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## II. The Folly of Geopolitics

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ZEPP-LAROUCHE WEBCAST

# ‘Old Paradigm’ Defenders Target China At Munich Security Conference

Feb. 23—This is an edited transcript of Helga Zepp-LaRouche’s weekly [New Paradigm](#) webcast of Feb. 22. She was interviewed by Harley Schlanger.

**Harley Schlanger:** Hello, I’m Harley Schlanger with the Schiller Institute. Welcome to this week’s international webcast with the Schiller Institutes’ Founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche.

It’s clear that the geopoliticians have gone into flight forward in the last days: they’re reacting not to a military or economic threat from Russia or China, but to the collapse of their system. We saw that in the discussion process at the Munich Security Conference which took place last weekend in Munich. There were warnings about Russia and China, and there was also a pushback from Russia’s Foreign Minister Lavrov and also China. Helga, I suggest we start there, to look at where things are now going.

**Helga Zepp-LaRouche:** The Munich conference has had this orientation for a long time, but this time, they were really in a heightened state of hysteria. The whole discussion was dominated by U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s indictment of the so-called 13 Russian spies, whom he had conveniently discovered—it was an old story—but he rediscovered it just in time for the Munich conference. That story very much dominated the discussion there, building anti-

Russian hysteria that is really taking on very dangerous dimensions. The propaganda and hostilities against China are also growing to an unprecedented level. To fully understand this, I strongly suggest that our listeners not just listen to the press clips, but read the actual speeches, <https://www.securityconference.de/en/activities/munich-security-conference/msc-2018/statements-and-speeches/> and <https://www.securityconference.de/en/media-library/munich-security-conference-2018>. I think that the two most interesting speeches were from Mme. Fu Ying of China and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. Mme. Fu Ying, who is a leading foreign policy spokesperson from China, made a very calm, very good intervention. She repeated that China is not exporting its own model, but is helping developing countries accomplish their own development with their own models. China is motivated by the idea of building a community for the shared



MSC/Kuhlmann  
*Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov, at the Munich Security Conference, Feb. 17, 2018.*



MSC/Mueller  
*Mme. Fu Ying, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, National People's Congress, China, at the Munich Security Conference.*

future of mankind.

I suggest you also listen to what the Foreign Minister of Russia said. His speech was very hard-hitting. He reminded his listeners that this Munich Security Conference was taking place in Munich, where 80 years ago the 1938 Munich Agreement agreed to the partition of Czechoslovakia. That Munich Agreement was the prelude to World War II. He added that at the Nuremberg trials, when the main criminals of the Nazi period were put on trial, those being tried said that the aim, then, was to keep Russia out of Europe. We see this being repeated again in what is going on today. If you look at the policies of the EU and NATO, how they have tried to break any Russian ties to the Balkans or Eastern Europe, then you see that they have learned absolutely nothing from history and that the danger of nuclear war is now very high.

The former NATO Military Committee Chairman and former Bundeswehr Chief of Staff, Gen. Harald Kujat, warned of an accidentally triggered nuclear war. This subject—that we could end up in war from all of this—has at least some thinking people extremely worried. Foreign Minister Lavrov, directly addressing his German audience, also reminded people of the constructive role that the Soviet Union, and Russia later, played in the process of the German reunification. It was very clear, at that time, that security architecture had to exist that would guarantee the security of both the East and the West. But what followed instead was NATO expansion to the Russian border. Documents have now been made public, which prove that that the Russians were, in fact, promised at the time that this NATO expansion would *not* happen. That expansion was a clear violation of the commitment made then.

Lavrov then reviewed the role of the EU in the Ukraine crisis: it was the EU Association Agreement being pushed on Yanukovich at the end of 2013, which forced him to make a choice between either the East or the West, which then triggered the Maidan and the coup. Lavrov accused the EU of having given support to that coup, which we know was the case. Remember



White House  
*Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko (left) with Vice President Michael Pence.*

Victoria Nuland bragged that the State Department had spent \$5 billion to support the NGOs and the color revolution and regime change in Ukraine. In conclusion, Lavrov spoke about the necessity of a new security architecture, including Russia, China, the United States and the EU. And I think that that is a discussion which *urgently* must be put on the table because we are on the brink of World War III: such new international security architecture is of the utmost urgency.

