

EIR Daily Alert Service

P.O. BOX 17390, WASHINGTON, DC 20041-0390

- It's Time 'To Fear Armageddon'
- Kyiv Regime Alleges Russia Ready To Blow Up Zaporozhye Nuclear Plant
- President Putin Addresses the Russian People
- Trenin Argues for Clarification of Russian Nuclear Doctrine To Restore 'Fear of Armageddon'
- Anglosphere Cheers Coming 'Dissolution' of Russia
- Lula and Ramaphosa Confer on Peace Efforts, BRICS
- Argentine President Fernández Welcomed by Lula in State Visit
- One-Half Trillion Euros in Debt to the ECB Is Due June 28
- Russia To Cooperate with African States in Space

EDITORIAL

It's Time 'To Fear Armageddon'

June 26, 2023 (EIRNS)—Look at the world situation. On one side, there are the Global NATO leaders and forces pushing confrontation in every way, to bring down—end—Russia. On the other side, you have the government of Russia—a nuclear power, making clear that, “we will not be extinguished.” The stakes are nuclear annihilation.

Any evaluation of the strategic situation that is not on this level misses the point, even though there are incidents and “issues” deserving of careful evaluation. The armed mutiny staged against Russia June 23-24 continues under the fullest investigation, which includes the outside forces involved.

But the point is: It is time for people to fear Armageddon! And intervene to stop the Armageddon dynamic. That was the call to action today by Schiller Institute founder and leader Helga Zepp-LaRouche. She highly recommends an article that was posted June 22, before the dramatic weekend events in Russia. It is headlined, “[The U.S. and Its Allies Are Playing ‘Russian Roulette;’ You’d Almost Think They Want a Nuclear War.](#)”

The author, scholar Dmitry Trenin, on the Russian International Affairs Council, lays out the process whereby, “The fear of the atomic bomb, present in the second half of the 20th century, has disappeared. Nuclear weapons have been taken out of the equation. The practical conclusion is clear: there is no need to be afraid of such a Russian response” to any provocation you may do against Russia. Trenin presents the history of the geopolitics and degraded culture that went into creating this dangerous delusion.

Keep that in mind when looking at the events of the weekend in Russia, and the follow-on from the West. The Wagner Group and its head Yevgeny Prigozhin staged an armed insurrection beginning June 23, in its crazed “March for Justice” on Moscow, which was defused June 24 by Putin and Belarus President Lukashenko. Tonight [President Putin](#) gave a televised address to the nation, confirming the civic unity of the people, “All united behind the main thing—the responsibility for the fate of the Fatherland.”

But from the Western capitals comes the battle cry, in unison: Russia and Putin are on the way down! It is time to go in for the kill! Today, the Washington, D.C. Hudson Institute hosted a special event, on the topic of pumping even more firepower into Ukraine—ATACMS, F-16s, cluster munitions. They cheered: Don’t fear any nuclear threat! Go all out against Russia. Dismember it. The event was titled, “[Mutiny in Russia: Assessing the Implications of Prigozhin’s March on Moscow.](#)”

The same message—“Russia is down and on the way out”—comes through loud and clear in the “informational warfare” of the Western media over June 25-26. Typical headlines:

Washington Post: “Russian Crisis Casts Putin in a Weak Light ... President’s Authority and Whereabouts in Question.”

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung: “Putin Is Naked!”

The Economist: “The Meaning of Prigozhin’s Short-Lived Mutiny: Vladimir Putin’s Inability To Prevent It Means He Failed at his Most Important Task.”

Financial Times: “The Putin System Is Crumbling.”

Today in Luxembourg, this line was asserted at the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of 27 European Union nations by EU High Representative of Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell, “The Russian state and Putin’s personal leadership are weakened.” Given the “internal instabilities and fragilities,” we can go all out to back Ukraine’s victory over Russia.

No mere rhetoric, this is the context of delusion in which an incident can trigger thoroughgoing nuclear obliteration. The stage is set for such a trigger over the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant.

On June 23, the Kyiv regime’s military intelligence chief Kyrylo Budanov issued an evaluation claiming that the Zelenskyy government has evidence that Russia has put in readiness all it needs to commit a strike on the Zaporozhye plant, which will cause nuclear fallout. The only question is the date and time Moscow will do this.

This classic false-flag operation has been refuted already by Russian leaders, but the significance in Budanov’s lying charge is that the West is actually “playing Russian Roulette,” with the stakes being nuclear war.

