

EIR Daily Alert Service

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

- Afghanistan Is a Big Opportunity for Peace Through Development
- Danish Foreign Minister Jeppe Kofod Appeals for Reflection and Soul-Searching after Kabul's Fall
- Was It Intelligence Failure or a Policy Decision That Disregarded the Intelligence?
- 9/11 Families Getting Biden Reaction?
- Repo Loan Crises Track Financial Crashes
- New Haiti Earthquake Destruction Shows Folly of Ignoring LaRouche's 2010 Rebuilding Program
- Toyota Warns Again Against Electric Vehicle Mandates—Impossible To Meet
- Drought Caused Water Shortage on Colorado River; Answer—More Infrastructure!
- Gordon Brown Exposes EU's Neocolonialist Withholding Vaccine Supplies for Africa
- China and Central Asian Nations Remaining Positive
- Russia and Turkey Keep their Embassies Open in Kabul

EDITORIAL

Afghanistan Is a Big Opportunity for Peace Through Development

Aug. 16 (EIRNS)—Contrary to President Joe Biden's self-justification today—"Our mission has never been nation-building" in Afghanistan—there is no conceivable reason for the military and military engineering forces of a major nation to stay in an underdeveloped country for such a

long period of time *unless* they are on a mission to help build that nation, help it industrialize with the infrastructure for sustained economic development. What did the United States military forces under General MacArthur do for a decade and a half in Japan after World War II, if not to at least assist in relaunching the modern industrialization of that country after the disaster of war? What about assistance in South Korea's building itself as an industrial power after war?

Those times are long past when the United States was almost unique in being capable of providing such assistance. Now it must be done in cooperation with the other major economic and technological powers; and an Eurasian effort is already underway, China's Belt and Road Initiative with projects in scores of countries.

And the United States, until now, clearly *has not* been in Afghanistan to help build up a nation. The U.S. withdrawal is not the defeat of a campaign "for democracy," which the NATO occupation never was. No, it is an opportunity which must be taken, with whatever government has popular backing, to foster the building of power, modern healthcare, water systems, transportation corridors—"TVA"-type development—in a country whose collapsed economy holds back the connectivity and development of an entire region.

The Schiller Institute, led by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, organized a day-long conference just two weeks ago on exactly this subject, "[Afghanistan: A Turning Point in History after the Failed Regime-Change Era](#)," with panels of real experts and representatives of other Asian nations who knew the country. The best of it was previewed in a special offprint report from *Executive Intelligence Review*, "[Will Afghanistan Trigger a Paradigm Change?](#)" which incorporated the transcript of The LaRouche Organization's July 10 Saturday webinar, "[Will Afghanistan, the Graveyard of Empires, Become the Cradle of Peace through Development?](#)" The Schiller Institute will now be bringing many of the same experts and representatives back together to update their discussion of economic development in light of the new circumstances. One of them,

Hussein Askary, today said on his Twitter feed, “It is fully possible to reach peace and stability in Afghanistan by integrating it into the Belt and Road Initiative. The regional and global context today is different from 1994” when the Taliban had previously taken power.

This is already very much the approach that China and the Central Asian nations around Afghanistan are taking, and the approach Russia will take.

The British may wax hysterical, as some of their Tory Parliament leaders did today, about sending Her Majesty’s very colonialist forces back into Afghanistan on their own to put things back in order! The British UN Ambassador may lament, as he did in today’s UN Security Council special session, that “what is happening in Afghanistan is a tragedy.” Shaken European ambassadors from the Irish to the Dane may have echoed him, but they are all clinging, sadly, to the beaten remains of a geopolitical policy of British origin which has been a disaster to the United States and the world.

It is a good thing that the policy of regime-change wars is ending. It is that policy only which has failed, and it was never in the interest of the United States. As Helga Zepp-LaRouche stressed today, what is in American interest is to “join hands and go for reconstruction.”

The NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan is a situation full of opportunity to do just that. The Schiller Institute’s July 31 conference on peace through development in the Central Asian region is now the vehicle for a drive to organize that development through joint offers by nations capable of exporting high-technology capital goods and substituting Afghanistan’s opium traffic. And the Institute will now update that vehicle for the greater opportunity which now exists.

