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Russia, China Respond to BMD; Syria Conflict Deadlocked
Drone Strikes: Obama Is al-Qaeda's No. 1 Recruiter
To Go Ahead, Look Back to When New Jersey 'Worked'

2013: The Year Of Glass-Steagall



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EIR

From the Managing Editor

As we approach the Second Inaugural of Barack Obama, cynically scheduled to coincide with Martin Luther King Day—a great man with whom Obama bears no similarity in character, despite the color of his skin—I am reminded of an earlier Second Inaugural, nearly 150 years ago, of our greatest President, Abraham Lincoln. On that occasion, in 1865, Lincoln, reflecting on the horrors of the Civil War, then nearing its bloody end, observed: "The Almighty has his own purposes. 'Woe unto the world because of offenses! for it must needs be that offenses come; but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh.'" Obama and Company would do well to heed Lincoln's warning.

The LaRouche movement has put the clear alternative to the British imperial/Obama program on the table, as laid out in this week's *Feature*, "2013: The Year of Glass-Steagall." Faced with the worst economic breakdown crisis since the 14th Century, there is now an international upsurge in favor of Glass-Steagall; see "Documentation: Worldwide Glass-Steagall Legislative Initiatives."

International reviews the strategic war threat in "Russia, China Respond to BMD; Syria Conflict Deadlocked," followed by an interview with Mother Agnès-Mariam of Syria, "Syrian War Is Being Steered from Abroad," and a report on the crisis in Mali, "Will France's Bombing of Mali Lead to a New Thirty Years War?" Former Israeli Shin Bet chief Yuval Diskin takes on Netanyahu and Barak, noting pointedly that, "There Are Worse Things Than an Iranian Bomb"; a review of former Sen. Bob Graham's *Keys to the Kingdom*, reopens the 9/11/01 investigation, asking, "Why has the present and prior Administration engaged in such a comprehensive, sustained, and, to date, largely successful cover-up?"

In *National*, "Congress Faces Countdowns on Economy, Expanded War" reports on LaRouchePAC organizing in Congress for LaRouche's threefold recovery program. Obama's killer-drone program is put under the spotlight in "Drone Strikes as Strategic Folly: Obama Is al-Qaeda's No. 1 Recruiter."

Two special items complete the issue: in *Science*, Asteroid Apophis Update: No Impact; a Call for Action," on how to defend Earth from asteroids; and in *Physical Economy,* "To Go Ahead, Look Back to When New Jersey 'Worked,'" on the infrastructure needed, and immediately available, to protect from superstorms like Sandy.



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EIRNS/Sylvia Rosas

LaRouchePAC organizing for Glass-Steagall in Burbank, Calif., December 2012.

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2013: The Year Of Glass-Steagall

Jan. 10—As 2013 begins, humanity faces the worst economic breakdown crisis that the planet has seen since the 14th-Century New Dark Age. The mega-bailouts of the predatory banks and of the international speculative financial bubble, which began in earnest in 2008, and continue *in crescendo* up to the present, have only unleashed a hyperinflationary explosion in the entire trans-Atlantic sector, along with cutbacks and austerity imposed in Europe by the hated Troika, which are extinguishing the very existence of nations—as is seen clearly and painfully in the cases of Greece, Portugal, Spain, and others. If not stopped, these policies will only worsen the crisis, bringing Greek-like conditions to the United States and elsewhere.

All sensible and moral people admit that the current policies are a disaster, and that we cannot continue along the current path. But almost no one has any idea of the solution, of a rigorous program to solve the problem at its root.

In this anguishing situation, a growing international movement has fortunately emerged in favor of the adoption in all countries of the Glass-Steagall law, which President Franklin D. Roosevelt established in the United States in 1933, and which imposes an absolute separation between commercial banking, which issues productive loans, and investment banking, which speculates with private and public funds alike. Initiated by American economist and statesman Lyndon LaRouche, the international calls for Glass-Steagall have spread from the United States, to Russia, to the United Kingdom, to the majority of countries of continental Europe, and to numerous nations in the developing sector, as we document in the attached memorandum and documentation.

Of particular importance is the fact that, on Jan. 3, 2013, the very day that the 113th Congress of the United States was sworn in, Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), and Rep. Walter Jones (R-N.C.), formally introduced to



EIRNS/James Rea

The LaRouche movement organizes for Glass-Steagall in Berlin, Aug. 13, 2011.



Sara Quilez

LaRouche supporters in Spain on the European-wide Day of Action against EU austerity and financial dictatorship, Nov. 14, 2012.



the House of Representatives H.R. 129, a bill which calls for the re-establishment of the Glass-Steagall law. Kaptur had introduced an identical bill, H.R. 1489, in the 112th Congress, which was sponsored by a total of 85 Congressmen, both Democrats and Republicans, although it was never brought to the floor for a vote. With the introduction of H.R. 129, the issue of Glass-Stegall has been placed front and center in the national and international debate.

LaRouche has established that the adoption of Glass-Steagall, both in the United States and internationally, is the essential first step to save the international economy from a systemic breakdown. But although it is necessary to immediately implement Glass-Steagall in order to stop the bloodletting, additional measures are required to reactivate the productive economy and create productive employment. In the case of the United States, it is essential to return to a Hamiltonian credit system, with a National Bank that issues new productive credit (see ***EIR***, Dec. 14, 2012); and great scientific and infrastructure projects must be set in motion, such as the North American Water and Power Alliance (NAWAPA XXI). These three programmatic points must go together to provide a solution to the current systemic crisis.

In Europe, in addition to Glass-Steagall, it is necessary to:

1. Revoke the Maastricht, Lisbon, and related EU treaties, which have only served to impose the British Empire's supranational dictatorship;

2. Leave the euro system and re-establish sovereign national currencies;

3. Protect those currencies with exchange and capital controls;

4. Establish in each nation a Credit System with its attendant National Bank, in the tradition of Alexander Hamilton, to issue long-term, low-interest credit for productive investment, especially in infrastructure;

5. Re-establish a system of fixed exchange rates among nations, as existed under the original Bretton Woods system, in order to stop speculation and foster legitimate international trade and foreign investment;

6. As stated by the document, "Appeal to Governments and Parliaments for Glass-Steagall Now!" initiated in June 2012 by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, president of Germany's Civil Rights Solidarity Movement (BüSo), and Jacques Cheminade, former French Presidential candidate and head of the Solidarité et Progrès party:

"The reconstruction of the real economy should be facilitated through long-term treaties of cooperation between sovereign nation-states, which would launch well-defined infrastructure and development projects in the context of the Mediterranean plan for an Economic Miracle, seen as a necessary extension of the Eurasian Land-Bridge. These contracts represent a de facto new credit system, a New Bretton Woods system, in the tradition of Franklin D. Roosevelt."

In the case of developing-sector countries, in addition to Glass-Steagall, additional steps are required which are similar to those mentioned above for Europe, with the exception of 1 and 2.

If you want to have a future for yourself, your children, and your nation, make sure that 2013 is the Year of Glass-Steagall.



Présidence de la République/Christelle Alix

Jacques Cheminade (right) briefed French President François Hollande on the need for a real Glass-Steagall bill, in a meeting on Dec. 7, 2012.

Documentation

Worldwide Glass-Steagall Legislative Initiatives

Jan. 9—The urgency of enforcing full, Glass-Steagall separation of the banks, as specified in Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1933 law—not the fraudulent self-policing schemes ("ring-fencing," "the Volcker rule," Liikanen, etc.) put forward by speculative finance—is being recognized and debated by leading figures across all continents as the first, necessary step towards ending the disintegration of the international financial system.

As of this writing, legislation to implement Glass-Steagall has been introduced in the legislatures of six countries, and is being hard-fought as a central issue of government in the United Kingdom and France. In the latter, a call for a global Glass-Steagall has been signed by over 250 elected officials, including a member of the National Assembly. The French fight is being led by the Solidarité et Progrès party, headed by former Presidential candidate and Lyndon LaRouche co-thinker Jacques Cheminade; the party is mobilizing the political forces required to replace the fraudulent banking reform bill presented by the Hollande government on Dec. 19, 2012, with a real Glass-Steagall law, when the Hollande bill is debated in the French Parliament in the coming weeks.

Legislation can and must be quickly prepared and introduced in other countries. For example, Finnish Minister of Culture Paavo Arhinmäki, the leader of Finland's major left-wing party, Vasemmistoliiton, supported the implementation of a Glass-Steagall law, in an article Oct. 28, 2011, in the Finnish newspaper



Finnish Culture Minister Arhinmäki supports Glass-Steagall.

Kansan Uutiset. Three committees of the Danish Parliament have heard testimony from Schiller Institute representatives on implementing Glass-Steagall to end global hyperinflation and chaos.

Glass-Steagall is being discussed at the highest levels of the Russian government as well. For example, Victor Ivanov, head of Russia's Federal Drug Control Service, has repeatedly urged the implementation of "the logic of the Glass-Steagall Act" as critical to liquidate global drug trafficking" (see *EIR*, July 13, 2012).

The status of the legislative fight in seven countries follows.





U.S. Reps. Walter Jones (R-N.C.) and Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) have submitted H.R. 129 for Glass-Steagall to the new Congress.

United States

Within hours of the opening of the 113th Congress on Jan. 3, Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) and Rep. Walter B. Jones (R-N.C.) had reintroduced legislation to revive Franklin D. Roosevelt's Glass-Steagall Act. The official title of that bill, H.R. 129, reads: "To repeal certain provisions of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act and revive the separation between commercial banking and the securities business, in the manner provided in the Banking Act of 1933, the so-called 'Glass-Steagall Act,' and for other purposes."

By the close of the previous 112th Congress, 85 Congressmen, representing both major parties, had signed onto H.R. 1489, the Glass-Steagall bill sponsored by Kaptur in the 2011-12 Congressional session with the same title and intent.

H.R. 129 has been referred to the House Financial Services Committee, and its full text will be available soon.

A companion Glass-Steagall bill is expected soon in the U.S. Senate. The legislative battle to restore Glass-Steagall was kicked off in 2010 in the Senate, when Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.) introduced an amendment to the fraudulent Dodd-Frank bank reform bill, reinstating Glass-Steagall. That effort was shot down by President Barack Obama, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, and Wall Street, the sponsors of Dodd-Frank.

Since that time, a growing force of state legislators and city councilmen, trade unions (including the AFL-CIO and the powerful Machinists Union), community bankers, farm institutions, and others, have joined the LaRouche movement in vociferously demanding restoration of Glass-Steagall. Notable figures include former Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank president Thomas Hoenig, now director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; and former Citibank chairman Sandy Weill, who in July 2012 publicly declared that Glass-Steagall was necessary, even though he had led the fight to overturn it in 1999. (See U.S. resolutions and statements of support at http://larouchepac.com/node/19643)



LPAC/Chris Jadatz

LaRouchePAC in Washington, D.C., Jan. 3.

United Kingdom

In early July 2012, a group of financiers at the center of the British financial empire, the City of London, made an unmistakable policy shift toward promotion of full Glass-Steagall bank separation, by name, in recognition that not even they could survive the onrushing collapse of their system, and therefore the system itself had to be radically reorganized. An ed-

itorial in the *Financial Times* on July 4, 2012 summed up the shift:

"The government accepted the principle of separation last year when it endorsed the conclusions of the banking commission presided over by Sir John Vickers. This argued for an internal split rather than a total separation on the basis that the diversity of assets within a universal bank could be a source of strength at times of financial stress.

"While the FT supported those conclusions, we are now ready to go further. For all the diversification benefits, the cultural tensions between investment and retail banking can only be resolved by totally separating the two, on formal Glass-Steagall-style lines. . . ."

No Glass-Steagall legislation has yet been introduced in the British Parliament, but the battle between its supporters and opponents continues to rage. The final report issued by the select Parliamentary Committee on Banking Standards on Dec. 21, 2012 called for "electrifying" the government's proposed ring-fencing with the threat that, should that not suffice, full-scale separation would be required. Committee chair Conservative MP Andrew Tyrie said, in releasing the report:

"Parliament took the unprecedented step of creating its own inquiry into banking standards, in the wake of the first revelations about the Libor scandal. The latest revelations of collusion, corruption and market-rigging beggar belief. It is the clearest illustration yet that a great deal more needs to be done to restore standards in banking. The Commission welcomes the creation of a ring-fence. It is essential that banks are restructured in a way that allows them to fail, whether inside or outside the ring-fence. But the proposals, as they stand, fall well short of what is required. . . . [W]e recommend electrification. The legislation needs to set out a reserve power for separation; the regulator needs to know he can use it."

A week later, on Dec. 27, the *Financial Times* reported the remarkable results of a poll taken by the Ipsos Mori public opinion firm at the end of 2012: More than 60% of the Members of the British Parliament, across all parties, "would support a full-scale separation in British banking, modelled on the Glass-Steagall reforms implemented in the 1930s in the United States." 66% of Tories polled supported it, as did 60% of Labour. Ipsos Mori CEO Ben Page said, "MPs are completely divided over a whole range of issues, including regulation of business generally, but are united in their view that retail and investment banking should be separated."



WEF/swiss-image.ch/Sebastian Derungs

Italy's Giulio Tremonti, a Glass-Steagall supporter and former Economy Minister, is campaigning for the February elections.

Italy

Four Glass-Steagall bills were introduced into the Italian Parliament in 2012, between the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. None of the bills were taken up by the respective parliamentary committees, and as of the legislative term just ended, the bills will have to be reintroduced following the Feb. 24-25, 2013 general elections. That is quite likely to occur, given that former Economy Minister Giulio Tremonti, the sponsor of one of the bills and a candidat in the upcoming elections, has made the implementation of Glass-Steagall and creation of a national bank to ensure a sufficient supply of productive credit, a major focus of his electoral campaign.

Since March 2012, the Northern League (Lega Nord) party has been collecting signatures on a petition calling for passage of a Glass-Steagall law.

The Lega Nord petition, and Tremonti in introducing his bill, both insist that it is necessary to "abandon the model of the so-called 'universal bank,' which is the DNA of systemic banks. . . . In order to do this, it is necessary to introduce a new, updated version of the Glass-Steagall Act of 1933. In short, now as then, it is necessary to set up a firewall, to distinguish between



Italian Senator Peterlini's poster proclaims: "The Glass-Steagall law of Roosevelt and LaRouche arrives at the Senate."

ordinary banks and gambling banks, so that ordinary banks can no longer lend money from their account holders to the gambling banks, or buy their structured products. This distinction can and must be made instantaneously. . . ."

Jan. 25, 2012: Sen. Oskar Peterlini introduced Bill No. 3112 into the Italian Senate: "Delegation to the Government for the Separation of Ordinary and Speculative Banking Activities." It was co-sponsored by 11 Senators from 3 different parties.

March 15, 2012: The Lega Nord introduced Bill No. 5054 into the Chamber of Deputies: "Delegation to the Government for the Separation of the Commercial Banking Model from the Investment Banking Model." The same text was introduced on Oct. 10, 2012 to the Senate by the Lega Nord, as Bill No. 3514.

May 18, 2012: Giulio Tremonti introduced Bill No. 5218 into the Chamber of Deputies: "Delegation to the Government for the Reform of the Banking System Through the Separation of Productive Credit and Speculative Financial Activities."

Iceland

On Oct. 24, 2012, Motion 239 for the separation of commercial banks and investment banks was reintroduced into Parliament, sponsored by 17 of its 63 members, representing all parties but one—the conservative Independence Party, which did not co-sponsor the bill because it had its own motion for bank separation. The motion reads: "Parliament resolves to entrust the Minister of Economic Affairs with the task of appointing a committee which is to revise the framework of banking services in Iceland in order to minimize—through the separation of commercial and investment banks—the risk of disruptions within the banking sector for the national economy. The committee is to examine the policy-making of neighboring countries in this regard, and to submit its proposals before Feb. 1, 2013."

The motion, debated and supported by representatives of all the parties, is now before the Economic Affairs and Trade Committee. As the government plans to put forward a more general proposal for a banking reform early this year, the co-sponsors of the motion want the government to include bank separation in its proposals for financial reforms before Feb. 1. Then there will be time for a final vote in the Icelandic Parliament (Althingi) before the national elections in April 2013.

In a message submitted to the Nov. 24-25, 2012 Schiller Institute conference in Germany on "A New Paradigm for the Survival of Civilization," the Deputy Speaker of the Icelandic Parliament, Álfheidur Ingadóttir, called for "parliamentarians from around the world to familiarize themselves with [this] bank separation motion . . . and seriously consider taking similar actions."

Belgium

Belgian Prime Minister Elio di Rupo (Socialist Party) told the daily *La Libre Belgique* (Sept. 1, 2012), when asked what kind of banking reform he was considering: "The financial assets circulating in the financial world aren't any longer, in a sufficient way, dedicated to the real economy. That isn't normal. There exists a demand, in Belgium as in other countries—for example in the United States—to break up the banks: on the one side the deposit banks, on the other, the investment banks. Ideas are being worked out, in Belgium at the national bank and on the European level."

