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EDITORIAL

A Renaissance for Mankind, or a Descent into the Maelström

Aug. 26 (EIRNS)—Edgar Poe's short story, "A Descent into the Maelström," a scientific investigation of the changes in geometric relations

which take place during a phase change in nature, and the role of human cognition in recognizing and investigating those changes, provides the necessary guide to reflecting on the historic phase change taking place in the world today. Poe's characters are two brothers whose ship is caught in a great whirlpool off the Norwegian coast. As the ship is pulled ever downward towards destruction, one brother recognizes the changed geometry which exists within this vortex, different from what existed in the previous space, and creatively discovers the laws of this new paradigm, saving himself, while his brother, terrified, his mind in a haze, clings to the old paradigm and plunges to his death.

The world will never return to the era from which we are now departing, into a new geometry. This is true of the pandemic, ending the era of privatized health care and the deprivation of health care for the poor nations of the world; it is true of the global financial system, horribly bankrupt for decades already and now racing into a hyper-inflationary or deflationary bust, a system which can not be saved; it is true of the era of endless wars unleashed by Tony Blair's 1999 declaration of the end of national sovereignty, unleashing the Anglo-American "regime change" wars; and, finally, the end of the delusion of the U.S. as the "unipolar superpower" and the "end of history."

Do not imagine that this means a better world will automatically result. The world could proceed as did the seaman's frightened brother, clinging to delusions of the dying Empire, willing to submit to economic decay, war, pestilence and famine rather than reject the false axioms, to discover the new principles required to not only survive, but to build a more perfect world.

The end of the 20-year disaster in Afghanistan provides the crucial test: Will the U.S. break from the British Empire, and act on its actual self-interest, to see Afghanistan transformed from a maelstrom of terrorism, drugs, and perpetual war into a hub for regional and continent-wide development, restoring its ancient role as the "land of a thousand cities," the crossroad of eastern and Western civilization?

The British Empire, like the dinosaurs, deserves nothing better than to become extinct. Tony Blair and other spokesmen for the Empire are bellowing their rage, like Shelley's Ozymandias, that the United States has failed to obey their dictates—or as Blair so revealingly put it, that the Biden Administration has followed the “imbecilic political slogan about ending ‘the forever wars.’ ” Ending such wars will, indeed, as Blair fears, mean the end of Empire. Perhaps the bloody ISIS terrorist bombs today in Kabul were aimed at stopping Biden from sticking to the Aug. 31 deadline for getting out, as the British and their assets in the U.S. have demanded. Is it coincidence, or are the British still deploying terrorists to achieve their ends?

This is the moment of truth for civilization. Lyndon LaRouche's concept of the “Four Powers” required as a minimum force to end the Empire, is now before us. The four great cultures of Eurasia—China, Russia, India, and the United States (as the distilled representative of European culture)—can unite at this pregnant moment to make Afghanistan a model for ending the disintegration of nations around the world, suffering from the decades, or even centuries, of deprivation, poverty, and colonial slavery. From this, a New Bretton Woods financial system can be molded by the same Four Powers, and the grateful nations around the world which would join in the deliberations. From this, the replacement of the failed monetary system can be replaced with a Hamiltonian credit system to fuel the recovery of the collapsing Western economies, driven by the export of the capital goods demanded everywhere to lift every nation out of poverty, becoming modern industrial nations. China's Belt and Road Initiative has demonstrated the efficacy of such an approach.

This is not just the moral thing to do; without it, disintegration and nuclear war are virtually inevitable. Mankind has faced such moments of peril in the past. In some, the failure to act led to descending into dark ages and depopulation. In some, people of vision and creativity led in forging a new Renaissance—Nicholas of Cusa in 15th-century Europe; Zhu Xi in 12th-century China, Harun al-Rashid in the 8th-century Golden Age of the Abbasid Caliphate, and the Gupta Golden Age of the 4th and 5th centuries.