The conclusion of the article by Dmitry Trenin, recommended by Zepp-LaRouche: “To avoid a general catastrophe, it is necessary to put fear of armageddon back into politics and the public consciousness. In the nuclear age, it is the only guarantee of preserving humanity.”

This is the goal of the [Schiller Institute](#)’s extraordinary responsibility in history. Join in.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday June 27, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

Kyiv Regime Alleges Russia Ready To Blow Up Zaporozhye Nuclear Plant

June 26, 2023 (EIRNS)—[Kyrylo Budanov](#), the chief of military intelligence for the Kyiv regime, surfaced in a June 23 interview with the British journal *New Statesman* to retail the claim that Russia has prepared to sabotage the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant with mines set to blow up its cooling pond. Budanov told his interviewer that without cooling, the nuclear reactors could melt in a period of between 10 hours and 14 days. He believes Russia would be able to raise the voltage in the power supply lines to the plant, bringing about a nuclear accident at the lower end of that time frame. As Budanov put it during the interview, “Technical means could be used to speed up the catastrophe.” Ukrainian military intelligence has also been able to establish that Russian troops have moved vehicles charged with explosives to four of the six power units, he claimed further.

All that’s left to do is to issue the order. Budanov is confident the plan is fully “drafted and approved.” The only element missing is the order to go ahead. “Then it can happen in a matter of minutes.”

As for why Russia would blow up the power plant, Budanov offered two possibilities. The first would depend on what military benefit Russia would see from causing a nuclear disaster, particularly if Ukrainian forces succeed in crossing the Dnieper River in the Kherson region and “ousting” Russian forces from the region. The second possibility is that Russia would use a nuclear disaster as a “preventive measure” to stop the Ukrainian offensive in the south before it got started.

Russian Foreign Minister [Sergey Lavrov](#), in an interview today with RT slammed allegations that Russia was getting to blow up the nuclear plant as information warfare. “This is utter nonsense, we have said this many

times,” he said, reported TASS. “The fact that this overused warning has been surfacing in the media space for some time, primarily out of the mouths of the Kyiv regime’s representatives, means only one thing: these people have been trained to wage information warfare by the Anglo-Saxons, the Poles and even by the Balts, who have become senior comrades for Ukraine,” he said. “If the results of this training are as deplorable as they are unconvincing, then I am sorry for the money Western taxpayers have to spend to pay the wages of the instructors who are training such unfit and inept pupils,” Lavrov said.

Russian officials have warned numerous times in recent weeks that it is the Kyiv regime that is planning provocations at the nuclear plant, for the purpose of blaming Russia for the disaster that will result.

President Putin Addresses the Russian People

June 26, 2023 (EIRNS)—President [Vladimir Putin](#) gave a short televised address to the people of Russia on Monday evening, June 26. The text is posted to the Kremlin website:

“Friends,

“Today, I am addressing the citizens of Russia once again. Thank you for your restraint, cohesion and patriotism. This civic solidarity shows that any blackmail, any attempt to stage domestic turmoil is doomed to fail.

“I will repeat—society and the executive and legislative branches of government at all levels displayed high consolidation. Public organizations, religious denominations, the leading political parties and actually all of Russian society held a firm line, taking an explicit position of supporting constitutional order. The main thing—responsibility for the destiny of the Fatherland—has united everyone, brought our people together.

“I will emphasize that all necessary decisions to neutralize the emerged threat and protect the constitutional system, the life and security of our citizens were made instantly, from the very beginning of the events.

“An armed mutiny would have been suppressed in any event. Mutiny plotters, despite the loss of adequacy, were bound to realize that. They understood everything, including the fact that their actions were criminal in nature, aimed at polarizing people and weakening the country, which is currently countering an enormous external threat and unprecedented pressure from the outside. They did this at a time when our comrades are dying on the frontline with the words ‘Not a step back!’

“However, having betrayed their country and their people, the leaders of this mutiny also betrayed those whom they drew into their crime. They lied to them, pushed them to their death, putting them under attack, forcing them to shoot their people.

“It was exactly this outcome, fratricide, that the enemies of Russia – the neo-Nazis in Kiev, their Western patrons and other national traitors – wanted to see. They wanted Russian soldiers to kill each other; they wanted the military and civilians to die; they wanted Russia to lose eventually, and our society to break up and perish in a bloody feud.

“They were rubbing their hands together and dreaming of revenge for their failures at the frontline and in the course of the so-called counteroffensive, but they miscalculated.

“I want to thank all our servicemen, law enforcement and special services officers who stood in the mutineers’ way, remaining faithful to their duty, their oath and their people. Courage and self-sacrifice of the fallen hero pilots have saved Russia from tragic and devastating consequences.

