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EDITORIAL

Biden Administration Unleashes Financial Warfare Against Russia; Have We Gone Mad?

April 15 (EIRNS)—The White House announced a series of sanctions against Russia today, the gravest of which—because of what it portends—is an attack on Russia’s ability to issue ruble-denominated debt, with the stated purpose of triggering massive capital flight and wreaking havoc on the Russian economy.

By prohibiting American companies and financial institutions from purchasing ruble- denominated public debt as of June 14, 2021, a Senior Administration Official briefed the press on background today, the U.S. intends to provoke “a negative feedback loop”: “This is the main market that funds the Russian government... Removing U.S. investors as buyers in this market can create a broader chilling effect that raises Russia’s borrowing costs, along with capital flight and a weaker currency. And all of these forces have a material impact on Russia’s growth and inflation outcomes.”

Biden justified the measures, which included the expulsion of ten diplomats and other sanctions, by “declaring a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States” purportedly posed by Russia. His Executive Order also threatens to impose additional measures in the future: “We are prepared, going forward, to impose substantial and lasting costs” on Russia if they do not behave as they are told.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova responded to the measures: “We have repeatedly warned the United States about the consequences of their hostile steps, which are increasing the confrontation between our countries to dangerous levels.” She also stated that such U.S. actions bring into doubt “the practicability of the use of the dollar and the reliability of Western-controlled payment systems,” according to an account in Sputnik. On April 11, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov

had told Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) that, in light of the killer economic sanctions being imposed on countries like Syria, Yemen, Iran and Venezuela, Russia would be "stepping up efforts to reduce risks associated with sanctions," and that "gradual steps should be taken to move towards de-dollarization."

Biden's moves today could well accelerate the process of the BRICS and associated countries moving to dump the dollar altogether in self defense, possibly detonating the entire trans-Atlantic financial system. The big winner of a combined blowout of the financial system and war-like confrontation between the United States and Russia, and between the U.S. and China, would be the British Empire.

The Ukraine and Taiwan provocations against Russia and China, respectively, continue to create the grave danger of military confrontation as well. Add to that the worsening pandemic and the famine threatening hundreds of millions, and we have what Helga Zepp-LaRouche has referred to as a civilizational crisis of an unprecedented nature.

To wake up the world to that danger, to shake people out of the moral indifference which breeds pessimism and inaction, Zepp-LaRouche and the Schiller Institute today issued an "Urgent Call to Stop the Genocide in Syria and Yemen; The Moral Collapse of the Western System Cries Out for a New Paradigm."

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday, April 16, 2021: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#) website, Harley will give you the strategic briefing on what you need to know to start your day.

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Russia, China, and Other Nations Are Actively Discussing De-Dollarization

April 15 (EIRNS)—With entire nations being driven to the point of extinction by the Satanic “economic sanctions” technique of implementing Malthusian depopulation policies, many of these countries are concluding that they have no choice for survival but to break out of the dollar system as best they can. Last week, China announced that it had begun use of a digital currency under government control. And on April 12, Russian Foreign Minister [Sergey Lavrov](#) who was visiting Tehran, had the following response in his interview with the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) about sanctions and what to do about them:

“As for the sanctions policy pursued by Washington, our stance remains unchanged: We will continue to reject any unilateral restrictions which—on top of everything else—affect the most disadvantaged groups of population. Russia has been vocal about the inadmissibility of such restriction at various international platforms, including the UN. I am pleased to note that our position is widely supported by members of the world community.

“It is equally important to step up efforts to reduce risks associated with sanctions and potential expenses for economic operators. In particular, gradual steps should be taken to move towards de-dollarization of national economies and transition to payments in national or alternative currencies, as well as to stop using international payment systems controlled by the West. Russia has been working actively to that end. We see great prospects for cooperation in that field with all interested international partners.”

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov also discussed the issue on April 13, according to a TASS article, [“Kremlin Does Not Rule Out Russia’s Disconnection from Western Payment Systems.”](#) Peskov explained: “We can say one thing with certainty, that in one form or another, restrictions against Russia are being used by a number of states that pursue the goal of illegally, from the standpoint of international law, containing Russia. These

restrictions are manifested in various forms, and this is a rather unpredictable process. So, within the framework of this process and given such unfriendly, and at times even hostile behavior towards us, nothing can be ruled out.”

The best way to hedge all risks, according to Peskov, is to create systems that can compensate for the lack of a particular service and various formats of financial support. "That is, systems for strengthening sovereignty in all areas of the economy, banking and so on," he stated. The Russian payment system Mir has already matured enough and with time will gain global distribution, he went on. “Yes, it does not have an international circulation yet, but still there are countries where this system can be used. And now no one doubts that this system will eventually spread globally,” Peskov concluded.