The Confucian Renaissance taking place now in China gives hope for the future, but in the age of supersonic transport and the colonization of space, any true renaissance must be truly universal. This is precisely the message of Lyndon and Helga LaRouche over the past half-century, one which can and must be achieved—or as Helga Zepp-LaRouche often states, an era in which “we all can leave the age of immature adolescence behind us, and enter an era of adulthood, in which we concentrate on the common aims of mankind.”

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday, August 27, 2021: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#) website, Harley will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

AFGHANISTAN

Two Bombs Hit Kabul's Airport, Taliban Had Warned of ISIS Terror

Aug. 26 (EIRNS)—Two bombs in and around the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul wounded or killed scores of civilians and military, late this afternoon. The Islamic State, tagged in the West as ISIS-K, issued a statement claiming responsibility for the bombing. They provided a video of the suicide bomber that attacked the Abbey Gate at the airport and they claimed that they had killed or wounded around 160 people. Another bomb, thought to be a vehicle bomb, exploded at the nearby Baron Hotel, with major casualties. Marine Corps Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, Jr., commander of the U.S. Central Command, said that of U.S. military personnel, 12 were killed and 15 wounded. Early reports said that at least 60 wounded people were being treated at a hospital emergency room. For both bombs, RT cites “local health officials” as estimating 60 dead and 140 wounded. The *Wall Street Journal* cites an Afghan health official, saying that some 90 Afghan civilians were killed.

ISIS-K has been, since 2015, a spinoff of the ISIS operation in Syria. The “K” refers to the Khorasan province on Afghanistan’s eastern border

with Pakistan, where the group is primarily based. They object to the Taliban, accusing them of being part of a U.S. plot. They are thought to have been founded by Hafiz Saeed Khan of Pakistan, who was killed by a U.S. airstrike in 2016. His deputy was a former Guantanamo detainee, Abdul Rauf Aliza, also killed in a U.S. airstrike. Shahab al-Muhajir, reportedly from the Haqqani networks, seems to be the present leader. The United Nations estimates that they have 1,500-2,200 hard-core fighters. They have a history of summary executions of civilians, which helps them recruit the most jaded of youth. In 2020, they attacked the Kabul University compound, the Presidential Palace, and Kabul's international airport. Earlier this year, they attacked a school for girls. The Taliban says it has cleared them out of Jowzjan Province, in the north, is fighting them in the northwest, and captured hundreds in Jalalabad in the east.

Earlier this week, the Taliban warned the NATO alliance of an imminent terror attack upon the Karzai Airport. The Taliban's Information Minister Zabihullah Mujahid made this public on Aug. 25, explaining: "Over the last 20 years we have learned things and changed. We want to prove that we are not what anti-Taliban propaganda has portrayed us to be." As a result, several European countries began wrapping up their evacuation efforts early. President Biden on Aug. 24 said: "The longer we stay, starting with the acute and growing risk of an attack by a terrorist group known as ISIS-K, an ISIS affiliate in Afghanistan—which is the sworn enemy of the Taliban as well—every day we're on the ground is another day we know that ISIS-K is seeking to target the airport and attack both U.S. and Allied Forces and innocent civilians."

By this morning, Britain's Armed Forces Minister James Heappey had reported an "imminent attack" based upon "very, very credible" intelligence, and the U.S. Embassy in Kabul had issued a warning to "leave immediately" the three gates (Abbey, East and North) to the airport complex. The two bombs went off within an hour of each other in the late afternoon, Kabul time. Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said that the suicide bomber employed an improvised explosive device. The Taliban's Mujahid stated: "The Islamic Emirate strongly condemns the bombing of

civilians at Kabul airport, which took place in an area where security is in the hands of U.S. forces. The Islamic Emirate is paying close attention to the security and protection of its people, and evil circles will be strictly stopped.”

President Biden spoke from the East Room, today, saying that the evacuation will not stop, that there will likely be more attacks, and that “I’ve ordered my commanders to develop operational plans to strike ISIS-K assets, leadership and facilities. We will respond with force and precision at our time, at the place we choose, and at the moment of our choosing.”