“At the same time, we knew before and know now that the majority of Wagner Group soldiers and commanders are also Russian patriots, loyal to their people and their state. Their courage on the battlefield when liberating Donbass and Novorossiia proves this. An attempt was made to use them without their knowledge against their comrades-in-arms with whom they were fighting shoulder to shoulder for their country and its future.

“That is why, as soon as these events started to unfold, in keeping with my direct instructions, steps were taken to avoid spilling blood. It required time, among other things, as those who made a mistake had to be given a chance to change their minds, to realize that their actions would be strongly rejected by society, to understand what tragic and devastating consequences for Russia, for our country the reckless attempt they had been drawn into, was leading to.

“I express my gratitude to those Wagner Group soldiers and commanders who had taken the right decision, the only one possible – they chose not to engage in fratricidal bloodshed and stopped before reaching the point of no return.

“Today, you have the opportunity to continue your service to Russia by signing a contract with the Defense Ministry or other law enforcement or security agency or return home. Those who want to are free to go to Belarus. I will keep my promise. Again, everyone is free to decide on their own, but I believe their choice will be that of Russian soldiers who realize they have made a tragic mistake.

“I am grateful to President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko for his efforts and contribution to the peaceful settlement of the situation.

“I would like to repeat that the patriotic sentiments of our people and the consolidation of Russian society played a decisive role during these days. This support has allowed us to pull through the toughest challenges and trials for our Motherland together.

“Thank you for this.”

HISTORY & CULTURE

Trenin Argues for Clarification of Russian Nuclear Doctrine To Restore ‘Fear of Armageddon’

June 26, 2023 (EIRNS)—Dmitry Trenin has weighed into the international debate surrounding the use of nuclear weapons that had been sparked by Sergei Karaganov, who heads Russia’s Council on Foreign and Defense

Policy and is dean of the Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs at Moscow's Higher School of Economics. Karaganov had written the June 13 piece for *Russia in Global Affairs*, titled, "A Difficult but Necessary Decision." (An alternative translation was published by RT as, "By Using Its Nuclear Weapons, Russia Could Save Humanity from a Global Catastrophe.")

While Trenin acknowledges his point that fear of the use of nuclear weapons to resolve conflict is fading in policy and military circles, which is leading to the danger of their deployment, he considers that following Karaganov's suggestion could still lead to nuclear Armageddon. Trenin proposes that Russia must instead clarify the situation in which Russia would use nuclear weapons in order to reinstate the fear of Armageddon. Trenin is a research professor at the Higher School of Economics and a lead research fellow at the Institute of World Economy and International Relations. He is also a member of the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC). His June 22 article "Conflict in Ukraine and Nuclear Weapons," was written in *Russia in Global Affairs* and also translated into English. (Likewise a different translation, produced by RT, was used by RIAC, which is what is quoted here, is titled: "The U.S. and Its Allies Are Play 'Russian Roulette.' You'd Almost Think They Want a Nuclear War.")

Trenin begins his piece by stating that while Putin has repeatedly clarified that Russian use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine is based on their published doctrine, their effect as a deterrent is diminishing, even though their use has not been taken off the table. Trenin then goes on to argue that this is due in part to the fact that "the U.S. has now set itself the task—unthinkable during the Cold War—of trying to defeat another nuclear superpower in a strategically important region, without resorting to atomic weapons, but instead by arming and controlling a third country."

The United States's escalation strategy, now moving to F16s and long-range missiles, is likely based on their belief that the Russian leadership is bluffing on their warnings about the use of nuclear weapons—citing the

fearless response of U.S. officials to the deployment of nuclear weapons to Belarus.

“Such ‘fearlessness’ is a direct result of the geopolitical changes of the last three decades and the change of generations in power in the U.S. and the West in general.

“The fear of the atomic bomb, present in the second half of the twentieth century, has disappeared. Nuclear weapons have been taken out of the equation. The practical conclusion is clear: there is no need to be afraid of such a Russian response.”

However, Trenin says that the dangerous escalation will eventually lead to a direct clash between NATO and Russia, and the potential for nuclear Armageddon. In this path of escalation, which he calls Russian Roulette, Trenin says that Moscow’s strategy has been to allow the enemy to take the escalatory initiative, which the West has taken advantage of by trying to wear Russia down on the battlefield and undermine it from within. Trenin then says: “It makes no sense for the Kremlin to go along with this plan. On the contrary, it’s a better idea to clarify and modernize our nuclear deterrence strategy, taking into account the practical experience of the Ukrainian conflict. The existing doctrinal provisions were formulated not only before the start of the current military operation, but also apparently without a precise idea of what might happen in the course of such a situation.”

