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We Need a New, Inclusive World Security Architecture
Capitulation to Obama Will Backfire on Congress
Zepp-LaRouche in China: An Explosion of Optimism

Chinese President Xi in India: An Alliance To Benefit Mankind



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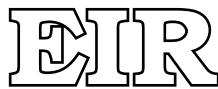
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From the Editors

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of our *Cover Feature* this issue, which goes hand-in-glove with our *International* lead. The summit last week between the leaders of the world's two most populous nations, India and China, featured solid steps toward a new and deeper partnership, which portends a brighter future for all mankind. The subtext that should be read is: The control by the British Empire and its geopolitics is over.

The visit comes in the midst of an entire BRICS process, which is sweeping the planet, and creating a new reality that *will* replace the Empire, if humanity is to survive. Integral to creating that process has been Helga Zepp-LaRouche, whose speech to a recent Silk Road conference in Beijing we include in the package, as well as that of the Chinese professor who introduced her. Then you will find a mind-opening reprise of how India has been prepared for its historic role today, and a long, although necessarily partial, grid of the major deals, primarily infrastructural, made by the BRICs countries since their mid-July summit in Brazil.

Leading the *International* section is Helga Zepp-LaRouche's latest initiative, a call for nations to pull together a conference to build a new, inclusive world security architecture, which will end geopolitics, and the concomitant economic misery, for all mankind. The rest of our news analysis deals with battles underway within that old paradigm—Ukraine, the Scottish referendum, Ebola, the fight over infrastructure in Italy, and the miserable state of affairs in the U.S. Congress.

This latter problem looms even larger now that Obama, with his British backers, has launched an unconstitutional, illegal war of aggression in Southwest Asia, specifically against Syria. Obama is flagrantly violating the expressed will of the Congress, in HCR 105, as well as the stern warnings from the Russians, the second greatest nuclear power on the planet, about the obligations of all nations to follow international law. The fact that ISIS must be defeated and destroyed is no excuse; in fact, only lawful cooperation among nation-states, such as Russia, the U.S., Iran, Syria, and others, can conceivable succeed in doing so.

Instead, Obama chooses war, putting the world in terrible danger. Will the American people choose the BRICS process instead?

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Prime Minister Modi (left) explains plans for development of the Sabarmati Waterfront in Ahmedabad, to President Xi, Sept. 17, 2014.



Press Information Bureau of India

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PRESIDENT XI IN INDIA

An Alliance of the Two Asian Giants Will Benefit Mankind

by Ramtanu Maitra

Sept. 22—Chinese President Xi Jinping's Sept. 17-19 visit to India, and his close interactions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have advanced the important bilateral relations between the two giant nations, and has positive implications for the global development thrust being carried out by the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) as a whole. Today, in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hua Chunying said that co-operation will remain the main theme of Sino-Indian relations. He pointed to President Xi's observation that harmony between the Chinese dragon and the Indian elephant will bring benefits to the whole world.

The broadening of cooperation in economic, regional, and global affairs between the two, also brought to the fore the necessity of resolving their longstanding border dispute. The good news is that both leaders are keen to resolve it. Hua stressed that the two leaders have reached a consensus on resolving the border issue through friendly mechanisms and effective communication.

Prior to his arrival in India, President Xi had penned an article for the Indian news daily *The Hindu*, "Towards an Asian Century of Prosperity," (Sept. 17), in which he set the tone for what relations should be to make the 21st Century an "Asian century of prosperity and renewal." He wrote: "As two important forces in a world that moves towards multi-polarity, we need to become global partners having strategic coordination. According to Prime Minister Modi, China and India are 'two bodies, one spirit.' I appreciate this comment.

"Despite their distinctive features, the 'Chinese Dragon' and the 'Indian Elephant' both cherish peace, equity, and justice. We need to work together to carry forward the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence (the Panch-sheel), make the international order more fair and reasonable, and improve the mechanism and rules of international governance, so as to make them



Press Information Bureau of India

Prime Minister Modi said China and India are “two bodies, one spirit.” President Xi added, “Despite their distinctive features, the ‘Chinese Dragon’ and the ‘Indian Elephant’ both cherish peace, equity and justice.” Here, in Ahmedabad Sept. 17, Modi presents a bouquet of flowers to First Lady Peng Liyuan as Xi looks on.

better respond to the trend of the times and meet the common needs of the international community.”

The Importance of China-India Relations

“As Deng Xiaoping put it, no genuine Asian century would come without the development of China, India, and other developing countries. We are ready to shoulder this mission of our times and work actively to enhance friendship between China and India. I look forward to an in-depth exchange of views with Indian leaders on our bilateral relations during the visit, and to injecting new vitality to our strategic and cooperative partnership for peace and prosperity,” he added.

That was perhaps the most important element in Xi’s visit to India.

Both Prime Minister Modi and President Xi were keen to broaden bilateral economic relations. Trade between India and China amounts to \$65 billion—a small amount compared to the China-Japan trade, which is now well over \$320 billion annually. Even this small trade between the two is replete with problems. India runs close to a \$35 billion annual trade deficit; the Chinese investment in India has remained a paltry \$500 million; and India’s investment into China is similarly low.

With the intent to rectify some of these problems,

and also to help Modi’s quest for India’s infrastructure modernization, President Xi came prepared to sign a number of agreements. Among them was the setting up of two industrial parks—one each in the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat—which would add up to close to \$7 billion. The other major investment by China agreed upon was enhancing the speed of India’s railroad in the Mysore City-Chennai via Bengaluru sector. The total amount of the investments agreed upon was about \$20 billion over five years. In addition, to reduce the trade deficit between them, Xi promised to open up China’s market for India’s pharmaceutical and information technology-related products.

Two other issues of import for enhanced cooperation between the two nations were apparently discussed, but nothing concrete has emerged. One is nuclear power generation, and the other an agreement on the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) economic corridor. On nuclear cooperation, reports indicate that China and India have agreed to open talks on a sector that New Delhi sees as the solution to its chronic power problems. The announcement, made at the Xi-Modi meeting in New Delhi, came a few days after India had struck a deal to buy uranium from Australia to increase its fuel supplies.

After the initial reports, not much was heard about the BCIM during the three days that Xi was in India. However, the BCIM is still alive. On Sept. 20, at Dhaka, Bangladesh, the Chargé d’Affaires of the Chinese Embassy, Qu Guangzhou, at a conference organized by the Centre for East Asia Foundation of Bangladesh, sought “all-out efforts” of the four countries to make it happen, given the significance of the corridor. He said the forthcoming second joint working group meeting in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, would work for a consensus on the agreement.

Interestingly, Japan’s ambassador to Bangladesh, Shiro Sadoshima, attended the conference. Premier

Shinzo Abe was in Dhaka this month, and on Sept. 6, he had identified Bangladesh as key to Japan's Bay of Bengal Investment Growth Belt (BIG-B) initiative. Specifically, he said, the keys to the BIG-B are concept the improvement of transportation and infrastructure; a stable supply of power and energy; urban development, including special economic zone improvement; and also public sector development, including improved market access to the financial markets.

New Maritime Trade Routes

What was expected, but left out of any agreement signed during President Xi's stay in India, was the Maritime Silk Road, a subject of great interest to him. In his article for *The Hindu*, Xi made reference to both the BCIM and Maritime Silk Road. He wrote: "As the two engines of the Asian economy, we need to become co-operation partners spearheading growth. I believe that the combination of China's energy plus India's wisdom will release massive potential. We need to jointly develop the BCIM Economic Corridor, discuss the initiatives of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, and lead the sustainable growth of the Asian economy."

Meanwhile, media reports indicate that the Prime Minister Modi will soon launch a new initiative known as Project Mausam (*mausam* is Hindi for season), which will be a maritime trade initiative evoking the historic role of ancient India's trade in the Indian Ocean. Titled "Project Mausam: Maritime Routes and Cultural Landscapes across the Indian Ocean," the project focuses on the natural wind phenomenon, especially monsoon winds used by Indian sailors in ancient times for maritime trade, that has shaped interactions among countries and communities connected by the Indian Ocean. Project Mausam aims to explore the multifaceted Indian Ocean "world"—extending from East Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, the Indian Subcontinent, and Sri Lanka, to the Southeast Asian archipelago. This project will add to the Maritime Silk Road initiative undertaken by Beijing.

Notwithstanding its shortcomings, Xi's visit is laden with prospects. Xinhua news quoted Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi saying, during a briefing to the Chinese media on Xi's just-concluded visit to India, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and Tajikistan, "President Xi's visit has propelled the development of China-India ties into a new historic phase." He quoted Modi telling Xi that the two sides should constantly push forward their

relationship "From Inch (India-China) to Mile (Millennium of Exceptional Energy)." The two heads of state agreed to build a closer developmental partnership, deepen cooperation within bilateral, regional and global frameworks. They also agreed to defend the common interests of the two countries and of other developing countries, while enhancing the just and sound development of international politics and economic order, Wang said.

Natural Partners

An editorial in the state-run *China Daily* on Xi's visit termed India and China natural partners. "The bonhomie the leaders have displayed is an inspiring sign that the shadow of the past will not be a hurdle in the way of better bilateral ties," the editorial said. "The complementary economic structures of the two giant neighbors have inspired many in China to dub the two as 'natural partners for cooperation,'" it said, adding "if China-India relations are not yet what Modi once portrayed as 'two bodies, but one spirit,' they are clearly closer to what they should be."

What also became evident during Xi's visit, is China's growing understanding that the new Indian leader is eager to develop India's infrastructure in order to launch the country on the path to a broad-based agro-industrial development. Modi recently concluded a successful visit to Japan. His strong engagement with Prime Minister Abe is expected to propel the Chinese to further expand economic ties with India. The emergence of such an Asian axis could impact U.S. influence on molding the balance of power within Asia, said one economy watcher in India.

China now sees Indo-Japanese industrial collaboration as more "strategic." Modi's new friendship with Abe has led to some eye-catching deals this month: the assurance of \$35 billion in Japanese foreign direct investment into India over the next five years, more Japanese soft loans, and collaboration in defense and rare earth exploration. Japan will also play a strong role in the development of industrial corridors, and may nudge its automakers and electronics companies to expand their Indian operations, according to the *Hindu Business Line*, Sept. 14.

On the day that President Xi arrived in India, Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, returning from Vietnam after concluding an agreement with Hanoi to explore two oil wells in Vietnam's waters, made it clear that India's oil exploration activities in the South China Sea

since 1988 are only commercial actions, and no political conclusions should be drawn from them. He also stressed that India's foreign policy never looked at any country "through the prism" of any third country, in an effort to drive home the point that there's absolutely no relation between his visit to Vietnam and the Chinese President's trip to India.

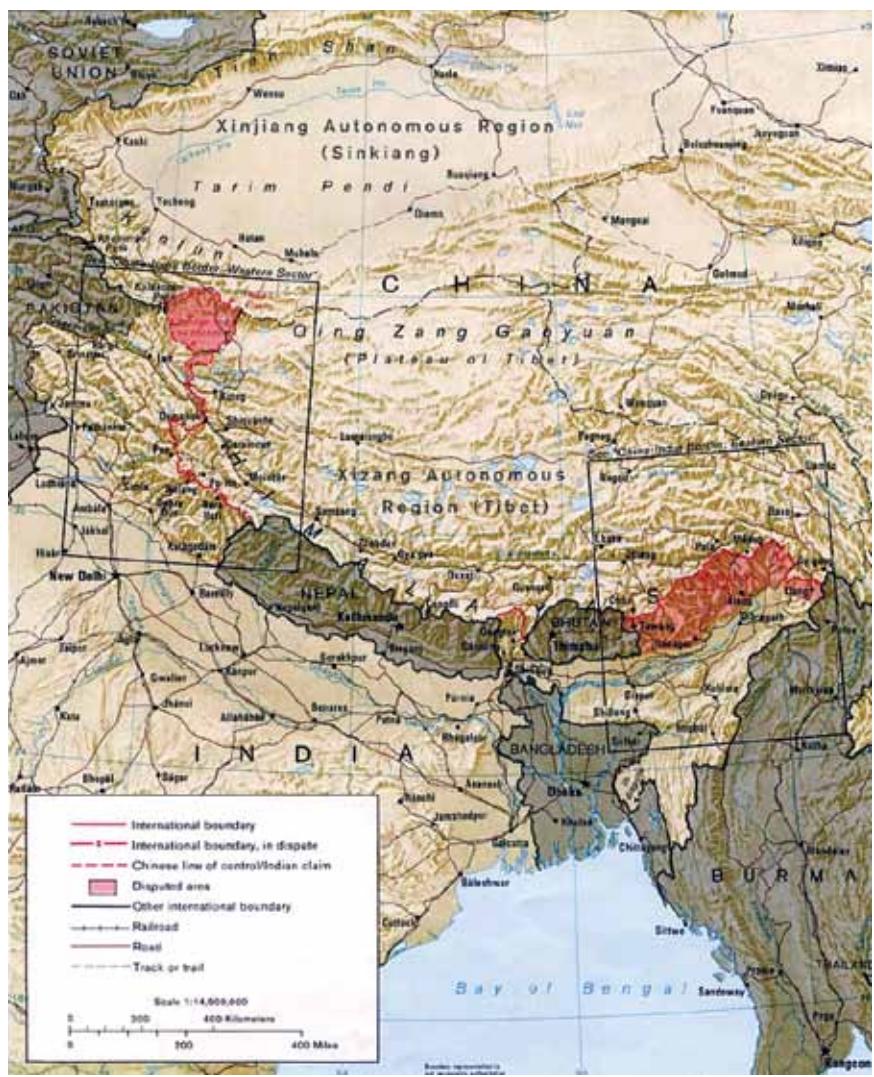
"One thing has to be kept in mind. OVL [ONGC Videsh Ltd—the state-run Indian oil exploration company] is exploring in the South China Sea since 1988. This is just a commercial action.... We have not made any comment about the contentious issue about sovereignty of the South China Sea because the disputes there are between various maritime countries sharing territory in the South China Sea," Mukherjee said.

During Mukherjee's Vietnam visit, India extended a \$100 million export credit to Vietnam for defense deals and tightened energy ties. The two countries said in a joint statement that the credit line would open new opportunities for defense cooperation, and that details of what Vietnam would buy were being finalized.

The 100-Ton Gorilla Must Be Removed

During President Xi's visit to India, reports emerged that some Chinese PLA (People's Liberation Army) personnel had moved into the non-demarcated border area that India considers its territory, but the incident did not elicit strong words from either side. As the Chinese military personnel retreated, Prime Minister Modi, with President Xi at his side, stated: "I have expressed concern over the incidents along the border between the two nations. We must resolve the boundary issue at the earlier. Clarifications on LAC [Line of Actual Control] can be a big step to peace across Sino-Indian borders. I have discussed India's concerns relating to China's visa policy and trans-border rivers. Early resolution would enhance mutual trust."

FIGURE 1
India-China Boundary Dispute Region



Creative Commons/Zeshan Mahmoud

Xi said that since the border was yet to be demarcated, sometimes there were "certain incidents," although both sides had been able to manage these situations. He added that China was keen to "settle the boundary question at an early date," and would maintain peace until that happened.

Delivering a speech at the Indian Council of World Affairs in New Delhi during his stay, Xi noted that China-India relations have gone well beyond the bilateral scope and have assumed broad regional and global significance as the two countries have become major forces in the world. The two Asian neighbors, he proposed, should become global partners for strategic coordination and jointly strive for a just and equitable in-

ternational order. "China and India have a combined population of over 2.5 billion," he said. "If we speak with one voice, the whole world will listen, and if we join hands, the whole world will pay attention."

There is no doubt that what President Xi is indeed the case. However, for the two sides to work in tandem to bring this about, the Sino-Indian border dispute must be resolved amicably once and for all.

M.D. Nalapat, who heads the department of geopolitics at India's Manipal University, said that India's new government sees that working with China was 90% upside, and should not be undermined by their differences. "Modi is looking at an opportunity, and will not sacrifice it because of the 10 percent threat," Nalapat said in an article written for the Gateway House think-tank.

One of the reasons that Russia-China relations, economic and strategic, have developed significantly in recent years, is because of the landmark deal that was signed on July 21, 2008, officially ending all outstanding territorial disputes between the two countries. Under the agreement, Russia handed over Yinlong Island (known as Tarabarov in Russia) and half of Heixiazi Island (Bolshoi Ussuriysky) at the confluence of the Amur and Ussuri rivers, clearing the way for closer

relations with China. The deal flowed from an initial agreement signed in 2004 by Russian President Vladimir Putin that proposed a 50-50 division of the disputed islands. While Russia returned Yinlong and half of Heixiazi, totaling 174 square kilometers, China gave up its claim to the other half of Heixiazi.

