

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

A Tale of Two Anniversaries: Choose Wisely

Sept. 7, 2023 (EIRNS)—Today is the tenth anniversary of the launching of China's "Belt and Road Initiative" (BRI). On Sept. 7, 2013, President Xi

Jinping presented what he the “Silk Road Economic Belt,” in a speech in Kazakhstan early in his presidency, entitled “Promote People-to-People Friendship and Create a Better Future.” It called for an “innovative cooperation mode” in building transportation corridors, to great a “greater space for development,” and to make “a grand cause benefitting people in regional countries along the route.” He called for creating a “new brilliance with a more open mind and a broader vision to expand regional cooperation.” More than talk, China had walked the walk in lifting 800 million Chinese out of extreme poverty (using methods easily recognizable by Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, and John F. Kennedy). Now more than 150 countries are on board.

However, one country, rather ironically, celebrates today for a different reason. It is called “Military Intelligence Day” in Ukraine. There President Zelenskyy awarded the head of the Military Intelligence Directorate, Kyrylo “Kill Any Russian Any Time Anywhere” Budanov, a promotion to lieutenant general. (His operation is famous for assassinating civilians.) But it was only 10 years ago that the President of Ukraine heard Xi’s announcement of the “Silk Road Initiative” and, within three months, was in Beijing signing contracts (initially for Chinese port development on the Black Sea). He would be violently deposed by Britain and the U.S. within the next three months. Ukraine is being chewed up; China, India, and Russia are signing contracts to develop Africa.

The Global Majority is on the move, especially after the BRICS summit in South Africa. Today, at the East Asia Summit, Indonesia’s President Joko Widodo challenged the leaders assembled to rise up as real leaders and look for solutions and cease undermining their neighbors; but a deaf U.S. Vice President could only cut an embarrassing figure, with geopolitical slogans. As Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov succinctly noted, such antics are tiresome. People want to work on real problems.

The G20 is to meet in India this weekend, and the U.S. National Security Advisor, in providing the narrative for success at the White House two days ago, appeared to be channeling the character of Lucy, in the “Peanuts” cartoon strip, where she always promises she’ll hold the football for the clueless Charlie Brown to kick it, and every time, she pulls it out from under him, leaving him to fall flat on his back. Sullivan’s version is to counter the Belt and Road Initiative with the promise that, this time, the West is going to “deliver” on development for the Global South, and that the good old World Bank and IMF, failures for over 70 years in a row, are the ticket!

There’s a different conference this weekend: Helga Zepp-LaRouche—who became known as the “[Silk Road Lady](#),” from her presentations throughout Europe and Asia, and ultimately at China’s May 7-9, 1996 “International Symposium on Economic Development of the Regions along the New Euro-Asia Continental Bridge,” on a project to center energy, water, industrial and agricultural projects along the spine of such massive transportation projects—will convene a Schiller Institute conference, in her capacity as its founder and head, called “[Let Us Join Hands with the Global Majority To Create a New Chapter in World History!](#)” The opening panel at 9 a.m. EDT (13:00 UTC) is entitled: “The Strategic Situation After the Historic BRICS Summit.”

Do you have something better to do on Saturday?

- Watch [Harley’s Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Friday September 8, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

NEW STRATEGIC & ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

Tenth Anniversary of Silk Road Economic Belt

Sept. 7, 2023 (EIRNS)—On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of [China’s President Xi Jinping](#) unveiling the “Silk Road Economic Belt,”

which together with the “21st Century Maritime Silk Road” are now known as the Belt and Road Initiative, or BRI, we present excerpts from contemporaneous coverage from [China News](#) (as posted by China’s Consulate in Toronto).

At the time, China had proven, over more than two decades, that they could systematically pull hundreds of millions of Chinese out of severe poverty, and they surprised the defenders of poverty by offering to export their economic model.

“On Sept. 7, 2013, President Xi Jinping made a speech titled ‘Promote People-to-People Friendship and Create a Better Future’ at Kazakhstan’s Nazarbayev University. He spoke highly of the traditional friendship between China and Kazakhstan, and gave a comprehensive elaboration of China’s policy of good-neighborly and friendly cooperation toward countries in Central Asia. He proposed to join hands building a Silk Road Economic Belt with innovative cooperation mode and to make it a grand cause benefitting people in regional countries along the route....

