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The Larger Horror Behind the Sandy Hook Massacre
UN, Arab League, Russia Warn: Syria on Edge of Hell
Wall Street, London Held Off Glass-Steagall—for 2012

**The Levee Breaks: 2013,
A Year of Great Decisions**



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EIR

From the Managing Editor

Behind the endless hype about the “fiscal cliff” is the reality that 2013 is likely to be the *punctum saliens* for civilization. As Helga Zepp-LaRouche writes in our cover story, “the damage caused by the absolute failure of the dominant policy is huge: An entire region, from North Africa to the Middle East, is at war, in chaos, and dominated by terrorist organizations, and there is an intolerable divide between rich and poor, with a potential for social explosion of unprecedented scope.” She adds, “A reversal is still—hopefully—possible, but it must be done immediately.”

Several contributions from the November 2012 conference of the Schiller Institute in Germany (*Conference Report* and *Guest Commentary*), provide powerful and poignant examples of that “failure of the dominant policy,” and, at the same time, expressions of hope for the future. Mulugeta Zewdie Michael of Ethiopia, noted that his nation was, in the First Century, “among the decision-makers of the world,” a bread-basket, yet, whose very name today is synonymous with “famine.” Rather than be defeated by this crushing reality, Mr. Michael focused on the dream of his nation: the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, which promises to uplift the nations of the Nile River Basin.

Elsewhere in the issue, we review some of the key developments at the year-end: In the *Feature*: a report on the press conference by Rep. Walter Jones, demanding that the President obey the Constitution, and seek Congressional approval before waging war, or face impeachment; and the release of a LaRouchePAC “Fact Sheet” on Obama’s alliance with al-Qaeda in Libya and Syria.

International leads with an update on the horrific disintegration of Syria, as the country is ripped apart by exactly that unholy Obama/al-Qaeda alliance.

“The Larger Horror Behind the Sandy Hook Massacre” (*National*), locates the descent into bestiality, reflected in our cover image, Bruegel’s “Massacre of the Innocents,” in the “shift in philosophy about the value of human life itself,” which began with the death of FDR.

2013 may be our last chance to reverse that shift, so let’s make sure we succeed.



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"The Massacre of the Innocents,"
by Peter Bruegel the Elder (ca. 1566). (From *Matthew*, 2:16-18).



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The Levee Breaks: 2013, a Year of Great Decisions

by Helga Zepp-LaRouche

Noble friend! Where may the peace be started,
Where's the refuge place where freedom flew?
First one century in storm departed,
Then with murder opens up the new.

These opening lines of Schiller's poem "The Advent of the New Century"—based this time on the New Year 2013—come to mind when, given the dramatic changes at year's end, one attempts to conceive of what the new year may bring. One thing is certain: the failure of past policies, both in terms of the strategic situation, and the deregulation of the financial system. In both respects, the dam is bursting.

Among the most important developments at year's end is the announcement of the unholy alliances that the governments of Britain and the United States have concluded, to further the policy of regime change. An investigatory commission of the United Nations on the situation in Syria reported to a press conference in Brussels, which received worldwide attention, that the so-called opposition in Syria now consists of fighters from 29 countries. Media in India, Lebanon, and Russia, as well as countless web portals, covered the fact that the U.S. and U.K. have systematically armed groupings and offshoots of al-Qaeda, in order to put regime change in motion in Libya and Syria. And it turned out that the great "humanitarian intervention" in Libya to remove Qaddafi was, in reality, an action in support of al-Qaeda groups in Benghazi.

In a groundbreaking hearing of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. Congress about the circumstances that led to the assassination of U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens in Benghazi, Libya, the question of the cooperation of the Obama Administration with the jihadi terrorists in



EIRNS/Christopher Lewis

Helga Zepp-LaRouche: The failure of Western strategic and economic/financial policies stand exposed at the year's end. It's still not too late to reverse course, however. Here the author is shown at a conference in Frankfurt in July.

Libya and in Syria was raised for the first time in Congress. Democratic Rep. Brad Sherman of California pointed out that the rebels include elements that are just as bad as those who attacked the consulate in Benghazi, with the clear implication that the U.S. administration is responsible for both disasters. Republican Congressman Ed Royce, likewise from California, held the U.S. administration's clinging to this policy responsible for making Libya a cauldron of weapons, jihadists, and violent ideology today. He cited an article in the *New York Times*, which reported on the approval of the U.S. administration for arms sales to Qatar as a proxy for the "die-hard jihadi elements in Libya"—weapons that are now spread everywhere, even to Mali and Syria. Republican Congressman Ted Poe of Texas pressed on further, asking whether these weapons were used in the attack on the consulate in Benghazi, and whether they have now been relocated to Syria.

With these developments, Congressional hearings have picked up for the first time on the themes that were brought to the table by Lyndon LaRouche's political

action committee (LaRouchePAC), in a report about the cooperation among Saudi, British, and American circles in the Middle East. The consequence of this policy was that terrorist networks were aided, as part of a strategy of confrontation with Russia and China. This dossier was distributed in the days before the hearing to all the major Washington institutions.

No to Unconstitutional Wars

A day earlier, on Dec. 19, there was an equally strategically significant press conference, in which Rep. Walter Jones (R-N.C.) and Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) demanded that President Obama obtain express permission from Congress, as required by the Constitution, before sending American troops to Syria. Other participants in the press conference were Col. Patrick Lang (ret.) and Lt. Col. Tony Shaffer (ret.), both longtime analysts for the Defense Intelligence Agency, as well as the head of the intelligence

staff of *EIR*, Jeffrey Steinberg.

Jones quoted from a letter which he, Rangel, and Reps. Ron Paul (R-Tex.), Mo Brooks (R-Ala.), Michael Michaud (D-Me.), and Justin Amash (R-Mich.) have sent President Obama: "We are writing to strongly urge you *not* to once again lead our nation into war without authorization from Congress. Your recent threat of 'consequences' about Syria using chemical weapons is eerily reminiscent of the calls for war with Iraq to deal with their 'weapons of mass destruction.' We would like to remind you that the power to declare war remains vested in the United States Congress. No resolution from the United Nations or NATO can supersede the power carefully entrusted with the representatives of the American people."

Jones continued, "Iraq was an unnecessary war. The continuation in Afghanistan is unnecessary, and we do not need to get involved in the Syrian situation. Diplomatically? Okay. But let's not jeopardize one soldier, one Marine, one Navy [man], one airman—it's just not worth it."

Rangel passionately emphasized that Congress

must assume the responsibility for the lives of young soldiers, and lamented that “it has actually reached the point that Presidents just don’t give a darn about the Congress.” What should you say to the families when the coffins of the dead come back? Lang and Shaffer pointed out that the U.S. administration has already embarked on the path to war against Syria. (The transcript of the press conference is elsewhere in this issue.)

A statement was also distributed at the press conference from the group Veterans for Peace, opposing military action against Syria. Representative Jones, incidentally, is the author of resolution H.R. 107, which has as its objective the impeachment of any President who initiates military action without the consent of Congress.

At another press conference at the Congress on Dec. 21, Republican Senators John McCain (Ariz.), Lindsay Graham (S.C.), and Kelly Ayotte (N.H.) also demanded clarification of the events in Benghazi, the cover-up of the role of al-Qaeda by the Obama Administration, and especially, the behavior of President Obama himself. In an editorial, the *Washington Times*, not for the first time, denounced the administration’s policy of working with organizations that are classified as terrorist.

The rest of the various investigations boil down to this: We must no longer just harp on the reasons for the lack of security measures, but instead, we must pose the fundamental question of how it could come to such a catastrophic failure of policy, where al-Qaeda and related organizations today have become such a potent terrorist threat to the U.S. and the West.

Target: Money Laundering

The second major issue confronting us in the new year, the deregulation of the financial system, the failure of the policy as such stands exposed. The unmasking of Deutsche Bank as possibly the most criminal bank in Germany is symptomatic; the bank was active everywhere that gambling was going on, whether on the secondary real estate market in the U.S., or through tax evasion, balance-sheet manipulation, the Libor-scandal, or fraud with environmental certificates—and with the added complication of possible money laundering.

One may recall that Josef Ackermann, the former CEO of Deutsche Bank, was the principal advisor to Chancellor Angela Merkel during the financial crisis,

and Merkel repeated her policy that there was “no alternative” to rescue packages for the financial sector. As the Civil Rights Solidarity Movement (BüSo) launched its 2008-09 campaign for the introduction of a Pecora Commission to investigate possible criminal behavior in the banking sector, there were several members of the Bundestag who insisted that there was “not even a suspicion” to justify such an investigation.

The American Col. Fletcher Prouty (ret.)—the so-called “Mr. X” in Oliver Stone’s film *JFK*—remarked at the time, that the assassination of the former head of Deutsche Bank, Alfred Herrhausen, by an alleged “third generation” of the Red Army Fraction (whose existence has still not been proven), had the same paradigmatic significance for Germany as the Kennedy assassination did for the United States. He was right, because with the assassination of Herrhausen, a moral person who promoted industry, the floodgates were opened for the above criminal activities—and not only at Deutsche Bank.

Just as the unholy alliance of the Obama Administration with al-Qaeda can no longer be covered up, you also cannot sweep under the rug the largely criminal character of the current financial system, as it has come to light, for example, in the Congressional hearings on HSBC and its involvement in large-scale money-laundering operations for the Mexican narco-syndicates. But the damage caused by the absolute failure of the dominant policy is huge: An entire region, from North Africa to the Middle East, is at war, in chaos, and dominated by terrorist organizations, and there is an intolerable divide between rich and poor, with a potential for social explosion of unprecedented scope.

A reversal is still—hopefully—possible, but it must be done immediately. Without a return to international law and to a people-centered real economy, civilization is at an end. We need the immediate introduction of a two-tier banking system in the tradition of Franklin Roosevelt’s Glass-Steagall Act, the introduction of a credit system, and rebuilding of the productive economies of the United States, Europe, and the Middle East—in short, the program for which the LaRouche organizations in Europe and the U.S. have fought for a long time.

Translated from German by Daniel Platt

Congress Alone Has the Power To Declare War

Rep. Walter B. Jones (R-N.C.) held a press conference Dec. 19, in Washington, “regarding a letter that he and a bipartisan group of congressmen sent to President Obama strongly urging him to come to Congress before committing American troops to combat in Syria,” as stated in his announcement the previous day.

Jones was joined at the press conference by Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), Col. W. Patrick Lang (ret.), Lt. Col. Tony Shaffer (ret.), and Jeffrey Steinberg of EIR.

Here is a transcript of their remarks.

Rep. Walter Jones: My name is Walter Jones, and I represent the Third Congressional District in North Carolina. It’s the home of Camp Lejeune Marine Base, Cherry Point Marine Air Station, and Seymour Johnson Airforce Base. We have over 65,000 retired military in our district, veterans and retirees.

The reason we’re having this press conference today, is that I am very concerned, going back to March 19 of 2011, when President Obama bypassed Congress to bomb Libya. Yes, Qaddafi was an evil man, but how many evil men are there around the world? If you decide to bomb another country and do not come to Congress, then, in my opinion, that is wrong. Because we have a Constitution in this country that gives the authority to Congress to declare war.

I think about the fact that the President went into Libya—the chaos and the tragedy of that action. I would agree that Qaddafi was an evil man. He needed to be removed, but not by our country, by going in and deciding to bomb Libya. It has led to chaos in Libya. It has led to the death of an ambassador, three of our military, who were trying to protect the ambassador.

And one other point, very quickly: I was so taken aback when I was listening to CSPAN, driving home in



LPAC/Chris Jadatz

Rep. Walter Jones holds up a statement from Veterans for Peace opposing military intervention in Syria, at his press conference Dec. 19.

eastern North Carolina, on the radio, when—I’m going to paraphrase—when Senator [Jeff] Sessions from Alabama asked Secretary of Defense [Leon] Panetta if he would come to Congress and ask for a declaration of war, or at least support of a resolution, to send troops overseas—and I’m paraphrasing now—Panetta basically said that he would go to our foreign friends first, before he would consult the Congress.

Where is the Constitution? Where is the role of Congress? We have really become quite inept, when it comes to sending our young men and women to war.

Letter to the President

So that’s the reason that six members of Congress—myself, Ron Paul [R-Tex.], Mo Brooks [R-Ala.], Michael Michaud [D-Me.], Justin Amash [R-Mich.], and Charlie Rangel—signed a letter to the President. And I read just the first paragraph:

“We are writing to strongly urge you *not* to once

again lead our nation into war without authorization from Congress. Your recent threat of ‘consequences’ about Syria using chemical weapons is eerily reminiscent of the calls for war with Iraq to deal with their ‘weapons of mass destruction.’ We would like to remind you that the power to declare war remains vested in the United States Congress. No resolution from the United Nations or NATO can supersede the power carefully entrusted with the representatives of the American people.

“If your administration believes committing American troops to Syria is essential, the case must be presented to Congress. Outside of an actual or imminent attack on America, the only precursor to war can be the authorization of Congress. We call on you to abide by our Constitution, and rely on our country’s representatives to decide when war is necessary. There is no greater responsibility than to send our sons and daughters to war. That responsibility remains with the United States Congress.”

I must say that I sincerely believe that the President, if he’s going to send our troops, or a number of our troops, to Syria, it must come to Congress for a debate, and hopefully, a vote of “yes, we agree,” or “no, we do not agree.” That’s the purpose of the letter.

One other point, and then I’m going to introduce Jeff Steinberg. Veterans for Peace oppose intervention in Syria. I hope you will get a copy of this [VFP statement opposing U.S. military intervention in Syria—ed.]. I am not a veteran, so any time a veteran of any war speaks out, I want to say thank you, first, for your service to our nation, and second, I want to say, thank you for getting involved in this policy decision. Because no one understands better than someone who’s been to war, the pain of war.

And it reminds me, quite frankly, of a—Rudyard Kipling wrote a book about the epitaph of war, or a poem. And his son was killed in World War I. Prior to that, Kipling had been a very strong supporter of empires around the world, built by England. But when he lost his son, it changed his whole attitude. And the one sentence quote: “If any question why we died, tell them that our fathers lied.”

I mention that today, not to say that the Administration is lying—I want to make that clear to the press here today—but Iraq was an unnecessary war. The continuation in Afghanistan is unnecessary, and we do not need to get involved in the Syrian situation. Diplomatically? Okay. But let’s not jeopardize one soldier,



LPAC/Chris Jadatz

Rep. Charlie Rangel: “It’s actually reached the point that Presidents just don’t give a darn about the Congress.”

one Marine, one Navy [man], one airman—it’s just not worth it.

With that, again, I want to close. I’m not going to read from this [VFP statement]—we’ve got handouts. I hope you will pick up the “Veterans for Peace oppose military intervention in Syria.” I hope you will pick that up.

And I timed it just right, as I conclude: Come here, Mr. Rangel.

This is a man that I have the utmost respect for. He has been a friend of my father, who served here 26 years ago, for 26 years; he’s extended that friendship to me, and I don’t know a man... He’s a veteran of the Korean War, and his being here today means so much to our nation, to our concern about sending our young men and women to war, without Congress taking action, that I am pleased to introduce—and after Mr. Rangel speaks, Jeff Steinberg will come forward—I am pleased to introduce Charlie Rangel. God bless you, sir.

‘We’re Here To Uphold the Constitution’

Rep. Charles Rangel: Well, I’d like to thank you for relieving some of the guilt that we as members of Congress should have. Knowing that, day after day, week after week, your bold voice will be heard, makes it difficult for a lot of us. Because we’re here to uphold the Constitution. There are no courses in school, in universities, that allow *any* President to send our young men and women off into harm’s way, without coming to the Congress.

Now, that's the way it is, and that's the way it has been; and yet, we have so many tens of thousands of families that have lost their loved ones since World War II. And it's actually reached the point that Presidents just don't give a darn about the Congress.

That may not be too bad, but how do we go to the funerals of our constituents? What do you say when you look in the casket, and see a young man or a young woman, and the family clings to you, because you're so ... you're a symbol of the United States government. They want so badly to hear that their son or their daughter was a patriot, was a hero.

And you know, once that flag goes up, of course you are a hero. But how do you answer the question as to why they were there? Why were they *there*? And that's the painful stain that we have on our history.

Now, it's very simple. I am just as patriotic as the next guy, and when someone says that our nation is in trouble, that our national security is threatened, the way I look at it, it's time to call up our troops, and have a draft. That's the way I look at it. And if you cannot find it in your heart, to ask every American to step forward and make some sacrifice, then we should not be involved in it! It means clearly it's not in our national security interest.

I challenge anybody to come to this country and enjoy all of its benefits, and then, we get into trouble, and you say, "Hey, I'm with the United States of America, but don't ask for an increase in taxes, and don't put my son or grandson in jeopardy, and, for God's sake, don't put *me* in jeopardy." That is wrong, and that is un-American.

So what is my colleague saying? Don't go off and fight wars? He doesn't even say don't go off and fight wars for oil. He just says, if it's important enough to go to war, come to the Congress. And you know what that means? It means, come to the American people. Is that asking too much? To say before anyone gets hurt, wounded, or dies, that we ask our people back home, "Do you think it's worth it?"

And so let me thank you, and your dad, and everyone for coming out—it's remarkable the small number of people. I couldn't even find this room. Honestly, when I saw Cannon [Office Building], I thought it was in 345, the big room. And if sending men and women off to combat is this important, and I end up in saying, where are the ministers? Where are the rabbis? Where are the imams?

Because I hear their voices with same sex mar-

riages—it's a terrible thing, the world's going to come to an end. I hear their voices with men who like men, and women who like women, and that's going to break up marriage in the United States, what's left of it. And I know they bless guns, wherever the guns go, and I know the chaplains, they carry guns too, just in case some of the enemy gets in God's works' way—you shoot them.

But on this issue, human beings that are born, I would like to believe that they would think it's outrageous, immoral, unconstitutional.

Jeffrey Steinberg: Thank you all for being here. I just want to take a couple of minutes to introduce two distinguished speakers.

First of all, Col. W. Patrick Lang, a retired U.S. Army colonel, Special Forces veteran, who then went on to a long and distinguished career in the Defense Intelligence Agency. And Col. Lang at one point was in charge of all DIA operations in the entire Middle East and North Africa. He's probably visited every country in the region on many occasions; and since his retirement from the DIA, he's been involved in consulting with various government agencies, and continues to keep a very intensive focus on the events in the region, in a very outspoken way. He has a blog, *Sic Semper Tyrannis* [<http://turcopolier.typepad.com/>], which is one of the most widely read blogs, with very in-depth participation from retired and active duty U.S. military personnel. And it's worth going to.

Secondly, Lt. Col. Tony Shaffer, [had] a 25-year distinguished career in the U.S. Army, in various assignments, combat assignments and intelligence assignments, and he too subsequently went to work for the DIA for a number of years, and as well, has been very active and outspoken since his retirement, in exposing some of the problems that have come up in the course of the recent series of undeclared wars.

So, with that, I'd like to invite Col. Lang to come up.

'This Is Late 2002 Again'

Col. W. Patrick Lang: Good morning, folks. I've been afflicted with something called Bell's Palsy over the last year, so if I'm a little indistinct, please bear with me.

I spoke at a town meeting gathering in Lexington, Va., in the late, late part of 2002—that's where my alma mater is located—and I told people in the audience that if you're not paying attention, perhaps you don't know that the train has already left the station. That we are al-



Col. Patrick Lang (ret): *"The picture being painted in the West of how close the Assad government is to falling, is grossly exaggerated."*

ready on our way to war in Iraq. And a number of people still remember my saying that. They thought it was a strange thing for me to say at the time, but it turned out to be correct.

Well, in my opinion, this is late 2002 again. It has come again to us. Because you can look across the spectrum of think-tank-generated opinion at various meetings in Washington—which I am sometime invited to—or at the general tenor of stuff in the mainstream media, and it all kind of says the kind of thing that was being said in late 2002. There is a great deal of exaggeration going on. But a couple of things need to be pointed out about this.

One is that, in contradiction to what is being said in all this propaganda, in fact, the outcome in Syria is not at all certain. If you read foreign newspapers, you might have seen in the British newspaper *The Independent* a few days ago, an article by a man named [Patrick] Cockburn, who wrote from Damascus about what actual conditions are like on the ground in Syria, based on having been there for two weeks. He said that he got in a car and drove 100 miles north to the city of Homs without any interference whatever; he didn't see anything of the war going on; he talked to people in and around the city, which has, in the past, been a hotbed of Sunni activism; and came to the conclusion that the picture being painted in the West of how close the Assad government is to falling, is grossly exaggerated.

And this is an extremely significant fact.

