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EDITORIAL

June 18-19: A Dialogue on the Culture of Sovereignty

June 10 (EIRNS)—While the credulous get all hot and bothered about Vladimir Putin referring—and *not*, as is reported, comparing himself—to Russian Czar Peter the Great in a dialogue with young entrepreneurs and scientists in St. Petersburg yesterday, another, truly dangerous statement goes virtually unreported. In an interview in *Handelsblatt*, American apparatchik Heather Conley of the German Marshall Fund, while urging Germany forward in its mad, €100 billion (\$100 billion-plus) plan to remilitarize, said, “ We must prepare for the use of tactical nuclear weapons.” But by whom? Is the multi-agency network actually responsible for “9/11” prepared to act again?

The new security and development architecture that must be quickly brought into being will require many individuals to take an uncomfortable but necessary step forward, if saner minds are to prevail. The trans-Atlantic world, in every measure, appears to be going the way of Admah, Zeboim, Sodom and Gomorrah, the “cities of the plain” at the southern end of the Dead Sea, which were summarily extinguished by their own decadence, according to the Biblical account, some 2,000 years ago. In that account there were not 50 people among the cities’ inhabitants that could be found, who were willing to defy prevailing social conventions and “rules of law” to reverse direction, instead capitulating to the all-engulfing, self-condemning decadence that doomed everyone, and their posterity.

The June 18-19 Schiller Institute conference theme, “[There Can Be No Peace Without the Bankruptcy Reorganization of the Dying Trans-Atlantic Financial System](#),” proposes to address the true cause of this headlong flight towards, not World War III, but something actually worse—the abdication of human identity itself. The United States, out of depraved indifference, has disinvested in the health of its citizens so far that, besides the 1 million dead, either through Covid infections or the prior impoverished conditions that made people far more susceptible to Covid-

induced deaths than otherwise, has now become an engine for the production of subvariants of the disease. This, without any motion toward a universal health initiative of the type demanded either by the Schiller Institute's Helga Zepp-LaRouche, and her Committee for the Coincidence of Opposites, or by President Xi Jinping of China.

The astounding decay of the American urban landscape, the abandonment of public education, the runaway inflation, disemployment and destruction of a productive workforce, the flaunting of rationality through the state-sanctioned de facto legalization of all drugs, is a “Gomorra” condition that increasingly erupts into the mad violence of mass shootings as “suicide by homicide.” Are these shootings an enactment “in the small” of the foreign, military, and diplomatic policies of the City of London and Wall Street in the large—policies which, in the form of drone killings, or the financing of known Nazi military formations, as just as Satanic as are those shootings? Similar things can be said, if perhaps to a lesser degree, about the true economic condition of France, Germany, Italy and Central Europe, increasingly looted by the very sanctions that were supposed to hurt Russia.

National spokesmen from India, Ghana, Argentina, Pakistan, China, Russia and other nations have spoken forcefully about this, to one degree or another, over particularly the period since 2020's pandemic, and now after the February outbreak of the “Ukraine” proxy war. Some of their statements bring to mind Schiller Institute co-founder Fred Wills, the former Minister of Trade and Foreign Affairs of Guyana, who took a step forward on behalf of humanity. Fred Wills was forced from 1978 to live in exile with the LaRouche forces after his heroic call for the creation of “International Development Banks” at the United Nations General Assembly in September 1976. But Fred, slightly younger than his friend, Lyndon LaRouche, was from a different generation, one that believed in fighting for humanity as a whole. Of his exile from Guyana, Fred defiantly quoted Shakespeare's *As You Like It*:

“Now, my co-mates and brothers in exile
 Hath not old customs make this life more sweet
 Than that of painted pomp? Are not these woods
 More free from peril than the envious court!”

