

EIR Daily Alert Service

P.O. BOX 17390, WASHINGTON, DC 20041-0390

- Why Did Moses Take Forty Years?
- Russian-Brokered Peace for Armenia and Azerbaijan
- Syria and Saudi Arabia Next in Southwest Asia Peace Initiatives
- López Obrador Calls Out State Department ‘Liars,’ Questions U.S. Role in Nord Stream Blow-up
- Foreign Minister Qin Gang Briefs Media on Global Significance of Xi Jinping’s Visit with Putin
- Kiev’s Ukrinform Reports Germany Wants a China-Ukraine Conversation
- Over a Million in France’s Streets Against Macron’s Slashing of Pensions
- Brief Public Sector Strike Shuts Down Germany’s Largest Port
- Chinese Foreign Ministry Urges U.S. To Deal Responsibly with Banking Crisis
- U.S. Administration Fears They Misplayed China’s Peace Plan
- NSC’s Kirby Insists, without Flinching, the ‘Rules-Based Order’ Is the Same as the UN Charter
- Pompeo Attacks Biden and Kirby for Losing China
- China and Russia Escalate Work on Fast Breeder Nuclear Energy

EDITORIAL

Why Did Moses Take Forty Years?

March 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—Forty years ago today, President Reagan shocked the world, announcing that the United States would make nuclear weapons “impotent and obsolete,” employing advanced scientific principles (lasers, plasma physics, electromagnetic pulses, etc.) to make it an order of magnitude cheaper to kill missiles than to build them. Further, the strategic defense systems would be provided to the Russians—then the communist U.S.S.R. Reagan had adopted the program as designed, laid out, and campaigned for by Lyndon LaRouche.

To accomplish the actual program, a full-scale scientific mobilization—bigger than the famous “Apollo” program of John F. Kennedy—one that would have addicted the U.S. economy to real development of industry, agriculture, and public infrastructure; not the financial speculation, bank bailouts, military adventures, ‘regime changes’ and drug epidemics of the last forty years.

A president of the United States, both with JFK and Reagan, showed strategic and bold leadership, not for empire, but for the republic.

This is not a fairy tale. It had better not be, because the U.S., along with the other nations of “the West”—the Global Minority—will be left in the dust, unless it gets a grip on itself, slaps itself in the face, awakens from its nightmare, and gets addicted to real strategic leadership once again.

Today, also, Russia’s TASS featured a two-part [interview](#) with [Helga Zepp-LaRouche](#), in which she sounded the trumpet call on the need, and the implicit capability, to fully reject the strategic blindness and stupidity of recent times, and make a conscious, deliberate decision, as the Bible puts it, to choose good, not evil.

Today, also, peace broke out in the long-simmering, sometimes violent confrontations of Armenia and Azerbaijan. Armenia’s Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan announced that the protracted conflict with Azerbaijan is

over: “There will be a peace treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan.” The treaty will be based “on joint official statements adopted at the highest level.... There won’t be a new escalation!”

Today, also, Saudi Arabia is holding discussions with Syria on mending eleven years of opposition—including Saudi funding to overthrow Syria’s government. They plan to announce the re-establishment of diplomatic relations shortly. Both developments—Armenia-Azerbaijan and Saudi Arabia-Syria—are thought to have been brokered by Moscow, but they both come in the wake of the shocking Chinese-brokered breakthrough with Shi’a-dominated Iran and Sunni-dominated Saudi Arabia. London and Washington have been caught with their pants down in their “peace-is-impossible, don’t-you-know, Middle East.” Maybe it’s time to review what Putin and Xi were discussing earlier this week.

Today, Mexico’s President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, after reaming out the lying hypocrisy of the U.S. State Department for daring to dictate “morality” and concern for “human rights” to any country that it wants to destroy, called upon the better angel of the nature of the U.S. republic, harkening back to Abraham Lincoln’s union with Mexico’s Benito Juárez, fighting for republics free from the imperialist control of France and Britain.

Today—unless you are French President Macron, who faces over a million citizens demonstrating and demanding that he resign—was a pretty good day. Perhaps it is time to confront the stupid gossip and lies that have kept the West bound to a dirty, dirty cultural pessimism, a dirty and ugly view of mankind, a filthy existentialism. After all, Moses led the slaves through the desert for 40 years, for the need to rid the people of slavish habits and thinking. You might argue that it never should have taken that long ... yet here we are.

- Watch [Harley’s Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday, March 24, 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

Russian-Brokered Peace for Armenia and Azerbaijan

March 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—Armenia’s Prime Minister [Nikol Pashinyan](#) announced in a posting today that the protracted conflict with Azerbaijan is over: “There will be a peace treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and it will be based on the joint official statements adopted at the highest level. There won’t be a new escalation! The international community must strongly support this narrative.”

