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BRICS Nations Aim for the Moon and Mars
EIR Brings Transaqua Plan to Lake Chad Event

Chinese Leaders Mobilize For High-Tech 'Silk Road'



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EIR

From the Editors

“The international system as it has been heretofore, *is dying*, and there are only two alternatives: general thermonuclear war, or a kind of unity among nations, which we see coming out of the BRICS and similar kinds of fora,” stated Lyndon LaRouche on Nov. 29. This issue of *EIR* provides ample evidence of the promise which the momentum around the BRICS dynamic represents—as well as the unmistakable evidence that the NATO nations are going for war.

Our *Feature* comes from *EIR*’s just-released Special Report, “The New Silk Road Becomes the World Land-Bridge,” and provides an overview of the Chinese Silk Road strategy, that is now reaching around the globe. President Xi Jinping’s recent speech defining China’s foreign policy around that very concept provides a timely update.

We have three articles in *International* which provide exciting evidence of how this Chinese (and BRICS) strategy is sparking optimism for similar projects elsewhere. First, there’s Africa, where the Lake Chad Basin Commission has begun to consider the great Transaqua water transfer program. Our correspondents were on-the-scene participants in this development.

Second, we feature recent developments in Mexico, where the government has begun to take steps to orient toward the BRICS—bringing itself into the British line-of-fire. Again, you will learn about the LaRouche movement’s intervention in this battle.

Third, we present a report from Australia, a nation still under the Queen of England, on how the BRICS developments are evoking a promising shift.

Our *Science* section also deals with the BRICS nations—India, China, and Russia—in terms of their scientific pioneering in space, as shown at the recent International Astronautical Conference.

On the war side, we have two reports—one from Helga Zepp-LaRouche on the global “chicken game” being played by NATO, and the other by Counterintelligence Editor Jeffrey Steinberg, who gives you the real story behind the removal of Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel (*National*).

Our *Editorial* is a call to action from the Schiller Institute, which we endorse, and urge you to do as well.

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*The Shanghai
Maglev Train*



Lars Ploughmann

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The world changed on Sept. 7, 2013, when Chinese President Xi Jinping called for the development of a "Silk Road Economic Belt" to span the great landmass "from the Pacific Ocean to the Baltic Sea." While the idea of the Silk Road looks back 2,000 years to the Han Dynasty, in more recent years, "relations between China and Central Asia began to take off," Xi said, "The old Silk Road began to radiate with a new vitality," one which presents the alternative to the collapsing Western financial system.

"Developing friendly relations with the countries of Central Asia has now become a priority for China's foreign policy," Xi said. This development perspective and its concomitant reaching out to other nations, has come to inform the policies of the BRICS. This article is excerpted from the new *EIR* Special Report, "The New Silk Road Becomes the World Land-Bridge."

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CHINA'S NEW SILK ROAD

Changing the Paradigm Toward Global Development¹

by William C. Jones and Michael Billington

On September 7, 2013, the world changed. On that day Chinese President Xi Jinping, speaking at Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan, called for the development of a “Silk Road Economic Belt” (SREB) stretching “from the Pacific Ocean to the Baltic Sea.” “We must expand the development of Eurasia,” Xi said, “creating an economic belt along the Silk Road.”

The idea of the Silk Road hearkens back to a period 2,000 years ago, in the Han Dynasty, when Zhang Qian, an envoy of the Han Emperor, was sent on a visit to Central Asia in order to establish trade among nations of the region stretching all the way to Europe and to the Middle East and Africa. “More than 20 years ago relations between China and Central Asia began to take off,” Xi said. “The old Silk Road began to radiate with a new vitality.” President Xi was decidedly intent on creating a “new vitality in a world economy today” that was quickly self-destructing. “Developing friendly relations with the countries of Central Asia has now become a priority for China’s foreign policy,” Xi said. “We should have wider aspirations, broaden our field of vision of regional cooperation, and together create new brilliance in the region.”

One month later, during a visit to Indonesia, President Xi announced a similar Maritime Silk Road, also referring to Chinese history, specifically when Chinese Admiral Zheng He in the 1400s conducted a series of maritime voyages to Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Africa, creating a network of economic and cultural ties between the nations along his route.

