

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

Blinken and Pompeo Agree: Death to Syrian Children

March 30 (EIRNS)—The dire situation in Syria is becoming one of the critical junctures in the intensifying battle between the genocidal policies of the British Empire and a new paradigm based on peace through development. After ten years of warfare in Syria, instigated and orchestrated by the Obama Administration with the intention of bombing it

into oblivion, arming terrorists to destroy its social and political structure, assassinating its head of state, and looting its raw materials—i.e., precisely what George W. Bush did in Iraq and Obama did in Libya—the nation is teetering on the brink of Hell. Ninety percent of the population have fallen into poverty (the highest rate in the world). There are mile-long queues for a loaf of bread or a gallon of gasoline, and electricity availability in Damascus is down to three hours a day. Although war-fighting is largely over, millions of refugees are unable to return home, due to unilateral U.S. sanctions which prevent any reconstruction. President Donald Trump's expressed intention to end the illegal and evil war were fully rejected by the Pentagon leaders who supposedly took orders from the Commander-in-Chief. The only reason Syria even survives as a sovereign state is because Russia agreed to intervene, joining in a war against the terrorists and defending the sovereign government under President Bashar al-Assad.

On March 29, the UN Security Council held a forum on the situation in Syria, in which the evil of the war party was on full display. Speaking for war and genocide was Biden's Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who, as Deputy Secretary of State under Obama, advocated all-out war and regime change against Assad. At the UN he had the gall to shed a tear for the "urgent needs of the Syrian people that we've heard described so eloquently today. It's clear that those needs, including having enough to eat, and access to medicine, are not going to be met by the Assad regime." Not a soul at that meeting was unaware that the U.S. sanctions are intended to be certain that Assad is unable to feed his people.

As Col. Richard Black (ret.) told the Schiller Institute conference on March 21, "Sanctions do nothing but attack the innocent, the poor, the helpless! They are the most cruel and barbaric type of warfare that we can wage."

Responding to Blinken was Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Vershinin: "The reaction of Washington and Brussels to the call of the UN Secretary General to ease and lift unilateral sanctions amid the coronavirus pandemic was, on the contrary, to tighten in an unprecedented way the

restrictions adopted—bypassing the UN Security Council—including the introduction of the infamous Caesar Act in June 2020. Unfortunately, the honorable representative of the U.S. and other Western colleagues spoke about a lot of things in today’s speeches but not the U.S. and EU sanctions and their dramatic negative effect on ordinary Syrians.”

How can a nation claiming to be concerned with human rights impose, through sanctions and war, starvation on millions of children in Syria and Yemen? How can a nation which has killed millions of innocent Muslims in order to achieve “regime change” in Iraq, Libya, and Syria, then claim moral purity about Islam by declaring China guilty of “genocide” against the Uighurs in Xinjiang—as both Pompeo and Blinken have done—when any one of their representatives need only travel to Xinjiang to see that it is an utter lie?

There has been a drastic failure of morality in the trans-Atlantic world—failure to counter the pandemic’s course of death, failure of compassion for the victims of their wars and sanctions, failure to address the most profound human rights, those of poverty and starvation, even within their own countries.

The Schiller Institute and The LaRouche Organization are creating the institutional means through which political leaders and concerned citizens can, and must, act to reverse such evil, and inspire the world to restore the dignity of man through international cooperation to restore a love of science, of beauty, of Classical culture and human progress. The Malthusian Green New Deal can, and must, be defeated. Purchase and circulate the pamphlet “The Great Leap Backward: LaRouche Crushes the ‘Green New Deal’ Fraud.”

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Hyperinflaters Powell and Yellen Shown Up by Big Hedge Fund’s Blowout

March 30 (EIRNS)—Mitsubishi Bank joined the ranks of losers today, reporting a modest \$300 million loss in the blowout of Archegos Capital

Management. The event is like the JPMorgan Chase “London Whale” case of 2012: bank operations supposed to be thoroughly regulated and separated by the Volcker Rule—and then one trading office blows out and there is a \$7 billion big bank loss.