Wills said in his “History for the Fight for a New World Economic Order” at the January 30-31, 1988 Schiller Institute Conference, “Development Is the Name for Peace:” “We had ideas. We wanted to diversify agriculture, put in infrastructure: health, housing, education, we wanted to bring (the developing nations) out of the 14th and into the 20th century. Grandiose ideas. Independence was not an end in itself, but only a means to an end. The end was development. Nations and peoples have to come into existence, have to survive, have to grow and have to develop: these were our aims ... we were sovereign, we thought....” Now, 34 years later, as President Irfaan Ali of Guyana says: “We cannot address climate issues unless we address the fundamental needs and wants of human beings. We cannot even speak about climate change if we have people who are hungry, people who don’t have access to water, people who don’t have access to wages and earnings. Then they have no other alternative but to seek out every possible way to survive,” it must be said: national sovereignty, and the dignity of man is at stake more than ever.

President Vladimir Putin outlined four aspects to national sovereignty in a speech to young engineers and entrepreneurs in St. Petersburg, making the point that “There is no in-between, no intermediate state: either a country is sovereign, or it is a colony, no matter what the colonies are called ... if a country or a group of countries is not able to make sovereign decisions, then it is already a colony to a certain extent. But a colony has no historical prospects, no chance for survival.”

It is essential that persons in the United States and Europe, and others associated with the “Anglosphere” like Australia, New Zealand, Canada, etc., reverse course. The successful mobilization of tens of thousands of

New York State's citizens to sign petitions giving LaRouche associate Diane Sare the right to propose the LaRouche Four Laws as the basis for a new strategic and development architecture, demonstrates that, unlike Sodom and Gomorrah, there is support among the American people, if organized, for a "bootlegger's turn" away from war, and a return to Hamilton's and Lincoln's American System, the one with which the nations of Russia and China were proud to collaborate at the time of the American Revolution and the War of 1861-65. The campaigns of LaRouche forces in France, and collaborators in Italy, Greece, Sweden Denmark, Germany, and various nations in South and Central America, must converge a week from now, at the Schiller Institute June 18-19 conference in a single chorus for sanity and durable survival, drowning out the cacophony of war and despair.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Monday June 13, 2022: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#), Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

No Surprise: U.S. Consumer Price Index Up by Highest Rate in Four Decades

June 10 (EIRNS)—The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics today reported an increase in the CPI of 8.6% for the year in May, a higher rate of inflation than from April 2021 to April 2022, and the largest annual increase since 1981. Energy costs are up 34.1% for the year and food costs up 10.1% according to the report; both of these are significant accelerations in inflation since April.

The reported increase in shelter costs continues to rise month to month, 5.5% in May, but still nowhere near reality and therefore causing the report to understate inflation on that score alone.

Financial analysts trumpeted that the (unsurprising) inflation news means that the Fed will have to raise interest rates not just in June and July, but again in September, and U.S. financial markets went into a frenzy.

By contrast, in Russia, whose economy was supposed to have been destroyed by now by Western economic sanctions, the Bank of Russia central bank announced it had reduced its discount rate from 11% to 9.5%. The bank reported that inflation has moderated slightly in May and early June (to about 17.1%), and “Overall, the actual decrease in economic activity in 2022 Q2 is less pronounced than the Bank of Russia assumed in its April baseline scenario. Given the above, the Bank of Russia estimates that the 2022 GDP decline could be lower than forecast in April,” which was about -6%. It also said it was taking into account the “economic transformation process” occurring in the Russian economy. The ruble remained above 60/dollar and rose slightly.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

Russia Reiterates It Won't Tolerate Deliverance of HIMARS to Ukraine

June 10 (EIRNS)—As TASS reports, Moscow will respond immediately if Russia is attacked by long-range weapon systems, head of the Russian Delegation to the Negotiations on Military Security and Arms Control in Vienna Konstantin Gavrillov told the Rossiya-24 TV channel on June 9.

“We particularly put the spotlight on the delivery [to Ukraine] of long-range howitzers and HIMARS MLRS that threaten not only Donbass but Russia as well. We have clearly laid out Russia's stance: if the Russian Federation is attacked with these long-range systems, the response against the decision-making centers will be immediate,” he stressed.

According to the diplomat, the Kyiv regime's promises that Ukraine won't use the HIMARS system to strike Russia are “not worth a red cent.”

German Constitution Changed To Make Way for Militarization

June 10 (EIRNS)—The €100 billion program to rearm the German armed forces can now go ahead; both houses of the German parliament approved the necessary amendment to the Basic Law on June 10. This will allow bypassing the “debt brake” clause for a zero budget increase, which applies to all spending by the government.

