

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

An Anniversary of War, Or of Peace?

Feb. 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—The Sunday, February 19 “Rage Against the War Machine” rally at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. rang in—and is already helping to shape—what promises to be a critical week in the world's dangerous trajectory towards nuclear warfare between Global

NATO, and Russia and China. The one-year anniversary of Russia's Special Military Operation in Ukraine is this Friday, Feb. 24, and Russian President Vladimir Putin will focus on that operation in his annual State of the Nation Address to the Federal Assembly on Tuesday, February 21. Informed observers report that the just-concluded Munich Security Conference on Feb. 19 with its single-minded obsession with escalating Global NATO's confrontation with both Russia and China, has only hardened Putin's resolve to stop the West's announced intention to "contain" and dismember the Russian Federation and remove Putin from government.

On Monday, Feb. 20, Putin was scheduled to receive China's top diplomat, State Councillor Wang Yi, fresh from his participation in the Munich Security Conference, for broad consultation and coordination between the two strategic allies. Chinese President Xi Jinping will in turn deliver a major policy address on Friday Feb. 24, with China's new proposal for resolving the Ukraine war. Although the specifics have not been made public, it is likely that it will elaborate on the fundamental principles outlined in China's Global Strategic Initiative, in particular the need to have a security architecture that takes into consideration the legitimate security interests of *all* parties—not only in NATO's surrogate warfare against Russia in Ukraine, but worldwide.

President Xi's peace initiative is expected to receive widespread support among the nations of the developing sector—much to the chagrin of London and Washington. The London *Financial Times* yesterday quoted Amrita Narlikar, president and professor at the Hamburg-based German Institute for Global and Area Studies, to express their concern that China is "very clever" at "framing itself as a part of the developing world.... If China were to present its vision as one of a peace dialogue between Russia and Ukraine, and emphasize the global economic costs of a long-drawn war, this would enjoy considerable support in large parts of the global south." At the Munich Security Conference, the *FT* complained, the developing sector by and large was not on board with their war plan towards Russia: Third World representatives expressed "much greater preoccupation with issues

such as inflation, debt, higher energy prices and food security than with the war in Ukraine.”

Reality notwithstanding, the Global NATO apparatus is acting like they run—as well as own—the entire world, and will take it onward into nuclear confrontation with Russia, like it or not. President Joe Biden was sent into Kiev today for an outdoor photo op with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, to the dramatic backdrop of non-stop air raid sirens, although no Russian attacks were underway at the time—and in fact Russia had been alerted in advance of Biden’s visit to Kiev. Biden told Zelenskyy that another \$500 million in military aid was forthcoming, and that the U.S. would keep providing weapons “for long as it takes.”

Next stop will be Poland on Tuesday and Wednesday, where Biden will meet with President Duda, who will urge the U.S., U.K., and France to provide Ukraine with bilateral security arrangements that are the functional equivalent of making it a NATO member—a clear strategic provocation of Russia.

Global NATO is on a fast track for that provocation, by design. As *Politico* wrote yesterday: “The White House has also told Zelenskyy’s team, per multiple officials, to prepare for the offensive now, as weapons and aid from Washington and Europe flow freely, for fear that backing from Ukraine’s European neighbors could be finite.” They are also worrying that opposition to the war inside the United States is growing as well, and that time is not on their side.

They are right.

This is the strategic dynamic within which to locate the Feb. 19 Washington rally against the war, with its success in bringing together disparate groups from the “left” and the “right” of the political spectrum, who agreed to put their other differences aside in order to join for the most urgent task of all, forestalling nuclear war.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche today characterized that rally as a major victory, a proof of principle that “men can work together if they have a good plan,”

as Schiller demonstrated. This development came not a minute too early, she explained, adding that it now must be followed with an organizing drive across the country and worldwide to both educate the population around the cause of the Global NATO war drive and, above all, lay out the policy solutions which Lyndon LaRouche alone has elaborated over the last half-century.

To that end, the Schiller Institute has organized two events this week. On Tuesday at noon EST, there will be a Zoom conference on “[Syrian Sanctions Must Be Lifted!](#)” in the aftermath of the earthquake.)