**Schlanger:** The Ukraine situation is now heading toward a very explosive potential. President Poroshenko just announced that he agrees with the call from the parliament, pushed through by the extreme right, the neo-Nazi grouping, for the Donbass reintegration plan. What is the danger here? It looks as though this is heading toward a new, escalated confrontation.

**Zepp-LaRouche:** It means that the Minsk Agreements, and the Minsk process, are practically dead. It can be revived, but as of now, if Poroshenko wants a military solution to reintegrate Donbass, that threatens the immediate possibility of an all-out war with Russia. This is extremely dangerous. We've seen the police were just standing by, doing nothing in the recent period, during neo-Nazi attacks on Russian institutions in Kiev. There is, in addition, the incredible, human



Vitrenko web page

*Natalia Vitrenko*

rights violation against Natalia Vitrenko, who is the leader of the Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine, which is one of the major opposition parties in Ukraine. Her request to register her party according to the new rules of the Ukrainian government for party procedures was just rejected without any explanation. In response, an Italian Member of the European Parliament, Marco Zanni, filed a request to the EU asking why they are not pursuing this case, given the fact that it's a clear violation of EU rules. We have to see what comes out of that. But I think that the situation in Ukraine is becoming the worst, most dangerous hot spot in the world: that makes it all the more clear that new relations with Russia as General Kujat was demanding, are absolutely important if you want to maintain the existence of civilization and peace in the world.

**Schlanger:** In the last few days, there were attacks by these neo-Nazi gangs on the Russian Cultural Center and attacks on Russian banks, and that situation is coming to a head. The other aspect of this Ukraine situation is the connection to Christopher Steele, the British operative in the midst of the U.S. so-called "Russiagate." Steele was very much involved in communication with Victoria Nuland. I think it's worth going through that, Helga, just to give people a sense, that there *is* one enemy operation, which has many tentacles.

**Zepp-LaRouche:** Yes, it is directly British intelligence. It's not about a "former" MI6 agent, but it is an MI6 operation, and it involves the Foreign Office of Great Britain itself, as we saw in the case which was launched by one of the Russians who were accused of hacking, who took the Steele case to court. The Foreign Office intervened directly to block any revelations coming from Steele, their operative. Now, that is an incredible story. It means the British have intervened, not only in the coup against the Yanukovych government, but also in the coup against President Trump. That whole Russiagate is, as some people amusingly say, a big "regurgitated nothingburger." There is absolutely no substance to it. We should note the fact that in the continuous investigations coming from the two Houses of Congress,

under the leadership of Rep. Nunes (R-Calif.) and Sen. Grassley (R-Iowa), the focus is still on the coup-plotters who were involved with the British in this coup. In recent developments, House Intelligence Chair Rep. Nunes sent out letters to several top officials of the existing or former government, asking very pointed questions—when did you know first about the Steele dossier? Did you discuss it with anyone else? Did Obama know about it? When did he know? And these individuals have to answer these questions by March 2. It's not a long-term investigation; it's in a hot phase now. It's not yet decided how this coup will go. If the Congress has the courage to go after those Obama intelligence officials who colluded with Great Britain, a lot of people will not only lose their positions, they will end up in jail, as some judges are now already demanding.

**Schlanger:** You brought up the relationship of this Steele dossier to the Russiagate story. The new development is that Obama himself is being named, as is Brennan, the former CIA Director. Mueller released the indictment of these 13 so-called Russian spies, on the eve of the Munich conference. *EIR* has a new article on this. What can you tell us about this latest fraud?