Former Brazil Foreign Minister Thinks Next Lula Government Will Work with BRICS To Reshape World Economy

April 15 (EIRNS)—Former Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim was interviewed by Sputnik on the policy of a new government under former President Lula da Silva, should Lula defeat the incumbent Jair Bolsonaro in next year’s presidential elections. Amorim was Foreign Minister twice: once under President Itamar Franco in 1993-1994, and then under Lula from 2003-2010, and he is known to be still close to Lula.

Amorim stressed that Brazil, like many countries, is going through a systemic crisis. “We are in the midst of the pandemic, a big health crisis, a big economic crisis, a big potential social crisis, also.” The old models no longer work; they have been “overcome, surpassed. So, there’s a new world,” he said.

He then turned to bloc of the BRICS—Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa—and the kinds of major changes that could come. “I think that the fact that we have BRICS, for instance, we have the possibility, Russia has just proposed, I saw my good friend [Russian Foreign Minister Sergey] Lavrov, with whom I interacted for many years as foreign minister

and before as ambassador to the UN, proposing that Russia could abandon the dollar.”

Amorim continued: “I don’t know if Brazil can abandon the dollar, but we could have our trade among BRICS countries with our currencies. So I think it’s very important to reinforce BRICS. I think Brazil has to work within the groups like BRICS and, of course, to have normal relations with the United States, as well.”

He replied about whether Washington would tolerate another Lula term: “Washington is not such a simple concept. There are different forces in the United States that act in different ways. Certainly, if you had the Trump administration, they would support Bolsonaro. With the Biden administration—we don’t know yet. So far, his policies toward Latin America have not shown much progress.”

As for the policy priorities of a Lula government, Amorim said that, in addition to the BRICS, “We’ll work on integration in South America, and we’ll develop multi-polar relations with all the world, with great emphasis in Africa, because Africa is very near to Brazil.”

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

Zepp-LaRouche Call To Stop Syria, Yemen Genocide: Moral Collapse of Western System Cries Out for a New Paradigm

April 15 (EIRNS)—The Schiller Institute is circulating an urgent response from its founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche to Apostolic Nuncio to Syria [Cardinal Mario Zenari](#), who has alerted the world to the acute humanitarian emergency that has been deliberately imposed upon Syria, in the aftermath of nine years of war, through murderous “sanctions” measures imposed by the U.S. State Department and irresponsibly supported by a number of other governments, most emphatically the British. Action to end the so-called “Caesar Sanctions” imposed upon Syria will not only help halt the mass starvation and poverty now engulfing that nation, but will also benefit the rest of humanity. It is time to pursue, as the Cardinal states, a pathway of Peace through Development, and to reject outright the moral indifference

which increasingly threatens to unleash this scale of calamity throughout the planet.

In her weekly [Schiller Institute webcast](#) discussion on April 14, Zepp-LaRouche demanded that the world come to the aid of the Syrian people. As Cardinal Zenari has stated, more than 90% of Syrians are below the level of extreme poverty, and many are in danger of losing their lives due to famine. The last decade of war, the unjust sanctions, and the COVID-19 pandemic have created an absolutely intolerable condition of suffering for the Syrian people.

Similar horrors confront Yemen, where the agonizing reality of hunger is conveyed in the powerful documentary “[Hunger Ward](#),” referred to by the head of the World Food Program, David Beasley, who saw children dying before his very eyes in the hospital, and he was unable to help.

There is nothing “humanitarian” Zepp-LaRouche stated, in starving children and shutting down hospitals and medical care, based on fraudulent narratives cooked up by British and American regime-change advocates, in and out of government. “This must stop and the Caesar Sanctions must be lifted. And all the members of the U.S. Congress who do not lift these sanctions make themselves complicit in every death that occurs in the region.”

Zepp-LaRouche continued: “This has reached the point where either the world wakes up and we start to remedy this, or we will not survive, because of our own moral failure as a human species. I call on you: Work with the Schiller Institute. Work with its Committee on the Coincidence of Opposites, which is working to get aid programs and reconstruction. I appeal to you: Get in contact with the Schiller Institute and respond to the call by Cardinal Zenari.”