He elaborated: "The situation is untenable. It is madness. When [Belgian banks] Dexia, Fortis . . . had difficulties, they knocked on the door of the State. To help them, the Belgian State had no other choice but to lend money and increase its volume of debt. But the same banks now are giving us lessons and claim the State is overly indebted! . . . My conviction is that we have to break up the banks, reduce their size and protect the assets of the citizens, so that we can avoid States having to intervene. Legislation has to be adopted

which makes it so that the consequences of all risk behavior go to those engaging in it. . . ."

Draft legislation (DOC 53/ 0166/001) was introduced in the House on Sept. 10, 2010, and reformulated and re-introduced on Oct. 21, 2011 (DOC 1835/001) by Meyrem Almaci (Ecolo-Groen!), Georges Gilkinet (Ecolo-Groen!), Muriel Gerkens (Ecolo-Groen!) and Stefaan Van Hecke (Ecolo-Groen!). It remains filed with the Finance Committee.

Switzerland

in September 2011, Motion 11.3857, "Introduction of a Bank Separation System (Glass-Steagall)," was submitted to the Lower House of Parliament (Nationalrat) by the Green Party. It mandates the government to take steps to introduce a Glass-Steagall reform, including conducting an analysis of the best way to implement it.

A companion bill has not been submitted to the Upper House (Ständerat), but on Sept. 19, 2012, during Upper House discussion of the "Too Big To Fail" law, member Thomas Minder stated that the TBTF law, with its increased bank reserve requirements, would not suffice, and when the next crisis hits, they would have to implement Glass-Steagall: "Again, soon we will be obliged to debate the bank separation system, as Motion 11.3857 is still in the pipeline. I will support it." During 2011, Glass-Steagall amendments to the TBTF law were defeated in both houses.

In December 2011, Motion 11.4185, "Fewer Risks with a Bank Separation System," was submitted by the Social Democratic Faction to the Lower House. It calls on the government to prepare a study on a bank separation system and how it could protect the Swiss economy, with Glass-Steagall considered as one model.

Sweden

On Oct. 3, 2011, Motion Fi234, "Commercial Banks and Investment Banks," was submitted by parliamentarians Valter Mutt and Annika Lillemets from Miljoepartiet (the Green Party). The motion referred to the 1933 Glass-Steagall Act, and proposed: "The Parliament declares to the government what is stated in the motion, to investigate a new law for the bank sector with the purpose of separating commercial banks from investment banks, and to limit the state bank guarantee to the former." The motion was defeated on June 19, 2012 by a vote of 280 to 41. All representatives of both the Green Party and the Left Party voted in support of the motion.



The Solidarité et Progrès party in France campaigns for banking separation at the office of Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici.

On Sept. 18, 2012, Motion Fi201, "Financial Regulation," was submitted by six parliamentarians from the Left Party (Ulla Andersson, Josefin Brink, Rossana Dinamarca, Christina Höj Larsen, Wiwi-Anne Johansson, and Jacob Johnson), which proposes: "The Parliament declares to the government what is stated in the motion, that it speedily mandate a parliamentary investigation for the purpose of preparing a bill that separates traditional banking activities from so-called investment activities." The motion has been referred to the Financial Committee, where it will be prepared in meetings on March 5 and 26, 2013.

On Oct 5, 2012, Motion Fi298, to "Stabilize the Banking and Finance Sector," was submitted by parliamentarians Valter Mutt, Annika Lillemets, and Jan Lindholm from Miljoepartiet (the Green Party). The motion refers to the Glass-Steagall Act, and proposes: "The parliament declares to the government what is stated in the motion, that it investigate a new law for the Swedish bank sector, for the purpose of separating commercial banks from investment banks, and limiting state bank guarantees to the former." The motion has been referred to the Financial Committee, where it will be prepared in their meetings on March 5 and 26, 2013.

Russia, China Respond to BMD; Syria Conflict Deadlocked

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Jan. 14—Russia and China have responded forcefully to the Obama Administration's plans for a global ballistic missile defense system that the two powers view as part of a U.S.-NATO strategy of encirclement and containment. The Russian government has been warning for more than a year that the U.S. BMD deployment fundamentally alters the thermonuclear strategic balance, and sees it as part of an effort by Washington to develop a first-strike capability—20 years after the end of the Cold War and 30 years after President Ronald Reagan proposed U.S.-Soviet collaboration on a global strategic defense against thermonuclear weapons.

On Jan. 9, the head of the Russian National Security Council, Nikolai Patrushev, was in Beijing meeting with his Chinese counterpart, Dai Binggou, in the latest of a series of Russian-Chinese strategic dialogues that began in 2004. At the end of the meetings, the two officials told reporters that they share a concern that the Obama Administration is deploying a global missile defense system directed against them, "including in the Asia-Pacific."

Since the beginning of the New Year, Russia has made a number of announcements about deployments of its own ABM system. Moscow announced in early January that it was installing new, state-of-the-art, Voronezh-class radar systems at three new sites: Krasnoyarsk, Altai, and Orenburg. These will give Russia a full early-warning-radar system against incoming ballistic missiles from every possible launch site.

At the same time that the announcement of the new radar deployments was being made, the Russian government invited Kazakstan to join with Russia, Belarus, and Armenia in deploying a joint ballistic missile defense shield.

Russian Naval Maneuvers

The Putin government also announced that, on Jan. 28, Russia will stage the largest naval maneuvers since the end of the Cold War, in the Black Sea and eastern Mediterranean, involving 12 ships from its Baltic, Arctic, Black Sea, and Pacific fleets. Part of the maneuvers will take place off the coast of Syria. And Russia has announced the deployment of a new generation of submarines capable of launching strategic weapons. The first of the new class of submarines was commissioned last week, at a ceremony attended by President Putin.

These renewed warnings and actions by Russia, in collaboration with China, are the latest indication that the two powers are prepared to coordinate their responses to President Obama's "Asia pivot." The U.S. and NATO have deployed advanced Patriot missile batteries to NATO member Turkey, along with AWACS high-altitude surveillance planes. The United States has also accelerated the deployment of its own advanced radar systems along the southern tier of Russia, as well as Aegis ABM-equipped destroyers to the Spanish port



Russian Ministry of Defense

In response to the placement of the U.S./NATO missile defense system on Russia's borders, the Putin government has announced the largest naval maneuvers since the end of the Cold War. Here, a test firing of a cruise missile by the naval forces of the Russian Black Sea Fleet.

of Rota, from where they can be deployed rapidly into the North Atlantic or Mediterranean.

U.S. intelligence sources confirm that, following the North Korean satellite launch last month, the Obama Administration is planning an accelerated ABM deployment into North Asia, ostensibly focused against the D.P.R.K., but also in the range of China. Should tensions rise in the Asia-Pacific region, Obama is contemplating the creation of an informal military alliance as the first step toward a NATO-style command structure, involving Japan, South Korea, Australia, Singapore, the Philippines, and possibly even Vietnam.

While in and of themselves, these moves and counter-moves may not represent an immediate threat of thermonuclear war, they come in the context of escalating regional conflicts in the Persian Gulf, the eastern Mediterranean, and throughout Africa and South Asia, all of which could escalate into a general war drawing in all of the thermonuclear-weapons powers.

Sunni-Shi'ite Conflict

Senior U.S. intelligence sources have confirmed that the British Crown and British intelligence are promoting a permanent Sunni versus Shi'ite conflict within the Islamic world, that is already wreaking havoc in Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq. London, often referred to as "Londonistan," is notorious as a safehouse and logistics hub for a wide array of Sunni terrorist groups operating in Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. These networks have been unleashed with a vengeance since the start of the year.

Last week, al-Qaeda in Iraq launched simultaneous terrorist attacks against Shi'ite targets in three parts of Iraq—Kirkuk, Baghdad, and Halla. Several days later, on Jan. 11, neo-Salafist terrorists in Pakistan carried out coordinated bombing attacks in Quetta, Karachi, and the Swat Valley, killing at least 122 Shi'ite worshippers and injuring hundreds of others. These attacks will almost certainly trigger retaliatory attacks on Sunni targets, potentially worsening the sectarian conflicts among the world's 2 billion Muslims.

In Syria, such Sunni-versus-Shi'ite brutality continues to escalate, even as the two-year-long, foreign-backed, regime-change campaign against the Bashar al-Assad government remains deadlocked. The Assad government announced on Jan. 13 that the Syrian Army had re-taken control of a vital area between Damascus and the nearby international airport, further demonstrating that the Free Syrian Army is incapable of taking over the capital. At the same time, the Syrian Army has ceded territory in the north of the country to rebels, concentrating forces on the major urban areas of Aleppo in the north, and Damascus.

The lead story in the Jan. 13 *Washington Post* admitted that Assad is not about to fall anytime soon, and that the population has largely turned against the rebels, which have engaged in brutal executions and ethnic cleansing of Alawites, Shi'ites, and Christians. Josh Landis, who runs the widely read Syria Comment blog, recently wrote that he believes that Assad will still be in power in 2014.

Indeed, last week, President Assad delivered a televised address before a cheering audience in downtown Damascus. He made clear, as he has in private meeting

with UN and Arab League special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, that he has no intention of stepping down before his term expires next year; he called for a negotiated settlement and transitional process with legitimate opposition forces. He also denounced foreign powers for intervening in alliance with al-Qaeda.

With the armed rebels losing momentum, Brahimi met on Jan. 11 with Russian special envoy and Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov and U.S. Deputy Secretary of State William Burns in Geneva, to pursue a new proposal for a ceasefire and transitional government. While details of the dialogue were limited, the trio announced that they would continue to meet.

London's Regionwide Assault

The Syria crisis is but the most visible point in a regionwide assault, led from London, which is targeting a number of regimes. Jordan is on the verge of a social explosion; northern Lebanon is under siege by Saudi-funded neo-Salafist terrorists, who are sending weapons and jihadi fighters into neighbor Syria; and Iraq is in turmoil, as Saudi Arabia fuels a Sunni insurgency in the western provinces bordering on the Saudi Kingdom, aimed at creating a Sunni separatist buffer state.

Much of North Africa is also in a state of siege. This week, French troops were deployed into Mali, when Islamist rebels, heavily armed from the stockpiles of weapons that were set free after Libya's Qaddafi was overthrown and assassinated in October 2011, took a crucial town in the middle of the country and threatened to overrun the capital (see article, below). In Libya itself, on Jan. 3, President Mohammed Megaryef was the victim of an attempted assassination. He survived the sniper assault, although three of his security guards were injured.

Every one of these crisis spots could be a flashpoint for a larger war, given that both Russia and China have vital interests in the regions targeted for destabilization.

As the Syria situation moves into a new phase of prolonged conflict, barring a breakthrough in the "Three B" (Brahimi, Bogdanov, and Burns) talks, the issue of Iran continues to play out in the background. Sometime in the immediate weeks ahead, there will be another round of P5+1 talks among Iran, Russia, China, the United States, Britain, France, and Germany. If those talks do not produce a concrete agreement covering Iran's nuclear enrichment program, the clock will start ticking towards yet another Persian Gulf crisis. And if Syria, Libya, Mali, Jordan, Lebanon, or North Korea do not produce a larger global confrontation, any military conflict with Iran will be a certain trigger for general war.

Prince Bandar's al-Nusra Terrorists in Syria

Jan. 14—Citing the Paris-based Intelligence Online newsletter, Al Manar TV of Lebanon reported earlier this month that Saudi intelligence, led by Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz, is bringing the jihadis, who are waging a civil war against the Syrian forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad, under the umbrella of the al-Nusra Front, an arm of al-Qaeda.

The report said that Prince Bandar, who was the Saudi ambassador to the United States when the U.S. was attacked on Sept. 11, 2001, is organizing the terrorists through Jordan and Lebanon. "Thanks to funding from the General Intelligence Department [of Jordan] and support from the Saudi Intelligence in Lebanon, al-Nusra was able to swiftly arm its forces, and make the Syrian regime suffer painful blows through its expertise in Iraqi bombings," the Intelligence Online report noted.

Bandar bin Sultan, who is chief British meddler Tony Blair's partner in crime, was named director of Saudi intelligence on July 19, 2012, as the Syrian crisis was escalating. From that post he acted not only to strengthen the arming of the terrorists against Syria's al-Assad regime, but also to bring to the fore an anti-Assad, Saudi-run administration in Lebanon, bordering Syria. The objective is to push more arms and terrorists into Syria.

Qualified Washington sources have confirmed to *EIR* the report of Bandar's role in backing the terrorists.

—Ramtanu Maitra

Mother Agnès-Mariam

Syrian War Is Being Steered from Abroad



Jan. 13—LPAC-TV on Jan. 9 interviewed Mother Agnès-Mariam de la Croix of the Monastery of St. James the Mutilated in Syria. She was recently on an international tour to bring to the attention of the world that what is taking place in Syria is not what is being reported in the mainstream press.

In the interview by Limari Navarette-Bedford, Mother Agnès-Mariam discussed the trend among opponents of the Assad regime toward sectarianism. She highlighted a trip she made to Homs during Spring 2011, with a group of European reporters, which revealed that among the demonstrators were "unknown or unidentified armed gangs, shooting and aggressing both the security forces and the demonstrators."

She described this element as a fifth column in the Syrian conflict, using the example of the civil war in her home country, Lebanon, which started in 1975, raged for more than 25 years, and still affects the region.

"We know you can engineer a war," she said. "You put in the elements that will encourage a sectarian conflict, that will encourage a civil war. I have to tell you that we are seeing the fabrication, the manufacturing in Syria of an artificial war, which is rooted in something real, a real struggle—and if it had been left alone, it would never, ever have given birth to such horrors. That's why I say that the Syrian people are being abducted by unnamed powers, to completely deprive them of any stability or any peace, under the title of a legitimate revolution."

How is this a "revolution," she asked, if it is targeting electricity plants, water supplies, industries, schools? In Aleppo alone, 200 factories were dismantled and sent to Turkey and sold at a very low price.

In regard to those entering the conflict from abroad, she said: "They are al-Qaeda members, they are Jabhat al-Nusra members, they are Salafists and Wahhabists—it means extremists. They come and they say, we are not fighting for freedom or for democracy, we are fighting for Islam; but their Islam is not the moderate Islam of our sisters and brothers. We have lived with them in the Orient since the 13th Century!

"We are victims of an instrumentalization of religion, and those people are achieving an agenda which is unknown, but is neither about the security of the civilian population, nor about human rights, nor about children, nor about women. It is something very, very dark and ominous."

Many former supporters of the revolution are now against it, she said. They are opponents of the government, but are also against the revolution.

A Message to the U.S. Congress

Asked what she would say to members of Congress who want to intervene on the side of the rebels, she replied, "I would tell them this is not the first time" Look at Iraq, look at Libya. "Today the U.S. has lost its aura as the savior of democracy, of the people. Why is America working against its own values? An invasion of Syria will just support extremism, sectarianism. As in Iraq, we will have decades of battles, chaos, and civil war. That's what I would say to the Congressmen. . . .

"I said—and it was reported in the Israeli press—that if those sectarians come to power, they will become a threat to everyone on the Mideast, including Israel."

The Middle East is the cradle of civilization, she said, where the living God revealed Himself to Abraham, to Moses, to Jews, Christians, and Muslims. "Why can't we make of the Middle East an oasis, an international reserve of humanism, culture, conviviality, peace, dialogue, and reconciliation? . . .

"If our rulers, our Congressmen, are not aware of what is going on, we should tell them."

Ex-Shin Bet Chief Diskin

'There Are Worse Things Than an Iranian Bomb'

Jan. 7—Former Israeli Shin Bet chief Yuval Diskin (in office 2005-11) has issued a powerful indictment of Prime Minister Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu and Defense Minister Ehud Barak, for attempting to lead Israel into a war with Iran, based solely on "ego and messianic notions."

In an interview with *Yedioth Ahronoth*, which was translated into English by Ynetnews.com, and posted on Jan. 4, Diskin's intervention seems to be aimed at securing Netanyahu's defeat in the Jan. 22 elections.

The interview was conducted by Dror Moreh, who produced the 2012 documentary "The Gatekeepers," based on interviews with the last six Shin Bet chiefs. In it, Diskin is quoted saying, "After all these years of fighting terror and seeing so much death and killing in battlefields, on Israeli streets, in refugee camps and in villages in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Lebanon—there comes a time when you realize you must do everything, everything, to find some other way to talk and compromise so as to secure a better future for our children."

Most striking about Diskin's statement is how it echoes the historic speech of slain Prime Minister Yitzak Rabin at the signing of the Oslo Accords with PLO Chairman Yassir Arafat at the White House, on Sept. 14, 1993, where he said, "We who have fought against you, the Palestinians, we say to you today in a loud and a clear voice: 'Enough of blood and tears. Enough!'"

You Can't Win Wars with Big Talk

Asked by *Yedioth Ahronoth* for his analysis of Netanyahu, Diskin replies, "Netanyahu has a bunch of things going on simultaneously—ideology and a deep sense of royal or elite entitlement alongside deep fears and insecurities when it comes to making decisions. He doesn't have a solid enough core on which people can count.... You can't win wars with big talk and pathos, in which Bibi is undoubtedly the best."

