

EIR Daily Alert Service

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- Put a Stop to Geopolitics—the Case of Afghanistan
- Peskov Describes How U.S. Talks to Russia, as an Adversary
- U.S. Pulls Out of Bagram: Will China’s BRI Rebuild Afghanistan? Will British Empire Reignite War?
- David Beasley Tells Musk and Bezos, We Need You *Now* To Stop Starvation!
- Guatemala Seeks Closer Ties with Russia on Vaccines, Science and Economic Cooperation
- The Rise and Fall of Germany’s Green Chancellor Candidate Annalena Baerbock
- Drought Slams the Western United States
- Scientists Find That EU Commission Bungled CO2 Calculations
- Chinese Scientists ‘Reinvent Potato’ To Help Feed Growing World Population

EDITORIAL

Put a Stop to Geopolitics—the Case of Afghanistan

July 5 (EIRNS)—Very unfortunately, there has been no advancement in the strategic situation of the United States in relations with Russia and China, since the mini-steps achieved with the Geneva meeting June 16 between President Biden and President Putin. We hear that arrangements are in the works for follow-on meetings between officials of the respective nations on strategic security talks—all to the good, but “nothing has qualitatively improved” in relations, as Helga Zepp LaRouche observed today.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov discussed this yesterday in an interview on Rossiya-1 TV's "Moscow. Kremlin. Putin." program. He said that the U.S. may be meeting with Russia, but as an adversary, and it is not conducive to good relations. While commending the dialogue as "constructive," Peskov said, "but, can this constructive stance immediately change the real situation? Unfortunately, no." He discussed the June 23 *HMS Defender* incident sternly, calling it "a tool of provocation." He put the blame on the U.S., by saying it is part of "operations basically planned by senior partners from overseas." He said that, Russia will be resolute, and not tolerate further provocations like that of *HMS Defender*.

In this context, the prospects for Afghanistan are bound to be grim and limited. The target date for pull-out of U.S. forces after 20 years, was July 4, which has been mostly done, but the situation is extremely unstable. Today the British National Security Council is meeting to decide its next (public) moves. Terrorism and dope-running has been protected all along during the so-called U.S., U.K. and NATO war on terrorism in Afghanistan, with a terrible toll in loss of life and destruction of the means to life.

By contrast, in the context of peace through development, a real future for Afghanistan can be built, which means security for all. This was spelled out in detail in the 2014 *EIR* Special Report "The Silk Road Becomes the World Land-Bridge." The chapter titled, "End Geopolitics in Central Asia," by Ramtanu Maitra, included a 14-page appendix on "[The Industrial Development of Afghanistan and Central Asia: A Russian Vision](#)." The plan, with 24 illustrations, covers proposals and specifics for industry, agriculture, rail, water management, trade, pipelines, social rehabilitation and more. It had been worked out by regional and Russian experts, but blocked in 2014 by British geopolitical, pro-strife, pro-drug networks.

What happened is, as explained in *EIR*'s introduction to the appendix, the Afghanistan development plan represented "what Russia was bringing to the table at the June 2014 Group of Eight (G8) summit in Sochi, Russia. President Vladimir Putin's longtime colleague, Federal Drug Control

Service (FDCS) head Victor Ivanov, had announced a campaign to eliminate the ‘planetary narcotics production center’ in Afghanistan, as a focus of Russia’s G8 chairmanship. But the summit was cancelled, when the G8 expelled Russia over the Ukraine crisis.”

The Afghan plan/Russian vision was subsequently excerpted from the *EIR* Special Report in the weekly [*EIR* March 13, 2015](#) issue.

Now, seven years later, the Afghanistan development plan is more relevant than ever, and very possible, given the state of advancement of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and if the major nations confer, as called for by President Vladimir Putin’s invitation for a summit of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. Four years ago, former Afghan President Hamid Karzai called for his nation to link up with the BRI, when speaking at a conference in India. On July 2, in a *Global Times* interview, Karzai said that collaboration is essential with China and the regional neighbor nations.

“Geopolitics must stop,” was Zepp LaRouche’s call today, for what must be done. She said that it couldn’t be clearer that necessity for intervention into the situation had to be based on “the common aims of mankind.” There is a huge need for reconstruction. It is in the common interests of all, who otherwise can be played off against each other—the Pushtuns, Iranians, Baloch, Pakistanis, and so on.

Zepp-LaRouche made the point that “the empire faction”—the British geopolitical networks, including inside the heads of some high U.S. officials—is “not the only game in town!” This will be seen, for example, July 6, at the World Parties Summit, when President Xi Jinping and others will celebrate the success of their development policies, at an online world conference with 500 representatives from 160 nations, and 10,000 total attendees. We are in the most crucial, decisive period, where we can turn dire situations around. We need to mobilize the spirit of people to do this. This is the real “Fourth of July spirit!”