Panjshir Resistance Holds Talks with Taliban

Aug. 26 (EIRNS)—It seems that the last anti-Taliban holdouts are beginning to come to terms with the new Taliban regime, reported TASS. Abdul Hafiz Mansoor, who represents the northern province of Panjshir, and in effect the Northern Alliance, wrote on his Facebook account that they have begun talks with the Taliban: “The National Resistance Front’s delegation held talks with the Taliban representatives in the city of Charikar. The talks were held in a good atmosphere. ... It was the first time when delegates of the two sides had a direct dialogue.” He stated that the Taliban delegation had seven members, while the resistance was represented by twelve people. “The sides agreed to continue dialogue on peace to avoid armed attacks on each other’s positions.”

According to its sources, Taliban delegates are to talk with the leader of the Panjshir resistance, Ahmad Massoud, a son of Ahmad Shah Massoud (1953-2001), who headed the National Alliance, and was leader of Afghanistan’s Tajik community who fought against the Taliban back in the 1990s; he was murdered by al-Qaeda on Sept. 9, 2001. Taliban and Ahmad Massoud plan to resolve differences by means of dialogue to avoid armed confrontation.

Ironically, Oliver North, of Iran-Contra fame, read a letter from a fellow neocon on the Hannity show on Fox, supposedly from Panjshir, which claimed that there are 5,000 fighters ready to do battle to overthrow the

Taliban! The purpose, said both Ollie and Hannity, was to get the U.S. to arm these new “contras.”

Raab Thinks Britain Has To Turn to Russia and China To ‘Moderate’ the Taliban

Aug. 26 (EIRNS)—British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab told the *Sunday Telegraph* on Aug. 21, at the same time that Tony Blair was advertising his hysteria over President Joe Biden’s refusal to serve British geopolitical intentions in Afghanistan, “We’re going to have to bring in countries with a potentially moderating influence [on the Taliban] like Russia and China, however uncomfortable that is.”

Andrew Grice, political commentator for the *Independent*, finds that statement from Raab to be, at the very least, ironic. “Joe Biden’s rebuff to Boris Johnson over Afghanistan proves that the ‘Global Britain’ strategy the Prime Minister set out only five months ago is already obsolete,” Grice wrote in a column posted on Aug. 26. “Johnson is in denial: He argues there is no need for an inquiry into Britain’s 20-year operation in Afghanistan because the security and foreign policy review took account of it, but his ‘new’ strategy has already been overtaken by events,” Grice writes. “In a topsy-turvy world, the U.K. is now wooing China and Russia, the two biggest threats to it identified by the review, to try to persuade them to exert a moderating influence on the Taliban.”

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

Naftali Bennett in Washington To Drum Up Support for Israeli ‘Solution’ to Iran’s Nuclear Program

Aug. 26 (EIRNS)—Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett is in Washington for his first meeting with President Joe Biden since taking office.

Yesterday, he met with National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin. While there are other items on the bilateral agenda, Iran is the dominating issue. On that, two senior administration officials, briefing on background, said yesterday that in their Aug. 26 meeting Biden and Bennett will “of course,

discuss Iran's destabilizing activities in the region and particularly a very effective bilateral program we've set up with the Israelis during a strategic consultation group that we had with them a couple months ago on countering Iranian UAVs."

The Biden Administration still seems to be formally committed to restoring the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). "And if you look at any data point of Iran's nuclear program—from breakout, which is now down to just a few months; to number of centrifuges and advanced centrifuges; to stockpiles; to enrichment to 20% and now 60%; to experimentation with uranium metal—I could go on and on and on—this is a very alarming picture," said one of the officials. "And none of these things were happening when the JCPOA was in place."

He also said that the maximum pressure policy was not being effective, but that the U.S. would not be lifting any of the sanctions "because we've been very clear that sanctions relief will come through Vienna."

After the meetings at the State Department and the Pentagon, a "senior member" of Bennett's entourage told the *Times of Israel* that the U.S. administration recognizes that a return to the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran might not be possible, and as a result is open to Israeli approaches to countering Iran. The staffer said on Aug. 25 that the Israeli team's positions received "significant attention" on Iran from the administration, as "they themselves understand that it may be that we find ourselves in a reality without an agreement, and [even] if there is an agreement, there are holes that must be filled."