Again, from Fed Chair Jerome Powell’s utterly self-satisfied testimony to the Senate Banking Committee March 17: “We actually monitor financial conditions very, very broadly and carefully. And we didn’t do that before the global financial crisis 12 years ago. Now we do.”

The big banks’ risk management, with which Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen declared such satisfaction at the same hearing, is obviously not much in evidence. Eighteen months ago the interbank lending market ran short of liquidity, those banks were not lending leverage to hedge funds, and the Federal Reserve jumped in and conducted vast repurchase operations, then launched QE4 on Oct. 4, 2019, made it QE Infinite on March 7, 2020, and is continuing it indefinitely at \$120 billion/month. The big City of London and Wall Street banks, called primary dealers and hedge funds’ prime brokers, by now have such large reserves and so much liquidity, such a volume of deposits, that they are looking for every conceivable speculation to throw it into, just like the “London Whale” of JPMorgan Chase. They have meanwhile withdrawn credit from the real and even the service economy.

This particular “New York Whale” was a supposedly \$30 billion hedge fund making extremely leveraged swaps and bets on the opening and closing prices of stocks in various exchanges, without even briefly owning the stocks. “Not much risk here,” said Crédit Suisse, Nomura, and other giants like Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley that just managed to pull out of these bets before they blew up. “No risk management problem there,” Powell and Yellen informed the Senate.

China’s market regulators should be given some credit for popping some of the “tech” part of this hyperinflationary bubble recently.

Economic Sanctions ‘Specialists’ a Growing Profession

March 30 (EIRNS)—The economic sanctions scathingly denounced by former Virginia State Sen. Richard Black at the Schiller Institute’s March 20-21 conference as “the most cruel and barbaric type of warfare that we can wage” against nations, has become so central to today’s imperial geopolitical system that being a “sanction specialist” has become a career choice. Such specialists founded their own “professional” institution in 2018, the “Association of Certified Sanctions Specialists,” to help its more than 1,000 current members in 40-50 countries “to network and grow as a sanctions professional,” in a field where “career opportunities abound.”

The [ACSS](#) website defines sanctions as the “deliberate, government-inspired withdrawal, or threat of withdrawal, of customary trade and financial relations with a target country in an effort to change that country’s policies,” a definition taken from Gary Hufbauer and Barbara Oegg’s August 2001 “[A Short Survey of Economic Sanctions](#),” published by the Peterson Institute for International Economics, which appears to revel in publishing studies on how to use sanctions.

So many sanctions have been piled on against countries, people, and entities by the United States in recent decades (the real pick-up of this form of warfare reportedly began in the 1990s), that the U.S. Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), responsible for administering and enforcing economic and trade sanctions, reports that it does not maintain a specific list of which countries U.S. persons are not allowed to do business with, because it’s too complicated. Specific sanctions programs are active against at least 26 countries and “around” 6,300 people, the site indicates, but that doesn’t count broader sanction programs imposed in the name of fighting terrorism, corruption, foreign intervention into U.S. elections, etc. “[Because OFAC’s programs are dynamic, it is very important to check OFAC’s website regularly](#),” OFAC recommends. “Ensuring that your sanctions lists are current and you have complete information regarding the latest relevant program restrictions is

both a best practice and a critical part of your due diligence responsibility,” it adds.

Thus, the “need” for a mafia of “sanctions specialists” to run this warfare!

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

U.S. Army Continues Its March into a Utopian ‘Continuum of Competition’

March 30 (EIRNS)—The U.S. Army has completed yet another document outlining how it’s preparing for, if not permanent war, at least for a permanent state of confrontation with Russia and China, in the name of “detering” “great power conflict.” The document, “[The Army in Military Competition, Chief of Staff Paper #2](#)” (Chief of Staff Paper #1 was “Army Multi-Domain Transformation,” released and reported last week), makes the case for the service’s role in great power competition short of war with Russia and China. The document proclaims, “Winning matters and a streak of continual successes in activities from humanitarian assistance to combat operations makes a powerful statement.”

