

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

The ‘Counteroffensive’ Is Dead: Time ‘To See Ourselves As Others See Us!’

June 22, 2023 (EIRNS)—The harsh reality of thousands of Ukrainian youth dying in “killing fields” in the last 2-3 weeks of the vaunted “counteroffensive” is beginning to haunt the Western alliance. Instead of the beginning of conquering of the Donbass, of Zaporozhye, of the drive into Crimea, etc., an estimated 13,000-plus Ukrainian soldiers are casualties (wounded or killed) in 2.5 weeks of senseless battle. Not getting past even the first line of multi-layered defensive lines erected by Russia, lines built up with trenches, fortifications, minefields, questions must be asked.

[Medea Benjamin and Nicolas Davies](#) of CODEPINK relate that “on the advice of British military advisers in Kyiv,” Ukrainian troops were sent forward “without air support or demining operations. The results have been predictably disastrous.” They cite a “senior European military officer in Kyiv” who said: “We tried to tell them to stop these piecemeal tactics, define a main thrust with infantry support and do what they can.... [But] they were trained by the British and they’re playing Light Brigade,” referring to the infamous 1854 battle in which Britain’s Light Cavalry Brigade made a suicidal charge into massive Russian cannon and were wiped out during the Crimean War. Such a violation of “the basic rules of military tactics” comprises a “suicide mission.”

What sort of reckless disregard is it that can’t take into account what Russia had done in the construction of the defenses the last many months? Or perhaps it was known, but, as Benjamin and Davies argue, Kyiv and the Western allies, without a chance of succeeding, deliberately sacrificed “the flower of Ukraine’s youth in a proxy war they will not send their own children or grandchildren to fight”—and that “reflects the moral bankruptcy of U.S. and NATO political leaders.”

At [Russia’s Security Council](#) meeting today, Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu reported to President Putin that the estimate of 13,000 Ukrainian

casualties was based upon intercepted communications of Ukrainian military commanders. The mass slaughter has halted, at least temporarily, the counteroffensive. Meanwhile, Russian recruitment and production of weapons continues to expand, with 114,000 additional troops through regular channels, plus 52,000 “highly motivated” volunteers being kept in reserve.

Who is more to blame—the gang in London and Washington that play so cavalierly with Ukrainian lives in their continued drive Eastward? Or the gang in Kyiv that has been so cavalier with their own population, willing to fight the proxy war, all the while trying to manufacture a bloody enough shirt to get the West into a direct confrontation with Russia? There’s not much honor amongst thieves, or amongst such gangs, and that injects no little instability in this world.

Hussein Askary of the Belt and Road Initiative in Sweden (BRIX) and Schiller Institute Chairwoman Helga Zepp-LaRouche participated yesterday in a webinar, joined by officials from Pakistan and Afghanistan, entitled “International Forum on Xinjiang Modernization Drive from a Global Perspective.” There, the positive model of China’s development of its Xinjiang Province, investing in education and industry to outflank poverty, backwardness, and recruitment into violence and terrorism was posed as the solution for Afghanistan and any underdeveloped area. Yes, that Xinjiang!

The self-indulgent fantasies promulgated in the West against China about abuse and genocide in Xinjiang are no less perverse than the inability to see the defenses that the Russians have constructed, or the 800,000,000 Chinese peasants brought out of deep poverty over the last three decades.

Perhaps it is time to take a page from that republican poet Robert Burns, in his poem “To a Louse”: “O wad some Power the giftie gie us/ To see oursels as ithers see us!” Humans have that power, as surely as we have a sense of humor, and a passion for the sublime.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday June 23, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

Russian Security Council Evaluates Two and a Half Weeks of Ukraine's 'Counteroffensive' Disaster

June 22, 2023 (EIRNS)—The [Russian Security Council](#) meeting met today with both President Vladimir Putin and Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu in attendance, to get reports from senior officials, assessing the interim results of the disastrous Ukrainian “counteroffensive.” Secretary of the Security Council Nikolay Patrushev reported that Ukraine had lost over 13,000 troops (killed and wounded) in the 2.5 weeks. Shoigu clarified that the estimate of Ukraine’s losses was preliminary and was mainly based on intercepted communications of Ukrainian military commanders. The reality of Ukrainian forces throwing themselves upon the dug-in Russian defenses, creating a killing field out of the first of the three levels of defenses, has resulted in the last several days in the end of any significant offensive efforts by Kyiv.

