

The Upcoming Silk Road in Space

by Kesha Rogers, Houston

Oct. 17—In less than three weeks, President Trump will visit Asia, where he will participate in a series of summit meetings. In her [Oct. 12 webcast](#), Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche made clear what must be understood about the importance of the United States joining the Belt and Road Initiative, and the associated turning point for a cultural paradigm shift:

We are right now mobilizing, mostly in the United States, but also elsewhere, in the hope that President Trump's long-awaited and extremely important strategic trip, a state visit to China in the context of his Asia tour, will lead to a formal agreement on the Belt and Road Initiative. I think there is a definite potential for this to occur. If it occurs, we really are over the hump of the danger of war. That is my deepest belief, because the 'win-win cooperation' of the New Silk Road offers a new model, not only of relations among nations in general, but a new model of major-power relations, which has been a big component of the proposals by China. And if there were such a transformation, I think the world would really enter a new era of cooperation to the mutual benefit of all: to end geopolitical games, and to certainly end the policies of the Bush and Obama administrations of interventionist wars for regime-change, and of color revolution, that could then be replaced with a system of sovereign nations working together for their mutual benefit.

Now it is important to understand that the Belt and Road Initiative is not just an increase of infrastructure and great projects. We are truly on the verge of a new cultural paradigm, an upshift in the physical-economic progress of mankind. What China has done to lift over 700 million people out of poverty in the course of the



Chinese astronaut Wang Yaping, spreading optimism as she gives a lecture from space, June 19, 2013, to students in China.

Enthusiastic students participating in the lecture by Wang Yaping.

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last three decades, has not come as a result of simply scattering train lines and infrastructure projects hither and yon, but as a result of an intentional paradigm to increase the growth of its nation along with the whole of mankind. This has been reflected in China's commitment to the exploration and development of space, as the driving force for the progress of Mankind, on and off the earth.

Over the course of the last month, there have been numerous initiatives of cooperation among nations around the world in the realm of space exploration. I will highlight a few of those major developments shortly, but first I would like to reference a recent development in the United States, with the first meeting of the new National Space Council on Oct. 5, which was established by President Trump by executive order a

few months ago. This council existed previously from 1989 to 1993, and a version of it also existed as the National Aeronautics and Space Council from 1958 to 1973. The National Space Council was created during the Administration of President Dwight Eisenhower, with the aim of making sure that there was someone close to the President to coordinate national policy on space. Today, again, a high-level group, consisting of the Secretaries of State, Commerce, Defense, and others, and chaired by the Vice President, is to advise the President, and ensure that all aspects of the nation's space powers are unified and aligned.



White House

Vice President Mike Pence, visiting NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center.

New Direction in Space for U.S.A.

In his address at the inaugural meeting of the National Space Council, Vice President Pence, who was appointed to head it, laid out a new direction in space for the nation. The Vice President announced that the Trump Administration will direct NASA to land humans on the Moon and establish a more permanent presence on the lunar surface. Pence declared, "We will return NASA astronauts to the Moon—not only to leave behind footprints and flags, but to build the foundation we need to send Americans to Mars and beyond."

This is definitely a shift away from the policies of the Obama Administration, which shut down the Constellation and the Shuttle programs, and placed the focus of our space program on a chimerical one-track course to Mars, along with a strange focus on an asteroid redirect mission. The new Trump Administration policy provides a stark contrast to Obama's "been there, done that" dismissal of a lunar mission. Obama also refused to take up China's offer to join in the Belt and Road Initiative, as the Trump Administration has not yet—but we still have a long way to go.

A national space mission must require a fundamental shift in the understanding of human presence in space. We do not envision a mission for the benefit of one nation, but for all nations working in cooperation for the mutual benefit and advancement of mankind as a whole. This is the great potential we see unfolding through the activities of the Belt and Road, and China's

leadership throughout the world.