More needs to be seen, but Pashinyan’s confidence appears to be based upon agreed terms for the two neighbors’ borders, the opening of transportation routes, and the establishment of contacts between civilian groups, lawmakers, and religious leaders from both countries.

Recent tensions had broken out in military confrontations and exchange of fire. In February, the European Union had tried to move in on Russia’s peacemaking efforts, announcing an aim to “contribute to stability in the border areas” between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Moscow brushed this off as a geopolitical project aimed at pushing Russia out of the region. Azerbaijan’s government in Baku also warned that it could “impede the process of normalization.”

Moscow’s continued work for a trilateral agreement amongst Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia was the basis for today’s outbreak of peace. It comes in the wake of China’s remarkable agreement worked out with Sunni-dominated Saudi Arabia and Shi’a-dominated Iran.

Syria and Saudi Arabia Next in Southwest Asia Peace Initiatives

March 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—Saudi state media reported today that their Foreign Ministry said they were in talks with Syria on resuming diplomatic work, after 11 years. Saudi Arabia had supported fundamentalist insurrectionists against Syria’s Assad. State-owned Al Ekhbariya TV, cited a source in the Foreign Ministry on the discussions, and the Saudi Foreign Minister had publicly acknowledged a growing consensus for cooperation with Syria amongst the Arab League countries. The Arab League’s

Secretary General Ahmed Aboul Gheit recently said that most member states want to restore Syria's membership at the upcoming summit in May.

On Syria's end, [Waddah Abd Rabbo](#), editor of Syria's *al-Watan* newspaper, had posted on his Facebook page on March 19 (in translation): "From my private sources: It was agreed to reopen the Saudi consulate within a few weeks, and the Kingdom's Foreign Minister will visit Damascus." He told [Middle East Eye](#): "A few days ago, an important meeting took place in Riyadh between Syrian and Saudi officials. It was the first political contact between the two and future steps to restore relations between the two countries were determined."

Middle East Eye went further: "It was widely reported—yet not officially confirmed—that Maher al-Assad, the Syrian President's brother ... visited Saudi Arabia earlier this week and received the Kingdom's conditions for normalization." (Although Reuters claims the official who visited Riyadh as Hussam Louqa, the head of Syrian intelligence, Middle East Eye links to a Beirut newspaper, [Al Jarida](#), that cites Louqa's visit as being "months ago.") Middle East Eye continued, reporting an anonymous Syrian official as saying: "Things are getting closer. The Saudi deal with Iran is definitely another obstacle out of the way of more re-engagement. Saudi Arabia is a core Arab state."

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that the discussions in Riyadh were brokered by Russia. If true, that puts China and Russia at the center of diplomatic breakthroughs, in areas in which London and Washington spent decades claiming to the world that nothing was possible. The *Journal* noted that the U.S. being frozen out from the Saudi-Syrian talks, and the Saudi-Iran rapprochement, has caught Washington completely off-guard.

López Obrador Calls Out State Department 'Liars,' Questions U.S. Role in Nord Stream Blow-up

March 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—The U.S. State Department on March 20 issued its annual human rights report on every other country in the world, which it uses to browbeat countries not deemed sufficiently docile. Mexico was among those this year, with State citing "credible reports" showing that

Mexico has “significant human rights issues.” Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) spoke for many other governments in the Global Majority when he responded at his press conference the next day that the State Department “are liars ... [who] believe they are the government of the world ... and only see the mote in the eye of the other, not the beam in their own.” He pointed to Seymour Hersh’s Feb. 8 report documenting that the U.S. government blew up the Nord Stream pipeline.

López Obrador called the State Department report “pure politicking.” What if Mexico were to evaluate the United States? “Let’s see. Human rights: So why don’t you free [Julian] Assange, if you are talking about journalism and freedom? Why do you keep Assange imprisoned? If we are talking about acts of violence, how is it that an award-winning journalist in the United States maintains that the U.S. government sabotaged the gas pipeline from Russia to Europe?”

“Why does the United States allow a cartel, or various cartels to freely operate in that country, distributing fentanyl, which does such harm to youth? Ask them: What are you doing so that youth do not consume fentanyl?”

“And one more, with all due respect: Former President Trump is saying that they are going to arrest him ... for an alleged affair.... If that happens, everyone will know, because we weren’t born yesterday, that it is being done so that he doesn’t appear on the electoral ballot.... That is completely undemocratic. Why not let the people be the ones who decide?”