What gives these proposals such power, of course, is the rapid development of the Chinese economy over the past four decades. Not only is

1. Reprinted from “The New Silk Road Becomes the World Land-Bridge,” EIR Special Report, Dec. 1, 2014.

FIGURE 1



this major diplomatic initiative of the “Two Silk Roads” a serious attempt to create a peaceful and prosperous neighborhood for China—an FDR “Good Neighbor Policy” in Eurasia—but also it provides a paradigm to bring prosperity to the world as a whole (Figure 1).

This was underlined by the visits of President Xi and Premier Li Keqiang to Europe this past Spring. President Xi celebrated the ties between China and Germany during his March visit to Duisburg, Germany, the western terminus of the Silk Road, declaring, “Greater integration of our two economies, or co-operation between strong growth poles in Asia and Europe, will greatly promote the formation of a big Asia-Europe market and the growth of the entire Eurasian continent, and will have a far-reaching impact on the world economy and the world trade structure. Closer cooperation between China, a country that is committed to the path of peaceful development, and Germany will be in the interest of the formation of a multi-polar world and of world peace, stability, and prosperity.”

Premier Li Keqiang, during his visit to Eastern Europe and Greece in June, proposed to bring the Silk Road Economic Belt to them, through rail, port, and related development projects. His proposals came as a clear contrast to the devastation that the collapse of the New York-London financial system has had on their countries.

Now, several months later, and in the wake of the BRICS process taking hold internationally, the Silk Road Economic Belt paradigm is being integrated with a global development perspective, in which increasing numbers of nations are joining together for great projects in space, nuclear power, water projects, rail, and in-depth development—a true new world economic order.

The Progress of the New Silk Road

China’s 2013 Silk Road Economic Belt and Maritime announcements hearken back directly to the principle of development posed in the early 1990s, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, by Lyndon LaRouche and his wife, Helga Zepp-LaRouche, in their program for the “Eurasian Land-Bridge”—development corridors spanning the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Their discussions with Chinese and Russian colleagues led to a conference on the topic of the “Eurasian Land-Bridge” in May 1996 in Beijing, sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, at which Helga Zepp-LaRouche was a major speaker. From that conference, the LaRouche movement and *EIR* launched an international campaign for the Eurasian Land-Bridge/New Silk Road perspective, publishing an extensive special report, and organizing conferences throughout the world.

In 1998, Mrs. LaRouche returned to China, where she keynoted another conference dealing with the Silk Road perspective, entitled “Asia-Europe Economic and Trade Relations in the 21st Century and the Second Eurasian Land-Bridge.” By that time, she had earned the title “The Silk Road Lady,” due to her indefatigable battle for the peace-through-development perspective. That year also saw the beginnings of tripartite cooperation between China, India, and Russia, with the highly significant proposal by then-Russian Premier Yevgeni Primakov during a state visit to India in December, for the formation of a “Strategic Triangle” that would contribute to “peace and stability” in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

But the 1997-98 “Asia Crisis,” brought on by the raid on the Asian currencies by the hedge funds (which nearly brought down the world financial system), put a damper on the momentum for the Eurasian Land-Bridge project, although China proceeded at a slower pace to construct the primary rail route through China, Kazakhstan, Russia, and into Western Europe. In January 2008, the first pilot container train left Beijing for Hamburg, Germany, through Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, and Poland. By 2011 service began between China and Duisburg, carrying electronic goods and textiles from China to Germany, and industrial goods and machinery from Germany to the central Chinese industrial region.

Now the Silk Road is a reality. New lines, logistics, and infrastructure are being mapped out, built, and completed every month. At the time of President Xi’s November 2013 speech calling for the SREB, representatives from 24 cities in eight countries along its route

formally signed an agreement, committing to mutual development and prosperity. The SREB corridors cut across 18 Asian and European nations directly, but affect 40 nations, with a total population of three billion people.

One of the most dramatic manifestations of the process was the opening in June this year of the high-speed rail line, in the middle stretch of the SREB, in western China. It runs from Lanzhou, in Gansu Province, westward across Xinjiang, to Urumqi, and thence to either the northern corridor of the SREB across Kazakhstan into Russia and beyond, or arcing to Southwest Asia, to southern Europe and Africa.