And then on Thursday at 1 pm EST, another Zoom conference will be held, this one on “[Investigate Nord Stream Revelations: Stop Nuclear World War III!](#)”

The following Saturday, Feb. 25, there will be anti-war demonstration in Berlin and up to 100 other cities in Germany and across Europe.

Zepp-LaRouche commented today that the Feb. 19 Washington rally was “a very promising development, but we should not at all be complacent. Because, even though the Global NATO forces are becoming increasingly not so global, they are increasingly isolating themselves when the vast majority of the world population is going in a completely different direction, that does not tend to appease them.... So therefore our mobilization with the Open Letter to the Pope has to absolutely be escalated.”

Zepp-LaRouche concluded: “Our effort to get a new international security and development architecture introduced should be a continuous subject of all interventions. Whatever the form, whether a group of nations make such a proposal of such a conference, or if a group of universities, for example, sponsor the idea. But we need the discussion of what should be the world order after we stop the war danger, because it’s not good enough to just be against the war. The big question is: How can we as a human species give ourselves an order which allows for the cooperation and coexistence of all nations on this planet, to the benefit of all?”

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday February 21, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

The British Set the Agenda for Biden's Visit to Poland

Feb. 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—After his Monday visit to Kiev, President Joe Biden traveled to Poland by train for a two-day visit and discussion with President Andrzej Duda. In Ukraine, President Zelenskyy told the press that he had “discussed” the issue of long-range weapons with Biden. Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov announced that Ukraine would be getting fighter jets soon, and that it’s only a matter of when. And Sen. Lindsey Graham stated that Biden’s current trip could be the most decisive moment of his Presidency, and he urged that two actions be taken: Start training Ukrainians to fly F-16s; and declare Russia a state sponsor of terror, since that is how Vice President Kamala Harris had described Russia in her address to the Munich Security Conference.

But it was the London [Financial Times](#) that presented the broader British policy in an interview with Polish President Duda on the eve of Biden’s visit.

“Poland’s head of state has called on NATO powers to give postwar security guarantees to Ukraine,” the *FT* wrote, which should consist of a series of bilateral security treaties with the U.S., U.K., and France, which would be the de facto equivalent of joining NATO. “While Ukraine was aware it cannot join NATO now,” the *FT* explained, “Kiev was expecting a ‘partnership’ with ‘some kind of security guarantees,’ Duda said.... Duda also urged Biden to reaffirm ‘in very strong terms’ during his Warsaw visit that the U.S. stands unreservedly behind NATO’s Article 5, the collective defense clause treating any attack on a member state as an attack against all. The security guarantees Ukraine has sought would be structured

differently, effectively binding leading NATO powers such as the U.S., U.K. and France into providing military assistance in the event of a future attack on Ukraine.”

The *FT* explained that not everyone in Europe is happy with being dragged further into war with Russia. They are proposing instead what is quaintly referred to as the “porcupine” approach, which the *FT* says is also Biden’s preferred option at this point. “Some other NATO nations also remain wary of binding promises for fear of being dragged into a war with Russia, and instead argue for the strengthening of Ukraine’s military to ensure it can defend itself.

“ ‘There is a pretty robust debate going on about security guarantees, but I really don’t think President Biden will want to put this forward now,’ said Michał Baranowski, director of the Warsaw office of the German Marshall Fund think-tank. Instead, he said, the U.S. administration is pushing ahead with ‘a porcupine strategy,’ which means ‘arm Ukrainians to the teeth so that they can deal with Russia directly.’ ”

The *FT* commented that “this kind of package is what former NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, who co-authored a formal proposal for Ukraine’s postwar security with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s chief of staff Andriy Yermak, has described such guarantees as similar to what Israel enjoys from the U.S.”

Another Problem for London: the Global South Is Not on Board

Feb. 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—The City of London daily *Financial Times* raises an issue of great concern to the trans-Atlantic financial Establishment: most of the nations of the developing sector are not on board with their strategic or their economic policies.