- Watch **Harley’s Updates** with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday, August 17, 2021: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization website, www.laroucheorganization.com/ Harley will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

Danish Foreign Minister Jeppe Kofod Appeals for Reflection and Soul-Searching after Kabul's Fall

COPENHAGEN, Aug. 16 (EIRNS)—During a press conference yesterday in the midst of the fall of Kabul, after stating that the Danish government was concentrating on doing everything it could to evacuate the Danish embassy staff, other Danes and Afghans who aided the Danish mission, a visibly shaken Foreign Minister Jeppe Kofod (Social Democrat) said that this was not the time for a full analysis of these events, but that: “The way we are leaving Afghanistan is by no means the way we want to leave Afghanistan. I want to emphasize that. What we are seeing now calls for reflection and soul-searching by the international coalition, by NATO, by all of us who have been behind the efforts in Afghanistan for almost two decades. The reality we are seeing is completely different from the analyses. The Afghan army and government were perhaps more of a mirage than a reality.”

“I think we can all feel the pain of leaving Afghanistan this way,” Kofod said. “We have made a huge effort in the country. It affects us all, and most of all those who have paid the highest price.”

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Was It Intelligence Failure or a Policy Decision That Disregarded the Intelligence?

Aug. 16 (EIRNS)—President Joe Biden is being slammed from all sides for the chaos in Kabul and the decisions leading to it. In a comment that is being widely quoted, Biden himself said on July 8 that “the likelihood there’s going to be the Taliban overrunning everything and owning the whole country is highly unlikely.” One of the questions, therefore, being argued is whether or not his administration’s decisions leading to the U.S. military withdrawal were based on faulty intelligence or on policy decisions to ignore accurate intelligence assessments as to what was happening in Afghanistan. If the intelligence was accurate, that doesn’t

mean that there weren't also fakes and lies about what the assessments said that were being spread around.

In a report posted yesterday, ABC News stated that just days ago a U.S. military analysis predicted that Kabul could fall within 90 days but not by the weekend. "This is a crisis of untold proportions," Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA) told NBC News Sunday, Aug. 15, as Taliban militants swept into Kabul. "This is an intelligence failure. We underestimated the Taliban and overestimated the resolve of the Afghan Army."

But unnamed U.S. officials are saying that in fact key intelligence assessments had consistently informed policymakers that the Taliban could overwhelm the country and take the capital within weeks—essentially repeating the 1975 fall of Saigon. "[U.S.] leaders were told by the military it would take no time at all for the Taliban to take everything," an anonymous U.S. intelligence official told ABC News. "No one listened." Other intelligence sources said that Biden and his team of advisers had reached their decision about the U.S. military's withdrawal—which was all but completed on July 4—based on a variety of factors that went beyond Kabul's fate.

In addition, a senior congressional official, who asked not to be named in order to discuss sensitive briefings, told ABC News that intelligence officers had warned U.S. leaders about a swift and total victory by the fundamentalist militants who had held power in Kabul during the late 1990s until after the Sept. 11 attacks. "The intelligence community assessment has always been accurate; they just disregarded it," the official told ABC News, speaking about the Biden administration.

Blinken reportedly floundered when asked about the collapse on ABC's Sunday program "This Week with George Stephanopoulos." He insisted that "this is manifestly not Saigon"—even as live video from Kabul showed helicopters ferrying American officials out of the U.S. embassy compound to the military side of Kabul's airport.

But Blinken also let the cat out of the bag when he said that it was not in American interests to devote more time, money and, potentially, casualties,

to Afghanistan at a time when the United States was also facing long-term strategic challenges from China and Russia. Blinken said American forces will remain in the region only to confront any terrorist threat against the United States at home that might arise from Afghanistan.

“What is happening in Afghanistan is not the result of an intelligence failure,” former Acting CIA Director Michael Morell tweeted on Aug. 15. “It is the result of numerous policy failures by multiple administrations. Of all the players over the years, the Intelligence Community by far has seen the situation in Afghanistan most accurately.”

9/11 Families Getting Biden Reaction?

Aug. 16 (EIRNS)—Immediately following the letter from 9/11 families to Biden, released Aug. 9, in which the families disinvited the President from 20-year commemorations next month unless the classified sections of the FBI report on 9/11 are released, Biden announced a “fresh review” of that report to determine declassifications. He obviously wants to be at the 20-year ceremonies. It remains to be seen if anything real is declassified.

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Repo Loan Crises Track Financial Crashes

Aug. 16 (EIRNS)—What happens if the global COVID pandemic, generating its highest caseload of suffering in its two years’ duration, is punctuated by the event of a major financial crash? The Green New Deal will then encounter much more fierce resistance from the citizenries of nations; but will the political leaderships then rush, one fatal last time, to save Wall Street and the City of London, or will they be compelled to save humanity?