On June 3, 2014, the first high-speed test train traveled this new Lanzhou-Urumqi High-Speed Railway route. Full commercial service is to start by the end of the year. Running for 1,776 km (1,104 mi), the line is exceeded in length only by the 2,298 km (1,428 mi) Beijing to Guangzhou high-speed route, and it travels through harsh western conditions, with an operating speed up to 350 km/h (217 mph). To counter the fierce desert winds, one part of the track is protected by a 67 km (42 mi)-long wind-break structure. The route also boasts the highest high-speed rail tunnel in the world, where, near Qilianshan, Tunnel No. 2 is at 3,607 m (11,834 ft) above sea level.

When Helga Zepp-LaRouche returned to China in late August 2014, she visited Lanzhou and Beijing, and encountered a pervasive spirit of optimism around the Silk Road Economic Belt perspective. It was also evident, as expressed at a Sept. 5 government-sponsored conference in Beijing on the SREB policy, that the conceptual input of the LaRouche movement, especially from her and her husband Lyndon LaRouche, was warmly appreciated.

High-Speed Rail—Driver of Productivity

Join the three central lines by means of the fourth, and decide if, in ten years, a revolution will not have occurred in Peru, a revolution at once both physical and moral, because the locomotive—which, like magic, changes the face of the country through which it passes—also civilizes. And that is perhaps its main advantage: populations are put into contact. It does more than civilize; it educates. All the primary schools of Peru could not teach in a century, what the locomotive could teach them in ten years.

—*Manuel Pardo*, President of Peru, 1872-76

The railroad is like a leaven, which creates a cultural fermentation among the population. Even if it passed through an absolutely wild people along its way, it would raise them in a short time to the level requisite for its operation.

—*Count Sergei Witte*, Prime Minister of Russia under Czar Nicholas II, 1905-06

As the two leaders cited above state, the construction of rail lines, especially high-speed ones, accompanied by development corridors, serves to lift up a population to a higher platform of productivity, thus better preparing citizens for participation in higher national missions based on a science-driver program.

The remarkable new Lanzhou-Urumqi high-speed span in the Silk Road Economic Belt, underscores this general point. **Figure 2** is a map from China Railways, showing the rail grid as of September 2014, with high-speed rail routes designated by travel speed.

China's total rail network has a route-length of more than 100,000 km (62,140 mi), the second-largest after the United States, whose total land area is larger. But China's high-speed rail network had a total length of more than 11,028 km (6,852 mi) as of December 2013, by far the world's longest. It is expected to reach 18,000 km (11,000 mi) at the end of 2015, and is projected for 50,000 km (31,070 mi) by 2020.

In 2000, China had no high-speed service at all! But in the 1990s, plans had been laid for the HSR (high-speed rail) project, and in just over a decade, the biggest high-speed rail system in the world was built, and has been expanding rapidly since.

The principle involved, right from the start, was to increase the productivity of surface transportation, by separating passenger from freight haulage, and building key corridors. This has multiple gains, lifting the productivity up to new levels nationwide. This was spelled out emphatically by Dr. Sergei Sazonov, senior researcher at the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Far East Studies, in the newspaper of the Russian Railways, *Gudok*, June 24, 2014 ("The Development of High-Speed Mainlines Is a Stimulus for National Economic Development"). A few items in Sazonov's list of China's HSR hallmark successes are given under the railway map in Figure 2. His summary of the productivity impact of HSR is impressive:

"Key achievements of the Chinese railway sector's reform [upgrade] have been the ability of the railway complex to be specialized, allowing a radical increase

FIGURE 2

China Railway Map-High Speed (CRH) and Other Services, September 2014

China Railways, Sept. 16, 2014

in speeds, and a simultaneous increase in the carrying capacity of conventional-speed railroads, reducing the cost of bulk freight carriage on those older lines. According to analysis done by the Chinese Ministry of Railways, removing just one train from a mixed-use mainline (that is, building a special, dedicated HSR for the passenger traffic) raises the carrying capacity of the mainline by 1.5 to 2 freight trains daily.