Like the Bundestag before, the Bundesrat (the upper house representing the 16 states) voted in favor of the amendment with the required two-thirds majority. They also passed the bill to set up the special fund from which the financing is to be drawn.

The new Article 87a will be added to the Basic Law. The €100 billion will be used in the coming years to purchase new aircraft, helicopters, ships, tanks and ammunition. Some armament projects in the range of about €15 billion have already been initiated: Among them is the planned purchase of F-35 stealth aircraft and the procurement of 60 CH-47F heavy transport helicopters for airlifting soldiers and matériel.

German Marshall Fund Warns To Prepare for Nuclear War

June 10 (EIRNS)—[Heather Conley](#), head of the German Marshall Fund, does not rule out a further escalation of the Ukraine war—and yet warns against being “intimidated” by Russia, in an interview (on May 30) with Germany’s leading business daily *Handelsblatt*.

Conley is seen as one of the leading U.S. experts on Russia. During the administration of President George W. Bush (2001-2009), she was part of the U.S. State Department’s leadership team responsible for Europe. Conley now heads the German Marshall Fund, one of the most important trans-Atlantic think tanks in Washington.

In the *Handelsblatt* interview, Conley calls on the German government to speed up arms deliveries to Ukraine. “It’s no good if the equipment arrives when the battle is decided,” she says. The war is turning into a battle of attrition in the east of the country, she declared.

“The military situation is reminiscent of Verdun in World War I,” Conley explains. “Little scraps of land are captured sometimes by one side, sometimes by the other, with no one winning.” That’s why, she says, the West must continue to support the Ukrainian army—and do so for the long term.

Beyond that, “We must prepare for the use of tactical nuclear weapons,” she said. Had anyone like her made such a statement in Moscow, or Putin himself, the West would have screamed: “Russia is threatening us with nuclear war!”

China Draws Red Line on Taiwan at Singapore Meeting of Lloyd Austin and Wei Fenghe

June 10 (EIRNS)—Chinese Minister of National Defense General Wei Fenghe drew China’s red line on Taiwan today when he met, for the first time, U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin at the Shangri-La Dialogue conference in Singapore today. “There is only one China, and Taiwan is a sacred, inalienable part of China’s territory,” Wei told Austin, Chinese Defense Ministry spokesman Senior Colonel Wu Qian said at a press conference after the meeting, reported by the *Global Times*. Wu noted that if anyone dares to separate Taiwan from China, the Chinese military will not hesitate to fight, and will resolutely crush any “Taiwan independence” attempts at all cost to firmly safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Wu characterized the conversation as a frank, positive and constructive strategic communication. Both sides agreed that the two militaries should carefully implement the key consensus reached by the two countries’ top leaders, keep frequent communication and manage risks and crises, Wu said.

According to the [Pentagon](#) readout, “Austin discussed the need to responsibly manage competition and maintain open lines of communication. The Secretary underscored the importance of the People’s Liberation Army engaging in substantive dialogue on improving crisis communications and reducing strategic risk.” They also discussed “global

and regional security issues, including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. The Secretary reiterated to General Wei that the United States remains committed to our longstanding one China policy..." the readout reported further. "The Secretary reaffirmed the importance of peace and stability across the Strait, opposition to unilateral changes to the status quo, and called on the P.R.C. to refrain from further destabilizing actions toward Taiwan."

Russian UN Envoy Tells BBC That Sanctions Cost West Leverage in Moscow

June 10 (EIRNS)—The costs to the U.S., U.K. and the European Union of their sanctions against Russia are not only economic but also diplomatic. Russian Permanent Representative to the UN [Vassily Nebenzia](#) told BBC in an interview yesterday that the West has lost all leverage over Moscow. "I do not think that assessment is right," Nebenzia said, reported TASS, commenting on the BBC host's statement that Russia has found itself isolated. "I'm not sure that your attempts to isolate Russia succeeded. I think that the West perhaps made some tactical gains but it is losing strategically."