Just as Bennett's plane was landing in Washington, Defense Minister Benny Gantz and IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Aviv Kohavi were talking about military plans to deal with Iran's nuclear program. "The progress in the Iranian nuclear program has led the IDF to speed up its operational plans, and the defense budget that was recently approved is meant to address this," Kohavi said, speaking to military correspondents this week, *Times of Israel* reported.

Gantz issued a similar threat on Aug. 25, telling foreign diplomats that Israel may have to take military action against Iran in order to stop its nuclear program. “The State of Israel has the means to act and will not hesitate to do so. I do not rule out the possibility that Israel will have to take action in the future in order to prevent a nuclear Iran,” Gantz said. “Iran is only two months away from acquiring the materials necessary for a nuclear weapon. We do not know if the Iranian regime will be willing to sign an agreement and come back to the negotiation table, and the international community must build a viable ‘Plan B’ in order to stop Iran in its tracks towards a nuclear weapon,” he stated.

“At the end of the day, the goal is to reach a ‘longer, stronger and broader’ agreement than the previous one,” Gantz said. “The Iranian nuclear program could incite an arms race in the region and the entire world.”

Times of Israel reports that the budget agreed on by Bennett, Gantz, and Finance Minister Avigdor Liberman last month, includes NIS2 billion shekels (about \$620 million) specifically to deal with Iran. The funds, as well as additional billions that are expected to be apportioned, are meant to be used to purchase the equipment and munitions that would be needed to carry out an attack on Iran’s nuclear facilities. The last time this happened, the daily continues, was in 2011-2012, when the government invested NIS11 billion (\$3.38 billion) in preparing for an attack which ultimately never happened.

Quad’s Four-Day ‘Malabar Wargame’ Begins Off Guam

Aug. 26 (EIRNS)—The Quad—the four nations intended by the anti-China war party in the U.S. and the U.K. to encircle and counter China’s development, has launched a four-day “Malabar wargame” today off the coast of Guam. India, the U.S., Australia, and Japan, claiming to be concerned about a “free and open Indo-Pacific” which they imagine to be challenged by China, will conduct a series of complex drills involving warships, aircraft, and helicopters, hosted by the U.S. Navy. The U.S. Seventh Fleet, in a statement, said the exercise demonstrated the

commitment among the like-minded nations to uphold a rules-based maritime order in the Indo-Pacific. As usual, the “rules-based order” refers not to international law, but to the rules as determined by the British Empire.

“Malabar-21 would witness complex exercises including anti-surface, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare drill, and other maneuvers and tactical exercises. The exercise will provide an opportunity for participating navies to derive benefit from each other’s expertise and experiences,” said an Indian Defense Ministry statement.

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

London *Telegraph* Declares Biden Administration Over

Aug. 26 (EIRNS)—Is the London *Telegraph*’s U.S. editor, Nick Allen, playing the role regarding Joe Biden that one of his predecessors, Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, played vis-à-vis Bill Clinton in the 1990s in leading the campaign for Clinton’s impeachment? In a column posted yesterday, Allen effectively declared the end of the Biden Administration. “Joe Biden is flailing. Following his parade of stumbles—verbal and physical—the fall of Kabul has proved not so much the straw, but the sledgehammer, that broke the camel’s back,” he writes. “Mr. Biden will stagger on following this utter disaster but the prospect of a second term, which he very much wants, now seems remote,” he continues. “Many want his presidency over sooner, wary of other unforeseen catastrophes awaiting America, and the world, over the next three years.”

Allen reports that Florida Republican Sen. Rick Scott has asked whether it’s time to invoke the 25th Amendment, but thinks that this is very unlikely to happen. “But the fact the subject is entering mainstream discussion shows the level to which Mr. Biden has sunk in such a very short time,” he says.