“After the Beijing-Shanghai [passenger] HSR began operating, the daily carrying capacity of freight trains on this route rose by 140,000 metric tons, or 50 million metric tons per year.

“The development of HSR in China produces a significant multiplier effect within the industry. High-speed rail ‘compresses’ the great distances within China, not only connecting various cities, but driving domestic demand, and it is becoming a strategic sector of Chinese industry, promoting the development of related high-technology industries, as well.”

In the forefront of new surface transportation technologies is magnetic levitation, where again, China leads the world. The maglev train between Pudong and the Shanghai International Airport, the only commercially functioning maglev in the world, can reach 430

km/h (268 mph) on its 30 km (18.6 mi) route. It opened in January 2004. Additional projects have been under consideration, including an extension from Shanghai/Pudong, southwest by 210 km (130.5 mi) to Hangzhou.

The Tibet rail line (“rail in the sky”) is another demonstration of new technologies. The Qinghai-Tibet Railway is the first ever to connect the Tibet Autonomous Region, a land of extreme height and rough terrain, to anywhere else. The first 815 km (506 mi) section was constructed in 1984 to connect Golmud with Xining, in Qinghai Province. Then in 2006, the spectacular 1,142 km (710 mi) stretch was completed between Golmud and Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, overcoming extreme conditions in ways that will be invaluable for building rail lines across the tundra of the far north of Eurasia and North America. For example, about 550 km (340 mi) of the main Golmud-Lhasa line run on permafrost. There are 675 bridges.

Many new records were set. The line has the world’s

highest track route and railway station, in the Tanggula Pass, which is 5,072 m (16,640 ft) above sea level. The Fenghuoshan Tunnel is the world’s highest, at 4,905 m (16,093 ft) above sea level. The trains provide oxygen contingency services for passengers.

In August 2014, the third stretch of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway was completed, a 253 km (157.2 mi) line linking Lhasa with Shigatse, Tibet’s second city. This puts the line 540 km (335.5 mi) from Nepal’s border, and plans for a rail extension on this span were officially raised at the Nepal-Tibet Trade Facilitation Committee’s fifth meeting, in Lhasa, September 2014.

Thus, the drive by China for advanced rail service is contributing to the connectivity on many fronts in Asia. China’s extensive and high-technology rail networks harken back to the original nation-building railroad plan put forward at the beginning of the last century by the founding father of the Republic of China, Sun Yat-sen (**Figure 3**).

High-Speed Rail Drives Chinese Economic Development

From Dr. Sergei Sazonov:

- In 2006, the highest altitude railway in the world started operating between Qinghai and Tibet, with a high-speed segment, Golmud-Lhasa. Construction began in 2008 on the 1,318 km (819 mi) Beijing-Shanghai HSR, which had been in the planning for 18 years. December 2012 saw operations start on the Harbin-Dalian (904 km or 561.7 mi) and Beijing-Guangzhou (2,298 km or 1,428 mi) HSR; the latter cut the travel time between the country’s two largest megalopolises from 22 hours down to eight.
- In June 2013, trains began to move on two HSR segments from Hangzhou: a 249 km (154.7 mi) line to Nanjing and a 150 km (93.2 mi) section to Ningbo.
- Traffic on the Nanning-Wuzhou HSR started moving on April 18, 2014. Construction was completed December 28, 2013 on the 1,249 km (776.1 mi) Beijing-Harbin HSR; in all, that month, seven

new HSR segments, with a total length of 2,285 km (1,420 mi), began operating.

