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EDITORIAL

The Trans-Atlantic Must Shift Radically

March 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—The United States is hosting its second "Submit for Democracy" event, drawing ridicule for the composition of its guest list, the overwhelming hypocrisy permeating the discussions, and the wild contortions required to present the word "democracy" as meaning, in the words of Lewis Carroll in his Through the Looking Glass, "just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less." Samantha Power will lecture attendees on the "rule of law." Antony Blinken will hold an event with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to explain why the war must go on (expressing this sentiment through the rejection of any actual means of achieving peace). Deputy U.S. Attorney General Lisa Monaco spoke about efforts to prevent the more than 100 million U.S. users of TikTok from continuing to communicate via the platform. An event on the internet will claim that democracies must "stand against the misuse of technology to repress, control, divide, and disenfranchise"—as the Twitter Files have shown the U.S. to have done. The Netherlands, a member of the European Union that has banned Russian media RT and Sputnik, will lead an event on how "freedom of expression and media freedom are a precondition for a well-functioning democracy and a free society."

Meanwhile, the annual Boao Forum for Asia is taking place over March 28-31 in China's lush Hainan province, fully open for the first time since the pre-Covid meeting four years ago. Some 2,000 attendees have come from 50 countries, including the 29 nations that officially convene the event. Australia's assistant trade minister is attending, in the first visit of an Australian minister since 2016. The prime ministers of Singapore, Malaysia, Spain and Côte d'Ivoire are all present by invitation. Today's event focused on industry, entrepreneurship, and the Belt and Road Initiative. Over the coming few days, economic development, health cooperation, global energy supplies, and geopolitics are on the agenda.

Forty U.S. Syria "experts," including former government officials, have penned a letter warning of the terrors that may ensue from the flurry of increasing diplomatic recognition of and engagement with Syria in West Asia. Such normalization "erodes the international community's capacity to shape a political process aimed at meaningfully resolving the crisis," they lament, as they recognize that their ambition of imposing a new government on Syria is faltering.

The old system no longer works, and the Global Majority sees too many new opportunities to desire to maintain an allegiance to what has become a rotten trans-Atlantic policy consensus. We see an awareness of this within the trans-Atlantic world as well, in the sustained French protests and city-state of Berlin's rejection of a suicidal green policy.

As nuclear World War III looms, the United States and other NATO nations must radically shift their course, for the sake of peace and the survival of mankind.

Build for the Schiller Institute's April 15-16 conference "Without the Development of All Nations, There Can Be No Lasting Peace for the Planet."

• Watch <u>Harley's Updates</u> with Harley Schlanger on Wednesday March 29, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

NEW STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

Gaetz Introduces Resolution To Withdraw U.S. Troops from Somalia

March 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—Rep. Matt Gaetz is introducing a war powers resolution to pull U.S. troops out of Somalia: "While the Congressional War Machine has decided to rage on in Syria, they must explain how continuing the occupation of Somalia best serves the interests of the American people at home. If they cannot, it is incumbent upon the Congress to bring our troops home from Somalia," he told Fox News.

President Trump had removed all U.S. troops from Somalia; Biden put them back.

Africom Commander Grilled by Gaetz on U.S. Support for Military Coups in African Nations

March 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—Matt Gaetz used the opportunity of testimony by Africom Commander Gen. Michael Langley to question him about the fact of U.S.-trained African troops going on to lead military coups d'état in their nations. It is precisely that sort of meddling that the U.S. should not be engaged in, and ending it would be a useful return to John Quincy Adams's dictum that the U.S. should not go abroad in search of monsters to destroy.

China Focuses on Economics and Development, Not Ideology

March 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—As the Biden Administration launched its March 28-30 ideological "Summit for Democracy," China began its annual Boao Forum for Asia with over 2,000 attendees from around 50 countries. The theme of this year's March 28-31 forum on Hainan Island is "An Uncertain World: Solidarity and Cooperation for Development amid Challenges." The message being sent is that China is open to the world and will so remain and that those who wish to benefit from this are welcome to participate. The Forum has invited Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Malaysia's Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire Patrick Achi and IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva to attend the annual conference. China's new Premier Li Qiang will attend the opening ceremony and deliver the keynote on March 30. Premier Li will talk about the possibilities of China's "high-quality development" and the success and expansion of the Belt and Road Initiative, now celebrating its 10th anniversary.