EIR’s continued warnings that the mid-September 2019 “repo crisis” set off a countdown to a crash, were duplicated by the economists [Pam and Russ Martens](#) in their “Wall Street on Parade” column of Aug. 12. Using almost four decades of data on the Fed’s provision of liquidity to financial firms published in the just-released Annual Report for 2020, they show that

there have been three episodes of sudden, massive rises in so-called repurchase-agreement or “repo” lending by the Fed to the banks. The first episode occurred in 1998—a 365% spike in daily repo loans demanded by the banks and provided by the Fed—and peaked just two months before the global stock and bond market crashes of 1998 began. The second episode began in late 2007; liquidity “loans and other credit extensions” listed in the Annual Report spiked by 24 times in the next 12 months, from \$72 billion to \$1.6 trillion, ending in the global financial crash of September 2008.

And the third such episode began with the “repo crisis” which suddenly forced the Fed into action in September 2009, and has shown a second wave this summer. This liquidity lending torrent has surged again in mid-2021 despite unlimited quantitative easing of \$120 billion/month for the past 18 months. In 2009 the beginning of QE replaced the liquidity lending after the 2008 crash, ending “repo” operations for 10 years. But this time QE has been immediately followed by another, even larger spike of liquidity loans this summer and the formation of a Standing Repo Facility to provide them.

Now there are indications the Federal Reserve may try to announce in September the start of “tapering” of quantitative easing securities purchases—which have been supporting Wall Street’s markets—with “repo” and other liquidity operations at a very high level. The Aug. 18 release of minutes from the FOMC’s July 27-28 meeting are expected to reveal discussions of a tapering announcement in September.

New Haiti Earthquake Destruction Shows Folly of Ignoring LaRouche’s 2010 Rebuilding Program

Aug. 16 (EIRNS)—Had American statesman Lyndon LaRouche’s program to rebuild Haiti been implemented, in response to the devastating Jan. 12, 2010 earthquake that killed between 250,000 and 300,000 people, this impoverished nation wouldn’t again be suffering the consequences of the deadly Aug. 14 earthquake which measured 7.2 on the Richter scale. So far, 1,300 people are dead, 2,800 injured, and 30,000 people homeless,

according to the *Miami Herald*. Homes, schools, supermarkets and roads were leveled in the southern and western parts of the country. People are terrified and despairing—today, as in 2010, they have been abandoned by the United States and its international partners, left to perish in African levels of poverty, disease and misery.

Almost immediately following the Jan. 12, 2010 earthquake, [Lyndon LaRouche](#) called for an emergency reconstruction program for Haiti, to which, he said, the U.S. had a special responsibility. He called on the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to first deploy to rescue and relocate up to 1 million homeless Haitians from Port-au-Prince to higher ground before the rainy season arrived and unleashed a dangerous health and sanitation crisis for these destitute citizens; he then proposed a comprehensive program to focus on building infrastructure—for sanitation, water management, irrigation, earthquake-proof housing, transportation, agriculture, etc.

LaRouche also recommended that the U.S. sign a 25-year treaty with Haiti, “a treaty agreement to reestablish the efficient sovereignty of the nation of Haiti, after the destructive effect of this and preceding difficulties.. We make a contract with the government, as a treaty agreement, between the United States and Haiti, to assure the rebuilding of their country, in a form in which it will actually be a functioning country which can survive.”

President Barack Obama rejected LaRouche’s proposals, removing crucial economic and military aid and encouraging instead what became known as the “Republic of NGOs”—a large unwieldy network of foreign NGOs that had a lot of money to throw around but nothing to show for it. Years later, in 2017, when China’s Southwest Engineering Municipal Design Research Institute joined with the Haitian firm Bayti Ayiti to propose a \$30 billion program to completely rebuild Port-au-Prince, with sanitation infrastructure, housing, and transportation, the IMF reportedly stepped in—*EIR* was told at the time—to make sure the proposal went nowhere.

In its March 10, 2010 edition, *EIR* published a 20-page Feature under the appropriate headline “[How Many Haitians Must Die Before We Impeach Obama?](#)” It detailed the programmatic solutions Haiti required, and identified those monetarist political forces committed to keeping in place the Malthusian economic policies that had made Haiti so vulnerable to disaster, and which remain in effect today.

GREEN NEW DEAL

Toyota Warns Again Against Electric Vehicle Mandates—Impossible To Meet

Aug. 16 (EIRNS)—Toyota, the world’s number-one maker of motor vehicles and the first to produce batteries to provide vehicle mobility when it introduced the Prius hybrid 20 years ago, continues to oppose attempts to mandate fully-electric vehicles by 2030, 2035 or any other date. Its executives, from CEO Akio Toyoda on down, continue to describe such mandates as impossible with regard either to the vehicles or the electric power to charge them.

