

## EIR Daily Alert Service

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## EDITORIAL

### Are Twenty Years of War Not Enough?

Sept. 16 (EIRNS)—Reached for comment today on the announcement by Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States that they are forming a new alliance called the AUKUS scarcely two weeks after withdrawing from Afghanistan after 20 years of disaster, Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche said that this new alliance is a mindless extension of the policy of endless war. Instead of abandoning Afghanistan to the hell that 20

years of military intervention, followed by a shutoff of international funds, have created, and leaping into a new and entirely unnecessary escalation of conflict with China, the United States and other NATO countries must immediately act to *do good*, to repair the damage of the Afghanistan and other unjust military adventures of the past two decades, through a policy of real development.

Zepp-LaRouche laid out the needed approach in her Sept. 5 statement, [“Can ‘The West’ Learn? What Afghanistan Needs Now!”](#)

The needs are urgent; the situation today in Afghanistan is horrendous. Despite a much-hyped sum of \$1.2 billion assembled on Sept. 13 from a donors UN-organized conference, Afghanistan remains largely cut off from sources of funding that are required to keep its people alive. More than \$9 billion of the country’s banking reserves is frozen by the United States. The World Bank has shut down a major health program required to maintain the system of clinics and hospitals that serve the population. The World Food Program warns of that 14 million people of Afghanistan’s 40 million population already face “food insecurity.”

But after withdrawing from Afghanistan following 20 years of disaster, instead of working to rebuild that nation, the United States has rushed into a new catastrophe—a new British Empire alliance targeting China, as NATO is already targetting Russia. The Australia-United Kingdom-United States, AUKUS, alliance among what its imperial masters charmingly call “maritime democracies” was announced on Sept. 15, focused squarely against China.

The goals of this military monstrosity include equipping Australia with a fleet of nuclear-propelled submarines, which British Prime Minister Boris Johnson gushed “will be one of the most complex and technically demanding projects in the world, lasting for decades and requiring the most advanced technology.” All that effort, for what end?

This is precisely the wrong orientation! As the British Empire pursues military pressure abroad and financial regime-change at home, China has spent the last decade creating growth. Under the rubric of its Belt and Road

Initiative, China has established a Central Asia-China gas pipeline, tying together Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. The small town of Gwadar, Pakistan, has been transformed into a modern industrial port on the Arabian Sea, now connected to China's western provinces through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor of roads, rail, power, and pipelines. China last year signed a development agreement worth up to hundreds of billions of dollars with Tehran. Following hundreds of billions—or trillions—of dollars of investment in Africa, China-Africa trade has doubled in the last years to a level that now is triple U.S.-Africa trade. China's approach is a far better example of pursuing “complex and technically demanding projects ... lasting for decades” than the pointless creation of an Australian nuclear-submarine fleet!

As the Anglo-American alliance girds its warships and Humvees with armor, the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative encircles the planet with infrastructure.

In her Sept. 5 article, Zepp-LaRouche warned that the Afghanistan withdrawal could be the beginning of a shift away from endless war, or an escalation in an even worse direction: “But if this reorientation only means that we will no longer busy ourselves out in the boondocks with the ‘endless wars,’ but instead will concentrate all forces on the ‘new challenges’—namely the confrontation with Russia and China—then the lesson from this shameful disaster has not been learned and we are embarking on an even worse catastrophe.”

Unfortunately, that “even worse catastrophe” looms; the AUKUS reflects a steadfast determination *not* to learn the lessons of Afghanistan.

Permanent warfare is a dead end, potentially leading to the end of the human race. The trans-Atlantic world must instead reflect on its disastrous actions, and regain its morality, both abroad—as through Afghanistan reconstruction—and at home, through exerting government power over finance, to put the beyond-rotten financial system through a much-needed bankruptcy reorganization, allowing focused investment in infrastructure and productivity, rather than finance and armaments.