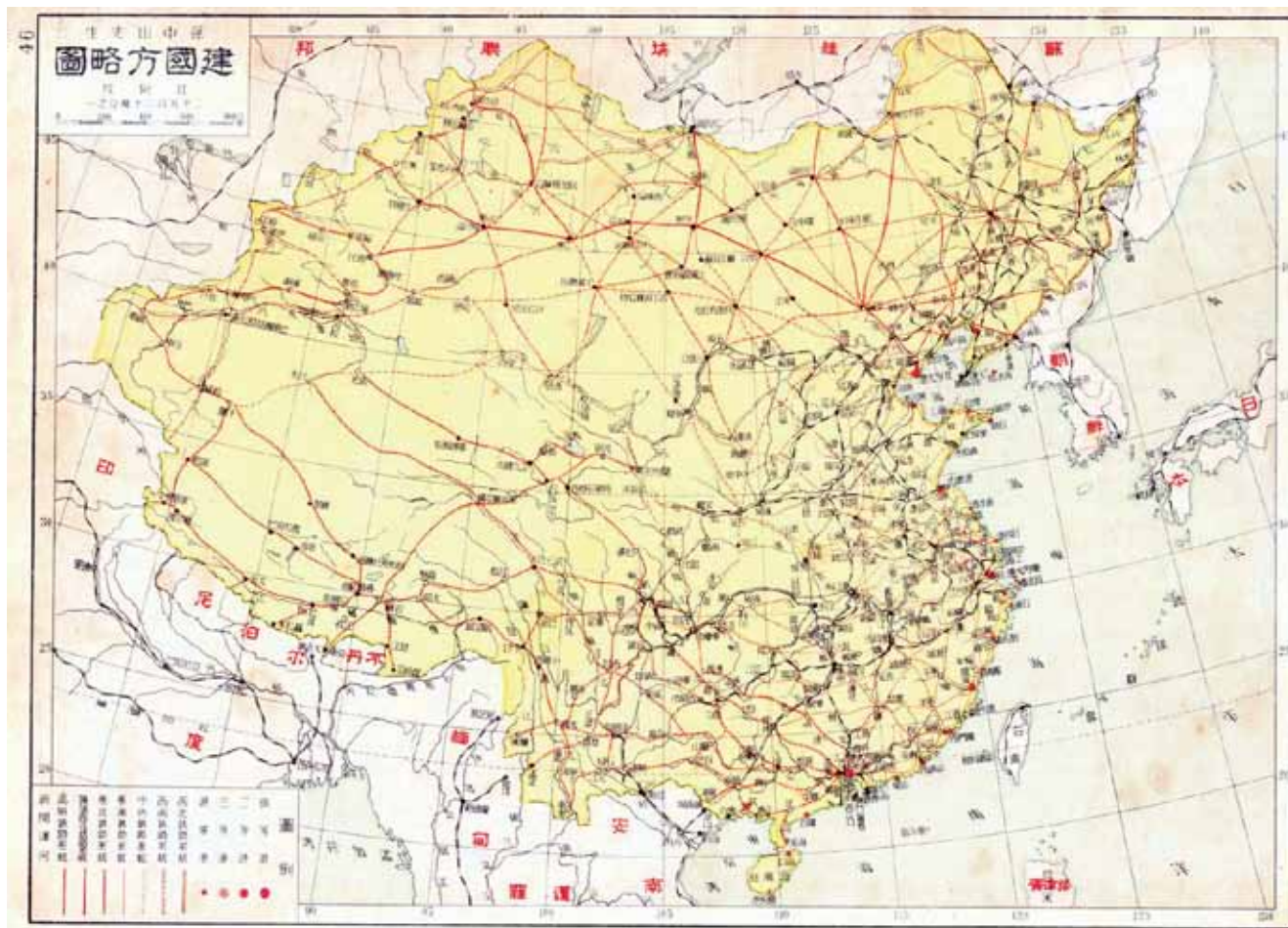
- Thus, in 10 years, as of the beginning of 2014, the biggest HSR system in the world had been created, with a total length of 10,463 km (6,214 mi), of which around 7,000 km (4,350 mi) is in the interior regions of China. As of early 2014, high-speed express trains are running on 34 dedicated HSR lines. Around 60% of the Chinese HSR network’s trains run at 200-250 km/h, while the rest have speeds of 300 km/h or more.
- HSR has substantially increased the mobility of the Chinese population: as of the beginning of 2014, around 25% of all passenger rail carriage is on high-speed lines. The number of passengers on the Beijing-Tianjin HSR has grown 20% annually since it opened, while the Beijing-Shanghai HSR line’s passenger growth has been 40% each year. High-speed trains on these routes now depart every four or five minutes.... In its first year of operation, the longest HSR in the world, the Beijing-Guangzhou route, carried 100 million passengers.”