The *FT* yesterday published an article headlined: “Western Pleas over Ukraine Fail To Way African and Latin American Leaders.” They report that at Munich, there was tepid (at best) support for further confrontation with Russia. For example, “Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira said that the conflict was a ‘very sad situation’ and stressed his government

‘deplored’ invasion.... Vieira added: ‘It’s been one year now. We have to try to build the possibility of a solution. We cannot keep talking only of war.’ ” Namibian Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila also disagreed with further confrontation, stating that Namibia was focused on “resolving the problem, not on shifting blame.” She added: “The bottom line is that money used to buy weapons would be better used to promote development in Ukraine, in Africa, in Asia, in the EU itself where many people are facing hardships.”

The *FT* summarized London’s conundrum as follows: “Western officials said bilateral meetings on the conference sidelines revealed a much greater preoccupation with issues such as inflation, debt, higher energy prices and food security than with the war in Ukraine. There was also a lingering resentment, they said, over the west’s disappointing record on sharing coronavirus vaccines and compensation for the damage caused by climate change.”

Nearly Unanimous Support for War with Russia and China at Munich Security Conference, and Yet...

Feb. 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris used her Munich Security Conference speech to accuse Russia of “crimes against humanity.” Secretary of State Tony Blinken growled that China had better not support Russia, or else. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg called openly for a NATO two-front war, by pronouncing that “What is happening in Europe today could happen in Asia tomorrow.” In fact the only sane speech in the entire conference was that of Chinese top diplomat, State Councillor Wang Yi.

And yet, London and Washington Establishment policymakers left Munich deeply uneasy over their situation. A lengthy article in yesterday’s *Politico* reports that “one can’t help but notice [at Munich] more than a hint of foreboding just beneath the surface.... The only people smiling at this year’s security conference are the defense contractors. Arms sales are booming by all accounts.”

For starters, in Ukraine “the country’s armed forces are running low on ammunition, equipment and even men.” Then, “both sides of the Atlantic fear that Russia is finding its footing, [and that] Ukraine may be overmatched in certain parts of the east and south, and the West’s pipeline of weapons will slow to a trickle.”

The admit to Putin’s relative strength: “Putin shows no signs of wavering.... Putin feels confident he can wait for an inevitable break in Western resistance.... Facing little domestic pressure to end the war, Putin is operating as if he can outlast the Western alliance.”

On top of that, “recent polling suggests that American voters’ willingness to send arms and weapons to Kyiv has slipped.... There is a small, yet growing, faction within House Republicans questioning the need to fund Ukraine.”

Politico then reports: “The White House has also told Zelenskyy’s team, per multiple officials, to prepare for the offensive now, as weapons and aid from Washington and Europe flow freely, for fear that backing from Ukraine’s European neighbors could be finite.”

EU Foreign Policy Chief Demands Unending Supply of Weapons to Ukraine or Russia Will Win

Feb. 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—The Munich Security Conference closed Feb. 19 on the note of panic delivered by EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell. During his speech, he announced that there would be an extraordinary meeting of EU Defense Ministers on March 7-8 to coordinate additional weapons and ammunition supplies to Ukraine. “We have to increase and accelerate our military support to Ukraine,” he said. “The first and most urgent thing that a geopolitical Europe has to do is to arm Ukraine. Here we said, as all European leaders said here, yesterday, that Russia cannot win this war, that Ukraine has to prevail. Then let’s go from words to facts and accelerate our military support to Ukraine, because Ukraine is in a critical situation from the point of view of available ammunition.”

Today, as he arrived in Brussels for a meeting of EU Foreign Ministers, Borrell called arming Ukraine “the most urgent issue,” adding that “if we fail on that, the result of the war is in danger.” He noted that Russian forces fire about 50,000 rounds a day. “Ukraine needs to be at the same level of capacity. They have artillery, but they lack ammunition,” he said.

Likely adding to the panic is the report in yesterday’s London *Sunday Times* saying that less than a quarter of the main battle tanks promised by Western countries are likely to be in Ukraine by the time of the much-feared Russian spring offensive. Kiev is expecting its supporters to send up to 320 Western tanks in total, but estimates suggest barely 50 will reach the front lines by the start of April, prompting concerns they will not be enough to have a substantial impact on the fighting, the *Times* reports.

