carried out the notorious Nanjing Massacre. Chinese victims—women, children, civilians as well as soldiers—numbered as many as 300,000. In the course of the entire "War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression," China suffered 35 million casualties.

A Spiritual Recrudescence and Improvement of Human Character

At 9:02 in the morning of September 2, 1945, on the deck of the battleship USS *Missouri*, U.S. General of the Army Douglas MacArthur convened the signing of the Instrument of Surrender of the Imperial Government of Japan. China, America's fraternal ally, was represented by General Xu Yongchang. Eleven representatives of Japan's Emperor, the Imperial Foreign Ministry, and the Imperial Army and Navy attended. Japan's representatives were expecting orders of execution for their war crimes on the spot.

Instead, General MacArthur treated them as foreign diplomats and said, in part, the following, in light of the fact that mankind had just entered the age of nuclear weapons:

> Men since the beginning of time have sought peace. Various methods through the ages have been attempted to devise an international process to prevent or settle disputes between nations. From the very start, workable methods were found, in so far as individual citizens were concerned, but the mechanics of an instrumentality of larger international scope have never been successful. Military alliances, balances of power, Leagues of Nations, all in turn failed, leaving the only path to be "by way of the crucible of war." The utter destructiveness of war now blocks out this alternative. We have had our last chance. If we will not devise some greater and more equitable system, Armageddon will be at our door. The problem basically is theological and involves a spiritual recrudescence and improvement of human character that will synchronize with our almost matchless advances in science, art, literature, and all the material and cultural developments of the past 2,000 years. It must be of the spirit, if we are to save the flesh.

Schiller Institute historian Asuka Burke, writing in *Executive Intelligence Review*, February 9, 2018, emphasized:

> In reporting back the surrender ceremony to the Emperor, a member of the Japanese delegation made the honest reflection that Japan, if it had been victorious, would not have treated the former enemy with such magnanimity. After all, we were not beaten on the battlefield by dint of superior arms. We were defeated in the spiritual contest by virtue of a nobler idea. The real issue was moral—beyond all the powers of algebra to compute.

Can Japan pull back from its current fast march towards ripping up its post-war Constitution, becoming a nuclear state with the most deadly offensive weapons, and once again provoking war with China? Perhaps, the looming defeat of the United States and Israel in their unprovoked war against BRICS nation Iran, and the potential of a prolonged constriction of oil and natural gas flows to Japan from Southwest Asia may help Japanese citizens and their political formations rein in Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's militarization drive.

For Japan to avoid its own complete destruction in a new Japanese-provoked war, its leadership must turn to "a spiritual recrudescence and improvement of human character"—as U.S. General of the Army Douglas MacArthur had demanded.

—Kevin Pearl contributed to this article.

Germany's New Military Strategy: Prepare for War with Russia

by EIR Staff Wiesbaden

April 30—In parallel with Japan's plans to rearm, her World War II ally has announced similar intentions.

A new military strategy for the German armed forces has now been adopted, most of which remains secret. Defense Minister Boris Pistorius, however, did unveil some of its contents in a statement to the public and parliament on April 22. To make a long story short, since Russia represents an acute military threat to Germany, he said, the Bundeswehr must become "the strongest conventional army in Europe."

The paper asserts that Russia "is preparing through an arms build-up for a military confrontation with NATO and views the use of military force as a legiti-

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NATO

German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius.

mate instrument for asserting its interests." No evidence is given to the public to support that assertion, but the lack of any has not prevented Brussels, Berlin, and other European capitals from repeating the mantra for the past several years. The paper further accuses Moscow of "hybrid warfare," involving espionage, acts of sabotage, cyber-attacks and disinformation campaigns. Here, no verifiable evidence can be provided, according to the defense minister, because it would jeopardize "national security interests." But does anyone believe that Western countries do not regularly employ such tactics, especially against Russia?

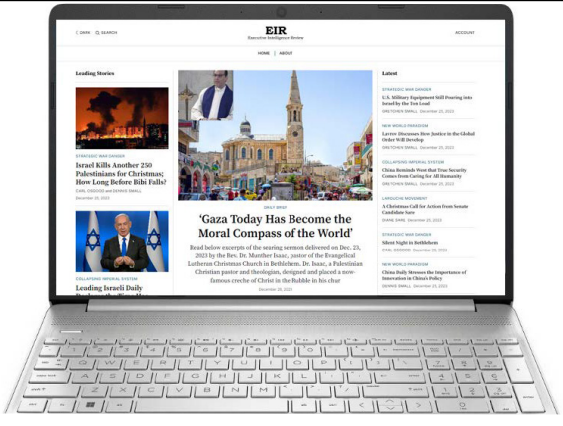
Western Hegemony Threatened

Another big danger for Germany, the new strategy claims, is the decline of the "unipolar world," and the rise of the Global Majority. Thus, it states, "Growing multipolarity and systemic rivalry are putting the rules-based international order under pressure and enhance volatility, uncertainty and instability." The rules-based international order, of course, is the one in which the rules have been decided by the Western elites.

In any case, Pistorius says a strategy of three phases is being implemented to build up the German armed forces: "In the short term, we are increasing our defense and resilience capabilities; in the medium term, we are aiming for a significant, comprehensive increase in capabilities; and in the long term, we will establish technological superiority." (Under the current conditions of rapid deindustrialization and energy shortages, technological superiority is a pipe-dream.)

In terms of personnel, the new strategy calls for at least 260,000 active soldiers and 200,000 members of the military reserve, the latter being upgraded to an integral part of the armed forces. Current levels are 182,000 and 34,000 respectively. Pistorius further declared, "In the future, the reserve will not merely provide temporary support to active-duty forces when necessary. No, we explicitly view the new reserve as being on equal footing with active-duty forces." The new strategy also provides for "improvements" in military equipment and various long-range precision weapons.

Although publicly presented as a "defense" strategy, the document is actually a strategy for offensive operations, since the German government refuses to engage in any diplomacy with Russia aimed at conflict prevention. In fact, all EU leaders have refused to even talk to Russian President Vladimir Putin since the beginning of the war in Ukraine.



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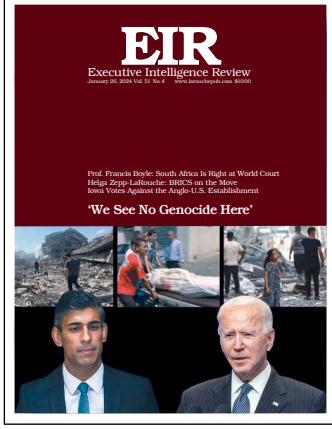

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