

## Schiller Institute International Conference

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# On the Verge of a New World War— European Nations Must Cooperate with the Global South!

Strasbourg, France

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The speeches presented here are edited from either the prepared written versions submitted prior to the conference or the speeches as presented and may therefore differ somewhat from the presentations as given.

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## Panel 1

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### Peace in the World Through a New Security and Development Architecture for Each and Every Country; The Indispensable Strategic Autonomy of European Countries

**Moderator Harley Schlanger:** We're going to begin with a musical offering from Werner Hartmann, who will be playing the Adagio from Beethoven's Pathétique piano concerto.

*(Musical performance)*

I'm Harley Schlanger from the Schiller Institute, and I'll be moderating this first panel. What's brought us here is a recognition that we're facing a life-and-death crisis for the human race. The old order, whether you call it the rules-based order, the unipolar order, the trans-Atlantic order, the liberal democratic order, or just the plain West, that order has failed. The attempt to perpetuate it is putting us on a path to destruction, beginning with the threat of nuclear war over the NATO war against Russia in Ukraine.

As we begin our event today. The Atlantic Council, one of the leading and best-funded of the think tanks for the war hawks, posted a piece a couple hours ago titled "Four Scenarios for Russia's Future After the Wagner Group Mutiny." Let me just briefly summarize these four scenarios. One, a weakened Putin stays in office. Two, a new regime rises to replace the weakened Putin. Three, Russia descends into civil war and fragments. And four, miraculously reformers seize the moment. At the beginning of next week, NATO will be meeting in Vilnius to plan out their next phase in continuing this crisis. Now, while they promote dangerous, delusional scenarios, there is reality, and that's what we are here to discuss: the emergence of a new paradigm, which Helga Zepp-LaRouche has been at the center of organizing for decades, with her husband, the American statesman, Lyndon LaRouche; and she's continued charting this course after his passing.

Our first panel is titled "Peace in the World Through a New Security and Development Architecture for Each and Every Country, the Indispensable Strategic Autonomy of European Countries." So to open our event, we have our keynote speaker, and I'm honored to introduce to you Helga Zepp-LaRouche.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche**“Let a Garden amidst a Million Gardens Bloom!”**

*Mrs. LaRouche is the founder and leader of the Schiller Institute, Germany.*

Excellencies, Distinguished guests, dear friends of the Schiller Institute!

What a joy to welcome people from so many nations here in Strasbourg in person, after circumstances forced us to hold our Schiller Conferences only virtually for over three years! But we used this time well to bring together so many new forces worldwide, with which we can intervene together at this crucial moment in world history to create a new paradigm for the future of humanity!

Let me say it straight away: Even if our continent is in an existential crisis, we will not allow its demise. Rather, we will revive the best of what European culture has produced, and what is now buried under the speech balloons of a decadent counterculture and the barbarism of the diehards of the past, and we will bring that into the shaping of the New Paradigm!

Unquestionably, we are now in the most dangerous moment the human species has ever faced, as we are extremely close to extinction as a species on this planet, because that would be the consequence of a global nuclear war. And contrary to what the propaganda of the trans-Atlantic mainstream media claim, the danger is not due to “Russia’s unprovoked war of aggression” nor to “China’s increasingly aggressive imperial power grab,” but to the trans-Atlantic forces who are unscrupulously playing with nuclear fire, while attempting by all means to exert unipolar dominance over the world when it has long since been moving in a multipolar direction. While the mainstream media in unison slander as “Putin sympathizers” anyone who dares to think that history did not begin on February 24, 2022, and while NATO and the U.S. government fund organizations that put people on lists that put their lives in danger, the nations of the Global South have very much gained an independent view of things.

The sixfold expansion of NATO to the East, coming a thousand kilometers closer to the borders of Russia, despite promises to the contrary, can be as little covered up as the efforts of the Northern “ATLANTIC” defense alliance to expand in the Indo-Pacific region as Global NATO. Above all, with the increasingly blatant and arrogant appeals with which representatives of the “rules based order” demand that the whole world submit to their intrigues and their “indulgences” in modern garb (such as a carbon tax or CO<sub>2</sub> emissions trading), they have crossed the Rubicon. But it is by doing so that they hope to prolong the existence of the hopelessly bankrupt neoliberal financial system at least a bit longer.

We are currently experiencing a change of epoch, albeit not of the kind that Chancellor Scholz referred to on February 24, 2022, which amounts to the militarization of Europe as a protectorate of the United States. Rather, what we’re seeing is the end of some 500 years of

colonialism, which the countries of the Global South are determined to finally shake off with the help of China and the Belt and Road Initiative. For example, at the recent International Finance Summit in Paris, [South African] President Ramaphosa demanded that the international community provide funding for the Inga Dam.

I quote: "Let's get that done and then we will be convinced that you are serious with the promises that you make. It is estimated that the price tag would be \$80 billion and generate at least 42 gigawatts of electricity, which would have an absolutely revolutionary impact on the entire continent's energy supply and economy."

More than 30 nations have applied for membership in the BRICS, which will then include the world's most populous countries. The attempt, coming mainly from the US and the UK, to "decouple" from China or to "de-risk," as this foolish phrase has come to be called, when all these countries are closely linked with China. So this can only lead to economic suicide, or to an equally suicidal formation of geopolitical blocs, which would carry the seeds of a world war.

In the face of this tectonic shift of power, which occurs at most once or twice in a millennium, the European nations – but also America – must decide whether they want to cooperate productively with this emerging world order, or whether they, NATO, the U.S., the U.K. will opt for total confrontation and the attempt to oppress the absolute majority of the human species. And the decision between these two options will test at the same time our moral fitness to survive: Are we, as rational beings, able to give ourselves, together with the Global South, an order that guarantees the coexistence of us all, or, as Leibniz would put it, allows the happiness of future generations? Or are we soulless human machine guns, hatefully directed only toward the destruction of the supposed enemy?

This is not an academic question, as will become obvious in four days at the annual NATO summit in Vilnius, at which the Hungarian government, thankfully, announced that Ukraine's admission to NATO will remain out of the question for as long as the war continues. That should actually be self-evident. Now, however, there are recent statements by Berlin's two leading think tanks, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (DGAP), both close to the government, about possible security guarantees for Ukraine outside of formal NATO membership. Even if these are only ideas from think tanks, and not necessarily the policies of Berlin, these papers deserve the closest attention, because their authors are typical of the so-called "experts" who speak non-stop on talk shows, and in this way influence the views of the population.

It is not only in France that there has been a great deal of concern recently about Germany's seemingly complete loss of all sovereignty, as could be seen in the German government's lack of response to the sabotage of the Nord Stream pipelines.

Now, it must be taken into consideration that the SWP, which advises the government, the Bundestag, the EU, NATO and the UN among others, was created on the initiative of the BND

[German Foreign Intelligence Service], which, when it was founded under the aegis of the American occupying power in 1962, incorporated personnel from the military intelligence service Fremde Heere Ost and the Gehlen Organization. The AWP was initially based in Ebenhausen, a small town near Pullach, where the headquarters of the BND was located. The much larger DGAP (German society for foreign policy), 2800 members, was founded as early as 1955 in cooperation with and modeled on the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations and the British Royal Institute for International Affairs, known as “Chatham House.”

Now, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, 2023, the AWP put out a paper entitled “From Ad Hoc Support to Long-Term Security Guarantees as a NATO Member.” And there it stated that there are two options, apart from full NATO membership, that could guarantee Kiev’s security. The first is “demilitarization” of Russia by reducing its armed forces and arms industry to a level that rules out “offensive operations.” This would only be possible through “external shocks,” a clear defeat of the army, a renunciation by the leadership of its “neo-imperial understanding of its role,” which would require a change of regime, and the simultaneous denuclearization of Russia’s military potential. That, however, they say, is “currently unrealistic. The second option would be for Ukraine to build up its own nuclear arsenal.

Just in case, the DGAP, the German society, provided yet another option, circulating under the keyword “hedgehog,” as an animal symbolizing such a massive rearmament of Ukraine – into a super-armory, so to speak – that it would deter all future attacks. This includes the variant proposed by the chairman of the British defense committee, Tobias Ellwood, which envisages support from a coalition of the willing and a powerful task force, a Joint European Defense Initiative (JEDI). Germany’s Rheinmetall Group has already announced plans to build a modern tank factory and other weapons factories in Ukraine. Meanwhile, U.S. defense contractors Grumman, Raytheon and Lockheed Martin sponsored champagne receptions at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, not least to celebrate the memorandum of understanding that the world’s largest financial services firm, BlackRock, which manages \$10 trillion in assets, landed with the Ukrainian government. JEDI is only intended to help bridge the gap; in the long term, NATO membership is indispensable, and the goal is to anchor Ukraine irrevocably in the Euro-Atlantic structures. The priority, therefore, is to proactively communicate to their own populations the “meaning, purpose and goals” of NATO membership for Ukraine and to take action against institutions that claim to be part of civil society, like the Schiller Institute, but are in fact controlled by the Russian state. We are not controlled. Just for the record I say that.

What a nightmare! The largely destroyed Ukraine is to be transformed into a mega-armed country, a “hedgehog,” or rather into a permanent cash cow for the military-industrial complex on both sides of the Atlantic; it will become a “frozen” conflict that can be activated at any time, as a permanent crossing of the red lines defined by Russia which, in the meantime, is supposed to be “ruined” (according to Baerbock), or permanently weakened (Austin, RUSI, Stoltenberg, etc.).

There's not a single thought about ending the war through diplomacy, no peace negotiations, no positive vision for the Ukrainian people, and certainly not a peace order for the world as a whole! What an ugly, destructive spirit rears its head here, no human emotion influences the thinking, it's cold as a robot which is steered by a worm-eaten algorithm! And we can add to that that the U.S. has just decided to deliver straw bombs, dispersal bombs [cluster bombs—ed.] to Ukraine.

But the arrogance that leads some to claim that they belong to the camp of the “good people,” and can therefore suggest the most horrendous things with impunity, also blinds them. The reality is by no means that the Russian economy is collapsing; quite the contrary. Economic growth in May was 5.4%, while Germany is officially in recession, and Russia was forced by the sanctions to build up many branches of production for its own benefit and redirect trade patterns from the West to Asia, where the momentum of the world economy is anyway.

The trans-Atlantic financial sector, on the other hand, is sitting on a bubble of two quadrillion dollars of outstanding derivative contracts – that's a 2 with 15 zeros – which ultimately means hopeless systemic debt. Central banks are switching back and forth between QE [quantitative easing] and QT [quantitative tightening] and apparent disinterest in orientation. But Josep Borrell, EU High Representative for Foreign Policy, takes the cake. He recently stated with utmost arrogance at the European Diplomatic Academy in Bruges that Europe is a garden, while most of the rest of the world is a jungle that could intrude into it.

Such a point of view will find no sympathy among the 5,000-year-old cultural peoples of Asia, who together with the other countries of the Global South have long been putting into place a New World Economic Order – and while Mr. Borrell is now regarded as a comedian but not one one would invite for a visit – or among the nearly 50 percent of German companies that are fleeing the country, due to the mismanagement of the German government and the unaffordable energy prices. They have no sympathy for such a view, either.

Hearing Borrell's misplaced comparison of a garden, one is reminded of scene ten in Act II of Schiller's play *Don Carlos*, when the Marquis of Posa, who sees himself as a citizen of the world and carries the liberation of Flanders from the Spanish yoke in his heart, confronts King Phillip II, the absolute ruler of Spain.

In Borrell's misplaced garden comparison, one is reminded of the tenth entrance in Act II in Schiller's play “*Don Carlos*,” when the Marquis of Posa, who sees himself as a citizen of the world and carries the liberation of Flanders from the Spanish yoke in his heart. Here, he confronts King Phillip II, the absolute ruler of Spain, the “empire on which it was said at the time “the sun never sets.” Phillip says something very similar:

“Behold my Spain, see here the burgher's good blooms in eternal and unclouded peace. A peace like this will I bestow on Flanders.”

And the Marquis answers:

“The churchyard’s peace!.. And do you hope to end  
 The universal spring, that shall renew  
 The earth’s fair form? Would you alone, in Europe,  
 Fling yourself down before the rapid wheel  
 Of destiny... Vain thought!”

(In German):

“Sehet in meinem Spanien Euch um. Hier blüht des Bürgers Glück in nie bewölktem Frieden;  
 und diese Ruhe gönne ich den Flamändern.”

Und Posa antwortet:

“Die Ruhe eines Kirchhofs,  
 Und Sie hoffen...den allgemeinen Frühling aufzuhalten,  
 der die Gestalt der Welt verjüngt? SIE wollen-  
 Allein in ganz Europa- sich dem Rade  
 des Weltverhängnisses, das unaufhaltsam  
 in vollem Laufe rollt, entgegenwerfen?  
 Sie werden nicht!...”

The absolute majority in Germany, for example, has lost confidence in the government, and according to recent surveys, 79% are not satisfied with the government’s policies. Here in France, we have just seen what state the social fabric in this garden is in. No wall can be built high enough to protect the garden, Borrell says? Well, we see at the external borders of the EU, what these walls look like. Pope Francis described the reception camps for refugees in the border countries of Europe as concentration camps, which are surrounded by high walls topped with NATO barbed wire, and are repulsive enough to deter people from venturing in small boats over the Mediterranean Sea, which has long since been turned into a horrendous mass grave.

No, Mr. Borrell, this Europe is not a garden, it is a continent that competent politicians, such as Charles de Gaulle and Konrad Adenauer, wanted to bring out of the rubble of the Second World War into a better future, and which a thoroughly decadent political caste, having thrown out the window its duty of peace, is now leading into a renewed catastrophe that threatens to far surpass the horrors of the Second World War.

And if large parts of the world outside Europe resemble a jungle, it’s because Europe has not developed Africa in the past centuries, but well-known families in the trans-Atlantic world have built their fortunes on the slave trade, have drawn profits from the opium trade, or are profiting from the modern successor of colonialism – the casino economy – in which the wealthy determine the rules of our oh-so-fantastically-organized rules-based order.

Or maybe other regions are a jungle because the trans-Atlantic interventionist armies took up residence there, as NATO did for 20 years in Afghanistan, during which time nothing was built, and then left the country in ruins. Or as in Iraq, where a country rising to modernity was bombed back into the Stone Age, and concerning which Madeleine Albright said the death of 500,000 Iraqi children was a fair price to pay for the right to continue ruining the country. And the list of why some countries of this world are not gardens could go on: Syria, Yemen, Libya, Haiti, etc.

But there is a way out. The nations of the Global South, whose existence was just recently discovered by the G7, apparently in the Hiroshima summit, and which represent the overwhelming majority of humanity, have long been shaking off the shackles of modern colonialism and creating a new international currency, new development banks, a new credit system. Over 30 countries have applied for membership in BRICS-Plus; the SCO, AU, ASEAN, EAEU, Mercosur and other organizations have moved to carry out their trade in national currencies. One hundred and fifty-one countries cooperate with China's Belt and Road Initiative, which this year celebrates its tenth anniversary, and managed during that decade, to make sure the term "developing countries" really does apply to the countries of the Global South.

We in Europe, and even in America, have to give up the already doomed attempt to contain the rise of these countries by decoupling or "de-risking." We have to replace confrontation, which in any case only benefits the military-industrial complex, with cooperation. Germany, France, Italy, and all other European nations must become part of the new paradigm in international relations, our middle class, now bankrupt under the old paradigm, can not only help build the Inga Dam, but realize the Transaqua project that will provide electricity to twelve more nations in Africa. We can cooperate with China to provide the entire global South with a high-speed rail system, we can build ports and waterways, green deserts through large-scale desalination of seawater, and build new cities.

Yes, and while we're at it, we can also modernize our own ailing infrastructure instead of enriching the defense industry and impoverishing the population; we can repair our schools, make the health care system functional again, intensify international cooperation on the fusion project ITER as a crash program in order to achieve commercial use of fusion energy faster, and we can spare ourselves all the pollution and the destruction of our landscapes with those unspeakable wind turbines. We can also rebuild Ukraine as a bridge between Central Europe and Russia as part of the new Silk Road.

To bring Europe, and America, onto this path, is our commitment. And let us remember what Posa said to King Phillip, and what we, together with Schiller, say to the many Borrells of today:

Geben Sie die unnatürliche Vergötterung auf,  
die uns vernichtet!...

Sie wollen pflanzen für die Ewigkeit,  
Und säen Tod? Ein so erzwungnes Werk  
Wird seines Schöpfers Geist nicht überdauern...

Give up the unnatural deification that destroys us!...  
You would plant  
For all eternity, and yet the seeds  
You sow around you are the seeds of death!  
This hopeless task, with nature's laws at strife,  
Will ne'er survive the spirit of its founder....

Geben Sie,  
Was Sie uns nahmen wieder! Lassen Sie,  
Grossmüthig, wie der Starke, Menschenglück  
Aus Ihrem Füllhorn strömen- Geister reifen  
In Ihrem Weltgebäude, Geben Sie,  
Was Sie uns nahmen, wieder. Werden Sie,  
von Millionen Königen, ein König!

Restore us all you have deprived us of,  
And, generous as strong, let happiness  
Flow from your horn of plenty – let man's mind  
Ripen in your vast empire – give us back  
All you have taken from us – and become,  
Amidst a thousand kings, a king indeed!

Today, we no longer need a king, but as a variation on Posa's words today, let us say:

Let a garden amidst a million gardens bloom!

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/6789>

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H.E. Lu Shaye

## **China's Role for Peace and Development**

*Mr. Shaye is Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in France.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank the Schiller Institute for inviting me to Strasbourg, the “second capital of Europe,” to share my thoughts on the international situation.

At present, changes unseen for a century are taking place at an accelerated pace, giving rise to unprecedented transformations of our world, our times and history. The ongoing conflict on the European continent is attracting worldwide attention. More than a year after the start of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, where does the outcome lie? The answer to this question is being sought not only by the countries involved in the conflict and the European countries with a close interest in it, but also by peace-loving people the world over.

Depending on the positions and interests of the various parties, there are two diametrically opposed options: the first is to continue hostilities until one side prevails over the other; the second is to promote peace talks to find a solution acceptable to both antagonists.

The world is thus divided into two camps: the pro-war camp, led by the United States, which, under the guise of defending justice, is prolonging the war by constantly supplying arms and other forms of military assistance to Ukraine; and then the pro-peace group, which is actively engaged in shuttle diplomacy in favor of reconciliation and peace talks.

The Russian-Ukrainian conflict highlights two ways of thinking in today's world, pitting two strategic choices against each other: that of confrontation and conflict versus that of dialogue and cooperation, or that of the zero-sum game versus that of mutual benefit and win-win. Moreover, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine is itself the disastrous consequence of America's obsession with the logic of bloc confrontation after the end of the Cold War, reflected in NATO's continued eastward expansion to restrict Russia's strategic space and drive it into a corner.

And today, the USA is trying to launch a “new Cold War” against China. On the political front, it is sticking ideological labels on other countries, calling China an “authoritarian dictatorship” and rallying “value allies” under the banner of defending “democracy” to launch a “new crusade” against China. On the military and security front, the US is busy creating “little clans”: from bilateral military alliances to the trilateral partnership (AUKUS), from the quadrilateral dialogue (Quad) to the Five Eyes alliance, via the “Indo-Pacific version of NATO.” On the economic, commercial and technological fronts, projecting its own model onto China by assuming that any great power practices hegemony, the US is building “little courts surrounded

by high walls,” and seeking to decouple and break supply chains in order to crack down, comprehensively, multi-sectorally, intensively and continuously, on China’s high-tech enterprises and critical industries such as semiconductors.

European countries have been forced to choose sides. On the Russian-Ukrainian issue, from participation in sanctions to the current dispatch of fighter jets and pilot training, Europe is becoming more involved in the conflict by the day, while the prospects of resuming dialogue with Russia and rebuilding a new European security architecture grow ever more remote. As for relations with China, the United States is deliberately linking China to Russia and playing on the false narrative of “today’s Ukraine, tomorrow’s Taiwan,” fanning anti-Chinese hatred in Europe and poisoning Sino-European relations.

Against this backdrop, it’s worth noting that some European countries have demonstrated a stronger commitment to strategic autonomy, refusing to choose sides between China and the USA. They have stressed the need to defend their strategic and economic sovereignty on the basis of their own interests, to maintain channels for dialogue and to play a role as a balancing force between China and the United States.

Developing countries have also largely refused to fall into the logical stereotypes and discursive traps of bloc politics and confrontation of camps. They reject the blind wave of condemnation and sanctions against Russia, and pursue their policy of friendship towards China. Peace and cooperation remain the aspiration of the peoples and the general trend.

At the same time, confusion and anxiety on all sides are far from over. Some countries, anticipating an escalation of confrontation and an “eventual war” between China and the USA, are betting on both sides geopolitically, and economically, they are erecting trade barriers and practicing investment screening, industrial relocation and blocking of critical technologies vis-à-vis China, insisting on “dependency reduction” and “derisking.”

In a turbulent world, China remains as clear-sighted and determined as ever. Ten years ago, President Xi Jinping innovatively put forward the vision of a community of shared future for humanity and the Belt and Road Initiative, and since 2021 he has successively presented the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative. These are Chinese proposals for solving global development problems, meeting international security challenges and promoting mutual enrichment between civilizations

An African proverb says: “Alone we go faster, together we go further.” Those who ignore the interests of others will never get far, those who want to rely solely on their own strength by getting rid of others are living in illusion, and those who think only of blocking the development of others will not be able to fundamentally solve their own problems.

In presenting the Global Development Initiative, China advocates solidarity and cooperation. Aimed at rapid implementation of the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the initiative identifies eight key areas of cooperation, including poverty reduction, food security,

development financing and the digital economy. It has received the support of over 100 countries, as well as the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, as it corresponds to the broad common interests of the international community.

Thanks to the joint efforts of all parties, the Global Development Initiative has come to fruition very well, with many early results to the benefit of different peoples. For example : mechanisms such as the “Special Action to Promote Food Production,” the Global Alliance for the Development of Technical and Vocational Education, the International NGO Cooperation Network for Poverty Reduction, the China-Africa Alliance for Poverty Reduction, the China-Pacific Island Countries Climate Action Cooperation Center, and the Center for the Promotion of Global Development; more than a hundred concrete cooperation projects are on the Initiative’s project list, benefiting nearly 40 developing countries, and offering more than 20,000 training places via 1,000 capacity-building projects; China has launched the world’s first scientific satellite dedicated to the 2030 Agenda, shared its data with the rest of the world, and donated several data products to the United Nations.

As part of the Belt and Road Initiative, more than 3,000 cooperation projects have been signed, generating almost \$1,000 billion in investment, creating 420,000 jobs and helping almost 40 million people out of poverty.... The facts prove that what the world needs is not “decoupling” or “broken supply chains,” but open, inclusive, win-win cooperation. China is ready to continue sharing development opportunities with Europe and other countries around the world to promote common prosperity.

Attached since ancient times to the primacy of peace and concord between all states, the Chinese nation has no genes in its blood for aggression or hegemony; on the contrary, it has always sought peace, harmony and concord. Faced with a profoundly restructuring international landscape and complex security challenges, China advocates a common, integrated, cooperative and sustainable security concept, and pursues a new security path based on dialogue rather than confrontation, partnership rather than alliance, and win-win rather than zero-sum game.

Last February, China published the Concept Paper on the Global Security Initiative, which lists 20 priorities for cooperation, including: firmly supporting the central role of the United Nations in security governance; promoting consultation and healthy interaction between major powers; actively promoting the peaceful resolution of burning issues through dialogue; effectively addressing conventional and unconventional security challenges; and continuously strengthening the world’s security governance system and capacity development.

On the question of Sino-American relations, we have no intention of challenging or supplanting the United States, nor of becoming a new United States, nor of waging a “new Cold War” of bloc confrontation. Recently, when he received US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed that “the world needs an overall stable Sino-American

relationship,” that he is “confident that the two great powers can overcome all difficulties to find the right way to get along in mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation,” so as to “stabilize and improve the Sino-American relationship.”

On China-EU relations, China and Europe have no fundamental conflict of interest. On the contrary, we both benefit from each other’s development, both advocate strategic autonomy and multilateralism, and we have a broad consensus on global issues such as the fight against climate change. China and Europe should strengthen mutual trust, remove doubts through fruitful cooperation, and work hand in hand to inject stability, certainty and positive energy into the world.

On the question of Ukraine, in the document entitled “China’s Position on the Political Settlement of the Ukraine Crisis” published last February, China put forward 12 points of proposals, including respect for the sovereignty of all countries, rejection of the Cold War mentality, cessation of hostilities and the opening of peace talks. These proposals take into account the concerns of all parties and can constitute the highest common denominator for negotiations. China has also made concrete good offices efforts to promote reconciliation and peace talks. We are convinced that there is no winner in an armed conflict and that the only viable issue to the crisis is dialogue and negotiation. We hope that the EU will work with us to promote the earliest possible launch of negotiations between Russia and Ukraine, so that peace can be restored to the European continent as soon as possible.

As a Chinese saying goes, “the secret of making a good dish is knowing how to combine flavors.” The beauty of our world lies in the mutual enrichment of civilizations. China is against the dualism of black versus white, and the distinction between superior and inferior civilizations. Through the World Civilization Initiative, we advocate respect for the diversity of civilizations, promotion of humanity’s shared values, commitment to the transmission and innovation of civilizations, and the strengthening of intercultural exchange and cooperation. We respect all civilizations in their differences, and support their right to development. We are convinced that individual countries can find their own development paths and institutional models adapted to their national conditions, and that through human and cultural exchange and cooperation, the radiance of all civilizations will produce a magnificent symphony of splendors.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Humanity is a community of destinies, sharing both good times and bad. More than ever, nations are interconnected and interdependent, and more than ever, they are called upon to work together to meet challenges and achieve progress.

Europe was the main battleground of the two world wars and is the scene of the current conflict. Europe should therefore have a more direct experience and a deeper understanding of the importance of peace and development. As we stand at a critical new crossroads in history, I

hope that Europe's far-sighted leaders will engage in deep reflection, actively play their part and contribute their wisdom and strength to lead their respective countries and the whole of humanity to make the right choice.

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H.E. Ilia Subbotin

**What Russia Really Wants in Its Relations with Europe – Peace or War?**

*Mr. Subbotin is Minister-Counselor of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in France.*

Dear participants of today's International conference, organized by the Schiller Institute,

Dear Ms. Zepp-LaRouche, Dear Mr. Cheminade,

Dear friends,

I'm stressing the word friends, because I really hope that this morning I speak in front of people, who are at least ready to listen and who do not have a "pre-cooked" vision of the international reality, like the one broadcast by the mainstream Western media.

From what I was able to find in open sources about the Schiller Institute and its founder, Lyndon LaRouche, I conclude that this audience will be able to think critically and to make its own conclusions.

The topic of today's panel is "Peace in the world through architecture of security and mutual development, to the benefit of each and every country." I will present to you a view, based on the official position of my country and on my personal experience, including 23 years of diplomatic service.

I remember vividly my first contacts with US high school students in 1990-91, during the last years of existence of the Soviet Union. There was a program called "Friendship Caravan," under which young Americans were visiting Soviet schools, spending several days in Russian families. After decades of the Cold War it was a breath of fresh air. We were happy to make new friends. The future seemed bright and marvelous.

In July 1989 then-President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev visited Strasbourg and spoke in front of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). In that historic speech he put forward the idea of the "common European home" and called for substituting "the geopolitical balance with the balance of interests" in order to create the wide economic space from Lisbon to Vladivostok. I see here a link to Point 7 of Helga's "10 principles for tomorrow's world."

That was the turning point of the Russian foreign policy. For 30 years after that speech, my country spared no efforts to build the common humanitarian, legal and economic space, which would cover Greater Europe. Russia's membership in the Council of Europe from 1996 until March 2022 was the most visible proof of that course.

Before I continue on the track of European integration, allow me to draw your attention to one circumstance, which is key for understanding of the later developments. After the failed coup

d'état of August 1991, in December of the same year the Soviet Union was peacefully dissolved. Let me stress the two opposite versions of what happened – the US leadership (namely President Bush, the father) already during the 1992 electoral campaign started to talk about the victory in the Cold War, and the collapse of the USSR because of that “victory.” For us in the former Soviet Union, the perception of the events was radically different. We never felt we had lost the Cold War. In fact, it was our President who stopped it. The disintegration of the USSR became a kind of “collateral damage” of the titanic shift in Russian policy. And, believe me, when it was happening, almost nobody understood what exactly was happening. Most of the people in former Soviet republics, except the Baltics and Georgia, wanted to continue living together. And I remember very well the feeling of the first months of 1992 that some kind of new union of the same republics would emerge very soon. The reality unfortunately turned out to be different. Deep economic crisis, unemployment, criminality, interethnic conflicts in a number of post-Soviet republics....

With all these difficulties Russia still stood firm in its desire to become a part of the Western world. In 1996 we joined the Council of Europe with its Court of Human Rights and many other institutes and instruments. In 2002 the NATO-Russia Council was created. As of 2003 we agreed with the European Union on the creation of four common spaces, which would cover economic issues; issues of freedom, security, and justice; external security; and, finally, research and education.

Meanwhile, in 2000 I graduated from the MGIMO University – the well-known Russian diplomatic school, and was appointed to my first diplomatic post, in Chile. Here I would like to recall one more personal episode from the late '90s. In spring, 1999 I was doing a Master's [degree] in international relations in Madrid, Spain. I lived in a shared flat with some other students, including a Yankee boy, called Stephen. We were going along quite well until NATO started to bomb Yugoslavia. For me this is another turning point of European history of the last 30 years. Russia today is accused of bringing the war back to Europe. As if the aggression against Yugoslavia never took place! On the night when Russian paratroopers took control of Pristina airport, we had a physical fight with my US neighbor. He started the fight, shouting something about “Russian pigs.” The US might be successful in Yugoslavia but not in Madrid flat...

In terms of Russia-West relations, the Kosovo crisis is well known by the U-turn of the Prime Minister Primakov's plane over the Atlantic (24 March 1999) and the beginning of a U-turn in global Russian politics – although, as we know now, it took my country 20 more years to do the complete U-turn. The former prime minister and foreign minister Primakov was a truthful partisan of the concept of a multipolar world. In his active years in politics, he advocated for the multipolar system, which is becoming reality before our eyes now.

In 2007, I was for the first time appointed to Strasbourg, to the Russian permanent mission to the Council of Europe (CoE). Since then I have been dealing with the CoE file in different

capacities. On February 10, 2007, President Vladimir Putin delivered his landmark Munich speech. He spoke about the indivisible nature of security, of the failure of the unipolar world (maybe it was too premature, but seen from today, that was the right conclusion), of the excessive use of force by the US and NATO... Recalling the events of the late '80s, President Putin stated clearly: "[T]he fall of the Berlin wall became possible thanks to [the] historic choice of [the] Russian people in favor of democracy, freedom, openness and sincere partnership with all members of the big European family." And of course he was advocating for the more balanced system of security (Point 1 of Helga's principles – international security and development architecture as a partnership between sovereign Nation-states).

Was my President heard in Munich? Judging by the events which followed, he was not. In August 2008 Georgian leader Mikhail Saakashvili attacked civilians and Russian peacekeepers in Tskhinval. Together with my colleagues I spent long hours of discussions in the Committee of Ministers to prove the obvious, that the attack was started by the Georgian side. An international inquiry commission headed by the Swiss Ambassador, Heidi Tagliavini, came to the same conclusion. However, none of these conclusions was able to correct the fact that an armed conflict between the Russian army and a US-trained and -equipped Georgian armed forces took place. Luckily, the war lasted only few days and, as we see now, became a very good vaccine for the Georgian society and leadership against any future attempts to start an armed conflict with Russia.

In 2009 we celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the Council of Europe. Former [Soviet] President Gorbachev was invited to pronounce the main speech at the solemn ceremony. On that occasion, I was lucky to spend three days with the man who had changed history. He is often seen in my country as too pro-European, but allow me to quote some key messages from his 2009 speech: "Europe hasn't fixed the key question, namely, creation of the solid basis for peace, of the new security architecture." President Gorbachev, not Putin, 2009. Another quotation: "[T]he roots of actual problems are in the wrong assessment of the events, related to the end of the Cold War and the breakup of the Soviet Union."

Sorry for the prolonged excursion into the modern history, but I'm deeply convinced that to understand today's reality, we must have a clear picture of what happened yesterday.

In 2012–2015 I was working as a seconded political advisor of the Council of Europe's Brussels office. It was a unique chance to learn the "Brussels bubble." Moreover, it was a period of time when foundations for the current Ukrainian crisis were laid. You might remember that the EU and Ukraine were negotiating an Association agreement with a free trade zone, which would enter into conflict with the already existing free trade zone between Russia and Ukraine. My close colleague and friend was among the top negotiators on our side at the EU-Russia talks to find way out of the dead end. According to him, there was no will [shown by] the EU side to come to mutually beneficial agreement during these talks. The refusal by [Ukrainian] President Yanukovich to sign the Association agreement was used to spark the Maidan coup d'état, which

led to the civil war in Ukraine. And again, we witnessed the unwillingness of the Western leaders to implement the Minsk agreements, which stopped the open hostilities from 2015 till 2022.

Now we all have heard the confessions of [former French President] M. Hollande and [former German Chancellor] Mme Merkel that they had no intention to implement the Minsk package and that the only goal of the deal was to give Ukraine more time to re-arm and conquer the rebel regions by force. What was the intention of the Russian leadership? For me the answer is quite clear – my President, supported by political class, wanted a genuine peace deal, of course on the decent conditions, where the key is recognition of Russia’s leading role in providing security in Europe. The guys in Washington, D.C., apparently did not see such a role for my country. To a large extent, this explains why we’re still in open conflict.

Let me go back to 2017. I took the post of Deputy Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, responsible for the Council of Europe file. My biggest headache was the institutional crisis. The Russian delegation in PACE was deprived of its key rights, and consequently my authorities decided to stop paying our contribution to CoE budget until these rights were fully restored. By Summer 2019, working closely with Secretary General Jagland and the reasonable part of the members of PACE, we were able to fix the problem. The Russian delegation returned to the Assembly with full rights. The Russian contribution to the CoE budget was fully paid. Would all this be possible without the genuine desire of my President, of our political class, to keep Russia as part of the Greater Europe? Definitely not! We were also lucky to have at that moment of history the responsible and independent leadership in the CoE (Jagland).

What happened next? Russia realized that the United States in Ukraine were preparing the worst scenario. We made the last effort – the “diplomatic offensive” of December 2021 – January 2022. It happened that I was able to discuss these events personally with two main Russian envoys – Deputy Minister Riabkov (he worked with the US) and Deputy Minister Grushko (he was in charge of NATO track). The parallel conclusion of both esteemed colleagues: there was no wish on the US/NATO side to seek any compromise with Russia.

In these circumstances, the special military operation became the just and non- alternative step to guarantee Russia’s security and to protect Russian people, whom the Kiev regime wanted to deprive of their language, religion, culture, values. What was the reaction of the West – hatred and mantra that the only way out is a “strategic defeat of Russia at the battlefield.” And no effort is spared to reach this aim – according to open sources, more than \$150 billion has already been spent to arm Ukraine. By the way, a couple of years ago the G-20 agreed to accumulate \$100 billion to help the green transition of the developing countries – this commitment has never been implemented!

Let me stress that it was not Russia that broke relations with Europe (that was exactly the case with our withdrawal from the Council of Europe). The breakup was the initiative of the

Western countries (the second part of the title of our session, the essential strategic autonomy of the European states). I will not discover America if say that now there is no such autonomy and that the European political class is almost totally controlled by the US. Can this situation change? I hope so, and the fact that such organization as Schiller Institute exists, makes this hope stronger.

The Multipolar world is emerging. It's a fact of life. New centers of economic [development] are here. The financial growth in China, India, Brazil, Turkey, and Gulf countries' power and political influence go along with the economic success. The share of the G7 in the world's GDP is already less than that of BRICS. The hegemon which loses its dominance reacts maliciously, by staging internal conflicts and wars between brotherly nations, like those in former Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. Will Washington be able to change the course of history? I do not think so. I am sure most politicians in the West understand this. The open question is, when will Europe – Germany and France primarily – wake up and free themselves from the shackles of US control? When and if this happens, Russia will be ready for mutually beneficial dialogue of equals, on the basis of our fundamental interests. We are not looking for self-isolation.

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Mrutyuanjai Mishra

### **India's Role as a Peace Mediator in these Critical Times**

*Mr. Mishra is an author and journalist, India.*

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you so much for inviting me. Thanks especially to the Schiller Institute. And as the day proceeds, the height of the speaker keeps increasing. So I don't know who's next. I also want to thank, especially Tom Gillisberg, with whom I have now my third session on participating for peace. Tom is from Denmark, and the first two times, you know, it was extreme weather conditions when we both had to give the speech. The first time it was a snowstorm and then we had a rain with intensity which looked as if it was a tropical rain with only one extra condition – it was really cold water. And the second time it was a storm, and we were hiding behind a ship while we were giving our speech. So when he said that Mishra will have to talk once again on peace, I was really scared. This is the next extreme weather condition. It's hot, but it's bearable for an Indian, so.

Well, it was funny; when I started writing my speech, I thought, I need to include the word Global South. And the theme of the conference actually became the role of the Global South. And I have put the title, Can India Play a Constructive Role in Creating Peace and Reducing the Gap Between the Global North and the Global South? And, you know, it's kind of fascinating that India very recently took the position as being the most populous country in the world. So I'm kind of the elephant in the room. You know, the only Indian probably, but we are one-seventh of the world population. So don't underestimate us.

I'm so thankful that the word Global South appeared as the conference theme. We've learned that the term "first world countries," which was actually derived from French anthropological thinking based on division of society in three predominant layers, namely the nobility, the clergy and the bourgeoisie. India, my country of origin, has long been referred to as a Third World country, because it was unaligned with the capitalist NATO countries during the Cold War and was not directly aligned to the communist Soviet bloc either. But we've always been very good friends with the former Soviet Union and today's Russia. The countries in the Soviet bloc at that time were referred to as the Second World countries. Strangely, India has successfully cooperated with both blocs and has retained an independent approach towards its foreign policy.

It is reflected in this particular month that we had before. Narendra Modi, India's President, was actually invited by Joe Biden for three days (and three days may not be long enough for a vacation in France, but visiting Joe Biden for three days is a lot). And, you know, Denmark's Prime Minister, after more than a year, got an invitation, and that was for two hours. So that speaks, you know, to why this dinner and extra dinner and extra jokes between these two

gentlemen took place. But as soon as Narendra Modi arrived in India, he called Russia's President and said, Hello, we are still friends. Don't worry about that. So, the thing is that India is in this unique role, kind of a girl in a college that everyone wants to date, and she is unable to make the decision, but kind of says, "Hey, can't we all be friends?"

As critical thinking became crucial in the 21st Century, the term "Third World" became obsolete, because it was considered neo-colonialistic, and, you know, calling and expecting every other to join the club. So it was expected that these third world countries were so-called backward countries and they needed to modernize and liberalize and become like the First World countries, which are represented today, more or less, by the 31 members of NATO with Finland in, and soon 32 if Sweden joins in a week or so. So we have got used to the term, but now we have to get used to the term the Global South, because we are moving away from the First World/Third World thing.

That's why the theme of the conference is quite relevant. What is this Global South? And this Global South actually represents the two most-populous countries of the world, India and China. India and China do not necessarily lie in the Southern Hemisphere, but most of the poor world and middle-income countries in Asia, Latin America, and Africa lie in the Southern Hemisphere. There is an extra responsibility in these days, where we are plagued with war in Europe, on India's and China's shoulder. I think we need to create a conditions of peace and not get involved probably in another war. The purchasing power of the Global South, as was mentioned by earlier, is on the rise. And today the so-called BRICS countries constitute a substantial part of the global economy, and the so-called First World share of the global economy is gradually decreasing. A new world order is in the making. There are forces in the world that do not want to see a peaceful rise of the global South, and want to constantly impose a state of war on the planet. That forces the poor South to mobilize more of its resources into the defense sector and often has to experience a destabilized neighborhood. Yugoslavia has been mentioned before.

