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EDITORIAL

Putin's Big Intervention Is More than a History of World War II

June 22 (EIRNS)—We are deep in a multiplying crisis which is threatening the existence of modern nations, and therefore should pay close attention to the lengthy article “75th Anniversary of the Great Victory: Shared Responsibility to History and our Future” published on June 19 in *The National Interest* by Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Russian President reminds us from his own family's recollections, of what it must have been like to find a force of millions of highly armed, mechanized, and highly trained German soldiers storming across every border in June of

1940 and rapidly starting to overrun Russia—and then, through years of unbelievable deprivation and death and determination, to find a way out of that crisis of national existence, eventually to meet American troops at the Elbe River and end the war.

Putin is writing first as a leader whose country has been “treated meanly” by recent outrageous attempts, even from the European Union officially, to blame the Soviet Union equally with Hitler’s Nazis and their backers in Europe for causing World War II. He sets that record straight. Coverage of Putin’s work in American, European, and Australian media has begun to appear, which reports what he shows from the voluminous archives Russia has, on the diplomatic events which led to the war and cost the U.S.S.R. more than 25 million dead.

In *Forbes*, senior contributor James Rodgers wrote on June 21: “Why, 75 years after the end of the conflict, and in a very different world, does this matter so much?”

The first answer is the scale of Russia’s sacrifice. The number of Soviet military and civilian dead is generally estimated to be in excess of 20 million. In his article, Putin writes, ‘Almost 27 million,’ adding, for comparison, that in World War II, ‘The U.S.S.R. lost one in seven of its citizens, the U.K. lost one in 127, and the U.S.A. lost one in 320.’ ” On the “Moon of Alabama” website, largely on military/intelligence subjects, one author wrote: “As a German and former officer who has read quite a bit about the war I agree with the Russian view. It was the little acknowledged industrial power of the Soviet Union and the remarkable dedication of the Red Army soldiers that defeated the German Wehrmacht.... I have found no major flaw with the historic facts in the essay and recommend to read it in full.”

The Associated Press report of Putin’s article quoted his key conclusion: “He expressed hope that a Russia-proposed summit of the leaders of the UN Security Council’s veto-holding countries would take place soon to discuss global security, the economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic and other issues. ‘There can be no doubt that the summit of

Russia, China, France, the United States and the U.K. can play an important role in finding common answers to modern challenges.’ ” Putin’s other, underlying theme: Russia is a nation incredibly difficult to defeat when defending itself; but does not want to wage aggressive war, still less a war against Europe or superpower America.

President Putin’s article directly addresses this crisis of financial crisis and economic decay, pandemic, famine, social chaos and Jacobinism, and the very clearly increasing threat of war among nuclear superpowers. He proposes the leaders of those superpowers meet now, with an agenda of global economic recovery and a global, coordinated offensive against the pandemic, especially now in the developing countries. And, with a sense of what real human history—not political parties—calls on them to do.

We add: Leave out London’s imperialists if you are to discuss either economic development of underdeveloped nations, saving lives from disease, or avoiding war—they’re the worst at all of them. Better, the Four-Power summit Helga Zepp-LaRouche is urging—with leaders of at least America, China, Russia, and India—to launch a New Bretton Woods credit system.

El-Sisi Warns of Possible Egyptian Military Intervention into Libya

June 22 (EIRNS)—The situation in Libya could be coming to a head with a possible military intervention by Egypt. Speaking at an Egyptian military base near the Libyan-Egyptian border, President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi said on Saturday that Egypt would intervene militarily in Libya if there is a direct threat to Egypt’s security. As an act of self-defense, he said, such an intervention would be legitimate under the UN charter and would be approved of by the Libyan House of Representatives in Tobruk. El-Sisi warned forces loyal to the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA), which is now being militarily backed by Turkey, not to proceed beyond the current front line with the Libyan Nation Army, which is under the command of Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar.

This is the first time that el-Sisi has publicly spoken of military intervention in Libya as a possible course of action.

“Those who interpreted our patience for weakness are mistaken,” el-Sisi said on June 20. He further said that if Egypt did militarily intervene, it would withdraw its forces from Libya when its objectives were met.

