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China's Congress Stakes Out Path for New Silk Road
EU Bluff Against Greece and Russia Raises War Threat
Russia Seeks Development as Solution to Conflicts

**U.S. Nuclear Warfighting Plan
Could Wipe Out the Human Race**



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From the Editors

“Who is the warmonger?” asked Helga Zepp-LaRouche of her audience in Houston last week. It’s not Putin, she replied, and proceeded to review the buildup of provocations coming from NATO and the U.S. since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

This week we answer the question in a different way, with a full-some review of the strategic doctrine of the United States, which review demonstrates without a doubt that it is the United States that has adopted a British imperial doctrine of provocations against Russia, up to and including the potential launching of nuclear war. The documents speak for themselves; we add some background commentary on their political origins. Not surprisingly, this policy traces back to the British Empire itself (*Feature*).

Mrs. LaRouche also addresses the war issue again in this issue; she it characterizes as a “bluff,” similar to the bluff being wielded by the European Union against Greece (*International*). With both these bluffs, mankind is put on a dangerous track toward war—unless we seize the ready option of joining with the new world economic order being put into motion by the BRICS.

The promise of the BRICS is presented in two important articles. First, our review of the Chinese People’s Congress—which counters the claptrap you are getting about President Xi and that country in other media (*Economics*). Second, we reprint an exciting programmatic proposal from Russia, which appears in our Special Report “The New Silk Road Becomes the World Land-Bridge” (*Physical Economy*). The kind of high-technology industrialization presented there should give you an idea of what progress would actually look like, especially if the U.S. links up with the BRICS.

You will find reports on other significant developments in our *International* section, in both Europe and Asia. We are also pleased to present a review of the recent book by former UN official Antonio Costa, famous for his identification of the role of drugs in propping up the world financial system.

The *National* section features our report on the insane warmongering in Congress, and should be read with the *Feature* in mind.

Last but not least, we turn to *Science*, this week presenting a provocative discussion of the scientific method of Nicholas of Cusa, which was carried forward by Johannes Kepler in his crucial breakthroughs on the nature of the Solar System, and man’s role in it. It is on Cusa’s level of thinking, the level of the Renaissance, that the horrors portended in the drive for war can, and must, be overcome.

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The “Castle Bravo” U.S. thermonuclear test, March 1, 1954, Bikini Atoll, Marshall Islands



U.S. Department of Energy

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The United States is preparing to fight and win a nuclear war, but the idea that it can do that against another nuclear power is a dangerous delusion. Gen. Maj. Andrei Burbin, chief of the Central Command Post of Russia’s Strategic Missile Forces, made this clear in an unusual March 1 on-air briefing on Russia’s RSN Radio. The message he delivered was that “utopian” military schemes for “limited nuclear war” or a “counterforce” destruction of Russia’s nuclear weapons are illusory. Since 2001, the U.S. has been reorganizing and modernizing its nuclear forces on the belief that nuclear weapons aren’t just a last-resort weapon, but are actually tools for coercing other nations into heeling before the Anglo-American empire of globalization.

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Who would be so perverse as to come up with a strategy to launch a nuclear war? The short answer is the British financial oligarchy, whose determination to maintain world domination has historically included not only the threat to deploy the bomb in order to intimidate those in resistance, but the willingness to risk global extinction by use of what they’ve called “limited nuclear war.” Today’s U.S. military doctrine derives directly from these utopian ideas.

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A psychological, propaganda war on behalf of an all-out confrontation with Russia was on full display on Capitol Hill last week, with testimony by Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili (now an advisor to Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko), and anti-Putin fanatic Garry Kasparov, before House and Senate committees.

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U.S. Nuclear Warfighting Plan Could Wipe Out the Human Race

by Carl Osgood

March 7—In January 1995, the world came to the brink of nuclear war, but war was avoided because tensions between Russia and the West were very low. The launch of a Norwegian scientific rocket, along a trajectory that coincided with that from which Moscow expected a blinding nuclear attack from U.S. Trident submarine-launched ballistic missiles would originate, set off alarm bells in Moscow, but the conditions of Russia-U.S. relations were such that Russian President Boris Yeltsin was able to hold off long enough to determine that, in fact, there was no activity by U.S. nuclear forces that were a threat to Russia.

Today, MIT scientist Theodore Postol wrote in a Jan. 25, 2015 *Boston Globe* article, a similar false alarm might not have such a happy outcome. “In the different political circumstances of 2015, the same cautious assessment of the rocket’s trajectory by Russia’s political and military leaders might not be possible,” he wrote. Among the measures that Postol called for to reduce such dangers, aside from strengthening NATO’s conventional force capabilities and improving Russia’s early warning network, was this: “The United States should rein in its senseless and dangerous nuclear force modernization efforts. This program creates the appearance that the United States is preparing to fight and win a nuclear war with Russia. The nuclear deterrent on hand, with minor modifications, is already more than enough.”

The reality is that the United States is not only creating the “appearance” of preparing to fight and win a

nuclear war, but it actually *is* preparing to fight and win a nuclear war, although the idea that the United States can do that against another nuclear power is a dangerous delusion. Gen. Maj. Andrei Burbin, chief of the Central Command Post of Russia’s Strategic Missile Forces (SMF), made this clear in an unusual March 1 on-air briefing on Russia’s RSN Radio. The message he delivered was that “utopian” military schemes for “limited nuclear war” or a “counterforce” destruction of Russia’s nuclear weapons are illusory: They will fail, and the result will be retaliation against the U.S. by Russia using the missiles of the SMF. (See “Hear These Russian Warnings: They Might Save Your Life,” [EIR](#), March 6, 2015.)

Since the beginning of the George W. Bush Administration in 2001, the United States has been reorganizing and modernizing its nuclear forces on the basis that nuclear weapons aren’t just a last-resort weapon, but are actually tools for coercing other sovereign nations into heeling before the Anglo-American empire of globalization. The successive Bush and Obama administrations have put a great deal of effort into increasing the military utility of nuclear weapons, by integrating them into strategies that also include the strategic use of conventional weapons, and globally deployed missile defense systems. As many experts such as Postol have warned, this increases the danger that nuclear weapons will be used in a geopolitical confrontation or in response to a false alarm, such as the 1995 Norwegian rocket incident.

The 2002 Nuclear Posture Review

The Bush Administration's 2002 Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) began blurring the distinction between nuclear and conventional weapons, and indeed, offensive and defensive systems, when it declared that the Cold War triad of land-based bombers, land-based nuclear ballistic missiles, and submarine-launched ballistic missiles would be replaced by a new triad, consisting of offensive systems, defensive systems, and upgraded defense infrastructure to provide new capabilities against emerging threats. For sure, the old triad would remain, but now it was to be subsumed under a larger strategic concept, in which it would be combined with ballistic missile defenses and bound together through enhanced command and control (C2) systems.

"The addition of defenses, along with the prospects for timely adjustments to force capabilities and enhanced C2 and intelligence systems, means that the U.S. will no longer be as heavily dependent on offensive strike forces to enforce deterrence as it was during the Cold War," then-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld wrote in the unclassified forward to the NPR. "The addition of non-nuclear strike forces—including conventional strike and information operations—means that the U.S. will be less dependent than it has been in the past on nuclear forces to provide its offensive deterrent capability."

Subsequent media leaks, in the months after the NPR was briefed to Congress and the press, provided some clarity on what this meant. Columnist William Arkin leaked excerpts from the document in March 2002, which were then published by the Federation of American Scientists, though the excerpts were never confirmed by the Pentagon. According to Arkin, the NPR directed the military to develop plans to use nuclear weapons against Russia, China, Iraq, Iran, North

Korea, Syria, and Libya. It also instructed the Pentagon to develop plans for using nuclear weapons in the context of a renewed Israeli-Arab crisis, for retaliation after chemical or biological weapons attacks, and in the event of "surprising military developments" of an unspecified nature. The document did not yet define Russia as a threat, but stated that "Russia's nuclear

forces and programs nevertheless remain a concern."

U.S. nuclear planning had to take into account the fact that Russia faced many strategic problems along its periphery, making its future course impossible to chart with certainty. "In the event that U.S. relations with Russia significantly worsen in the future, the U.S. may need to revise its nuclear force levels and posture."

Coercion and a blurring of the lines between nuclear and conventional weapons feature prominently in the document. "Systems capable of striking a wide range of targets throughout an adversary's territory may dissuade a potential adversary from pursuing threatening capabilities. For example, a demonstration of the linkage between long-range precision

strike weapons and real-time intelligence systems may dissuade a potential adversary from investing heavily in mobile ballistic missiles," the document says.

However, if dissuasion fails, then the adversary will have to be defeated by long-range strike capabilities. "Composed of both non-nuclear and nuclear weapons, the strike element of the New Triad can provide greater flexibility in the design and conduct of military campaigns to defeat opponents decisively. Non-nuclear strike capabilities may be particularly useful to limit collateral damage and conflict escalation. Nuclear weapons could be employed against targets able to withstand non-nuclear attack (for example, deep underground bunkers or bio-weapon facilities)." As Arkin wrote, gone is the notion that nuclear weapons might



Donald "Strangelove" Rumsfeld's Pentagon began to blur the distinction between nuclear and conventional weapons, raising the likelihood of nuclear war.

EIRNS

only be used as a “last resort,” against an adversary that actually has the capability to wipe us off the map.

The 2010 NPR

The Obama Administration’s 2010 Nuclear Posture Review was a milquetoast version of the 2001 document. It talked about President Obama’s Prague 2009 speech, in which he stated his goal of seeking “the peace and security of the world without nuclear weapons.” As we shall see, however, the administration has never closed the door to nuclear warfighting, not even in that initial 2010 document. Indeed, the Obama Administration has continued the policy of Rumsfeld and the neo-cons, ranging from military strategic doctrine to the coverup of the role of the Saudi sponsors of 9/11.

“The massive nuclear arsenal we inherited from the Cold War era of bipolar military confrontation is poorly suited to address the challenges posed by suicidal terrorists and unfriendly regimes seeking nuclear weapons,” the NPR said, in an echo of the previous administration. “Therefore, it is essential that we better align our nuclear policies and posture to our most urgent priorities preventing nuclear terrorism and nuclear proliferation.”

The document declared that the U.S. was prepared to strengthen its negative security assurance, that is, that “the United States will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapons states that are party to the NPT [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] and in compliance with their nuclear non-proliferation obligations.”

That still leaves a target list very similar to that in the 2001 NPR. However, because of other types of threats, including conventional and chemical weapons, which nuclear weapons may still be able to deter, “The United States is . . . not prepared at the present time to adopt a universal policy that deterring nuclear attack is the sole purpose of nuclear weapons.”

The 2010 NPR also preserved the other elements of the “new triad” of the 2001 document: “Contributions by non-nuclear systems to U.S. regional deterrence and reassurance goals will be preserved by avoiding limitations on missile defenses and preserving options for using heavy bombers and long-range missile systems in conventional roles,” i.e., Prompt Global Strike, a concept first developed by Rumsfeld’s Pentagon. In this vein, the document reports that the administration will continue to maintain forward-based B61 nuclear gravity bombs in Europe and proceed with the full upgrade pro-

gram for that weapon to the B61-12 configuration, which would have greater accuracy and a lower yield. The U.S. will also “continue to maintain and develop long-range strike capabilities that supplement U.S. forward military presence and strength regional deterrence.”

U.S. Nuclear Employment Strategy

The U.S. Nuclear Employment Strategy, as reported to Congress in June 2013, further muddies the waters. Although differences remain between the U.S. and Russia, it says, “the prospects of a military confrontation between us have declined dramatically.” Yet, “Russia remains the United States’ only peer in nuclear weapons capabilities.” While the need for parity is not as compelling as it was during the Cold War, “large disparities in nuclear capabilities could raise concerns on both sides and among U.S. allies and partners, and may not be conducive to maintaining a stable, long term relationship, especially as nuclear forces are significantly reduced. We therefore continue to place importance on Russia joining us as we move to lower levels of nuclear weapons.”

“The United States seeks to maintain strategic stability with Russia,” it goes on. “Consistent with the objective of maintaining an effective deterrent posture, the United States seeks to improve strategic stability by demonstrating that it is not our intent to negate Russia’s strategic nuclear deterrent or to destabilize military relationship with Russia. Strategic stability would be strengthened through similar Russian steps toward the United States and U.S. Allies.”

One theme that runs through the rest of the document is reducing reliance on nuclear weapons by eventually replacing them with conventional strike capabilities. “DoD is directed to conduct deliberate planning for non-nuclear strike options to assess what objectives and effects could be achieved through integrated non-nuclear strike options and to propose possible means to make these objectives and effects achievable. . . . [P]lanning for non-nuclear strike options is a central part of reducing the role of nuclear weapons.”

Otherwise, the United States will continue to maintain the current nuclear triad. “These forces should be operated on a day-to-day basis in a manner that maintains strategic stability with Russia and China, deters potential regional adversaries and assures U.S. allies and partners.”

The report also demonstrates that U.S. targeting doctrine has settled on counterforce, rather than a

“counter-value” or “minimum deterrence” strategy. In other words, U.S. targeting doctrine calls for targeting the adversary’s strategic forces, which certainly implies a “nuclear war winning” strategy. “The new guidance requires the United States to maintain significant counterforce capabilities against potential adversaries,” it says. The report “shows that the American military-political leadership is still firmly committed to the essentially global doctrine of offensive nuclear deterrence, with the strategy of ‘extended nuclear deterrence’ as a component of the later,” writes Russian analyst V. Kozin in *International Affairs* No. 6 in 2013; he points to the continued presence of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons in Europe as a major element of a “regional” nuclear strategy.

The B61 Bomb Modernization

Another element of the hair trigger is the B61 tactical nuclear bomb and plans to integrate its modernized version, called the B61-12, into the F-16 and Tornado aircraft of five NATO countries—Belgium, the Netherlands, Turkey, Germany, and Italy—as well as U.S. forces stationed in Europe, a task to be completed by about 2019, ahead of the 2020 delivery date for the first modernized bombs. Around the end of the decade, the F-16s are to be replaced by F-35 Joint Strike Fighters, which will also be capable of delivering the enhanced B61 bomb.

The Federation of American Scientists’ Hans Kristensen, in a Feb. 28, 2014 posting on his Strategic Security blog, strongly suggested that the B61-12 enhancement is a violation of the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review and of the spirit, if not the letter, of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, because it essentially creates a new nuclear capability that doesn’t exist with the current versions of that bomb, but does so under the pretext of a life-extension program (albeit one that’s behind



U.S. Air Force

Demonstration of the nuclear weapon disarming procedures on a “dummy” version of a B61 bomb in the Netherlands. The Obama Administration plans to upgrade these into the B61-12 configuration, which some experts consider to be a violation of arms control treaties.

schedule and over budget).

Under the program, the bomb gets a new tail kit assembly that substantially improves its accuracy, which Kristensen estimates to be a reduction from about 110-180 meters with unguided bombs, down to about 30 meters. The tail kit also gives the bomb the capability of gliding towards its target, something that current non-guided versions of the bomb can’t do. Kristensen reports that the Nuclear Posture Review “explicitly promised that ‘Life Extension Programs ... will not support new military missions or provide for new military capabilities.’ But the guided tail kit is a new military capability and so is a different explosive yield.”

Kristensen notes that NATO decided in 2012 “that the Alliance’s nuclear force posture currently meets the criteria for an effective deterrence and defense posture.” If so, he asks, “why enhance it with guided B61-12 nuclear bombs and F-35 stealth fighter-bombers?” Indeed, why create this new capability, when the publicly professed goal is to eliminate the need for nuclear weapons altogether? And why create it when it’s not even appropriate for the security needs of Europe today?

But the B61 isn’t the only nuclear weapon the Air Force wants to put on its bombers. It’s also seeking to

develop a new long-range cruise missile, for deployment in the mid-2020s. In an Oct. 10, 2014 blog posting, Kristensen specifically cited this weapon as a nuclear warfighting weapon, not a weapon for strategic deterrence. Known as the Long Range StandOff (LRSO) weapon, the new cruise missile, the Air Force argues, is needed to help bombers avoid having to penetrate air defenses in order to put the weapon on its target.