China recently hosted an International Forum on Lunar and Deep Space Exploration. It is indicative of their mobilization approach to space exploration, that unlike other nations that have sent missions to Mars, China's first Mars mission will be an orbiter, as well as a lander and rover. Russian scientists have submitted three applications to conduct experiments on China's planned space station. The Russians are also discussing sending their Cosmonauts to the Chinese space station. Along the same lines, in an address to the Sept 25-29 International Aeronautical Congress in Australia, Roscosmos [the governmental body in Russia responsible for the space science program of the Russian Federation] head Igor Komarov said that he expects that the Russian parliament will ratify a fundamental law regulating the international exchange of technology in the rocket industry within the next two months.

Despite Vice President Pence's announcement of a mission by the Trump Administration to set the nation back on a course to the Moon, there is still a tendency to get stuck in the old Cold War paradigm. During his speech, Vice President Pence reiterated that the United States is behind Russia and China in securing military space operations. Pence also noted that "according to the U.S. intelligence community, Russia and China are pursuing a full range of anti-satellite technology to reduce U.S. military effectiveness, and they are increasingly considering attacks against satellite systems as part of their future warfare doctrine." This statement is

one which is grounded in the old paradigm of the Cold War doctrine and geopolitical warfare.

Joint Mission in Space Is Crucial

What is urgently required for a successful national mission in the exploration and development of space, is that the United States must immediately implement Lyndon LaRouche's [Four Laws](#) for the economy, starting with the immediate reinstatement of Glass-Steagall, as established under President Franklin Roosevelt. This must be followed by the development of a new national bank, and a federal credit program, with investment in new, higher technologies, and lastly the adoption of a fusion crash program, just as LaRouche specifies. You will never have a successful space program, if it is run by the hands of the destructive Wall-Street monetarists and anti-growth environmentalists.

A U.S. decision to join the Belt and Road Initiative would represent a vital turning point toward cooperation for the mutual benefit of leading nations of the world, including Russia, China, and the United States. As Helga Zepp-LaRouche described in a [recent interview](#) with *Peoples' Daily Online*, "The Belt and Road establishes the interest of all humanity first, and then secondly establishes national interest." What better way to bring about such a mutual cooperation for the benefit of all humanity, than through the exploration and peaceful development of space? China is committed to such a mission, and the United States must be as well. This means putting an end once and for all to the insane law that was established in April 2011. At that point, the 112th United States Congress banned NASA from engaging in bilateral agreements and coordination with China through Public Law 112-55, Sec. 539. This must be reversed immediately. It is in the most vital interest of the United States to collaborate with China.

Russia and China are again developing modes of cooperation in the development of advanced space technology, research, space station infrastructure, and even manned Moon missions. They are expected to sign a landmark deal to this effect this month. The United States should be part of it.

JFK's Foresight

President John F. Kennedy knew the importance of cooperation among nations in the exploration of space. He understood that the development of space was to be to the benefit of, and progress of, all nations. That is why he proposed a joint lunar exploration with the

Soviet Union on Sept. 20, 1963, only two months before he was assassinated, and only one year after his optimistic speech at Rice Stadium, expounding the vision he had laid out before a joint session of Congress, to land a man on the Moon and to return him safely to Earth before the end of the decade.

This year marked the 55th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's speech at Rice Stadium on Sept. 12, 1962. There he reflected on the great discoveries and advancements in human progress that had come before:

Those who came before us made certain that this country rode the first waves of the industrial revolutions, the first waves of modern invention, and the first wave of nuclear power, and this generation does not intend to founder in the backwash of the coming age of space. We mean to be a part of it—we mean to lead it. For the eyes of the world now look into space, to the Moon and to the planets beyond, and we have vowed that we shall not see it governed by a hostile flag of conquest, but by a banner of freedom and peace. We have vowed that we shall not see space filled with weapons of mass destruction, but with instruments of knowledge and understanding.

President Kennedy continued, in that address, to inspire a national mission that transformed our space program. He declared, "We choose to go to the Moon. We choose to go to the Moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win, and the others, too."

The enemies of our space program have sought to destroy it because they object to the optimism which it brings to the population. They have stated this on numerous occasions. We know that when a population becomes inspired and optimistic about the future, it is undefeatable.

It has been the continued fight of Lyndon LaRouche and his movement, to inspire that optimism in the minds and hearts of the American people, so as to restore a national mission based on economic growth and scientific progress. This again must be a challenge that "we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win."