

»Forlæng den Nye Silkevej til Vestasien og Afrika« LaRouche PAC Internationale Webcast 19. jan., 2018, med Hussein Askary og Jason Ross, forfatterne af Schiller Instituttets nye rapport

Vi har et helt særligt program i dag; med mig i studiet har jeg Jason Ross, og via video fra Sverige har jeg Hussein Askary. Jason og Hussein er begge medforfattere af en ny rapport, der netop er udgivet, med titlen, »Forlæng den Nye Silkevej til Vestasien og Afrika: En vision for en økonomisk renæssance«.

(OBS! Se [invitation til seminar i København 5. febr. med Hussein Askary](#))

[Bemærk: Der er mange billeder, der hver er separat nummererede af de forskellige talere; det er selvfølgelig bedst at se videoen, -red.]

Vært Matthew Ogden: Det er 19. januar, og dette er vores ugentlige fredags-webcast fra larouchepac.com.

Vi har et helt særligt program i dag; med mig i studiet har jeg Jason Ross, og via video fra Sverige har jeg Hussein Askary. Jason og Hussein er begge medforfattere af en ny

rapport, der netop er udgivet, med titlen, »Forlæng den Nye Silkevej til Vestasien og Afrika: En vision for en økonomisk renaissance«.

Det bliver emnet for aftenens udsendelse; men før vi kommer til det, vil jeg gerne lægge ud med at sige, at LaRouche Political Action Committee har indledt en national kampagne for at sætte betingelserne for valgene 2018. Som I ser her, er titlen for vores kampagne »Kampagnen for at vinde fremtiden«, og det er titlen på en erklæring, der nu cirkuleres i hele landet. Erklæringens indhold fremlægger de politiske prioriteter, der vil bestemme udfaldet af valgene her i USA i år, med hensyn til dette lands overlevelse. Vi er i det indledende stadie for at indsamle underskrifter på denne erklæring, og vi opfordrer seerne, især her i USA, til at underskrive denne kampagne. URL ses her på skærmen, og I kan også få organisationer i valgkredsene, medlemmer af delstatskongresserne, siddende medlemmer af USA's Kongres og i særdeleshed kandidater til offentligt (føderalt) embede, til at underskrive denne kampagne.

Indholdet af denne programerklæring er meget signifikant. Den kræver, at USA vedtager Lyndon LaRouches Fire Økonomiske Love, dvs.: Vedtag Glass-Steagall for at rejse en brandmur mellem kommerciel, produktiv bankaktivitet og spekulativ bankaktivitet på Wall Street; for det andet, at indføre et nationalbanksystem (statsligt banksystem) i Alexander Hamiltons tradition; for det tredje, brug milliarder af dollar i føderal (statslig) kredit til at løfte det amerikanske folk og for at skabe produktiv beskæftigelse på det højeste og mest avancerede teknologiske niveau; og for det fjerde, sæt et forceret program i gang, der går i retning af udvikling af fusionskraft og udvidelsen af bemanded rumfart.

Det er meget, meget vigtigt, at vi har indledt denne kampagne nu, for vi går nu ind i de sidste 11-dages nedtælling fra nu og frem til præsident Trumps State of the Union-tale den 30. jan. Indholdet af dette politiske programforslag må være

bestemmende for præsidentskabets politiske program her i USA. Som I ser, er vore to punkter på dagsordenen 1) Vedtag Lyndon LaRouches Fire Love, og 2) Gå med i den Nye Silkevej.

Det bliver emnet for vores diskussion i dag. For de seere, der evt. ikke ved det, så blev ideen om den Nye Silkevej først udarbejdet af Lyndon og Helga LaRouche i 1980'erne. Det var den daværende Eurasiske Landbro for at udvikle det eurasiske kontinents indlandsområder, som forbinder Øst og Vest. Det blev til den Nye Silkevej og blev kaldt således af præsident Xi Jinping i Kina, da han i 2013 vedtog dette. Det udviklede sig så til Bælte & Vej Initiativet, som var en forbindelse mellem den landbaserede Silkevej og udviklingen af en Maritim Silkevej.

Gennem LaRouche-bevægelsens lederskab udvides dette nu til ikke blot en eurasiske Ny Silkevej, men en Verdenslandbro, der omfatter alle Jordens kontinenter, inklusive Vesteuropa, Central- og Sydamerika, Nordamerika og for vores udsendelse her i dag i særdeleshed, Afrika.

Udviklingen af Afrika har ligesom været en slags lakmusprøve for menneskeheden i dag: Kina har taget denne udfordring op og har bestået prøven og sat standarden, som resten af verden må følge. Vi har set dette inspirere andre nationer, og for nylig har vi haft et meget signifikant gennembrud med den franske præsident Emmanuel Macrons besøg i Kina, hvor han mødtes med præsident Xi Jinping og erklærede, at Frankrig favner billedet af udvikling af verden gennem den Nye Silkevej, inklusive, at Frankrig ønsker at arbejde sammen med Kina om Afrikas udvikling. Dette er måske en bodsgang for Frankrigs kolonialistiske imperiefortid, men det, præsident Macron havde at sige, var meget signifikant.

