

EIR Daily Alert Service

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EDITORIAL

Face the Danger of World War—Join the One Real Effort To Prevent It from Happening

April 4 (EIRNS)—The NATO alliance and Russia are sliding further down the slope toward nuclear war, and no sane person can deny that now. The British Empire and United States will now be demanding from NATO allies a full embargo of Russia, compounding—if they agree to it—the economic disasters hitting European and threatening developing nations. President Joe Biden, the personified sleepwalker into World War III,

walked over to reporters and Andrews Air Force Base today and angrily shouted, “Putin is a war criminal. He’s got to be brought to account for war crimes”—making any significant negotiation of any kind, about any crisis, almost impossible between the two biggest nuclear weapons powers. And on the most “liberal” of U.S. television networks, MSNBC, both a Pentagon “expert” and his interviewer insanely agreed that NATO powers should now directly conduct a military assault on Russia.

The United Nations Security Council is supposed to meet on April 5 in the afternoon, at request of Russian First Deputy Permanent Representative Dmitry Polyanskiy, to discuss alleged war crimes and whether they are false-flag attacks.

In the Kyiv suburb of Bucha, Ukraine’s government and journalists claim dozens of prisoners, whom they say were civilians, were bound and killed by Russian troops some time before March 30.

A videotape made days before that, shows a live scene of Russian POWs in Vilkhivka near Kharkiv—also bound—being shot, maimed, some apparently killed by soldiers with Ukrainian insignia. “The actions depicted would be considered war crimes under the Geneva Conventions,” one expert was quoted.

But the latter war crime tape was all but completely ignored in U.S. and European media; a Ukrainian official finally promised an investigation, and the matter dropped completely from public sight; while the former, alleged Russian war crimes set the trans-Atlantic political world and its media ablaze with cries of “genocide,” calls for total economic embargo and wider war.

The hypocrisy is the product of British geopolitics now gone wild, and trying to divide the world into blocs at war the better to impose the deepest economic austerity.

No counterforce can compare to the Schiller Institute through its April 9 conference and the worldwide mobilization around it, to create the way out of this danger of combined economic and war catastrophe. “This is the

most serious effort on the planet,” as the chief conference organizer, Schiller Institute founder and President Helga Zepp-LaRouche said today of the conference, for which more than 1,000 activists around the world are already fully registered. “No one else is describing a way out,” she said, both for the nations of Eurasia and those of Europe whose populations have not signed up to “freeze for freedom.” And in the developing nations there is real alarm and rebellion against the new attempt to divide the world into warring blocs under economic deprivation, famine and disease. Highly experienced and qualified speakers on economic development and strategy, from all over the developing countries, Europe and America, are serving also to recruit their own colleagues and backers to the conference process. International media coverage of the speakers has already begun and will grow into and after the conference itself.

This is how the way to resolve the most serious crisis of mankind in this century will be found. [Sign the petition](#) here.

Tell your colleagues you’ve done it and get them to sign.

[Register for the April 9 conference](#). Tell your colleagues you’ve done it and get them to register.

- Watch **Harley’s Updates** with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday April 5, 2022: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#), Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

LAROUCHE

Schiller Institute Conference Promoted on Pakistan TV

April 4 (EIRNS)—LaRouche spokesman Harley Schlanger was a guest on a midday news program on English-language PTV in Pakistan today, on the topic of the possibility of progress in the P4+1 (Russia, China, France, Britain, plus Germany) talks on reviving the JCPOA nuclear deal with Iran. One guest, a former ambassador, stuck to his view that while everyone will benefit from a new agreement, it is difficult to achieve, because of Israeli

opposition and domestic U.S. opposition. Schlanger said the problem is the Anglo-American unilateralism, and this must be overcome. There is no justification for continued sanctions, on Iran, Russia, Afghanistan, or any other nation they've targeted.

Instead, he said, a new financial and strategic architecture must be adopted, which will be the subject of the Schiller Institute full-day conference April 9. European nations, which would benefit greatly from trade with Iran, and are being damaged by sanctions against Russia, must stop functioning as colonies of the City of London and Wall Street.

The threat of regime change from the United States, Schlanger told the Pakistani audience, can only be countered by an international agreement which would include the United States. Only the super-wealthy in the West benefit from unilateralism—American interests would be served by a new architecture, which would begin with security guarantees for all nations, and a commitment to global mutually-beneficial economic development.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche on CGTN: Conference 'To Change the Paradigm To Avert Disaster'

April 4 (EIRNS)—On CGTN's "World Today" program today, Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche raised a discussion of natural gas sales to Baltic nations into the issue of existential threats from which Europe must escape; she offered the Schiller Institute April 9 conference for a new strategic and development architecture because "we have to change the entire paradigm to avert disaster."