“We should turn the advantage of political relations, the geographical advantage, and the economic complementary advantage into advantages for practical cooperation and for sustainable growth, so as to build a community of interests. We should create new brilliance with a more open mind and a broader vision to expand regional cooperation. By strengthening the cooperation between the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Eurasian Economic Community, we can gain a greater space for development.

“Xi Jinping proposed that in order to make the economic ties closer, mutual cooperation deeper and space of development broader between the Eurasian countries, we can innovate the mode of cooperation and jointly build the ‘Silk Road Economic Belt’ step by step to gradually form overall regional cooperation.

“First, to strengthen policy communication. Countries in the region can communicate with each other on economic development strategies, and make plans and measures for regional cooperation through consultations.

Second, to improve road connectivity. To open up the transportation channel from the Pacific to the Baltic Sea and to gradually form a transportation network that connects East Asia, West Asia, and South Asia. Third, to promote trade facilitation. All the parties should discuss the issues concerning trade and investment facilitation and make appropriate arrangements. Fourth, to enhance monetary circulation. All the parties should promote the realization of exchange and settlement of local currency, increase the ability to fend off financial risks and make the region more economically competitive in the world. Fifth, to strengthen people-to-people exchanges. All the parties should strengthen the friendly exchanges between their peoples to promote understanding and friendship with each other....”

Hosting East Asia Summit, Indonesia President Widodo Urges Commitment to Peace and Cooperation

Sept. 7, 2025 (EIRNS)—The East Asia Summit was convened today in Jakarta, chaired by Indonesian President Joko Widodo. It included two groups, the ten nation members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus China, Japan, and South Korea (ASEAN+3) and five Indo-Pacific nations—India, Australia, New Zealand, Russia, and the United States. U.S. President Joe Biden never intended to show up, about which there was a lot of unfavorable commentary; Vice President Kamala Harris came in his place. In his opening remarks, President Widodo strongly urged attendees not to create conflicts, but to ease tensions.

Kamala Harris and Japanese Prime Minister Kishida didn’t get the message and opted for geopolitical confrontation. They tried their best to derail the discussion into subjects that had nothing to do with the regional agenda, but no one took the bait. For the most part, Widodo’s message of cooperation prevailed. As Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov noted, such antics are tiresome. People want to work on real problems.

Everyone in this room, said Widodo, “has the same responsibility to not create new conflict, to not create new tension, to not create new wars. At the same time, we have the responsibility to lower heated tensions, to thaw

frozen state of affairs, to create room for dialogue, to bridge existing differences.... Essentially we acknowledge stability and peace as the main key to achieve prosperity.”

And, Widodo emphasized, “ASEAN is steadfast in making this vision an epicentrum of growth, and therefore ASEAN will continue to work to play a role as country leaders.” To the leaders attending, he said: “ASEAN will really appreciate that if this East Asia Summit can agree on a leaders’ statement and its determination as the epicentrum of growth.” The international community will assess “if we are leaders with the wisdom to make the world a better place for all. I thank once again the leaders of the East Asia Summit for making this forum for us to strengthen the cooperation. I call on all leaders to show the wisdom, to show the leadership for the success of this.” He added: “And the world community will judge whether we are leaders who have the wisdom to make the world a better place for all.”

Egypt’s *Al Ahram*: Coups in Africa Due to Western Colonialism

Sept. 7, 2023 (EIRNS)—In its *Al Ahram Weekly* editorial on Sept. 6, “[Coup Continent](#),” the Egyptian government-backed publication lays the blame for the spate of recent military coups in Africa at the door of the former colonialist powers, for having chosen to keep their former colonies in poverty. “Whether in Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Niger or Gabon, one key reason behind the popular support for recent coups is that many African peoples have grown frustrated with the status quo and the way the ruling elites have functioned for decades, leading to more poverty, suffering and waves of refugees who would rather die trying to emigrate than stay home, jobless and poor,” the editors wrote.

