

Editorial

Wars along the Silk Road

There is a pattern of wars emerging in the Middle East, the former Soviet Union, and Central Asia—all along the ancient Silk Road, which stretched from China to the Mediterranean, and thence connected into Europe. This is no coincidence, as this region is now the subject of an intensive infrastructure development effort by China, Iran, and other nations. The revived Anglo-French “Entente Cordiale” is determined to block that effort.

In our July 17, 1992 issue, *EIR* published a cover feature, “Eurasian Rail Project Paves Road to Peace,” which presented a detailed development project proposed by the Schiller Institute. It called for the construction of a multi-connected series of rail lines, a Eurasian land-bridge, following the path of the historic Silk Road. The Chinese government has proceeded along exactly these lines. Its grand projects, now in operation, were the subject of a conference in Beijing on May 7-9, 1996, in which a Schiller Institute delegation, headed by Helga Zepp LaRouche, participated.

Such a rail grid provides links from Western Europe to Turkey and Iran, to the nations of the former Soviet Union, and to China. This will bring back, to the presently depressed regions through which the railroad travels, the kind of flourishing cities which existed prior to the devastation wrought by Genghis Kahn.

This perspective is anathema to the House of Windsor and its French allies, led by President Jacques Chirac. The Anti-Defamation League faction in Israel and the United States has played a most important part in British efforts to ensure that the project for reviving the Silk Road would never become a reality.

This is the context in which to view recent Israeli aggressive actions against the Palestinians, and the outbreak of war and threats of war, which would embroil the Arabs and the Turks, reach into Pakistan and Afghanistan, even perhaps India.

The Franco-British gameplan is the tried and true British tactic of balance-of-power politics, most notably connected to the name of the British theorist Halford

Mackinder, who was part of the British Round Table grouping. His idea was to guarantee the hegemony of the British Empire by encouraging perpetual warfare among nations in what he designated as the heartland: the region encompassed by the proposed land-bridge.

On July 25, a leading U.S. Republican Party think-tanker, Yossef Bodansky, expressed this position in a series of pamphlets. Bodansky declared that the Euro-Asian land-bridge should be considered as a *casus belli* for the West. He denounced the Chinese-Pakistani-Iranian rail grid as a cause of international terrorism.

Bodansky is the research director of the Republican Party’s Congressional Task Force on Terrorism, and an important spokesman of the lunatic Ariel Sharon faction in Israel. Not to be overlooked is the fact that, while the breakdown of peace in the Mideast is of major strategic consequence, immediately, the breakdown of Clinton’s Mideast peace initiative also offers a possible tactical advantage to Netanyahu’s and Sharon’s friends in the Republican Party.

In July, Bodansky wrote: “Beijing’s present and near-future grand strategy considers the revival of the Silk Road as a primary regional strategic entity. The on-land transportation system—stretching along the traditional Silk Road—is of crucial significance to the consolidation of the Trans-Asian Axis—Beijing’s key to global power posture and strategic safety. The Pakistani strategic calculation is that if Pakistan is the dominant or hegemonic power over the western gateways to China . . . Islamabad will be in a position to exert influence over the entire Trans-Asian Axis.” Bodansky claimed that terrorist actions by the Afghan mujahideen are subordinate to this Pakistani strategic gameplan.

This pretended danger is intended to be the pretext for fanning the conflagration. A succession of supposedly small wars can easily go far beyond the Middle East, or Central Asia, and lead to global conflict, by miscalculation. The Entente Bestiale intends to engineer the destruction of the greatest promise of this century—revival of the Silk Road. They must be stopped.