

For the Western world, China's rise is also beneficial. Cheaper goods made in China save the average American family \$1,000 a year. Just like Steven Jobs' Apple innovation, China's technological innovation put pressure on the West to break monopolies and promote a faster social development. China has joined most of the international treaties and international organizations established after World War II. And it is the biggest force defending the international order, rather than withdrawing as easily as President Trump did.

Western discourse creates fear of China, believing that China would replace Western hegemony. But, it is actually the fear of a country that is no longer obeying their orders, so that it can no longer do whatever it wants. This worry is arrogant and selfish. The West cannot dominate the world forever. Every country has independent life.

The West fears that mainland China will forcefully unify Taiwan. I would like to say that Taiwan is a part of China, and more than 180 countries in the world have established diplomatic relations with mainland China, all of which recognize this. Mainland China has been working hard to resolve the issues of reunification peacefully with utmost patience. Now, I think it is the United States that is provoking—exporting arms to Taiwan, creating instability. If there's no U.S. intervention, I'm con-

fident that China can achieve peaceful reunification.

Some Western media also spread rumors: Why does China's military spending increase so fast every year? Well, U.S. military expenditure is three times that of China. Think about NATO's bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Yugoslavia in 1999, the U.S. military planned hitting of a Chinese fighter jet in the South China Sea in 2001, the fact that U.S. aircraft carriers often travel through Taiwan Strait, and the technological blockade of many years. Added to that, the U.S. is threatening China. Isn't China still allowed to improve its defense capacity?

The basic factor is that all the frictions between China and the United States in the past were provoked by the United States first, and China was only moved later. Now, if you think about it calmly: military frictions, trade wars, ecological accusations, Huawei, Xinjiang, Hong Kong, and Taiwan—which one is not the United States provoking first?

All in all, I think a rising China is beneficial to the world. The stronger China is, the less the U.S. will dare to provoke China, and the more stable China-U.S. relations will be. And the stronger China is, the more peaceful and developed the world will be. So, my conclusion is that: Trust China.

This is what I want to share with you. Thank you.

Col. Richard H. Black (ret.)

## Ukraine Has Lost the War: But Thermonuclear War Still Threatens

*This is the edited transcript of the presentation of Col. Richard Black (ret.) to Panel 1, "A Decoupling of the Two Systems or a New Paradigm for Humanity?" of the Schiller Institute's June 18-19 Conference, "There Can Be No Peace Without the Bankruptcy Reorganization of the Dying Trans-Atlantic Financial System." Col. Black was head of the U.S. Army's Criminal Law Division at the Pentagon and served in the Virginia legislature first as Representative and then as a State Senator.*



Schiller Institute  
Col. Richard H. Black (ret.)

Thanks for letting me join you today.

I want to start by making clear that I'm not some left-wing pacifist. I served in uniform for 32 years, love my country, risked my life for it hundreds of times. I flew 269 combat missions as a Marine helicopter pilot. My aircraft was hit by ground fire on four flights. I volunteered for ground combat with the 1st Marine Division and made 70 bloody combat patrols. I was wounded and my radiomen were

both killed fighting beside me as we tried to rescue a surrounded Marine outpost.

I was first served as a Marine Corps pilot, then later as an Army lawyer. I retired as chief of the Criminal Law Division at the Pentagon, testifying before Congress, preparing executive orders for the president, and advising the Senate Armed Services Committee on issues of national concern.

Later, I was a conservative voice in the Virginia House and Senate for a period spanning two decades.

Let me start right off by saying that I believe that Ukraine has lost the war. Of course, the war isn't over, but it is lost. Let me show you why. It's become an artillery duel. Russia fires 50,000 shells a day, ten times more than Ukraine. The *Washington Post* says Ukraine is almost completely out of ammunition and there are no replacements for its Soviet-era ordnance.

On June 10th, the *Washington Post* reported that Ukraine is suffering 1,000 casualties a day, including 200 killed. The rate of casualties has doubled in just 3 weeks. Let's put that in perspective. Vietnam was America's last truly bloody war. We lost 60,000 men in 10 years. That's about 6,000 killed each year. With a much smaller population, Ukraine is losing 6,000 soldiers killed every month. This is a casualty rate 12 times higher than we suffered in Vietnam. You have to look at the populations of both nations. Before the war broke out, Ukraine had 43 million people. But with refugees it's down to just 38 million today. The U.S. population, during Vietnam, numbered about 200 million. So, our population was roughly five times larger than Ukraine's. So, on a per capita basis, this means that their casualty rate is roughly 60 times greater than the U.S. suffered during the very bloody war in Vietnam. Ukrainians have fought with courage. But no nation can sustain such casualty rates for long. Ukraine is finished.