But those ruling elites are there for a reason. The problem, *Al Ahram* wrote, is “that the former colonial powers remained in control of their affairs in order to serve their own interests. To exploit the vast natural resources of these African nations, those powers backed up corrupt and repressive regimes, or those who agreed to grant them a permanent military presence to protect their interests.” As an example they point to Niger

“which provides much-needed uranium to French and European nuclear reactors at a cheap price, while many parts of the country lack electricity and need to import it from neighboring Nigeria.”

Hence, they continue, “France and other former colonial powers should take stock of the changing world order, where there are nations with growing economic and political influence that might provide an alternative to their failed policies in Africa.” They point to the growing “multipolar world” replacing the supremacy of the West, and especially to the role of China, which has been building “strong ties and spending billions in investments in many African nations.” In addition, Russia and India are both also involved in contributing to the development of Africa

The editors conclude: “African peoples do not need to be told how to run their countries, and they are entitled to look for options that serve their interests far from the old patterns of exploitation that only benefit small, corrupt elites. Stability is needed in Africa, but it cannot come about as long as the majority of Africans are not benefitting from their own rich resources and continue to live in poverty.”

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

U.S. and Japan Push Confrontations in Jakarta, Coming Up Empty

Sept. 7, 2023 (EIRNS)—Certainly in an affront to host Indonesian President Joko Widodo and to most of the serious-minded attendees at today’s East Asia Summit in Jakarta, U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida tried to derail the discussion with attacks on China and Russia, instead of addressing the issues on the summit agenda.

Harris charged China with “provocative actions in the South China Sea and the East China Sea” and “grave human rights abuses,” demanded the nations condemn Russia’s “brutal attack” on Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, and warned that Washington will continue to hold Russia accountable for “egregious crimes against humanity.” She raved that

in the Indo-Pacific and “around the world,” there are increasing concerns about violations of the “rules-based international order,” concerns she claimed many ASEAN nations share. Her outburst brought a harsh response from the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

Japan’s Prime Minister Kishida complained about China’s alleged “militarization and coercive activities” in the South China Sea,” and Russia’s continued “aggression” against Ukraine.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang appropriately said that Harris was attempting to “create competing structures” and to force members to choose sides or “get embroiled in meaningless disputes.... Confrontation produces no winners, rather it is mutually-beneficial cooperation that people want and where the future lies.”

In Jakarta, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov charged that some summit members were trying to “Ukrainize” the discussion and raise issues that have nothing to do with the regional agenda. He pointed to “out-of-area” actors being involved in militarizing the Asia-Pacific space.

And in his official visit to Bangladesh that takes place over Sept. 7-8, after his meeting today in Dhaka with Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdul Kalam Abdul Momen, [Lavrov](#) replied to a question, that “we will work with our partners in the region with the view of not allowing diktat here from countries that want to be guided only by their own interests and order others what they can and cannot do,” TASS quoted him as saying. “The results of the East Asia Summit in Jakarta reaffirmed that such an obsessive, pushy policy [of the West] to promote its own geopolitical interests is not to everyone’s liking.”

“If we analyze everything that the Americans and their allies are doing to promote their interests under the slogans of the so-called Indo-Pacific Strategy, we will understand that, of course, one of its main objectives is the containment of China and the isolation of Russia in the region, but it is part of an absolutely global process of Washington-led expansion of NATO,” Lavrov said. “All this is aimed at undermining the security architecture that has been built over decades through ASEAN-initiated

formats. These formats included the U.S., other Western countries, China, the Russian Federation, and India on an equal footing. Decisions were taken by consensus, which is exactly what Washington and its satellites are not satisfied with.”

China Finds U.S. Provocations at East Asia Summit Ineffective and Embarrassing

Sept. 7, 2023 (EIRNS)—Asked to respond to the provocative remarks today by U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris at the East Asia Summit in Jakarta, the [Chinese Foreign Ministry](#) charged that her words were “groundless and inconsistent with facts. We are firmly against it and will not accept it. We have made serious démarches to the U.S.”

