

The New Silk Road in the Middle East and Africa Must Become A Noah's Ark for the Refugees!

by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, Chair of the German Civil Right Movement Solidarity political party (BüSo)

Oct. 31—The political temperature in Germany is reaching the boiling point. As conservative and right-wing layers irresponsibly spread scare stories combining real but solvable problems with visions of horror, the opposition to Chancellor Merkel is growing. A phalanx has formed ranging from Christian Social Union (CSU) chairman Horst Seehofer (CSU is the sister party of Merkel's CDU), who issued an ultimatum in the hopes of forcing through a change in Merkel's refugee policy, to a growing opposition within Merkel's own Christian Democratic Union (CDU), which intends to impose Wolfgang Schäuble as the successor to Chancellor Merkel.

If that happens, Germany's future might as well be buried. All of Schäuble's policy proposals—be it concerning Greece or the refugees, from Brüning-style austerity to the “Black Zero” (zero deficit) budget policy—exclusively serve the interests of the banks and speculators, to the detriment of the people and the common good. The view of these ideologues, that the hopelessly bankrupt trans-Atlantic financial system can be saved by brutal budget cuts and a Fortress Europe defended by a new Limes wall, are about as sustainable as East German communist leader Erich Honecker's statement of Aug. 14, 1989: “Nothing, neither an ox nor an ass can stop the progress of socialism.” Of course, three months later, Honecker was history.

Failures to Act

Willi Wimmer (CDU), a former Secretary of State in the Ministry of Defense, has one thing right, when he insists that if Merkel and others keep emphasizing that we have to fight the root causes of the refugee crisis, then

we would have to ban German airspace for the American drone murderers. Because that is the cause of it. . . . These are NATO refugees, so we need to be clear about that. If we reduce the world around us to rubble, we will not remain unscathed.

Wimmer often says correct things, but why then, for



Bundesregierung/Kugler

German Chancellor Angela Merkel at a press conference after a European Commission meeting on the refugee crisis.

heaven's sake, does he look to Schäuble as the only viable alternative to Merkel? You might just as well appoint a Bush as the proconsul for Germany!

Regarding the refugee crisis, Wimmer speaks of negligence on the part of the State, because this problem did not fall from the sky. Absolutely! There is even a long series of State failures to act that led to the current situation, and it is high time to name them openly and then to correct them.

The long series of wars in Southwest Asia and Africa are responsible for the current refugee crisis, built one and all upon lies and as a result of the neo-con doctrine, the “Project for a New American Century” (PNAC). What is and was behind that, is the idea of building a unipolar world after the end of the Soviet Union, and toppling any government that stands in the way of that idea through regime change. For that, Islamic extremists have continually been used, from the mujahideen in Afghanistan in the 1980s to al-Qaeda, Jabhat al-Nusra, and ISIS, as well as their various offshoots.

And as long as the German government provides arms to Saudi Arabia or Qatar, while these governments finance the Wahhabite Salafism that is behind ISIS, and as long as the Ramstein airbase is tolerated as a hub for drone operations, the State will continue to be derelict. One correction of this shortcoming would be to abrogate the contracts for the Ramstein, Stuttgart, and other bases that are involved in the drone war, and to call on the U.S. Administration to share the costs of dealing with the the refugees.

Another obvious example of negligence by the State is the years-long indifference toward the situation in Lampedusa, Italy, as well as other “detention centers” in Greece, Malta, Spain, and previously in Libya. For years, refugees have been drowning as they try to flee across the Mediterranean, which was increasingly turned into a giant lake of the dead. Do the Schäubles,



UNHCR/I. Prickett

One of countless refugees from Syria. This woman had collapsed from seasickness and fatigue after the journey from Turkey to the island of Lesbos.

Draghis, Lagardes, and Bernankes of this world really believe that a large part of the world can actually be cut off from economic development for decades—or actually, for centuries under colonialism—by “conditionalities,” and that the resulting system of unimaginable injustice in the world, in which 80 individuals possess as much wealth as half of humanity, can continue to exist over the long term?

The current refugee crisis has been in the making for a long time, and will escalate further, as long as the injustice in the current world order that cries out to Heaven is not eliminated.

The blatant failure of the EU in this situation is no surprise. Since the Maastricht Treaty that created the EU in 1992, the bloated bureaucracy in Brussels has turned into a mega-lobby for the financial oligarchy, and its complete lack of “European values” is now trumpeted throughout the world in cacophony. The entire concept of the Frontex border-control organization, whose primary task is to scare off and push back the refugees, is an open indictment of the EU’s inhumanity. *Die Welt* reported on the unspeakable behavior of the Frontex staff on the Greek islands—almost all of them from Eastern European countries, which refuse to admit a single refugee—, who watched the people who were fighting for their lives through binoculars, without lifting a finger.

The Chinese Offer

There is only one way to overcome the refugee crisis: A real development perspective for Southwest Asia and Africa must be immediately placed on the agenda, as we have proposed in our study “The New Silk Road Becomes the World Land-Bridge.” The potential for this already exists through China’s policy for development of the New Silk Road, also called “One Belt, One Road.” Chancellor Merkel, in her recent trip to China, asked Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang for help in coping with the refugee crisis, and he assured her that China will help to stabilize the countries from which the refugees come.

At the just-ended Syria Conference in Vienna, which brought together for the first time Russia, the United States, Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and the UN, China was also represented. Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Li Baodong presented a four-part initiative to help solve the crisis in Syria politically. The UN, he said, should have the lead role in mediating among the different groups, and—this is the most important—the reconstruction process in Syria should start immediately, so that the warring parties can see the peace dividend that awaits them as soon as the war ends.

Precisely that is the main idea of extending the New Silk Road to the Middle East and Africa: that is, to create an irresistible incentive so that people see hope for the future in their homeland.

At the opening of the recent “Silk Road Forum 2015” in Madrid, Li Wei, the Director of the Development Research Center (DRC) of the Chinese State Council, presented the wonderful idea that the nations of the world could build “an immense and open Noah’s Ark” around the Chinese Silk Road program, which would provide a way out of the financial crisis and bring stability and recovery for the global economy. Li Wei described the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road as the way to overcome structural contradictions and to usher in the next phase of global prosperity. Through such cooperation with other nations, the nations could also solve their own domestic contradictions.

Spanish Deputy Trade Minister Jaime García-Legaz



Xinhua/Xie Haining

The Director of the Development Research Center of the State Council Li Wei opening the Silk Road Forum on Oct. 28 in Madrid.

stressed that the best phase of Spanish-Chinese cooperation still lies ahead. This was also the tenor at the recent State visit by President Xi Jinping to the United Kingdom, where effusive speeches were given about the coming Sino-British golden age.

But the most important partner in Europe remains Germany, of course, whose capacities in high technology and especially its *Mittelstand* [small and medium-sized industrial enterprises] best meet the requirements of the Chinese goal of doubling the standard of living by 2025.

The opportunity lies before us to not only overcome the refugee crisis and to create a Noah’s Ark with the help of the New Silk Road program for all people and nations in need, but also to achieve a completely new form of cooperation among nations, for the common aims of mankind. We only need to seize it, and every one of you reading these lines is called upon to participate in bringing it about.

The historical moment has arrived at which we can achieve a truly human world order, and we dare not let it pass us by!

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