The other thing is, the government of the United States is clearly embarked on a course which, if followed, will lead to military intervention in Syria. How can I tell that? Well, it is our stated policy that regime change is the desired policy of the United States. That's been established for some time now.

Recently we recognized the various groups of the Syrian opposition, as being the official government of Syria. Based on that kind of a proceeding, even though there's no UN action on this that I can think of at the moment, it would be possible for that government to ask for our intervention, and we could claim that it is a legitimate action.

The next thing about this that is interesting, is that among the coalition of groups that are fighting the Assad government, is one called the Jabhat al-Nusra, and this is an offshoot of al-Qaeda worldwide, the very essence of our enemy spread across the world, projected into Syria. They're among the leading fighters against the Assad government.

The United States has condemned this group as a foreign enemy, but, in spite of that, the leaders of the rest of the guerrillas fighting Assad, have come forth across the world to demand that we rescind that kind of condemnation of al-Nusra, because they are in fact their friends. So the other thing that's clear here, is that if the Assad government falls, we have no idea really at all, what kind of government would succeed it, at all.

When you consider all of this put together, you have to ask yourself why these two gentlemen from the House of Representatives are not completely correct, especially in a situation in which the outcome is uncertain, and what the successor regime might be, how inimical to our interests it might be. Why on Earth would the government not go to the Congress for approval for deployment of U.S. forces?

And as things are going now, it seems inevitable to me that if we continue on this path, the U.S. government will feel that, rather than be defeated in this policy at this point, it will have to use military force. Which would probably take the form of air intervention and a no-fly zone, direct resupply of the rebel groups, things of that kind.

I don't think that after what has happened in Iraq and Afghanistan, they are likely to try to occupy Syria with a COIN [counterinsurgency—ed.] campaign. That has proven not to be a not enterprise.



Lt. Col. Tony Shaffer (ret.): "We need to look again at what's in our interest as the American people."

I will be quiet now. I leave this to my colleague. Thank you.

'Syria Is Not a Threat'

Lt. Col. Tony Shaffer: Good morning. I'm Tony Shaffer. Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

Yesterday, I listened to SecDef Panetta very hard. As a matter of fact, I was driving, and he had made comments at the National Press Club, and he called for Congress to "do the right thing." And what he really meant was, to write a blank check so they could do whatever they want. I would find it almost insulting from a former colleague, that they're calling on you just to blindly fund what they're doing. And that's, I think, part of the problem here. We're talking about a complete lack of accountability.

What Pat [Lang] said is absolutely correct, and let me go through some other factual issues here, that I believe are at play, that we need to be concerned about.

First, the strategy. The strategy that SecDef Panetta laid out yesterday—I did listen hard, and I didn't hear anything about how Syria fits into any of that, any of the so-called reasonable cuts they want to make, and focus they want to do on 21st-Century security.

Let me be very clear here, and this is something I've said in other interviews: The chances of an American citizen having a terrorist attack—it's infinitely greater that it will be a cyberattack than any terrorist attack.

I'm not saying that terrorism and al-Qaeda are not a

threat. I'm saying that we're not focusing on the things which really mean something to the American people. There are real threats out there; we're not focusing on them. Syria is not a threat.

There are issues there that we can deal with, we should deal with, but again, it's not something we, as the American military, should be intervening in.

Within the context of the current situation, we have to look at what happened in Libya. Libya was a functioning country, for better or for worse, run by a madman, absolutely. *But*, the fact is this: He had weapons of concern; he gave some of those up. My old friend Congressman Curt Weldon [R-Pa.] was involved in that years ago. And the idea was, Qaddafi could turn the page. As a matter of fact, he was actually helping us in the war on terror. And yet, somehow, we decided, well, it's time to cash it all in. And now we've left that country in chaos, where militia—literally—are the ones running the show. I don't know how that's good governance. I don't know how it's in our best interest to create that level of havoc.

Of the 20,000 surface-to-air missiles which Qaddafi had, about 15,000 are still floating around out there. Let me be very clear about this threat. These missiles are not military grade. Most aircraft now could easily fend off an attack of an SA-7. They have countermeasures. Civilian aircraft do not. So, frankly, the only thing these things—these 15,000 surface-to-air missiles—could be used for, is terrorist attacks against civilian airliners. So, this is what we let loose, and is still out there as a dangling participle in the larger question of national security.

Within the context of the strategy, of what we're trying to do as a country, again, I don't know what's there for us. I look back—I'm a Reagan conservative—and I look back on the lessons from Lebanon, and the Marine barracks. As tragic as that was, we got the message pretty quick: We probably shouldn't be hanging around somewhere we're not wanted. And I think that's what we're doing here.

There are some other recent lessons which we have not learned well, which we need to look at more closely. Afghanistan. The very networks we used against the Soviets during the Cold War, the Haqqani network in particular, is now being used to great effect against us. And somehow we don't get that message. And we're doing the same thing here. We're stirring up trouble. We're actually looking at allying ourselves with groups who, as soon as they get our support, and they win,

they're coming after us.

Again, how is that in our interest to do that? The moment you take one side, you've alienated someone else.

So, again, we should look at this as strategy. What does this really mean? What will be the secondary and third-order effects of our decisions to intervene, or use military action? It's not in our interest to do so.

Our job, as a government, as a military, is to protect the American people.

Another thing is constitutionality. Let me hit that real quick. And I'm with Rep. Walter Jones here, and Rep. Rangel, two dear friends. I consider [myself] very close to their attitude about the Constitution.

Accountability. There should be a debate. I'm a warrior. My job has been, for better or for worse, to defend the country for the past 30 years; and ultimately, a warrior's job is to *not* fight, if you can avoid it. But if you're called upon to fight, to do it effectively, efficiently, and quickly: to get the job done so you minimize [the loss of] innocent life.

Part of the deal should be, as Rep. Rangel brought up, is, how do we talk to the parents of kids who have fallen in combat? What is that justification? This is why *Congress*, for better or for worse, has to be part of that debate. It's their job. It's the Constitutional duty of this body to look at why we're doing what we do. They write the freakin' checks. They're our Board of Directors. Therefore the Board of Directors should have full access to all issues relating to the good order and discipline of our military actions in this nation. There's no wiggle room on this. It's very clear.

And this is why it's so important that these members—and their courage should be recognized for what it is. It's doing the right thing when others will not.

So, this is something we all should call upon, the better of our politicians, the better of our leaders, for accountability. I'm not saying we shouldn't fight—as a matter of fact, I've devoted my life to fighting good fights. The idea here is that we should have a debate that involves everybody, the American people, for any military action we decide to take.

Last point: cost. When you look at the cost of this, again, I could almost—let me be totally blunt: If we were going to invade Syria and enrich the American people with wealth beyond imagination, you know, maybe I could see that. But it's not going to happen. There's no such thing as a good war for purposes of profit. I think we learned that out of Iraq.

So, we need to look again at what's in our interest as the American people. What will happen? What will happen if we do something for one side, and the other side takes offense to that?

So, again, to close up. To look at the issues for what they are, we need to look at accountability for action, look at why we do things when we do them, bringing in Congress to debate the issues. And if the call is, after a rigorous debate, to go, then we go. We salute smartly and move out, and do what's necessary to defend the American people.

But in the meantime, that debate has not been had, in any of the past conflicts, within the past four years. Frankly, even a little bit beyond that, if you think about it. The idea is, we have to have Constitutional government, where the Constitution is followed; members whom we elect represent us, represent our interest, and are also held accountable; and they, then, by extension, hold the Executive branch accountable to everything it must do, or fails to do.

It is in our interest as American people to continue this as tradition, because it's the right thing to do. Thank you.

'I Did Not Know We Had Bombed Libya'

Jones: I'd like to make one quick comment, and then we will take questions for Mr. Lang, Col. Shaffer, Jeff Steinberg, Charlie Rangel, and myself.

Let me just, real quickly: It was so sad that, as a member of Congress on the Armed Services Committee—which I am—that the Saturday after we went in, or the day after we went into Libya, I got a call from a local press. I did not even know we had bombed Libya. As a member of Congress on the Armed Services Committee, I did not even know we had bombed Libya, until I got the press call.

This again, is what Mr. Rangel and all the speakers have said. We have a Constitution, and I will never forget when Mr. [Defense Secretary Robert] Gates appeared before the Armed Services Committee, Randy Forbes [R-Va.], who's a fine member of Congress on the Armed Services Committee, asked Mr. Gates—he said, "May I ask you a question? If Libya fired missiles on America, as we did on Libya, would we in America call that an act of war?"

He got no answer.

This is what's wrong with Washington. We are not asked to do our Constitutional duty. So, with that, any questions?



LPAC/Chris Jatz

Left to right: Col. Pat Lang; Rep. Charlie Rangel; Rep. Walter Jones; Lt. Col. Tony Shaffer; Jeffrey Steinberg.

A Wider Conflict?

WND [World Net Daily]: Given that Syria is an ally of Iran, and also an ally of Russia, if the U.S. does support some form of military intervention in Syria, could it lead to a wider conflict with the Russians, the Chinese, and/or the Iranians?

Rangel: I'm glad you asked such a complicated question, because I haven't the slightest idea. You never know, when you're introducing troops, or weapons, what the reaction's going to be from the other side. And it's that reason why we have to explore and be given answers to those questions that you're raising, as to what is the downside in introducing our kids to that type of danger. And so, I can't answer. These are the questions that the Congress should always be asking anyone, any President, who says we should be prepared to introduce troops.

Jones: I'll speak very quickly. This is the whole issue: We do not understand the unintended consequences of our actions. And this goes way back to the Iraq War. And we have been *neutered* as members of Congress, when it comes to a commitment of our young men and women to die. It's just sometimes unbelievable.

Lang: Well, the paradigm that's being used in the government now, is that U.S. intervention would lead to a rapid fall of the Assad government, and then a coherent, friendly government would be installed. Nobody

knows that to be true at all.

In fact, if you know anything about the history of warfare—look at the beginning of World War I, things like that—once things begin to slide, and come apart, you have no idea where it will end up. But it is likely you would have a prolonged war, because *the Assad government is not about to fall at all*. It has considerable means to continue. And the Russians and the Iranians are so far standing firm behind them [emphasis added].

So, we have no idea what it would lead to. It

could lead to a prolonged regional war. It could lead to something even more dangerous, in fact.

Steinberg: I think that the question that you posed, in terms of Iran and Russia, is not only very much to the point, but it's something that is clearly on the minds of many of the military and political leaders in Russia, and has also been one of the reasons why there's been very strong opposition to any direct U.S. military involvement in Syria, coming from within the ranks of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. And one of the reasons for that, is that they look around the broad global strategic scene, and they see Syria as a potential danger point of conflict with Russia, at a point that there are many vital issues where U.S.-Russian cooperation is actually essential.

The withdrawal from Afghanistan, scheduled for 2014—and Congressman Jones and others in Congress are pressing for that to occur much sooner—will require a great deal of assistance from Russia. There's the war on terrorism. There's the war on drugs. And yes, the Russians are very concerned as well, that the deployment of the Patriot missiles and AWACS systems into Turkey, is not only adjacent to Syria and in the close vicinity of Iran, but it's also very close to the southern border of Russia. And there are disputes over whether or not our ABM deployment is going to be a strategic game-changer in terms of the whole structure of nuclear balance that has prevented a big war from happening since the end of World War II.

So, there are many, many issues on the table here, and it's not just hypothetical. There are voices expressing intensive concern over this. There have been three interviews by top Russian officials, including the Deputy Prime Minister [Dmitri] Rogozin, who was the Russian ambassador to NATO for four years, expressing concern precisely that Syria is a slippery slope towards a larger war, immediately going into Iran, and potentially beyond that.

Shaffer: Just to summarize: We can look at this as a chess game. This is not something where you can simply do A, and then expect B to happen. You're talking about essentially possibilities which go well beyond our ability to probably fully understand.

The other thing I'd like to see us do, is actually be a little smart about letting the Russians take the brunt of anything bad that goes on. One of the things I've noted in several interviews, is, the Russians helped supply all these WMD to the Syrians. If anything happens, we should let the Arab states deal with this, with the Syrians, as well the United Nations deal with Russia, for having supplied this WMD. Let the other folks who always come after us—let the UN and other folks go after the Russians on some of this stuff, and we stay out of it. I mean, they are as responsible as anyone else, for anything bad happening, by the fact they supplied it. It's not our job to be the policeman. Let the UN go in and give them the hard time over stuff.

What Role Should the U.S. Have in Syria?

Jones: We'll take a couple more questions.

Politico: First of all, I'd like to ask you: You suggested that military action in Syria seemed unnecessary. What role would you have the United States play in that situation? Additionally, are you satisfied with the language in the Conference Committee report of the Defense Authorization bill, in the conference committee report on Syria?

Jones: Well, first, I think, as Col. Shaffer just said, that we have, in the national departments, we have a State Department. I think many, many times that maybe because we have a strong military, that too many times we don't do enough when it comes to building relationships around the world, to influence situations like Syria.

I have not had a chance to see the NDAA bill [National Defense Authorization Act], so I can't answer the second part of that question, but as has been said before me, when a nation is financially broke, and here we are talking about a "fiscal cliff"—we don't know if we will

be able to resolve that or not—and we're talking about spending millions and billions of dollars in other countries around the world. It doesn't make any sense to the American taxpayer!

That's why Mr. Rangel and I, and the people behind me, talked about the Constitution, and our responsibility when we commit our young men and women to war: we are not meeting our responsibility; and I blame the Bush Administration for an illegal war in Iraq, and I am disappointed that Mr. Obama would bypass Congress to go bomb Libya, and now set us up to be in a situation where we *might*—hopefully not, but *might* commit troops [in Syria]. So, Congress needs to meet its responsibility.

'There Should Be a Discussion of Impeachment'

Truthdig: What do you think Congress should do if Obama defies your call, and uses military intervention without consulting Congress?

Jones: I think there should be a discussion of impeachment. I really do. I think this has gone on for too long; and I have the greatest respect for Secretary Pannetta, but when I heard him answer Senator Sessions, and say that he would have to consult with our foreign friends before they go to Congress to discuss war, I almost had an accident driving home. I could not believe it. For goodness sake, where is the Congress? *We are three equal branches*. We have not been equal for a long time when it comes to war. I hope it doesn't happen. And I hope this letter that we have sent to President Obama. . .

I respect President Obama. I am a Republican, and I didn't vote for him, but I respect him. He's my President. But I want my President, be it Democrat or Republican, to understand their Constitutional responsibility before they kill our kids.

Lang: I think it's not my place, as a retired officer, to speak on a Constitutional matter like this.

Shaffer: I'll speak, and this is the deal. I took an oath of office, repeated it several times every time I got promoted, so if I'm expected to follow my oath of office, then the President is expected to follow his oath of office.

Jones: Well, let me thank each and every one of you for coming today. Please, with your friends: Do not let the Congress *not* meet its responsibility. If we're going to take any type of movement that could be seen as a military movement, Congress must be part of that discussion.

Thank you for coming, and Merry Christmas.

Obama/al-Qaeda Pact In Libya and Syria

by William Wertz

Dec. 18—While claiming credit for the killing of Osama bin Laden, President Barack Obama was forging an alliance with al-Qaeda, first, to overthrow the government of Libya, and now, the government of Syria. This reckless and lawless policy of allying with the perpetrators of 9/11/2001, and now, 9/11/2012, to conduct war without the consent of Congress, in violation of the U.S. Constitution, runs the immediate danger of leading to world war, which can only mean thermonuclear war.

This is “the elephant in the room,” which explains why the Obama Administration has lied and attempted to cover up the true facts about Benghazi. The policy of allying with al-Qaeda, and covering up that alliance and its consequences, is, indeed an impeachable offense. The question is whether members of Congress will have the courage to fight for the truth and for justice on behalf of the victims of this criminal policy.

This updated fact sheet presents the presently available evidence from the public domain. A serious Congressional investigation would uncover far more. Here are the facts known thus far:

The Case of Libya

In the case of Libya, the evidence is overwhelming. Under the guise of humanitarian interventionism, President Obama ordered American military forces to create a no-fly zone and provide close air cover for al-Qaeda groupings to overthrow Muammar Qaddafi.

The opposition in Libya was dominated by the

Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG), which was created in the 1990s by Abel Hakim Belhadj, who had fought with al-Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan, from 1988 to 1992. (On Feb. 15, 2011, the LIFG changed its name to the Libyan Islamic Movement for Change.) After Kabul fell in 1992, Belhadj moved to Sudan with Osama bin Laden.

In 1995, British MI6 approached the LIFG to carry out a coup against Qaddafi. After the coup and four assassination attempts against Qaddafi failed, many members of the LIFG were jailed in the Abu Selim prison in Tripoli. Others, including Belhadj, escaped.

In 2001, when the U.S. invaded Afghanistan, two members of the LIFG, who later participated in the Obama-led overthrow of Qaddafi, were arrested by the Pakistanis and handed over to the U.S.: Abul Hakim al-Hasadi and Abu Sufian bin Qumu, both originally from Derna, Libya. Al-Hasadi, who had fought for five years in Afghanistan against the U.S., was sent back to Libya and jailed. Qumu was sent to Guantanamo until he was later returned to Libya. Both were jailed in Abu Selim prison.

In 2004, Belhadj and Sami Al-Saadi, who also later participated in the Obama-led overthrow of Qaddafi, were captured by the CIA and MI6 in Bangkok, Thailand, and returned to Libya, where they were also imprisoned in Abu Selim. This was shortly after Tony Blair had organized the recognition of Qaddafi by the West. At the time, Blair stated that Qaddafi wanted to join the West in combatting al-Qaeda.

Al-Saadi, who Taliban leader Mullah Omar once called the Sheikh of the Arabs, was the author of a plan to overthrow Qaddafi. This plan was found in the home of Abd al-Rahman al-Faquihi in Birmingham, U.K., during a police raid in the middle of the last decade. Al-Faquihi had been convicted in absentia by a Moroccan court for complicity in the May 2003 suicide bombings in Casablanca. This same war plan would later be employed against Qaddafi, beginning in February 2011.

In March 2010, due to the intervention of Blair, Saif Qaddafi (Muammar’s son) announced the release of



White House/Pete Souza

President Obama announces the killing of Osama bin Laden, May 1, 2011.

Belhadj and 233 other members of the LIFG from Abu Selim as part of a reconciliation with the West. Less than a year after they were released, Belhadj and the other members of the LIFG became the core of the opposition to Qaddafi.

At the time of the operation to overthrow Qaddafi under the cover of a UN resolution, the LIFG was designated a terrorist group by the U.S. State Department, the U.K. Home Office, and the United Nations Security Council. An excerpt from the U.S. State Department report reads as follows:

“On November 3, 2007, senior Al Qaeda leaders announced that LIFG had officially joined al-Qaeda. Activities: Libyans associated with the LIFG are part of the broader international terrorist movement. The LIFG is one of the groups believed to have planned the Casablanca suicide bombing in May 2003. Spanish media in August 2005 linked Ziyad Hashem, an alleged member of the LIFG’s media committee, as well as the imprisoned amir Abdallah al Sadeq (Belhaj), with Tunisian Islamist Serhane Ben Abdelmajid Fakhret, the suspected ringleader in the 2004 Madrid attacks. Abdallah al Sadeq is the *nom de guerre* of Abel Hakim Belhadj.”

Excerpts from the UN resolution read as follows: “LIFG commanders, including Abu Yahya al-Liby and the now-deceased Abu al-Laith al-Liby, have occupied prominent positions within Al-Qaeda’s senior leadership. On 3 November 2007, LIFG formally merged with al-Qaeda. The merger was announced via two video clips produced by Al-Qaeda’s propaganda arm, Al-Sahab. The first clip featured Usama bin Laden’s (QI.B.8.01) deputy, Aiman Muhammed Rabi al-Zawahiri (QI.A.6.01), and the second featured Abu Laith al-Liby, who then served as a senior member of LIFG and a senior leader and trainer for Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan.”

The Perpetrators of the Benghazi Attack

After Qaddafi was overthrown by the al-Qaeda-affiliated LIFG, the Tripoli Military Council was initially run by Gen. Abd al-Fatah Yunis. However, he was assassinated by the military group Ansar al-Sharia on July 28, 2011, and the former emir of the LIFG, Belhadj, became the Council’s military commander. The Benghazi Military Council, in turn, was run by Sallabi, an ally of Belhadj.

Three of the military brigades operating in the Benghazi area—Ansar al-Sharia, Libyan Shield, and the February 17 Brigade, the latter two of which operate in coordination with the Libyan Ministry of Defense—participated in the attack on the United States mission

and a CIA annex in Benghazi, killing U.S. Amb. Chris Stevens and three U.S. diplomatic personnel, on the 11th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 al-Qaeda attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. These three organizations were the chief American combat allies in the drive to overthrow Qaddafi.