“The assumption for the argument is that if the Air Force didn’t have a nuclear cruise missile, an adversary could gamble that the United States would not risk an expensive stealth bomber to deliver a nuclear bomb and would not want to use ballistic missiles because that would be escalating too much,” Kristensen writes. “That’s quite an assumption, but for the nuclear warfighter the cruise missile is seen as this great in-between weapon that increases targeting flexibility in a variety of regional strike scenarios.”

Prompt Global Strike

The idea of Prompt Global Strike, as we’ve seen, was an outgrowth of the 2001 Nuclear Posture Review, one that was maintained in the 2010 review, even if it differs in implementation. In the beginning, the argument of Rumsfeld’s Pentagon for putting conventional warheads on ICBMs was that the United States had to have a long-range strike capability, to be able to quickly interdict emerging targets anywhere in the world, within 30 minutes to an hour of the decision being made, even in places where the U.S. had no forward military presence. The capability was needed, so the argument went, in case a high-value terrorist leader was suddenly located in some safe house where there were no U.S. force presence, or if North Korea suddenly began preparing for a nuclear missile launch against the United States. Other possible scenarios were probably not excluded, but these were the two main ones.

The initial proposals were based on placing conventional warheads, with enhanced precision capability, either on the submarine-launched Trident II missile or the land-based Minuteman missile, but those proposals were repeatedly shot down by Congress on concerns that were such a missile to be launched, it would look to other nuclear powers, particularly China and Russia, no different from a nuclear missile launch and, therefore, could precipitate a series of unpredictable events that would wind up with a very bad ending.

The idea was never abandoned, however. Both the Navy and the Air Force continued to pursue their own

separate programs, until 2008, when Congress placed them under a single Pentagon authority. The Navy continued to propose modifications to the Virginia-class attack submarines, to give them the capability to launch medium-range ballistic missiles, but that idea also has never flown in the Congress.

The programs currently underway are an Air Force/DARPA program to develop a hypersonic glide vehicle that would be launched from a modified MX missile, called the Conventional Strike Missile, and an Army project called the Advanced Hypersonic Weapon, launched from a shorter-range, three-stage rocket booster. Test flights have been conducted in both programs, with some failures, but both of them are a long way from actual deployment. In early 2013, there were indications that the Pentagon was considering redefining Prompt Global Strike to include systems of somewhat shorter ranges and slightly longer response times, in order to reduce costs.

Whatever the status of the Prompt Global Strike program, the Russians take the intention behind it very seriously and the U.S. military knows this. Former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. James Cartwright, noted Russian concerns at a conference in Virginia in May 2012. First of all, he said, they’re concerned about the possibility of U.S. missile defenses being able to “reach out and touch” their ICBMs, thereby upsetting the balance of power. Secondly, “there’s the potential that you could, in fact, generate a scenario where, in a bolt from the blue, we launch a pre-emptive attack and then use missile defense to weed out their residual fires [that is, retaliatory launch of their remaining ICBMs]. . . . We’re going to have to think our way out of this. We’re going to have to figure out how we’re going to do this.”

The Congressional Research Service report on Prompt Global Strike, dated Aug. 26, 2014, also mentions this. It describes efforts in the programs to develop vehicles that have a different trajectory from nuclear ICBMs, to reduce the chance of a misunderstanding. The Conventional Strike Missile, for example, would fly at a more compressed trajectory than that of nuclear ICBMs, before the hypersonic glide vehicle separates from the booster. The vehicle would then fly at the edge of the atmosphere on its way to the target. While such measures “can reduce the possibility of misunderstandings they probably cannot eliminate them,” the report says.

More importantly, “they cannot address concerns,

often expressed by officials in Russia and China, that the United States might use these weapons, along with other conventional strike systems and missile defenses, to acquire the ability to attack strategic or nuclear targets in these nations without resorting to the use of U.S. nuclear weapons.”

As for ballistic missile defenses and nuclear offensive forces, there seems to be no literature or doctrine in the public domain as to how they would work together, but they are indeed linked, as Rose Gottemoeller, the State Department’s chief arms control negotiator, has suggested. “Nuclear, conventional, and missile defense capabilities all contribute to extended deterrence, and they all require constant tending,” she said at a U.S. Strategic Command conference in 2012.

The Risk of Escalation

The danger that this all presents was vividly illustrated in September 2013, when Israel conducted a missile defense test over the Mediterranean Sea. The test involved firing a target missile north of the Libyan coast and towards the coast of Israel, in a test of the Arrow anti-missile system.

As reported by Russian nuclear weapons expert Pavel Podvig, in an Oct. 7, 2013 article in the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, the target missile was detected by a Russian early warning radar in Armavir, in southern Russia close to Iran. It is one of the radar facilities Russia had offered to operate jointly with the West, if the latter were really concerned about possible launches from Iran. The Israeli test took place during a very tense time. Obama had just backed down from launching an unprovoked attack on Syria, allegedly in response to a chemical weapons attack, and Russia, as Podvig noted, was very publicly opposed to such military action and wanted to dramatize the dangers involved.

“The Russian military let it be publicly known that the missile was detected and that the Russian president was informed about the launch,” Podvig writes. “For a few hours the identity of the missile remained a mystery, but then Israel admitted that the launch was part of a test of its Arrow anti-missile defense system.” The test was long planned and Israel had sent the necessary notifications to air-traffic control authorities. “Although Israel is under no obligation to provide direct notification of its ballistic missile launches to Russia or anyone else, the Russian military most likely knew about the planned test. Still, the fact that the identity of the missile was unknown for several hours, and that Russia

claimed to see the test as dangerous, shows that in the real world, events can interact in totally unexpected ways. They may trigger a response that nobody can expect, let alone predict.”

Podvig places all of this directly into the context of U.S. work on Conventional Prompt Global Strike (CPGS). “One of the questions that this program has left unanswered surrounds the potential consequences of using long-range sea-launched or land-based ballistic missiles to deliver a strike in a real-world crisis. Advocates of the program argue that the risk of miscalculation is small and suggest that if the CPGS launchers fly along a different trajectory or originate from a certain known location, they will not be mistaken for their ‘regular’ counterparts that carry nuclear warheads,” he writes.

“This argument, however, assumes that the circumstances under which these weapons were used would be well understood, and that everybody involved would be making perfectly rational decisions based on the information at hand. But the recent incident shows that these are faulty assumptions—things are much less predictable than we may think they are, and decisions are rarely based on rational calculations. In a rational world it is unlikely, say, that Moscow would mistake a missile launched from somewhere in the ocean for an attack on Russia and launch its nuclear missiles in response. However, in the real world, the use of a ballistic missile in a crisis—an unannounced and unexpected event of the kind no one has dealt with before—could trigger a chain of reactions that may not be under anyone’s control. The risk may be small, but it is not negligible. The incident in the Mediterranean reminded us again that one can never foresee everything.”

Which brings us back to the public briefing by Gen. Maj. Andrei Burbin of Russia’s Strategic Missile Forces. “In particular, in peacetime, our strategic mission is deterrence,” he said. “But if it is necessary to perform the mission of launching a nuclear missile strike, this will be done in the prescribed time frame with absolute certainty. Our units are geographically deployed in such a way that no global strike is capable of disabling the entire SMF.” He stressed, in response to a follow-up question that this “absolutely” applies to a nuclear attack on Russia, as well.

Indeed, the delusion that the U.S. could wage and win nuclear war against Russia could lead to the end of civilization itself.

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Who Thinks Nuclear War Is a Viable Option?

by Nancy Spannaus

March 9—Who would be so perverse as to come up with a strategy to launch a nuclear war? The short answer is the British financial oligarchy, whose determination to maintain world domination has historically included not only the threat to deploy the bomb in order to intimidate those in resistance, but the willingness to risk global extinction by use of what they've called "limited nuclear war." Today's U.S. military doctrine derives directly from these utopian ideas.

Why utopian? Because these ideas envision an outcome that cannot exist. Under current conditions of nuclear balance between the U.S. and Russia, the consequences of even a "limited" nuclear exchange would not be survival for the launcher, but would result in conditions that would make the planet unlivable for all mankind.

British Roots

It was H.G. Wells, in 1913, who first posited the use of "atomic bombs" as a means of imposing nuclear terror to cow nations into submission. In his book *A World Set Free*, Wells envisioned the destruction of the planet through an atomic (nuclear) war, with the result that "The catastrophe of the atomic bombs which shook men out of cities and businesses and economic relations shook them also out of their old established habits of thought, and out of the lightly held beliefs and prejudices that came down to them from the past. To borrow a word from the old-fashioned chemists, men were made nascent; they were released from old ties; for good or evil they were ready for new associations."

Wells was no independent voice of fantasy. He was a kept property of the British Round Table/Fabian Society, and his ideas, and novels, were in large part dramatizations of the thinking of that oligarchical entity, specifically including world depopu-

lation, the better to maintain oligarchical rule. One of his most prominent collaborators was Lord Bertrand Russell, who notoriously put forward the plan for threatening a pre-emptive nuclear strike against the Soviet Union in 1946—should that nation refuse to capitulate to the Western oligarchy's demand for world government.

The Soviet Union's development of its own nuclear capability put an end to that particular scheme, but the British vision of using nuclear warfare as a means for imposing geopolitical domination survived. In 1954, Russell pulled together the World Association of Parliamentarians for World Government, which brought Western and Russian scientists together to discuss how to live with the threat of the bomb, now that both blocs presumably had the ability to wipe each other out. Later, Russell joined in sponsoring a series of conferences on the nuclear threat, called after their location, Pugwash, in Canada. In a 1958 speech to the second Pugwash conference, titled, "How To Live with the Bomb and Survive: The Possibility of a Pax Russo-Americana in the Long-Range Rocket Stage of the So-Called Atomic Age," physicist Leo Szilard laid out one scenario, which was later published in the February 1960 *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*.

(If that sounds to you like the famous 1960s movie "Dr. Strangelove, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb," you're right. Szilard was the model for the "scientist" in that movie.)

In Szilard's scenario, the U.S. and Russia work out a



Dr. Leo Szilard, the model for the "scientist" in the 1964 movie "Dr. Strangelove, or How I Learned To Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb," titled a speech in 1960, "How To Live with the Bomb and Survive." Here, Szilard is shown testifying before Congress in October 1945.

scheme by which they agree on limited nuclear strikes, even exchanging city for city, in lieu of all-out nuclear war, which was understood to be a recipe for Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD). A form of nuclear cabinet warfare, if you will—and totally insane.

Equally insane were the scenarios put out in the same period by the Rand Corporation's Herman Kahn, who, in his book *On Thermo-nuclear War*, outlined how such a war could allegedly be won.

The Soviet military command never totally signed on to the Pugwash concept, despite General Secretary Khrushchov's desires. Soviet General Staff publications continued to discuss all possible war scenarios, including attempts to survive under nuclear attack and even, for the future, anti-missile beam weapons. But, after the horrifying spectacle of the Soviet 50-megaton "Tsar Bomba" hydrogen bomb test in October 1961, and the near-miss of the Cuban Missile Crisis one year later, both the Americans and Soviets moved toward acceptance of a nuclear "balance of terror," with a series of arms-control treaties, including the Anti-Ballistic-Missile Treaty in 1967. The idea was geopolitical stasis, under the constant threat of all-out MAD.

War Winning vs. LaRouche's SDI

A fundamental shift occurred in the 1970s, with the rise of the generation of strategists typified by Zbigniew Brzezinski, who, as head of the Trilateral Commission, effectively appointed Jimmy Carter to be the Democratic Presidential candidate, and then became his controller as National Security Advisor. The shift appeared in the announcement of a new doctrine, written by Brzezinski, known as Presidential Directive No. 59 in August of 1980. PD 59 formalized a policy of "limited nuclear war," also known as "flexible response."

Under PD 59, the U.S. policy was to target key Soviet military installations and its leadership, as a "limited" means of establishing dominance, without going to all-out destruction. In effect, it represented the announcement of the intent to develop a first-strike capability—and was denounced as such by the Soviet Union. It was dubbed "counterforce."

The Soviets immediately responded that it was a fantasy. Said Gen. Lt. Sergei Radziyevsky, Deputy Director of the Institute of Military History, to the news agency



George Bush Presidential Library

George H.W. Bush's Presidency was steeped in British-style imperial ideology, with the eager participation of the MAD Dick Cheney, then Secretary of Defense. The two are shown here at the White House in September 1991 with National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft (left).

TASS: "The question of using military force is envisaged in Soviet military doctrine only in a situation where aggression has really occurred, when the Soviet Union has no other way out but to *launch all its military might at the enemy to crush it completely*" (emphasis added).

It was in the context of the advancement of the PD 59 strategy—and the corresponding aggressive preparations by the Soviets in response—that Lyndon LaRouche began his fight for Mutually Assured Survival, the program of joint U.S.-Soviet missile defense which was presented by President Ronald Reagan as the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). LaRouche's concept was not military, but strategic, in the sense that it called for collaboration to develop the next-generation technologies which could make nuclear missiles, and thus nuclear warfare, obsolete—while also opening the door to a scientific revolution that would produce the technologies to serve the common aims of mankind.

President Reagan embraced LaRouche's concept; the British-influenced Kremlin nixed it. As a result, as LaRouche had forecast, the Kremlin pursued a military build-up which helped to create the crisis that brought on the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990-91.

The Post-Soviet Era

The end of the Soviet Union found the United States under the presidency of George H.W. Bush, a virtual tool of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and

British imperial geopolitics generally. Bush's administration was infested with British-style imperialist ideology, epitomized by Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, Cheney deputy Paul Wolfowitz, and a host of neo-conservatives. Emblematic of their outlook was Wolfowitz's 1992 memorandum, in which he outlined a U.S. policy, soon dubbed the "Wolfowitz Doctrine," that no nation must ever be allowed to have enough power to challenge U.S. hegemony, as the Soviet Union had done.

This triumphalist attitude took a back seat during most of the Clinton Administration, which made its own attempts to establish collaboration with Russia. The neo-cons simultaneously plotted their return to government, forming the Project for a New American Century (PNAC) in 1997, whose explicit program was for U.S. global domination. Clinton was unable to prevent the Wall Street/London crowd from carrying out its vicious looting of Russia, and at the end of his Presidency, as he was weakened by scandal, the disastrous policies of NATO expansion and the war against Serbia were launched.

With the election of George W. Bush—an idiot front-man for the neo-conservative grouping, which had been assembled as the Vulcans under George P. Shultz—the Anglo-American program of global domination, financial and military, took hold completely. NATO was vastly expanded, the Ballistic Missile Defense program aimed at stripping the Russian and Chinese nuclear deterrent forces was launched, and the "Project Democracy" programs of the neo-cons, which had had been germinating from the time of Reagan's visit to London in 1982, went into high gear.

It's this program, continued and strengthened into and through the Presidency of British puppet Barack Obama, which has brought the world to the edge of war once again.

For the Russian governments that came into power in 1998-99, first led by Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, and then by Vladimir Putin, are determined not to capitulate to this New World Order. They will not play the limited nuclear war game.

A Postscript

Two explicit comments to that effect are worth calling to mind, in conclusion.

One comes from Ted Postol, the nuclear weapons specialist who has been a severe critic of the U.S. BMD program. Writing in *The Nation* in December 2014 about the Obama Administration program for modern-

izing the U.S. nuclear arsenal, Postol asked the question: "Do US military and political leaders actually believe that the upgraded systems could serve a useful military purpose? If so, could such ill-informed beliefs lead to a cascade of events that result in a nuclear catastrophe?"

"The troubling answer to both questions is yes."

He went on to discuss potential scenarios of a U.S. attack, even by missiles with conventional warheads, citing certain U.S. advantages. He continued: "This does not mean, of course, that the United States would have a realistic chance of succeeding in such an ambitious conventional attack. *Everyone on the US side who is properly informed understands that Russia would launch a counterattack before the US warheads arrived.* Despite this frightening reality, policy-makers have not attempted to analyze the benefit to US security of pushing the Russians to a higher state of alert. Nor have they asked how an increased US nuclear threat to Russia improves the security of US allies—or, for that matter, anyone else around the globe" (emphasis added).