Just before I had to give my speech, I met somebody here who mentioned that India and Yugoslavia actually had a fantastic relationship when Tito was the President. And I remember in my school days in India—I grew up in India, and we knew everything about Yugoslavia. And when there was a football match, India never has had a good football team. So we used to, you know, in Danish we say "hey," and we used to always praise the Yugoslavian team. So we knew all the players who played in the Yugoslavia team. Such was the contact between Yugoslavia [and India], and as Yugoslavia got divided into five countries, this was a scenario that India really feared, because, can you imagine a country with 780 languages being spoken, and they are not French and German that we have borrowed, or, for that matter, English? These are the languages that arose from India, the word mother and father, it comes from the language, Sanskrit. So imagine, this is the diversity of India. It could it would be very easy to split these countries along these lines. But managing diversity is a big aspect. But as I said, the

more the agenda of war is pushed and war alliances are created, it pushes the Global South – Africa, Asia – also into this thing called more money for defense. And now we have two countries which are in financial difficulties, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, who lie in the neighborhood of India.

But we gradually have seen, and will see, the Global South will try to exert its influence. And if they are organized – I mean here China, India, primarily, have a big responsibility. If they're clever, they will be able to set an agenda of political stability, and I think China and India agree on this, that we need to manage political stability. We cannot afford to have chaos, even of the scale that you had in France recently. So, we need to maintain political stability in the Global South and development of all its citizens. That is the new agenda.

So let's take a recent example. Despite constant pressure from the Western countries, two-thirds of the world population still live in countries that are neutral. Or are directly supporting Russia in the war in Ukraine. They are more worried. What are their worries? They're more worried about issues of poverty and food security and want to improve the living standard of millions of [their] citizens. The U.S.- and European Union-led bloc, including, on the other hand, NATO countries, represent only around 36% of the global population, and they're primarily, of course, united and consistent in their military support for Ukraine and have actually also approved of economic sanctions against India.

But on the other hand, meanwhile, nearly one-third of the world's population lives in a country that has remained neutral so far, led by India. Here, India is the leader. These non-aligned states include Brazil, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and the UAE. And they will do their utmost to avoid picking sides. They don't want to pick sides. And I gave you the example earlier that Modi went to the United States, came back, and immediately called the Russian President. They want to avoid sides while seeking to prevent political and economic instability.

By 2030, it is projected that three of the four largest economies will be in the Global South. China will be the largest, India probably the second. The United States will be the third and Indonesia the fourth. Already, the GDP in terms of purchasing power of the Global South dominates BRICs nations Brazil, Russia, India, China and south of South Africa, and their income surpasses that of Global North's group, G7 club. Dr. Jaishankar, the Foreign Minister of India (in India we call him the External Affairs Minister) just recently, on a trip to Europe, said these famous words: "Europe has to grow out of the mindset that its problems are the world's problems, but the world's problems are not Europe's problem." They don't recognize that the world's problems are also Europe's problems. The strong comment by Jaishankar came amid persistent effort by the European countries to convince India to take a tough position on the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Let's face some facts. The Global South has some issues to deal with. There are still people living in poverty. One-third of women in India are still illiterate. Even though millions of Indians and

Chinese have come out of poverty, much can be done to improve the living standard for millions others in both India and China and the rest of the Global South. Hence, there is a need of a new vision of a world without wars and a world where cooperation becomes a key pillar of social interaction instead of competition. Who knows, if the constant expansion and encircling of Russia had not occurred? If that had not occurred, we would probably also have had peace in Europe now. Instead of increasing the number of countries in privileged military alliance, we could create an alliance for economic stability and peaceful growth.

Therefore, in the end, I would like to say, it is this agenda that needs global attention now. And India has been involved, and now we are the second-largest group of immigrants in the U.S. And there is an agreement, even in the U.S. now, that people-to-people cooperation is one of the best things we can do. And I think cultural exchanges and any form of exchange – like me meeting Tom in Denmark brought me to Strasbourg. And I guess this kind of interaction, us meeting, like the way we have met here today, we should not consider that we are just few. I may be the only one here from India, but there is a huge population in India who forces its politicians to choose peace. They want to stay friends with Russia, and actually many Indians have said, when we needed help, Russia helped us. How can we not help them? So India will always, I mean, in the minimum, stay neutral. But on the other hand, the friendship with India and Russia will stay strong. This is my opinion. But on the other hand, there is a great opportunity for the Western world and European Union to also increase its involvement in India. Thank you very much.

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Prof. Michele Geraci –

**“The Belt and Road is better than the road of tanks !”**

*Prof. Geraci is Former Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Economic Development; Prof. of Practice in Economic Policy, Nottingham University, Ningbo; Honorary Professor Peking University, School of Economics; Adjunct Professor of Finance, New York University, Shanghai; En-ROADS Climate Ambassador – Climate Interactive/MIT, Italy.*

Hello, Very happy to be here. I want to say thank you to Helga for the very kind invitation. Happy to be here with nice friends.

I want to give you a little bit of an overview of what is happening on the Belt and Road (BRI) and, hopefully, give you a bit of a different angle on why Italy joined the Belt and Road Initiative, some of the criticisms that we have received, and how I think the BRI is actually, in my view, a way to bring peace to the world.

I’m half a professor in various universities. I’m lucky enough to work in China in Shanghai for an American university, New York University, and in another university, in Ningbo, for a British university, while I am in China. I was lucky enough and honored to be with President Modi, President Xi, and with President Putin, [Russian Foreign Minister] Lavrov and others. So, I’m half a politician, half an economist.

I’ll get down to practical things. I want to show the picture of me and president Xi. This was when Italy signed the BRI memorandum back in March 2019, in Rome.

To give an idea of how important the relationship was between Italy and China and also the importance of signing this MOU, I’ll tell you what is happening with my friends in Rome and in the Italian government. Not everyone – I say it very diplomatically – not everybody understands the importance of the Belt and Road. You got what I mean.

Xi Jinping, in a sign of friendship, also came to my home town in Palermo in Sicily. So we did one day in Rome and one day in Palermo, as a tourist, with the first lady. During the meeting, he said, politely, this is a very nice city, I hope many Chinese tourists will come to Sicily. It’s a beautiful place, I like the beach, my wife likes opera, we went to the theater, and so on.

Immediately after, weeks later, we signed an agreement with one of the largest travel agencies in China, Ctrip, with the idea to increase the frequency of flights between Italy and China. In my dream I had a direct flight from Wenzhou to Palermo, because 90 percent of Chinese people that live in Italy come from this city in China. And tourists coming to China.

The importance of this event is in an economy where the presence of the government in China is strong and kind of leads the activities of companies; the more the President Xi said this is a nice place, [the more] I hoped many Chinese tourists will come. Immediately I got a phone call

from Ctrip saying, what do we need to know, [what do] we need to do to bring more Chinese to Italy and Sicily. Let's talk to airlines, to the hotels, etc. So, immediately there was a cascade of positive momentum and in addition to that, the image of Italy in the minds of the Chinese consumer was immediately raised to a higher level.

However, after we signed the MOU [Memorandum of Understanding] on the BRI, we received a lot criticism, which is fine, because that's what we do; we make the analysis and we make decisions after having done the analysis, not before, as it happens now in the EU. One of the first critics was, oh, you are the first G7 country in the EU to sign the MOU and this is bad. To which I replied, we are not the first G20 country to sign this MOU, not even the only NATO member that is in the MOU, not the only EU country which is inside [included in – ed.] the MOU.

I tell you this, because the narrative is a bit strange. Thirteen or fourteen countries who are in the Belt and Road and in both NATO, the EU, and, of course, in the G20. But what did the critics point at? They pointed at Italy being the only one in the G7, which is between the G20 [and] the EU. NATO, in my view, is the organization that has the lowest importance, because it has no legal framework; less important than the G20, which is inclusive; less important than NATO, which does wars, or the EU, which does policies. The fact that you could not be allied with the United States, or friends with the EU, or sacrifice our western values by being in the Belt and Road, in my view its completely nonsense, because it is disproven by the fact that there are thirteen other countries that are both in NATO, both allied and in the Belt and Road.

The other criticism was, Italy will fall in the debt trap. Now, I actually did finance and economics for 30 years, so I do know – and this is an analysis that we did before – that debt traps do not happen to G7 countries, two-trillion-dollar economies. The debt trap may happen in countries like Sri Lanka or Malaysia, where the level of lending to GDP, level of external debt to GDP, held by a single lender – it could be China, the IMF, the World Bank – is high. But in the case of Italy, again, a G7 country, two-trillion-dollar economy, even if China had invested 10, 20, 30, 50 billions, we are way, way away from being anywhere near the threshold of finding ourselves in a debt trap. So, the critics were using problems that other countries did have, for reasons connected to the way they were managed internally, like Sri Lanka, for example, to transpose those problems into larger economies. So logically flawed.

But this is the narrative you need to get used to. Because the arguments look reasonable in the beginning, but then they become extrapolated and become illogical, like the debt trap. One of the criticisms of the EU was also, 'Italy will sell off all its ports to China.' This is, first of all, legally impossible, because in Italy you cannot sell ports; they are not companies limited by shares. Unlike, for example, the Piraeus [port] in Greece or one terminal in the Port of Hamburg, which was indeed sold for minus 25% to [Chinese shipping company] Cosco. Again, legally an impossibility. And also, the critics forgot that China has investments in Greece, Egypt, Israel, France, Le Havre, Marseilles, Spain, Bilbao, Valencia, in Morocco; in Belgium,

Zeebrugge; in Holland, Rotterdam; in Hamburg, in the UK, Malta – basically, everywhere. Why should Italy be the only country that cannot direct the flow of containers to our own ports in the Mediterranean – because we need also be honest, the European ports compete among themselves.

So, a cargo, a container that arrives from China or anywhere else from Asia, that goes by the Suez canal, has two simple choices: either land into a Mediterranean port, which could be Greece or Italy, two southern points and closest to the Suez canal; or, go South by Gibraltar and up in the North Sea. So, I totally understand why the German government, the French government, the Dutch government, were against us. Because they knew that one container more in the port of Trieste and Genoa means one container less in Rotterdam. It's a zero-sum game. We can cooperate to increase the total value, but in the short term, in partial equilibrium, it's a zero-sum game and we compete with each other just as when we compete over exports. One more bottle of French wine to China, is one bottle less of Italian wine exported to China.

I told you about NATO and the other countries, but the reason why we did it, is because, in the specific case of Italy, we are a large economy but very fragmented, made up of very, very small companies, a lot of SME's (small and medium-size enterprises), around 5, 6, 9, 10, 15 people on average; about 4 million of those, at least pre-Covid, now 3 million and some. So, those SME are not Siemens, Airbus, BSF, VW, Air France, Carrefour. They need the help of the government, they need an umbrella that protects them, that informs them about the risk of going into the China market, which is indeed very difficult, very complex, because rules of access are continuously changing. It's not easy to compete with the large, state-owned Chinese companies; there is a cultural problem, a language problem.

So we, and I, personally, put Italy into the Belt and Road to offer my companies this kind of protection. To tell them, I know going into China is risky, I know that you are scared, I know there are many success stories but also many failures. And my duty as a member of the government was to lower the business risk and to increase the possibility of making money.

The other criticism was kind of funny – don't laugh: 'If Italy signs the MOU, it means that the Italian government is becoming communist.' Well, eh, no, actually the Memorandum does not say that the Italian government should become communist, nothing wrong in any way people can have their views. In fact, in the wording of this agreement, which we negotiated, I personally negotiated a lot with my counterparts in China. We have words that are very dear to our, let's call it European values, respect for climate, labor, etc. So, in a way, we brought China to, let's call it Western style, by negotiating successfully with China, to agree to those terminologies.

So in my dream scenario, this MOU of the Belt and Road that Italy signed, was not the last step, but the first step of a wide strategy that I had in mind to make sure that yes, Italy was the first G7 country – there are 15 European countries – but I wanted to make this MOU available to all

other partners, to Germany, to France, so that they could also gain from the effort. The painful negotiations I did to make sure that China wrote these things into the MOU and so they could also do it, and bring it to EU level. I even went to Washington, and half-jokingly, half-not – you never know, I could have been can be lucky – I told the U.S. counterpart at the ministry of trade, “You should also join the Belt and Road,” At the end of the day, you have a phase-one agreement, you want to do a phase-two, you can do it in the Belt and Road, there is room for everyone in Asia and in Africa.

I wasn't so lucky [as] to have the whole EU sign into the MOU, but I had two important countries follow Italy: Switzerland and Luxembourg, different countries, different economies, but it did help politically to have a founding member of the EU, Luxembourg, and an open liberal so-called democracy like Switzerland, sign the MOU. That gave us a little political support.

We didn't know four years ago, we do know [now] that the migrant crisis from Africa to Europe is a problem, not about the one hundred thousand migrants that arrive now in Italy – it is not about how we share and distribute these migrants among Germany, France, the allocation. The problem of migrants is that Nigeria will double its population to 400 million and Africa will increase to almost 3.8 billion by the end of the century, so the only solution as an economist is to offer economic and social stability in Africa.

We don't have to like it, with whom we do business. We know that China, like any country, has its own interest. China like Italy, like the US, is not Santa Claus. They don't go to Africa to help, they go to Africa because they understand that you need a double-bottom approach when you help a country to develop: On one hand you do it for an ethical reason, but you also have to make money, otherwise the ethical reason runs out of steam very soon. And that's why China smartly makes investments in Africa, 425 billion total stock of total FDI [foreign direct investment – ed.] into Africa. I'm trying to tell now my Prime Minister, Georgia Meloni, and other people in the government: Georgia, if you really want to solve that crisis of migrants, you need to continue to cooperate with China in Africa.

I think it's a combination. Nothing is perfect in the world, but I think, Italy and – maybe here I bring my dream back again – more European countries, like France and Germany together cooperating with China. China brings money, expertise in construction, in infrastructure, even on migration, from rural to urban areas. There are three pillars of China's economic success: migration, infrastructure, and transports for development. We bring a little bit of, let's say, the image of the good guys in Africa; we balance, and I think that could be a successful match for both of us.

I conclude with one practical example, because I'm not a paper economist; I actually try to be a guy who does things. I would like to show you a trip that I did last week to a real Belt and Road project. I took a train from Shanghai to the border between China and Laos, and then to the

border between Laos and Thailand, and then from the border down to Bangkok. So I actually saw with my own eyes the actual benefits of infrastructure development of the Belt and Road. From Shanghai to the border with Laos to Kunming, it's 2400 kilometers; average speed 240 km/hr, about 9 hours. When we go from the border of Laos to Bangkok, it's like going back 50 years, the train does 50 km/hr: for 500 km it takes ten hours, there's no air conditioning, it's hot. And then, in the middle, there is this magic, there is Laos, which is a land-locked country that would have otherwise been skipped by development, that's [a country whose] GDP per capita is in the order of 1,000, a few hundred dollars per capita. We now have this train that goes from China to Thailand crossing Laos; the speed is not as high as the one in China. It's not 300 km[h], it's half, it's 150, 120 km/h on average, it's half of what China has done already but double what Thailand does today. And what I've seen, is that the development of infrastructure is now bringing tourists from China to Laos (including me), more development in the local economy, more exports, because the train can also be used to carry goods into China. [Video is shown. M. Geraci projected a video allowing to compare the Thai train, with no air conditioning and old furniture, from Bangkok to the border between Thailand and Laos, to the new and very modern and comfortable Belt and Road train, with air-conditioning and electrical computer recharging facilities, and very broad, modern, clean and safe stations.]

This is what I'm trying to do, do the analysis from a theoretical view to answer questions and leave [take – ed.] this from academia and government so that we bring numbers onto the tables of policy-makers. They don't understand what is going on.

My invite to Helga and others here: I would like to organize some field trips of anybody who is interested, companies, governments in Europe, to go and see it. Because we can do all this analysis on paper and say that Belt and Road its good, but when you go there, trust me, and see it, and you see the people happy, this completely transforms the society, the way people live. It's not just the hardware, infrastructure; it's software, the brain changes the standards of living, and the way people do activities changes. Only if you go there can you understand. This is an initiative that I launch, trips organized by European governments, media, think tanks, universities, all the layers of our societies incorporated, to go to these Belt and Road countries to see what is really happening.

And I stop here with a slogan – allow me, since I am also a politician. “The Belt and Road is better than the road of tanks,” and in this moment of war and destruction, we really need peace, and I wish our Russian friend to join back our community in a peaceful world.

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Col. (ret.) Dr. Hans-Joachim Lemke

### **Ideas About Peace From the Point of View of an East German**

*Dr. Lemke is Editor, Kompass magazine of the Association for the Preservation of Traditions of the National People's Army and GDR [East Germany 1949–1990 – ed.] Border Troops.*

Yes, let me say something about the military, the subject of our conference from the standpoint of an East German. The basic statements of our conference are peace with Russia, dialogue instead of weapons, peace initiatives only successful on a non-partisan basis. We are witnessing, from what I see, the end of the “rules-based order” of a “values-based foreign policy,” a “rules-based unipolar world order” in which representatives of the West, especially of the NATO countries, want to dictate to the “rest of the world” how they have to live, how they have to organize themselves, who should be their friends, and who their enemies are.

From our standpoint, this policy is accompanied by economic-financial and media wars, illegal sanctions and misinformation, the imposition of muzzles on anyone who wants to express otherwise. The media are “setting an example” in their anticipatory obedience to this policy.

Like many others in East Germany, I had the opportunity to live in Russia with my family, to study and do my doctorate there. Eight years was a long time, especially if you don't live isolated in a bubble, but in the middle of a Moscow residential area, to get to know the people, their thinking and their feelings and to understand what moves them.

Influenced by life in the GDR, even today the majority of the East German population rejects arms deliveries to Ukraine and calls for diplomatic solutions. The Prime Minister of Saxony, Michael Kretschmer, is one of the few politicians in Germany who loudly demands a change in policy towards Russia and calls for “freezing the conflict” as a solution to the conflict and as a first step in doing so.

This position is also shared by many military personnel in the former GDR. Thus, leading generals and officers of the GDR army already went public in 2015 in connection with the 70th anniversary of the defeat of fascism with a call for peace. Just recently, two generals of the former first army, Manfred Grätz and Sebald Daum, again caused a stir in an open letter expressing their conviction of the need to secure peace and not to allow any one-sided condemnations of Russia.

What could a new security policy look like from this point of view?

Many concepts are on the table, and a struggle for solutions has begun, which would not have been necessary if the agreement between Ukraine and Russia of March/April 2022 had been implemented and not prevented by the intervention of Boris Johnson, then prime minister of Great Britain, who intervened on behalf of the NATO leadership.

From my point of view, the following approaches are particularly promising, which, among other points, were already outlined by Helga Zepp-LaRouche on November 22, 2022:

1. partnership of sovereign nation states
2. transformation of the financial system
3. ending the bloc system in world politics and military policy,  
when we see political, economic and military aspects as a package.

In my view, the conflict in and around Ukraine is proving more and more to be the catalyst of a process of turning away of the formerly derisively called “Third World” states and nations from the dictates of the Western industrialized countries and their military, financial and political arms; such as the World Bank, the World Monetary Fund, NATO, the EU, etc.

The attempt to oust Russia from the world stage, or at least to render it incapable of acting, in order to free up potential for confrontation with the new enemy – China – will probably occupy us for some time to come, because it will also fuel the cauldron of the US election campaign, which is on now.

I see with concern that under the new team in Berlin, the Federal Republic of Germany is establishing itself more and more as a war party. Weapons supplies, money, military training are only part of it. After supporting NATO’s invasion of Yugoslavia, the separation of Kosovo from Serbia, the same politicians have taken the next step of escalation.

One can accuse Russia and the Russian leadership of many things in connection with the military activities in Ukraine and especially in the Donbass, but not of not speaking openly about it. After the coup on the Maidan, the open outbreak of Russophobia by Ukrainian state institutions, Russia warned several times that military action by Ukrainian forces against the two self-proclaimed “people’s republics” was imminent and that it would be forced to respond. International law condemns a preventive war of aggression, but international law also recognizes a “pre-emptively” conducted war of aggression, which was actually reported to the OECD observers, who were located on the conflict line between Ukraine and the breakaway parts of the country. There, from 2014 to 2021, 14,000 inhabitants of the Donbass had lost their lives due to the deployment of the Ukrainian army, and Ukraine had gathered up to 300,000 troops to liquidate these “people’s republics.” This topic was not exactly reported by our media, was it?

Under this aspect of hardening of positions of Ukrainians and Russia, it is interesting to look at the proposals of the People’s Republic of China.

With all the courtesies of verbal expression contained in them, the 12 points published on February 24 of this year can be summarized as follows:

1. do not apply double standards in international law

2. respect for the security interests of each country
3. an end to hostilities and a return to dialogue
4. the world community should create a platform for dialogues for this purpose
5. ending the sanctions policy of the West

It goes without saying that, from the Chinese point of view, this includes ensuring the security of nuclear weapons and, it goes without saying, [preventing their use] in conflict.

It is positive that initiatives are coming from the BRICS countries to try to resolve the conflict over Ukraine diplomatically; other countries are also looking for solutions, as the conference in Copenhagen a few days ago showed. Representatives of Western states, but also from China, India, Brazil and South Africa, participants in the BRICS agreements, have pushed here for diplomatic solutions based on fundamental compromises.

As could be heard, clear reference was made to Russia's security interest..

This was preceded by the Rand Corporation's study "Avoiding a Long War," which urged Ukraine to negotiate with Russia. In this context, the Americans also see no other possibility of a peace solution than to hand over to the Russian troops, and thus to the Russian Federation, the territories that it already possesses. Interesting for us is the fact that even the Biden administration spoke of this 20 percent of Ukrainian territory as a tribute for peace, before this proposal disappeared again in a flash from the mass media.

Of course, the idea of a ceasefire contained in the proposal does not suit some people, because it means a "freezing" of the conflict, a demarcation line à la the one between North and South Korea, and peace would become a de facto state in which nothing is earned.

On the Russian side, in a different way, it means to distance oneself from the ideas of a "brother nation," of Pan-Slavism and recognizing the realities of a changed world on their doorstep. Critical and probably non-negotiable for the Russian Federation and its leadership seems to me to include the question of Ukraine's alliance neutrality and its non-affiliation with NATO.

Since all regime-change concepts do not seem to work out with regard to Russia and President Putin, it will probably be necessary to negotiate with him, as the South Africans have just made clear to my Foreign Minister, Mrs. Baerbock.

The different position of the representatives of the global South depends mainly on the fact that they see this conflict as something that has come about as a result of the eastward expansion of NATO, the interference of the West in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, a problem that can only be solved diplomatically and certainly not by ever more new weapons.

What could a solution look like from my point of view? I want to name three points:

1. creation of a ceasefire line, along the lines of the demarcation line between North and South Korea or comparable to the situation on the inner-German border until reunification, which we had for decades. No one recognized this border under international law, but it was respected!
2. the Crimea and all at-present occupied areas remain with the Russian Federation, which means, however, to say goodbye to all Panslavic illusions, and guarantees the existence of Ukraine as state, in the union with other countries.
3. Ukraine determines its social structures autonomously, without pressure from outside, does not become a NATO member, but is saved from the danger of being broken up into a “rest of Ukraine.” I am thinking here of the ideas in Polish, Slovakian, Hungarian and Romanian official institutions, to take out some territories from the rest of Ukraine, under the pretext of protecting their citizens. This, too, would have to be secured internationally by treaties with the neighboring states.

Please do not say that this is impossible! It is possible, as history teaches us.

After 30 years of bloody war of all powers—everyone against everyone—the Peace of Westphalia was sealed in 1648 by a diplomatic trick. The emperor concluded a peace treaty with France, at the same time one with Sweden, but both documents were then signed as one valid treaty by the three contracting parties.

However, the truth is that it was concluded only under two conditions that were new in diplomacy:

1. renunciation of the offsetting of all war crimes committed by all sides involved, and
2. recognition of the sovereignty, the independence of each state.

I think maybe our diplomats and politicians should look into the history textbook again.

Thank you for your attention.

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Col. (ret.) Alain Corvez

**Faced with the Risk of a New World War, European Countries Must Cooperate with the Global South**

*Col. (ret.) Corvez is a consultant in international affairs, former advisor to the Ministry of the Interior, France.*

After all the speeches we just heard. I'm going to try to be very short. And after Helga's introduction this morning, I felt that I didn't have anything else to say. But after Mr. Ambassador, the other ambassador, and our Russian relative, all our speakers said very important things.

By inviting the other G7 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States) to the martyred city of Hiroshima from May 19 to 21, 2023, Japan wished to draw the world's attention to the nuclear threat, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine. This historic initiative followed the ambitious nuclear disarmament plan launched by Japan at the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in August 2022. The declaration finally adopted by the G7 on non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament contains no new initiatives, and merely reaffirms hackneyed dogmas.

It does, however, reiterate the statement made by the five NPT states in January 2022 that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought".

All in all, the summit produced an interminable communiqué that exposes the usual hypocrisy of US-led Western powers, who make declarations of peace but unleash wars to destroy countries that do not submit to their visions.

**NATO's war against Russia in Ukraine**

Today, on the unfortunate territory of the Ukraine, this West wants to destroy or dismantle Russia and prevent the geopolitical logic of close cooperation between Western Europe and its large European and Asian neighbor – the Americans see this as a threat to their domination of the continent – from unfolding in a dramatic conflict between Europeans. As Youssef Hindi explains in his latest book, the tragic blindness of Europeans in refusing to see "America's War on Europe" reaches the heights of hypocrisy and even absurdity.

Russia has repeatedly indicated that it cannot continue to live under the permanent threat of US strategic nuclear missiles now deployed just a few kilometers from its borders, and that it would have to take steps to remedy the situation. In 2020 and 2021, it multiplied its negotiating proposals to the West to remove this threat and, failing to obtain a response, finally, in December 2021, its patience having run out, it proposed to the United States and NATO a draft strategic treaty by which both sides undertook not to threaten the other with strategic nuclear

weapons installed in a neighboring country. (Allusion to the 1962 Cuban missile crisis between Kennedy and Khrushchev).

Once again, Russia had no answer, and announced in January 2022 that it would have to take techno-military measures to remove the threat that NATO did not want to discuss willingly.

This is what it is doing in Ukraine, where the United States and its blind allies face a powerful nuclear power that has prepared for this confrontation and is showing on the ground that the West cannot prevail even at the cost of the "last Ukrainians" decimated by the thousands on the battlefield. The Americans' refusal to acknowledge this reality is truly iniquitous, as they are leading these murderous operations and have sabotaged all attempts at a negotiated settlement to the conflict, proposed by Turkey, Israel, China and Africa.

The escalation of weaponry supplied suggests that the United States, which is leading this macabre dance, will not stop before the American election of 2024, which brings us closer to the nuclear threshold where they may stop for fear of then seeing their country destroyed along with the rest of the planet.

For this tragic confrontation is taking place far from the American continent where they feel safe, and so far only a few mercenaries have been killed. They may think that crossing the threshold would only affect the European continent. But this is not the case. The lethal weapon, like its physical process, leads de facto to the spiral of power in an irreversible process.

There have been a number of initiatives to bring the conflict to an end by proposing the opening of negotiations, including Helga Zepp LaRouche's proposal to support the Vatican as an impartial mediator. The Pope's spiritual authority in the world could in fact propose that the nations of the world agree on an approach that would aim to bring a little humanity to this conflict that has become global. This initiative has gone unheeded, as has that of China, or more recently that of the Africans, presented by the President of South Africa. For the United States is pursuing its insane dream of perpetuating its domination of the world and maintaining the dollar as the universal currency.

However, the world is becoming increasingly organized to build a new geometry of power relations, as demonstrated by a recent international conference in Teheran on May 10 and 11, attended by representatives from over 40 countries.

The multipolar world that is taking shape respects national sovereignty and builds free cooperation between sovereign countries, outside any bloc ideology, which does not prevent the building of agreements based on mutual interests like the Chinese "Silk Road and Belt" initiative launched by President Xi Jing Ping in Kazakhstan in 2013, which is developing more and more; the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) organization of developing nations that includes economic and financial aspects whose contribution to world GDP ( 31.7 percent) now exceeds that of the G7 (30.7 percent), and to which 25 countries have applied since the start of the war in Ukraine; the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which also has

strategic aspects; and the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), to name but the most important, but within which nations retain full sovereignty, unlike the European Union, which has become an organization run from Brussels by unelected technocrats, out of touch with the will of the people.

The majority of the world, in terms of surface area, population, and energy resources, is organizing itself against the Western direction of the world.

In this tectonic movement to rebuild the world, Europe could play an eminent role, but it is excluding itself by its voluntary submission, in the sense given to it in the 16th Century by Etienne de La Boétie in his "Discourse on Voluntary Servitude," to the imperium of the United States. As the cradle of one of the world's greatest civilizations, its Christian foundations have made it a beacon of spirituality, philosophical enlightenment, science and technology. Malraux explained that this civilization, *"the greatest that mankind has known, was built on Christian transcendency"* but dissolved in materialistic technology.

### **Can Europe revive?**

To do so, nations must regain their sovereignty, which is the only legitimate expression of the will of their peoples, the foundation on which they have been built over the centuries, led by inspired and emblematic leaders who have guided them to success by building strong, independent states. These sovereign states could then organize themselves to cooperate with their immense eastern neighbor, so rich in resources, which would also offer them an opening towards Asia, and China in particular.

But geopolitical logic is not the prerogative of the European Union, artificially constructed by the United States to act as an anti-Soviet and anti-Russian glacis on the continent, whose avowed aim is to dissolve nations into a soulless technocratic whole. The American dollar and American materialism conquered Western Europeans devastated by the Second World War, who saw in the United States the champion of world freedom and economic prosperity, under whose tutelage it was sweet to place themselves. Then, after the collapse of Soviet communism, "Eastern Europeans" experienced the same fascination.

Now, false American culture, with its moral and social perversions that destroy the family, the basic cultural foundation of society, has invaded the entire continent. President Macron's efforts to bring about this turnaround, as in Beijing recently, are commendable but doomed to failure. European nations must rediscover the essence of their sovereignty, which does not prevent them from agreeing on projects of mutual interest – on the contrary.

It is in the interest of European nations, and France in particular, to reach agreement and cooperate with the world's great nations on the basis of mutual interests, starting with Russia, whose energy resources are indispensable to us, and China, which has become the workshop of the world, offering economic and commercial cooperation that needs to be rationally balanced.

Europe must not join the United States in the war it is planning against China, a war that is not ours and which would be detrimental to our interests.

France, in particular, has important interests in the Indo-Pacific, and we must negotiate with China an equitable distribution of our influences, and even work on joint projects in the region. China is ready to do this, but the EU is not, which is why President XI Jing Ping invited President Macron and showed Ursula Van der Leyen, whose presence he was forced to accept alongside the French President, with traditional Chinese finesse and delicacy, that he was not interested in the EU.

Thanks to our numerous ultra-marine territories and the associated Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), we French hold the world's largest maritime domain, with over 11 million square kilometers, just ahead of the United States, and we must have a navy capable of enforcing our sovereignty over this immense area. We therefore need to come to an agreement with China to establish the limits of our economic interests in the zones where it is legitimately concerned by our neighborhood, and there's no point in sending our frigates to sail in the China Sea and the Taiwan Strait where we have nothing to claim, other than to provoke it needlessly to please the United States, who are themselves sailing behind our backs, as I said earlier about Antony Blinken's statements in Beijing. In the summer of 2021, the brutal scuttling, without consultation, of our industrial and strategic agreements with Australia, in favor of a strategic AUKUS agreement between the UK, the USA, and Australia, should make us realize that a sovereign France cannot place the slightest trust in such so-called allies.

Let's not count on the EU to go and defend our ultra-marine interests, which would be threatened in the antipodes.

### **Conclusion**

The world's barycenter has inexorably shifted eastwards, and the emerging powers of the East, Africa, and Latin America are organizing themselves to balance their international relations in a world where the United States, while it remains and will doubtless remain a major power, will no longer be able to impose its domination, but will have to respect the interests of all sides. It's now clear that the majority of the world's population – whether ostensibly or more discreetly – supports Russia in its fight against NATO, and that nations suffering from their hostility, such as China, Iran, Syria and Yemen in particular, are drawing the consequences of this weakening, as are those who have switched sides altogether, such as Saudi Arabia and several BRICS countries, with India and Turkey playing both sides to their advantage but trading amicably with Russia.

The world aspires to peace, even if disputes between nations have not disappeared but will have to be settled through diplomacy and mutual respect for the interests of the conflicting parties. The brutal warlike interventions of the United States, which have already devastated many countries and continue to threaten the world with their 800 military bases, must cease.

The latest conflict they provoked in Ukraine against Russia, by lying to it since 1997 about the deployment of NATO and again in 2014 with the false Minsk agreements, with the avowed aim of destroying or at least weakening it, in any case cutting it off from Western Europe. This is because, unable to win on the military front, they want to provoke a nuclear conflict that they foolishly believe they can limit to the European continent. As I said earlier, the use of tactical nuclear weapons would automatically lead to a thermonuclear conflict that would destroy the planet. In an official speech on the airwaves in response to American declarations of the possible first use of tactical weapons, Putin, who knows the risk of this spiral, had said that he weighed up this threat and that Russia could also use tactical weapons, which it possesses in greater numbers than the West, but that it saw no need to do so first, pointing out that nuclear weapons are the ultimate weapon if a country's very existence is threatened. Western journalists deliberately distorted his clear words.

The military failure on the ground in Ukraine brings us closer to the nuclear threshold that the United States seems intent on crossing, in the mistaken belief that it will emerge unscathed. This is a folly that many are denouncing, even at home, where candidates in the forthcoming presidential elections have understood this and are promising to put an end to this tragic conflict, including in the Democratic camp with Robert F. Kennedy.

The reasonable world must mobilize to avoid a nuclear war, which would obviously be global. All peace initiatives have so far been rejected by the United States. Yes, European countries must join forces with Latin America, Africa and Asia to put an end to this conflict by tackling its root causes. This is the future of the world.

In this context, it would seem that the moral and spiritual authority of the Supreme Pontiff, as proposed by Helga Zepp LaRouche, would be the best vector to encourage and support this movement for peace by the international community.

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### **Audience and Panel Dialogue**

**Schlanger:** I'm sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but we do have a schedule we have to stick to, so we're going to postpone questions from the audience to the beginning of the second panel. So, if you have a question, we'll have an opportunity for that. And in the interest of time, I'm going to ask each of the panelists if they have concluding remarks of one minute – 60 seconds. I will have to enforce that also. But let me start with Helga, and then we'll give everyone else a chance who wants to say something. And I hope some of you will be available for the afternoon panel when the questions are asked. So, Helga.

**Zepp-LaRouche:** I want to thank all the speakers. They have demonstrated that we can come around much better when we talk and not hit on our heads. I think this conference is a

beginning movement worldwide which puts peace on the agenda, and we will work as long as we have not brought the world into a new paradigm. This is the only chance how we can overcome the crisis.

**Lu:** I wanted to express my congratulation and for the success of this conference this morning. We listened to a lot of big speeches from those who have been invited. They expressed very visionary standpoints, on the international situation, on the crisis, also the current crisis in Europe today. And they also revealed the reality of the facts of this crisis and also proposed propositions on the resolution, on the peaceful and diplomatic resolution for peace. They're very important, very wise words we heard this morning. The Chinese Embassy is ready to stay in contact with the Schiller Institute and to exchange our point of view on international problems. Thank you very much.

**Subottin:** I will be very brief. We have had seven very interesting speakers, but I would like to thank the eighth speaker, our audience. You were fantastic. Thank you very much for a very [*inaudible*]. For me, it was a first experience with Schiller Institute, but as my Chinese colleague just said, I can say that the Russian Embassy in France is always open for further contacts. And also you can find our contacts from [the conference] organizers. It's a pity we don't have time for questions and answers, and I will not be able to be with you in the afternoon. But you can always find us through the organizers, you know, and for any kind of contacts. I'm based in Strasbourg permanently, so I'm here for you. Thank you.

**Mishra:** Well, I would also like to express my gratitude to all the speakers and also you all who are sitting patiently and listening. I think this is the beginning, that dialogue is the way forward. And as I mentioned in my speech, people-to-people contact is very essential. I had personally proposed to the Indian Prime Minister that we should start teaching French in our schools, we should start teaching Russian in our schools, and we should start teaching Chinese in our schools. So, there are a lot of things we can do on all different levels, so [that] we raise a new generation of people that would work for creating understanding between each other, and that's the way forward, in my view. Thank you so much.

**Geraci:** Thank you very much. I actually have a question for the audience. Are you convinced about the arguments that we put here, the seven of us, or did you come this morning with an idea? And are you leaving with another one or fine tuning or changing? Because in a way, for me as a speaker, this is a measure of success, to not to convince you about something, but to stimulate thinking. And either you reinforce the idea that you had this morning when you woke up, or you change it a little bit. Either way, for us [this] is a success. So I would like to kind of ask you, I don't know if we can do a raise of hands, or if you have questions at the end that we can take them, because it's important for us to get feedback from you of any kind or curiosity, or even topics that you would like. I speak for myself, too, to go deeper into [them], and then as I follow up, give you the answer that there was no time to give you today so that today we don't just say goodbye at the end of the session, but we open up a dialogue and a continuous channel

of communication. So we are here for the rest of the day and let us know what you think. Thank you.

**Covez:** I will just add my greetings, warm greetings. And I want to say that this conference is very, very important. We are not thousands here, but you are people who think and who have an influence in your neighborhood and your family. It is very important. I can tell you that I received messages this morning from Tehran in Iran. And they were speaking, telling me about the conference I discussed earlier in June last year. There was a lot of international delegations. The question was, and the Iranians told me this morning, they asked me if [it is possible] to make this conference an annual conference like the Munich Conference or Sochi conference, which are annual. And they ask if you want to work with them, with Iran, to do this kind of conference every year in Tehran, because we have to present our idea to the world. And I think that what the Schiller Institute has done this morning can totally be part of this kind of conference annually, every year or every two years. We are talking about epochal change. We are living in the new geometry of the world. Thank you.

**Question:** I have two questions and statements, because we must be successful in pushing through our ideas. That is, socially, the Third World must be strong, and Russia must be strong economically and socially, to implement their ideas. Thank you.

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## Panel 2

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### Why It Is in the Strategic Interest of European Nations To Cooperate with the Global South

Jacques Cheminade

#### **The Emergence of the Global South Against Geopolitical Blocs**

*Mr. Cheminade is President of Solidarité et Progrès, France.*

Merci beaucoup. Thank you very much to all of you for being here so that we can all go further together this morning. For, as someone said, when we're alone, we may go faster. But when we're together, we go further.

We are gathered here in Strasbourg in the face of the risk of a conflagration in the world, the risk that “humanity will one day annihilate itself in monstrous destruction.” Today, we are experiencing the first signs of this conflagration in Europe, and particularly in my own country, France.

It is at such tragic moments that it is essential to restore hope. That’s why I want to start by showing you the four bas-reliefs on the base of the statue commemorating Gutenberg, just a few minutes’ walk from here. This work, executed in 1844 by David d'Angers, carries the impetus of social emancipation for all the peoples of the world. So you see here four relief [sculptures] at the base of the statue of Gutenberg. And you will find those who participated in emancipating all the peoples of the world. Here you have Europe. You have here the emancipation of the slaves, according to the representation at the time, which is Africa. And you'll see Abbot Gregoire here. And here you have America – you have Franklin, Washington, and Lafayette. It's very interesting to see how all these come together: Schiller, Franklin, Confucius, Râm Mohan Roy, Erasmus of Rotterdam, Mahmoud II, and Abbot Gregoire. The Tagore family, from Indian Bengal, was the political and spiritual heir, and in the 20th Century, Rabîndranâth Tagore is the most accomplished expression of this heritage. Xi Jinping addressed the 23rd summit of the Shanghai Economic Cooperation Organization (SCO) on July 4, quoting “the great Indian poet Rabîndranâth Tagore”: “The ocean of danger, doubt and denial that surrounds man’s little island of certainty challenges him to dare the unknown. We must rise to the call to action of our time.”