Mechanism Established for U.S.-Russia Cooperation on Afghan Security

Aug. 26 (EIRNS)—Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov commented today on Russia-U.S. collaboration on security problems in Afghanistan, reported TASS. “These contacts emerge as the need arises, but the mechanism of contacts has been established. Certainly, the situation requires an exchange of opinions and information, so, of course, with a great degree of probability, these contacts will surely continue,” Peskov was quoted as saying. Evidently, it is progress that both sides should be talking with each other as a regular feature. Peskov included the example of a discussion three days earlier between Nikolai Patrushev, the Secretary of Russia’s Security Council, and Jake Sullivan, the U.S. National Security Advisor. That phone conversation, according to the release of Russia’s Security Council, described “the matters of Russian-American cooperation in security” as including bilateral cooperation in IT security and upon “the situation in Afghanistan.”

NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER

China Addresses the Roots of the 1989 Tiananmen Square ‘Riots’

Aug. 26 (EIRNS)—The Chinese government and press almost never discuss the mass demonstrations in 1989 which filled Tiananmen Square for many weeks, ending with the military forcing the mainly youth out on June 4, 1989. However, in conjunction with the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the party released a document on June 5 titled “CPC Emerges Stronger, Firmer to Original Aspirations through the Haze of the 1980s.” It essentially blames the unrest on the dramatic slowdown in growth caused by the chaos of the Cultural Revolution from 1966-1976, but emphasizes that China, by shutting down the Tiananmen demonstrations, had avoided the drastic economic chaos in the nations of the Soviet Union after the collapse of communism (described in the book by Sergei Glazyev, *Genocide: Russia*

and the New World Order, published by *EIR*), and allowed for the spectacular development of China over the last 32 years.

“From the late 1980s to early 1990s, not only China, but the whole socialist bloc, including the Soviet Union and many Eastern and Central European countries, encountered a huge wave of ‘liberalization’ or ‘democratization,’ which in fact was Westernization,” the report says.

“The CPC leaders, just like their comrades in Europe, were facing a decision—to insist on the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics and keep the Party’s original aspiration; or give up socialism like what the European comrades did and embrace Westernization....

“Because of the Cultural Revolution, China’s development fell behind most other countries of the world. When some Chinese people, officials and intellectuals engaged with the world and saw the advancement and prosperity of the West through travelling abroad, listening to VOA news, watching Hollywood movies and drinking Coca Cola, they felt shocked, and lost the confidence to keep going on the path of socialism, said some analysts.”

They quote an unnamed former student who had participated in the 1989 demonstrations: “At that time, we believed a complete Westernization, just like what Japan and South Korea did, or maybe just like our Taiwan and Hong Kong regions, will help China solve all problems and catch up with other major powers of the world soon.” He went on that not only students, “but also a few senior officials of the CPC leadership thought similarly.” It is not stated, but among such leaders was Zhao Ziyang, then the heir apparent to Deng Xiaoping, but who worked with George Soros and others to bring in “open society” and “free market” ideas, and supported the demonstrators who had occupied Tiananmen Square. He was disgraced and removed from power after that.

The report says: “In the late 1980s, some Chinese people, especially intellectuals and students, who desperately wanted the country to be opened and felt extremely unconfident in the front of mighty Western modern culture and neo-liberalism ideology, started to undermine traditional

Chinese culture and crowd about the advancement of Western culture. The documentary ‘River Elegy’ in 1988 is a typical example, as it immaturely concluded that China’s land-based civilization was inferior to Western maritime culture, and the documentary also tried to undermine patriotism and splendid traditions of the Chinese nation, which angered many Chinese people but also confused the minds of quite a number of the youths at that time.”

The report quotes Renmin University China-U.S. affairs scholar Jin Canrong: “The Chinese culture is definitely not inferior to any other culture; the reason why the West had advantages over China in the past 100 years is because of industrialization.” Once China realized full industrialization, “the West had no advantage at all because China’s scale is way bigger than them all. That’s why Western strategists and elites are worried and concerned about our development now,” Jin stated. “If the CPC made the mistake and compromised, China might have had civil wars as well, just like the Chechen War in Russia, or might have been attacked by the West, like what NATO did to former Yugoslavia in the 1990s, or China’s state-owned properties and resources might have been privatized, and Western capitalists would have plundered the prosperity of our people like what the West did to Eastern and Central European countries after the Cold War.”