The second comment comes from Igor Ivanov, Russia's Foreign Minister from 1998-2004 and chair of the Russian International Affairs Council. He warned in a *Moscow Times* article Jan. 26, that the Ukraine crisis is more dangerous than any crisis during the Cold War, and urged political leaders to act to prevent a nuclear conflict.

"The threat of a nuclear conflict is higher today than it was during the Cold War. In the absence of a political dialogue, with mutual mistrust reaching historical highs, the probability of unintended accidents, including those involving nuclear weapons, is getting more and more real," Ivanov wrote.

Add to that the British oligarchy's actual intention to crush Russia, and its BRICS partners, and the picture is chilling indeed.

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EU Bluff Against Greece and Russia Raises War Threat

by Helga Zepp-LaRouche

March 6—The desperation move by European Central Bank (ECB) President Mario Draghi, to flood the Eurozone with €1.14 billion in so-called “quantitative easing,” while excluding Greece and Cyprus from this dubious bonanza, will doubly accelerate the inevitable collapse of the trans-Atlantic financial system. The simultaneous escalation of provocations against Russia by NATO maneuvers in the Black Sea and the forward basing of NATO troops and heavy equipment in the Baltic States, up to Russia’s borders, are directly related to the impending bankruptcy of the financial system.

Both cases—the hard line against Greece and the escalation against Russia—are ultimately a bluff. The intention is to force Greece to continue with the failed austerity policy imposed by the Troika (ECB, IMF, European Commission), even though these murderous policies were overwhelmingly repudiated by the Greek population in a democratic election. Klaus Regling, the head of the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), stressed: “Greece must repay these loans entirely. That’s what we expect, and nothing has changed in this regard.” He is obviously interested neither in the fact that only 3% of these loans in Greece actually remained in Greece, with the rest going to the coffers of the European banks, nor in the result of a democratic election that clearly rejected a policy that has shrunk the Greek economy by over one third, and that is killing off the population.

As a member of the financial establishment, he

knows very well, however, that either Greece’s leaving the euro, or the debt haircut requested by Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, would lead to an instant collapse of the Eurozone, the City of London, and Wall Street, because the entire debt pyramid, including the quadrillions of dollars of the derivatives bubble, would burst. The Troika naturally is keenly concerned that the Tsipras government’s demands not be met, because they are more afraid of the positive signal this would give to Italy, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, and France, than the devil is of holy water. And the German Finance Ministry had the effrontery to reply to a parliamentary question put by the Linke party’s Bundestag caucus, that the 1953 German Debt Conference in London had no relevance to Tsipras’s proposal for such a conference on Greece today, because there is no way of knowing how the German economy would have developed in the 1950s had that conference never occurred.

The truth is, however, that then-West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and Deutsche Bank chairman Hermann Abs knew perfectly well that there would never have been a German “economic miracle,” if Germany had not had 60% of its foreign debt canceled and the remaining debt payments linked to export surpluses. Repayments were only due as long as Germany ran a trade surplus, and were limited to 3% of export earnings. However, unlike the current team in the Finance Ministry, those leaders were competent and had the interests of Germany at heart.



EPA/Sergei Chirikov

Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias (left) is welcomed to Moscow by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Feb. 11, 2015. Kotzias has proposed that Greece function as a “bridge” between the EU and Russia.

NATO Confrontation with Russia

The same confrontation strategy can be seen in the NATO maneuvers in the Black Sea, which began March 4 with Bulgarian, Romanian, and Turkish naval ships; in the current highly tense situation, these can only be viewed as provocative. The maneuvers are practicing, among other things, defense against attacks from the air and by submarines and small ships. Russia is holding its own maneuvers at the same time, with more than 2,000 soldiers participating in air defense and combat exercises up to April 10, particularly in the south of Russia, the North Caucasus, and at its military bases in Crimea, Armenia, South Ossetia, and Abkhazia.¹

Given the louder and louder demands on the part of the British government and the Republican Party in the United States for equipping the Ukrainian Army with “lethal weapons,” and the continuous forward basing of NATO forces and headquarters to the eastern European countries along the Russian border, we are rapidly approaching a “reverse Cuban Missile Crisis,” as William Polk, who was a member of President Kennedy’s crisis management team at the time, [wrote](#) [on Feb. 24. Despite the promises of former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker III, one country after another that was for-

merly part of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact has been integrated into NATO, he wrote, and now it is proposed to do the same with Ukraine, while some influential Americans have even called for advancing further, up to the “gates of Moscow.” The arming of Ukraine would be a further step in this direction.

Polk added that “there is no way in which we or the European Union could arm Ukraine to a level that it could balance Russia. Thus, the weapons are likely both to give the Ukrainians unrealistic notions of what they can do vis-à-vis Russia and to be seen by the Russians as ‘offensive’ moves to which they might feel compelled to respond. Consequently, they could lead us all into a war we do not want.” Russia could no more accept Ukraine being a member of a hostile military alliance than the United States could have allowed Mexico to become a member of the

Warsaw Pact, he wrote.

In unofficial discussions, a number of military experts have said that the current confrontation between NATO on the one side, and Russia and China on the other, is going full tilt toward such a reverse Cuban Missile Crisis, but that this time there is no “red telephone” hotline between Washington and Moscow, and above all, there is the illusion in NATO circles that it would be possible to win a war with a nuclear first strike. The risk of miscalculation is extremely high, these sources said, and this whole policy would lead to the obliteration of mankind.

This threatening posture is intended to convey the message: Either Russia and China surrender, or we are ready to play a nuclear “chicken game” to the bitter end—always on the assumption that the other side will capitulate at the last moment. But Russia and China have precisely ruled out any possibility of this occurring. The chief of the Central Command of the Russian Strategic Missile Forces, Gen. Maj. Andrei Burbin, recently [confirmed](#) Russia’s readiness to counterattack with strategic nuclear weapons, in the event of an attack on the country. Any “utopian” military plans for a “limited nuclear war” or the drive for a “Prompt Global Strike” doctrine that would neutralize the Russian second-strike capability by means of conventional weapons, would be answered with a retaliatory by ICBM missiles against the United States, he said.

1. Formerly zones of Georgia, which declared independence in 2008 and have achieved limited international recognition, including by Russia—ed.

‘Plan B’

Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis mentioned recently that there exists a Plan B, in case the ECB cuts off all credit to Greece. Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias explained what this alternative is: Greece and Cyprus could serve as the bridge between the EU and Russia, since their relations with Russia never had the negative character that exists between Russia and other EU countries. Although both want to remain part of the EU, he said, they also have deep historical relations with the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa). Greece has had close ties with India, for example, dating back to ancient times, and also with China, since they were the two great cultures—China for Asia and Greece for Europe—for three to four thousand years. Greece also has deep historical, cultural, and religious ties with Russia, he said.

This approach is precisely what offers the chance to get off the insane road to self-destruction on which we

currently seem to be stuck, and to counterpose a reasonable alternative. The EU’s brutal confrontation with Greece will likely end in the extinction of mankind in a thermonuclear war. If we instead were to take up Greece’s proposal, we could cross this bridge toward cooperation with the BRICS countries to a new economic system, which these countries are bringing into being at a rapid pace.

We require not only a debt conference for Greece, in the tradition of the London Conference of 1953 for Germany, but such a conference for all of Europe, and indeed for the entire trans-Atlantic system. The first step must be to enact a two-tier banking system in the tradition of the Glass-Steagall Act, as it was introduced by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933, thereby writing off the unpayable portion of the debt and eliminating the derivatives bubble. Then, the current monetarist system must be replaced by a credit system, so that the real economy, and thus the people, are put back at the center

Greece Can Serve as Bridge to Russia, BRICS

March 4—Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias has called for Greece and Cyprus to become a bridge between Western Europe and Russia and the other BRICS nations. In a March 2 interview with Russia’s Sputnik News, Kotzias was highly critical of sanctions against Russia in particular, and the anti-Russian policy in general.

“We believe that in the long-term perspective, Russia has to be part of the European security architecture and there should be no security system against Russia,” Kotzias said. “We think that what is needed is the stabilization of peace in Ukraine, and that Europe should not come to a rupture in its relations with Russia, while Russia should also avoid taking actions that are not conducive to trust between it and the European Union.”

He continued, “Greece and Cyprus . . . could play the role of a bridge between the EU and Russia. We’ve never waged wars against each other; we have never been opposing powers. . . .”

While saying that Greece and Cyprus wish to remain part of the European Union, Kotzias noted that both countries wish to further develop their historic ties to the BRICS nations. “We are especially connected with such countries as India (in ancient times), China (when we were the big civilizations and cultures—China in Asia and Greece in Europe—for 3,000-4,000 years), and Russia, with which we have always had deep historical, cultural, and religious ties,” he said.

Kotzias said that since the new Greek government came to power, the EU has to listen to Greece, and take its interests into consideration. He stated that the sanctions against Russia is one of these issues. “In the history of international relations, there have been sanctions that actually functioned, but only in the sense that they led to negotiations. As I have already said, in most cases sanctions are not efficient, especially when they originate from a burst of anger or a wish to subordinate your opposing side,” Kotzias told Sputnik. He added that his government is against sanctions on Russia.

Meanwhile, Kotzias and Deputy Prime Minister Yannis Dragasakis are reportedly scheduled to visit Beijing soon, to prepare for Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras’s visit, likely in May.

of politics and economics. And after this essential clean-up, the trans-Atlantic sector will have everything to gain by cooperating with the BRICS and especially with China, and President Xi Jinping's "win-win" policy for the development of the New Silk Road.

Germany could play the key role in bringing about this change. If we decide to work with the BRICS in building the New Silk Road, all of continental Europe will follow, and this will also be the only lever that will return America to its better tradition as the republic of the American Revolution.

It is up to us all to choose the future of mankind.

Translated from German by Susan Welsh



Prof. John Mearsheimer in Brussels, March 2, 2015.

Debate in Europe

'Remember, Russia Has Nuclear Warheads'

by Nilufar Bahadorvand Shehni and Roger Moore

BERLIN & WIESBADEN, March 5—A spirited public debate over the U.S./NATO confrontation with Russia is underway in Germany and elsewhere in Europe.

University of Chicago Prof. John Mearsheimer, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point who served five years in the Air Force, is on a tour in Europe. He spoke on March 2 in Brussels along with professor emeritus Stephen Cohen (Princeton, New York University) and Katrina van den Heuvel of *The Nation*, at an event on "Defining a New Security for Europe that Brings Russia from the Cold," sponsored by Gilbert Doctorow of the American Committee for East West Accord.¹ Many European Parliament members attended.

In Berlin on March 4, Mearsheimer addressed an overflow event sponsored by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, which is affiliated with Germany's Die Linke (the Left Party). He was joined by Bundestag member Andrej Hunko and Helmuth Markov, Justice Minister of Brandenburg (both of Die Linke).

Mearsheimer said that NATO escalation in Ukraine, with the supply of weapons and training, will not permit victory over the Donbas militias in eastern Ukraine. "It's a dream" to think a military solution is possible, he said, and "will only lead to more Ukrainians dying." "If I am wrong and if the West is successful with a strategy to raise the deployment and costs for Russia, one should be reminded, Russia has thousands of nuclear warheads."

Calling Out the Nazis

Parliamentarian Hunko reviewed the Ukraine crisis, including the Western-financed coup d'état of Feb. 22, 2014, including how all Western governments legitimized the sabotage of the Feb. 21 agreement, brokered in Kiev under the leadership of German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier. He pointed out that the 2013 EU free-trade negotiations with Kiev, forcing Ukraine to choose, "you are either with us or against us"—despite the country's close economic ties with Russia—was the key to the subsequent escalation and civil war.

Hunk emphasized that what happened in Ukraine was not a revolution (as many in Germany believe, recalling the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989), but a coup, which had also been recognized as such by the scientific advisory board of the German government.

The parliamentarian further identified the role being played in the war by neo-Nazi fighting forces, "the Bandera cult² in western Ukraine," which serve as pri-

1. Former Reagan Administration Ambassador to the Soviet Union Jack Matlock had planned to speak at a December 2014 event of the group, but was unable to attend.

2. See "Western Powers Back Neo-Nazi Coup in Ukraine, *EIR*, Feb. 7, 2014.



Member of the Bundestag Andrej Hunko



@WMdF/J. Bergmann

Brandenburg Justice Minister Dr. Helmuth Markov

vate armies, an issue that has to be resolved. He reported that he had asked protesting mineworkers in eastern Ukraine, during a visit in April 2014, why they were demonstrating, and was told, “Because of the Banderistas in Kiev.”

Mearsheimer’s remarks focused on three policies of the U.S. government that caused the Ukraine crisis: NATO expansion, EU expansion, and the promotion of democracy. He stressed that ignoring Russian President Putin’s many warnings or provoking him is foolish and dangerous, especially since Russia is in possession of nuclear weapons. He recalled the late U.S. Russia expert George Kennan’s warning that “the expansion of NATO will lead to a crisis with Russia and we will blame the Russians for it” (cf. Kennan, *New York Times*, Feb. 2, 1997). Mearsheimer affirmed that the intent of the NATO/U.S. policy is to overthrow Putin and to contain China.

Helmuth Markov attacked the EU for pushing the Association Agreement on Ukraine, and welcomed the emergence of the BRICS association. He said he believes that Russia’s increasing involvement with China is enhanced by the sanctions against it. He was quite optimistic about the Minsk II agreement for a ceasefire in Ukraine, whereas Hunko was less hopeful, since after the Minsk agreement was signed, there was promotion of more sanctions, which block collaboration and trust.

During the question-and-answer period, many people brought up the danger of a potential war, and

even nuclear war, and the policy of regime change. In response to one of the questions on the threat of war in Europe, including the use of nuclear weapons, Mearsheimer said the danger is known by reasonable people in Washington, and he didn’t think it would happen. All of the speakers argued that a nuclear scenario is not probable, but agreed that it’s still not a good idea to provoke Putin.

A Schiller Institute representative asked about the U.S. Prompt Global Strike military doctrine and the U.S. modernization of nuclear weapons to improve their use in a first strike, but the speakers avoided the question. Asked about President Obama’s backing for regime change against Putin, Mearsheimer mentioned that the statement by Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, on how the U.S. “invested” \$5 billion in Ukraine for that policy, is still posted on the White House website. He ended the event with an appeal for Germans to take their own interests more into account.

On March 6, parliamentarian Hunko spoke at an event in Stuttgart on the impact of the Greek election. Asked by Schiller Institute representatives about the initiatives by the BRICS, he replied that he fully endorsed “bridge credits for Greece from Russia, India, and China,” mentioning that such credits from India have been in discussion for several years. As a member of the Bundestag, he said that Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras personally asked his party to back the compromise with the EU over Greece’s debt, when it came up for vote in the Bundestag. The request led to a hot debate in his party. (The compromise agreement was eventually voted up.)

Hunko said that the war danger is one reason to support the Greek government, as Greece could vote against new sanctions against Russia going into the Summer.

The Role of Youth in The BRICS Paradigm

Tatiana Seliverstova is the head of the Department of International Cooperation and Innovation Activity of the Russian Union of Youth. BüSo (Civil Rights Solidarity Movement) organizer Kai-Uwe Dücke submitted written questions to Seliverstova in Berlin on Feb. 25, on behalf of EIR and Neue Solidarität, the newspaper of the LaRouche movement in Germany. Her written answers were received on March 1.



Tatiana Seliverstova

EIR/NS: On April 1, Russia will take over the chairmanship of the BRICS [Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa]. What role will the BRICS Youth Forum play? What will be your personal role in that?

Seliverstova: The Russian Union of Youth (RUY) is to play an important role during the period of the Russian chairmanship of the BRICS, due to the fact that it has been working hard on developing cooperation among young people of the BRICS countries since 2012. All projects being implemented are supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States, Compatriots Living Abroad and International Humanitarian Cooperation, and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation.

For 2015, RUY has scheduled a number of events aimed at developing youth cooperation in the BRICS countries. These events will take place in Russia on the threshold of the summit of the heads of state of the BRICS countries. In July 2015, the Russian Union of Youth will hold a BRICS Youth Forum in Ufa. Young leaders of the BRICS will discuss promising areas of cooperation, and come to a joint decision on coordinating efforts for creating a youth movement of the BRICS.

