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EDITORIAL

Get Fooled Once, Shame on You. Get Fooled Twice, You Might Not Have a Third

Oct. 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—Over the last several days, Western governments and societies are being lined up behind the defense of Israel in a way that would make even a drill sergeant blush. As U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said when he arrived in Israel today: “We have the back of the Israeli people. We have their back today. We’ll have it tomorrow. We will have it every day.” Even Blinken was outdone by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, however, who laid on the guilt Oct. 12, when he said: “Our own

history, our responsibility arising from the Holocaust, makes it a perpetual task for us to stand up for the security of the State of Israel.”

Within at least Germany, France, Canada and the United Kingdom, any shows of pro-Palestinian sentiment have been declared illegal and violators are subject to arrest. In the U.S., while not as extreme yet, even the most modest pleas for a ceasefire and questioning of Israel’s infallibility are being condemned. And this while Israel conducts a full siege on Gaza, having cut off of all water, fuel, and electricity to the area in addition to a relentless bombing campaign.

Assuredly, the attacks by Hamas against Israel since last weekend have been ugly, and tensions are understandably sky-high. But there is one problem with this lock-step narrative: Which Israel are we being told to support? Which domestic faction, each of which has drastically different views on resolving the crisis, is the correct Israel? As has been noted [by this publication](#) and others, there is an internal battle within Israel, and a tremendous rage against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whom many blame for the deadly escalations. There are many within Israel, who do not believe it is in Israel’s best interests to launch a full-blown attack on Hamas and forever destroy their Arab neighbors. Why is that not being spoken to by Western diplomats?

Therefore, the actual question is: Who wants to corral you into an all-out war in Southwest Asia, and whose interest will that be in?

As with the crisis in Ukraine, this has veered into the domain of geopolitics. The current crisis and ensuing responses have less and less to do with the interests and actors of those nominally on the stage in front of us, and more and more other interests altogether. An unprecedented propaganda campaign is on throughout the world, pulling at people’s heart-strings in order to stampede them into support for more war. This is replete with horrific videos and footage of atrocities that accomplishes nothing other than calling forth the most knee-jerk emotions.

Remember Bucha, Izyum, and Ukrainian orphans? In the same way as is now being deployed with Israel, the headlong dash into a fratricidal war in

Ukraine has left that nation decimated, with hundreds of thousands of its citizens dead. Ukraine's future is bleak, if it and the world even survive the escalating proxy war NATO is waging against Russia. Only a fool would imagine that this is in Ukraine's actual interests.

A true statesman or stateswoman is not bowled over when emotions get heated. Take the comments by French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna, who said on Oct. 11 that an independent Palestinian state is “the only solution, in our view, that will ensure that both peoples [Israelis and Palestinians] live in peace and security for the long term.... When the time comes, we'll have to get back to work to recreate solutions that will enable political dialogue to restore a political horizon and, if possible, bring about peace.”

Colonna was echoed by former French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin, who on Oct. 12 said the two-state solution is “more than ever, today, the only one,” and which is, “in terms of security, the best guarantee Israel could have.” Villepin also emphasized that, in this, “Israel has a responsibility, because it has done everything to divide.”

Stop and consider: How are other governments in the region responding, at whose doorstep the consequences of this war will be left? Are they going flight-forward, and trying to “take sides”? The Arab League convened an emergency meeting on Oct. 11, where their foreign ministers called for an immediate ceasefire, urgent humanitarian aid, and a two-state solution. In addition, a flurry of discussions between the heads of state of Türkiye, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Iran, and Jordan, and likely many others have ensued, all calling for a de-escalation of the conflict and urgent moves for negotiations for the interests of both sides. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, speaking after a meeting of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Kyrgyzstan, said it is also necessary to focus on the “substance of the problem.”

In contrast to this, and to reason, the U.S. has deployed an aircraft carrier group to the region and appears to have sent another Marine unit as well.

Even more humble were the comments of Russian President Putin, who identified the need to have compassion for both sides and recognize that the endless cycle of injustices will never solve the problem. Speaking yesterday at the Russian Energy Week plenary, Putin said: “We understand that the bitterness is immense on both sides, but regardless of its levels, every effort should be made to minimize or reduce to zero the losses among civilians.... You cannot solve the problem in its entirety without addressing fundamental political issues, the main one being the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state with its capital in East Jerusalem,” he said.