Will the “West” fix the damage it has caused, adopt a moral approach, and embark on missions that bring enduring, legitimate pride? Will its leaders, or those who rise to act as its leaders, overturn the supremacy of Wall Street and the City of London, to chart a course of *doing good*?

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday, September 17, 2021: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#) website, Harley will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

## UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

### **Russiagate's Comeuppance Begins! Democratic Party Lawyer Indicted by Durham Grand Jury**

Sept. 16 (EIRNS)—Apparently U.S. Attorney John Durham *is* alive!

A lawyer working at Perkins Coie—the law firm that represented Hillary Clinton’s 2016 presidential campaign—has been indicted by a grand jury empaneled by John Durham, the special counsel appointed by the Trump administration to look into the Russiagate investigation. Michael Sussmann, a partner at Perkins Coie who represented the Democratic National Committee on the issue of its alleged 2016 hacking by Russia, had approached the FBI on Sept. 19, 2016, to present ostensible evidence of collusion between the Trump Organization and Russia’s Alfa Bank. Sussmann lied at the time, telling the FBI that he was not approaching them with this evidence on behalf of a client, but purely on his own initiative, as a good citizen who had come into the possession of information about foreign interference into the election.

The 27-page indictment paints a compelling picture that Sussmann had coordinated his approach to the FBI with an unnamed tech executive and with the Clinton campaign itself, spending hours preparing for the meeting, and billing those hours to the Clinton campaign, and later to a tech executive, who “exploited his access to non-public data at multiple Internet companies to conduct opposition research concerning Trump.”

The entire story was a hoax, and the indictment quotes from emails that make it clear that the narrative was a constructed fraud, designed to fool top security researchers into appearing plausible, even if not conclusive. One of the participants in the alleged plot had earlier warned that the evidence was so full of holes that it would reveal more about their feelings about Trump than any wrongdoing: “The only thing that drive[s] us at this point is that we just do not like [Trump]. This will not fly in eyes of public scrutiny.”

Perkins Coie had hired CrowdStrike to make up evidence of Russian hacking of the DNC computers. And it hired Fusion GPS to produce the risible “Steele Dossier,” including the absurd allegation that Trump had paid prostitutes to urinate on a bed once used by Obama. With Durham’s indictment, one of its concoctions has finally met with legal action, rather than unquestioning coverage from the legacy media.

This indictment comes just days before the five-year statute of limitations runs out.

Will it be the beginning of a series of indictments?

## BRITISH EMPIRE

### **U.S., U.K., Australia Form New Defense and Security “Partnership”**

Sept. 16 (EIRNS)—President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced during a virtual three-way summit yesterday, a new defense and security “partnership” among the three countries. It is to be called AUKUS—Australia-United Kingdom-United States—which will be “guided by our enduring ideals and shared commitment to the international rules-based order,” said the [“Joint Leaders Statement on AUKUS,”](#) posted to the White House website.

“Through AUKUS, our governments will strengthen the ability of each to support our security and defense interests, building on our longstanding and ongoing bilateral ties,” the statement said. “We will promote deeper information and technology sharing. We will foster deeper integration of

security and defense-related science, technology, industrial bases, and supply chains. And in particular, we will significantly deepen cooperation on a range of security and defense capabilities.”

The first initiative under the new arrangement will be an 18-month effort to explore a pathway for supplying Australia with its own fleet of nuclear-powered submarines “at the earliest achievable date,” it said. “The development of Australia’s nuclear-powered submarines would be a joint endeavor between the three nations, with a focus on interoperability, commonality, and mutual benefit,” the statement goes on. The statement also stresses, as did the three leaders in a joint press appearance, that the program will be fully in compliance with all nuclear proliferation commitments.