Som I ser, så holdt han en meget signifikant tale i Xi'an, og i denne tale diskuterede han, hvad Kina har gjort for at udvikle Afrika og for at løfte 700 millioner af sin egen befolkning ud af fattigdom, og at Frankrig nu må imødekomme

opfordringen til at deltage i denne udvikling, især udviklingen i Afrika, i partnerskab med Kina. Her følger et par citater af, hvad præsident Macron havde at sige:

»Det er lykkedes Kina i de seneste par årtier at løfte 700 millioner mennesker ud af fattigdom ... Men jeg tænker også på Afrika. Kina har i de seneste par år investeret stort i infrastruktur og råmaterialer med en finansiell styrke, som europæiske lande ikke har. Samtidig har Frankrig historisk og kulturel viden om Afrika, som giver det mange aktiver for fremtiden.

Vi må ikke gentage fortidens fejltagelser, med at skabe politisk og finansiell afhængighed under påskud af udvikling ... det turde være unødvendigt at sige, at denne udvikling kun vil ske i fællesskab ... Frankrig har erfaringen med en ensidig imperialisme i Afrika, der undertiden har ført til det værste, og i dag, med disse nye Silkeveje, der åbner op ... Jeg mener, at partnerskabet mellem Frankrig og Kina kan gøre det muligt at undgå en gentagelse af disse fejltagelser ... Det er en moralsk udfordring, og jeg håber oprigtigt, at vi kan imødekomme den sammen ... Det enorme arbejde, der gøres med infrastruktur og økonomisk udvikling, vil give et nyt ansigt til disse nye Silkeveje på det afrikanske kontinent.«

Som præsident Macron sagde, »det er en moralsk udfordring«; og nu får Afrika, der har været et af de mest underudviklede, fejlernærede, forarmede og tilbagestående steder på planeten, muligheden for en renæssance og for at blive et knudepunkt for udvikling for hele dette område af planeten.

Som jeg sagde, så er titlen på aftenens udsendelse »Forlæng den Nye Silkevej til Vestasien og Afrika«, og jeg vil lade Jason Ross introducere jer til Hussein Askary, og vi kan diskutere indholdet af denne specialrapport, der netop er udgivet.

Jason Ross: Jeg tror, vi skal gå direkte til Hussein nu.

Hussein Askary har arbejdet i området i mange år. Han er den, der oversatte *EIR's* Specialrapport, »Den Nye Silkevej bliver til Verdenslandbroen« til arabisk og lancerede denne oversættelse i Kairo på et møde med den egyptiske transportminister.

Hussein har arbejdet meget på dette. Sammen har vi skrevet denne 274-siders rapport, I ser her. I kan få en kopi af denne rapport på Amazon og direkte gennem vores site også, [LPAC.CO/ExtendedSilkRoad], I ser linket her for neden, for at få en kopi.

Og hermed, lad os høre fra Hussein.

(Her følger et engelsk udskrift af resten af udsendelsen).

HUSSEIN ASKARY: Thank you, Jason and Matt. I'm very happy to be on this show. The writing of this report, actually, which took us several months last year, together with you, Jason, and a great team of collaborators in the Schiller Institute, it was a bit of a paradox, because we were writing this report from the standpoint of the future, and therefore the tone is optimism in the report. But at the same time, when you look at the news from Southwest Asia, which people wrongly call the "Middle East," and Africa, the news that these regions are, you know, hell-holes and people are fleeing from there by tens of thousands, there's famines, there's wars, and all kinds of things. But, if you keep digging your feet into that so-called "reality," which is artificially created by geopolitics, you will

never come out and you will never be able to think clearly to solve the problem.

And therefore, as Lyndon LaRouche always says, it's the future that determines the present. It's our vision of the future which gives us the inspiration and the means of thinking

to change our behavior today. And this is something which we hope that with this report, too, and all the other campaigns we

are having, to change the minds of people, and of leadership, whether it's in the United States or Europe, or Southwest Asia,

or Africa – anywhere.

At the same time, we are not naïve, we are not in the ivory tower, sitting and drawing nice baths, but this is a very scientific study, based on LaRouche's idea of physical economy,

but also they are philosophical and humanist principles throughout this whole report and the project we are designing, which goes both humanist Christian tradition and also the Confucian humanist Chinese tradition. We have provided for the

readers of this report, a complete picture of what are the tools

needed, whether physically, or intellectually, scientifically and

morally, to be able to reach this future we are outlining in the

report.