The Russian Union of Youth will also hold the BRICS International Forum on Science and Innovations this year in Moscow. Moreover, RUY will initiate the organization of a BRICS International Youth Forum, in the capital of South Africa in November 2015.

EIR/NS: Over the last generation, we saw the development of a growing lack of excitement of youth for science and technology in Europe, along with a growth of irrationality and pessimism. What was decided during the last BRICS Youth Forum in New Delhi concerning such frontier research as space exploration and development of the Arctic region? Vladimir I. Vernadsky is not widely known in the Western Hemisphere. What role do Vernadsky's concepts play in your scientific approach?

Seliverstova: During the last BRICS Youth Forum, held from 28 to 30 January [2015] in New Delhi, we decided to propose that the authorities of the BRICS should establish a department on youth initiatives in entrepreneurship, science, and innovations, within the BRICS Development Bank. Young scientists could work on projects on space exploration and development of the Arctic region in this department.

In accordance with Vernadsky's concept of the noö-sphere, we pursue the goal of coordination of efforts of young people from the five countries in order to preserve nature and support the growth of human capital in the BRICS. By using their abilities to work and create, the youth of the BRICS countries should act as a "geological force" in building an effective system of international youth cooperation, and this, in its turn, will require a certain youth social organization, and new ecological, and at the same time, humanistic ethics.

Countering Pessimism in Europe

EIR/NS: Since the election on Jan. 25, Greece's new government has demonstrated a much more positive attitude toward Russia and China than is generally the case for Europe today. Could the BRICS Youth Forum be a model for European, especially for southern



BRICS Youth Forum

Tatiana Seliverstova with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (center) and attendees at the Youth Forum, in New Delhi, Jan. 30, 2015.

European countries, in their attempts to solve the problems of horrific youth unemployment and lack of economic growth?

Seliverstova: Yes, I am convinced that the European youth community should seek to intensify multi-lateral cooperation using the model that we have established in the BRICS. Young leaders across Europe need to create programs and projects that will focus on positive outcomes of joint programs and projects. The youth of BRICS countries will strive for developing partnerships with European youth organizations, which are interested in broadening their horizons in international youth cooperation.

Only we young people can change the future of international relations so that countries consolidate their efforts and develop joint multi-dimensional projects in the BRICS and the EU. It is necessary to lay the foundation for a model of cooperation among BRICS countries and Europe.

The current crisis in southern Europe should encourage the younger generation to design and implement more projects and activities, which will focus on economic and scientific cooperation not only in Europe but also everywhere in the world. I am sure that setting up business incubators and innovation centers for the youth of the EU and BRICS will become a real platform for creating new projects aimed at economic growth of all countries.

Charge U.S. Role in Philippine Terror Raid

by Mike Billington

March 7—There is increasing evidence that the U.S. planned, directed, supported, and possibly even participated in a raid by Philippine Special Action Force (SAF) police, which targeted and killed an al-Qaeda-linked terrorist in Mindanao on Jan. 25, but which then precipitated a battle with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) resulting in the slaughter of 44 Philippine police and an uncertain number of MILF soldiers and civilians.

Should these charges be confirmed, they have the potential to do significant damage to the already embattled presidencies of both Philippine President Benigno Aquino and U.S. President Barack Obama. Both would be exposed as having blood on their hands for embarking on a reckless military operation of dubious legality.

The Mindanao Operation

U.S. Special Forces and CIA officers have been in Mindanao since 2002, on highly questionable legal grounds—the Philippine Constitution forbids foreign military bases on its soil—but recent Philippine governments have circumvented that clause by claiming that the U.S. military and intelligence forces were merely “guests,” and were only involved in training Philippine troops. Nonetheless, it was understood that they could not participate in military actions within the country. It is now clear that they went far beyond that limit—yet another case of the Obama Administration ignoring both U.S. and foreign nations’ laws in conducting military operations at will around the world.

President “Noynoy” Aquino, who has served as a loyal servant to the Obama Administration, last year opened up all Philippine military bases to U.S. air, land, and naval military forces, despite the Constitutional restrictions against it. This treasonous move places his country at the center of the Obama Administration plan for a first-strike assault on China, a plan known as Air-Sea Battle.

As a result of the Jan. 25 debacle, Aquino is now considered by many to be unfit to remain in office. He was reportedly in personal charge of the operation, and



U.S. State Department

Presidents Obama and Aquino have questions to answer about the U.S. role in the deaths of nearly four dozen Philippine police in an anti-terrorist raid in which U.S. forces participated. Here, the two presidents in Manila last April.

is accused by some of responsibility for telling the army forces nearby to “stand down,” rather than deploying to save the ambushed police. The fact that Aquino has been trying to implement an autonomy agreement with the same MILF which has now murdered 44 Philippine security forces makes his position even more tenuous.

SAF Commander Director Getulio Napanas, whom Aquino dismissed from his command, attempting to hold him responsible for the fiasco, testified to the Philippine Senate in a closed session on Feb. 16, admitting (according to leaks to the press) that the U.S. military and intelligence forces in Mindanao provided the intelligence on the location of the terrorist (a Malaysian known as Marwan, who was part of the al-Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiyah in Southeast Asia), trained the police forces for the operation, and deployed drones or other aircraft to monitor the operation as it was taking place. The U.S. had also offered a \$6 million reward for Marwan, and \$3 million for his Filipino cohort Usman.

More damning is an interview published Feb. 15 in the *Philippines Inquirer*, with an unnamed member of the SAF, who detailed the U.S. role in training the SAF forces at a resort in Zamboanga City in Mindanao, hiring two members of the MILF as guides, providing logistical support, and bringing Commander Napanas into U.S. quarters to watch the unfolding operation on video.

While this is evidence enough of incompetent and criminal actions by both Aquino and Obama, there are credible reports from those with direct knowledge of the people in the region, that two U.S. soldiers were directly involved in the military action—a direct breach of Philippine law—and that one was killed. It was publicly acknowledged, with videos shown in television reports, that a U.S. helicopter and crew were called in to help evacuate the dead. However, the sources claim that this unusual U.S. military participation was actually a cover for evacuating the Americans before their role in the combat operation became known.

Father Jun Mercado, former president of Notre Dame University in Mindanao, and a leading activist in efforts to create peaceful cooperation and dialogue between Catholics and Muslims, has reported that some of the extremist factions of the Moro armed forces have affiliated themselves with the

ISIS terrorists in the Arab world.

Will Aquino Be Deposed?

Church officials and political figures have founded an organization called the National Transition Council, which is demanding that Aquino step down immediately. One member, former Sen. Kit Tatad, issued a statement titled “We must now start thinking post-Aquino.” He said that the call for Aquino’s resignation “has taken hold of our people’s consciousness, and is now sweeping the nation.” Cardinal Ricardo Vidal, speaking at a meeting of the Council, said, with reference to the call for Aquino to step down, “We, the Bishops of the Catholic and other Christian Churches, have often been asked if there is a moral basis to this growing demand. Recent developments have made this call even more urgent and imperative.” He then quoted Pope Francis, who, during his recent meeting with President Aquino in Manila, referred to the “scandalous social inequalities” in the country. Aquino’s response to the Pope was to attack the Bishops for criticizing him!

While Aquino may be forced to step down, it should be clear that the “perpetual war” policies perpetrated by the Obama Administration, in the Philippines and around the globe, and Obama’s drive for war against Russia and China, will not end until he is forced by constitutional means to leave the White House.

The Pendulum of Power

by Andrew Spannaus

Antonio Maria Costa is an Italian who has worked more abroad than in his own country. He has held important positions in various international institutions for decades: the European Union, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). He headed the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna from 2002 to 2010.

I met Costa three years ago, when I interviewed him for [EIR](#). At that time, he spoke about how drug money was being used to save the global financial system. As the former UN Drug Czar, he is deeply knowledgeable about the structures of drug-money laundering and the interests that promote drug legalization for reasons that are certainly not therapeutic or transparent.

A few months ago Costa published a novel entitled *The Checkmate Pendulum* (AEF Morninga, 2014), the result of 20 years of work and study of the military, economic, and strategic mechanisms that underlie global geopolitical processes.

“Any resemblance to actual persons is unintended and coincidental,” of course, but the issue is the reality of the world today, addressed at a high level. The book’s protagonist is the television journalist Pierre G. Bosco, who, in his investigations on arms trafficking and money laundering, uncovers machinations that go well beyond what is apparent to the public: A battle is underway for global hegemony in a web of crime, finance, and politics. The story is complex and well constructed, thus absorbing the reader who is interested in questions that will decide our future.

The quality of Costa’s book allows us to discuss geopolitical issues from an elevated standpoint, even where the author’s views may not coincide with your



Antonio Maria Costa is the former Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), whose novel draws on his 20 years of in-depth study of the military, economic, and strategic mechanisms that underlie global geopolitical processes.

own interpretation of global events. The author identifies the most important questions: from the role of Europe, to the clash between the Western countries and old and new competitors, principally Russia and China.

He takes a hard line with Russia, consistent with the widespread attitude in the West that sees a weak but aggressive power, ready to do anything to avoid marginalization. The pendulum of history ultimately takes us to China though, which acts very differently than the old Eurasian bear, arriving with a smile and tons of money, which is used to gradually but surely shift power towards the East.

The conclusion of *The Checkmate Pendulum* brings an interesting surprise, which raises the level of discourse from that of mere power, and demon-

strates that geopolitical processes do not take place in a vacuum. The Chinese are not driven by a thirst for domination and the desire to assert their superiority; their actions are driven by our own history and errors, which—I would add—we must face, lest we lose those positive aspects of our society that have influenced the world until now.

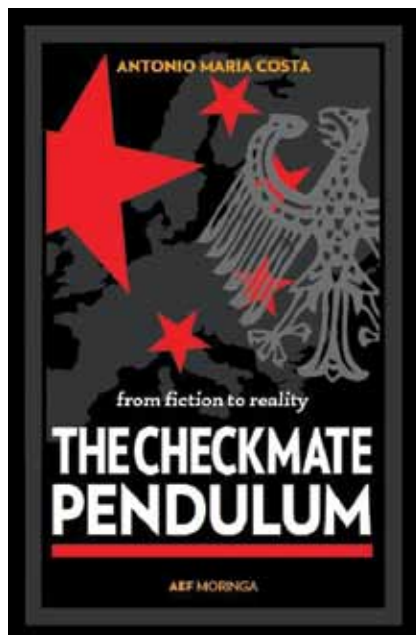
On Feb. 24, we asked Antonio Maria Costa to explain his views on some of the main questions he has raised. His written answers are below, and we can only encourage everyone to read the book, which is demanding but rewarding.

The European Union

EIR: In your book, the protagonist goes from being convinced of the need for close integration, along the lines of the “United States of Europe” (USE), to a less ambitious but more realistic approach of a “Union of European Nations.” Has the European Union gone too far in terms of taking over national sovereignty? Is there a philosophical reason that the USE cannot work, or is it a practical question in your view?

Antonio Maria Costa: At the outset of the novel, two motivations shape the protagonist’s (Pierre G. Bosco’s) attitude toward Europe. The first one is personal: His family suffered tremendously during World War II, and he grew up convinced that peace on the continent could only be achieved by melting the European nation-states into a continental federation. The second reason is strategic: He realizes that only big powers can successfully face globalization. In order to reach a global stature, Europe must unite so as to create adequate political, financial, and military muscle to confront Russia, China, and the U.S.

What caused today’s disarray in Brussels? The original EU project was about political unification, pursued by economic means (the customs union, the single market, the common currency, etc.)—not an ideal process, certainly not one driven by philosophical principles regarding democracy, freedom,



The book's protagonist, a journalist, who investigates arms trafficking and drug money laundering, uncovers a battle for global hegemony, in a web of crime, finance, and politics.

peace—but still progress in comparison to the previous century’s wars.

Instead of continental cohesion, countries keep looking at the EU to pursue national goals. For France, a united Europe is the best way of tying down Germany. Germany needs the EU to consolidate its pre-eminence across the continent. For the southern countries, the EU is the best way to pass on the bill for their financial mess. For Eastern Europe, the EU is an insurance policy against Russia. For the Brits, integrated as they are in a common market, but separated by a different currency, the EU is another way to show insularity.

Based on shaky foundations, the integration process has stalled: The single market was never fully realized, the monetary union was not accompanied by fiscal union, a common defense policy was never achieved, countries run foreign policy according to national priorities. The hopeless incompetence of the EU institutions (Commission and Parliament) and the financial crisis (followed by depression-like unemployment conditions) caused people to grow disenchanted. At this point, historically, any attempt to push forward the concept of USE will end up in disaster.

As a consequence, as the story unfolds, the protagonist’s sentiment shifts toward a more realistic, looser form of European integration—run by the EU Council (of Ministers), rather than by the Commission and the EU Parliament. Like the protagonist, I believe that the movement towards political unification in Europe will eventually resume, though not in the current generation, or the next one. Much will depend on external pressure: The greater the threats from outside (Russia, China, even the U.S.), the greater the likelihood that the drive towards the USE will resume.

The Role of Germany

EIR: Linked to the first question is the role of Germany. In the book, there is great emphasis on investi-

gating that country's dual nature: its economic successes and positive cultural contributions, versus an apparently indomitable urge to dominate its neighbors.

Germany is widely considered responsible for the hardline budget policies in the EU now, but the overall transformation of European economies during the past 25 years runs deeper: The more industrial-based model has given way to the so-called free-market system, dominated by large financial interests that oppose state intervention, in particular, at the national level.

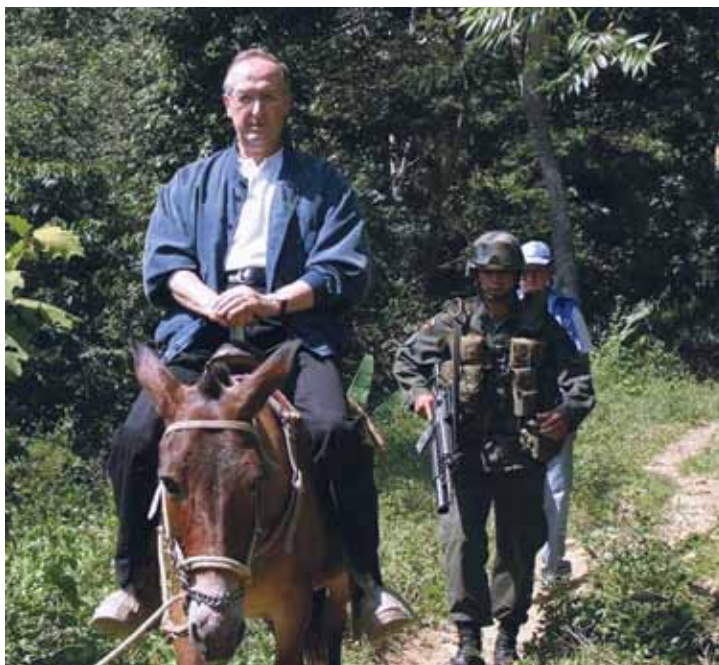
Where does the responsibility lie for Europe's economic and political crisis?

Costa: The predominant role of Germany in Europe is an historical inevitability characterized by good, as well as worrisome traits. The EU is an economic giant (with a GDP of \$17 trillion, the same as the U.S.), with feet of clay (in political and defense terms). One chapter of the book is titled: "The Europeans are Europe's biggest enemy," to underline the fact that Europe's weakness is due to its cultural fault lines—the deep gaps that crisscross the continent and separate ancient tribes. Over the course of history, by turns these cultures have conquered the continent, usually killing millions in the process.

The EU was designed and (partially) realized to avoid such catastrophes in the future: It banned wars fought with soldiers and guns. The current crisis proves the point: Strong countries (the Nordic ones, headed by Germany) as well as weak countries (the Mediterranean ones), need one another. Poor countries want money, or they wreck the system. Rich countries pursue austerity, at the risk of wrecking the system. Within Europe the fight now is all about trade and finances, not land or people. As the protagonist says, "economics, which is at the center of European integration, is the continuation of the war by other means." And in this modern conflict, Germany excels.