***Syria Times* Covers Helga Zepp-LaRouche’s Appeal vs. Mass Murder**

April 15 (EIRNS)—The official English-language online [Syria Times](#) daily today published a detailed news item on Helga Zepp-LaRouche’s call during her weekly webcast, which the daily also posts. The coverage is

accompanied by photographs of Mrs. Zepp-LaRouche and Cardinal Mario Zenari, who has been the Apostolic Nuncio to Syria since 2011. *Syria Times* writes:

“In her weekly dialogue, Helga Zepp-LaRouche made an impassioned appeal to viewers to join with her in addressing the dangerous moral collapse which characterizes virtually every western government, including the United States. This collapse poses a threat to everyone, as the crisis in Ukraine continues to build toward a war between Russia and the forces of the U.S. and NATO. The possibility of a Biden-Putin summit is a positive development, but at the same time it was announced, his foreign policy team was voicing full support for the fanatical extremist wing of domestic forces in Ukraine, which is pushing to cross the ‘red line’ announced years ago by Moscow, that of placing NATO troops on the Russian border of Ukraine.

“She also emphasized the urgency of lifting the so-called Caesar Sanctions against the people of Syria, citing the appeal of Cardinal Zenari to end the sanctions. There is nothing ‘humanitarian,’ she stated, in starving children and shutting down hospitals and medical care, based on another fraudulent narrative cooked up by U.K.-U.S. regime-change networks. We must insist that every policymaker who does not speak up against this fraud is complicit in every death which occurs in Syria and in Yemen.”

U.S. Backpedals on Sending Warships into the Black Sea

April 15 (EIRNS)—The Pentagon never actually confirmed that it was sending two destroyers into the Black Sea this week, despite reports from Turkey last week that the U.S. had notified Ankara authorities of an impending passage through the Bosphorus. Instead, the Defense Department’s imagery distribution service posted photographs of the *USS Donald Cook* and the *USS Roosevelt*, the two vessels earlier named by TASS as the ones scheduled to enter the Black Sea, arriving at the NATO base in Souda Bay, Crete. The caption accompanying the imagery reported that they arrived on April 14 “for a logistics and maintenance period,” possibly implying that they would be there for a few days.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu confirmed that the passage of the U.S. was canceled, but there were still three days to act on the existing notification. “We were verbally told that the passage of the ships was cancelled. However, if they change their mind, they have three more days to use the previous notification and send the ships—the notification will still be valid. If the ships do not pass within three days, then they will again need to make a notification 15 days before the expected passage,” Cavusoglu said, reported Sputnik.

The cancellation of the passage followed Russian warnings against U.S. ships approaching Crimea and the deployment of ships of the Russian Black Sea fleet, including vessels deployed from the Caspian Sea flotilla, on exercises of their own. The exercise, which included the frigate *Admiral Makarov*, two small missile ships, and other vessels, was to include live fire of artillery, according to a Russian Defense Ministry press release.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said today that the U.S. decision not to send the two destroyers into the Black Sea does not mean the time is now to speak of détente around Ukraine. “Now the situation is very tense. As you know, there are a lot of military units from both NATO and the United States, which have been redeployed to our borders as part of various drills directly from the U.S. together with military equipment. Of course, in this situation any additional military components lead to another wave of tension,” Peskov told reporters. “So far, certainly, it is too early to say that the decision not to send two ships will somehow lead to a détente.”

At the same time that the U.S. has apparently chosen to avoid a possible confrontation with Russia in the Black Sea, the U.K. seems to have done the same thing with respect to China. The Royal Navy aircraft carrier *HMS Queen Elizabeth* is scheduled to depart Portsmouth in late May for a voyage to the Western Pacific. According to the *Telegraph*, the British government has decided to scrap its original plan for the carrier and its strike group to sail up the Taiwan Strait, and instead send them to the east of the island on their way to Japan from the South China Sea. While this decision has apparently not been officially announced, the war party in

Britain, including Tory MPs and the Henry Jackson Society, are already up in arms about it. However, Admiral Lord West, the former first sea lord, opined, “I think it’s enough of a statement by going through the South China Sea,” he said. “You don’t need to rub people’s faces in it by traveling through the Formosa Strait.”

Russian Officials Issue Stark Warnings over Ukraine Provocations

April 15 (EIRNS)— Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu visited Russian units stationed near the border with Ukraine for a surprise check of their combat readiness, he announced. “In response to the Alliance's military activities threatening Russia, we have taken appropriate measures,” Shoigu told media at a briefing in Severomorsk, where he inspected the Northern Fleet on April 13.

Sergei Shoigu said that as part of the control classes for the winter training period, a sudden check of the combat readiness of the troops of the Western and Southern military districts was carried out, announced the Defense Ministry.