He then goes on to say that this clarification should be “accompanied by a credible dialogue with both our strategic partners and neutral states, explaining the motives and objectives of our actions. The possibility of using nuclear weapons in the current conflict must not be concealed. This real, not just theoretical, prospect should be an incentive to limit and stop the escalation of the war and ultimately pave the way for a satisfactory strategic balance in Europe.”

Trenin then counters the argument posed by Karaganov, acknowledging that while the U.S. may not immediately respond with nuclear weapons after Russia used them in Ukraine, later escalation could lead to

asymmetric responses by the United States that could lead to a full-scale Russia-NATO war with the potential nuclear exchange. He concludes his argument by making the point that while Russia could probably win their war against Ukraine, without clarification of the Russian doctrine to be coherent with the Russian experience in Ukraine, this would also lead to a NATO-Russia conflict.

“To avoid a general catastrophe, it is necessary to put fear of armageddon back into politics and the public consciousness.

“In the nuclear age, it is the only guarantee of preserving humanity.”

U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

Anglosphere Cheers Coming ‘Dissolution’ of Russia

June 26, 2023 (EIRNS)—The starting place for any investigation into the weekend’s events in Russia is the question, *cui bono*? With that in mind, consider the following.

The Times of London (founded 1785) pronounced today that the U.K. must “prepare for sudden collapse of Russia” in the wake of what they called a “failed coup attempt.” According to the flagship Establishment daily, “internal government assessments” are the basis for this warning.

In Washington, D.C., the Anglophile Hudson Institute is on a rampage with the same campaign. Hudson held an online panel discussion of its “experts” on June 26, claiming that although Prigozhin’s mutiny did not last long, it will catalyze the dissolution of Russia. Luke Coffey, Hudson’s point-person for the “Break Up Russia” campaign, also penned an article for *Foreign Policy* magazine, published Monday under the hyped-up headline: “A Warlord Marching on Moscow Is Just a Foretaste of What Might Come. Here’s How To Prepare.”

The discussion was titled “[Mutiny in Russia: Assessing the Implications of Prigozhin’s March on Moscow.](#)” The four speakers from Hudson—Peter Rough, Coffey, Can Kasapoglu, and Rebeccah Heinrichs—between them asserted that Russia is now at a high risk of civil war, but the rate of its

dissolution will depend on how badly the Ukraine war goes for them. However, after this weekend's events in Russia, NATO capitals should see this as a winnable war, and arm Ukraine for victory, not merely its survival.

Kasapoglu pronounced, that with Prigozhin's mutiny and the manner of its settlement, President Putin's "geopolitical goal" which he presented in his 2007 speech at the Munich Security Conference—calling for an international security architecture which ensured the sovereign right of Russia to develop without the threat of NATO on its borders—is now "finished," "over," and the only question now is, who will win the game of musical chairs and end up in power in Russia.? While not sufficient itself, the putsch could be the catalyst for internal conflict in Russia, he added.

Coffey insisted Washington policymakers recognize "the historic nature" of the weekend's events, and not fear what could happen if Russia descends into chaos.

Heinrich speculated that if the war in Ukraine goes sufficiently badly for Putin, he may decide to look for a way out of it. But all agreed that the lesson of the Prigozhin affair is that now is the time "to step on the gas" on arms supplies to Ukraine. Heinrich concluded the panel pushing for the U.S. to ship every kind of weapon, immediately with banned cluster munitions, and ATACMS, F-16s, etc. to follow.

An interesting note: She specifically called out the U.S. Congress for mooting cutting U.S. weapon supplies to Ukraine, complaining that "Republican populists" are not the only threat to those weapon supplies, but also now senior House Democrats. She pointed to a statement by ranking member of the Defense Appropriations Committee Rosa DeLauro (CT) that unless there is more domestic support, no more weapons will be sent.

NEW STRATEGIC & ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

Lula and Ramaphosa Confer on Peace Efforts, BRICS

June 26, 2023 (EIRNS)—Brazilian President Lula da Silva reported June 24 that he had met with many African government leaders during

Emmanuel Macron’s Paris “Global Refinancing” show. That included meeting South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. “We spoke about the upcoming BRICS meeting and about President Ramaphosa’s trip to Kyiv and St. Petersburg, and the talks which he had with Zelenskyy and Putin,” Lula tweeted.