In the midst of the storm, here and now, this is the call we are hearing from the countries of the global South and East. The 23rd SCO summit was attended by [Indian President Narendra] Modi, [Chinese President] Xi Jinping and [Russian President Vladimir] Putin, representatives of East Asian countries, Pakistan, and new SCO member Iran, via video-conference. Discussions focused on security, respect for national sovereignty and the desire to gradually develop trade in national currencies rather than dollars. In all, representatives of over 40 percent of the

world's population. If we add to this the members of the BRICS+, we're talking about over 66% of the world's population and, in terms of National Product measured in purchasing power parity, practically the same percentage in relation to the production of physical goods. Clearly, Western countries are proportionally in the minority. This tilting of the world is not a partial or temporary phenomenon, but a global groundswell.

It is a matter of life and death: the battle between the Malthusian, domineering financial oligarchy that occupies our Western countries and those who believe that the human species has a right to development, the right proclaimed by Lazare Carnot "to elevate all individuals of the human species to the dignity of man."

The countries of the global South have clearly understood that the dumping of counterfeit money by the G7 central banks has resulted in the accumulation of fictitious capital in the form of debt and financial securities, to their detriment. To the detriment of their peoples and producers. They have understood that this neo-liberalism, organized and protected by military means and physical threats, imprisons them in the trap of continuous indebtedness. They have realized that the liberalism of the Washington Consensus, imposing on them the freedom of financial foxes in their minimized hutch states, no longer applies as soon as it is necessary to divert public funds to save the possessions of the financial oligarchy or arbitrarily freeze the assets of those who oppose it. They have understood that the damage inflicted on them, the dismantling of their social services and public sectors, has not been done by mistake or inadvertence, but with the conscious aim of preying on them. They have understood that they are victims of a rigged economy in which the dollar is militarized, a weapon of war pointed at them. So, it should come as no surprise that they feel concerned when Vladimir Putin says, at the St. Petersburg Forum just held from June 14 to 17: "Today, around 90 percent of trade within the member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union is conducted in rubles, and 86 percent of trade with China is conducted in rubles and yuan. This means that the harmful neo-colonial international system has ceased to exist."

It should come as no surprise that the Russian-Chinese alliance, consecrated on February 4, 2022, appears to them as a positive option and a chance to escape the trans-Atlantic straightjacket. And when Xi Jinping speaks of "the common future of mankind," they see that China, without inflicting more or less hypocritical moral lessons on them, is building bridges, railroads, dams or harbors, and thus see that words are followed by deeds. Even if the achievements are imperfect, for them it's better to have something than the "Western" almost nothing.

With this in mind, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Brazilian President Lula and Chinese Premier Li Qiang each addressed Emmanuel Macron at the summit for a new global financial pact held in Paris on June 22, 2023, criticizing existing financial institutions and what remains of the Bretton Woods order. Lula tore up his prepared speech, condemning the

“inequalities” in the governance of international financial institutions and calling for a new order that “responds to the aspirations of the world.”

These countries of the global South, we are told, are not united and have no common project. No doubt, but they do have a common rejection. They have understood that Western leaders are wary of China’s development, because they think in geopolitical terms of friend and foe, and fear those who challenge their privileges. In the growing number of international meetings, on which the Western media report so little, links are organized outside the dollar system, which is no longer even an American currency, but that of a financial oligarchy reigning over a market economy without a market. The Schiller Institute welcomes this development as a fundamental step towards a road to peace through mutual development.

For those of you who don’t know, because it’s not the sort of thing the Western media report, Russian economist Sergei Glazyev, Minister of Integration of the Eurasian Economic Union, now organizing the implementation of de-dollarization, declared on September 8, 2022, that “it is the principles of physical economics championed by Lyndon LaRouche that underpin the Chinese economic miracle today, and that are the basis of India’s economic development policy.”

For those who don’t know, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, president and founder of the International Schiller Institute, is Lyndon LaRouche’s wife. This means that the long struggle we have waged, and continue to wage, is in the name of LaRouche’s conception of a successful economic policy: increasing the potential for relative economic density, a welcoming policy that is anti-Malthusian in principle. LaRouche’s conception, based on the human capacity to discern new physical principles applied in the form of technologies that produce more with less physical effort, goes beyond the short-term appearances of those “sense organs that lack the capacity to think and allow themselves to be obsessed by external things” evoked by Mencius, the spiritual heir of Confucius. He added: “As long as we begin to build what is great, smallness will not prevail within us.” This presupposes, of course, the long-term vision we lack today in our “world of money,” currency and immediate appearance. Let’s listen to Tagore, in his *Religion of Man*, before or perhaps after his dialogue with Einstein: “Of all creatures, man alone lives in a boundless future. Our present is only a part of it. Ideas yet to be born, minds still unformed, provoke our imagination with an insistence that makes them even more real to our intelligence than the things around us.”

It was with this in mind that seven African countries organized their delegation of mediators in the Ukrainian conflict. “We’re not here as beggars, we’re not going to ask for favors from one or other of the belligerents,” declared [South African President] Cyril Ramaphosa, “we want to be essential players on the world stage.” The “South” is thus directly and independently involved in the affairs of the “North,” outside the realm of NATO. Under China’s auspices, Saudi Arabia and Iran are renewing diplomatic relations, an Africa-Russia summit will be held in St. Petersburg on July 26 and 27, India is using Chinese yuan and even UAE dirhams to buy oil

from Russia, and even [French oil giant] Total, to conclude a contract involving the Emirates and China, is also concluding a contract in yuan. Emmanuel Macron is striving to be invited to the 15th BRICS summit, to be held from August 22 to 24 in Johannesburg, but member country Russia feels he has no place there as “an adherent to the NATO line.” But it would probably be good for him to be there, to have an idea of what is really happening in the world outside of the bank offices.

The world is changing and becoming multilateral. Western leaders are slowly waking up to this fact. It is not from them that we can expect a step towards peace in the world, because to accept its foundations would be to put an end to the preponderance of the oligarchy that dominates them. It is therefore the rise of the global South that offers a chance for peace, outside the logic of blocs. We have seen how this is taking shape, and how necessary it is for us Europeans to follow this rise and understand its causes. But of course, this is not enough. We need to rediscover our own national sovereignty and independence, buoyed by this example. This is the first of the ten points proposed by the leader of the Schiller Institute for our consideration. This requires not only a change of direction in the politics of our countries, but also a change in ourselves.

France and even European countries alone cannot change the direction of a world that is self-destructing under piles of counterfeit money and increasingly destructive weapons. We must rely on this planetary South to prevent us from continuing to be the darlings of a tragic fate, in which a “war economy” leads us to war at all. A war that will cross the nuclear threshold of our destruction if we don’t root out the roots that lead to it.

This means defining together the new architecture of peace through mutual security and development that the countries of the global South are rightly demanding. This is a force without which, given the interlocking production and value chains of today’s Western countries, we will not be able to change direction. It is this voice, along with China, the SCO and the BRICS, that my country should carry to the United Nations Security Council. We have fewer excuses than others, for we are the only country in Western Europe without American bases and, for some time to come, an independent nuclear military force and civilian industry.

Our challenge, to avoid a future war between blocs, even if we escape the present threat, is to change the economic, political and cultural direction of all the countries of the Atlantic world. By making our peoples understand that they are suffering, within our States, the same damage as that inflicted on the countries of the global South, from which they are striving to extricate themselves.

Citizens of the world, unite! But this presupposes an effort on our part to stimulate our curiosity and imagination to explore the unknown, without any fascination for violence or submission. A capacity, for each citizen, to prioritize collective interest over personal interest, so that the advances in world knowledge that are the expression of our sovereignty can lead to a higher

level in which the conjunction of opposites becomes the harmony of dissonances. That's what I was thinking confusedly, between French culture and Argentine culture, looking to the Crux (Southern cross) constellation of my childhood to find a beyond that encompasses both without betraying either.

Let's dare the unknown so that the beauty of the world is not destroyed!

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Julio De Vido

**Planning for Integration, Cooperation and Growth  
with the BRICS: Missteps and Risks**

*Mr. De Vido is former Minister of Federal Planning, Public Investment and Services (2003-2015),  
Argentina*

I would like to begin this presentation, which I titled “Planning for Integration, Cooperation and Growth with the BRICS: Missteps and Risks,” by first thanking the Schiller Institute, Helga Zepp-LaRouche and Dennis Small for the honor of being invited to this conference.

I have been able to reflect on the working paper by Dennis Small and Mary Jane Freeman entitled “Some LaRouche Essentials for the Transition to a New International Financial System.” Here is my contribution to that reflection:

The disappearance of the global financial system as we know it today, depends on the success of the BRICS, conceived of as the possibility of putting together a platform for intercontinental integration of economies that paradoxically have, as an advantage, large natural resource reserves and a determining role in the global supply chain (energy, food, water and biodiversity); and, as a disadvantage, that they bring together very powerful real or potential economies, but very unequal ones. A simple review of the social landscape of many of these countries provides the evidence of these asymmetries.

Therefore, my view is that, in addition to the agenda of speaking honestly and taking a stand about the war between Ukraine and Russia, and the agenda of domination itself that perpetuates dependence on the world financial system (thanks to organizations such as NATO), it is necessary to build that platform for integration which is the BRICS, with an eye to and respecting the sovereign views of those countries, connecting their willingness to cooperate, to trade ties and definitions in foreign policy issues that go along with it.

The situation today is one of a “delicate balance.”

There are many of us who agree with the need for a new way of participating in the institutions of global governance, especially among the countries that share a common history of struggle against imperialism, colonialism, exploitation and underdevelopment. But there are many missteps and risks, if the foreign policy and the insertion strategies are not clear in their characterization and are erratic. In addition, the agreements and commitments to represent the so-called “Global South” must be balanced and firm within each of the countries – those that today make up the BRICS and those, like Argentina, that seek to join that bloc.

The historical moment and the context should encourage us today.

Dennis Small writes that “The only way the Argentina-Brazil-BRICS vs. IMF conundrum will be solved, is by getting China’s Belt and Road Initiative actively underway in the region – to put ‘shovels in the ground’ and start building the long-awaited bi-oceanic rail corridor(s) across the continent, in particular, based on multi-billion non-dollar credit lines.”

I would like to recall here that Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela – led at that time by Néstor Kirchner, Evo Morales, Lula da Silva, Rafael Correa, Nicanor Duarte Frutos, Tabaré Vázquez and Hugo Chávez, respectively – we signed in 2007 the Founding Charter of the Bank of the South, guided by the purpose of developing, promoting and fostering the economic and social integration of the member nations of UNASUR (Union of South American Nations).

The process of creating this Bank of the South was part of the joint commitment to create a new regional financial architecture. It was a way to prevent national savings from flowing to more developed economies, instead of being invested in regional projects. In a way, it was for us a first step to get out of the financial and trade globalization of the time, and to be able to revitalize investment, correct asymmetries, and develop integrating infrastructure. In short, the goal was to mitigate the foreign vulnerability of our region.

Unfortunately, we recognize it today as a failed experience of the UNASUR regional block. The non-collaborative technical-administrative superstructures during the first years of UNASUR’s life, with their procrastination, opened the door to a reconfiguration of forces that, by 2011, had an impact on the integration process and, of course, on the project of the Bank, as a result of the political changes in the region.

The effort and political will of many of us with experience in government administration, to break the U.S.’s hegemony and enter fully into multilateralism and into a change in the International Order, has to aim at:

First – Define what we mean by the Global South. I find it necessary to characterize the subject. Today we know the potential of the G7, with low representation in terms of world population (10%) and an economic size of 31% of world GDP. We know the potential of the BRICS, with high population representation (40% of the world’s population) and an economic size of 24% (in terms of world GDP). The open question is to estimate its geopolitical weight in order to establish joint positions regarding world political and economic functioning, to counterbalance a G7 that today includes industrialized countries, with a BRICS composed of countries that appear to be in political and economic crisis as a result of submission to the “prescriptions” of the multilateral credit institutions.

Second – Urgently address the shared vulnerabilities of the economies of the Global South. We have seen that the assessment of the so-called Agenda 2030 in these countries, which the U.N. imposed as part of the world order, is that it was a failure. I am talking about poverty, inequality, climate change. As presented in the Agenda, “sustainable development” went over

the top. As a result, and by way of example: extractivism, as a fundamental tool for the concentration of wealth that limits development, and also for the export of natural resources, which in my country is a way of obtaining dollars to pay the debt to the IMF, are clearly very dangerous ways of acting in disregard of sustainable development (environmental and social).

This recognition of the reality within countries should be the platform from which the BRICS work for the global economic recovery which we seek to lead from there, to position these emerging economies on the path of development and self-sufficiency, which, along with the type of proposals being analyzed in this forum, will allow us to define a New World Order.

One such proposal, to quote Small and Freeman when they pose the need for a new currency: “Productive credit must be issued in that new currency to finance great development projects, with a heavy emphasis on science and advanced technologies, in and among participating nations, to quickly boost the physical economies and thereby provide the only possible solid backing for the value and stability of the new currency.”

In that light, we must bring a new international order into being that is truly inclusive, equitable, fair and sustainable, one that allows for reforms to be agreed upon and planned in the areas of energy, transportation, and infrastructure; as well as the greatest possible investment from the BRICS in the economies of its partner nations to allow for the growth of local industry in each of them, as well as the real improvement in the indicators of the Agenda 2030 guidelines and an ongoing improvement in foreign trade and market access.

In the short term, the BRICS platform must help member countries resolve their debts with multilateral credit institutions, supporting the growth of each of them, the creation of genuine employment, and the improvement in the living conditions of their inhabitants; and over the long term, establish new financing mechanisms outside those institutions and the mandates of the United States and its allies.

My understanding is that that is the path to launch the new world economic agenda, so that the world financial system, as we know it today, disappears, and so that the BRICS can create a counterweight in global geopolitics under conditions of respect from the West for the so-called “Global South.”

Thank you for your attention.

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Dr. Doğu Perinçek

**The Decisive Importance of the Alliance Between Türkiye, Russia, Iran, and China at the Edge of Entering the Eurasian Era**

*Dr. Perinçek is Chairman of the Vatan Party, Türkiye.*

Honorable President,

Dear friends and comrades who have joined our conference from the seven continents,

I am greeting you with the spirit of the great desires of humanity.

The fact that we are meeting today at the Schiller Institute is meaningful. The great poet of humanism, Friedrich Schiller, wrote his famous play *Turantochter* [Daughter of Turan – ed.] in 1801. *Turantochter* was a proud Asian princess. Today, after 222 years, we are gathered here as the heirs of that unbending head of *Turantochter*.

We have come to the end of the Atlantic Era. A new civilization emerges from Asia.

**The Frontline**

The states of West Asia are the frontline of humanity.

Russia's war in Ukraine against US imperialism is the fight of all of us. On this front, we join Russian heroism. We join the resistance of the Alexander Nevskys, Kutuzovs, Stalins and Putins.

Right now, in the Eastern Mediterranean, U.S. guns are pointed from military bases on Greek shores towards Türkiye. Therefore, the U.S. threatens the future of Greek people, too. Türkiye keeps here the watch for humanity.

Syria, Iraq, Türkiye and Iran are fighting with arms together against the U.S. project of a Second Israel labeled "Kurdistan."

The emerging unity between Iran, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf Emirates and Yemen is historic importance. Especially the beginning of the process of Iran joining the Organization of Turkic States is of extraordinary value for the unification of Asia.

China provides bravery and hope to all humanity with its insistence on constructing socialism and its awareness in the Strait of Taiwan.

**The Key Part of the Frontline: Syria's North**

Dear friends and comrades,

Today, the north of Syria is the key part of this frontline. Here, we have forces and a strategic position that is superior to that of U.S. imperialism.

Due to given circumstances, Russia, Türkiye, Syria and Iran are not able to pursue joint operations and maneuvers in the Ukraine front. But in the north of Syria, all four of these states are present with their military forces. The frontline of Black Sea-Mediterranean-Arabian Sea can be united via the north of Syria. And such a practice will be [the] start of a process to expel the United States from our region and from Ukraine, too.

Joint operations in Syria with the goal to eliminate U.S.-led separatist and religious extremist terror organizations will not only ensure Syria's territorial integrity. They will also constitute a decisive offensive for the security of West Asia and the world's peace.

This joint military operation will:

1. Liberate the Turkish state from pursuing hesitating and contradictory practices and ensure its positioning in the joint front;
2. Confront the United States with the problem of fighting at several fronts simultaneously;
3. Strengthen Russia's position on the Ukraine front;
4. Strengthen China's position in the Taiwan Strait.

### **The Model of Security and Peace**

Honorable friends and comrades,

In 2017, Türkiye, Iraq, Syria, Iran and Russia acted together and foiled the U.S. and Israeli attempt to establish a so-called 'Kurdistan' in the north of Iraq.

Azerbaijan, Türkiye and Russia have displayed a joint approach and practice in the Karabakh War. As a result, the United States could not set even one foot in the Caucasus.

These practices show that the unity of West Asian countries within the Turkish-Russian axis provide a model of peace and security.

### **One Single Front From the Black Sea and the Mediterranean to the Arabian Sea**

Now is the time to broaden this model to all regions of confrontation. In that context:

1. A joint position needs to be taken against NATO enlargement to the East. NATO must be stopped.
2. A united front must be established with the goal of closing down all US and NATO military bases.
3. Crimea is territory of the Russian Federation. The Donetsk and Luhansk regions as well as Zaporizhzhia and Kherson are part of the Russian Federation. These facts must be recognized officially and openly.
4. The independence of the Republic of Abkhazia must be recognized.
5. Azerbaijan's struggle to liberate its territories under occupation must be supported.

6. In the Eastern Mediterranean, the struggle of the region's states to defend their Blue Homeland against the axis of US-Israel must be supported. Unfortunately, Greece is acting under the guidance of the US-Israel camp in this regard.
7. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus must be recognized. The reason: If the United States gains control over entire Cyprus, they will dominate all routes from the Suez Canal to the Strait of Hormuz.
8. All efforts should be pursued with determination to end Israel's occupation of Arab lands. Moreover, all measures must be applied to ensure the establishment of a unified, independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital city.
9. The United States' sanctions to various countries of the world should not be recognized nor applied. These sanctions should be turned into "golden opportunities" to further develop cooperation between regional countries.
10. Institutions like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the BRICS, Asian Union, Arab League, and the Organization of Turkic States unite the region's countries against hegemonism. Unity, solidarity and integration among these organizations must be developed further.
11. The People's Republic of China's Belt and Road Initiative for a shared development must be advanced further.
12. Works to pursue international trade in national currencies and to establish joint regional currencies must be intensified.
13. We cannot prevent nuclear war by fearing nuclear war. It is revolution that will prevent nuclear war. The joint struggle of states seeking independence against US hegemony will prevent nuclear war. If the US launches nuclear war before the revolution, humanity's response to nuclear war will in any case be revolution. However, the rising trend today is the struggle of humanity against US hegemony, led by states that seek independence. US imperialism is on the decline and lacks the strength to go crazy for launching a nuclear war.

Dear friends and comrades,

May the words of our great poet Yunus Emre enlighten the path ahead: "How high the mountain ever may be, the road passes over its summit."

Our common hopes and desires provide us with extraordinary power.

Asia's heritage of grand empires and revolutions has taught us to live in pride and brotherly.

As the Turkish nation, we promise to fight with our heads up on the frontline for the construction of the Asian Civilization.

I greet respectfully and wholeheartedly all the fighters gathered here. Together, we will fight for the new civilization that is not individualist and profit-driven but is sharing, public-oriented, statist, freedom loving, peaceful and that strengthens the independence of national states.

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Patricia Lalonde

## **Syria, Reasons for Hope**

*Ms. Lalonde is a former Member of the European Parliament, France; vice president of Geopragma; associate researcher, l'Institut Prospective et Sécurité en Europe (IPSE), France.*

I would like to first thank the Schiller Institute for having set up this very, very interesting conference. And that is really changing our minds from what the media are saying. I'm at the head of a think tank called Geo Pragma, and it's very [much] in agreement with the way the Schiller Institute is judging the international events. The other institution that I am heading has changed its politics, unfortunately, and is really supporting Ukraine. The other institution is the Institute Perspective Institute for Security in Europe.

For the past seven years, the Syrian people have stood behind their president, Bashar el Assad, in the face of a war of aggression orchestrated by the three Western members of the United Nations Security Council, supported by a coalition calling itself “the friends of Syria” (120 members in 2001, a dozen in April 2012). It was an unacknowledged, but fully assumed alliance with the Islamists—400,000 jihadists, more or less moderate, rushed in from all corners to act as “proxies” for the West and took part in this “holy war”—all this, of course, in the name of “human rights” in the wake of the Arab Springs, supposed to bring democracy in their “regime change” delirium.

The Syrian Army held out valiantly for four-and-a-half years, obviously with the help of its regional allies and the intervention, demanded by the Syrian government, of Russia, which turned the situation around and, in September 2015, marked the beginning of the retreat of these Islamist armed bands. 2018 will mark the political and military victory of Bashar el Assad.

This incredible Western defeat of the Syrian army has had the effect of uniting the Syrian people behind their president. I've just returned from a mission to Damascus and the surrounding region, organized by the France-Syria association, during which we met the civil and religious authorities, diplomats, the Minister of Culture, humanitarian aid workers and journalists. Everything we saw and heard left us both indignant at the suffering experienced by the Syrian people, and full of admiration for this proud people. The Syrian people are indeed incredibly resilient, proud to have resisted and won. The men and women we were able to meet were all of the highest quality and competence, speaking their minds. We were struck by their religious tolerance. Because the Syrian people have suffered: 500,000 dead, two million wounded and crippled, six million displaced, thrown onto the roads. And, of course, not forgetting the victims of last January's earthquake.

Damascus has been completely rebuilt: the Umayyad Mosque, the churches, the Damascus Museum—everything has been redone, making us forget the terror experienced by the Christians hunted down by the Islamists. These poor nuns who had been kidnapped by Daesh [ISIS—ed.] for several months, [whom we] met in Maloola, were witnesses to this. The city is clean. In the streets, many generators make up for power cuts. So when you stay in the center of the city, everything is clean and rebuilt. But when you go into the suburb areas, there you see, like, for example, a firm has been destroyed by the Islamists, and people tell you that they killed the workers in very adverse circumstances. But Syria has regained control of its destiny.

Italy and Greece have reopened their embassies, and discussions are underway with Germany and Spain. We must hope that France will follow suit, as the road to Damascus could well become indispensable and necessary for our future ties with the Middle East. Indeed, its reintegration into the Arab League, despite the initial reluctance of some, such as Qatar, marks the start of a new era for Syria, whether the West likes it or not. The European Union, a sore loser, cringed, and our French Foreign Minister, Catherine Colonna, dared to issue a statement denouncing the decision, but no one paid any attention to it any more. The historic agreement between Shi'ite Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia, under the aegis of Beijing, was another shock for Westerners.

Since then, events have moved on: A Chinese delegation was received in Damascus immediately afterwards to discuss reconstruction; secret negotiations were opened in Oman between Syrians and Americans, proof of the latter's disarray and fear of being replaced in the Middle East. The departure of foreign troops, and above all American troops, is undoubtedly at the heart of the negotiations.

Iran, Russia and the Arab League are now imposing their agenda upon the region. In neighboring Lebanon, events are also gathering pace. Hezbollah, now a force to be reckoned with, is negotiating Saudi support for the election of Sleiman Franjie, a candidate in the forthcoming elections and in favor of a much-needed reconciliation with the Syrian regime. The French president was initially in favor, but it seems he came under some pressure. And the dispatch of our former foreign minister, JeanYves Le Drian, is unlikely to make things any easier. But, without waiting for the election of a new president in Lebanon, Damascus and Beirut are trying to resolve the problems.

The proof is in the meeting in Damascus of the minister in charge of displaced Syrians and his Lebanese counterpart in charge of refugees. They reached an agreement to try to overcome the serious crisis caused by Syrian refugees in Lebanon. It was agreed to return a first wave of 180,000 refugees as soon as possible. The European Union had been relentless in its efforts to prevent the return of Syrians to their homeland, preferring to provide them with aid in Lebanon.

While the Arab League countries and China are going to help rebuild the country, the European Union is taking a cautious approach to ensure that humanitarian aid does not pass through the Syrian regime, preferring to continue its "deal" with the Islamist HTC (Hayat Tahir al Sham) in Idlib province. The UN's special envoy for Syria, Martin Griffith, whom I was able to meet in the past, who was (incidentally) the special envoy for Yemen, which suffered one of the worst humanitarian crises, is fighting at the UN to have this aid extended into north-west Syria via Turkey, without going through the Damascus authorities. And yet it is in the regions under his authority that the majority of Syrians live and need help. Humanitarian hypocrisy!

The sanctions that have been falling down on Syria since the start of the war, and which continue despite the earthquake, are having an impact on the Syrian people. China is calling for increased humanitarian support and for the lifting of illegal sanctions against Syria. We had the opportunity to meet a young American in Damascus, head of an NGO whose aim was to divert the sanctions and hand over the money directly to the Syrian authorities. Some countries, such as Italy and Greece, have not followed European instructions. Archaeologists are on hand to help bring this incredible heritage back to life. Palmyra has

been rebuilt. A delegation of Australian bishops is currently visiting places of worship and archaeological sites in Aleppo.

It is to be feared that European countries will be divided over their attitude to Syria, since good relations with Syria will be the gateway to relations with the Middle East and the Global South. France, we hope, will suddenly become aware of the mistakes it has made and the time it has wasted. The Syrian officials we met were unanimous: they don't want revenge for our abandonment. The Syrian people want the ordeal to end; they want to rebuild their country. Some European countries, as well as countries in the Arab world, are reopening their representations in Damascus, and setting up cooperation budgets, whereas France still has only one French representative for Syria. We mustn't remain deaf and blind at a time when everything has changed in the country's regional environment.

The international community has found itself divided into two sets of enemies who "seek each other out" and measure themselves against each other in a global confrontation: The West [on one hand], dominant and self-confident, a very small minority, and on the other, the rest of the planet, the vast majority of the community of nations, seeking to take its rightful place. Syria has carved out a place for itself in the field of victors, and it is to them that it will appeal first and foremost for reconstruction, as well as to the repentant Arab countries and a few European countries that have not cut their ties: the Czech Republic, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Cyprus, Italy and Greece.

France's relations with Damascus and the Middle East could prevent us from remaining embroiled in the camp of arrogance at a time when the world needs humility and solidarity more than ever to face up to the many challenges posed by global poverty and the upheavals caused by climate change. Time is running out, and Syria, under French mandate after the Great War, when the Ottoman Empire was dismantled, is about to become the pivot of the Middle East and the Arab world. It will finally be able to take its place at the heart of history. Let's not miss this opportunity to reconnect with the Middle East. Thank you.

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Dora Muanda

## **Humanity and Africa Need Science**

*Ms. Muanda is a teacher and biologist; Scientific Director of the Kinshasa Science and Technology Week, Democratic Republic of Congo.*

Humanity needs Africa, Africa needs science, and let me add that science needs women.

Not that there isn't science in Africa, not that there aren't women in science, but in both cases, there isn't enough of it, there's a lack of visibility. As proof, of all the scientific productions and publications worldwide, less than one percent come from African countries. And yet, the health, humanitarian and climate crises have clearly demonstrated just how complex and interconnected the challenges are. Whatever level of challenge humanity faces, we need all the perspectives of possible solutions.

Doing without the experience, feeling, knowledge and know-how of the southern part of the planet is a luxury we can no longer simply afford. Especially if we want to build a world where everyone can develop. If we have the vision behind the word "development," we have to recognize that science and technology remain a powerful lever for the emergence of a nation. In 2023, a nation that does not master its technologies is literally shooting itself in the foot.

So how can we take concrete action, especially when we're part of the triple minority of being African, black and a scientist?

"Hello, world, my name is Dora Muanda, and I'm in charge of the Science and Technology Week in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

This is the logo for our event. [Slide shown.]

We set up this event with my colleague Raisa Mahlouf, who is also one of the few black Congolese physicists. We decided together to set up Science and Technology Week in the DRC because that's where we're from. We met in Belgium, and that's where I grew up. I was born in the Congo, and I return there regularly for this science festival.

The idea came from a very simple observation: In the Congo, teaching is done almost entirely in a magisterial manner, whatever the level. So we had to find a way to get our students to experiment and manipulate.

Here are a few slides showing what we do in Kinshasa.

The aim of Science Week is to promote a scientific culture among Congolese youth and to bridge the gap between the scientific, academic and entrepreneurial worlds.

The format of a science festival is quite practical, because it doesn't just reach those who are still at school. Teachers can bring their students along, and we'll provide them with materials. We

get them to do experiments, and we don't just work on science. To be honest. One thing scientists are often criticized for is not knowing how to communicate what they do. So, on the one hand, we teach them how to do scientific manipulations, and then they have to produce a scientific poster and they have to be able to explain a complex principle in a simple way and in a short time and for different audiences, because we have children from kindergarten to university who come to visit the science village. And so the students we train need to be able to do more than just manipulate, they also need to work on their "soft skills" in communication.

The idea of this science festival is to reinforce school learning and the quality of teaching. And secondly, it was important for us to create a space where scientists could get out of their laboratories and communicate about what they do. Because as long as Congolese scientists – because there are some – don't communicate, don't publish, we won't be able to know or understand that they exist and what they're doing.

It's already very complicated to get public funding for research and innovation, but on top of that, if scientists don't have a space, a window to communicate what they're doing with citizens and politicians, if there's no space to build bridges with the business world, it will be all the more complicated for the political world to invest *en masse* in scientific research. It was therefore important for us to offer a space for experimentation for students and their teachers, and a space for communication and information for our scientists.

In ten years, we've welcomed almost 60,000 visitors. We can achieve this figure because we work closely with the Ministry of Primary, Technical and Vocational Education and the Ministry of Research. In this way, they can organize the schools so that they can come to the Science Village by the hour. That way we can manage the flow so there are no accidents.

Our model is that each year we train a group of at least 50 students, and during the event it's the students we've trained who in turn train the visiting students. Because we believe in our "teaching by doing" label. We believe that we'll have more impact if the students who come to the Science Village with their teachers see that it's kids from their generation, students like them, who practice science, master it and have fun with it. This demystifies the idea that science is something very distant and elitist. Everyone can have access to it. And it helps to set up "role models." You can't become what you can't visualize. And when you go on the internet, you see that most videos of scientists are often white people, there are more white men explaining science than women. Black women explaining science on YouTube is a rare commodity. So it's important to create these role models so that our children can see that science is a community to which they have access. They can be part of it, they're eligible.

Speaking of representativeness, during COVID we had to review our model. We couldn't do a face-to-face science week, so we produced popular science videos to continue disseminating scientific content. So, we produced these video capsules and put them on our YouTube channel to increase the visibility of black researchers on the internet. Once this was done, we realized

that another problem was that to watch these videos on YouTube, you need an internet connection... And connections are very expensive. And so, to get around this problem, we teamed up again with the Ministry of Education so that our capsules could be broadcast on TV during the day, as the students were at home.

Once we'd done that, we realized that there weren't necessarily TVs in every home. So we couldn't reach a certain milieu. From then on, we tried to produce lessons in the form of podcasts. These were little science stories that were broadcast on the radio. Because in every community, even the poorest, there's at least one radio station. And so we were able to reach even the most repressed communities with scientific broadcasting. Key figures:

- We welcomed some 60,000 visitors
- We trained 400 students (last year's figures)
- We held our tenth edition in April. The report is not yet online, but will be shortly, so the figures are even higher.
- Every year, we have 17 trainers who we train beforehand, and who then help us to supervise the students who take part in Science Week.
- We have invited around a hundred exhibitors. In other words, entrepreneurs, people who have their own business in Kinshasa, but sometimes nobody knows about it.

It may sound strange, but here [in Europe], when you need something, you can type it into the Google search engine. In Kinshasa, there's absolutely everything, only nobody knows where! It's word of mouth, you either know or you don't, but it's not as easy to find everything you're looking for. And so the science festival provides a window to the private sector.

We've invited international speakers, the idea being to get our scientists talking to international scientists, and we've organized three nationwide competitions. The idea is to boost the creativity of our students, our children, our youth, by getting them to use science and technology. The first competition we held was a scientific poster competition. All the provinces of the Congo were asked to produce a scientific poster. They could register to deal with a local problem, a problem they saw in their environment, either erosion or plastic, or the management of Lake Kivu, for example, and propose a solution and write it up in the form of a scientific poster. They had to defend their ideas, and we had banks as sponsors, so we were able to sponsor young people's ideas about a local problem and the solutions they wanted to bring to it. This is an example of a competition we organized.

This year, twelve of the 26 provinces took part. In these twelve provinces, young people agreed to organize scientific activities in their communities. Since we can't duplicate ourselves, we're in Kinshasa. So we're creating a community of young people who are spreading science and promoting scientific culture in their own communities.

Instilling a taste for science in young people means giving ourselves a chance to produce citizens capable of innovation. Who better than Africans and, more generally, local people to find innovative solutions to the problems they are the first to face? If we want the DRC to play its part on the world stage one day, it won't happen by chance. It's a job that we need to organize as a society, as a nation, with a long-term vision. It's a plan that needs to be made intentionally, through the public sector, the private sector and, of course, at the political level.

Humanity needs Africa, and I'm not just talking about the African continent – with its mineral resources. Humanity needs Africa: I'm talking about Africans. Humanity needs Africans, and their perspectives on global challenges.

Africans need to invest in themselves through education, science and technology. And science – forgive me for insisting – needs women's perspectives so that tomorrow's world is not just fairer for the northern half than for the southern half, but for the whole of humanity across the globe. I'm a teacher. I'm not going to leave you without a little homework. The first cell of humanity is your families. If you're a grandparent and you sometimes have problems with anything that has a screen or a password, don't just call your grandson to come and sort it out. If you have the choice, involve your granddaughter, too. Because if you only call the boys to fix problems with routers, Wi-Fi, tablets, etc., it sends an unconscious message to the girls that they're not "eligible" for this community of technology-challenged researchers. So don't hesitate to involve your daughters in your families, even when it comes to small technological fixes. If you're a parent with school-age children, and they often have to do homework, research and presentations, don't hesitate to encourage them to step out of their comfort zone. Have you ever thought of introducing an African personality? An African researcher? It's an exercise I like to do in my classes, which, in Belgium, are often diverse, and every time I ask them, for example, to do a piece of work on a scientist from their parents' country, I always get the same response: "Madame, in my country, we don't do science." What a sad commentary. So, the way to change the world's perspective is to encourage our children to look a little further afield than the scientific content they are taught at school. It's a duty that starts as soon as you get home.

Thank you for your attention.

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Hervé Machenaud

**Franco-Chinese Cooperation for Peace: The Example of Nuclear Power**

*Mr. Machenaud is former Executive Director of the EDF Group (for engineering and electricity generation) and former Director of the Asia-Pacific Branch, France.*

Mr. Ambassador, Madame President, Chairmen, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

I am particularly pleased and grateful to have been invited by the Schiller Institute to speak about what I believe, in all objectivity, to be one of, or perhaps even the finest cooperation project in international industrial history.

I'm talking about cooperation between France and China in the field of civil nuclear power.

In the early 1980s, France was chosen by China to help her launch its nuclear program. The contract signed in 1986 for the construction of the Daya Bay power plant was a pact of trust between France and China, between EDF and GNPJVC, the Guangdong Nuclear Corporation created for the purpose.

A pact of trust because, in addition to training dozens of Chinese engineers who have come to France to work in EDF power plants, China asked EDF to manage the project and guarantee its successful completion. I'm proud to have been the Chinese company's first Technical Manager.

A pact of trust, because very quickly, the hundred or so highly-qualified Chinese engineers in charge of observing, monitoring and questioning our practices were, at their request, integrated into EDF's engineering teams. We are no longer under surveillance, but partners, a truly integrated team.

A pact of trust, because when EDF studies the upgrading, after ten years of operation of the Gravelines power plant, the Daya-bay reference, it offers without hesitation to make available to GNPJVC the 110 modifications, the invaluable fruit of know-how acquired over hundreds of work-years of feedback. China will appreciate this gesture.

As a further act of trust, shortly before Daya Bay was commissioned, GNPJVC asked EDF to take responsibility for the first few years of operation. EDF then sent some sixty operators to start up the plant and train the Chinese teams, who within a few years would be taking the reins of their plant.

In 1995, just as Daya Bay was coming on stream, CGNPC commissioned a second plant based on the same French model, on the same site. EDF will provide technical assistance and French companies will act as suppliers, but Ling Ao will be a Chinese power plant, built under Chinese responsibility by Chinese companies. China has acquired its autonomy in this area.

This will not prevent close cooperation between French and Chinese operators: exchanges of experience, spare parts, support in the event of incidents... Daya Bay and Ling Ao take part in performance competitions for French power plants, often winning first prize. This cooperation continues today between the operators of the 56 French reactors and the 36 Chinese reactors of the same technology.

In 2007, CGN invited France to build two EPR reactors on the Taishan site, and EDF to invest alongside it. This agreement, unique in China's history, was signed for the plant's fifty-year lifetime.

The next step, in 2013, will be CGN's commitment to EDF to build and operate two EPRs at Hinkley Point in the UK, with the prospect of building two more at Sizewell and two HPRs, the Chinese Hualong model, at Bradwell.

This cooperation is set to last a century.

The partnership between France and China culminated in Premier Li Keqiang's trip to France at the end of June 2015. The joint declaration on deepening Franco-Chinese cooperation on civil nuclear energy was made public on the occasion of his visit. It provides for comprehensive cooperation "from mining to reprocessing," in all areas of operation, the design of new medium- and high-power reactors, their construction in China, France and third countries, the association of industrialists from both countries and the construction of a reprocessing plant in China. All French companies, starting with AREVA and Alstom, and the hundred or so members of the Partenariat France Chine Electricité (PFCE) association, are involved in this agreement, which opens up immense prospects.

Confidence is at its zenith.

The industrial alliance between France, which has the world's most extensive operating experience, and China, which is going to build the biggest nuclear program in history, is an asset for both countries, and beyond, for the safety and progress of nuclear power worldwide.

This historic partnership is the fruit of the work of men and women who have put their faith in projects to be built together, and have given each other their trust. Today, they are tied by bonds of friendship.

All of this is good for both countries and for the world. This is a long walk for and friendship. It is now also here in a field as strategic as nuclear energy. Such a partnership is a cornerstone for building cooperation and peace between people and nations. And if today this cooperation has weakened somewhat under the effect of various negative influences, let us hope that it is revived. Its foundations remained intact. And it is certainly not only in the mutual interest of our two countries, but also a contribution to progress and peace in the world.

Mr. Ambassador, Madam President, friends, all friends, I hope a great success for this seminar. And thank you for hearing me.

Dr. Andrews Nkansah

**Strategic Partnership for the rapid development of Africa**

*Dr. Nkansah is Under Secretary General for African Diaspora Congress(USA), Ghana.*

Honorable Helga Zepp-LaRouche, founder and leader of the Schiller Institute, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be given this opportunity to talk briefly on Strategic Partnership for the rapid development of Africa, my dear continent. When it comes to Africa, there are a plethora of things to talk about, and from many perspectives. In spite of our rich and diverse resources, Africa still languishes in poverty and misery. I personally believe that a big part of the problem is due to bad engagement with both our bilateral and multilateral partners in our development discourse.

I do appreciate the aids and efforts put up by our development partners in the attempt to get Africa developed. However, these aids and assistance are either woefully inadequate or inappropriate. Almost all the terms of our bilateral and multilateral engagements are dictated to us with little or no opportunity for us to come up with our prioritized areas of development needs. This one-way of partnership engagement has deprived us of critical infrastructural and industrial developments which are absolutely necessary for fast socio-economic growth and development. In fact, good roads and rails development as well as reliable energy and water supplies are central to any successful economy, and yet even the most industrialized economy in Africa, like South Africa, is not spared of the energy crisis!

So, obviously both the existing bilateral and multilateral donors and partnerships have not helped much in these important aforementioned areas of our development discourse. Therefore, what we need now as a continent is review of our existing terms of bilateral and multilateral engagements as well as a search for new and unexplored partnerships and engagements (such as BRICS, the Silk [Road] and Belt and Road Initiative) where our needs and priorities will be the deciding factor.