AMLO repeated the common error of equating the John Quincy Adams’ anti-imperialist Monroe Doctrine with the imperialist dogma it was twisted into under Teddy Roosevelt, applied fervently by today’s arrogant unipolar interests. But he then also coupled his denunciations with an appeal to the historical, anti-imperialist United States, holding up the great U.S.-Mexican friendship in the difficult days of Lincoln and Juárez as an example of what bilateral relations should be, and can become. He spoke of Lincoln’s support, backed by deeds, for Mexico when the French invaded it in 1861, and how in 1847, then-Congressman Lincoln had “opposed the U.S.

invasion of Mexico,” even though President Polk denounced him as a traitor “for having spoken out on behalf of Mexico.”

All this was too much for State Department deputy spokesman Vedant Patel. He blathered the next day that the United States had “never been ones to indicate that we are the government of the world or some kind of edict like that”—and then proceeded to recite the very same charges against Mexico.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

Foreign Minister Qin Gang Briefs Media on Global Significance of Xi Jinping’s Visit with Putin

March 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—Chinese Foreign Minister [Qin Gang](#) gave a follow-up briefing yesterday on President Xi Jinping’s March 20-22 trip to Moscow, detailing the global significance of the meetings between President Xi and Russian President Vladimir Putin. He described the visit as the culmination of the leaders’ 10-year relationship, from President Xi’s visit 10 years ago, where he explained in a speech to the [Moscow Institute of International Relations](#) (MGIMO) his concept of a community of a shared future for mankind. President Xi, in his own comments, had pointed to the 70 years of strong relationship with Russia, one interrupted temporarily by the Sino-Soviet split. One could, in all justice, take the relationship back to the 18th century when Gottfried Leibniz encouraged Tsar Peter to develop ties to the East, so as to link up with the flourishing culture Leibniz knew existed in China.

Qin Gang remarked on the importance of Xi’s visit, given the dangerous situation caused by the move of certain countries toward unilateralism and hegemony. The relationship between these two major powers also serves as a new model of major-country relationship, based upon non-alignment, non-confrontation, and non-targeting of third parties. “The Sino-Russian relationship is a bright and open friendship between gentlemen, in stark contrast to those closed and exclusive, selfish and narrow-minded group politics. Under the new situation, China and Russia are committed to

advancing the comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination, which will not only benefit the two peoples, but also make new contributions to the development and progress of mankind,” Qin said.

Qin also detailed the visit’s importance for pushing forward [China’s peace proposal for the Ukraine crisis](#), for which President Putin expressed his support. China is not a party to the conflict, he said, but a party that is interested in resolving the conflict peacefully. “The Russian side affirmed its commitment to resuming the peace talks as soon as possible, and welcomed China’s willingness to play a positive role in resolving the Ukrainian crisis through political and diplomatic channels.”

Qin said that China had pressed the “accelerator button” and sounded the “assembly call” to move forward toward a more peaceful world, based on the new diplomacy that President Xi has initiated.

Kiev’s Ukrinform Reports Germany Wants a China-Ukraine Conversation

March 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—At a press conference in Berlin yesterday, German government spokesman [Steffen Hebestreit](#), responding to a question about Xi Jinping’s visit to Moscow, said that Berlin supports, in general, the Chinese peace diplomacy proposal, which in the German view still lacks certain details. These refer to China’s not insisting on a full Russian withdrawal of forces from Ukraine, which the Anglosphere makes a precondition of ceasefire talks.

Kiev news agency Ukrinform chose to single out Hebestreit’s response, providing surprisingly positive coverage. It emphasized that, while Germany welcomed [China’s proposal for peace talks](#) between Russia and Ukraine, China should speak not only with the Russians but also with the Ukrainian side. And the sooner it becomes possible, the better, he said.

Ukrinform noted Hebestreit’s *caveat* that such negotiations look quite hypothetical and distant at the moment, but, importantly, quoted Hebestreit as declaring a prerequisite for negotiations is that “both sides can further live with their outcome; especially the Ukrainian side.” He expressed that

the Chinese formulation, at first glance, does not create the impression that it can be acceptable to the Ukrainian side; yet, he did not rule out that a better result might be achieved during discussions.

Ukrinform reported the speculation that President Xi would, having discussed the Chinese proposal with Putin, would also speak with President Zelenskyy after Xi's return to Beijing. Zelenskyy himself mentioned that he has sent his so-called "peace proposal" to Xi and invited Beijing to sign on.

Ukrinform also quoted Hebestreit as making the standard line: "Ukrainians themselves must decide how this conflict can be settled and ended. Germany, for its part, will support Ukraine for as long as necessary: politically, financially, humanitarily, and with weapons." However, there was nothing standard about most of his remarks nor about Ukrinform's coverage.

COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

Over a Million in France's Streets Against Macron's Slashing of Pensions

March 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—More than a million demonstrators, as estimated by police, protested today in France against President Emmanuel Macron's cutting the retirement age in order to slash pensions and his proceeding with the so-called "pension reform" without a Parliament vote. Strikes interrupted public transportation, oil refineries, schools and other institutions and services. Police used tear gas and water cannons against the demonstrators.

RT reported: "At least one unit of firefighters switched sides and joined the protesters. Multiple eyewitnesses described the situation as 'out of control.'" Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin said that about 150 police officers had been injured, 172 people detained for interrogation for alleged looting and arson, and there were 190 fires set in Paris alone.

Brief Public Sector Strike Shuts Down Germany's Largest Port

March 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—The pattern of warning strikes in Germany's public sector today focuses on the nation's second-largest city, Hamburg. Besides affecting hospitals, day care centers, and sewerage and water services, it will paralyze the function of the seaport, Germany's largest.

The entrance to the Port of Hamburg was closed early March 22 to large ships, due to the announced warning strike. Ships requiring pilotage to steer them into port could neither enter nor leave the port, according to the Hamburg Port Authority (HPA), its official name. The public sector union Vereinigte Dienstleistungen, which goes by the name ver.di, called on port administration employees to conduct a warning strike from 5:30 p.m. March 22 to 6 a.m. March 24.

All ships of at least 90 meters long or 13 meters in beam are affected. According to the current status, about 18 ships bound for Hamburg are affected by the closure. The affected departing ships is much more difficult to quantify, because they aren't required to make a definitive report of their departure before 2-4 hours prior. However, ver.di has provided for emergency situations.

According to HPA information, there will be major restrictions in the area of locks, movable bridges, barrages, and at the old Elbe tunnel in St. Pauli. Strike measures are to be expected until early March 24, which will restrict the regular operation of the facilities or lead to full closures. Arrangements have been made for flood protection and emergency operations at the major bridges.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Urges U.S. To Deal Responsibly with Banking Crisis

March 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—In response to a question from CCTV regarding the failure of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) and its international repercussions, today Foreign Ministry spokesman [Wang Wenbin](#) placed the responsibility for resolving the crisis on of the U.S. government.

“We are closely following the developments,” Wang Wenbin said.. “Due to the deep interconnectedness of worldwide markets within the global financial system, problems with U.S. banks by no means just impact the U.S. itself. The SVB’s collapse has sent shock waves throughout the global financial market. We hope the U.S. will increase transparency and enhance communication with the rest of the world and provide clarity on the exact size of the risk, steps to address it, ways to minimize its spillover as well as other widespread concerns of the global community. This is a responsibility and what is expected of the U.S..

“The U.S. dollar is an international currency. Given this, the U.S. should not simply anchor its monetary policy to domestic economic regulation goals. Instead, it needs to assess with caution any potential ensuing negative spillover. We urge the U.S. to take responsible macroeconomic policy, take credible steps to stabilize market expectations and investor confidence and avoid radical policy shifts that may cause serious spillover effects and repeat the history of the 2008 financial crisis. We also call on the financial regulators of countries concerned to take concrete steps to keep money safe for all clients, including foreign depositors.”

Wang then added that “China stands ready to work with other economies to enhance macroeconomic policy coordination and jointly uphold global economic and financial stability.”

U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

U.S. Administration Fears They Misplayed China’s Peace Plan

March 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—The White House is now worried that China’s peace plan may outflank it. An “unnamed official” in Biden’s administration, according to Bloomberg News today, describes a “sense of unease” over top officials’ peremptory dismissal of the [12-point Chinese plan](#), released on Feb. 24. Most recently, National Security Council spokesman John Kirby warned China’s President Xi Jinping, just prior to his Moscow summit, that any agreement that Xi secured with Putin for a path to peace, the U.S. was rejecting ahead of time.

It seems, according to Bloomberg's source, that Washington now fears it has been "backed into a corner," as it has created the perception that the U.S. is against peace. Now, Beijing can exploit that perception, driving war-weary countries away from America's side. Bloomberg cites Bonny Lin, a fellow at CSIS: "China will likely ramp up messaging that the U.S. is opposed to a ceasefire, that the U.S. is opposed to the end of the war."

Countries are happier and more optimistic about China's "win-win" diplomacy, based upon economic projects designed to the advantage of all participants. While that is interesting, the real story here is that someone in the White House actually recognized that the gang has been cornered.

