

Eurasian Land-Bridge: A new era for mankind

by Helga Zepp LaRouche

Helga Zepp LaRouche, the founder of the Schiller Institutes internationally, has become known as "The Silk Road Lady," for her role in promoting the Eurasian Land-Bridge project. Her speech here is abridged; for extensive coverage of the Land-Bridge and the May 7-9, 1996 conference in Beijing, at which she spoke, see "Beijing's Grand Design for Eurasian Development" (EIR, June 14, 1996, pp. 10-51), and EIR's Special Report, "The Eurasian Land-Bridge," January 1997.

As the Honorable Publio Fiori was saying, the continuation of the Maastricht policy will lead to Hell. Fortunately, there is an alternative to the present suicide course that most governments in Europe are on, in an attempt to fulfill the criteria of Maastricht—governments that are crazy enough to impose upon themselves Middle Ages-like flagellant self-punishment, as they did in Holland this past weekend.

The alternative is specifically in the form of the Eurasian Land-Bridge, which is the idea to integrate western Europe, eastern Europe, China, South Asia, and Southeast Asia into one large economic zone, with infrastructure integration. This project is not only a proposal; it is presently, actively being pursued by China, especially by Iran, most recently also India, some of the Southeast Asian countries, Turkey, the Central Asian Republics. And, obviously, what is needed most, is the kind of technology and industrial potential of western Europe, to make this project the largest economic miracle in the history of mankind.

If we look at the population-density map of the world, already now, in this region of the world, there are currently 4.5 billion people. We have a few concentrations of population in the United States, some spots in western Europe, but the vast majority of the human race is in the area of China and South Asia, and there, will also be the large population growth in the next century.

From the 5th to the 7th of May, last year, there took place a conference in Beijing, organized by the Chinese government and the European Union (which begrudgingly had to agree to it), with the participation of 34 nations, and the subject of this conference was the economic development of the region along the new Eurasian Continental Bridge.

Now, I participated in this conference as a speaker, and I can tell you that it was absolutely joyful to see the cultural optimism that was evident at that conference. Because, what the Chinese government announced, was the idea that we have



Helga Zepp LaRouche has taken the organizing campaign for the Eurasian Land-Bridge to cities around the world. Here, at a conference in Vienna, Austria, in March.

a new era of mankind beginning through the Land-Bridge conception. And here there are no longer geographical preconditions, like the location of oceans or rivers, or about the richness of a country, but that through the conception of development corridors, infrastructure corridors, you can open up, for the first time in history, all of the land-locked areas of the world, and try to develop the interior of these areas.

