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EDITORIAL

Zepp-LaRouche: This Is a Moment in History When Decisions Will Be Made

Nov. 20 (EIRNS)—The manifest failure of the COP26 summit to get the entire world to drink the Kool-Aid of the British Empire’s Malthusian Green Reset policy—thanks principally to the resistance of developing countries such as India, Nigeria, Indonesia, China and also Russia—has bought the world a little time. But only a little.

The entire trans-Atlantic sector is still in the throes of a systemic breakdown crisis. Hyperinflation is still spinning out of control, now hitting food as well as energy supplies with increases of 30% per year and more. The physical economy continues to plummet, threatening the survival of entire nations. The COVID-19 pandemic is still rampaging out of control, worsened by the mass psychosis of the medievalist anti-vax cult. And the danger of U.S.-NATO geopolitical wars against Russia and China is rising by the day, deploying nuclear weapons closer and closer to Russia while the State Department explicitly threatens to take up arms against China.

“We have to have a rethinking,” Helga Zepp-LaRouche demanded in her weekly international webcast on Nov. 19. “The United States, Germany and other European countries should stop this geopolitical confrontation and say: ‘We have a pandemic, we have mass famine, we have a refugee crisis of biblical dimensions, and we must join hands and build the infrastructure, hospitals, schools, industry, agriculture, in all of these countries, and then all the migrants would want to go home.’ Because most countries, and most people prefer to stay in their home country, than to be displaced in some corner of the world, where they don’t understand the language and have to suffer many aggressions.

“So let’s just build infrastructure! Let’s build up Africa!” Zepp-LaRouche insisted. “This is the natural thing, and the Chinese are doing the natural things and we should stop bickering about it, because we should take a moral lesson from the Chinese in this respect,” and join with the Belt

and Road Initiative which this week celebrated the eighth anniversary of its announcement in 2013.

Zepp-LaRouche continued: “People should wake up, because this is a moment in history when decisions will be made. Whether mankind tumbles into a new crisis, sleepwalks into a new war, goes into a new depression; or, if we take the alternatives which exist. And they emphatically exist in the form of the Belt and Road Initiative which, China has said many times, is open for every country: for the United States, for Europe, for all.

“So rather than having this geopolitical obsession, I think people should just say: We have to concentrate on the common aims of mankind, and then we can all build a beautiful future together”—with the economic, political and cultural road map developed by Lyndon LaRouche, and presented at the [Schiller Institute’s just-concluded conference](#) of Nov. 13-14.

- Watch [Harley’s Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Monday November 22, 2021: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#) website, Harley will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

NATO Chief Suggests Nuclear Bombs Could Be Moved Eastwards, Towards Russia

Nov. 20 (EIRNS)—NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg was in Berlin yesterday to meet with German Chancellor Angela Merkel one more time before she retires, and to address the German Atlantic Association “NATO Talk” Conference 2021. During that speech he suggested, apparently in response to an audience question, that should the German government that’s expected to replace that of Merkel decide to opt out of NATO’s nuclear sharing program, then the estimated 20 B61 nuclear gravity bombs that are currently stored at the German Büchel air base could be moved to another country—closer to Russia. “Of course, it’s up to

Germany to decide whether the nuclear arms will be deployed in this country, but there's an alternative to this; the nuclear arms may easily end up in other European countries, including those to the east of Germany," he said.

Stoltenberg didn't bother to venture a guess as to how Russia might respond to such a thumb-in-your-eye provocation.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova responded to earlier comments by Stoltenberg demanding "transparency" from Russia. She branded NATO claims as ludicrous that the alliance observes Russia's desire to use its force and military capabilities against neighboring countries. "I would like to remind the NATO secretary general that in modern history exactly NATO member countries have been a source of aggression that has claimed millions of lives. NATO's militarism and imperial ambitions have triggered dozens of armed conflicts, devastated states and led to the plight of civilians and millions of refugees," she asserted. "However, these things somehow do not concern the alliance and this bloc is not going to bear responsibility for its crimes."

Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko, whose portfolio includes Russia's relations with Europe and NATO, again made it clear that Russia is prepared to talk and negotiate, according to TASS. Grushko pointed out that Russian President Vladimir Putin's proposed post-INF missile moratorium remains on the table. "The President's initiative on reciprocal moratoriums is still in force. Moreover, it has become more topical in the current conditions. And we are convinced that healthy forces, including within NATO, who see the pernicious effects on European security of the prospects for the turning of our continent into a Cold War-style arena of confrontation, will draw conclusions and finally demonstrate the political will for continuing the dialogue on this topic," he said. "We have repeatedly said we are ready to negotiate all other aspects linked with the implementation of this initiative, including the use of transparency and verification mechanisms."

Lavrov Asserts, Russia Will Not Turn a Blind Eye to U.S.-NATO Provocations

Nov. 20 (EIRNS)—Russian Foreign Minister [Sergey Lavrov](#), during a press conference after meeting with Swedish Foreign Minister and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Chairperson-in-Office Ann Linde, called on Western countries to return to the principles underlying the foundation of the OSCE as well as those of the UN Charter in their relations with other countries. “We are open to dialogue with our Western colleagues,” he said. “President [Vladimir Putin](#) spoke about this in detail yesterday at an expanded meeting of the Foreign Ministry Collegium.”

But Lavrov also delivered a very sobering warning. “Let’s not turn a blind eye to the gross provocations that we observe daily on the part of NATO and, increasingly often, on the part of the EU as it attempts to play up to Ukrainian militarists, to organize military training missions for Ukrainians, to prepare the Ukrainian army for actions which it constantly threatens to employ claiming that it will take Donbas by force and is unwilling to fulfill the Minsk agreements, and to encroach on Russian Crimea,” Lavrov continued. “Ukraine’s bellicose rhetoric and military preparations do not seem to evoke any principled assessment on behalf of the West.”

“We witness what is happening, but I assure you that we will never allow the infringement of our legitimate, national interests. We have all the means to ensure it,” Lavrov stated.

Biden Administration officials, however, are continuing to stir the pot, telling anyone who will listen that Russia is about to invade Ukraine. U.S. Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines was in Brussels yesterday to brief NATO ambassadors about American intelligence on the situation and a possible Russian military intervention in Ukraine, the *New York Times* reported last night. Haines’s trip was long planned and covered a variety of issues, but “the growing concerns over Russia were among the short-term threats discussed,” unnamed officials told the *Times*. American and British

intelligence are increasingly convinced that Russian President Vladimir Putin is considering military action to take control of a larger swath of Ukraine, or to destabilize the country enough to usher in a more pro-Moscow government, the *Times* reports further.

On the military side, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley was on the phone yesterday with Commander-in-Chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces Lt. Gen. Valery Zaluzhny, discussing “the current security environment in Eastern Europe, including Russia’s concerning activity in the area,” reported the JCS readout. “The Chairman stressed the need for continued consultation amongst regional allies and partners, and reaffirmed U.S. support for Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.”

New Iron Curtain Falling Across Polish and Ukrainian Borders

Nov. 20 (EIRNS)—A new Iron Curtain is going up across Europe, from the Baltic states in the north down the Polish border and along the entire frontier of Ukraine along its borders with both Belarus and Russia. Instead of the impetus for such a wall ostensibly coming from the East, as during the Cold War, it’s now coming from the West. Such a new Iron Curtain is designed to sabotage any potential for East-West cooperation of the sort underway around the Belt and Road Initiative; the pretext being used to justify its construction is to stop the uncontrolled flow of migrants from the very countries in Southwest Asia that NATO has played a role in destroying.

After Polish officials indicated that they would be building a wall, with British help, along their border with Belarus, Ukrainian Interior Minister [Denys Monastyrskiy](#) told a committee of the Ukraine’s unicameral Verkhovna Rada, that the Kiev regime is looking to build a 2,500 km fence along its entire border with Russia and Belarus. Monastyrskiy also said Ukraine planned new military exercises in the next two weeks to prepare, in case migrants tried to cross the border illegally. “Our key task is to restrain and stop a possible massive flow of illegal migrants,” Monastyrskiy told the Verkhovna Rada, according to Reuters. “We must understand that the construction of a proper state border by Ukraine along its entire length with

the Russian Federation, the aggressor country, and the Republic of Belarus, is a reliable counter to this aggression,” Monastyrskiy said, referring not only to the Poland-Belarus border crisis but also Russia’s alleged troop buildup along the border with Ukraine.