Diskin is blunt on the madness of an Israeli strike on Iran: "Think of what would happen.... We could be attacked by Hezbollah, by the Islamic Jihad in the Strip, and of course the Iranians would retaliate. Once that happens, we'd have to face rockets from Lebanon, Iran, and the Gaza Strip."

As for the competence of the Netanyahu-Barak duo: "Do we really believe in the ability of these two, who can hardly run a military operation in the face of Gaza rockets, to get us into this scenario with Iran and also get us out of it?"

And, he adds, "Even if, God forbid, the Iranians have a bomb—which is not at all something I want—it's still not the worst-case scenario for Israel. It's awful and we must do everything we can to prevent it, but I don't see it as the worst. There are worse things that can happen. To me, international conflicts are much worse than an Iranian bomb."

An Illegal Decision

Diskin also revealed that there had been a meeting in which the prime minister and the defense minister tried to convince the heads of the Mossad, Shin Bet, and the IDF, "to prepare the military and security systems into launching an operation, when clearly such an operation would mean going to war." This led to "a very harsh argument with Bibi and Barak."

"We got up and said that it was an illegal decision, that they couldn't give us such instructions because it meant that you're preparing the army for war. And going to war is a decision that only the government can make.... So we had a very heated debate.... The whole thing reeked; and after we protested, many ministers started protesting.... I fear that there are stages where people's egos and all sorts of messianic notions can drag us to places we never meant to get to."

Diskin said that Israeli citizens have good reasons to be concerned, adding, "The public must take into account that people such as Meir Dagan and Yuval Diskin—both not known as 'doves' on the security level, and people like Gabi Ashkenazi, Uri Sagi, Amnon Lipkin-Shahak—first-rate security officials—are all voicing concern about this move. Suddenly we're all cowards? No, it comes from a profound lack of trust in these two people and the moves they lead."

Book Review

Fact or Fiction? What Senator Graham Really Knows

by Jeffrey Steinberg and EIR Staff

Keys to the Kingdom
by Senator Bob Graham
New York: Vanguard Press, 2011

> Why has the present and prior Administration engaged in such a comprehensive, sustained, and, to date, largely successful cover-up?
>
> *Sen. Bob Graham, "Keys to the Kingdom," June 7, 2011*

> . . .[We] will crush al-Qaeda. That has to be our biggest national security priority.
>
> *Sen. Barack Obama, Presidential campaign debate, Oct. 7, 2008*

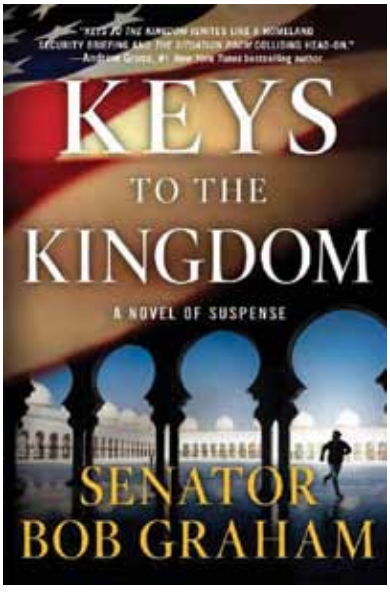
On Sept. 11, 2012, just hours before the assassination of Amb. Christopher Stevens in Benghazi, Libya, at the hands of an al-Qaeda grouping that had been supported by the United States, Britain, France, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia, former Sen. Bob Graham (D-Fla.) published an op-ed in the Huffington Post that began:

"The passage of time since September 11, 2001, has not diminished the distrust many of us feel surrounding the official story of how 9/11 happened and, more specifically, who financed and supported it. After eleven years, the time has come for the families of the victims, the survivors and all Americans to get the whole story behind 9/11.

"Yet the story of who may have facilitated the 19 hijackers and the infrastructure that supported the attacks—a crucial element of the narrative—has not been told. The pieces we do have underscore how much more remains unknown."

Graham also demanded that President Obama declassify a 28-page chapter dealing extensively with the role of the Kingdom of Saudia Arabia, in logistical, practical, financial, and political support for Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda.

It was that editorial, combined with the killing of Ambassador Stevens; the cover-up by the Obama Administration of the al-Qaeda role in the Benghazi killings; the unfolding of the Syria war, in which the U.S./British/Saudi imperial nexus is *again* building up al-Qaeda with weapons and fighters; and a massive political cover-up, that led us to look again at Graham's work on the Senate Intelligence Committee which produced an 800-page investigative report full of leads that were never followed up.



We looked at Graham's Sept. 11, 2008 non-fiction book, *Intelligence Matters: The CIA, the FBI, Saudi Arabia, and the Failure of America's War on Terror,* a valuable, but less-than-groundbreaking analysis of how the U.S. government mishandled the follow-up investigation of the original 9/11.

Stranger than Fiction?

Then we stumbled upon *Keys to the Kingdom*, a thriller, in which Sen. John Billington, the fictional former head of the Senate Intelligence Committee that looked into 9/11, probes an "off-the-reservation" inquiry of the leads that the two U.S. administra-

tions would not allow. But the investigation takes place at the cost of Billington's life. A few months after publishing an op-ed about the Saudi role in 9/11, and the Kingdom's secret development of a nuclear weapons arsenal, Billington is assassinated.

Despite his death, the investigation continues, based on a detailed memorandum that he had written to his protégé on the committee, a former special operations soldier and State Department intelligence officer. The investigation is littered with dead bodies, killed by Saudi agents and their network of bankers and black-money financiers.

Graham's novel is not just a rehash of the Senate Intelligence Committee investigation of the 9/11/2001 attack—it is a far-reaching *roman à clef* that brings together the known information about "the Golden Chain"—the Saudi network of wealthy princes and others who finance al-Qaeda—*and* much-later revealed secrets, especially the scandal of British Aerospace's (now called BAE Systems) bribery of the Saudi government and its princes, particularly the Saudi Ambassador to Washington. The story also places former British Prime Minister Tony Blair in a central role in the cover-up of the financing of al-Qaeda. While it is far from a complete story, Graham's investigative novel is the best outline of how to examine 9/11/2001, aside from the ongoing investigative work being published by *EIR*.

Keys to the Kingdom is a warning and an appeal to U.S. governing institutions to finish the inquiry into

The Remaining Secrets of 9/11

At the conclusion of our investigation in December of 2002 and the issuance of the final non-classified report in July of 2003, three unanswered questions remained:

What was the nature and extent of participation by the Kingdom and its entities of Saudi Arabia in the preparation for and execution of 9/11?

What are the will and capabilities of the Kingdom to assist in future attacks within the United States?

Why has the present and prior Administration engaged in such a comprehensive, sustained, and, to date, largely successful cover-up to keep the answer to those questions from the American people?

These questions represent the keys to the Kingdom. If we can answer them, we will have gone a long way toward furthering American security and justice.

This we know....

• Before the First Persian Gulf War, OBL [Osama bin Laden] had been on amicable terms with the Kingdom, and his family had benefited from the largesses of the royal family. After Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, he offered his Afghanistan war-hardened mujahideen to defend the Kingdom and thus avoid the necessity of foreign troops on sacred ground. He was rebuffed. This resulted in bin Laden's departure from the Kingdom and his subsequent threats to topple the royal family.

• The war, and particularly the stationing of large numbers of U.S. and other foreign troops in Saudi Arabia, was seen by many Islamic clerics and followers as a sacrilege.

These concerns caused the Kingdom to pursue two post-Persian Gulf War complementary strategies:

The Kingdom increased its support of madrassas, extremist religious schools, and other Wahhabist institutions. It continued to condone private support to extremists, including through a shadowy organization called the Golden Chain—composed of some of Saudi Arabia's wealthiest private citizens who since the 1980s have dedicated their wealth to advancing extremist causes and practices....

This covert financial support, which included funds diverted from charitable accounts maintained by the wife of the Saudi ambassador to the U.S., Mahmood al Rasheed, points most directly to an Administration cover-up. The final report of the Joint Inquiry came to over eight hundred pages. When the declassification process was completed, one chapter of twenty-eight pages was totally censored. This was the chapter relating to the Saudi role in financing the terrorists....

Excerpted from "Keys to the Kingdom," 2011.



Embassy of Saudi Arabia

Senator Graham has demanded that President Obama declassify a 28-page chapter dealing the role of the Kingdom of Saudia Arabia, and support for Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda. Here, Obama gets warm and fuzzy with Saudi King Abdullah, June 2009.

the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, and to expose how many threads from that attack lead from al-Qaeda to the highest echelons of governments of the British Empire, the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan. It is also a warning that unless this story is fully uncovered, there will be more attacks.

Bin Laden 'Irrelevant'

Although Osama bin Laden is still alive and well in *Keys to the Kingdom*, he is not an important figure in the overall story that Graham communicates. Although bin Laden was dead before the publication of the book that was, as Graham says, "five years in the making," it is, nonetheless, a "passionate" appeal to finish the job of the investigation. What's clear is that bin Laden's death is *irrelevant* to the operations of al-Qaeda, as long as the Saudi secrets remain intact and protected.

It is ironic that Graham's fiction—set in the year of the 2012 election—has the fictional incumbent President refusing to pursue hard intelligence warnings

BAE Financing Of al-Qaeda

I just got handed a case from Justice.... There seems to have been a kickback deal going between the Saudis and a British defense contractor....

The big deal leaked out five or so years ago. The British Serious Fraud office was mucking around with some BAE files and realized the company had been making under-the-table payments to several of the princes in the Saudi royal family. It started with toys—a gold Rolls-Royce here, a Mayfair apartment there. Then it turned to cash.... [T]he Serious Fraud folks had verified that BAE Systems had forked over about two billion pounds when they had the rug pulled out from under them.

Tony stiffened, "Two billion pounds? Hell, that's better than a five percent payoff. And you say they might have found even more if what?"

If Prime Minister Tony Blair hadn't stepped in and shut them down. He slammed the door on any more snooping around, saying it was a threat to one of Britain's most important strategic relationships.

Tony leaned back on the bench and recalled a late-night session during the 9/11 inquiry. In the Capitol's fourth-floor secure room, committee members were questioning an FBI agent. Where did the money come from to support the hijackers? Billington pressed for more details on bank records. The besieged agent spluttered for a while, then finally said that the FBI was restricted in its access to the accounts. The senator blew up, stormed out of the room, got the attorney general on the phone and demanded he get somebody competent on the case. The AG wasn't happy....

Excerpted from "Keys to the Kingdom," 2011.

about another Saudi-backed terrorist attack about to take place. The fictional President does not want to jeopardize his election chances by suggesting that he has not been successful in the war against terror, or that he has covered up the misdeeds of a major ally.

Ironic because that *is* what happened in the real election year of 2012 leading up to the Sept. 11, 2012 attack in Benghazi, and the coverup that followed. Today, another Congressional investigation is being stymied, and the roles of Britain, the United States, and Saudi Arabia are again covered up, this time, in the investigation of al-Qaeda in Libya.

Graham calls his novel "informed speculation," but sources close to the official investigations by the U.S. government into 9/11/2001 say that what Graham calls "informed speculation" is what he knows.

One section of the book, concerning a secret Saudi nuclear arsenal that the U.S. helped to create in order to prevent the Saudis from developing their own nuclear weapons in league with Pakistan, seemed to this reviewer, far-fetched. But well-placed U.S. sources assured us that the author knows of what he speaks.



White House/Eric Draper

Saudi Prince Bandar, former Ambassador to the U.S., shown here with President George W. Bush in 2002, was the key figure the "Golden Chain" network that financed al-Qaeda.

One thing is certain, Graham is right that without a full investigation of the roles of BAE and Tony Blair; without complete transparency of the finances and arms capabilities of the Saudis; and a full opening of the classified U.S. files on al-Qaeda that even Members of Congress are not allowed to see, America is not safe.

Re-Open the 9/11 Investigation Now

What should the United States do now?

The investigation of the extent of foreign support for the 9/11 hijackers ought to be reopened by the president, who has the authority to order the FBI to pursue the existing leads seriously, or he should designate another appropriate entity to do so. . . .

The president should also order the declassification of the relevant documents. They have been hidden from the American people too long. That declassification must include the 28-page chapter that has been censored from the report of the Congressional Joint Inquiry, as well as the reports cited in the notes of the 9/11 Commission's Final Report concerning al-Qaeda's financial and logistical support network.

The Congress should amend the sovereign immunity statute. Those who framed it did not intend that it should shield terrorists or their collaborators from claims against them for the murder of Americans on U.S. soil. . . .

What the Joint Inquiry learned—and has emerged since—shows where the proverbial finger of suspicion points. It points to Saudi Arabia, and we need to know the full truth.

From an op-ed by Sen. Bob Graham, Sept. 11, 2012.

Will France's Bombing of Mali Lead to a New Thirty Years War?

by Lawrence K. Freeman

Jan. 15—France's military bombardment of northern Mali on Jan. 11, with Gazelle helicopter gunships, Mirage jets, and over 500 troops on the ground—ostensibly in response to pleas by the Mali government to help halt the movement of jihadists towards the nation's capital, Bamako—has abruptly changed the dynamic, not just in Mali, but in the whole West Africa, Sahel-Sahara region.

With no long-range strategy, ambiguous short-term goals, and the open-ended nature of this military intervention, the real motives for France's heavy-handed assault are in doubt, since the former colonial power still controls the economies of the Francophone countries through the Franc CDF currency. More significantly, the dangerous consequences of France's action, supported by the United States and Great Britain, are that, rather than terminating or even containing the problem in northern Mali, they will instead spread and intensify the conflict beyond what most people can imagine: creating continuous war, chaos, and destruction that could last for decades, and kill millions through disease, starvation, and internecine strife.

While France is taking the lead, the other two Western nations that made up the trio that overthrew the government of Libya and assassinated its President, Muammar Qaddafi, are fully engaged.

As was the case in the Libya "regime change" campaign, the U.S. is committed to providing the French with intelligence; surveillance, and logistical support, and most likely, armed drones; help in transporting additional French troops; and aerial refueling of French jets. Even before Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta announced Jan. 14 that "We have promised them [France] that we will work with them to cooperate with them and to provide whatever assistance we can to try to help them in this effort," military experts believed that the U.S.'s AFRICOM provided assistance for France's initial military deployment, although the U.S. is "legally" prohibited from directly aiding the Mali government.

Britain provided RAF transport planes to ferry French troops into Mali. The London *Daily Telegraph* of Jan. 14 reported that British Prime Minister David Cameron told the French, "We'll help you; we'll work with you, and we'll share all intelligence we have with you, and try to help you with what you are doing." The *Telegraph* added that the British are considering contributing troops to EU training missions.

France intends to have 2,500 troops on the ground in this, its third incursion into an African nation in two years (Ivory Coast and Libya in 2011). France will not be able to depart quickly from this adventure. After five days of air strikes, the jihadist extremists have not been stopped—which is not surprising, since all qualified military experts know that air power alone will not defeat this well-armed force, which knows how to survive in the desert. Yet, if France launches a ground war attack, that could well be the tripwire for a wider, more deadly conflict, in which the jihadist extremists will use the foreign invasion as a rallying cry for a global holy war.

After France's action, instead of preparing for a properly led and trained ECOWAS (Economic Community Of West African States) deployment of 3,300 soldiers to intervene in Mali later this year, several African countries—including Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal—have or will shortly send several hundred troops into Mali. But no one is confident that these forces have the training, skills, or equipment necessary to win ground battles in the northern Mali desert.

Libyan Adventure Created This Crisis

Mali, a former French colony, has suffered a century of severe droughts, and decades of conflicts with the Tuareg nomads who reside in the deserts of Libya, Algeria, Burkina Faso, and Niger. The Tuaregs consider

northern Mali a sacred place. While it is beyond the scope of this article to review the history of the Tuareg people in Mali, the French are culpable for carrying out the British colonial policy of manipulating "geographical-ethnic" differences between the peoples of northern and southern Mali.

However, the dramatic turn of events that precipitated the current lethal crisis was, first of all, the illegal murder of Libyan President Qaddafi on Oct. 20, 2011—with the complicity of U.S., French, and British heads of state. According to *Time* magazine correspondent Vivienne Walt: "Within hours after Gaddafi's death, many ethnic Tuareg fighters from northern Mali who fought alongside Libyan forces as mercenaries retreated across the Sahara carrying as much weaponry as they could stuff into their pick-up trucks," from "over a thousand arms depots."

With these weapons and supplies, the Tuaregs began their rebellion in northern Mali in January 2012. After the military coup in Bamako in March, the North was completely taken over by a coalition of sorts that included what we have come to call the al-Qaeda of the Maghreb-AQIM, many of whom were also battle-tested, i.e., trained by fighting the war in Libya. As Ross Douthat correctly highlighted in a *New York Times* op-ed (July 7, 2012), "Libya's Unintended Consequences": "If the interventionists want to claim credit for saving lives in Benghazi, they need to acknowledge that their choices may have ended up costing lives in Timbuktu. If they want to point to the immediate consequences of the Libyan war as vindication for a 'responsibility to protect' doctrine, they need to acknowledge the second order consequences for people who will never have the benefits of our protection."

