

## Brits go for raw materials grab before the bubble pops

by Jeffrey Steinberg

On Dec. 8-9, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the London *Financial Times* energy division co-sponsored a conference in Washington on “The Geopolitics of Energy into the Twenty-First Century.” While the event took place in the capital city of the United States, and featured U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson as the wrap-up speaker, the policies put forward to the audience at the conference, and which dominated the two-year study group that culminated with the Washington event, were 100% warmed-over British raw materials geopolitics, borrowed from Britain’s nineteenth-century “Great Game” and from Cecil Rhodes’s schemes for the looting of the African continent.

Notable Trilateral Commission lackeys, such as former Carter administration National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski and former Secretary of Energy and Director of Central Intelligence James Rodney Schlesinger, who were featured at the conference, may not know what the driving forces behind their policy outline are. The doctrine of “geopolitics” has always been a hoax, ever since geography student Halford Mackinder invented that fairy-tale. Perhaps silly Brzezinski actually believes it. However, to understand what he and his crony Schlesinger lack the intelligence to comprehend about this matter, see Lyndon LaRouche’s “Storm Over Asia” video report on the historical roots of current U.S. strategic interests, and his article which follows. What the CSIS-*Financial Times* conference offers as the oligarchy’s motive for war-mongering, is chiefly a fiction designed for the credulity of the self-deluded; but, the war-mongering is real.

The fact that the energy policy group of the *Financial Times* co-hosted the conference should make this point clear. And, the fact that British agent Brzezinski, a “strategic” consultant to Amoco at the time of its 1998 merger with British Petroleum, delivered the keynote on the opening day of the event, adds the relevant scandalous element to the picture.

The purpose of the CSIS-*Financial Times* saber-rattling was never stated during the two-day proceedings. Nor was it even touched upon in the voluminous scenario studies and forecasts produced by CSIS’s Strategic Energy Initiative, which have been reviewed by *EIR* staff.

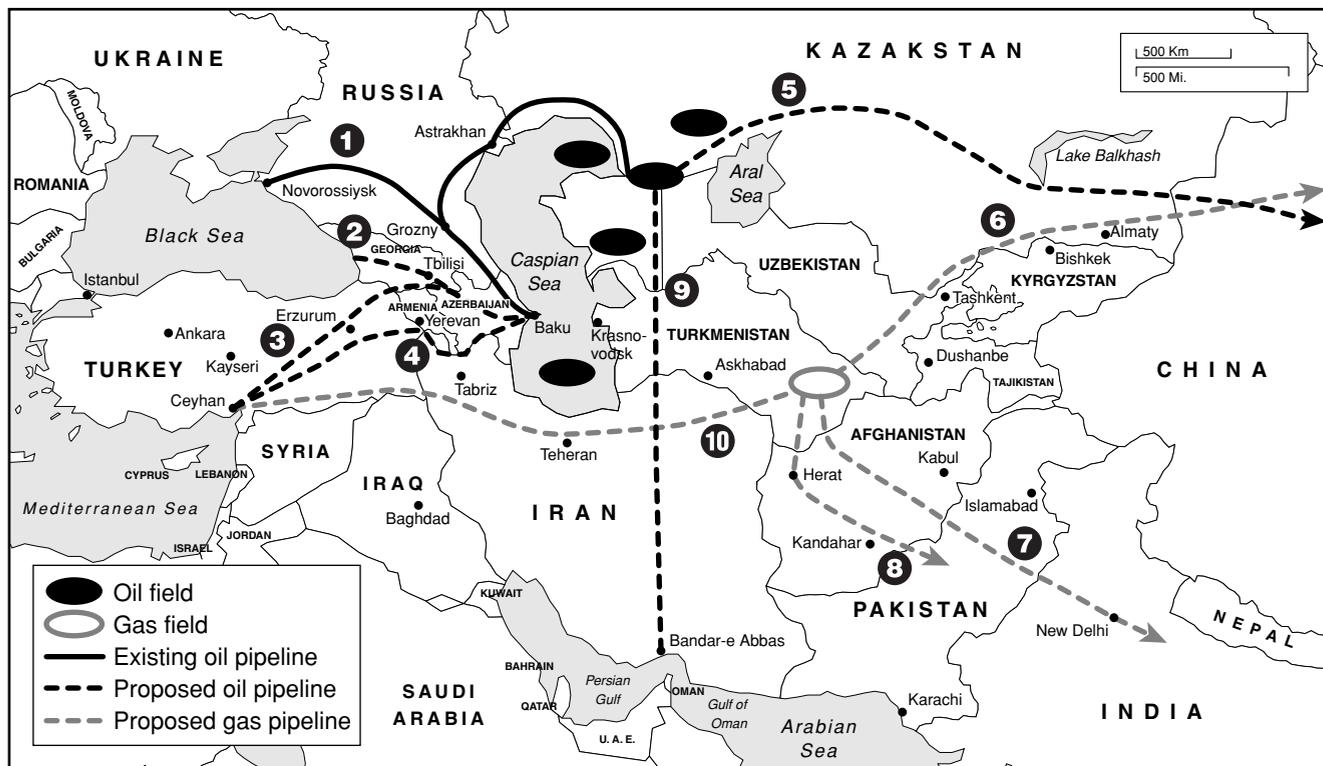
What is the reality beneath the layers of geopolitical babble? Start from the top. The fact is, the City of London-centered financial oligarchy is well aware that the entire international monetary and financial system is on its last legs, and could disintegrate at any moment. Indeed, in recent days, there has been a sudden proliferation of articles in the London financial press and elsewhere, noting that the skyrocketing of stock prices in the so-called computer technology sector is a classic financial bubble. And, like past centuries’ Tulip Bubble, the South Sea Bubble, and all similar phenomenon of modern history, this current bubble is sure to pop. (See pp. 5-6.)