Prior to the Boao Forum, the China Development Forum took place in Beijing, which drew many U.S. business leaders, eager to expand their operations in what is now the largest consumer market in the world. The Chinese Commerce Secretary met personally with dozens of U.S. business

leaders to assure them that China's "opening up" to foreign investment will continue.

While China's recent offensive to secure Western support has remained affected by the Covid shutdowns and now the U.S. attempt to isolate China, there is a clear realization that the Chinese economy remains the powerhouse of the world economy. In addition, Beijing has released a report underlining that the regional financial structure in Asia, the "Asia Moment" as they call it, provides greater security for investment in the face of the onset of a major financial blowout in the Wall Street/City of London financial system.

Saudi Prince Mohammed bin Salman Makes Phone Call to Xi Jinping

March 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—Speaking by phone on March 28 with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, President Xi Jinping said that China is ready to work with Saudi Arabia to make all-out efforts to build a China-Arab community with a shared future in the new era and contribute more to peace, stability, and development in the Middle East.

Xi pointed out that with the joint efforts of China, Saudi Arabia, and Iran, the talks between Saudi Arabia and Iran in Beijing achieved significant results on March 10, with an important demonstration of enhancing the unity and cooperation of regional countries and easing regional tensions, and widely receiving praise by the international community.

Xi expressed the hope that Saudi Arabia and Iran will uphold the spirit of good neighborliness and continue to improve their relations on the basis of their talks in Beijing. The President stressed that China is ready to continue to support the follow-up process.

Prince bin Salman, who is the Saudi Prime Minister, said that China is playing an increasingly important and constructive role in regional and international affairs, which is much appreciated by the Saudi side. Riyadh attaches great importance to the development of relations with Beijing, he said, and is willing to work with China to open up new prospects for

cooperation, one result of which has led Saudi Aramco to build two new oil refineries in China for processing Saudi oil.

STRATEGIC SHOWDOWN

Russian Nuclear Weapons in Belarus Result from Reckless Western Policies, Says Former Yugoslav Foreign Minister

March 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—The March 25 announcement by Russian President Vladimir Putin that, at the request of Belarus, Russia will deploy tactical nuclear weapons to that country, should be seen as a serious warning to the West to stop its escalation, said Zivadin Jovanovic, former Yugoslav Foreign Minister (1998-2000) on March 27. Jovanovic told TASS in an interview, that the Russia's deployment of tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus is a response to the actions of countries of the collective West, including the British announcement of plans to deliver depleted-uranium ammunition to Ukraine.

Jovanovic warned: "I think that the agreement on the deployment of Russian nuclear weapons in Belarus is a very serious response and a warning to the so-called collective West (the United States, NATO, the European Union). It is a response to the escalation and the direct influence by NATO countries into the conflict in Ukraine, to the reckless actions to add fuel to the fire by means of advanced weapons, intermediate-range missiles, tanks, warplanes and other offensive weapons for targeting Russia's territory."

The collective West has deployed nuclear weapons on bases in at least five countries: namely Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Poland and Romania have missile defense systems capable of using nuclear warheads. Those countries that don't have nuclear weapons so far, are spending huge sums to buy advanced U.S. bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons, such as Germany, which has allocated €100 billion to purchase American F-16A bombers.

Moreover: "Last but not least, the doctrine of the preemptive use of nuclear weapons is related to the collective West."

Jovanovic also noted that depleted-uranium ammunition in 1995 and 1999 had caused a significant incidence of cancer in former Yugoslavia, with fatal effects not only on Yugoslav citizens, but also many Italian, Spanish, and other troops who had served in the NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR).

