

## EIR Daily Alert Service

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

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## EDITORIAL

### **Pandemic Threat Is Growing: Democratic Republics Must Take Serious Action**

Dec. 21 (EIRNS)—Nations which are democratic republics rise to meet great challenges by the mobilization of their citizens in a crisis, each as a

creative individual, moved by the patriotic desire to act for the general welfare of the nation and all its citizens. Their exemplary model for 230 years has been the United States of America. Whatever great goals leaders can set—as U.S. President John F. Kennedy did, for example, during his brief Presidency—the citizens of a great republic can achieve.

The COVID-19 pandemic has become a very serious crisis, especially in a year of troubles in which it has helped to trigger famine in some large areas of the world, mass unemployment all over the world, and been used completely to distort an election crucial to the United States and all those countries affected by its policies. Just during Dec. 21, the first day of this winter, nearly 800,000 people were confirmed infected with this coronavirus and nearly 14,000 died; and nearly two-thirds of both the cases and the deaths were in the republics of North and South America. True, about 30,000 people every day are dying from famine—starvation—in the African Sahel nations and Southwest Asia. But not only is COVID catching up to that toll; it is triggering it by provoking border closures and shutdowns of transportation and processing of food. In a normal year, about 75 million people die from all causes around the world—COVID and famine alone look to claim 20-25 million in 2021. President Donald Trump's friend David Beasley, director of the World Food Program, says it *could* be many more than that. And unemployment? About 500 *million* people around the world, who were working informal types of jobs, have lost all work during 2020. Where are the U.S. and European economies heading? Downward.

And yet, the citizens of the greatest democratic republics of North and South America and Europe are *not* mobilizing in this crisis to stop the pandemic—let alone, to restart their economies, break up their giant speculative banks and companies, rally support for their scientists and their space programs. The United States is not stopping its COVID epidemic the way Vietnam did many months ago! Germany is not matching Thailand in beating COVID, let alone South Korea or China. Britain and France can't hold a candle to Belarus, not to mention the Czech Republic. Hospitals in

Peru, Chile, Ecuador, even Brazil are beyond full while those of Japan, Australia, New Zealand have plenty of beds.

Where is the fighting spirit of citizens of the great democratic republics of the world, including the United States? Where is the national unity celebrating the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11, just 18 months ago? The “floodwaters don’t discriminate” mobilization spirit of the “Cajun Navy” to save the general welfare in hurricane floods just a few years ago? The upsurge of citizens against the Wall Street bailout in 2008?

The people of most Asian and some Eastern European countries are not fearing or bickering with each other over COVID—they’ve put it behind them. Basic, long-known measures of public health practice for highly communicable diseases have worked for them—because they were willing to say, “I’ll do this for everybody else, I’ll do it for the country.”

We have large areas of the world to recover economically, including building ourselves modern economic infrastructure and much better public health systems and workforces domestically and in developing countries. Lyndon LaRouche’s movement has said since 2014: Break the Wall Street and London banks up; replace their speculations with a national credit institution. Build high-technology new infrastructure. Launch the human missions to the Moon and Mars, and a crash program for fusion energy and new industrial technologies using lasers and plasmas. LaRouche promised to give you a job rebuilding the world.

We have to save people—*all* people—to do it.

• **Note to Subscribers:** There will be no *EIR Daily Alert* produced on Christmas Day, Dec. 25. The next issue, Vol. 7, No. 336, will be on Dec. 27. Also, *EIR Daily Alert* will not be produced on Jan. 1, with the next issue, Vol. 8, No. 2, on Jan. 3.

## SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### Toyota CEO Exposes Electric Car Insanity

Dec. 21 (EIRNS)—Toyota’s President Akio Toyoda took on the insanity of politicians who want to fully convert to electric cars. He said Japan would run out of electricity in the summer if all cars were run on electric power. The infrastructure needed to support a fleet consisting entirely of electric vehicles (EVs) would cost Japan between ¥14-¥37 trillion, the equivalent of \$135-\$358 billion, he said.

“When politicians are out there saying, ‘Let’s get rid of all cars using gasoline,’ do they understand this?” Toyoda said Dec. 17 at a year-end news conference, in his capacity as chairman of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association. In a country such as Japan that gets most of its electricity from burning coal and natural gas, “The more EVs we build, the worse the carbon dioxide gets,” Toyoda said.

Toyoda said he feared government regulations would make cars a “flower on a high summit”—out of reach for the average person.

## UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

### President Challenges Pennsylvania Election Result at U.S. Supreme Court

Dec. 21 (EIRNS)—President Donald Trump’s campaign attorneys Rudy Giuliani and John Eastman filed an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court Dec. 20, asking the U.S.’s highest court to throw out Pennsylvania State Supreme Court rulings that approved unconstitutional election conduct by Pennsylvania officials, according to an article by Jack Davis in *Western Journal*.