The Sino-India border dispute covers a much larger area, but non-resolution of the dispute will curb both countries' efforts to play an important role globally. This is of particular import now, since both China and India are major players in the BRICS, and India will soon become a full member in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). India has also been invited by China to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in November. After attending the Summit, the Indian premier will visit China, news reports indicate.

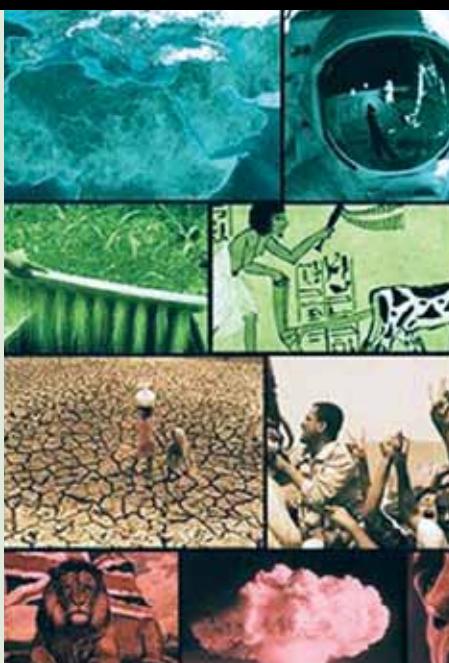
The resolution of the Sino-Indian border dispute will not only remove the domestic political impediments that prevent the respective leaders from formulating broader participation in the region, but will also help solve a number of issues in the financial sector and security areas that continue to undermine stability and development of the region.

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There Is a Sudden Explosion of Optimism

Helga Zepp-LaRouche made this presentation to the “One Belt, One Road” Conference in Beijing, Sept. 5, 2014.

The New Silk Road, as it was proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping one year ago, and as it has developed momentum through the BRICS Summit in July in Brazil, followed by the BRICS-Latin American Heads of State Summit the next day, has already changed the world. As a result of this New Silk Road dynamic, numerous large projects have been agreed upon throughout the world, for example, the second Panama Canal through Nicaragua, a transcontinental railway from Brazil to Peru, and numerous nuclear cooperation agreements among various countries.

There is a sudden explosion of optimism, where countries dare to assert their sovereignty, and start realizing projects which have been on the shelf for decades, but which were discouraged before by the conditionalities of international financial institutions, even coming from countries which are not yet formally part of the BRICS [Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa] or the Silk Road, such as, for example, Egypt, which has unleashed a spectacular program of national economic buildup; or Argentina, which has courageously resisted an attempted assault by the vulture funds.

There is a completely new, culturally optimistic sense of identity of the larger part of mankind, based on the idea that mankind, as the only known creative species, can think and do things it has never done before. There's also the beginning of a new financial architecture, such as the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank, the New Development Bank, and a fund to defend countries against speculative attacks.¹ Chinese experts stress that those new banks are not to replace the IMF, World Bank, or Asian Development Bank, but that they are complementary.

However, if the New Silk Road perspective is to

succeed, several challenges and lessons of the past 23 years must be addressed. When the Soviet Union disintegrated in 1991, and the Iron Curtain between East and West came down, the Schiller Institute proposed the Eurasian Land-Bridge as the idea to connect the population and industrial centers of Europe with those of Asia through development corridors, the Eurasian Land-Bridge/New Silk Road program. We proposed this program, which was actually meant to be a peace order for the 21st Century, to various governments in Eurasia. But unfortunately, the United States government and Great Britain's government decided to go for the NATO expansion, culminating in the present crisis we have over Ukraine with Russia.

The Eurasian Land-Bridge

But then, in 1996, the Chinese government organized a very big conference in Beijing with the title, “The Development of the Regions Along the Eurasian

Zepp-LaRouche Featured at China Silk Road Conference

Sept. 22—A forum on the subject “One Belt, One Road,” held in Beijing Sept. 5, featured the two speakers found in these pages: Helga Zepp-LaRouche and Prof. Bao Shixiu. The event was sponsored by *China Investment* magazine, an arm of the National Development and Reform Commission, the main economic policy planning body under the State Council of the Chinese government.

The first of what is intended to become an annual event, the forum was attended by researchers from many Chinese think-tanks tasked with the mission of developing a program for the Silk Road Economic Belt, and foreign embassies.

Following her nearly two-week visit to China, Zepp-LaRouche, who is known there as the “Silk Road Lady,” reported that she was struck by the widespread optimism among the Chinese people, engendered by the country's rapid economic growth, and its stunning progress in space science, and other scientific/technological advances, which have transformed the country in the years since the end of the Cultural Revolution.

1. The BRICS established a Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), which includes a \$100 billion fund to help nations deal with capital flight and other forms of financial warfare.



Helga Zepp-LaRouche: The New Silk Road will become a World Land-Bridge, uniting and connecting all nations and cultures into one humankind.

Land-Bridge,” with the participation of 34 countries, and I was one of the speakers at that conference. China, at that time, declared building the Eurasian Land-Bridge as the strategic long-term perspective until the year 2010. But instead of proceeding on that path, various crises intervened: There was the Asia financial crisis of ’97, largely the result of speculative attacks by such people as George Soros, which caused the collapse of various Asian currencies. As a consequence, there was the Russian GKO state bankruptcy in ’98, as well as the LTCM, Long Term Capital Management, crisis in ’98. All this blocked the Silk Road policy for the time being.

In 2007, the global financial crisis began in earnest, with the U.S. secondary mortgage market blowing out, and then, the collapse of Lehman Brothers and AIG in September 2008. Now, the trans-Atlantic financial sector is hopelessly bankrupt and is facing a new blowout much worse than 2008. The fact is, that the too-big-to-fail banks are hopelessly bankrupt. As top insiders privately insist, the elephant in the room is the moral hazard: The government bailout simply transformed private gambling debt into public state debt, and encouraged bad behavior of banks, and so, did everything to make a future crisis more likely and more grave.

This led to a significant abandoning of sound banking practice. In the past, central banks would not provide money to do bailouts. If banks could not hold onto their loans, they had to write them off. Now, the distinc-

tion between expected and unexpected losses is gone; banks hold onto their bad debts, and even worse, they continue trading with them! There is no concern for the future consequences of these practices, except the expectation that trading revenues will continue to grow. Normally, one would sell bad assets for reduced amounts, or if they were kept on the books, they would be counted against the bank.

All of this is papered over by the so-called instruments of the toolbox, which led to massive bailouts and quantitative easing by the Fed, and now even the ECB, which lowered its interest rate to almost zero today, to do the same. And as a result, the bubble has grown, the too-big-to-fail banks are 40% larger, and they’re holding more questionable assets, the exposure risk is growing, and they all pretend not to see it.

Institutional experts, like the FDIC vice chairman in the United States, Thomas Hoenig, have warned that if one too-big-to-fail bank blows, the entire system comes down. The total of outstanding derivatives contracts at this point is \$2 quadrillion: *This can never be paid*. The only way to deal with that, is exactly the same way as Franklin D. Roosevelt did it in 1933, in response to the financial crisis then: the Glass-Steagall banking separation law. In the U.S. Congress and in the Senate, there is legislation introduced, supported presently by over 80 Congressmen and 11 Senators, and more than 200 national organizations, to reintroduce the Glass-Steagall legislation. My husband, Mr. Lyndon LaRouche, who is the only economist who has forecast this crisis at every relevant crossroad, proposed four laws which together could remedy the situation.

LaRouche’s Four Laws

First, there must be an immediate reintroduction of Glass-Steagall, the separation of commercial and investment banks.

Secondly, one has to go back to the American System of economy established by the first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, who created a National Bank, where the only power to create credit lies with the sovereign government, and not with private banks.

Third, create a credit system whose credit is generated entirely for future production of the real economy, but it must be based on scientific principles of physical economy and for no other purpose. And that has to be done in every country: Every country needs a national

bank, with the sovereignty to create credit, to finance the projects of the New Silk Road, and for that we need multilateral, long-term credit arrangements among the participating countries of the New Silk Road, over 20, 30, 40, 50 years.

There must be also, fourthly, a science-driver introduced into the economy, leading to higher energy-flux densities in the production process. Today, that means there must be a crash program for the realization of thermonuclear fusion power, as the absolutely necessary next higher level of energy-flux density. This is why the Chinese lunar mission Chang'e-3, Chang'e-4, and Chang'e-5 are of absolutely crucial importance for the future existence of humanity; why the breakthrough of the Yutu rover leading to the landing on the Moon last December, with the intention to mine helium-3 on the Moon for a future fusion economy on the Earth, is absolutely essential to finding a solution to the present crisis.

Thermonuclear fusion power based on helium-3 will not only give mankind energy security for millions of years; helium-3 on the Moon as the basis for fuel, means also raw materials security. The fusion torch technology will turn waste into all kinds of new raw materials through isotope separation, but also the use of helium-3 represents a new scientific revolution, since the fusion reaction product is not a neutron, which is very damaging for the reactor material, but a proton, which means it can be controlled and directed using magnetic fields, and in this way, it can be used for direct energy conversion, which has a 70% efficiency.

This will create a completely new economic platform on Earth, and for space propulsion which will allow 1-gravity constant acceleration, and allow space travel to Mars and other celestial bodies. The mastering of fusion power based on helium-3 will allow the defense of the planet against asteroids, meteorites, comets, Sun storms, and similar things.

Now, what has this to do with the New Silk Road? The New Silk Road means a shift away from geopolitical interests of nations and groups of nations, and focuses on the common aims of mankind. It focuses on the question, *not* what is my advantage in this or that region, but where will mankind be in 100 years from now, or even in 10,000 years from now? The New Silk Road will become a World Land-Bridge, uniting and connecting all nations and cultures into one, one humankind. It will be, as President Xi Jinping said, inclusive for all humanity and it will bring forth the true identity of mankind, as *the* creative species in the universe.

Prof. Bao Shixiu

China's Silk Road: Pathway to a New Human Civilization

Bao Shixiu, Professor (Emeritus) of Military Science, People's Liberation Army (PLA) Academy of Military Science, gave this speech at the conference "One Belt, One Road," held in Beijing on Sept. 5. This transcript is from the simultaneous interpretation from Chinese.

I would like to extend my greetings and my gratitude to Dr. Xiao Jingqiu for inviting me here. At the same time, I have to say that studies concerning the Silk Road are a very big issue, and I'm not the top-notch researcher in this field. So I'd just like to share with you my very shallow thoughts about it, and please feel free to contribute all your insights and criticisms to me.

The topic of my speech is the realization of the new Chinese Dream by the New Silk Road. Two thousand years ago: The ancient Silk Road can be dated to this era, which had started a political and economic dialogue between the East and the West. Many different objects of the arts and of technology have been promoted through the process which has attained great fame, and been transcribed in the annals of history.

Today, in the 21st Century, China is trying to build a New Silk Road. The world economic map is looking forward to some new dynamics and the realization of the new Chinese Dream. How can we make the two things promote each other? And how can we achieve the Chinese Dream? I think these are the challenges that have been put forward to all of us by the director of *China Investment* magazine. So taking into consideration the geopolitical situation, as well as economic conditions, as well as other factors, we do have the necessity of talking about this issue.

This is a long and very dynamic Silk Road. The concept of the New Silk Road was put forward by the Chinese leader in 2013 and now we have had one year full of the development of the dynamics, and I believe that this is a new concept that will make a great contribution to global governance, or the new world order. And it

also concerns the role of China. What role does China want to play in the world?

A New Type of Thinking

I would like to talk about two points. The first is that the concept of the New Silk Road is making a contribution to global governance theory. This concept has reflected the canon of a new global governance theory, and it has provided tangible theoretical support for a new type of world order. Actually, we are looking forward to a new type of thinking mode, when we are dealing with international or global governance.

After the Second World War, we have measured almost a century, and what is the economic situation of today's world with multi-polarization and economic globalization? Countries in the world have become increasingly interconnected and dependent on one another on a daily basis. Many developing countries around the world and billions of people are working towards modernization per se. An era of cooperation, collaboration, and win-win situation is continuing to mount.

However, we still face the problem of development. The world economy has suffered from the financial crisis and stagnation in the process of recovery. There are still many potential risks in the field of international finance, and many macro-regulation organizations in many countries are facing challenges and difficulties. The global financial crisis has reflected the systematic failure of the financial system, as well as challenges and crises such as climate change, food safety, security, and many other issues, which have reflected the fact that today's global governance system still has its weaknesses, and is in need of improvement.

In such an era of great change, we are all waiting for all sorts of upgrades, of positive reforms. So the demand for a new type of concept is very strong at the moment. Therefore, we have the "One Belt and One Road" concept, which has been welcomed and well received by many countries in the world because it is based on

mutual respect, friendly relationships, a win-win situation, and cooperation. Therefore it created a new sort of atmosphere, which reflects the actual interests of the relevant countries, as well as a new dynamic in the global governance of the 21st Century. So this is a very good raw material, so to speak, for the development of the new global governance system.

In the Autumn of 2013, we had some movements from President Xi Jinping's visit to Kazakhstan and to other countries, and I think the core concept of this "One Belt, One Road" is a type of concept in which China is seeking the common interests of many countries, instead of the interests of itself alone. And President Xi Jinping has said that China will enhance its friendly relations with Central and Eastern Asian countries and work together with relevant countries to make contributions to the world. He also believes that as long as we adopt a rule of mutual respect, as well as a cooperative perspective, countries of different cultural backgrounds and ideologies can share prosperity and peace.

While visiting Indonesia, President Xi Jinping came up with the idea that the host and guest countries should become each other's

good neighbors and good partners. And work together to build a China-ASEAN common destiny, actually, the concept of a New Silk Road as regional, innovative economic cooperation, which builds a platform for such cooperation and East-West cultural integration. The development of this new concept will refine the radiance of the Silk Road and make the East Asian and Central Asian economies more integrated than ever and leave a deep influence on the world.

The Role of Helga and Lyndon LaRouche

The new concept of the Silk Road has been given very high praise by many intellectual leaders. And this new concept is trying to absorb new contributions and insights from scholars and from people in academia—actually, many people of great knowledge have made contributions. But I think it is very impor-



EIRNS/Stefan Tolksdorf
Prof. Bao Shixiu: The New Silk Road is the realization of the ancient Chinese dream of a political and economic dialogue between East and West.

tant for us to mention the deans of the Schiller Institute in the United States, Mrs. Helga Zepp-LaRouche, and her husband Lyndon LaRouche.

In order to change the decades-long irrational global governance system, and to make the global governance system and the global order more sound and healthy, the couple, as early as the 1990s, had come up with a new idea about building a tunnel under the Bering Strait, as well as establishing a Eurasian Land-Bridge to connect the world, so that people of all countries and continents can benefit from this new connection. So common prosperity is the basis for a new global governance system.

These two dignitaries, who have been making contributions to the establishment of a new global order and a governance system, have paid special attention to the role of China and Asia in establishing this kind of new order.

Mrs. LaRouche, as early as 1997, published an article about the Eurasian Land-Bridge as the most important geopolitical issue in the world, and has made a great effort in introducing China to the world.²

When, in the Fall of last year, she heard the news of President Xi Jinping's visit in Indonesia and Kazakhstan, she was thrilled. She thought this new idea promoted by President Xi Jinping would actually produce prosperity in this part of the world and improve people's living standards. Now we have a common consensus in the world, which is that the New Silk Road is only the first step of economic integration of the world and the first light in the darkness toward a new human civilization.

Refuting the Critics

The second question is how to support this concept. It is a very important theoretical question for scholars. In the world of academia, it is very important for any idea or concept to be promoted or brought up by dignitaries of very famous names, which is quite normal. However, the problem is that out of the common inter-

2. See: Helga Zepp LaRouche, "Eurasian land-Bridge: A new era for mankind," *EIR*, May 2, 1997; "The cultural basis for a new world economic order," *EIR*, June 27, 1997.



In the Autumn of 2013, President Xi Jinping visited Kazakhstan and Indonesia, to promote the concept, "One Belt/One Road." Here, Xi joins Kazak President Nursultan Nazarbayev in Astana, last September.

est of some political blocs or because of some ideological bias, many people hold a very critical and very arbitrary attitude to this new concept of the Silk Road, which is really hard for us to accept.