To be specific: Ansar al-Sharia, led by Abu Sufian bin Qumu, a former al-Qaeda Guantanamo detainee; the Libya Shield, which met the Marines who came from Tripoli at the airport and accompanied them to the CIA annex, led by Wisam bin Hamid, identified by the Library of Congress as possibly the head of al-Qaeda in Libya; and the February 17 Brigade, which provided security for the mission, led by Ismail Sallabi, are all run by the al-Qaeda-affiliated LIFG.

Ansar al-Sharia: The leader of the Ansar al-Sharia group in Derna that actually carried out the assault on the U.S. mission and CIA annex in Benghazi on 9/11/12, is Sufian bin-Qumu. According to his Guantanamo detainee assessment report, Qumu received monthly stipends from one of the financiers of the original 9/11/2001 attack:

“Detainee’s alias is found on a list of probable Al-Qaida personnel receiving monthly stipends. His alias was found on al-Qaeda’s 11 September attacks financier Mustafa Al Hawsawi’s laptop as an Al-Qaida member receiving family support.”

The assessment continues: “Detainee is assessed as a former member of the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group, a probable member of Al-Qaeda. The detainee is assessed as a MEDIUM to HIGH risk, as he is likely to pose a threat to the US, its interests and allies.

“Prior history: he served as a tank driver in the Libyan armed forces as a private. The Libyan Government states he was addicted to illegal drugs/narcotics and had been accused of a number of crimes including murder, physical assault, armed assault and distributing narcotics. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison. In 1993 he escaped and fled eventually to Afghanistan and trained at Osama Bin Laden’s Torkham Camp. After Afghanistan he moved to Sudan where he worked as a truck driver for one of OBL’s companies. He joined the LIFG and was assigned to the military committee. He left Sudan, allegedly withdrew from the LIFG in 1998 and returned to Afghanistan. Captured in 2001, he was sent to Guantanamo.”

According to the report, he has admitted associations with Ayyub Al Libi, al-Qaeda/LIFG facilitator, Abu Abdullah al Sadiq, which is the *nom de guerre* of Abdul Hakim Belhadj who is the leader of LIFG, and Abu Al Munihir, a.k.a. Sami Al Saadi, who drew up the

war plan to overthrow Qaddafi in the mid-2000s.

Libya Shield: The last signed diplomatic cable from Ambassador Stevens back to the State Department in Washington, dated Sept. 11, 2012 described a tense Sept. 9 meeting in Benghazi between U.S. security officials and two leaders of Libya Shield, Wissam bin Hamid (misidentified as Wisam bin Ahmed) and Shaykh Muhammad al-Garabi, in which they argued that if the Muslim Brotherhood candidate for Prime Minister, Alwad al Barasi, should win, he would appoint the commander of the February 17 Brigade, Fawzi Bukatif, as Minister of Defense.

“Bukatif’s appointment,” the memo says, “would open the MOD and other security ministries and offices to plum appointments for his most favored brigade commanders—giving February 17 and Libya Shield tacit control of the armed forces.” On the other hand, if Jibril, whom the U.S. government was supporting, won, “they would not continue to guarantee security in Benghazi, a critical function they asserted they were currently providing.”

According to al-Fetn.com, Bin Hamid fought against American forces in both Iraq and Afghanistan before returning to the Benghazi-Derna area of eastern Libya to “ally” with Washington to overthrow and execute Qaddafi. The same al-Fetn.com reported in late October 2011 that bin Hamid became the head of a newly formed “supreme board of the Libyan mujahideen.”

According to an August 2012 report from the Library of Congress, “Al-Qaeda in Libya: A Profile,” bin Hamid is widely identified as the actual head of al-Qaeda in Libya. He also held a demonstration in Sirte in March 2012, which was attended by the head of al-Qaeda in Magreb in Sahel, Mokhtar ben Mokhtar. Yet, his Libya Shield militia was entrusted with security for the U.S. mission in Benghazi, and the Sept. 9, 2012 meeting likely provided the group with the travel plans of Ambassador Stevens, who arrived in Benghazi on Sept. 10 for a scheduled ten-day visit. The attack on the CIA annex only began after Libyan Shield fighters escorted a Marine rescue team from the airport to the location hours after the initial attack on the U.S. mission, where Ambassador Stevens was killed.

February 17 Brigade: According to Joan Neuhaus Schaan, a fellow in Homeland Security and Terrorism at Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy in Houston, the February 17 Brigade, which provided security for the U.S. Mission in Benghazi, was founded by Ismail Sallabi, a known member of al-Qaeda and the LIFG. A Brookings Doha Center policy briefing dated

May 2012, entitled “Libyan Islamists Unpacked: Rise, Transformation, and Future,” also reports that Sallabi heads the February 17 Brigade based in Benghazi.

On Sept. 16, 2011 the *Guardian* identified Sallabi as the head of the Benghazi Military Council, the counterpart to the Tripoli Military Council led by Abul Hakim Belhadj. According to Al Arabiya News, the commander of the February 17 brigade is Fawzi Bukatif.

According to al-Hayat, Belhadj was in Benghazi in April 2011, where he helped organize the February 17 Brigade. Included in the security force for the Benghazi mission proper, were four members of the February 17 Brigade, described by a State Department source as “a friendly militia which has basically been deputized by the Libyan government to serve as our security, our host government security.” An additional 16 militia members were part of the quick-reaction security team based at the CIA compound described as the mission’s “annex.”

Ismael al-Sallabi (who is the brother of Libya’s leading Islamist, Ali al-Sallabi) also leads the Martyr Rafallah Sahati Brigade, which began as a battalion of the February 17 Brigade. The Brigade’s commander, Shaykh Muhammad al-Garabi, met with U.S. officials on Sept. 9, along with Wisam ben Hamid of the Libya Shield.

Abdel Hakim Belhadj: Any serious investigation of Benghazi would have to look closely at the role of Abdel Hakim Belhadj, the founder of the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group and, after the overthrow of Qaddafi, the commander of the Tripoli Military Council. As such, he was given responsibility, as of Aug. 30, 2011, for the security of all foreign embassies in Tripoli, including the U.S. Embassy, until he stepped down as commander of the TMC to form his own political party (Watan) in May 2012. He was also put in charge of coordinating defense on a national level.

On Nov. 17, 2012, the Saudi-based publication *Arab News* published an article by Ali Bluwi, reporting that the attack on the Benghazi mission was carried out in revenge for the killing of Abu Yahya al-Libi, a senior Libyan member of al-Qaeda, killed in a U.S. drone attack in Pakistan in June 2012.

The article also reports that U.S. Amb. Chris Stevens “prevented Abdel Hakim Belhadj from assuming the portfolio of defense or interior in Libya.”

Furthermore, according to former Muslim Brotherhood member Walid Shoebat, Belhadj is the al-Qaeda operative that the Libyan expatriates claim was the principal organizer who directed the Sept. 11 terrorist attack in Benghazi.

Al-Qaeda in Syria: While Belhadj was commander

of the Tripoli Military Council, he deployed on behalf of Obama, the British Empire, and Saudi Arabia, to provide al-Qaeda military personnel and weapons in the attempt to overthrow the Syrian government. Numerous news sources, including the *Daily Telegraph*, have reported that, in November 2011, Belhadj traveled to Turkey to meet with the Syrian Free Army, to provide it with training and weapons to overthrow Assad.

According to Albawaba.com and thetruthseeker.co.uk, during that same month, some 600 LIFG terrorists from Libya entered Syria and began military operations. The individual who leads the Libyan fighters is Mahdi al-Harati, now head of the Liwa al-Ummah Brigade in Syria. According to an Aug. 9, 2012 article in *Foreign Policy* magazine by Mary Fitzgerald, entitled “The Syrian Rebels’ Libyan Weapon,” al-Harati is a Libyan-born Irish citizen, who was a commander of the Tripoli Brigade, run by Belhadj during overthrow of Qaddafi in Libya.

The Tripoli Brigade was one of the first rebel units to enter the Libyan capital in August 2011. After Tripoli was taken by the rebels, al-Harati was appointed deputy head of the Tripoli Military Council, serving under Abdel Hakim Belhaj. In late 2011, Harati stepped down as commander of the Tripoli Brigade and as deputy head of the Tripoli Military Council, and left for Syria.

According to Harati, more than 6,000 men across Syria have joined Liwa al-Ummah since its establishment. Harati stresses that 90% of its members are Syrians, the rest are Libyans, most of them, former members of the Tripoli Brigade, along with a smattering of other Arabs. According to Reuters, Liwa al-Ummah includes 20 senior members of the Tripoli Brigade.

One of the State Department documents released by the House Oversight Committee in October was from the Research and Information Support Center, dated March 1, 2012. It gives the following assessment of the presence of al-Qaeda in the Benghazi area:

“In late December 2011, reports indicated that the al-Qaeda leadership in Pakistan had sent experienced jihadists to Libya to build a new base of operations in the country. Between May and December 2011, one of these jihadists had recruited 200 fighters in the eastern part of the country. Documents seized in Iraq indicate that many foreign fighters who participated in the Iraqi insurgency hailed from eastern Libya.”

According to the August 2012 Library of Congress “Al-Qaeda in Libya” report, the individual sent is believed to be Abd al-Baset Azzouz, who has been close to al-Qaeda head Al-Zawahiri since 1980. According to

the same report, he is likely located currently in Libya with another senior Libyan al-Qaeda operative Abd al-Hamid al-Ruqhay, alias Abu Anas al-Libi, who moved, in the late 1980s, living at various times, in Afghanistan and Sudan, where he is believed to have met Osama bin Laden and joined al-Qaeda.

According to documents released by former Muslim Brotherhood member Walid Shoebat, records provided to expatriates from sources inside the Libyan government establish that al-Qaeda operatives are facilitating the passage of jihadists through Libya to Syria. Specifically, Abdul Wahhab Hassan Qayad, whose brother, al-Qaeda leader Yahya al-Libi, was killed in Pakistan in June 2012 by a U.S. drone attack, now works in the Libyan Interior Ministry where he is in charge of Border Control and Strategic Institutions. The position allows him to arrange open-border passage for al-Qaeda operatives, facilitating not only the flow of terrorists into Libya, but also al-Qaeda efforts to transport terrorists and weapons into Syria from Libya via Turkey.

What Must Be Done

The LaRouche Political Action Committee (LPAC) has produced a detailed documentary on President Obama’s filthy dealings with the very British and Saudi-backed jihadists who have the blood of American Ambassador Chris Stevens and countless others on their hands. Congressional demands for the creation of a select committee to get to the bottom of the Benghazi 9/11/12 attacks must begin with a thorough airing of the ongoing alliance between the Obama White House and al-Qaeda. Nothing short of a thorough probe will prevent a replay of the first two 9/11 attacks, perhaps on a far grander scale.

What makes this particularly urgent is that, in using al-Qaeda to overthrow Assad in Syria, the British Empire, Saudi Arabia, and their stooge Obama are pushing the world to the edge of a thermonuclear war with Russia and China. The crimes of Obama are much greater than failing to provide sufficient security to the mission, or not responding after the attack by providing military assistance.

The reason for this is that the killings of the Ambassador and three other Americans were carried out by the very terrorists Obama and his masters relied upon to overthrow Qaddafi, and are relying on now to overthrow Assad. The designation of al-Nusra as a terrorist organization is just a fig leaf. The entire Syrian opposition is al-Qaeda, as this fact sheet conclusively demonstrates, and the Syrian opposition itself has affirmed by proclaiming that they are all al-Nusra.

Wall Street, London Held Off Glass-Steagall—for 2012

by Paul Gallagher

Dec. 30—A year-end poll reported by the London *Financial Times* Dec. 27 showed an extraordinary result: More than 60% of the Members of the British Parliament, across all parties, “would support a full-scale separation in British banking, modelled on the Glass-Steagall reforms implemented in the 1930s in the United States.” The poll, taken by the Ipsos Mori public opinion firm, showed the pro-Glass-Steagall faction even stronger in the Conservative Party—with 66% of the Tories polled supporting it—than in the Labour Party, with 60% in favor. Ipsos Mori CEO Ben Page said, “MPs are completely divided over a whole range of issues—including regulation of business generally, but are united in their view that retail and investment banking should be separated.”

The *Financial Times* wrote that the finding “piles pressure on the Chancellor [of the Exchequer, George Osborne] to go further than ministers’ proposed ‘ring-fence’ around retail banking.” The newspaper itself has been campaigning in favor of Glass-Steagall for six months.

Any poll of this type taken within the United States Congress would likewise show very substantial support for re-enacting the Glass-Steagall Act.

Yet no legislation to enact a Glass-Steagall banking reform was introduced into the British Parliament during 2012, because of strong opposition from the Cameron Tory government—usually expressed by Osborne—acting on behalf of London’s giant malefactor

banks—HSBC, Barclays, RBS, Lloyds, etc. These banks are all escaping with large fines for wholesale criminal activity over the past decade, but are still fighting off a healthy Glass-Steagall reorganization. A select parliamentary committee on banking reform in late December came within inches of demanding immediate Glass-Steagall reorganization, agreeing instead to “threaten” to impose it over the coming year.

And in the United States no bill to restore Glass-Steagall was introduced in the Senate of the 112th Congress, despite a strong House Glass-Steagall bill (H.R. 1489) with 85 bipartisan sponsors. The reason was the same: fierce opposition from a President Obama and Treasury Secretary Geithner acting for the giant “universal banks” on Wall Street and in the City of London. A *Politico* analysis article in August and a frank public comment by Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) in September both pinpointed the cause for lack of a Senate Glass-Steagall bill: Wall Street money and Presidential opposition. McCain said, “The votes are not there to pass Glass-Steagall in the Senate, and the reason is the power of the financial interests is too strong.”

Obama chose to stress his opposition to Glass-Steagall publicly late in the election campaign, in particular, in an Oct. 24 interview with *Rolling Stone* magazine.

The Alternative: Hyperinflation

The big banks and the Cameron and Obama governments held off Glass-Steagall in 2012 by the use of

campaign financing, threats delivered by their Treasury secretaries, and by begging legislators to “give a chance” to their faux Glass-Steagall alternatives: the Dodd-Frank Act in the United States and the Vickers Commission “ringfencing” policy in the U.K.

But the continuing spectacular misconduct of the giant “universal banks” laid bare the impotence of these alternatives, for which policymakers are taking years to define their “rules” and will take more years to implement them. JPMorgan Chase tried to control and manipulate the global credit derivatives markets, lost at least \$7 billion doing it, and had to finger its own traders to the authorities for crimes.

Bank of America and Morgan Stanley moved tens of trillions in derivatives exposures from their investment bank divisions to their FDIC-insured commercial banks, flouting the law. The huge Libor-rigging scandals remain largely unpunished—and continue. HSBC, Barclays, and Standard and Chartered all were fined for money-laundering crimes, with the Obama Justice Department refusing to prosecute HSBC criminally because of publicly stated fears of a resulting bank panic. German authorities, by contrast, are prosecuting Deutsche Bank for multiple crimes (see next article).

In the asset balance sheets of these huge banks, the proportion of actual loans to businesses, individuals, and households is no higher than 65%—the remainder being securities speculations—and goes down to as low as 11% (in the case of Deutsche Bank), completely undeserving of the legal designation of “bank.” No capital rules or Volcker Rules can make these institutions play any role but as the powder kegs of an early new financial crash.

The real Obama-British alternative policy to Glass-Steagall bank reorganization is not Dodd-Frank or the Vickers Commission: It is the hyperinflation being carried out by the central banks, combined with disastrous economic austerity policies being imposed by the governments. These so-called “recovery policies” are mass



LPAC-TV

Will the dam break for Glass-Steagall in the U.S. this year? All indications are that it could, but much more pressure is needed on Congress. Shown: LaRouchePAC organizers in New York City, September 2012.

money-printing and perpetual zero-interest-rate actions by the central banks, long-term mass unemployment and/or low-wage employment for the labor forces, and deep cuts—in some European countries, verging on genocidal austerity—in government budgets. They have plunged all of Europe into depression, have failed in the U.K., and are now being intensified in the United States.

The European Central Bank’s asset book already equals 30% of the continent’s GDP, so massively has it purchased toxic assets from the banks. The Federal Reserve’s assets are over 20% of GDP and heading for 25% or more in 2013, as it prints *at least* \$85 billion/month to buy mortgage securities, derivatives, and Treasury securities from the big banks.

A Bloomberg News analysis Dec. 30 noted, “Nearly quadrupling the balance sheet poses myriad dangers, among them that when interest rates do rise, the Fed will be left with a huge portfolio of securities of shrinking value. Unloading that portfolio to stem the losses could cause collapse. [And wild money-printing to try to prevent that collapse—ed.] In a recent Huffington Post column, hedge-fund manager Mitch Feierstein referred to the Fed’s balance sheet as a ‘monetary time-bomb.’”

The hyperinflationary, zero-interest policy is also having severe effects on the vast majority of banks in

the United States, smaller commercial banks, and “community banks,” driving them into securities speculation as a defense. Securities, rather than loans, have risen abruptly from about 5-10% of the assets of these banks to 20-25% now, with the speculative danger being greater, the smaller the assets class of the banks.

It is to protect commercial banking from such speculative and potentially hyperinflationary dangers that Glass-Steagall was enacted, and in which it succeeded for over 60 years.

Austerity No Answer

Meanwhile, Washington was locked in a fake New Year’s Eve drama over *what form* Obama’s radical austerity policy would take. Would there be cuts in all “discretionary” government spending immediately, which could cause, among other things, half a million or more rapid layoffs centered in the defense industries; or would a series of cuts to Medicare and Social Security be put through during the Winter, particularly cutting off senior citizens from access to medical care?

Obama has been driving steadily toward this austerity policy for two years. This truth was forcefully stated on the eve of the final “fiscal cliff” showdown by a liberal Democrat and former bank regulator active in the Occupy Wall Street and “99%” movements, Prof. William Black of the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Black wrote a Dec. 28 column demonstrating in some detail that it was President Obama, not the Republicans, who, in mid-2011, demanded enactment of automatic spending cuts to be triggered at the end of 2012—the so-called “sequester” cuts—in order to force both parties to accept brutal austerity. Black wrote: “Austerity is the weapon that is about to inflict the self-inflicted wounds on our nation. The fiscal cliff is the ammunition about to be used to inflict austerity on the nation. One of the wounds is a recession, which would increase unemployment and the federal budget deficit. The other terrible wounds are cuts to social programs and the safety net that would add greatly to human misery... Who insisted on creating the fiscal cliff, threatened Republicans in Fall 2011 when they wanted to eliminate or reduce it, and after the ‘failure’ of the November 2011 ‘super committee’ to reach a deal to inflict even greater austerity on the nation,

made a veto threat to block a Republican proposal to eliminate or delay the fiscal cliff? The answer is: Obama.”

Three Aspects of Recovery

Given this reality, the Congressional supporters of Glass-Steagall re-enactment must introduce it into the new, 113th Congress, combined with the measures of real economic recovery which it only makes possible.

Restoration of Glass-Steagall will cut the legs out from under Fed chairman Ben Bernanke’s hyperinflation policy; but enacted alone, will still leave the economy with its current deficit of immediate bank credit and the government with its historic record-low revenues due to the collapse since 2007.

As numerous bank economists were mobilized to come out against the growing call for Glass-Steagall in the latter half of 2012, they often claimed that the banking sector was “beginning to lend into the economy again,” and should be left alone. This is simply false. With the Fed’s immense liquidity and capital assistance to the banks, bank lending is plentiful for the largest corporations and speculative takeover funds but scarce-to-completely-unavailable for all others. Mass unemployment continues and has become effectively permanent unemployment for 4-5 million formerly full-time workers; real average wages continue to fall, month after month.

Glass-Steagall must be restored quickly against hyperinflation, but combined with a new source of large-scale lending—a system of national credit centrally targeted on crucial “Rooseveltian” developments of new economic infrastructure, which can transform the economy’s productivity levels as the TVA or the Apollo space program did, for example. These are also the pathways to increasing government tax revenues without austerity.

The proposed North American Water and Power Alliance (NAWAPA) project is the largest and most fully engineered such infrastructure development in this nation’s history—and also the one most urgently needed for a country wracked by widespread drought and falling food production.

Restoring Glass-Steagall will recreate a commercial banking system which can play a critical lending role for such efforts and the reindustrialization they require—but only if the national credit policy is launched, effectively, in the same action.

German Authorities Take on Deutsche Bank

by Roger Moore

Dec. 29—Five hundred German police and prosecutors raided the twin tower headquarters of Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt Dec. 12, as part of investigations into the bank's complicity in a massive tax fraud involving the European Union's once highly praised "cap and trade" carbon emissions certificate scam. One week later, on Dec. 19, the Deutsche Bank towers were again raided by the police, this time seeking evidence of collusion among the bank's leaders in falsifying testimony in a bankruptcy complicity case the bank just recently lost.