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday, July 6, 2021: Every weekday morning on [The LaRouche Organization](#) website, Harley will give you the strategic briefing on what you need to know to start your day.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

Peskov Describes How U.S. Talks to Russia, as an Adversary

July 5 (EIRNS)—Russian Presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov appeared on Rossiya-1 TV's "Moscow.Kremlin.Putin." program yesterday in an interview, in which he emphasized that Russia will not tolerate further provocations like that in the Black Sea with the *HMS Defender* on June 23. At one point, he blamed it entirely on the United States. "I think our intelligence certainly knows who made a decision there. But certainly I think such operations are basically planned by senior partners from overseas," he said. According to him, "in this case the destroyer was just a tool of provocation," reported TASS.

He vowed that Russia will respond harshly to any similar provocations to the incident with the British destroyer. "This is indeed so," Peskov said, referring to Putin's June 30 remark that it was a deliberate provocation, during his "[Direct Line with Vladimir Putin](#)" broadcast. "And most importantly, as the President said, that information that the [U.S.] reconnaissance plane obtained is not that information that they sought to get, but this was that information that the Russian side believed it necessary to provide," Peskov said. "Someone even joked [during the event] that the President will now give the first and last names of this plane's pilots and even their address."

Peskov agreed that Kiev is also carrying out flagrant anti-Russian provocations. "Ukraine's effort to stir up the situation is a reality, a sad reality in the conditions that we have to face," he said, stressing that in response to provocations Russian President Vladimir Putin "takes decisions, which won't be left unnoticed."

“I mean both our maneuvers and our drills, but the only difference is that this happens on our own territory and we don’t deploy our military infrastructure on other continents,” he pointed out. “In this respect, no one should probably have any doubt about resolute steps of President Putin and the Russian side in general. I still suggest not to speak about such apocalyptic scenarios as the Caribbean crisis and so on, because probably, every time Russia’s resolute steps become more clear for our opponents. Although we don’t have rose-colored glasses and understand that no one will give up an effort to contain our country,” Peskov emphasized.

In regard to dialogue with NATO, Peskov stated, “Even with the North Atlantic, [Russia] can and should talk because only during a dialogue it is possible to exactly voice concerns...” Peskov stressed. “Now despite the attempts to resume it, we are facing an attempt to impose some agenda on us, moreover, in the form of an ultimatum. This makes such dialogue on those conditions, which they are trying to impose on us, impossible.”

NATO only pursues the goal of confrontation, he said. “It does not bring any stability on the continent. On the contrary, this is a destabilizing element. Meanwhile, Russia has always been interested in building constructive relations with NATO.”

Peskov also observed that the U.S. may be speaking to Russia, but as an adversary, and it is not conducive to improving relations. “The U.S. President, unfortunately, cannot say that we need to develop good relations with Russia. And all we hear is that we will talk to Russians where we believe it necessary and most importantly, we will punish them if needed. And we still hear such rhetoric because it is just impossible to speak about good relations with Russia in America.”

At the same time, Peskov continued, the environment of talks between the Russian and U.S. leaders in Geneva was constructive. “Nevertheless, it was more focused on dialogue. This is not a dialogue of like-minded persons, this is more a dialogue of those who have absolutely opposite positions on a large number of issues. But constructive stance still

dominated the Geneva talks. But can this constructive stance immediately change the real situation? Unfortunately, no.”

U.S. Pulls Out of Bagram: Will China’s BRI Rebuild Afghanistan? Will British Empire Reignite War?

July 5 (EIRNS)—The U.S. cleared out of the Bagram Air base near Kabul over the weekend, amidst great tension and confrontation at various locations in Afghanistan, and much international media speculation over when and how the nation may shift into collaboration with China and Russia. Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai said in a July 2 *Global Times* interview that China is important for the stability and peace of Afghanistan. There needs to be a platform of talks on this in Beijing; and also for a Troika to help from China, Russia and Pakistan.

The Taliban has taken over six districts in the province of Badakhshan, in the north, which borders Tajikistan and China. The number of Afghan troops that fled into Tajikistan over the weekend is now reported by TASS to be more than 1,000. “In the course of shootouts with the Taliban, 1,037 military servicemen of Afghan government troops retreated through the border areas ... to the territory of Tajikistan in order to save the lives of military personnel,” the Tajik border service reported. TASS reports that the Russian consulate in Mazar-i-Sharif in the north has suspended operations over security issues in the region.