However, the solution lies on a still higher plain. As Helga Zepp-LaRouche has insisted, only a new security and development architecture on a worldwide scale, which takes the interests of every nation into consideration, will work to solve these kinds of multi-generational conflicts. It will never be solved within a given region, or the currently failed framework, but only by changing the actual context within which the problem exists in this case a dying oligarchical system, of which geopolitical conflicts in the so-called Middle East are merely an effect.

In a speech at Central Connecticut State University in 2009, [Lyndon LaRouche](#) addressed the problem of Southwest Asia:

“See the Middle East, not as having its own history, but the Middle East as something within the process of history.

“And ... don’t look at the Israeli-Arab conflict. Don’t ignore it, but don’t look at it. Because the conflict is not determined by the Israelis or Arabs. It’s determined by international forces which look at this region. How? As a crossover point between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean, the relationship of Europe to Asia, the relationship of Europe to East Africa, and so forth.

“Therefore, what you’re seeing is that.

“Now, go back and say, where did the British get this idea as they did with Sykes-Picot where did they get the bright idea of keeping the Arab population, and what became the Israeli population, at odds with each other

permanently? Killing each other over land that wasn't worth fighting over, in terms of its quality.

“...And you sit there with despair, and you say, are these people just going to kill themselves into extinction? Kill each other into extinction? What's wrong here?

“Well, somebody's playing them. Somebody's playing and orchestrating the situation....

“We have to move, therefore, from thinking about conflict among nations and regions, to the alternative to conflict, by finding that which unites us through our common purpose, as independent sovereign nations, rather than seeking resolution of a conflict we are now enjoying among ourselves. That's the only chance we have. And when you look at the possibilities for this region, like Southwest Asia, the only chance will come, not from inside Southwest Asia. We will do, and must do, what we can, for that area, to try to stop the bloodshed, the agony, to prevent the war. But we will not succeed, until we change the history, change the world in which this region is contained.”

Next week begins China's Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, where 130 countries will be represented to discuss economic development spanning continents and civilizations. It will be a good place to start to get the world moving to that different plain.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday, October 13, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

Erdoğan Initiates Talks for Release of Israeli Hostages and Ending the Conflict

Oct. 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has launched a negotiation process with Hamas for the release of Israeli

hostages kidnapped by the Palestinian militants, a Turkish official source told AFP on Oct. 11. “They are negotiating to secure the release of the hostages,” the source said, confirming a report by the private TV channel Habertürk.

Erdogan also held talks with Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, United Arab Emirates President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and with Jordan’s King Abdullah II.

Erdoğan was quoted saying that, on behalf of Türkiye, “we are ready to do everything in our power,” including mediation and “fair arbitration” to end the conflict quickly.

Putin Speaks at Russian Energy Week, Ridicules European Policy

Oct. 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—Russian President Vladimir Putin addressed the Oct. 11-13 [Russian Energy Week](#) International Forum yesterday which brought together 4,000 representatives of the Russian and international energy sector. The plenary session was also keynoted by Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq Muhammed Shia Al Sudani who was the first Arab head of government to attend this annual forum.

On the European Union’s energy policy he pointed to Germany’s foolish behavior on Nord Stream 2, saying Russia could supply Germany with 27.5 billion cubic meters of gas annually through the remaining branch of Nord Stream 2, but Germany would rather pay more for gas from other countries. “I believe that this is an economically foolish behavior. It’s like they are intentionally undermining the German economy. I just don’t understand why gas can be supplied to Germany through the territory of Ukraine, but they think it’s impossible to do via Nord Stream 2. Why can’t they offer Poland to open the Yamal-Europe [gas pipeline]? I just don’t understand it,” Putin argued.

He added that it is Europe that refuses to buy Russian gas while Russia is perfectly willing to sell it. He pointed to the fact that Europeans will

continue to buy expensive LNG from the United States at the detriment of their own economies.

During his address, Putin also commented that “the modern political system in [the West] obviously sometimes brings not the smartest people to the top.”