The three leaders also stressed that the new arrangement is just one of a number of efforts in the Indo-Pacific region. “AUKUS will also enhance our contribution to our growing network of partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region: ANZUS [Australia, New Zealand, U.S.]; our ASEAN friends; our bilateral strategic partners, the Quad; Five Eyes countries; and, of course, our dear Pacific family,” Morrison said in [“Remarks by President Biden, Prime Minister Morrison of Australia, and Prime Minister Johnson of the United Kingdom Announcing the Creation of AUKUS.”](#) Even more significantly, “the U.K., Australia, and the U.S. will be joined even more closely together, reflecting the measure of trust between us, the depth of our friendship, and the enduring strength of our shared values of freedom and democracy,” Johnson put in..

“Indeed, this effort reflects a broader trend of key European countries playing an extremely important role in the Indo-Pacific,” Biden proclaimed. “France, in particular, already has a substantial Indo-Pacific presence and is a key partner and ally in strengthening the security and prosperity of the region. The United States looks forward to working closely with France and other key countries as we go forward.”

“And the United States will also continue to work with ASEAN and the Quad, as was stated earlier; our five treaty allies and other close partners in

the Indo-Pacific; as well as allies and partners in Europe and around the world to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific, and build a future of peace, opportunity for all the people of the region,” Biden said, closing their remarks.

## **AUKUS Arrangement Really Aimed at China**

Sept. 16 (EIRNS)—Despite the refusal by President Joe Biden, or Britain’s Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Australia’s Scott Morrison, to mention the target by name during yesterday’s statements, the new AUKUS alliance is clearly aimed at China.

Two administration officials, speaking to reporters during a [White House background briefing](#), yesterday, went out of their way to insist that the new arrangement was not aimed at any single country, but even the reporters couldn’t help but notice the obvious and kept asking about what AUKUS means for China. “This partnership is not aimed [at], or about, any one country; it’s about advancing our strategic interests, upholding the international rules-based order, and promoting peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific,” one of the officials said.

One reporter observed that submarines are about national security and that China is the only country in the region not involved in that discussion. “This is not aimed at any one country,” the official repeated. “This is about a larger effort to sustain the fabric of engagement and deterrence in the Indo-Pacific.”

Another reporter asked if President Biden had mentioned the new partnership in his Sept. 10 phone call with Xi Jinping. “Not in any specific terms, but President Biden did underscore our determination to play a strong, strong role in the Indo-Pacific,” the official said. “He reviewed some of the efforts that we’ve taken to date—engagements in Europe and the like.”

The Chinese are not reassured by such statements that AUKUS “is not aimed at any one country.” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian denounced the new agreement during his press briefing Sept. 15.

“The nuclear submarine cooperation between the U.S., the U.K. and Australia has seriously undermined regional peace and stability, intensified the arms race and undermined international non-proliferation efforts,” he said. “The export of highly sensitive nuclear submarine technology to Australia by the U.S. and the U.K. proves once again that they are using nuclear exports as a tool for geopolitical game and adopting double standards. This is extremely irresponsible....

“Seeking closed and exclusive clique runs counter to the trend of the times and the aspirations of countries in the region, which finds no support and leads nowhere. Relevant countries should abandon the outdated Cold War zero-sum mentality and narrow-minded geopolitical perception, respect the will of the people of regional countries and do more to contribute to regional peace, stability and development. Otherwise, they will only end up shooting themselves in the foot,” Zhao concluded.

Former Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, in an op-ed published in *Sydney Morning Herald*, charges in the headline: “[This Pact Ties Australia to Any U.S. Military Engagement against China.](#)” “The announced agreement between the United States, Britain and Australia for Australia to move to a fleet of U.S.-supplied nuclear submarines will amount to a lock-in of our military equipment and forces with those of the U.S., with only one underlying objective: the ability to act collectively in any military engagement by the U.S. against China.

“This arrangement would witness a further dramatic loss of Australian sovereignty, as matériel dependency on the U.S. would rob Australia of any freedom or choice in any engagement it may deem appropriate,” he argued.