All of these theories criticizing the New Silk Road and tarnishing the New Silk Road must be clarified and corrected. The demand for actually supporting this theory is also a very important task for all the scholars in this field in China.

I just have two examples to show you. The first regards some people who wrote an article saying that this new kind of concept is very dangerous, and when the CICA [Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia] conference was initiated in Shanghai this year, people had discussions about why China was having this new policy, and a very famous magazine from Australia, *The Diplomat*, published an article that claimed the view that the New Silk Road is not symbolic, but rather a diplomatic approach by China to establish a new economic and political order in East Asia and in Central Asia, which meant that China was intending to establish a new economic order, instead of fostering friendly and cultural communication and cooperation. And it also illustrated that China would like to become the core of

this type of cooperation so that it could reflect its geopolitical importance.

That article reflected the belief that China's political ambition was to establish a transcontinental FTA [Free Trade Agreement] in trade.

And at that time, there were also many Western think-tanks which held a skeptical attitude toward the concept of the New Silk Road. Actually, there are also some who claim that the New Silk Road is a new form of Monroe Doctrine. The Monroe Doctrine was put forward by the fifth President of the United States, James Monroe, and was a very important symbol of the United States expansion in the world. It was the United States warning the European powers not to interfere in the American continent, namely, into the affairs of Mexico and other Latin American countries. And that the United States would remain neutral in the wars and conflicts happening in Europe, and the United States would always uphold its own interests.

In recent years, with China's increasing flexing of its muscle in terms of safeguarding its own legitimate territorial and maritime rights, many scholars have put forward the idea that China is pursuing a sort of "Monroeism." In 2012, James Holmes, from the United States Naval College, said that China and its South China Sea is just like the United States and the Gulf of Mexico. So he said that China is trying to build a new economic and political order in the region.

Another example is the very famous professor John Mearsheimer, from the University of Chicago, who gave a lecture not long ago, in which he said that if China continues to develop, it will push the United States out of Asia and pursue its own Monroe Doctrine.

And a Japanese scholar said he believed that China is trying to play the role of a regional leader and the leader of all of Asia.

This type of China-threat theory has been accepted by many people who hold a skeptical attitude toward China. But at the CICA conference held in Shanghai this year, President Xi Jinping had made it very clear that the security and peace of Asia should be safeguarded by its own people.

According to the above-mentioned discussion, I think, it is not hard for us to see that those studies based on history and the new Asian diplomatic approach of China have nothing to do with the concept of a Monroe Doctrine, or the East Asia Prosperity Sphere promoted by the fascist Japanese Imperial

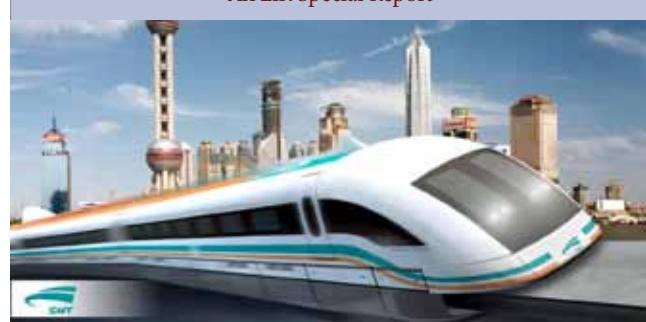
Government. This is not an appropriate approach.

The new concept of the Silk Road of China has nothing to do with those old and absolute concepts. China's approach is based on open and friendly cooperation, and China is focusing on deepening cooperation in terms of security and economic development. China is expecting the benefits of the Silk Road to be shared, so that the prosperity of the entire region can be promoted.

And this is actually far from the concept of Monroeism, which is the United States trying to be the policeman of the American continent, as well as the fascist concept of the East Asia Co-Prosperity Zone promoted by Japan. President Xi Jinping, with his new concept of the Silk Road, represents China's image in the world and China's attitude toward the world.

We think that we should uphold this new concept, and its status in the field of academia, so that we can promote this new concept and safeguard China's legitimate rights, as well as promote a healthy development of the global governance system. Therefore, I say this is a very important theoretical project for all of us to accomplish.

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India Is Ready To Fulfill Its Legacy of Leadership

by Ramtanu Maitra

India, the world's second-most populous nation, with over 1.2 billion people, is well situated to play a crucial role, in combination with fellow BRICS giants China and Russia, in carrying out the transformation of the world economy toward one of cooperation for dramatic scientific and industrial progress. While in urgent need of major modernization of its physical infrastructure—transport, power, and water, in particular—India, in the years since its independence in 1947, has developed in-depth capabilities in science, engineering, and agriculture, which will allow it to undergo a qualitative leap, once the political decision is made to do so.

Once a proud leader of the Non-Aligned Movement, India has had the benefit of two extraordinary prime ministers, who had global vision and paved the way for the current opportunity. The first was Jawaharlal Nehru, the newly liberated nation's first prime minister, who established India's strong scientific and industrial foundation. The second was his daughter Indira Gandhi, who led a global battle of developing nations for a new, just world economic order in the 1970s and early 1980s, demanding technology transfer and justice for the poorer nations of the planet. Mrs. Gandhi additionally made the indispensable contribution of promoting the agricultural revolution that made India self-sufficient in food.

Since Mrs. Gandhi's assassination in 1984, India has generally played a lesser global role, and found itself faced with the increasingly dilapidated infrastructure now crippling its progress. But now, after ten years of insipid and self-confining economic policies led by IMF-World Bank-trained economists, India has a new leader, Narendra Modi. Modi, unlike his immediate predecessors, drew the electorate's attention during the 2014 parliamentary elections by promising large-scale infrastructure development in the coming years, to set the stage for future rapid progress in the industrial,

manufacturing, and agricultural sectors, and thus to create millions of productive jobs for India's youth. He adjusted the pitch of his campaign to meet the expressed aspirations of hundreds of millions of young people who want to be part of the nation-building process, to unfold a brighter future for themselves and future generations. Having succeeded in conveying to the youth what he wants to undertake, Modi won the national elections in May 2014 with a large plurality, and has thus been entrusted with the task of delivering on his promises.

Modi, like many other Indians, realizes that the task is not going to be an easy one. The damage to the economy wrought by earlier administrations has created a deep rot within Indian institutions through which these tasks need to be carried out. In addition, the global economic downturn since 2008 has bankrupted potential investors from Europe and Japan. What is in Modi's favor, is 1) India's solid economic foundation, which was laid soon after it broke away from the British colonial grip and became an independent nation, and 2) the solidarity Modi shares with the BRICS nations [Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa], which are fighting to break free of the monetarist stranglehold.

Nehru's Contribution

Soon after India became independent, India's Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru did a few key things right. One of those was laying a strong foundation, geared towards adopting frontier science and technology, to build up the country's industrial and manufacturing base. Nehru understood the need to build India's physical economy and how important a role infrastructure plays in forging a highly productive economy. At the outset, Nehru realized that to provide a future for the multitude of present and future Indians, the nation must move away from the British-organized coolie-labor-based economy.



U.S. Embassy New Delhi

Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister, with U.S. President John F. Kennedy in Washington, 1961. Nehru did much to pave the way for India's scientific and technological progress, and its potential today.

With the help of a few brilliant and nationalist scientists, among whom Dr. Homi Bhabha and Prof. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar stand out as the two best-known, Nehru began to lay the foundation for Indian science in general, and nuclear research in particular. While the fundamental research on nuclear science had already been started by Dr. Bhabha in 1945, in 1954, India set up the Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay (AEET) with the intent to evolve a self-sufficient atomic energy program and to make the nation, eventually, power-independent. (The AEET was renamed the Bhabha Atomic Research Center in 1967, following Dr. Bhabha's mysterious death in 1966 on his way to an IAEA meeting in Vienna.)

In the late 1950s, Dr. Bhabha had laid out a three-stage atomic program, which has been pursued diligently since. India's atomic energy establishment is presently on the verge of entering the second stage, which features the use of breeder reactors. The third stage will be based entirely on the nation's vast reserves of thorium as fuel. An experimental and indigenously developed 300-MW thorium-fueled nuclear power reactor is scheduled for commissioning in March 2015 at

the Kalpakkam nuclear plant complex in southern India.

For a number of reasons, India's atomic energy establishment has so far contributed only minimally to meeting India's huge power requirements. These reasons unfortunately include a concerted, decades-long effort by the developed countries to prevent India from importing nuclear-related equipment or material, and the inability of the Indian leaders, particularly those who were at the helm during the last three decades, to grasp the importance of Dr. Bhabha's vision. But decades of extensive research and development work by India's nuclear scientists

have put India at the forefront in many aspects of atomic science, with manpower to match, and the country is now at the threshold of utilizing this infinite power source. It is the success of India's atomic sector in the coming years that will be the base upon which its vast industrial and manufacturing sector is established. It is now up to Prime Minister Modi to seize the hour.

India's promises to build an agro-industrial nation based on science and technology began with the Scientific Policy Resolution of 1958, which has come to be considered as a sort of Magna Carta for science and technology in India. The Resolution laid out New Delhi's commitment to the advancement of science. It said the key to national prosperity lies in industrialization, involving the combined roles of technology, raw materials, and capital, pointing out that "technology can only grow out of the study of science and its application." Taking note of the accelerated pace of the development of science in the 20th Century, the Resolution said that "it is an inherent obligation of a great country like India, with its traditions of scholarship and original thinking and its great cultural heritage, to participate fully in the march of science, which is probably man-



NASA/Wikimedia Commons

The Insat 1B is part of the Indian National Satellite System, a series of geostationary satellites commissioned in 1983. INSAT is now the largest domestic communication system in the Asia-Pacific region.

kind's greatest enterprise today."

The next step for developing the science sector was the establishment of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in 1969. Despite the country's financial and infrastructural weaknesses, India's space program is a huge success, ushering in a whole new set of technologies, materials for industrial use, spin-offs that range from polyurethane prosthetics to automatic weather stations, pressure transducers, and hundreds of other products. It has also created a brigade of scientists and technicians who are at the front line of space technology.

ISRO's first satellite, Aryabhata, was launched by the Soviet Union in 1975. Rohini, the first satellite to be placed in orbit by an Indian-made launch vehicle (the Satellite Launch Vehicle 3) was launched in 1980. ISRO subsequently developed two other rockets: the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) for putting satellites into polar orbit, and the Geostationary Space

Launch Vehicle (GSLV) for placing satellites into geostationary orbit. These rockets have launched communications satellites, Earth-observation satellites, and, in 2008, Chandrayaan-1, India's first mission to the Moon. On Nov 14, 2008, the Moon Impact Probe separated from the Chandrayaan-1 orbiter and struck the Moon's South Pole in a controlled manner, making India the fourth country to place its flag on the lunar surface. The probe impacted near the crater Shackleton, ejecting underground soil that could then be analyzed for the presence of ice (water).

India's first interplanetary probe has completed 300 days of its mission. The Mars Orbiter Spacecraft, which was launched on Nov. 5, 2013, was designed to orbit Mars in an elliptical orbit. ISRO plans to put two astronauts into Earth orbit in 2015.

It is expected that India's space program will receive strong support from the present administration, since Prime Minister Modi is a fervent backer and has suggested putting up satellites for the use of India's South Asian neighbors. Moreover,

India's rockets have become the backbone of the military's defensive and offensive weapons systems.

India also has a significant nuclear fusion program. It began in 1989 at the Institute for Plasma Research in Gandhinagar, when India's first tokamak, called ADITYA, was commissioned. It was designed and mainly fabricated domestically, and has been upgraded several times. Currently, scientists are moving to the next phase, which is to build and operate the Steady State Tokamak, which will use superconducting magnets to produce a 3 Tesla magnetic field, and set the stage for commercial development of fusion.

Meanwhile, India is producing nine large components for the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), amounting to almost a tenth of the project. The biggest of these is the cryostat, a 3,800-ton pressure chamber the size of a 10-story building, which will have to be shipped in pieces to ITER's site in France.

Mrs. Gandhi Defeats Famine

These are credible successes, made despite India's failure to build adequate infrastructure by keeping its focus on the maximization of energy-flux density. As a result of that failure, India has had a massive shortage in power generation, and the country was unable to manage the vast amount of water during the 13 weeks of monsoon that visits India every year, to inundate rivers, and flood cities and plains on its way to the sea. This failure gave rise to a famine-like situation in the mid-1960s.

Under the tutelage of Indira Gandhi and two plant breeders—Norman Borlaug with wheat and M.S. Swaminathan with rice—the national government set up the logistics to encourage the planting of higher-yield varieties. Within a span of two decades, India, adopting high-yield variety seeds and fertilizers, using some irrigation and a large amount of groundwater, was transformed from a food-short nation to a food-surplus nation. This was enormously important for the country's political independence, and that commitment continues to be shown today by India's refusal to kowtow to the World Trade Organization on the question of its Food Security program. That single developmental surge focused on the agricultural sector allowed India to get set for speedy progress.

That, however, did not happen. India's agricultural sector, neglected for almost two decades now, is still far from achieving its potential. Failing to divert rivers with surplus water to water-short rivers during the last four decades has kept India's agricultural productivity way below that of Japan, China, or South Korea, to name a few, and its agricultural production remains highly dependent on the strength and timely arrival of the monsoon rains.

Heavy Engineering Powerhouse

Notwithstanding the developmental shortfalls, anchored on its weak and dilapidated infrastructure, India



*Prime Minister
Indira Gandhi*

FIGURE 1
India



is in a position to advance rapidly in the agro-industrial sector. Its heavy engineering capabilities, the foundations of which were laid in the 1950s, as well as its technological capabilities and food self-sufficiency, make it ready to move rapidly forward.

For instance, India's heavy engineering capabilities are exhibited in its ability to manufacture its coal-fired power plant equipment. The country has built almost 3,200 large and medium-sized dams since independence, and manufactured the nuclear reactor core vessel of the pressurized heavy water and fast breeder reactors, made from stainless steel. It is also prepared to produce component modules for Westinghouse AP1000 reactors, and to cooperate with Russia's Atomstroyexport in building components for the next four VVER reactors at Kudankulam in the state of Tamil Nadu. India has also signed an agreement with GE Hitachi to construct complete nuclear power plants, including the supply of reactor equipment and systems, valves, and electrical and instrumentation products for the advanced boiling water reactors (ABWR)—a Generation III reactor.

India's Bharat Forge Ltd (BFL), a multinational company which claims to be among the largest and most technologically advanced manufacturers of forged

and machined components, is said to be the world's second-largest forging company, and is extending its activities into the power sector. In 2008, it formed a joint venture with Alstom—a French-based multinational company—primarily for manufacturing state-of-the-art supercritical power plant equipment in India, though the enterprise may extend to nuclear applications. In January 2009, it signed a memorandum of understanding with France's nuclear company Areva for a joint venture in casting and forging nuclear components for both export and the domestic market.

These capabilities did not emerge in a vacuum. India had long ago begun to develop its machine-tool industry. There are about 450 manufacturers that make complete machines or their components. There are 150 units in the organized sector (manufacturerers that are registered with state governments, and therefore regulated). Almost 73% of the total machine-tool production in India is contributed by 10 large companies. The industry employs a workforce directly or indirectly totaling 65,000 skilled and unskilled persons. Similar insufficient, but growing, strength is reflected in the shipbuilding and defense sectors. India has 37 shipyards, four of the major ones are in the public sector, and have a maximum capability to build 50,000 deadweight tonnage (DWT) ships.

In the defense sector, the Indian Navy plans to expand to a fleet of 150 ships in the next 10-15 years, with 50 warships now under construction and 100 vessels in the acquisition pipeline.

Infrastructure Needs

As we have indicated, the blockage to full development based on this solid foundation is the lack of modern infrastructure in water, power, and transportation—infrastructure that would not only enhance the national economy, but permit an efficient linkup with both the New Silk Road and the Maritime Silk Road.

FIGURE 2
The Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna Basins



Wikimedia Commons

Indeed, *EIR* pointed out more than three decades ago, in its report *India: An Agro-Industrial Superpower in 2020*, that modernizing infrastructure was the single most critical ingredient for allowing India to fill the gaps in its economy.