Putin also spoke about Russia’s nuclear power plants, which the international community recognizes as among the safest in the world. “Russian-designed nuclear power plants are actually among the safest in the world, as our experts have devised an infinitely expandable safety system. It can be replicated in larger and larger volumes, as much as you want, it’s only a matter of money,” he said. He explained that Russia invites local companies to work at nuclear power plants, and pointed out that Rosatom is responsible for 80% of nuclear power plant construction worldwide.

More Weapons Earmarked for Kiev Regime

Oct. 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—The Ukraine Defense Contact Group met for the 16th time on Oct. 11, this time in Brussels. U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin announced that Germany will be sending 10 Leopard A1 tanks to Ukraine, along with more air defense capability as part of a \$11.1 billion package, Spain will be providing additional HAWK air defense systems, to include stepped up training support, Sweden is sending a \$200 million package that includes artillery ammunition and Bulgaria is providing support for Ukraine’s S-300 air defense batteries. France will provide more CAESAR howitzers, Austin continued, while the U.K. and Canada will also step up their military support of the Kiev regime.

Not surprisingly, the question of whether the U.S. can support both Ukraine and Israel came up. “In terms of our ability to continue to support both the efforts in Ukraine and the—the efforts in—in Israel as well, absolutely we can do both and we will do both,” Austin claimed. The U.S. can do it, well, because “you know, we are the strongest nation in the world.”

As for the new arms package that the White House announced yesterday, it does not include ATACMS missiles. “I don’t have any announcements on ATACMS to make today,” Austin said, adding that the DOD is focused on what it believes Ukraine needs now.

As for the F-16s, the U.S. is stepping up its involvement in training Ukrainian pilots, but the earliest the planes will arrive is sometime next spring.

At the same time, the Biden Administration announced a new U.S. arms package for Ukraine, the 48th tranche from Pentagon stockpiles since 2021, valued at \$200 million and is mostly made up of air defense, artillery and small arms ammunition.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was also there, attending one of these meetings for the first time. The Associated Press claimed that his presence “underscored growing concerns about cracks in what has been staunch international backing for Kiev in its war against Russia’s invasion, and worries that Ukrainian forces haven’t made measurable progress in the counteroffensive as winter closes in.” And despite his public pronouncements in full support of Israel, Zelenskyy really is worried that it might interrupt the flow of weapons to Ukraine. “Of course, everybody’s afraid, and I think also Russia’s counting on it, on dividing support,” Zelenskyy said in remarks at a press conference with Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo.

De Croo announced during the same press conference that Belgium has committed to supplying F-16s to Ukraine, though the Belgian planes won’t be available until 2025.

Marine Corps Units Ordered Out of Kuwait ‘as a Result of Emerging Events’

Oct. 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—The *Marine Corps Times* reported yesterday afternoon that elements of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), in Kuwait for an exercise, were ordered out early “as a result of emerging events.” Those Marines and sailors, who have been traveling on the

amphibious assault ship USS Bataan and the dock landing ship USS Carter Hall, “are no longer in vicinity of Kuwait,” Capt. Angelica White, a spokeswoman for the unit, told *Marine Corps Times*. They received orders to get back on their ships within 48 hours after disembarking in Kuwait “to prepare for further tasking as a result of emerging events,” White said in an emailed statement. It’s not clear when they left Kuwait, but the spokeswoman indicated that as of yesterday afternoon, they were in the vicinity of Bahrain. She declined to say where they were going.

Their mission would most likely be the rescue of Israeli hostages in Gaza, but National Security Council spokesman John Kirby could not say if any such decision had been made. “We just don’t have enough info to make decisions like that,” he told reporters during a press briefing. “We’re in discussions not only with the Israelis about what hostage recovery could look like but with other allies and partners in the region. There are some countries, like Qatar, that have open lines of communication with Hamas,” Kirby added, indicating that Washington is in touch with Doha about the issue.

As for the USS Dwight Eisenhower aircraft carrier battle group, Kirby would only say “she certainly will be an available asset if needed.”