El-Sisi’s statement follows a call he made this month for a ceasefire in Libya as part of an initiative that also proposed an elected leadership council. El-Sisi earlier said Egypt did not want to intervene in Libya, favoring a political solution, but “the situation now is different.” In an obvious reference to Turkey, el-Sisi said, “If some people think that they can cross the Sirte-Jufra frontline, this is a red line for us.” He continued, “If the Libyan people moved through you [tribal leaders in attendance] and asked us to intervene, this would be a signal to the world that Egypt and Libya are one country, one interest.”

El-Sisi said Egypt could provide tribes with training and arms to fight “terrorist militias” loyal to the GNA.

On Monday, June 22, the Libyan Prime Minister of the Tripoli-based GNA, Fayez al-Sarraj, held a closed-door meeting with the U.S. Ambassador in Tripoli Richard Norland and commander of U.S. Africa Command Gen. Stephen Townsend, according to the Turkish daily *Yeni Safak*. Interior Minister Fathi Bashaga and the military commander of the western region Osama al-Juweili were also present at the meeting. Also on June 21 the Libyan National Army (LNA) announced a no-fly zone around Sirte, said LNA spokesperson Maj. Gen. Ahmed Mismari, who also welcomed el-Sisi’s announcement of being prepared to send in Egyptian forces.

“The area from the As Sultan settlement east of Sirte until the al-Heesa village in the west is being declared a no-fly zone where the flights of any aviation, except for LNA aircraft, are prohibited,” Mismari said in a statement obtained by Sputnik. This is a distance of 200 km.

Turkey, which is calling the shots in Tripoli, said on June 20 that the eastern forces led by Field Marshal Haftar must withdraw from Sirte for a lasting ceasefire to come into force. Also the GNA said it would boycott

next week's meeting of Arab League foreign ministers, at which the Libya issue will be discussed.

Tension between India and China Scuttles Russia-India-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting

June 22 (EIRNS)—A Russia-India-China virtual summit at the foreign ministers' level on cooperation against COVID-19, scheduled for June 23, has been postponed, due rising tension and confrontation between India and China, although both countries have said they wanted to deescalate.

The *Hindustan Times* reported June 21: “A significant change in Rules of Engagement (ROE) by the Indian Army following the Galwan Valley skirmish that left 20 Indian soldiers dead, gives complete freedom of action to commanders deployed along the contested Line of Actual Control (LAC) to handle situations at the tactical level, two senior officers said on Saturday [June 20] on condition of anonymity. The commanders will no longer be bound by restrictions on the use of firearms and will have full authority to respond to extraordinary situations using all resources at their disposal, said one of the officers....”

The paper quoted another commander: “With the changes in the ROE, there's nothing that limits the ability of Indian commanders to take whatever action they deem necessary on the LAC. ROE have been amended to address the brutal tactics being employed by Chinese troops.”

Editor Hu Xijin of China's *Global Times* commented on Twitter: “Indian media reported that Indian army along the border with China had been given ‘complete freedom of action,’ including using firearms in ‘extraordinary situations.’ If true, this is a serious violation of agreement, & the Indian side will pay a heavy price for any such action.”

India's armed forces, according to ANI News Agency in New Delhi, are now asking the government to expedite a \$780 million purchase of new MiG-29 and Su-30 jet fighters from Russia.

U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

National Security Adviser Says U.S. Troops Leaving Germany May Go Elsewhere in Europe and Pacific

June 22 (EIRNS)—Robert C. O’Brien, President Donald Trump’s National Security Adviser, asserts, in an op-ed published yesterday in the *Wall Street Journal*, that the plan to remove 9,500 U.S. troops from Germany was forced by Russia and China.

“To counter China and Russia, two great-power competitors, U.S. forces must be deployed abroad in a more forward and expeditionary manner than they have been in recent years,” he writes at the outset. “This is the main reason the U.S. will reduce its permanently stationed force in Germany from 34,500 troops to 25,000.” O’Brien asserts that while Trump confirmed the plan on June 15, details are still under development and no formal announcement has been made. “Several thousand troops currently assigned to Germany may be reassigned to other countries in Europe. Thousands may expect to redeploy to the Indo-Pacific,” he writes, while “the remainder will return to bases in the U.S.”