"One thing that is clear; the outcome of those sanctions that the West introduced was that you lost practically any leverage on Russia at all," he stressed.

[Dmitry Polyanskiy](#), Russian First Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, told the same BBC that Russia now has the strategic initiative on the ground in Ukraine. "I know that we have a total strategic initiative in Donbass," Polyanskiy said. "He [Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy] says a lot of things and I think you should divide them by three or by four. That's quite clear. As far as I understand the situation, Severodonetsk is totally under our control and only the industrial parts of the city are still being controlled partially by Ukrainian forces. But I think that military specialists know better than myself," the Russian diplomat continued.

Three Foreigners Sentenced to Death in Donetsk Republic

June 10 (EIRNS)—The Supreme Court of the Donetsk People's Republic sentenced three foreigners in the custody of the D.P.R. authorities to death yesterday for mercenary-related crimes. The three pleaded guilty to all charges.

The three foreigners, British citizens Sean Pinner and Aiden Aislin, and Moroccan citizen Saadun Brahim, were accused of participating in combat operations as mercenaries of Ukrainian armed formations. The court did say, however, that the three defendants have the right to appeal the sentence. “Participants of the process can appeal the sentence in the D.P.R. Supreme Court within one month after announcement of the court ruling, while the convicts can appeal within the same timeframe, counted from the moment of presentation with a translation of the sentence,” the chairman of the court said.

“All the three defendants are willing to appeal the sentence, because they were not ready to hear today’s verdict, sentencing them to capital punishment,” their defense counsel Pavel Kosovan said.

The governments in both Kyiv and London are demanding that the foreigners be treated under the Geneva Conventions based on the argument that they were legally contracted soldiers in the Ukrainian armed forces and thus should be treated as prisoners of war, an argument that has been rejected by Moscow. “They are mercenaries and not prisoners of war. Mercenaries sent by the West to assist the nationalist regime in Kyiv are not combatants and are not entitled to the status of prisoner of war under international humanitarian law,” Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in the statement.

Portuguese Premier Explains, Russia Will Be Part of Post-War World

June 10 (EIRNS)—Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa weighed in against the Anglo-American stated intention to use the Ukraine war to crush and carve up Russia, during a quick visit to Paris on June 7, which included a lunch with President Emmanuel Macron. Costa was hounded by

French media as to where he stood on Macron's statement that Russia must not be humiliated after the war. Costa responded that he is all-in on giving "full support" to Ukraine so that Russia is defeated, but he cautioned:

"It is always necessary to assume that there will be a post-war world. In that world, Russia will continue to exist." World War II ended with the defeat of Germany, he went on, but "today Germany is an integral part of our collective lives, one of the founding pillars of the European Union. For someone who believes in peace, we can only hope the future of Russia can be as peaceful as Germany is now."

Former Turkish Diplomat Thinks Ankara Would Have Been Better Off Working with Syria Than Invading It

June 10 (EIRNS)—Retired Turkish diplomat Sukru Elegdag, who was Ankara's ambassador to the United States over 1979-1989, told the popular Turkish daily *Sozcu* yesterday that Turkey would have been better off respecting the sovereignty of Syria rather than following the U.S. military across the border. "If Turkey, first of all, had learnt any lessons from the occupation of Iraq, instead of invading Syria on the heels of the U.S., had it maintained dialogue with the regime of [Syrian President] Bashar Assad, then today it wouldn't have come up against this enormous flow of migrants and such threats," he said, reported TASS.

Otherwise, Elegdag identified that one of the main objectives of the cross-border military operation that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been threatening, was the prevention of a so-called "garrison state" in the adjacent area. "After the emergence of the Kurdish administration of the Northern Iraq in the wake of the U.S. occupation of Iraq [in 2003], the United States is set again to form a state of the Kurds, but this time in Syria," said Elegdag.

"This 'garrison state,' which the United States supplies with heavy armaments and assists with military training, is viewed as a second stage of the 'Greater Kurdistan' project," he continued. "The third and fourth stages of this project are aimed at Iran and Turkey."

COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

Prices To Go ‘Parabolic,’ Says Leading Commodity Trader

June 10 (EIRNS)—[Jeremy Weir](#), head of leading global metal trader Trafigura, warned that commodity prices could go “parabolic” in the next months.