Besides, the following will also be equally important:

1. A common African voice and position on matters of critical economic importance
2. Engage and partner in such a way as to add value to our natural resources before export
3. Accelerate an intra-African trade and payment system as well as progress towards a common African currency

Time is not on our side, so we must act fast, wisely and responsibly to rise up to the occasion!

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**Moderator Elke Fimmen:** This [final] presentation, the video, will be introduced by Jacques Cheminade with the title “Water for Peace and Development.” Jacques.

**Cheminade:** It's a brief introduction to the introduction of Alain Gachet, to show you the importance of what he's doing for the mutual development. Water will become each day more a challenge for peace in the world, the peace by the integrated development of resources and for mutual development. On the scale of France, it will have between 10 and 40% of water available in less in the [coming years]. And the challenge won't be to multiply the big swimming pool. So there will be a diagonal [*as translated*] first of water, decreasing in all China, Southwest Asia. So, the challenge [*inaudible*] because, you know, the consumption of unsafe water causes over 2.5 million deaths a year worldwide. So all the refugees to be found in the streets and under the bridges of Europe have all one thing in common: They come from countries that are cruelly short of water. Sudan, Eritrea, Mali, Chad, Burkina Faso, Kurdistan, Afghanistan, Syria, and many others. Not to act in this case is criminal, because there are solutions, starting with reducing water leakage, which is often enormous. Stopping soil sealing [*as translated*], restoring wetlands where possible, recovering the precious liquid from wastewater treatment plants and subjecting it to additional treatment—filtration, disinfection by UV, or chemical irradiation—to eliminate toxic substances and any health risks.

In France, less than 1% of wastewater is treated, compared with 8% in Italy, 14% in Spain, and 85% in Israel. However, all this is not enough, particularly in the poorest countries most affected. So, the challenge is not to deprive the existing aquatic environment of too much water supply by redirecting flows. Similarly, the desalination of seawater successfully used in Saudi Arabia and California would be too energy-intensive on a global scale. So, the retention of evaporating surface water today, needlessly depletes underground resources for water-hungry agricultural practices beyond the useful but insufficient approaches I have just mentioned, my friend Alain Gachet tells us that water is waiting for us underground. This underground water does not evaporate or pollute, and its resources are a hundred times greater than all the lakes and rivers on the Earth's surface. It will enable us to make shared water the best weapon for peace and respect for life. It will also enable us to replant forests that are burning and restore soils that are being depleted and eroded. Aquifers can be located by satellite using x-rays, and the water can be pumped out with drilling tools that can go deep enough. Just like the oil companies can do and not the water-management agencies. Clearly, it's all a matter of political will—putting human life before immediate profit.

For 20 years now, Alain Gachet, his friends, and collaborators have been fighting from Darfur to Iraq, without forgetting Kenya and Costa Rica, to successfully test his means of action and make people realize that there are solutions that are not being implemented for the moment. For the Schiller Institute, exploiting water resources for all is an essential element, along with the health system for all, for social justice and peace through mutual development. The West, which claims to be so concerned about the plight of women, must realize that access to water without

having to travel long distances is the beginning of their liberation. Brice Lalonde, advisor on sustainable development at the United Nations, asserts that strong political will is needed and I quote, "This requires the rapid implementation of an international agreement on groundwater, which accounts for 90% of planet's fresh water."

So now I'll let Alain Gachet show you his approach, currently being tested in Niger, as part of a vast program with the MCC in Washington, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, with no ulterior motive other than the joy of seeing water bring life for the common good. So, here is Alain Gachet.

Alain Gachet**Water for Peace and Development**

*Mr. Gachet is a water specialist; President of Radar Technologies International (TRI); inventor of the WATEX (Water Exploration) process for locating aquifer resources by satellite, France.*

*The following is a transcript of a five-minute video explaining Mr. Gachet's work.*

Radar Technologies International Exploration enables investors to make informed and accessible decisions to respond to the issues raised by climate change, including the deficit in surface drinking water.

RTI Exploration is a company specialized in the exploration of underground resources.

SLIDE – CHAD: 250 wells drilled over 80,000 square kilometers

For nearly 20 years, RTI Exploration has been involved in the search for underground drinking water at the request of international organizations, such as the United Nations, and major international institutions.

SLIDE – SUDAN: 1,700 wells drilled with a 98% success rate

SLIDE – KENYA: Discovery of the Turkana aquifer with a 250-billion-cubic-meter capacity

RTI Exploration invented the WATEX system built on a solid foundation of scientific excellence, which combines in a complex algorithm mega-databases linked to a broad spectrum of geosciences, such as remote sensing, hydrology, geology, geophysics and climatology.

The WATEX system is a scalable and replicable scientific tool. Since its invention in 2004, it has been used to explore potable and renewable groundwater resources. Nearly 2,700 wells have been drilled worldwide, with a 98% success rate.

This unique tool has been successfully audited for the technical credibility of the concept by the most reputable institutions, including the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) of the American Department of the Interior in 2004.

Faced with the consequences of climate change, which are reflected in the extreme droughts, with the advance of deserts, extreme floods, forest mega-fires aggravated by demographic pressure, surface water from lakes and rivers is no longer sufficient to meet the vital needs of the world's population.

Groundwater has become the priority objective of the WATEX system, because groundwater is 100 times more abundant than surface water.

SLIDE – Surface water = 3%

This groundwater is the water of the future, provided that the consumption of this water is compensated by the replenishment for sustainable management.

SLIDE – Drinking water of the future

Groundwater = 97%

Faced with a worsening climatic distress that is affecting all the countries in the Sahel zone, condemning seasonal crops, RTI Exploration's activity is now focused on the development of sustainable, irrigated agriculture and of forestation, in Niger, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Iraq, as well as in Costa Rica, Chile, and Peru.

RTI Exploration has launched its first cluster of prosperity in Northern Kenya, in the arid Turkana county. These are protected agricultural zones designed to guarantee water and food security for vulnerable communities. These communities contribute themselves to the running of the decentralized, solar-powered agricultural projects. The resulting environmental and economic benefits—visible in just a few weeks—help these communities to fix these populations and their herds around these agricultural projects.

On a broader scale, the WATEX system allows for the development of master plans for land-use planning, such as in Costa Rica, a country that lives off green tourism. The WATEX study of the entire country, with the support of international institutions, including the USGS, allowed for the planning of the decentralization of industrial infrastructures and the protection of the rainforest.

The WATEX system has revealed that the protection of the rainforests, afforestation and eco-system biodiversity monitoring are the key to sustainability for the generations to come.

In conclusion, the WATEX system is a solution that leads to access to clean water for people and their herds; food security through sustainable irrigated agriculture and energy autonomy for each production center; reforestation to reduce climatic extremes, to promote groundwater recharge, and to protect aquifers from evaporation and pollution and soils from erosion.

The WATEX system is the key for the development of industry and strategic mining resources.

*Dr. Alain Gachet, mining engineer, physicist and geologist is a talented researcher at the origin of the invention of the WATEX system. He also held important responsibilities for 20 years with the exploration-production of Elf Aquitaine in Kazakhstan, Syria and Qatar; and as secretary general of Elf in Congo Brazzaville, and then as a game changer in the research and innovation cell of Shell International.*

*RTI Exploration and the WATEX System were awarded by the Space Foundation in 2016, on the recommendation of NASA, for improving the lives of millions of people around the world.*

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## Audience and Panel Dialogue

**Fimmen:** We have had presentations and concepts, and we'll take about 15 minutes for a discussion with our distinguished speakers here. So, please, we have a microphone here and there. The discussion period about the first panel, we are going to have in the end of the third panel, just that you know. Please direct your questions now to our speakers here. If you want to ask a question, somebody will bring you the mic. Take your chance! Maybe if one of the speakers wants to share your thoughts about what you heard so far. That's also a possibility.

**Cheminade:** If you saw here the extension of all we can do to make peace possible and everything that's needed to make that possible. And I think that's the challenge for today and everybody in this room. This can be a provocation, but also an inspiration to do everything you can, as in education, public health, water resources, to make the world naturally inclined to respect one another and to mutual development. Thank you.

**Lalonde:** Well, of course, I perfectly agree with this. I worked a long time in Afghanistan, myself, to help out with Afghan women and to build schools. And I can tell you that the smallest school that we built in the most remote part of Afghanistan completely transformed the village, the area around it, the vision of people living there. As Mrs. Muanda said, and as I told her, I also worked with women in Mali, and I met many people like you who are absolutely remarkable. And I think it's a lot of things like this that can make a big difference.

**Muanda:** I'm going to come back to what was said in the first panel, about the idea that the Mediterranean has become a mass grave and that our young people are dying in the sea. And to change that, of course, we don't have all the solutions, but this week of science is a first step. And the follow up, an ideal follow-up would be to do that in partnership, and to do it with start-ups that can be created, because we can find the young people who have innovative ideas. But the problem that arises is always for the finances. So we need to have start-ups with these young people, and then this will change the community. It will help develop these people. And leaving the country will no longer be the only perspective that they have in mind. It will be a way to develop their creativity. And this will be another way to change the nature of the Mediterranean that has become, by calling upon the creativity of these young people who are creative and who are only waiting to be able to contribute. I just wanted to add that this will be a way to reverse the migration flows.

**Lutz Friesinger:** Thank you. Oh, hello. Yes, I'm Lutz Friesinger from Karlsruhe. Hello. I'm from Karlsruhe to you. I have one question to you, Mrs. Muanda. As a woman from the Congo, what do you think about the water dam project for the Congo River that was presented by the South African Minister or the Prime Minister? So, on the on the Kivu lake or the Inga Dam.

**Muanda:** Well, this, in fact, is not a new project. For the Inga 1, and Inga 2, and Inga 3, they were functional. Myself, having lived in Congo and seen to what extent we have really, really big problems of electricity. You might go for one week or even two weeks with no electricity. So of course, it's interesting not only to conserve and take care of the now existing dams on the Inga, but to be able to use them fully functional. But I just add to that, that we need some very big infrastructures there, and I think we should also work with very local, small structures so that electricity is not just centralized in one spot, but is decentralized into various small villages. And we need all of these, the very big ones like the Inga projects, and on the other hand, the small projects, like the solar projects in villages. So, I think we need both of these. Is that an answer to your question?

**Adele Diyala:** Bon soir, tous. Hello, I'm Adele Diyala. Thank you for your interventions. I have a question for other panelists, if you would. Today we see that there are many structures, many humanitarian structures in Africa. I come from the region of Sahel, from Burkina Faso. And so I'm asking this question: If I'm talking about the humanitarian structures, who are working for the return or for projects like Watex, for water, these populations are the victims of a conflict that they don't really know the causes of. But shouldn't we concentrate a lot on security before we go further into other [concerns]? Because there are many humanitarian structures in the Sahel that are present on-site, but the population is not even there anymore because of the security situation. And the terrorist groups or the rebels take advantage of this absence of other people. So for you, do you think these humanitarian structures are somehow profitable or – yeah, they're profitable for the security of this region, because if you've invested there, and you send your humanitarian forces there, and one month later, the population has to leave because of the rebels, and then we see that the billions that have been invested there are not used. So I think that my analysis is, that we need to think about security before we invest in these areas. And that's what I've seen from the presence of humanitarian structures there up until now. So –

**Fimmen:** Could you please clarify your question? You want to know if the presence of humanitarian structures somehow are working against the population instead of serving them?

**Diyala:** If these humanitarian NGOs, are they not contributing to maintaining the status quo, or even to the continuation or the pursuit of these rebel groups?

**Muanda:** It would be a lie to say that all the humanitarian groups are efficient or effective. I don't want to make any big generalities, but there are certain things that work. Things that need to improve, other things that should be outlawed. Many errors were committed by humanitarian groups. But I have the impression, or I would like to believe that they are rethinking their approach in the past. We had a lot of a so-called white saviorism, where the young children would be sent to dig wells. And there was a big publicity made around it with photos and videos and so on. But I would hope that these groups are now calling into question their own role. And for me, the best aid is to enable local groups, to let the local residents mobilize. And when we mobilize the people, and if we just send groups in and when they leave, everything falls apart, then it's really not worth it. So we need to enable the populations who are already there.

**Zepp-LaRouche:** I have a question to Mrs. Lalonde, because, you know, the Schiller Institute is not just a place to discuss the problems, but we also want to engage the participants of the conference in activities. Now, I know that you are circulating a petition to end the sanctions in Syria, and I would like you to again argue for that, because I really would like the participants of this conference to join in to make a very powerful mobilization to end these sanctions, because they are clearly killing the population, and they did not accomplish to get rid of the government of President Assad. So, why keep these sanctions, when it is so clear that it is bordering on genocide to keep them up? I would like you to speak a little bit about it, given the

fact that you were just in Syria and you saw how they have an effect on the population, and then maybe also call on the audience to help to promote it in Europe as well.

**Lalonde:** We have launched a petition, that's right, with the France-Syria Association, for an end to the sanctions. And it's been signed a lot. But we're in a country where—how can I say it? We get no media coverage. We sent it to AFP. It wasn't covered; it wasn't published. You saw what I said before about the response of Mrs. Colonna, about Syria joining the Arab League. It's the same thing for the European Union. They just pushed the dust under the rug. The geopolitics of it is too complicated, so we don't talk about it. That's the policy. You can sign the petition. I can send it to you. But what is really discouraging is that, you know, there are many people who are up in arms about what's happening in Syria and who want to do something. But there's this blocking. And I think we can arrive at something, but it takes time.

**Fimmen:** Yes, I think it's very important that you make this resolution available so that all the participants here can share it and see what they can do with it. That would be great. Thank you. So, now on this panel, I would like to give the final word to Jacques Cheminade.

**Cheminade:** You see, I think there's a fundamental point here that was raised. So, if you make a project, this project must be accepted and taken over as its own by the population. The population has to be integrated into the project. That's the first thing. And then its implementation will assume that the population participates in it. And what we saw here about education, and in particular of young women, of young girls, we should do the same thing for economic projects and public health projects. We create a certain milieu where the population is interested in what will help them, where the population believes or is convinced that they will be able to improve their destiny.

And I think with the Lake Chad, we have something very interesting where we had the farmers, the fishermen, the cattlemen, cattle raisers who could come together and discuss together, to discuss how important it would be to develop Lake Chad and to make this area rich. And this Inga project, which exists, should at least be able to function with an electricity network that actually works. So, we need participation to make it work. Sometimes groups come in, organizations come, they don't know—or they think that Africans don't know—what's good for Africa. And that's disastrous, because they come in with the idea that the nature has to be protected against the population. And there are many books that denounce this form of green colonialism.

So, we need to have this sense, as Dora said, we have to understand the importance of science, of science for everybody, and in particular for women who will immediately see the advantage when they see what this means for justice, for developing the family, and this organization of the family, which builds into the family of all of the region and then of all of Africa. And for that, we have a mission. And our mission—as she does and as Patricia does for Syria—we have to make it known and we have to give people the sense that they can also find in Europe, in

France. France is the most pessimistic country of all. Get the people here to fight for this perspective. And in that way we'll feel much better with ourselves by waging this fight, and [with] the people who are here when we are able to change things here in our own countries. Thank you.

**Fimmen:** So, thank you all, the participants of the panel, and of course, you, the audience. We'll continue with the third panel. I ask the speakers to come up here, and the discussion process is going to continue. So have a good third panel. Thank you.

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## Panel 3

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### The Peace Movement Worldwide Above Party Lines: The Special Case of the United States; The Role of the Vatican and the Global South

**Moderator Claudio Cellini:** Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to our third session. I'm going to read the headline. The Peace Movement Worldwide, Above Party Lines: the Special Case of the United States and the Role of the Vatican in the Global South. My name is Claudio Cellini. I've been working with Mrs. LaRouche for several decades and with her late husband, Lyndon LaRouche. Many of you know me already, and I have the honor of chairing this this session, which is a special session. It's peculiar, because all of the speakers which you see sitting there, they are all singled out as terrorists. They are characterized as "information terrorists" by the regime in Kiev, by the Ministry of Interior of the Kiev regime, which, by the way, is paid by the EU, because the EU is financing the Kiev government and paying the stipends of the people who work there. The only person who is not in that list is myself, and I'm pretty ashamed, because this means that they don't take me seriously. But probably after the panel this afternoon. I will join you, all of you. So, a joke – I make a joke and we put it there.

Our first speaker will be Harley Schlanger. who is the vice chairman of the board of directors of the Schiller Institute in the United States, a good friend of mine. And he will speak about Kennedy's vision of peace. Now, let me say two words before he starts. You will see at the beginning a video, a short video of Kennedy, a famous speech by Kennedy. Oh, okay, please come up.

#### Harley Schlanger

#### **John F. Kennedy's Vision of Peace**

*Mr. Schlanger is Vice Chairman of the Board fo Directors, Schiller Institute, USA.*

On June 10, 1963, U.S. President John F. Kennedy delivered a commencement address at American University, in Washington, D.C.. Coming in the midst of continuing tension between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, just eight months after the resolution of the Cuban Missile Crisis -- which brought the world to the brink of nuclear war -- Kennedy's words offered hope for the opening of an era of peace:

I have, therefore, chosen this time and this place to discuss a topic on which ignorance too often abounds and the truth too rarely perceived – and that is the most important topic on earth: Peace.

What kind of a peace do I mean? What kind of a peace do we seek? Not a Pax Americana enforced on the world by American weapons of war. Not the peace of the grave or the security of the slave. I am talking about genuine peace, the kind of peace that makes life on earth worth living, the kind that enables men and nations to grow and to hope and build a better life for their children – not merely peace for Americans but peace for all men and women – not merely peace in our time but peace for all time....

I speak of peace, therefore, as the necessary rational end of rational men. I realize that the pursuit of peace is not as dramatic as the pursuit of war – and frequently the words of the pursuer fall on deaf ears. But we have no more urgent task....

First, examine our attitude toward peace itself. Too many of us think it is impossible. Too many think it is unreal. But that is a dangerous, defeatist belief. It leads to the conclusion that war is inevitable, that mankind is doomed, that we are gripped by forces we cannot control. We need not accept that view. Our problems are manmade. Therefore, they can be solved by man. And man can be as big as he wants. No problem of human destiny is beyond human beings. Man's reason and spirit have often solved the seemingly unsolvable and we believe they can do it again....

So let us persevere. Peace need not be impracticable, and war need not be inevitable. By defining our goal more clearly, by making it seem more manageable and less remote, we can help all people to see it, to draw hope from it, and to move irresistibly toward it....

No government or social system is so evil that its people must be considered as lacking in virtue. As Americans, we find communism profoundly repugnant as a negation of personal freedom and dignity. But we can still hail the Russian people for their many achievements in science and space, in economic and industrial growth, in culture and in acts of courage.

Among the many traits the peoples of our two countries have in common, none is stronger than our mutual abhorrence of war. Almost unique among the major world powers, we have never been at war with each other. And no nation in the history of battle ever suffered more than the Soviet Union in the Second World War. At least 20 million lost their lives....

So, let us not be blind to our differences, but let us also direct attention to our common interests and the means by which those differences can be resolved. And if we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity. For, in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal. [*end video*]

While Kennedy's eloquent appeal for peace was directed to the leaders of government and the people of both the Soviet Union and the U.S., the most immediate positive response came from

the Russians. Soviet President Nikita Khrushchev told Averell Harriman, the lead U.S. negotiator in talks to draft a nuclear test ban treaty with Russia, that he considered Kennedy's address to be "the greatest speech by any American President since Roosevelt." The text of the speech was published in the Soviet press, and was not jammed when broadcast in Russian on the Voice of America, which was the usual practice.

The speech had a less dramatic impact in the U.S. It was minimized by some media, and ignored or panned by others. For example, the {New York Times} wrote that there was "not much optimism in official Washington" that the speech "would produce agreement on a test ban treaty or anything else," while the Columbus, Ohio {Dispatch} called it "an appeasement cue".

But the break with Cold War rhetoric signaled by the speech did reduce tensions. Within ten days, an agreement was reached to set up a "hotline" between Washington and Moscow, and on August 5, the Limited Test Ban Treaty was signed, ending eight years of difficult negotiations. The question for Kennedy was then whether he could overcome the Cold War mentality in the U.S. Senate, so the treaty could be ratified. Following a fierce behind-the-scenes battle, in which he successfully appealed to his predecessor, President Eisenhower, to support him, the treaty was ratified on September 24.

### **Was Kennedy a "Cold Warrior"?**

In the last months of his life, from the June 10th speech to his assassination in Dallas on November 22, JFK vigorously pursued his commitment to end the Cold War, and open relations with both the USSR and Cuba, to reduce the danger of nuclear annihilation. His closest friends acknowledged that, following the near-miss of a nuclear war over Cuba, he was driven by a fear of the threat of nuclear war, and the need to reduce, if not eliminate, that threat.

Toward that end, the back channels which had been opened to avoid nuclear war over Cuba were expanded. Kennedy considered proposals to eliminate all nuclear testing, and, in an address to the United Nations General Assembly on September 20, proposed a joint mission with the Soviets to the Moon.

But nowhere was a change in policy so urgent as in dealing with the Communist insurgency in Vietnam. His battles with the War Hawks had convinced him that if he left Vietnam in their hands, a new world war was likely, beginning in Indochina, which could quickly escalate to nuclear war.

In the first two years of his presidency, the number of U.S. military advisers in Vietnam had grown to more than 15,000. Planners from the Pentagon and the CIA said that a more robust deployment was necessary to win, and they publicly expressed optimism that it would succeed. Kennedy sent teams of envoys on fact-finding missions there, including one with Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara and Gen. Maxwell Taylor, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. From their report, he concluded the claims of the military and intel officials about the prospect

of success were lies, a judgement fully confirmed eight years later, when Daniel Ellsberg released the "Pentagon Papers." JFK decided all U.S. troops must be withdrawn.

But with the exception of McNamara and his brother, Robert Kennedy, all his advisers told him withdrawal was "unthinkable," as it would undermine "American leadership in the fight against Communism."

There were thus two flanks to address: first, he had to outflank the war hawks, to prevent them from launching operations which would make war inevitable; and second, to overcome the psychological effects of Cold War brainwashing on the population, that it was "better dead than Red."

Facing a re-election campaign in November 1964, he feared that pulling out troops would make him a target of the War Hawks, who would accuse him of being "soft" on Communism and an "appeaser", as they did when he refused to order an American invasion of Cuba when the CIA's Bay of Pigs fiasco failed, and when he rejected demands of the hawks to bomb Soviet missile sites during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

As I reported in an article in the {Executive Intelligence Review} in the June 30, 2023 issue, "JFK's Battle for Peace", there is rich documentation of personal accounts from friends and associates, that his goal was to withdraw fully from Vietnam -- after he was re-elected in 1964.

Some skeptics doubt that Kennedy intended to get out of Vietnam, even though he pushed through a National Security Action Memo 263 on October 5, which specified a "phased withdrawal" of 1,000 advisers by the end of 1963, and the rest by the end of 1965. Two days after his murder, that Memo was replaced by another, NSAM 273. The withdrawal order from the earlier memo was never fulfilled, and a clause was inserted allowing for covert action against North Vietnam, by CIA-backed South Vietnamese forces. One such covert operation in the Gulf of Tonkin in August 1964, provided the pretext for the deployment ultimately of more than half-a-million U.S. troops.

The murder of JFK removed the obstacle to escalation, clearing the way for the Hawks to destroy that country and its neighbors for nine more years. It also served as a warning to future would-be Presidents -- it is not wise to reject the demands of the Military-Industrial Complex.

These skeptics choose to ignore that his intent to break with the Cold War, which was clear in his June 10 speech, is coherent with statements he made as a U.S. Senator in the 1950s, speaking as an advocate of an American anti-imperial tradition.

### **Anti-Imperial Tradition of the U.S.**

Though such a tradition is not evident today, in the "American Exceptionalism" rhetoric of the U.S. as the gallant defender of the "Rules-Based Order", there exists an anti-imperial tradition which was the basis for the American Revolution, and the republican policies of the American Founding Fathers. This was explicitly addressed by Secretary of State (and future President)

John Quincy Adams on July 4, 1821: "...the United States does not go abroad in search of monsters to destroy....by involving itself in the internal affairs of other nations, the U.S. would destroy its own reason of existence: the fundamental axioms of her policy would become no different than the empire America's revolution defeated. It would be, then, no longer the ruler of itself, but the dictator of the world."

I wonder if today's salesman for the Unipolar Order, Antony Blinken, is familiar with this address by one of his most illustrious predecessors!

This tradition was the basis of the war-time antagonism between President Franklin Roosevelt and Britain's Prime Minister Churchill. There are numerous reports of Churchill's surly responses when FDR insisted on eliminating all European colonialism at the war's end. Lyndon LaRouche, who served in the China-Burma-India theater during the war, said that FDR's view was adopted by many soldiers, especially those who experienced the conditions of the colonies during the war. He added that this was a part of JFK's mental map.

Here are two examples of his anti-imperial outlook from speeches he delivered as a U.S. Senator:

First, on April 6, 1954, he challenged U.S. support for France in Indochina. After reviewing the status of that war, he said that we should assist in the fight against communism there, if victory were possible; but we must recognize that many in Asia "regard this as a war of colonialism." As such, before Secretary of State Dulles pledges assistance to France, he hopes that he "will recognize the futility of channeling American men and machines into that hopeless internecine struggle." A month later, on May 7, the French forces surrendered at Dien Bien Phu, and began their withdrawal from Vietnam.

Second is a speech he delivered on July 2, 1957, on French colonialism in Algeria. He spoke of the "changing face of African nationalism", decrying the refusal to face this as the problem for the French, and the western world. He cited a diplomat who said that he was "at a loss to understand why the United States should identify itself with a policy of colonial repression and bias contrary to American political traditions and interests," a statement which clearly resonated with JFK.

In the language of these speeches as a young U.S. Senator, one discovers the still-raw origin of the eloquent spokesman for peace, which he had become by June 10, 1963. Challenged by the belligerence of members of his own administration, who were itching for war, fearful that their war would become a nuclear holocaust, Kennedy became a champion of peace -- and, as such, the worst threat to those corporate interests backing the War Hawks. Those he fought, including Allen Dulles and other representatives of the Military-Industrial Complex, silenced his voice in Dallas, and the result has been a period of perpetual war, for six decades.

He closed his American University address with the following words:

"The United States, as the world knows, will never start a war. We do not want a war. We do not now expect a war. This generation of Americans has already had enough--more than enough--of war and hate and oppression. We shall be prepared if others wish it. We shall be alert to try to stop it. But we shall also do our part to build a world of peace where the weak are safe and the strong are just. We are not helpless before that task or hopeless of its success. Confident and unafraid, we labor on--not toward a strategy of annihilation but toward a strategy of peace."

This is John F. Kennedy's "Vision of Peace", and it is this vision that the Schiller Institute and our allies intend to make universally accepted today.

Thank you.

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H.E. Donald Ramotar –

### **The World's People Must Make Their Voice Heard**

*Mr. Ramotar is former President of Guana (2011–2105); former Member of Parliament (1992–2011) and General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party (PPP); trade unionist.*

Comrades and friends,

I extend fraternal greetings to all participants of the conference, which is seeking means of ending the war in Europe and, most urgently, preventing it from escalating into a nuclear war. We are all agreed that this is one of the most, if not the most dangerous period facing our world. There is a consensus that it is even more serious than the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. It is apposite to recall that the two world wars that occurred in the last century had their origins in Europe. That is why any conflict in Europe must be seen as a major global danger at the root of those two wars.

What was the struggle between the main colonial powers to redivide the world, to redistribute the colonies which existed? The people in what is today called the Global South did not have a voice. The countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean were mostly colonies or semi-colonies. We were seen as an object for exploitation. Today, the real reason for war, is the desire of imperialist states, those aligned in NATO, to crush any country or countries that refuse to comply with their diktats. Among these states, is the United States of America the most powerful of that NATO group? The U.S. has used its economic and military strength to exploit the people of the world. Its relations with the Global South are based on a neocolonial outlook.

It is essential that we distinguish the central role of the U.S. in creating the dangers that we now confront from other allies in Europe. This is so, because even the relationship between the NATO alliance is unequal. Indeed, I often get the impression that European leaders have allowed their countries to become semi-colonies of the United States. How else can we explain the role many are playing today in supporting U.S. proxy war against Russia? Almost every position they have taken has been inimical to the interests of the masses of their countries. Not only is it creating more poverty amongst the lower classes of society, but the bourgeois of Europe are now being seriously affected. Countries are being de-industrialized. Yet the present day European governments continue to be compliant to the United States.

Therefore, your work is very important. We must exert ourselves to raise the consciousness of the European masses, to conquer the spinelessness of their governments. This is most urgent and most needed at this time. It is clear to me, as well, that we need the support of the Global South in this period.

Unlike the last century, when we never had the say, we are now independent states. True, many are forced to toe the line, due to pressures from the United States. This was seen at the voting on

the Ukraine issue in 2022 and other fora where the U.S. felt its interest was being threatened. However, now we are seeing a new determination on the part of the Global South. African leaders are now playing an increasingly important role in international relations. The African leaders are taking independent initiatives in relation to the war and the need for closer cooperation. In Latin America, President Lula of Brazil has proposed concrete steps to end the war in Ukraine. More and more leaders of the South are standing up for their rights and resisting the diktat of the NATO forces. This is a reflection of the recognition in the South that we will not be bystanders while NATO tries to take over the world, even at the cost of a possible nuclear conflict with Russia.

The Global South and the peoples of Europe have a lot of their interests aligned. We must support the new trends that have arisen on the global scene and have been accelerated because of the sanctions imposed on by NATO states, on Russia, amongst other countries. This struggle against sanctions is leading to the democratization of international trade and has the possibility to ease the huge burden that we in the South have to bear. This would also assist Europe in freeing itself from the clutches of the United States. It has the possibility of restoring some of the independence that was taken by the U.S. in the post-war period.

However, friends, it is important for us to try to build alliances, alliances to campaign for the end of nuclear weapons in the first place, and for general disarmament as our ultimate goal. We cannot continue to prepare for war and think that we will have peace.

Comrades, allow me to say, that as much as we wish peace would be permanent, whilst poverty, injustice, and unequal relations remain amongst nations and between them, war will persist as long as the ruling circles in the North view the South as an object of exploitation. Fighting the scourges mentioned above is directly linked to the struggle for world peace. We must let our voices be heard. We must mobilize and organize our struggle and give them a focus that is so badly needed today.

Therefore, in conclusion, allow me to express the hope that this conference would make an important contribution to the fight against poverty and war, and promote peace amongst all our peoples. Thank you.

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Diane Sare

### **Make the U.S. a Force for the Good**

*Mrs. Sare is a candidate for the U.S. Senate in New York, USA.*

Thank you! I'm really honored to be here with the speakers that we've heard today and that we will hear tomorrow. And I want to thank Helga Zepp-LaRouche for pulling together the peace movements of the world. And I want to thank Jacques Cheminade for his steadfast leadership here in France and internationally.

Humanity is undergoing a transition, and it is a very dangerous one, because you have some shriveled-up old, evil people running some evil institutions, who don't want to give up the power that they *used to* have – and I say “used to,” because they've already lost that power, and the danger comes from their failure to realize that important fact.

Lyndon LaRouche provided a pathway for the new order with his 1976 [1975 – ed.] proposal for an “International Development Bank,” in which every nation would have the opportunity to achieve its full independence in the way the American President Franklin Roosevelt envisioned should occur after World War II.

Unfortunately, or by design, FDR had died just before the end of the war, and his vision for the post war world was unfulfilled.

In 1976, when Mr. LaRouche put forward his program, and launched his first US Presidential campaign, the financial and intelligence community interests tied to the British Imperial system still had too much power, and were able to prevent him from becoming President of the United States. They later assassinated Indira Gandhi and others, including two important German figures, Alfred Herrhausen and Detlev Rowedder, when we had another chance in 1989.

Now, these rotten institutions are totally and thoroughly bankrupt – and I mean, the World Bank, the IMF, NATO, the U.S. Federal Reserve, the ECB, the Bank of England, JP Morgan Chase, *all* of them! So everything they try to do, not only backfires, but it produces the opposite effect.

They intended to destroy Russia – in fact, President Biden announced that himself last year when he visited Poland. It is not “Russian propaganda,” although a number of us. As was mentioned, have been accused of being information terrorists and Russian propagandists for saying it; that is what the President said.

Has Russia been destroyed? No. The Russian economy is stronger than ever, and Putin is now even more popular since the Prigozhin/Wagner attempted insurrection was so quickly and efficiently put down. Contrary to idiot western propaganda, Putin is stronger, and his nation

more unified. However, the arrogant, and perhaps also drug-induced blindness of the so-called western leaders seems to prevent them from seeing this.

But it's not only Russia. There is a powerful dynamic among many large nations, and they are joining into various groups, such as the BRICS, the SCO, the Eurasian Economic Union, and now there are signs of unity coming in Ibero-America, and in Africa as well. The African Union has become a powerful player in world politics. Trade between Russia and China is now 85% in yuan and rubles, not dollars.

The grave danger is that the delusional west thinks that they can blackmail and threaten six billion people to change course, and go back to being slaves. If anyone has paid attention to recent speeches of South African President Ramaphosa, you know that this will never happen. So, we face nuclear war.

Please don't think I am exaggerating, or Helga is exaggerating when she keeps saying this. Let me remind you that President Biden has already crossed several of his own boundaries in escalating this proxy war in Ukraine. He said, "no tanks"; we are sending tanks. He said, "No F-16's"; we are sending F-16's. He said, "No long range missiles;" we are now sending those as well. He also said, "NordStream will be ended.... I promise you." And he delivered. Would he, would [British Prime Minister] Rishi Sunak, would [NATO Secretary General Jens] Stoltenberg approve a strike on the Zaporizhia nuclear power plant?

Now, those of us here, are here because we want to stop this. We want to move mankind into a new direction, but we face some obstacles. Perhaps most frustrating is that our governments don't listen to us. Not only that, but our governments persecute truth-tellers. Because our societies have been so culturally degraded, it is easy to respond with violence. Before Helen Keller had access to language, if she needed or wanted something, all she could do was throw a tantrum. She caused harm in hope of getting a response.

The violence can be expressed outwardly as in the riots and looting just seen in France, and as happened in the USA a few years ago, or mass shootings – now we have one every eleven or twelve hours; or it is expressed inwardly, with drug addiction, alcohol addiction, and suicide. The rate of suicides among children in the United States, aged 10-19 years old, has tripled.

Everyone seems to believe that brute force, rather than poetry, is the way to "send a message." What is the message? This is our challenge, because God has created each of us with an innate sense of Truth and Justice, but due to the willful degradation of our culture, like the young Helen Keller, we feel powerless to express these principles and to "be heard."

The first thing we must remind ourselves is that the universe is created according to the same principles that exist in our souls, and this is why, if we temper ourselves – or tune ourselves to universal principles – we can defeat all evil. But this is hard work!

Let me give an example of the wrong idea about “justice.” You may not have this so badly in Europe, or maybe you do, but in the United States we are obsessed with punishment. It is a popular sentiment, that if a person does something harmful or illegal, they should be made to “suffer the consequences,” which is supposed to ensure that they don’t repeat the action. We even have a culture which blames people for being refugees – we call them “illegals.” There is no concern for whatever monstrous acts, even by our own governments, may have driven them to flee their country, but merely rage that they get a hotel room, limited medical treatment, maybe, and a *cell phone!*

This self-righteous indignation is fueled by the anxiety and frustration felt by millions of Americans, who themselves can’t afford medical care, or rent, or are hopelessly indebted, and I think it is designed to try to induce us to start killing each other – but that can be taken up later.

I have been reading a book by Dr. Homer Venters, who was the chief medical officer for NYC Jails. It’s called, “Life and Death in Rikers Island.” To give you a sense of the results of this attitude, of the need to punish, let me tell you the story of one 25- year-old inmate at Rikers Island, who died there in 2012. His name is Jason Echevarria.

On the evening before his death, Mr. Echevarria was being held in a unit for people with mental illness who failed to obey orders. It was then decided that he was “fit enough” to be subjected to solitary confinement as a form of punishment. According to Dr. Venters, “in order to escape the stress of solitary confinement, Mr. Echevarria swallowed a packet of industrial soap and then told correctional officers that he needed medical attention. Passing medical staff confirmed that he was vomiting and required medical attention, but the response of Department of Correction staff and their supervisor was to keep Mr. Echevarria in his cell overnight, intermittently taunting and ignoring him as he vomited blood, bile, and lye, screamed for help, and ultimately died with an eroded esophagus.”

Now, suppose they had allowed the medical staff to treat him before he died a horrible painful death, and they had saved his life, but he’d gotten to suffer a bit. Would that be an appropriate means to “teach him a lesson?”

“Well, everybody doesn’t think that way – it’s not how things are done most of the time,” many even here might say. But I am telling you that this *is* the institutional policy of our governments.

Take sanctions, for example. What’s the idea of sanctions? “Just starve the people, let them watch their babies die in their arms, and they’ll shape up. They’ll overthrow their leader, or their leader will finally start obeying us.” This is the exact same attitude as expressed by the corrections officers, but now made policy and imposed upon millions of innocent people.

Do you think that a society which tolerates and promulgates such barbarism will be capable of preventing nuclear war?

So, we must temper ourselves. We must remember certain fundamental universal principles, so that we can act in accordance—what a great word, with “chord” in the middle—with the universe, which will greatly amplify our voices.

*[Video of a musical performance is shown.]*

I apologize that that may not have been as beautiful as I’d like, but I think you get the idea. We have to sound a certain trumpet—or trombone—but not in an arbitrary way, but based on truthful principles. If I hadn’t bothered to find out that the note F is in first position, it would have been a very frustrating and ugly experience.

Similarly, if you have a mass movement for change, and you ask for the wrong thing—that is, your demand is not in coherence, as Confucius might say, with the laws of heaven, you might regret getting what you asked for in a way you never intended.

The fundamental principle of our universe, and of our relationship to it, is growth. That is—and we are learning this more and more with the Webb telescope—that contrary to foolish opinion, the universe is moving from lower order, lower energy-density to higher, and more complex order and higher energy-density.

Life on this planet used to be little single-cell organisms which went extinct easily, until photosynthesis occurred. Suddenly, more advanced life was possible, until we came to fish and amphibians which could propel themselves—no longer dependent on the ebb and flow of the tide. Then came mammals, which not only could regulate motion, but also body temperature, requiring a great increase in caloric intake per kilogram of body mass.

What is the link between a mammal and a salamander? I think you’d be hard pressed to find it—these are some of the great mysteries—like the link between life and non-life. There is *not* a linear connection—if you squeeze a rock hard enough, it will turn into a mushroom, for example. We don’t know how it works.

Then humans emerged, and suddenly, not only could they regulate their own activity and temperature, but they could change the environment around themselves! They could cook their food! They could plan into the future—sowing crops for later consumption. They could build houses to enable survival in extreme temperatures. People are able to *improve* their environment to make it possible for more people to live more happily. People can even improve the environment to make it possible for more animals to live more happily—some good and some bad, but I wouldn’t call increasing the rat population exponentially an improvement.

This means that the natural creative love of discovery in the human mind is resonant with the way the universe itself is unfolding. This means, that if we wish to survive as a species, we must create the conditions for each individual person to develop their innate potential as much as possible. Do you believe there is such a thing as “too many geniuses?” We need billions of geniuses! We are so very arrogant to imagine that we’ve mastered the secrets of the universe,

and that now we should all just stop eating and using electricity and reduce our carbon footprint because we are complete.

It is precisely trying to halt growth which will kill us all, because it goes completely contrary to the laws of the universe. So far, the most efficient means we've discovered to foster the development of the individual, is the principle of the nation state. So, the sovereignty of nations must be respected, and the need for each nation to have ever increasing available energy and energy-density. We don't all need to have the same language, religion, or appearance, but we do need to respect the principle that the measure of our success is the development of mankind.

This is why the one standard which gives any government legitimacy is the principle of the General Welfare. Any policy which seeks to degrade the humanity of any individual person, or any group of people, is wrong.