Toyota’s North America chief Chris Reynolds met with Congressional leaders in late July, according to the *Forbes* July 29, and gave them uncomfortable truths. Toyota’s maximum capacity for battery production can support producing 1.6 million hybrid vehicles annually, but only 28,000 fully electric vehicles per year, a huge gap. Secondly, the carbon emissions from producing those 28,000 fully electric vehicles would be *greater* than the emissions from producing 1.6 million hybrids, Reynolds told them. His main point reportedly was that the battery capacity isn’t there and won’t be there, and that other auxiliary production requirements will be prohibitive. For example, not the 8,000 charging stations which is the current U.S. target, but several hundred thousand charging stations and much more electric generating capacity would be necessary for half of all vehicles to be electric by 2030.

All this, of course, was already fully demonstrated in the “[Great Leap Backward: LaRouche Crushes the ‘Green New Deal’ Fraud](#)” report of *EIR*

in February and the mass pamphlet of The LaRouche Organization issued in April and thus far in 25,000 printed copies as well as online.

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Drought Caused Water Shortage on Colorado River; Answer—More Infrastructure!

Aug. 16 (EIRNS)—Another dry year in the Southwest U.S. has left the Colorado River watershed that supplies 40 million people with drinking water and water for agriculture at record low levels, National Public Radio's Luke Runyon reported on July 13. For the first time ever, the Federal government is expected to declare a Colorado Basin water shortage this Summer.

The 1,450 mile long waterway acts as a drinking water supply, a hydroelectric power generator and a means of irrigation of desert crop fields across seven Western U.S. states, and two in Mexico. Though the infrastructure has been able to handle these building crises so far, extremely dry conditions like those of this year indicate that the Colorado River will not be able to meet all demands in 2021.

Nearly the entire Upper Colorado River basin is experiencing "severe drought or worse at a time of typically "high water." The entire river experienced its driest 12-month period on record from May 2020 to April 2021. A deficit of soil moisture from last year diminished this past Spring's runoff, locking in water supply shortfalls until at least next Winter. Fishing and recreation on some tributaries have cut off early. This summer a hot wind has also arrived, "functioning like a giant hair dryer" pointed right at his pastures," Runyon quoted a farmer. The availability of water also limits food for cattle; farmers who grow hay had to put cattle on irrigated land that would normally be used to grow hay later in the season, creating another loss in income for them. This second season of drought is requiring them to buy expensive food or sell the cattle.

The Colorado River's massive reservoir, Lake Powell, is now at its lowest point since it was created in the 1960s. The boat ramps for visitors

which drew 4.4 million people to the lake in 2019, who spent \$420 million, this year no longer reach the water. Now, the lake is only for water for the downstream states.

The entire watershed is gearing up for a new round of policy negotiations, with the first done in 2007 and due for an update. States will now lose part of their water allocations for the first time, with Arizona likely to face the biggest reductions. Without immediate commencement of new water infrastructure, from NAWAPA-modeled interbasin transfer to large numbers of desalination plants, the West faces only continuing desertification which has slowly intensified already for a generation.

COVID & FAMINE

Gordon Brown Exposes EU's Neocolonialist Withholding of Vaccine Supplies for Africa

Aug. 16 (EIRNS)—In an op-ed today in the *Guardian*, former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown exposed what he called the European Union's "neo-colonial approach" to the supply of COVID-19 vaccines particularly to Africa. Under the headline, "[The World Is Making Billions of Covid Vaccine Doses, So Why Is Africa Not Getting Them?](#)" he wrote: "I have learned from African leaders that, this month and next, about 10 million single-shot Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccines filled and finished at the Aspen factory in South Africa will be exported to Europe, at the very time that Africa is grappling with its deadliest wave of Covid-19 infections yet."

"Compared to the swift development of the path-breaking Covid vaccines, getting shots into all the world's arms should be straightforward. But vaccine nationalism—and Europe's neocolonial approach to global health—is dividing the world into rich and protected people, who live, and those who are poor, unprotected and at risk of dying," Brown wrote. Because of this, he said, 45 out of 54 African countries would miss their September target of vaccinating 10% of their citizens. Brown called for rich countries to provide £50 billion in financial support, waive patents to allow

African countries to manufacture their own drugs, and run down stockpiles of vaccines that were not needed. African nations require vaccines immediately, and rich countries would not be safe until there was mass vaccination for every country, he said.