Poland, for its part, is also threatening East-West rail traffic to try to get the authorities in Minsk to remove the migrants from the border area. Poland’s Border Guard Agency warned yesterday that if the migrants are not removed by Nov. 21, Warsaw would suspend all cargo train traffic going through Kuznica, according to a Polish Radio report. The Border Guard’s chief, Tomasz Praga, said that “as long as multiple groups of migrants, who are hostile towards Polish border personnel, remain near the crossing, many unexpected and dangerous situations may develop, including a railway disaster.”

Meanwhile, Estonia, which does not border either Poland or Belarus, has offered troops to help Poland secure its border. “Solidarity with our ally Poland is crucial at this time,” the Estonian Defense Ministry said in a tweet. It further stated that Estonia would send troops, including reservists from engineering and reconnaissance units, and military police, to support Poland in its efforts to secure the EU’s border “against the ongoing hybrid attack” by “the Belarusian regime.”

The view from the Belarus capital of Minsk is that all of the military and other activities along its border with NATO look like preparations for war. Belarusian Defense Minister Viktor Khrenin reported that the intensity of combat training activities has increased significantly in the neighboring countries, describing in detail the deployment of forces and the buildup of military infrastructure. “We are all very much concerned and worried by such developments. I, as a military man, understand that these are the measures to prepare for war,” he said. “Why? Do we threaten anyone? No. Although they [the West] speak about the Russian threat, this is not true. Russia is not threatening anyone. Neither are we, as part of the Union State (Russia is our strategic ally). The West is doing it to justify militarization in the eyes of their people.”

U.S. State Department Threatens To Invoke U.S.-Philippines Defense Treaty Against China

Nov. 20 (EIRNS)—The [U.S. State Department](#), in a statement issued yesterday by spokesman Ned Price, threatened U.S. military action in support of the Philippines in their territorial dispute with China in the South China Sea. The statement followed an incident two days earlier, in which Chinese Coast Guard vessels reportedly used water cannons to block the resupply of a Philippine offshore military outpost in the Second Thomas Shoal. “The United States stands with our ally, the Philippines, in the face of this escalation that directly threatens regional peace and stability, escalates regional tensions, infringes upon freedom of navigation in the South China Sea as guaranteed under international law, and undermines the rules-based international order,” Price said.

Also lending support to the Philippines was Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin who called Philippines Secretary of National Defense Delfin Lorenzana “to discuss recent events in the South China Sea.” While not specifically issuing any threats, the Pentagon readout of the call reported that Austin “reaffirmed the strong U.S. commitment to the Philippines under the Mutual Defense Treaty.” They also “agreed on the vital importance of peace and stability in the South China Sea and pledged to stay in close contact in the coming days,” the readout concluded. “Secretary Austin reiterated that the United States will stand with our Philippine allies.”

Russian and Chinese Bombers Fly Third Joint Patrol

Nov. 20 (EIRNS)—Russia, along with China, has not been standing still while the U.S.-led provocations have been piling up. Yesterday, a pair of Russian TU-95MS bombers flew a joint patrol with Chinese H-6K bombers over the Sea of Japan and the East China Sea. “These exercises ... were carried out in order to ensure the global strategic stability via joint efforts of China and Russia,” the Chinese Ministry of Defense said in a statement, reported TASS. The PLA website, [China Military](#), reported Nov. 19 that it was the third joint aerial strategic patrol conducted by the Chinese and

Russian militaries, “aiming to further develop the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination in the new era, upgrade the level of strategic coordination and joint operational capabilities of the two sides, and jointly protect global strategic stability.”

At the same time, a different pair of Tu-95 bombers flew a patrol over the Bering, Chukchi and Okhotsk Seas escorted by Su-35S fighter jets of the Eastern Military District.

COVID 19

Whence This Level of Mass Psychosis?