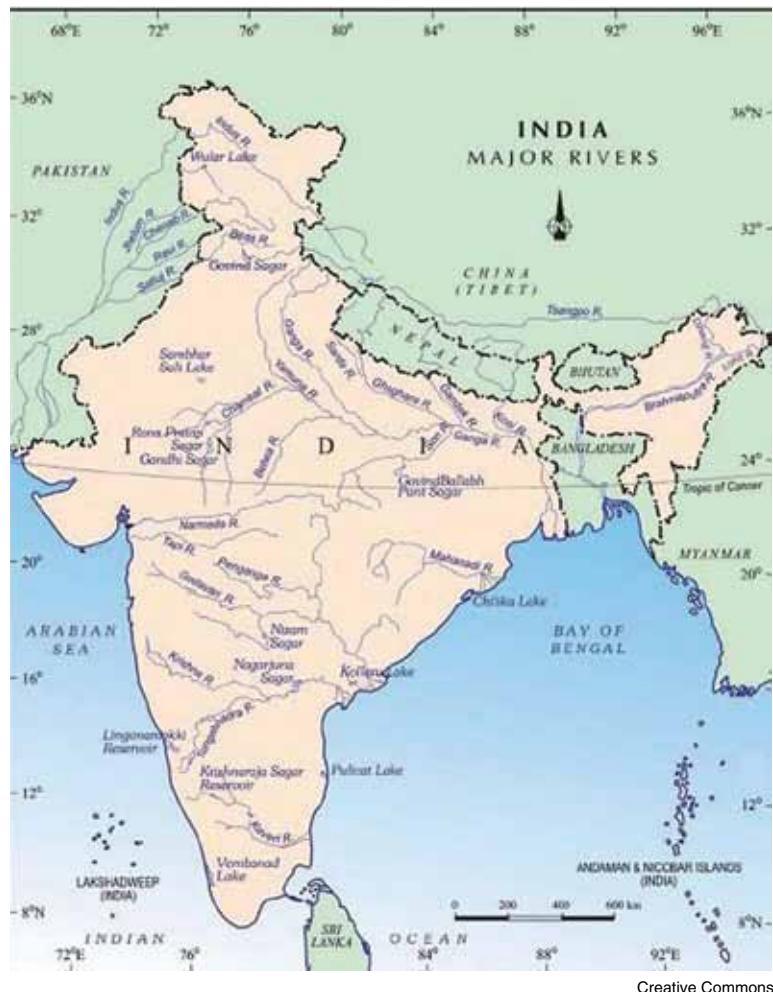
The following are the major development corridors that *EIR* has identified as crucial for India's rapid development, and integration with the region's development perspective:

1. A northeast economic corridor, which will consist of a high-speed rail link from the Myanmar border through Dangari (India) and Tamu (India) in the central part of India's border with Myanmar, to the port of Kolkata in the southwest and Patna in the east. India is in the process of building the Jiribam-Imphal-Moreh line in the east Indian state of Manipur and the Tamu-Kalay-Segyi line in Myanmar. The northeast transport corridor needs to be linked to the Jiribam-Imphal-Moreh line.

The economic corridor, which will be supplanted with the Kunming-Kolkata Highway, will broaden a segment of the Silk Road, linking Yunnan to Kolkata, an essential element in the development of the area.

Water will be available aplenty from the Brahmaputra River Basin (**Figure 2**). What the area needs beside a transport corridor is nuclear power. A number of nuclear power plants in clusters need to be set up to supply agro-industrial complexes and centers of primary, sec-

FIGURE 3



shortages and will require reviving the old Peninsular River linking plan.

4. In order to make these economic corridors fruitful, long-distance transfer of water from water-surplus basins to water-short basins will be needed. India has two sets of rivers (**Figure 3**). The Himalayan rivers originate in the mountains and flow through the Northern Plains, e.g., the Ganga, the Yamuna, and their tributaries. The second category of rivers is known as Peninsular Rivers, which originate in the Western Ghats mountains. They have a large seasonal fluctuation in volume as they are solely fed from rainfall. These rivers flow through valleys with steep gradients. Major rivers of the Peninsula, such as the Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, and Cauvery, flow eastward on the plateau, and drain into Bay of Bengal. The Narmada and Tapi rivers flow eastward. The Narmada rises in the Amarkantak plateau in the state of Madhya Pradesh and enters the Gulf of Cambay in the Arabian Sea.

The interlinking of the Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Cauvery rivers is one of the four parts of the Peninsular River Development Plan. Among the peninsular rivers, the Mahanadi and Godavari have sizeable surpluses after meeting immediate and known future requirements. It is therefore necessary to transfer surplus Mahanadi-Godavari water to the water-short Krishna, the Pennar, and the Cauvery. But the canal system that will carry the water from one basin to another may not meet the overall requirements of these two economic corridors.

Since these economic corridors are not at a great distance from India's east coast, desalination will have to fill the deficit. It could produce a reliable supply of freshwater. India has begun looking at the use of nuclear power for desalination of seawater. A desalination demonstration plant at Kalpakkam, using nuclear waste heat for the multi-stage flash process that produces 4,500 cubic meters per day, has already been set up. These plants can be scaled up 10 times from the present configuration without any difficulty, according to one expert. Two methods of desalination—reverse osmosis and multi-stage flash—have been demonstrated at the Bhabha Atomic Research Center.

ondary, and higher education, health-care facilities with research capabilities, and heavy-engineering manufacturing centers.

2. A Kolkata-Delhi high-speed transport corridor and an economic corridor. This is under discussion with Japan, which has already begun work on the Delhi-Mumbai high-speed (bullet train) transport corridor, and New Delhi has begun acquiring land (50 miles wide on either side of the corridor) to establish the Delhi-Mumbai economic corridor. A similar swath of land will be required for the 900-km Kolkata-Delhi economic corridor.

3. India will need two more high-speed transport and economic corridors, from Kolkata to Hyderabad, and from Hyderabad to Chennai. Along these corridors, plants supplying 15-20,000 MW of nuclear power have to be built. Both these corridors will encounter water

BRICS Initiatives 2014—Fulcrum For Planetary Development

Sept. 20—The 6th annual conference of the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), July 14-16 in Fortaleza, Brazil, and on July 16, joined by the Union of South American Nations (Unasur) in Brasilia, was the occasion for announcing a battery of infrastructure projects and new credit measures, which constitute a fulcrum for lifting the entire planet onto a new trajectory of development. All told, they amount to a process of consolidation of a New World Economic Order.

The conference itself issued a 72-point Fortaleza Declaration, containing specifics on financing, and concrete programs of collaboration. In addition, institutional, bilateral, and multilateral meetings took place before, alongside, and after the Fortaleza and Brasilia events, and are ongoing as of Fall 2014, along the same course of intention.

The following are leading announcements in this explosive process, through mid-September 2014.

Credit for Development

BRICS New Development Bank and Contingent Reserve Arrangement: The Fortaleza Declaration includes the historic announcement that the BRICS nations agreed to form the New Development Bank (NDB) to fund infrastructure and other development projects in BRICS and other developing economies. The bank is to be headquartered in Shanghai, China, with the first (rotating) six-year presidency held by India. The NDB will have an initial authorized capital of \$100 billion, with an initial subscribed capital of \$50 billion, equally shared among founding members.

The Fortaleza Declaration calls for “an international financial architecture that is more conducive to overcoming development challenges.” It also announced the establishment of the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), with an initial size of \$100 billion, to “help countries forestall short-term liquidity pressures.” It is intended, furthermore, to strengthen the global financial safety net and complement existing international arrangements.

China-CELAC Cooperation to Fund Infrastructure Development: The July 17 meeting of heads of state and special representatives of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) with Chinese President Xi Jinping, discussed deepening their relations on the basis of “equality and mutual benefit, reciprocal cooperation and common development.” The Presidents of Brazil and China, current members of CELAC’s leadership Quartet (Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, and Antigua and Barbuda), and representatives of all of the rest of South America attended. They agreed to found a China-Latin American-Caribbean Forum, with a mandate to draw up a 2015-19 Chinese-Latin American-Caribbean Cooperation Plan.

President Xi proposed three mechanisms to fund projects: a specific fund to finance infrastructure projects, to start at \$10 billion and rise to \$20 billion, scheduled to become operational by 2015; a preferential credit line for CELAC, from a Chinese bank, which could be as large as \$10 billion; and a Sino-Latin American-Caribbean Cooperation Fund of \$5 billion for investment in areas as yet to be defined.

The Declaration’s formulation on these funds and projects marked a radical departure from IMF/World Bank conditionalities.

BRICS Energy Association: On July 15, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced in Brasilia plans to establish a BRICS “energy association,” which will include a nuclear fuel reserve bank, and an energy policy institute.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank: A national initiative of China, the AIIB was first announced by President Xi in October of 2013. Beginning in the Spring of 2014, China began to circulate a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among potential members. Its initial capitalization is expected to be \$100 billion, of which 50% will be provided by China. Chinese officials have made it clear that the bank is open to countries outside Asia, as well as in the Pacific region.

Mongolia, Singapore, and Thailand have already signalled their intention to join.

FIGURE 1
The Nicaragua Canal



On July 9, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced the route of the Great Inter-Oceanic Canal, to be constructed with Chinese help. The canal will connect the Pacific and Caribbean, and will become a focal point of development for the entire Central American-Caribbean Basin.

A June 29 wire by the official Chinese news agency Xinhua, entitled “Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to Bridge Financing Gap,” laid out the goals of the AIIB as follows:

“The proposed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank will provide a new financing channel for developing nations in the Asia-Pacific region, an official said Sunday.

“Funds from the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank are far from satisfying the appetite for new infrastructure, Jin Liqun, head of the bank’s preparatory group under China’s Ministry of Finance, said at a forum.

“The bank will provide a new financing channel for developing nations, especially low-income ones, Jin said.

“In October 2013 during a visit to Indonesia, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed an Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to promote integration.

“China has held three rounds of talks with interested Asian countries, and a memo on setting up the bank is

due to be signed this Autumn.

“‘We have confidence that we can build a bank up to high international standards, and will do our best in project evaluation, environment protection, local culture conservation, promoting continuous economic growth and improving people’s livelihood,’ Jin said.”

South and Central America

Nicaragua Canal: On July 9, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced the route of the Great Inter-Oceanic Canal, being done with China. The canal will connect the Pacific and Caribbean, and will become a focal point of development for the entire Central American-Caribbean Basin. Top Chinese water-management, rail, aviation, and port design companies are partners in the project, headed by the private Chinese company HKND. Two seaports, an airport, an artificial lake, a cement plant, and a steel plant are to be built as part of the project, in which Russian officials have also expressed interest in

participating.

The Changjiang Institute of Survey, Planning, Design and Research, which designed China’s Three Gorges Dam, is responsible for designing the canal route proper. China Railway Siyuan Survey and Design Group is HKND’s lead design contractor for the project, as well as being in charge of the road sub-project design; Civil Aviation Engineering Consulting Company of China has responsibility for the design of the airport sub-project; and CCCC Second Harbor Consultants has responsibility for the design of the ports sub-project.

Peru-Brazil Transcontinental Railroad: On July 17, China, Brazil, and Peru agreed to initiate feasibility studies on the construction of a transcontinental rail line linking Brazil’s Atlantic Coast with Peru’s Pacific Coast. Technical teams are to carry out on-site surveys, and each country is to specify the approaches, resources available, and a time frame for the project.

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff reported that she and President Xi had paid special attention to Chi-

na's opportunity to bid on the construction of a stretch inside Brazil of "the Brazil-Peru Transoceanic Railroad, which is fundamental to South American integration and an outlet for Brazilian exports to Asia." This Lucas do Rio Verde-Mato Grosso-Campinorte-Goais rail stretch of the trans-oceanic route is also specifically cited in the joint declaration as one of the projects for which state and private sector investors of both countries should be encouraged to participate.

Bolivia has also asked China for help in developing the Bolivian portion of an alternative transcontinental rail route Brazil-Bolivia-Peru, President Evo Morales reported on Aug. 6.

Russia-Nicaragua Cooperation: During a brief, unscheduled July 11 visit to Nicaragua, President Putin discussed Russia's supply of agricultural equipment to the country, and the creation there of a maintenance base for that equipment; the possible delivery of grain from Russia, which Putin promised to consider as soon as possible; installation of the Russian GLONASS system (space-based navigation à la GPS) on Nicaraguan territory; and cooperation in other areas such as pharmacology and anti-drug law enforcement.

Russia-Cuba Cooperation: On July 11, Putin signed ten agreements with the Cuban government, including one for modernization of the port of Mariel to create a major transportation hub, and construction of a state-of-the-art airport with a cargo terminal. Inter RAO UES will build four power units at the Máximo Gómez and East Havana thermal power plants, in a project worth EU1.2 billion. An agreement was signed between Russian oil firms Rosneft and Zarubezhneft and the Cuban oil firm Cupet for exploration of off-shore oil deposits (Block 37), which possess an estimated 4-9 billion barrels of oil, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, and as many as 20 billion (Cupet's estimate). The Zarubezhneft oil firm is actively involved in developing Boca de Jaruco field.

China-Cuba Cooperation: Twenty-nine agreements for energy, transportation, science, agriculture, telecommunications, and infrastructure development signed between Cuban and Chinese officials, during



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During his July 12 state visit to Argentina, President Putin signed energy, aerospace, agriculture, communications, and military cooperation agreements with President Cristina Fernández. The two are shown here toasting the new agreements.

President Xi's visit to the island. Key among these was the credit line for construction of a multi-purpose terminal at the port of Santiago de Cuba; a framework agreement for participation by the Chinese National Oil Company in development of the Seboruco oil deposit, and an MoU signed by both nations' Industry Ministries for developing Cuba's industrial sector.

Russia-Bolivia Nuclear, Infrastructure Development Cooperation: On July 16, President Putin offered to cooperate with Bolivia for the development of a "comprehensive nuclear energy program" for peaceful purposes. This includes technology transfer and permanent training of Bolivian personnel at various stages of the program. Russia will also help build hydroelectric and thermoelectric plants, and executives from Russian firms will be visiting Bolivia very soon to discuss this. Representatives from Russia's Rosneft oil firm will visit Bolivia to discuss investment in Bolivian oil projects.

China-Bolivia Satellite Cooperation: On July 16, President Xi offered assistance to President Morales in building Bolivia's second satellite. China's Great Wall Industry Corporation built Bolivia's first satellite, Tupac Katari, which was launched from China in December of 2013.

Argentina-Russia Infrastructure, Trade and Nuclear Cooperation: During his July 12 state visit to Argentina, President Putin signed energy, aerospace, agri-

culture, communications and military cooperation agreements with President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner. The nuclear agency Rosatom and Federal Planning Ministry signed broad-ranging nuclear energy agreement calling for design, construction, operation, and decommissioning of nuclear power plants and research reactors, as well as “water desalination facilities.” Rosatom has submitted a technical and commercial proposal to participate in the construction of the Atucha-III nuclear plant, and is expected to offer a commercial tender in Fall 2014.

Brazil-Russia Trade, Military, Nuclear Cooperation: In a July 14 meeting in Brasilia, Presidents Putin and Rousseff signed an agreement to work toward nearly doubling trade between their two countries, to \$10 billion a year. The seven bilateral agreements include an anti-air defense system, under which Brazilian military will participate with Russian military in the use of Russia’s Pantsir-S1 surface-to-air defense system, which the Brazilians are interested in purchasing) and an agreement to expand facilities for Russia’s GLONASS satellite navigation system in Brazil.

On July 15, Russian nuclear representative Dzhomart Aliyev and Brazilian company Camargo Corrêa signed an MoU to expand bilateral cooperation in nuclear power. A spent-fuel storage facility, the construction of engineering and other technical facilities at Brazil’s Angra operating nuclear power plant site, and a “partnership” in the construction of new nuclear plants in Brazil, are included in the MoU.

Brazil-China Infrastructure Development, Scientific and Military Cooperation: In a July 17 meeting, Presidents Xi and Rousseff consolidated a “truly strategic partnership,” signing several bilateral agreements, among them projects for the construction and financing of infrastructure inside Brazil, deepening their space cooperation, including joint satellite work with Africa, the sale of Brazilian jets to China, intensified scientific and educational exchanges, and Chinese construction of Brazil’s Rio Tapajos hydroelectric project.

They plan to move ahead with their China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellite (CBERS) program, adding a new satellite, and considering more in the future. The two nations have launched a series of four Earth remote sensing satellites, with Brazil building the spacecraft and China providing the launch vehicle.