The U.S. President is suing Pennsylvania in order to reverse violations of its own state laws on elections, writes Davis, citing Fox News; violations which distorted the voting process prescribed by law in such a way, and to such a degree, that the final results were changed, and President Trump was

defrauded of victory. Therefore, Rudolph Giuliani, the President's attorney, filed a petition for a writ of certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The new suit begins by quoting the Supreme Court decision in the famous *Bush v. Gore* case in 2000: "Article II of the Constitution provides that 'Each State shall appoint [electors for President and Vice President] *in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct.*' U.S. Const. art. II, § 1, cl. 2 (emphasis added). That power is 'plenary,' and the statutory provisions enacted by the legislature in the furtherance of that constitutionally-assigned duty may not be ignored by state election officials or changed by state courts."

In October 2019, the Pennsylvania legislature allowed for "no excuse" mail voting for every eligible voter in the state, but retained long-standing validation and observer requirements to protect against fraud in voting by mail. In violation of that provision, the suit charges that Pennsylvania officials "altered or dispensed with, those significant 'meaningful safeguards' in the recent election," the petition states. "Statutory requirements were eliminated regarding signature verification, the right of campaigns to challenge invalid mail ballots, mandates that mail voters fill in, date, and sign mail ballot declarations, and even the right of campaigns to observe the mail ballot canvassing process in a meaningful way," Davis quotes the petition, and "Collectively, these three decisions resulted in counting approximately 2.6 million mail ballots in violation of the law as enacted by the Pennsylvania Legislature."

The motion of the President's campaign seeks a speedy review, with response on Dec. 23 and oral arguments Dec. 24, in order for the Court to rule before Jan. 6, when Congress meets, asserting, "time is plainly of the essence because once candidates have taken office, it will be impossible to repair election results tainted by illegally and belatedly cast or absentee and mail ballots."

## Surgeon General Urges To Follow Public Health; Dr. Slaoui Affirms Vaccines Likely Work on Mutations

Dec. 21 (EIRNS)—Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams, appearing on Sunday’s “[Face the Nation](#)” Dec. 20, urged all Americans to follow basic public health measures, including getting vaccinated, to beat the COVID pandemic. He and other officials said not enough is known about the new mutation, or variant, of the COVID virus to change any plans or public health requirements. “The most relevant point is that it doesn’t change anything we’ve been telling you,” Dr. Adams said. “It just further reinforces the fact that we need to wash our hands, wear a mask, watch our distances, keep our household gathering small, because if this is a mutation that is more contagious, then that just means that we need to be that much more vigilant while we wait to get vaccinated.”

At another point in the interview, Dr. Adams, who as Surgeon General holds the military rank of Vice Admiral, amplified on the mutation: “Very important for people to know that viruses mutate all the time, and that does not mean that this virus is any more dangerous. We don’t even know if it’s really more contagious yet or not, or if it just happened to be a strain that was involved in a super spreader event. Right now, we have no indications that it is going to hurt our ability to continue vaccinating people or that it is any more dangerous or deadly than the strains that are currently out there and that we know about.”

The chief science adviser of the “Operation Warp Speed,” Dr. Moncef Slaoui, also said today, in a CNBC interview, that there was “an extremely low chance that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines would not work” against this mutation.

CBS host Margaret Brennan asked Vice Admiral Adams about a Kaiser Foundation study that found that 35% of Black adults have said they probably or definitely would not get themselves vaccinated, despite the fact that COVID death rates among Black Americans is twice that among Whites. Dr. Adams responded: “Well, I’m the United States surgeon general, but make no mistake about it, I’m an African-American, I grew up

poor, Black, rural. I know that long before COVID there were many diseases: hypertension, cancer, diabetes that were plaguing communities of color. And COVID just unveiled those disparities that have been around for a long time.... We need to understand that that distrust comes from a real place. It actually comes from my office. Several surgeons general oversaw for 40 years the Tuskegee studies, where a treatment was denied to Black men. And I walk past their pictures every single day when I go into my office. So believe you me, this legacy is important to me and helping restore that trust is important.... I got vaccinated on Friday. I actually feel great.... And I hope people will get the vaccine based on information that they get from trusted resources, because it's okay to have questions.”

### **Pulitzer Prize Author Poitras Insists Julian Assange Indictment Threatens Free Journalism—Pardon Him!**

Dec. 21 (EIRNS)—Filmmaker, journalist, and Pulitzer Prize-winner [Laura Poitras](#) today published an “Opinion” piece in the *New York Times* urging that the U.S. prosecution of Julian Assange under the Espionage Act be dropped. In 2014, she shared a Pulitzer Prize for public service, for their reporting on the National Security Agency’s (NSA) mass surveillance program, much of it based on Edward Snowden’s whistleblowing: “I am guilty of violating the Espionage Act,” she says. “If charged and convicted, I could spend the rest of my life in prison.”