Yesterday, President Ashraf Ghani called President Vladimir Putin over the situation. Today, Afghan National Security Adviser Hamdullah Mohib is in Moscow for security talks.

Today in London, Prime Minister Boris Johnson is presiding over a meeting of his National Security Council, on decisions over what British forces will remain in Afghanistan. Alex Younger, the Chief of MI6 up until September 2020, said on Sky News on July 4 that President Trump had made an awful mistake with the Doha peace plan, and that it would be “an enormous mistake” to leave Afghanistan. News reports have emerged, meanwhile, that about 750 British Special Air Services (SAS) soldiers will

stay behind after the withdrawal of the regular troops is completed to serve in an “advisory” role.

The BBC is playing up the consequences. “If they leave behind their forces, against the Doha agreement, then in that case it will be the decision of our leadership how we proceed,” Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen was quoted as having told BBC. “We would react and the final decision is with our leadership.... We are against the foreign military forces, not diplomats, NGOs and workers and NGOs functioning and embassies functioning—that is something our people need. We will not pose any threat to them.”

On the question of Afghanistan moving to the BRI, the Daily Beast is full of speculation.

It reports an anonymous government-associated source to say that the government is turning to China for an extension of the \$62 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which runs from Kashgar in western China through Balochistan to the port of Gwadar, parallel to Pakistan’s border with Afghanistan and Iran. Presently, China is linked to Pakistan’s Peshawar by a key highway, which could be extended to Kabul in Afghanistan. Another source privy to conversations between Beijing and Kabul elaborated: “There is a discussion on a Peshawar-Kabul motorway between the authorities in Kabul and Beijing. Linking Kabul with Peshawar by road means Afghanistan’s formal joining of CPEC.”

In other words: The Afghan government, behind the scenes, is welcoming China immediately after saying goodbye to America. China has been keen on extending its BRI to Afghanistan, and has been inviting Kabul to join it for at least five years. But the U.S.-backed Afghan government was hesitant to join BRI for fear of Washington’s reaction. According to the second source: “There has been continuous engagement between the Afghan government and the Chinese for the past few years ... [but] that made the U.S. suspicious of the President Ashraf Ghani government,” the source said. He went on that, now, the engagement is growing “more intense,” as U.S. forces are leaving, and “Ghani needs an

ally with resources, clout and ability to provide military support to his government.” Of some note, the assessment is that the Taliban may not stand in the way of extending CPEC into Afghanistan if it brings economic benefit to the country.

COVID-19 AND FAMINE

David Beasley Tells Musk and Bezos, We Need You Now To Stop Starvation!

July 5 (EIRNS)—World Food Program Executive Director David Beasley jumped into the competition among billionaires Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk and Richard Branson, on which of them would be the first to go into space, by tweeting them on June 26: “Hey, @RichadBranson [sic], @elonmusk and @JeffBezos, so excited to see you compete on who gets to space first! BUT, I would love to see you TEAM up together to save the 41 million people who are about to starve this year on Earth! It only takes \$6 Billion. We can solve this quickly!” He followed it up with a three tweets that day, including personal messages to the billionaires:

“Jeff Bezos’ net worth increase during Covid was \$65 billion. Jeff, just 10% of your net worth INCREASE would save 41 million people about to die from hunger. We need you, NOW! Can we talk? @famine” and

“Elon Musk’s net worth increase during Covid was \$137 billion. Elon, just 5% of your net worth INCREASE would save 41 million people about to die from hunger. We need you, NOW! Let’s talk. #famine.

“During the covid pandemic, the world’s 2,275 billionaires’ net worth increase was over \$5.2 BILLION PER DAY. Is it too much to ask for just ONE day’s worth of wealth increase to save 41 million people about to starve to death?!!! #famine”

NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER

Guatemala Seeks Closer Ties with Russia on Vaccines, Science and Economic Cooperation

July 5 (EIRNS)—In a June 28 press conference following his June 21-24 trip to Moscow, Guatemalan Foreign Minister Pedro Brolo explained that a top priority of his trip was to secure accelerated transport of the Sputnik V vaccine to Guatemala, as Russia had failed to meet the terms of a contract by which Guatemala purchased 16 million doses, but so far had only received 150,000, *El Diario de Centroamerica* reported June 30. In a meeting with officials of the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) and Health Ministry, as well as with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Brolo said he was told that sending vaccines to Guatemala as soon as possible was a top priority for the Russians, and that 400,000 doses would be sent “this week.” In their joint June 24 press conference, Lavrov stated that “it is our desire that the Guatemalan people receive in the least amount of time possible the quantity of Sputnik V vaccine remaining to be completed,” EFE news service quoted him.