**Zepp-LaRouche:** This is a case which will never go to trial because it names people who are living in





Russia. It's also an old case; it was already discussed in 2014. Since there is no extradition treaty between the United States and Russia, the trial will never take place. Mueller knows he doesn't have to provide any evidence for any of his accusations. It's a very convenient way to keep beating the drums of anti-Russian hysteria. It's a big, big "nothingburger" as many people have pointed out. But, it *is* a fraud against the population and will have incredibly dangerous effects if you keep building this kind of enemy image of Russia and China. People should understand, this has nothing to do with Russian hacking, or Russian collusion—as a matter of fact, there have been several people, including a leading member of the Russian Duma, who have said that there are 102 well-documented cases of the United States meddling in the internal affairs of other countries. The number of coups and regime-change operations are fairly well known. At a minimum, one could fairly say that both sides are doing it. But the United States has a very long record of having intervened in the internal affairs of other countries in multiple ways.

This needs to be understood as pre-war propaganda. Many people easily fall for things which are constantly repeated in the mainstream media. *They should think twice.*

Russia and China are building a completely different model of international relationships, explicitly based on non-interference and respect for the social systems of other countries. This propaganda creates a terribly dangerous scenario. These lies are, in fact, a preparation for war, and that is what people really must get straight.

**Schlanger:** On that point, former CIA Director Woolsey was asked in an interview, if it were true that the United States is engaged in attacks on other nations' elections? And he hemmed and hawed, and then he said: Well, yes, we do it, but we do it for their benefit. In other words, the United States tries to overthrow governments for the benefit of the people that are under those governments. You mentioned the Russian and Chinese policies that are moving ahead. There was a very interesting [conference](#) in Vienna in the last couple of

days, on expanding the [Silk Road through Vienna](#) as a hub: this would connect Southern Europe, Eastern Europe—where's the rest of Europe in this?

**Zepp-LaRouche:** In the government program of the new Austrian government, there is a whole paragraph saying that the Austrian government should work, and will work, with the New Silk Road perspective of China. If you look at the German government, they say, "No, no, we should ask the EU." So, if you want to be polemical about it, you could say that this time the Germans *should* listen to an Austrian for a change! Because the Austrian policy is actually very good: This took place in the context of an [international railway forum](#) in Vienna, where an agreement was signed between the Austrian and the Russian Railways,

to extend the broad gauge railway from Vienna to a little town in Slovakia, which will be 400 km, but then connects with the broad gauge Russian railway, from Vienna, all the way through Russia to China. That is the precondition for Vienna to become a hub for the New Silk Road. This is very good, because it will greatly influence all of Austria's neighbors in Eastern Europe and in the Balkans. This is very good.

Switzerland is moving in a similar direction, as are Belgium and the Netherlands, working on cooperation with the New Silk Road. In France, there has been major motion in this direction after the state visit to China by President Macron in January. He asked China to help France not repeat the mistakes of its colonialist policy in Africa, which I thought was really remarkable, and a clear shift in the French policy. The only places which clearly stand apart are Brussels (EU headquarters), and Berlin. The British are playing a double game as usual. They want to make London the financial center of cooperation with China, but Prime Minister Theresa May, when she was recently in China, did not sign an agreement to cooperate with the Belt and Road Initiative.

It's a very rocky process, but you have a lot of interest among chambers of commerce. The head of the Vienna Chamber of Commerce said that he was extremely happy that the new Austrian government responded so quickly to the demand by industry for such cooperation. Even in Germany, there are many local, midsize companies and chambers of commerce which all have discovered that it would be in their very best interest to play a leading role in this type of cooperation.

Because of the continuing difficulty in forming a new German governing coalition—the SPD, the German Social Democratic Party, is in a free fall in the polls, they're now registering 15% in the polls! Can you imagine that? Many people are extremely worried that the Social Democrats in Germany may suffer the same fate as Social Democrats in other European countries, basically to vanish. Naturally, this is not good. There's a big revolt in the CDU, the Christian Democratic Union party, against Merkel. They have brought in newer members and younger people, who, unfortu-



[www.bundeskanzlerin.de](http://www.bundeskanzlerin.de)

*German Chancellor Angela Merkel (center) with Wolfgang Schäuble (right).*

nately, are no better than Merkel in this respect.