And we are not simply just reporting on "great things" that have already happened, that China is doing, but we are drawing a

map towards the future: A future which Lyndon LaRouche already,

more than 30 years ago, when the African Union published the Lagos Plan of Action for the development of Africa, he criticized

the reaction to that policy by saying that you cannot adhere to the existing financial and economic and moral policies of the existing order, and at the same time achieve the development goals of Africa. You have to have a complete shift. And that shift is what Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the president of the Schiller Institute now says is the New Paradigm, the New Paradigm which has been launched by China and its partners in the BRICS, Russia and other nations, and many more nations are joining. Now, if we look at the first slide, the Silk Road, this is what Matt said in terms of our development of the idea – the LaRouches' development of the idea of the World Land-Bridge, to bring all the continents together. Now, the New Silk Road is already reaching West Asia and Africa. Egypt has been building the new Suez Canal to adapt to the Maritime Silk Road, and the other nations, like Ethiopia, Kenya, and others are already in collaboration and new railway systems have been built. So already on the ground, that's taking place. But what is needed is a larger vision which we provide. Now, also we have to reverse many of the old policies which have been followed, which have kept Africa impoverished, such as, for more than 200 years, Africa has been considered by the European colonialists and their partners across the Atlantic, as a looting ground – whether it is slavery, whether it is raw materials, plantations, and so on. And unfortunately, after World War II, the vision of Franklin Roosevelt was not implemented, because he died before the end of the war, and a wholly new type of

creatures took over in the United States. And the United States

also, with the “special relationship” with the British Empire became a partner in the looting of Africa. And companies we have,

like Anglo American, which is a corporation called Anglo American, very active in mining in Africa – I mean, the name tells you all about it.

But we just take a look at what has been happening in Africa in at least the last 10-15 years, the attitude, – that’s what is fascinating with the New Paradigm – the attitude of Europe and the United States toward Africa has always been that “Africa

is a problem,” while the Chinese see Africa as an “opportunity.”

Therefore, the focus by Europe and the United States, while they

were looting the continent, were just pushing aid programs.

Now,

the slide we have, number 2, here, is the “Foreign Direct Investments in Africa,” where we see the United States is the blue line on the top, and China is the red line, which is increasing steadily. The United States, something funny happened

in 2008 – there was the financial/economic crisis – then you have a dip in investments in Africa, but also what happens in the

United States is that the first African-American President is elected. And you see, from 2009, U.S. investments in Africa completely collapsed and came down to zero by 2015, while the Chinese investments increased.

Now, there’s a flip side to this argument, is because most of the U.S. investments in Africa are in the oil and mining sector. And with the collapse of the oil and mining prices, there

was no more interest; and Mr. Obama also launched the largest fracking operation on Earth in the United States, to make the

United States the biggest producers of fossil fuels in the world.

But China's investments continued all the same.

In the next slide, number 3, we see the level of investments by the Export Import Banks of the United States on the one hand,

which is the blue line which is completely dead, on the bottom;

the United States does not issue credit for exports any more to

Africa. But then we have the China Exim Bank increasing its investments, and more interestingly, is that the World Bank, which is the top, and you see where the failure of Western policy

in Africa has been: The World Bank has been investing more than

China in Africa, but it's a completely misdirected investment.

It's on tiny, tiny, small programs, there is no financing of large-scale infrastructure as China does; there are no transformative projects, and no new technology.

In the next slide, we can see we have a lot of hypocrisy, saying that the Chinese want to come into Africa to loot African

natural resources, and this image, number 4, shows a very clear

picture that it is actually the United States and the Western countries, but with the United States, the investments in Africa

have been mostly in the mining sector and the Chinese investments

have been very diversified, in construction, manufacturing, mining, and others, such as agriculture, for example.

We can see also, the next slide, is Britain. Now, China is the largest, and people think, is not the largest investor in Africa, yet. It's the United States and Britain which have been

the biggest investors in Africa. But as we showed the United

States is mostly interested in mining, energy, and metals; and here we have Britain, you can see the last 10 years of investments. ["U.K. Foreign Direct Investment Positions in Africa, 2005-2014"] And the last two columns in the breakdown into types of investments: The red one is mining, and the light blue is in the financial sector, which is also looting Africa's financial resources.

So that's really the picture. And in the final slide in this group, number 5, we have where the investments of the Import Export Banks have gone: The United States has 71% of all loans from the Exim Bank, although it has been very, very little, but 70% of it is in the mining sector; while China, the greatest chunk of the Exim Bank investments has been in the transportation sector. And of course, there's mining and energy, communications, water, and other – very, very important sectors for Africa's development.