Jovanovic chairs the <u>Belgrade Forum for a World of Equals</u>. He participated in the Second Seminar of Current and Former Legislators cosponsored by the Schiller Institute on Oct. 27, 2022, "<u>For World Peace</u>, <u>Stop the Danger of Nuclear War</u>." He is a signer to the <u>Declaration of China Experts from All Over the World</u> organized by Helga Zepp-LaRouche on March 23, 2021. His recent statement reflects a growing sense of alarm among responsible personalities in Europe in the face of the West's nuclear brinkmanship.

Russian Ambassador Hits Hypocrisy of U.S. Response to Russian Plan To Deploy Nuclear Weapons to Belarus

March 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—State Department deputy spokesman Vedant Patel condemned Russian President Vladimir Putin's March 26 televised remarks about placing of Russian tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, during his regular briefing yesterday. "This is the latest example of irresponsible nuclear rhetoric that we have seen from Russia. No other country is inflicting such damage on arms control, nor seeking to undermine strategic stability in Europe. Russia's decision led to the termination of the INF Treaty in 2019. It recently purported to suspend participation in New START. No other country has raised the prospect of potential nuclear use in connection with this conflict," he said. "Let's remember no country is threatening Russia or threatening President Putin. And as the G7 has made clear, any use of chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons in this conflict would be met with severe consequences."

To which Russian Ambassador to the U.S. <u>Anatoly Antonov</u> replied: "U.S. officials have an extremely short memory. It is Washington that has long been systematically destroying the legal basis of bilateral relations in strategic sphere. Trying to find a speck in someone else's eye, they stopped

seeing the log in their own eye a long time ago." Antonov went on to list the 2002 U.S. withdrawal from the ABM Treaty, and the withdrawals from the INF and Open Skies treaties. "In 2022, the Administration unilaterally 'froze' the strategic stability dialogue," he said. "The U.S. failure to comply with the central limits of New START and its steps to undermine our national security led to our suspension of the Treaty."

As for Patel's criticism of President Putin, "it is a vivid example of hypocrisy of the American politics," Antonov continued. "For the last 60 years Washington has been playing a key role in NATO's nuclear sharing missions by supporting deployment of its tactical nuclear weapons in five non-nuclear weapon states—Belgium, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and Turkiye. The militaries of these countries, together with the U.S. military, practice to use these munitions in combat. Supporting infrastructure has been built on their territory. In the near future U.S. air bombs deployed in Europe will be replaced by a new upgraded version allowing NATO to increase its nuclear capabilities."

UN Rejects Russian Resolution To Establish International Investigation of Attack on Nord Stream Pipelines

March 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—The UN Security Council failed yesterday to pass a Russian draft resolution on an international investigation into the terrorist attack on the Nord Stream pipelines. The vote was three in favor—Russia, China and Brazil—and twelve abstentions, reported TASS.

Russian Ambassador to the UN <u>Vassily Nebenzia</u> told the UNSC that the Russian resolution called for the establishment of an international independent commission to conduct a comprehensive, transparent, and impartial investigation into the circumstances of the incident. "At the final stages of consultations on our draft resolution, the only argument that we heard from the colleagues who doubted whether an international investigation was needed, was that we first should wait for the results of national investigations," he said. "To that, we must say that such inquiries may last forever in the same inefficient and non-transparent manner, while we lose precious time." He had already noted earlier that the Danish,

Swedish, and German investigations had provided Russia with nothing but formal replies. The pipelines are majority owned by Russia's Gazprom. "Therefore, unless there is an objective and transparent international investigation, we will not be able to find out the truth," he said.

After the vote, U.S. Ambassador Robert Wood, Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs, not only denied U.S. involvement in the attack—an accusation that Nebenzia didn't make—but said that the Russia resolution "was an attempt to discredit the work of ongoing national investigations and prejudice any conclusions they reach that do not comport to Russia's predetermined and political narrative. It was not an attempt to seek the truth."