Shoigu added that the Western allies are at the end of their Soviet-made weapons, which are easier for Ukrainians to use, and that Western-made equipment is not being produced in any sufficient quantity to significantly affect the battlefield situation. In contrast, Shoigu reported that Russia’s military continues to grow, both in terms of recruitment and the weapons being delivered. He said that the Russian Defense Ministry had 114,000 additional troops through regular channels, along with a standing force of 52,000 volunteers. He said that the volunteers, despite being highly motivated to join the fight, were being kept in reserve and are undergoing further training.

Zelenskyy and the West Confronted with Collapse of Vaunted Counteroffensive

June 22, 2023 (EIRNS)—CNN today made the amazing discovery that Ukraine’s vaunted “counteroffensive” is lost. Previously, month after month, CNN has reported as gospel the military assessments and claims out of Kyiv, with little or no questioning. Today, they cite unnamed “Western and U.S. officials” in order to say that the counteroffensive is “not meeting expectations on any front.” It turns out, they add, that Ukrainian troops and armor are proving vulnerable to Russian minefields, missiles, and air power. CNN paraphrased their experts: “Russian lines of defense have been proving well-fortified, making it difficult for Ukrainian forces to breach them. In addition, Russian forces have had success bogging down Ukrainian armor with missile attacks and mines and have been deploying air power more effectively.”

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was feeling his best yesterday in his BBC interview. His take, when asked about the counteroffensive: “Some people believe this is a Hollywood movie and expect results now. It’s not.” Rather, as he put it, Ukrainian advances have been “slower than desired.... Whatever some might want, including attempts to pressure us, with all due respect, we will advance on the battlefield the way we deem best.”

Yet Zelenskyy still insisted, in a sort of Hitler-in-the-bunker moment, the goal of total victory was the only objective, and no negotiations or compromises could be entertained. He admitted that such a goal meant that “victories on the battlefield are necessary,” but wasn’t prepared to explain what would have to change to accomplish such victories. He offered that “no matter how far we advance in our counteroffensive, we will not agree to a frozen conflict because that is war, that is a prospectless development for Ukraine.”

CODEPINK Leaders Expose How Slaughter of Ukraine's Youth Shows Moral Depravity of U.S., NATO

June 22, 2023 (EIRNS)—In a hard-hitting op-ed, “[The Silent Slaughter of the Flower of Ukraine's Youth](#),” on June 20, reprinted in Common Dreams, Scheerpost, and elsewhere, CODEPINK's Medea Benjamin and Nicolas J.S. Davies denounce the moral depravity of U.S. and NATO leadership, blaming them for sending young Ukrainians into the battlefields of the Ukraine conflict with Russia, knowing full well that it is a war that Ukraine has already lost. And Kyiv and its Western allies are keeping quiet about it, not for reasons of secrecy or surprise, but to hide the “brutal cost Ukraine's young people are paying to recover small scraps of territory from Russian forces.”

The multiple layers of Russian defense are impenetrable. Yet, the two authors charge, “on the advice of British military advisers in Kyiv,” Ukraine has sent Western tanks and armored vehicles manned by its NATO-trained troops “into these killing fields without air support or demining operations. The results have been predictably disastrous, and it is now clear that these are not just ‘probing’ operations as the propaganda claimed, but the long-awaited main offensive.”

Quoting Gen. Mark Miley, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs, who warned that the Ukraine/Russia conflict will be “very difficult ... very violent and will likely take a considerable amount of time and at high cost,” Benjamin and Davies point out that the front of Russia's main defensive lines have become “lethal kill zones.” Rates of Ukrainian casualties are already very high, and the armored brigades that NATO has armed and trained “serve only to escalate the gory war of attrition.”