On the same day, a court in Milan, Italy convicted the bank, along with UBS, Depfa, and JP Morgan, for fraudulent selling of interest-rate swaps to the city. Again, on that day, it was made public that the Swiss bank UBS had been fined \$1.5 billion for manipulating Libor (the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate), a crime conducted by a criminal conspiracy of banks in London, of which Deutsche Bank was a participant; UBS is expected to be hit soon, too.

In December, a former Deutsche Bank employee surfaced with new allegations that the bank had used complex derivatives to falsify its balance sheet. The Libor criminal manipulation was done to the benefit of several hundred trillion dollars of derivatives contracts, the trading of which is globally centered in London. On Dec. 27, the State Bank of Baden-Württemberg (Landesbank B-W), like other publicly owned banks in Germany, filed its own complaint for fraud against Deutsche Bank for selling it soon-to-be-worthless, asset backed securities (ABS) in 2007. Forty pages were devoted to these Deutsche Bank crimes in the 2011 U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Investigations report, "Wall Street and the Financial Collapse," a report little known in Germany.

Deep into the year 2012, Deutsche Bank was still a sacred cow within Germany—untouchable. Now that is over, and voices are being raised for the Bundestag to hold an investigation into the bank. Calls resound for



EIRNS/Christopher Lewis

The storied financial institution Deutsche Bank is no longer a sacred cow in Germany. Calls to break it up are becoming louder.

breaking it up: *Der Spiegel*, Dec. 17: "Break it up!" Deutsche Bank is no longer "too big to jail," let alone "too big to fail."

A Noble Tradition

But, Deutsche Bank wasn't always so.

On Nov. 30, 1989, after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the then-head of Deutsche Bank, Alfred Herrhausen, was assassinated in an unprecedented, highly professional, electric-eye-triggered, shaped-explosive-charge bombing of his armored car, as his security convoy was on the way from his residence north of Frankfurt, to the bank headquarters. This crime, at the time attributed to a non-existent "Third Generation" of the Red Army Faction (RAF) terror group, is unsolved to this day.

In a written speech which was to be read at a confer-

ence in New York on Dec. 4, 1989, Herrhausen proposed that a development bank approach, Marshall Plan-style, should be used to assist the countries of the East, such as Poland, which could be expected to undergo transformations like that which collapsed the government of East Germany. Herrhausen's speech was in the spirit of Lyndon LaRouche's famous and stunning declaration a year earlier in Berlin, Oct. 12, 1988, announcing the coming unification of Germany, with Berlin as its capital, such that Germany could play a positive role in making an offer to the Soviet bloc to begin rebuilding the industry and agriculture of their crumbling economies.

After the assassination of Herrhausen, Deutsche Bank's already planned acquisition of Morgan Grenfell investment bank in London became a Trojan Horse in Germany for the City of London's deregulated financial empire. A geopolitical scourge hit: Western Europe was locked into the cage formalized with the 1992 Maastricht Treaty, and Russia and the East were decimated by shock therapy, while London and Wall Street-based banks, and eventually including Deutsche Bank, began their Icarus-like flight into the speculations that collapsed in 2007 and 2008.

Founded in Berlin in 1870, Deutsche Bank quickly became a part of the financing of Germany's industrial buildup, which took off when Chancellor Bismarck in 1879 explicitly adopted the protection-for-industry policy promoted within Germany by Abraham Lincoln's "American System" economics advisor, Henry Carey. After World War II, banks on the continent, including Deutsche Bank, continued to serve such traditions, using the techniques of New Deal and wartime President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, to reconstruct the continent. The Marshall Plan-backed Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW—Bank for Reconstruction) shaped the regulated environment for private banks to become servants for investment in the real economy.

Then Destruction

Today, Deutsche Bank is one of the most highly leveraged banks in Europe—in the fourth quarter



Former Deutsche Bank head Alfred Herrhausen was assassinated by terrorists in 1989; he had proposed a Marshall Plan-style development policy for the former East bloc nations.

2011, 40:1, depending on the accounting standards used. From 2006 to March 2011, its balance sheet massively expanded by 40%, to \$2.9 trillion. Only 11% of its so-called assets are actual loans to companies, hardly qualifying it as a bank.

And how did Deutsche Bank expand in the midst of the financial crisis? According to a July 2011 U.S. Congressionally mandated Government Accountability Office (GAO) study of government bailouts, the Federal Reserve Board of New York poured \$16 trillion (!) in emergency loans into U.S. and European banks between December 2007 and July 2010. In almost all Fed bailout categories, of the European banks being rescued, Deutsche Bank was at the top, often only just

behind the de facto nationalized Royal Bank of Scotland.

A similar "safety net" of Fed and European Central Bank (ECB) printing-press cash for the banks continues to this day. With world derivatives trading concentrated in London, Deutsche Bank's leading foreign exchange trading role, and related derivatives, puts it at the top of the ten banks in London that dominate 90% of the City's 46% share of the world's \$700 trillion of notional value derivatives. Deutsche Bank is a monster looming over Germany.

President Franklin Roosevelt used a combative New York City prosecutor, Ferdinand Pecora, to go after Wall Street for the U.S. Senate's 1933 investigation of the Great Depression. This opened the way for the imposition of Glass-Steagall banking separation, and other New Deal policies. With prosecutors on the move against Deutsche Bank, the only question is whether the German Bundestag can find a Ferdinand Pecora.

Deutsche Bank is neither "Deutsch" nor a "bank." It is a London- and New York-based hedge fund, using virtually free central bank money in the "markets" to back its gambling ventures. When the central bank hyperinflationary printing press "safety net" goes down, Germany has only one choice. This is something Alfred Herrhausen would have understood.

UN, Arab League, Russia Warn: Syria Now on the Edge of Hell

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Dec. 31—Syria is on the very edge of Hell, and in danger of collapsing into the condition of a failed state. These are the warnings issued by UN-Arab League Special Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, following an intense week of diplomacy in Damascus, Moscow, and Cairo, aimed reviving the Geneva agreements of June 2012, for achieving a political solution to the two-year crisis.

Brahimi spent the last week of December in Damascus, meeting with President Bashar al-Assad, other government officials, and leaders of the internal opposition. On Dec. 29, Brahimi flew to Moscow for meetings with Lavrov and Russian Special Envoy to Syria Mikhail Bogdanov.

At the end of the Moscow meetings, Brahimi and Lavrov announced plans for a trilateral meeting, in early January, among Brahimi, Bogdanov, and U.S. State Department official William Burns—the second such meeting since early December. From Moscow, Brahimi went on to Cairo, where he met with top Arab League officials and with Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi.

At the conclusion of the week of diplomacy, Brahimi and Lavrov announced a new ceasefire plan, one that likely represents the last-best hope to avert a total disintegration of Syria, leading to a larger regional conflict and, perhaps, a general war.

The question is whether the combined diplomatic weight of Washington, Moscow, and the UN can prevail on the Saudi and Qatari-armed and -financed op-

position to sit down with representatives of the Assad government to work out a power-sharing and transitional agreement, starting with a ceasefire.

Military Stalemate

The reality on the ground in Syria is that neither side can, under present circumstances, achieve a military victory. Over the past 48 hours, the Syrian Army defeated the rebels in a major battle near Homs. The forces loyal to President Assad cannot absolutely defeat the rebels and control the entire national territory. The rebels cannot take over the capital city of Damascus.

Under these conditions of stalemate, the opposition forces are more and more dominated by radical Sunni factions, heavily financed and armed from the Persian Gulf states. The al-Nusra Front, an offshoot of al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), is by far the best organized and financed of all of the armed rebel factions. The group has been placed on the U.S. State Department List of Foreign Terrorist Organizations, yet all of the other armed rebel factions have defended al-Nusra because it is the most effective fighting force. It is becoming clear, as has been openly stated by Brahimi and others, that Syria, under al-Nusra domination, could become a new hotbed of global terrorism, as did Afghanistan in the aftermath of the 1980s Western-sponsored mujahideen war to drive out the Soviet Army.

According to a report by the German intelligence agency, BND, made public last week, Syria is already

emerging as a hub of international terrorism. European jihadists have been recruited to go to Syria, not so much to fight the Assad regime, as to be part of a new terrorism center, targeting Western European nations.

Jordanian intelligence has issued a dire warning as well, that the warfare inside Syria, which has already spilled over into Lebanon, will soon engulf both Jordan and Israel, creating the conditions for a much larger conflict. One senior U.S. Pentagon advisor warned at a recent conference in Washington, that the world is now in “July 1914,” just months before the outbreak of World War I. At that time, as could happen now, a series of nominally regional conflicts, involving leading world powers, erupted into general war. The same point was made by Lyndon LaRouche in his weekly international webcast on Dec. 28.

Hell on Earth

Another clear indication that Syria is in the process of degenerating into a failed state, just as Lavrov and Brahimi warned, is a report published Dec. 27 in the London *Guardian*, which reported on a series of recent assassinations of rebel leaders, carried out by other rebel groups, fighting over the spoils of war. In the Aleppo area in the north of Syria, which is also the industrial heartland of the country, rival rebel factions have shifted their attention from fighting the Syrian Army to looting the population of precious resources, from food to weapons to industrial products and raw materials. The degeneration into widespread looting is but one factor in Brahimi’s warnings that Syria is on the verge of becoming a “new Somalia” in the eastern Mediterranean.

Another clear indication of a descent into barbarism came from eyewitness accounts by a leading Catholic figure inside Syria. Sister Agnes-Mariam, mother superior of the Monastery of St. James the Mutilated, has been on an international tour for the last several months, seeking to arouse the conscience of, especially Europeans, over their support for the bestial jihadi movement in Syria. Well-known for her reports of rebel atrocities against Christians, including exposing that it was the rebels, not the Assad government, which carried out the Houla massacre, Sister Agnes-Mariam left Syria under fear of abduction, but is planning to return soon, to lead a new reconciliation movement.

On Dec. 30, the London *Sunday Times* printed the latest shocking revelation from Sister Agnes-Mariam: the story of the beheading and dismemberment of a

young Christian man, allegedly because his brother had charged the rebels with being bandits.

Andrei Arbashe, according to the *Times* account, was a young man who had recently been married, and was about to become a father. “They beheaded him, cut him into pieces, and fed him to the dogs,” said Agnes-Mariam. “The uprising has been hijacked by Islamist mercenaries who are more interested in fighting a holy war than in changing the government. It’s turned into a sectarian conflict, one in which Christians are paying a high price.”

The highly educated Carmelite nun, who is of Palestinian and Lebanese descent, says that 300,000 of Syria’s 2 million Christians have been displaced by the conflict, including threats by the Islamic extremists. “It’s a scandal that the free and democratic world is supporting extremists,” she said in reference to Western backing for the anti-Assad coalition.

A Moment of Decision

As NATO builds up Patriot missile batteries, AWACS surveillance planes, and ground forces in the region over the coming weeks, the danger that Syria will become a trigger for a global confrontation, drawing in the United States, Russia, and China, will grow. Russian military advisors are reported to be in Syria, manning a new generation of anti-aircraft batteries, opening the possibility of a direct confrontation between Russia and NATO. Even if that larger conflict is avoided, Syria will remain a flashpoint for a much larger regional war, a sectarian conflict, like the Balkan wars of the 1990s.

Ahmad al-Khatib, the head of the Saudi-Qatari-EU-U.S.-backed opposition, has been invited by Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov to meet in a “neutral capital,” such as Cairo or Geneva, to review the new Russia-UN ceasefire plan. Al-Khatib, a Muslim Brotherhood-linked cleric, has said that the departure of Assad is a precondition for any talks; but Brahimi told reporters and Russian officials that Assad has indicated he is not willing to leave office until his Presidential term expires in 2014.

Unless this stalemate is broken, by intense Russian-American pressure, Syria will, indeed, descend into Hell on Earth in the immediate days and weeks ahead. Under those circumstances, the prospect of more direct NATO intervention greatly increases, along with the danger of Syria being the trigger for world war, even thermonuclear world war.

There Was No Syrian Revolution; It Was Terrorism from the Beginning

Mohammad Mahfoud, the chairman of the Danish-Syrian Association, submitted this written text to the Schiller Institute's Nov. 24-25 European conference in Flörsheim, Germany.

The Syrian conflict started in March 2011, and, what at first seemed confusing, became more and more clear. Today we all know that the Syrian conflict is far more than a national conflict. We see a wide range of Western figures, who never cared much for human lives and international law, act as if they have already turned Syria into a Western feudal province, in which they are dictating all of the internal Syrian issues.

These Westerners have forgotten all about their own countries, where crisis follows crisis; and for 18 months, they have not cared about their own problems in the West. It seems as if these Westerners have a personal agenda, driven by blind fury.

The Syrian conflict was never peaceful. There was always a third, militant, barbaric group that had a violent agenda of its own. The Syrians knew it very early, after the first days of confusion, where the foreign news media said one thing, and the people on the streets another. They found out that something very strange was going on. Every Syrian became a “Sherlock Holmes,” and kept in close contact with family, friends, and others, in other cities. Every incident was investigated.

Also, Syrians outside of Syria started to follow every move, calling home daily, and then discussing the news with other Syrians to find out what their families and friends said. Many called the media in their countries, telling them that their news was untrue. But from Australia, to Denmark, to Canada, all the Western media had the same response, and they called them Syrian agents,



EIRNS/Christopher Lewis

“Very early on, it was obvious that what was happening was a hidden foreign attack on Syria,” writes Mohammad Mahfoud.

puppets, etc., and made sure that no one could hear their voice.

I was very surprised that even a state-owned major media outlet in Denmark was very effective and cynical in its censorship of the Syrians in Denmark, and in Syria. Instead of getting Syrians to comment on Syria, they used two non-Syrians with Arabic background, who have very little, or no knowledge, about the Syrian community, and both had exactly the same standard answers as commentators in other Western major media, as if they had all received the same manuscript!

A Hidden Foreign Attack

Very early on, it was obvious that what was happening was a hidden foreign attack on Syria, where the military, media, and cyberspace of all Western governments, had been mobilized, alongside their puppets in the Gulf. They even recruited jihadists from various countries, and armed and paid them to go to Syria to fight. Also, they created a Western-controlled Syrian opposition, comprised of people living in the West. Syrians in Syria (supporters of the government, and the Syrian opposition inside Syria) condemned this act as irrelevant. This was madness. It seemed as if the Western politicians and journalists were on drugs.

I will never forget seeing the U.S. ambassador, standing alone outside the Cham Hotel, begging people passing by to demonstrate against the government—without getting any support! Have you ever seen a foreign ambassador stand in the middle of Berlin, begging Germans to demonstrate against the German government? Can you imagine this? He has become a joke all over Syria, and this is just one of his many strange acts!



"It was terrorism from the very beginning! There were huge rallies in support of the government's reform, but only small demonstrations against it..." Shown: a massive pro-Assad rally in Damascus.

The hidden central actors in the strange opposition/revolution are [U.S. Secretary of State] Hillary Clinton, [former French President Nicolas] Sarkozy, [British Foreign Secretary William] Hague, [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu, [Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik] Hariri, and the feudal royalties in Qatar and Saudi Arabia, etc. The spiritual godfather is Adnan Arour, a very bloody sectarian, who promised to kill everybody who didn't follow him. Living in Saudi Arabia, he had weekly prayers on Al Arabiya, telling supporters to kill people, and destroy Syria. He has even promised to kill artists, only because they support the government.

Western weapons were smuggled into Syria from the beginning; huge quantities of foreign weapons were seized, and people talked about armed foreigners. In certain poor, extremist, criminal neighborhoods, dollars were suddenly very common, as were modern satellite phones that were not sold in the market in Syria. Everything was very surreal. As if this weren't enough, Western politicians and ambassadors seemed to be on Syrian drugs. They acted and talked like thugs, instead of well-behaved adults or diplomats.

As if launching military, political, and media wars, and sanctions against Syria weren't enough, the Western powers are trying to dominate Syria by using the

United Nations Security Council. Already in April 2011, the so-called peaceful protesters committed barbaric killings of civilians and security personnel.

Here are some examples: A farmer was tortured and mutilated, and then killed. A father driving his two sons and a nephew from school, were all killed. A 14-year-old boy was hanged for hanging up the Syrian flag at his home. A 17-year-old girl was killed. A bus bringing soldiers from their base back home was ambushed in an area where everything was still completely quiet. Nine young soldiers were killed and 25 wounded. This already happened in early April 2011, and all were committed by people who called themselves peaceful protesters. They also committed vandalism, burned private and official properties, etc.!

Kidnapping was used to pressure people into demonstrating. For example, two girls were kidnapped in April 2011, after their village refused to take part in the demonstrations. One girl returned home again, and the other is still missing.

A Last Telephone Call: 'For the Country'

A security station in Jisr Shoghour, with several personnel inside, who were unaware of an attack, was set on fire by the FSA [Free Syrian Army] terrorists, and

then attacked. One of the soldiers called his leader, and explained the situation: that they were surrounded by terrorists, and that they were trapped, yet resisting. At the end of their conversation, the soldier said, “Sir, we are out of ammunition. . . . We salute you and our President. . . . We send our good-byes. . . . Our country is in your hands now.”

Another soldier from the station called his sister, who has close family in Denmark. His last message was, “Never let these thugs take over the country. They are barbaric!”

From the beginning, every week, a number of policemen, soldiers, and other security personnel were killed in cold blood, in surprise attacks. Many were killed in brutal ways. It was clear that al-Qaeda terrorists had entered Syria, as well as special troops and hired fighters of different nationalities.

There was *no* revolution. It was terrorism from the very beginning! There were huge rallies in support of the government’s reform, but only small demonstrations against it, in small cities, mostly one at a time, after Friday prayers. The same people attended the demonstrations in all of these cities. These same people were obviously traveling from one place to another.

But the Western media, alongside the feudal royalties in the Gulf, never showed the huge pro-government rallies. All they showed were manipulated demonstrations against the government from YouTube, which could not be verified, because they were mostly fakes. There is an ocean of examples of fake videos and pictures. Many journalists from Al Jazeera have resigned since Spring 2011, because of the distortion of the facts about Syria. If there truly were a public uprising, why would they need to fake demonstrations and victims? Why would they have to use the same “demonstrators” in all places? Why did they need massive help from the outside?

We heard daily the Western leaders, yes, even the Saudi feudal monarch, call for democracy and freedom, and, since 2005, the same leaders in the U.S. have paid huge amounts to anti-Syrians in London, for example, to create an opposition for Syria. They even financed a TV channel for this purpose. They tell the Syrian government to step down. They organize conferences with themselves and the feudal royalties as hosts and leaders, in order for head-hunted figures, not living in Syria, to play opposition. The Syrian people in Syria are not being asked. When the Syrian people reject Western interference, the West uses bullets.

How democratic is that? And since when did the

feudal royalties in Saudi Arabia and Qatar care about democracy and freedom? Also, YouTube seems to be drugged when it comes to Syria. While the so-called exile-opposition had no problem in having brutal videos, usually fabricated, put on YouTube, the Syrians’ YouTube videos were removed by the YouTube administration, most of the time. There was certainly a plot against Syria and the Syrian people.

A Romanian newspaper wrote already in May 2011, that the plot aimed at undermining stability in Syria had failed, thanks to the Syrian people rallying around President Bashar al-Assad. The foreign plot failed thanks to the Syrian people and their awareness. In May, a number of groups were created by citizens (mainly young ones), who wanted to bring the truth to the world. Also, well-established organizations started campaigning.

For example, the “Voice of the Homeland’s Women,” launched by the Syrian Women’s Union, with the participation of a number of journalists and lawyers, started a campaign aimed at exposing the truth to the world. In May and June 2011, public groups, and political parties, etc., asked people to be careful, because there was a violent group that was organizing demonstrations, calling them peaceful.

Authors, artists, and thinkers sent an appeal addressed to the youth of Syria, saying, “Stop protesting, because suspicious groups are initiating the protests using dangerous, extremist slogans. This will reveal the real intruders, and eliminate the roots of this sedition. If it were not stopped, it would lead us towards devastation.” Syrian Kurdish parties asked the youths to keep away from these demonstrations, already during the first part of June 2011.

Syrians, especially the youth, appealed to the Western world to tell the truth, but they were totally ignored. In one effort, in mid-June 2011, they created a huge Syrian flag, 2,300 meters long. A huge crowd marched with the flag in Damascus—but no Western media gave it a glance!

In mid-June, 10 million people rallied across Syria, condemning the foreign intervention, and showing support for the reform; hardly any Western media mentioned this!

New Media Law in May 2011

In May, a committee of journalists started to draft a new media law and to set up mechanisms to reform the national media.