Argentina-China Infrastructure Development, Nuclear Cooperation: During his July 18-21 visit to

Argentina, President Xi signed an agreement with President Fernández for a “Comprehensive Strategic Association” between the two nations. Nineteen agreements were signed in the areas of nuclear energy, infrastructure, communications, transportation, and agriculture; they included \$4.7 billion in financing for the Néstor Kirchner-Jorge Cepernic hydroelectric complex in Santa Cruz; \$2.5 billion credit for renovation of the Belgrano Cargas railroad; an \$11 billion currency swap agreement between the two central banks. On Sept. 2, in Beijing, the head of China’s National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) and the head of Argentina’s Nucleoeléctrica Argentina, SA signed a \$2 billion agreement by which China will provide preferential financing for Argentina’s fourth nuclear reactor, the 760-MW Atucha III.

Venezuela-China Economic, Energy, Infrastructure Cooperation: During President Xi’s July 22 visit to Caracas, the meeting of the 13th High-Level Mixed Commission in Caracas signed 38 bilateral accords in the context of the “comprehensive strategic alliance” between the two countries. Agreements involved oil exploration, agriculture, investment in industry, science, and technology to assist the “socio-economic development of both nations.” China also signed an agreement to deliver a second VRSS Earth remote-sensing satellite to Venezuela, the first having been delivered in 2012.

China-Mexico Nayarit Port and Rail: On Sept. 5, César Duarte, Governor of Chihuahua, Mexico, announced that the Development Bank of China will provide \$1 billion to finance the Nayarit-Chihuahua-New Mexico rail project, with construction to start by the end of 2014. This rail line is part of what is termed Mexico’s “Economic Corridor of the North,” and features construction of Puerto Nayarit, which, when completed in some three years, will be the largest deepwater port in Ibero-America. The Nayarit government expects that the cornerstone for what they term “the first project of the Mexico-China Alliance,” will be personally laid this Winter by China’s President Xi and Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto. These leaders signed a Comprehensive Strategic Alliance in 2013.

Eurasia

China-India Joint Economic Projects: During the Sept. 17-20 China state visit to India, President Xi and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded more than 10 significant economic deals, as well as pledging



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On July 18, Russian, North Korean, and South Korean officials opened the state-of-the-art Rajin Port at Rason City, North Korea; built by Russia, it connects to the recently completed rail line from Rajin to Russia. Shown is the construction site in October 2012.

to settle long-standing border disputes. Among the projects is collaboration in nuclear science, particularly in developing thorium-fueled nuclear reactors. India plans a 300-MW thorium prototype by 2016, to then scale up. China is working on a pebble-bed solid fuel 100-MW demonstrator reactor by 2024, for full deployment by 2035. A second reactor, based on thorium fuel mixed with molten salt, would come later.

Commitments were signed for a faster railroad between Musore City and Chennai via Bengaluru; allowing into China more of India's pharmaceuticals; and other initiatives. Talks took place on the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar trade corridor, which would link the Indian port of Kolkata with Kunming, Yunnan's capital.

Overall, discussion took place on jointly building the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, announced in 2013 by President Xi.

Russia-North Korea-South Korea Development Project: On July 18, Russian, North Korean, and South Korean officials opened the port of Rajin, a state-of-the-art port, built by Russia, connecting to the recently completed rail line from Rajin, North Korea to Russia.

Russia-China Nuclear Cooperation: On July 28, the export branch of Russia's Rosatom nuclear company, Rosatom Overseas, signed an MoU with China, to bring the two nations closer to the joint development of floating nuclear power plant (FNPP) technology. This continues ongoing discussions, which began in late 2011. Russia is moving toward completion of the

first of what will be a fleet of small, marine nuclear energy reactors to be placed on barges for civilian power and desalination. Six of these FNPP units are part of the Russia-India talks. Rosatom Overseas chief executive Dzhomart Aliev said that these small reactors can provide "a reliable power supply, not only to remote settlements but also to large industrial facilities such as oil platforms."

Russia-China Siberian Gas Lines: On Sept. 1, Presidents Putin and Xi attended a ceremony outside Yakutsk, Russia, launching construction on the first section (the China-Russia East Route) of a 4,000-km pipeline, the "Power of Siberia." This mega-project deal was signed during the Putin-Xi summit on May 21. On Sept. 17, Russia announced that a new China-Russia West Route gas pipeline deal, to provide a 30-year gas supply to China, will be signed in November.

Moscow-Kazan High-Speed Rail Project: Russian Railways on July 31 announced that negotiations are underway with Chinese investment and construction companies about a partnership to construct a high-speed rail line between Moscow and Kazan.

Among potential partners in the project are the China Investment Corp., which, in addition to participating in the Moscow-Kazan high-speed rail project, is considering participating in the project to build the Eurasian High-Speed Corridor Russia (Moscow)-China (Beijing) as a whole. Talks have also been held with representatives of China's construction and engineering company CREC on cooperation between CREC and High-Speed Railways, including high-speed rail-

way projects in Russia, the strategic perspectives for high-speed railways, and the Chinese experience with the Lanzhou-Urumqi High-Speed Railway.

The Chinese partners of High-Speed Railways expressed their interest not only in participating in the project as construction contractors, but also in setting up a consortium for the project and investing funds in High-Speed Railway 2, Moscow-Kazan.

India To Receive High-Speed Trains from Japan: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sept. 1 signed an agreement with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo, whereby India will receive Japanese financial, technical, and operational support to introduce Bullet trains. Abe also pledged that Japan would invest \$35 billion during the next five years, doubling its investments in both India's private and public sectors. The two countries will accelerate talks on the possible sale of an amphibious aircraft to India's navy. They reaffirmed the importance of defense relations in their strategic partnership.

India-Nepal Hydro-Power Accord: On Sept. 19, India and Nepal signed an agreement for Indian infrastructure builder GMR to construct a 900-MW hydro-power project on Nepal's Karnali River. Electricity generation is projected to start in 2021, to the great benefit of both nations. This accord ends years of contention over hydro-development. Nepal has a potential of 40,000 MW of hydropower, of which less than 500 MW has been developed. This breakthrough agreement came soon after Modi's visit Aug. 3-4 to Nepal, where he pledged commitment to an "HIT" plan for Nepal, comprising highways, information-ways and transways. For the new dam, Nepal will get a 27% share of equity to begin with, then complete ownership of the project in 25 years after the plant begins generating power. Nepal will get 12% of the power free of cost, with the remainder exported to India, and possibly to Bangladesh.

Russia Supports India and Pakistan Membership in Shanghai Cooperation Organization: The SCO intends to make India and Pakistan full members at its summit next year, Kremlin spokesperson Yuri Ushakov announced on Sept. 12. The summit will be held in the Russian city of Ufa on July 9-10, 2015, along with the 7th BRICS Summit, and Russia will chair both meetings. Russian President Putin said that "the priorities of our chairmanship include enhancing the role of the organization as an efficient mechanism of regional security, launching major multilateral and humanitar-

ian ties, and developing joint approaches to pressing and global issues."

South and Southeast Asia

China-ASEAN meeting in Myanmar: On Aug. 10, the ASEAN foreign ministers met in Myanmar, along with representatives of China, India, Russia, the U.S., the EU, Japan, South Korea, and Australia. As reported in the *Daily Times* of Pakistan, China and ASEAN (Brunei, Thailand, Singapore, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Myanmar) reached an agreement to deepen their strategic partnership, including joint work on China's 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, and projects around the Mekong River development area. China also welcomed all 10 ASEAN nations to join in the AIIB as founding members. Thailand has already accepted that invitation.

The ASEAN nations, which have been prime targets of the Anglo-American attempts to turn the region against China, refused to even consider U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's proposed language calling for a freeze on "provocative acts" in their communiqué—a transparent reference to China. Foreign Minister Wang Yi underlined China's willingness to resolve disputes through negotiations with the countries involved, along the lines of the Declaration of Conduct already established in the region.

Maritime Silk Road—China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning: The 11th annual CAEXPO (China-ASEAN Expo) Sept. 16-19 was held in Nanning, the capital of Guangxi Province, on the theme, "Jointly Building the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road," with 4,600 exhibitors. Of these, 1,259 were from the 10 ASEAN countries, for which trade with China is expanding at a rate of 10% a year.

New Southeast Asia Large Dam—Salween River: On Sept. 16, China's Three Gorges Dam Corporation signed a contract with Myanmar's IGE Company to build Southeast Asia's largest dam, on the Thanlwin (Salween) River.

BRICS Young Scientists Forum: Indian Prime Minister Modi proposed such a forum during his July 15 speech in Fortaleza. The BRICS should go beyond "being summit-centric," he proposed; the youth of the BRICS nations should take a lead in expanding people-to-people contact. The Forum would set up schools "to offer language training in each of our languages," exploring the creation of a BRICS University.

China-Singapore Economic Corridor: The first think-tank summit for this project took place Sept. 12. Mayors of cities along the route reached a consensus on the initiative at their meeting which took place alongside sessions on related aspects of the New Maritime Silk Road, held at the China-ASEAN Expo annual meeting, this year in China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, a gateway to Southeast Asia.

The concept is that the rail, highway, and development corridor starts from Nanning and Kunming in China, going south through the Indochina peninsula, connecting China, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore. Thailand and China have approved the construction of rail lines connecting Bangkok to the north/northeast of Thailand, part of the larger China-Singapore Corridor. China is in negotiations with Laos to construct the Laotian portion of that plan.

Africa

Russia-Egypt Trade Expansion: Following the meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in Sochi, Russia, on Aug. 12, Russian-Egyptian cooperation is expanding. A particular focus was trade in food products. Putin also expressed readiness to support Egypt's construction of a nuclear power plant at Dabaa. On Sept. 10, Egypt's Minister of Commerce, Industry and Small and Medium Enterprises, Mounir Fakhry Abdel Nour, led an Egyptian business delegation to Russia, including food commodities manufacturers and crop producers.

South Africa Nuclear Re-Commitment: South African President Jacob Zuma announced plans June 17 to build six new nuclear reactors—two in each of three power plant sites—to produce a total of 9.6 gigawatts of electric power. The model for the project involves full financing from an international partner, such as Russia or China. The partner will use South African components as much as possible, and teach South Africans the necessary technical skills.

The South African government intends to take con-



Russia and China have signed an MoU for joint development of floating nuclear power plant technology. Russia has offered assistance for development of a comprehensive nuclear energy industry in South Africa, which now has the only nuclear power plant in Africa, at Koeberg. Shown: an artist concept of a Russian floating nuclear plant to begin operation in 2016.

trol of the full nuclear fuel cycle. The country has 5.5% of the world's known recoverable uranium deposits, and neighboring Namibia has another 5%. South Africa has been separating uranium from its gold (and copper) ores since commissioning a plant for that purpose in 1952.

South Africa Deals with Russia: On Aug. 28, President Zuma met Russian President Putin in Novo-Ogaryovo, on the outskirts of Moscow, for an agenda topped by trade and investment. The two leaders have met three times in the past year, including at the BRICS summit in Brazil in July. "BRICS has opened up a bigger place for our relations, and they are very meaningful on a number of issues," Zuma stated.

- Trade between the Russia and South Africa grew by 13% in 2013, according to official figures. Russian investment in South Africa now totals more than \$1 billion a year.

- Russia offered assistance for a comprehensive nuclear energy industry in South Africa. South Africa has the only nuclear power plant functioning in Africa, the Koeberg nuclear power plant.

Aircraft engineering:

- Russia has set up a regional maintenance center for servicing Russian helicopters operating throughout Africa.

- Talks are ongoing for supplying Russian passenger jets to South Africa.

A statement by the South African Presidency reported Zuma's request to Putin for Russian assistance for peace and security missions in Africa: "The security situation of the African continent was also discussed and assistance sought on peaceful missions that South Africa is involved in, including request for support of the African Capacity to Respond to Immediate Crisis (ACIRIC) process."

With respect to Russia-South Africa relations, Putin said: "We also discussed expanding our cooperation within BRICS. We intend to transform this group into a full-fledged mechanism for cooperating on global economic and political issues."

BRICS New Development Bank To Serve Africa, Unlike IMF: On Aug. 28, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov pointed out that the BRICS countries have had no influence on IMF decisions, which have hobbled development of the former colonial sector: "That is why the creation of a BRICS Development Bank and a reserve currency pool will help form any instruments that help deal with financial stabilization and financial support to promising projects without problems in mutual relations with the IMF and the IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development)." Ryabkov spoke on the occasion of the meeting between leaders of BRICS members Russia and South Africa, to lay groundwork for development projects in Africa.

South Africa-China Steel Mill Project: On Sept. 12, South Africa Trade and Industry Minister Dr. Rob Davies confirmed that the Hebei Iron and Steel Group of China will jointly develop steelmaking capacity with the South African state-owned Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), in Limpopo Province, near Phalaborwa, where there are large magnetite deposits. Construction is to start in 2015. The initial goal is 3 million tons a year, with 5 million tons—mostly construction grade—by 2019. With this deal, South Africa now resumes having its own, independent steel capacity, after it lost this during a privatization push from 2001 to 2004, when its state-owned Iron and Steel Corporation (ISCOR) was sold off to ArcelorMittal, the British Commonwealth cartel. In the China deal, IDC will have 49% ownership.

Zimbabwe-China Agreements: On Aug. 25, President Xi met Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe in China. They signed a number of cooperation agreements.

In the face of sanctions that have been imposed on

Zimbabwe by the U.S.A. and 28 EU nations, Xi said the world must respect Zimbabwe's sovereignty. China is now a major investor there. Bilateral trade amounted to \$1 billion in 2013, and China has provided \$1 billion in loans. Xi pledged to support Zimbabwe's goals to "safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests."

This meeting was preceded by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's eight-day (May 4-12), four-nation tour of Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Angola), during which he announced a number of projects. On May 5, at African Union headquarters, Li pledged China's support to build an Africa-wide rail network, to connect all capitals.

India-Africa Summit: India will host all 54 African Union member countries at the India-Africa Forum Summit this December in Gurgaon. This full participation is a signal of Africa and BRICS collaboration; in contrast, at the two previous summits, held in 2008 and 2011, only 12-15 African countries, selected by the African Union, attended.

On Sept. 5, South African High Commissioner to India, F.K. Morule said in New Delhi that there was huge potential for expansion of trade ties between India and South Africa. He noted the BRICS formation of the New Development Bank, which India will chair for six years, saying this is "a major step" for development, and will allow trade among BRICS counties to be carried out in their own currencies. "We must put more emphasis on trading among the developing countries. All of us have fought against colonialism. The struggle was not just for a flag, economic freedom is also needed."

Trade between India and Africa is more than \$70 billion (compared to \$210.2 billion for China and Africa in 2013). The Indian intention is to reach \$100 billion by 2015.

India-South Africa Agriculture: In a statement on Sept. 11, South African Agriculture Minister Senzeni Zokwana urged South African farmers to take advantage of the BRICS development bank, including in food processing and farming. His comments came during the first-ever Indo-South Africa Week in India. The week-long seminar began in Mumbai, Sept. 9-10, then moved to Gurgaon Sept. 11-12. South Africa showcased technologies related to food processing and the agriculture sector. Zokwana met with the India Minister of Agriculture Shri Radha Moodan Singh on BRICS financing of farm and food projects.

We Need a New, Inclusive World Security Architecture

by Helga Zepp-LaRouche

Sept. 20—In the referendum on the independence of Scotland, London once again got its way, by the skin of its teeth—at least for the time being—thanks to a massive campaign of scare tactics. But even the *New York Times* commented that the anger expressed in Scotland against Westminster's policies—in favor of the super-rich, imperial wars, etc.—is paradigmatic of the growing anger of the populations of the United States and the Eurozone about the blatant failure of the establishment's policy.

In stark contrast, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi are proceeding to build an alternative economic system and have declared themselves optimistic, noting that China and India together account for 35% of the human race and are together writing the screenplay for the future.

Indeed, Xi's three-day state visit to India represents a qualitative breakthrough in Sino-Indian relations. Not only does China intend, in the next five years, to invest \$20 billion in the expansion of India's rapid transit systems, the modernization of its railway stations, industrial parks, power transmission equipment, and auto parts production—it also wants, in return, to open its market for Indian pharmaceuticals, agricultural products, and films. Other agreements were reached on co-operation in the development of nuclear energy, the peaceful use of space, a sister-city relationship between Shanghai and Mumbai, as well as cultural exchanges, and—especially importantly—it was agreed to priori-

tize settling the country's outstanding border dispute, once and for all.

