the BRICS and appreciation for the invitation, about which Saudi Arabia will decide by the end of 2023. The Foreign Minister’s statement noted that total bilateral trade between Riyadh and BRICS countries

exceeded \$160 billion in 2022. That makes an interesting comparison with U.S.-Saudi trade in that year, which totaled \$25 billion.

The statement quoted Prince Faisal as having “praised the distinguished strategic relationship between the Kingdom and the BRICS group, and His Highness said, ‘The distinguished strategic relationship between the Kingdom and the BRICS group strengthens the frameworks of common principles, the most prominent of which is the firm belief in the principle of respecting the sovereignty and independence of states, non-interference in their affairs, adhering to the principles of international law, settling disputes by peaceful means, and keenness on maintaining international peace and security, and adopting the best multilateral diplomatic frameworks in order to achieve optimal cooperation and effective common development.’” He vowed that the Kingdom would continue “to be a safe and reliable source of energy supply from all sources,” and “expressed the Kingdom’s pride in being the largest trading partner of the BRICS group in the Middle East, as the total bilateral trade with the BRICS countries exceeded \$160 billion in 2022.”

China and other Asian nations right now see their trade with Europe—especially with Germany and the northern European nations—falling sharply due to European economic contraction, while with the United States, whole sections of trade are being shut off at the American end. Whereas two years ago, container ships from Asia piled up at U.S. West Coast ports with huge pandemic backlogs of ordered goods, now the Singapore Strait is filled with stalled container vessels out of the South China Sea, whose cargoes, above all to Europe, are being “blanked,” or cancelled.

U.S. consumer goods imports dropped by 17% in the second quarter of 2023, compared to the previous year. Imports from U.S. “allies”—Taiwan, South Korea—fell along with those from China. U.S. manufacturing and industrial production also fell.

## STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

### **U.S. Navy Commander in Manila Growls That Chinese ‘Aggression’ Must Be Confronted**

Aug. 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—Vice Admiral Karl Thomas, the commander of the U.S. 7th Fleet, during a visit to Manila, declared yesterday that Chinese “aggression” in the South China Sea must be confronted. “You have to challenge people I would say who are operating in a gray zone. When they’re taking a little bit more and more and pushing you, you’ve got to push back, you have to sail and operate,” Thomas told Reuters. “There’s really no better example of aggressive behavior than the activity on 5 August on the shoal,” he added, referring to the incident that day between a Chinese coast guard ship and the Philippine military attempt to supply a grounded naval vessel in a disputed area.

Thomas was in Manila in the context of joint exercises in the South China Sea, running from Aug. 24 to Aug. 31, involving the U.S., Japan and Australia with the Philippines.

Thomas said he had had discussions with Vice Admiral Alberto Carlos, the head of the Philippine Western Command overseeing the South China Sea, “to understand what his challenges are to find opportunities to be able to help him.”

He said, “We certainly shared challenges. So I wanted to better understand how he views the operations that he’s responsible for. And I want to make sure that he understood what I had available.”

### **Zelensky Dreams of Ukraine Being Like Israel—a Lifetime in Strife**

Aug. 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy dreams of his country being like Israel, a state that survives with minimal losses despite being constantly at war with its neighbors. “We are ready to go on fighting for a long time, if we don’t lose people,” he claimed in an interview on Aug. 27 with Rada TV, reported TASS. “We need to minimize losses. Like, for instance, Israel. It is possible to live like that.” The Kiev regime has wasted tremendous amounts of manpower throwing

its forces against the “meat grinder” set up by Russian forces, so much so that the Ukraine “counter-offensive” may soon collapse for lack of reserves, a reality that Zelenskyy seems to have decided to ignore.

## SCIENCE & INFRASTRUCTURE

### China’s Tokamaks Keep Pacing International Fusion Power R&D

Aug. 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—Following by just days after India’s breakthrough in space exploration, landing at the Moon’s South Pole on Aug. 23, China has made another advance in fusion research and development on Aug. 26.

China’s Huanliu-3 (HL-3) tokamak, operated by China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) in Sichuan Province, “realized high-confinement mode operation with a plasma current of 1 million amperes for the first time,” reported [CGTN](#) on Aug. 27, along with other websites such as ECNS. This current, 1 mega-ampere, is the minimum plasma current required to achieve nuclear fusion, and a level of plasma current at which a tokamak reactor could run and produce net power. The HL-3 reactor had reached 1 million amps on CNNC’s predecessor HL-2M tokamak in October 2022, but not with its current degree of plasma stability.

Chinese fusion researchers refer to “H mode,” or high-confinement mode, as the extremely stable, self-confining plasma state achieved first in the Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) at Hefei, which maintained a stable plasma at 75 million degrees for 17 minutes in 2022. In such a stable plasma, temperature and confinement (density) both increase

H-mode is planned as the operating mode for the ITER reactor; but China’s two superconducting tokamaks—supposed to be test beds for ITER—are forging well ahead of it, and essentially replacing it as an R&D platform, due to its delays. As CGTN describes China’s “three-step” technological roadmap for nuclear power development, it is: “thermal neutral reactor” (fusion neutrons for fission breeding); “fast [neutron]

reactor; controllable nuclear fusion reactor,” and commercial fusion power generation by 2050.