National Dialogue Committee in May 2011: On

May 1, the committee started setting up the basis for a national dialogue. And shortly after, a meeting was held about finding political solutions for the current challenges. The dialogue was open to all national political figures, inside and outside Syria, to achieve the national interests, and to preserve its unity and security. (Of course, we all know that the Western-made “opposition” rejected any dialogue.)

The participation of political, economic, social, religious, artistic, and cultural figures, farmers, etc., in all counties, hold regular week-long meetings

Judicial System in June 2011: In June 2011, a number of academics, jurists, and lawyers started to write a draft to reform the judiciary by developing the laws. Committees were formed in Summer 2011 to study laws needed to fight corruption.

In addition, the following reforms were undertaken:

- A new party law in August 2011
- New Constitution in February 2012
- Election to Parliament in April 2012
- Amnesty

We don't have many extremists in Syria, but they were the ones that the West and the Gulf states encouraged to protest, and decided to use. The extremists al-

ready tried in the beginning to create a sectarian civil war. In the streets at night, they were heard shouting “Death to the Christians” and other groups. They have destroyed many churches and mosques, and have vandalized others. Many Christian villages were threatened and attacked, in order to force them to leave their homes.

In Homs, during Autumn 2011, when the West used all means to push the Syrian Army away from the city, the Christians and others left their homes and villages when the army pulled out, because it was too dangerous to stay. As soon as the army had pulled out, the extremists, foreign terrorists, and even Western fighters entered. Those who had remained in their homes became hostages for weeks, some even for months—the terrorists threatened to use them as human shields in order to keep the Army away.

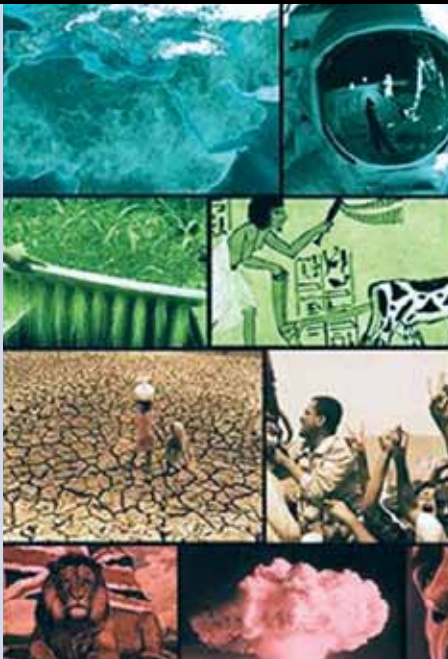
Without a political solution, the country risks slipping into civil war, with a breakdown of law and order, arbitrary killings, and the danger of sectarian conflict. If such a situation were to occur, everyone would suffer, without exception. A political solution is essential. Dialogue is the only way out of any crisis, also in Syria! Those who reject dialogue are not very great supporters of democratic principles!

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The Larger Horror Behind The Sandy Hook Massacre

by Nancy Spannaus

Dec. 29—You could call it the slaughter of the innocents, 2012. Twenty young children mowed down, eviscerated in a rain of bullets. But this time there was no Herod, no autocratic ruler, to blame for the massacre. No, this time the cause of the horror which has devastated hundreds of lives, and shocked the nation, has to be looked at deep within our culture, indeed, within ourselves.

I'm not talking about the so-called "culture of guns." That is rubbish, especially when peddled by the likes of our Murderer-in-Chief Barack Obama, who already has the blood of hundreds of children on his hands, as a result of his drone-warfare policy. Guns don't kill people; people do. And our people, the American population, has a deep sickness which is reflected in the Dec. 14 mass murder spree carried out by Adam Lanza, one of at least 29 such events in the United States since 1999.

No, we're not going to find any quick-fix here. We have no choice but to confront, and radically reverse, the insane, bestial view of man which has infected us, and threatens the very existence of civilized life on this planet.

That bestiality stems from a shift in philosophy about the value of human life itself, a shift which occurred in the midst of the deep pessimism arising in the wake of the death of President Franklin Roosevelt, and, most emphatically, after the murder of President Kennedy and the coverup of its authorship. This shift, which permeates science, education, culture, and even reli-

gion today, promotes the "modern" view that man is simply a more powerful animal, living in a world of limited resources he's threatening to use up, and largely determined by his biological makeup. In such a world, one seeks to "compete" the best one can in one's given environment, attain happiness for the moment in one's local circles, and adapt to those seemingly uncontrollable forces, physical or political, that are dominating the world.

In other words, the guiding philosophy of life has increasingly become that of one of the most candid philosophers of the British Empire, Thomas Hobbes, who said that, in a time when "men live without a common power to keep them all in awe" (i.e., a dictator), "the life of man [is] solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short."

To change this will take nothing less than a revolutionary shift in the view of man, a renaissance. Such a renaissance begins by facing the larger horror that the Sandy Hook massacre represents.

The Kennedy Turning-Point

Lyndon LaRouche, in his Dec. 21, 2012 webcast, as on several other occasions since the massacre, addressed the broader questions raised by the event. One of those was the increasing failure of U.S. government institutions to provide treatment for those with mental health problems.

"What happened in Connecticut, for example, was a case of insanity," he stressed. "That's how it happened, and nobody was watching the switch, on a case who

was about to *freak out*, and do something like that which happened. So, the responsibility for this tragedy lies with the institutions of government of the United States, which *no longer* do anything about mental instability. And you had this young fellow, the so-called perpetrator, who was in a breakdown situation.”

Another point LaRouche raised was the cultural shift after the killing of Kennedy:

“But this is only typical of the potential breakout of homicidal *insanity* in people, since when? Since Kennedy was assassinated. What happened, if you go back about two years after the assassination of Kennedy, is that you will find that the drug and insanity business was launched *then*. And in ’68, you had the march of mass insanity, a *real fascism*, the worst kind of fascism, you know, of the Hitler variety. And since that time, the rate of insanity has increased.”

The source of that fascist ideology, LaRouche emphasized, was the British Empire, the mother of the Green movement which calls for the *depopulation* of the planet, to “save the planet.” It is that Green “zero growth” movement, working through the world’s leading financial institutions, governments, and so-called civil society groups, which has massacred aspirations for true scientific and technological progress, especially in the trans-Atlantic region, and thus killed the future for ensuing generations of youth. With that ideology has come the promotion of the rock-drug-sex counterculture, which destroys young minds and renders the current young generation virtually incapable of serious productive work.

You need only look at today’s embrace of the campaign driven by drug-financiers to legalize mind-destroying drugs to see confirmation of this trend. Narcotic drugs are mental slavery, destroying thought and soul. Only a culture that has lost its soul would seek to legitimize them.

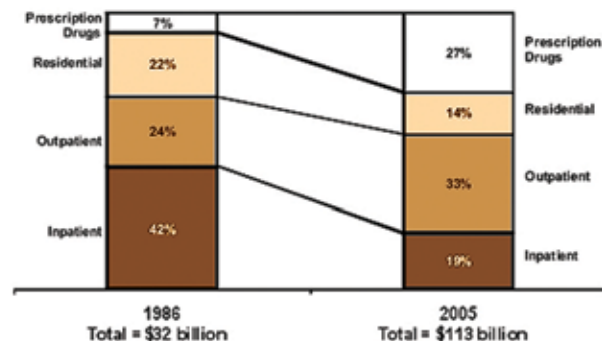
Should anyone wonder at the increasing rates of murder-suicide, within a generation that has no future? Should it be surprising that young people raised in a society that teaches that every person is a drain on society’s resources, not a mind with the capability of contributing to the future, turn toward obsessions with death, murder, and suicide?

Increasing Insanity

It’s not only LaRouche and his movement who see an increasing incidence of insanity in the population of the United States. A number of recent studies, under the

FIGURE 1

Distribution of Mental Health Expenditures by Type of Service, 1986 & 2005



Note: Excludes spending on insurance administration. Data not adjusted for inflation.
Source: SAMHSA Spending Estimates Project, 2010.

Kaiser Family Foundation

auspices of U.S. government agencies, have turned up new alarming figures about the current and potential incidence of psychosis in U.S. society. The actual picture is even more alarming than these studies say, since the definition of what constitutes mental illness has, over recent decades, been altered, so as to consider “normal,” behavior that would have been rightly classified as aberrant or insane only a few decades ago.

The CDC Adult Mental Illness Surveillance Report (September 2011) indicated that 50% of U.S. adults will develop at least one serious, diagnosable mental illness during their lifetime, and that that incidence was increasing at an alarming rate.

Apparently, it was the CDC Surveillance Report that prompted a multi-site longitudinal study of mental illness in North America, on which *EIR* was briefed by a Washington, D.C. source. The study was done with funding from the Departments of Homeland Security and of the Army and was conducted at eight study sites: Emory University; Harvard Medical School; University of California, Los Angeles; University of California, San Diego; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; University of Toronto; Yale University; and Zucker Hillside Hospital (part of North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System).

The objective of this study, according to this source (*EIR* has not seen the study), was to achieve early detection of individuals who will develop schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders, with the idea that they could isolate mechanisms underlying the onset of psychosis, and test various preventive intervention modalities. Apparently, current prediction approaches have

very low levels of accuracy. The aim of the study was to determine the risk of conversion to full-blown psychosis in a general population, given certain stress factors, and to develop a set of algorithms that would maximize predictability.

The results were shocking. They indicated that 55% of the adult population presents with pre-psychotic symptoms. That number rose to about 64% among adult males between the ages of 21 to 30. Interestingly, that same slice of the population has the lowest access to health care. The numbers are higher than those indicated in the CDC Surveillance Reports and, additionally, were showing an increase of approximately 22% each year.

Within the group of those presenting with pre-psychotic symptoms, the risk of conversion to psychosis was 35% with the presence of normal stress factors. The transition to full psychosis decelerated over 2.5 years when follow-up treatment was introduced. However, the rate of conversion jumped dramatically to 68% to 80% when 2 or 3 additional features were introduced. Among the additional features, those that showed the highest rate of conversion to full-blown psychosis were: a genetic risk for schizophrenia with recent deterioration in functioning; higher levels of unusual thought content; higher levels of suspicion/paranoia; greater social impairment; and a history of substance abuse.

Not noted was the potential for dramatically escalated stress for the society as a whole, such as economic breakdown, devastating natural disaster, or war.

Mental-Health Care?

Not surprisingly, *EIR*'s source argued, on the basis of the studies he had seen, that the horrific mass shootings recently in the U.S. have everything to do with the lack of any adequate mechanism for the treatment of mental illness. He pointed out that in Israel, a much higher percentage of the population owns firearms, but that this type of occurrence was almost unheard of. He said it has been firmly established that the reason why it doesn't, is the extensive, nationalized health-care system. He said the pattern holds true in other advanced-sector countries where gun ownership is prevalent, but where health care is readily available.

It is indisputable that provisions for mental-health treatment in the United States are abysmal, and getting worse by the year, as the British-fascist philosophy of

"cost-accounting" applied to health care gets more and more institutionalized. Remember, Hitler's first moves toward euthanasia famously argued that it was a waste of money to treat the mentally ill, when so-called healthy Aryans needed the money themselves.

The pattern of reducing treatment for the mentally ill and those otherwise handicapped—a cause President Franklin D. Roosevelt had particularly championed—is a long-standing one, beginning in the 1960s, when the zero-growth ideology was beginning to get a vise-grip on the United States. The first moves, as in the case of the drive toward euthanasia per se, were disguised as "in the patient's interest": Specifically, exposés of terrible treatment in state mental hospitals led to the campaign to "de-institutionalize" the mentally ill, and put them in "more humane" community-based institutions. Large state-run psychiatric hospitals began to be shut down, and patients sent back to their families, or to so-called community homes, if these existed.

But as could have been predicted, with money in short supply, competent facilities for mental-health care, especially long-term care, did not exist. Instead, patients were left to fend for themselves, perhaps aided by medication (if they could afford it). More and more of the sickest patients began turning up in jails and homeless shelters because they had no other place to go.

With each new ratchet down of the economic-financial crisis, the situation got worse. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, since the "recession" began in 2007, states have made major cuts in their mental-health budgets, with the largest being to long-term care facilities.

On Obama's Watch

During the first three years of Obama's Presidency, from 2009 to 2012, states cut at least \$4.35 billion in public mental-health spending, according to the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors; the association calls this the largest reduction in funding since the "de-institutionalization" drive of the 1960s and '70s.

Since 2009 alone, 3,222 psychiatric hospital beds became unavailable to patients, and another 1,249 may disappear soon because of proposed closures, according to the Association. "That's about 10 percent of all state psychiatric hospital beds gone in about three years," said Dr. Robert Glover, the association's execu-

tive director, who has worked in mental health for almost five decades.

“This is the worst, in my mind, significant budget cut in public mental health in decades, and it is beginning to show in very big ways,” said Dr. Glover, in interviews this month with ABC and the Huffington Post. “We have a 10 percent budget cut in real dollars [this year], and when you have that occur [alongside] increased demand on an overburdened system already, I can’t tell you that people aren’t being injured or hurt.”

On top of all this, Obama’s proposed FY2013 budget cuts \$142 million from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, bringing it down to \$3.4 billion. Another \$54 million could be eliminated through “non-program-related activity.” Mental Health Block Grants remained the same as FY2012. Suicide-prevention programs are reduced by \$10 million, to \$48 million.

Obama’s proposed budget was, of course, never passed, the excuse being the “fiscal cliff” charade. And as part of this, Obama and House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) have discussed long-term cuts to Medicaid, which underwrites services for more than 60% of people in the public mental-health system. Mental-health advocates say the result could be disastrous. “We already know that people who need help aren’t getting it,” Sarah Steverman, Director of State Policy for Mental Health America, told MSNBC. “As there’s a decrease in coverage or a decrease in providers, the longer people have to wait for appointments, the less likely they are to go. And then they’re less likely to get the help that they need. It’s always been a problem, and I think we’ll see an even bigger problem if we do have cuts to Medicaid.”

About 33% of all newly insured people under the Affordable Care Act’s Medicaid expansion have behavioral health conditions, said Joel E. Miller of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, in a July 15, 2012 presentation. He added that about one-half of that group could have serious mental



PRNewsFoto

The youth culture of violent video games has contributed to the horror of schoolyard massacres, by creating a generation that is inured to violence.

illnesses.

And if budget sequestration takes place, there will be an 8% cut to resources that the mentally ill depend on, including special education, supportive housing grants, and mental-health research, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

As one example, by no means the worst: California cut 21%, or \$768 million, from its mental-health services programs during the previous three fiscal years, according to a November 2011 report from the National Alliance. This is only the seventh-highest among all states. Almost 2 million adults in California—about 8% of the adult population—“need mental health treatment, and 1 in 12 Californians reported symptoms consistent with serious psychological distress and experienced difficulty functioning at home or at work,” according to a study released last month by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.

The Popular Culture of Violence

Any consideration of this mass-murder horror would be incomplete without discussing, at least briefly, the spread of violent video games into the youth culture. Adam Lanza was reportedly heavily involved in some of these games. Other prominent cases of youth killers over the past decade or more, directly testify to the role of point-and-shoot video games in training



EIRNS/Edward Chen

The LaRouche movement champions Classical culture to shift the younger generation away from its trajectory toward death and destruction. Shown is a Christmas concert in Bogota, N.J., on Dec. 16, with LaRouchePAC organizers and others from the community.

“stone-cold killers” among the youth of the United States and other countries.

Back in the early 2000s, the LaRouche movement launched a campaign to ban these games, pointing to their role in such crimes as the killing of African immigrant Amadou Diallo in New York (1999), and school children in such cases as the Jonesboro, Ark. massacre (1998). The Jonesboro case was the specific goad for Lt. Col. David Grossman (ret.), now a renowned expert in the field of what he calls “killology,” to begin his crusade against violent video games. These are “mass-murder simulators,” Grossman said in an interview with [EIR](#), May 24, 2002, they are training a whole generation of youth to kill without question. And as for the connection between the proliferation of these games and the gigantic leaps in violent crime over the last decades (six or sevenfold per-capita increase since 1957), this was documented as early as 1972, by no less an authority than the U.S. Surgeon General.

Also in the early 2000s, Lyndon and Helga LaRouche launched the Commission on the New Vio-

lence, in an attempt to get public action against violent video games.

Unlike other activists against violence, however, the LaRouche movement has championed the positive shifts in economic and cultural policy, which are the indispensable pathways to bringing the younger generation out of the current course toward death and destruction. It will take a generation, at the least, to rescue the current youth of the United States, LaRouche has stressed, and many will remain damaged for life. Classical culture, major projects to upgrade the physical-economic platform of man’s existence, reviving the space program—all are essential to reversing the culture of death which we see everywhere, from our wars, to our video screens.

Let the horror of Sandy Hook Elementary School be a spur to making such a New Renaissance a reality. Without our national leadership taking immediate action, it will inevitably get much, much worse.

Debra Freeman and Edward Spannaus contributed significant research for this article.

Mayors Report More Hunger, Homelessness

Dec. 20—The U.S. Conference of Mayors released its annual “Survey on Hunger and Homelessness in America’s Cities” today in a press teleconference call. The 2012 survey of 25 cities of varying sizes documents the need for “more, not less spending in the year ahead to support growing numbers of hungry and homeless.” It was issued just days before the threatened sequestration of Federal funding.

The task force that produced the report was chaired by Mayor Terry Bellamy of Asheville, N.C.

Among the startling statistics:

Hunger: All but 4 of the 25 cities surveyed in 2012 reported that requests for emergency food assistance increased over the past year, and 3 of these 4 said requests remained at the same level as 2011. Emergency kitchens and food pantries in nearly all of the cities had to reduce the quantity of food a client could receive. In fact, lack of resources meant people in need had to be turned away in nearly 90% of the cities. The rate of increase ranged from 63% in Asheville and 56% in Denver, to 41% in Philadelphia. Ninety-five percent of the cities reported an increase in the number of persons requesting food assistance for the first time, while 57% of the cities reported that their total budgets for emergency food purchases increased over the past year. Cities documented cutbacks in nutritious food in favor of cheaper food.

Some of the surveyed cities made the following estimates of unmet food needs: 20% in Denver, Colo.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Trenton, N.J., and Des Moines, Iowa; 30% in Nashville, Tenn. and San Francisco, Calif.; 33% in Philadelphia, Pa.; 40% in San Antonio, Tex.; and 25% in Washington, D.C..

Looking to 2013, “City officials of the 25 cities surveyed are pessimistic about the future: 3 out of 4 expect requests for emergency food assistance to increase over the next year, and nearly half expect that resources to provide emergency assistance will decrease; some (22%) say substantially.”

Homelessness: The study reports that “60% of the cities said they saw an increase in the number of

people experiencing homelessness; across the cities, the increase averaged 7%. Over 70% of the cities reported an increase in homelessness among families; 35% reported an increase among individuals. Because no beds were available for them, homeless families with children were turned away by emergency shelters in 64% of the survey cities; and shelters in 60% of the cities had to turn away unaccompanied individuals.”

Unmet needs for shelter estimates include 70% in Portland, Ore.; 33% in Philadelphia; 27% in Louisville, Ky.; 25% in Charlotte, N.C., and San Antonio, Tex.; and 23% in Nashville.

As to the future, “Officials in 60% of the cities expect the number of homeless families to increase over the next year; those in 56% of the cities expect the number of homeless unaccompanied individuals to increase; and those in more than 58% expect that the resources needed to provide emergency shelter will decrease.”

Task force leader Mayor Bellamy placed the hunger/homelessness figures in the larger context of economic collapse:

- In 2011, real median income was down 1.5% from 2010 for all racial groups—the second consecutive year it declined nationally. “In 2011, real median household income was 8.1% lower than in 2007, the year before the most recent recession,” he said.

- In 2011, the Census Bureau reported that the family poverty rate was 11.8%, with 9.5 million families in poverty.

EIR: What About Glass-Steagall?

EIR correspondent Anita Gallagher asked the second and final question after the presentation: President Franklin D. Roosevelt enacted the Glass-Steagall Law in his first month, and he then issued credit, and built great projects, like the Tennessee Valley Authority. Today H.R. 1489 is before the House of Representatives, a resolution to restore that bill, which was repealed in 1999. Without a program like this, Gallagher said, the United States is following the suicidal path of Greece.

Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, the Conference Chair, responded that mayors were on the front line dealing with these problems, and that they would be talking to their Congressmen.

The annual National Conference of Mayors meeting is scheduled in Washington for Jan. 17-19, 2013.