Mankind is now at a crossroads, as the United States was when Abraham Lincoln was elected in 1860. The United States had reached a breaking point where it was unavoidably obvious that slavery was creating a harsh dissonance with the principles of our republic. The United States could not survive if that evil institution were allowed to continue. Similarly, the world has reached the point where humanity will no longer submit to a system which arbitrarily determines that one group is superior to another, and has the power to make its own rules, as if natural law and the created universe did not exist. The majority of mankind is no longer willing to pretend that snow is black.

If we wish to be heard, and have the power to change our own sorry governments, we will have to tune our trombones to that chorus.

*[Transcript of video clip:]*

So let's talk a little bit about resonance, and I'm going to use a trombone as an example of how, if we are truthful, the universe can amplify our truthfulness, and it is a matter of principle. Now, to make a sound on a trombone, we have this, which is not an amplifier.... That not very beautiful, it is kind of labored and the sound doesn't really carry.... When I put my mouthpiece into the trombone, then we get a great sound which carries, but you have to be precise in your tuning, because the trombone has a certain length ... and if you adjust the length the resonance changes, for example, or the pitch changes. There you can hear, the longer the length, the lower gets the sound.... So, what happens if I decide I want to play, but instead of picking the right position in my trombone, I choose something arbitrary. I can get a note but it is not beautiful, and that won't carry.

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Hussein Askary

## **The Revolutionary Changes in Southwest Asia**

*Mr. Askary is Vice President, BRIX Institute; Southwest Asia Coordinator, Schiller Institute, Sweden.*

Dear friends of the Schiller Institute, dear guests and dear colleagues of the Schiller Institute and the International LaRouche Movement,

I'm addressing you by video, unfortunately, due to unforeseeable circumstances. The subject of my speech is about the revolutionary changes taking place in Southwest Asia, the so-called Middle East, in the recent period. You all must have seen this shocking picture when in March this year, China mediated the resumption of diplomatic ties between two key Muslim nations, that is, Saudi Arabia and Iran, who have been divided by at least 20 years of violent sectarian wars engulfing the whole region of Southwest Asia, due to geopolitical great games and adventures launched by the Anglo-American powers and their allies in the West. But I want to look back at this other picture, which was taken 20 years earlier. This was Lyndon LaRouche speaking at the Abu Dhabi Zayed Center for Coordination and Follow-up, in an international conference titled "On the Role of Oil and Gas in World Politics." Between the two pictures, the world and the region of West Asia lost 20 years of development time, millions of lives, and trillions of dollars. Visiting the UAE's Zayed Center for Coordination and Follow-up, as guest of honor and keynote speaker in an international conference on the future of oil and gas in world politics, LaRouche advocated a new economic and security architecture for the Persian or Arab Gulf region. It was based on turning this region from a British geopolitical cockfighting pit into a crossroads of the continents, utilizing its exceptional geographical position, natural and human resources to industrialize its nations on a massive scale, building infrastructure, including nuclear power for petrochemical industries and desalinating seawater for greening the deserts.

LaRouche's plan was intended to salvage the economies of the region from the slavish reliance on export of single commodity, that is, crude oil and gas, and also from being a tool of geopolitics. At the same time, Lyndon LaRouche denounced and advised against the intention of the George W. Bush and Tony Blair alliance to violate the sovereignty of Iraq and other nations. LaRouche's ideas gained a great deal of popularity, both among the leaders and populations of the Gulf and Arab world. However, in the following weeks and months, as the United States and Britain were preparing the illegal invasion of Iraq, a major counter-offensive was launched by those two powers to intimidate the governments of the Gulf, to abandon such visionary ideas as presented by LaRouche and fall in line supporting the imminent invasion. But as the Chinese proverb says, the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is today.

Now, two decades later, Chinese and Russian diplomatic and economic efforts are potentially putting an end to this hundred-year bloody divide-and-conquer strategy. That strategy witnessed its most violent aspect in the Shia-Sunni sectarian divide following the illegal British American invasion of Iraq in 2003. This process was preceded by China reaching two major comprehensive strategic agreements with both Saudi Arabia – that's in December 2022 – and later with Iran, in February 2023.

Also it was preceded by President Xi Jinping's summit with the King of Saudi Arabia, [his] summit with the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and also a summit with the Arab countries in December 2022, to redefine the whole regional development perspective, orienting it towards economic cooperation as a basis for peace and security, and the integration of the region into the new paradigm of cooperation along the Belt and Road Initiative, exactly as Lyndon LaRouche had proposed 20 years ago. Russia, too, has been mediating contact between Syria and Turkey to end the chaotic security situation in Syria's northwest Idlib province, where terrorist groups and armed extremists, backed by the United States and NATO, have been destabilizing both countries. U.S. boots on the ground in the eastern part of Syria remain a major destabilization factor in this whole situation. But an agreement between Turkey and Syria could bring this under control.

Also, Syrian President Bashar al Assad was welcomed back into the Arabian fold this year during the Arab League summit in the Saudi capital on May 19th. Syria rejoined the Arab League after being banned from it by orders of the British and Americans leaders in 2011. The regime-change of Syria has failed miserably, after causing unbelievable suffering. Yemen, too, is being affected by this spree of Chinese-Russian peace diplomacy. The first major prisoner exchange was successfully brokered by the UN envoy to Yemen on April 10th. And the first round of negotiations with the Saudis was conducted in May, in an extraordinary visit by a Saudi envoy to the Yemeni capital.

A cease-fire has been in place between Saudi Arabia and the Sana'a government since April 2022 and has been holding. It is believed that Iranian influence over the Yemeni Sana'a government or the Houthis may bring an end to the war launched by Saudi Arabia in March 2015, with devastating consequences for the Yemeni people and the economy of both Yemen and Saudi Arabia. So, the economic issue is paramount here.

The Chinese policy, with its roots in the Belt and Road Initiative, started moving diplomatically already in January 2016 with a tour by President Xi Jinping to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Iran. While China coordinated separately with Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Iran, gradually reaching comprehensive strategic agreements with each of the three regional powers, its friendly and increasingly tight economic relationship with all of them enabled it to become a trusted broker in the region.

Now, to understand the shift in the attitude of the GCC countries, the Arab countries towards the West, it's important to look at the different economic, financial, and, finally, political motivations. Economically, the GCC economies were rocked by an existential crisis in the past decade, emanating from periodic collapses of oil prices. The first jolt followed the global financial crisis in 2008. Prices fell from \$140 per barrel to near \$30 per barrel. Then, in 2014, to below \$30 per barrel, and in the pandemic year 2020, to near \$20 per barrel. For the oil-exporting countries to stay afloat economically and fiscally, they need a stable oil price at \$60 to \$70 per barrel or above.

The need for a new economic orientation towards industrialization and diversifying their income sources, as advised by LaRouche in 2002, found a true partner in China and Asia. Saudi Arabia and the Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman, launched the Vision 2030, pointing to this same direction of policy. Financially, the massive sovereign wealth funds of the Gulf Cooperation Council, now valued at about four trillion U.S. dollars, resulting from export of oil and gas for decades, have historically been invested in financial and banking sectors—all real estate in the city of London, Wall Street, and in Europe generally. These Western markets have become a great source of loss and risk for the Gulf countries, due to the sustained financial and banking crises hitting the trans-Atlantic system since 2008, with demands from the West that the GCC states contribute to bailing out the Western banking system. This black hole opened again recently with the collapse of several American and European banks, prompting Saudi Arabia, for example, to declare that it was not going to pour more money into the failed Credit Suisse, for example—Credit Suisse Bank, in which Saudi Arabia owns a major stake.

The Gulf Cooperation Council countries are realizing that their valuable wealth could be safer and more profitable if invested in real and productive economic projects at home, in China, and in countries along the Belt and Road Initiative. For example, this year, Saudi Arabia invested 12 billion USD in a major petrochemical plant in China. There's also a political reason for the shift in the Gulf countries, which is that the Biden administration was contemplating a regime change in Saudi Arabia and the UAE, using the Muslim Brotherhood and their friends in the clergy of the Gulf. This is a longer story, which I wrote about recently in an *EIR* magazine article.

The loss of trust with the U.S. and the lack of vision in the West have pushed the Arab countries and former allies to look somewhere else to secure their present and future. Other factors, of course, include the failure of the regime change in Syria, in which the Gulf countries played a key role. Of course, Russia's intervention in Syria was detrimental to these plans. The failure, also, of Saudi Arabia and the UAE to launch a swift war in Yemen became an eight-year-long nightmare for these countries, the same way Ukraine now has become a nightmare for NATO.

Now, moving into the future, the tight relationship between the Gulf countries, plus Iraq and Iran, and China and all of East Asia, both as secure petroleum suppliers to the East and as the largest markets for Chinese and Asian products, have necessitated the upgrading of these

relations from a mere import export relationship to a long-term, stable, and dynamic industrialization process, extending to science and technology, and even cultural cooperation. The general framework for this relationship for the next decades was outlined in the proposal presented by President Xi Jinping in his keynote address to the China Gulf Cooperation Council summit in Riyadh on December 20, 2022.

President Xi's first proposal was a new paradigm for all-dimensional energy cooperation. China will continue to import large quantities of crude oil on a long-term basis from GCC countries and purchase more liquefied natural gas, settling payments in Chinese renminbi through the Shanghai Petroleum and Natural Gas Exchange platform. A China-GCC Forum on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Technology and a Chinese-GCC nuclear security demonstration center will be jointly established. China will provide 300 training opportunities on peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology. Second, the Chinese President proposed new progress in finance and investment cooperation. China and GCC countries could collaborate on financial regulations and facilitate entry into China's capital market for GCC companies. China will work with the GCC to set up joint investment commissions and support cooperation between sovereign wealth funds from both sides. A China-GCC forum on industrial and investment cooperation is set up, too.

President Xi's third proposal was to expand new areas of cooperation on innovation, science, and technology. China is ready to build big-data and cloud computing centers with GCC countries and strengthen 5G and 6G technology cooperation. Fourth, the Chinese President proposed to seek new breakthroughs in aerospace cooperation. China will carry out a string of cooperation projects with GCC countries in remote sensing and communication satellites, space utilization, and aerospace infrastructure. The two sides could select and train astronauts together. And, China welcomes GCC astronauts to its space station for joint missions and space science experiments with their Chinese colleagues.

Finally, President Xi proposed nurturing new highlights in language and cultural cooperation. China will cooperate with 300 universities, and middle and primary schools, in GCC countries on Chinese-language education, and work with GCC countries to set up 300 Chinese-language smart classrooms. Now, Saudi Arabia, in cooperation with China, is carrying out – this is a good example – Saudi Arabia is carrying out a massive industrialization process, including a large-scale infrastructure project connecting all its cities and existing and planned industrial zones with a modern rail-and-road network. This will make Saudi Arabia a hub for transcontinental transport and logistics along the Belt and Road, as shown in this figure. The UAE is doing the same. And in addition to connecting all its cities and major ports with modern rail, it has built a big nuclear complex in Abu Dhabi in cooperation with South Korea.

Now, all these ideas, of course, as we said, were proposed by Lyndon LaRouche 20 years ago. But these also present a vision now for Europe and the United States to look at these areas presented by China as the vision for their future cooperation with the Arab countries and South

West Asia nations. Going back to LaRouche's visionary ideas, the *Executive Intelligence Review* recently published the introduction to Lyndon LaRouche's 1983 essay titled "Saudi Arabia in the Year 2023." This is a prophetic vision of what the kingdom may look like today, in 2023, based on certain investments in sectors that are emerging now as the priority of the kingdom and its partners, especially China.

Finally, what I want to say, is that the living ideas of Lyndon LaRouche, even though he himself has shuffled off the mortal coil, have found the right moment in history to become a reality. Many of the reconstruction plans designed by LaRouche and his associates for Syria, for Yemen, for Iraq, and Afghanistan are still circulating in those countries. As the Chinese say, it's better to plant a tree today than cry about the missed opportunities of the last 20 years. Thank you.

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Alessia Ruggeri**Italy and the War: An Important Referendum To Stop Sending Weapons to Ukraine**

*Ms. Ruggeri is a trade unionist; member of the International Coalition for Peace, Italy.*

Italy rejects war as an instrument of aggression against the freedom of other peoples and as a means for the settlement of international disputes. Italy agrees, on conditions of equality with other States, to the limitations of sovereignty that may be necessary to a world order ensuring peace and justice among the Nations. Italy promotes and encourages international organizations furthering such ends.

This is Article 11 of the Italian Constitution, on which the “Repudiate War” referendum presently being promoted in Italy is based. Sixty percent of the Italian population, which I represent here, is against the decision of the Italian government to supply arms to Ukraine, and considers this complete servitude to the European Community and NATO. Our Constitution stipulates that if 500,000 citizens disagree with a law of Parliament, that law can be repealed through a referendum. This is what Prof. Pennetta’s “Repudiate War” Committee for a referendum is proposing, amidst many difficulties.

The “Repudiate War” Committee has so far collected 150,000 signatures out of 500,000 (it has two months to collect them). Through this instrument Italians want to make clear that they do not approve a war against Russia.

Some may argue that the decision adopted by the Italian Parliament is in line with international treaties and supranational rules, which require Italy to comply with the choices made by states with which Italy has signed international contracts.

These include NATO and the EU. Here are some quotes which may clarify the point.

03/26/2023 – “No one ever, at any time or place, promised that NATO would not expand east of Germany.” These are the words of NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg;

06/03/1991 – “We made it clear during the negotiations that we do not intend to advance the Atlantic alliance beyond the [River] Oder. Therefore we cannot allow Poland or other Central and Eastern European nations to join it.”

I have just read to you the speech of German diplomat Juergen Chrobog.

05/09/2014 – The Trilateral Contact Group on Ukraine, consisting of representatives of Ukraine, Russia, and representatives of the two separatist republics, sealed an agreement that included a Constitutional review by the Ukrainian government in addition to the ceasefire.

No review was made to protect the Donetsk and Lugansk Republics, and in fact we can say that Ukraine has not fulfilled these agreements.

We Europeans were the guarantors of this agreement, and we did nothing either to enforce it or to implement it. So, it is correct to say that we Europeans have neither political brains nor historical memory and that this dangerous war is only the result of a lack of political will to protect countries outside the European Community.

Do we really want to put the fate of the world in the hands of people who represent these institutions and who do not respect any kind of agreement? Have we already forgotten what happened 20 years ago in Iraq? Six hundred thousand civilian casualties and so many soldiers who shed blood.

We need to understand that no one is safe anymore and that if those who can do something do not do it soon, nuclear war will be an imminent danger.

The Schiller Institute a few months ago issued a call for world peace, suggesting as a model of inspiration the [1648] Peace of Westphalia, which allowed putting an end to more than 30 years of bloody wars. Having spoken out for peace cost me and some colleagues at the Schiller Institute a place on a blacklist drawn up by the Ukrainian National Security and Defense Center. But we have continued to work for peace by promoting a New Architecture for Peace as well as for the development of all countries. It is important to understand that in addition to the military security of one's own state, it is necessary to think about a new structure that promotes the development of those states that are still developing.

The president [*sic*] of the Schiller Institute, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, has launched numerous calls in this respect, inspired by the philosopher Nicholas Cusanus, who, in one of his works, *De Pace Fidei*, presupposes that his counterparts [in other religions] recognize the existence of God the Creator and of natural law.

An appeal of worldwide importance was that of Pope Francis, who declared himself willing to mediate for peace, but unfortunately Kiev opposed this proposal while it was accepted by the government in Moscow. "In the name of God stop the madness of war." These were his words.

In recent days Cardinal Zuppi, on behalf of the Pope, was in Moscow, where he met with Monsignor Paolo Pezzi, Archbishop of the Mother of God in Moscow. He stated, "It is essential not to give in to the prejudice that the other is, and will continue to be, an enemy."

We hope that these words will be taken into consideration by those in positions of responsibility so that the danger of two opposing world blocs will be only a pure fantasy.

This is precisely our task, to try to get those two opposing worlds to sit at the same table and succeed in establishing a dialogue between them that can only bear good fruit.

Many Europeans, like us Italians, are opposed to sending arms and feel neither represented nor protected by government choices. I would like to remind them that politicians serve the People and not the other way around and that sovereignty belongs to the People and not to the politicians. Europe has a precedent, that of Yugoslavia, which is a necessary starting point.

We have already experienced a conflict in Europe, we have already asked ourselves what was right to do to contain it, and we have asked ourselves about the importance of peace. At that time the choice was made not to send weapons.

To stop sending weapons to Ukraine is to affirm the reasons of life versus the reasons of death, because in armed conflicts the greatest victims are civilians. Sending weapons is a tragic mistake, because it exposes humanity, including Ukrainians, to never ending dangers.

When the risk of nuclear war becomes real, there are no more just or unjust wars, since the extinction of humanity is the yardstick for measuring justice or injustice.

I urge our Italian and European rulers, representatives of the highest institutions, not to fuel this war and to try everything possible to avert the risk of a nuclear war. Putting the knife in the hand of a small one to stand up to the big one, what is the point?

The real alternative to war is negotiation from which peace can come. We must create the conditions for peace negotiations to start as soon as possible, and as representatives of important associations, we can do a lot to speed up this process. To spread the word and make it known to as many people as possible that peace is the only solution, that every free citizen can become the strength of an entire people, as we who are here to give voice to our compatriots.

Also involving the youth, who usually take little interest in politics, inviting them to post a sentence on their profile that talks about peace and make this initiative go viral. Even a small gesture can change things. We need to involve those who feel distant from these world dynamics and make them understand that it is their future which is at stake.

We are fortunate enough to represent important associations. We can interrelate with each other and think of one strong peace action that can influence those who can really decide. I thank the Schiller Institute and its president for this opportunity to raise these issues.

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Jens Jørgen Nielsen

## **Why Europe Should Raise Its Voice for World Peace?**

*Mr. Nielsen is an historian and author; former Moscow correspondent of the Danish newspaper Politiken; representative of the Russian-Danish Dialogue, Denmark.*

Well, first and foremost, I say thank you for inviting me. Thank you to Helga, and thank to thank you to my friends in Copenhagen, Tom, Ferida, and Michelle. We have become friends. We have we have many points of view in common, at least about Russia. And to have the years and it's the first time I take part in a conference like this. And really it's an experience; it's really an experience. What I was sitting and thinking when I was about to come here, I was sitting there and I said, What can I say now? Because throughout the day a lot of very bright things, ideas, perspective, facts, eloquent speeches have been made. And now I am here. What should I say? Some of what I have planned to say has already been said several times, but, well, you'll hear them maybe once more, with a Danish accent, by the way. But well, on we go.

When I say yes, I've been fired even from three to four places I've worked because I said the truth. Last autumn I had planned for the Open University of Copenhagen to make ten lessons about Russian culture, a thousand years of Russian culture. It was canceled. It was about icons Dostoyevsky, Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, Chekhov, Repin (the painter), Shostakovich, Maxim, Gorky, Solzhenitsyn, and so on.

'No, we should not teach anything about Russia because Russia is not a part of our culture anymore.' And I was stunned. I was [lost for] words. What should I say? Because I grew up in a Scandinavian country where we are used to dialogue, tolerance. It's what we travel around in the world to teach other peoples. Now, I'm not sure we can teach other people that much anymore; it's how to put it that way. Well, I will talk about Europe and the Western world, but why? Basically, I'm talking about the European Union, Europe in general.

I'll start with an assertion: the EU [European Union] lacks a political strategy. Well, some would say, 'but there is a lot of talk.' Yes, European Union, the leaders, Ursula von der Leyen, [Charles] Michel, and so on, they are very good at talking; they are very good at making toasts. They were good to talk about human rights. They were good to talk about how the European Union is the base, the center of the force for good, the center of the good, all the values, good values, human rights for people, for women, for LGBT, for animals, for disabled, whatever. So there is no lack of words for it. But if you go to the real strategy for the European Union, it's very difficult to find what really does constitute the strategy of European Union. At least, I'm not able to say. I will look for it actually, because I think it could be a good idea, but I really haven't found it. I have found some toasts, when you raise your champion glass, yes, of course. But real strategy?

I have not really found any trade agreement. Yes, [no one] would not oppose it; of course we should have trade agreements. But the grand strategy of European Union? Well, we still have to find that or hear about that. It has been so for several years. But it has become even more apparent during this war in Ukraine, the conflict with Russia. It's open for anyone, I think even some children. I have talked to some very young persons – children, I would say – who can understand it. Yes, what is the role of European Union? We could have played a role. We could have done much more. The European Union could have played a role. It could have played a role in 2014 when there was a coup in the Maidan. It could have done something quite else, but it didn't. And that's why I'm talking a lot about this, because it's a huge problem for the world, and for me, who lives in the European Union and [in] a member state of European Union.

Instead of a strategy, what do we have? We have a kind of – what would we say? – a kind of binary division of the world into the purely good and the purely evil. So, we have the good and the evil, and it's clearly defined. The European Union is in the camp of the good; Russia, of course, China, Iran, and most other countries, I would say, more or less, are all situated in the camp of the evil. So how good is it that we have a camp of the good fighting against the camp of the evil? As you can hear from my sarcasm, it's – well, it's stupid. First and foremost, it's really, really stupid, and something more to it.

If you have this point of view – and I would say most European politicians, most people in the media, think tanks, and things like that, they purport these kinds of these kinds of view and this mix: You have this black-and-white thinking. You have very strong emotions. And furthermore, you have a lack of concrete knowledge about Russia, for instance, about China, and also about Ukraine, I would say. And it renders negotiations and compromises almost impossible and hinders any contact with the opposing party. 'But how can you negotiate with Satan? How can you negotiate with Putin, who is Satan – Stalin and Hitler combined. You're not supposed to talk to them.' And, I think, whatever you would think about Putin, Xi Jinping, this point of view is self destructive.

I'm saying it, because I want politicians, I have a need of politicians who would represent my interests, and they are not doing it. At least most of them are not doing it for the time being. We also see a kind of, I would say, sanctification of ourselves and of Ukraine. And it's like Ukraine is the bright star of democracy, and Zelenskyy is a saint, one of the most Democratic persons we have [ever] seen. Well, it's simply not true.

I sometimes work as an interpreter for Ukrainian refugees in Denmark. I speak Russian and some Ukrainian as well. This is not the picture I hear from them. They do not like Zelenskyy, I'm afraid to say; most of them, at least. It's totally another picture. It's a picture we have made in our heads, and we love this picture. But the back side of this is not really attached to reality. This is a huge problem with this, the most [significant], as we have heard several times today.

Yes, European Union countries, the European Union and most of the countries have supported the American line. They have supported the American suggestions of sanctions; we all know that. I would say there's a little difference between United States and European Union, because the United States, they are not really concealing. You can read a lot of books. You can also have some statements, because they define their interests quite clearly, because, what do they want? You heard several times, Lloyd Austin, the American minister of defense: 'Well, we want to smash Russia.' Biden said more or less the same thing; Blinken is saying something like it. They do not conceal it. 'We want to smash Russia.' Okay? They can choose a word differently. And the United States also wants to keep the European Union countries close to themselves, and, you know, they should not drift toward Russia or China, because they should be very close to the United States, and they [will] do anything in their power to prevent, first and foremost, Germany, but also the other countries, from getting closer to Russia. So, they want this split between Russia and European Union. And it seems that they are succeeding with it. And moreover, they would not like only Russia, but also China, which we have heard about.

This policy is destructive. You could say it's destructive towards Russia. But when I discuss in debates in Denmark sometimes – well, not lately, but usually I was invited to Danish television and other places to discuss this. These things, what I always say is, well, it's not because we like Putin, [that] we love Putin, that we should change policy. No, it's for ourselves, because it's dangerous for us. It's dangerous for our security. It's very detrimental to our economic development. And it's very detrimental in terms of education, in terms of building a new humanity.

And it's bad for us. It's certain, there is nothing good in this split. And I think it's very important to be very clear about that. Well, actually, we're talking about the sanctions. It's obvious that those these sanctions, they are detrimental to Europe. They are not really detrimental, not in the short term, for United States of America; there are some benefits. It's not really detrimental for Russia. It's detrimental for some of the African [and] Middle Eastern countries, which used to have some imports as well from Russia and also from Ukraine.

Here we come to something which I find very strange, [that] I've struggled very much to understand, because – Let's take just one example of oil and gas to Europe, because more than 50 years ago, especially Germany, they started up with some gas and oil lines. One of the basic oil lines was called Druzhba. It means friendship in Russian, and the Soviet Union in '60s and '80s always delivered on time, even though there were conflicts – in Czechoslovakia, there were all kinds of tensions and conflicts – [but] always they delivered the oil and gas to Germany. Well, the sanctions came, but this oil line, Druzhba, was exempted from sanctions. Why? Because the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and some other eastern countries were about 100% dependent on this oil line, so, 'Okay, we have to be a little realistic.' And Viktor Orban from Hungary, he was a little angry, because what should we do in Hungary? We can't follow this sanctions [policy], because we need oil; where should we get the oil from?

Okay, so it happened. But the Germans even went further, because the Germans, they shut down the refinery in Schwedt. It's a place where there is a refinery. They will not have any Russian oil. Okay, well, that was a lot of problem, of course, and in Germany, it goes without saying. And what did they do (Germany)? Okay, they went to Rotterdam to buy on the spot market, which is much, much more expensive than the oil that we got from Russia. And they got some oil from where? From India, a refinery in India. And they found some supertankers. (You know, it's very good for [the] climate, because they were very old and so on.) And then they brought the oil from India all the way around the globe to Rotterdam. And then it was brought from Rotterdam, various ways, to Germany. And where did India get the oil from? Yeah, have a guess – from Russia. Hurrah! And the Green Party was very concerned about the climate.

So, I think it tells volumes about the stupidity of European support for those sanctions, because, consider: If you have a conflict with your wife or husband or your neighbor, and you're very angry with your neighbor or your husband, and then you want to do something really bad to your neighbor: you take a hammer and smash yourself in your head. So maybe it's not a matter for economists, historians; maybe it's a matter for psychologists, because some psychologists, some, I would not say “diagnosis” [clinical condition – ed.], because when I discuss with people who have other points [of view] than mine, I do not want to say to them, “You have a diagnosis.” But we're talking about these sanctions. It doesn't make any kind of sense. It's pure stupidity.

And I think those who can see it very well are people of Africa, people of the Middle East and India. And I am lucky we have people from those parts of the world who can bring some kind of sense to us. I say, dear me, what are you doing? Because when we can hear people from India, from Africa, they are asking us, what can you do? I was actually at a conference in Moscow in August last year, and there were very few from the Western Europe. I was one of them. There was a German, a Norwegian; I don't remember, very few. There was a lot of people from what you call the Global South, and they were asking me – I was a very special person – they asked me, ‘Why are you doing this? Why you are making this sanction? Because it's detrimental to yourself.’ Well, I'm not a politician. I had no answer for that.

And, of course, which we also heard today, Russia is far from isolated, because how could you not have foreseen that? Could you not have predicted that making these sanctions on oil and gas will mean that prices would rise? I think even people in primary school will find out about that. But politicians could not really find out that and anyone knows here that Russia is far from isolated in its trade with India, China, African countries, Middle East and so on, very actively. So it's like we in Europe, we do not see it, and we do not want to see it. Maybe I'll turn to that. Maybe it's because we have this very old colonial way of thinking.

(Okay, I said I'll make it short. I will just speed a little bit up.)

Well, I will just say there's been several peace negotiations between Russia and Ukraine. Not many people in my country know about that. There has been peace negotiations with Turkey, Israel, Italy, and, of course, China. African countries have been involved. And it was last year. And even more interesting is that former Prime Minister of Israel Naftali Bennett said he led the negotiations, and he said Ukrainians and Russians were very interested in making a peace agreement.

But United Kingdom, United States of America, European Union and even Germany were against it. Why? I'm talking about Germany. I know about United Kingdom and the European Union, USA. But Germany, where you have one of my heroes, Willy Brandt, and Egon Bahr, who made this *ostpolitik*, the east politic of Germany [during the Cold War – ed.]. But to handle it means something like a change to trade. But we live in a country where peace is a dirty word. You're not allowed to say peace. If you say peace, you are a Putin agent.

So, I think things are changing now, because I would just briefly mention this Rand Corporation, which made a very interesting analysis, which called for avoiding war. And it actually says now, is it really worth it for America? Does it really matter where the borders are in Ukraine between Russia and Ukraine? No, not really. We have other challenges in America. It's very, very interesting. I think it might change something, because it's so stupid; this policy is impossible.

So finally, I'll just briefly outline four principles, which I think would be very important for a future European policy.

A European policy should be grounded in reality and not on absolutist and simplistic black-and-white narratives. It should be concrete. Secondly, it should be able to define national interest. We are not really being able to in the European Union, not in in my country, Denmark, even though we have we have a problem ourselves with Greenland. I will not dive into that. But we should we should really be clear what is our national interest.

Thirdly, I think European Union countries should step down from their positions of superiority and engage with all our civilization on an equal footing. Including in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, and others, Latin America as well. The condescending approach toward non-Western countries is partly a relic of the colonial era, even though many of the politicians of the European Union will say that they are really in front of defending human rights and they are really opposed to racism; I think there's some racism here. You could see here, and the European Union could learn a lot from cooperation in the BRICs, because in the BRICs there are no real arrogant attitudes. It's not so that the Chinese look down upon the others and that the Russians would do it. I haven't noticed any [such] thing. And of course, European Union countries should forget about this unquestioning commitment to United States foreign policy. It is a dead end to go there. We should find some other ways.

Some of [those] here will have different points of view of a lot of things. But those four principles I think, would be very, very basic for what I hope will be a new European policy in the world. Thank you.

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**Celani:** Thank you, gents. Before we go to the discussion, we have one contribution by Mathias Werner, who is the head of the East German Kuratorium vor Verband. (Must be an English translation here. No, it's not.) And this, in a shortened form, will be read by Klaus Friedman. Thank you.

**Klaus Friedman:** This is from Dr. Matthias Werner, who is the president of the East German Board of Trustees of Associations, the OKV in Germany. It's an umbrella organization for some 20 different organizations, of which we heard Mr. Lemke this morning. And this is now a greeting from the from the president of the association, in somewhat shortened form.

Dr. Matthias Werner

### **Greetings to the Conference**

*Dr. Werner is President of the East German Board of Trustees of Associations (OKV), Germany.*

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Presidium of the East German Board of Trustees of Associations, I convey warm greetings to the participants of the conference of the Schiller Institute in Strasbourg.

I also speak on behalf of Lieutenant General (ret.) Manfred Grätz and Major General (ret.) Sebald Daum, leading military officers of the first German peace state, the GDR, who have expressed their views on the war in Ukraine and on arms deliveries to Ukraine in letters. They expressly asked me to tell the attendees of today's high-level meeting that they stand more than ever by the position they expressed in the letters and sincerely wish the conference every success.

The war in Ukraine began for most politicians of the "Western community of values" on February 24, 2022. With this view, according to the will of the USA, no way to peace can and should be found, Russia should be "ruined," in the words of the German Foreign Minister, and the USA wants to fight to the last Ukrainian. This development was pursued, planned and directed over the long term, systematically and actively from the outside.

In 1992, shortly after the collapse of the Soviet Union, a Pentagon strategy paper already stated: "Our first objective is to prevent the [re-]emergence of a new rival, whether on the territory of the former Soviet Union or elsewhere, that poses a threat of the magnitude that the Soviet Union used to pose. ... We must try to prevent any hostile power from dominating a region whose resources – under consolidated control – would be sufficient to create a world power position. Such regions are Western Europe, East Asia, the territory of the former Soviet Union, and Southwest Asia."

Lest there be any mistake, Russia in Europe and China in Asia are being stylized as the main enemy by the warmongering mob of the main imperialist forces of the U.S. and its vassals in NATO.

The U.S. and European Union (EU) powers pursued a policy of interference in the internal affairs of Ukraine, promoted the fascist Bandera groups and pursued the policy of eastward expansion of NATO directly to the Russian borders. Their declared goal is regime change in Russia. For this purpose, a proxy war of the USA against Russia was prepared in public by intensive armament of Ukraine. Finally, a culmination point has been reached where Russia's existence in its current form is acutely endangered.

The western ideologues present the events in an isolated and deliberately one-sided way, and thus distort them. It is suppressed that the conflicts in Ukraine are a component of the current

geopolitical processes – in addition to the social and economic world-wide processes. An image is conveyed according to which the USA and those who bow to it are the good guys. All others are the bad guys. And Russia as well as the People's Republic of China are the incarnation of the devil!

This image has been worked out by paid think tanks and NGOs and is being disseminated en masse by the media.

We have expressed our opinion on the disputes between Russia and Ukraine. That is why we demand: Understanding, peace and mutually beneficial cooperation with Russia and between all peoples and nations. We demand the recognition of the legitimacy of Russia's security interests, because this coincides with the interests of other nations and peoples and helps to create favorable conditions for peace, security and equal cooperation for mutual benefit. From the German government we demand a policy that serves this humanistic concern and thwarts the realization of U.S. hegemonic goals.

Stop and dismantle the word-breaking NATO expansion to the East. Stop the militarization of the countries of Eastern Europe.

Let us work out and implement a common program of the willing for peace in Germany and an action program for its realization! Never again fascism, never again war!

Do everything against imperialist power politics and every form of fascist tendencies in politics.

It goes without saying that the OKV will participate and contribute to all the initiatives that are being organized and carried out to secure peace everywhere and to oppose neoliberal social cuts in Europe.

I wish the conference a good course. May its results be a further step towards peace and understanding between peoples.

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### **Audience and Panel Dialogue**

**Celani:** So we have reached now the moment which everybody of you has waited for. The floor is open for debate questions. We will be accepting questions not only for this panel, but, as I said, also for the first panel this morning. We don't have a lot of time. I'm told that we need the room for a rehearsal. So we have ten minutes. The gentlemen here.

**Question:** Thank you very much for these brilliant interventions. But this time, I think it's much of a question focused on Europe, I think, as many other European citizens, that I can say that most people of the citizens here that I have spoken to, are not only against this war, but also against the militarization of the whole zone, but on the spot, we don't see an obvious

manifestation to denounce this militarization, outside of the Schiller Institute. Maybe I'm not aware of all of them, but I'd like to know how can we explain the silence around this, the absence of other manifestations against the war?

**Celani:** Helga, would you like to answer?

**Zepp-LaRouche:** Yes. First of all, I want to congratulate all of you for your incredible patience to sit here in this heat and go through this long, long conference. And I apologize. We will try to remedy it tomorrow morning and have more discussion. We will appeal tomorrow to the speakers to be shorter, you know, and then have more lively discussions. So, I want to congratulate you for your courage and your patience. You are a fantastic audience for that reason alone.

Now to the answer to the question, I want to say, you know, we have started to fight against this. After the war started in April, we had a series of conferences which you can all see on the Internet. And out of that has grown quite powerful movement of quite different people – parliamentarians, former state government people, some of them you saw in video form today. But there are many, many more. And since about six weeks, we have started to create an international peace coalition. And the idea of it is, that we want to coordinate all peace movements worldwide, because you have peace movements in Germany, in the United States, in Washington, and in France, in Denmark. But then, you know, you don't hear anything anymore of it, because they are too small, they are not organized. So, the idea is that we will try to connect all the peace movements all over the world, including especially in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and that, you know, hopefully we can make that so powerful that you cannot overlook it anymore.

The next stage, which I want to inform all of you, is the 6th of August. This is the anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing, and the International Peace Coalition has had already five sort-of steering committee sessions, and we decided to have a big rally in front of the United Nations in New York, where many organizations have committed themselves to participate. The same people who did the Rage Against the War Machine demo in February, but we have now people from Africa, from Great Britain, from the United States, from Latin America, from Asia. And we are now contacting very consciously all organizations all over the world who are for peace. And we want to have a central event on the 6th in New York in front of the United Nations, but then have as many rallies all over the world as we can possibly organize. And that will only be one step, because that will be, you know, just the next moment to make it larger and become so powerful that we have an impact on the people who are now listening to the mainstream media. Because the problem, obviously, is that you have some alternative people who read the Internet, who are networking, but the people who are reading the mainstream media, who are reading *New York Times*, it is as if this world does not exist and they only listen to what they think is the reality.

And we have to make this peace movement so powerful that these mainstream [media that] influence people have no other way than to say, wait a second, what is this? You know, why are all these people in the street? And then we also have the very powerful method of interventions. I can only suggest that you go to the Internet, Schiller Institute or YouTube, and you look for José Vega or Kynan [Thistlewaite], but these are two young people from the United States who have developed, not invented, but they have rediscovered the method of intervention. You know, they go to a meeting and then they confront the politicians, saying, you are responsible for these policies. And key is to make a video and then this video goes viral. So they have now, in some cases, I think millions, tens of millions of viewers, and they are becoming quite famous. They are now being invited to the talk shows. So we are breaking through, so I can only invite all of you to join us because, you know, this is really, I think, the most promising thing we can do. Given the fact that the oligarchy is international, we have to be international as well.

**Celani:** We are reaching the limit, but I think we have time for one or two short questions. Well, Jacques, do you want to say something? Okay. Are there questions? The gentleman there maybe. And then after you – keep it short, please – and after you, Mrs. Zdanoka.

**Question:** Good afternoon. Recently I read this week, BRICS announced a gold-backed money being released. Do you expect this to be a game-changer, commercially speaking, worldwide, and either an accelerator or a game-changer also within the Ukrainian and Russian conflict?

**Celani:** You are a member of the European Parliament. You will speak tomorrow, right?

**Question:** Yes, I am. And I will speak tomorrow in the program. But Claudio, the question is to you, because you are moderator of this last session today, and the title is The Peace Movement Worldwide Above Party Lines. Being within political sphere of many parties, I think above party lines is more complicated just to unite, to go above party lines, to unite people from different parties, to work together for peace. The biggest problem, I guess.

**Question:** Thank you. I think Michele wants to answer the first question and maybe, Helga, you want to say something afterwards to Mr. Zdanoka or Jacques? Yeah. Okay. Michele, please.

**Geraci:** Thank you, Claudio. So the question, if I understood correctly, is the development of the BRICs currency as opposition to the dollar? Correct. I tell you my view, and I make it very simple, so, if there are economists here in the audience, please forgive me for being very simplistic about it. And I give you some figures. The dollar today accounts for about 43% of total world trade, [the] euro 37, and then nothing. So yen, renminbi, and pound, even [the] British pound is a little bit more. It's basically a US dollar-dominated issue. Now, if you move to a BRICs currency, there are two problems there, a very big problem. One is when the currency becomes an international currency, so it's used as a reserve currency. So, when there are wars and crises, people flock and buy it. It creates problems on the country. Balance of payments. So countries like China that have a net trade surplus would suffer, just like the US has a permanent trade deficit. Because what happens is, when the US has an economic crisis, normally countries

would devalue the currency to boost the export. But if the US is also a proxy for the world, when the US has a crisis, the whole world has a crisis. And when the world has a crisis, what do they do? They buy dollars, so the dollar goes up instead of going down. And so that creates a problem on the economy of the country. So, China does not want to have the renminbi to be an international currency. They talk about it, but they don't want to do it because it would create problems for their own economy. So, diluting it with the other five BRICs currencies, BRICs countries could be a solution to mitigate this effect. But the problem is, for example, [the] Indian rupiah. You know, Russia has sold a lot of oil to India, and now they don't know what to do with the rupiah, because they cannot buy anything from India, because India does not sell enough to the rest of this BRICS country that you can use the rupiah for.

So in short, the situation is very complicated, and I don't think there could be an immediate emergence of an alternative BRICs currency, because the dollar dominates it. The other countries, they talk, but they don't really want to do it. What you would see is, a growing user of this alternative currency for the incremental trade from now on. So any new trade, the trade grows about 3% per year. So you would see that 3% [is] being carved out by these new things. But think of it, even if you get 10, 20 percent, it's a 0.3, 0.4. And so the dollar loses 0.2 every year. So, I do not expect a dollar loss of importance in the short term, but very important – I repeat it – neither does China want its own currency to become an international currency. It's a very complex system, and China would never open up its current account to let a trader in Wall Street, you know, 25-year-old guy that pushes a button and puts the country on its knee. Because remember, every day you have 5 trillion US dollars of currency trade in the world. So 5 trillion US dollars is twice-and-a-half the economy of Italy, that changes hands in 24 hours. So there is nothing that central banks can do if they let Wall Street run their own currency, which then means the interest rate curve, the value of the renminbi. It's completely – it's the evil for a Marxist state-run economy like China is. Thank you, Claudio.