COVID AND FAMINE

U.S. Covid Inpatients Surpass 100,000, Pushing Hospitals Beyond Limits

Aug. 26 (EIRNS)—Hospitalized COVID-19 patients in the United States passed the 100,000 level on Aug. 26, not seen since January, pushing hospitals, ICU units, and medical staff up to and past their limits. Two states, Florida (17,000) and Texas (14,000), comprise about 30% of the nation’s Covid patients. More than 90% of the patients are unvaccinated. Oregon and Tennessee have called out their National Guards to assist, and various states have had to lower medical care standards, allowing some

medical personnel to administer care that they are not licensed to provide. States find themselves competing with each other to bring in extra nurses. And 94% of nursing homes report that they are short of staffing. Further, there are now 2,100 children hospitalized with the virus, and school districts are now reporting outbreaks.

In Mississippi, the Hospital Association's Center for Quality & Workforce reports that they have lost over 2,000 nurses this year. The Department of Health and Human Services figures for the state indicates that the ICU staffed bed capacity is down to 875, and they are now at 93% usage. A historically high 63% of those beds belong to Covid patients. Gov. Tate Reeves said that over 1,000 healthcare workers are arriving this week to be deployed to 50 hospitals.

The Oklahoma City Public Schools had 230 students and 57 staff members test positive into their second week of school. The Cameron Public Schools shifted to online instruction after hundreds were infected, and similar problems exist around the state. Oklahoma's legislature voted in May to prevent school districts from enforcing a masking requirement, unless the governor declares an emergency—which he has not been willing to do up to now. Oklahoma City's St. Anthony's Hospital reports that 50% of their ICU Covid patients are on ventilators. The ICU charge nurse, Amy Petitt, says that we're "barely hanging on.... The strain on our hospital is a lot, and it's not sustainable. So, we need our community to help us. We need people to get vaccinated. ... Don't let it be your family member dying or getting put on a ventilator to change your mind about the vaccine," she told the local NBC News affiliate.

GREEN NEW DEAL

Indian Top Economist Says Central Banks Must Not Favor Green Investments

Aug. 26 (EIRNS)—Raghuram Rajan, the former Reserve Bank of India governor and former chief economist at the IMF, told the Global Markets Forum sponsored by Reuters today that central banks should not mandate

“green” investments. “Asking the central bank to say you should buy only green bonds, not brown bonds, etc., is asking the central bank to impose its own views on something which is primarily a fiscal matter,” he said. He further stated that central banks should instead turn their focus to the financial stability of these green investments and other threats such as crypto currencies and cyber security.

After Its Failure in Afghanistan, COP26 Now To Be the Test for ‘Global Britain’

Aug. 26 (EIRNS)—In London, Boris Johnson is taking hit after hit in the aftermath of the collapse of the NATO project in Afghanistan. The *Evening Standard*, in an unsigned editorial posted yesterday, made clear that the big test for Boris Johnson is the upcoming COP26 conference. “If ever there was a test of the government’s pledge to ‘do more on the international stage,’ this will be it,” the *Standard* declared.

Leading up to that point, the *Standard* stated that Johnson had claimed that “Getting Brexit done will enable us to do more on the international stage.” So, how well is the government doing in delivering on this promise?

While on the one side, the Afghanistan “debacle is largely made in Washington,” the crisis in the U.K. is intense. The editors listed: “ ‘Global Britain’—instead of a credible foreign policy; Cutting the aid budget; A Foreign Secretary who was on holiday as Afghanistan was falling; Relations with the EU in the deep freeze; And little to show from the U.K.’s presidency of the G7. If this is the U.K. doing ‘more’ on the international stage, what would doing ‘less’ amount to?”