## **NATO Has Failed**

On June 12th, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg all but admitted that Ukraine would soon be forced to sue for peace. He said,

The only question is what price are you willing to pay for peace? How much territory, how much independence, how much sovereignty ... are you willing to sacrifice for peace?

Stoltenberg's remarks suggest that NATO recog-

nizes the war is lost. It's now become an unpleasant distraction that simply needs to be wrapped up as far as NATO is concerned. The sanctions war has failed. The entire financial might of the Western World was unleashed against Russia. The Biden administration swore that the Russian ruble would be crushed into dust. They boasted of destroying the Russian economy and inspiring a revolution. They would create such hardships that Russians would revolt and overthrow their President. But today, the ruble is stronger than before the war. This year, it has been the strongest of all currencies. Russian inflation peaked around 15% and is expected to subside. But as their inflation tops out, Europe's and America's has just begun skyrocketing dangerously. The price of bitcoin dropped 5,000 points just overnight. The stock market is becoming extremely erratic and rocky.

Biden's attempt to strangle Russian trade has failed. Far from blocking their trade with other nations, *The Economist* reports that Russia is generating a record trade surplus, with a billion dollars a day flowing in from oil and gas. Russia's \$250 billion trade surplus more than doubled its surplus in the year before the war. Despite sanctions, Russia has forged stronger ties with China, India, South Africa, Iran, Brazil, Saudi Arabia; all of which continue trading at enhanced levels with Russia. Important countries in the Global South are refusing to obey Washington's order to impose sanctions. Independent countries fear the U.S., but they resent being told who they may or may not trade with. Dictating sanctions policy to sovereign nations is diminishing the world's respect for America.

From the onset of war, Russians have never experienced shortages of food, housing, heating fuel, or gasoline. Anyone who expects Russians to crack from the loss of Gucci purses or Big Mac hamburgers do not understand the Russian psyche. Hopes of ousting President Putin have died. On March 1st, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson predicted that sanctions would "bring down the Putin regime." Since then, Boris Johnson has nearly been ousted himself in a parliamentary vote of no confidence. At the same time, President Putin's popularity rose to 83%, which is greater than any of his Western counterparts.

## **False Narratives Fail**

Meanwhile, the propaganda war is unraveling. At the outset of war, the United States unleashed a carefully orchestrated barrage of anti-Russian propaganda;

all dissenting voices were blocked from the media. Western media breathlessly reported the dramatic exploits of someone called the “Ghost of Kyiv,” a pilot so skillful that he shot down an incredible 40 Russian jets, before heroically dying in battle. But the Ghost of Kyiv was a complete hoax. He was a media concoction, a fiction, a fraud who never existed at all.

There was another important false report about Ukrainian border guards, trapped by the Russian Navy on Snake Island. Ukraine reported that they refused to surrender, cursed their tormentors, and fought to the death. Zelenskyy even announced they would each receive the nation’s highest honor, the Hero of Ukraine. But this too was a fraud and a hoax. Those guards facing a Russian warship, actually did the sensible thing and surrendered without a fight. They were taken unharmed aboard a Russian vessel and returned to Ukraine as part of a prisoner swap.

Ukraine’s use of concocted stories like these puts in question not only those reports, but others claiming war crimes or battlefield victories. Yet until recently, the U.S. and NATO unquestioningly cited inaccurate Ukrainian assessments of the war. Recently, however, news outlets have begun acknowledging the possibility of a Ukrainian defeat. On June 10th, *Newsweek* reported that even the deputy head of Ukrainian military intelligence has admitted that Ukraine was at risk of losing the war to Russia. The first cracks are forming, and soon the world must come to grips with reality: The war is lost.

Americans are losing interest in the war. On June 13th, the British outlet, the *Express*, reported a poll showing that Americans think that the shortage of baby formula is five times more important than the war in Ukraine. Only 5% of the population see Ukraine as a top priority compared with 36% who worry about inflation, the economy, and jobs. Five percent now believe that sanctions have hurt the U.S. more than Russia. Americans are fickle, and they have moved on.

## Europe Is the Loser

Europe’s the big loser in this war. U.S. sanctions blocked Europe from using reliable, low-cost Russian gas and oil. We forced them to import costly liquified natural gas from America. U.S. sanctions have battered Europe, which relies heavily on imported Russian commodities and fuel. America’s infatuation with alternative energy has over years compelled Europeans to rely

on undependable solar and wind power. Restricting access to Russian oil and gas makes the coming winter a time of great peril for Europe.

One key U.S. military objective had always been to block Germany from opening its vital Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline. That pipeline was built by several countries over a span of 11 years. It was intended to double gas flow to Germany and the rest of Europe and to guarantee their energy security. But after spending a fortune on the pipeline, the U.S. has rendered the massive project useless, in order to shift the market to American liquid natural gas. Actions like these show that Europe no longer enjoys full sovereignty; it is now subordinate to the whims of London and Washington.