AFRICA PASS

A Revolutionary Concept for Africa and the Mediterranean

by Ahman Rsheed

We continue here our coverage of the Schiller Institute's Nov. 24-25, 2012 conference in Germany, which was titled "A New Paradigm for the Survival of Civilization." Ahman Rsheed is an engineer from Cairo; he spoke on Nov. 25 on the panel on "The Alternative to War and Chaos." Our abridged text here includes a selection of maps and graphics from the speaker's slide show, and some additional material from his much longer written text that was submitted to the conference proceedings.

[EIR](#) covered Rsheed's project in our June 8, 2012 issue, which provides additional details on Africa Pass.

Two additional speeches from the same panel follow immediately below.

The video of all the conference speeches is at the [Schiller-Institut](#) website.

I have named this project Africa Pass, and I hope it will be built!

[The speaker recited a passage in Arabic, which was translated on the slide as follows:

"Oh mankind, we have created you, male and female, and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous among you..."]

Or, you could say, "Allah put us on the Earth to communicate, to have relationships with one another, not to make war."

I believe that this project has good prospects for growth, prosperity, and advancement, not only for the Egyptian people, but also the people of nine other Afri-

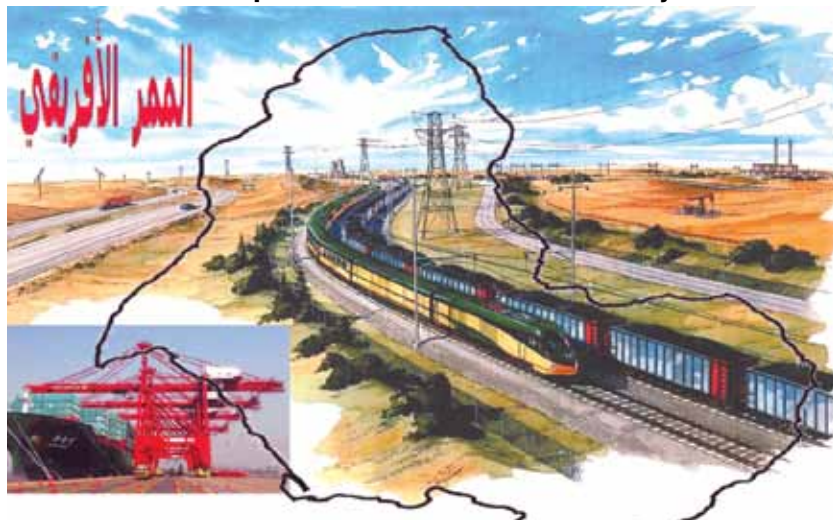
can nations, and also many countries in Europe and Asia. I have worked since 1988 to study, develop, and update it according the information I acquire, or by reviewing similar projects by others, and also from the comments I receive on my page on Facebook.

In simple words, it will make Egypt a transit area to all continents, through use of its unexploited lands in building integrated industrial and commercial societies; these cities will be used as storage depots for the world's companies, as warehouses to minimize time between the order of goods and receiving them, and the building of production plants for these companies. It is well known that all countries are racing to build giant ports to handle containers, and are spending billions to do that.

This a project for handling of containers and facilitating the export and import of goods for African countries, and also for transit of the cargo of giant ships that cannot cross the Suez Canal—because we know that only the first generation of ships can go through the Suez Canal, whereas it is too shallow for second-generation ships; it will also provide for storage of goods and commodities in warehouses. Therefore, this project could be considered the greatest project ever to handle containers; and it will provide millions of job opportunities. Some young people are asking about jobs; well, this can create about 20 million jobs, at least. So Egypt and other countries will switch from being countries that export labor into labor-importing countries.

If this project is implemented, Egypt and the other

Artist's Depiction of the Africa Pass Project



Source: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/aiman.rsheed>



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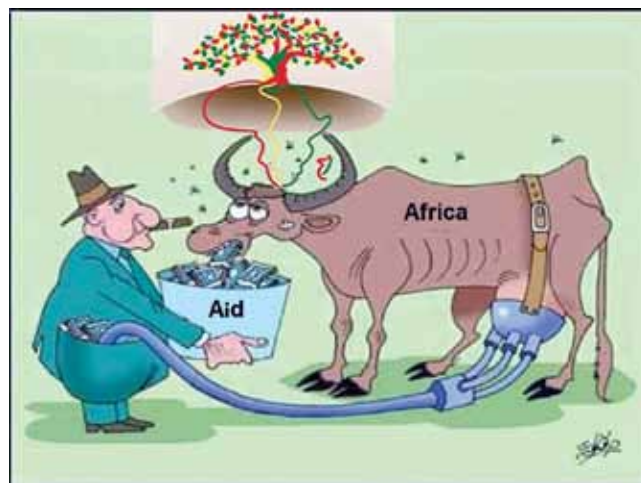
Aiman Rsheed addresses the Schiller Institute conference; on the left is an artist's depiction of the Africa Pass project.

countries will not be just collectors of transit fees, or providers of limited commercial and marine services; it will cover all aspects of the development requirements for human development and creation of new societies, in accord with the latest scientific systems, also providing millions of job opportunities for all ages and activities and specialties in many fields, as for example:

1. **Construction:** building of giant cities that accommodate millions of people, with good, planned architectural styles;
2. **Mining:** raw materials that constitute a great national asset;
3. **Energy:** generating electricity from the Sun and from water;
4. **Industry:** introducing many new industries;
5. **Transportation:** This project will be the greatest railway ever;
6. **International trade:** A leap in international trade and industry, and a new route for trade that will cut costs approximately by half;
7. **Engineering construction:** The constructions of roads, railways, tunnels, and bridges along the Pass will be an engineering achievement;
8. **Tourism:** All countries will have a giant leap in numbers of tourists;
9. **Agriculture:** Cultivated land and agricultural development will increase in Africa, and exporting of agricultural products will be very easy.

As there are no national factors that hinder execution of this project, and as the economic revenue will be huge for all countries, we can conclude that the execution of this project will be the **National African Project** for this century and the next generations. That is my point of view, and I hope it's yours. . . .

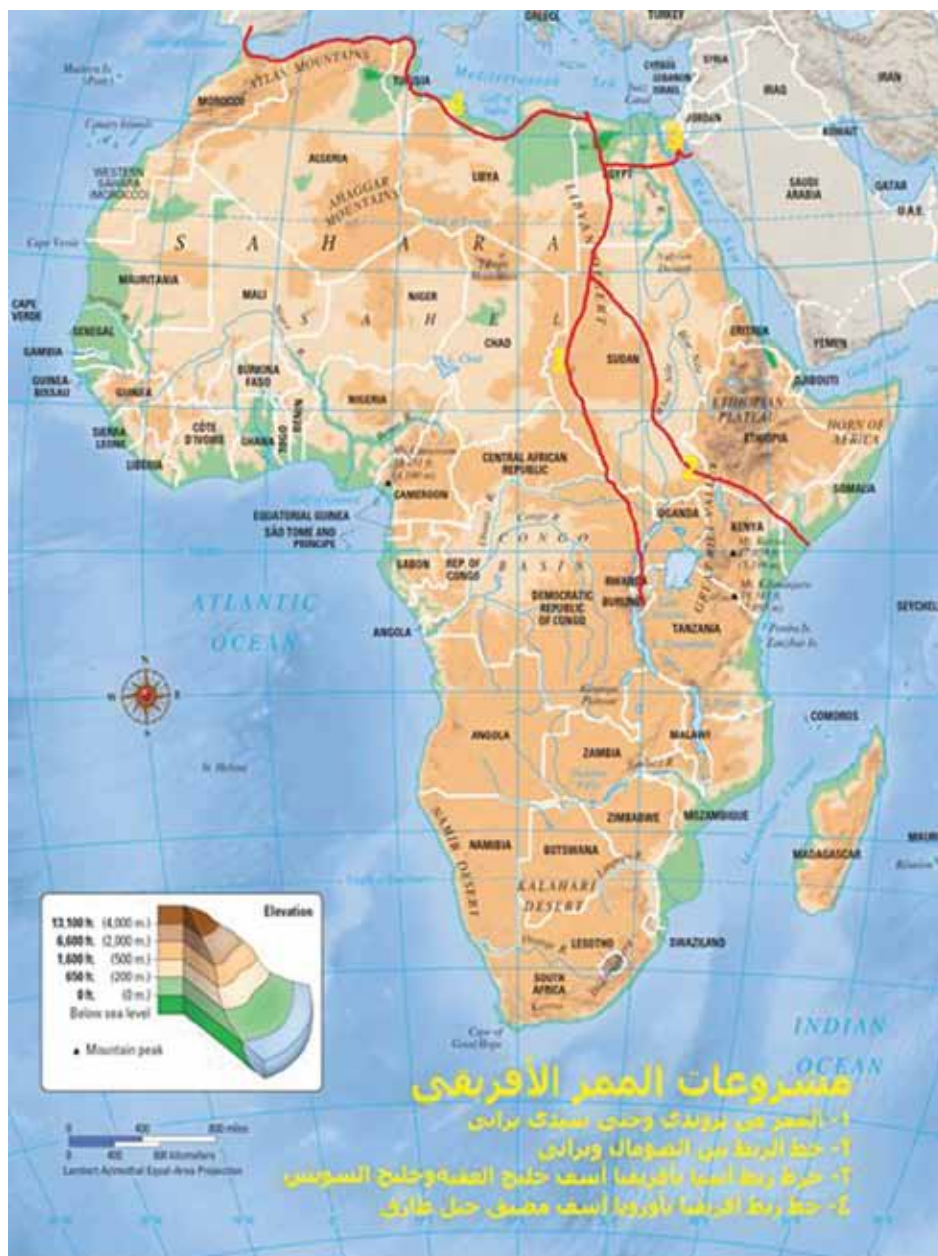
FIGURE 1



This cartoon from a local Moroccan newspaper, credited to "Youth of Taourirt," was adapted by Rsheed to add the ox's dream of a flourishing tree of Africa. The original labels referred to government officials siphoning off funds from the budget intended to benefit the town; Rsheed adapted the labels for the purpose of this speech.

FIGURE 2

Africa Pass: Four Phases of Transport Corridors



Source: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/aiman.rsheed>

How the Project Will Work

Other countries have used Africans like this [shows map of the slave trade], and this is how the world is using Africa again now (Figure 1). They are trying to destroy our water, and they are destroying our agriculture by using our food as fuel.

Our Africa Pass (Figure 2) will start at the Egyptian city of Sidi Barani on the Mediterranean, and will con-

nect Egypt with Burundi in Central Africa, and with Somalia, through Ethiopia. And a route will go to Spain, under the Strait of Gibraltar; and the last one will go from Sidi Barani to a city in Egypt named Asiut, and under the Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez and Sharm el-Sheikh, and on to Asia or Saudi Arabia. . .

All the national of the world try to communicate with each other by railroads, and Russia and America have tried to connect across the Bering Strait; Russia is a key link connecting Asia and America. But if we put Africa and Africa Pass here (Figure 3), Africa will be a key link among Asia, Africa, and Europe—connecting three continents, not two.

We propose to execute the project in three phases: 1) the construction of ports; 2) preparing the Pass and railways; 3) building cities, all within 2-3 years, as all phases will work in parallel. (This 2-3 years is not to finish the whole project, but to prepare and plan, to start.)

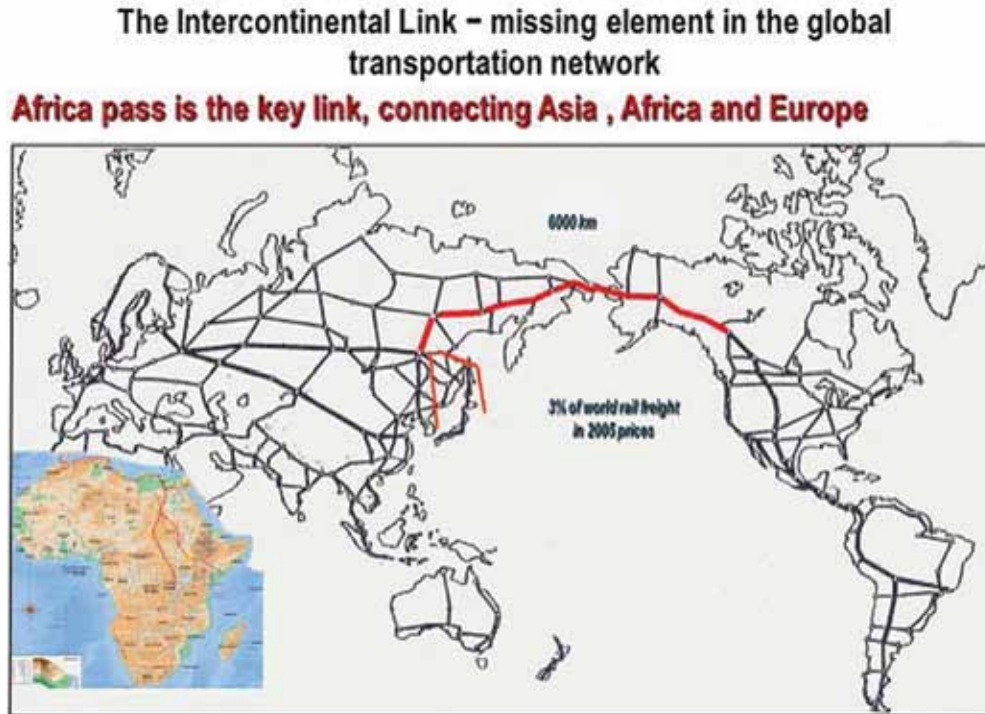
How much does a railroad cost? Figure 4 shows the cost of railroads exactly, for 2010-11, and each one shows the kilometers.

Here are some key parameters of the project:

- The three-stage approach will allow ease of financing, as it will be entirely financed for petroleum exploration; the countries will not have to pay any money, but will benefit from the huge economic revenues. As you know, all the countries of Africa are very, very poor. They don't have money to build such a project, so the money will have to be borrowed from others.

- An effective contribution in solving the current

FIGURE 3



unemployment problem, the project will accommodate a percentage of the new generations that enter the workforce, and this is an advantage that is not present except in great projects.

- An effective contribution in solving the overpopulation around valleys and accommodating mil-

other countries will come here; there will be rail development, and trade will be able to develop. This will provide real job opportunities to the people, and the commercial, industrial, service, and entertainment activities.

- The introduction of residential areas along the Africa Pass will absorb a great percentage of the ex-

lions in the new cities that accompany construction of this Pass. For example, in Egypt, we have overpopulation; we live on only 4% of our land, and this percentage carries about 90 million population, whereas 96% is empty.

• A permanent solution to problems of the Horn of Africa, specially Somalia. Somalians used to be very strong, and exported meat to other African countries and to all the world, but now they are going hungry; they find nothing to eat; they cannot find water. But we can build a port that connects to Sidi Barani, so

FIGURE 4

Published Railway Costs

Here are some sample new railway project costs as published in the railway trade press. The prices published by operators usually include all civil and equipment costs, project and financing costs.

Railway>	Date	Type of System	Cost per km	Distance	Comments
Madrid - Albacete	2010	High Speed line	€ 9.57 million	304 kms	
Seoul-Gimpo, Korea	2010	Airport line	\$98.1 million	20.4 kms	
Yichang-Wanzhou, China	2011	Main line	\$9.1 million	377 kms	Surface with 278km in tunnel or bridges
Haikou-Sanya, China	2010	High Speed line	\$10 million	308 kms	n/a
Copenhagen	2011-2018	New Metro line	\$247.5million	16 kms	All underground

FIGURE 5



pected increase of population in Africa during the next 50 years (which will not be less than 200 million). We will shift about 200 million people from the crowded cities to this Pass (now the total area of the Pass is in the desert).

- This project, with its giant economic aspects, will create great opportunities to manufacture larger trains and ships, which will help promote these industries internationally, and will lead to international economic growth.

I think every huge company in Europe will try to open a new market in Africa, and this project will provide a very, very good market for all the countries in Europe, specifically....

The Pass through the Gulf of Aqaba and under the Sharm el-Sheikh will leave Sharm el-Sheikh as beautiful as it is today.

Figure 5 shows Africa! We have everything you need, and all continents

are looking to us, like this [laughter, applause]. Besides fruits and vegetables, we have minerals, mining—that’s Allah’s gift to us (**Figure 6**). We have petroleum, uranium, gold, and diamonds.

Here are the largest cities (**Figure 7**) in Africa.

The Chinese are building railroads in Africa. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, they are making a big effort.

As an illustration of the transport difficulties in the D.R.C., even before wars damaged the infrastructure, the so-called “national” route used to get supplies to Bukavu from the seaport of Matadi, with the following links:

- Matadi to Kinshasa—rail
- Kinshasa to Kisangani—riverboat
- Kisangani to Ubundu—rail
- Ubundu to Kindu—riverboat
- Kindu to Kalemie—rail
- Kalemie to Kalundu (the lake port at Uvira)—boat on Lake Tanganyika

FIGURE 6

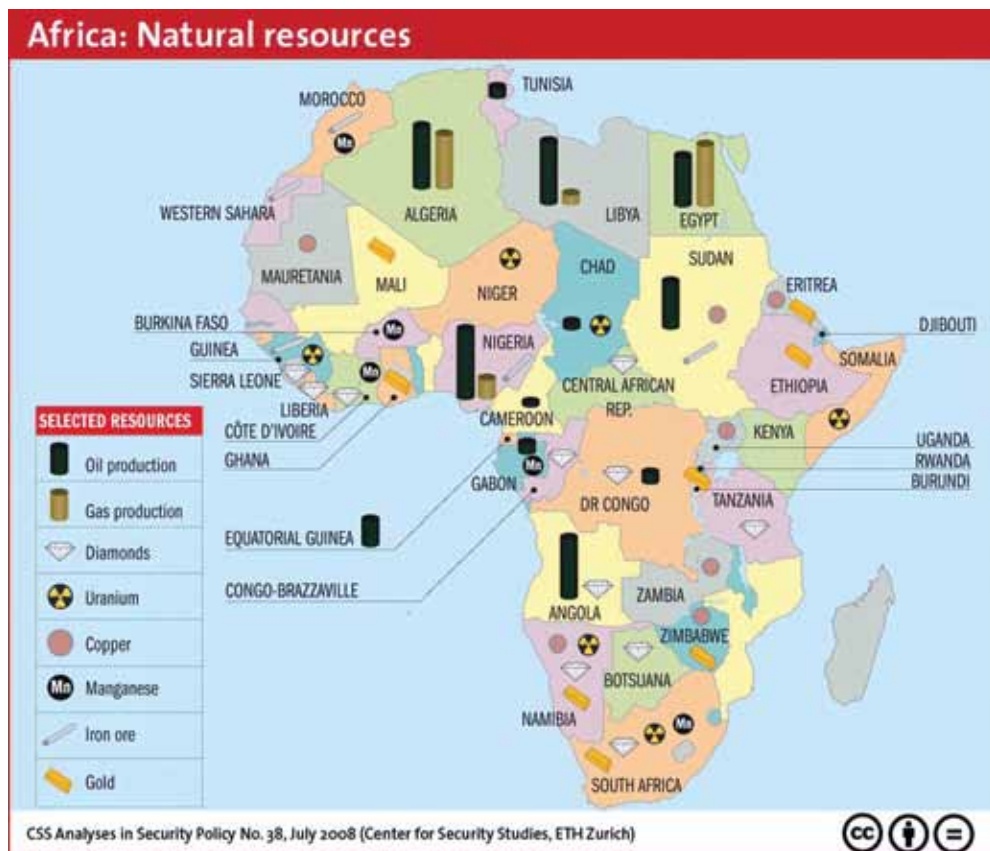
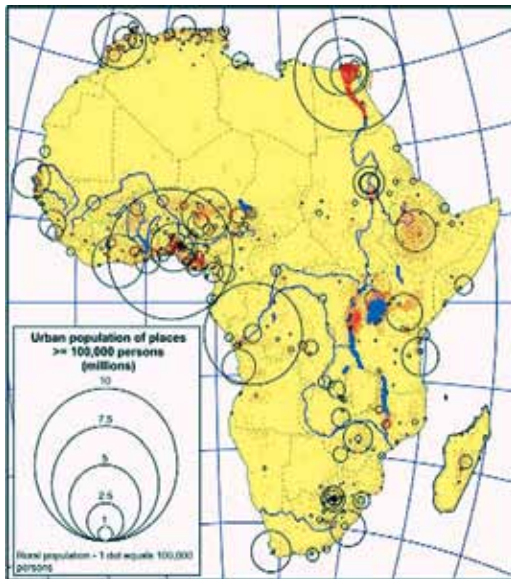


FIGURE 7

Africa's Urban Population Centers



- Kalundu to Bukavu—road.

In other words, goods had to be loaded and unloaded eight times, and the total journey would take many months!

But by Africa Pass, it would take only 3-4 days, maximum.