Hypocrisy in War

The truth of the matter is actually far worse than generally acknowledged. It is documented beyond doubt that President Obama's active collusion with al-Qaeda forces in Libya to eliminate the Qaddafi regime facilitated the assassination of four Americans in Benghazi, including Amb. Chris Stevens. And, Obama is now allied with same al-Qaeda and related fighters in Syria to overthrow the government of Bashar al-Assad, which is bringing the world to the very edge of nuclear war with Russia and China.

The Salafist and Wahhabite extremists, who are the backbone of the jihadist extremists that have taken over northern Mali, are deployed and funded by Saudi Arabia and Qatar, with full knowledge and acceptance by the British royals and their front man, Tony Blair, who is advising Obama. Ask yourself this: How is it that the targeted enemy of France, the U.S., and the U.K. in Mali—the AQIM et al.—is linked to same networks that were "allied" with the West for regime change in Libya, and now in Syria?

No Military Solution

There is no military solution per se to this type of conflict. The number of "kills," either from Obama's drones or from the bombs dropped by French jets, will not win this war, much less the hearts and minds of the people. The utter failure of Obama's counter-terrorist training program in Mali over the last four years, at a cost of $500-600 million—in which soldiers who had been trained by U.S. forces broke ranks, deserted, and went over to the other side with their training and equipment, leading to the March mutiny/coup in Bamako—should serve notice of the need for a complete transformation in our military's strategic thinking.

Every serious strategic thinker, who truly cares about the fate of Africa, knows that it is the lack of physical-economic progress (as opposed to making fast money) that is the underlying cause for the weakness of African governments, not only in the Sahel, the Sahara, and West Africa, but across the whole continent. Alienated, unemployed youth, and adults, who become the ready recruits for the jihadist extremists, are the direct result of the lack of economic growth.

Africa has plenty of water, but is bereft of the infrastructure to develop its resources and transport water to arid regions, such as the development of the Niger River's internal delta in Mali. Desertification and food shortages can be reversed with water management/infrastructure, and by outlawing the free-trade diktats of the World Trade Organization, that prevent nations from growing food to feed their populations, and claiming that subsidizing the agriculture sector will harm the financial markets, as if that were even pertinent.

There is no lack of plans for great regional and continental infrastructure projects that would transform African nations and turn them into gardens of development. It is precisely this optimistic intent to create a better future that should form the underlying thinking for a strategic policy of Africa, to replace the ugly, senseless brutality of war.

Congress Faces Countdowns On Economy, Expanded War

by Nancy Spannaus

Jan. 15—"We are currently operating on a timeline of mere weeks. Obama must be removed from office now, on charges that he has violated the U.S. Constitution, and a new Presidency must be formed to adopt as its platform the threefold program to save the United States."

So concludes the latest mass leaflet being circulated by LaRouchePAC in Washington, D.C., as the 113th Congress convenes. Reinforced by calls coming into Congressional offices from citizens supporting the threefold program of Glass-Steagall, Hamiltonian national banking, and NAWAPA, teams of LPAC organizers and state delegations are invading the Capitol, to demand that their representatives act *in time* to prevent strategic and economic disaster.

On the strategic front, the crucial point of engagement is what some call Benghazi-gate, the still largely unprobed murder of U.S. Amb. Chris Stevens and three other Americans by al-Qaeda terrorists on 9/11/2012. Extensive evidence put together from public sources by *EIR* investigators has revealed that the root of the problem lies in the Obama Administration's alliance with the very al-Qaeda assassins who carried out the murder. This crucial policy decision, correctly described as treason, is what must be aired at upcoming hearings with outgoing Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and in confirmation hearings for Cabinet nominees for State, Defense, and CIA. Any delay means the alliance with al-Qaeda will continue—especially in Syria—where it can lead to regional, or even nuclear war.

On the economic front, the leading edge is the immediate passage of HR 129, the new bill by Reps. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) and Walter Jones (R-N.C.) which calls for reinstatement of Glass-Steagall; and the introduction and passage of a companion bill in the Senate. As of this writing, Rep. Michael Michaud (D-Me.) has also signed on to HR 129, and many others are sure to do so soon. As noted prominently in the London *Daily Telegraph* Jan. 12, by Glass-Steagall supporter Liam Halligan, momentum is growing internationally, including among conservatives and Republicans. The question is whether the measure will be taken in time to prevent a new crash.

Against the Austerity Agenda

LaRouchePAC's drive for "Glass-Steagall-plus" is finding fertile ground, particularly among the growing ranks of Congressmen disgusted with the President's and the Republican leadership's austerity agenda. It doesn't take a genius to understand that the kind of cuts in health care, infrastructure, and incomes being implemented in Europe—as in Greece and Spain—leads to devastation of the population. Even balanced-budget ideologues are looking for alternatives to such a future.

They are not getting any alternative from the President, of course. Donning his narcissistic, imperious mantle of "I was just re-elected," Obama is demanding that Congress adopt his "balanced" deficit-reduction approach, which slashes health care, Social Security, NASA, and other vital programs, and continues the hyperinflationary bank-bailout program that is sustaining the predatory Wall Street and London banks.



EIRNS/Bob Baker

The battle for LaRouche's threefold recovery program, beginning with Glass-Steagall, is underway. Here, LaRouchePAC organizers campaign in Philadelphia, at a labor rally last August.

One clear signal of the actual content of the Obama program was his nomination of his current Chief of Staff Jacob Lew to replace Tim Geithner as Treasury Secretary. As exposed by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) during hearings in 2010, Lew is an avowed opponent of Glass-Steagall, among other banking regulations, as well as an "expert" in budget cutting. During an interview on Democracy Now Jan. 11, former bank regulator William Black characterized him succinctly:

"So, this is a guy who designed the disaster, participated in the disaster on Wall Street, was made rich by it. We haven't talked about the fact that he got a huge bonus for helping to destroy the world at Citicorp. And he got it through the bailout of Citicorp by the U.S. government.

"So he produces disaster, profits from the disaster, we pay him bonuses for causing the disaster, and then we have the absurdity of the president of the United States saying that this is a man with a track record of unmitigated success."

The Only Alternative

While others provide sharp criticism, LaRouchePAC is putting forward the only viable alternative to the current system. While making clear that Glass-Steagall is essential to *cut* the umbilical cord between the U.S. government and the bankrupt casino-banks, LPAC organizers are stressing that such a measure must immediately be followed up by creating credit to build up the physical economy through massive infrastructure programs, such as the North American Water and Power Alliance (NAWAPA), that would create millions of productive jobs. It's not money that is the crux of an economy, but production.

Not since President John F. Kennedy has there been such a grand vision put before the Congress, but LPAC organizers are finding a surprising receptivity. After all the other recipes for "recovery" have ended in disaster, Congressmen and their aides are anxious to hear about the periods of American history when an actual economic growth policy succeeded, such as those of Presidents John Quincy Adams and Franklin Roosevelt. In this context, LPAC's recent pamphlet exposing the treason of Andrew Jackson is playing a critical role.

And in the States

Pressure from local and state officials plays a vital role in getting Congress to move, and for that reason, LPAC organizers are seeking to pass memorial resolutions for Glass-Steagall and impeachment of Obama, in state legislatures around the country. As of this writing, resolutions to reinstate Glass-Steagall have been introduced into the State Senates of Virginia (SJR273) and Kentucky (SJR16), and the State Legislature of Montana (HJR4). They call on the state representatives to tell Congress to act, by immediately passing the Kaptur/Jones bill.

Additional resolutions have been introduced in Rhode Island and South Dakota, but have not yet had numbers assigned. Organizing forays into states such as Texas, California, Washington, New Jersey, New York, and Michigan—among others—are expected to generate much more activity in the near future.

The most crucial aspect of that activity is the degree to which it increases the pressure on Congress to act in time. When the world is hovering on the brink of thermonuclear war, and facing a breakdown crisis of unprecedented proportions, there are no "local issues." The fundamental change in direction embodied in the LaRouchePAC program, and the elimination from power of that program's most powerful opponent, President Obama, are in the vital interests of all citizens.

The question is only whether a sufficient number of them will find the courage to lead the others to get the job done.

Drone Strikes as Strategic Folly: Obama Is al-Qaeda's No. 1 Recruiter

by Edward Spannaus

Jan. 14—In early January, the *Washington Post* and other news sources reported a major escalation in drone strikes being carried out by the Obama Administration in Pakistan, with some observing that President Obama thinks he has found a way to conduct warfare against America's enemies without endangering U.S. troops on the ground.

In truth, what Obama has done, with his unprecedented application of drone missile strikes, has been to vastly accelerate recruitment to al-Qaeda and related organizations—more than they could ever have done on their own.

Obama's fascination with the means of raining down terror and death from the air, with minimal risk to ground forces, is hardly something new. Since the dawn of the use of air power in World War I, utopian war planners have been obsessed with the idea of perfecting a means of killing the enemy without the grinding brutality of trench warfare (as in the First World War), or of having to risk "boots on the ground" in later conflicts.

From the standpoint of sound military planning, air power has always been a pipe dream. Air power has never actually won a war, much less the peace—which is the true objective of a just war.

Furthermore, the forgotten truth of the matter is that Americans were repelled by the practice of what they regarded as "terror bombing," up through World War II, when the United States itself finally adopted the methods of terror bombing—e.g., Dresden, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, etc.—which became notorious in that war, carried out by both sides.

Some commentators are now again pointing out what U.S. military traditionalists have long understood: that the use of terror bombing—today in the form of drone strikes, killing "militants" and significant numbers of non-combatants in Pakistan, Yemen, etc.—is not only useless strategically, but it recruits more enemies than it kills, and it stiffens the resistance of the targetted population.

Two recent commentaries—both, ironically, published in London—provide relevant insight into what any thinking person should recognize as the strategic folly of Obama's drone war, which lies in the fact that Obama's killing spree is al-Qaeda's most efficient recruiting mechanism.

'Fool's Gold' and Body Counts

The first of these was written by British commentator Simon Jenkins, and published in the Jan. 10 London *Guardian* under the title "Drone wars are fool's gold: they prolong wars we can't win." Jenkins states outright that he has seen nothing that shows that drones serve any strategic purpose. "Their 'success' is expressed solely in body count, the number of so-called 'al-Qaida-linked commanders' killed. If body count were victory, the Germans would have won Stalingrad and the Americans Vietnam," Jenkins points out.

"Quite apart from ethics and law, I find it impossible to see what contribution these weapons make to winning wars," Jenkins writes, adding that the killing of an adversary's leaders just means that others are eager to replace them to exact revenge.

And the inevitable killing of civilians by drone strikes is critical to determining ultimate defeat or victory. Drone warfare "does not occupy or hold territory and it devastates hearts and minds," Jenkins says, and, without citing the famous World War II U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey, he does acknowledge that "Aerial bombardment has long been a questionable weapon of war. It induces not defeat but retaliation."

Citing an example of the intensive German bombing of Malta in World War II, where, he says, belief in air power and the failure to launch a ground invasion cost Germany the Africa campaign, Jenkins notes that, "A weapon of airborne terror that fails to cow an enemy and merely invites defiance is not effective at all," and he points out that, today, 75% of Pakistanis now de-



Obama's drone strikes are ostensibly aimed at waging war without putting U.S. troops in harm's way, but what they have actually accomplished is a vast expansion of recruitment of jihadis to al-Qaeda. Shown, a Pakistani village destroyed by U.S. drone strikes.

clare themselves enemies of the United States. Likewise, in Yemen, al-Qaeda recruiters display pictures of drone-butchered women and children to add to their ranks.

"Yet each week," Jenkins writes, "Obama apparently sits down and goes through a 'kill lists' of Muslims he intends to eliminate, with no judicial process and no more identification than the word of a dodgy spy on the ground."

The quest for a means of waging war which will win a conflict by killing the enemy while eliminating casualties on our side, is what Jenkins calls "fool's gold," explaining: "Obama (and David Cameron) are briefed that they are the no-hands war of the future, safe, easy, clean, 'precision targetted.' No one on our side need get hurt. Someone else can do the dirty work on the ground."

Blowback

In a second commentary, a former Obama advisor has written a lengthy analysis, "The costs and consequences of drone warfare," published in the January 2013 issue of the prestigious Chatham House (Royal Institute of International Affairs) journal *International Affairs*. Michael Boyle, a member of Obama's counter-terrorism advisory team during the 2008 Presidential campaign, who now teaches at LaSalle University in Philadelphia, puts even more emphasis on the "blowback" from the drone campaign, opening with an anecdote about a Pakistani national, prosecuted in Manhattan in 2010, for attempting to set off a bomb in Times Square; he told the court that this was in retaliation for U.S. drone strikes which "kill women, children; they kill everybody."

Obama has abandoned his 2008 campaign pledge to end the war on terror and restore respect for the rule of law, Boyle says. "Instead, he has been just as ruthless and indifferent to the rule of law as his predecessor." Boyle notes that the only change in U.S. counter-terrorism policy has been a shift in tone and emphasis. "While President Bush issued a call to arms to defend 'civilisation' against the threat of terrorism, President Obama has waged his war on terror in the shadows, using drone strikes, special operations and sophisticated surveillance to fight a brutal covert war against al-Qaeda and other Islamist networks."

Instead of addressing the legality and ethics of drone strikes, as many other studies have done, Boyle makes the case that, in his words, "the Obama administration's growing reliance on drone strikes has adverse strategic effects that have not been properly weighed against the tactical gains associated with killing terrorists." Primary among these adverse effects, are that they deepen anti-American sentiment and create new recruits for Islamist movements that are attempting to overthrow the governments with which the U.S. is nominally allied. In fact, the U.S. is undermining the stability and legitimacy of these allied governments, which are seen as impotent in the face of the U.S. killing of both militants and civilians on those governments' sovereign territory.

In Pakistan, for example, the widespread perception of high civilian casualities from U.S. drone strikes has increased hatred toward both the U.S. and the Pakistani government, and has multiplied the ranks of their enemies. Boyle notes that the drone strikes have given militant networks "a recruiting boost as the carnage has encouraged relatives and friends of the victims to join the ranks of the TTP (Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan) or other militant groups to fight the U.S. or the Pakistani

government, holding the latter complicit in their deaths."

Boyle also points to the case of Yemen, where in 2010, the Obama Administration described al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) as encompassing several hundred al-Qaeda members. But by mid-2012, that number had risen to several thousand.

While the Obama Administration and its allies point to the increasing "effectiveness" of drone strikes, Boyle takes sharp issue with their assessment. "Drones are only 'effective' if they contribute to achieving U.S. strategic goals in a region, a fact often lost in analyses that point only to body counts as a measure of their worthiness," Boyle writes. "More generally, arguments in favor of drones tend to present only one side of the ledger, measuring losses for groups like al-Qaeda and the Taliban without considering how many new recruits they gain as a result of the escalation of drone strikes. *They ignore the fact that drones have replaced Guantanamo Bay as the number one recruiting tool for al-Qaeda today*" (emphasis added).

In a similar vein, Robert Grenier, a former CIA station chief in Pakistan, who headed the CIA's Counter-Terrorism Center from 2004 to 2006, has also pointed out the folly of the drone policy, and its counterproductive effects. "We have gone a long way down the road of creating a situation where we are creating more enemies than we are removing from the battlefield," Grenier stated (as quoted by antiwar.com in early January): "We are already there with regards to Pakistan and Afghanistan."

Lessons of History

Americans, having been told over and over that drone strikes are "surgically precise," and kill only terrorists, are largely ignorant of what is being done in their name. The reality is quite the opposite: Very few "high-value targets" have been killed by drones. As Boyle points out, most of those targetted are low-level militants or insurgents.

Often, many studies have pointed out, the CIA or the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) doesn't know whom they are killing. On-the-ground intelligence in Pakistan, Yemen, or Somalia, is very sparse; hence the targetting is often based on what is thought to be a suspicious pattern of behavior (so-called "signature strikes"). Further, anyone in the vicinity of a suspected terrorist is deemed to be a terrorist or "militant" as well. The problem of counting civilian casualties has been deftly avoided by the Obama Administration's declared assumption that any military-age male killed is automatically a "militant."

That sleight-of-hand may work on Americans, but it doesn't fool Pakistanis or Yemenis.

An article in the Oct. 12, 2012 issue of *EIR*[1] quoted from the study "Living Under Drones," published in September 2012 by the Stanford University and New York University Law Schools, which documented how the gruesome reality on the ground sharply contrasts with the sanitized descriptions of drone strikes fed to the U.S. population by the Obama Administration and the news media.

"The missiles fired from drones kill or injure in several ways, including through incineration, shrapnel, and the release of powerful blast waves capable of crushing internal organs," the Stanford study reported. "Those who do survive drone strikes often suffer disfiguring burns and shrapnel wounds, limb amputations, as well as vision and hearing loss."