Given that reality, the objective of the British-centered financial oligarchy is to grab up as much of the strategic raw material wealth of the planet *now*, before the bubble explodes. They are preparing—now—for the *post-crash* reality, and they are taking steps now to control income streams in the post-crash world. Their immediate operations involve grabbing up juridical control over the vast oil, natural gas, and strategic mineral resources of the Caspian Sea, the Caucasus, and Central Asia, as well as Africa and Ibero-America.

### The Baku to Ceyhan pipeline

A review of the recently signed oil and natural gas pipeline deals for routes from Baku to Ceyhan demonstrates the point. The agreement was signed in November in Istanbul, Turkey, during the meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). It provided for a consortium of Western oil companies, led by British Petroleum, to build a pipeline from the Baku, Georgia oil fields and the Caspian

## Oil and gas pipelines in the Caucasus and Central Asia



Sea to the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan. A parallel agreement-in-principle would build a natural gas pipeline from Turkmenistan, under the Caspian Sea, to another Turkish port city. Both of these pipelines are vastly inefficient and extraordinarily expensive, and, in all likelihood, will never be constructed. Yet, the hoopla that surrounded the signing of the deal, which was attended by President Clinton and Energy Secretary Richardson, indicates that something big is afoot. And that afoot is a contractual grab, giving British Petroleum et al. juridical claims over the oil and gas exploration rights—to be called in after the financial crash.

Never mind that these maneuvers have already unleashed a conflict that will, unless reversed, lead to a world war in the near future. The British oligarchy is once again pursuing a course of action that will provoke global calamities, unless they are stopped. To date, the most coherent discussion of this crisis has been provided by Lyndon LaRouche, in "Storm Over Asia."

### No reality here

The reality of the looming financial crash never came up at the conference. Instead, a gang of raving geopoliticians, led by the clinically insane Brzezinski, presented one scenario after another, proclaiming that Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Central Asia will remain economically weak and vulnerable, i.e., ripe for looting, for the next decade. Never mind that the

post-Bretton Woods financial bubble is about to end. Never mind that the economic and financial crisis is *global*—not something localized to Russia and its neighbors.

Nevertheless, the conference did present an opportunity for some of the fault lines among the Beltway strategists, the Clinton administration, and others, to emerge. So, *EIR* has decided, as part of our expanded coverage of the policy debates now ongoing in the leading capitals of the world, to provide this background report on the event and its leading participants. We also provide background on the Clinton administration's seriously flawed global energy policy—which differs in many important ways from the lunatic rantings of Brzezinski, his CSIS cronies, and the British-dominated oil cartels. We also provide a short report on Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.), who typifies those among the Republicans in Congress who serve as tools of the British oligarchy, whether witting or not. Brownback was the architect of a bogus "New Silk Road" amendment, recently passed as part of the fiscal year 2000 budget, that aimed to give a "Made in the U.S.A." label to the British provocations in the Caucasus-Central Asian region.

Consider this a psychological study, supplementing "Storm Over Asia," aimed at providing you with the tools to see through the fog of think-tank jargon and media babble, so that you are able to comprehend the factors leading this planet, once again, toward world war.