**Cheminade:** Now, I'd like to have a last word here. Today is the 80th anniversary of the death of Jean Moulin, the great resistor, who was tortured by the Nazis. And I would like that everyone thinks about those who have who died for the cause of freedom. Jean Moulin. Martin Luther King. The Kennedy brothers. Usually we ask for a minute of silence; that's not what I'm going to ask. I would also ask what to think of all those who were unjustly thrown into prison, like Lyndon LaRouche. But what I would like you to do, is to really reflect on the wise words of Helga Zepp-LaRouche and what she said today. We don't want people to come here to listen to beautiful words, but to actually commit themselves and to think about what was said here and to become active. Thank you.

**Celani:** Thank you, Jacques. I think we close now by a very short, very short intervention by Diane, because she was involved in organizing a demonstration above party line, so she can tell us briefly about her experience.

**Sare:** I would say more important to remember what Jacques said, merely, the parties are a really big problem, and I'm dealing with that in the United States, running as an independent because people are so worried about saving their separate party that they have not been willing to create a coalition. So, it's a problem, and we will overcome it if we do what Jacques said.

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## Panel 4

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### A Culture To Emancipate and Expand the Creative Capacities of Every Human Being: A Dialogue Among Cultures and Civilizations

**Moderator Karel Vereyken:** (*Introduction, choral performance.*)

Prof. Luc Reychler

#### What Would Erasmus Say About Peace in Ukraine?

*Prof. Reychler is Professor Emeritus of International Relations, University of Louvain; former Director, Center for Peace Research and Strategic Studies (CPRS), Belgium.*

Good morning. Thanks for giving me some of your precious time and a beautiful auditorium. In my presentation I will share an analysis of the current war in Europe and reflect on how Desiderius Erasmus would deal with it.

As one of the greatest scholars of the Renaissance, Erasmus highlighted the folly of religious wars (folly is the pursuit of a policy contrary to the welfare of the people of the states involved), and took on the establishment of his time, whether princes or popes. Their excuses for going to war, were criticized and satirized in writings, as “In Praise of Folly” and “The Complaint of Peace.” He gave peace a voice. His comments, of nearly 500 years ago, are still relevant today, because, although wars are unique, and historically and culturally different, they are universally similar. Wars and counterwars purposefully commit atrocities. (Counterwars are fought against the country that started a war). People, above all the soldiers, are still slaughtered, pierced, burned, shredded, suffocated, tortured, pillaged, etc. And, violence committed during war, is applauded, called righteous and patriotic; the soldiers, dead or alive, get praised with medals. Erasmus warned that wars are attractive for people who have no experience or knowledge about war. His disgust with war is well expressed in the citation “*Dulce bellum inexpertis,*” or “War is sweet for the inexperienced.”

Before zooming in to the war in Ukraine through Erasmus’s glasses, let me focus on some facets of the war, which are not part of the official discourse in the West. I must say, I’ve studied war since 50 years. So what I’ll try to give is my analysis of the Ukrainian war. So if you add those facets, at least eight facets, you get a much more balanced, comprehensive and impartial picture.

1. The war was anticipated. Several diplomats and scholars, including myself, expected a war. For example, in 2008, during the George Bush Presidency, William Burns, Ambassador to Russia, who later served as director of the CIA, cautioned that the expansion of NATO to

Georgia and Ukraine would have deadly consequences. It would be the brightest of all red lines and create fertile soil for Russian meddling in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine.

2. The war could have been prevented. The West, especially America, made war prevention difficult by (a) her expansionist foreign policy, especially in the 21st century (b) reducing the art of diplomacy to coercive diplomacy and regime change, and (c) underestimating the risks and costs of an escalating proxy war. Hans Morgenthau's political realism was replaced by neoconservatism that urged democratic states to establish a new international order through military power, sanctions and regime change. So it was anticipated. It was not prevented.

3. Russia started the war and is the main culprit, but the West and Kyiv are co-responsible. There are several indicators of co-responsibility. In 1990 Ukraine defined itself as a neutral country; the country would not become a member of an alliance. NATO would not expand to Ukraine. During the first 24 years of the independence, Ukraine did not experience war. The American interference in the domestic politics of Ukraine, in the name of regime change, was well underway before the Maidan revolution. This meddling in domestic affairs and NATO's stealthy expansion threatened Russia's objective and subjective security. Russia spoke of its existential security. The US and NATO ignored the security issue, arguing that the alliance is peaceful and defensive. This public confession is painfully dissonant with the many wars that America, her allies and NATO waged in the 21st Century in the Middle East and Europe (in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, and in Serbia to support in 1999 Kosovo separatist movement). The increasing political and geographical expansion of NATO to the Russian borders presented Russia with a crisis and a dilemma: to allow this to happen or to stop the expansion in time and thus avoid a 'fait accomplis.'

4. There is not enough space for an open discussion in Russia, Ukraine and in the West. An impartial, open and critical discussion about prevention and co-responsibility would have contributed to a sound analysis and forecast, and a rational and realistic policy. It would significantly increase the chances of serious peace negotiations. In Russia, a critical conversation about the war and the eight years of civil war in Ukraine that preceded it, is impossible. That is also the case in Ukraine. In the public spaces of the free and democratic West, all the noses are expected to point in the same direction. An open and critical discussion is discouraged by 'groupthink.' This is a political-psychological phenomenon that prioritizes agreement and discourages critical commentary and alternatives. Characteristics are: the illusion of infallibility, the conviction that one's own morality prevails, the rationalization of one's own decisions; the stereotyping or diabolizing [demonizing—ed] the opponent, and pressure and sanctions to enforce conformity. This climate of groupthink undermines the chances of successful and cost-effective decision-making and forms a one-sided and narrowly informed public opinion. In wars, pacifists and peace researchers tend to be sidelined, sanctioned and stigmatized as traitors, dreamers or psychological deviants. And also, if you look at the universities, the

academics, they are quite silent. Because there is still promotion, and you need funding for research, and it can be influenced by your position.

5. The war in Ukraine is a vicious entanglement of an internal-war and a proxy-war with escalatory potential. There was an internal war. Of course it was internationalized. It's an escalation of an eight-year-long civil war in a pluri-national country. Fortunately, so far, it has remained a limited war, taking place within the borders of Ukraine. The war and counter-war has created a lot of suffering and destruction. It's a mega media event. Diplomacy is down. President Zelinsky turned out to be a stand-up diplomat and appears almost daily at conferences or in the living room. It is a cynical war, for which the population and the front soldiers are paying. The Donets Basin in the East has been, for nine years, the most blood-soaked area.

6. The costs are high. During a war it is always difficult to find good statistics; they are usually rude and not reliable. The numbers are part of the psychological warfare. For example, not much attention is given to the casualties and destruction during the preceding (internationalized) civil and secession war in the Donbas. On April 9, 2018, the *Washington Post* reported that the Donbas was one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world. After five years of fighting, more than 10,000 people were killed, 2,800 of them civilians. The war destroyed – and this is the war before the war that we are talking about – the infrastructure and a third of the hospitals and schools, homes and election facilities. The number of refugees and displaced citizens was very high.

I want to talk about the current estimations of casualties and people who were killed. The problem before, however, are not only the huge costs. Normally we just do not only talk about the physical costs, the material costs, the economic costs, but also the social costs, political costs, psychological, spiritual, ecological, etcetera. But also the real and the expected benefits and profits. I would say, or at least I found out, that wars last as long as they are considered profitable by the main protagonists.

7. The war logic prevails. No serious efforts have been undertaken to boost the chances of de-escalation and the building of sustainable peace. Humanitarians and hawks continue to ask for more guns and more war. NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg's one-liner, "Weapons are the way to peace," is a fitting title for a surrealist painting of Magritte.

The war looks like a huge cage fight, in which the outsider-supporters are safe spectators who empower the fighters and encourage them to win.

8. This is my last remark on the war. The war will probably end as a lose-lose operation. Violence may continue for a long time, intensify and even lead to a regional and a third world or nuclear war. The loss is not only for the Ukrainians and fighters on both sides of the battlefield (mostly young men, 40 to 50 percent of whom have no military experience), but also

for the whole of Europe. For some spectators in the rest of the world, the war is a European tragicomedy.

Now, much more important is, how would Erasmus respond to the wars in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and especially this war? And I tried to cluster what I think would be his comments in five groups.

First, I think, he would criticize and satirize the excuses for ongoing war; for example, the misrepresentation of the war as the defense of democracy and of the democratic world. He would also tackle the propaganda on both sides. Above all, he would point at the stupidity of the war and the hubris and mediocracy of the warmongers. Only wise people build sustainable peace. He would remind us that modern and smart weapons have not reduced the actual and potential atrocities of the war; and the weapons of mass destruction are waiting around the corner. Erasmus would also be a whistleblower and name the princes and kings, and the war profiteers who are responsible for the war. And as I said, 500 years ago he said that what cannot be refuted by argument and fact, can at least be passed by laughter.

So this is the first comment. He would really focus on the stupidity of the war. The second remark would remind us of his observation that war is attractive for people who have no experience of war or are not directly experienced in the consequences of it.

As a constructive pacifist, he would add peace-work to his critical analysis. This implies demanding a cessation of the war, because he considers peace to be more precious than the pursuit of triumph, and a frozen conflict less destructive, less costly and less dangerous than a protracted war. The cessation of the war would go hand in hand with the re-establishment of communication and peace negotiations, but also with development. And to convince his audience, assuming it knows the recent history of at least the 20th Century, he would refer to the Korean War, which was a lose-lose war. Let's end it with a cease-fire. And one of the countries, South Korea, that negotiated the cease-fire, also decided to develop itself fast and use all its talents to become a prosperous country.

So, as South Korea reminds us, you would say that it is not who wins the war, but who wins the peace, that determines their future. So a ceasefire in Ukraine, combined with efforts to win the peace, could probably be a formula to end the war.

Erasmus stresses the relation between education and peace. He would recommend that the Erasmian program for education, training, youth and sports, also give attention to the education of sustainable peace building and the prevention of wars.

Finally, he would encourage people to take part in the building of sustainable peace. This may sound like a dream. But as he said 500 years ago, he would remind us that "there are some people who live in a dream world, and there are some who face reality; and then there are those who turn one into the other. I assume that most of us belong to the latter. A category trying to turn one into the other.

Let me just end by saying that Erasmus was, for me, a source of courage to speak out, because, as an emeritus, I thought, I've studied so many wars, why don't I just give up? But listening to Erasmus really was a big source of courage.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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Liliana Gorini**'Pacem in Terris' and a Civilization of Love**

*Ms. Gorini is Chairwoman of Movisol, LaRouche's movement in Italy*

I am very sorry that I could not attend the conference in person, as I was hoping to. Many of you may remember me from the last conference in memory of Lyn in 2019, which I did attend, because there was a car driving me to it. Some of you know me for the work I did with Helga and Lyndon LaRouche in 1988 on the first Verdi tuning conference in Milan, where I live. Unfortunately, in the last year Rigoletto's *maledizione* [curse – ed.] seems to have hit me, and I am unable to travel for health reasons. Helga asked me to send a message to you all, and I thought that given the present dramatic situation we all experience in Europe, with our European governments bluntly ignoring the will of their people and going for war, I should quote two giants of my country, Italy, to spark a glimmer of hope: one is Giuseppe Verdi, the Italian composer, and the other one is Pope John XXIII, whose encyclical letter "Pacem in Terris" (Peace on Earth) published on April 11, 1963, was then translated into Russian and English, and it was key to the peace process between President John F. Kennedy and [Soviet Premier] Nikita Khrushchev in Russia, as it was recognized at a recent conference in Rome, at the Ara Pacis, on the 60th anniversary of JFK's famous peace speech at the American University.

In a recent statement as chairwoman of Movisol, in support of the referendum in Italy to stop sending weapons to Ukraine, based on the Italian Constitution, I strongly denounced Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, who, at the G7 in Hiroshima, hand in hand with President Joe Biden, had the audacity to speak of "peace" while they are both preparing for war with Russia and China, including nuclear war. I was reminded of the words used by Giuseppe Verdi in his opera "Don Carlos" (inspired by Friedrich Schiller), in which Don Rodrigo tells King Philip of Spain that his so-called "peace" for the Flanders is a "horrible, horrible peace, the peace of graves" ("*orrenda, orrenda pace, la pace dei sepolcri!*"). A very similar expression was used by JFK during his speech at American University, when he said that he did not want a "pax americana, a peace of graves" but a true peace for all people and all times.

Pope John XXIII shared JFK's view. In his encyclical letter, he was very clear about the fact that building armaments may only lead to a third world war, and only a treaty for disarmament, like the one promoted a few months later by JFK, could prevent this danger. He wrote,

There is a common belief that under modern conditions peace cannot be assured except on the basis of an equal balance of armaments and that this factor is the probable cause of this stockpiling of armaments. Thus, if one country increases its military strength, others are immediately roused by a competitive spirit to augment their own supply of armaments. And if one country is equipped with atomic

weapons, others consider themselves justified in producing such weapons themselves, equal in destructive force.

Consequently people are living in the grip of constant fear. They are afraid that at any moment the impending storm may break upon them with horrific violence. And they have good reasons for their fear, for there is certainly no lack of such weapons. While it is difficult to believe that anyone would dare to assume responsibility for initiating the appalling slaughter and destruction that war would bring in its wake, there is no denying that the conflagration could be started by some chance and unforeseen circumstance. Moreover, even though the monstrous power of modern weapons does indeed act as a deterrent, there is reason to fear that the very testing of nuclear devices for war purposes can, if continued, lead to serious danger for various forms of life on earth.

“Hence justice, right reason, and the recognition of man’s dignity cry out insistently for a cessation to the arms race. The stock-piles of armaments which have been built up in various countries must be reduced all round and simultaneously by the parties concerned. Nuclear weapons must be banned. A general agreement must be reached on a suitable disarmament program, with an effective system of mutual control. In the words of Pope Pius XII: ‘The calamity of a world war, with the economic and social ruin and the moral excesses and dissolution that accompany it, must not on any account be permitted to engulf the human race for a third time.’”

His final prayer reminds us also of the Peace of Westphalia, often quoted by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, and the concept of forgiveness:

Let us, then, pray with all fervor for this peace which our divine Redeemer came to bring us. May He banish from the souls of men whatever might endanger peace. May He transform all men into witnesses of truth, justice and brotherly love. May He illumine with His light the minds of rulers, so that, besides caring for the proper material welfare of their peoples, they may also guarantee them the fairest gift of peace.

Finally, may Christ inflame the desires of all men to break through the barriers which divide them, to strengthen the bonds of mutual love, to learn to understand one another, and to pardon those who have done them wrong. Through His power and inspiration may all peoples welcome each other to their hearts as brothers, and may the peace they long for ever flower and ever reign among them.

Therefore, may Pope John XXIII, JFK and Giuseppe Verdi inspire all of us to fight for a true peace, which only comes from respecting and developing the rest of the world.

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Maurizio Abbate

## **Culture Is the Key for Peace**

*Mr. Abbate is Chairman of ENAC, National Institute for Cultural Activities, Italy*

Dear friends and colleagues from around the world,

We are gathered here today to seek, with all our strength, useful ideas and solutions to resolve the terrible armed conflict that has been raging in the old continent for almost a year-and-a-half. A fratricidal war capable of bringing death and destruction among the civilians in the territories directly involved and a very serious economic and financial crisis in the rest of the world, due to a system of speculation implemented with unprecedented wickedness by the food and energy multinationals. Corporations often controlled by the same masters.

We are well aware that giants such as Vanguard and BlackRock share a majority of the shares of agribusiness multinationals through Monsanto, Cargill and Dupont. The same hold today in Ukraine about 19 million hectares of land devoted to intensive agriculture, which corresponds to 60 percent of Ukrainian agricultural land. Similarly, 100 percent of Ukrainian mines are now owned by multinationals. To ask why war broke out in this part of Europe, starting from those simple figures, therefore seems superfluous.

The important thing, therefore, is not to analyze the causes of the conflict, but rather to try to understand how was it possible that the American public, as well as the European public, always attentive to the problem of peace, thanks to their peace movements, are today almost numbed by what is happening.

War is peace. Freedom is slavery. Ignorance is strength. These were the slogans engraved on the facade of the Ministry of Truth described in George Orwell's famous novel. This year, the European Union, in an almost grotesque way, has created a Peace Instrument to allocate nearly €8 billion for the purchase of weapons. Buying weapons to prevent conflict and build peace – this is stated, prominently, on the European council's website. Almost a parallel to the Orwellian Ministry of Truth.

If an institution such as the European Union can alter the foundations of freedoms, that is, the truth, by characterizing the supply of weapons, tools for killing, as useful tools for building peace, then the cultural and moral degradation of the institutions, as well as that of the media that should be exposing such lies, has become self-evident.

Unfortunately, what I have previously stated about the concentration of food and energy production in the hands of a few powerholders is also true for political institutions, the media, as well as those in charge of education. Culture, which, emulating the teachings of Socrates and Plato, should be concerned with developing thoughts and indicating the models of society to be

built in order to achieve nobler goals, such as general welfare and solidarity among peoples, is constantly downgraded to a kind of unimportant fashion. Such principles, at the same time, are subordinated to the interests of a few economic powers who have made contemporary society a huge market of precariousness in which everything can be sold or bought. Even the right to life.

A society in which social cohesion is being progressively demolished and upon which continuous alleged emergencies are being imposed, such as climate, health and finance, capable of altering national choices in agriculture, crafts, industry and society.

Therefore, the time has come to stop this neo-barbaric drift caused by the globalization of economy and culture.

A new social and cultural Renaissance must be initiated. To do so, a new paradigm is urgently needed for our Western communities, which must definitively abandon the principle of business as the centerpiece of society and put man with his material and spiritual complexity back at its center. Politics must redefine a harmonious system in which every man and woman has his or her own role in a synergistic and organic way. A society in which human beings must be judged and valued for who they are, for the values they express and succeed in embodying, rather than for what they possess. Only in this way can individual nations, free, independent, self-determined and with their own specificities, become communities again and contribute to the global growth of all humanity.

The differences and peculiarities of peoples, generated by centuries of history and different cultures, must become the driving force to build a constructive dialogue for peaceful coexistence. A dialogue that leads to an equitable distribution of the resources of the planet on which we all live and which are often the cause of armed clashes and unprecedented violence due to the criminal desire to concentrate them in the hands of a few.

As we develop this thesis and try to involve all those who share its aims, however, strong and persuasive signals must be sent out. It is imperative to make it clear to the world that so many free people, not only have no intention of bowing to the deliberate decisions autocratically made by globalist elites, but are ready for a global change of the paradigm imposed until now by those who believe themselves to be the absolute masters.

Confronted with the holders of the major global media in a now imminent head-on clash, networking is needed. It is necessary to organize as many events as possible and use every single television, computer or radio channel to spread the news. Inviting foreign guests to local events must also become a habit capable of disrupting the mantra that only globalization can guarantee freedom, pluralism and democracy.

ENAC, the National Institute for Cultural Activities in Italy, which I am proud to represent, is organizing a conference in Italy with the aim of re-establishing relations between Syria and Italy. Economic and cultural relations that were interrupted for mere political interests and have

not been reopened even in the aftermath of the dramatic earthquake that caused thousands of civilian casualties in Turkey and Syria.

At this conference, in which we would be happy to welcome any of those present today, who would like to participate, we intend to send a clear and unequivocal message: While liberalism talks about peace and democracy causing wars and building walls, we respond with the strength of culture, the only one capable of guaranteeing and respecting individual differences while working on building a bridge made of friendship, solidarity and cooperation among peoples.

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Tatjana Zdanoka

## **On Demonization of Russian Culture**

*Ms. Zdanoka is a Member of the European Parliament, Latvia*

All, of course, thanks to organizers and thanks for inviting me in this excellent event, and the opportunity to speak on a very, very painful problem. But a few words about the topic of this panel in general.

We used to say, “Don’t bring me, My God, to live during an era of big changes.” But we are living during an era of big changes now.

The methods of management focused on unifying the population of Europe and the world according to values of “homo economicus” – the self-sufficient rational consumer – are enduring a systemic crisis. “The economic person” is not even an abstraction, it is a reduction, a flat projection of one of a set of measurements of any human being. The reality is that all people – West Europeans, East Europeans, the Chinese, Indians or Russians – cannot be reduced to the sum of their economic requirements and to functioning as consumers of goods and the benefits.

Each person exists only in the interrelations and the relations with other people, and these communications are irreducible to mutually advantageous or mutually acceptable economic exchange. These are social and political communications – belonging to language, culture, national or subnational community or to religious community. Both these communications and interests are unrealizable out of community, out of political space.

The following phenomenon is evident: with the growth of integration on the contrary, awareness of the originality increases. There is the known mathematical rule: the process of integration must be accompanied by the process of differentiation.

I often working in the European Parliament, where there is a big hall dedicated to [violinist] Yehudi Menuhin, and I had the opportunity to participate in his activities as creator of the Special Fund for Cultures of European Minorities. And his words during one of the events were as follows: “Either Europe will become the Europe of cultures, or Europe will die.”

The title of my intervention is “On Demonization of Russian Culture.” There is no need to argue that the EU is infected with Russophobia. Here is just one single example out of thousands.

You see in this slide the invitation to the discussion “Pushing Pushkin: the imperialism and decolonization of Russian culture” co-hosted by Rasa Juknevičienė, Member of the European Parliament (MEP) from Lithuania, and Raphaël Glucksmann, MEP from France. The main idea promoted by the organizers and guests of that discussion is that Russia has always used and continues to use any work of culture as a “weapon of colonization,” and therefore, the policy of

exclusion for Russian culture must be carried out in my state, Latvia, as well as in all three Baltic states. The burning hatred towards everything Russian is irrational and caused by a state inferiority-complex of national elites. It's my opinion, of course.

At this moment, the Russian minority of Latvia is on the verge of a catastrophe under the blows of the decisions taken by the ruling politicians, who represent exclusively the national majority. Since last spring, the situation has deteriorated significantly. The war in Ukraine served as a signal for new persecution of the Russian-speakers of Latvia.

Four years ago, my colleague Inese Vaidere, a member of the European Parliament from Latvia, denounced me to the State Security Service for publicly stating that Russians in Latvia felt like Jews on the eve of World War II (saying that we cannot compare [the two], the situation of Jews in Germany was worse). Now another colleague, Sandra Kalniete, calmly tweets that “we should take advantage of the window of opportunity” that has opened to solve issues important to “our people,” first of all, the elimination of education in Russian and the demolition of the Monuments to the Liberators of Latvia from the Nazi invaders.

Ethnic Russians make up 25% of the population of Latvia, the Russian-speaking linguistic minority makes up 37% of the country's population. This part of the country's population is of mixed origin – some represent the descendants of the citizens of the Republic of Latvia from the period 1918-1940, and some represent the labor migrants of the Soviet era. There are approximately 25% of Russian-speaking citizens among the voters of the country, since 12% of Russian-speaking permanent residents remain in a status close to the status of a stateless person and cannot vote.

When speaking about a “window of opportunity,” the Latvian colleague supposed, “[W]e can now achieve our goals without much international attention.” What are those goals? [They encompass] a full-scale campaign by the Latvian authorities to dehumanize, suppress and marginalize the country's Russian-speaking population. Latvian society is sinking in the wave of hate speech in the mainstream media and social networks. Columnists and commentators openly compare Russian-speaking compatriots with “animals,” a “fifth column” and “aggressive occupiers.” One of the members of National Parliament (Saeima) of the ruling coalition party openly called for ethnic cleansing, aimed at increasing the proportion of ethnic Latvians in the country's population. The signatures are collected on a petition for the expulsion of “disloyal citizens” from the country and deprivation of their Latvian citizenship, as well as on a petition for a ban on my party, the Latvian Russian Union, standing for the protection of the rights of Russian-speaking minority.

The European Union nominally has an instrument to combat this kind of manifestation. This is the Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism. This document does not have direct effect – it obligates the states to criminalize the respective acts in their legislation. And the Latvian Criminal Code has

an article punishing incitement to national, ethnic and racial hatred. The crux of the matter is that this article is only selectively applied in my country.

Appeals to the police and state security bodies regarding the use of hate speech and calls for violence against Russian-speaking residents of Latvia are fruitless. Consistent refusals to initiate criminal proceedings are coming in. At the same time, charges of allegedly inciting hatred against the titular population have been brought against several journalists writing in Russian, the most prominent of them being Yuri Alekseev and Vladimir Linderman.

The Government has prepared a package of initiatives to destroy memorials dedicated to the soldiers of the Soviet army who liberated Latvia from Nazi occupation during World War II. About 150 thousand Soviet soldiers died in the battles for the liberation of Latvia. In almost every family of Russian-speaking Latvians and in many Latvian families, the memory of the victims of the war and the ancestors who fought on the side of the anti-Hitler coalition is preserved. Through this initiative, people are deprived of the opportunity to preserve the memory of their families.

Thanks to the efforts of our party, complaints were submitted to the UN Human Rights Committee and a temporary settlement was requested, i.e., a ban on the demolition of eight monuments until the complaints were finalized. All these requests were granted. However, the government ignored the UN HRC's decision, stating that it was advisory in nature. During last summer and autumn, more than 70 monuments to the liberators of Latvia from German fascist occupiers were dismantled, despite the decisions of the UN Human Rights Committee obliging Latvia to refrain from demolition.

I was among those who addressed the Committee. Fate so decreed that the land on which one of the monuments stood belonged to my ancestors, victims of the Holocaust, a Jewish family killed during Nazi occupiers. It is the monument to Alosha in the city of Rezekne, in the eastern part of Latvia (former Vitebsk Guberniya). Many people know Vitebsk by Marc Chagall. My grandmother was studying in Saint Petersburg University together with Marc Chagall, and she then lived in Russia and remained alive – only one of the whole family being in Latvia and being persecuted as Jews.

In addition to the demolition of the World War II monuments, the authorities have recently taken on other sites. You see in this slide the sculpture of Pushkin in one of the parks in Riga which was recently demolished.

The fight against monuments of the past continues with repressions against people living in Latvia today. Some of the elderly people are at risk of becoming illegals. The new retroactive norm provides annulment, in the case of bad knowledge of the Latvian language, of the permanent residence permission for those who acquired the citizenship of Russia. But most grave consequences of the use of “window of opportunity” affect the young generation. The ongoing destruction of minority education started in 1995 (higher education), continued in 2004

(secondary education) and 2018 (primary education). The latest amendments to the Education Laws in the Republic of Latvia are deemed to abolish the education in Russian language in total. It will apply both for public and private schools.

I will conclude my intervention with the fragment of the video clip produced by our team in 2003 when the mass protests of Russian-speakers against education reform started. With the kind permission of Roger Waters, the fragments of the famous Pink Floyd clip were used.

So, we continue to fight, and we believe that the wall of prohibition of minority education in Europe will finally be ended, because we are truly standing for the rights of cultures. And one of them is just our right of Russian speakers to have education in our native language. Thank you.

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Liz Augustat

## **World Peace Based on Universal Ethics**

*Ms. Augustat is President of Peace through Culture Europe, Germany*

Peace through Culture is an organization whose main target is to build bridges between ethnics, countries, religions, traditions and different worldviews. Focused on our function as an inspirer and connector, we have organized numerous conferences in Kazakhstan and other Eurasian countries. Looking back to our World Congress under the title “Towards Spiritual Concord” in Almaty with more than 1500 attendees, which was supported greatly by the then-President Nursultan Nazarbayev I especially remember the late Prof. Dr. Dr. H.C. Hans Peter Dürr, the world-renowned German quantum physicist, director of the famous Max-Planck-Institute for Physics, and winner of the Alternative Nobel Prize, who so often enriched us with his participation and insights. Our joint conversations are partially reflected in my contribution.

Nuclear physicists are eagerly following the basic question on what is holding our world together at its core. So Prof. Dürr also asked himself what actually is behind matter. He split matter into smaller and smaller parts hoping to eventually find the essence. But after 50 years of research, he came to the astonishing conclusion: The essence does not lie in matter, but actually does not even exist in the way we thought. What we think matter is, actually is vibration and energy, it is a structure of relations.

Reality is quite different from what we have imagined it to be so far. Expressed in modern language there is no physical matter/hardware at the beginning, but only idea and software. In other words, and with the help of logics, it follows that the so-called “physical or gross matter” and the so-called “subtle matter” are two sides of the same coin, an inseparable unity of spirit and matter. This statement, so far assigned to the area of spirituality, is now getting substantiated scientifically by quantum physics step by step and is likely to radiate into all areas of society in the future.

Our world is the One and the Whole and cannot be dissected. This fact leads to fantastic consequences, because if we include ourselves in this world, we are distinguishable, but not separate. We are all part of this community, in this connectedness. In Sanskrit, this is called “Advaita,” the Oneness, the A-duality.

When people wage wars against each other, they are hurting themselves at the same time, because all living beings are part of the One. When anything in the world suffers, we suffer with it, even if we do not know the reason. This is not to be attributed to sentimentality, but [to] a deep ontological feeling that touches our common roots. Despite retaining our individuality, we are part of a higher unity, namely the whole of humanity.

Reality around us constantly gives evidence to the collective liability mankind is caught in: Let us just take examples such as “El Nino” or the testing of nuclear weapons or the gigantic

emissions of poison by industry into the air and the oceans – effects that do not stop at national borders, nor at mountain heights, nor at depths of the oceans.

Worldwide cooperation, individual ethical responsibility, benevolence and mutual understanding of cultures and traditions among peoples will be necessary to climb to the next step: towards world peace. So far, unfortunately, the United Nations has fulfilled the hope of uniting the world through joint political action just rudimentarily, in some individual departments. Can we create something similar in the field of international, intercultural and interreligious understanding and achieve effective results?

Many years ago, my late father, Willy Augustat, already introduced the concept of an International World Ethics Congress, from which a World Ethical Council subsequently would have to emerge. Such an institution would ensure that universal ethical requirements and corresponding parameters could optimally be considered in all major decisions at all levels.

It is true that not all languages differentiate between the terms ethics and morality. However, we can clearly state that “moral” is a somewhat limited term, used within society of either local or temporary significance (what to do or not to do in the sense of customs and traditions). What was allowed and accepted in former times is no longer valid now and vice versa! The current morals are part of the education and legal regulations within a country or group. Whereas the ethical foundation is already part of the human being – it is, so to say, inborn in the individual!

Looking for universal principles we find them in all great world religions, which have a lot of basic ethical requirements for the individual’s consciousness and character in common.

Ethical Councils on a worldwide basis could be composed of impartial representatives of the academies of the humanities and social sciences, artists, scientists in general and religious representatives; they would have to recognize all world religions in their original sense and represent ethics as the common foundation of all cultures and religions. Each candidate would have to be chosen by virtue of his knowledge and authority in a particular field and by virtue of the esteem and trust he enjoys in his own or related cultures.

In this conceptual framework, national ethical councils would have to send representatives to the World Ethics Council, which needs to be on a par with the United Nations. All measures would only be adopted with the agreement of both bodies so that ethical standards are taken into account in every political and other far-reaching decision. Veto rights would not exist within the countries of the United Nations as they do today, but only on the part of the Ethical Council. In a future world community, the advantage of one must also be to the advantage of all others. All cultures of the world should be allowed to keep their substance and thus be included in the aspired overarching World Peace Culture. Unity in diversity, universal ethical principles such as justice – non-violence – equality – freedom – community and philanthropy are the values of today. The kick-off could take place in the frame of an Ethical Congress where the

participants define and elect suitable candidates. Let us carry this idea to the next level of practical realization together!

We are here today because we know that there is no other way left for us but to move forward towards peace, if life on Earth is to continue. We all are aware that time is mature for a new paradigm, a profound change of consciousness. Going back to Plato and other philosophers, we must awaken our consciousness again to the cosmic law of cause and effect which at the same time is connected to self-responsibility for everyone.

Fritjof Capra, physicist and futurologist, compares this approach with a global immune system that becomes active for protection of our Earth, a collective and almost instinctive response of humanity to the acute threat to its livelihood. This immune system consists of many people and groups who are tirelessly engaged in all places of our globe to neutralize and regenerate the harmful influences that are threatening our life everywhere.

I am very happy that the Schiller-Institute offers a strong network of such immune reaction for a peaceful future for ALL!

And let me close with my father's words: "World Peace can only build on a higher cultural consciousness and responsibility, as well as awareness of necessary action!"

Thank you very much for your attention.

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### **Audience and Panel Dialogue**

**Vereyken:** Thank you very much for this. And now I call to the podium Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the founder of the Schiller Institute, to ask her for comment and interventions.

**Zepp-LaRouche:** Thank you. Well, let me say what a breath of fresh air to have truly intellectuals who express a sense of humanity. And I think this idea is – All of them were, you know, from Mrs. Zdanoka to Mr. Abbate to Professor Reychler to Ms. Augustat, I think all these ideas are very constructive, and I think they give you a sense of why Nicholas of Cusa, for example, was absolutely right when he said, the only reason why people from different races, different nations, different cultures can communicate with each other is because there are artists, there are scientists, there are philosophers, there are people of ideas. And I think that that is exactly what we have to counter this war culture. I think that if we look at Europe right now, I fully agree with the quote you mentioned from [Yehudi] Menuhin. You know, Europe will be either the Europe of culture, or we will not exist. I mean, we are right now as Europeans in such an existential crisis that I find it absolutely flabbergasting how few people are aware of that. I mean, we as a continent are being dismissed. Our allies are bombing our infrastructure. The Nord Stream pipeline, we are exposed to, basically, a deindustrialization, which will mean

Europe will— What we saw in France in the last weeks will be a foretaste of what will happen in all of our countries, if we do not reverse course, because social chaos will erupt when the basis of material existence collapses.

And I think that this conference comes at an extremely important time because, on the one side, the danger is absolutely incredible. I think, the enemy makes mistakes. The fact that the United States now decided to deliver cluster bombs to Ukraine, I think is a big mistake on their part, because it will get even the most stupid greenies upset. You know, even Baerbock had to distance herself from it, which is a major sign of cracking in the system. So I think that, you know, we are right now in a period where I think the next year, maybe two years, maybe one-and-a-half years, but not more, I absolutely think that because of a variety of processes, the blowout of the financial system, the exhaustion factor of the Ukrainian population, the massive momentum of the global South being absolutely determined to create a new system. And, you know, if you look at what President Ramaphosa said, 'Build us this Inga Dam and then we will believe you. And if you don't do it, you are finished. We don't trust you anymore.'

So I think that this determination to build a new system, together with a lot of other factors, puts us in a time window because history is not like a soap opera. It's not like, you know, every day a new part and it goes on forever. But if you look back in history, you always have branching points, after which it was too late. World War I, World War II. And you know, we are right now in one of these periods, where we are breaking through the barrier, the Mach 1 to Mach 2, or however you want to compare it. And I think we have to really go out of this conference with the solemn commitment that we will organize this beautiful European continent. I mean, okay, Germany and France and Italy and other countries, we contributed a lot to the science and technological development. We produced a lot of scientists, inventors in the past. But if you look at it, what will be of lasting value, what we can contribute as European nations to the new paradigm, which must come into being in the short term—I really think it is possible in the short term—will be our culture. I think it would be absolutely regrettable if a new paradigm comes into being with Africa, Latin America, Asia, whatever other countries want to join, and [meanwhile] Europe would descend into chaos. You know, where we just are sidelined, we are in [among ] the fossil[s] in the museum in Mongolia as a culture which didn't make it, you know, which is much closer than people think. But what would be lost in all is the unique cultural contribution of the Italian Renaissance, of the French idea of the polytechnique, of the German Classical music and many other Renaissance phenomena. And I think, as unlikely it is, because I have not heard one of these European politicians ever speak about the substance of Plato, the substance of Cusa, the substance of Leibnitz. They have a nominal agreement to the Ninth Symphony, but what does it mean for them? "All men become bretheren?" They are doing the opposite. They are causing blocks. So I think we have to go out of this conference with a solemn commitment that we will revive the beautiful European culture, because I believe it is much more attuned to the human nature, the human soul. Human

beings are beautiful. The power of creativity is stronger than the power of hatred. So I would like people to join the discussion that we really go out of this conference with an explosion of optimism that we will be hegemonic in our philosophy, and not the enemy.

**Question:** Okay. Before concluding with a poem and a very short musical intervention, we have time for a couple of questions.

**Gillisberg:** My name is Feride Gillisberg. I work with the Schiller Institute in Denmark, and I am actually from Kosovo (Kosova, as we say). I would just like to say some words, because, you know, you know, when NATO intervened in Kosovo in 1999, I said this is a just war with an unjust cause. Because there was a period of ten years in Kosovo where the Serbian regime did what the Ukrainian regime did against the Russians in southern Ukraine. They closed schools down. They actually treated people as subhumans. And this degrading a population as subhumans is like giving wings to hate. And this is the biggest problem right now we see everywhere. Hate reigns because they say, but the Russians are not human beings. I compare the Serbian regime with the Ukrainian regime very consciously, because in the Balkans, everybody knew what was going on in Kosovo. You know, it was genocide, but there was ten years of racist regime. So, there's something going on in Ukraine, they treat the Russians as subhumans, but how can we in this time get people to understand that, when you degrade human beings to something else? You know, racism is not just against black and Chinese, but it's against other nationalities. So, we just we have to make sure that through the "dialogue of cultures" concerts, which I hope everybody who is in this panel will help the Chileans to organize a dialogue of cultures everywhere, because hate is what is the problem, the hate against a nationality, the hate of people, because this is what I see, that in the '30s, how could Nazism be possible? Hate. So maybe you can address this.

**Vereyken:** Okay. I propose we take other questions, and then we will give opportunity for all speakers to answer on the questions raised. So, Mr. Mishra. So please try to make more questions to the word spoken and the ideas developed on the panel.

**Mishra:** Thank you all for fantastic speeches. I am a little extra-fascinated by Liz Augustat's speech, because she quoted Sanskrit *advaita* principle. And one concrete question to you is, if in any way I can borrow that speech and read it a little more. And one small question to you, which is so fantastic, that how can we create a way of living that somebody, one person's advantage is everyone's advantage, something of that sort? You mentioned in your speech – I see that one of the dilemmas when I moved from India to here is this competition you have, Tour de France. So one gets 25 seconds ahead, it's a disadvantage for the other. But I'm thinking about a life, a culture, creating a culture where one's advantage is everyone's advantage, a great spiritual principle. How do we do that? That's a question to you. Thank you.

**Vereyken:** Other questions. Can you speak into the microphone?

**Question:** To Mrs. Zdanoka. First, I would like to say my full appreciation to the Russian community in Latvia, because I know some Russians which have experienced exactly as you said, and you mentioned that you had already a complaint at the UN. And I'm asking myself what for is the UN nowadays? Good. What for? There are laws. You said you contributed this. This unlawful, actually unlawful government in that sense, how they treat Russian people, if the law already on the world basis exists. What is the UN good for? If the government is treating the people like no law is there? I mean, what for? And there are so many other things to tell in the same sense. And to that lady, which you mentioned, something from Kosovo. I'm native. I could also – You are from you are an Albanian? Okay. So I am a Serbian. And I could say exactly the opposite thing. Exactly the opposite thing. And this is a dilemma. Definitely. They are faked, like butchered. There were killed people, okay? In the war. There were killed Albanians. Okay. And a Finnish scientist, actually, was the one who looked at those bodies, and there is a proof that they were killed in the war. And she told this to the UN guy, 'Hey, this is not true. This wasn't actually *literally* done, but you sold it as [if] it was literally done.' And there were even Albanians, okay, who admitted nowadays that that was a fake. And I would like for you to consider that that was a fake. And that's a lot of untruths. Thank you.