Source: *Gudok*, the newspaper of the Russian Railways, June 24, 2014, interview with Dr. Sergei Sazonov, senior researcher, Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Far East Studies, “The Development of High-Speed Mainlines Is a Stimulus for National Economic Development.”

FIGURE 3

Sun Yat-sen's Vision of a China Rail Network

(At the time, China's borders included modern Mongolia)



An International Mandate

Today China is in high demand internationally, to build high-speed or conventional modern rail routes in Africa, across South America, and other key spans, as well as the Silk Road proper. This derives from a conscious policy enunciated in November 2013 by Professor Wang Mengshu, a professor of engineering at Beijing Jiaotong (Communications) University, and a member of the National People's Congress of China. Wang told Global Times reporters that China is clearly a world leader in high-speed rail: "When people talk of watches, they think of Switzerland. When they think of small electronics, they think of Japan. When they think of space, they think of America, and talking about machinery, they think of Germany. Now when they think of high-speed rail, China becomes the brand name."

Under the strategy Wang described, China has completed a high-speed rail line for Turkey, connecting Istanbul and Ankara, the capital. China firms are on stand-by for track construction and/or train sets in many other locales, for example, if Kazakhstan decides to proceed to connect Almaty with its capital Astana by high-speed rail.

Wang Mengshu also envisions a line going through northeast China, and then through Siberia to Chukotka, where it would meet with the planned rail line to the Bering Strait tunnel.

In October 2014, at the time of a visit between Premier Li Keqiang and Russian President Vladimir Putin, a memorandum of understanding was signed between rail firms and transport officials of China and Russia, on building a 803 km (499 mi) high-speed rail line from Moscow to Kazan, in Tatarstan, which, it is understood,

could be the first stage of high-speed rail service to Beijing. The full project would be more than 7,000 km (4,350 mi) to connect the two capitals by fast train, making it more than three times the length of the world's current longest high-speed line, Beijing to Guangzhou.

In the Americas, a Chinese consortium is reportedly the sole bidder for a tender to build a 210 km (130.5 mi) high-speed line from Mexico City to Querétaro, in the north central region. In Venezuela, China Railway Group has a project underway to link the cities of Tinaco and Anaco, on the edge of the great central plains, to further inland economic activity and population growth potential. In the United States, Chinese manufacturers have tendered official submissions of interest to supply train sets to the California High Speed Railway Authority, if the future 1,287 km (800 mi) route from San Francisco to Los Angeles finally comes into being.

Xinjiang—‘Traffic Hub’ for the SREB

For China, the western Xinjiang region is intended as the jumping-off point for the Silk Road Economic Belt to multiple points westward and to the south. China is planning three corridors to run through Xinjiang. The northern-most route (not shown), not built yet, is a corridor to proceed from Beijing, via Hohhot, into Kazakhstan, north of Urumqi, thence to Russia and beyond. The other corridors are shown on the map in **Figure 4**, from north to south: (1) the current route going through Urumqi, then branching off into two routes westward across the Kazakhstan border; (2) an intended route from Kashgar into Kyrgyzstan and westward; and (3) the proposed southern route, for a rail line southward through Pakistan to Gwadar on the Arabian Sea. China has begun a study of this 1,800 km (1,118.5 mi) route, which presents stiff construction challenges to traverse the Karakoram Mountains and Pamir Plateau. In May 2013, Pakistan awarded control of Gwadar Port to the China Overseas Ports Holding Co., transferring operational rights from the Singapore Port Authority.

FIGURE 4

Xinjiang—‘Traffic Hub’ of Rail Routes, Existing and Proposed for Silk Road Economic Belt



Alan Yue/EIR 2014

Shown are key rail routes through Xinjiang, either completed, e.g., Urumqi to Lanzhou (high speed); or intended, e.g., Golmud to Holan.

There are exciting new achievements, and visionary plans on all these routes. In July 2014, Zhao ShiaoYang, the Chairman of the Chinese Railway Company CSR, spoke of an option for China to build a high-speed line from China to Turkey through Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Iran. This could then be integrated into Turkey's own Chinese-built high-speed line from Ankara to Istanbul.