### **Are Nuclear Submarines for Australia a Boondoggle?**

Sept. 16 (EIRNS)—Can Australia even come to the point of being able to operate and maintain nuclear-powered submarines? There is some doubt about this within Australia, whose Navy currently has six aging Collins-class diesel electric boats. Five years ago Australia signed a contract with the French Defense Ministry builder DCNS for 12 advanced, conventionally powered boats to replace them, but Prime Minister Scott

Morrison cancelled the deal after costs went through the roof, from \$40 billion to \$70 billion, and delays put the delivery of the first boat off until sometime in the 2030s.

Peter Hartcher, political and international editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*, wrote in a Sept. 16 op-ed that China has 66 submarines now and will have, according to the U.S. Office of Naval Intelligence, 10 more by 2030. By that year, Australia would still have the same six Collins boats, if they're even still operable.

Nuclear power makes a submarine far more capable than an equivalent, conventionally powered sub, but for Australia, those reactors would come from the U.S., since Australia has no nuclear infrastructure of its own. "We'd be buying a nuclear reactor in a box," Hartcher quotes Australian Strategic Policy Institute submarine specialist Marcus Hellyer as saying. "It does make us even more dependent on the U.S.. At any point, they can turn off the technology. The question then, is what expertise we can develop to operate and sustain the subs."

"Australia can now contemplate another decade or two with no new subs. And even if this proposal goes to plan, Australia will not have a full sovereign capability but an increased defense dependency on the U.S. Perhaps Morrison thinks that America, having produced one Donald Trump, could not possibly produce another," Hartcher concludes. "So when Beijing's spokesmen fulminate against this announcement, don't be surprised if they have to pause to laugh into their sleeves."

## STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

### **Blinken Tells Lithuanian Foreign Minister, We've Got Your Back Against China and Russia**

Sept. 16 (EIRNS)—Lithuania's President Gitanas Nausėda arrived in Berlin, today, with his announced agenda of urging support for Ukrainian membership in NATO and the withdrawal of all Russian troops from eastern Ukraine (although there aren't any). He further proposes that the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline between Russia and the EU—the European

terminus is Greifswald, Germany—be shut down if Russia continues what he maintains is its “aggressive posture against neighboring states and Europe.” He expects German foreign policy to click its heels and join in lockstep behind his paranoid views. Nord Stream 2, a submarine pipeline from Russia beneath the Baltic to Greifswald, does not pass through Lithuania, or any country. Its completion was just announced on Sept. 10 by Gazprom chairman of the Management Committee Alexey Miller.

Nauseda came into office in May 2019. Before his election, he worked as advisor to the Baltic country’s biggest bank, Sweden’s SEB bank. Nauseda is a 100% pro-Atlanticist, pro-NATO politician, who has apparently decided that Lithuania’s role in the world is to serve as a cat’s paw for the British Empire war hawks. And not just against Russia. His government moved in July toward de facto recognition of Taiwan as a separate country, provoking China to expel Vilnius’ ambassador to Beijing on Aug. 10.

Meanwhile in Washington, on Sept. 15, Lithuania’s Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis met with Secretary of State Tony Blinken, who told him that tiny Lithuania (population, 2.7 million) should keep right on kicking China and Russia in the shins. “The Secretary underscored resolute U.S. solidarity with our NATO ally and EU partner Lithuania as it faces geopolitical challenges to regional stability, security, and economic prosperity,” reported [State Department](#) spokesman Ned Price.

“The Secretary reiterated ironclad U.S. support for Lithuania in the face of attempted coercion from the People’s Republic of China. The two leaders discussed efforts to assist Lithuania to build supply-chain resiliency and expand bilateral economic cooperation. The Secretary thanked Foreign Minister Landsbergis for Lithuania’s leadership in confronting the challenges coming from Belarus. The two leaders discussed our ongoing partnership to support the Belarusian pro-democracy movement, and the Secretary expressed gratitude to Lithuania for facilitating the establishment of a Belarus Affairs Unit at U.S. Embassy Vilnius.”

And that was just the public report!