Within three weeks, two armies and three formations of the airborne troops were successfully transferred to the western borders of the Russian Federation in the areas of performing combat training tasks. “The troops have shown full readiness and ability to fulfill the tasks of ensuring the country’s military security,” he said. “Currently, these associations and formations are engaged in drills and exercises.” He also described how “Washington’s troops are being transferred from the continental parts of North America across the Atlantic to Europe, and these troops are moving through Europe to the Russian borders. The main forces are concentrated in the Black Sea and the Baltic region.”

On April 14, Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev told a meeting in Sebastopol, on the Crimean Peninsula, that Ukraine could be planning border provocations against Russia with U.S. backing. If that happens, he said, Russia “is forced to take measures to ensure the security of its territory,” but at the same time, “is interested in conducting

negotiations on a political settlement of the situation.” Patrushev was addressing a meeting dedicated to guaranteeing national security in Crimea.

“A pretext for launching military actions could be provocations organized by Ukraine with the U.S. support, resulting in the deaths of servicemen and the loss of military equipment,” Patrushev warned. “While flirting with the new U.S. administration, Kiev is ready to drag the country into new military ventures, regardless of whether it further worsens the country’s economic situation.... Stepped-up military activity by the NATO bloc, and the U.S. in particular, in close proximity to Russia’s borders in the Black Sea region has been determined.

“The question is, what does the U.S. have to do with the Black Sea? What national interests are they pursuing here, if many Americans have no idea where this sea is?” Patrushev asked.

Nasty Signal to Ukrainian Crazyies of U.S. Support for World War III

April 15 (EIRNS)—Apparently, in a hair-trigger situation in Ukraine’s Donbas, there are some individuals, either from reckless disregard or from calculated intent, who mean to encourage revanchist, even neo-Nazi elements in Ukraine’s forward deployment, that the United States will step in if these latter take actions to provoke Russia. One of the most egregious such signals came from the U.S. Air Attaché in the Kiev Embassy, [Col. Brittany Stewart](#), who led a tour of the Donbas frontlines over April 9-10 weekend, sporting a “Ukraine or Death” skull insignia on her uniform. This is a violation of U.S. military code and would have been immediately dealt with—unless perhaps she was acting under authorization to do so. It certainly is coherent with Victoria “Fuck the EU” Nuland and her fellow right-wing ideologues. Now, nominated as Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, number 3 post at the State Department, Nuland has not been shy about ordering affairs in Ukraine, such as choosing Prime Minister Arseniy “Yats” Yatsenuk in 2014.

Stewart also had a photo op of her laying a wreath and saluting at the grave of Right Sector (Pravyi Sektor) militia hero, Vasyl Slipak. According to the press service of the Joint Field Office command, she offered

unqualified support: “The U.S. government is deeply concerned about the situation that is developing around the borders of Ukraine, and in every possible way supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.” Her actions send a clear and dangerous message of American support to some of the crazies within the Ukrainian military—and the apparent lack of any disciplinary action against her only underlines it.

There is nothing known in Stewart’s background that suggests an independent commitment to explicit neo-Nazi connections; however, her LinkedIn biography includes her claims to have co-authored documents for President Bush’s 2003 State of the Union address (while she was assigned to work on Pakistan matters); and to have co-authored the Iraq Survey Group concept briefing for Bush and then Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

On April 12 Sputnik quoted Chuck Spinney, former Pentagon analyst, on Stewart’s display of the “Ukraine or Death” skull insignia, the patch of Ukraine’s 72nd Mechanized Infantry Brigade, which is also displayed on the wall in the photo. “Displaying a foreign military organizational insignia on her uniform is a provocation that shows incredibly bad judgment, given the states of Russia-U.S. tensions and the Russia-Ukrainian tensions,” Spinney told Sputnik. And “It may be a violation of regulations to boot—unless she had a direct authorization from superior officials to wear it (which would be even worse).”

Russia’s Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova responded on her Facebook site, on April 11, to Stewart’s actions: “This is how the American, Canadian and other NATO military are building relationships with Ukrainian radicals and neo-Nazis, carriers of the traditions of collaborationists, accomplices of the Holocaust.”

Meantime, SouthFront displayed a [video](#) on April 9 from the National Militia from the self-proclaimed Donetsk People’s Republic (D.P.R.), “showing the flag waving over Ukrainian positions in the village of Maryinka that is under the control of the [Ukrainian Armed Forces] UAF, near the D.P.R. border, was released online. The flag was captured by

surveillance cameras on the front line.” The flag is indubitably the flag of the Nazi Third Reich. SouthFront’s sources believe it was meant to welcome the visit of President Zelensky.