A senior European military officer in Kyiv labeled Ukraine's June 8-9 operation as a “suicide mission,” that violated the basic rules of military tactics. “We tried to tell them to stop these piecemeal tactics, define a main thrust with infantry support and do what they can,” he said. But, “they were trained by the British and they're playing Light Brigade,” referring to the infamous 1854 battle in which Britain's Light Cavalry Brigade made a

suicidal charge into massive Russian cannon and were wiped out during the Crimean War. The authors also predict that, if the “spring offensive” continues on, it could end up like the British and French Somme Offensive of 1916—four months of “pointless, wanton slaughter.”

Benjamin and Davies report that the current offensive was delayed for months, because Kyiv and its allies were contemplating the likelihood that “what we are now witnessing” was going to occur. “The fact that they went ahead regardless reflects the moral bankruptcy of U.S. and NATO political leaders, who are sacrificing the flower of Ukraine’s youth in a proxy war they will not send their own children or grandchildren to fight.”

Putin Highlights Modernization of Russian Nuclear Forces

June 22, 2023 (EIRNS)—Russian President [Vladimir Putin](#) yesterday, during remarks made to graduates of higher military schools, emphasized the importance of Russia’s nuclear armaments with respect to improving the armed forces. He stated: “Nearly half of the units and formations of the Strategic Missile Forces have been equipped with the latest Yars [missile] systems, forces are being converted to advanced missile systems with the Avangard hypersonic glide vehicle. The first Sarmat launcher systems with a new heavy missile will enter combat duty shortly.”

He continued: “The arsenals of the air and naval components of the Strategic Nuclear Forces are being stocked in strict conformity with our plans. For example, the master submarine of the new Borei-A project has joined the Navy. In January 2023, the Admiral Gorshkov frigate, was put on combat duty. It is intended for open-ocean missions and is armed with cutting-edge Tsirkon hypersonic missiles.

“Russian nuclear triad armaments make it possible to ensure strategic deterrence in an effective and guaranteed manner and maintain the global balance of forces,” Putin concluded. “This is the result of a huge, years-long effort on the part of our industrial plants, design bureaus, technicians and engineers, military and civilian specialists.”

Russian Foreign Intelligence Director Offers Ukrainian Diplomats Refuge in Moscow

June 22, 2023 (EIRNS)—In a June 20 statement covered by TASS, [Sergey Naryshkin](#), the director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR), reported that many officials of the Ukrainian government stationed abroad are now refusing to return home once their overseas missions are ended. This is especially true of employees of Ukraine’s Foreign Ministry who are very aware of the true nature of their government. “Tens and hundreds of Ukrainian diplomatic employees simply refuse to return to their homeland once their mission is over,” he reported.

It is also the case that dissidence of any kind is not tolerated in Ukraine. No one can state their position openly, for fear of retaliation against themselves or their families. “Therefore, many officials prefer to leave the country, unwilling to have anything to do with the Kyiv regime.”

For this reason, Naryshkin said, the SVR is inviting the employees of Ukrainian diplomatic missions abroad to come to Moscow for their safety and that of their families. “If you feel a responsibility for the fate of your homeland and for ensuring peace and stability in Europe and are under pressure from the criminal regime in Kyiv, which is leading Ukraine to a national catastrophe, come to Moscow. We will ensure your personal safety and that of your families.”

The SVR press office reported that mass purges are taking place within Ukrainian diplomatic missions to identify anyone disloyal to the Kyiv regime and send them home before their tour of duty is finished. In addition to the mass exodus of the country’s working population, it continued, an increasing number of representatives of Ukraine’s Foreign Ministry, Defense Ministry, Interior Ministry and special services are not returning to Kyiv once their long-term assignments are finished. This is especially true of Ukrainian diplomats assigned to EU countries, who stay in those nations and change their status from diplomats to refugees.