Repudiating Harris’s remarks about Taiwan and the South and East China Seas, a spokesperson insisted that a “certain non-regional country has sought to stir up trouble, incite confrontation and jeopardize regional peace and stability in the South China Sea. China has always opposed that. China and ASEAN countries are making active efforts to advance the consultations on a code of conduct in the South China Sea. Countries outside the region need to respect the efforts made by regional countries to develop rules and uphold peace and stability in the South China Sea.”

They concluded: “What happened ... shows that the overwhelming majority of countries believe in strengthening cooperation through constructive dialogue and friendly consultation to jointly foster a regional epicentrum of growth. The U.S. deliberately deviated from the theme of the meeting to sour the atmosphere for cooperation. This runs counter to the wish of the people in the region. It reveals the actual role of the U.S. as a disruptor and saboteur of East Asian cooperation and regional stability. No one echoed the U.S.’s false accusations at the summit anyway. What the U.S. has done will only make itself look bad and backfire on itself.”

West’s Pressure Pushes on the ‘Edge of Direct Military Conflict between Nuclear Powers,’ Cautions Ryabkov

Sept. 7, 2023 (EIRNS)—The pressure being put on Russia by Western countries is dangerously balancing on the edge of a direct military conflict

between nuclear powers, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov told a regional seminar hosted in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan by two Russian think tanks, the Center for Energy and Security Studies and the Yevgeny Primakov Center for International Cooperation. As quoted by TASS, Ryabkov said: “The response measures that we had to take, which included the important aspect of protecting the external security contour on the Western axis, have been used by our adversaries as a pretext to start putting military pressure on Russia.” He continued, warning that “this pressure has been dangerously balancing on the edge of a direct military conflict between nuclear powers.”

Ryabkov also lamented that the NATO allies “chose to pursue a non-stop malicious expansion and efforts toward military and geopolitical absorption of territories in the zone of Russia’s essential interests in an assertive way.... Meanwhile, today’s crisis is far from being resolved and is posing a major risk of further escalation.”

The entirety of [Ryabkov’s speech](#) is posted to the Foreign Ministry website.

Ukraine Celebrates Its Annual ‘Day of Military Intelligence’

Sept. 7, 2023 (EIRNS)—Today Ukraine celebrated its annual “Day of Military Intelligence.” President Volodymyr Zelenskyy thanked Ukrainian military intelligence officers for every result of their work and emphasized that, thanks to them, Ukraine is always several steps ahead. “Professional. Courageous. Invisible to the enemy. With you, Ukraine is always a few steps ahead. Thank you for every result! Happy Day of the Military Intelligence of Ukraine!”

Ukraine’s Military Intelligence Directorate (GUR), headed by the infamous Kyrylo Budanov, has been at the center of sabotage, assassinations, and bombings. Zelenskyy celebrated today by promoting Budanov to the rank of lieutenant general. The decree to that effect, No. 564/2023, was published on the website of the head of state.

Budanov infamously replied in a [May 7 interview](#) with Yahoo, when asked about the Aug. 20, 2022 assassination in Moscow of Russian journalist Darya Dugina, “All I will comment on is that we have killed Russians and will continue to kill Russians anywhere in the world, until the complete victory of Ukraine.”

COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

The ‘Parasitical Caste’ That Argentine Presidential Candidate Javier Milei Denounced Works for Him!

Sept. 7, 2023 (EIRNS)—During his electoral campaign leading into the Aug. 13 primaries in Argentina, presidential candidate Javier Milei, a neoliberal fanatic, vowed to wipe out the corrupt “parasitical political caste” that he charged had destroyed the country, and that he would bring in new blood and fresh faces to build a whole new system. The vow to clean out the “parasites” attracted large numbers of disaffected youth to his campaign, hoping to find a cause they could support.

But, lo and behold, it turns out that leading members of the parasitical caste are working for Milei! His three top economic advisers, Roque Fernández, Carlos Rodríguez and Darío Epstein, helped the corrupt President Carlos Menem suck the life out of Argentina’s economy between 1989 and 1999—Fernández as Finance Minister and Central Bank Governor, Carlos Rodríguez as chief of economic advisors at the Finance Ministry, and Darío Epstein as the privatization maniac who helped dismantle the state, when he wasn’t otherwise employed by top international banks. They propose the same policies now that they had imposed under Menem. It turns out that parasites, in the cause of parasitism, can tell the host that they are there to rid the host of parasites.