China Rebukes Western Allegations that China Is Prepared To Arm Russia

Feb. 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman [Wang Wenbin](#) took the United States to task for its accusations that Beijing is considering providing “lethal support” for Moscow in Ukraine. He indicated that the U.S. was in no position to tell China what to do.

At the Chinese Foreign Ministry’s regular press briefing Feb. 20, a Bloomberg reporter relayed the “question” that, “Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said that the U.S. has information that China is considering whether to supply Russia weapons and ammunition for the invasion of Ukraine.” The reporter charged that “The U.S. already has evidence that Chinese companies are sending nonlethal support to Russia.”

Wang countered: “It is the U.S., not China, that has been pouring weapons into the battlefield. The U.S. is in no position to tell China what to do. We would never stand for finger-pointing, or even coercion and pressurizing from the U.S. on our relations with Russia.

“On the Ukraine issue, China’s position boils down to supporting talks for peace. The international community is fully aware who is calling for dialogue and striving for peace, and who is fanning the flames and stoking

confrontation. We urge the U.S. side to seriously reflect on the role it has played, do something to actually help de-escalate the situation and promote peace talks, and stop deflecting the blame and spreading disinformation. China will continue to stay firm on the side of peace and dialogue, and play a constructive part in easing the situation....

“The one-year mark of the Ukraine crisis is just days away. China will release a position document on seeking political settlement of the Ukraine crisis. The document will reaffirm President Xi Jinping’s important propositions, including respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, upholding the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, taking seriously the legitimate security concerns of all countries.”

On Feb. 18, CPC Political Bureau member and Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi met with U.S. Secretary of State Tony Blinken on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference, after which Blinken told the press that he had warned Wang about the “implications and consequences if China provides material support to Russia or assistance with systemic sanctions evasion.” So-called “assistance with systemic sanctions evasion,” can be construed to mean any type of trade. Last week, Wang Yi told the Munich Security Conference that those calling for continued fighting in Ukraine, “don’t care about the life and death of Ukrainians.”

Syria Seeks International Condemnation of Israeli Air Strikes on Damascus

Feb. 20 (EIRNS)—[Faisal Mikdad](#), the Foreign Minister of Syria, has called for urgent condemnation of the Israeli attack on Damascus on Feb. 19, in order to deter Israel from killing civilians and violating the sovereignty of states. He called the Israeli aggression a crime against humanity, noting that Syria is racing against time to address the catastrophic consequences of the devastating earthquakes, when meeting with ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Syria on Feb. 19, reported SANA. “The continuation of Israeli brutal attacks, and crimes against the Palestinian and

Syrian people constitutes an explicit threat to peace and security in the region and beyond,” Mikdad said.

“Syria expects the United Nations Secretariat and Security Council to condemn Israeli aggression and crimes, take the necessary measures to deter them, hold them accountable, punish their perpetrators and ensure they do not recur,” the Syrian Foreign Ministry said in a separate statement. “The aggression comes in the context of the systematic Israeli attacks against the Syrian civilian targets, including homes, service centers, airports, and ports, intimidating the Syrians who are still suffering from the catastrophic effects left by the earthquake and working to support those affected by it.”

The ministry stressed that “the continuation of these brutal attacks and crimes against the Palestinian and Syrian people constitutes an explicit threat to peace and security in the region and requires urgent international action to stop the Israeli aggressive actions on Syrian territory.

Three of the civilians who were killed in the Kafr Sousa neighborhood, were identified yesterday as a pharmacist, a cardiologist and an engineer.

Blumenthal and Maté Report on U.S. False Flag Operations To Block Earthquake Aid

Feb. 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—On Feb. 14, the [Grayzone](#)’s Max Blumenthal and Aaron Maté broadcast a background story on the frauds by which the U.S. government blocked earthquake relief to Syria. Much of what they reported is well-known to people who have followed U.S. operations over the last decade, but at this time, when thousands of lives have been taken away in a matter of a few weeks, it is important that these operations are understood.