"When we raised the issue of an objective international investigation, the tactic of our American and European colleagues narrowed down to denying the involvement of the United States on the one hand and preventing a transparent and impartial inquiry into the circumstances of the sabotage on the other," Nebenzia said <u>in his remarks following the vote</u>. "The more evidence testifying to the involvement of Washington and its NATO allies came to surface, the more vocal the Western bloc was getting about alleged inexpediency of an international investigation.

"What does this mean? One does not need to be a detective or an analyst to realize that the United States and the allies are covering up the tracks, i.e., by adding more speculations and absurd versions while refusing to comment on the unflattering facts that are revealed. If the United States was interested in establishing the facts and holding the guilty to account, then Washington would act differently."

Nebenzia also asked Wood directly to explain the meaning of Biden's statement, in early 2022, that the U.S. would "end" the pipelines. "Russia has no credibility when it comes to this issue of protecting critical infrastructure," Wood said in reply. "Just look at what it's doing to Ukraine."

"When they have nothing to answer, they always shift the focus on another issue," Nebenzia told reporters afterwards. "That's their tactics. We learned it a long time ago."

China Responds to UN Security Council Failure To Support Russian Call for Investigation of Nord Stream Attack

March 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—"What is the U.S. afraid of?" asked Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning at her daily press conference today, with regard to Russia's proposal for an international investigation of the Sept. 26, 2022 attack that destroyed the Nord Stream gas pipelines. "The U.S. is usually enthusiastic about investigating developing countries, yet it has been hesitant to do so on an incident that seriously threatens international peace and security. This is a double standard."

The Russian resolution would have called on the UN Secretary General to create an independent international investigation into the destruction of the Nord Stream pipelines.

China's deputy permanent representative to the UN told reporters on March 27 that an "international investigation will not be [in] conflict with national ones currently underway" by Germany, Denmark and Sweden.

Russia Fires Hypersonic Missile at Target in Sea of Japan

March 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—Russia's Navy has fired supersonic anti-ship missiles at a mock target in the Sea of Japan, the Russian Defense Ministry said today.

"In the waters of the Sea of Japan, missile ships of the Pacific Fleet fired Moskit cruise missiles at a mock enemy sea target," the ministry said in a statement published on its official site. The target, located at a distance of about 100 km, was successfully hit directly from two Moskit cruise missiles.

The Moskit missile is a medium-range supersonic ramjet-powered cruise missile that can carry conventional and nuclear warheads, capable of destroying a ship within a range of up to 120 km.

The P-270 Moskit missile has the NATO reporting name of SS-N-22 Sunburn.

Japan's Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi said Tokyo will stay vigilant against Moscow's military operations, adding that no damage had been reported after the missile launches. "As Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues, Russian forces are also becoming more active in the Far East, including Japan's vicinities," Hayashi told a regular press conference.

The firing of the missiles comes a week after two Russian strategic bomber planes, capable of carrying nuclear weapons, flew over the Sea of Japan for more than seven hours in what Moscow said was a "planned flight."

German Battle Tanks Arrive in Ukraine

March 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—The 18 Leopard 2 tanks promised by the German government to Kiev have been delivered to Ukraine, *Der Spiegel* reports, citing its own sources. It is about two months since the decision was openly made by the German authorities. The latest tanks, according to *Der Spiegel*, left Germany at the end of last week. About 40 Marder infantry fighting vehicles have also arrived in the combat zone. Berlin keeps the exact route of arms supplies secret for security reasons, the magazine says.

Initially, Germany promised to supply 14 Leopard 2A6 tanks to Ukraine. However, there were not enough models for a tank battalion, and Berlin decided to send 4 more vehicles to Kiev.

'Experts' Demand That U.S. Actively Oppose Arab Countries' Normalization of Relations with Syria

March 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—Forty so-called Syria "experts" and former government officials who ran policy on Syria in previous administrations, are demanding that the White House do more than just pay lip service to preventing the normalization of relations with Syria by many Arab countries. "Unconditional regime normalization is not inevitable," they wrote in a letter on March 27 to President Joe Biden and Secretary of State

Antony Blinken. "Opposing regime normalization in word only is not enough, as tacitly allowing it is short-sighted and damaging to any hope for regional security and stability."