Finance: The 'Mammon Prize'

EIR: You have set up a website for the Mammon Prize, an award to the person or organization that represents financial greed in the most outrageous way (www.mammon-prize.com). Everyone is now aware of the role speculative finance has played in creating the current crisis, yet the few reforms of the system have been very weak, and there is widespread fear of new bubbles



As the former UN Drug Czar, Costa became deeply knowledgeable about the structures of drug-money laundering and its role in keeping the banking sector afloat. He is shown here on a visit to Colombia, in 2005.

and crashes in the coming period. In your view, are the mechanisms of greed inherent in the system itself, or is it more a question of individual behavior and a perverted culture? What measures can be taken to change the situation?

Costa: In a uniquely frank way, *The Checkmate Pendulum* presents issues that need to be addressed within and outside Europe. The novel is not against anyone, or anything—with one exception: It clearly and repeatedly criticizes the banking sector that caused the financial meltdown of 2008 and its subsequent economic crisis (think of the mass unemployment) and political crisis (think of the populist politicians taking power).

The book points to the three causes of the financial crisis: government negligence, regulatory failures, and bankers' greed. Not much has changed since the crisis. A number of limited measures have been taken in the past few years—mostly inadequate:

1. Governments remain fundamentally corrupt—not in the sense that politicians pocket money, but they still don't want to take on big business because they need its support (financial and otherwise).

2. Regulatory changes that seemed huge at the

outset of the crisis, have been gutted by the financial lobbies. Banks have been able to weaken the Basel III capital adequacy reform needed to deter risky banking behaviors. In the U.S., a key element of the Dodd-Frank legislation, the separation of commercial and speculative operations by banks (the Volcker Rule), is implemented only in a limited form. In Europe, most of the recommendations by the Liikanen report have been shelved.

The book recognizes all this, but goes beyond. It questions the notion that “banks and bankers are too important to fail or jail,” and therefore, the view that the criminal behaviors that caused the crisis were the result of a limited number of greedy people, banksters. “This is not right. There is something profoundly wrong with the banking culture in general,” the protagonist says, “riddled as it is with theft, speculation, fraud, usury and gambling with other people money.” The book urges a cultural change to bring banking back to its origin: honest intermediation between those who save and those who invest. Personally, I insist: We must put an end to the system that allows bankers to make shameful amounts of profits, while taxpayers face the costs of the risks bankers take.

The BRICS

EIR: Russia, China, and other so-called emerging countries are working together to form a bloc of nations willing to cooperate on economic development and security issues, in response to a perceived failure and hostility of the Western world.

In the fictional tale you tell, a Chinese official is the ultimate mover behind a strategy to gain power over the West by economic means, in response to the humiliation of colonial treatment in centuries past.

Do you think that this swinging of the pendulum is inevitable, with a division into competing blocs? Or would it be possible to create areas of cooperation, for example, on economic development, security challenges such as terrorism, and scientific projects? The alternative, it would seem, is confrontation and the decline of the West, a very dangerous proposition considering that neither side appears willing to lose strategic influence, and the traditional remedy for such conflicts—war—is unthinkable in today’s world of nuclear weapons.

Costa: The end of Western civilization has been discussed (and announced) by many historians before. Huizinga first, and then Spengler wrote about it. Today’s harsh reality shows that it’s happening.

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China's Congress Stakes Out Path for Silk Road Project

by William Jones

March 9—The annual dual sessions of the Chinese National People's Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Committee (CPPCC), held this year in Beijing, are occurring as the Chinese economy finds itself at a crossroads, and the government charts a new course in this period of financial turmoil in the London-New York financial markets. Key elements in the new orientation for the Chinese economy are the building of a Silk Road Economic Belt and a 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, or as the Chinese say, "One Belt, One Road."

Speaking on the direction of policy during 2015 on March 7, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said, "There will be one focus and two main themes." The prime focus will "the all-round development of the 'One Belt, One Road.' ... This will serve to promote infrastructure and connectivity.... One Belt, One Road will win more support and serve to revive the Eurasian continent as a whole."

The NPC is the highest legislative body in China and the CPPCC provides consultation and proposals for NPC consideration.

Reform and Opening Up

The "reform and opening up" initiated by Deng Xiaoping with the establishment of diplomatic relations with the United States in 1979 was premised on employing cheap Chinese labor to produce for the markets of Europe and the United States. With the financial crisis in 2008, the export market went belly-up and Chi-

nese growth rates went from 10%-plus to 7.4% this year, and an estimated 7% next year.

But the changes have not only been a result of the international financial crisis. Already with the "opening up," the Chinese government was intent on upgrading technology and productivity to become a high-tech manufacturing nation. The plan was to raise wages and skills of workers in the manufacturing industry, to push the limits of science and technology to provide the needed upgrade. We have seen the results in the Chinese space program and in Chinese preeminence in the high-speed rail technology.

Premier Li Keqiang underlined the new orientation on March 5, in his Government Work Report on what was accomplished in the past year and the work that is to be done in the present year. He listed reforms to upgrade industries and called for the establishment of a national science platform to coordinate science programs and to spread innovative ideas for raising the level of technology.

He also laid stress on continued modernization of the large agricultural economy. While China is mainly self-sufficient in food production (while still importing huge amounts of grain), the agricultural sector still suffers from backwardness and inefficiencies. While hundreds of millions of Chinese have been raised from poverty in the last few decades, 45% of the population is still engaged in agriculture and many live in poor conditions. While China has a goal of total electrification in 2015, a goal it probably will reach, the small size



Xinhua/Li Xiang

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (left) gives a press conference during the National Party Congress in Beijing on March 8. The New Silk Road project “should be seen as a symphony with the parts being performed by all the relevant countries,” he said.

of the farms and the temporary flight of millions of rural laborers to the cities to supplement their incomes have left agriculture in something of a confused state. Often when the migrants are in the cities, their farmland remains fallow.

An Economic ‘Symphony’

The “One Belt, One Road” project was introduced at a Beijing conference 20 years ago under the rubric of the “Eurasian Land-Bridge,” a conference at which Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the founder of the Schiller Institute, was a main speaker. It was revived in September 2013 by President Xi Jinping and is now the number one item on China’s foreign policy agenda. While aimed at creating infrastructure in neighboring countries and helping them lift up their populations from poverty, the project also has important diplomatic implications—something of a Chinese version of a “good neighbor policy”—the policy also has important economic implications for China. The creation of a belt of high-speed rail and other rail connections through Central Asia to Europe and a sea-land link through South-east Asia to the Indian Ocean and the Middle East and Africa will propel the rapid transit of goods and services along this route. New rail lines, roads, and ports will upgrade the economic activity of China and its neighbors.

The actual construction of the Road and Belt will

provide economic opportunities for Chinese industry, and the improved conditions in the neighboring countries will create a greater market for Chinese goods. “The substance of the policy is to achieve communication and connectivity between the countries,” said Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng at a press conference on March 7, “to create a spirit of mutual trust, shared interests, and shared destinies.”

Speaking to reporters, NPC spokeswoman Fu Ying declared: “You must know that over 20 years ago we had a discussion regarding the creating of a Euro-Asian Bridge, but for lack of capital, this remained largely on paper. With the continued development of China since that time, China is now able to contribute to these projects. It will benefit our neighbors and our own develop-

ment. How will this affect the neighborhood? It will build a new cooperative framework, using the present advantages which China now has.”

The project also offers great hope for the world economy. While the financial oligarchy now dominating the EU and the Obama Administration demands increasing austerity in order to maintain payments to the bankrupt financial structures, China is charting a path toward development of the physical economy. It has taken the initiative to create new means of financing needed infrastructural investment, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the BRICS New Development Bank. The AIIB now has 27 nations prepared to join, including some European countries, according to Chinese Finance Minister Lou Jiwei. The bank is to be set up before the end of 2015.

When asked if the project could be compared to a new Marshall Plan, Wang replied, “‘One Belt and One Road’ is much older than the Marshall Plan and much younger. It embodies the spirit of the ancient Silk Road, and is therefore older, but was born in the age of globalization. It can’t be viewed with a Cold War mentality. Advancing the ‘One Belt, One Road’ will involve wise consultation and joint collaboration. It will create a synergy with other development institutions. To use a musical analogy, ‘One Belt, One Road’ should be seen as a symphony, with the parts being performed by all the relevant countries.”

Russia Seeks Development As Solution to Conflicts

March 7—As the geopolitical confrontation from the West has escalated over the past years, the Russian leadership has taken a two-pronged approach in response. On the one hand, it has embarked on a much-needed program of modernization of its military defenses, while putting forth a clear statement of its inviolable commitment to national sovereignty, and a number of diplomatic initiatives to avoid conflict—as in the Ukraine situation. On the other hand, Russia has intensified its efforts to negotiate agreements of economic cooperation and development, as the pathway to building a lasting peace.

These efforts include not only bilateral economic deals with countries ranging from Argentina to Egypt, and especially with the Eurasian giants China and India, but also, initiatives in the framework of multinational institutions, such as the new Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), the BRICS, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Russia holds the presidency of the SCO and BRICS, and will chair the annual meeting of both organizations, due to be held in Ufa, Russia in July.

President Putin has simultaneously emphasized that integration with Russia's neighbors to the east, a long-term Russian priority, is not intended to replace economic relations with Europe, still its largest trading partner, but that institutions such as the EEU are intended to become “a bridge between the integration structures of Europe and the Asia-Pacific Region.”

Target: The Drug Trade

An area in which there is a Russian proposal for a program of economic development that is expressly a war-avoidance policy, because it addresses political in-

stability and crisis, is Central Asia, especially Afghanistan. Russia's Federal Drug Control Service (FDCS) Director Victor Ivanov has repeatedly stressed that Russia sees the enormous narcotics business in Afghanistan as a threat not only to Russia's own population and economy (which he has described as being hit by a “heroin war”), but also to global security and peace. In recent months, Ivanov has charged that Afghan drug money is financing terrorist groups, including ISIS.

Thus, during the annual meeting of the Counternarcotics Group of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) in November 2014, Ivanov said that the July Ufa summit will address the elimination of Afghan drug production as a priority. He then noted that the policy papers of the Spring 2014 Moscow anti-drug conference already exist as an action plan for ending Afghanistan dope production.

What we present below is a selection of excerpts from those policy papers, which was published in *EIR*'s “The New Silk Road Becomes the World Land-Bridge” [Special Report](#) of December 2014.

As you will see, the development policies outlined here go far beyond what is traditionally seen as an “anti-drug” policy, to present a picture of how Central Asia as a whole can be upgraded with 21st Century infrastructure and industry, and integrated with its huge industrial neighbors—Russia, India, and China.

As such, this program could be seen as a case-study for the kinds of broad regional economic development programs envisioned by the SCO and the BRICS, in implicit contradiction to the approach of the current bankrupt international financial institutions.

The Industrial Development of Afghanistan and Central Asia

Reports published by the Institute for Demography, Migration, and Regional Development (IDMRD), a Moscow non-governmental organization (NGO), represent what Russia was bringing to the table at the June 2014 Group of Eight (G8) summit in Sochi, Russia. President Vladimir Putin's longtime colleague, Federal Drug Control Service (FDCS) head Victor Ivanov, had announced a campaign to eliminate the "planetary narcotics production center" in Afghanistan, as a focus of Russia's G8 chairmanship.¹ But the summit was cancelled, when the G8 expelled Russia over the Ukraine crisis.

The first and third of the reports excerpted here were published in Russian, and the second one in Russian and English. Italicized notes have been supplied by EIR. Graphics are those of IDMRD unless otherwise noted.

How Southwestern Siberia Will Become an Economic Center of the Planet

This 2012 report proposes that the industrial and science cities of Siberia be revived to power the development of Central Asia and Afghanistan. The report is relevant for all once-industrialized countries, such as the United States, European nations, and Australia, which are threatened with becoming unproductive, post-industrial wastelands. The excerpts were translated by EIR.

1. Rachel Douglas, "After Ukraine's EU Refusal: Eurasian Development vs. Collapse and Chaos," *EIR*, Dec. 6, 2013.

FIGURE 1

The New Central East, from the Science Cities of Siberia to the Persian Gulf



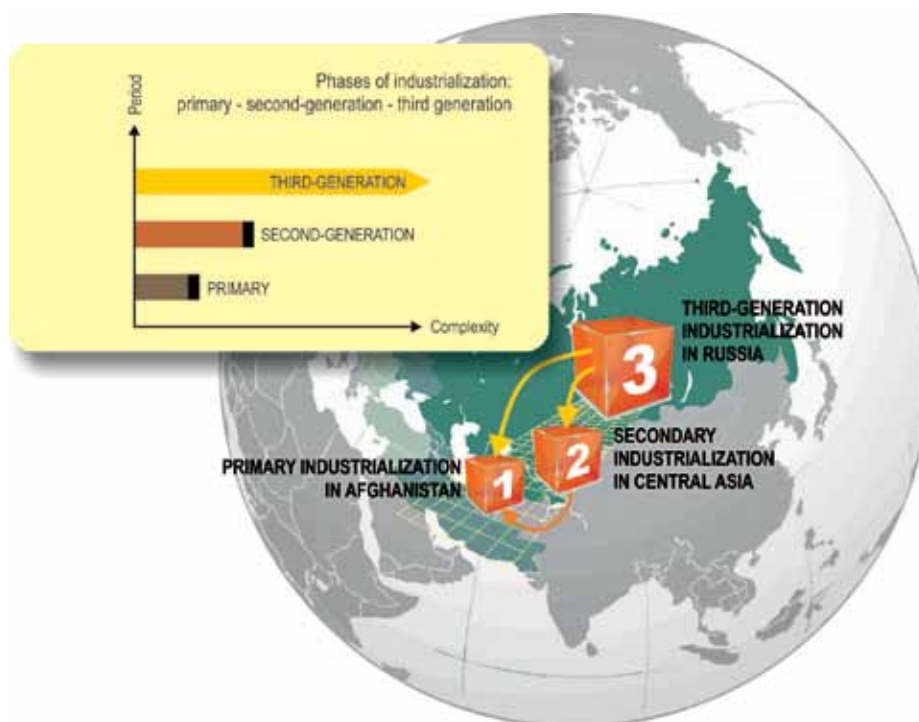
The New Central East

Western Siberia has a special opportunity, linked with a promising macroregion now taking shape: the New Central East or Central Eurasia, including the classic [in Russian terminology] Middle East (Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan), Central Asia, and western Siberia itself (**Figure 1**).

If Russia pursues the right strategy, this macroregion will become a new market, with nearly 400 million inhabitants, by 2025. Siberia's unique role can be to orga-

FIGURE 2

A 'Waterfall' of Industrialization



With modernization of their productive capacities, the science and industry cities of western and central Siberia could export capital goods for the second-stage industrialization of the Central Asian countries and the primary industrialization of Afghanistan.

nize a planetary center of third-stage industrialization, which would not only pioneer this type of industrialization within Russia, but also serve as an organizing capability for the primary industrialization of Afghanistan and the second-stage industrialization of former Soviet Central Asia, as well as Iran and Pakistan, which will all become priority markets for Russian capital goods and advanced technology exports.

Russia's Caspian Sea port of Astrakhan will play an important role in organizing the New Central East.

Third-Generation Industrialization vs. 'Assembly' Industrialization

A new industrialization is an imperative not only for Russia, but for all mankind, both the least developed countries of the "third" and "fourth" worlds, and the leading world economic power, the USA, whose government debt is \$17 trillion greater than its GDP.

Extremely dangerous for Russia, however, is the current tendency at all levels of government, to reduce our own new industrialization to a semi-colonial model of "assembly" or semi-knock-down industrialization, under

which strategic planning and advanced technology development take place outside of Russia, while our country is flooded with parts and trimmings of industrial machinery from elsewhere, to be assembled. The mission of the southern part of western Siberia should be to prevent this substitution, while creating in Russia a leading planetary center of industrialization and production of public wealth.

The formation of a planetary center of vanguard third-generation industrialization will make it possible to organize a cascade of industrializations: from third-stage down to primary (**Figure 2**). The basis of the tertiary industrialization will be robotization of production on a large scale, advanced machine-building, and third-generation infrastructure, especially transport and multimodal systems.