Zepp-LaRouche explained the LNG "solution" hyped by Lithuania (which has an LNG terminal) is no solution for Europe if it loses all supply of pipeline gas from Russia. Such terminals take 5-7 years to build. "It will mean for Germany the collapse of the economy, losing hundreds of thousands of jobs," if it is pushed into an embargo on Russia—even as the United States, doing the pushing, has recently increased its oil imports from there. "Europe could destroy itself," she said, "and the United States and the U.K. do not want negotiations, they want the war to continue indefinitely," although it could end in a nuclear war.

Dennis Small Invited Algerian, Bolivian TV Audiences To Participate in April 9 Conference

April 4 (EIRNS)—*EIR* Ibero-American editor [Dennis Small](#) was interviewed as part of a half-hour dialogue today on Algeria’s English-language TV AL24 News, on the subject “Russia is accused of committing a massacre in Bucha... International calls for investigation.” Against a backdrop of the standard media clips and reports of the purported Bucha killings, Small discussed what is actually going on in Ukraine, and promoted the upcoming April 9 Schiller Institute conference. Host Abderrahim Kachour, who has previously interviewed Harley Schlanger, Claudio Celani and other Schiller Institute representatives, posted the full interview on the AL24 YouTube channel (74,000 subscribers), along with a selection of two-minute clips taken from the dialogue, with the following captions featuring Small’s comments: “Hypocrisy is obvious. The double standards are intended to push a strategic agenda”; “Zelensky is an actor and he has been given lines to read”; “World financial system is responsible for this conflict in Ukraine, Dennis Small Explains”; and “The NATO expansion eastward in Europe is the main reason for Ukraine-Russia conflict.”

Small also taped a 20-minute interview with Bolivia’s RTP Channel 4’s Taypi program, which will be broadcast in the next day or two, inviting Bolivians to participate in the April 9 conference. The discussion centered on the world food crisis, fusion power, overcoming finite resources, and China’s Belt and Road Initiative.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

Caitlin Johnstone Warns Insane MSNBC ‘Experts’ Are Calling for Nuclear War

April 4 (EIRNS)—In a clear sign of the spread of war insanity for which the Schiller Institute is urgently organizing the antidote, MSNBC broadcast explicit calls for U.S. war with Russia—even if nuclear war—which was exposed by [Caitlin Johnstone](#) on her well-known blogsite April 4. MSNBC

“journalist” Ali Velshi competed with Defense Department instructor John Spencer of the Modern War Institute, in demanding the U.S. lead NATO into direct warfighting with Russia. They were supposedly triggered by claimed events in Ukraine, including a Russian “massacre of civilians” in Bucha.

Spencer, whose institute “is part of the Department of Military Instruction for the United States Military Academy,” said “I’m ready to commit at this moment—unlike I was before this day—to put people in direct contact with Russia, to stop Russia. Call it peacekeeping. Call it what you will. We have to do more than provide weapons. And by ‘we,’ I mean the United States. Yes, we’ll do it as a coalition with lots of other people, but we are the example. So put boots on the ground, send weapons directly at Russia.” Asked by Velshi about warnings that nuclear war would result, Spencer rushed on: “It’s a huge risk. I understand that. But today is different.”

Velshi wasn’t being left behind. “If this is not the kind of moment that the United Nations and NATO and the UN and the G20 and the Council of Europe and the G7 were made for, what was the point of these alliances if not to stop this?” he told the MSNBC audience. “The world cannot sit by as Vladimir Putin continues this reign of terror.” And he continued the rant on Twitter: “There is no more time for prevarication. If ‘never again’ means anything, then this is the time to act.”

Then, when engaged on Twitter by Johnstone, Velshi said he was advocating “direct military action.... Lines have been crossed and war crimes have been committed by Putin that make direct military intervention something NATO now must seriously consider.” And showing he could be just as ice-cold about it as Spencer, Velshi told Johnstone, “Let’s keep it civil”!

Johnstone concludes her report: “This is not okay. It is not okay for them to do this to us. It is not okay for them to normalize the idea of escalations that could easily end humankind. That is the most insane position that any person could possibly take. More insane than Nazism, or

any other extremist ideology you could think of. Supporting actions that may lead to human extinction makes these people enemies of our entire species.”