Also of interest is the other recent major fusion development, the U.S. National Ignition Facility’s replication this month of its August 2022 breakthrough to net power output in a burning plasma in laser- or inertial-confinement fusion. This time the laser shot generated, reportedly, about 3.75 megajoules of power out, for 2.05 megajoules of laser power applied to the fuel, closer to 2:1 net power output than its shot last year. The results have been reported but not published yet.

### **India Is on the Moon Thanks to Fossil Fuels**

Aug. 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—[Prof. Franco Battaglia](#), a member of the Clintel-Italy group of scientists, argues that India is today able to land a spacecraft on the South Pole of the Moon thanks to fossil fuels. Thanks to coal, which produces 72% of its electricity, India has electrified 100% of the country. Thirty years ago, only half of India’s population had electricity, before the country massively accelerated using fossil fuels, particularly coal. India also produces 5 GW of nuclear-generated electricity, which is not much, “but gives an idea of the country’s intentions.”

Battaglia developed this point in an Aug. 23 posting on the website of [Nicola Porro](#). Battaglia writes: “By tapping its abundant coal reserves, India has embarked on a journey to alleviate energy poverty, spur industrial growth, and improve the lives of millions of people. And this is thanks to coal.

“Electric lighting has replaced kerosene lamps, improving indoor air quality and reducing health risks. It has also expanded educational opportunities, allowing students to study after dark. Daily routines have been transformed as families can engage in activities once limited to daylight hours only. And this is thanks to coal...

“And the percentage is set to rise, whatever Greta Thunberg and her followers may say. In fact, millions of Indians, satisfied with improvements in the economy and proud of the lunar goal, do not give a damn about

Western leaders' hostility to fossil fuels. Not least because India is capable of training first-rate physicists, and scientists in general, who are perfectly aware that fossil fuels have nothing to do with climate.”

## U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

### U.S. Still Trying To 'Deal' Saudi Arabia Away from BRICS

Aug. 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—The *Times of Israel* on Aug. 25 made clear that a deal for civilian nuclear power is the primary bribe with which the Biden Administration is trying, even now, to pry Saudi Arabia away from its major trade and diplomatic relationship with China, and from BRICS membership. The *Times of Israel* story features an Axios report that U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has told Israeli Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer (visiting Washington) that Israel will have to make “significant concessions” to the Palestinian organizations in order to land diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia—another part of this “deal” with which the U.S. is trying to pressure the Saudis.

According to the report, the far right-wing Netanyahu government does not want to offer any such concessions to the Palestinians, and regards its part of the “deal” as simply agreeing that Saudi Arabia can develop a civilian nuclear power program (presumably meaning that Israel won't bomb nuclear power plants, assassinate nuclear scientists, etc.).

The *Wall Street Journal* on Aug. 25 claimed that Saudi Arabia, for its part, is considering a Chinese offer for China National Nuclear Corp. to construct a nuclear power plant in the country, near Saudi Arabia's borders with Qatar and the U.A.E. The U.S. alternative is for Korea Electric Power Corp. to build the two reactors involved, “while incorporating American expertise,” said *Times of Israel*. Saudi Arabia would have to abandon any idea of enriching uranium, which would not be the case with the 20% less costly Chinese reactors.

Obviously Saudi Arabia can acquire nuclear power plants from any one of a number of nations, but wants to maintain its defense agreements with the United States and does not want Israel attacking its nuclear program.

“For its side of the bargain,” wrote the *Times of Israel*, “the U.S. is looking for Riyadh to significantly roll back its economic and military ties with China and Russia.”

### **Not a Thaw, but Less Acrimony in U.S.-China Economic Talks with Gina Raimondo**

Aug. 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—The meeting of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao seems to be proceeding relatively more positively than the recent visits of other American officials to China. Prior to her visit, the United States lifted restrictions on 27 Chinese companies, a measure which was taken as a good will gesture. In four hours of discussions today the two sides have decided to set up a communications group at the vice-ministerial and director level as well as involving business representatives, which will work to deal with specific commercial problems that may arise. There will be meetings twice a year at the vice-ministerial level and the ministers have agreed to meet once a year.

The two sides have also created an export control information exchange mechanism to explain to each other the nature of their export controls. The Chinese Foreign Ministry also announced today measures to make it easier for foreign investors and opening new fields for them. Foreign-invested companies and their research centers will be welcomed to undertake major R&D programs. Foreign investors eligible will be able to set up investment companies and the Qualified Foreign Limited Partnership (QFLP) pilot programs will be further implemented. And foreign-invested companies can have a say in formulating standards in accordance with law.

On the eve of Raimondo’s trip, Chinese media had noted that very little was accomplished in the various meetings that had been held earlier this year among top-level U.S. and Chinese officials, and next to no “deliverables.”