Sullivan and Nuland in Showdown with India, Brazil, Turkiye, and South Africa over Russia

June 22, 2023 (EIRNS)—According to today’s *Financial Times*, U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and neo-con Under Secretary of State Victoria Nuland have been chosen to lead the U.S. delegation to a conference in Copenhagen this weekend, to confront representatives from India, Brazil, and South Africa—major countries that have refused to toe Washington’s line on Ukraine, and have even maintained normal relations with Russia. The *FT*’s sources tell them that China may also send a representative to the weekend’s conference of various nations’ security advisers, hosted by the Danish government. Otherwise, the *FT* chose to quote “a European official” who lamented: “Only little do we realize how much the rest of the world is not convinced. They are not convinced. It’s a terrible thing to acknowledge.”

The *FT*’s sources indicated that Washington’s effort in Copenhagen was a “diplomatic offensive” being made at Kyiv’s request, as Ukraine’s failed counteroffensive has left them without any leverage. However, it should also be noted that Brazil, India, China, and South Africa are Russia’s partners in the BRICS, and Turkiye’s re-elected President Erdogan is on good terms with Russia’s Putin, and none of them have been bowled over by the so-called “Zelenskyy Peace Plan.” So, it is not clear how Sullivan or Nuland will be any more successful in pitching Zelenskyy’s non-negotiable (and non-starter) demands for Russia—first, withdrawing from everywhere, second, paying massive amounts for damages, and third, agreeing to turn its leaders over to an international criminal court—in order to begin negotiations.

Aside from the *FT*’s take on the Copenhagen meeting, the other countries may actually have their own reasons to get into a room with the U.S., to possibly address some issues about what the West has been doing with, and to, Ukraine in this proxy war. In the past, “nothing about Ukraine without Ukraine” has prevented even this type of meeting, so there may be some sort of window here. However, with Sullivan and Nuland chosen to lead the U.S. side, it can’t be a very healthy sign.

NEW STRATEGIC & ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

Afghan and Pakistani Officials Join Zepp-LaRouche in Webinar on China's Xinjiang as Model for Development

June 22, 2023 (EIRNS)—The Schiller Institute Belt and Road Institute in Sweden (BRIX) and the Asian Institute of Ecocivilization Research and Development (AIERD) jointly sponsored a webinar yesterday, entitled “International Forum on Xinjiang Modernization Drive from a Global Perspective.”

Afghanistan's Deputy Minister of Economy Dr. Abdul Latif Nazari opened the presentations, pointing out that the people of Xinjiang remained loyal to China, that China had neutralized Western propaganda on Xinjiang by uplifting the area, and carrying out economic development in the area. Education and industry were key. He also expressed his desire to replicate the Chinese Xinjiang model in Afghanistan as well, and thought that China should invest in Afghanistan in sectors of mining, infrastructure, industry, and education.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche, founder of the Schiller Institute, explained that the narrative about human rights violations spread by Western media about Xinjiang was false propaganda, and that delegations from the Schiller Institute had visited the region and had found no such evidence. Rather, China had lifted the region's population from extreme poverty and had equipped them with skills to make a career. She said China was focusing on human development along with economic uplift in Xinjiang.

BRIX Vice Chairman Hussein Askary said that China's massive development in Xinjiang served as an example for other nations. He said China had outflanked terrorist ideologues through vocational and educational programs. On charges of human rights violations against Muslims, he explained that various delegations had been sent by Muslim countries to corroborate those charges, yet they found no substantial proof. On charges of genocide, he pointed out that, as per the 2022 census, the population of Xinjiang had increased to 25.8 million, and posed the obvious question: “What kind of genocide it is where the population is increasing?”

Pakistan's Minister of State and convener SDGs for Parliament Romina Khurshid Alam spoke, urging countries in Asia to stand with each other and form a consortium on the pattern of the European Union to overcome various challenges confronting the region. A subject for parliamentarians to consider was that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was not only for Pakistan and China but for all neighboring countries. Of CPEC, which extends from Xinjiang in China, south through Pakistan to the port of Gwadar on the Arabian Sea, she said, "It can become a logistics hub of all of Asia." Such development initiatives could help improve the living standard.

Other significant contributions were reported on in the [Pakistan Observer](#) website.