NEW ECONOMIC ORDER

***Global Times* Editorial: EU-China Can Provide Certainty in Turbulent World**

April 4 (EIRNS)—The 23rd China-European Union summit held April 1 by video link was the first formal such meeting since 2020. *Global Times*’ April 2 editorial comment was a completely positive proposal—it criticized no European official—that these partners in huge trade and investment prioritize economic development in their relationship, while seeking to keep it strategically stable. “It is very important that China and the EU can have talks in the current international situation,” the editors wrote. “Following the outbreak of the Ukraine crisis, the ghost of the Cold War seems to be resurrected.... As two powers that maintain world peace, two markets that promote common development, and two civilizations that drive human progress, China and the EU can bring greater hope and guarantee to world peace and stability with their talks of cooperation.”

The editorial noted that American “public opinion” deliberately played up the tensions in China-EU relations; “Undoubtedly, this is a carefully planned sequel to U.S. intentions to use Ukraine to contain Russia, and use Russia to contain Europe.... China has more than 70 consultation and dialogue mechanisms with EU institutions, covering and discussing almost everything.” But “Washington is neither willing to see reconciliation between Europe and Russia through talks, nor win-win cooperation between China and Europe....”

The paper concludes, “The more complicated and turbulent the era facing China and Europe, the more they should insist on viewing each other from a strategic perspective, and the more they should adhere to independence, objectivity and rationality to promote the steady and long-

term development of China-EU relations. It is the call of the times and the responsibility of history.”

South Africa Reaffirms Commitment to Coal, Gas and Nuclear Power

April 4 (EIRNS)—In testimony before parliament March 31, South African Deputy President David Mabuza gave perhaps the most solid declaration to date of the nation’s commitment to coal as an energy source. In answer to a (unspecified) question, Mabuza said, “Currently, there are no plans for the discontinuation of the use of coal, as 99% of South Africa’s electricity supply is derived from coal and 30% of liquid fuels are derived from the same commodity. Coal remains one of our largest natural endowments that will continue to form part of our energy mix in terms of the IRP [Integrated Resource Plan] 2019.” That same plan also includes a commitment to the use and expansion of nuclear power as another energy source.

Separately, Mabuza went even further, as reported the *Sowetan Times*, confirming, “that discussions between our Minister of Mineral Resources [Gwede Mantashe] and Mozambique are quite advanced in terms of gas that we should transport from Mozambique to the country.” This would involve the construction of a pipeline, another thing which greens are determined to prevent.

Currently, South Africa has four, multi-generator plants—all dating to the 1960s—set for decommissioning between now and 2025. The first, the Komati plant, located in the heart of the northeastern coal region, produces 990 MW of power, from nine separate boiler/generators. In total, the power capacity of the four units (all coal) is over 4,000 MW of power. While the IRP includes “plans” to replace this power, including “gasification” (conversion to natural gas) of several boilers, the leading wind/solar projects are only 100 MW, all privatized, and moving slowly. Eskom is hoping to use a big chunk of the (yet to materialize) \$8.5 billion Just Transition funds—not to build—but to *connect* those diverse plants to the grid.

Without continued use of coal and gas—and an expansion of its nuclear base—it will never make it.

Afghan Taliban Announce Nationwide Ban on Poppy Cultivation

April 4 (EIRNS)—On Sunday, April 3, the Afghan Taliban announced a ban on cultivating opium poppy flowers, which are used to make heroin, the Washington, D.C. newspaper *The Hill*, reported. The Taliban order also forbids the production, use and transit of other narcotics.

Quickly registering disapproval in Washington, *The Hill* claims the Taliban move is viewed as courting global approval, but also puts farmers' livelihoods at risk until a new crop can be substituted. The irony could be noted that the Taliban's drug ban followed by only a few days, the U.S. Congress effort at legalization of marijuana.

Nonetheless the edict has force. "As per the decree of the supreme leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, all Afghans are informed that from now on, cultivation of poppy has been strictly prohibited across the country," the Taliban's supreme leader Haibatullah Akhundzada reportedly announced at a news conference yesterday. Akhundzada's order warned that "if anyone violates the decree, the crop will be destroyed immediately, and the violator will be treated according to the Sharia law."

AP reported that a 2021 UN report said that income from opiates in Afghanistan was between \$1.8 billion and \$2.7 billion, and added that much larger sums are accrued along illicit drug supply chains outside Afghanistan. The report included that Afghanistan accounted for about 85% of global opium production in 2020, and supplied 80% of all global users.

Around 2000, near the end of its last period ruling over Afghanistan around 2000, the Taliban banned poppy production.