Now, what we have, in addition to this looting of Africa, we have the hypocrisy which is very rampant in the West, like in Europe and the United States, that "we have to help Africa." Now, when they talk about "helping Africa" is simply very small relief projects to keep things as they are. And they usually talk about "sustainable development." Now, "sustainable development" does not mean that you build modern technology, technologies that we have in the United States or in Europe, whether it's in transport or power generation; it is absolutely forbidden to support

roads,
railways, nuclear power, hydropower – there is nothing like that. What they are proposing is simply, as President Obama, as we show in one of the slides, when he went to Africa, his idea, he had projects called “Power Africa,” for power generation in Africa, and we looked at the numbers and you know, the goal of Obama’s Power Africa is to keep Africa exactly as it is, with very, very slight changes here and there. And also what was being proposed was this idea of using solar energy, which everybody knows is not efficient to have a modern, industrialized economy.

So this has been a real problem in dealing with Africa. And as we have seen, that China has completely different idea about Africa –

ROSS: Hussein, why don’t we switch over to a clip we have of President Obama explaining what he thinks about African energy development?

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA: It’s going to be your generation that suffers the most. Ultimately, if you think about all the youth that everybody’s mentioned here in Africa, if everybody’s raising living standards to the point where everybody’s got a car, and everybody’s got air conditioning and everybody’s got a big house, well, the planet will boil over. [end video]

ROSS: That was President Obama in South Africa.

ASKARY: And in fact, that’s really revealing, because that’s his soul speaking, because they consider human beings as a

burden. Now, the United Nations statistics say that by 2050, the bulk of the world's population growth will take place in Africa.

And of the additional 2.5 billion new people, projected to be born between 2015 and 2050, 1.3 billion will be added in Africa,

which means Africa's population will reach about 3 billion people. Now, for Obama and the Malthusians this is a huge problem. But for China, this is a great opportunity!

And if we look, in 2015, which is very interesting, a complete contrast with what Obama's saying, when President Xi Jinping went to South Africa, the same place where Obama was speaking, in December 2015 at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), this is slide number 10, President Xi Jinping said something very interesting, which is really the spirit of the New Paradigm: What he told the African leaders is,

I quote, "Industrialization is an inevitable path to a country's

economic success. Within a short span of several decades, China

has accomplished what took developed countries hundreds of years

to accomplish and put in place a complete industrial system with

an enormous productive capacity." And then he continues and says,

"It is entirely possible for Africa, as the world's most promising region in terms of development potential, to bring into

play its advantages and achieve great success. The achievement

of inclusive and sustainable development within Africa, hinges on

industrialization, which holds the key to creating jobs, eradicating poverty, and improving people's living standards."

Now, wow! What a contrast! President Xi Jinping said that by using modern technology as scientific development, we have achieved miracles in China and this really applies to Africa, too, as developing nations. And he means it. So the Chinese now have turned the whole idea of "sustainable development" upside down. What people think in Europe and the United States about sustainable development means, pumps for water, the small solar panels – no! China's talking about [industrialization] and it's also the latest, the state-of-the-art technology available. Because this is also interesting from an economic-scientific standpoint, because what China experienced that instead of going back to square one, going back to the industrialization process where the United States and Europe started, with the steam engine – no, you start not with that, you start with the best technology available today, and that's high-speed railway for example. The same thing applies to Africa.

ROSS: You know, Hussein, you and I were both at a conference in November in Germany, in Bad Soden, and one of the speakers there was a Chinese professor He Wenping, who gave some talks about Chinese approach towards Africa. And since you're bringing up what China's policy is, why don't run a short clip of what she had to say, to hear it from a Chinese person directly?

DR. HE WINPING: But now, I think One Belt, One Road is entering 2.0 version—that is, now facing all the countries in the world. As President Xi Jinping mentioned to the Latin

American countries, "you are all welcome to join the Belt and Road." In the Chinese "40 Minutes," Xi said, all the African continent is now on the map of the One Belt, One Road, the whole

African continent, especially after the May Belt and Road Summit

in Beijing had taken place. ...

China's One Belt, One Road initiative is relevant to countries, their own development strategy. For example, Ethiopia.

Ethiopia has now been named as the "next China" on the African continent. It's not my invention, these words—many scholars have

been published talking about which country in Africa is going to

be the China in Africa, which means, developing faster! Faster and leading other countries forward. Most of them refer to Ethiopia.

Ethiopia has now reached an GDP growth rate, last year, as high as 8%...

So very quickly, let's move to Africa. In Africa, we have commitment, that is the FOCAC, the full name is the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. This forum was established in 2000, and

every three years there is a FOCAC meeting. The FOCAC meeting in

2015 took place in Johannesburg, South Africa. In that meeting,

President Xi Jinping joined the meeting, put forward ten cooperation plans, and pledged the money—as high as \$60 billion—to cover all ten areas: industrialization, agriculture,

infrastructure, finance, environmental protection, and more.

The Belt and Road is very good for Africa's job creation. A lot of money has been earmarked to use for the industrialization

of Africa. Let me just highlight in my last two minutes, the

two

areas, like two engines—like in an airplane, if you want to take

off, you need two engines: One is industrialization, another is

infrastructure. Without good infrastructure, there's no basis for

industrialization—short of electricity, short of power, short of

roads, and then it's very hard to make industry take off.