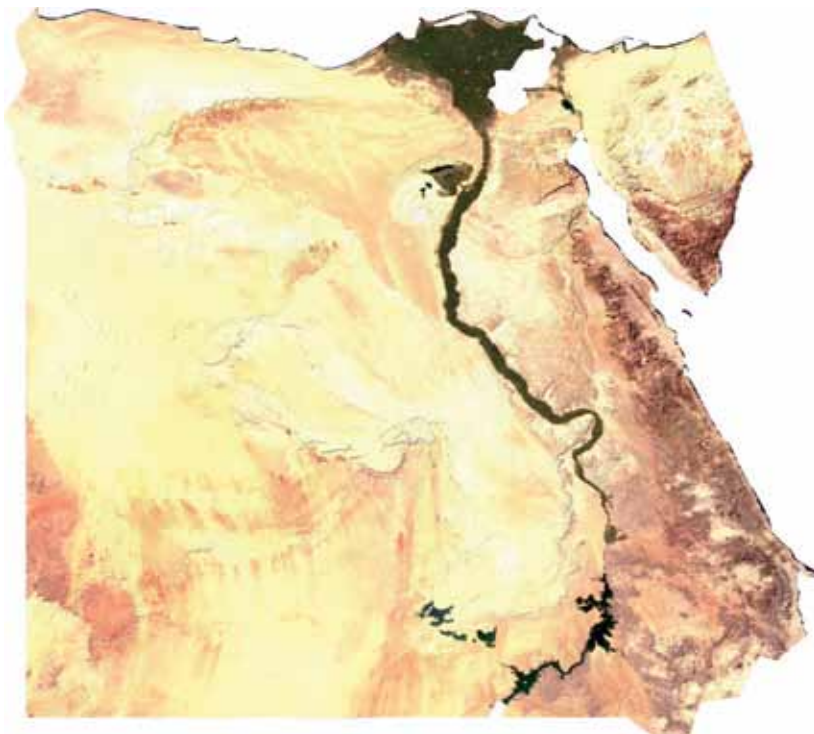
To ensure the success of this project, I watched out for the interests of all parties, so it would be carried out without disturbances or interference or obstacles. This project guarantees delivery of resources to the industrial West at unimaginably low prices, and ensures sustainable development of African countries, and also avoids conflicts and ensures stability and prosperity.

[Rsheed discusses Chinese hydropower projects in Africa, and the scarcity of communication facilities, such as mobile phones.]

Some may ask why we don't develop the old railroads. But the gauge of the railroads is different in different parts of the continent, so we need to build a new

FIGURE 8

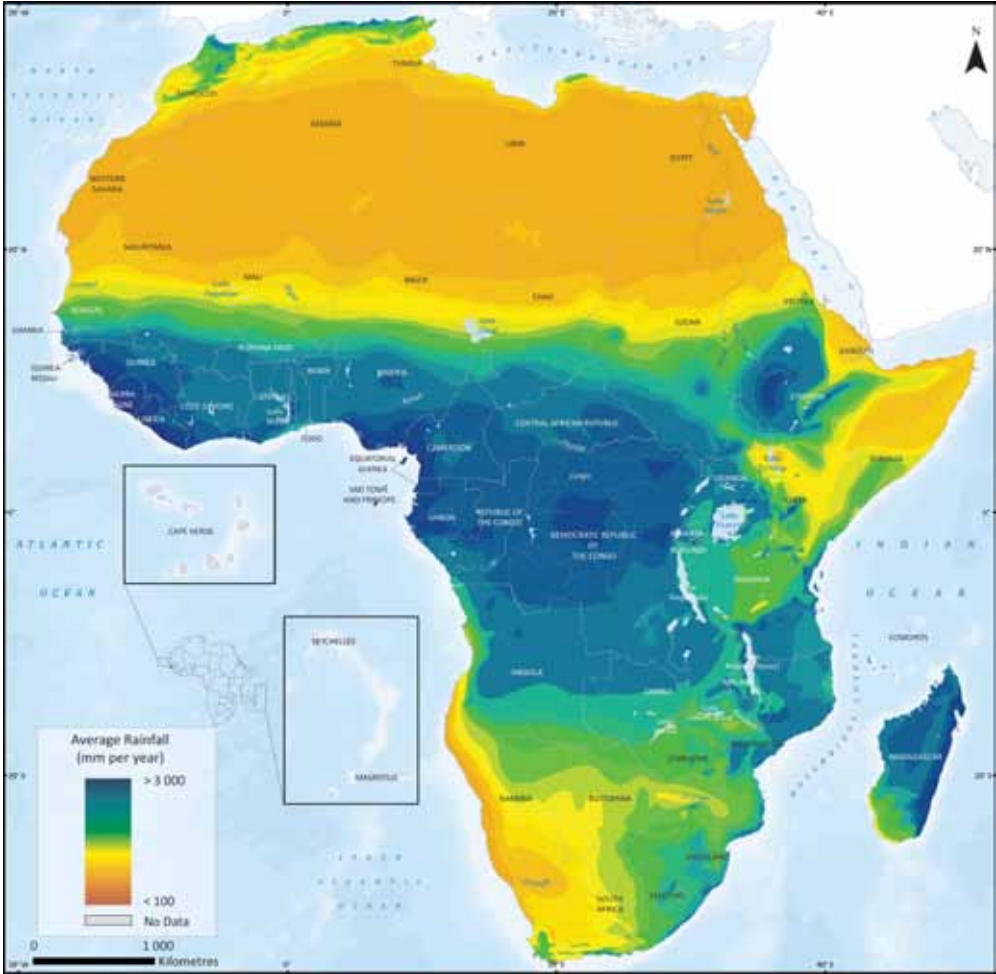
The Nile Basin



NASA



Africa's Annual Average Rainfall



Sudan (2003), Now Divided



The area below the red line approximates the present territory of South Sudan.

rail system that can make connections to all the countries, with one gauge.

[Slides and discussion
of geology, climate,
rivers.]

Figure 8 shows the Nile Basin. The map of population in Africa and water per capita shows that there is no problem of water in Africa; the *distribution* of water is the main problem. If you look at Africa, you don't find sustainable water in all countries (**Figure 9**); only about 15% of the countries have sustainable water, and the other 85% have almost no sustainable water to use to cook, to drink—to do everything. But if we create sustainability in all of Africa, I think it will be good.

In Egypt we use about 93% of our water, and sometimes even 101%, because we have a large population and limited

sources of water.

Here (**Figure 10**), I have one question: Why have you [in Europe] united yourselves, united Europe, but tried to divide us? Why do they try to divide all the countries in Africa? Germany was reunited after 50 or 60 years; why did the world go to divide Sudan, and perhaps other countries? There was the division between Nubia and Eritrea, which used to be one country.

This is our project, and I hope I have explained to you what I want to see.

The video of all the conference speeches is at the [Schiller-Institut](#) website.

The 'Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam'

Mulugeta Zewdie Michael, Consul General of Ethiopia in Frankfurt, Germany, addressed the Schiller Institute Conference on Nov. 25.

I thank the organizers who created an opportunity for me to present here, in the framework of big projects that could change the status of the world economy, to give as an example, the "Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam" project.

Before that, I just want to give you some background, of why we came to the conclusion of constructing the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on the Nile River.

Ethiopia is the source of the Blue Nile, which, together with the White Nile, goes into the Nile to Egypt. Now, it is obvious that this kind of waterway, which has an international course, has to be regulated in an agreement among all riparian countries. However, there were two agreements, among only three countries between 1951 and 1957, and these were between Sudan and Egypt, and the third country was a British colony, as usual.

Now, this has to be changed. It should not be changed to the detriment of Egypt or other countries, but it should be changed, in a framework of

using all the resources available, equitably and justifiably.

So, in this framework, we have been negotiating, for the last 10 years, under the auspice of the Nile Basin Initiative. All 10 riparian countries of the Nile were negotiating for the last 10 years, in order to arrive at a result, that will satisfy all of them.

What we have reached, after 10 years of negotiating, is that there will be a Nile Basin Commission, whose headquarters will be in Uganda, which is going to oversee projects among these 10 riparian countries. And that is what we were looking for. Not to use all the resources for ourselves only, and then to let the others be driven into poverty, but to use it equitably, justifiably, among all of us, and to bring harmony among the African nations.

So, this is the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. The decision to build the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam is a central element in our country's ambitious growth and transformation plan.

A Third-Millennium 'Renaissance'

Now, why do we call it "Renaissance"? We now find ourselves in the Third Millennium. It is believed, and it is also in the history books of the world, that in the First Millennium, Ethiopia was among the decision-makers in the world. It was a bread-basket; whereas, when we come to the Second Millennium, it is public knowledge where Ethiopia has found itself: poverty, hunger, famine, to the point that the *Oxford Dictionary* just changed its entry, some two or three weeks ago, such that if you

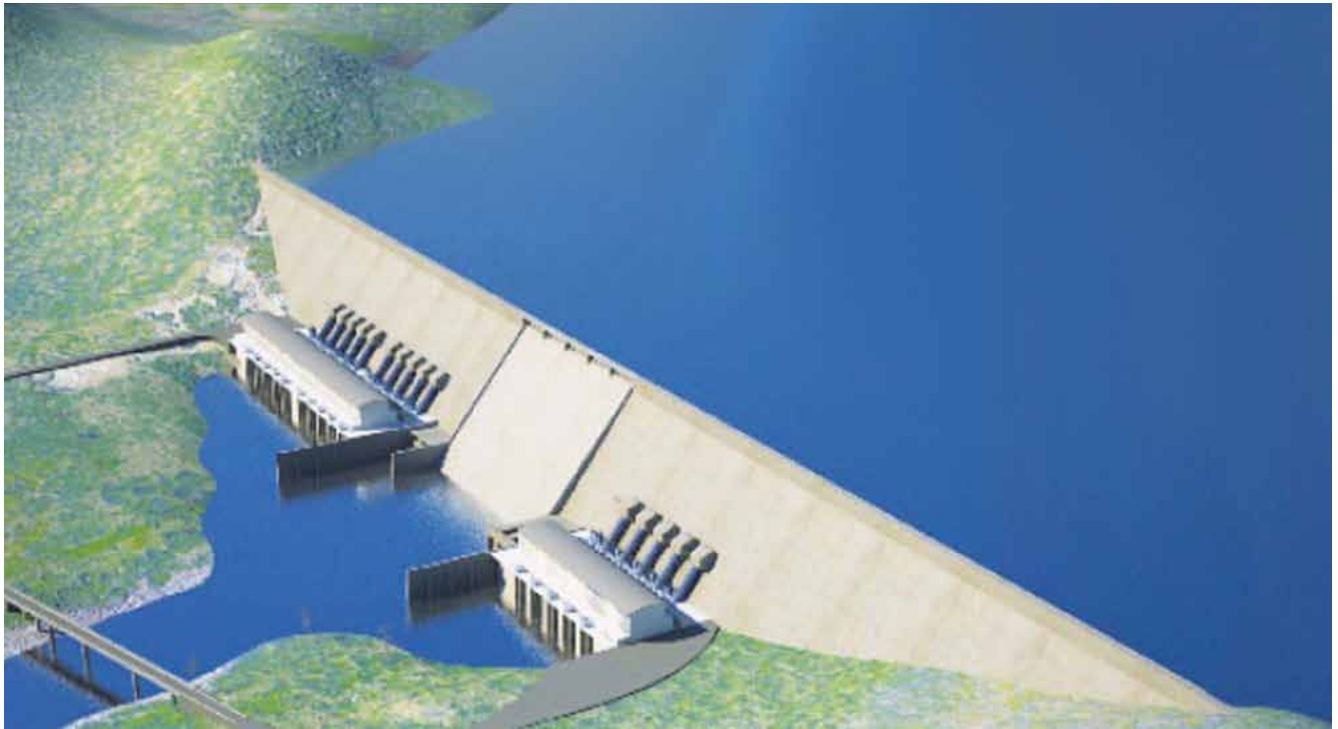


EIRNS

Mulugeta Zewdi Michael, Consul General of Ethiopia, addresses the Schiller Institute conference: "There can be no turning back from the grandest of all projects, namely, to pull Ethiopia out of the quagmire of poverty."

FIGURE 1
The White Nile and Blue Nile Rivers





The Renaissance Dam will create opportunities for all those who have been “committed to the eradication of poverty in Ethiopia, and a world of cooperation among the countries of the Nile Basin and the Horn of Africa.”

try to find the meaning of the word “famine” in the *Oxford Dictionary*, you will find written, as an example, Ethiopia.

So, now, this history should be changed, categorically. Ethiopia cannot see, forever, its population facing hunger, famine, and war. But, there is a solution in its own hands. This was one of the solutions.

This Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, we believe, will also bring Ethiopia again into the position where it was in the First Millennium—a renaissance of Ethiopia. It will help mobilize the necessary resources, to unlock economic development, by exporting power to the neighboring countries, and demonstrate the government’s commitment to strengthen cooperation and equitable utilization by all the riparian Nile states, and the benefits that will accrue to all of them.

As the late Prime Minister Meles [Zenawi] has indicated, Sudan and Egypt have much to gain from owning the projects, and from co-owning the projects. Now, that is what we are looking for.

According to the late prime minister, the solution was to finance the project, 50% by Ethiopia, 30% by Egypt, 20% by Sudan. Why? Because, as my colleague

Aiman Rsheed knows, Egypt and Sudan, even though they utilize the Nile River, at the same time, they face also some problems. What are the problems? Egypt is, for example, losing to the deserts, some 10 billion cubic meters of water. It is not used by Egypt; it just evaporates. And then, Egypt’s dams also have their water decreasing from time to time, because of soil [deposits], when the dams are more and more filled by soil, and then start having less and less water.

Sudan: Every rainy season—there are three months of rainy season in Ethiopia—within these three months, Sudan suffers from floods. The water is flowing too high on the Nile; the capital city of Khartoum becomes flooded every year.

Building this Ethiopian Grand Renaissance Dam, on the site where it is now chosen to be, will solve the problem of Egypt, the problem of Sudan, and it will also be useful for Ethiopia, which will bring it again back to normal. That’s why it is suggested that it has to be co-owned, by three countries, co-financed by three of them, and used under the principle of equitable and justifiable use of international water courses.

The message that this project sends, is very clear: There can be no turning back from the grandest of all

projects, namely, to pull Ethiopia out of the quagmire of poverty. Equally, this will create opportunities for all those who have been reluctant to participate in the past; to think again, and become involved in this monument to the peoples of Ethiopia, and to their lasting commitment to the eradication of poverty in Ethiopia, and a world of cooperation among the countries of the Nile Basin and the Horn of Africa.

Hydroelectric Power

Ethiopia's long-term potential for exploitable energy is estimated at about 60,000 MW, with hydro-power providing 45,000 MW; geothermal, 10,000 MW; and wind and other energy sources, some 5,000 MW. However, of the 45,000 MW hydropower potential, Ethiopia has so far used only 2,000 MW. Now, you can imagine the potential that could have, to bring us out of poverty in Ethiopia.

In the meantime, to fill the needs of the current plans, for the next five years, it has been necessary to initiate a number of energy developments, one of which is the Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

Before this dam, there was another one, which we have seen also in the past presentation, the Gilgel Gibe III Dam, which generates some 1,870 MW, which is now under attack by the so-called environmentalists, the green politicians, especially what you call "Survival International." It is anybody's guess who would be financing this NGO to attack Ethiopia over the use of its own water.

The objectives of this project are to generate electric power. This Renaissance Dam will generate, when it is finished, some 6,000 MW of hydroelectric power. When all the projects that are now in the pipeline are finished, we will accomplish the production of some 10,000 MW of electricity. The potential is higher, but even within this limit, 10,000 MW, we believe that we will not only use it ourselves, but electricity can be exported to the neighboring countries, far into Egypt; and it can go, over the next years, across the Mediterranean. And we have, we believe, the potential of exporting hydroelectric power, including across the Mediterranean Sea, and to other southern European countries.

Now, you can see that a country having a huge potential to develop, could not develop. Why is this? And this is, I think, within the framework of what we are discussing: I think, things are not working correctly, and that has to be changed. One way of changing ourselves, from the Ethiopian side, is going in this way, for

example, concentrating on big projects, that could benefit not only Ethiopia, but the whole of Africa, as we have witnessed with the past presentation by my colleague Aiman Rsheed, which is also to the benefit of all African nations.

The other point that I want to stress here, is: We do not believe, and we have also witnessed it here, basically, that the markets could be left to decide themselves. We don't believe in that. We believe that it has to be regulated. The states have to have also a balanced hand to regulate the markets, and it is in that framework that we have been working for the last 20 years now.


A New Ethiopia

It is public knowledge, what Ethiopia looked like some 20 years ago, and what it looks like now. We speak about a new Ethiopia, now, on the basis of the economic policy we have followed. We have accomplished, for example, that Ethiopia has registered, for the last eight years, consecutively, an average of 11% economic growth. And we believe that such projects, again, will bring us into a bright future, where we can save also the next generation.

**THE
EURASIAN
LAND-BRIDGE**

**'The New Silk Road'—Locomotive
For Worldwide Economic Development**

An EIR Special Report



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The British Empire vs. Leibnizian Development

Michael Billington, EIR Asia specialist, addressed the Schiller Institute conference on Nov. 25, 2012.

I wish to begin my presentation on the concept of the global land-bridge, with two quotes, one by Gottfried Leibniz, one of the greatest minds of western civilization; another by Rudyard Kipling, a literary spokesman for the British Empire. Leibniz wrote, in 1697, in his journal *Novissima Sinica* (News from China):

I consider it a singular plan of the fates that human cultivation and refinement should today be concentrated, as it were, in the two extremes of our continent, in Europe and in China, which adorns the Orient as Europe does the opposite edge of the Earth. Perhaps Supreme Providence has ordained such an arrangement, so that, as the most cultivated and distant peoples stretch out their arms to each other, those in between may gradually be brought to a better way of life.

Kipling, who grew up in the British Raj, in his poem, “Ballad of East and West,” had this to say:

Oh, East is East, and West is West, and never the twain shall meet.

This is not simply a poetic statement of Kipling’s point of view, but rather, a statement of *policy* for the British Empire.



Janus Kramer

Mike Billington traced the origins of the World Land-Bridge, as fought for by Lyndon and Helga LaRouche, in the vision that Gottfried Leibniz presented in his “Novissima Sinica.”

Throughout history, the issue of relations between East and West, with the East including both Southwest Asia and East Asia, and including both physical and cultural connections, has been a battle between two opposing world views. On the one hand, there are those who view man as Aristotle did—that we are born either as master or slave, with minds empty except for the data which is input from without through sense perception—those who consider

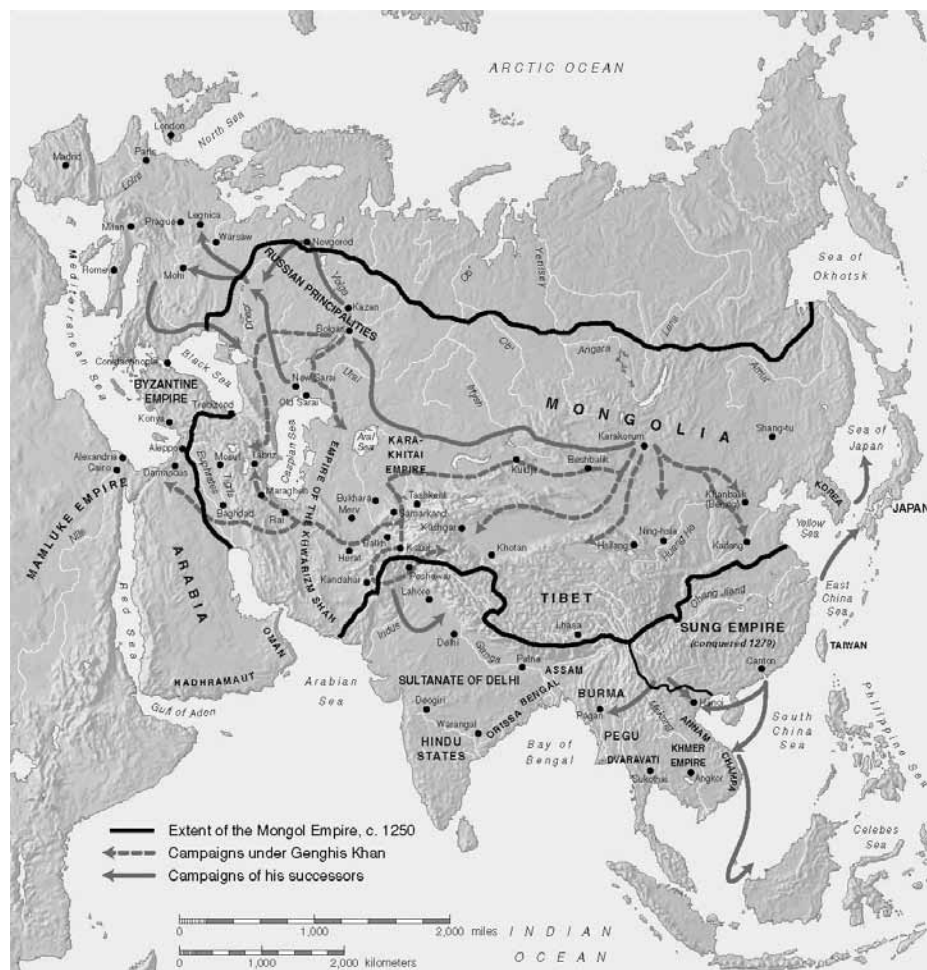
the “lesser races” as semi-humans who need to be ruled as part of “The White Man’s Burden,” the title of another Kipling poem, whose original title was “The United States and the Philippine Islands.” Kipling sent it to the racist, imperialist U.S. President Teddy Roosevelt, to encourage him to maintain full power over the Philippines after liberating it from Spanish colonialism, advice which TR accepted most readily—the first case of America adopting British imperial policies. The colonization of the Philippines lasted until Franklin Roosevelt ended it.)