**Vereyken:** Thank you. We'll take one other question, and then the speakers are going to answer.

**Question:** Thank you [to] all the panelists. I'm a journalist of the *People's Daily* from China. This morning we've talked about culture. We all know that at the core of culture, there are values, the concept of values. We know nowadays the U.S. always give this narrative in which it is the leading defender of so-called universal values and of including democracy, freedom, human rights, etcetera. And it casts China as the biggest rival to these values, and it wants to convince its Western allies and other countries of it. And many, I think many people here may think it's wrong, toxic, and dangerous, because it will put our world at the risk of new Cold War. So my question, maybe this question goes for Mr. Reychler or other panelists. My question is, what's the fundamental mistake under this narrative, and how can we break and go beyond this narrative, especially when we are still living in a world where U.S. propaganda, U.S. voice is still dominant? Thank you.

**Question:** I just want to add a personal question to Professor Reychler, which he can also answer, is what he developed in one of his books on the importance of empathy as a major factor to be really taken into the minds of everybody, to be able to involve in a peace process. So the speakers are going to answer in the order of their interventions.

**Reychler:** The first the first thing I would like to address is the comment on hate. Hate is really at the bottom of escalation and escalation of wars. Yes, I would fully agree. But, and this relates a lot to empathy or, basically, the lack of empathy. When I look at the war in Ukraine, and also then the conflicts in the Baltic states, the empathy has not developed. The situation is disastrous in terms of empathy, because it's led us to escalation of war. It led to the conviction that, for

example, sanctions are the way to peace, which is really bullshit. Because if you really are a psychologist and you have studied behaviorism – we have [B.F.] Skinner – you would know that it's not by sanctions that you get peace. It's really by mutual benefit, by reward system. And of course, one of the consequences of the lack of empathy is this exclusive nationalism. We had an example from Tatjana. We had an example in Ukraine, and that's a big problem.

And as a Belgian, I'm even more sensitive to it. We are a small country, but we have three official languages. French, Flemish, and German. The education is organized by the main language communities, Flemish and Walloon. So we find this very strange, that it is not possible, at least to entertain the alternative instead of creating some kind of exclusive nationalism that we have seen in Ukraine, but also in the Baltic States.

A last thing about Belgium. When I ask my students, How do you see, how do you define yourself politically? They would have multiple loyalties. And in our country, it's very normal. They would say, well, I'm from Antwerp, I'm a Fleming, I'm a Belgian and European. And so, of course, we go higher. So, the whole problem is really related to empathy. Of course, I will not talk further about it, because empathy is one of the most important things in sustainable peace-building. It's not only about diplomacy, it's about structures, but also this political psychology. Empathy is important for trust. Without trust, forget it.

**Vereyken:** Thank you. Do you want to say something to the questions raised?

**Abbate:** When we talk about wars, we must look at what happened during the course of history. They fought wars, always starting with announcing great principles. But in war there are always two parties the one that wants war for its interests and the party that is victim of the war. So wars have not changed. Yesterday they made war for religion, religious wars, and today they make war for the concentration of power for geopolitics. The war in Kosovo was a demonstration on how the unipolar world was able to single out countries to be hit. Wars like the one we are seeing now in Ukraine are aimed at ultimately splitting Russia from Europe. These days we talk about great principles. Now we must work to make them to implement them.

**Zdanoka:** Yes, there was one common question and one addressed to me particularly, but I'd like try to join them both. So, about United Nations and the approach. I used to repeat, although it seems very simple, but I used to repeat often, one of the first articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. You remember that it appeared after the Second World War, in '48, and it is told that any human [is] being born equal and free in their conscience and rights. And here is the border. Whether we just see things that people are equal or that mankind is divided by categories, one superior than others. That is what is nowadays the main point of division of ideologies. Yeah, we speak about nationalism, culture. We cannot avoid these feelings of native cultures knowing poesy, knowing literature, etcetera, etcetera. But we do not need to think that our culture is upper, better than the other one. That is the problem and

people are different. Big friend of mine, Fernand de Varennes, United Nations Commissioner for Minorities, recently speaking, he [said] that this idea that someone is superior than the others appears before [first – ed.] in people's minds, and only then [come] concentration camps and gas [inaudible] appear, not otherwise. Brzezinski told that only ideology which can come after communism, may be nationalism, and we have to use it. And it was used in Ukraine. But we have to remind that Zelenskyy's pre-election promises were just peace and respect, respect for Russian speakers, respect for minorities. He, himself, is a native Russian-speaker, but all this was then neglected and forgotten. So, the question was whether we do believe to United Nations and their decisions. Yes, I do, still, although another my big friend, a British lawyer, a specialist on European law here, working here also as a barrister in Strasbourg, he says he published a book, *Degradation of the International Legal Order*. And he just refers to the wars in Yugoslavia as the starting point of this degradation. In his title, there is a question [mark].

So, we have to find the answer, whether there is degradation of the international order or not. We still believe that we can somehow use this international legal order just to realize this idea that all human beings are equal in their dignity and rights.

**Augustat:** A very difficult question, yes, how to solve this. I think at the moment it's very important that we get the science into the boat, because there are some people who are linked to some religious traditions, spiritual traditions. So for them, it's a different a different idea to cooperate and to help each other. But there are a lot of people, especially in Europe, who are not linked anymore into religious traditions or spiritual traditions. And I think the only way to get them into the boat is science, because – and there I count on one hand on quantum physics, but also on the latest research, for example, on placebo effects, placebo, or – what is the English word for this – where what you put before into some fancy universe, they show that your personal attitude and also the attitude of your doctor giving you some medicine, has at least a 50% effect on the outcome. And this is now a way from thinking it's in scientific researches on several universities because, for example, it has also the effect that that you can reduce the substances in the pills by 50 to 70%. Because if you know as a patient that the pill – I don't know, with the red stripes – helps you against blood pressure and you have internalized it, the scientific studies have shown that you can reduce two-thirds of the pills, take away the substance, because it just helps because of your attitude. And I think this is very important now to link together this subtle matter, the mind, the spirit, and the hardware. This is where a lot of intellectually focused people are. And this is what I feel very often in discussions. And if we see that science proves things like being connected, it goes away from being nice, because some people just – why should they be nice? But if it's not a question of being nice, but of surviving, yourself, because we are all connected and of self-protection, I think this attitude will change the world.

**Zepp-LaRouche:** Well, I think that the center of the change will be love, because the opposite of hatred is love. And I think that's something we can all start to apply right away. Confucius and

also Lessing said, you can start to love at will. Momentarily you can decide. You change your emotion into love and you can do it, and you can try it at home. When you start, you know, when you fight with somebody, you hate this person or you're angry and then you do something positive for that person, for the mind of that person, and you will immediately see that your emotion changes. It's the loving attitude of a father of a mother to the children, and that you have to expand. You have to apply to larger groups, to humanity as a whole. And I'm actually very optimistic, because the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi, of Martin Luther King, are vibrant in people who are opposing this present situation. And I think we all can learn enormous lessons from the idea of non-violence, of direct action, of having the courage to stand up for what is right, but denouncing violence. And I want to also suggest that you all read Friedrich Schiller, especially the Aesthetic Letters, because, you know, the aesthetic education is how you get yourself improved.

You know, they call now China and other countries, dictatorships and autocracies. Why? Because the government is demanding that the people become better, that they become more noble, that they eliminate certain vices. China has forbidden [some] pop music, because it portrays a degraded image of women. I fully agree. I think rap music is portraying a degraded image of women, and therefore we should not have it. If you say this in France or in Germany, you are being called an autocrat, a fascist, you know, and that shows you how wrong it is. But Schiller had this idea of the aesthetic education, that through art, through Classical music, great painting, poetry, that you evoke something more noble in the soul of the person. And the more you do that and the shorter the intervals become where you don't do it, the more you improve. And I think this idea of lifelong self-improvement, of trying to become a better person, is an absolute essential part of what we are trying to do. Because if you don't change, how can you expect the world to change? So, the aesthetic education, which was also what influenced the emergence of China, the modern China, very much, because the first education minister of the New Republic of China, Cai Yuanpei. I always pronounce it wrongly, but he studied from Schiller, from Humboldt, and he started to say that the aesthetic education [as] Schiller developed it was the most advanced, and he introduced it into the Chinese education system.

And President Xi Jinping many times praised and emphasized the aesthetic education as that which makes people develop a beautiful mind. And the beautiful mind is what creates the sciences, the arts. So that is what we also have to absolutely include in this. And then we have to have a dialogue of civilizations and cultures, because the only reason why hate and prejudice and so forth can dominate, is because people don't know anything about the other culture. Once you start to study them, go there, go to China, go to India, go to Russia, travel the old Silk Road – you know, do all these things which the great travelers of the past did, and you will discover entire universes will open up. When you see, for example, the beauty of Chinese poetry, of Chinese painting, of Chinese philosophy, your heart will open. And I think we have to commit ourselves. And that is one of the founding principles of the Schiller Institute from the

very beginning, you know, to make sure that we know these other cultures and that we have a dialogue among the best traditions of all of them. And that way we create the basis for a new renaissance for the future.

So I want to invite you all to help to build the International Peace Coalition. This is an effort which the Schiller Institute started about six weeks ago. And it is the effort to connect all the peace movements worldwide. We are making big progress, because it is a need of the time, and many times you can have good ideas and for decades you are like the shouter in the desert and nobody listens. But then comes the historical moment where the moment is ripe for this idea. And I think the moment is ripe to have world citizens of all countries unite and create this one humanity which does really correspond to what human beings should be. We are supposed to be the creative species. We are not supposed to be little boys who kick each other at the knee when you are four years old, you know. But we are supposed to grow up. We are supposed to talk to each other like Schiller and Humboldt, or Einstein and Planck, you know, discussing ideas, discussing the beauty of the universe, about to discover things. We have not even an inkling of how to ask the questions. So we have to raise the level of people to become truly human. And I think that that is what this conference and hopefully – I agree with Mr. Abbott to have as many events as possible to discuss these ideas and become a mass movement of beauty and creativity.

**Vereyken:** Okay. Now, before we go into the lunch break, we have still two very small contributions: exactly what we need to have the right emotions, which is poetry and music. So, Alexander Hartmann, go ahead.

**Hartmann:** I bring greetings to this conference from two people from the same family, who were both in a very practical way involved in the dialogue of civilizations. The first part of the message comes from Professor Wolf-Dietrich Rückert. He's a German chemical engineer, by now quite old, who was involved in the early industrialization efforts in China under Mao and Deng Xiao Ping. He built chemical factories in China. So, he sends the following greetings to the conference:

“Peace can only be achieved if people talk to each other and appreciate each other. Europe without Russia does not exist. Since we have not properly processed the Second World War nor drawn the right conclusions, we are in this hopeless dilemma. Peace arises from mutual respect, regardless of political or religious views. I wish this conference that their thoughts are heard and implemented. Your Wolf-Dietrich Rückert.

Now, Professor Rückert is a descendant of Friedrich Rückert, the German 19<sup>th</sup>-Century poet, linguist, and translator who studied 56 languages and is one of the founders of Oriental Studies in Germany, and he is famous for translating many poems from other languages and cultures, especially Oriental cultures, into German. So that's taking the dialogue of culture to the highest level that I can think of.

He wrote also many, many poems by himself. Many of these were put into music, for example, *Du Bist die Ruh* by Franz Schubert, or the *Kindertotenlieder* set by Gustav Mahler. Now let's hear what Friedrich Rückert has to tell us on the issue of peace. I will read that poem in the German original.

### **Die Welt ist schön**

Die Welt ist schön, die Welt ist gut, gesehn als Ganzes  
Der Schöpfung Frühlingspracht, das Heer des Sternentanzes.

Die Welt ist schön, ist gut, gesehn im einzelst Kleinen  
Ein jedes Tröpfchen Tau kann Gottes Spiegel scheinen.

Nur wo du Einzelnes auf Einzelnes beziehst  
Oh, wie vor lauter Streit du nicht den Frieden siehst.

Der Frieden ist im Kreis, im Mittelpunkt ist er.  
Drum ist er überall, doch ihn zu sehn ist schwer.

Es ist die Eintracht, die sich aus der Zwietracht baut,  
Wo mancher, vom Gerüst verwirrt, den Plan nicht schaut.

Drum denke, was dich stört, daß dich ein Schein betört  
Und was du nicht begreifst, gewiß zum Plan gehört.

Such erst in dir den Streit zum Frieden auszugleichen  
Versöhnend dann soweit du kannst umherzureichen.

Und wo die Kraft nicht reicht, da halte dich ans Ganze;  
Im ewgen Liebesbund steht mit dir Stern und Pflanze.

**Speaker:** So now we will make you a little, a very short musical contribution. We actually would like you to experience what is what it is to sing a polyphony. That means that the question is, how do you create unity among different voices, different melodies? Actually, now we will use something called a canon to do it. And the idea is how do you create a harmonious whole without erasing individual sovereignty? So we will sing *Dona Nobis Pacem*. It's a canon. Maybe it's Mozart who composed it; we are not sure. And it means, give us peace. And so you will have three groups of singers: there, in the middle, and there. And so please don't hesitate to sing along if you want to try. And so let's do the music.

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## Panel 5

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### Scientific Ecology and Assessing the Climate Challenge: Eradicating Poverty and Hunger in the World Is the Priority

**Moderator Stephan Ossenkopp:** The theme of this concluding fifth panel is Scientific Ecology and Assessing the Climate Challenge: Eradicating Poverty and Hunger in the World Is the Priority. And before I welcome the individual presenters to this podium, where I will introduce them individually, I would like to make just a few preliminary remarks to introduce the topic and the theme of this panel, because some tragically wrong economic policies are being pursued with a quasi-religious fanaticism in much of the trans-Atlantic region. This is, number one, true for the endless bailouts of an unsustainable and inherently bankrupt financial system. But it is also especially true for the policies, the so-called green policies, the policies of the “Great Transformation” of our energy and resource supply system.

So, in this panel, we will hear some very stark examples of where this is leading, particularly in the German energy and industrial sectors, and why it must be reversed. According to a new survey by FTI Consulting, a large consulting company in Germany and worldwide, 36% of large German companies with more than 1,000 employees are intending to move production out of Germany, with 60% of these companies planning to move to Asia. So, deindustrialization is in full swing. To tolerate this would be absolutely suicidal. So we must mobilize ourselves and more forces to choose a positive alternative. What I've just described is particularly hair-raising, because the day after the survey of deindustrialization of the German companies was published, the 23rd meeting of the leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the so-called SCO countries, took place, and the SCO represented 40% of the world's population, including China, India, Russia, Pakistan, and, as a new member, Iran.

They have only one wish: They want to develop. They want to modernize, and they want to share the fruits of modernization and development equally among themselves. And they reject Western sanctions and interference into their interior policies. But there has been literally no mention and not one single word in the press about them, about the meeting of the SCO and their public statements, which would be of great interest to the Europeans. So the task falls into our laps to amplify and make visible the dynamism of the institutions of the global South, like the BRICS Plus and the SCO, and to use it as a lever to break these insane green policies that are ruining our economies.

With that said, the first speaker will be on video....

Christian Lévêque

### **Scientific Ecology Is Instrumentalized by Magical Thinking**

*Mr. Lévêque is Emeritus Research Director, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) and specialist in aquatic systems; Honorary President, Académie d'Agriculture de France; Member, Académie des Sciences d'Outre-mer, France.*

Hello, everyone. I'm going to try and explain to you in a few minutes why scientific ecology is currently being instrumentalized by magical thinking.

We Westerners have inherited from the religions of the Book the idea that God created a perfect, harmonious and balanced world. That's our theological heritage, which doesn't necessarily exist in other cultures, but which has become the mainstay of militant environmental movements, such as the major international conservation NGOs, like the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), which are all Western-dominated. The main thrust of their message is that humans are destroying the magnificent pristine wilderness bequeathed to us by God, and that in so doing we are jeopardizing the future of mankind. Hence the idea that beautiful nature is nature without man. It's American wilderness or European naturalness: beautiful nature is nature without man. Somewhere along the line, when we think of protected areas, we've protected them from man, to be precise.

This is the big international business of nature protection, which is carried out by the big international companies in particular, and which I'd say has taken hold in quite a few tropical countries, particularly in Africa and in Asia, too. The aim is to identify areas in which populations are to be removed from their natural habitat, in order to create unpopulated zones where nature can express itself freely.

An interesting work in this field is *The Invention of Green Colonialism* by Guillaume Blanc, a historian who showed how the WWF had acted in Africa to set up national parks.

This NGO's policy is still on the agenda, since, at the COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Montreal in 2022, 180 countries pledged to protect 30% of the planet by 2030! 30% of the planet is no mean feat, and it begs the question: If we do indeed protect 30% – even with reservations about whether or not local societies will participate in this protection – what are we going to do about the humans who will be excluded? After all, the whole point of these protected areas is to free nature from human exactions!

Where does this idea come from that nature is beautiful and generous, and only beautiful and generous? We don't often hear the argument that nature is hostile to humans, yet this is the daily reality for many of the world's citizens.

This ideology of nature is based on a bucolic and metaphysical representation of nature that originated in urban and bourgeois circles in the 19th Century in various European countries, according to which nature is a place of relaxation and recreational activities for bourgeois urban citizens. Let's be quite clear: nature is also represented in terms of classes. There's the class of wealthy urban bourgeois for whom nature is a place of relaxation, and there's the class of... the working classes, the rural dwellers who at that time, in the 19th Century, were mostly peasant farmers who had a different vision of nature.

This vision has come to fruition, and is now also supported by the United Nations, which has decreed that there should be a "Mother Earth Day" every year, meaning that we are in fact returning to the Greek goddess of the earth, to the adoration of Gaia the mother goddess – who is also called Pachamama in certain South American religions and practices. In a way, it's re-deifying nature in another form.

The myth of the Apocalypse is the one currently being promoted by these NGOs and by the media – because the media also play an extremely active role in this area – according to which, in the end, nature is in danger, and we are endangering it. Not only nature, but also the future of mankind, because of overpopulation, because of the globalization of systems and the capitalist system, which is strongly attacked by political ecology, because of the misuse of scientific innovations, as is the case, for example, when we talk about GMOs, when we talk about pesticides, and all this contributes to a destruction of nature. You often hear about it: the erosion of biodiversity, the disappearance of birds, the disappearance of insects. All this is ideology – which doesn't mean that humans don't have an impact on nature; the whole question is how to quantify this erosion and globalize it.

What I wanted to say earlier was that rural people who have a daily relationship with nature, farmers who have a daily relationship with nature, don't have the same bucolic vision as urban people who experience it, I'd say, through an intermediary.

They are confronted, they have been confronted, they are still confronted with the question of dangerous animals, crop pests, diseases. In Africa, most diseases are parasitic diseases transmitted by living, biological species. And then there are all the catastrophic hazards: floods, droughts, etc., which mean that in the end, the life of a farmer, of someone who is in contact with nature, is quite uncertain.

There used to be this fatalism: We implored the Creator, we practiced "rogations" in Europe, for example, we implored the Creator [in order] to benefit from his clemency. In many religions, we also turn to gods and spirits for clemency in matters of agricultural production.

The reality of ecology, which is never presented to us in this light, is that the myth of Paradise, where everything is in harmony, is really a fantasy. In the real world of ecology, what we call food webs means that to live, each species needs to eat another species – in other words, to kill other species. In the living and ecological world, we're faced with the paradox that it's a

veritable permanent holocaust of species that need to kill other species and eat other species to feed and reproduce.

That's why I came up with the idea of writing a book called "*The Double Face of Biodiversity: Nature Is Not a Garden of Eden*," in which I develop the idea that Man is not the innate destroyer of nature, that Man has, on the contrary, tried throughout his existence to protect himself from aggressors in order to have a certain physical security. He has tried to secure food resources by cultivating crops and raising livestock, and by developing his ecological niche, i.e., by ensuring that there is water all year round. He has built up water reserves, used irrigation – in short, he has developed nature in such a way as to ensure both his biological life and his physical security.

It's a thesis that I've defended, and one on which I could say that we also create ecological systems that are appreciated for their biodiversity or for their benefits. Take, for example, the Camargue in France, which is a totally artificial environment but which is considered a natural site, so much so that it has been assessed as a RAMSAR [Commission on Wetlands] site, in other words, the Holy Grail of biodiversity conservation. I'm thinking of our bocages, which are human creations that are rich in biodiversity, so the idea that man is destroying nature needs to be put into perspective, since we also have many counter-examples of the creation of diversity and biological wealth.

The dark side of biodiversity, i.e., disease and all the atrocities that nature can commit against humans and animals – because nature makes no distinction between humans and animals – is something we don't talk much about. And we've ended up with the paradoxical situation that what we call "nature's nuisances" is not an intrinsic quality of nature: nature is *a priori* good and generous. But with a little Jesuit reasoning, we can say that in the end, if there are nuisances caused by nature, it's not nature's fault, it's because we're destroying it, it's nature's revenge. By destroying biodiversity, we ensure that we have epidemics like Covid. A few years ago, scientists were even saying that "Covid and epidemics are nature's revenge, because we're destroying biodiversity."

I'd just like to remind you that the UN is a political organization with a great deal of theological and metaphysical influence. The UN is behind the climate and biodiversity conventions, the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES, which is the equivalent of the IPCC for biodiversity), and you may be surprised to see in the IPBES papers expressions that are put in the conceptual framework of this organization where we see "life in harmony with nature," "life in balance and harmony with Mother Earth," "gifts of nature," "Mother Earth," "life systems." We can see straight away – and I was reminding you earlier that the UN had instituted a day for Mother Earth, for Mother Nature – that, somewhere, this organization which passes itself off as scientific is nevertheless under a strong mystical or even theological

influence, and I think we have to be very careful, when we talk about ecology and science, about the origin of the comments made.

In reality, when it comes to protecting biodiversity around the world, and especially in the developing countries where I've worked extensively, the reality is not necessarily overpopulation, not necessarily technological innovation, but quite simply poverty. And it's true that when the population grows, you need more resources, you need more food. So we have to make sure that when we talk about protecting nature and extending protected areas, we also ask ourselves what we're going to do about the populations who have been excluded from their land and who will ultimately come to feed the urban proletariat. This is a completely questionable line of reasoning on the part of environmental movements, in that they never say what they plan to do with the people who will be excluded from their natural habitats and places to live. If, for example, all the people of the Camargue were asked to leave the Camargue, it would be an interesting experiment.

Just a small anecdote: When there was a massive invasion of migratory locusts in East Africa in 2020, which devastated many of the region's crops, there was an eloquent silence from the conservationist movements and the scientists who are often affiliated to these movements. At the same time, there were major bushfires in Australia, and the focus was on counting all the species that had been killed by these bushfires. So, there's a totally different attitude towards the human species and towards nature, and you can see that the balance is heavily tipped in favor of nature.

To conclude, I'd say that this feeling of fear, because that's what these NGOs are ultimately aiming for, is to create fear – a point made by ecologist philosophers such as the German philosopher Hans Jonas – to get us to revive the myth of the Apocalypse. In other words, if you don't meet the criteria, if you don't accept the ideas of belief, which used to be God, now it's belief in the goodness of nature, we're effectively heading for a situation that's getting out of hand, and that's the end of the world, the Apocalypse. The big NGOs are thus able to impose their ideology with the strong complicity of scientists. There are many scientists who I would describe as pyromaniacs, who keep the fires burning for reasons that are debatable, but which are linked to obtaining funding. Then there are the media, who obviously want to create a buzz and, I'd say, go even further than the scientists, because it sells, it sells in the media to present anxiety-provoking information.

I've included this little cartoon showing Donald Trump chatting with Aristotle [Plato – ed.] and saying, "I'm sure you'll agree that truth comes from repeating lies." Finally, I'd like to present this little cartoon that I collected at the Rio conference in 1992, which said "save the Earth," "save the planet," "save the children on Earth," and – *save the money*. I think that behind all this there are also economic issues that aren't necessarily very bright.

Thank you for your attention.

Dr.-Ing. Hans-Bernd Pillkahn

## **EU Climate Policy: A Disaster for Energy-intensive Production**

*Dr. Pillkahn is an engineer, CEO of PROASSORT, metallurgy, Germany.*

Dear ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for having the opportunity to talk to you today, despite the warm weather. But the good news is, in Germany, we are working on a strategy to defeat summer. Just wait one or two years. So, I'm happy to talk to you a bit about the EU climate policy, and from my personal opinion, and perhaps you [will] follow me afterwards. It's a disaster for energy-intensive industry in the EU.

So, let's have a look into the EU, and then let's have a look into the climate, and then we'll have a look together into the industry. What is the EU? The EU covers 4% of the global land area. The EU has a population of about 6% of the global population. This is the gross domestic product. So, the value that we create is about 16% of the global value that is being created at the time being. And therefore, we need a lot of energy. We need 13% of all the wattage that is produced in the world. We need about a 10% of the gas consumption of the world. We need about 12% of the oil consumption of the world. And then, when you have a look here, we have a self-supply rate in the EU for gas of 11%; 11% of the gas that we need, we produce ourselves. Looking at the oil, we have a self-supply of 4%; 4% of the oil that is consumed in the EU, we create ourselves, we lift [from the earth – ed.] ourselves. That is, of course, a strong position for political sanctions. Everybody is clear about that.

So, we look a little bit into the atmosphere. I'm going to tell you that the atmosphere, the air in the atmosphere, weighs 5 multiplied by 10<sup>15</sup>. That is a ten with 15 nils [zeros – ed.]. Tons of air is in the atmosphere. I do not know the English expression, but that is a very, very big number. Most of you have to deal with three nils in your life; the very rich of you have to do with four, perhaps. But [something] that is 15 nils, is going out of our dimension. Nobody in the world can imagine what that means. Nobody.

Okay, let's go on. So, we are on the anthropogenic global warming theory (Figure 1). And you see I have written "theory" in gray, because all theory is gray. You know that. And the electromagnetic radiation, that is that which costs one ball of ice cream – that is about 1.3 MW/hours when the Sun burns directly on the Earth. But only, let us say, about 30% of that is really coming into the Earth. And then we have some problems to manage that amount of energy. And the scientists, for the time being, are quarrelling about that; that is an imbalance. What they think is 0.6 megawatt per square meter. When you compare it with those figures over there, you see you have some doubts of that, of whether that 0.6 megawatt per square meter really can destroy the world. Perhaps you have some trouble with that.

So you see, what we always talk about is correlation. In Germany, in the area I live in, that is North Rhine-Westphalia, the number of storks—you know, these big birds—the number of storks correlates with the number of births. But not even a female Green Party voter would believe that there is a causality.

So I come back to the system. You see, I'm always talking with some very intelligent and very wise scientists, engineers, and so on. But no one of them really claims to have fully understood the climate system. There is no one in the world who has understood the climate system; no one. They are just narrowing it within their [system], and there is no evidence whatsoever. No evidence that CO<sub>2</sub> accounts for temperature rise. No evidence. Okay.

### **'Suicide in Fear of Death'**

So, next picture. Coming back to the EU policy, you see, EU climate policy is suicide in fear of death, very clearly. Suicide in fear of death. If I'm very fearful of dying, I commit suicide. So, in December 2019, the EU Commission, which is a French literature expert, launches the Green Deal. And afterwards, all the commissioners wrote 55 papers; each paper that thick. Nobody ever can read that, nobody; neither in the industry nor somewhere else. Nobody. And even if they read it, they do not understand it; 55 papers. One of those papers is the "EU Taxonomy." The next is "Fit for 55." The next is "EU Emissions Trading System II" – the first was not strong enough, therefore they made a second one. "The Green Deal Industrial Plan" is rather new. The "Net-Zero Industrial Act" is newer, it's just three or four months old. Of course, we have a "Critical Raw Materials Act." And then, in May 2023, they launched the "Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism." We all know that we are very, very successful in our protecting our frontiers; we all know that the EU is very, very successful. The next step is to protect our borders against CO<sub>2</sub>. That's a real mission!

What would Friedrich Schiller have said about that? I'll read it in German. "Das eben ist der Fluch der bösen Tat, Daß sie, fortzeugend, immer Böses muß gebären." That is would Friedrich Schiller have said about the situation. So in English that means, "If you once created evil, it automatically spreads if someone is able to stop it." But who is it? That is one of the questions you are talking about at the time being [at present—ed.].

This is a nice picture of the future of the world (Figure 2). You can find it on the Internet, of course. So, who is launching that kind of picture? Investment, you can read, still has an opportunity to play its part in the race to reduce greenhouse gas emissions—investment. The Internet address is ESGclarity.com, and ESG [stands for] environmental, social, and government; and that is an EU-installed shadow-state to enable the financial community to grab as deep into your pockets as possible. So, Friedrich Schiller would have said, "Denn nur vom Nutzen wird die Welt regiert." And I hope they can translate it perfectly in English. Denn nur vom Nutzen wird die Welt regiert. ["Because the world is ruled only by utility."—ed.]

So, let's talk about the climate policy in Germany. You see, a climate policy in Germany costs €6 billion. You know what a billion is? It's very easy. That is a thousand millions of euro, that is 1 billion, and it costs 6 billion just in Germany. Over the world, it costs €100 billion. Climate neutrality costs €100 billion [he meant trillion – ed.]. That is 10<sup>12</sup>; that's 10 with 12 nils. Okay, so. And who is going to pay for that? Who is going to pay for 6 billion? [Responding to comment from audience:] Yes, 1 trillion. Yes, too complicated for me. I know that, but it's too complicated. But thank you; thank you very much. So who's going to pay for the €6 billion? Just a very simple question. Is the state, is the government going to pay for that €6 billion? The government has no money; no money at all. They get their money from you. Are the companies going to pay the €6 billion? A company is not for paying for costs; they want to earn money. So there's one very simple solution to the question. You, all of you who are sitting in this room, are going to pay the €6 billion. Of course. You are too old. No, you are too old. Yes, well, me as well. (I'm not.) But you all are going to pay for that €6 billion. And if you cannot, your children have to pay for it – very easy. But someone has to do so; €6 billion.

### **What Will Germans Do?**

Now, we are going to calculate. You see, we have in Germany 15 million value creators. They get up in the morning doing something. And when they come home in the evening, they have done something that has earned money, that has created value. Fifteen million. I could say it in other words. Fifteen million people who pay the government more than they receive from the government; 15 million. Now divide 6 billion through [by – ed.] 15 million. So we calculate for a second. It's €400,000. And a lady who is going to serve our poor people at the time being, for example, ill people or so, they can't pay €400,000 until 2045. So that should be other people. Let me say 5 million people in Germany are going to pay for €6 billion. That is €1,200,000 each of them has to pay until 2045. And if you would be in that situation, what would you do? Of course, you try to leave Germany as soon as possible. This is very human, I think. And it destroys not only the value creators, but the EU as well. You see, we are always talking about the EU, and I'm a German and I'm standing here not with pride.

I'm just going to tell you raw figures; it's just figures (Figure 3). Germany stands for 25% of the economic performance of the EU. Now imagine what will happen with the EU if Germany can't pay for it. Just try to imagine. And in 17 of the 27 EU countries, they reach less than 10% of the German GDP; less than 10%. So, in the worldwide context, it's not easy for me to say so, but just from the financial point of view, in the worldwide context, they are nothing. Nice people living there, but financially, they are nearly nothing.

Let's talk about energy, a very, very complicated theme. How much energy do you have? You personally. No idea? 100 watts per hour, 100 watts. That is your energy; you can receive 100 watts. So, for one megawatt/hour, you have to work 120,000 hours. [Now,] mankind was always clever. After they have related that, that they have to work very much and very hard for

one megawatt/hour, they invented the horse. The horse helped them, in that the horse only needs 1,360 hours. That's pure physics. You see, that is nothing that comes from pure physics.

So now we are looking about coal. You need 120 kilograms of coal to generate one megawatt/hour. So afterwards, after the horse, people invented coal. And then they saw that it is much easier to do things with oil. You only need 86 kg of oil to get one megawatt/hour. Then afterwards, gas was even more comfortable, so they used gas. Just 95 cubic meters of gas is one megawatt/hour. Then the one megawatt/hour of current is, of course, one megawatt/hour. [With] hydrogen, you need 333 cubic meters of hydrogen to generate one megawatt/hour. And 333 cubic meters is a high volume.

The [cost increase] factor from coal to hydrogen is 14. So if you say your industry is able to live with a factor of 14 in energy, everything is good. But I do not believe so.

So, this is the German power-plant capacity as of January 1, 2023 (Figure 4). We eliminated nuclear. The next step is to eliminate lignite [brown coal]. The next step is to eliminate coal [altogether]. The next step is to build 45 gas power stations. The next step is to install 50 GW of wind [generating capacity]. The work done by 50 gigawatt/hours of wind is only 10%, 20% of the installed capacity. I think you know that; 20%. If you install 1 GW of wind, you can only harvest 20% of it, because the wind does not blow all the time. And then we install 150 gigawatts of solar energy that cost, by the way, \$300 billion. And afterwards we have a situation that I would call the Global West, if you understand what I mean.

So, just a word about the real truth of the gas situation in Germany. We talk a lot of gas, you see. And at the time being, we get half the gas that we did in 1919; half of the gas. And the gas is 250% more expensive than in 1990. It is not the cost of the gas – perhaps we can live with that, but we do not have it. In the next winter it will be awfully hard in Germany to have a warm – how you call it in English – ass.

We will not be talking about something in the air tax [of the] EU emission trade system, because of the time. You see that the transformation of industry needs material – in this case, metals. And there is a university that is a Catholic university in Leuven, so they should not lie. And they said that we need 2,100% of the lithium that we needed in 2020 – 2,100%. And hear what I say: Never, ever will we get that amount of lithium to make e-mobility. Never, ever.

This is the world's metals and cement refining (Figure 5). Refining means you dig something out of the earth, you see, and afterwards you make metals and cement out of it; that is refining. And you see, for example, Germany has a very strong position. We are doing 1.5% of the world refining, and our partner in the U.S. is very strong as well. They are doing 3.6%. Others are a little bit stronger. China is standing for 50% alone.

So, German industry, what is a German industry? We have 7,000 industry firms, excluding small- and medium-sized companies; 15% of them are "climate intensive." They have 930,000 employees. They earn a gross value added of €3.1 billion and they need 700 terawatt/hours of

energy. What is a terawatt/hour? Very easy: one terawatt/hour is 1,000,000,000 kilowatt/hours. You need at your home 4,000 kilowatt/hours, and industry needs 700 terawatt/hours. A slight difference. So, when the price for electricity and gas is going up by €1, that costs German industry €350 million. And we are talking about €50 and we are talking about €100. And now you only have to multiply 350 million by 100 and then you have the sum that German industry is dealing with.

### **The Deindustrialization of Germany**

The health conditions are not so very good in intensive industry; we are shrinking year by year. Just to look at German industry: Germany had had a rather strong industry (Figure 6). We were building about 5.5 million cars in Germany. That was about 30% of all the cars that have been sold by German automotive factories. So really, we are building 15 million cars around the world, and in Germany we build 3.5 million. That's about roughly about 30% or so we are building in Germany. Germany is by far the most expensive automotive construction country in the world, and German industry is fleeing. You can see it from that curve.

So, metals, just to have one look. You need 10 megawatt/hours for one ton of aluminum—if you produce aluminum here, on the premises, you need 10 megawatt/hours. The costs at the time being in Germany are €1,500 for 10 megawatt/hours. The price at the London Metal Exchange is €1,975. And you see the aluminum industry in Europe is dying. That will never, ever happen in the future. The same with the copper industry; the same with the steel industry.

And with these good views in the future, I will leave you alone. Thank you very much.

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Frank Bornschein

**Deindustrialization – Not by Chance but by Design; the Example of PCK Schwedt**

*Mr. Bornschein is co-initiator of the initiative “Peace – Freedom and Sovereignty”; City Councilor, Schwedt/Oder, Germany.*

Dear conference participants, dear guests,

My name is Frank Bornschein. I am 62 years old and come from Schwedt/Oder in the northeast of the Federal Republic of Germany. I am co-initiator of the peace movement in Schwedt and the initiative “Peace – Freedom and Sovereignty.” In addition, I am a city councilor and professionally active as a management consultant.

Deindustrialization – Not by Chance but by Design – the Example of PCK Schwedt. First of all, I would like to briefly explain the term and the meaning of deindustrialization.

Deindustrialization is the term used to describe processes of social or economic change, caused by a shrinking of the industrial sectors, especially the heavy and manufacturing industries, in a country or region. It occurs when the value added in the manufacturing sector declines, and therefore the number of industrial jobs declines, according to a generally accepted definition by the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences (SATW), which also conducts ongoing studies on this and related topics.

Accordingly, less value added and less employment must therefore both be present over a longer period of time in order to speak of deindustrialization. The situation in Germany is very diverse in this respect, where the core competencies – that means the main focus of industrial production – are dominated by four sectors: the automotive industry, the mechanical engineering industry, the chemical industry and the electrical industry.

Industry requires more than a quarter of the total amount of energy used in Germany. Energy-intensive industries are primarily the chemical and metal industries. However, coal and petroleum processing, as well as the production of glass, ceramics, and paper and cardboard, are also energy-intensive industries. According to the German Federal Statistical Office, these industries required 791 billion kWh in 2020, or around 76% of the total amount of energy used in industry; they generated 21% of the gross value added; and, in 2020, with approximately 935,000 employees, employ around 12% of the workforce in the manufacturing sector in approximately 7,000 companies.

This was the initial situation in Germany in 2020. However, this situation has been in flux ever since.

With the EU’s Green Deal of 2019, which follows the recommendations of the Club of Rome of 1972 (with its appeal to the limits of growth) and focuses on priorities such as the regulation of

the financial market, the energy supply, transport, trade, industry, and agriculture and forestry, thus encompassing almost all core areas of any national economy, this change is to be implemented, where the term “regulation” simply stands for capacity-reduction and restrictions. This is camouflaged or politically underpinned with the intended limitation of the emission of the so-called greenhouse gases to 55% by 2050 in relation to the level of 1990, which is the base upon which the European Climate Law was passed on June 30, 2021.

Since then, the dismantling of the industry has been taking place, where at present, with about 880,000 employees, 55,000 fewer than in 2020, were employed in the energy-intensive industries, thus initiating the deindustrialization. Therefore, one cannot speak here of a coincidental de-industrialization of Germany and also Europe, but it is definitely plan and also political will.

Consequently, the energy-intensive sectors, such as the chemical and metal industries, as well as coal and mineral oil processing, are affected first, and then the neighboring sectors, such as the supply industry and the service sector, are also affected.

I would now like to refer to the example of [the oil refinery] PCK Schwedt.

Schwedt is a town with a population of around 32,000 in the northeast of Germany and has been an important chemical and industrial location since 1965.

The town is characterized by two medium-sized companies in the petroleum- processing and paper-manufacturing industries, each employing more than 1,200 people, and a further approximately 5,000 employees in the adjacent sectors.

In 2020, Schwedt generated one-third of the total gross value added in the state of Brandenburg and the highest per-capita value added in the new federal states. Incidentally, I myself learned my first profession at PCK.

Until the end of 2021, i.e., before the intensification of the Ukraine conflict, 11 million tons of crude oil were processed there, annually, mainly supplied from Russia via the Druzhba (Friendship) oil pipeline.

With the stop of the purchase of Russian oil at the turn of the year 2022/2023, the PCK was then supplied via the existing pipeline from the port of Rostock, which, however, only has a capacity of 6 million tons and where, as a result of this low supply, only a utilization of approximately 55% – to a maximum of 60% – of the facilities can be achieved, where, however, the break-even point is at approximately 70%.

Therefore, even with the intended supply of Kazakh oil of 1.2 million tons, the break-even point can only be reached gradually, which means that even in the best case, the PCK is only operating at the edge of the break-even point, which makes a capacity reduction of about one-third necessary, at least in the medium term, and thus frees up manpower.

The actions of the politicians are aimed at appeasement, calming, and also deception with, for example, the formation of a so-called task force or also a committee for transformation, which has also succeeded at least to a large extent, and so the mood among the workforce is still good despite the dissatisfaction by simply not telling them the truth. For there is a guiding paper of the Federal Ministry of Economics, already from 2019, which provides for the drastic reduction of the consumption of fuels from fossil feedstocks to 40% by 2030 and to 10% by 2050 relative to the level of 2018. This target is also included in the German government's coalition agreement of 2021 and is thus a firm political will. At that point, the aggravation of the Ukraine conflict had not yet taken place, but this is used by politicians as a cover for their actions.