Israel Imposing Humanitarian Catastrophe on Gaza

Oct. 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—Israeli measures being taken against Gaza will have the effect, perhaps intentional, of collective punishment of the entire civilian population of the enclave. Israeli Energy Minister Israel Katz promised yesterday that there’ll be no water or electricity in Gaza before the hostages are returned. “Humanitarian aid to Gaza? No electrical switch will be turned on, no water pump will be opened and no fuel truck will enter until the Israeli abductees are returned home,” he posted in a tweet on X. “Humanitarianism for humanitarianism. And no one can preach morality to us,” he wrote. Gaza’s only power plant ran out of fuel yesterday and hospitals and the Palestinian Health Ministry warned that hospitals are set to run out of fuel on Thursday, Oct. 12, leading to “catastrophic” conditions.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is warning that without electricity, hospitals will turn into graveyards. Hisham Mhanna, ICRC spokesperson in Gaza, told Al Arabiya TV network that hospitals are already without power and spoke about the grave consequences of the crisis, saying hospitals and healthcare centers are now facing a catastrophic situation.

“Electricity will impact the medical system hospitals and healthcare. Infrastructure is also being damaged, preventing ambulances from reaching hospitals,” Mhanna told Al Arabiya English. “Without power, this may lead to a catastrophic situation.” Speaking of the hospitals, there are critically injured people admitted there, babies in incubators, and patients on oxygen lifelines. “Without power, hospitals will turn into graveyards,” he said. He further emphasized the severity of the situation, as “hospitals are without fuel and food supplies. All hospitals are almost running out of medical supplies.”

Mhanna stressed that “we are about to face a food crisis, fuel crisis, environmental crisis, and, on top of this, a crisis of hope. People are worried about the lives of their children, fearing they may not wake up the next morning. The strikes by Israel are unprecedented, and the people of Gaza are facing an uncertain future.” As the crisis intensifies, the number of internally displaced people within the Gaza Strip is expected to increase dramatically, said Mhanna.

The Israeli NGO B’Tselem has branded Israeli actions in Gaza as war crimes. Karim Jabran, spokesperson of B’Tselem, which documents human rights violations in occupied Palestinian territory, told Anadolu Agency that Gallant’s explicit declaration to cut off water, electricity, fuel, and essential supplies to Gaza amounts to “perpetrating a full-fledged war crime.” He said Gaza consistently relies on daily supplies, and blocking humanitarian aid, medical, water, and electricity assistance to those facing bombardment is another form of homicide and extermination.

Jabran said “one crime can never legitimize another; despite the condemnation of the incident, it does not give Israel the green light to commit war crimes against innocent citizens in Gaza.”

In an earlier statement, the [B’Tselem](#) said a “criminal policy of revenge” was underway in Gaza, and there is “no justification for these actions, which constitute war crimes openly ordered by top Israeli officials.”

“Even in the face of horror and terror intentionally harming civilians, their property and civilian infrastructure is always prohibited,” it said, adding that contrary to what Israeli ministers are implying, “this policy is not new, but has been implemented towards Gaza for many years.”

The Palestinian Health Ministry reported this morning that the Palestinian death toll in Gaza is now up to 1,203, with 5,763 wounded, plus 29 dead and 180 wounded in the West Bank. In Israel, the death toll has reached about 1,300 with the wounded numbering about 3,300.

Putin Urges Calm on the Israel-Palestine Conflict, Calls for Palestinian State

Oct. 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—During the Russian Energy Week yesterday, Russian President [Vladimir Putin](#) detailed developments in Russia’s oil and gas sector, but in the Q&A, made sharp comments on the history and complexities of the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

“Originally, when the decision to create the State of Israel was made, there was at the same time a parallel decision to establish a second state. It was initially about the creation of two independent and sovereign states Israel and Palestine,” TASS quoted Putin as saying. “As we know, Israel was established indeed, whereas Palestine has never been founded as an independent and sovereign state,” Putin emphasized, saying that it was “due to a variety of circumstances.” He added that Israel has used military force to occupy Palestinian lands.

Putin said that the Palestinian problem has continued to fester for decades, and “is very near to the heart of everyone who practices Islam.... This is where life has led; these are obvious things. And people view all

this not only what is taking place now but what has occurred for decades as a manifestation of the injustice that has ramped up dramatically. Why? Because initially, when a decision was adopted on creating the state of Israel, a parallel decision was made on creating a second state.”