EIR continued: "One case study given in the Stanford study, is that of the bombing of a large gathering of individuals, largely community leaders and tribal elders, gathered for a *jirga*—a council—in North Waziristan, convened to resolve a dispute over a local mine. Four Taliban members, whose presence was considered necessary for the dispute to be resolved, were in attendance. This was a government-sanctioned meeting, and local military authorities had been notified of it in advance. Nonetheless, the gathering was hit by a series of missiles, killing 42 and injuring dozens of others. One witness recalled that 'everything was devastated. There were pieces—body pieces—lying around. There was lots of flesh and blood.' Family members were unable to identify the body parts scattered around; one said that all he could do, was 'collect pieces of flesh and put them in a coffin.'"

The Stanford/NYU study also described, in dramatic detail, the sheer psychological terror of living under constant drone surveillance and the threat of missile strikes. One Pakistani man described the "wave of terror" which sweeps the community whenever drones are heard overhead: "Children, grown-up people, women, they are terrified.... They scream in terror." Another said: "They're always over us, and you never know when they're going to strike and attack."

1. Edward Spannaus, "Obama's Drone Killing Spree Exposed."

'Air Terrorism' in the 1930s

Americans once had a different attitude, than that held today. As *EIR* reported in a 2003 study on air power,[2] during the 1930s, there was an extensive public debate in the U.S. over the use of air power, which was commonly termed "air terrorism." Although the use of air power as means of spreading terror was pioneered by the British, almost as soon as manned flight was developed (see the writings of H.G. Wells), by the 1930s, the military use of air power was associated in the American mind with images of fascists bombing cities and civilians: Italy bombing Ethiopia; Italians and Germans bombing Spanish republican strongholds; and the Japanese bombing the Chinese.

Bombing of cities and civilian population centers was viewed as morally repugnant and counterproductive. An article from the period, in the *Saturday Evening Post*, attacking the use of "air terrorism," declared: "Terrorism was given its trial during the [First] World War, and only wasted military resources and brought on counter-terrorism."

One military officer, reflecting traditional military doctrine, cited in the Oct. 31, 2003 *EIR* article (see footnote 2), stated at that time that the problem with air power was that it "can take nothing. It can hold nothing. It cannot stand on the ground and fight." (Note an echo of this traditionalist view, in the Simon Jenkins commentary cited above.)

Until close to the end of World War II, the United States refrained from bombing German cities, as the British routinely did (and not only in retaliation for German bombing—Winston Churchill ordered the bombing of German cities months before the Germans retaliated in what became known as the "Battle of Britain"). The U.S. policy was to strike the enemy's industrial infrastructure; the British policy, so brutally expressed by Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris, was to attack the morale of industrial *workers* by bombing their homes, preferably with incendiary weapons.

The U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey, established in 1944 to assess the effectiveness of the allied bombing campaign, found that, in fact, the British bombing of cities did not cause the morale of the German population to crumble; on the contrary, it found that the German people showed "surprising resistance to the terror and hardships of repeated bomb attacks." The lesson should be clear: Under conditions of extreme adversity, people pull together, and are most likely to direct their anger at those bombing them and act accordingly. And particularly in the cases of Pakistan and Yemen—countries with which the United States is *not* at war—the resulting anger and hatred for those raining down missiles from the air is most easily expressed by joining those who are already fighting the United States: al-Qaeda and associated organizations.

Al-Qaeda's Ally in the White House

EIR has elsewhere documented how Barack Obama and his British controllers are, in reality, allied with al-Qaeda, both in Libya and in Syria; the so-called "democratic opposition" which is engaged in overthrowing the heads of state in those countries, is indeed the very same terrorists whom Obama claims to be fighting in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, and so on.

So now it turns out, that Obama is not only al-Qaeda's firmest ally, but he is also their very best recruiter.



2. Edward Spannaus, "Shock and Awe: Terror Bombing, from Wells and Russell to Cheney," *EIR*, Oct. 31, 2003.

Americans Die Younger, Live Sicker Their Entire Lives

Jan. 10—What happens when a nation violates the fundamental principle that essential services such as medical care and education must be a basic right for all citizens, is graphically demonstrated by a new report, *U.S. Health in International Perspective: Shorter Lives, Poorer Health*. Presented to the public on Jan. 9, it documents that Americans are far less healthy their entire lives and die younger than the citizens of 16 other industrialized nations.

This crisis has been developing since the 1980s, as deregulation and deindustrialization of the economy set in, and the HMO system, in particular, really took off; it will get worse with the cost-cutting measures of Obamacare. Most importantly, it reflects the *devaluation* of human life, and an abdication of government responsibility to promote the general welfare.

The U.S. National Institutes of Health commissioned the National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine to prepare this report. Editors Steven H. Woolf and Laudan Aron wrote that the "United States is among the wealthiest nations in the world, but it is far from the healthiest. . . . Americans live shorter lives and experience more injuries and illnesses than people in other high-income countries. The U.S. health disadvantage cannot be attributed solely to the adverse health status of racial or ethnic minorities or poor people: even highly advantaged Americans are in worse health than their counterparts in other, 'peer' countries."

Shocking Figures

The report compares U.S. health statistics to those of 16 nations, including Great Britain, France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Australia, Canada, and Japan. Its findings are consistent with those arrived at by the OECD, World Health Organization, CIA, and other national and international institutions in recent years. The United States, Turkey, and Mexico are the only OECD nations without universal health insurance, thus making health care a privilege rather than a universal right.

Most shocking is that, despite spending by far the most per capita, and as a percent of GDP, on health care in the world, the U.S. has an infant mortality rate higher than any nation in western Europe, higher than Japan or South Korea, as well as Israel, Slovenia, and Cuba. Life expectancy at birth is significantly lower: U.S. male life expectancy was the lowest of all 17 nations studied, and female life expectancy second to the lowest (see **Table**).

This crisis is the result of a long-term problem, which has steadily worsened over the past 30 years. The new report looked in detail at data from the late 1990s to 2008. "Over this time period, we uncovered a strikingly consistent and pervasive pattern of higher mortality and inferior health in the United States, beginning at birth," it said.

Younger Dying at Faster Rate

The report emphasizes that it is younger Americans who are dying. Americans have the *lowest probability overall* of surviving to the age of 50. "We expected to see some bad news and some good news," Dr. Woolf said. "But the U.S. ranked near and at the bottom in almost every health indicator. That stunned us."

Deaths before age 50 account for about 66% of the difference in life expectancy between U.S. males, and about 33% of U.S. females, and that of their counterparts in the other countries, the *New York Times* reported. Only Americans age 75 and older have a better perspective.

"This health disadvantage exists across all ages and demographics," the authors report. Dr. Woolf told PBS that "the U.S. is doing worse than these other countries both in terms of life expectancy and health throughout their entire lives. This is a pervasive problem from birth to old age; it affects everyone and has been a long-standing problem."

The U.S. also far exceeds all the other countries in homicides, injuries, and drug-related deaths. However, Woolf said, while the researchers had expected that homicide would be an important factor in explaining the

TABLE: Seventeen High-Income Countries Ranked by Life Expectancy at Birth, 2007

Males			Females		
Rank	Country	Average Length of Life	Rank	Country	Average Length of Life
1	Switzerland	79.33	1	Japan	85.98
2	Australia	79.27	2	France	84.43
3	Japan	79.20	3	Switzerland	84.09
4	Sweden	78.92	3	Italy	84.09
5	Italy	78.82	5	Spain	84.03
6	Canada	78.35	6	Australia	83.78
7	Norway	78.25	7	Canada	82.95
8	Netherlands	78.01	7	Sweden	82.95
9	Spain	77.62	9	Austria	82.86
10	United Kingdom	77.43	9	Finland	82.86
11	France	77.41	11	Norway	82.68
12	Austria	77.33	12	Germany	82.44
13	Germany	77.11	13	Netherlands	82.31
14	Denmark	76.13	14	Portugal	82.19
15	Portugal	75.87	15	United Kingdom	81.68
16	Finland	75.86	16	United States	80.78
17	United States	75.64	17	Denmark	80.53

SOURCE: Data from the Human Mortality Database, the World Health Organization Mortality Database, and Statistics Canada, as reported in Ho, J. Y. and S.H. Preston (2011). International Comparisons of U.S. Mortality. Data analyses prepared for the National Academy of Sciences/Institute of Medicine Panel on Understanding Cross-National Health Differences Among High-Income Countries. Population Studies Center, University of Pennsylvania.

health disadvantage for younger American adults, especially young men, "the size of the *health* disadvantage was pretty stunning. The fact that our risk of death from homicide is seven times higher and from shootings 20 times higher is pretty dramatic, but I would add that probably just as important to us was the extent of the health disadvantage in young Americans that had *nothing* to do with violent injuries" (emphasis added)."

U.S. infant mortality is a national disaster, as every comparative report documents: 26-27,000 of the 4 million children born each year die before their first birthday.

Americans are dying from preventable or controllable diseases, the study found. The U.S. has the second-highest death rate from the most common form of heart disease, and the second-highest death rate from lung disease. Americans have by far the highest rate of obesity and diabetes. "The fact is, people are dying earlier than they should be and suffering at rates that are avoidable," Dr. Woolf said. "They are suffering from diseases we know how to prevent and then dying unnecessarily."

Behind the Veneer

The declining health of the U.S. population shouldn't surprise those who have faced the actual decline in U.S. economy since the assassination of President John Kennedy. Not only has there been no actual physical economic growth since then, but the industrial plant and equipment, and the labor force have been driven into collapse, qualitatively and quantitatively, as the economy has been taken over more and more by cartels in every area of life, including health care. Investment in public health, a mainstay of communities, as well as at the national level, in the post-World War II era, has been cut to shreds, as private profiteers took over.

This reality is underscored by a study published in the August 2012 issue of *Health Affairs*, which notes that, after years of diminishing increases, life expectancies for the least educated Americans fell by a whopping four years, between 1990 and 2008. According to media reports on the study, "The steepest declines were for white women without a high school diploma," who lost an average of five years of life (and are now below black women of similar education), while white men without diplomas lost an average of three years of life.

A study published Sept. 20, 2012 in the *American Journal of Public Health* provided another marker, finding that suicides have overtaken auto fatalities as the number one cause of "accidental" deaths. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, between 2000 and 2009, the number of people who committed suicide in the U.S. has jumped a startling 71%. Even this number may be understated, researchers say, since "suicides are notoriously underreported," and the study only accounted for suicides from "falls and poisonings," but not drug overdoses.

The birth-rate picture reinforces the pattern, as an October 2012 report issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concluded that the U.S. birth rate hit its lowest level ever in 2011, lower than that in the Great Depression. In fact, the general fertility rate (63.3 per 1,000 women age 15-44) was lower than any rate *ever* reported for the United States.

If Americans continue to tolerate Obama's cuts to health care for the elderly and the poor, along with handing over health care to a corporatist system run by insurance cartels, this situation will only get worse.

Asteroid Apophis Update: No Impact; a Call for Action

by Benjamin Deniston

Jan. 12—NASA's 70-meter-diameter Goldstone antenna in Southern California's Mohave Desert is now sending radio signals 15 million kilometers into deep space, aimed at a target only about 325 meters across. Traveling at 300,000 kilometers per second, the radio signals are reaching the target—the asteroid Apophis—reflecting off it, and returning back to Earth with crucial information about this rude invader of our Solar neighborhood.

How large is this asteroid? How precisely do we know its orbit? What are its rotational characteristics? How reflective is its surface? What is its mass? And, most importantly, where exactly will it be in 2029, and in 2036?

The first five questions directly play into determining the answer to the crucial last question: determining Apophis's expected position for the years when it will pass so close to the Earth, that an impact is considered a possibility.

Some of these answers are now being given as Apophis makes its fly-by this month.

These answers are vital, because currently, the world lacks any actually demonstrated methods of asteroid deflection, and while some nations, such as Russia, are calling for improving our ability to handle the inevitability of a future impact, the United States still suffers from President Obama's dismantling of NASA, and his policy of threatening war with the very nations with which we should be collaborating in the defense of Earth.



NASA/JPL

The Goldstone Deep Space Communications Complex, located in the Mojave Desert, is one of three complexes which comprise NASA's Deep Space Network (DSN). The DSN provides radio communications for all of NASA's interplanetary spacecraft, and is utilized for radio astronomy and radar observations of the Solar System and the universe.

Applying Mankind's Extended Sensorium

The "pinging" of Apophis by NASA's Goldstone antenna is helping to provide a more accurate understanding of its orbit, to reduce the uncertainties in the predictions of where exactly it will be at any given date, decades into the future. This includes considering the weak effects of Solar radiation, which can accumulate over years and decades to slowly change an asteroid's orbit, creating one of the most significant sources of uncertainty in predicting the position of an asteroid a few

decades into the future.[1]

In addition, observations of Apophis from the European Space Agency's Herschel space telescope have helped to recalculate its size.[2] Specifically, the infrared reading, which Herschel is designed to deliver, provides a less biased view than do optical observations, and has led to a significant increase in the estimated diameter, from the former 270 meters, to the current 325 meters—resulting in about a 75% increase in the estimated mass.[3]

These multi-sensory measurements, in addition to those from ground-based optical telescopes in Hawaii and New Mexico, have led the manager of NASA's Near-Earth Object Program Office, Don Yeomans, to place the chance of a 2036 impact at less than one in a million.[4]

This is just the most recent analysis of Apophis, which has appeared numerous times in newspaper headlines over the last ten years. Discovered in 2004, the initial uncertainty in Apophis' orbit (**Figure 1**) led to a predicted chance of impact of about 3% in 2029 (making it the highest threat prediction ever recorded). This generated significant concern at the time, and Russian Federal Space Agency officials even discussed possible missions to prevent an impact.

Over the following years, additional observations were able to reduce the uncertainty, and eventually ruled out the chance of a 2029 impact—concluding that it will instead pass extremely close on April 13, 2029. At a distance of 36,000 kilometers, Apophis will actually pass between the Earth and our geosynchronous satellites! Theoretically, it could even hit one or more satellites, though they are very small targets.

The 2029 pass will alter the orbit of Apophis, and the concern has been that this alteration might set it up for an impact in 2036. But now, according to the NASA assessment, that impact is unlikely. The Russian Academy of Sciences has also proposed landing a tracking device on Apophis in 2020, in order to understand its orbit even more precisely as it approaches its 2029 close pass.

1. Referred to as the Yarkovsky effect.

2. Because the Herschel space telescope is above the Earth's atmosphere, it can view certain critical wavelengths of light that are blocked by our atmosphere. See, "Herschel Spacecraft Eyes Asteroid Apophis," JPL News, Jan. 9, 2013. http://www.jpl.nasa.gov

3. The reflectivity of the asteroid's surface can vary depending on its composition, which affects the perceived brightness of the object, and thus, the size estimate.

4. Tariq Malik, "Whew! Huge Asteroid Apophis Won't Hit Earth in 2036," SPACE.com, Jan. 11, 2013.

FIGURE 1



Above image reproduced from NASA/JPL Small-Body Database Browser; below, from "Apophis Asteroid May Destroy Some Satellites in 2029," by Jesus Diaz, gizmodo.com.

Threats, Warnings, and Options

This is a very important development, as an impact from Apophis would release well more than 4,000 times more energy than the largest thermonuclear bomb ever detonated, causing immediate devastation on the scale of a small continent or large nation.[5]

Now that the direct threat looks to be minimal (at least for the next few decades), this should stand as a clear warning, and signal an imperative to develop the capabilities to handle these types of threats before they occur.

Russian government officials, for example, have made repeated offers for cooperation with the United States to tackle this challenge, even placing, for the first time, planetary defense on the agenda of their 50-nation

5. See, "Defending Planet Earth: Near-Earth Object Surveys and Hazard Mitigation Strategies," p. 19. National Research Council, 2010.

global security conference held in St. Petersburg in June of 2012. These offers for strategic Russian-U.S. cooperation on planetary defense have even come from some of the most adamant Russian critics of Obama's policy of military aggression in the Middle East, and of the placement of advanced missile defense systems on Russia's borders in Eastern Europe.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitri Rogozin is one such figure, along with Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev, who first announced that the vital issue of asteroid defense was going to be taken up at the St. Petersburg conference.[6] At the beginning of this year, Patrushev, having just returned from a trip to China, announced that Russian and China have pledged to deepen security cooperation, as a direct response to the U.S. military buildup in Europe and the Asian Pacific.[7]

In the United States, a few dedicated groupings of scientists at NASA and at other locations have contin-

6. Rachel Douglas, "Strategic Defense of Earth: Russia To Put SDE at Top of Agenda," *EIR*, May 4, 2012.
7. "Russia, China Plan to Boost Cooperation on Missile Defense," RIA Novosti, Jan. 9, 2013.

Heavy-Launch Vehicles And Planetary Defense

Dr. Claudio Maccone is the Technical Director of the International Academy of Astronautics. This is excerpted from an interview with LaRouchePAC-TV on April 18, 2012 at the Astrobiology Science Conference 2012, "Exploring Life: Past and Present, Near and Far," in Atlanta, Ga. The full interview is available in EIR, May 4, 2012, or on video at http://larouchepac. com/basement.



LPAC-TV

Dr. Claudio Maccone

LPAC: If it weren't an issue of budgetary constraints right now, what, in your view, would be the next steps that would have to be taken, concrete steps, to do exactly that? What sorts of missions are we talking about?