The employees themselves have an employment guarantee until the end of 2024 and then another year in the event of a sale (in line with the statutory regulations for company takeovers). As a result, there is not yet any widespread discontent among the workforce. However, it can be assumed that this will change from the fall of this year, when it becomes more and more foreseeable that there will be no further employment for many employees in the medium term, because, even with continued operation at the edge of the break-even point, entire manual production and control lines will be eliminated in the course of digitization, where in the end only a maximum of around 250 to 300 employees will still be working at PCK.

As a result of the reduction in production, there have not yet been any regional bottlenecks in the supply of mineral oil, where it can be concluded that even with a reduction in production to 30%, this is also guaranteed, with all the resulting consequences for the business location. I would also like to mention that currently the second, larger company, the paper mills, are in reorganization or planned insolvency.

We, from our initiative "Peace – Freedom and Sovereignty," will direct our activities towards informing and continuing the protest against these developments or plans. This will be done through demonstrations, vigils, and events such as the planned peace festival at the end of August, car parades, and also networking with other initiative groups from neighboring towns and districts. And last, but not least, we develop offers to the people themselves, how it can go better in better society.

We are convinced that we will succeed in doing something effective to counter this devastating policy and wish us all much strength and success.

And I thank you, that I was allowed to speak here. Many thanks.

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Prof. Alberto Prestininzi

**Climate: Between Emergency and Knowledge**

*Prof. Prestininzi is a geologist, Sapienza University in Rome; Director, CERI Research Center, Italy.*

Good afternoon. I am glad to be here.

I am going to speak in Italian, because I have to talk about numbers, which are subject to difficult pronunciation, because we are talking about billions and billions of euros, which we European citizens are paying for a number of things.

The Italian CLINTEL (Intelligence on Climate) group, which is part of the European foundation headed by Guus Berkhout, with 1,500 scientists around the world, has been posing this problem of climate change, understood as a scientific analysis of what others are saying. For years we Italians – teachers, scientists – have tried to speak, on the rare occasions that the media have opened their doors, which are usually closed to us; we have tried to use a scientific language that has become incomprehensible. So, we decided to change course, and I edited a book written by sixteen scientists, which, while maintaining a minimum of scientific language, aimed to explain with numbers, to Italian citizens initially (the book has come out in Italian but is about to come out in several languages), entitled “Climate Dialogues, Between Emergency and Knowledge.” We wanted to give numbers, to make people understand – especially at a time when crises, as we have heard for Germany but also for Italy and other nations, are beginning to weigh on the pockets of citizens around the world.

These names you see below are the Italian scientists registered with CLINTEL. We first wrote a petition, sent to the President of the Italian Republic, saying that “There is no climate emergency.” We are facing a pollution emergency, but the media in a very clever way, I would say – and Greta Thunberg knows something about this – mix the cards very well, confusing climate with pollution, which are two totally different issues. We first wanted to warn the State President, who decided, for certainly justifiable reasons, not to respond to 200 Italian scientists who signed this petition [calling] to care about pollution, and not about climate, which has nothing to do with pollution.

Well, we wrote this book – I’ll show you the cover (by the way, this book was among the finalists in an Italian competition) – highlighting three basic points: the assumptions we made are three. They are these:

1. There is no climate emergency, and we prove it;
2. it is facts, not hypotheses, that determine scientific truth; we are confusing people a lot here, because they take hypotheses to pass them off as scientific truth; they are two different things;

3. it is knowledge, and not hypotheses, that should guide policy to make choices; policy choices that have a great economic impact on people should be made on the basis of knowledge, not hypotheses.

For the first point we have borrowed a statement by this great woman, Marie Curie, who, by the way, is the only person ever to have won two Nobel Prizes, one for chemistry and one for physics. You all know what this woman suffered, together with her husband, for the discovery of radiation. Marie Curie said, "In life nothing is to be feared, one must only understand." Now it is time to understand, so we can fear less. That is the slogan, because this climate thing is based on fear, and we will see that in a moment.

I wanted to say, without boring you too much, what the difference is between hypothesis and knowledge: Research is based on hypotheses, which are the result of thinking and are the basis of research, but few hypotheses turn into knowledge or scientific truth; only those that turn into scientific truth become knowledge, and knowledge never ends.

So, we have to make sure that policy listens to science-knowledge, not hypotheses – because today this paradigm has been totally subverted. How have they done this? With the role that the information system plays (see point 3). Information is now so pervasive – and we will see this, in the example of some important Italian newspapers, which here in the chart have been translated into English. They have different dates and always speak on behalf of science, reciting the gospel of the IPCC [International Panel on Climate Change] by heart. Without knowing why, they say, "The scientists say so."

Starting, for example, from 1989: "We have 10 years to save the planet." From 1989 [we come] to 2023, this year: The latest IPCC report says [again], "We have 10 years to save the Earth." I took the liberty of making this little graphic to give you a better understanding of the meaning of these terrorist communications: Here we have the date of the IPCC prediction – ten years to save the Earth; this is the "deadline of the Planet" ("death line of the planet"), a line that now travels endlessly, because the terror continues, forgetting that today people are starting to pay, so they are asking questions, [such as,] how come after after ten years from this first date, nothing has happened? Ten more. Now we are at IPCC Assessment No. 6. We wrote to the legendary Antonio Guterrez, the UN Secretary, asking him to explain why there are still ten years to save the Earth.

This is the "death line," and let's see in this time what has happened to the planet: has it died? has it resurrected itself? how is this planet? do we want to see?

This is real data, data made by satellite: In the last fifty years the planet has increased the plant mass by 30%; the planet is greener, it is better; nothing catastrophic has happened. This is the Sahel: you can see that it is receding. The story of desertification, also told in Italy, a country where forests have now become pervasive – even on the streets of Rome there is forest....

The planet is not dead; in fact, it is better off, because when the green is better off— which is also better off, because this small percentage of CO<sub>2</sub> we put in, is the food of the plants. CO<sub>2</sub> is our food. Life on Earth is based on CO<sub>2</sub>.

They are creating tremendous ignorance in schools.

In 1950, when we were 3.5 billion, the world had 50% undernourished. Today we are 8 billion and the undernourished are 10%. Agriculture has responded to this sign of need by increasing production— these are rice, wheat, soybeans, corn, the four most important staple foods in the world.

If we look at the last few years since the story of the remaining “last ten years” came out, we see the trend of the undernourished in the world: since 1980 the speed of reduction of the undernourished has increased tremendously. This means that although there are 8 billion of us, the agricultural system is managing to feed people better than before. This should not be confused with the distribution of wealth, which is something else again.

Here we are talking about FAO data, related to a per capita income of 1.9 euros per day.

Here we see the distribution of life expectancy, which in our most fortunate countries has exceeded eighty years. In other countries it has also exceeded seventy years. This means that the planet is not dying. The ten-year threat to save the Earth as a terrorist message, needs to be understood by people. This is what we need to start spreading.

We have said that as far as scientific issues are concerned, the fora are the universities, certainly not the talk shows. To people, however, we need to send this message.

Another story: “Extreme events are increasing.” Serious research conducted globally, shows that since 1900 there has been a sharp decline in events such as tropical cyclones, as temperature increases.

The people have been made ignorant. There is a comeback of illiteracy that is frightening. I could verify this in Italy: In the last [most recent] events (drought, then flood), no one talked about prevention, but only about extreme events and climate change, which would produce rainfall. We in Italy have spent forty years of studies to improve prevention, but no one talked about it.

Hurricanes have markedly decreased. This publication is divided by decades: From 1851 to 2010, on average, hurricanes of different energy levels— they are divided into five different energy levels—have markedly decreased. Frequency has decreased and intensity has decreased.

In 1977 sea-level was estimated rise by six meters by 2030— the latest measured data gives 0.085 mm, part of which is because of the increase in volume due to temperature. The sea water has warmed slightly. The average temperature is increasing as we are coming out of the Little Ice Age, whose lowest peak was in the late 18th Century. Today we have the tail-end of this increase, which is quite normal and repeats what has been happening for the last eleven

thousand years. This is documented data. When we invite those people to come and compare, this is what we say: The climate models they have produced are not able to simulate what has really happened on Earth, but they claim to project a hundred years from now what will happen, without their being able to simulate what happened last year.

This is the sea-level rise recorded with a long-year oceanographic campaign.

As for temperature, [James] Hansen's first model, taken to the U.S. Congress [in 1988] as the first message of terror, was: "If CO2 by 2020 is not zeroed out..." 2020 has arrived, CO2 has risen much more than Hansen predicted, and the average temperature has followed this natural trend (measured with both balloons and satellites, which are much more accurate).

This is the medieval heat; this is the Roman heat, two degrees higher than the present. A very careful survey has been done in the Mediterranean Sea. Here on the Mont Cenis Pass, Hannibal crossed the Alps at the end of September, 218 BC. Today the pass of Mont Cenis is closed because of snow at the end of September.

We also have other interesting data. Here you see the mummy of Simulaun, which they found at 3500 meters [above sea level], in Northern Italy on the border with Austria. Why did it mummify? Because there was no ice, all the glaciers having retreated much higher up. Today there is a large glacier there.

This is the Little Ice Age. In Venice, on the Lagoon they used to ice skate. Today the temperature is recovering.

Here is the Holocene Warm, very famous period when temperatures were four degrees higher than today.

These are the results of the great survey done by Italian research in the Mediterranean Sea. In the Roman period, sea water was two degrees higher. In Italy's largest glacier, at 3,000 meters, a log was found that, dated with C-14, showed that in the period about 3,000 years ago, the glacier was not there; in its place was a very large forest.

This is a marmot found mummified on Mount Rosa at nearly 4,000 meters. A body is not mummified in the presence of ice; in a refrigerator, the flesh freezes.

I would like to say a few words about what has happened in Italy recently, the flood that hit a large area in the Emilia-Romagna area. Italy is one of the rainiest countries in Europe. It rains exactly 282 billion cubic meters of water a year. Italy consumes 18 billion of them, including irrigation water, drinking water and water for industrial use. What happens to this water? You all know the boot [shape of Italy], with the Apennines having very steep slopes, which immediately pour water into the sea through rivers, creating hydraulic risk and death. It would be enough to build dams (to produce electricity), eliminate floods and have water available all year round [applause]. Instead, when there is no water, we cry drought; when there is a lot of water, we cry excess water "due to the climate."

Here we see how Italy is more rainy than other European countries. Let's compare the rainfall of some Italian cities with Paris, London, etc. Paris has a more regular rainfall distribution; in Italy, there is little rain in summer.

This is a curve made by me, in my research. On the abscissa, at the value 0, I set the average Italian rainfall, the 282 billion divided by the whole territory, to highlight the excesses and defects of rainfall. You see that the distribution of "pluses" and "minuses" is absolutely regular from 1900 until now. When they say that extreme rainfall and floods have increased, they are still telling fairy tales. These droughts and floods are a feature of the land.

I would like to show you how the IPCC produces its reports. It says, "scientists say," but it doesn't. Scientists send in their data, but they don't speak in the reports, which are written by economists, together with representatives of environmental ministries. For example, the scientists were asked to send all the data measured with rain gauges over the past 30 years. What was the result? Out of more than 5,000 rain-gauge stations, 4,146 say rainfall has [shown] no significant change. So it says on page 1,560 of AR-6. This is not said by Alberto Prestinini, but by the IPCC. A small part shows excesses of rainfall and a small part a regression [of rainfall]. What did they write in the final report? That in the last 30 years there is a clear signal of increasing rainfall intensity and a clear decrease in rainfall intensity.

The reports are constructed by not listening to the scientists. When you read in the newspapers that "the scientists say so," they are telling a mere lie. Economists write it, because the IPCC is an intergovernmental panel, headed by its member governments and run by economists. It is no coincidence that the chairmen of the IPCC have all been economists, from [Radrendra] Pachauri onward.

This is a chart on droughts. Worldwide research says that drought areas are drastically decreasing; after all, this is in line with the increase in vegetation. This is official data.

This sheet tells us that no dams have been built in Italy since 2020. They stopped building dams, when Italy would need dams as it needs bread, to eliminate floods, produce hydroelectric power and have plenty of water all year round, because 282 billion cubic meters of water we have.

The last thing I want to show you is the report that the World Bank writes every year to list the risks of all the countries in the world. Out of curiosity I went to see what the risks are for Italy, and it turns out that Italy has the most deaths from landslides, floods, and earthquakes. It says here that the number-one risk Italy faces is "failure of climate action." In second place is public debt, and then extreme weather events (which are not there), geopoliticization of strategic resources, and digital inequality.

I consulted the chapter on Turkey, which had 50,000 earthquake deaths, and Turkey has the same risks as Italy.

These are the real risks of Italy: from 1900 to 2020, 250,000 deaths from landslides, floods and earthquakes and 6.4 billion [euros] a year in damages!

These are the signals that we gave to the President of the Republic – that you can somehow fight with prevention, because in Italy we have a very good law on soil defense, but it was put in the drawer and never used.

This is what I think we have to tell everyone if we want to change things.

Thank you.

Prof. Carl-Otto Weiss

## **How the Earth's Climate Is Changing and Why**

*Prof. Weiss is Advisor to the European Climate and Energy Institute (EIKE); Professor and Director, German Federal Institute of Metrology, Germany.*

In this contribution I show you the results of a cycle analysis of 2,000 years of global climate data, the result of which is that Earth's climate is determined by three main cycles, and that CO<sub>2</sub> plays only an insignificant role.

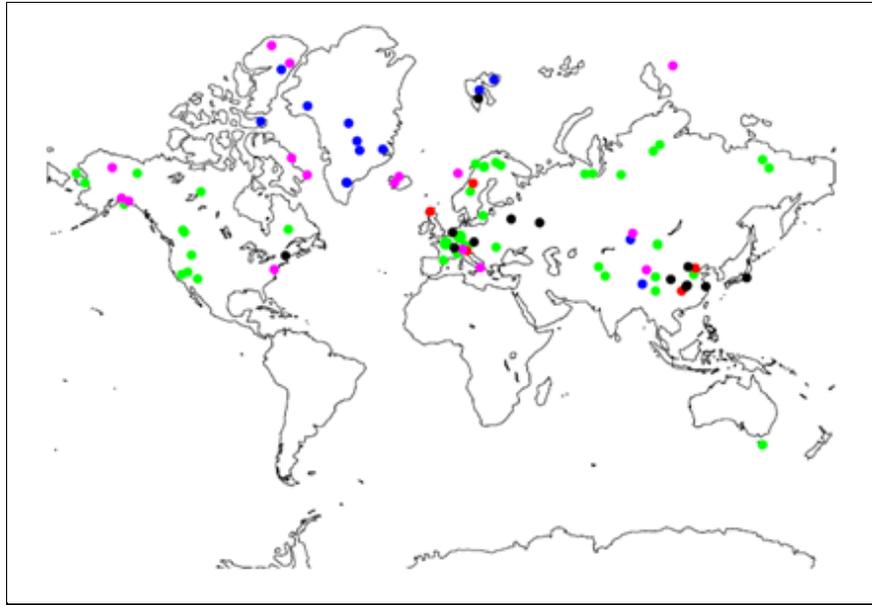
But first let me mention how I became interested in the question of Earth climate. My research subject was everything related to lasers. Physics of Lasers, technical and scientific applications, e.g., spectroscopy and atomic clocks based on one single atom, etc., etc. Even in the 1990s, for persons with scientific education, the self-contradictions of the official climate propaganda were obvious. Thus, the official narrative could not be true. We joked about the primitivity of the propaganda.

I did not have time to look deeper. I had 40 scientific coworkers, 10 of whom, to feed them, I had to find about \$1 million each year. So that did not give me much time. But at retirement I had time. First I looked into the official models, and it is quite obvious where the fudge factors in the calculations are. But, then, I am an experimental physicist, so I got together with Horst Luedecke to analyze climate measurements.

In particular we did what is called Fourier Analysis, which means looking for cycles in seemingly irregular measurements in time series. Since this is the most common type of analysis in any field of physics or technology, we were surprised not to find any such work in the half-million publications of the climate literature. But then we said, "OK, if nobody did that so far, well, we will do that." We published our analysis, and the reviewers confirmed that our work and conclusions were correct.

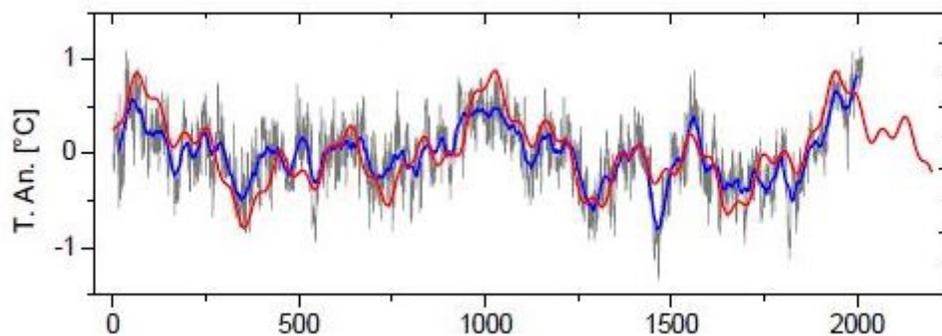
We reconstructed the terrestrial temperature history of the last 2,000 years using published local temperature proxy data [4]. Figure 1 [next page] shows the locations of the measurements on the globe and the type of temperature proxy.

The data comprise several hundred thousand individual measurements. Thus, by averaging to yearly values, the noise in the data can be much reduced. The global temperature history reconstructed in this way (Figure 2, annual data in grey) exhibits all historically known temperature extremes, such as the Roman Optimum (~0 AD), the Medieval Optimum (~ 1000 AD), the Recent Optimum (~2000 AD) or the Little Ice Age (~ 1500 AD). Even details like the Deep Minimum of 1450, known from the biography of Louis XI, show up. As to be expected, the reconstruction yields also the 1870–2000 temperature rise, which is officially claimed as due to human CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.



**Figure 1.** Location of Temperature Proxies. Green: tree rings; Blue: ice cores; Red: speleothems (stalagmites, etc.); Magenta: sediments; Black: other.

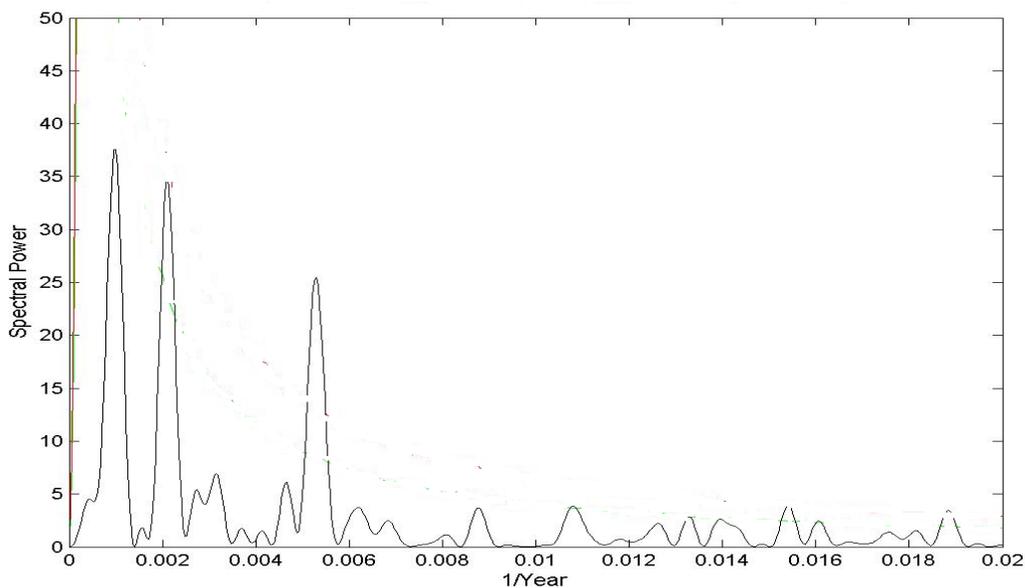
“Climate,” officially defined as the 30-year running average of temperature, is shown in Figure 2 (blue curve). The climate curve emphasizes the mentioned temperature features. The correct representation of the known historical temperature variations indicates that the reconstruction is realistic. We then Fourier-transformed annual temperatures (grey in Figure 2). The resulting spectrum Figure 3 shows three dominant cycles with periods of ~1,000, ~460, and ~190 years. These cycles were already known from local studies, (Eddy-, Babich-, De Vries cycles, respectively). This confirms once more that the reconstruction is realistic, and excludes [the possibility] that the dominant cycles could be mathematical artifacts.



**Figure 2.** Temperature history over the past 2,000 years (grey: annual values; blue: “climate” – 30 year running average; red: sum of the three dominant cycles).

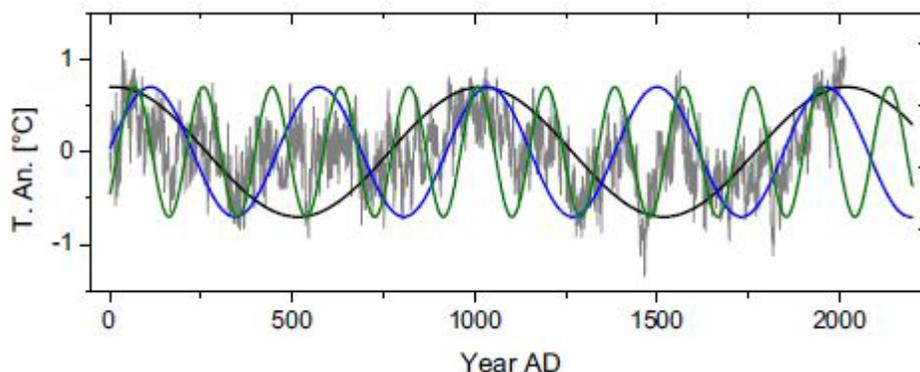
For those less familiar with the Fourier transform, we mention that periodic variations (cycles) show up in the spectrum as sharp peaks (such as the three main cycles of Figure 2). Non-periodic variations, e.g., monotonically rising or falling, show themselves in the spectrum as broad continua.

In Figure 3, broad continua are not visible. This suggests already that non-periodic variations in the temperature, such as warming due to human emissions, are absent. However, broad spectral continua may be masked by noise. To exclude such a possibility, we transformed back to the time domain.



*Figure 3. Spectrum of the 2,000 years' annual values, showing three dominant cycles with 1,000-, 460-, 190-year periods.*

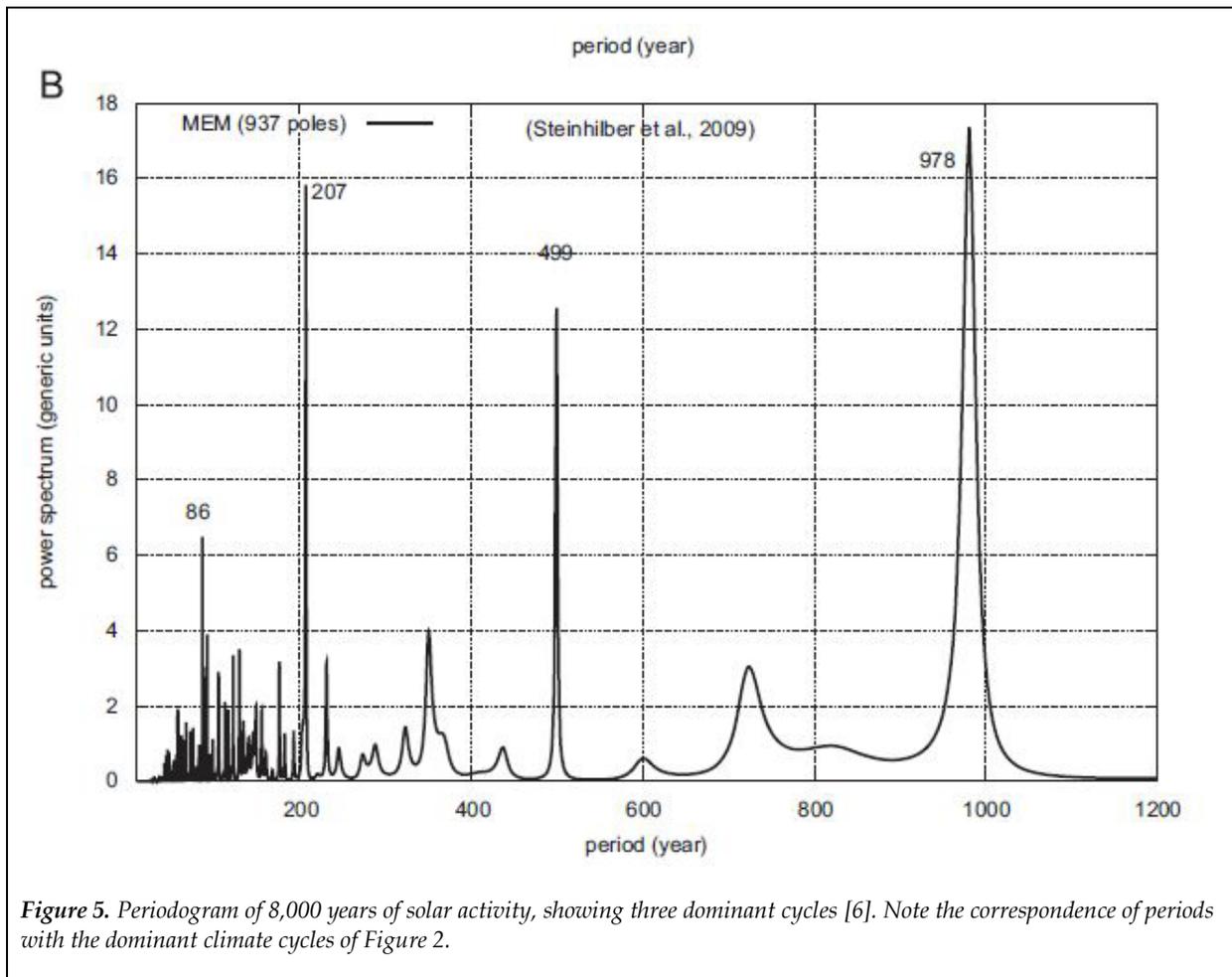
Figure 4 shows the three main cycles in the time domain (amplitudes normalized for clarity). The sum of the three dominant cycles (red curve, Figure 2) agrees with the climate (blue curve) remarkably well (correlation 0.85). The sum of the three cycles represents, notably, also the temperature rise for 1870–2000.



*Figure 4. The three dominant cycles in time domain (amplitudes normalized for clarity).*

I emphasize this result again: the warming from 1870–2000 is due to the three main *natural* climate cycles. And not due to CO<sub>2</sub>, as claimed in the official propaganda.

The difference between the reconstruction (grey or blue values, Figure 2) and the cycle sum (red in Figure 2) around 2000 AD would be compatible with the recent estimates of CO<sub>2</sub> climate sensitivity of  $\sim 0.5^\circ$  for CO<sub>2</sub> doubling. (See, e.g., [5] and Figure 5), certainly unimportant for life on Earth. The three cycles with their amplitudes and phases, thus allow calculating the essential climate changes for the past and for the future.



*Figure 5. Periodogram of 8,000 years of solar activity, showing three dominant cycles [6]. Note the correspondence of periods with the dominant climate cycles of Figure 2.*

We can ask further about the origin of the three dominant climate cycles. I found [6] that these agree remarkably in periods with the three dominant cycles of solar activity (see Figure 4). The mechanism by which solar activity (i.e., “solar wind”) affects Earth’s climate, is well understood [9]. It follows that the cycles of solar activity determine the terrestrial climate.

Interestingly, Scafetta [6] shows that all principal solar activity cycles can be explained by the motion of the planets (particularly Jupiter and Saturn), and the planetary tide forces acting on

the solar magnetic field generator (the mechanism by which the tide forces of planets influence the solar activity has recently been clarified [8]).

The main result of our analysis is that the global warming from 1870 to the present is *natural* and not man made, and that it originates from the three dominant cycles.

The continuation of the three dominant terrestrial cycles into the future indicates cooling until 2070 . The recent continuation of the rise of the climate curve (blue) as different from the cycle sum (red) may indicate the small contribution of CO2 of 0.5°C per doubling of the CO2 content of the atmosphere [5], which is certainly unimportant for life on earth

Summarizing, I mention that this analysis, along with many others, disproves all official propaganda claims of a dangerous warming due to CO2.

A first independent confirmation of our results, namely that the 1870–2000 temperature rise is natural, was given recently, using pattern recognition on temperature proxies [7].

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### **Audience and Panel Dialogue**

**Ossenkopp:** Thank you very much. So now we do have time for a couple of questions. We still have Professor Weiss, Mr. Bornstein, and Professor Prestininzi. And I would like to add to the podium someone else, Helga Zepp-LaRouche. Maybe you can come up and also give us your insights into some of the questions that are coming in. Do we have a microphone for the public? Go ahead, be courageous. We have a courageous gentleman. Please say your name and your affiliation.

**Amos Robert Lechner Schoble:** And first, I'd like to thank you for the great presentations. And it became very clear that we have a subject that is basically the survival of the civilized world, because without energy, it does not work. And I had also three publications in the magazine

*Fusion*, that is one point, and I'd like to mention some points and ask the question, What can we do to strengthen our force, to fight against what came from the IPCC? For me, the IPCC is the world's largest fraudulent organization, and I will explain why.

I looked on the subject – climate – with question in mind, “Do we have enough time before we have fusion energy available?” And I found out by speaking with experts, a friend of mine who got four years with the IPCC, and his scientific results were changed from the framing department of the IPCC, and he denied [declined – ed.] to sign. And another, Kauppinen, wrote his wonderful model and said a major failure is in the calculation: the heat-storage capacity of the planet is different between continents and sea. And you brought a wonderful picture, Professor Weiss, and the Austrian Österreichische [*inaudible*] Gesellschaft made a symposium 21 years ago, and you had been one of the speakers (and I have your files in my computer from old days). So, we know that something is going out of the way. We know that wind energy brings 100 times more warming to the land, based on the studies that came from the U.S., more warming on the land than global cooling – 100 times [more]. So we cannot go this way. And for me, the question is, what can we really do? What CLINTEL is doing, what you are doing, what [*inaudible*] is doing to strengthen [*inaudible*] forces so that we get an impact? From the scientific point [of view], there's always a thesis and an antithesis and synthesis, and we have currently globally the situation that the governments are funding only what they like with the ideology. And how can we break this?

**Ossenkopp?:** Thanks very much. Who would like to make the first statement?

**Prestininzi:** Thank you. (Claudio is [ready] for translation.) It a very important is question.

**Question:** The question is, what can we do to fight the IPCC? It's very difficult, but not impossible. Now, if you open the link CLINTEL.org, you will find a report written by 1500 scientists who criticize and write the falsifications in the last IPCC report. They write it: the data, the numbers, there's everything. I understand that we must intensify our activity. We must therefore convince our friends, so to speak, politicians, our political friends, so to speak, that they also have sons and grandchildren, because they cannot go on the whole life with such stupidities, because the social cost of it is enormous. There is a change of paradigm. Today we heard [regarding] Germany how much solar energy and wind energy it has. I think [its] the largest in Europe. Hungary had almost zero renewables. The citizens of Germany ask themselves why the electricity bill in Germany is the double as high as the one in Hungary, despite they tell us that the reduction of the electricity bill, the cost of our electricity, is reduced only through the transition with the renewables. It's exactly the opposite, because renewables – In the first place, they cannot solve the problem, but here we would go into a scientific discussion. But from the practical standpoint, the cost to design and build solar fields and wind parks is low, because we pay for it, because the state gives incentives, and this cost is then redistributed on the electricity bill. Those who don't have it, they don't have such costs. Is it possible that they don't understand that they started a mechanism by which electricity – which

is an energy vector, it needs a primary energy source—is aligned to the cost of the highest primary energy, which is gas? Coal is cheaper, but we produce 30% with coal, and we pay for it as if we produce it with gas. With nuclear energy [the cost] is one-third, but we pay it as if it was produced with gas. All this hoax, if we don't analyze it and explain it to the common people, who know only that the planet is dying and they are worried. Well, it's difficult to be able to do anything. In my view, today there are the conditions, the framework conditions to do something, because people start to measure the cost of such choices, and therefore it's fundamental to stay together. This kind of meeting of today, which puts together more interests but which are intimately connected, look [see—ed.] that climate is the instrument through which they are building all the paradigms that we discuss in these days. From peace to energy, a ll is being made through this paradigm of climate. Because if this house of cards falls down, then they change the paradigm. Before, it was called global warming; now it's called climate emergency. They are changing because, with the temperature, they cannot explain it anymore. Sometimes [it goes] down. Yesterday, the Italian newspapers said that the third day we had the highest temperature ever in the world. So they keep saying these things, which we must absolutely find the way to say that it's a hoax and have people understand this.

**Bornschein:** The there are three steps, which are information, information, information. We have to call up examples from our own life and our talks with friends, colleagues, and initiatives. We have to document these examples and show them. In my case, there's one wonderful document, which is the [*inaudible*], which was published by Bertelsmann, and there's every month listed ten climate stations in Europe from the first [month?] of 1900, and you can put these data together and use these data and present them. And I can say ironically, you could say that Bertelsmann—one of the leading corporations in the world—if Bertelsmann itself says these data are wrong, whom should we believe? Bertelsmann or nature? And then, a very important aspect is the exchange of information. I have today heard for the first time about CLINTEL, and I looked up the website, so you can use them and carry [convey—ed.] the information better. And so, thank you.

**Ossenkopp:** This young gentleman. Okay. Please come to the microphone.

**Question:** Bonjour sur tous. I am from Belgium, and I was born in Burkina Faso. First of all, thank you for your wonderful intervention. And here is my question, because I have learned a lot today. I didn't know anything about that; I just learned it today. And I want to know: We in school, in university, we have learned that CO<sub>2</sub> and the emissions ejected by industry destroy the ozone layer and then generate the climate change with droughts and floods and the destruction of the soil. What do you think about this? Why are they are teaching about that in the university? I think it's kind of a conspiracy is thinking teaching by these studies. And secondly, there is a concept that we call this green energy. Maybe you can give me some information about it on its impact on life, on industry, on this geopolitical issue. Because we are talking about protecting nature, protecting the forest, to limit the emission of greenhouse gases.

And all around this concept, what we call green energy, there was a kind of geopolitical, philosophical tradition. Thank you very much.

**Prestinizi:** I am sorry for all students in the world. My book is born with [was published by? – ed] the University of Rome. So I have, myself, in travels, presented this book in my university despite that the name of the university on top of the book. Therefore, the answer is this one. Unfortunately, governments control university programs, and therefore they prevent students from knowing the views even of those who don't think the same way. It would be good if students were informed, as it should be, that this is a school, this is research – a complete information, not a partial information. Unfortunately, in the world this [distortion] is occurring. I called it a collective illiteracy returning. After the last war, illiteracy in Italy was 40%. There was one basic school teacher, Maestro Manzi, who was a hero, because he created a school reducing illiteracy by 30 percent. Today, it's necessary to reduce scientific illiteracy by a high percentage. This is important. When they tell us what they must do, we must do this [instead]. We must be careful that our children in school get a nonpartisan teaching.

**Question:** I just want to do it very shortly, I want to answer to your question, what is the mechanism, and the answer is very simple. Everything is determined by financial dependencies. Think of the European Climate Foundation. It controls five hundred NGOs, it finances that, and if you go back [to see] where the money comes from for the European collaboration, you come to the well-known cases: Rockefeller Foundation, – Basically, it's financed by what we call the financial oligarchy. And the background, why they finance that, has been said very many times here: They want to preserve their power. And in extreme scenarios, they want to impoverish the world populations, they want basically to reduce the world populations to about one or one-half billion, and, according to what official statements say, they want to reduce this to this rest of this one-half or one billion to gene-modified working slaves, eh? That's the plan which is behind all this, and the first step is to impoverish the population by telling them you're not allowed to drive cars, you're not allowed to use an airplane, you're not allowed to eat meat, and blah, blah, blah. And this is the first stage. And we talk about vaccination, [but] that's the another thing. So I wanted to say what is the mechanism which drives all these people to claim that CO2 is a dangerous thing.

**Zepp-LaRouche:** Already in 70 years we had plans for the development of the whole world. And earlier times it was self-understood that you had this decadal plans to develop the world. And 1976 perhaps the Pope, Paul VI wrote a encyclical, *Populorum Progressio*, On the Progress of the Peoples. And it was a call to overcome underdevelopment. And that was the battle. And then 1972, the Club of Rome came up with a book, *The Limits to Growth*, and that was their claim that until 1970, the world developed, but now we had limited [reached – ed.] the limits to growth, and now we had to cut down on expenses and curb development. And at that time, Lyndon LaRouche, who was at that time not my husband, he said, this is bunk; what is a resource is defined by the technologies that you develop to use things as a resource. And for

every technology there is a relative limit to the resources. But it's human creativity which enables us to always develop new technologies that use other resources. So, in the Stone Age, we had stones and used to hit people and kill them. [*Garbled audio.*] But this lie, that there are limits to growth, that was [financed] with \$1 billion and deutschemarks, and the UN published and spread [it] around the world so that people were indoctrinated that there are limits to growth.

This was the beginning of the green movement. There were environmental protection and conservation movements earlier as part of British colonialism, but the green movement that we have now and that destroys Germany with their ideological, economic policy that started with the Club of Rome, and that was supported by all the top financiers, British petrol, Shell. They spent a lot of money, they invented games for pupils that were distributed to all schools, where pupils were indoctrinated [in] the limits to growth. And so, all this idea was totally artificially created. And we have this Malthusian ideology – that's the oligarchy: A small elite is supposed to control everything, and all the other people are a lower class of population. And this ideological component is very obviously present. And then there are other people who can make a lot of money implementing the green reset, and that's why they go along. And I can give you a lot of links. We have a huge documentation. And fortunately this is now rejected by the people and the nations of the Global South. They have understood that this is a tool to prevent development of South America, Africa, Asia. And therefore, it was so important when Ramaphosa said, 'pay for the Inga Dam and then we'll see] your serious about what you talk about.'

**Ossenkopp:** Unfortunately time is pressing on us. It's now 4:30, and I would like to give the concluding words to Schiller Institute chairwoman [*sic*] Helga Zepp-LaRouche to give us her concluding remarks and some words of, where do we go from here? Put her on the spot.

**Zepp-LaRouche:** I want to thank all the speakers, and also the audience, that you have [paid] so much attention to us for two days under these conditions. But I don't release you without you promising that you will help us by becoming active. We need all the activists that we can get. We have resolutions, the text is now formulated between some of the speakers. Do we have time to read it or is it fit to be read now?

**Ossenkopp:** Do we have the resolution to be read from the podium?

**Zepp-LaRouche:** Anyway, we have this resolution. And if you agree with that, we would like to publish this resolution as the message of this conference and use it as a greeting to the rallies on August 6th in front of the United Nations and all the other places over the world where this rally for peace will happen because of the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. So, I ask you to join our activities, help us build these rallies, help us build this movement, because we need this world global peace movement that stops these developments. Stefan can read that now.

**Ossenkopp:** [Reads resolution.]

**Zepp-LaRouche:** If nobody has anything to say against this resolution, I would say that we conclude that this is accepted by the conference and that we should use it as a basis to contact as many organizations as possible, everyone in his environment, friends, and to make this movement so strong that it cannot be ignored. Become active for us. Study Schiller to improve your soul, which is very important, because the soul is the place where good or bad things develop, and then hope we meet very soon.

**Question:** So, the first thing is, the question was raised, what should we do? My answer is, we should do nothing. We should leave it to human inventiveness and human creativity to improve life on Earth infinitely. That's the first thing. And the second thing is, I've heard many times that if you have proof that the other side is lying, which is certainly true, but it's better not to say the other side is lying, but to say, I can explain to you how it really works. Yeah. And this I've tried to do. Okay. Thanks for the seconds. Thank you.

**Ossenkopp:** Thank you very much.

This concludes our conference, and we all wish you a safe journey home.

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