We have done a lot. Africa now is rising. Before, Africa was regarded as a hopeless continent, more than 15 years ago. But now, with kite flying over, now it's Africa's rising time...

Just to show you another infrastructure map: the Mombasa to Nairobi railway that was just finished at the end of May. We are

going to build the second phase, from Nairobi all the way to Malaba in Uganda, and then that's an East African Community network. When this railway was finished—this is President Uhuru

Kenyatta, saying this laid the foundation for industrialization.

This shows people celebrating this railway connection, and this

shows a man holding a paper saying "Comfortable, convenient, very

soft, safe, and very beautiful." And here, very beautiful at 100

years old, a grandmother. [applause] [end video]

ASKARY: Yes, that's the spirit, that's the spirit of things that are happening in Africa, which is fantastic. But it's also

a certain projection of the happiness of the Chinese people and

their leadership in what they have achieved in their own country.

So China's saying, we have done this ourselves, you can do it, and we are committed to offering you everything we have achieved,

so you can also achieve yours. It's a win-win policy: It's good

for you, it's good for us.

It's completely different from what we have seen in the Western policy, which hopefully will change – what we mentioned

about President Macron, what he had said is really shocking for

me, too. And you see that the New Paradigm, it changes people's

souls. And this is very, very important that we are becoming more human than before, with these great achievements

So in any case, what we do in this report is, we took for example, if you look at slide 12, this is a map which the African

Union put together in the Lagos Plan of Action in 1982. But nothing has been done. This is for highways. Now, we don't prefer to have trucks travelling 10,000km from north to south; we

prefer more high-speed railway, standard gauge railways, and so

on. But this is the kind of vision which existed, but it was never implemented.

Our vision of connecting the whole African continent, and also with the so-called Middle East, that this could be done now.

We also believe that the Chinese intention is the same: To integrate all of the African nations, the populations and the natural resources of these nations, and utilize them for the development of Africa itself. Now, in 2014, which is my next slide [slide 13], the Prime Minister of China, Li Keqiang, went

on a tour in Africa. This picture is his meeting with the leaders of the East African Community, which Professor He

Wenping

just mentioned in her speech in the video you showed. He told the African leaders that China's intention is to help connect all

the African capitals with high-speed railway. One interesting thing which the Africans themselves say, is that when the Chinese

want to do something here economically, when they want to help,

they are not like the Europeans. The President of Uganda said,

they don't come here with lessons in democracy; they come here to

build things, they are not lecturing us. This is very interesting because China is not imposing anything on any nation.

It's inviting others and offering its capabilities. This was in

May 2014, and in just three years, we have the first standard gauge railway which is in the next slide [slide 14]; Uhuru Kenyatta, very proud, inaugurating the railway from Mombasa to Kenya. There was a British line which was called the Lunatic train, which was very slow, but it was designed to loot African

wealth. And also the Djibouti to Addis Ababa railway was built,

also in three years in record time, and so on and so forth.

So,

China is winning African hearts and minds by doing these investments, but doing them in record time and with no conditionalities involved.

In addition of course, some of the mega-projects which we are demanding be built and encouraging being built in Africa with

China's help, for example we have in slide 15 the Transaqua Project, which is an Italian-designed project to both refill Lake

Chad, which is drying up and threatening 30 million people's lives with drought. To bring just 5% of the water of the tributaries of the Congo River to Lake Chad through an artificial canal. But at the same time, connect East and West Africa with railway and roads to open these countries, which are Rwanda, Burundi, and Eastern Congo, the Central African Republic, Chad, and so on. These nations need outlets to world markets and also to import useful machines and so on. So, we have been propagating, as the Schiller Institute, for many years and trying to get the European Union and the United States to support this project; but they rejected it. Now China is proposing to start looking at this project, and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Lake Chad Commission to have a feasibility study of this project; which is a huge project, but it will transform large parts of Africa, not because of the water itself, but because of the old infrastructure involved in the central part of Africa. The next slide [slide 15] outlines the impact area of this whole project. It will create massive agro-industrial centers in that part of Africa which is suffering the most. The biggest migration from Africa is from these regions into Europe. But instead of having all those young people drowning in the Mediterranean, trying to flee to Europe looking for a decent life, they can stay in their countries now and build their countries by giving them the tools to do that. Of course, there are also other projects, but what's