Nov. 20 (EIRNS)—Approximately 70% of the U.S. population has received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, and about 60% are fully vaccinated. The percentages in Western Europe are similar, with about two-thirds vaccinated in most countries.

As is well-known, the shortfalls are not for lack of available vaccine, but are largely due to widespread and often aggressive “anti-vax” superstitions in large portions of the population, combined with cultivated Ayn Rand-type hostility to “vax mandates,” “big government,” or “the state.”

It’s noteworthy that in order for children to enter kindergarten in the state of New York, just to take one example, there are mandatory immunizations, including: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTP), polio, measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), hepatitis B, chickenpox, and others. Are we about to see “no vax mandate” rebellions against these established public health measures as well?

One is reminded of the kinds of medieval superstitions health workers often find when attempting to provide modern health care in backward regions of developing sector nations—where stethoscopes and needles are often unknown and feared. It also brings to mind the 14th-century Flagellants and their response to the Black Death, and the manner in which their actions only led to the further spread of the pandemic.

Will Europe's COVID-19 Death Toll Soar by 300,000?

Nov. 20 (EIRNS)—A new study by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine presents an admittedly worst case scenario—i.e., if all European governments relax COVID restrictions—in which the current wave of COVID sweeping Europe could cause 300,000 new deaths and 1 million hospitalizations. According to the *U.S. Sun*, “the report’s authors stressed this was a ‘worst-case scenario’ that looked at what would happen if governments across Europe relaxed all Covid restrictions and allowed people to mingle at pre-pandemic levels.... [One of the authors] said the numbers were ‘very much the upper limit of what could occur’.... However, the study did not take into account what would happen if a new, more infectious variant emerged or the effects of waning immunity over time, researchers said.”

The current crisis continues to escalate. Belgium’s Prime Minister said the continent is on “red alert,” and new measures are being announced in numerous countries, accompanied in some cases by violent protests—e.g. in Amsterdam and The Hague in Holland.

Dramatic Covid Situation in Germany, Where Two States Impose Night Curfews for All

Nov. 20 (EIRNS)—The state governments of Saxony and Bavaria, states with the highest average of COVID-19 incidences in Germany, have decided to add night curfews from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. for all citizens, vaccinated and unvaccinated alike, in hotspots with an incidence over 1,000. In Saxony, restrictions go into effect on Monday, Nov. 22, until Dec. 12; in Bavaria, on Nov. 24-Dec. 15. Restrictions include closing bars, nightclubs, gyms, museums and many other public venues such as Christmas markets. Retail stores and restaurants may remain open until 8 p.m. under the “2G” (vaccinated and healed) rule. Schools and daycare centers will remain open.

The unvaccinated will lose access even to places such as hairdressers, universities or adult education centers. There will also be contact restrictions, with the unvaccinated allowed to meet with a maximum of five

people from two households. For sports and cultural events, the number of spectators will be limited to 25% of the venue's total capacity and the "2G+" rule will apply: even the vaccinated and recovered people will be required to produce an additional negative COVID PCR test result.

Politicians and experts alike are admitting they are not certain whether the restrictions will help to bring the infection rates down substantially, which are greater than 50,000 per day.

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

The Taper Wars: Choose Your Poison

Nov. 20 (EIRNS)—There is a policy fight underway internationally, purportedly over the issue of how to address the explosion of inflation. In Europe, outgoing Bundesbank President Jens Weidemann is calling for monetary tightening to try to contain inflation, while ECB President Christine Lagarde says the opposite, despite soaring inflation which, she admitted, is "unwelcome and painful." In the U.S., James Bullard, the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, is telling Fed Chairman Jerome Powell that he should "taper" faster, i.e., slow down the rate of inflationary quantitative easing: "It makes sense to try to move a little bit more hawkishly here and try to manage the inflation risk," Bullard said in an interview this week on Bloomberg Television. Similarly, Goldman Sachs is predicting (i.e., it favors) two interest rate increases next year, nearly a year earlier than their previous projections.

On the other hand, on Nov. 18, AP quoted Mary Daly, president of the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank, as saying last week that she thought "the Fed should continue its current pace of tapering through June, and then, assuming the pandemic steadily loosens its grip on the economy, wait to get a clearer sense of whether inflation will fade."