Brown assessed that the United States had the option to buy almost 2 billion additional doses, the EU had access to 1 billion extra shots and Canada had secured 191 million—“and at one stage had procured almost 10 vaccines per citizen”—yet, “Due to over-ordering, their populations will likely not use all these vaccines but in the process of securing preferential agreements rich countries have effectively locked out African countries from accessing the doses they urgently require.” Some 88% of vaccines distributed globally have gone to the G20 group of the world’s wealthiest nations. While 50% of their adult populations have been fully vaccinated, the figure for Africa is only 1.8%. “We must keep reminding ourselves of the reason for ensuring the mass vaccination of the entire world,” he said. “No one is safe anywhere until everyone is safe everywhere, and everyone will live in fear until nobody does.”

Brown concluded, “Two policy changes are urgently needed, which Joe Biden, Boris Johnson and Italy’s Prime Minister Mario Draghi, the G20 president, must now deliver at a special G20 vaccines summit that should be convened next month. First, a virtuous circle must be created, starting with guaranteed international funding from the richest countries, to underwrite and accelerate the development of new global manufacturing capacity in poorer countries. This would include expediting the transfer of technology through licensing agreements that would benefit from a temporary waiver on vaccine patents....

“Countries with excess supply must end their stranglehold on available vaccines and future supplies. They must not only release them to Africa, but, as the IMF and four former American finance ministers proposed, provide at least \$50 billion in financial support through COVAX and the logistical help needed to ensure vaccines can be administered quickly and safely.”

NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER

China and Central Asian Nations Remaining Positive

Aug. 16 (EIRNS)—China’s Foreign Ministry said today that it expects the Afghan Taliban to keep to their promise, made to Foreign Minister Wang Yi in July, to form an “inclusive government.” *Global Times* reported that Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said “China hopes that the Taliban can implement its previous commitments and ensure a smooth transition of power in Afghanistan.” She said, it respects the Afghan people’s right to decide its own destiny, and will “continue to develop friendship and cooperation with Afghanistan.” Hua said the lack of serious military battles in the Taliban advance to power showed that a truce and peaceful transfer of power is “both the unanimous voice of more than 30 million Afghan people and the common expectation of the international community and regional countries, after more than 40 years of warfare.”

China’s embassy in Kabul continued normal operations, as did those of the Central Asian republics, which were otherwise taciturn about the Taliban’s apparent takeover. Tajikistan and Uzbekistan both reported that Afghan government soldiers and airmen, in many cases with their planes, crossing or trying to cross into their countries. They have closed their borders with Afghanistan temporarily, as has Pakistan.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan declared that Afghans “have broken the shackles of slavery.”

Russia and Turkey Keep their Embassies Open in Kabul

Aug. 16 (EIRNS)—While many of the Western embassies evacuated Kabul, Russia and Turkey’s embassies are open for business, since they both have an interest in integrating Afghanistan into the great Central Asian economy and the Belt and Road Initiative.

While Russian Foreign Ministry’s Second Asian Department Zamir Kabulov told TASS on Aug. 15 that Russia “will wait and watch how the [Taliban] regime will behave,” before deciding on recognition. He also said that he hoped for the establishment of friendly relations between Moscow

and Afghanistan's new leadership: "This is not only a hope of mine. I am certain about this. We will be building relations with reliance on the material we have accumulated over the years," Kabulov told TASS. "Our ambassador is in contact with representatives of the Taliban leadership. Tomorrow, as he told me just ten minutes ago, he will meet with the coordinator from the Taliban leadership for ensuring security, including our embassy," Kabulov said.

Ambassador Zhirnov said on the Rossiya-1 TV, "We have taken a major package of measures to enhance our security, and at the moment there are no immediate threats to our staff or our facilities. We will keep working here calmly and as usual." He also said Russia will do its utmost to help Russian citizens of Afghan descent to resettle in Russia.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu told a press conference that Turkey's embassy is open for business and all consular operations are continuing. While some Turkish citizens are leaving Afghanistan, Çavuşoğlu said there are Turkish citizens who wished to remain in the country.

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan issued a statement saying, "We will make every effort for the stability of the region and Afghanistan." Interestingly, Erdoğan said this during a ceremony on the occasion of the delivery of a corvette built by Turkey to the Pakistani security forces on Aug. 15 in Istanbul. Pakistani President Arif Alvi and other Pakistani officials attended the ceremony, too.

After the ceremony, Erdoğan and Alvi held a personal meeting at which they discussed bilateral relations, as well as Taliban's overrunning most of Afghanistan. Erdoğan said Turkey will be cooperating with Pakistan to assure stability in Afghanistan because "concerns over a new major refugee influx stemming from increasing instability in this region can only be prevented this way. As Turkey, we are also facing an Afghan refugee influx via Iran."