Chinese Media Briefly Cover Kerry Arrival in Shanghai for Climate Talks

April 15 (EIRNS)—It is the first meeting in China with a top U.S. official since 2019. Ordinarily it would be met with a great deal of fanfare in the Chinese media. But, due to the global cooling between the two countries, there is still a great deal of caution on the Chinese side with regard to U.S. intentions. It is also the case that, in addition to the visit of Special Presidential Envoy on Climate John Kerry to Shanghai, President Joe Biden had also sent his friend and colleague, former Sen. Chris Dodd to Taiwan to visit, probably to send a signal to the Chinese that the Kerry visit does not indicate a change from the hard-edged policy toward China. China’s Foreign Ministry also used the occasion to again warn the U.S. to not play the “Taiwan card.”

While Kerry is supposed to be the “soft cop” for the U.S.-China relationship, he also made some obstreperous comments about China’s sincerity in reaching its acclaimed goals of becoming carbon free by 2060. Kerry also cast doubt on the accuracy of China’s figures in their progress. The confrontational “Anchorage approach” seems to radiate throughout the Biden administration.

Moreover President Xi Jinping has not indicated whether he will attend Biden’s Earth Day “climate summit” on April 22-23. He did, however, accept an invitation by France’s President Emmanuel Macron to attend a China-France-Germany summit on climate change tomorrow, clearly sending another signal to the U.S. President.

COVID-19 AND FAMINE

PAHO Fears Next Coronavirus Variant Could Be Vaccine-Resistant, Perhaps from Brazil

April 15 (EIRNS)—Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Assistant Director Jarbas Barbosa warned in remarks this week that, if COVID-19 is not controlled across the world, there exists a worst-case scenario in which a new, vaccine-resistant variant emerges. One of the likely places that could happen is Brazil, where the already dangerous P.1 Brazilian strain, which is believed to be as much as 2.5 times more infectious than the original coronavirus, and more resistant to antibodies, has wreaked havoc in the country and brought Brazil's public health system to near-breakdown.

New research conducted by Brazil's public health institute, Fiocruz, is focusing on an even newer variant. "We believe it's another escape mechanism the virus is creating to evade the response of antibodies," said Felipe Naveca, one of the authors of the Fiocruz study. "This is particularly worrying because the virus is continuing to accelerate in its evolution."

On April 13, France suspended all flights to and from Brazil in order to stop the new Brazilian strains from spreading into that country.

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Gabbard Tells President Biden, 'We Need You To End This New Cold War Before It's Too Late'

April 15 (EIRNS)—Former Democratic presidential candidate, former Democratic Congresswoman and Iraq combat veteran [Tulsi Gabbard](#) continued to raise a hue and cry against the danger of war, even nuclear war, releasing earlier today a videotaped message to President Joe Biden, which she posted to her Twitter account. Within two hours, her call for a change in course had been seen by tens of thousands. Her message:

"President Biden, we need you to be the president who has the vision and courage to move us into a 21st century of peace and prosperity; ratchet down the new cold war with Russia and China, replacing the policy of

confrontation with cooperation so we can work together addressing issues affecting all of humanity, such as nuclear proliferation, climate change, pandemics, terrorism, and human trafficking.

“Mr. President, we need you to be the leader who will stand up against the warmongers who dream of a never-ending, always-escalating cold war to fill their bank accounts and fuel their political ambitions, with complete disregard for the fact that such a new cold war will eventually and inevitably end in a nuclear holocaust.

“President Biden, we need you to end this new cold war before it’s too late.”

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Support Grows for Developing Fusion Energy

April 15 (EIRNS)—The National Academy of Sciences will hold a seminar on April 20 to familiarize people with the results of a recent Academy report on fusion. The report, “[Bringing Fusion to the U.S. Grid](#),” breaks away from the endless march of reports recommending more decades of studying plasmas, to broadening the federally funded fusion programs to work toward the goal of building a pilot plant by the 2040s. Although the timetable is unnecessarily long, due partly to the expectation that funding levels won’t allow a faster pace, it is the most prestigious call for a fusion energy program, rather than a pure science program. Members of the Academy panel that produced the report will lead the briefing.

Last September the House passed the Clean Energy and Jobs Innovation Act. (As an Authorization bill, it does not appropriate funds. It is a policy document.) The bill contains a section, “Alternatives and Enabling Concepts” for fusion, to support non-tokamak experiments. There were promising approaches that were shut down and funding cut off starting in the 1980s. One of the aims of adding an additional \$170 million in funding to the fusion portfolio, is ‘to support the development of a U.S.-based fusion power industry.

The increased interest in fusion has largely been driven by the next generation of fusion scientists; young people in university programs or in their own laboratories. One young man expressed it this way: “People don’t get into this career just to study the science that one day, long after they’re dead, leads to a fusion reactor. They want to get going and change the world.”