Maccone: Let me first refer to the United States, since we are in the United States. But of course, this is a problem that affects the whole of humanity. In the United States, before 2011, which is one year ago, NASA was planning to build two launchers, called Ares I and Ares V. And I was part of a study in 2007, led by NASA, about this thing; essentially, we had to make an assumption, just to give you an idea about what we did.

We hoped that we could have a ten-year lead time, meaning we would come to know ten years in advance whether an asteroid was going to hit or not. So, on the basis of this, we would have planned two different space missions. The first mission to be carried forward by Ares I was a survey mission, sending the probe around the asteroid, picking up pictures, finding the mass, the shape, rotation, whatever.

After that, the second mission would have arrived, launched by Ares V, and that would have been a much more effective thing, shooting six projectiles, 1.5 tons each, against the asteroid, in order to move it away from the collision course. If this was not enough, then, we also considered the possibility of using nuclear weapons....

Now, the point is that, just one year ago, your President Obama decided to give up these two missiles, Ares I and Ares V, and replace them with a single transportation system. So this, in plain words, means that we have to re-do a whole lot of calculations, because we are using different missiles. And, at the moment, no such system is in existence at all, so if we discover that there is something on a collision course with the Earth, at the moment, we are unable to do anything against it.

ued to do what they can to address the asteroid threat, typified by the improved observations and predictions for Apophis.

However, the constraining context is that Obama has been gutting the space capabilities of the United States, both by systematically blocking the economic recovery measures desperately needed to rebuild the U.S. economy, and by direct cuts to NASA—such as his attempt to kill the manned-space and crucial heavy-lift rocket capabilities of the United States by cutting the Ares Rocket and the Constellation program.[8]

So, while Apophis no longer appears to be a direct-impact threat, it serves as a severe warning of the deadly consequences of allowing Obama to remain in the Presidency.

More Challenges, Known and Unknown

Apophis is just one asteroid of many. On Feb. 15, 2013, another warning shot will be delivered by asteroid 2012 DA14. Only discovered one year ago, this asteroid will also pass between the Earth and our geosynchronous satellites, raising an unlikely, but noteworthy chance of hitting one of our satellites. 2012 DA14 is smaller, on the order of 45 meters across, placing it in what can be called a "Tunguska-class" category (referring to the 1908 impact of a 30- to 50-meter asteroid in the Tunguska region of Siberia, releasing 1,000 times more energy than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, and leveling trees over an area of 2,000 square kilometers).

A small asteroid of this size could easily level a major city.

On Dec. 9, 2012, another "Tunguska-class" asteroid, 2012 XE54, was discovered, which then passed halfway between the Earth and the Moon only two days later. If this had been on an impact trajectory, we would have had absolutely no time to mount an effective defense.

In fact, for this small-but-deadly size range, we have currently only discovered about 2,000 asteroids, out of an estimated population of 500,000, or about half of one percent. In other words, for every one of these asteroids that we know about, NASA estimates there are another 200 that we don't yet know about. Taking all the size ranges that we should be concerned about, from large to small, we have only discovered about 1.5% of the estimated total population of near-Earth asteroids.

This is a threat that is not going away.

The only real solution is to rapidly expand mankind's space-faring capabilities, generally, with applications to both observation and defense. Nations with in-depth space and military capabilities, such as the U.S., Russia, and China, should engage in joint efforts to defend the planet against these threats, shifting the focus away from one of military and economic competition, towards one of common defense.

This is the warning being delivered by Apophis.

8. Only thanks to the Congressional backlash against Obama's actions, a new heavy-lift is now planned, the Space Launch System (SLS), although this is now much delayed and underfunded. The heavy-lift capabilities directly translate to planetary defense capabilities, because this limits what types of deflection or defense missions would even be possible.

Hypervelocity Asteroid Deflection

NASA, under its Innovative Advanced Concepts program, is providing a limited amount of funding to solve the challenges of intercepting small to medium-sized asteroids at very high speeds, and when there is minimal warning time available. This research is being led by Professors Bong Wie (Iowa State University) and Brent Barbee (NASA Goddard Space Flight Center), with their "Hypervelocity Asteroid Intercept Vehicle" concept, a two-part spacecraft, designed to operate at very high intercept speeds, utilizing a thermonuclear explosive device to break apart the threatening asteroid.



LPAC-TV

LPAC's Benjamin Deniston interviews Professors Brent Barbee and Bong Wie at the NIAC symposium in November 2012.

To Go Ahead, Look Back to When New Jersey 'Worked'

by Marcia Merry Baker

EIR Economics Editor Marcia Merry Baker gave this power-point address to New Jersey Gubernatorial candidate Diane Sare's campaign kickoff event on Jan. 5, 2013. Videos of the event are posted on YouTube.

I'm very glad to be here in the storm zone—in more ways than one, to think of the immediate task—because we want to be building right away—here, and with the other tasks in our nation and the world. Because Hurricane Sandy and other problems we have in the physical geography of our nation and the world, come on top of 50, 60, 70 years of casino economics.

I'd like to start by asking you to look back to a time and place—I'm going to take the benchmark of the Second World War, in other words, the middle of the 20th Century—and I want us to look to the future, as patriots and committed people were doing at the time. Because it's not as though evil was vanquished then—we're talking about the 1940s—but there was less money-madness, there was less Greenie madness around.

And so, what I'd like to do, is take inventory of the tasks of how people then, who were committed and decent, thought of the future, 50 to 60 years ahead.

Now, in order to do that, we should keep in mind that the resource base is man-made. We have some gifts, we have benefits. So, we'll see the map of our continent now (**Figure 1**), and what I'd like to do, is look at what the challenges were at the time. You can see this well enough, this is not a complicated thing, but I want to take the kind of resource-base in terms of land, water, and, we presume, power and navigation go along with it. Think of the time when, after the Second World War, people were prepared to roll up their sleeves. We had been conducting tremendous industrial and agriculture production in this nation and continent to conduct the war.



In her presentation to the Sare campaign event, Marcia Merry Baker shows that the devastation wrought by Superstorm Sandy need not have happened, as could be seen in the counter-examples of Rotterdam, St. Petersburg, and even New Orleans, among others, where protective measures were adopted. Here, she holds up a report from the Atomic Energy Commission.

FIGURE 1
North America



So there were a lot of things that needed to be done. What were they? Let's take four areas.

Water: Planning for the Future

One thing, on this continent, I know you must be familiar with, first-hand or otherwise: This area, the U.S. Southwest, is extremely dry, and for centuries has been called the Great American Desert, down into Mexico, and basically, this entire multi-state area. The runoff that exists there—because there's very little rain yearly on average—there was only the Colorado runoff, the rivers in California, and down here, the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo River. And Franklin Roosevelt and people before him and continuing, had organized the Colorado River to use every drop.

So, it was known by those out here, and anyone thinking, that we'd better think ahead: The Colorado River isn't that big in its flow; we're going to have to plan for the future. And that's when, in the '50s, the chief of hydrology of the State of California imagined: Let's go to where the water is plentiful, that flows into the Arctic, or that flows out through Alaska and the Yukon, and let's bring it southward, collected up here, and then bring it through British Columbia, let's bring it into Idaho, and Montana, and southward.

As you know, later, this became the North American Water and Power Alliance [NAWAPA],[1] but it was considered a major job for the continent, number one.

Number two, we had different problems in the '40s and '50s. We already were familiar with the great drainage system that is composed of many of these rivers: the Missouri, the Mississippi, the great Ohio River that rises in the tributaries in western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Maryland and goes this way—they had already been worked on. The Ohio River had locks and dams—Number 1 is at Pittsburgh. But the problem with this area, is that you either have too much water flowing, as with the big floods in 2011; or you have too little water flowing, as we do now in 2012, down the Mississippi. So, there was a whole agenda of more work to be done on what's called the Upper Mississippi—more impoundments, more dams, more ability to regulate the flow so you had a regular flow—not too much or too little. That's number two.

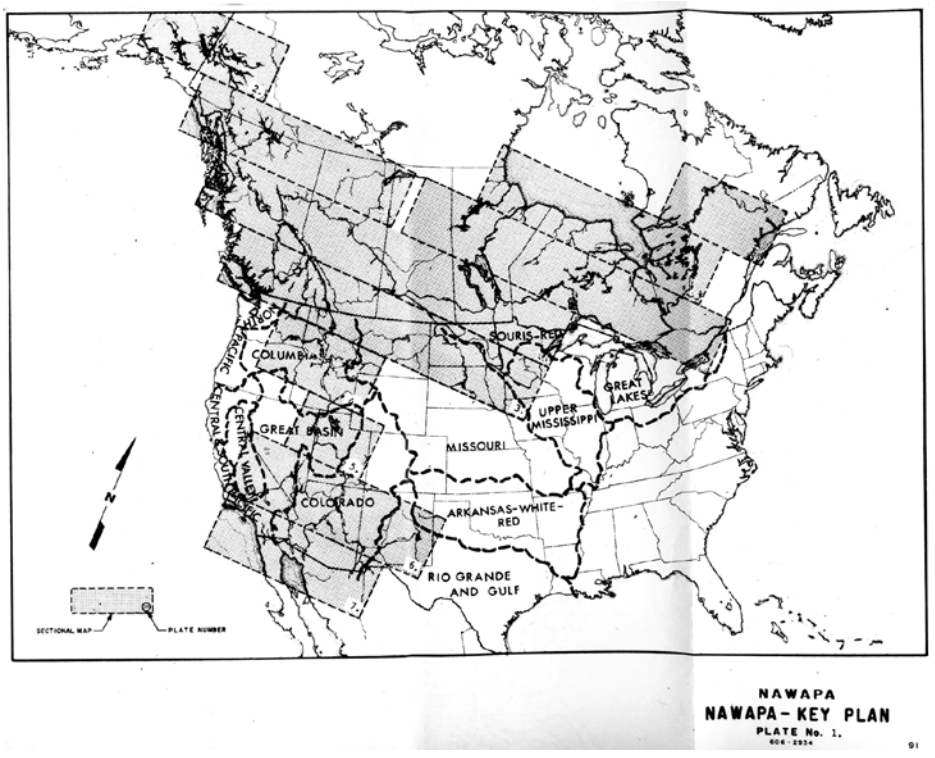
And by the way, work had already been done to put underground piping through much of Illinois, much of Iowa, to handle the drainage when you had a lot of water, but there was much more to be done.

Now, three and four, are simply the following: By the mid-20th Century, you had a water-supply problem, not just in the desert, but saltwater intrusion on coast-

1. For more on the NAWAPA proposal, see http://larouchepac.com/infrastructure.

lines. After all, Florida is a peninsula; after all, Long Island is an island; and you had places elsewhere on the East Coast, people had been living there for hundreds of years: St. Augustine, Fla.—people have been there for 500 years! And fortunately, many wells were dug—the saltwater intrusion from the sea into Florida wells, into Long Island, into elsewhere, was a third area of problem.

And finally, you have where we are today, a seacoast state: The many wonderful seacoast settlements that go back hundreds of years, were there, because of the benefits of being on the shore, frequently the benefit of being at the mouth of a river—the Hudson or the Passaic. The problem is, it was great when the sea was calm, but otherwise, you get what we experienced here. And periodically, over the decades, there have been these kinds of storms.



A map of the NAWAPA plan from the original 1966 report of the House Committee on Public Works, Special Subcommittee on Western Water Development.

The Birth of NAWAPA

So, to summarize, just taking these four areas: What was on the agenda in the 1950s of the percent of people, whether they were trained or not, who were looking ahead to the future, 60 years from then, was, in the 1960s, what's called the North American Water and Power Alliance, and I think you're familiar with that here. If not, we certainly can do something about that, because the LaRouche Political Action Committee, Diane Sare, and others, have put it back on the agenda of this nation and the world, and in Washington.

The idea to build this was then activated, and I brought an artifact: I've kept an original copy from the 1960s, when the Select Committee in Congress published all the maps—we're talking about 1964—all the maps, all of the references. And I can tell you, when we go to visit some of the Congressional offices, they want to see, "Where's my state?"

So this was a priority at that time, and it was getting tremendous media coverage and tremendous interest.

Secondly, as I mentioned, the lack of water. The Army Corps of Engineers, after finishing the war effort, turned to civil works and developed comprehensive plans to build more water-management control systems in the Upper Missouri and the Dakotas. In fact, in 1963, President Kennedy dedicated one of these dams in South Dakota, the Oahe Dam. So this was underway to control the swings between the flood and the drought in what water you had in our great runoff system in our continent.

And number three, the question of water supply: Florida, the coastal areas, Hampton Roads, Va., not to mention Long Island. The Atomic Energy Commission had been set up, and it had the task of not just developing tremendous, safe nuclear power systems, as in New England and elsewhere, but in applying [nuclear power] in all kinds of ways: medical ways, explosives for a better Panama Canal, and in particular, for desalination. Mexico and the United States were collaborating for nuclear power desalination on the Pacific Coast, the Gulf of Mexico, and the East Coast.

I brought another book, from 1964: It's *Major Activities of the Atomic Energy Programs.* If you look in the index under "desalination," they summarize all the projects! Because this was just the state of affairs at the

time. You can also see the nuclear power explosives; and they say, "Here's where our pilot projects are, this is what we're doing."

Finally, you had the seacoast questions, in particular New Orleans, a great part of which is below sea level. So it doesn't take a lot of motivation to work on that, but during the war it wasn't developed, but it was on the agenda after the war.

Let's talk about the urgency of the seacoasts: In 1960, Hurricane Donna hit every state up and down the East Coast. Some people here may remember that. There were 365 dead here, terrible loss of life. But remember, in 1938 was the Great New England Hurricane, and that left 800 dead, mostly in Rhode Island. And there were whole islands—I think Napatee Island had 40 houses—the whole place just, in effect, disappeared. Areas of New Jersey just disappeared.

So, in response, certain kinds of development plans were worked out. Let's look at three of them in New England, between 1938 and 1960, in three coastal states.

In Providence, R.I., there were barriers built to protect the inland areas against the storm surge. This is the Fox Point Barrier in the bay at Providence (**Figure 2**); it was started in 1960 and finished in '66. It's about 3,000 feet long and has worked fine, many times since.

Next, in New Bedford, Mass., this is a longer barrier (**Figure 3**). It has a huge stone structure, still to this day, the largest stone structure on the East Coast, built by the Army Corps of Engineers. There's a gate in between there, which can close in 12 minutes. That Providence one can close in a half-hour.

The next one is an aerial shot (**Figure 4**)—isn't that a nice barrier? That's the hurricane barrier at Stamford, Conn., also built in the 1960s.

So you see, there was response. I showed you the artifacts of the intention 60 years ago, and some of the physical construction.

The International Picture

Let's look at the situation internationally. There's a reason why the Netherlands stands out—it means "low lands." The reason I want to go there, is its relation to the North Sea. It's nothing like the Atlantic Ocean, but certain things come together, certain annual tides, high winds, and you can get a tremendous sea surge; and this includes Scotland, eastern England, Norway, Belgium, Holland, and this happens periodically. It even goes all the way east toward Russia, what used to be Leningrad (St. Petersburg).

FIGURE 2
Fox Point Barrier and Gates, Providence, R.I.



Source: Malcolm Bowman

FIGURE 3
New Bedford, Mass. Hurricane Protection Barrier



Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

FIGURE 4
Hurricane Barrier, Stamford, Conn.



Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

I want to show you what happened in the storm that hit in 1953, which was so bad, in Holland it's called "The Great Storm," and it's still commemorated on Feb. 1, because Holland lost 1,850; there were 300 or 400 deaths, maybe more, in east England. This thing just inundated the place. This map (**Figure 5**), there you see the North Sea, and this is basically the delta, these complicated inlet areas; over here the Rhine River, and related runoff; the Maas, and others, going into the North Sea.

Over the centuries, the Dutch have been famous for reclaiming land. You can see it in Rembrandt etchings, beautiful landscapes of a high berm, surrounding a dry lake called a polder. And so there was a patchwork of protection; but when the 1953 Great Storm hit, it was all washed away. So what was decided was to form the delta works, shown in this map here, "Deltawerken." (You can look at deltawerken.com.) And an entire coherent system was decided. The principle involved was, instead of trying to protect inland areas with little dry lakes, with berms and levees, and stick your finger in the dike, instead, the decision was made to go out to the perimeter, and see what kind of protective barriers you need to build. Because if you build at the perimeter, then you don't have to have all these inner ones, because they'll be flooded anyway.

Because 1958 and 1997, the whole thing was built, and many of the internal lower dikes, levees, and systems could be removed, and you would have more land for tulips or industry, or whatever you wanted to do.