Before the war, Europe operated with moderate defense budgets. Russia was no threat and China was an important trading partner. Secure with its neighbors, Germany chose to maintain just 200 operational tanks. But war hysteria has forced Germany and other NATO countries into an unnecessary arms race that will impose enormous increases on European defense costs for many years. Ironically, the march to war has effectively subordinated the European Union to NATO, thus restoring Great Britain to its position of dominance over continental Europe, despite Brexit.

## End the Useless Slaughter

Now nuclear war still looms. Voices continue speaking of nuclear war today. Heather Conley, head of the influential German Marshall Fund, does not rule out a further escalation, saying that the West must not be intimidated by Russia. Conley said, “We must prepare for the use of tactical nuclear weapons.” A European official separately suggested arming Ukraine itself with nuclear weapons, which is an extraordinarily reckless action likely to trigger an unconventional Russian response.

It’s time for Ukraine to negotiate for peace and end the useless slaughter. Perhaps it could propose a framework reminiscent of the highly successful Austrian State Treaty of 1955, which saw the Soviet Union and allied powers withdraw their forces from Austria in exchange for Austria amending its constitution to make it forever a neutral, non-aligned nation and forbidding foreign troops from ever setting foot in Austria again. Ukraine could adopt similar provisions.

NATO should consider a separate treaty designed to make Ukraine a permanent nuclear buffer zone between

East and West. By agreeing that Ukraine would never be admitted to NATO, it could permanently reduce regional tensions and significantly reduce the risk that either side might accidentally trigger a deadly nuclear incident. By acting before its defensive lines collapse, Ukraine could demand control over coastal areas surrounding the port at Odessa; it could insist on controlling all of Kyiv on both sides of the Dnieper River; and

it might insist that Russia withdraw any troops west of that river. Obviously, control of many other areas must also be negotiated, but this might be a starting framework for peace.

That concludes my remarks today. I'm very grateful to the Schiller Institute for its effective efforts at promoting peace and for preempting the insane drive toward nuclear war. Thank you.

Sam Pitroda

## India and the Emerging New World Architecture

*This is the edited transcript of the presentation of Sam Pitroda to Panel 1, "A Decoupling of the Two Systems or a New Paradigm for Humanity?" of the Schiller Institute's June 18-19 Conference, "There Can Be No Peace Without the Bankruptcy Reorganization of the Dying Trans-Atlantic Financial System." Mr. Pitroda is an innovator, entrepreneur, and policymaker. He has been a Cabinet Minister and advisor serving over the years seven Indian prime ministers.*



Sam Pitroda

that is going on in the world today, I worry about the fact that we are deciding on our future by looking at our past. It is unfortunate that we still worry about unipolar, bipolar world. We still want to dominate other countries, take advantage of poorer people, and really not focus on the potential that technology offers today, a potential to equalize the world, network people, collaborate, cooperate, and co-create. That is our potential, as opposed to our architecture today which is still predominantly designed for command

and control. And this really worries me a lot.

I wrote a book recently, called *Redesign the World*. The main focus of that book is all about the potential of technology, especially hyper-connectivity. Hyper-connectivity is all about networking; it's all about scaling back, connecting smaller enterprises. It is about non-hierarchy; it is about openness, accessibility, connectivity, democratization, decentralization. Unfortunately, we are not using a lot of these ideas to build a new world. New tools are being used to promote old world concepts, and not create a new world in which there is prosperity for all, there is dignity for mankind, and there is clear focus on planet and people.

Every activity today is all about power and profits. Markets go up and down because of some global conflict somewhere. And we have been witnessing that in the last few months because of crisis in Ukraine. On one hand, we can justify what's going on. On the other hand, we realize that irrespective of justification, inno-

Ladies and Gentlemen, greetings from Chicago!

I will begin by thanking the Schiller Institute, Helga, Dennis, David, and others for giving me this opportunity. It is indeed a special privilege and honor to be with these distinguished speakers. I come to you more as a global citizen, concerned about not just the present Ukraine crisis and potential impact on our peace, prosperity, food, energy, and economy, but *also* as someone who is very concerned about the future of humanity.

On one hand, we have great potential in the technologies of the future, especially IT, life sciences, and energy, to transform our world. Unfortunately, our focus is still on power and profits, and not on planet and people. I'm here to represent my own personal views, as an Indian who has lived in the U.S. for 58 years, and who admires democracy, freedom, justice, equality, diversity, human development, technology, and believes in truth, trust, and love.

When I look at the global geopolitical conversation