“I want all readers to understand that military competition is an ‘infinite game,’ ” Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville wrote in the Preface. “We can define winning in competition in many ways: deterring conflict, upholding our interests, remaining the security partner of choice, keeping allies and partners free from coercion and subversion, and discouraging adversaries from malign actions because they know that these acts will not succeed. What we must remember is a win today is an opening for new competition activities tomorrow.” In other words, competition is never-ending.

War, in fact, if it comes to that, is just one form of competition in a continuum of competitions. “Military activities during competition can be either defensive or offensive; lethal or non-lethal; unilateral or multilateral; employ conventional, irregular, and special operations forces from each of the military services in multiple domains,” McConville argues. “Armed

conflict is one element of ... the competition continuum”—which includes even “general state conflict.”

A constant component of the “continuum of competition” is the “narrative,” and in that narrative, reputation is everything. “A reputation for strength and reliability is a significant competitive benefit that might cause adversaries to seek less ambitious objectives or, in some instances, to choose not to compete at all and seek cooperation instead. The Army contributes to narrative competition by being a lethal, competent, credible force and being recognized as such by key audiences among allies and partners as well as adversaries,” writes the Army.

“Simply being a world-class force and demonstrating that quality through successful operations conducted in a manner consistent with institutional values fosters a positive reputation for the U.S. Army,” the document goes on. For the Army, “maintaining high standards and being a partner of choice for military education, exercises, capacity building and equipment sales” is important to winning in narrative competition.

The document is clearly an exercise in self-delusion, among other things, in that it makes no reference to the fact that Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, and Libya—not one of which was a threat to or an enemy of the United States—are all in chaos as a result of U.S. or U.S.-led military interventions. No narrative will cover these failures with a story of a “competent, credible force” though it has proven to be lethal to an untold number of civilians, and thousands of American service members.

Blinken Sheds Crocodile Tears for Syrians Forced into Poverty by U.S. Sanctions

March 30 (EIRNS)—The UN Security Council held its monthly meeting on Syria yesterday, focusing heavily on the humanitarian situation. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who chaired the virtual meeting, delivered a statement about the worsening humanitarian situation in Syria without once referring to the economic sanctions that the U.S. and its European allies have imposed on the country that have worsened living conditions for millions of Syrians. “While today’s session is focused on the

humanitarian crisis in Syria, it's important to note that the only long-term solution to this suffering is through a political settlement and permanent resolution to the conflict, as outlined in UN Security Council Resolution 2254," Blinken said. "But even as we work to that solution, we can't lose sight of the urgent needs of the Syrian people that we've heard described so eloquently today. It's clear that these needs—including having enough to eat and access to essential medicine—are not going to be met by the Assad regime."

Blinken followed this posturing with the demand that the UNSC authorize the opening of two border crossings in the northeast and northwest into areas of the country that are not under the control of the government. "We have a responsibility to ensure Syrians have access to lifesaving assistance, no matter where they live," he said. "Given that goal, there was no good reason at the time for the council's failure to reauthorize these two humanitarian crossings."

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Vershinin, who delivered the Russian response, minced no words about the roles of the U.S. and Turkish occupying forces in creating the current conditions that prevail in all parts of Syria. "It is paradoxical, yet true—a significant deterioration in the life of the Syrian population has been observed precisely within the past year, when a significant reduction in violence was achieved on the ground," Vershinin stressed, reported TASS. He also drew attention to the fact that "the most difficult situation is developing in the regions not under the control of Damascus in the northwest, north and northeast of Syria, the responsibility for which, let me reiterate, is with the de-facto occupying countries and local authorities."

Vershinin accused Western powers of openly discriminating against the areas of the country controlled by Damascus, including with respect to deliveries of humanitarian supplies, the return of refugees, and efforts to control the COVID-19 pandemic. "It is done in a bid to undermine Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity, due to political motives," he said.

Then there's the matter of unilateral U.S. and European sanctions, which are greatly hindering the economic reconstruction of Syria. "The reaction of Washington and Brussels to the call of the UN secretary general to ease and lift unilateral sanctions amid the coronavirus pandemic was, on the contrary, to tighten in an unprecedented way the restrictions adopted bypassing the UN Security Council, including the introduction of the infamous Caesar Act in June 2020," Vershinin said. "Unfortunately, the honorable representative of the U.S. and other Western colleagues spoke about a lot of things in today's speeches but for the U.S. and EU sanctions and their dramatic negative effect on ordinary Syrians."