But beyond vaccines, Guatemala is seeking much broader collaboration with Russia. Brolo told reporters he met with representatives of “productive sectors” to discuss increasing bilateral cooperation in areas such as academia, security, tourism, and energy. He also reported he met with Sergey Glazyev, in charge of Integration and Macroeconomics for the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and discussed a working agenda with him related to trade, investment, integration and cooperation. Lavrov commented that greater Guatemalan participation in the EAEU would be welcomed. Brolo also met with Sergey Saveliev, the Assistant Director General of Roscosmos, Russia’s space agency, who discussed Russia’s experiences in space and emphasized its role in encouraging the creation of a Central American space agency. In October of 2020, during World Space Week, the Central American Parliament (Parlacen) voted up a resolution, firmly backed by Russia, calling for the creation of a Central American and

Caribbean Space Agency, one of whose tasks would be building a Central American and Caribbean satellite.

Brolo explained that his government wants to create a bilateral cooperation program for science, technology and education with Russia, and toward this end, he signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the People's Friendship University of Russia. He also discussed expanding the Russian scholarship program so that more young Guatemalans can continue their studies at the university.

GREEN NEW DEAL

The Rise and Fall of Germany's Green Chancellor Candidate Annalena Baerbock

July 5 (EIRNS)—Still hailing her two months ago as the next German Chancellor, Germany's mainstream media now predominantly report on the numerous incidents of plagiarism surrounding Annalena Baerbock, the Greens' chancellor candidate, voicing concern that the Greens' ambitions for the national election in 10 weeks might seriously suffer. And the leading greenie news daily *Tageszeitung (Taz)* even has a nasty commentary on Baerbock, calling for her instant replacement as chancellor candidate by party co-chairman Robert Habeck.

Baerbock's flaws have killed her ambitions, *Taz* author Silke Mertins writes. "If, therefore, she is still concerned about the climate and the future of coming generations, she should hand the candidacy to Habeck as soon as possible. If she does not accept that, it is now up to the influential party bigshots to make clear to her: It is over, Annalena!"

Just handing over the candidacy might not be so easy, though: The Greens would need a party convention to nominate Habeck as chancellor candidate, and just 10 weeks to go before Sept. 26 the national election may not leave enough time for the Greens to repair their ratings which now are slightly above the 9% they had in the last election in 2017. The next best option for the Greens is to make sure they are a partner of the Christian Democrats in the next government coalition, with Habeck getting the post

of a senior cabinet member. More likely is that the Christian Democrats form a coalition without the Greens, with Social Democrats and Free Democrats instead.

UNITED STATES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

Drought Slams the Western United States

July 5 (EIRNS)—Ninety-percent of the U.S. West is under official drought designation. Last week, many more states added counties or their whole state to their request for official drought emergency status from the federal government, including Colorado, Montana and South Dakota.

Wildfires: Wildfires in the Western region of the U.S. are at a 10-year high, according to national statistics. Since January, more than a million acres have burned; the biggest area of concern is the high desert Great Basin region in Utah, Nevada and eastern Oregon.

Fires in California are concentrated in the North, Coastal and Southeastern regions; the northern fires are the worst, burning over 35,000 acres, but are largely contained or under control. Both the fires and higher temperatures are putting an increased load on an already-strained electrical grid. The fires are also forcing wildlife, such as bears and rattlesnakes, into urban areas in search of food.

Water Supplies: The drought, and low run-off in every river basin is dramatic. In California, the run-off is 70% below average from the Sierra Madres. At Lake Oroville, the water level is so low that for the first time ever, the turbines can't run, and the power will go offline. The Mississippi River is officially at the "low flow" stage.

The Hoover Dam reservoir has fallen to a record low. On average, it generates 4 billion kilowatts of hydroelectric power, supplying up to 1.3 million people in Arizona, California and Nevada. Lake Mead is the largest reservoir in the U.S., and is a crucial water supply for about 25 million people, including in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Phoenix, San Diego and Tucson. Its water levels have fallen over 140 feet.

The Imperial Valley, one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world, depends on the Colorado River for its irrigation, which has also fallen to record lows.

Grasshoppers: The drought has created ideal conditions for grasshopper eggs to hatch and survive into adulthood. They are most vulnerable to insecticides as they molt, but if they're not attacked at that time, stronger insecticides that also affect beneficial insects have to be used.

Oregon and Montana are the hardest hit, and 13 other states are threatened. The grasshoppers eat not only the grain, but also forage eaten by cattle, and leaves of orchard trees. Grasshoppers become into locusts under certain conditions, which aren't fully understood, but in which crowding is one of the factors.