“After these redeployments, America will still maintain 25,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines in Germany,” O’Brien said further. “The U.S. relationship with Germany will remain strong, as will American commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It is time, however, for all European nations to contribute their fair share in defending their homelands. Germany has the world’s fourth-largest economy yet spends only 1.4% of gross domestic product on its own defense—despite NATO member countries’ longstanding commitment to a 2% target.”

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

No Fast U.S. Recovery, Caution Reports from Housing and Oil Industries

June 22 (EIRNS)—Last week’s market-boosting chatter about how housing construction and sales were charging back, has been shown untrue. It came

from one large construction company and, as usual, from the American Association of Realtors' chief economist, Lawrence Yun. Today some truth came from the U.S. Commerce Department: Existing home sales fell by almost another 10% from April to May, and were then 26.6% down from May 2019, at an annual rate of 3.91 million sales, which sounds like 2009. Some home sellers withdrew their listings, fearing the (so far small) drop in existing home values which is going on; and mainly lower-priced homes were sold.

Giving a further sign that the spring economic collapse is not turning around, the share of American households not paying rents or mortgages is still 30% in June, according to a firm called Apartment List Survey Corp. The non-payment rate was 24% in April; 31% in May; and 30% in June. There was little difference (just 29% compared to 32%) between mortgage holders and renting households which did not make payments this month.

Then, there is a report on the shale oil/gas industry. The U.S. shale industry is entering a period of "great compression" and could face up to \$300 billion in losses and a wave of bankruptcies, the global accountancy firm Deloitte said in a new study on June 22. The report said challenging oil market and economic conditions could prompt the shale industry in aggregate to impair or write-down the value of their assets by as much as \$300 billion—with significant impairments expected in the second quarter of 2020.

"As a result, the leverage ratio of the industry could increase from 40% to 54%, potentially setting off a chain reaction of insolvencies and restructuring," it concluded.

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Russia Active in Africa Nuclear Industry and Space Expansion

June 22 (EIRNS)—Russia is at the center of two scientific advances in Africa making headlines last week: The launch, later this year, of Tunisia's first satellite, and the development of a nuclear research facility in Rwanda.

The Rwandan Center of Nuclear Science and Technology—which received the official go-ahead from the country’s Chamber of Deputies on June 15—is a project which was first agreed to at the Russian Conference on Africa, held in Sochi, on Oct. 24, 2019. Some 50 Rwandan nuclear scientists are currently training in Russia, partly because there is no domestic infrastructure to support this. As Minister of Infrastructure Claver Gatete explained, “If we do not have skills in such areas, it becomes a big problem. That is why we want to build the prerequisite skills, which requires laboratory and trained people.”

One of the first projects on which Rwandan authorities anxiously have their eyes is food preservation by irradiation. Beyond that, the center is additionally expected to develop an integrated nuclear energy perspective for the entire country that will be beneficial to the advancement of several sectors of the economy, including education, sciences, and industry.

In Tunisia, an AP story highlighted the upcoming launch—now set for November—of Challenge ONE, Tunisia’s first satellite, an agreement reached in July 2019 between Tunisian Telnet and Russian SPUTNIX and GK Launch Services. Challenge ONE will be Tunisia’s first satellite, but if all works well, it is quickly expected to be part of a fleet of 30 small craft.

Africa’s space market is now said to be worth more than \$7 billion, according to the 2019 African Space Industrial Report, with eight countries now having launched a total of 32 satellites since 1998 and three more launched by regional entities. More than 8,000 people are now employed in the African space industry, and discussion is increasing about the establishment of an African Space Agency—a project first raised in 2010—with five countries having already volunteered to host it.

Germany Looking To Revive Magnetic Levitation Rail at Home

June 22 (EIRNS)—In mid-February the German Ministry of Transport commissioned a feasibility study for potential use of maglev systems in urban regions. Sources have said that a maglev route between the city of Munich and the international airport nearby, a project that was abandoned more than 10 years ago because of budget austerity and ecological

opponents, may be revived. At present, the likewise abandoned Transrapid system exists only in a variant developed and tested by the Max Bögl company, which also has ongoing cooperation with Chinese engineers for a system running in the bigger cities of China.