Creating a planetary center of new industrialization in this region is the only feasible way to destroy the planetary center of narcotics production in Afghanistan, which kills 100,000 people annually, at least 50,000 of them young people in Russia.

A New Generation of Alternative Development Programs for the Elimination of Drug Production in Afghanistan

This report was prepared for a Spring 2014 G8 pre-meeting, by IDMRD and the Belarus-based Center for Strategic and Foreign Policy Studies. Yuri Krupnov, Supervisory Board chairman of IDMRD, presented it at that March 25 Moscow session, which Russian FDOS head Victor Ivanov chaired.² The [full report](#) is available in English at www.idmrr.ru.

2. Douglas, "U.S. Sanctions Don't Stop Russian Anti-Drug Proposal," *EIR*, April 4, 2014.



FDCS

This Moscow meeting on Alternative Development for Drug-Producing Regions, held March 25 in preparation for the subsequently cancelled 2014 Group of Eight summit, was attended by over 100 experts from 27 countries. Chairing was Russian Federal Drug Control Service Director Victor Ivanov (second from right at table). Yuri Krupnov (third from right at table), chairman of the Supervisory Council of the Institute for Demography, Migration and Regional Development, presented the institute's report on alternative development in Afghanistan.

Alternative Development Is Development

In the concept of “alternative development,” the core concept is “development.” “Alternative development” is about organizing accelerated development that can effectively and sustainably replace the drug industry and disrupt its social basis.

In international law, “alternative development” is directed at the implementation, in an unfavorable environment shaped by drug production in a country or region, of the fundamental human right to development. This right, as stipulated in the Declaration on Social Progress and Development (1969) and Declaration on the Right to Development (1986), is an inalienable human right.

International aid for alternative development should be a special instance of a mutual development policy. The concept of mutual development (co-development), elaborated by IDMRD, proposes that international cooperation will be most effective, when aimed at creating new social wealth and value, rather than merely redistributing existing assets. Such an approach turns the fight against drug production in Afghanistan into a win-win game for all participants—from the international community, to the farmers of Helmand,

Nangarhar, Kunduz, and Badakhshan Provinces.

A Russian Plan for Crash Industrialization: A New Method of Alternative Development

Afghanistan lacks development in any form, of which alternative development could be a part.

The IDMRD offers a vision of alternative development in Afghanistan, based on crash industrialization and basic economic infrastructure development, under a Comprehensive International Plan for Alternative Development in Afghanistan. Crash industrialization should be considered a new method of alternative development, involving urban as well as rural areas. Though urban areas have never been high on the alternative development agenda, it is obvious that an economic boom in the cities, coupled

with a comprehensive urban planning policy, is crucial for the success of alternative development in Afghanistan. Industrialization will inevitably be accompanied by urbanization, which needs to be balanced and economically sound.

Russia has unique, and generally positive, experience in organizing the industrialization and uplifting of the Afghan economy, dating from cooperation between the USSR and Afghanistan in the 1970s and 1980s.³ Soviet investments helped build 142 major infrastructure and industrial assets, which became the basis of the national economy. This continued even during the war there against an internationally backed insurgency. If the international community were united in providing security, stability, and economic prosperity in Afghanistan, such efforts could be many times more effective today. They represent the only viable strategy for fighting drugs there: ensuring security through development.

A Comprehensive International Plan for Alternative

3. The authors refer inclusively to Soviet cooperation with the post-1973 Mohammed Daud Khan regime, not only the period after the Soviet invasion in late 1979.

Development, with a crash industrialization program at its core, would allow implementation of the policy of a transformation toward self-reliance, adopted at the [July 2012] Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan. Such a Plan could become a key instrument in concentrating international efforts and achieving substantial improvement of the situation in Afghanistan within a feasible time frame.

A Comprehensive International Plan for Alternative Development in Afghanistan

A Comprehensive International Plan for Alternative Development in Afghanistan, based on a crash industrialization program, will focus on four areas:

1. Basic infrastructure, both for the general welfare and for economic programs to create a large number of new and steady jobs.
2. Building new and expanding existing industries, to provide mass employment and raise the income level of a substantial part of the population.
3. Enhanced access to social and cultural infrastructure, especially education and health care, and development of a skilled work force for the new Afghanistan economy through professional and vocational education, including training Afghan youth abroad, as well as new educational institutions within the country.
4. A security policy based on national reconciliation and an uncompromising fight against drug production and trafficking, corruption, and extremism.

Implementation of the Plan, and related economic projects in neighboring countries, will help to create a common market with more than 300 million consumers, in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan.

The following vision of projects and programs constitutes a part of the Plan that could be implemented with organizational help from the Russian Federation.

Infrastructure for Development

A top priority for the Afghanistan economy is the development of electric power, to drive industrial development and drastically alter the quality of life for people in Afghanistan. A major strategic investment project in this field, capable of providing enough energy to carry out primary industrialization of the country, is

the construction of a chain of hydroelectric power plants (HPP) on the Panj River, which forms the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan. This project calls for building 12 dams, with a total of up to 17.5 GW of installed generating capacity. The first stage of the project would be construction of the Dashtijum HPP and Rushan HPP, providing up to 7 GW of installed generating capacity.⁴

If this power is divided equally between Afghanistan and Tajikistan, even the first-stage capacities will cover all the energy needs claimed by the Ministry of Energy and Water of Afghanistan until 2020. This will make it possible to launch primary industrialization. At the same time, the creation of water reservoirs as an HPP by-product will provide water resources for the reconstruction and expansion of irrigation infrastructure in Northern Afghanistan. The required investment for the first stage of the project is an estimated \$7 billion.

A major consumer of electric power generated by this chain of HPP could be an electrified railway section, connecting the republics of former Soviet Central Asia to Pakistan, across Afghanistan (**Figures 3 and 4**). This section of a proposed new “Indo-Siberian” railroad would pass through areas of Afghanistan that are rich in mineral resources, particularly rare earth metals (**Figure 5**). The potential value of these mineral deposits is an estimated \$2 trillion. Construction of the railroad will boost their availability and use value.

New Industries

Crash industrialization of Afghanistan will have two major directions. The first is to create new, large-scale industries such as mining, engineering, chemi-

4. Most of Tajikistan’s existing HPP are on the Vakhsh River, which arises in Kyrgyzstan, flows through north-central Tajikistan, and joins the Amu Darya River. The Panj River is another tributary of the Amu Darya. In view of the serious damage to the Amu Darya and the Aral Sea, particularly from cotton monoculture in Uzbekistan in the Soviet period, IDMRD programs call for cooperative water and energy programs and planning in the region. Since 2013, Kazakhstan has been promoting the formation of a Central Asia regional water committee, under the auspices of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, to address water needs and resolve conflicts.

The Dashtijum HPP is in the advanced design stage, with organizations in both Russia and India expressing interest in the project. A 2011 summary, “[Tajikistan’s Hydro Power Potential](#),” including some of the projects mentioned here, is available on the UNECE website www.unece.org.

FIGURE 3

Concept of an Indo-Siberian North-South Railway and Development Corridor



icals, and machine-building. The second is to create, expand, and support so-called network industries, based on local traditional crafts. In our vision, the principal strategic investment projects for the first direction are the following.

An energy-intensive chemical plant for hydrogen electrolysis and processing. It will produce pure hydrogen, nitrogen, and nitrogen fertilizers, partly for use

The Indo-Siberian Railway is a proposed north-south development corridor, running south from Omsk, Russia, on the Trans-Siberian Railway, through Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan to the port of Karachi on the Arabian Sea. At an inland terminal ("dry port") in Peshawar, Pakistan, there will be a gauge change from the Russian broad-gauge rails (1520 mm) to the even wider "Indian gauge" (1676 mm) used in Pakistan. The route intersects or parallels planned Chinese Silk Road Economic Belt railroads in both Central Asia and Pakistan.

FIGURE 4

Railways for Afghanistan's Development: A Russian Proposal



Details of existing (black) and proposed (orange) railroads for the Central Asia – Afghanistan – Pakistan sections of the Indo-Siberian north-south corridor.

in Afghanistan and partly for export to Southeast Asia and other regions.

Mining projects and new ore-processing plants will become possible with the construction of railways in the region. Attractive areas of investment include exploration and production of oil and natural gas, modernization of gold mining, and developing a construction supplies industry.

Developing the transport infrastructure, as well as energy and raw material supplies, will create the conditions for **processing facilities and assembly plants**, working for the internal as well as international markets (producing automobiles, agricultural vehicles, diesel-generator sets, mini-HPP equipment, and other machinery).

Particular attention should also be paid to agriculture and food-processing: cultivation and production of vegetables, dried fruit, cotton, and other consumer goods. This work would build on the positive experience of growing and processing saffron, which has re-

FIGURE 5

Afghanistan: Resources and Future Rail



ceived international support as a viable alternative to illegal crops.

Social and Cultural Infrastructure

The alternative development of Afghanistan requires basic socio-cultural infrastructure programs in health care and education.

The current literacy rate of only around 35% is a major impediment to economic growth and national development. Removing this impediment requires, first of all, expanding the network of primary and secondary schools, thus raising enrollment rates. Simultaneously, there needs to be rapid development of professional education to accomplish several objectives:

1. Provide qualified workers for the primary industrialization of Afghanistan, including large enterprises (engineers and skilled labor) and network industries (lawyers, managers, and entrepreneurs). University and academic science, oriented to national economic development goals, must be launched.
2. Ensure that educated Afghans can become a stable and self-sustaining leading layer of society (teacher training).
3. Provide temporary employment for a large number of young Afghans.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the USSR educated about 200,000 Afghan university graduates, as well as spe-

cialists with other post-secondary education. Despite the intervening years of chaos, those people still constitute an important part of the country's administrative personnel. This experience should be reproduced, now using the resources and capacities of the entire international community.

Another important effort is the expansion of medical facilities to reach the greatest possible portion of the population with healthcare services. Mother and child centers are a priority, to reduce infant mortality. It is crucial to develop further the net-

work of rehabilitation centers for the treatment and social reintegration of drug addicts, of whom there are over one million in Afghanistan.

Investment for the Alternative Development of Afghanistan

Part of the funding for implementation of the Plan will come to Afghanistan as international technical and financial aid, but most of the resources for these alternative development programs should be in the form of investments that produce a return, even if they are offered on very favorable terms. The projects mentioned above would require investments, in the first stage, totaling \$17.5 billion.⁵

These projects, and further development of the new facilities, will require the construction of railroads in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, costing \$10.5 billion or more. The payback period for these projects, with the economies deriving from their simultaneous and integrated implementation, will be about 10 years.

A fundamental requirement for the mobilization and spending of those investments is their centralized distribution through a dedicated office, the Plan operator, under public oversight. The investment pool for implementation of the Plan could be created and managed as a

5. IDMRD monetary estimates are included not as a blueprint for financing, but to indicate the scope of development intended.

World Bank special trust fund—the Fund for Alternative Development in Afghanistan.

Russia as a Major Donor of Afghanistan Development

As the successor state of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Russian Federation finds itself among the major donors to uplifting Afghanistan economically. In the 1970s and 1980s, the Soviet Union funded the construction of 142 industrial and infrastructure assets, forming the basis of the national economy. The USSR invested more than \$3 billion in the geological exploration of Afghanistan's northern provinces.

In July 2010, Russia wrote off \$11.5 billion of Afghanistan government debt.

Thus, Russia is already a major stakeholder in the economy of Afghanistan. At the same time, as a major market for Afghan-produced opiates, suffering the economic, political, and security impact of this drug-trafficking, Russia is eager to play a leading role in developing a Comprehensive International Plan for Alternative Development in Afghanistan, based on the accelerated industrialization of that country.

An Album of Strategic Investment Projects for Central Asia

The Afghanistan package presented at the March 25, 2014 conference implies the creation of a network of railway-anchored development corridors in the four main Central Asian countries: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan (Figure 4). For a 2013 conference in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, IDMRD prepared “An Album of Strategic Investment Projects,” exemplifying potential economic development in these corridors. IDMRD defines Strategic Investment Projects (SIP) as 7- to 12-year projects, with

FIGURE 6

Planned Tajikistan – Afghanistan – Turkmenistan Rail Link



Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Turkmenistan have agreed to build a 160-km railway section across far northern Afghanistan, which will be Tajikistan's first link to several major Eurasian rail routes. The “needed section” of railroad at far left is slated to open in Autumn 2014 as a Kazakhstan – Turkmenistan – Iran link along the eastern shore of the Caspian Sea (located just to the west of the region shown in this map), which is part of the International North-South Transport Corridor from India to Russia.

“autonomous and achievable goals, which can be reached under existing economic and political conditions.” They are designed to create a Central Asian economic model, “based on the principle of sovereign co-development as an alternative to the neocolonial models, promoted in Southeast Asia by Western-based global capital.”

When the international community is won over to a cooperative development policy, ending geopolitics and drug production, these projects may be superseded by the nuclear-powered transformation of Central Asia's mountainous and arid regions. In the meantime, they have the advantage of being “shovel ready,” for immediate implementation.

The project descriptions have been summarized by EIR from the IDMRD presentation.

Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Turkmenistan Railroad

Purpose: Elimination of Tajikistan's transportation dependence

Size: \$270 million

Tajikistan's only international rail link today runs through Uzbekistan. A 160-km railroad section across far northern Afghanistan to Turkmenistan (**Figure 6**)

will give Tajikistan other routes to the Eurasian rail grid, as well as access to the Caspian Sea. In March 2013, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Turkmenistan signed an agreement on building this railroad, including two 700-meter bridges.

Development of Tajikistan's Aluminum Industry

Purpose:

Local raw materials for the aluminum industry

Size: \$1.72 billion



The project includes mining staurolite and muscovite (a type of mica) ores, from which aluminum oxide (alumina), the intermediate raw material for aluminum production, may be extracted using non-traditional technologies; refineries for this process; and infrastructure to bring the alumina to the Tajik Aluminum Company (Talco) plant in Tursunzade—the largest in Central Asia, currently responsible for 60% of Tajikistan's total exports. Domestic supplies will replace expensive imported raw materials for the industry. There are confirmed staurolite and muscovite deposits in western Tajikistan.

String-Rail Transportation

Purpose: Hi-tech regional transport solution

Size: \$2 billion

Innovative string-rail transport technologies, a Russian design,⁶ are promising for mountainous Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. An initial Dushanbe-Khujand line (**Figure 7**) could be extended to Osh and Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Building and operating the system will create jobs.

These systems are designed to carry freight and passengers at up to 500 km/h. Special models feature dedicated tubes for transporting fresh fruit and vegetables, or oil and gas.



6. An [English overview](http://www.yunitskiy.com) of the string-rail design is available on the website of its developer, Anatoli Yunitsky, www.yunitskiy.com.

FIGURE 7

Dushanbe – Khujand String Rail High-Mountain Transport Route



Poultry Plant Network in Central Asia

Purpose: Ten-year food security plan

Size: \$7 billion in the first five years, self-sufficient thereafter

Chicken and egg production is key for boosting protein consumption in countries with unstable economies, but Central Asia, to date, lacks a feed base for this industry. The project calls for starting up 15 new, modern poultry plants in the region annually, together with the associated transport and marketing infrastructure. Feed for the birds will come from expanding grain and legume crops on irrigated land, with additional feed to be grown in Russia (southern Siberia) and Kazakhstan.



High-Speed Ekranoplane Services Across the Caspian Sea

Purpose: High-speed transport between Caspian coastal cities

Size: \$30 million



FIGURE 8

Caspian Sea Ekranoplane System



Russian engineers pioneered designs for amphibious very-low-altitude air transport, based on the ground effect—interaction between the craft's wings and the surface of the Earth. A Soviet ekranoplane tested in the 1960s was dubbed the Caspian Sea Monster. It is proposed to use modern ekranoplanes for transport around the Caspian, linking coastal cities including Astrakhan and Makhachkala (Russia), Atyrau and Aktau (Kazakhstan), Baku (Azerbaijan), Turkmenbashi (Turkmenistan), and Bandar Anzali and Nowshahr (Iran).