Or, on the other hand, there are those who believe as Plato did, that man is defined by the creative powers of the mind, which contains the potential to assimilate all the discoveries of mankind which have come before him, a mind which is capable of wondrous new discoveries of universal truths, in science and in the arts. Such humanist minds naturally seek to unite mankind, however he or she may be born, under this search for universal truths.

Lyn and Helga LaRouche have often posed the image of a future for Eurasia and Africa based on the “global land-bridge,” with high-speed rail corridors connecting the contiguous land masses, and with scholars and statesmen of the three great cultures of Eurasia—Judeo-Christian, Islamic, and Confucian—engaged in continual dialogue to create the scientific and cultural cooperation which is required to further mankind’s mastery of the universe and the advancement of civilization.

But it should be clear to all of us here today, that those who are opposed to such a vision have the upper

FIGURE 1
The Mongol Empire



hand, and that they are prepared and willing to end civilization altogether, in order to prevent such cooperation and development from occurring, since they see such development itself as the greatest threat to their power, the power of the oligarchical system and its financial empire. The history of the multiple efforts to link these diverse civilizations, and the oligarchy's efforts to prevent such links, is my subject here, and must instruct our efforts in dealing with the crisis today.

The Silk Road

The earliest connections of the Arab world and Europe with distant Asia were forged overland, with what became known as the Silk Road, because of the silks from Asia, so prized in the West, which were carried across it. There is a rich history of the Silk Road, from Alexander the Great, to Roman times, to the Tang

Dynasty in China.

In the 12th and 13th centuries, the Western world was largely bankrupt as a result of years of insane Crusades, genocidal wars between Europe and the Islamic world, orchestrated by the money-lenders in Venice, which was then the seat of the world Empire.

Meanwhile, in Asia, the Mongols were launching their conquest (Figure 1), which would lay waste to much of Eurasia. Guided by a mish-mash of Buddhist, animist, and pseudo-Christian-cult ideologies, the Mongols, channeled through Persia, and functioning in direct collaboration with Venice, swept through the civilized world—first through China, destroying the great Song Dynasty Renaissance culture; then through the Islamic world, destroying the Abbasid Caliphate centered in Baghdad; and across Russia and central Europe, slaughtering populations, destroying cities, destroying irrigation systems, and all other signs of modern culture and civilization as they

passed. They stopped short of Venice, of course, which thrived by marketing the Mongol gold stolen from China and Baghdad, selling slaves to the Mongols, and exercising “free trade” in the wake of the Mongol hordes.

The Mongols also brought the plague, which continued to depopulate Europe even after the Mongols had returned to the Asian Steppe.

Only the 15th-Century European Golden Renaissance—the mobilization of the creative powers of the mind of man to throw off the shackles of linear thinking and turn calculated dreams of the future into reality, to prevent the extinction of mankind—saved Europe from Venice and the Black Death.

Renaissance Culture

And so, the revival of Platonic thought, aided by the Islamic Renaissance which had preserved the ideas of

Greek culture, gave a new birth to Europe. While Nicholas of Cusa was designing his plan of sailing west from Europe, to get to Asia, and to discover the New World which he anticipated lay between, so also the Jesuit missionaries were taking Platonic ideas to China and other parts of Asia in the 16th Century. Later, Johannes Kepler, at the request of the Jesuits, prepared his revolutionary ideas about the harmony of the spheres for transmission to China. (Venice's Galileo, on the other hand, snubbed the Jesuits when they asked for his help in preparing his work to be presented to the Chinese—perhaps the Chinese should be grateful for that snub!)

The Jesuits found a refined and advanced culture in China, more advanced than that of Europe in many respects, and leaders who were open to new scientific learning and to cooperation with the West. The Jesuits were surprised to find that Muslims, who had come to China over the Silk Road, had become the leading astronomers and scientists of the Chinese government.

These same Jesuits later facilitated the first international treaty between Russia and China in 1689, which defined the borders in the Far East well into the 20th Century.

Leibniz

Gottfried Leibniz established close ties with the Jesuits in China, reading translations of Confucius, Mencius, and the great Song Dynasty philosopher Zhu Xi, translated by the missionaries in China. Leibniz's journal, *Novissima Sinica*, conveyed the ideas of the great Chinese civilization to the European population.

Leibniz also established a close collaboration with the new monarch in Russia, Peter the Great. Leibniz saw the potential in Europe, Russia, and China working together to end the imperial system once and for all.

In a letter to Peter the Great in 1712, Leibniz wrote:

It appears to be the will of God that science should encompass the globe and should now come to Scythia [Russia], and that for that purpose its instrument should be Your Majesty, for you are so situated that you can take the best from Europe on the one side and from China on the other, and, through good institutions, improve upon the achievements of both.

But then again, there was Venice.

This great potential was crushed by the intervention of Venice, which used its power over corrupt Popes in

Rome to have the Confucian belief structure denounced as a heresy, as incompatible with Christianity. Contrast this to Leibniz, who, in his *Discourse on the Natural Theology of the Chinese*, wrote about Confucian beliefs: "It is pure Christianity, insofar as it renews the natural law inscribed in our hearts, except for what revelation and grace add to it to improve our nature."

But the intention of the Venetian Empire was to crush the collaboration with China envisioned by Leibniz. Since Confucianism was not only the Chinese philosophical belief system, but also its code of government, the proscription from the Vatican meant that Christians were required to denounce the Chinese system of government as well as the Confucian faith. So, as intended by the Empire, the Christians were soon expelled from China altogether, and the Empire again succeeded in breaking the bridge between East and West. China then turned inward, and decayed, setting itself up for the invasion of British gunships and opium a century later, and the raping of China and all of Asia for a century or more to come.

The American System

But the American Republic had emerged in the meantime, guided by the principles of Leibniz. By the time of the British Opium Wars in the 19th Century, the U.S. was developing machines for power, for transport, and for manufacturing which amazed the world. Abraham Lincoln's economist Henry Carey and his collaborators planned the Transcontinental Railroad, intended not simply to reach the West Coast of the United States, but to be extended, via ship, to Asia, much as Cusa wanted to reach the East by sailing West. The American System proponents aimed to unite what they believed were the natural allies, Asia and America, and to break the British Empire's stranglehold on Asia.

Carey also proposed that the Transcontinental Railroad be extended internationally, to "girdle the Earth with a tramway of iron." This concept led to Carey's collaboration with Russia in planning what became the Trans-Siberian Railway—the first Iron Silk Road.

Carey also became an advisor to Chancellor Bismarck in Germany, who had already studied and utilized the works of the American-System economist Friedrich List to unify Germany through the Zollverein (Customs Union), based on American System protectionist policies, as opposed to the British free-trade model.

This, of course, marked Bismarck as a primary enemy of the British Empire. When Bismarck then set about building a rail connection to Southwest Asia—

the Berlin to Baghdad Railroad—the British viewed this as a *casus belli*, which threatened to undermine their control of trade through their domination of the seas. By 1890, they had succeeded in overthrowing Bismarck, using their family connection with Kaiser Wilhelm II; the First World War was soon unleashed, starting with Japan's war on China in 1894, instigated by the British, and the Balkan Wars which Bismarck had fought so hard to prevent. Once again Empire had intervened to prevent the unification of sovereign states in Europe and Asia, and to cut off the spread of the American System in Eurasia.

With the end of the World War, the British and the French implemented the Sykes-Picot agreement, dividing up the Islamic world, the Ottoman Empire, as spoils of war, and thus assured that there would be no regional infrastructure or other economic development, such that the oil and other resources would be controlled from London. Indeed, they assured that the 20th Century would be a century of war, continual long wars, from World War I into World War II, to the Indochina War, and other bloody “population wars” across the Third World.

President Franklin Roosevelt had intended that the United States, following the victory in World War II, would forge a world based on the development and scientific progress he had created in the United States, but his death left the U.S. under the increasing control of the British imperial enemy, up to the current era of the Bush family, tied to London and Saudi Arabia, and to the narcissistic British puppet Barack Obama, who has brought us to the brink of annihilation.

LaRouche's New Silk Road

But the work of Lyndon and Helga LaRouche has demonstrated that there is an alternative to the seemingly inevitable decline into depopulation and thermo-nuclear war. Lyn had proposed his solution to the seemingly perpetual Mideast crisis in his 1986 proposal, the “Oasis Plan,” which focused on the creation of vast new water resources for the Arab world through the creation of lakes in the Egyptian desert, in the Qattara Depression; through nuclear power and nuclear desalination; through a canal from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea; and rail connections throughout the region, connecting to Europe, Asia, and the rest of Africa.

Most importantly, LaRouche insisted that collaboration between Israeli scientists and engineers and the skilled Palestinian workforce in greening the desert,

was the only basis for ending the political stalemate. Joint development first, then political agreements based on this mutual self-interest—not the other way around, as the British insist, so as to ensure there will never be either.

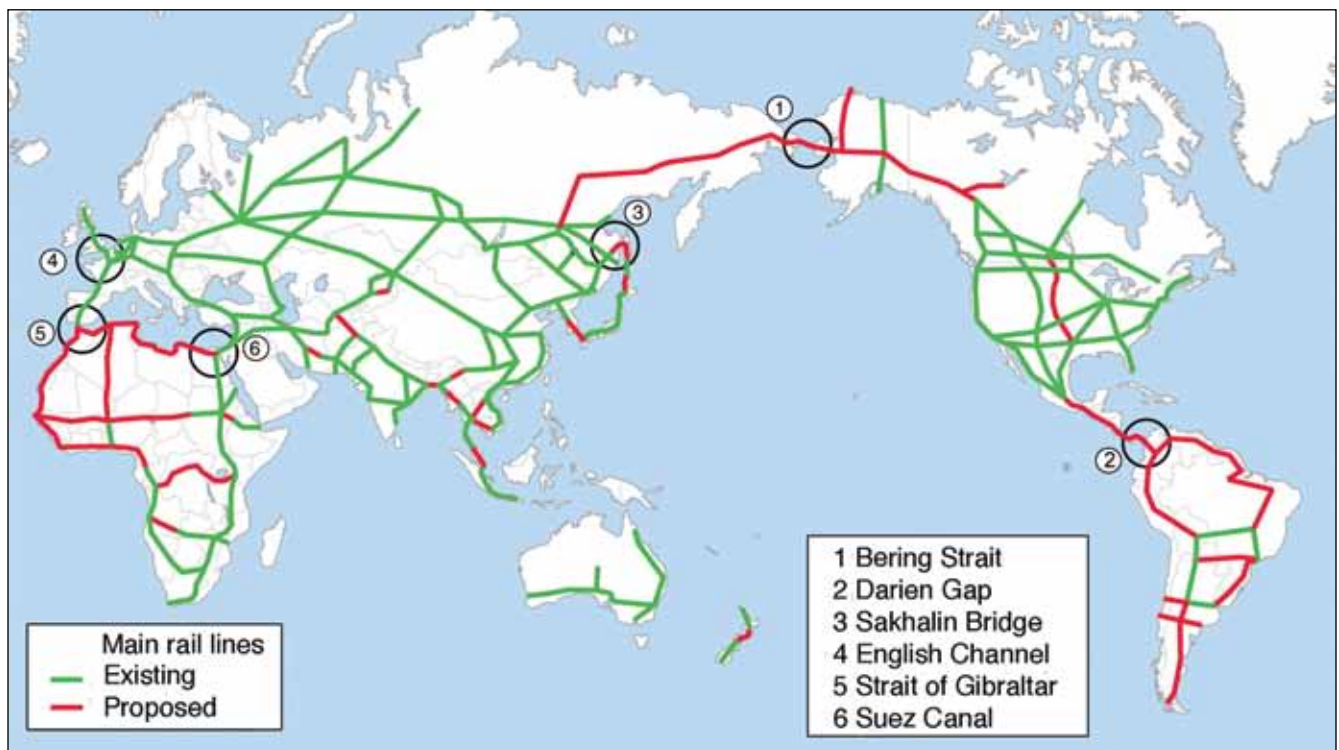
In 1988, as Lyn was being railroaded into prison, with myself and others, he proposed a bold plan for integrating Eastern Europe—which he forecast, correctly, would soon be shedding its Communist chains—through expanded agricultural and industrial projects across the region, leading later to the idea of the “Productive Triangle” of Paris, Berlin, and Vienna, with development corridors extended out through Europe to Asia and Africa.

This then evolved into the idea of the New Silk Road, and while Lyn was locked up, Helga took the lead, not only in fighting the injustice against Lyn and the rest of us (often together with my late wife Gail), but also in organizing the Eurasian nations, and nations throughout the world, behind this uplifting concept of “Peace through Development.”

This culminated in the historic 1996 conference in Beijing, titled the “International Symposium for Development of the Regions along the Euro-Asian Continental Bridge,” which included participants from 36 countries, and featured a presentation by Helga on “Building the Silk Road Land-Bridge as a Grand Design for Peace through Development, To Fulfill the Common Aims of Mankind.” Helga soon was known around the world as the “Silk Road Lady.” The long-term vision was for the Land-Bridge to be extended internationally, as development corridors, with hundreds of new, nuclear-powered cities along the routes, opening the vast, resource-rich areas of the Russian Far East and Central Asia, and around the world, for development (**Figure 2**).

Two of the three prongs of the Eurasian Land-Bridge have been completed, although still in a rudimentary way. The Trans-Siberian Railroad is being upgraded. The vast upgrading of the completed central route through Central Asia is now being taken up both by China and Russia, to facilitate the transport of goods coming from the rapidly developing industrial centers in the interior provinces of China. The Southern route, linking Asia with the Arab world and Africa as well as Europe, is now, finally, leaping ahead, as the formerly isolated nations of Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar are being brought into the Asian development scheme through cooperation among virtually all the Asian nations.

FIGURE 2

The World Land-Bridge**Tunneling the Bering Strait**

Another milestone was achieved in Moscow in April of 2007, when the Russian government sponsored a conference on “Megaprojects of Russia’s East: A Transcontinental Eurasia-America Transport Link via the Bering Strait.” Lyndon LaRouche, who had championed a Bering Strait rail connection between the U.S. state of Alaska and the Russian Far East for 30 years, as one of the essential “Great Projects,” necessary to transform the globe for the coming centuries, was invited to present his ideas on the Bering Strait tunnel.

The conference came at the moment that the British were renewing their war plans against Russia, declaring President Putin to be the “new Stalin,” and trying to again drag the U.S. into waging their wars for them—British brains and American brawn, as they like to say. But one common theme, from LaRouche and others at the Moscow conference, was that “war avoidance” required precisely this kind of mutual physical-economic development first, linking potential adversaries in real economic development, as with his Oasis Plan in the Middle East—uplifting the productive powers of labor of all sides of a conflict, and putting the common aims of mankind above the interests of the financial oligarchs.

Are we to survive the current financial collapse and the British drive for war? Tony Blair made very clear why the British are willing to risk global thermonuclear war, when he insisted as long ago as 1999, that the world has outlived the Peace of Westphalia, with its concept of sovereign nation-states. If Russia and China, or any other nation for that matter, refuses to capitulate to this British revival of imperial global rule, then war, if not “preferable” (as Obama likes to say), is necessary.

Of course, this is not new—it has been the intention of the British Empire since its inception. But the American Revolution intervened and spoiled its plans. Now, under Bush and Obama, the U.S. has become the tool of the Empire, turning the power of government over to the speculators in the banking system in London and New York, and waging war on nations at will, and without reason. If we are to survive, we must return the power of sovereign nations to their people, and unite those sovereign nations around the concept of that Peace of Westphalia so despised by Blair and his royal friends—that the interest of each nation is the interest of the other—and that cooperation among sovereign nations for mutual development is the common aim and interest of mankind.

Editorial

The Alternative to Hell

In his Dec. 28 weekly webcast, Lyndon LaRouche put forward the crucial measures that must be taken *immediately* if the world is to avoid the hell of a New Dark Age of global warfare and mass-murderous economic policies now threatening human life on a global scale. He said:

“The urgent problem which the world as a whole now faces, especially the trans-Atlantic region, is the building up of an explosion of hyperinflation: a complete economic disintegration. Therefore, the most important item on the agenda of the United States in particular, and nations of Europe in general, is to immediately install a completely new financial-economic system in the United States. To postpone that task, on some other consideration, would be a great folly: we have no time to waste. Hyperinflation is about to explode.”

LaRouche then went on to outline the unique three-point program that would reverse the process:

“The only thing that will stop the hyperinflation as of now, would be the immediate adoption, first, of Glass-Steagall. That’s measure number one.

“Measure number two, is establishing a new financial system which is required to *implement* the Glass-Steagall legislation in a timely fashion.

“And thirdly, is to incorporate in the same package, a program which is not only NAWAPA, the greatest project that was ever undertaken by any part of the world today—NAWAPA.”

Why so urgent? “Because if we don’t do this, we’re on the verge of a hyperinflationary explosion, and once it starts, it won’t stop.”

To those not still wrapped up in Christmas and “fiscal cliff” monetarist fantasies, the need for

these emergency measures should be clear. The United States, and the entire London-dominated financial system, are utterly bankrupt, and the measures being put on the table by governments, most emphatically including that of the United States, will only worsen the crisis. Productive employment, already at dismal levels, is declining further; the basic economic-technological platforms for real growth—the power, transportation, and water systems, generally called infrastructure—are collapsing; the world’s food supply, already inadequate to provide a healthy diet for all, is shrinking disastrously.

In the face of this, the world’s population is being driven to despair, and is potentially fatally vulnerable to the manipulations of the global financiers determined to save their power, manipulations that are leading us to intensifying global warfare, and to the edge of World War III.

The only alternative is for those who understand the solution to the existential economic crisis—such as LaRouche—to exert leadership, and insist on this three-point plan, which will rapidly be welcomed and taken up in Europe and elsewhere, as soon as the relevant action is taken in the United States. It, and it alone, can spark a phase-shift toward sanity.

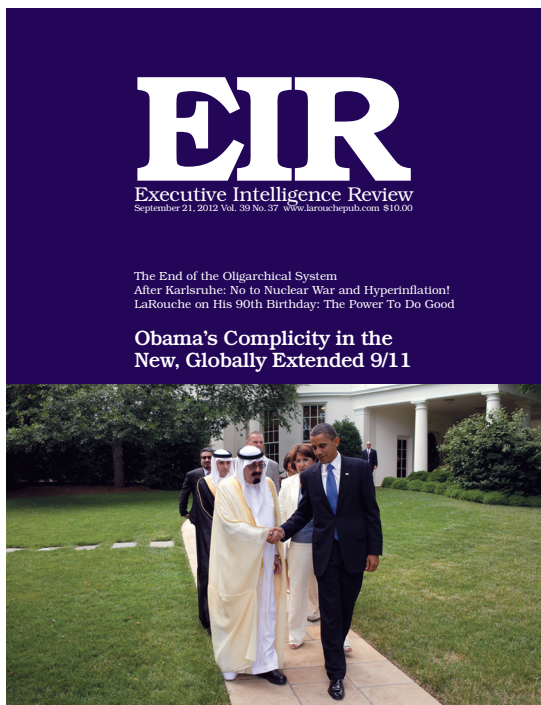
Forget trying to save the current system. The measures being proposed—hyperinflation and draconian austerity—are only going to accelerate the decline.

“So everything else goes on the lower schedule,” LaRouche said. “This must happen first, because if you don’t do this first, you’re not going to do anything worthwhile second. . . . It’s what we require. And that’s the revolution that can save the United States from *hell*! And I do mean *hell*.”

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