We are in a *deep* crisis: The European Union *is* in a crisis. We have Italian elections coming up in the first week of March, which may also produce an ungovernable situation, like the very difficult situation in Germany right now. So, I think we are going to be in rocky times until there are enough people willing to think in completely new ways, to move to a New Paradigm of win-win cooperation, abandoning geopolitics and the zero-sum game idea, where one must lose when the other wins. We can, instead, have relationships of win-win cooperation for a new world economic order. Until enough people realize that, and understand that we have to leave geopolitics behind, we are really in an existential danger.

**Schlanger:** Helga, when I was reading the documents coming from that Feb. 20-22 Vienna conference which focused on the Eurasian Corridor and the New Silk Road, it reminded me of the proposal that you made for the Productive Triangle, at the time of the fall of the Communist governments of Eastern Europe. At that time you specified the area between Paris, Berlin, and Vienna, as the triangle from which the spiral arms of rail could go. This is still a great potential: it is a blueprint for connecting to the New Silk Road, and it seems so obvious. So, why is it that these governments, espe-

cially the government in Germany, are still clinging to what they know doesn't work—the EU policies of austerity and bailouts?

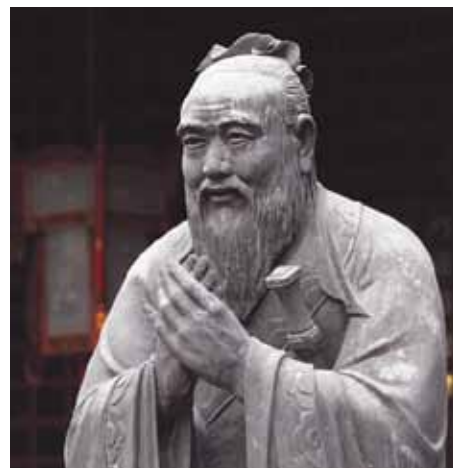
**Zepp-LaRouche:** I don't know. What are the motives of Mrs. Merkel? That's the 64 million euro question! I mean, people really don't know. I think one simple explanation is that all of these parties want to maintain the status quo. What has become so absolutely, nakedly blatant in these discussions in Germany, trying to form a coalition government, is that there is no content, no vision, no idea where Germany should be in 50 years—*nothing* resembling what Xi Jinping presented at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in October, namely, a vision going forward to 2050. These negotiators, of the so-called Grand Coalition—which is not so grand anymore, because the numbers are shrinking—are just trying to get positions in the next government for themselves! And that is now being publicly discussed because it's obvious.

So, I think what is needed is people who have a vision of the future; people who can abandon the idea that you have to defend a banking system which only makes the rich, richer and the poor, poorer. The statistics show that the 40% of the people in the lower income brackets in Germany, in the last 20 years, have become significantly poorer! We have a lot of people who only have part-time jobs; they can be laid off without any advance notice and without an official reason. Many, many people are stuck in these very precarious living conditions. Those leaders saying we have to keep the status quo are completely oblivious to the wellbeing and the common good of their own populations, never mind Africa or the Middle East, or other nations of the world.

We have an establishment which is really—in a certain sense it reminds me of the dinosaurs—they don't want to give up their old geopolitical thinking, they don't want to recognize the fact that we are facing another financial blowout which could be much, much



*Painting of Benjamin Franklin by Joseph Siffred Duplessis, 1785.*



*Confucius*

worse than the one in 2008. A public debate is very urgently needed: what future should the world have? What future should each country have? How do we order the relations among our nations in such a way that mankind can have a bright future? Such discourse is utterly absent from the mainstream media, and it is also not very well developed in any other forums.

**Schlanger:** You've spoken quite a bit about the breakdown in culture. I'd like to bring this to the question of what just happened in Florida with another mass shooting at a high school. We're seeing another horrific aspect of what you were describing, the killing of the future, and the destruction of youth. This is happening not just in these kinds of massacres, but also as part of the drug epidemic, the so-called "social network" phenomenon and the destruction of thinking. You and the Schiller Institute have been out front on this for a long time, addressing the collapse of the culture, of which the video games and social networking and merely a part—but the overall collapse. When you talk about a dialogue, what are the elements that should be brought in positively, to move this situation from where we stand now?

