I. The World Crisis and Solutions

U.S. RUSSIA SANCTIONS

Sanctions: A Coup vs. U.S. Constitution; Germany Must Defend Its Own Interests!

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Aug. 5—The near-lockstep votes by both houses of the U.S. Congress for new sanctions against Russia (as well as Iran and North Korea) represent an unprecedented scandal, which has game-changing implications on several levels. First, they are a coup against the American Constitution and a reckless attack on America's European "allies." Second, they put a strategic confrontation with Russia and China—which Trump sought to surmount—back on the agenda. And third, they are a violation of international law, because they assert the claim of extraterritoriality for U.S. legislation. It is high time for the rest of the world to learn how to defend its own interests, which can only lie on a totally different political level.

President Trump signed the sanctions bill into law while stating that it included unconstitutional provisions, which he will not implement. Obviously, Trump

did not want to face the embarrassment of having the Congress override his veto with a vote far greater than the necessary two-thirds majority. The House of Representatives had voted 419 to 3, and the Senate 98 to 2, for the sanctions bill.

But this legislation represents nothing less than a coup against the United States Constitution of 1787, which gives the President the exclusive power to define relations with other

countries. The sanctions law is designed to prevent the President from ever lifting lifting the sanctions. Practically speaking, Trump must now send a formal request for lifting sanctions to the Congress, which would then decide yea or nay within 30 days—something which has very dim prospects, given the majorities just demonstrated. Thus the Congress has virtually seized the Presidential power of making foreign policy, and at the same time has abrogated the constitutional separation of powers between the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches, on a decisive matter.

Apparently it took days for the relevant circles in Germany and Europe to recover from the shock of realizing that this legislation also constitutes a violation of international law by the U.S. Congress—by claiming that American laws are applicable extraterritori-

ally, that is, worldwide since it represents, this time, a total broadside against the existential interests of the "allies" European "friends" of the United States, namely against their energy security. And, if they were to think about it even more deeply, they would realize that it also affects the question of war and peace in the age of thermonuclear weapons. The new law hits German industry in conditions under which it has al-



The U.S. Capitol, seat of the Congress.

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ready suffered for years from the anti-Russia sanctions of the Obama Administration—some firms to the point of bankruptcy—while the volume of U.S. exports to Russia has been increasing over the same time period.

Germany and China React

The new sanctions law threatens punitive measures against companies involved in the Nord Stream 2 (Baltic Sea) pipeline and other Russian energy projects, and thus threatens the suppliers of all the materials needed for construction, and also threatens all the production and service companies, these companys' executives, and the U.S. business of these companies. Spokesmen for the Mechanical Engineering Industry Association (VDMA) and the German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHK) have protested against the

sanctions, and demanded a "red line" from the German government, beyond which the effects of the new sanctions law would not be able to reach. That is likely to prove difficult.

Although Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel denounced the United States for trying to force Europe to import American liquefied gas (produced by fracking) and Economics Minister Brigitte Zypries condemned the sanctions as a violation of international law, there is a wide array of quislings within the CDU who, for the sake of their Atlanticist careers, would rather sell their grandmothers than defend the national interest.

The German government's policy of synchronizing its reaction to the U.S. sanctions with the European Union (EU) may also come to nothing, given the lack of unity within the EU. On the other hand, Poland and the Baltic states oppose the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, and are willing instruments of Anglo-American manipulations all too often when it comes to Russia. In light of the failed energy transition (to a low-carbon Greeny policy), and the diesel and automakers' cartel scandals, German industry is now coming close to the end of its resources.