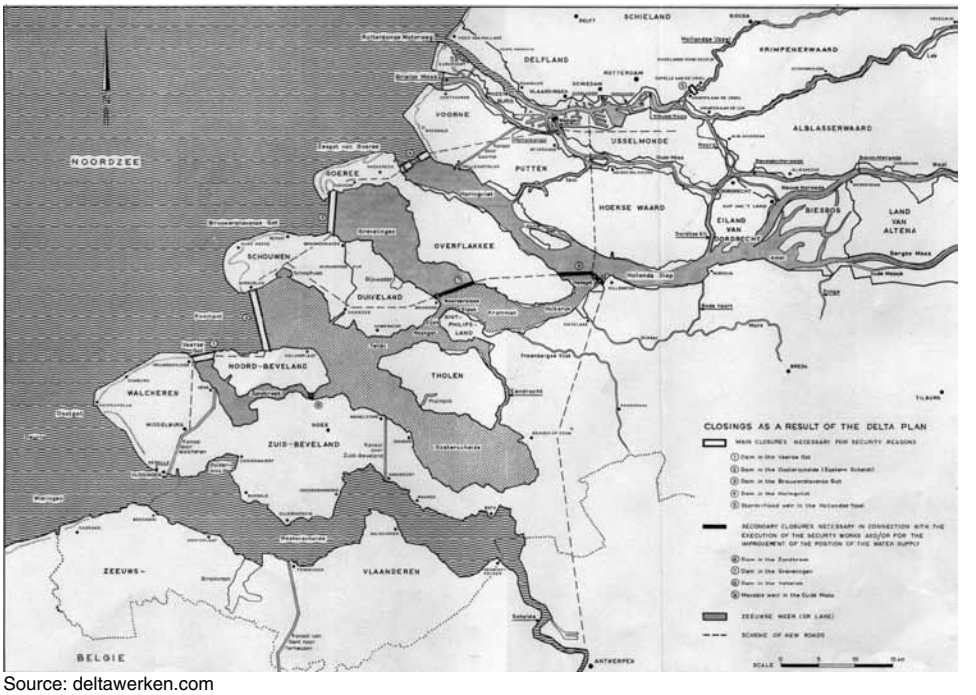
On closer study, you can see the names of some of the things that could be removed, because the perimeter protection was built out here towards the sea, allowing you to remove some internal levees (**Figure 6**). The next one, you see Rotterdam, one of the world's leading ports (**Figure 7**). Here is a beautiful set of radial pivoting gates, which are open and the barge is going right between

FIGURE 5
Delta Works Plan, North Sea, Netherlands



Source: deltawerken.com

FIGURE 6
Perimeter Protection, Netherlands



Source: deltawerken.com

FIGURE 7
Maeslant Barrier Gates Open, Near Rotterdam, Netherlands



Source: deltawerken.com

them. They have many other kinds of gates, gates that drop, rocker gates—you can have different kinds.

This is a tremendously successful system. We're going to gather some of the relevant specifics, how long this barrier is and so forth, and make it available soon to Diane Sare's campaign, so it can be posted everywhere and circulated. This has to be on the agenda.

Before we leave the North Sea, it's worthwhile to go east, towards Russia, and you'll see St. Petersburg is also low—it's called the Venice of the North, because it's built on the marshes of the Neva River, and it was really built up in the 1700s. And it gets slammed.

Here is this barrier under construction in 1978 (**Figure 8**), and finished around 2009-2010. They built miles and miles—it could be a 10-mile-long barrier, with these kinds of gates. These are rocker gates, which allow the shipping into St. Petersburg and out into the Gulf of Finland. It too took 35 or more years, and various Western construction companies helped finish it.

The next one shows, even in the Thames, to protect London from these ferocious surges, they put in this system, which was finished in the late 1980s (**Figure 9**). It goes all across the Thames, downriver of London. Here is a diagram of how it works: These are rocker arms, and in between these rocker arms are kind of half-barrels, and you can put them up and keep the sea out, and the rest of the time, they're flat, under the water.

The next one is a photo of the real thing (**Figure 10**). The gates and this barrage can blockade the entire Thames River. Another thing like this is being completed in Venice, in the Adriatic, which is not like the Atlantic or the North Sea, but they get a combination of rainfall and heightened water level, so they have a kind of gate flap. It's underwater, lying flat, and then it's pushed up with a strut, and that will work, there, where it's not deep sea, like the Atlantic Ocean up here.

FIGURE 8
St. Petersburg, Russia Flood Protection Barrier, Gates Open



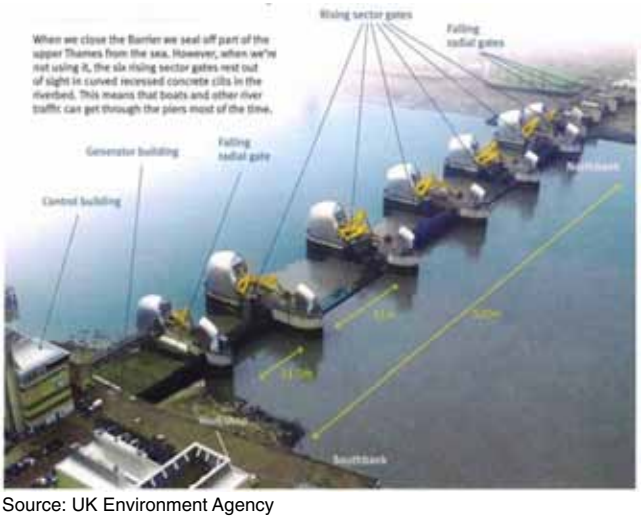
Source: www.halcrow.com

Many places in the world *do not* have these: You read what happens in Indonesia, what happens in Bangladesh, but this shows the reality of what's built and what works.

Now, let's look at a place that has a different set of problems than Hoboken or Staten Island: Tokyo, with 12.5 million people. This is an underground holding tank (**Figure 11**), because, after all, the archipelago of Japan has mountains underwater, and if you get rainfall in a deluge coming down on on top of you, at the same time you get a tsunami, or just a surge, where do you put the water?

So, they have built the biggest set of underground holding tanks in the world, what they popularly call the "Underground Temple." It's gigantic, on the perimeter of Tokyo, the "Metropolitan Area Outer Underground Discharge Channel." But basically, they have a big collection for the sea coming in, the deluge coming off the slopes toward the city, and it's all collected in these gigantic, gigantic holding tanks; and then they have gigantic pumps to pump it out when it's safe to do so, and they know where they want to pump it.

FIGURE 9
Thames River Barrier, London (diagram)



Source: UK Environment Agency

FIGURE 10
Thames River Barrier, London



Source: Creative Commons

This is normal engineering reality that was built over the last 40 or 50 years, despite the antagonistic environment to this. That took about 14 years to build, and they have a lifespan, but it's intended.

North America: Great Projects Thwarted

So, what's happened in North America? We probably wouldn't have to be here, if everything had been built. We'd be saying good-bye to friends going to the Moon!

I want to say something about the time period in which this tremendous shift was foisted on our country, when we were susceptible to it, and the projects already defined in the 1940s and '50s that were completely thwarted. Because, remember, when President Kennedy was killed in 1963, he was for looking ahead 50 years and building necessary projects, and going to the Moon. You had echelons of scientists and engineers at the Atomic Energy Commission, and elsewhere, but they were thwarted.

And what happened is, you had the Vietnam War, and around that late '60s-early '70s period, you had the ferocious intervention of Earth Day: Don't mess with Mother Nature, *do not* go into the environment and build defenses, and increase your water supply, moving water to where you need it, prevent it from going where you don't need it, as with sea surges.

You had the National Environmental Protect Act passed. When it comes to the North American Water and Power Alliance, you had a real stinker from Washington State named Henry Jackson, popularly, Sen. "Scoop" Jackson, who was in the Senate a long time, and he was directly run like a puppet out of London, to pass a law in the late '60s; they organized in the Senate against the North American Water and Power Alliance by saying, "There shall be no moving of water from one basin to another basin." You can't move Missouri River Basin water down to Texas if you needed to. You certainly cannot move water from the Mackenzie or Alaska basins up north, down to the Columbia or Snake River basins. It was said, there shall be no more regional studies, nothing should go on. This is bad, and I just want to assert that.

But I want to point out one thing. I remember that '60s period very well, what was promoted. By the way, Al Gore was still a young man, he was only born in 1948; so even before we had Al Gore… You know, Al Gore says, if you breathe and emit carbon dioxide, you're polluting the Earth. Before that, they said the biggest problem with water was pollution, not insufficiency, not floods, not sea surges. Books poured forth in the early '60s from the Conservation Foundation, which predates the World Wildlife Fund. It goes back to the old Belgian King Leopold/Nazi conservation foundations of Europe. And it said, point-source pollution is terrible (like factories in New Jersey are point-source polluters). But non-point-source polluters are bad, like dairy cows in New York State, or hogs in Iowa, all of this is pollution!

Humanity's activities pollute, so that was part of the

FIGURE 11
Metropolitan Area Outer Underground Discharge Channel ('Underground Temple'), Tokyo



Source: Creative Commons

origin of the Greenies. The Greenies aren't our discussion here. But what happened is, you didn't have the North American Water and Power Alliance; you didn't have the rehabilitation or building of dams in the Missouri and Ohio and Mississippi systems. And some of those, like Lock and Dam #1 on the Ohio—it's about 80-90 years old! It is tissue paper! It is ready to fall in! In fact, here is what happened last year in Illinois [shows video]: This is not a storm, not a surge, it's a lock and dam, the Lockport Wall. That's a lock wall near the lock in Illinois, look at it! 280 feet collapsing into the water. This happened southwest of Chicago, in an area where the Army Corps of Engineers for 20 years was begging to have money to effect repairs!

And finally, on the seacoast, there is one exception, which is very important, about New Orleans after Katrina. But other than that, other than those three major barriers we looked at in New England, north of here, New Orleans was not built up over this time period; other places that needed that kind of protection were not built up.

Money Bubbles

Now, what did happen? Money bubbles: 1971, the same time period in which Earth Day and the National Environmental Protection Act were foisted on the country, the dollar was taken off any regular relationship with other currencies. Fixed currency rates were eliminated, money values had to float, and the markets will determine what's a worthy investment in physical infrastructure or not.

And one ironic aspect about the last 40 years, is that the land and water use patterns became so subservient to this money-thinking, such as real estate values, that the seashore, waterfront property, seacoast property, became the hot thing for the mortgages, both commercial and residential. And in fact, the insurance went hand-in-hand with the real estate speculation: If you wanted to retire and build a cottage on the seashore that you knew was going to get slammed, some insurance company might not sell you house insurance. But along came AIG and Hartford and Travellers, and organized the Federal government to subsidize *them* giving you an insurance policy, so they weren't going to lose anything. So what if your house got swept away, and you were left penniless?

This was done in a major way all around the country. Last year, in South Dakota, along the Missouri River, was a ritzy, gated golf community. Well, the Missouri came down and just swept it down to St. Louis somewhere, and that was the end of that. And the government had to pay the insurers to insure those ritzy houses, when zoning shouldn't have allowed them to be built in the first place. We should have ball parks, and gardens, and botanical parks, and then people can live where it's safe.

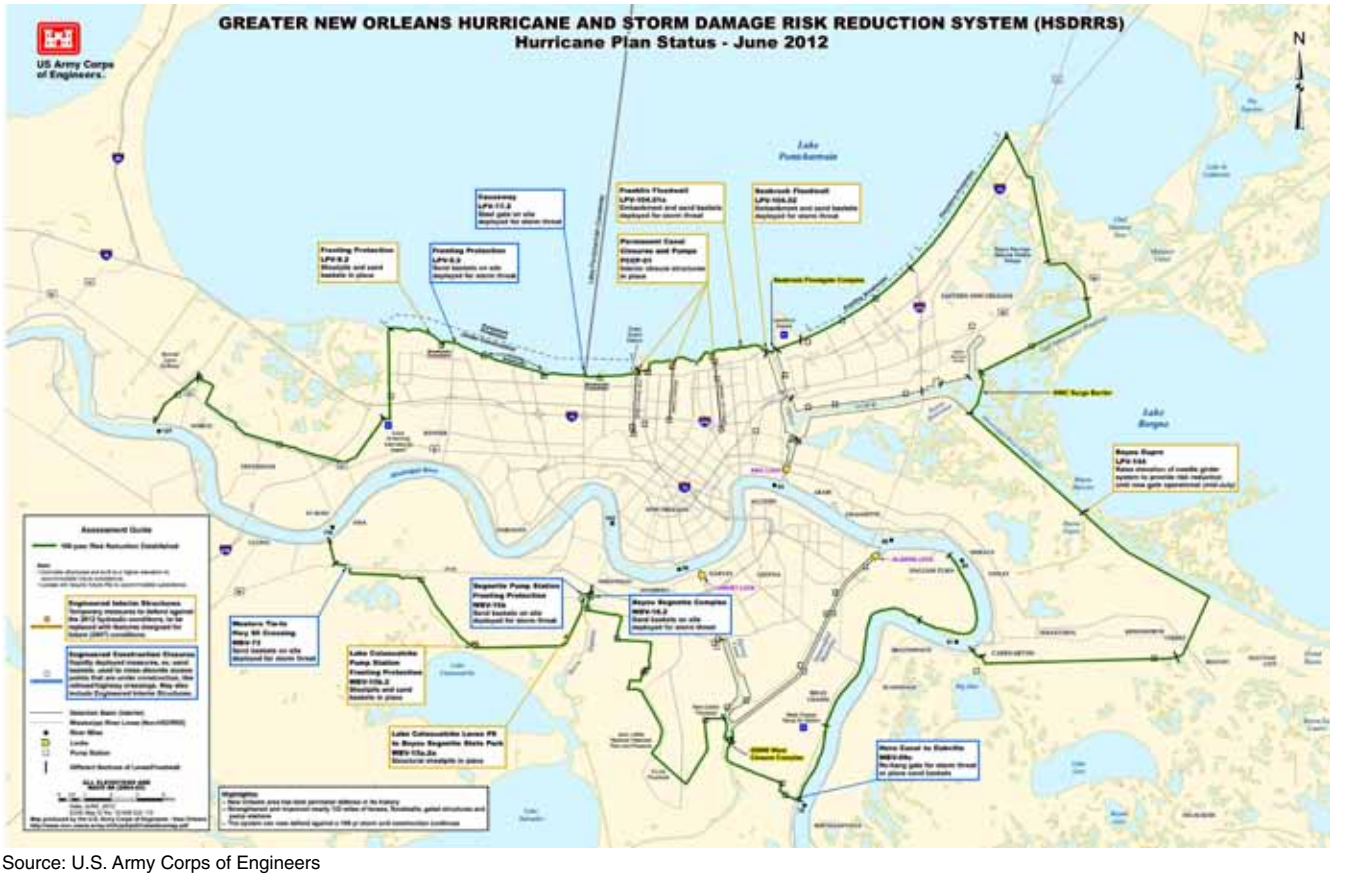
So, that's why the first tranche of any so-called relief for Hurricane Sandy, $9 billion, was approved in Washington yesterday morning, to help pay for the national flood insurance subsidy. Now, everyone who needs insurance, fine, I want them to get it, but the system is terrible.

The Post-Katrina Counter-Example

In that context, let's consider one thing that goes against this entire trend: In 2005, reality struck, with Hurricane Katrina. New Orleans was slammed. There was a singular success there, that we need to know about, because it certainly isn't being publicized; and that is, within 13 days—not 68 days or whatever it's been now since Hurricane Sandy—there was a reflex reaction towards the American System, of Republicans,

FIGURE 12

Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS), June 2012



Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Democrats, whatever, in Washington, and they passed authorization for relief, including by the Army Corps of Engineers, to go and look at Holland, go look at St. Petersburg, and build something in New Orleans that works, since our city went under water.

And in fact, partly that was the moment of shame for George W. Bush and FEMA head "Brownie," so in great national chagrin, this was passed. In 2006-2007, rush studies were done, in which the entire system was decided on, as it reads at the top, "Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System" (**Figure 12**). This was put out this year, but *most of this is done!* This is finished!

Let me point out a couple of things about it: New Orleans is an east-west kind of city, so it's called the Crescent City. The Mississippi is coming down here, the Gulf of Mexico is both in the east and the south; and a great deal of the city is below sea level. In Holland, with about 16-17 million people, 9 million of them live below sea level, so there was a great unity of thought that we should have protection there. It's hard to be on the other side.

And in New Orleans, there was a unity of thought that there was a way to protect it; and what was thought about was, instead of having the patchwork that they had had, of this neighborhood levee, that neighborhood levee, all of which got flooded—besides the fact they weren't strong enough, they hadn't been rehabbed—what they decided is, "We'll strengthen the perimeter." It isn't like one continuous wall, but there are *very high*, strengthened levees in critical places. Over here is Lake Borgne and here's the Gulf of Mexico. Usually the winds come in here to Lake Borgne, and up here is Lake Ponchartrain.

I want to show you a funnel (far right/east side of **Figure 13**): Imagine this is the Y of a funnel. Right here is where the water came rushing in, and *totally submerged* the Ninth Ward and all that. This is a funnel. So, do you see this little piece? This is a barrier, called the Lake Borgne Surge Barrier—do you see that little

FIGURE 13
Lake Borgne Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Barrier (IHNC)



Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

north-south-running piece? That has been built. That was finished on June 11. That was tremendous, because you're building in sediment of Mississippi mud that goes back centuries! You're having to solve problems of how you put pylons down in this silt, and what's going to happen? How do you get concrete to dry underwater? How do you control it all, how do you do it fast?