Solving this question threatens to leave the Western media and think-tanks with nothing left to say that would satisfy their need, bordering on the absurd, for nitpicking. Failing to recognize the grand design behind this summit, the Western media have tried to outdo one another in describing only the supposed geopolitical conflicts of interest between the two nations.

"No man is a hero to his valet; not, however, because the man is not a hero, but because the valet is a valet," wrote Hegel in his *Phenomenology*, describing this state of mind. What these media representatives and think-tanks don't understand, from their petty, geopolitical perspective, is the qualitative change that has been underway for more than a year, with Xi's New Silk Road policy, and the drive of the BRICS countries for real development. More and more countries of Asia, Latin America, and Africa are defying the conditionalities of the IMF and World Bank and are creating their own development banks, the AIIB [Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank], NDB [New Development Bank], and a bank of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which are dedicated to financing only real economic projects and not speculation.

Underlying this is the determination to finally tackle the shift from underdevelopment and poverty, to the defense of the general welfare of their people. What the scribblers and talking heads cannot imagine, is that



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Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev addresses the International Investment Forum in Sochi, Russia, on Sept. 19. "I have a feeling that the West has completely forgotten that Russia has its own national interests," he said.

there are governments today that truly represent the interests of their nations and of mankind—and not those of the banks, as is common in Europe and the United States.

The growing alliance of the BRICS countries [Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa], the Union of South America (UNASUR) countries, and the ASEAN and SCO members in Asia, in which such countries as Egypt, Nicaragua, and South Korea must also be counted, is not only joined by the common perspective of economic development, but also by the recognition that the current strategy of confrontation against Russia on the part of the U.S. administration, Great Britain, NATO, and the EU, is causing the imminent threat of global thermonuclear war.

Threat of World War

Prof. Han Xudong of the National Defense University of the People's Liberation Army, in an extraordinary [article](#) headlined, "As Possibility of a Third World War Exists, China Needs To Be Prepared," deals with this question. "As the Ukrainian crisis deepens, international observers have become more and more concerned about a direct military clash between the US and Russia. Once an armed rivalry erupts, it is likely to extend to the [rest of the] globe. And it is not impossible that a world war could break out," he wrote in the *Peo-*



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Pope Francis has warned that a third world war "in pieces" is already being waged. Here he is shown during a visit to Brazil last year.

ple's Daily on Sept. 16. "...Currently, the world has entered an era of new forms of global war. Outer space, the Internet and the sea have become the battlefields of rivalry." China should not be pushed into a passive position where it is vulnerable to attacks. We must bear a third world war in mind when developing military forces, especially the sea and air forces."

Pope Francis said essentially the same thing, on the occasion of a commemoration of the outbreak of World War I. "A third world war in pieces" is already being waged, with crimes, massacres, destruction, he said. And German historian Michael Stürmer, writing in *Die Welt*, gave the diagnosis that since the Ukraine crisis began, world politics has found itself in an experimental mode, in which the time-tested rules of crisis prevention and crisis management have been thrown overboard, and senior staff are inexperienced in the management of emergencies. The saber-rattling, he wrote, fails to take account of the limitless possibilities of destruction and self-destruction. The security architecture that emerged during the Cold War and that ended in German unification—amazingly, without catastrophe—was an era of undeclared small wars with no beginning and no end, extending from Indochina/Vietnam to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria. In the Ukraine crisis, he wrote, both sides have acted without a goal or an exit strategy; nobody knows where it will end. One escalation drives another, and the reasoned imperatives of the long nuclear peace seem to be forgotten.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, for his part, addressed the situation at an economic conference in Sochi recently: "Essentially the entire system of Eu-



Russian Presidential Press and Information Office

Presidents Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin at the opening ceremony of the Russia-China Naval Interaction joint exercises, May 2014, in Shanghai. The official People's Daily published an article warning that China needs to be prepared, since "it is not impossible that a world war could break out."

ropean security is threatened, as well as fundamental values, further globalization, and basically the entire concept of peaceful development. I have a feeling that the West has completely forgotten that Russia has its own national interests. History clearly shows that all attempts to exert pressure on Russia by such measures [sanctions], have been in vain. We will not give in to any political blackmail. We are the largest country in the world, a nuclear power in which 150 million people live, an area with immense natural resources and a huge market for goods, services, and investments. The West, however, acts as though Russia simply does not exist on the world map."

From the Chinese military to the Pope, the Russian government, and growing segments in all European nations, people see that World War III has actually already started, that all the rules of war prevention have been thrown overboard and there is actually no longer a security system. Why then do we not immediately pull the emergency brake and stop this madness, this train that is hurtling at full speed toward a wall behind which there is only a great void?

Call for an Emergency Conference

We immediately need a global emergency conference with only a single theme: How should a global,

inclusive security architecture be designed which guarantees the existence and security of all nations on the planet?

It is obvious that the strategic crisis began with the broken promises to Russia at the time of the disintegration of the Soviet Union, namely that NATO would never be extended up to the borders of Russia. We must start again from that point and the equally obvious point, that in 1991, there were no convincing reasons to exclude Russia from alliances, but rather to expand NATO and the EU further to the east; the intention to encircle Russia and eventually render it indefensible can no longer be denied.

President Xi has repeatedly argued that there can be no security structure that grants security only to a few states, while others remain in chaos and danger; only an inclusive security architecture can guarantee world peace. Precisely such a security architecture, which encompasses all States, must urgently be placed on the agenda, if we do not want to collectively kill ourselves off.

The obvious economic basis for such an inclusive security approach is the New Silk Road program, which China is working to bring about and whose spirit the aforementioned alliances have embraced. The Chinese government has repeatedly stressed that this New Silk Road is an open concept, which every nation can join.

The human species will survive only if we learn the lessons of the two world wars of the 20th Century and stop thinking in geopolitical categories. We must replace this imperial, oligarchical approach with a new paradigm: that the common aims of mankind are the priority for everyone. This is also the view of "the coincidence of opposites" that Nicholas of Cusa put forward in the 15th Century, in his *Coincidentia Oppositorum*: that this is the only way to achieve "concordance in the macrocosm."

Now we have arrived at the point where our survival as a species depends on achieving this level of thinking.

Russia Outflanks Obama on Ukraine

Sept. 23—While the Obama Administration continues to press for even more international sanctions against Russia over the Ukraine crisis, Russian leaders are working with European interlocutors and others to hammer out a lasting ceasefire, as the first step toward a settlement.

The Contact Group on Ukraine, which includes representatives of the Ukrainian government, the Russian Federation, and the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk republics, meeting with officials of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), signed a memorandum in Minsk, Belarus, on Sept. 20, agreeing on a complete ceasefire, establishment of a buffer zone in eastern Ukraine, withdrawal of heavy weapons from the contact line on both sides, and deployment of an OSCE monitoring mission. The memorandum, which has received scant coverage in the American media, was read out to reporters by former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma; it has nine provisions, as reported by RIA Novosti:

1. The ceasefire is to be considered bilateral.
2. Military elements and military formations shall be stopped at their contact line as of Sept. 19.
3. Usage of all kinds of weapons and offensive actions are prohibited.
4. Within 24 hours of the approval of this memorandum, weapons with a caliber of more than 100 millimeters shall be moved at least 15 kilometers away from the contact line on both sides, including from the residential areas, which would create an opportunity to establish a 30-kilometer buffer zone.
5. Deployment of heavy weapons and heavy equipment in the region confined by residential areas is prohibited.
6. Placing of mine barriers at the border of the buffer zone is prohibited. Mine barriers that were placed there earlier shall be removed.
7. Flights of operational aircraft and foreign aerial vehicles, except for the vehicles of the OSCE, over the buffer zone are prohibited.

8. In the ceasefire zone, the OSCE monitoring mission shall be deployed within 24 hours of the approval of this memorandum. It is desirable that the above-mentioned zone shall be divided into sectors. The number of the sectors' borders shall be negotiated in the course of the preparation of the work of the OSCE monitoring mission's group of observers.

9. All the foreign armed groups, military equipment, as well as fighters and mercenaries, shall withdraw from Ukrainian territory under the supervision of the OSCE.

The OSCE issued a statement, posted on its website, welcoming the agreement. Swiss Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter, who is also the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, called the memorandum "a significant step towards making the ceasefire sustainable and an important contribution in the efforts to peacefully settle the crisis in Eastern Ukraine." He expressed his expectation that the memorandum would "bring relief to the suffering populations in the affected areas, and concluded by calling upon all sides to help consolidate the path of de-escalation."

Business leaders from the U.S., Germany, Russia, and Ukraine took a complementary initiative the week of Sept. 15, in a meeting at the home of Davos Economic Forum organizer Klaus Schwab in Geneva. They called for all parties to hold to the ceasefire, for the scaling back of sanctions, consideration of a policy of military non-alignment for Ukraine, and an economic recovery plan for the country.

Poroshenko Leaves U.S. Empty-Handed

Meanwhile, the Ukraine crisis was given center-stage attention in Washington in the closing days of the pre-election Congressional session, with the visit of Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to the U.S. capital. He met with President Barack Obama on Sept. 17 and 18, as well as with other top Administration officials, and delivered a 45-minute speech before a joint session of Congress, where he practically begged for American weapons and for fast-track Ukraine membership in NATO, as well as immediate special status as a strategic ally of the Atlantic Alliance.

But Poroshenko went home to Kiev largely empty-handed. His request for lethal military aid was rejected, and the NATO membership issue remains elusive, because numerous NATO members oppose it, as a provocation against Russia.

The Queen Keeps the Scots in Her Realm

by Mary Burdman and Nancy Bradeen

Sept. 24—Despite a vigorous mobilization by pro-independence forces for the Sept. 18 Scottish independence referendum, bringing hundreds of thousands to the street, 55% of the electorate voted to stay in the United Kingdom. We are pleased to present below a commentary on the vote by Alan Clayton, an advocate of independence and member of the Scottish National Party.

The issues that fed into the fervor are not going to go away, and have implications for the whole U.K. They include the miserable economic reality facing most U.K. residents, which has stoked resentment against incumbents from all parties. This resentment particularly has hit the Labour Party, for which Scotland is a critical base. Vigorous campaigning by high-profile Labour politicians did not stop, and maybe contributed to, many Labour districts voting for independence.

As the support for the “Yes” vote steadily grew in the run-up to the election, from 30% to 45%, the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government in Westminster grew increasingly hysterical. Prime Minister David Cameron saw himself politically obligated to promise a significant widening of “devolution,” the granting of more powers on taxation and other issues to the Scottish parliament.

This “carrot” was accompanied by the stick. Two days before the vote, two of Scotland’s biggest financial institutions, the Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds, announced they would defect to London, if the pro-independence forces prevailed. While these banks, particularly RBS, are hardly popular institutions, they have powerful backers who could threaten an independent Scotland.

Cameron’s “devolution” promises to Scotland are going to create significant problems for him with other constituencies. One London observer recently told *EIR* that fulfillment of the promises could lead to significant constitutional changes in the U.K.

Before the recent devolution process, there used to be a Scottish Grand Committee in the Parliament which decided on Scottish issues, he said. Now, the Parliament could form an English Grand Committee on which only English MPs could serve and vote on

English issues. What this would really mean, is that the British Parliament would really only govern foreign policy and defense matters, and could lead to turbulence within the country, at a time of massive economic, financial, and political turmoil throughout the world.

Republic versus Empire

During the heated campaign, many advocates of independence cut to the quick, raising the question of the fundamental conflict between republic, and empire, especially the British Empire.

For example, Craig Murray, a former British ambassador to Uzbekistan, who was campaigning, as an Englishman, for Scottish independence, told RIA Novosti on Aug. 28, that the United Kingdom is a rogue state and a danger to the world.

“The British Government is deeply, deeply immoral. They don’t care how many people they kill abroad if it advances them. Anybody who votes ‘No’ [to Scottish independence on Sept. 18] is voting to support a pathological state which is a danger in the world; a rogue state and a state prepared to go to war to make a few people wealthy,” Murray said in a speech at St. Andrews in Scotland.

Surely, others in the struggle called to mind the Scottish “Poet of Freedom,” Robert Burns, a contemporary and supporter of the American Revolution. Burns’ poetry and song brim with trenchant republican polemics, of which the following poem condemning the original Act of Union between Scotland and Great Britain is exemplary.

“What force or guile could not subdue,
“Thro’ many warlike ages,
“Is wrought now by a coward few,
“For hireling traitor’s wages.



Courtesy of Alan Clayton

Hundreds of thousands of Scottish republicans rallied in the days leading up to the Sept. 18 vote on independence from the perfidious empire. Here, a huge “Yes” demonstration in Glasgow.

"The English stell [still] we could disdain,
"Secure in valour's station;
"But English gold has been our bane—
"Such a parcel of rogues in a nation!"
So he says,
"We are bought and sold for English gold,
"Such a parcel of rogues in a nation!"

Guest Commentary

The Scottish Referendum

by Alan Clayton

STRACHUR ARGYLL, SCOTLAND, Sept. 22—The referendum on Scottish independence began over two years ago. The Scottish National Party (SNP) gained overall control of the Scottish parliament in 2011 and used its majority to legislate for a referendum. The Scottish parliament itself was only established in 1998 after quite remorseless pressure from the Scottish people. Until then, Scotland had been ruled directly from London since the enforced Union of 1707, a Union achieved by massive economic and military threat, as England was at war with France and needed to secure its northern border.

This Union was conceived in war, and its history has been one of war ever since. The first, of course, was the war against the American colonists, and it is a sad fact of history that some Scots had been conscripted into the army of the British imperialist state and fought on the wrong side on that occasion.

On the theme of being on the wrong side, it is perhaps worth noting at this point that the current President of the United States took sides with the imperialist state against Scotland. In my view, in doing this, Barack Obama dishonored the Founding Fathers of the American nation. An American friend of mine is of the opinion that in doing this he committed an impeachable offence. It would be nice to think she was right.

In the 1970s, oil was discovered in Scottish waters in

the North Sea, and it was this that triggered off modern nationalism. It should be pointed out that Scottish nationalism is a civic nationalism which seeks only the freedom of Scotland. And such freedom is utterly essential. Around 4,000 young people leave our country every year to seek work outwith Scotland, mainly in England.

Norway discovered oil at around the same time, and is now one of the richest countries in the world. Scotland's oil wealth, for the first decade or so, was used to bankroll Margaret Thatcher's austerity policies. Today it is used to finance Britain's astronomical national debt. Meanwhile, there are over 40 food banks around the country where hungry people can get free food. "Buddy, can you spare a dime" may be a sad American historical song, but today in Great Britain, it is a painful reality.

Disinformation, Dissimulation, Deceit

The referendum, as everyone will now know, was lost. There are already numerous stories of electoral fraud and the police have been asked to look into these. What was true was the sheer volume of disinformation, dissimulation, and deceit that emanated from Westminster to terrorize the Scottish people. Ronald Reagan once used the expression "Empire of Evil" to describe the Soviet Union. I have no problem whatsoever in applying it to the British Empire.

Queen Elizabeth quietly and subtly also took sides against the Scottish people. The House of Windsor has never been all that popular in Scotland. Queen Elizabeth was crowned in the English succession as the Elizabeth the Second. There has never ever been a Scottish monarch called Elizabeth, and this calculated insult to Scotland has never been appreciated. Be assured, the days of the House of Windsor in Scotland are very limited indeed.

There were many joyful displays of Scottish freedom in Scotland's cities as the picture here illustrates. However, these were set upon by British fascists waving the Union Jack and giving Nazi salutes. These so epitomized Great Britain and all it stands for. Today, the Scottish freedom movement is licking its wounds and regrouping. Americans should be absolutely assured that the struggle against the imperialist monster will continue. What we do very much hope for, is that it will no longer be impeded by an American President who acts on the instructions of London and betrays the very principles his own nation was founded upon.