Vershinin also pointed out the U.S. looting of Syrian oil and wheat. "Reports continue to come in that American convoys are trucking out oil and grain from Syria to Iraq daily. The information [we] receive suggests that 300 oil tank trucks and more than 200 cargo trucks with grain had crossed the Syrian-Iraqi border by March 23 since the beginning of the month," he said. "It turns out while Syrians are suffering from acute shortage of basic products, including bread and petrol, a wide stream of Syria's smuggled natural resources is flowing from the Trans-Euphrates region controlled by the U.S., while the country is simultaneously suffocated with unilateral sanctions which essentially are a form of collective punishment," he underlined.

Prior to the U.S. and Russian (and other) statements, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Mark Lowcock reported that the need for aid has jumped 20% from last year and humanitarian organizations coordinated by the UN are seeking an estimated \$4.2 billion to reach 12.3 million Syrians inside the country. He said another \$5.8 billion is required for support to countries hosting Syrian refugees in the region. "We need more money, not less, if we are to avoid a further deterioration—the consequences of which could be dramatic and widespread," Lowcock said.

Henrietta Fore, executive director of the United Nations International Children's Fund, or UNICEF, said Syria's worst economic crisis is

“plunging 90% of the population into poverty, and across the country nearly 90% of children now require humanitarian assistance.”

Myanmar Descending into Chaos

March 30 (EIRNS)—The March 27 slaughter across Myanmar of demonstrators protesting against the military junta, reached 140 dead, including 6 children, with an unknown number injured. The Army also began bombing the Karen militias, who attacked an Army base near the Thai border—the first serious ethnic militia attack in years. Karen refugees are fleeing to Thailand, but some reports say Thailand is sending them back. Governments in the region, including China, are being cautious, trying to resolve the disaster without more chaos. Some are calling on the junta to not wait a year for elections.

U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai announced March 29 that the Biden administration would “suspend all U.S. trade engagement” with Myanmar that occurs under a 2013 bilateral trade agreement. It will not stop all trade, but further steps are expected.

On March 31, the UN Security Council will hold a closed meeting on the crisis.

China Asks, Are They Charging Us with ‘Forced Machinery Labor’ in Xinjiang?

March 30 (EIRNS)—Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian reminded reporters at yesterday’s press briefing that not only is cotton-picking labor highly paid in the province of Xinjiang, some 70% of cotton in Xinjiang was harvested by machinery in 2020, and only around 30% by hand. He then stated: “Yet, a handful of countries and individuals are still weaving stories about ‘forced labor.’ Do they mean ‘forced machinery labor’?”

In recent days, Chinese media have released videos of large, modern cotton-picking machines, five to six abreast, slowly moving down long rows of cotton in Xinjiang. Some stories state that there is still a difference within the province, with cotton-picking in its northern regions being 95%

mechanized, and the south, at around 40-45% mechanized, still having some catching up to do. As *Global Times* pointed out today, this makes Xinjiang one of the most advanced cotton-producing regions in the world.

The U.K./U.S.-organized campaign to force international textile companies to boycott Xinjiang cotton on the basis of the big lie that “Xinjiang cotton is picked by forced slave labor” is aimed at causing maximum economic hardship in the province and nationally. According to *Global Times*, over half of all farmers in the Xinjiang region plant cotton as the main source of their income, and nearly 600,000 people are now employed in the local cotton textile industry built up around it. The region’s annual cotton output is about 5 million tons, which is more than 80% of China’s cotton output.

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Pottinger Threatens U.S. Business Leaders, Choose To Operate in U.S. or China, No Room for Both

March 30 (EIRNS)—The launching of a concerted campaign against U.S. business cooperation with China, seen as a weak link in the otherwise tight bipartisan consensus for confrontation with China, was signalled by former Deputy National Security Advisor and anti-China hand Matt Pottinger, in a March 26 *Wall Street Journal* op-ed, “Beijing Targets American Business,” adapted from his March 10 speech to the Hoover Institute.