Al Qaeda and related organizations, rather than being dismantled, have been kept functional by the U.S. for operations against the Syrian government of Bashar al Assad. As of now one-third of Syria’s territory is controlled by the United States and is used as a source of fuel oil and grain that is being exported and sold for the benefit of the U.S. that has illegally seized these resources. Syria’s attempt to work cooperatively with U.S. and

other relief organizations has been stopped, as the U.S. has only permitted NGOs that work on behalf of U.S. allies to provide any relief, even after the devastation of three earthquakes in the days since Feb. 6.

The journalists point to the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), and the White Helmets, as the major groups involved. The White Helmets are a front for British intelligence, allegedly operating as medical aids to deal with military and other injuries. It is well known that they operate hand in hand with Islamic terrorists in, as an example, deploying the phony “evidence” that led to accusations of chemical warfare by the Assad government against their own citizens. This is the basis for the Feb. 6 lying claims of State Department spokesman Ned Price that the Assad government massacred its own people. In fact, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) investigators did not verify any evidence of the charged chemical attacks. Blumenthal and Maté point out that the reported victims of Assad’s alleged chemical warfare are civilians and usually women, whose killing provides no advantage to anyone.

This and other improbable charges of civilian murder, however, are used as the Biden administration’s motive for restricting earthquake assistance only to “approved” operations including the White Helmets and SAMS.

U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

‘Rage Against the War Machine’ Video Links

Feb. 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—The February 19, 2023 [Rage Against the War Machine](#) rally can be viewed in full on People’s Podcast YouTube channel. The video currently has 67,000 views. The [individual speeches](#) are also broken out, including the Schiller Institute’s [Diane Sare](#)’s speech. Her onetime campaign volunteer [José Vega](#) also spoke.

NEW STRATEGIC & ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

Wang Yi in Hungary Discusses Cooperation between China and Central Europe

Feb. 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—China’s Director of the CPC Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi held talks with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó in Budapest on Feb. 19-20, on his tour of European countries. Orbán received the senior Chinese diplomat at a private dinner on Feb. 19.

Szijjártó met with Wang Yi on Feb. 20 about the cooperation between China and the 16-odd countries of Central Europe, as well as the strategic partnership between their two countries. “We met for the first time eight and a half years ago when I traveled to Beijing as a new minister at the invitation of my Chinese counterpart [then-Foreign Minister Wang Yi]. This is the 15th time we have met since then, and in that time, beyond professional cooperation, I can safely say that we have developed a friendly relationship,” Szijjártó wrote on Facebook. He stressed that, “as Foreign Minister Wang Yi has done a great deal to improve relations between China and Hungary, from which our country has benefited enormously.”

Szijjártó went on:, “Hungary has been consistently high on the investment map of the largest Chinese companies and our trade turnover is regularly over \$10 billion.” In September last year, Chinese companies announced the investment of several tens of million dollars in industrial plants in the Hungarian town of Debrecen, which would create thousands of jobs.

Wang’s visit comes at a critical time for Hungary, as Orbán will not allow Budapest to send weapons to the Ukraine war zone, putting him in conflict with the NATO/EU leadership, and leading to EU reprisals. On Feb. 14, Foreign Minister Szijjártó said that Germany was blocking a permit to allow Siemens Energy to ship control equipment for the two new reactors that Russia’s Rosatom is building at Paks nuclear power plant. Nuclear power supplies about half of Hungary’s energy supply.

Wang Yi Expected To Meet with Vladimir Putin

Feb. 20, 2023 (EIRNS)—TASS reports that Russian President Vladimir Putin is likely to meet with Chinese State Councillor and Director of the CPC Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi during his visit to Moscow, which started on Feb. 21.

“We do not rule out a meeting between Mr. Wang Yi and the President, he will indeed be in Moscow. We will brief you on the date,” Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters today. “Russian-Chinese relations are very multidimensional, allied in nature.... The agenda is clear and very extensive, so there is a lot to talk about,” Peskov concluded.

Kommersant newspaper earlier reported that the main purpose of his European trip is to “enhance Beijing’s role in a Ukrainian settlement.”