Signers to the letter, obtained by Al-Monitor, include former U.S. special envoys to Syria Frederic Hof, James Jeffrey and Joel Rayburn and former Assistant Secretaries of State for Near Eastern Affairs Jeffrey Feltman and Anne Patterson. Also signing on were former CENTCOM chief Gen. Kenneth "Frank" McKenzie, former CIA Acting Director John McLaughlin, and William Roebuck, former U.S. deputy special envoy to the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS.

Charles Lister, a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute, who coordinated the letter, accused the administration of publicly opposing normalization while privately giving Arab states a tacit yellow light. The U.S. "message is, we will never normalize and we discourage normalization," Lister complained. "None of that is, 'Don't you dare normalize with the regime.'"

The letter argues that regional normalization "erodes the international community's capacity to shape a political process aimed at meaningfully resolving the crisis." It lays out several recommendations for "an alternative and actionable vision" for Syria, including maintaining a light U.S. military footprint in northeast Syria in partnership with the (Kurdish dominated) Syrian Democratic Forces ostensibly to sustain the campaign against ISIS.

In other words, the letter demands that the Biden administration keep doing what the U.S. has been doing in Syria: maintain an illegal military occupation in the country along with the genocidal sanctions and encourage separatism among Kurdish militias.

U.S. POLITICAL & ECONOMIC

Ron Paul's Visionary Plan To Protect U.S. Troops in Syria

March 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—"Here's an easy way to protect U.S. forces in Syria from further 'Iran-allied' attacks," writes <u>Ron Paul</u>: "Bring them home. Tomorrow. Do not wait another day!"

The Texan writes of the China-brokered warming of relations on March 10 between Saudi Arabia and Iran. "Republicans and Democrats in the U.S. both love to attack China, but China has achieved what the U.S. has resisted for years: peace in the region. Should we be surprised that the continued U.S. occupation is not welcome in the Middle East?" he asks.

"The United States occupies that huge chunk of Syria where the oil and agriculture is located ... and [is] preventing the natural wealth of Syria [from being] used to rebuild that country. Is it any wonder why the U.S. is so unpopular in the Middle East?"

"How hypocritical is it, that the Biden administration has spent \$100 billion of our dollars to expel Russia from occupying proportionally less territory in Ukraine than Washington occupies in Syria?" he wonders.

IRS Visited Matt Taibbi's Home While He Testified Before Congress

March 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—On March 9, an IRS agent visited the home of investigative journalist Matt Taibbi, leaving a note demanding that he contact the IRS within four days. The *Wall Street Journal* reports that Taibbi's 2018 and 2021 returns were rejected over issues of identity theft. But Taibbi had never heard anything about his 2018 return in the four years since its filing, and in any event, the question is not monetary—Taibbi is owed a refund.

Rep. Jim Jordan wrote to the IRS Commissioner and to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen demanding answers about the obvious intimidation being used against Taibbi: "In light of the hostile reaction to Mr. Taibbi's reporting among left-wing activists, and the IRS's history as a tool of government abuse, the IRS's actions could be interpreted as an attempt to

intimidate a witness before Congress. We expect your full cooperation with our inquiry." Jordan writes that "the circumstances ... are incredible."

<u>Taibbi's March 9 testimony</u> focused largely on government pressure on, and coordination with social media companies to the effect of censoring speech in ways that would violate the First Amendment.

COLLAPSING WESTERN SYSTEM

Biden 'Summit for Democracy' Circus Is More Barnum & Bailey

March 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—U.S. President Joe Biden's three-day "Summit for Democracy" began on March 28 with the dual objective of garnering support for the Western offensive against the so-called "autocratic countries," namely Russia and China, and to create the illusion that the U.S. also supports a "peace plan" for Ukraine, namely, Zelenskyy's "Help us throw out the Russians and there will be peace." While a few countries have expressed support for this unworkable proposal, some have simply said that they were interested in a ceasefire as soon as possible. The "Summit" is a hybrid online event, with portions occurring simultaneously.