Obviously China has realized that the same forces that are responsible for the lockstep vote in the U.S. Congress to impose the new sanctions against Russia,



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Welding pipe segments together for Nord Stream 1 on the Castoro Sei pipelaying vessel, 2011.

are also reckless enough in their pursuit of a unipolar utopia to fall into the much-cited "Thucydides trap" mentality against China. Several Chinese spokesmen and media outlets have recently announced that China will help Russia manage the economic consequences of the sanctions to its economy, and will also, if need be, support Russia in the event of a crash of the financial system. They point out that China and Russia—whose relationship is the best it has ever been—will deepen their strategic partnership even further, which, under the circumstances, acts as an added deterrent against any potential attack on one or the other in whatever way, including militarily.

As early as Jan. 21, the British weekly magazine *The Spectator* published an article speculating whether President Trump would be removed from office before his term is up—through impeachment, a coup, or assassination. With the unprecedented Congressional vote, the coup is underway. Special Prosecutor Robert Mueller, formerly head of the FBI, and the whole FBI, are currently being called upon to fabricate "evidence" of secret agreements between Putin and Trump, which would then be used to impeach President Trump. Throughout American history, a whole slew of U.S. Presidents have been murdered as part of geopolitical conspiracies; this gives cause for concern that the third option envisaged by *The Spectator* is by no means to be

excluded.

What can Germany do in the face of this highly dangerous situation? Several things. First, the current hysteria against Russia rests on two "narratives," both of which lack any foundation in truth; the identification of the real situation in these two cases would discredit or refute the current hype.

Get the Truth Out!

The first of these "narratives" consists in the assertion that Putin annexed Crimea in violation of international law. The truth is, as former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt stressed, that the Ukraine crisis began with the

EU Conference in Maastricht [the 1992 conference at which the EU founding treaty was signed] and the subsequent decision by the EU to imperiously expand to the East. The crisis was triggered by the attempt at the EU summit in Vilnius, Lithuania in November 2013, to bring Ukraine under the influence of the EU and NATO through an Association Agreement with the EU.

The bloody Maidan regime-change operation run against Ukraine, was organized by Western-supported NGOs and Bandera Nazis, who were responsible for the Nazi coup in Kiev in February 2014. The developments in Eastern Ukraine and the vote of the people in Crimea (legitimate under international law) to join with Russia were a reaction to that coup. (You can find comprehensive documentation of that process on the BüSo's website.) The truth about the Ukraine crisis must be publicly clarified!

The second narrative—claiming that Russia manipulated the American elections by hacking the DNC's computers—was recently refuted by <u>publication</u> of a memo to President Trump by the Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS), and in a tremendously important <u>interview</u> of VIPS member Ray McGovern by LaRouche PAC. Former security specialists, all top experts in their fields, have provided forensic evidence that there was no Russian hacking, but that the data was stolen by insiders and then leaked.

The results of the VIPS investigation must finally become widely known, and their experts invited to hearings in the Bundestag!



A Right Sector torch march in Kiev, Jan. 1, 2014. The group initiated the violence that led to the coup d'état in Ukraine the following month.

Germany, and all the other affected countries, must defend themselves against the extraterritorial claims of the United States that are illegal under international law. The appropriate forum for this would be the UN General Assembly, which convenes in September. It is the obvious body to conduct a hearing on the application of international law in this case.

But the most important step is to establish a totally new and higher level of politics, and of relations among nations. The current course of sanctions, counter-sanctions, trade war, escalation of geopolitical provocations, proxy wars,— where is it supposed to end? In a massive thermonuclear war?

If we Germans have learned anything from the two world wars of the 20th Century, then we should energetically seize the initiative, and not only put the creation of a new Russia policy on the agenda, but take up China's offer for win-win cooperation in building the New Silk Road. Then, together with Russia, China, and other nations, we will rebuild the Near and Middle East, which have been devastated by Blair's, Bush's, and Obama's wars, and we will also develop Africa.

According to polls, 83% of Germans oppose U.S. sanctions against Russia, but 91% are against Trump. It's time that these mass-media-damaged individuals catch on that Trump is not the problem, but in this case, the problem is that the U.S. Congress, with this sanctions vote, is helping to revive the unipolar world order by all available means, even at the cost of the extinction of the human race.