Capitulation to Obama Will Backfire on Congress

by Carl Osgood

Sept. 22—Last week, the House and Senate, in a maneuver designed to limit debate and discussion about Congress's war-making powers vis-à-vis the President, gave initial approval to Obama's plan to create, from the ground up, a Syrian opposition force of 5,000 "vetted" fighters to battle both the Assad regime and the Islamic State militants in Syria. Despite the large votes in favor of the plan in both the House and the Senate, there is little confidence in Washington that Obama's strategy for "degrading and ultimately defeating" IS (aka ISIS or ISIL) can actually work. Over the past week, think-tank experts and political commentators of all stripes have blasted the policy, and military leaders, usually represented by retired generals, have spoken out against it. Even Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey has warned how difficult the strategy that Obama laid out will be to execute. Meanwhile, last week's votes have done nothing to tamp down Congressional concerns, as shown by the clamor for a war authorization vote, after Congress returns on Nov. 12 for a post-election lame-duck session.

Feeding into the growing opposition is HR 428, the resolution sponsored by Rep. Walter Jones (R-N.C.) to declassify and release the suppressed 28 pages of the 2002 Congressional Joint Inquiry report into 9/11 which deals with the Saudi role in financing and supporting the hijackers. Seven members of the House have signed on as co-sponsors of the resolution since the Congress returned from its Summer recess on Sept.

8, bringing the total number to 17, in addition to Jones. The new signers include Howard Coble (R-N.C.), Mark Sanford (R-S.C.), James McGovern (D-Mass.), Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.), William Lacy Clay (D-Mo.), Vance McAllister (R-La.), and Collin Peterson (D-Minn.).

The passage of HR 428 would be a useful first step to avoiding the disaster that Congress is otherwise marching toward by not stopping Obama's alliance with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to, in fact, perpetuate war throughout Southwest Asia and ultimately, the world, on behalf of the bankrupt British Empire. Decisive, and absolutely required, is the removal of British puppet Obama from office, for offenses already committed, including launching this illegal war that could lead to World War III.

Boehner Rigs the Vote

House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) rigged the outcome on the Syria amendment by crafting a strategy, with the complicity of Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), that would make it an amendment to a must-pass funding bill, SJR 124, to keep the government running past Sept. 30. This resulted in the bill going to the Senate with the Syria amendment already attached to it, making it much easier for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) to ram it through the Senate without a separate vote on going to war. The legislation provides that only allegedly "vetted" members of the Syrian opposition are to be provided with "assistance,"

but also that *no* additional funds were to be authorized (money is rather to be moved from other budget lines), and that the authorization will run out when the funding bill does, on Dec. 11.

The Sept. 17 vote in the House was indicative of the turmoil in Congress over Obama's plan. Reportedly, neither the Republican nor Democratic leaderships were whipping members before the vote, indicating that they were confident of the outcome. They probably thought the 273-156 vote in favor of the Syria amendment justified their strategy, but the vote was, in fact, much closer than was expected. Rep. Walter Jones, a leading anti-war Republican, predicted that only 15 Republicans would vote "no" on the Syria amendment, yet there were actually 71 GOP "no" votes. The Democrats were also split, with 85 voting "no" as opposed to 112 "yea" votes. Even many of those who voted for the amendment apologetically explained that they had grave reservations, but believed they should "do something" to stop IS.

Conservative commentator Pat Buchanan, in a Sept. 19 column on antiwar.com, explained that many members of Congress are nervous about relying on the "untrustworthy" Free Syrian Army (FSA), "the least effective force in [Syria's] civil war." Buchanan charged that the White House has no credible war plan, and that Obama "is not a war leader." The FSA "is not even the JV [junior varsity]." The U.S. plan to train some rebels, he wrote, will simply ensure that the war will be unending.

Much of the opposition, however, was clearly influenced by the fight for the release of the 28 pages, even among those who have not stepped up to co-sponsor the resolution. Four House members explicitly attacked the role of Saudi Arabia in sponsoring terrorism, as a reason to reject the plan to train the 5,000 Syrian rebel fighters. These included Beto O'Rourke (D-Tex.), Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.), and Lloyd Doggett (D-Tex.) (see *Documentation*, below).

SJR 124 then went to the floor of the Senate, under the conditions that Boehner had created for it, almost guaranteeing that it would pass by a large vote, which it did, 78-22, after four-and-a-half hours of debate. Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) started the debate by moving that the Syria authorization be stripped out of the funding bill for a separate vote but was blocked. In a lengthy speech on the "insanity" of arming the Syrian rebels, he noted, among other things, that the recent history of the Middle East has seen secular dictators overthrown, and re-

placed with radical jihadists; and that numerous public reports are that ISIS gets much of its weaponry and funding from the Saudis, the Qataris, and other Gulf nations (see *Documentation*).

Congressional Opposition Mounts

Because of the Dec. 11 expiration date in both the Syria authorization and the funding bill, there will have to be another vote in the Congress before then. The notion that President Obama can go to war in Iraq, and perhaps even Syria, without Congressional authorization, doesn't sit well with many members of Congress, however. Twelve members of the U.S. House of Representatives signed a letter on Sept. 18, calling on Boehner and Pelosi to allow a vote on authorization for military operations in Iraq and, "if necessary, Syria."

They wrote that the terms of HCR 105, which prohibits the President from deploying U.S. troops to Iraq without specific statutory authorization, and which passed the House by a 370-40 vote on July 25, have been met, and that U.S. forces are now engaged in sustained combat operations. They noted that "there is an increasing bipartisan recognition that the time has come to take up and debate an authorization regarding US military operations in Iraq."

(They could have also pointed out how Obama has violated the Constitution *and* the War Powers Act, the latter, by claiming he can put off the deadline for Congress to act by "restarting the clock" after every new deployment of missiles or troops.)

The 12 Members then ask Boehner and Pelosi to take the appropriate actions leading to a debate and a vote on an authorization. "We believe such a debate and vote is required, will enhance our national security and the ability of Congress and the executive to carry out U.S. foreign and defense policies abroad, will better safeguard our homeland, and will uphold the Constitutional and institutional responsibilities of the U.S. House of Representatives," they wrote.

The letter was signed by six Democrats and Six Republicans: James McGovern (D-Mass.), Tom Cole (R-Okla.), Walter Jones (R-N.C.), Barbara Lee (D-Calif.), Richard Nugent (R-Fla.), Paul Broun (R-Ga.), Steve Stockman (R-Tex.), John Garamendi (D-Calif.), Peter Welch (D-Vt.), Keith Ellison (D-Minn.), John Lewis (D-Ga.), and John Duncan (R-Tenn.).

The Administration argues that it can go to war on the basis of the 2001 Authorization to Use of Military Force (AUMF), passed in the aftermath of the Sept. 11,



Gen. Martin Dempsey told a Sept. 16 hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee (shown here), that before the training of “vetted” Syrian rebels can begin, they must be screened for competence and loyalty; and that Obama’s stated policy of “no U.S. ground troops” may have to change.

2001 attacks, and the 2002 Iraq War resolution. Secretary of State John Kerry got hammered on this, during a Sept. 17 hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (which he used to chair). When Chairman Robert Mendendez (D-N.J.) told him that a new authorization was needed, Kerry replied that the Administration “would want that to happen, but we won’t make our actions dependent on that, but we’ll be happy to work with you on that.”

Ranking Republican Bob Corker (Tenn.) told Kerry that he, President Obama, and Vice President Biden are exercising “terrible judgment,” in refusing to go to Congress. He also expressed his judgment that the plan to train 5,000 Syrian opposition fighters in Saudi Arabia looks “unserious,” is “unrealistic” and doesn’t match the rhetoric of the Administration. “You’re asking us to approve something that makes no sense,” he said.

The plan doesn’t make any sense to West Virginia Democrat Joe Manchin either, as he made clear during the Sept. 16 hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee, at which Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and JSC Chairman Dempsey testified. Manchin told the witnesses that he can’t explain Obama’s strategy to his constituents so that it makes any sense to them, and that the question he hears everywhere is “What do you expect to be different than what you’ve

done in that region of the world for 13 years? If money or military might hasn’t changed it, what makes you think you can change it now?” The plan, Manchin said, “makes no sense to me. And I can’t sell it. I’ve tried all my—you can’t sell this stuff. And no one believes the outcome will be any different.”

The Military Speaks Out

Dempsey set the tone for much of the military commentary that followed when he told the Senate Armed Services Committee in the Sept. 16 hearing that the policy that Obama has seemingly set in stone, that is, no combat forces on the ground in Iraq, could be changed. Firstly, he told the committee that what he and Hagel were presenting was “an ISIL first strategy.” Secondly, he made the point that if conditions on the ground changed such that he thought U.S. troops, even if limited to a handful of advisors or special forces troops calling in airstrikes, were necessary, he would make that recommendation to the President.

He noted that Gen. Lloyd Austin, the commander of U.S. Central Command, agreed with him.

Two days later, retired Gen. James Mattis, Austin’s immediate predecessor at Centcom, told the House Intelligence Committee that it made no sense for Obama to announce ahead of time that U.S. ground troops would not be involved. “Half-hearted or tentative efforts, or airstrikes alone, can backfire on us and actually strengthen our foes’ credibility,” he said. “We may not wish to reassure our enemies in advance that they will not see American boots on the ground.”

Even less charitable was former Marine Commandant Gen. James Conway (ret.). “I don’t think the President’s plan has a snowball’s chance in Hell of succeeding,” he is reported to have said at a conference in Washington on Sept. 19. A source at the conference told the *Daily Caller* that Conway’s major concern was that the U.S. did not have a force on the ground in Syria it could rely on, comparable to the Kurdish Peshmerga in Iraq.

Dempsey told reporters traveling with him to Paris for meetings with his French counterpart, on Sept. 19, that it could take up to 12 months to create a viable Syrian opposition force, and 3 or 4 months just to get the program started, reported the Associated Press. Dempsey said that before training can even start, the

U.S. and certain allies must screen potential candidates in Syria for competence and loyalty. Initially, they will be provided small arms and other light weaponry, Dempsey said, but that could graduate to more sophisticated weaponry “once we know what’s in their hearts.” This timeline, confirmed by Pentagon press secretary R. Adm. John Kirby later that day, is not likely to increase the confidence among fence-sitters that Obama’s strategy has any hope of succeeding.

A Real Strategy

As many commentators on both sides of the Atlantic have pointed out, the only sane policy for moving to wipe out the Islamic State is the formation of an alliance between the Western nations and the relevant powers that oppose it—Iran, Syria, and Russia. While there continue to be a string of intelligence leaks that the U.S. military is coordinating with the Syrians through third parties, including Russia, the fact remains that the British-directed Obama strategy specifically calls for continued warfare against the Assad government.

Among the most trenchant, and truthful, attacks on the Obama strategy was that by former Reagan director

of the Office of Management and Budget David Stockman. In a Sept. 19 article on his blog, Stockman blasts the “utter folly” of Obama’s plan. Obama has chosen as his allies the Saudis and other Arab Gulf states, which maintain their own brand of barbaric medievalism, while demonizing Iran, Stockman admonishes. By doing so, Obama and his neocon pals are removing “the one real political and military barrier to the expansionist ambitions of the Islamic State—the so-called ‘Shiite Crescent’ of Iran, the Assad regime in Syria, and Hezbollah.” As for the Free Syrian Army, Stockman notes, these “moderates” have “announced a truce with ISIS, on the grounds that their real enemy resides in Damascus, not Raqqah.”

While the U.S. military, including General Dempsey, have declaimed against an outright alliance with Syria’s elected government, they have repeatedly talked about a “deconfliction” policy, which apparently means just the kind of behind-the-scenes cooperation being hinted at in the press.

To get a more effective policy than that, the prerequisite, Lyndon LaRouche has insisted, is that not just Obama’s strategy, but Obama himself needs to be removed.

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Congressmen Skewer Obama's War Policy

The following are excerpts from statements in the House and Senate opposing the Administration's policy against ISIS/ISIL/Islamic State.

House of Representatives, Sept. 17

Rep. Beto O'Rourke (D-Tex.): Saudi Arabia is the most successful exporter of terrorism throughout the world. The logical conclusion [of this proposal] is to depose Assad, and replace him with a government of rebels. We've done this three times in the last 10 years; and the fourth country is Libya. No Muslim countries are contributing ground troops.

Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.): I oppose [H.R. 124]. I am looking for a reason to support it, but I can't find it. It trains Islamists to fight Islamists in a few years. This is not only used against America's enemies. I served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq and Afghanistan. I won't vote for something that won't work. You don't crush the IS by training Islamic fighters. You can have no confidence you are arming the right people. The Saudi Arabians are the ones who provided the majority of hijackers. I refuse to work with Saudi Arabia.

Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-Tex.): Despite billions expended and with courageous Americans on the ground, the results over more than a decade of trying to successfully train Iraqis and Afghans is not particularly encouraging; indeed, the reality is the American taxpayers have been compelled to pay for the arms for our enemies as well as our allies, nor do we have any explanation today as to how taking a few Syrians for training in Saudi Arabia—a country with its own brutal history of regular beheadings, financing extremists around the world, and opposing democracy almost everywhere—how that will work better than our previous training on the ground with Americans.

Rep. Joe Heck (R-Nev.): I can't support this bill. Arming Syrian rebels has always

been a fantasy. It's a plan destined to fail for the purpose of saying we did something.

In the Senate, Sept. 18

Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.):

We have before us one of the most important duties of the Senate and the Congress; that is, to decide whether we will be involved in war. I think it is inexcusable that the debate over whether we involve the country in war—another country's civil war—that this would be debated as part of a spending bill and not as part of an independent free-standing bill.... Instead of having a debate over war, we will have a debate over spending....

Madam President, if there is a theme that connects the dots in the Middle East, it is that chaos breeds terrorism. What much of the foreign policy elite fail to grasp, though, is that intervention to topple secular dictators has been the prime source of the chaos. From Hussein to Assad to Qadhafi, it is the same history—intervention to topple the secular dictator. Chaos ensues and radical jihads emerge. The pattern has been repeated time and time again.

Yet what we have here is a failure to understand, a failure to reflect on the outcome of our involvement in Arab civil wars. They say nature abhors a vacuum. Radical jihadists have again and again filled the chaotic vacuum of the Middle East. Secular dictators, despots who, frankly, *do* terrorize their own people, are replaced by radical jihadists, who seek terror not only at home but abroad. Intervention, when both choices are bad, is a mistake. Intervention, when both sides are evil,



Sen. Rand Paul

is a mistake. Intervention that destabilizes the Middle East is a mistake. Yet here we are again, wading into a civil war. I warned a year ago that involving us in Syria's civil war was a mistake, that the inescapable irony is that some day the arms we supply would be used against us or Israel. *That day is now.*

ISIS has grabbed up from the United States, from the Saudis, and from the Qataris, weapons by the truckload. We are now forced to fight against our own weapons, and this body wants to throw more weapons into the mix. Even those of us who have been reluctant to get involved in Middle Eastern wars feel, now that American interests are threatened, that our consulate and our embassy are threatened, we feel that if ISIS is left to its own devices, maybe they will fulfill what they have boasted of and attack our homeland.

So, yes, we must now defend ourselves from these barbarous jihadists. But let's not compound the problem by arming feckless rebels in Syria, who seem to be merely a pit stop for weapons that are really on their way to ISIS. Remember clearly that the President and his Republican allies have been clamoring for over a year for airstrikes against Assad. Assad was our enemy last year. This year he is our friend. Had all of those airstrikes, though, occurred last year in Syria, today ISIS might be in Damascus. Realize that ... involving ourselves in these complicated, thousand-year-long civil wars leads to unintended consequences....

We have not been sitting around doing nothing. Six hundred tons of weapons have already been given to the Syrian rebels. What happened during the period of time we gave 600 tons of weapons to the moderate rebels in Syria? ISIS grew stronger....

Many former officials are very forthright with their criticism. According to the former ambassador to Iraq and Syria, our ambassador says: We need to do everything we can to figure out who the non-ISIS opposition is because, frankly, *we don't have a clue*. Think about this: We are voting or obscuring a vote on a spending bill to send \$500 million worth of arms to Syria, to people who we say are the vetted moderate Syrian rebels. Guess what: One of the men with the most knowledge on the ground, who has been our ambassador to Syria, says we don't have a clue who the moderates are and who the jihadists are. And even if they tell you they are the moderates, they say: Oh, we love Thomas Jefferson. Give us a shoulder-fired missile. We love Thomas Jefferson.

Can you trust these people?....

I asked Secretary Kerry: Where do you get the authority to wage this war?

He says: From 2001.

Some of the people fighting weren't born in 2001. Many of the people who voted in 2001 are no longer living.

We voted to go to war in Afghanistan, and I supported going into that war, because we were attacked and we had to do something about it. But the thing is, that vote had nothing to do with this—absolutely nothing to do with this. You are a dishonest person if you say otherwise....