Menem’s IMF government, which also included the currency board/dollarization scheme advanced by his ultra-monetarist Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo, plunged the country into one of its worst crises, with growing rates of poverty and unemployment, destruction of state-

sector industries, the nuclear program, and other advanced technology projects.

The unifying thread here is the University of Chicago, from which Fernández and Rodríguez both earned their doctoral degrees and from where they both became professors. They later returned to Buenos Aires to help build the neoliberal Argentine Macroeconomic Studies Center (CEMA), which would become an accredited university affiliated with the University of Chicago. Now Milei is trying to pass off these old devoted followers of the Austrian school of economics, whose policies were imposed on Chile under Pinochet and in Argentina during the 1976-83 military dictatorship and beyond, as the fresh faces that will wipe out the “parasitical caste.” That may be a hard one to sell.

U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

Stick to the Ugly, Unipolar World, Proposes the U.S. to G20 Summit

Sept. 7, 2023 (EIRNS)—During a special briefing at the White House on Sept. 5, National Security Advisor [Jake Sullivan](#) presented what President Joe Biden plans to put forward at New Delhi’s G20 summit over Sept. 9-10. Coming on the heels of the stunning Aug. 22-24 BRICS summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, where a vision for a new world economic order, free from IMF conditionalities and neocolonialist stifling of human creative potential was discussed, Sullivan’s briefing waxed poetic about the virtues of the decrepit institutions of the old unipolar world, the IMF and World Bank, which he vowed will “deliver” results to the Global South.

The U.S. is going to “deliver for developing countries, making progress on key priorities for the American people ... and showing our commitment to the G20 as a forum that can actually ... deliver,” Sullivan promised. He had the gall to suggest that countries around the world could benefit from the same economic approach the Biden administration has used “so successfully.” For those unfamiliar with such, Blinken explained that it was “from the bottom up and the middle out, by making smart investments in the industries of the future, while tackling climate change and empowering

workers.” Governments need only look at the state of the decaying U.S. real economy to see how successful this strategy has been.

The key U.S. focus at the G20 will be “delivering on an agenda of fundamentally reshaping and scaling up the multilateral development banks, especially the World Bank and the IMF,” said Sullivan. Why? Because these are the most “effective tools” for mobilizing “transparent, high-quality investment into developing countries.” The White House has made clear it expects its partners to also contribute beyond the \$25 billion the U.S. is handing to the World Bank, and that they should also provide “meaningful debt relief” to low- and middle-income nations.

As an ultimatum, Sullivan said that Biden “will be clear that we need all G20 members to be constructive and at the table with no exceptions.” Naturally, Biden will call for a “just and durable peace” in Ukraine; hence, there will be a focus on Russia’s “illegal and ongoing war.” Of course, at last year’s G20 summit in Bali, there was no such agreement, and the insistence upon one resulted in there being no final declaration whatsoever.

The final message from Sullivan: Above all, the U.S. will make it clear that “we remain committed to the G20 as a critical forum for all the major economies of the world to come together for global problem solving”—except, of course, the BRICS.

U.S. Business Group Respectfully Visits Afghanistan, Indicates Possible Return to Kabul of Stolen \$9 Billion

Sept. 7, 2023 (EIRNS)—An American private sector delegation opened meetings in Afghanistan with officials and local counterparts on Sept. 6 in the first interaction since the Taliban seized power after the U.S.-backed government fled two years ago, reported Voice of America.

Jeffrey Grieco, president in the U.S. of the Afghan American Chamber of Commerce (AACC) addressed a televised meeting in Kabul of business representatives. He co-hosted the meeting with the Taliban Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Abdul Ghani Baradar. Grieco said that the U.S. backs his mission, and a spokesperson from the U.S. State Department

emailed VOA a cautious acknowledgment that the AACC delegation, along with “individuals with business interests,” had traveled to Kabul, and that the “United States stands with the people of Afghanistan as they work to rebuild their economy.”