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Kamala Harris Was Acting President for 1 Hour and 25 Minutes on Friday

Nov. 20 (EIRNS)—Vice President Kamala Harris was formally acting President of the United States on Nov. 19 for an hour and 25 minutes, while President Biden was under anesthesia for a routine colonoscopy. The only real news here is that the media tried to make a big deal out of what is in fact standard operating procedure. One wonders if some in the Establishment were considering this a dry run.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki explained: “As was the case when President George W. Bush had the same procedure in 2002 and 2007, and following the process set out in the Constitution, President Biden will transfer power to the Vice President for the brief period of time when he is under anesthesia. The Vice President will work from her office in the West Wing during this time.”

NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER

Wang Yi Calls Indo-Pacific Development Is a Dynamic Model for the World

Nov. 20 (EIRNS)—Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi stated today that the Nov. 22 ASEAN-China special summit will be of great importance for the whole world, CGTN reported, because “the Asia-Pacific region, especially the most dynamic East Asia region, has formed a regional cooperation platform with ASEAN at the center and ASEAN partnership as the main carrier” which has helped bring about the fastest economic growth rates in the world. Wang highlighted the role of China-ASEAN dialogue relations, now in its 30th year in leading regional cooperation, and stated: “The summit will certainly help make new and greater contributions to regional peace, stability and prosperity.”

Wang Yi also used the occasion to comment on last week’s video summit between Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Joe

Biden, saying that “China has clarified its position, drawn a bottom line, and showed its sincerity to seek cooperation and properly handle differences with the U.S. He stressed that the two sides should adhere to the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation in promoting the development of bilateral relations,” CGTN reported. He reiterated that “the Taiwan question [is] a highly sensitive and critical issue in China-U.S. relations.”

Wang stated that there has been progress in the world battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, but that “the pandemic is still raging, the world is not tranquil, and the risks of bloc politics and Cold War confrontation are on the rise.” He concluded that “China will continue to work with other countries to build a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation. It has no intention of conflict or confrontation with any other country and stands ready to work with other countries to promote the common values of humanity and practice true multilateralism, he said,” according to the CGTN account.

New Xinhua Video on the BRI Features African & Ibero-American Leaders, Schiller Institute Rep

Nov. 20 (EIRNS)—“[Xi Urges Continuous Efforts To Promote High-Quality BRI Development](#)” is the headline of a new Xinhua text release and 10-minute video, dated Nov. 20, which features short statements from Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa, former Brazilian President Michel Temer, and think tankers, including the Schiller Institute’s Richard A. Black, on the success of the BRI in uniting over 140 countries and 30 organizations in global manufacturing and development.

In the 10-minute English-language Xinhua video, Black, identified as the Schiller Institute representative at the UN, is shown in a recent interview describing a unique feature of the BRI: That a great economic power, China, has extended its arms to all nations—including those nations which are poor and are small—and deals with those nations as equals. This is an aspect of a win-win strategy of rapid, mutual economic benefit.

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Visegrad Four Group Tells EU To Opt for Nuclear Power

Nov. 20 (EIRNS)—Ministers from Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Poland (the Visegrad Four) met in Paks, Hungary and agreed: “Without nuclear power it will not be possible to achieve the goals of climate neutrality.” They called on the European Commission to approve the inclusion of nuclear power in the taxonomy of sustainable investments. Hosting the meeting near the Paks nuclear power plant, which provides 48% of Hungary’s electricity, the minister responsible for expanding Paks, János Süli, led a conversation on energy sovereignty and security.

The Visegrad Four “are committed to the use of nuclear energy, as nuclear power plants help to achieve the European Union’s goal of climate neutrality while strengthening security of supply and providing clean electricity at affordable prices,” said the Paks II project company.

“With my colleagues, we agreed that without nuclear power it will not be possible to achieve the goals of climate neutrality,” stressed the Slovakian Minister of Economy, Karol Galek. Süli and Galek were joined by Adam Guibourgé-Czetwertyński, the Polish Undersecretary of State for Energy and a representative from the Czech Republic’s Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The four signed a statement on the importance of nuclear energy also in terms of the EU Taxonomy and security of supply.