“We have got a critical situation,” Weir told the FT Global Boardroom conference on June 7. “I really think we have a problem for the next six months ... once it gets to these parabolic states, markets can move and they can spike quite a lot.”

Trafigura is the #1 world trader in metals and # 2 in oil. The FT explains: “A parabolic move in markets is generally defined as when a price that has been rising suddenly surges to hitherto unseen levels, mimicking the right side of a parabolic curve.” Weir said that oil prices were highly likely to hit \$150 a barrel or more in coming months indicating, as a cause of the increase, strains on supply chains as Russia “diverts oil exports away” from Europe. In other words, the result of sanctions.

“If we see very high energy prices for a period of time, we will eventually see demand destruction,” Weir said. “It will be problematic to sustain these levels and continue global growth.”

Europe’s Sanctions Shoot EU in the Foot, Banning Oil from Russia, and Buying It Back as Diesel from India

June 10 (EIRNS)—India ranks as one of the top five exporters of refined oil products in the world. No surprise, when India upped its oil imports from Russia, and increased its sales of diesel to energy-short Europe. India can rake in profits from the soaring price of diesel and gasoline, and from the relatively lower price of oil from Russia. In March, India’s diesel exports soared to 3.37 million tons, nearly as much as the prior high of 3.4 million tons in April 2020, during COVID-19, when domestic demand plunged, allowing more exports. About 30% of India’s March diesel exports went to Europe, where “ultra-low sulfur diesel prices were \$100 per

ton more expensive than in Singapore” at the time, according to Jane Xie, a senior oil analyst at data and analytics firm Kpler in Singapore, as reported in Look-Travels blog in April.

So far, Europe has not shot itself in both feet, by seeking secondary sanctions against India. They may yet do that. The U.S. Treasury sent a team to India in late May, to jawbone and bully them from buying oil from Russia, but it hasn't worked.

So European imports continue. “That’s the cost of sanctions or self-sanctioning,” said Jonathan Leitch, oil analyst at Turner, Mason & Co. For Russia to ship its Ural-grade crude to India, which refines it for subsequent sale to Europe, “adds a lot of unnecessary ton/mileage and gives Indian refiners a bigger profit and translates into a higher retail price for the consumer.”

There are also reports of Russian oil being transferred between tankers at sea, ending up in Europe and the United States.

Profits First, People Last, as U.K. Fertilizer Plant Is Shuttered To Make More Money

June 10 (EIRNS)—It isn't Vladimir Putin who is shutting down one of the two large U.K. fertilizer plants, threatening Britain's food supply. Blame the Western speculative market system. Illinois-headquartered CF Industries announced on June 8 that it is permanently closing its plant in Ince, England in order to “position the business for long-term profitability and sustainability.” Producing CF Fertilizer U.K. Managing Director Brett Nightingale coldly explained that “as a high-cost producer in an intensely competitive global industry ... our current operational approach” had to go. Producing fertilizer, evidently, is not the company's mission.

The company blames the exorbitant rise in the cost of natural gas, a key input for the ammonia nitrate fertilizer and carbon dioxide (needed for many food processing operations) produced at the plant for squeezing its profits, but neither the U.K. government or the company will touch the speculative financial system on which this house of cards is based.

Farmers are raising alarm bells about a threat to their ability to produce, at a time when, according to the Food Standards Agency, the number of people who skip meals or use food banks in the U.K. has jumped in the past year, RT reported. National Farmers' Union Deputy President Tom Bradshaw called the plant's closure "a further blow for farmers who are already suffering from incredibly high inflation for fertilizer costs," one voice among several cited by RT.

Neil Hudson, MP for the area where the plant is located, shot off a letter to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs George Eustice, "calling for urgent intervention from the government to protect food security," ITVNews reported.

One farmer told *Farmers Guardian*: "The Government has to make a decision if they want this country to go hungry or not. If farmers cannot access the fertilizer they need, or afford it, they may choose to plant less wheat and barley, as you cannot grow crops without nitrogen. Food security is the most important issue but every politician is asleep at the wheel at a time when they should be supporting U.K. farmers to produce more food."