The British *Guardian* quotes one rancher, “ ‘I can only describe grasshoppers in expletives,’ said Richard Nicholson, a cattle rancher in Fort Klamath, a small community in southern Oregon, who once recalled seeing grasshopper bands eat 1,000 acres a day and cover the ground like snow. The insects cause innumerable headaches for farmers and ranchers, competing with cattle for tough-to-find wild forage and costing tens of thousands of dollars in lost crops and associated costs. ‘They are a scourge of the Earth... They just destroy the land, destroy the crops. They are just a bad, bad predator.’ ”

Farmers and Ranchers: Cattlemen are in a terrible bind for water, hay and forage. They're being forced to sell off stock, and taking another hit: not too long ago, a cow brought \$3,000, now it sells for \$1,800.

COLLAPSING WESTERN FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Scientists Find That EU Commission Bungled CO2 Calculations

July 5 (EIRNS)—A letter to the EU Commission signed by 170 international scientists has broken through the apparently-general agreement in Germany on the von der Leyen-Merkel “Green Transition”

scheme, demonstrating the unsustainability of electro-mobility, a key aspect of it.

The scientists, belonging to the just-founded [International Association of Sustainable Drivetrain and Vehicle Technology Research](#) (IASTEC), say the Commission's estimated CO2 emissions of e-cars is 100% wrong, and they demonstrate that, in the case of Germany, e-cars will have to be recharged by “brown” electricity, that is, electricity produced by coal plants.

The letter is based on a study conducted by Prof. Thomas Koch and Prof. Thomas Böhlke of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, which was peer-reviewed and published by a scientific magazine.

The study exposes a [serious error](#) in the calculations of the EU Commission, and insists that since by 2030, solar panels and windmills won't be able to produce the entire energy supply, and that coal and gas will be still needed, the CO2 emissions will be double as much as calculated by the Commission, which has failed to include an elementary factor in its calculations—namely, the yearly emissions!

As a consequence, since 100% of electricity from so-called “renewables” must always be put in the net to keep the balance, all additional demands must be satisfied by coal and gas. The letter to the Commission asks therefore to be open to all technologies, and not just e-cars, for a CO2-free mobility. This also includes modern diesel and gasoline engines.

The study and the letter have polarized the public debate in Germany. Whereas a large faction of the media and of the established political circles have reacted negatively to the IASTEC paper, the popular magazine *Focus* has endorsed it, complaining that the other media are blacking out Professor Koch and his associates.

The shortcoming of the IASTEC initiative is that it does not challenge the root of the problem, the so-called “climate emergency” that motivates a

conversion into a “CO₂-free economy.” Nevertheless, it is a good tool to show the unsustainability of such policies.

SCIENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Chinese Scientists ‘Reinvent Potato’ To Help Feed Growing World Population

July 5 (EIRNS)—In a groundbreaking experiment, Chinese scientists led by Huang Sanwen, a researcher with the Agricultural Genomics Institute at Shenzhen, under the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), used a genome design to transform potato breeding, and developed “pure and fertile potato lines” with genome-editing technologies. Their study, “[Genome Design of Hybrid Potato](#),” was published online in one of the world’s leading academic journals, *Cell*, on June 24.

Unlike other crops that are propagated from seed, the potato is a tuber crop which is propagated by cloning. This results in long breeding cycles, low reproduction efficiency, and makes the potato plant more susceptible to disease and insect attacks.

In its June 25 coverage which included an article and a 3.5-minute video, CGTN reported that [Huang Sanwen](#) and “his team initiated the ‘Upotato Plan’ in 2015, aiming to replace vegetative reproduction with hybrid seeds via genome design and improve potato breeding speed and reproduction efficiency.”

The article goes on to quote Huang as saying: “We must first solve the problem of self-incompatibility, which is that potatoes do not produce seeds after self-pollination. Through material selection and gene editing, we have successfully tackled the problem and produced seeds.

“Meanwhile, we have also discovered how to improve plant health and output. By genome design, we eliminated harmful mutations, aggregated good genes and finally cultivated the potato variety called ‘Upotato No. 1.’ After testing, it has shown excellent performance....

“We now only need 2 grams of potato seeds for a 1 mu land, compared to 200 kg of seed potatoes before, which greatly reduces the planting costs.” There are about 15 mu to 1 hectare.

Their work has been recognized by their international peers, with Sofin Kamon, of the European Academy of Sciences acknowledging: “What Professor Huang and his team did is they essentially reinvented the potato. They reinvented the crop almost from scratch. The hybrid potato and hybrid potato technology are really amazing in terms of taking the potato crop to the modern age of plant breeding.”