Poitras points out that she, Glenn Greenwald, and journalists at the *Guardian* and *Washington Post*, reported on and published highly classified documents from the National Security Agency provided by whistleblower Edward Snowden, which revealed the government’s mass surveillance program; and that this was widely recognized as a public service, winning the papers the Pulitzer Prize, and the authors the George Polk Award. However, “The Espionage Act, enacted in World War I to prosecute ‘spies and saboteurs’ defines the unauthorized possession or publication of ‘national defense’ or classified information as a felony, and does not allow for a public interest defense, which means the jury is barred from distinguishing between exposing government crimes to the press, and

selling state secrets to a foreign government. Before Sept. 11, 2001, the Espionage Act was rarely used for journalism.”

That changed after Sept. 11, when the Espionage Act became a government tool to selectively prosecute whistleblowers, but never against reporters and publishers such as WikiLeaks’ Assange. A decade ago WikiLeaks, in collaboration with the *New York Times*, the *Guardian*, and *Der Spiegel*, published the Iraq and Afghanistan war logs, and later State Department cables. WikiLeaks’ publications exposed war crimes; previously undisclosed deaths in American-occupied Iraq, government corruption in Tunisia, and the start of the “war on terror.... And none of the architects of the ‘war on terror’ including the CIA’s torture programs, have been brought to justice,” says Poitras. Yet Assange faces up to 175 years in prison.

“It is impossible to overstate the dangerous precedent of Mr. Assange’s indictment ... and possible extradition,” Poitras writes. “Every national security journalist who reports on classified information now faces possible Espionage Act charges.... To reverse this dangerous precedent, the Justice Department should immediately drop these charges, and the President should pardon Mr. Assange. If his case goes forward, he will be the first, but not the last.”

## COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

### Germany Could Live with a 35% Lower Power Supply after 2022

Dec. 21 (EIRNS)—Alarming news from RWE, one of Germany’s leading power generating companies: CEO Martin Schmitz told *Die Welt* in an interview today that, with Germany’s nuclear exit and now also the exit from coal, the company will have 36% less power output at the end of 2022 than in 2019. “RWE still had 20.8 GW production in 2019; [by the] end of 2022 it will be down to 13.3 GW—this even with the increased capacities in renewable energies.”

After 2022 there will be no hard coal, only two-thirds left of lignite, and more nuclear at RWE. The company is no longer building conventional power plants, because construction would take too long to compensate for the losses, Schmitz said. Nor would newly built renewable sources compensate.

Bad outlooks for Germany's power supply.

## STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

### **Putin Wants Defense To Be Able 'To React Swiftly' to NATO Missile Deployments on Russia's Borders**

Dec. 21 (EIRNS)—Russian President Vladimir Putin, addressing the final Defense Ministry forum of the year this morning, called on the Russian military to be able to “react swiftly” to the deployment of NATO missiles near Russia's borders. There are no land-based intermediate- or medium-range cruise or ballistic missiles on NATO territory yet, but ships and aircraft capable of carrying missiles of such range have been frequently detected operating well within the range of Russia. Moscow has repeatedly warned that such incidents pose the risk of accidental escalation, reported Sputnik.

Putin observed the “incessant” character of NATO military activities, lamenting that the United States, in particular, has abandoned several international treaties, degrading the global arms- control systems. “We are not going to produce and deploy mid- and short-range missiles in the European part of Russia or in any other regions of the country. But we have to be ready to react swiftly if Western countries place weapons of that kind near our borders,” Putin said.

Putin vowed that Russia will rapidly continue to develop its military and keep a high combat readiness of its nuclear forces to ensure security and maintain strategic parity in the global arena. Addressing the issue of the rearmament, Putin emphasized that Russia will never find itself lagging behind other nations that spend exorbitant sums of money on arms. His complete speech is posted to the Kremlin website:

**COVID-19****Russia's Gamaleya Research Center Sign Cooperative Agreement with AstraZeneca**

Dec. 21 (EIRNS)—Russia's Gamaleya research center, and the U.K.-Swedish pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca, along with the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) and R-Pharm pharmaceutical company, signed a memorandum of cooperation on the fight against the novel coronavirus. Russian President Vladimir Putin participated in the signing ceremony. "I am absolutely convinced that such an attitude towards partnership today can serve as a good, convincing example of combining scientific forces, technologies, investments for a common goal—to protect the life, health and safety of millions of people on the planet as a whole," Putin said reported TASS. He congratulated the parties on the Dec. 14 signing of the document.