An ekranoplane (ground effect vehicle) production cluster in Astrakhan, Russia will provide high-speed vehicles to fly on routes between Caspian Sea coastal cities (**Figure 8**). The Burevestnik-24 model, with its

engines attached to the upper wings in an innovative biplane configuration, carries 3.5 tons, including 24 passengers. It cruises at more than 200 km/h, with a range of 2,000 km.

Social Rehabilitation System for People with Substance Dependency

Purpose: Intergovernmental cooperation on recovery and development of human potential



Drug addiction and alcoholism are shared problems of the post-Soviet countries. Russia should take the lead in addressing them throughout the new Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). Cooperation among the governments of Russia, the Central Asian nations, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran, is needed to create an EEU-based Social Rehabilitation System.

A network of rehab centers, for 1,500 to 2,000 people at any one time, can be linked with economic development projects in the participating countries. The agricultural and industrial assets built for this program will eventually become full-fledged economic units, continuing to employ people that have successfully completed rehabilitation.

Multilevel Training Center

Purpose: Education and professional training



The Tomsk State Pedagogical University (TSPU) in Tomsk, western Siberia, will host an education and training program for youth from Central Asia, to deal with the lack of a skilled workforce in the region. The project includes preparatory courses for those planning to enter Russian universities, skills training for future workers on projects of the Central Asia Development Corporation, and the eventual establishment of a Russian-Central Asian State University, attached to the TSPU.

Enhanced scientific and cultural exchange between Russia and these neighboring countries will also strengthen the social basis for fighting narcotics addiction.

Water Management for Central Asia

Purpose:

Development of advanced water management systems

To stabilize Central Asia and reduce frictions in the area, a regional water management system can be formed within five to seven years. The project's main elements are a comprehensive water-monitoring map, arrangements for mutual water and energy offsets among the countries of the region, oversight of new HPP in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to preclude damage to other economies, and programs to improve the efficiency of water utilization in Uzbekistan's agriculture, which consumes a disproportionate amount of water,⁷ as well as in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.



Central Asia Silkworm-Breeding Cluster

Purpose: Organize a silkworm-breeding cluster in Central Asia, revive traditional silk-making, and create "Silk from Central Asia" as a world-famous brand



Tajikistan and Uzbekistan formerly were world leaders in silk production, a 4.5 thousand-year-old craft, with techniques passed down over the generations. Today, few master silk-makers remain, and production does not meet even domestic demand, but the Tajiktextilmash textile machinery plant and others can be modernized and geared up. The Namagan and Fergana Regions of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan's Sughd Region are ideally suited for expanded production, modernization of processing techniques, and training new specialists. Job-creation in the Fergana Valley is important for Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

7. A major cause of the drying up of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers, and the Aral Sea, is the decades-long practice of cotton monoculture in Uzbekistan's economy.

Vitamin Bridge

Purpose: Central Asian fruit production to supply the Russian market

Size: \$5 billion, to build 280 food-processing plants in Central Asia and Russia



Russia consumes 7 million metric tons of fruit annually, only half the recommended level. Central Asian fruit is available only seasonally, while lower-quality produce from far overseas predominates. Expanded fruit production for supplying high-vitamin produce to the Russian market year-round will create jobs in Central Asia, as well as orders for equipment and technology from Russian producers. New growing and processing technologies preserve high vitamin levels.

Eurasian Bank of Industrial Silver

Purpose: Develop silver mines in Central Asia to build up a 25,000-ton reserve of industrial silver, which may also serve as collateral for large development credits

Size: \$4 billion

Dashtijum Hydroelectric Dam

Purpose: Hydroelectric power for agriculture and industry

Size: \$5 billion

The Dashtijum HPP on the Panj River, which forms the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border, will provide 1.5 million cubic km of water annually for irrigation and create 6 million jobs in agriculture and industry in Afghanistan. The project depends on international cooperation and joint international financing by Russia, China, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. It implies the development of northern Afghanistan, where the power generated will be consumed.

Purpose: Produce new types of farm machinery and urban maintenance vehicles

Size: \$10 million

A heavy equipment assembly plant in the Panj Free



Zone, Tajikistan, will produce equipment for Tajikistan and Afghanistan, using designs and parts from Russia's GAZ automotive complex.

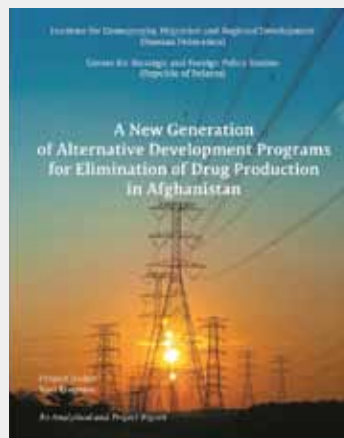
Strategic Pipeline from Russia to Central Asia

Purpose:

Import water from Russia for irrigation

Size: \$5 billion, 30 cubic km (7.9 trillion gallons) per year

This project is a component of a future unified Central Asian water and energy management system. A modification of the once-planned Ob-Irtysh River diversion project, it will enable reconstitution of the lower reaches of the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers, which flow into the currently desiccated Aral Sea, while allowing hydroelectric power development in the mountainous regions closer to their sources. Iran and Turkmenistan are candidates to supply wide-diameter pipe.



Publications of the Institute for Demography, Migration and Regional Development (IDMRD), related to the economic development of Afghanistan, include "The Path to Peace and Concord in Afghanistan Will Be Determined by the Position Russia Takes" (2008), "How the South of Western Siberia Will Become an Economic Center of the Planet" (2012, in Russian only), and "A New Generation of Alternative Development Programs for the Elimination of Drug Production in Afghanistan" (2014).



The New Silk Road Becomes the World Land-Bridge

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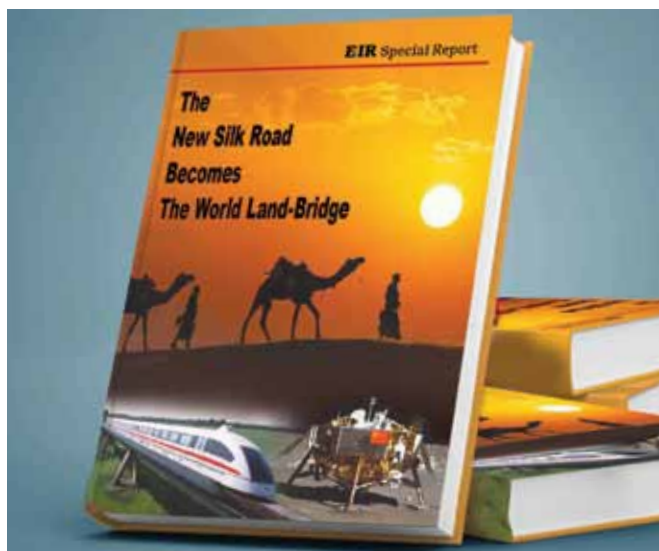
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Will Neo-Cons, Led by Obama, Lie Us Into a New World War?

by Nancy Spannaus and Jeffrey Steinberg

March 9—Speaking in Moscow Dec. 1, 2014, Gen. Yuri Baluyevsky (ret.), Russian Chief of the General Staff (2004-08), warned that a war by the U.S. and NATO against Russia had already begun.

“The Cold War was and is there, it goes on. . . . Only the forms of waging this war have changed, they have now become more sophisticated,” Baluyevsky noted in response to the question of whether the evaluation of present conditions as a “Cold War” was correct. An armed conflict between Russia and NATO, if it is destined to flare up, “*will begin with information and psychological pressure on people’s minds*, [emphasis added] and military force proper will be the final stage of the process that we are already seeing today,” Baluyevsky believes.

That such a psychological, propaganda war is fully underway was on full display on Capitol Hill last week, with testimony by Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili (now an advisor to Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko), and anti-Putin fanatic Garry Kasparov, before House and Senate committees. Both hearings were dominated by the demands, from the Congressmen and Senators, and from Saakashvili and Kasparov, for the immediate arming of Ukraine. There are currently bills in both houses that would specifically authorize such U.S. action.

Such action would be an insane leap toward confrontation with Russia. In addition, just like the 2003

war against Iraq, it is based on *lies*. If these lies are not challenged, and the venal purveyors of those lies, such as Nuland and her boss Obama, taken out of position of power over U.S. policy, the forecast of the retired Russian general is all too likely to come true.

Nuland at the Center

The only representative of the Obama Administration at these hearings was Nuland, known internationally as the midwife of the neo-Nazi coup which removed the elected President of Ukraine from power a little over a year ago. Nuland was the sole witness at the House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing, entitled “Ukraine under Siege,” on March 4. Like her former boss Vice President Dick Cheney, this neo-con operative lied through her teeth, in pursuit of a war policy.

Nuland lied that the Maidan coup was a peaceful protest by ordinary Ukrainians fed up with the rotten regime. She lied that the Russians were responsible for all the horrors of war in southeastern Ukraine, including the shooting down of the commercial airline MH17 (there is no evidence), the obliteration of the Donetsk airport (it was the assault by the Ukrainian Army which destroyed it), and that the humanitarian convoys being sent into the region by Russia were not inspected, and not humanitarian.

She pushed the idea of new sanctions against Russia in case of the failure of the Minsk agreements, reached among the Normandy Four heads of state (Putin, Poroshenko, Hollande, and Merkel).



C-SPAN

Victoria Nuland makes no secret of her role as the midwife of the neo-Nazi coup that evicted the elected President of Ukraine in February of last year. Here, she is testifying (lying) at a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing March 4.

shenko, French President François Hollande, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel), and clearly was unhappy that, so far, President Obama, under tremendous pressure from continental European leaders, has not decided to authorize the arming of the Ukrainian military.

Nuland's appearance before the House Committee coincided with a deployment to Capitol Hill of activists from the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, a Banderist¹ front group, pressing for war against Russia.

Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-Calif.) and Ranking Member Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.), both sponsors of House Resolution 955, which calls for providing \$1 billion in lethal arms to Ukraine, opened the hearing by effectively declaring that the Minsk ceasefire accords—which are fragile but holding—had failed, and that any delay in providing weapons to Ukraine would be disastrous. Royce demanded increased effort on the “information war” in the region; Engel bemoaned the fact that Ukraine is not a member of NATO, and announced he would introduce legislation to “dial up the pressure on Vladimir Putin” for his allegedly reckless policies.

Only two Congressmen took on this hysterical war-

mongering to any degree. Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-N.Y.) argued that the U.S. should not act unilaterally to challenge Russia, but instead, work with the European allies—who had already been identified as blocking lethal aid. More pungent was Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Calif.), who challenged the lie that Russia was responsible for the crisis in Ukraine.

Rohrabacher's Challenge...

After declaring that he agreed with Meeks that the issue was complicated, Rohrabacher said:

“I would hope that our goal is to do what's right by Ukraine, and bring peace to Ukraine, and not our goal being to basically defeat and humiliate Russia for actions that it has taken. Because if that's our goal, the people of Ukraine will continue to

suffer, and suffer, and suffer....

“Ukraine desperately needs economic help. This whole incident in history started when the government of what you call the rotten regime that preceded the current government of Ukraine went to our European allies to ask for help that it desperately needed for its economy. And the deal that was offered by our European allies was not sufficient, and, in fact, was much less than what the Russians offered them instead.

“And when that deal was taken by the rotten regime that you mentioned, all of a sudden that's when it became so rotten that we no longer—or the people could no longer put up with it. The pivotal moment was when it accepted the deal that was offered by Russia to help them in their desperate economic situation, which our European allies were not willing to do. That ignited this situation. That's what turned policy type of situations and perhaps the overturn of a rotten government through electoral process into instead the overturn of that rotten regime by violent demonstrations and non-democratic means of overthrowing that regime. Two years later, they could have kicked Yanukovich out with a free election. They didn't wait....

“So, let us hope that what we're doing now is aimed at trying to end the conflict that started in that more complicated way than black and white.... What people are advocating, that we send weapons ... to Ukraine,

1. See *EIR*, “Western Powers Back Neo-Nazi Coup in Ukraine,” *EIR*, Feb. 7, 2014.

the defensive weapons, would any of these weapons be under—do we see any of these weapons becoming part of the arsenal of that part of the Ukrainian army that is financed—which, I believe, a third of the Ukrainian Army is now, that is in conflict—is financed by an oligarch, a private citizen who happens to be a multi-billionaire?”

Rohrabacher could have been more explicit in naming the Azov battalion, a group of blatant neo-Nazis, and other such groups. Nuland has consistently lied about the nature of these groups—even as the evidence of their central role in the Kiev government’s actions gets increasing international exposure.

... and LaRouche’s

Lyndon LaRouche’s March [statement](#), denouncing the attempted frame-up of President Putin for the murder of opposition figure Boris Nemtsov, circulated on Capitol Hill, as *EIR* and LaRouchePAC representatives attended the House and Senate hearings.

LaRouche’s statement was distributed outside the House hearing, where media were gathered to interview the Congressmen and the members of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, who were in Washington to lobby for arming Ukraine. Most members of the Committee received the leaflet, and backup material from *EIR*.

Following the hearing, *EIR*’s Stuart Rosenblatt accosted Nuland, and, in the hearing of press and others, asked: “Were you behind the assassination of Nemtsov? We know Putin didn’t do it—so was it you?” She was immediately ushered away by staff.

The Senate Show

Saakashvili and Kasparov appeared before the European Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and delivered anti-Putin tirades. The room was festooned with life-size posters of the Nemtsov murder site and the wreckage of MH17, dominating the front of the hearing room. While the American witnesses, including former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Steven Pifer and American Foreign Policy Council analyst Stephen Blank, stopped short of blaming Putin directly for the Nemtsov killing, Kasparov ranted that Putin and his “elites” believe that after 15 years in power, there is nothing they cannot do, no line they cannot cross. He called for giving weapons to Ukraine in memory of Nemtsov!

As for Saakashvili, he stuck to presenting Ukraine

as the “front line” against a “revanchist Russia” which represents a threat to American security. In an op-ed given prominence in the *Washington Post*, the former Georgia President—disgraced in his own country—said Ukraine was the “new Berlin,” comparing it to the strategic showdown over that city in the early 1960s.

The push for the Senate to back arming Ukraine will continue again this week, when Nuland and a number of other foreign policy “experts” appear before the full Senate Foreign Relations Committee on March 10.

An International Scandal

The blatant lying, threats, and manipulation being carried out by Nuland, on behalf of the Obama Administration, have not gone unnoticed internationally.

On March 5, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexey Meshkov responded to Nuland’s statement that possible extension of sanctions under the so-called Magnitsky Act (actions against certain Russians who are suspected, but not confirmed, to have been involved in the death of lawyer Sergei Magnitsky’s death), would depend upon the investigation of his death being “an investigation that meets international standards and that finds not only the shooter, but the orderer of the murder.”

Meshkov responded: “It’s difficult to understand how those who do not observe international law would give assessments of international law. Moreover, does international law have anything to do with the investigation of a criminal case in Russia?”

An article published by *Spiegel Online* on its English International page on March 6, also expressed displeasure with Nuland, for her role in coaching the head of the U.S. Army Europe, Gen. Philip Breedlove, in his rantings against Russia. “When it comes to the goal of delivering weapons to Ukraine, Nuland and Breedlove work hand-in-hand,” *Spiegel* reports. “On the first day of the Munich Security Conference, the two gathered the U.S. delegation behind closed doors to discuss their strategy for breaking Europe’s resistance to arming Ukraine.”

The *Spiegel* article has Nuland coaching Breedlove on what to say to the Europeans: “While talking to the Europeans this weekend, you need to make the case that Russia is putting in more and more offensive stuff while we want to help the Ukrainians defend against these systems.”

Nuland, defender of Nazis and warmongers against Russia, and her boss Obama have got to go.

What Is the Mission of Mankind in the Solar System?

by Megan Beets

The following presentation by Megan Beets of the LaRouchePAC Scientific Team is excerpted from the Feb. 25 New Paradigm weekly show, and continues an ongoing discussion of the work of Nicholas of Cusa and Johannes Kepler. A video of the program, which also features Ben Deniston and Jason Ross, is posted at <https://larouchepac.com/new-paradigm>.