Pottinger tells American businessmen “wishing for simple, lucrative commercial ties,” they must realize that the “ideological dimension of the competition” between China and the United States “is inescapable, even central.”

Beijing is out to impose a communist order; we must defend “American values.” To win the race against China, he rails, “will require America and its allies to consider in every policy we adopt, every bill we introduce, and every partnership that government and industry undertake, whether it increases our collective leverage in this competition or surrenders leverage to a hostile dictatorship in Beijing.”

President Joe Biden’s Interim National Security Strategic Guidance proved “there is significant continuity in U.S. strategy,” Pottinger writes. Beijing recognizes “that its efforts to influence Washington are increasingly in vain,” and that it is why it is “focusing its influence activities on other segments of American society, the business community in particular.”

It is Beijing, he lies, which seeks to decouple U.S. and European economies from China. He claims that no one in Washington is seriously threatening “wholesale decoupling,” only to turn around and laugh that “decoupling of a more limited variety is well underway.” In the Trump administration, we spoke of “selective decoupling”; some Biden officials call it “managed decoupling”; and Congressional figures like Sen. Tom Cotton speak of or “targeted decoupling,” he wrote.

Then the threat: “When so many different political voices are using such similar language, CEOs need to pay attention.” He recommends that “prudent” American CEOs review how “the new geopolitical reality” and “great-power competition” affect their businesses, and they should draw up contingencies for diversifying supply chains, because “American CEOs, their boards and their investors have to decide which side they want to help win.”

All of which makes almost humorous his shameless protests that Beijing’s recent sanctions against some current and former U.S. government officials—such as himself—are part of some Chinese “grand strategy ... to accumulate and exert economic leverage to achieve its political objectives around the world.” Unlike the Anglo establishment elite for which he speaks, which has deployed economic sanctions against some 30 countries, so far!

COVID-19 AND FAMINE

COVID-19 Spike Strikes United States

March 30 (EIRNS)—During the weekly White House COVID-19 briefing yesterday, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the new director of the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention, made an emotional appeal to batten down the hatches, explaining her sense of “impending doom,” as new COVID-19 cases have turned dramatically higher over the past two weeks. In that time frame, new cases averaged 63,000 per day, with a 16% increase. Nine states experienced an increase over 40%, with Michigan hitting a 133% rise. She explained that the U.S. is following Europe’s new wave, but we are not helpless in doing so, and we can act now to preempt a fourth wave in the U.S.

Biden reacted to Dr. Walensky’s call by asking governors and mayors to implement a “mask mandate.”

Otherwise, the work to expand vaccines seems to largely center around increasing vaccine deployments to more and more pharmacies. Over 40,000 pharmacies had volunteered almost two months ago, and the plan for the next three weeks is to expand from 17,000 to 40,000 pharmacies. On March 29, nationwide, 2.7 million people received vaccinations.

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

NASA and China Are Sharing Mars Data Being Gathered by Their Spacecraft

March 30 (EIRNS)—SpaceNews reports today that this involves sharing orbital details of the new orbiters from China and the U.A.E. to avoid the possibility of collisions. “Most recently,” said Acting NASA Administrator Steve Jurczyk, “we had an exchange of data with them, on them providing their orbital, their ephemeris data, for their Tianwen-1 Mars orbiting mission, so we could do conjunction analysis around Mars with the orbiters.”

The U.S. is allowed to engage in bilateral space cooperation with China under the hateful “Wolf Amendment” with restrictions. In advance of any proposed discussions with China, NASA must certify with the FBI that there is no threat of technology transfer, and that the discussions will not include anyone involved in “human rights violations”!

While having the orbital details of the new spacecraft will protect the American and European spacecraft already in Mars orbit, having access to the weather and other environmental data being collected by the other nations' spacecraft, would be beneficial to China, when Tianwen-1 attempts to land a small rover on Mars in May or June. Win-win space cooperation.

- Watch **Harley's Updates** with Harley Schlanger on Wednesday, March 31, 2021: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization website, www.laroucheorganization.com/ Harley will give you the strategic briefing on what you need to know to start your day.