This past Friday, the Christian Democrat party section's board of Berlin voted in favor of a maglev route between the city and the new international airport nearby. Unlike the usual opponents of the technology, who always present allegedly sky-rocketing costs as one of their main arguments, the Berlin CDU has calculated that construction of a maglev system would cost €30 million per kilometer of track, whereas a subway system would cost €200 million per kilometer. Most likely, also for Berlin, the Max Bögl System MBS would run in Berlin, a train that would have a capacity of 127 passengers and run at speeds of 150 kph maximally. After years of delay, the new airport near Berlin will open in October this year. A maglev connection to the city may be available two years later, if the decision to build is taken soon.

Promising COVID-19 Vaccine Production Going into Gear

June 22 (EIRNS)—Production of the most promising anti-COVID vaccine to come through clinical trials is now being ramped up, and shipped from Oxford University's Jenner Institute, where it was developed, to Italy in the next step toward mass production.

Originally ChAdOx1 nCoV-19, and now known as AZD1222, a “seed stock” starter kit from Oxford University was shipped to the Advent firm in Italy—a division of IRBM Group—which has specialized in making quantities of experimental vaccines using adenoviruses, of which COVID-19 is one, *Washington Post* reporters Chico Harlan and Stefano Pitrelli reported yesterday.

Last week, Italy, Germany, France, and the Netherlands struck a deal for 400 million doses of the experimental Oxford vaccine, which, if regulators approve it, would be produced by the Cambridge, U.K.-based pharmaceutical multinational AstraZeneca. That company has also made

similar deals with Britain and the United States, with President Donald Trump supplying \$1.2 billion in funding.

AstraZeneca has also won approval to conduct a trial in Brazil, and is seeking volunteers. Advent will produce enough vaccine for 13,000 people—a sufficient quantity to go beyond the successful early clinical trial phases.

More than 100 labs, universities, and drug companies have begun experiments on a COVID-19 vaccine, but only 11 candidate vaccines have reached the stage of clinical testing. A Chinese biotech firm has reported encouraging results in early-stage clinical trials and is also among the front-runners to crack the vaccine code.

THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

Putin Could Run for New Presidential Term if Russians Vote Up Constitutional Amendment

June 22 (EIRNS)—Russia’s President Vladimir Putin gave an interview to Pavel Zarubin for a documentary film, “Russia. Kremlin. Putin,” aired last night. The documentary was produced by Rossiya-1 television in which he discusses his political future, and commitment to ensuring Russian interests in carrying out Russia’s international foreign policy and cooperation.

As for his political future, he did not rule out running for a third consecutive presidential term. He has so far run twice for two consecutive terms.

“I have not made any decision so far. I’m not ruling out that I will stand for [election] if this emerges in the Constitution. We’ll see,” Putin said. However, he cautioned officials against searching for a successor to him now, saying: “They need to work rather than search for successors.” Elaborating on his warning he continued, “You know, I’ll say absolutely frankly now: If this does not happen [passing a constitutional amendment allowing a third term] then in some two years—I know this from my own

experience—instead of a normal rhythmical work at many levels of power, they will start searching for potential successors.”

On protecting Russia’s national interests he said: “You know, there was a period when Russia, sadly enough, did not dare declare its national interests. The fact that we started doing this in the early 2000s, I’m sure there is nothing unusual, extraordinary or beyond international practice here. It’s just that not all countries have such a privilege—to fight for their interests. There is a huge distance between egoism and protecting one’s own national interests. Because egoism is focusing only on oneself, and protection of national interests also implies searching for mutually acceptable solutions with our partners,” the Russian leader said.

“We started speaking about our national interests—and by the way, this is part of my work, to protect the interests of the country and our citizens. And the protection of national interests also implies searching for a compromise which is acceptable for our partners,” Putin said. “I have always proceeded from this and I keep doing so,” he stressed.

Russia will hold a nationwide vote from June 25 to July 1 on proposed changes to the Constitution, after the April 22 vote was postponed due to COVID-19 epidemic.

- Watch the [**Morning Briefing with Harley Schlanger**](#) on Tuesday, June 23: Every weekday morning Harley will brief you on what you need to know to start your day. Subscribe to the LaRouchePAC YouTube channel and hit the notifications button to be notified when Harley’s briefings are posted. Or you can listen to the audio file on [SoundCloud](#).