Hussein Askary [tweeted](#): "Thank you for this great discussion about Xinjiang modernization as a model for 'security through development'! It was my great privilege to participate on behalf of the @belt_brix" and retweeted the 2-minute video posted by the webinar moderator, AIERD's [Shakeel Ahmad Ramay](#), who has addressed Schiller Institute conferences.

German Economic Cooperation with China Continuing Despite Difficult Environment

June 22, 2023 (EIRNS)—No major economic agreements were signed during the two-day visit to Germany of Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang—only several on cooperation in climate protection. One may add, nonetheless, the June 19 sealing of the Cosco-Hamburg Sea Port deal, on the eve of Li's arrival in Berlin. Bigger deals had been signed when Chancellor Olaf Scholz visited Beijing at the beginning of November 2022.

Li Qiang used his statement, at the 17-minute press conference with Scholz on June 20, to say: "China has a huge market, a complete industrial system and abundant human resources," adding that the economy, which suffered from the pandemic, is now doing well again. "China and Germany are influential, big countries, so we should cooperate all the more."

The economic aspect was more visible during Li's visit to Munich, where the Chinese Prime Minister toured the Siemens and BMW corporations. The Chinese themselves had requested this focus on high-tech cooperation with the two Munich-based companies. At the official reception there, Bavarian Minister President Markus Söder spoke out against decoupling the economies. That, he said, would be harmful to sectors such as the automotive and chemical industries. It is a matter of safeguarding jobs, he said.

Evidence of the strong sentiment in German industry against anti-Chinese moves and propaganda, as reported on the Lost in Europe platform on June 21, is that German businesses are resisting the EU Commission's scheme to make doing business in China more difficult, by imposing investment controls and other requirements. Germany's major business associations, the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce (DIHK) and the Association of German Machine Building Sector (VDMA), are up in arms against Ursula von der Leyen's "de-risking" plans, which come newly packaged as a strategy for "economic security." Both just released statements.

According to DIHK: "The EU Commission's plans for economic security in Europe must not be allowed to get out of hand in the direction of state-controlled foreign trade. In particular, German companies are extremely critical of the considerations in both Europe and the U.S. to introduce state audits of foreign investments (outbound investment screening). The EU should refrain from this not only for reasons of the threat of bureaucratic overregulation."

VDMA stated: "Investments abroad do not endanger public security and order in Europe. Rather, they are necessary to improve the local or global market position of the investor. And they are an important means for technology companies to survive in international competition. ... [W]eakening the competitiveness of the European capital goods industry by controlling investments abroad, which creates additional bureaucracy and legal uncertainty, must be avoided at all costs. "

COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

Lula Denounces Press as Cowards for Silence Over Assange Prosecution

June 22, 2023 (EIRNS)—Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva ended his press conference this morning in Rome by bringing up what no journalist had raised: the threat of life imprisonment faced by Julian Assange for doing what all journalists should do: investigate and tell the truth. “The name of this is called cowardice,” he told the reporters present from several nations. They must speak out, he said, while there is still time. As translated from the official Brazilian transcript, he confronted the journalists thus:

“You know that I have been a little angry with the defenders of freedom of the press in the world.... We have Assange in jail because he denounced to the world the American espionage. This citizen is in jail in England. He will be sent back to the United States to, who knows, maybe get life imprisonment, and I don’t see any press declarations in defense of freedom of the press. It is unbelievable. Not even the newspaper that published the article that he published defends him. The name of this is called cowardice.

“What Assange did deserves respect and praise from any journalist on the face of the earth. He had the courage to disclose that the United States was spying. In Brazil, on President Dilma. On Cristina in Argentina. In Angela Merkel’s Germany.... And because of this, this citizen was arrested and will be extradited to the United States, and the press is silent. So, it is important that our journalist colleagues can try, while there is still time, to at least ask for the man’s release.

“And say what crime he committed. What was the crime that Assange committed? It was the crime of denouncing the abuse ... of American espionage against other countries in the world. Including spying against Petrobras. You know, so, excuse me for saying this, but I am saying it in all press conferences: I am outraged with the lack of solidarity with a journalist who is being victimized because he denounced what every journalist would like to denounce if he had received the news as he did.”