Even the ECB's 'Neutral' Rates Are Destabilizing the Markets

June 10 (EIRNS)—The ECB decision to maintain rates "neutral" through a minimal increase of a quarter-point and the announcement that the APP program will end July 1—but "rollover" continues—has left both doves and hawks unhappy. In Germany, the move is seen as totally inadequate to curb inflation, whereas in Italy, the immediate increase of the spread has raised fears of a new debt crisis.

German headlines on the ECB decision yesterday: "ECB Chief Lagarde Is the Mother of Inflation" (*Focus*); "Lagarde Undermines Confidence in the Euro" (*Die Welt*); "Travel in Nowhereland with Lagarde" (*Handelsblatt*); "The ECB Green Money Policy Torpedoes the Central Bank Mandate" (*Wirtschaftswoche*); "I Do Not Know What Mrs. Lagarde Is Waiting For" (Peter Bofinger quoted in *Capital*).

(*Wirtschaftswoche*'s headline is noteworthy. The article scolds the ECB for having prioritized green bond purchases instead of fighting inflation.)

Italian headlines: “Lagarde Turns Draghi’s Bazooka Off and Increases Rates” (EuropaToday); “Goodbye Zero Rates in July—Bonds under Pressure” (*Avvenire*); “Spread at 229, a Record Since 2020” (*Corriere della Sera*); “The Lagarde Disaster and the Ghost of Another Crisis” (*Il Giornale*).

As we have written before, a euro crisis is inevitable and the European Stability Mechanism, the institution that killed Greece, is warming up the engines.

NEW ECONOMIC ORDER

Putin in Dialogue on What It Takes To Secure a Nation’s Sovereignty

June 10 (EIRNS)—The Russian President [Vladimir Putin](#) met yesterday with young entrepreneurs, engineers and scientists who will be attending next week’s St. Petersburg International Economics Forum (SPIEF) to hear their ideas preparatory to the forum on where Russia is “now, where we are going and what we need to do to ensure our absolute and unconditional progress, to make it beneficial for the country and everyone involved in this remarkable process” of transforming and changing Russia.

Putin situated this task within Russia’s continuous fight historically to ensure its sovereignty.

In today’s world of rapid “geopolitical, scientific and technological transformations,” Russia, or any country which wishes to exert leadership in any area, must be sovereign, he told them.

“There is no in-between, no intermediate state: either a country is sovereign, or it is a colony, no matter what the colonies are called ... if a country or a group of countries is not able to make sovereign decisions, then it is already a colony to a certain extent. But a colony has no historical prospects, no chance for survival” in what he views as centuries of “tough geopolitical struggle.”

Western leaders with any brain left would do well to give some thought to Putin's discussion of the essential components of sovereignty: military-political, economic, technical and social. He explained that by "social" sovereignty he means "the ability of society to come together to resolve national challenges, to respect history, culture, language, and all the ethnicities that share a single territory. This consolidation of society is one of the core conditions for growth. Without consolidation, things will fall apart."

These components are interconnected, and of equal importance, "because one cannot exist without the other." You cannot have external security without technological capability and technological sovereignty, he said, as exemplified in Russia's development of hypersonic weapons.

Likewise, how could a society come together to resolve national challenges with "a limping, sneezing and coughing economy? ... And if there is no consolidation, there will be nothing else, either." To secure both requires dealing with "basic tasks such as demography which means healthcare, environment, research, education and upbringing."

Putin emphasized the importance of basic values, of culture. Here, he referenced a discussion he had with the Patriarch some time back about education, in which the Patriarch commented that "even though education was indeed crucial, without proper upbringing, we would not succeed at anything, because you can teach a person something, but the question is how they will use their knowledge."

Thus, "if we do not rely on the basic values of the national cultures of the peoples of Russia," Putin said, "we will not consolidate our society. Without consolidation, everything will fall apart. And the fact that we have to sort of defend ourselves and fight for it is obvious."

It was in that context, then, that he made his remarks about Peter the Great and his Great Northern War which have Western commentators in such a tizzy.