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Financier Hitmen Called in To Back Up Ouster of Imran Khan

April 4 (EIRNS)—With Pakistan's political situation still much in the air (the Supreme Court put off until tomorrow any ruling on the constitutionality of the prime minister's dissolution of parliament and call

for early elections), international financial vultures are throwing their weight behind the U.S. government's drive to oust Prime Minister Imran Khan, by pumping out warnings that "political instability" will sink IMF negotiations and drive the country into bankruptcy.

Pakistani daily *The Dawn* dutifully retailed the warnings as proof that Pakistan cannot afford "worsening ties with U.S." by refusing to oust Khan. Bloomberg News service, for example, is circulating a report to its financial clients warning that "Pakistan's political upheaval is adding to a surge in the nation's default risk and triggering off further losses in the nation's bonds and currency." Bloomberg, it reported, "pointed out that the ongoing political turmoil had already caused the Pakistani currency to sink," by 5% this year already, according to Moody's rating agency.

"Financial services question Islamabad's ability to continue reforms agreed with the IMF.... One of the reports suggested that this could even force the IMF to suspend its \$6 billion bailout package for Pakistan," *The Dawn* wrote. "Some reports underlined America's dominant role in the IMF, adding that a confrontation with Washington could not only derail Pakistan's economic arrangement but would also have a negative impact on the country's economic standing."

In an additional twist, the financier reports "warned that increased tensions with the U.S. could further damage Pakistan at the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)," which has already put Pakistan on its "gray list," *The Dawn* reported. A rich threat, indeed, by the financier kings of money-laundering; the FATF is the international "intergovernmental" operation which polices drug and terrorist money-laundering and corruption at the discretion of the City of London and Wall Street thieves.

Ruble Stabilizes; Russian Exports Shift East; Europe Near Cutoff and Chaos

April 4 (EIRNS)—The Russian ruble's value has been "stable" at about 83/dollar for the past week; Russia's ability to import is drastically reduced and its fossil fuel exports have continued, but shifted east. OilPrice.com reported today that all Russian oil cargoes for May delivery to China are

being paid for in yuan, and like India's increased imports from Russia, are coming at a discount of \$30-35 from the Brent Crude price of about \$110/barrel. Russian exporters are not requiring letters of credit from Chinese purchasers.

India and Russia thus far have *not* agreed on the intended rupee/ruble trade outside of weapons. But a New Delhi newspaper, *The Tribune*, carried an editorial April 4, "India-Russia Trade Plan," saying the course of action would be determined by India's national interest. It reports that Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has defended the discounted oil purchases from Russia as beneficial for India's population and views the rupee-ruble trade plan the same way, and as mutually beneficial for the two countries. "A top U.S. official," the editorialist writes, referring to State Department spokesman Ned Price, insists that Russia's cooperation with China means that it would not defend India against a China attack, "firmed up rather than weakened the Indian outlook." A payment mechanism is being worked out. "[Indian] manufacturers are already sensing an opportunity to ramp up exports [to Russia], particularly of agricultural machinery, medicines," and so forth.

Europe's purchases of Russian oil were cut in half in all of March, to 738,000 metric tons, as many purchasing companies "self-sanctioned." Now the Anglosphere—U.K., Canada, Australia, and United States—will demand from Europe a full embargo, setting off the economic collapse and job loss in Europe that Helga Zepp-LaRouche and many other German leading figures have warned of.

The Bank of Russian central bank resumed purchasing gold in the past week, at an implied much higher value equivalent to about 68 rubles/dollar, and apparently sales from Russian gold miners/producers to the bank are occurring, as reported by at least one of these miners. The State Statistics Office estimates the current (annualized) inflation rate at 15.6%, but as having fallen by about 1.5% (annualized) over the past two weeks. Vneshnekonombank Group published estimates for 2022—which may be no better than Wall Street bank forecasts—that inflation would be 19%,

real wages would fall 12%, and unemployment would be 6% at the end of the year.

Productive credit appears to be a huge problem. As firms close due to disinvestment from abroad or because their imported inputs are blocked, etc., severe shortages of many more or less essential products are appearing, which then may be filled—as in the case of paper—by Russians taking over or starting up, but they charge much higher prices in part from their own costs of borrowing to operate. The central bank on March 31 announced a series of “additional measures to support credit institutions,” of which the main one seems to be increasing the bank’s discounting of loans to SMEs by five times, up to 50 million rubles (ca. \$600,000) per SME. But the interest rate on these, presumably in the 20%-plus range.

The CEO of JPMorgan Chase bank, one of those “disinvestors,” who cannot cash in due to Russian regulations of Feb. 28, estimated today that the bank is losing \$1 billion in Russia.