RDIF CEO Kirill Dmitriev said at the meeting, "We suggested that AstraZeneca can use one of the components of our vaccine to create another effective medication. AstraZeneca accepted the offer of the Russian Direct Investment Fund and the Gamaleya National Research Center. It will start clinical trials of its vaccine in combination with adenovirus of the Sputnik [vaccine] of serotype 26 in the near future in three countries, including the countries of the CIS and Middle East." RDIF said this offer is an example of Russia's "proactive approach"—that it is prepared to share its technology with those willing to produce vaccines using the two-vector technology.

Dmitriev went on: "This unique example of cooperation between scientists from different countries in jointly fighting coronavirus will play a decisive role in achieving a final victory over the pandemic globally. Russia's Sputnik V vaccine is already saving people's lives in Russia today through a large-scale vaccination program."

For its part, AstraZeneca said, "Today we announce a clinical trial program to assess the safety and immunogenicity of a combination of

AZD1222, developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University, and Sputnik V, developed by Russian Gamaleya Research institute.”

Vaccines AZD1222 and Sputnik V are both based on adenoviral vectors, into which the spike protein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus is embedded.

## THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC ORDER

### Major Powers Must Collaborate in Coal Power for Africa, or ‘Green’ Wave Will Massacre Africans

Dec. 21 (EIRNS)—Amidst British and allied press psywar about the “end” of the Belt and Road Initiative (“China Pulls Back from the World,” *Financial Times* Dec. 16), an investment campaign to save Africa from losing electric power demands American participation, or millions of lives could be lost.

Bloomberg Quint wrote on May 8, “China Is Virtually Alone in Backing Africa’s Coal Projects,” which are absolutely irreplaceable until fourth-generation small modular nuclear reactors, with Russia’s additional input, begin to populate the continent late in this decade. Citing a \$4.2 billion coal-power complex in Zimbabwe, which China has launched after Zimbabwe had sought for 20 years for a way to build it, the India-based Quint news site reported, “Chinese companies and banks are involved in financing at least 13 coal projects across the continent with another nine in the pipeline.... Since 2000, the China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China alone have supplied \$51.8 billion of finance for coal projects globally.”

Some 65% of electric power in Africa, which still has half the continent not reliably electrified, comes from burning coal, dominated now by China’s “clean coal” investments. The big central banks’ Green Finance Initiative and Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) are forcing funders and engineering firms to sabotage coal power—with South Africa, for example, forced into planning to retire its entire coal power fleet by 2030. This fleet currently supplies 80% of the country’s power.

China and the United States are the two great economic powers with large amounts of domestic coal-fired electricity, under increasingly successful attack by the Paris Climate Accord and Sir Mike Bloomberg's Beyond Coal campaign. China's Belt and Road Initiative has been giving the developing nations coal power, but the United States must join this. According to former World Bank Senior Economist [Dr. Wang Yan](#)'s presentation to the Schiller Institute's second conference panel on Dec. 12, China's 259 projects in Africa, which created 137,000 African jobs from 2014-18, peaked in terms of foreign direct investment in 2016. "There is still a shortage of long-term capital," Dr. Wang said. "Foreign direct investment is declining." She said more multilateral lending by major economic powers is necessary, more sovereign wealth funds can be drawn in, including the new U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), established by President Donald Trump in 2018.

Either the United States, China, and Russia collaborate in credit for the thorough electrification of Africa, including many coal power projects, or the sickly "green" wave will roll over the continent, washing power, and lives, away.

### **Iraqis May Decide Their Nation's Future with China's Belt and Road Initiative**

Dec. 21 (EIRNS)—The IMF now forecasts that Iraq's GDP will have contracted by 12% in 2020, the worst of any OPEC member, though all are affected by production quota cuts. The Iraqi government, in some desperation, is trying to sell a long-term crude oil supply contract for an up-front fraction of future revenues, \$2 billion, to pay operating expenses of government—instead of depositing \$1.5 billion in oil revenues with a China state investment bank and receiving \$10 billion in infrastructure credits! And its Central Bank just devalued the dinar by approximately 20% at once, to 1450/dollar from 1,190/dollar.

Iraq again has popular demonstrations, but with a critical difference. This time, some of the demonstrations are explicitly for the unlocking of the China-Iraq oil-for-technology agreement of 2019, the implementation

of which has been blocked by the current government; and for the Faw port development project not to be an isolated contract, but an aspect of rebuilding of Iraq's destroyed infrastructure as a whole. These demonstrations, petitions, online groups, and other mobilizations, in which the Schiller Institute has been involved and the Swedish Belt and Road Institute, have succeeded in attaining the formation of a national commission to weigh the alternatives. These are, in particular, the China-Iraq agreement; and the contrary proposal from the government for a turn to the "international capital markets" to get a loan (with interest penalties) and give a Faw port contract to the Korean Daewoo engineering firm.

The important context is that China has also proposed or negotiated on such oil-for-technology agreements with Iraq's neighbors Iran and Lebanon.