The reference to neighboring Belarus apparently has to do with the fact that opposition presidential candidate Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya fled to Vilnius within hours of massively losing the Aug. 9, 2020 election, whence she proclaimed she had won the election against incumbent Alexander Lukashenko. Now, flush with finances from the National Endowment for Democracy, she is the brand name for a dirty color revolution against Minsk, to which she has yet to return.

## NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER

### Schiller Institute Leaders Zepp-LaRouche and Askary Join Pakistan-Based Online Forum for Afghanistan Development

Sept. 16 (EIRNS)—The Asian Institute of Eco-Civilization Research and Development, a Pakistan-based think tank, held an online seminar today to launch its “Kandahar Dialogue.” The event, titled “Afghanistan in Search of Peace and Prosperity,” brought together some half-dozen speakers, including Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the founder of the Schiller Institute; Andrey Kortunov, director general of the Russian International Affairs Council; and Hussein Askary, Southwest Asia Coordinator for the Schiller Institute. It was moderated by Pakistani political economist Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, who had addressed the Schiller Institute’s international conference on [“World at a Crossroad: Two Months into the New U.S. Administration,”](#) on March 20-21. His March 21 remarks were on [“CPEC, Connectivity, and Future Prospects.”](#)

Afghanistan’s neighbors, Pakistan emphatically included, are eager to create conditions for stability, development, and predictability, to create a welcoming environment for long-term development. *EIR* will make further reports available in the near future.

## AFGHANISTAN

### Two Former U.S. Surgeons-General Respond to Afghanistan Initiative of Helga Zepp-LaRouche

Sept. 16 (EIRNS)—Two former Surgeon Generals of the United States responded to Helga Zepp-LaRouche’s initiative for reconstruction of Afghanistan, typified by her Sept. 5 statement: “[Can ‘The West’ Learn? What Afghanistan Needs Now!](#)”

Dr. David Satcher, who served as surgeon general from 1998 to 2002, had the following to say:

“Dr. William Foege, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (1977-1983), in his book, *House on Fire: The Fight To Eradicate Smallpox* (2011), about the successful effort to eradicate smallpox disease, describes how relationships were prioritized, including assuring that credit for successful interventions was appropriately shared. On the other hand, when we came close to eradicating polio in the last decade of the 20th century, it was the fighting in Afghanistan and Pakistan which prevented our success in eliminating polio in those countries, and thus eradicating it in the world. In other words, we were not willing to allow the immunization of children in Pakistan and Afghanistan to take priority over the killing of people and the winning of the war. But, in fact, nobody won the war in Afghanistan, and we failed to eradicate polio.

“Ultimately, we will eradicate polio, but unfortunately it will be after many lives have been lost and trillions of dollars have been spent.

“We can do better! We can invest in lives rather than deaths! We can bring new thinking into our relationships. We can care about each other and value lives beyond our own and beyond our own culture. We can work to make science work for us and for future generations.

“I am impressed with the idea and the statement. We’re talking about a whole new definition of winning and what it means to win, especially winning together, and supporting the healthy development of children as a

priority. What is needed is a new paradigm, relative to what we value and what we are willing to do to bring it about.”

Dr. Joycelyn Elders, who served as surgeon general from 1993 to 1994, responded:

“I agree with Dr. David Satcher’s response to Helga Zepp-LaRouche’s statement regarding the needed approach to the dire health and humanitarian crisis facing Afghanistan and many other nations around the world. When we speak about the need for basic necessities for life, such as healthcare, food and water, that is the same for people everywhere, regardless of where you are or what type of government you have.

“The COVID pandemic is exasperating the crises in previously food and health-deprived countries. It is clear that the only way this will be defeated is with a modern healthcare system, in every nation. The [Committee for the Coincidence of Opposites](#) has emphasized the need for comprehensive, not piecemeal solutions. Infrastructure, food, energy, and clean water are crucial, combined with modern hospitals and trained personnel. I have long championed the training and deployment of community health care workers, especially recruited from among the young, to augment the resources of trained medical personnel. These workers would now be invaluable in assisting in this effort. Also, here is where the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as well as the [United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps](#), a branch of the uniformed services of the U.S. which does not bear arms, and which I and my colleague Dr. Satcher directed, could play an important role.