I said it yesterday: Mr. President, what you are doing is illegal and unconstitutional.

The response from Secretary Kerry was: We have Article II authority to do whatever we want.

That is absolutely incorrect. We gave power to the Commander in Chief to *execute* the war, but we were explicit that the wars were to be *initiated by Congress*....

There are valid reasons for war, but they should be few and far between. They should be very importantly debated and not shuffled into a 2,000-page bill and shoved under the rug.

When we go to war, it is the most important vote any Senator will ever take. Many on the other side have been better on this issue. When there was a Republican in office, there were loud voices on the other side.

I see an empty Chamber. There will be no voices against war because this is a Democratic President's war. The hypocrisy of that should resound in this nearly empty Chamber....

When we go to war, the burden of proof lies with those who wish to engage in war. They must convince the American people and convince Congress.... Until there is a vote—if there ever is one—this is *one man's war*. Our Founding Fathers would be offended, would be appalled to know that one man can create a war....

This President worries me, and it is not because of ObamaCare or Dodd-Frank or these horrific pieces of legislation. As I travel around the country, when people ask me, "What has the President done? What is the worst thing he has done?" It is the usurpation of power, the idea that there is no separation of powers or that he is above that separation. If you want to tremble and worry about the future of our Republic, listen to the President when he says: Well, Congress won't act; therefore, I must. Think about the implications of that....

Ebola Declared a ‘Threat To Peace and Security’

by Douglas DeGroot and Nancy Spannaus

Sept. 22—In the first-ever UN Security Council emergency meeting held to address a public-health crisis, the UNSC, on Sept. 18, called the West African Ebola epidemic a “threat to peace and security.” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and World Health Organization Director Dr. Margaret Chan presented their proposal for an international action plan of attack against the worst Ebola epidemic in history. One-hundred thirty member-nations then unanimously adopted a resolution, which determined “that the unprecedented extent of the Ebola outbreak in Africa, where the number of new cases is growing faster than relief workers can deal with them, constitutes a threat to international peace and security.”

However, the current spread of the epidemic at exponential rates is far outstripping the ability of the belatedly established international mobilization to contain the disease. A recent model developed by the Department of Zoology at Oxford University claims that 15 African countries in a heavily forested belt across the continent are at risk for Ebola, because of the reservoir of the virus in animal populations.

Ban stated after the meeting that the UN will deploy an emergency international health mission, the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, or UNMEER, which he said has five priorities: “stopping the outbreak, treating the infected, ensuring essential services, preserving stability and preventing further outbreaks.”

But in an indication of the difficulty confronting the

effort to catch up to the disease, let alone get ahead of it, Bruce Aylward, Assistant Director General for Polio, Emergencies and Country Collaboration for the UN’s WHO, said in a Sept. 16 press conference in Geneva explaining the UN statement, that a nearly \$1 billion fund was necessary to keep the number of those infected with Ebola in the range of “tens of thousands.” “Quite frankly, ladies and gentlemen,” he said, “this health crisis we’re facing is unparalleled in modern times,” and, “We don’t know where the numbers are going on this.”

Out of Control

Despite some “good news” headlines, such as that there have been no new cases in Senegal and Nigeria over recent days, and that the disease is not a threat to the United States, the reality is that Ebola is out of control. Scientists report that the number of cases is doubling every three to four weeks. There is no doubt that the number of cases, and therefore deaths, is being undercounted.

The reported death rate, however, remains at 50% or above. With more than 5,000 cases reported, over 2,600 people have died.

In addition, the spread of the disease, and the social disruption it causes, is leading to inadequate treatment for an array of other diseases, such as malaria, which are endemic to the impoverished countries at the epicenter of the Ebola outbreak—Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea.

Dr. Kent Brantly, who contracted Ebola in Liberia and was flown back to the USA for treatment, testified at both hearings. He told the Senate hearing that “From the time I fell sick, just two months ago, the death toll has tripled.” Brantly added: “In nine months down the road, we are looking at hundreds of thousands, not just in cases, but deaths.”

Obama's Announcement

On Sept. 17, Obama announced a grossly inadequate initiative to send 3,000 troops, including doctors, to Liberia, to fight Ebola in the country, which is the worst stricken by the epidemic. A quarter million people could be infected by Christmas in Liberia alone, according to Laurie Garrett, a senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations and a Pulitzer Prize-winning science writer. Garrett wrote Sept. 17 that only a global initiative carried out with extreme haste could reverse the situation, and keep it from spreading to many other countries.

Experts point out that the world is in uncharted waters right now, because Ebola has never spread to urban environments before, as it now has. Referring to the Obama proposal, J. Stephen Morrison, senior vice president at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, warned yesterday that “The mobilization that is happening is coming late, and it’s coming while exponential growth of the virus itself is just outstripping everyone.”

Obama’s proposal includes a \$763 million commitment over the next six months to have the Pentagon build seventeen 100-bed treatment centers, five of them in the Liberian capital, Monrovia. Obama’s proposal also called for U.S. military medical personnel to train 500 local health-care workers per week, as long as is necessary, and pledges to provide home-care kits to protect family members of those infected so as to slow down the rate of increase of infection, an acknowledgment that the Obama plan will not be able to contain the epidemic in the hospitals it pledges to set up.

The reality is, that, absent adequate action now, Africa is facing decades of the epidemic, which will eliminate any possibility of infrastructure building and economic development. Garrett briefed the Joint Chiefs on what was necessary to contain the epidemic, and stressed the need for speed. She said in a Sept. 16 article, that even after the Obama proposal, none of these efforts will be accomplished in September, and few will be operational by the end of October. She notes that

JCS chief Gen. Martin Dempsey has ordered maximum haste, but these things take time.

Garrett thinks time is running out, and fears dire consequences by year-end. She said that a “heroic, record-breaking mobilization is necessary at this late stage in the epidemic.”

The Right Kind of Military Mobilization

There is no question but that a military mobilization is needed to stop Ebola, as has been called for by Doctors Without Borders and *EIR* (see Aug. 29, 2014 issue). The logistical capabilities for delivering field kits capable of identifying the virus, the creation of additional medical facilities, transport, and myriad kinds of support activities for the medical staffs, are urgently needed, as are highly trained personnel, able to work under combat-like conditions.

As Doctors Without Borders spokesman Brice de la Vigne put it Aug. 19, you need the resources (and leadership) to coordinate a response to a million people affected by an earthquake. There are 20 million people in the three major countries affected.

Unfortunately, there is reason to doubt that the military effort being mobilized from the U.S. will be up to the task. In his briefing Sept. 19, Pentagon spokesman Adm. John Kirby was questioned about what the role of U.S. military personnel would be. He stressed that “right now, the effort does not include U.S. military personnel treating Ebola patients.... They’re not doctors. They’re not nurses. they’re not trained for that and not equipped for that.

“The mission right now that General [Darryl] Williams has been assigned is one of engineering and support logistics. And I would say the word ‘support’ means a lot to us. We are supporting USAID and the State Department and also the government of Liberia in this particular case.

“Now, this is not a military-led operation. And so the mission itself as it’s defined is limited to those areas, and not direct medical care of patients. I’m not going to get into hypotheticals about what might or could change over time.

“We have unique capabilities. We try to stay as ready and prepared across those capabilities as we can. And if there should be a need in the future to change the mission, to modify it somewhat, then we’ll have that discussion. But there’s no discussion about that right now.”

Why wait, when so many lives are at stake?

Italian Expert Says, Build These Bridges!

Sept. 18—Prof. Enzo Siviero, Italy's top expert in bridge construction, told *EIR*'s Claudio Celani today that the ongoing Egyptian great projects, starting from the doubling of the Suez Canal, underline the importance for Italy to build the long-discussed bridge across the Messina Strait separating the Italian mainland from Sicily.¹

The bridge would create an integrated logistical platform, which will enable all of Southern Italy to meet the challenge of the increased maritime traffic from Suez. Ships now take 4-5 days to reach Rotterdam, whereas through the Gioia Tauro port, in the Messina Strait area, their freight could reach Berlin in one day. The Messina Bridge will create a large metropolitan area by connecting the two cities of Messina and Reggio Calabria, and will integrate the Sicilian network of ports, railways, and airports into the system.

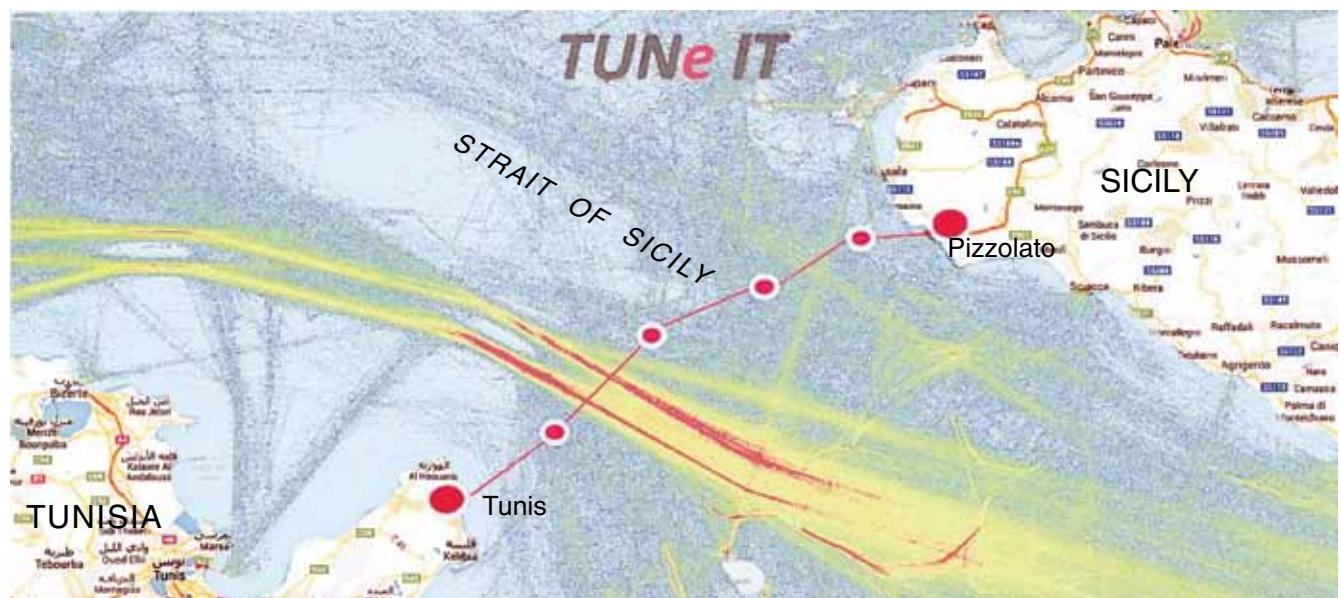
Siviero is professor of Construction Science at the

1. See, Fortunato Covelli, "Build the bridge over the Strait of Messina," *EIR*, May 2, 1997.

IUAV University in Venice, and advising professor at the Civil Engineering Department at the Tongji University in Shanghai, China. He is founder and editor of *Galileo* magazine, whose latest [issue](#) is dedicated to the development of the Mediterranean, and features Siviero's proposal to build a bridge between Tunisia and Italy, "the Mediterranean Bridge."

The Mediterranean Bridge can be an alternative or a complement to the proposed tunnel—another Italian project—between the two countries. The 140-km-long tunnel involves a psychological aspect, Siviero says, as not many people would want to make such a long trip. The bridge would be essentially a multiple of the proposed 3-km Messina Strait suspension bridge, which would cross four man-made islands; the tunnel idea also includes islands built with the tunnel debris.

The Tunisia-Sicily link is "not only a trade and rail link for purely economic purposes, but also a road link which allows two worlds and cultures, deeply different in many aspects, to come into contact. The consequences: new scenarios of communications and relations among concerned countries, new programs for development and collaboration (especially of the economic and commercial kind) among regions of Europe and Africa, attraction of many foreign investors to the new infrastructure and/or in its framework. Work of this kind would undoubtedly be unique in the world!"



"The birth of a new connection between Europe and Africa across the Strait of Sicily, and the creation of new means of communication and relations among nations, will make possible new programs of development and collaboration."—*Galileo Magazine*

Editorial

Mars!

India's Mission Control center for the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) received confirmation that the spacecraft was in Mars orbit at 10:30 PM EDT Sept. 23, eliciting cheers from the scientists and engineers, and congratulations from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who witnessed the historic moment with them. This is the first time a fully successful mission to Mars has been carried out on a nation's first try. It is the first spacecraft launched from Asia that arrived safely at the Red Planet.

PM Modi described it as a "national pride event." Referencing the spacecraft's 650-million-kilometer trip to Mars, Modi said, "We have gone beyond the boundaries of human enterprise and imagination.... We have navigated our craft through a route known to very few.... The success of our space program is a shining symbol of what we are capable of as a nation.... Let us push our boundaries. And then push some more, push more.... Let today's success drive us with even greater vigor and conviction. Let's set ourselves even more challenging goals—this too must become a basis for challenging the next frontier."

Modi stated that the mission is "a leap into the dark. Humanity would not have progressed, if we had not taken such leaps into the unknown. And space is indeed the biggest unknown out there." Addressing the scientists directly, the Prime Minister said: "Every generation of your scientists has groomed the next homegrown lot. Through your achievements, you have honored our forefathers, and inspired our future generations! You truly deserve all the love and respect you get from a grateful nation."

Modi's remarks expressed the same optimism and focus on the future of all mankind, that he emphasized in his remarks at the July 14-16 BRICS

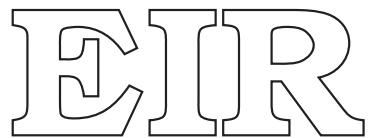
Summit in Brazil, where he said: "The uniqueness of BRICS as an international institution. For the first time, it brings together a group of nations on the parameter of 'future potential,' rather than existing prosperity or shared identities. The very idea of BRICS is thus forward-looking... Excellencies, we have an opportunity to define the future of, not just our countries, but the world at large.... I take this as a great responsibility."

NASA's Curiosity rover sent via Twitter: "Congratulations to @ISRO and India's first interplanetary mission upon achieving Mars orbit." MOM replied, "Howdy @MarsCuriosity. Keep in touch. I'll be around." China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying also extended congratulations: "This is the pride of India and the pride of Asia, and is a landmark progress in humankind's exploration of outer space so we congratulate India on that."

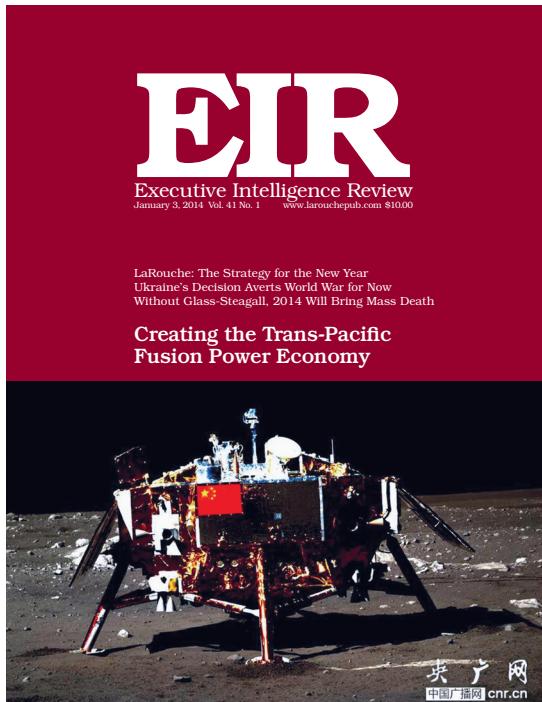
India's Mars Orbiter Mission has now met its primary mission objective, which is as a technology demonstrator, to successfully orbit Mars. It is also expected to collect scientific measurements during its orbital mission. NASA's MAVEN spacecraft arrived at Mars three days ago, and scientists from both projects have discussed sharing the data that each spacecraft will send back to Earth.

While Mars is not the ultimate objective, this achievement is a victory for both India and all mankind—and a marker of the kind of achievements all nations must collaborate on to ensure the future of the planet. Mars, as the Roman god of war, must be supplanted by Mars in the Solar System. In so doing, we will be redefining ourselves as citizens of the Solar System, committed to ending war, and inaugurating an era of peace with progress for all.

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