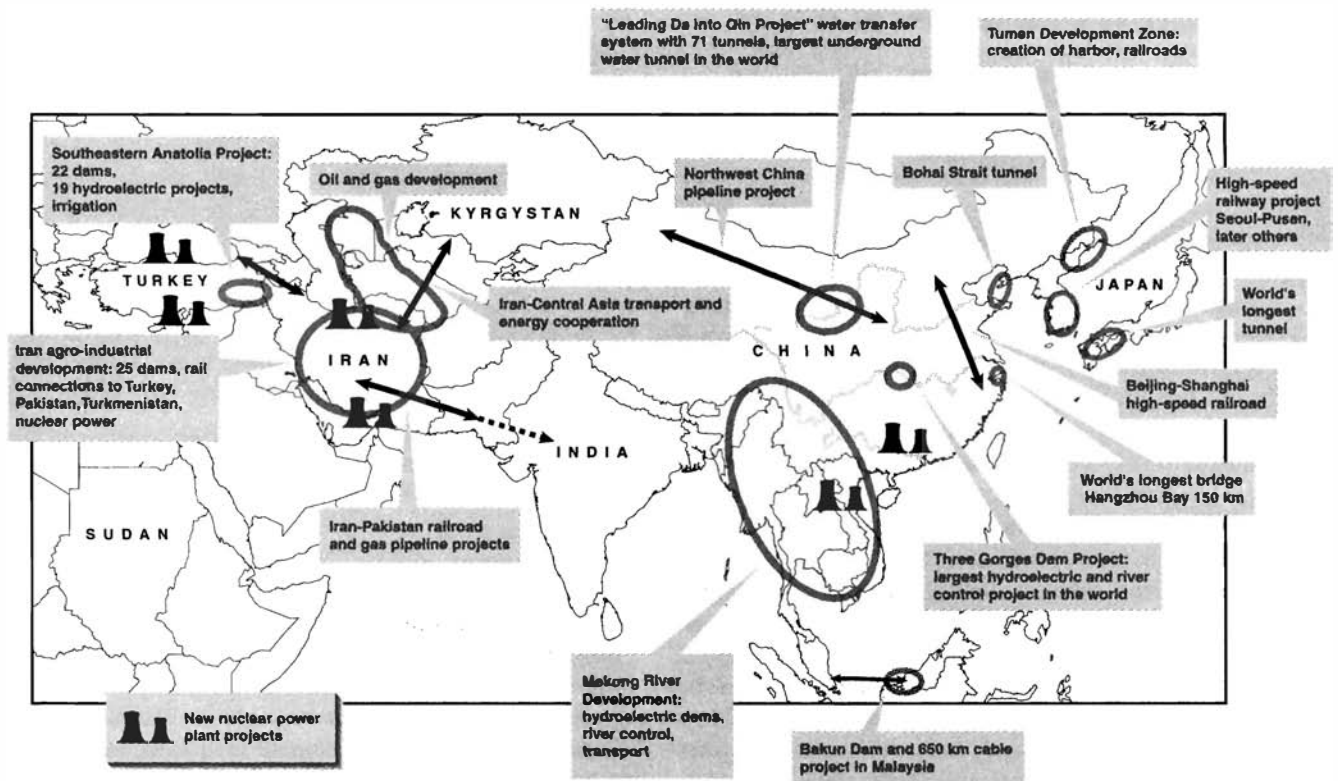
China's long-term strategic planning

So, here it was announced that the policy of the Chinese government, which has already been written into its long-term strategic planning, is to bring the development of the coastal areas of China as quickly as possible to the interior regions, the western regions, and then have China as a whole reach world-class levels of development, including the United States, western Europe, and Japan, as quickly as possible. But that the Land-Bridge conception should not be limited to the Eurasian Land-Bridge, but infrastructure connections should also connect to Africa; Africa should be integrated into this new Land-Bridge development, as well as through the Bering Strait, to the United States, and also Latin America. So, the Chinese government indeed presented there, a program for global reconstruction of the world economy, which in many points is very similar to what we have been proposing for 25 years.

Now, as was stated by China's President Jiang Zemin recently at the 130th anniversary of Sun Yat-sen's birthday, the Chinese government has returned to the policies of the founder of modern China, Dr. Sun Yat-sen. In an infrastructure map used by Dr. Sun Yat-sen in the 1920s, in a famous book called *The International Development of China*, he proposed a very vast program of infrastructure development: river taming, railroad building, energy production and distribution, which, basically, is what the Chinese government's policy is

FIGURE 1

Large development projects related to the Eurasian Land-Bridge



today, in modern form.

Now, what the Chinese government is actively pursuing, is a revival of the 2,000-year-old Silk Road, which, as was stressed by Song Jian, the chairman of the State Science and Technology Commission, the Silk Road is not only an economic road between Europe and Asia, but it is also, as it was 2,000 years ago, an effort to integrate cultures; to have the different nations and cultures of the Eurasian continent help each other, with the mutual forces of exchange of cultures, and therefore laying the true foundation of peace.

When I arrived in Beijing, I had a cultural shock, because I last visited it 25 years ago, in 1971, at the height of the Cultural Revolution, and Beijing had completely changed. You see construction sites, for miles and miles and miles. The famous Berlin Potsdam Platz construction site is just a tiny peanut compared to the miles and miles of construction you see in Beijing and many other cities.

Now, I will come back to the infrastructure corridors as such, but here is a map which has some of the largest industrial projects which are presently under construction in the area of the Eurasian Land-Bridge (see **Figure 1**). If you take all of these projects together, it is enormous, and China, as you know, is the only country which has had up to two-digit economic growth rates in recent years.

Construction plans

I will just give you some idea. For example, presently under construction in China alone, are 14 subway systems in large cities; in the next five to ten years, they are building 100 airports and 100 ports, deep-sea water ports. In the next to 20-30 years, they have plans for the new construction of 200 cities with 1 million inhabitants each, because they expect the growth of 200 million people, and therefore they want to have nice modern cities for the people to live in—200 cities.

Of all the major projects, there are two big ones, which are called “projects of the century.” One is the famous Three Gorges Dam project. And this is basically a project which will tame the floods of the Yangtze River, and use the water for energy and irrigation. This was also Dr. Sun Yat-sen’s idea.

Now, you have never seen more hypocrisy on the side of the ecology movements, or the World Bank, than concerning this Three Gorges Dam project, because they all scream and yell about this project. But the reality is, that in the last flood alone, 33 million hectares of farmland were flooded, 1,000 people died, 800,000 houses were destroyed, and 2.8 million homes were damaged.

Now, in the past, when there were floods, up to 100,000 people were killed; by the year 2010, when the dam is completed, that danger will be eliminated forever. . . .