On his way home, Lula again slammed the world community’s failure to take up global inequality as a leading item on the international agenda. He singled out the case of Haiti, to put a point on his complaint, protesting in a tweet that Haiti had not been on the agenda of Macron’s summit, “as if it’s nobody’s issue, but in fact it’s an issue for all of us.”

Argentine President Fernández Welcomed by Lula in State Visit

June 26, 2023 (EIRNS)—Argentine President Alberto Fernández was welcomed in Brasilia today by his counterpart Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in a state visit, received with full military honors and color guard, singing of both nations’ national anthems, etc. This is Fernández’s fifth bilateral meeting with Lula since the Brazilian took office on Jan. 1. The ostensible reason was to celebrate 200 years of diplomatic relations and the fact that Argentina was the first nation to recognize Brazil’s independence from Portugal in 1822. As a sign of his respect, Lula conferred on Fernández the highest honor to a foreigner, the National Order of the Southern Cross.

But Lula had just returned from Europe, where he had brought up the Argentine case in several venues, taking every opportunity to attack the IMF and the “knife it holds to Argentina’s neck.” With the implosion of Argentina’s financial crisis over the past year, Lula has taken personal responsibility for aiding the country in any way he can and made clear during today’s visit that he considers the bilateral relationship to be of great strategic importance. According to Argentina’s C5N TV news, Fernández also intended to ask Lula for help in its negotiations with the IMF.

Fernández’s delegation included Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero and Ambassador to Brazil Daniel Scioli, but notably absent was Finance Minister Sergio Massa, who was just selected to be the presidential candidate of the ruling coalition, newly renamed Union for the Fatherland,

although he will continue in his current post while campaigning. Massa has coordinated most closely with his Brazilian counterpart Fernando Haddad, who was part of Lula's delegation, in trying to resolve the issue of obtaining financing for Brazilian exporters who want to sell to Argentina and be paid in pesos among other bilateral matters.

Should Argentina be accepted as a member of the BRICS New Development Bank in early August, when its Board of Governors meets, that financing issue may be resolved. But, according to the Brazilian daily *O Tempo*, at the press conference after their meeting, Lula said that he still wants to arrange financing through Brazil's Economic and Social Development Bank (BNDES) for Brazilian exporters to sell to Argentina. *Correio Braziliense* quoted him saying "we're working on creating a broad line of financing for Brazilian exports to Argentina. It doesn't make any sense for Brazil to lose space in the Argentine market to other countries because they offer credit and we don't."

Lula also discussed creating a common currency that would work for bilateral as well as for regional trade, citing the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) as an example where it might be used, reported Poder360. "We need to move in that direction, with new and creative solutions that will permit greater financial integration and facilitate our trade." Lula suggested that one option would be adopting a "specific currency of reference" for regional trade "that wouldn't eliminate our respective national currencies."

COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

One-Half Trillion Euros in Debt to the ECB Is Due June 28

June 26, 2023 (EIRNS)—The end of June has always been a moment of truth for the financial system; several categories of debt are due in various places. This year, for the European Central Bank, there are almost a half-trillion euros due, from the loans made under the Targeted Longer-Term Refinancing Operations—the TLTRO loans. Not all banks have the money.

The TLTRO are a low-interest loans facility implemented by Draghi in 2004. The ECB is not going to roll them over. It is estimated that €476.8 billion of debt is due on June 28. According to Bloomberg, Italian banks have more debt than liquidity parked at the ECB, so that they must find €35 billion this year and €85 billion next year to be able to pay the debt.

SCIENCE & INFRASTRUCTURE

Russia To Cooperate with African States in Space

June 26, 2023 (EIRNS)—Russia’s Roscosmos will sign a full-scale cooperation agreement with African states at the Russia-Africa Forum over July 27-28, as stated by Roscosmos head Yury Borisov, reported Interfax. A Roscosmos delegation led by Borisov visited Egypt on June 25, according to Roscosmos. “We are touring African states ahead of this [Russia-Africa] Forum and have agreed with the colleague from the Egyptian agency to draft a full-scale agreement on a broad range of possible relations in the space industry,” said Borisov. Roscosmos and African states may sign the agreement at the Russia-Africa Forum in St. Petersburg, according to Roscosmos.

“We have discussed cooperation options and have no doubt that we will establish steadfast relations not just between space agencies of the two countries but also at the level of the African Space Agency,” Egyptian Space Agency CEO Sherif Sedky said.

The Russian and Egyptian space agencies’ heads discussed “practical norms and principles of the development of Russian-Egyptian cooperation in space exploration, satellite production and launch, and advancement of piloted flights and ground-based space infrastructure.”