

Russia and China Outflank British Empire War Drive

by Jeffrey Steinberg

July 7—Russia and China have launched a deadly flanking assault against the British Empire, without firing a single shot. While London continues to press for strategic confrontation with Vladimir Putin's Russia through its control over the Obama Presidency, and its own direct long-running operations in Ukraine, Moscow and Beijing are moving rapidly to create a new economic and monetary order free from the shackles of the British system of free-trade looting and radical Malтусian genocide.

Both China and Russia have made clear their desire to have the United States and Europe join in the new arrangements, but they are declaring their independence from the system of usury, speculation, and war that has dominated the planet for centuries.

The coordination between Russia and China will be on display next week, when both President Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping travel to South America to participate in the 6th BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) summit July 15-17, in Fortaleza, Brazil, and a series of bilateral meetings. At the BRICS meeting, two new financial institutions are expected to be established: a BRICS development bank and a collective fund to beat back currency assaults on the member states. The recent efforts by vulture funds, in collusion with U.S. Federal courts, to loot Argentina, and break up the bond restructuring arrangement negotiated between Argentina and 93% of its bondholders, have backfired and created accelerated momentum to

break the stranglehold of the so-called Washington Consensus of the IMF, the World Bank, the Bank of England, the U.S. Federal Reserve, and the U.S. Treasury over global financial affairs.

At the same time, China is spearheading the creation of an Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) before the end of the year. Beijing is seeking as many as 30 initial members in the bank, which Wall Street and London clearly see as an undesirable alternative to the Asian Development Bank which has been dominated by the Washington Consensus, through slavish cooperation by Japan. The stated purpose of the AIIB is to promote rapid construction of the Eurasian Land-Bridge of transportation and development corridors stretching from the Pacific Far East to the westernmost shores of Europe. In announcing the AIIB, Chinese officials also announced that they planned to finance a high-speed rail link between China and Iraq.

The Eurasian Approach vs. London/Wall Street

The idea of the rail line to Iraq underscores the qualitative difference between the Asian approach being aggressively promoted now by Beijing, and the bankrupt policies of permanent war being peddled by London and its Wall Street and Obama White House allies. Iraq remains under siege by the barbarian forces of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), which last week proclaimed a Caliphate on the territory of the two coun-

tries. Backed by Persian Gulf states and wealthy individuals, ISIS has been conducting a lightning drive toward Baghdad, defeating the Iraqi Army in a series of engagements. ISIS is operating with Sunni tribes and remnants of the Saddam Hussein-era Iraqi Army who were purged during the U.S. occupation of the Bush-Cheney era. The factions have maintained cohesion through the Sunni tribes and the Army of the Men of Naqshbandi, a Sufi network of Ba'athist military officers and soldiers who have been shut out of power by the U.S.-backed al-Maliki government in Baghdad.

Threat of Regional War

The threat posed by ISIS to neighboring countries, including Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia, has created the conditions for a new regional war. One thousand American troops are now in Iraq as advisors, trainers, and intelligence liaisons, as well as security for the U.S. Embassy and an estimated 25,000 Americans working in various parts of the country. Last week, Russia sent SU-25 fighter planes and Russian trainers to Iraq on short notice at the behest of the al-Maliki government. Iran has an estimated 100 Al Quds Brigade (IRGC) military advisors in the country as well, mostly working with Shi'ite militias called upon to fight against the Sunni insurgents.

Last week, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey gave a frank assessment of the situation on the ground in Iraq. Dempsey told reporters at a special Pentagon briefing that he believed the Iraqi Army could hold back an ISIS assault on the capital, but that they possessed no capacity to launch any counterattacks to take back territory already lost to the rebels.

At the request of President Obama, the JCS delivered military options last week, suggesting that it would take as many as 6,000 American troops—one entire combat brigade and relevant air and communications support personnel—to simply secure the U.S. Embassy, the Baghdad International Airport, and the 15-km road connecting them. Obama authorized the deployment of an additional 300 U.S. troops, far less than the Pentagon's assessed requirements.

Obama has already violated the Constitution by dispatching American forces without Congressional approval. There is a bipartisan revolt brewing against the President's latest Constitutional infringements. Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) sent the President a letter signed by 80 members of the House on July 3, warning him

against any military action without Congressional authorization (see *Feature*, in this issue).

Moreover, Washington and London appear to be doing everything possible to escalate the provocations against Russia, using the Poroshenko government in Ukraine as its instrument. After a series of meetings and conference calls among Presidents Putin and Poroshenko with German Chancellor Merkel and French President Hollande, the seeds of a negotiating process to end the violence in Ukraine were beginning to sprout, until Poroshenko abruptly ended the ceasefire between the Ukraine government and pro-Russian federalist forces in the southeast of the country, and resumed military operations.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov blamed the sudden shift on pressure from an unnamed outside force—an implicit reference to London and Washington. Putin has made clear his willingness to negotiate an equitable agreement, and has taken concrete steps, including asking the Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, to rescind the law giving him authority to intervene militarily in Ukraine, and pushing for OSCE (Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe) observers to be deployed to the Ukraine-Russia border. Nevertheless, the crisis continues to grow.

It is in this context that the Russian and Chinese actions to forge a new just economic system in Eurasia and beyond represent a crucial flank against the power of the British Empire. Were Congress to remove President Obama from office, not only would the immediate war danger be vastly reduced (the British, without the U.S. on a leash, have no capability to fight a general war). The prospects for the United States directly participating in the new economic order would be vastly improved.

Lyndon LaRouche has repeatedly stated in recent years that the advent of advanced thermonuclear weapons has made modern warfare impossible. Any general war would be a war of extinction. Since the dwindling power of the British Empire system is the only driving source of the war danger, defeating that Empire system by forming a new economic and financial system on traditional Hamiltonian American System principles—with U.S. full participation—would be the single-most deadly blow to the last vestiges of the British Empire. Either the British will succeed in provoking a general war, in which case mankind is doomed, or the power of the British Empire will be defeated, starting with the removal of British pawn Barack Obama from the Presidency.