NSC's Kirby Insists, without Flinching, the 'Rules-Based Order' Is the Same as the UN Charter

March 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—[John Kirby](#), National Security Council spokesman, had two main issues in his interview with CNN's Christiane Amanpour yesterday, and both of them were whoppers made one after the other. First, the China-Russia relationship is only based on opposing the U.S.; second, the rules-based order is "basically" the UN Charter.

He says: "Where they [Russian and China] intersect is pushing back on the United States and our influence around the world. Where they intersect is pushing back on this thing we call the rules-based international order. Which I know sounds kind of like a wonky term, but it's basically the rule of law and the foundational principles of the UN Charter by which nations around the world are supposed to abide. And they're pushing back against that.... They'd like to change the rules of the game. And in each other they see a useful foil. They see a useful friend. But that's what they're doing. They're basically trying to use each other here to challenge U.S. leadership and the West—particularly in Europe—but elsewhere around the world."

One might ask, if the wonky "rules-based order" is "basically" the "principles of the UN Charter," then why not just use the UN Charter?

It wasn't long ago that those in London and Washington addicted to the term "rules-based system" made no effort to link it up with the UN Charter,

the law-based system of treaties and inspections and diplomacy, or even constitutional requirements regarding the declaration of war. Russia and China were the old fogeys, insisting upon those things. It appears that Kirby—along with Jake Sullivan, Antony Blinken and friends—have simply decided to absorb the UN Charter into the amorphous, intentionally undefined “rules-based order.” Evidently that’s just one of the unspoken rules of the “rules-based order”: To quote Humpty Dumpty in *Through the Looking Glass*, “When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less.”

Pompeo Attacks Biden and Kirby for Losing China

March 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—Former Secretary of State [Mike Pompeo](#) appeared on Fox News in his best attempt to make the National Security Council spokesman John Kirby’s remarks about Xi Jinping’s visit to Moscow look good. On March 22, Kirby had said that he didn’t believe that there was an alliance between Moscow and Beijing, that Russian President Vladimir Putin sees “a potential backer” in China’s Xi Jinping, but “whether it results in anything, we’ll see.” Earlier, he had characterized the alliance as just a “marriage of convenience.”

Pompeo seized on that, at first making a certain sort of sense. He argued that the U.S. government is making “an enormous strategic mistake” by downplaying the importance of rapidly expanding Russia-China ties. The alliance between Moscow and Beijing “may be a shotgun wedding, but they’re still married. To hear the White House play this down as if it’s insignificant or unimportant is an enormous strategic mistake.”

But the correction to the mistake, for Pompeo, is not to join with China’s Belt and Road economic projects, no small part in the Russia-China ties. It is just to blame Biden as a talking point for the next election: “Now, the Biden administration has failed. They have allowed the Russians and the Chinese to come together in this way, and it presents enormous risk to the U.S. and every citizen,” says Pompeo as he channels the debate as to “who lost China” during the Joe McCarthy red-baiting period.

Perhaps displaying his tenuous state of mind, Pompeo then claimed that “at least for today, the Chinese Communist Party is providing lethal assistance to Ukraine, almost certainly.” While he probably meant “to Russia,” his claim that China is providing “lethal assistance” to anything or anybody went without even a shred of evidence. This was Pompeo’s specialty when he ran the CIA—just qualify your assertion with the tag, “almost certainly,” as you lie, cheat and steal. Such are the games of Kirby and Pompeo, the hallmark of a dying culture.

SCIENCE & INFRASTRUCTURE

China and Russia Escalate Work on Fast Breeder Nuclear Energy

March 23, 2023 (EIRNS)—Among the agreements signed by Russia and China at the three-day summit in Moscow between Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin was one on cooperation on nuclear energy—in particular, work on the fast neutron reactors, which the Soviet Union initiated, but which the Chinese have refined. Chinese breeders are based on the Russian design.

Even before the new agreement, Congress and the Pentagon had mutual fits, since fast breeders can produce plutonium. The Pentagon’s 2022 “Military and Security Developments Involving the People’s Republic of China,” proclaims—with less than zero evidence—that China’s investment in nuclear infrastructure constitutes a danger. Period. Only at one point, do they assert: “China is constructing two CFR-600 sodium-cooled fast breeder nuclear reactors at Xiapu, each capable of producing enough plutonium for dozens of nuclear warheads annually...” and only later adding that such an assertion is “according to a Western think tank.”

In fact, as the [World Nuclear Association](#) points out, the fast neutron breeder has the extraordinarily safe advantage of using nuclear waste as fuel, thereby protecting us from having to store radioactive waste.

It is of some note that, in spite of the draconian sanctions regime, Russia remains the largest supplier of nuclear reactors and fuel to the world.