What we're going to take up today is Lyndon LaRouche's emphasis on the absolute necessity of the work of Johannes Kepler, in setting the standard for coming to a discovery of a new understanding of what mankind is. The only way to get out of the current crisis is not to rearrange some currently existing features of the global system: There's nothing to be rearranged. The entire system has to be scrapped, and, as LaRouche has said in the past, nations and the peoples of the world have to come to a new common discovery of what man is. What is the mission of mankind in the Solar System? And to do that, you have to go to the work of the last person who really defined that for mankind, which was Johannes Kepler.

Nothing short of that will ensure the success of man's continued existence on and off of this planet.

What Kepler did was to define the Solar System.



LPAC-TV

Kepler demonstrated "that the concept governing the Solar System could only be understood by the human mind."

And by that, I don't mean he defined the *objects* in the Solar System. He defined the *process* of the Solar System, which subsumes the Earth that we're all sitting on, as a human principle. And Kepler located the cause of the Solar System, the unity of the multiplicity of the Solar System, in a concept which was absolutely beyond mathematics, and beyond calculation and all logical use of number, logical use of the extrapolation of language and number, to come to some understanding of the Solar System.

And what he demonstrated is that the concept governing the Solar System could only be understood by

the human mind, in the same way that a group of human musicians are able to tune their various notes, and their various lines, to perform and unfold a beautiful piece of music, of a musical composition.

Now, this proof, that man's mind can know, beyond number, beyond and above mathematics—that there is some experience, there's mental life, which can detect and discover truth in the universe which is beyond the use of number per se—this set up a complete revolution in mankind, which we're still fighting to fulfill today, in actually moving out into that Solar System, and beginning to govern and organize, and have more and more

influence over the activity of that Solar System today, as we see in the space program of China.

Aristotle's Empty Mind

Now, this distinction, between the lower species of mathematics, and the higher species of human discovery, and human mental activity, is rooted in somebody who lived a couple of hundred years before Kepler, the great Cardinal Nicholas of Cusa, who sparked the Italian Renaissance. And Kepler actually declared himself explicitly a follower of Cusa in his first work, the *Mysterium Cosmographicum*, which he published when he was in his mid-20s, where he notes, early on in the work—this is probably going to be a terrible paraphrase, but—something to the effect of, Nicholas of Cusa seems to me divine, in that he locates the absolute distinction between the polygon and the circle, and compares the polygon to the mind of man, and the circle to the mind of God.

I'll come back to that example in a few minutes, but that's exactly what Cusa did. Cusa established a new doctrine of the mind of man.

Now, Cusa is born in 1401 in Germany. The time that he's born into is completely dominated, in science, in social doctrine, in government, by the doctrine of Aristotle, by the idea that man is nothing but an intelligent beast. In Aristotle's work, *De Anima (On the Soul)*, Aristotle says, man is nothing but a beast, and the way in which he is superior to all other beasts, is in his superior sense of touch, which is the only mode of direct perception. Aristotle said that it is the natural order not to be violated, that some are born to rule, and others are born to be slaves. He said that man's mind and soul are nothing but a blank tablet, a blank slate, upon which nothing is written, and over the course of the experience of life, sense impressions write, and form objects, in the mind of man.

So, man's mind is born empty, and through the course of his existence, his blank slate is written upon by objects of sense perception, and it's in being able to organize and draw conclusions about these facts of sense perception, that man comes to know.

So, out of this, the idea that it's but a logical arrangement of, essentially, things, that all knowledge is derived from this, comes the really crippling lie which held back science, held back the progress of society for centuries: of the impossibility of contradictories. In other words, a thing cannot be both A and not-A at the same time. Something cannot be both very hot, and very cold at the same time. A man can't be very tall, and

very short, at the same time. And actually, thinkers before Cusa had declared Aristotle's doctrine to be against the Christian religion, which is something that Kepler himself notes in his *Harmony of the World*.

Cusa's Great Discovery

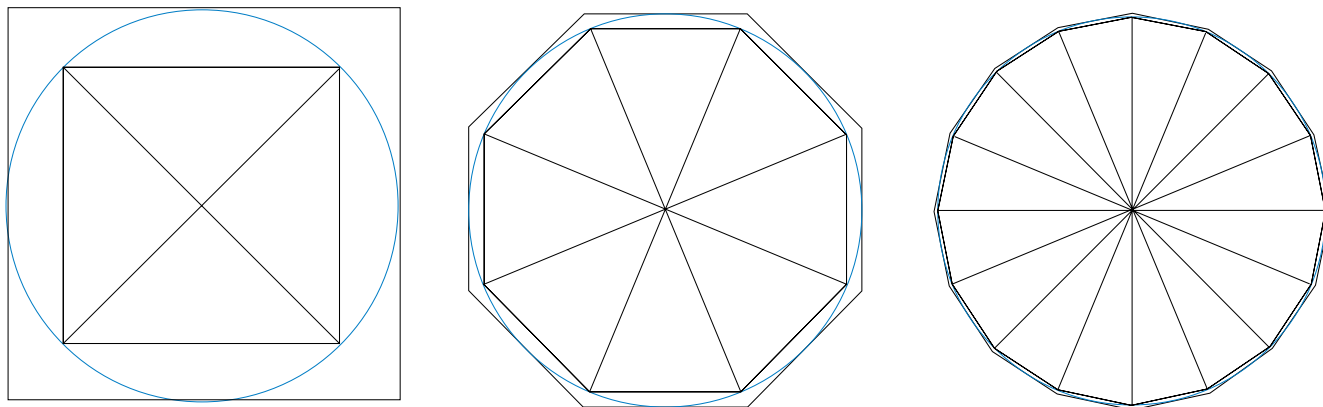
It's against exactly this that Nicholas of Cusa intervenes, in 1437, when he is sent to Constantinople on a diplomatic mission by the Vatican, in the attempt to reunite the Western and the Eastern churches. Cusa is sent to Byzantium to bring back representatives of the Eastern Orthodox Church, to the Council of Florence, in the West, as an attempt to reunite the two churches. And his mission was incredibly successful. He actually ends up bringing back 700 representatives of Byzantium, including the Patriarch of the Orthodox Church, the Byzantine emperor, and an advisor to the emperor, Plethon, who was the greatest scholar of Plato in existence on the planet.

It's on the boat returning from Constantinople that, as Cusa relates, he had his great discovery of a completely new method of thinking, and a completely new method, or concept, of mind, which crushes and overturns the Aristotelean lie, as opposed to Aristotle's impossibility of opposites, or contradictories, Cusa asserts the truth of the *coincidence of opposites*: that before you had contradictories, you had a principled unity in the mind of God, which can be understood in a certain way by the mind of man. In other words, man is not limited to the contradictories of sense perception, but he can leap beyond them.

One example he gives, is the polygon and the circle. That is, you have a circle and a polygon inscribed in the circle; they're different. You can imagine a circle with a triangle inscribed in that circle. Now if you keep doubling the number of sides—say, from 3, to 6 sides, now to 12 sides, 24, and so on—that polygon inside the circle begins to approximate the circle, begins to look very much like the circle. You get to the thousands of sides, and you can't distinguish the polygon from the circle by looking at it.

So, Cusa points out that, although the polygon is more and more approximating, and seeming to come into unity with, the circle, there's a crucial irony, which is that, as you add more sides, and more angles to the polygon, you're actually getting farther and farther away from the quality of a circle, which is that it has no angles, and no sides. So, as Cusa says, the only way to proceed, and to resolve this—there's no way to proceed

FIGURE 1



from the polygon to the circle. They're two completely different species. But you have to, almost as a leap, think on a higher level; that once you understand that these are two different species, man's mind can begin to think as the higher species, on the higher level.

Now, he uses a different image to attempt to illustrate his meaning, in a work called *On the Vision of God*, where he compares God, who is absolute infinity, absolute truth—he says that God dwells as if within the Garden of Paradise, which is guarded by the wall of contradictories, and that it's only if man can vanquish the guard to the gateway into Paradise, which is his reasoning; vanquish the reason, the back-and-forth reasoning, as in Aristotle's impossibility of contradictories. It's only if you can banish the kind of logical use of mind that comes with objects of sense perception, and take almost a leap of faith over this wall of contradictories, can you begin to conceive of the infinite.

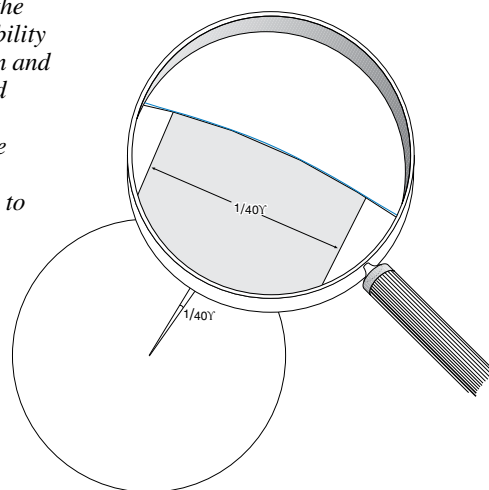
And one example of the infinite he gives is that God's light is infinite light, beyond all perceptible light, and is, therefore, absolute darkness. And so, can the mind come to conceptualize a quality of light, which is so infinitely light, that it's absolute darkness.

I know these are quick examples, and Cusa is relentless in that he never lets you sit with one particular image; he keeps driving these images forward. But it is this elimination of the Aristotelean tyranny of man's mind as a derivative of the body. You know, from the body up. And Cusa reasserts the mind of man as an image of the Creator's mind, which bears the light of Truth.

The Layman and the Philosopher

He lays this out really brilliantly in a work called *The Layman on Wisdom and the Mind*, which is a won-

Cusa proves the incomensurability of the polygon and the circle, and compares the polygon to the mind of man, and the circle to the mind of God.



derful dialogue between a very learned philosopher and a layman, a simple craftsman, where the philosopher is constantly being educated by this simple layman as to matters of great import.

At a certain point in the dialogue, the philosopher asks the layman, "From where does Mind have this power of judgment, in as much as Mind seems to make judgments regarding all things?" The layman responds: "The Mind has this power of judgment by virtue of the fact that it is the image of the Exemplar of all things, for God is the Exemplar of all things. Hence, since the Exemplar of all things shines forth in the Mind, as a true object shines forth in its image, Mind has within itself that unto which it looks."

I'll read that again. "Since the Exemplar of all things shines forth in the Mind, as a true object shines forth in its image, Mind has within itself that unto which it looks. And in accordance with which, it judges

about external objects. It is as if a written code of law were alive. Because it was alive, it could read within itself the judgments that were to be dispensed. Hence the Mind is a living description of eternal infinite wisdom. But in our minds, at the beginning, that life resembles someone asleep, until it is aroused to activity by wonder, which arises from the influence of perceptible objects”—which is completely different from Aristotle’s idea of the relationship of perceptual objects to man.

He says, “Thereupon, by the operation of its intelligent life, Mind finds described within itself that which it is seeking. The situation is as if an indivisible and most simple pointed tip of an angle of a very highly polished diamond were alive. And as if, in this pointed tip, were reflected the forms of all things. By looking at itself, the living tip would find the likenesses of all things. And by means of the likenesses, it could make concepts of all things.”

So, it’s this idea, a completely new idea, of the nature of the existence of the mind of man, with respect to the mind of God. There’s a lot to say about Cusa, without whom the Renaissance couldn’t have happened, and the possibility of the resolution of all the religious conflicts, and so forth, couldn’t have happened—also without that, really, what Kepler did wouldn’t have been possible. And modern science, as we know it today, wouldn’t have been possible.

Learned Ignorance

It’s from his conception of the nature of the man as Creator, in relation to the Creator of the Universe, that he’s also able to make certain assertions about the Solar System, and the Earth, which I just wanted to read.

This is from his work, *De Docta Ignorantia*, or *On Learned Ignorance*. He says that created things reflect the universal whole, but no two created things are so equal, that they couldn’t be more equal. So you’ll never find two absolutely identical created things. So from this, he says: “Hence, if we consider the various movements of the spheres [in other words, the planets], we will see that it is not possible for the world machine to have, as a fixed and immovable center, either our perceptible Earth, or air or fire, or any other thing, for, with regard to motion, we do not come to an unqualifiedly minimum [that is, to a fixed center]. Hence, the world does not have a fixed circumference. For if it had a fixed center, it would also have a fixed circumference.”

So, what did he say? He said, from this doctrine, we can assert that there can be no fixed center to the Solar System, and that our Earth is not going to be the fixed center of the Solar System. He also says: “Therefore the Earth, which cannot be the center, cannot be devoid of all motion.” *The Earth moves*. He also says, “Nor does the Earth or any other sphere even have a center, for since a center is a point equidistant from the circumference, and since there cannot exist a sphere or a circle so completely true, that a truer one could not be posited, it is obvious that there cannot be posited a center which is so true and precise, that a still truer and more precise center could not be posited.”

So, the Earth is not the center; the Earth must move; and the Earth cannot be a perfect sphere, a spherical body with an absolutely perfect shape.

There’s more, but I think I’d like to leave it there, and to come back to Kepler. Cusa was able to assert these things because of what he understood about Mind. But then, Kepler, 150-200 years later, did this: Kepler, in his discovery of the Solar System, took what Cusa knew to be true in principle, in concept, and Kepler actually discovered scientifically that this was the case, and gave man a completely new concept of the Solar System.

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Glass Steagall—To Destroy Wall Street

On the eve of what promises to be a much more devastating financial blowout than that of 2007-08, the drumbeat for restoring FDR's Glass-Steagall Law, to cut off Wall Street's speculative binge from Federal government support, has re-emerged in the United States. Whether this crucial policy issue is pursued or not, will be absolutely decisive for the future of the United States.

Glass-Steagall legislation, properly conceived, is *not* a mere financial tweak, or, God forbid, an electoral strategy. Its re-enactment, *before the blowout*, would be a strategic hit against the main source of the drive for global war and misery internationally—London's junior partner in the United States, Wall Street.

Financial experts, such as FDIC vice-chairman Thomas Hoenig, and former director of the Office of Management and Budget David Stockman, realize exactly what a blow to Wall Street the reimposition of Glass-Steagall would be. Both have recently given presentations documenting the systemic danger to the financial system represented by the huge balloon in derivatives, highly leveraged loans, and speculation such as corporate stock buybacks. Both have been clear that Glass-Steagall would cut these banks loose; The consequences for their continued existence without government support are obvious.

Now Glass-Steagall has become a prominent subject of discussion within the Democratic Party political arena as well.

In a March 3 column on the question of what policies a Democratic Party candidate for President in 2016 should adopt, former Labor Secretary and economist Robert Reich made a strong case for Glass-Steagall's restoration being at the top of the agenda, in addressing the disastrous economic conditions facing ordinary Americans.

Referring to Wall Street's rolling back of the Dodd-Frank Act, he wrote:

"The Democratic candidate could condemn this, and go further, promising to resurrect the Glass-Steagall Act, once separating investment from commercial banking (until the Clinton administration joined with Republicans in repealing it in 1999).

"The candidate could also call for busting up Wall Street's biggest banks and thereafter limiting their size; imposing jail sentences on top executives who break the law; cracking down on insider trading; and, for good measure, enacting a small tax on all financial transactions in order to reduce speculation."

Reich has called for Glass-Steagall before, but it is a new phenomenon for prominent Democratic politicians—other than Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren—to campaign on that basis. Yet, during two campaign trips in early March, dedicated to testing the waters for a presidential bid, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley called for the bank separation law to be reinstated. "We would make a mistake as a party if we held ourselves out as becoming some kind of a version of Dodd-frank Lite," O'Malley said during stops in South Carolina and New Hampshire; he said it was necessary to return "the finance industry to the rules established by the Glass-Steagall Act passed during the Great Depression that kept banks from gambling with our money."

None of this kind of spirit has been seen in Congress yet—although Rep. Marcy Kaptur's (D-Ohio) HR 381 bill to restore Glass-Steagall has 30 co-sponsors. No new bill has shown up in the Senate.

Time is short. To stop war *and* a new crash, Glass-Steagall must be restored now.

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