interesting about the Belt and Road is that it's also inspiring, not just helping countries, but inspiring countries to undertake plans which have been dormant for many years. But now the time has come; for example, the new Suez Canal project. There is also connecting to Europe from Morocco, which is the next slide [slide 16]; building a tunnel under the Strait of Gibraltar, connecting Morocco and Spain; and building a high-speed railway, the first high-speed railway in Africa is being built now in Morocco. There are new ports being built, and also a scientific, industrial city being built in cooperation with China. We have another connection between Africa and Europe; we have still not given up on Europe. We want Europe to its and technological potential to contribute to this project and help itself by contributing to Africa's development. We have the Sicily to Tunis tunnel and bridge connection to connect North Africa also to Europe; this is a mega-project, and so on and so forth. We have also the Grand Inga Dam which China is now interested in building on the Congo River, which will produce a huge amount of hydropower – 40,000MW of power – which is twice as big as the biggest dam in the world which the Chinese built in China; the Three Gorges Dam. The Inga Dam, or series of dams, will be twice as big as the Chinese Three Gorges Dam, and a Chinese company has made an offer to the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo; and there's also a counterbid by a Spanish company.

People should read the report; they should look at all the content and try to understand it with a completely new eye. The eye of the New Paradigm, which I think is very important. In conclusion, what I wanted to say initially, is that as we have in the last slide [slide 19] is this region which people call the Middle East; we call it Southwest Asia. It has been a horrific scene for the worst results of geopolitics and power politics. Regime change in Libya; regime change in Iraq; attempted regime change in Syria supporting terrorist groups. We have a horrible war in Yemen which should end immediately. It's the worst humanitarian catastrophe in the world right now, taking place in Yemen. You look at this region and say "How could this region get out of this Hell?" This is what Helga Zepp-LaRouche said: This year we should kill geopolitics. We should end geopolitics. The idea that nations have to undermine other nations; that nations are in competition with each other; that you have to weaken your adversaries; you have to undermine them, you have to kill them, you have to ruin their economy, destroy their infrastructure, so you can become a winner. That ideology is not really human. This has to end now and be replaced by the "win-win" idea, which is the more human kind of idea. The potential for enormous development exists in this region. It's the crossroads of the continents. Both the Belt and the Road pass through there. Forty percent of world trade passes through there. You have natural resources, you have human resources, you

have rivers; you have every element necessary to have a massive development process in this region, which will be the basis for establishing peace among the nations of this region and also the big powers. If the United States joins Russia and China in developing this region, this would be the biggest test for mankind. Of course, Africa is very important, but we have things happening in Africa. But, we still have a horrible situation in Southwest Asia, which can lead into new and maybe bigger wars than before. Therefore, I think what Helga is saying that if we use the Belt and Road idea, the idea of "win-win", to crush geopolitics, this would be victory not only for the countries of this region; this will be a victory for all humankind.

ROSS: Absolutely! It's a victory for a concept of mankind. One example that comes to mind is Yemen. Yemen is under constant Saudi bombardment; they've been victims of a war by the Saudis for some time now. Yemen has a very powerful movement within it for integration with the BRICS; a real sense of "Hey! Even though our conditions right now are what they are, this is our future; and we've got to have that future in mind. That's what we're going to make happen."

You think about the economic potential of Africa, and as you said, it's so clear, it's so obvious the economic potential in West Asia and Africa. Geopolitics is what has prevented this development. It's not that Africa didn't get the help that it needed; China is showing that it's an obvious thing to do. It was a deliberate decision to prevent development and to hold

Africa back for the purposes – as you described – of looting. A couple of examples that you brought up, just to bring out the contrast a little bit more: You brought up the Grand Inga Dam which would be located in the Democratic Republic of Congo; one of the poorest, most energy-poor per capita, very low energy availability. It's got the perfect site for a hydroelectric dam complex, making enough electricity for tens of millions of people. The World Bank pulls out funding on it, because it's a big project which of course, they're not going to touch because it would have a major development impact.

What I'd like to actually show is another voice from Africa. Professor He Wenping had mentioned that Ethiopia is sort of the China of Africa, and other African diplomats will say this as well; that Addis Ababa is sort of the unofficial capital of Africa. I don't know if everyone in Africa agrees with that. But I'd like to hear from Dr. Alexander Demissie, who also spoke at the Schiller Institute conference in November, and hear from him from a direct African perspective, what the impact of Chinese investment has been and what the future can be in Africa.

DR. ALEXANDER DEMISSIE: So today, what I'm trying to discuss with you, or to present to you, is what is actually this Belt and Road Initiative and how is that connected to Africa? What kind of long-term impacts when we talk about the Belt and Road Initiative and Africa?