Grieco stated that the “de facto Afghan authorities” should be credited for establishing peace in the country, saying they have also “greatly eliminated” corruption, that “It’s not all gone, but it’s mostly gone.” He said his group was trying to elevate private-sector activities and explore ways to ease that hardships that Afghans had faced over the past two years. Moreover, he declared: “The next year is going to be equally hard, as the donors are reducing funding for Afghanistan, both humanitarian food security and other funding, at a key moment when Afghanistan needs funding for humanitarian purposes.”

Deputy Prime Minister Baradar said in his keynote that his government had established nationwide “comprehensive security” and “straightforward investment regulations” to attract domestic and foreign investments in Afghanistan. He cited several mining contracts totalling almost \$6.5 billion, signed in Kabul last month with investors from China, Türkiye, Iran, and Britain.

VOA stated that “Grieco pledged to work closely with Baradar’s office to promote business-to-business ties, stressing the need for the Taliban to ensure security and protection of investment assets.” They quoted Grieco: “What we saw and heard this week is that the [Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan] government is ready for a market-based economic system....” using Afghanistan’s current official title. Curiously he added, “The last [Afghan] government didn’t even understand what a market-based economic system is.”

Of special note, Grieco reported that his team has been working in Washington with banking sector representatives to help facilitate the return of Afghanistan’s frozen foreign exchange reserves of about \$9 billion. As VOA reported, “Grieco explained to the audience that the funds are in the U.S. central bank [Federal Reserve] and European countries. He noted that

the money cannot be returned to Afghanistan's central bank for the time being due to economic sanctions on the Taliban. He then said, “We need the Afghan Bankers’ Association to work tougher now to figure out how to approach the return of the commercial bank assets, because there has been a change in our government’s thinking in the last few months. They are now willing to consider the return of those assets.”

Mitch McConnell Comes Out Against Going ‘Wobbly’ on Ukraine

Sept. 7, 2023 (EIRNS)—Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell weighed in yesterday on the next multibillion aid to Ukraine. Over the objections of other GOP Senators, he created a \$20.1 billion spending bill, in which aid for Ukraine is now bundled with aid for Hawaii. McConnell argued for success of aid to Ukraine, whereby the U.S. weakens Russia “without firing a shot.” Speaking on the Senate floor, McConnell claimed that President Joe Biden “has not been as decisive as many of us have preferred” when it comes to funding Ukraine’s war effort, but that this was not a reason for Congress to “compound the administration’s failures with failures of our own. Helping Ukraine retake its territory means weakening one of America’s biggest strategic adversaries without firing a shot.”

He concluded that, with Kiev “eroding Russia’s capacity to threaten NATO, it is not the time to ease up.” Further, with NATO unified and European countries starting to spend more on their militaries, “it is certainly not the time to go wobbly.”

While some might question the unity of NATO, or whether the West or Kiev is eroding Russia’s military capacities more quickly, there is highly credible evidence that McConnell has been studying the right and wrong times to go wobbly.

GREAT GREEN RESET

Without Nuclear, Germany Now Imports Historic Rate of Electricity

Sept. 7, 2023 (EIRNS)—Since the shutdown of Germany’s last three nuclear power plants in mid-April, the German economy has imported

significantly more electricity from its neighbors. In the second quarter of this year, 7.1 billion kWh more were imported than exported, reported the Federal Statistical Office yesterday. It corresponds almost exactly to the amount of electricity generated by Germany's three nuclear power stations in the second quarter of 2022—7.3 billion kWh. That is the highest import surplus in a quarter since statistics began being kept in 1991.

Before the April 15 shutdown of its nuclear power, Germany had an export surplus. In the first quarter, Germany exported a net 9.1 billion kWh to its neighbors. Most of Germany's imports in the first half of 2023 came from the Netherlands and from France, which has significantly ramped up its nuclear power production.

Otherwise, high energy prices and related cuts in production, falsely praised by the government as "successful voluntary cuts in energy consumption," have reduced the amount of electricity available in the German grid: In the first half of 2023, domestic electricity production fell by as much as 11.4%, which was partly offset by additional imports.

With Europe facing a second winter without Russian gas from the Nord Stream pipeline, and political pressure to abjure Russian energy imports in general, Berlin's green imperialism may not sit so well with its neighbors.