**Zepp-LaRouche:** We need to go back to the highest level of culture in each nation. Now, in the United States, it is natural to think of Benjamin Franklin, the Founding Fathers, John Quincy Adams, Abraham Lincoln, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and John F. Kennedy, among others—these people played leading roles in pe-



riods when the United States had a positive vision of its role in the world. John Quincy Adams, for example, had a foreign policy approach which is pretty much like that of China today. Benjamin Franklin was an absolute, enthusiastic student of Confucius, and he used the Confucian philosophy to develop his own system of morality! These are the kinds of discussions which would really help. In Germany, we are very blessed to have a very rich culture: We have had many, many thinkers, from Nicholas of Cusa to Kepler and Leibniz; we had many composers of Classical music, from Bach to Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, and many others. We have had fantastic poets, like Schiller, Lessing, Heine, Mörike, and again, many others. Italy was at the center of the Golden Renaissance. Spain had the Andalusian Renaissance. We had the Baghdad Caliphate—Baghdad used to be, in a certain period, during the Abbasid Dynasty, *the* most developed city in the world! Then you had the centuries when China was the leading nation in terms of science and culture.

We have to activate the best potential of each nation, because this is about to be lost. How many pupils in the United States today read the *Federalist Papers*? How many have the kind of imagination to think about building infrastructure in the way it was done in the Lincoln period and then later again, in the 20th Century? People have to start constructing a vision for the future, building on the best tradition of their own nation, and then engaging in an active dialogue with other nations. I'm absolutely certain that if that were to be done, a new Renaissance would absolutely be possible.

We will, however, have to shed a lot of the present, populist culture. We have to get rid of this idea that "money makes money." We have stop wasting our time with speculation and playing video games, because people are really losing their creative potential! That potential can be regained by studying Classical music, Classical poetry, reading philosophers like Plato, Cusa, and Leibniz, reading their original works, not commentaries, reading the original works. Go back to the sources, as the humanists have always said. Then I think it would become quite possible to create a new Renaissance of thinking. A new just world economic order, the New Silk Road, the Belt and Road Initiative, in the final instance, will only succeed if it is accompanied by a Renaissance of Classical culture.

China is doing that; reviving their 5,000 years of history. I had the good fortune to visit some of the places

in Dunhuang, the beautiful Buddhist excavations near Chongqing, and many other aspects of Chinese culture in museums and other sites. There is a tremendous effort by China to revive the best of culture, making it accessible to as many people as possible, and encouraging the spread of Confucianism inside China in every pore of the society.

The West should have something similar: We have great thinkers in our heritage, but they're not being revived and they're not cherished. This is an urgent question to be addressed. If we don't want to have more horrific events like the Florida school shooting, the weapons discussion is important, but more important is the question of how do we give people the inner strength, the sense of inner beauty to prevent them from going in that direction? You have many troubled people who definitely could be saved if there were a serious effort of aesthetical education, education to develop the moral beauty of their character. This is why you need the classics and not modern versions of poetry and drama that celebrate brutality and irrationalism. *Only* if you have the highest ideal of man, man as a beautiful soul with a beautiful character, can the education system inoculate people against such horror. And I really hope that people will join with us in this effort.

**Schlanger:** I think in that light, we also have to address the drug question, the opioid epidemic, and as well, the whole money-laundering apparatus, which fosters not only drugs, but also terrorism. In the interest of furthering this discussion Helga, I recommend people go to the [Schiller Institute archives](#) and read your writings on this, because you've given numerous speeches about how we can invigorate the process of people discovering their own creative potential. I think with that we can end this week's webcast. Thank you very much for joining us Helga.

**Zepp-LaRouche:** Let me invite you, our listeners, to register for the new [class series](#), which is sponsored in the United States by LaRouche PAC. This is an in-depth course, where people can study the New Paradigm. Harley taught the class on geopolitics last week. There will be another ten sessions, including discussion sessions. This is an invaluable opportunity for people to study these ideas in depth. So I strongly encourage that our listeners participate in that class series.

**Schlanger:** OK! Good-bye.