So, this is a map [Fig. 1] I always present when I do presentations, and I ask people, "What do you see here?" It's a

very simple question. But what do you see here? Yes, you should see something. So, it's a rhetorical question; I'm not expecting you to answer me. But it takes usually several minutes until people realize what they see here. You see the absence of the American continent; that's what you see here. The absence of the American continent. By saying this, you see that the Belt and Road Initiative, the Chinese version of the Belt and Road Initiative, is absolutely Eurasian-oriented; meaning that starting in China, it is primarily Eurasian-oriented. The idea of the Belt and Road Initiative – probably even your idea back in the '70s – is the Land-Bridge that we have been discussing yesterday and today. Within this picture or map, you will see also Africa. Africa is prominent, Africa is not entirely in the center, but on the left side; and it should be part of the Belt and Road idea. It's primarily an infrastructural undertaking, so the Belt and Road Initiative we don't have yet political institutionalization. We have infrastructural ideas, we have corridors; but we don't have yet political institutions. If we talk about the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank or the Silk Road Bank, these are just connected to infrastructure; they are not political ideas. And interestingly, this idea fits perfectly into the current African needs. What are the current African needs? The current Africa need is infrastructure development. Africa wants infrastructure and the aspiration – I'm going back here to the Agenda 2063, that has also coincidentally been coming

up 2013 together with the Belt and Road Initiative. Africa wants a good infrastructure connection, a good internal interconnectivity. So, the idea coming from China is perfectly fitting into the idea actually happening or discussed within the Africa continent.

We see now an actor coming in. China is an actor coming in and literally taking or doing part of those needed works. This is a huge – at least from the African perspective – this is a huge plus for many African countries. The idea of the Belt and Road Initiative, which is actually coming only in 2013; we see that it is helping what has been taking place on the continent between China and African countries since the year 2000. We see this that China has clearly declared that they would like to see Chinese-African cooperation moving into development of highways, regional aviation networks, or industrialization. Also we see that China has been given a lot of clarity to the African Union's infrastructure development for Africa. This program has approximately 51 different programs, and this is translated into 400 different physical projects. I speak about ports, and streets, and telecommunication lines, whatever you require for a nation to function, or for a continent to function.

What we see in Africa now is that since at least two years, there is a growing corridorization in the China-Africa relationship. As corridorization, I mean that not single countries are any more important, but entire regions are becoming

more important for China. This is a huge departure from a single, bilateral country-based approach towards corridor development. If you look at Africa corridors, the map on the right [Fig. 2], we see right now as we speak today, there are around 33 different corridors that have either been developed, or are under development, or are thought out and need to be developed. Corridors do nothing else than combine two different areas, and by doing so also creating a development initiative, a development paradigm.

Let's go to East Africa. So now, this is Africa; I'm aware that the plans for these things have been in the drawer for a long time. We know also that a lot of American research institutes played a very good role in creating those plans in the '50s and '60s, especially in Ethiopia. The Grand Renaissance Dam that is being built in Ethiopia, goes back to American scientists that have been creating those ideas in the '60s. It's being built already now. So, a lot of ideas in East Africa have been already on the table for decades, but no one was able or willing to pay for it. But now a lot of money is coming out of China, so these infrastructure – and how this can change the life of the people is easily described. The transportation of cargo from the Djibouti port to Addis Ababa used to take three days. Now, with the train, it's already 10 hours. So now we can imagine what kind of economic activity will happen to this one corridor development, or one infrastructure within this community. [end video]

ROSS: I just wanted to read another short excerpt from Alexander Demissie. Towards the end of his presentation, he said, "The problem as I see it, is that the traditional partners are still in the old paradigm of thinking. They still think with traditional assumptions. Africa is seen as an aid-dependent continent; not a continent full of opportunities. It is still seen with the wrong mindset. This is one of the biggest problems, and it has to change."

So, I think our report does a very thorough job of addressing the whole gamut of issues here. What the historical errors have been, or not errors, but cruelties or injustices that have occurred towards Africa, towards Southwest Asia with the use of geopolitics, with the use of looting rather than development.

As well as what some of the ideas are today that hold back the potential for development. The ways that environmentalism is used; the ways that there shouldn't be any net growth of the human species are used. This is the basis, for example, for the World Bank refusing any loans to coal or to large hydro plants.

But you're not going to develop a continent with solar panels, as much as Obama might have wanted to have done that.

The other issues are in regards to economics. That there is this prevailing and totally wrong view about economics that looks

for financial returns as being the metric; as opposed to going beyond GDP and saying how are we changing life expectancies?

How

are we changing productive potential? What's the long-term value

of helping a nation to develop in a partnership? This is the sort of thing. So, the report goes through all of this; it goes

through what the specific projects are that are needed. It goes

through something that's very important for policymakers – how to finance it. How the hopes of trying to get investment, of trying to get loans from private banks for these big projects; it's simply not going to fly. The use of national banking, as China has done both domestically as well as with its ExIm Bank with these two large rail projects in Africa in particular in Kenya and the Addis Ababa to Djibouti railroad.

So, I think we've heard from China, we've heard from Southwest Asia, we've heard from Africa. Let me ask you, Hussein, if you have any words that you would like to direct towards our American viewers. What would you tell Americans? What should we be doing?