Clearly recognizing that there must be a calm and thoughtful approach to resolving this conflict, Putin said: “We understand that the bitterness is immense on both sides, but regardless of its levels, every effort should be made to minimize or reduce to zero the losses among civilians.... We do not know whether the situation will calm down anytime soon, but every effort must be made to this end because expansion of the conflict zone could have drastic effects, including for the energy sector.”

President Putin pointed directly to the U.S. as instigators of this crisis. “Resolution mechanisms exist, but the United States has neglected them over the past few years, choosing to regulate everything on its own. It did not use these mechanisms, instead relying on its efforts to meet the material needs of those living in the Palestinian territories.... You cannot solve the problem in its entirety without addressing fundamental political issues, the main one being the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state with its capital in East Jerusalem. However, this is exactly the bet that was made.” He also blamed the Israeli settlements policy as part of the reason that led to the outbreak.

In an interview on the sidelines of the event, Putin further emphasized the failure of the U.S.’s attempts to manage the region. “The fact that this is a failure is now obvious,” Putin commented to TV channel Al-Ghad, whose anchor Amro Abdelhamid had moderated plenary panel, [according to RT](#). The U.S. “practically moved away from previous international instruments to resolve this problem,” which Russia and others had been involved in, and “practically monopolized the settlement process,” Putin said.

At some point, the Palestinian Authority “had to make a number of quite serious statements and make it clear that it was not ready to agree to the ‘principles’ [the U.S.] proposed,” Putin added.

Overall, he emphasized that the issue is a “complex and very sensitive” one, and everyone needs to refrain from inflammatory statements and minimize casualties among civilians.

Arab League Convenes Emergency Meeting

Oct. 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—Foreign ministers from the Arab League met Oct. 11 in Cairo to call for urgent action to stop the violence between Israel and Gaza. They called for an immediate ceasefire and condemned any violence against civilians. They also called for urgent humanitarian aid. Saudi Arabia is apparently playing a large role, which is angering some in the West because of their refusal to side with Israel.

According to Anadolu Agency, Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit said in his opening speech: “We show our solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza because they face a massacre that must be stopped and condemned immediately.” Gheit also blamed the long-term “clogged political horizon” and the continuous construction of Israeli settlements.

The ministers also called for Israel to meet its obligations for a two-state solution. “The way to guarantee security and stability in the region is to achieve just, permanent, and comprehensive peace that meets all the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people,” the Arab foreign ministers underlined.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita urged international parties “to sponsor real consultations to revive the peace process” and called on the world to develop “a roadmap with practical goals, including a timetable” for negotiations, according to an [article](#) in China’s *People’s Daily*.

NEW STRATEGIC & ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

Brazil, Too, Intends To Develop More Oil and Gas

Oct. 12, 2023 (EIRNS)—Everyone knows the Lula government in Brazil is very vocal in support of a transition to a “green” economy, but that does not mean they are going to give up expanding their oil industry. Energy Minister Alexandre Silveira defends the government’s policy of stepping

up oil and gas exploration, including by allowing exploration off the coast of the Amazon (which ignorant greenies claim is “pristine nature,” rather than a man-made richness).

The *Financial Times* took umbrage at this policy, protesting in a Sept. 27 piece that “in the same week that Lula was telling the UN General Assembly that the climate crisis ‘knocks on our door, destroys our homes, our cities, our countries, kills and imposes suffering on our brothers,’ Silveira was arguing that exploratory drilling in an ecologically sensitive area where the Amazon river meets the Atlantic should go ahead.”

Silveira told the City of London rag: “It’s the right of the Brazilian people to understand their mineral wealth, whether on or offshore.... I don’t see any contradiction between the exploration of oil and gas and the clear, objective, safe and firm decision ... to carry out the energy transition in a just and inclusive way. The reality of the world is that we still need fossil fuels.”

The *FT* grumbled that Brazil is already projected to become the world’s sixth biggest oil producer by 2030 if its current projects are realized, but the Brazilian government plans project that if reserves possibly containing up to 30 billion barrels of oil equivalent are discovered off the Amazon coast, Brazil could become the fourth biggest oil producer behind the U.S., Saudi Arabia and Russia.