So here's two things: They decided to put that in, and that prevents all of this huge funnel, funnelling everything out here, from the Gulf of Mexico, right into the city. Then, there were other parts built up here, and over here in the west. Just briefly—you have a different problem where the Mississippi comes down, and if you have a lot of water, you need pumps, to put the water where it won't hurt anyone—the biggest pump installation in the entire world, not in Holland, not in Asia, is now built, just in the last year.

So now, let's look a little more at this prevention of the funnel effect, in this picture (**Figure 14**). Here it is! It was finished last year. It's only two miles long, but it had tremendous challenges. There are two or three sets of locks, one of which you can see in use there.

This shows one of the gates, where you see those columns, 1,200 of those. Then the top was put on, they were fairly modular. You can see, it's a drop-down lift gate, it goes up and down.

The next slide shows a different kind of gate at

FIGURE 14
Lake Borgne Surge Barrier


Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

FIGURE 15
Seabrook Gates (under construction)



Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Seabrook Gates (**Figure 15**), still under construction, but pretty much finished now; this is a kind of radial gate; you see it can swing out, and also there's what might be a lift gate, so you can go through there; most of the time not in use.

Here's the pumping station, the biggest in the world (**Figure 16**). Here's the diagram of how it works (**Figure 17**). There's a barrier connected with it that has gates. The water comes in, then there's the turbo action to lift it, and it can shove it out in propeller fashion at incredible speed.

In August, Hurricane Isaac hit the Gulf of Mexico—the mayor, head of the Army Corps of Engineers, everyone went out there, and had a big ceremony (completely blacked out of the media), and it worked perfectly. New Orleans was kept perfectly safe. It did fine.

This was about $15 billion, only twice the insurance top-off thing passed yesterday, and the entire system has been built. And it was initiated under the Bush Administration after the shame of Katrina; and Congress passed this, it was signed. And then, in the beginning of the Obama Administration, the Army Corps of Engineers and New Orleans used the money in the Stimulus Act to finish it. That's how they found a way, and they did it. Of course, everything else around the country was pretty well stiffed. But it's a proof of principle.

FIGURE 16
World's Largest Pumping Station, New Orleans



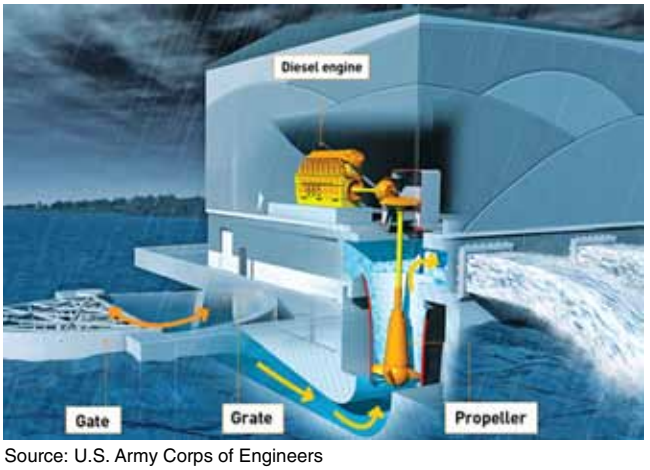
Unleashing Ingenuity

Now the same kind of scale of thinking is what we need here, and that's what we'll wind up with. Because we have to do the North American Water and Power Alliance, so we don't have the West dry up, and no food, *and* for recreating our nation. We need the defenses here in New York and New Jersey, we need those inland waterway regulatory systems.

So we have an apparent conundrum. We don't have the means to produce all that steel, all that equipment, all of that aggregate and cement, to do the projects. But on the other hand, if we don't commit to doing them, we will never be able to reorganize the ability to do them!

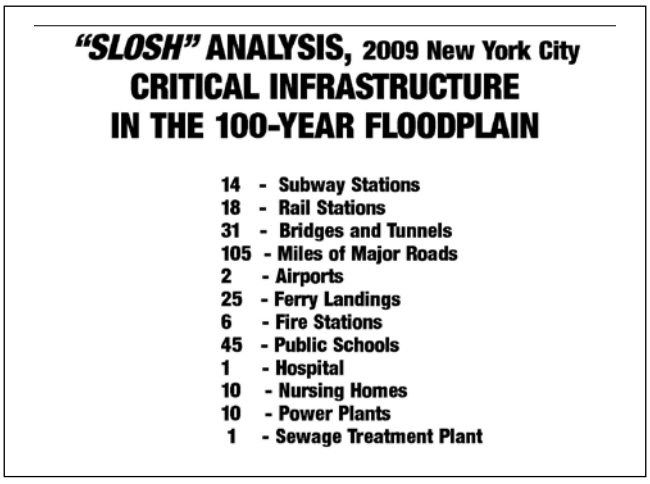
And that's really a question of how do you resolve something—it's like a resolution of some apparent conflict in music, there is a way, it can be done. You unleash ingenuity.

FIGURE 17
Pumping Station (diagram)



Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

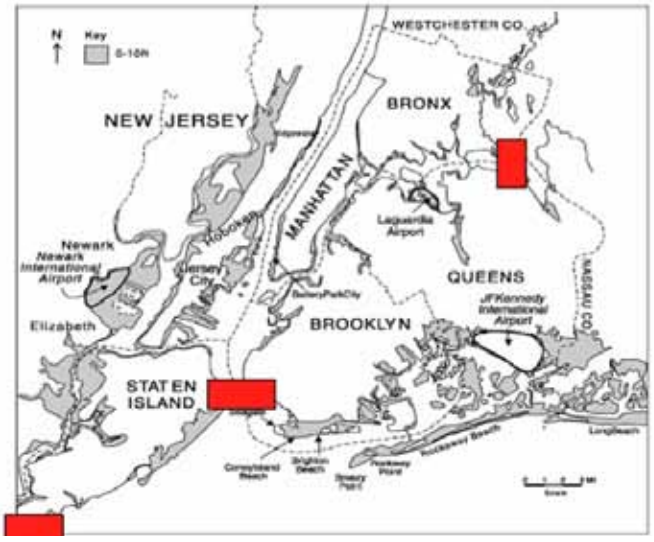
FIGURE 18



Adapted from: *Storm Surge Barriers to Protect New York City, 2013,* N.Y. Office of Emergency Management, 2009.

FIGURE 19

Perimeter Defenses, New York City-New Jersey Seacoast



Source: V. Gornitz, NASA

In 1995, they developed what they called "Slosh" to analyze what places in New York City, New Jersey, and elsewhere would be under water in the case of a century flood (**Figure 18**). And, for example, this is New York City and New Jersey (**Figure 19**). In 1995-1999, they knew 14 subway stations would go in a surge; they knew 18 rail stations, such as Hoboken; they knew what would happen to the tunnels and the bridges being potentially hit. The critical miles of roadways, two airports, ferry landings, six fire stations, public and private schools, more than one hospital, 10 nursing homes, 10 power plants, a sewage treatment plant. And the City of New York *knew* which public housing complexes were in the floodplain and would have flooding. So we knew that, and this *wasn't* acted on; this was 1995-2009, and we knew what ought to be acted on—we saw what happened here on Oct. 29.

But in any case, in 2009, a seminar was held, and Diane Sare and the campaign has a new book that just came out a month ago, *Storm Surge Barriers To Protect New York City Against the Deluge*, and it includes New Jersey, and it's by the American Society of Civil Engineers. And it gives the proceedings of the papers presented to that seminar in March 2009, of people who came from St. Petersburg, Russia; Holland; and the United States, especially the State University of New York at Stony Brook, to discuss what we're going to do.

Now, they have three proposals on that perimeter principle, and we'll now look at the overview (**Figure 20**). One thing is obvious: you have the Verrazano Narrows where the bridge is—put a barrier there. Here, into New Jersey on Arthur Kill, between Staten Island and

FIGURE 20

Verrazano Narrows Barrier (artist's rendering)



Source: Arcadis

FIGURE 21
Verrazano Narrows Barrier Swing Gates (artist's rendering)



Source: Arcadis

New Jersey, where you have the other bridge beside Goethals—put a barrier there. Up here, you have a problem that's not a river, but the Long Island Sound can funnel in, so put a barrier on the East River, like this inner side of Throgs Neck. And they all discussed the substratum of the dirt, what did the whole thing look like, what are the problems, and so on.

Now, let's look at their designs: This is an artist's rendering (**Figure 21**); these are the radial gates like in Holland and St. Petersburg; here's the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, and right next to it, you'd have a barrier and you'd be able to protect the harbor from the sea surge. Here's another view of it, closer up. And you could shut those, the way you've seen them shut near Rotterdam, when you have to do it. These are the engineers; Arcadis worked on Rotterdam and also New Orleans.

Next, this is for Arthur Kill (**Figure 22**), between New Jersey and Staten Island. Some of these have tunnels involved, bridges involved—they have many designs for it.

And the third one, on the East River (**Figure 23**)—they proposed to use the kind of thing here that they're doing for Venice. This is the barrier gate, when it's closed; this is coming in from Long Island Sound, and over here is to protect the city, and a cylinder comes up and keeps up that barrier, and otherwise, the gate lies flat on the bottom. That's the idea for the East River.

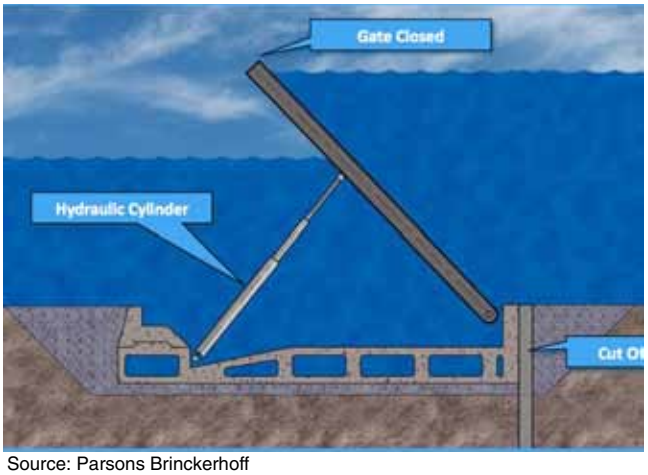
Finally, we have the grand idea from the company called Halcrow Ch2m Hill; they say, don't just do the

FIGURE 22
Arthur Kill Barrier (artist's rendering)



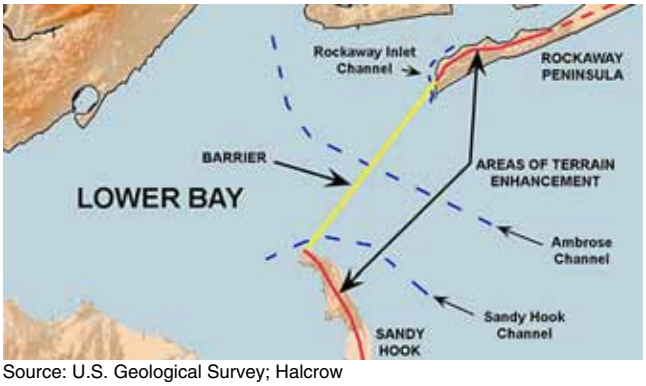
Source: CDM Smith, Inc., Lawrence Murphy

FIGURE 23
East River Barrier (diagram)



Source: Parsons Brinckerhoff

FIGURE 24
N.Y./N.J. Outer Harbor Gateway



Source: U.S. Geological Survey; Halcrow

Verrazano Narrows and Arthur Kill, go out farther, build five miles at least, between the Rockaways and Sandy Hook here (**Figure 24**). And there's a way to do it: You can build a barrier, you can still protect your shipping lane in the Ambrose Channel; you can have your Sandy Hook Channel, and that company is ready to talk turkey. They met in 2009, and that would be an outer barrier in this way.

So the same principle here, is, protect the perimeter. Now, that doesn't protect the barrier islands that go from New Jersey all the way down to Georgia. That you can figure out, if you don't have a money/Greenie orientation; you can figure out how to use your funds for the benefit and safety of every state concerned, instead of for the insurance-financial-City of London rip-off.

So that's what you want to do.

Let's go to the next slide. We're going back to the 1,200 pylons being put down, under construction, into Lake Borgne, New Orleans, to protect from that funnel effect, and done for two years (**Figure 25**). Unbelievable! There they are again. What this implies, is *we can* unleash the ingenuity and solve the problems, as long as we have the intent, and it's associated with literally going to the Moon, as well as improving the conditions on the planet.

We already have the first plank, Glass-Steagall has already been introduced to Congress, H.R. 129, and that means the credits can be organized, and we can go ahead. And what's associated with it—there was a National Credit Bank discussed, I understand, in the late '70s, which the LaRouche Political Action Committee is going to talk more about and update, and some of the New Jersey Congressmen were involved. Congressman Charlie Rangel from New York City, was a young Congressman then, and he still says, have the CCC. He had a universal service bill in 2011. What's needed for site preparation, debris cleanup, and mobilization is implied in what's seen in these slides here.

Thank you.

FIGURE 25
New Orleans Lake Borgne Pylons (under construction)



Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Editorial

Preempt Obama with Glass-Steagall!

There's one way, and only one way, to deal with the policy that President Obama is trying to ram through the Congress on the budget: Put through the Glass-Steagall law *right now!* Insist that Glass-Steagall's restoration is the first thing on the agenda, before anything else is up for debate.

That is the message which Lyndon LaRouche stressed in remarks to his associates Jan. 15.

What Glass-Steagall will do, is, it will cancel U.S. government responsibility for those parts of the economy which we're dumping by implementing the Glass-Steagall standard. Neither the Federal government nor the taxpayer will be responsible any longer for private gambling debts; the swindling Wall Street banks, which have received trillions in bailout funds, and continue to receive billions in bailouts through the Fed, will just be cut off. Glass-Steagall is going to *dump* a great mass of nominal money associated with what's coming out of the banking system.

In other words, when you cut off the private banking system, to clean out all the crap that's nothing but gambling debt, what you do, is you *reduce the national debt, by a very, very large ratio!*

Then you can take up the question of extending credit for necessary future progress, in order to rebuild the nation.

What's needed is clarity on what part of the debt is a real obligation of the government, and what is not, before anything else is done. Under Glass-Steagall, legitimate debts—especially those tied to physical production, and the general welfare—are regulated and backed up by the Federal government. Gambling debts, emphatically including the trillions which have been committed for bailing out the Wall Street banks—much of which is still not counted on the books of the Federal government—are the responsibility of the private banks which incurred the obligation.

Under Bush and Obama, the Federal government has effectively become the protector, the very lifeblood, of those privateer bankers. *That must be stopped immediately,* unconditionally, before any sane measures can be taken on the economic conditions of the United States. Without Glass-Steagall, Obama and the Fed will continue to pile trillions of dollars of debt (hyperinflation) onto the backs of the American people, debt that will *crush and kill* those people. So, the rules have to be changed, now, by reimposing Glass-Steagall, immediately.

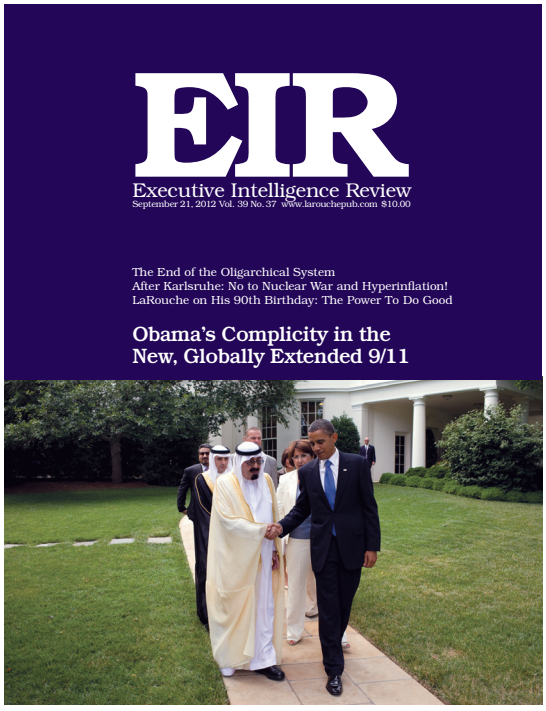
It's time for the Monopoly game to end. The whole system is bankrupt. The whole purpose of Glass-Steagall is to eliminate, burn, destroy, all this nominal money, which has no intrinsic value whatsoever! And to make a distinction between the value that exists in the economy, actual value that exists as physical value, efficiently physical, as opposed to the gambling money. That is the pathway to restoring U.S. credit, as opposed to the big gambling scheme, which the Obama Administration has committed the U.S. Treasury to backing up!

You can recover and salvage something which you can call an intrinsic value, as an economic process. But the bulk of the money and debt circulating in the entire U.S. system is, on net, worthless. And it's headed toward less than worthless, unless you cancel, absolutely remove from the accounts, all these phony debts.

We know exactly how to do it; Glass-Steagall will do it. It won't do all the cleanup, but it will do it. Without Glass-Steagall the United States cannot exist. Nor can the trans-Atlantic community.

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