ASKARY: Exactly! I had also in mind to say that, because we need to hear from Americans. I don't think it's a good idea

that the United States is not on the map of the Belt and Road; but I think a different United States should be involved. I'm very sure that if President Franklin Roosevelt, President Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King must be very happy now for what

is now already starting to happen in Africa. They might feel sorry for the lost time, but I'm sure they are happy. Americans

should look back at that best of American tradition and work with

ideas of Lyndon LaRouche and the LaRouche PAC and LaRouche's associates, because the United States will not become great again

with the team that President Trump has. America will be great again with the ideas that the LaRouche PAC, the ideas of Franklin

Roosevelt, the Hamiltonian idea of a national credit system, rather than depending on Wall Street. These things will make America great again, but it also will help the United States to have a completely different policy in the world; which will make the people around the world see the United States with completely different eyes. Right now, the United States is not so liked around the world; not because of Trump, but because of previous administrations' war policies, their hypocrisy. As you showed in Obama's case, their policies would lead to genocide. So, the United States is not really a popular country around the world, but this can shift. In order for that shift to happen, there should be a shift inside the United States in the mind and the soul of the American people. I'm sure the kind of work you are doing in LaRouche PAC would help greatly.

OGDEN: And that's exactly what we are doing with this campaign to win the future statement. As I said in the beginning of the show, we're initiating a national mobilization to bring together all of the constituent layers – regardless of party, political orientation – around a vision of economic development for the United States and for the world. If you just imagine the kind of way that the world could be transformed in the next 15 or 20 years with what China has begun doing in Africa; something that people thought was impossible. They just disregarded Africa and said well, this is just where you're going to have

impoverishment and backwardness. Now, this could seriously become a hub of development for the planet. But take that and extend it across the Bering Strait into the Americas; have a rail link between Eurasia and North America. Then imagine an entire development corridor down through the central part of North America, through the heartland, the farm country in the Midwest; down through Mexico, across the Darien Gap into Central and South America. Then also, extend the Maritime Silk Road to the Caribbean. That vision of what could happen in the Western Hemisphere is the extension of the sort of optimism that you now see China bringing to Africa.

So, as I said, I think it's the great moral test. Emmanuel Macron was absolutely right; he said it's a moral challenge what the nations of the world do to collaborate to bring development to the African continent. I think we can be very happy that it's because of the leadership over decades of the LaRouche movement, of you Hussein. What you've been doing; what you did to collaborate with Jason to put together this extraordinary Special Report. I know that this is being listened to in the highest levels of power across the African continent and in Southwest Asia; we have evidence of that. The invitation that you received, Hussein, from the Egyptian Transportation Ministry, and other examples. So, we have to proceed with that kind of confidence that we are, indeed, shaping the policy for the future.

So, let me put on the screen one more time; this is the

vision of an economic renaissance – this is the Special Report that Jason and Hussein collaborated in authoring. That is available; you can find the link to that on the screen here – LPAC.CO/ExtendedSilkRoad. It's a very thorough, book-length Special Report. This is something that is not just important for the African leaders and for China. This is something that is very important for the United States. This is something that we should be considering when we talk about what is US foreign policy, and those disgraceful graphics about the plummeting of US investment into Africa over the course of the last eight years during the Obama administration. That needs to be reversed; and it needs to be reversed by bringing the United States and China into a "win-win" collaboration for the development of these areas.

We are going to proceed with this campaign to win the future. And we're asking you to endorse this, to join our mobilization, and to make sure that this becomes the policy parameter for the 2018 election. None of the melodrama, not the soap operas, not all of the secondary and tertiary issues. These are the questions which will determine the future of the United States and the survival of our country and what our role is in respect to this New Paradigm that we've just been discussing on the show today.

So, again, we have 11 days between now and President Trump's State of the Union address. We are putting these two items on the agenda. The United States must adopt LaRouche's Four Economic Laws, and the United States must join the New Silk Road.

So, Hussein, is there anything that you want to say in conclusion before we end this show today? Any special messages for our viewers, both in the United States and internationally?

ASKARY: I think it's a great opportunity for people now to get this report, take to themselves the scientific, even philosophical and other ideas that are in the report which are necessary. As you said, it's for everyone; it's not only for Africans. I think the main target of the report should be Europeans and Americans, because we need these kinds of ideas more than at any time before. We have problems here in Europe with the infrastructure, with unemployment. You have massive problems in the United States. You need to have these ideas for your own sake, too; but there is enormous potential that exists in Europe and the United States that could be revived. But that has to be done in the right way; and the right way was outlined by Mr. LaRouche, but we put it in very clear terms in this report. I hope people will get the report and learn something and push the policymakers in the United States to also do the same.

OGDEN: Wonderful. Thank you very much, Hussein, for joining us. And thank you to Jason for joining me here. I think we have a lot more to come. So, a very exciting report here today. Help us circulate this video; send it out to everybody that you know; share it on social media. Let's get these ideas to permeate the United States. Thank you very much and please stay tuned to larouchepac.com.