“Now is the time for us to end confrontation and engage in cooperation to address the basic needs of humanity.”

### **Needless Health Catastrophe in Afghanistan**

Sept. 16 (EIRNS)—Afghanistan’s acting Health Minister Dr. Wahid Majrooh, explained the true effects of Western financial actions that have the effect of shutting down the funding of Afghanistan’s health system:

“When we hear messages from the World Bank or the Afghanistan

Reconstruction Trust Fund donors—whether they say that they have put our funds on hold, or they’ve frozen them—what that means to me is 3,700 health facilities will collapse. That the health of 35 million people will collapse.”

The UN estimates that about 90% of health facilities have closed down, as international support is more worried about the Taliban misusing their funds than about the consequences to human life.

In interviews with the websites [New Humanitarian](#) on Sept. 11 and [Business Insider](#) on Aug. 29 and Sept. 8, Majrooh explained that food and fuel are gone, that there are no salaries; that the immunization teams for polio and COVID-19 are dismantled, and that 3 million COVID vaccine doses close to expiring won’t be put into arms.

The World Bank-managed program, called the Sehatmandi Project, on which the country’s public health sector depended suddenly ceased, meaning the otherwise preventable deaths of pregnant women and severely malnourished children. The World Health Organization has said More than 90% of health facilities funded by Sehatmandi, may close.

Further, explained Majrooh, there should be no difficulty for countries or other donors to provide financial aid, even if they have concerns about the Taliban. “[Funding] could be paid directly to UN agencies, to a private sector facilitator, to any mechanism that fits their needs,” he told the New Humanitarian. “In the new political context that our donors are promoting now, we are flexible with that. For me as the leader of the health sector, I have no issue with what the political agenda is. The only concern I have is the availability of health services.”

Majrooh, who had been Health Minister in the government of Ashraf Ghani, said that he decided to stay at his post on Aug. 15. “When Taliban came in, I attended the office the next day. And to be honest, they were surprised. As the days go on, I’m just preparing for a smooth exit, to hand over most of the issues. The level of coordination between me and their health commission is good.” However, while they agreed to inform their provincial health authorities to continue with COVID-19 vaccinations, the

logistics are not there. Afghan hospitals don't have the fuel to provide even refrigerator-level storage of vaccines, he pointed out.

## COVID AND FAMINE

### China Has Fully Vaccinated 1 Billion Citizens; Research Paper Shows Success against Delta Outbreak in Guangzhou

Sept. 16 (EIRNS)—Today, China's National Health Committee announced that more than 1 billion Chinese—over 70% of the population—are now fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Another 150 million more Chinese, or over 10% of the population, are awaiting their second shot. At their demonstrated rate of 14 million vaccinations/day, they could surpass 80% by the end of the month.

In a separate development, Chinese epidemiologists published a research paper "[Transmission, viral kinetics and clinical characteristics of the emergent SARS-CoV-2 Delta VOC in Guangzhou, China,](#)" for the Oct. 1, 2021 issue of *EClinicalMedicine*, (an online journal published by *The Lancet*), addressing their study of the mass Delta-variant infection that invaded China on May 21, centered in Guangzhou, Guangdong province in the south.

Using viral genome sequencing, they were able to determine that 31% of the infections occurred during family meals, 30% from household contact, 18.6% from community transmission, and 20% elsewhere (work, social contact, etc.). The median incubation period had shortened from the 6.3 days of the original virus, to only 4.7 days. Hence, the Delta virus spreads on average four times over ten days. The researchers summarized that a successful defeat of the variant was based upon rapid tracing, isolation, timely control of key sites, and localized nucleic acid screening. The government is directing the resources and effort necessary to maintain a zero-COVID policy.