Tomorrow will be the plenary, addressed by Biden and the other "leaders" whom he has succeeded in bringing on as co-hosts, Zambia, the Netherlands, South Korea, and Costa Rica.

Russia's Foreign Ministry released a statement, saying "We are strongly against imposing 'democracy' in the American interpretation as an indisputable and the only possible measure of things." And China responded to a media question that "We applaud the remarks of the Russian side," at its daily briefing. "What our world needs today is not to stoke division in the name of democracy and pursue de facto supremacy-oriented unilateralism, but to strengthen solidarity and cooperation and uphold true multilateralism on the basis of the purposes and principles of the UN charter," said Mao Ning. Russian Ambassador to the U.S. Anatoly Antonov told *Newsweek* March 27: "I am convinced that the attempts to use the human rights doctrine to play geopolitical games destroying sovereignty of

states and to justify Western political, financial, economic and ideological dominance should cease. In today's complex and turbulent world, it is important to protect and preserve such fundamental principles of international accord as sovereign equality and non-interference in the affairs of other states."

EXECUTIVE INTELLIGENCE REVIEW

March 31 EIR: 'War and Financial Collapse—Solutions Are Available!'

March 28, 2023 (EIRNS)—*EIR* Vol. 50, No. 13 goes to subscribers with the issue title: "War and Financial Collapse—Solutions Are Available!" On the cover are Presidents Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

This week's reprint from Lyndon LaRouche (in Section III) is an 18-page essay written July 18, 2000, titled "On a Basket of Hard Commodities: Trade Without Currency." He concludes:

"The jewel of all civilization, is the development of the perfectly sovereign cognitive powers of the individual person. The promotion of the development of that individual, those powers, and the realization of the benefit each might contribute to the present and future humanity, must be the conception which motivates all our shaping of economic policies. That must be the cast in fact; that must be a shared understanding among the parties.

"A basket of commodities, as I have outlined that case here, is thus to be understood as a shared commitment to do good. The issue of economy is, therefore, not the exact price to be placed on any commodity, but the good will expressed in the way a reasonable estimate of a fair price is adopted. On that basis, a reasonable price for a unit basket of commodities, will be the right price in practice."

The issue opens with an Editorial by Harley Schlanger: "ICC Hypocrisy: Putin Indicated on 20th Anniversary of the Invasion of Iraq."

There follows a short advertisement for the April 15-16 Schiller Institute conference, "Without the Development of All Nations, There Can Be No

<u>Lasting Peace for the Planet</u>," that includes a concert with the Schiller Institute NYC Chorus on April 16. A link to register is provided.

Section I, "Responding to the Strategic Crisis," contains a three-piece package:

- Helga Zepp-LaRouche's Live Dialogue from March 22, titled "War and Financial Collapse—Solutions Are Available!"
- "After Losing the People, Macron Loses His Mind! Will He Lose His Head?" by Karel Vereycken, Vice-President, *Solidarité & Progrès*, Paris.
- "The U.S. Invasion of Iraq, Twenty Years Later: The LaRouches Were More Than Right." Excerpts from keynotes by Lyndon LaRouche and Helga Zepp-LaRouche to the March 21-23, 2003 Schiller Institute/ICLC conference, "How To Reconstruct a Bankrupt World," in Bad Schwalbach, Germany.

Section II, "Political Economy," carries three pieces:

- "China's 'Two Sessions': Boost Science Research, National Self-Reliance," from Richard A. Black, Schiller Institute Representative at the United Nations. Included is a short piece, "President Xi Launches Global Civilization Initiative," also by Richard A. Black.
- "Forty Years' Systemic Disintegration of American Railroads," by Richard Freeman.
 - A Science & Technology column.

Section III, "Lyndon LaRouche," his July 18, 2000 Feature:

• "On a Basket of Hard Commodities: Trade Without Currency."