Xinjiang, comparable in size to Alaska, borders eight countries, with its 5,700 km (3,542 mi) boundary. It is home to the Takla Makan and other deserts, mountain ranges, and continental temperature extremes, but is now on the front line as one of the world's most exciting development frontiers. Remote sensing analysis suggests groundwater resources in the Takla Makan Basin. The intention is for the new rail corridors, and new industrial and commercial establishments, to be built up in the politically sensitive Xinjiang region in order to raise the standard of living for its 22 million inhabitants.

China has long had a policy of developing its central and western regions, and the launching of the New Silk

Road Economic Belt has given new life to this commitment. The key rail lines between the east coast of China and the western regions have been replaced by high-speed rail. Connectivity is being built up in Xinjiang itself. The largest expressway project now under construction in China is in southern Xinjiang. The highway stretches 428.5 km (266.3 mi) from Aksu (in the far west of the province), southwesterly to Kashgar. The multi-lane highway will be opened by the end of 2014, and developed as an economic corridor. Xinjiang now has 16 airports, with four to six new airports in the planning stages, and some others to be renovated or expanded in the coming three years.

More plans for Xinjiang were announced June 26-27, 2014 at a forum in Urumqi. Zhang Chunlin, Director of the Xinjiang Development and Reform Commission, said that the province will become a “traffic hub” for the Silk Road Economic Belt. It will “make full use of its geographical and cultural advantages, [to] further open up and make efforts to act as the main force and vanguard in building the Silk Road Economic Belt.” He spoke of a range of economic activities, including developing oil and gas, mining coal and miner-

als, providing new medical services, and establishing science and education centers.

There are currently 17 land ports in Xinjiang, and plans are underway to expand the number of border railway ports, bonded zones, and other facilities to serve all aspects of domestic and international requirements for the SREB trunk lines and localities. Xinjiang is in the geographic heartland of Eurasia, and its commitment to systems of logistics lays a foundation for early negotiations for a China-Central Asia Trade Zone.

Research contributed by Mary Burdman, Rachel Douglas, and Marcia Merry Baker

For Further Reading:

“China Builds Sun Yat-sen’s Great National Rail Project,” by Mary Burdman, *EIR*, Jan. 29, 2010.

“Ideas for Cooperation Along the Silk Road,” a speech by Shi Ze, Director for International Energy Strategy Studies, and Senior Fellow, China Institute of International Studies, given at the October 18-19, 2014 Schiller Institute conference in Frankfurt, Germany. See www.newparadigm.schillerinstitute.com

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President Xi Mobilizes China's Leaders for Silk Road Diplomacy

by William Jones

Dec. 1—Chinese President Xi Jinping assembled a large group of top national and regional leaders, as well as China's diplomats posted abroad, in Beijing on Nov. 29-29 for a "Conference on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs." His purpose was to brief them on China's New Silk Road diplomacy, which he described as a "win-win" approach for all nations, large and small. His remarks were in the spirit of the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia that ended the Thirty Years War: that each country should foster "the advantage of the Other." This approach is an explicit counter to the geopolitics of Washington and London, which leads only to war and economic collapse. The Westphalian policy, as Xi certainly realizes, is also the one that most benefits the nation that chooses to exercise it.

"We have advocated the building of a new type of international relations," Xi told the conference, "underpinned by 'win-win' cooperation; we have put forward and followed a policy of upholding justice and pursuing shared interests, and championed a new vision featuring common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security.

"We have endeavored to build a new model of major-country relations, put forward and practiced a neighborhood policy featuring amity, sincerity, mutual benefit, and inclusiveness, as well as a guideline on China's relations with Africa featuring sincerity, delivering outcomes, affinity, and good faith."

The conference was attended by top officials of the Chinese Communist Party's Politburo and Central Committee, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Commerce, the Ministry of Culture, the State Council, the People's Liberation Army General Staff headquarters, the Procuratorate, as well as officials from provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities; some enterprises and financial institutions under the direct management of the central government; ambassadors and representatives to international organiza-

tions; and commissioners of the Foreign Ministry to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Macao Special Administrative Region.

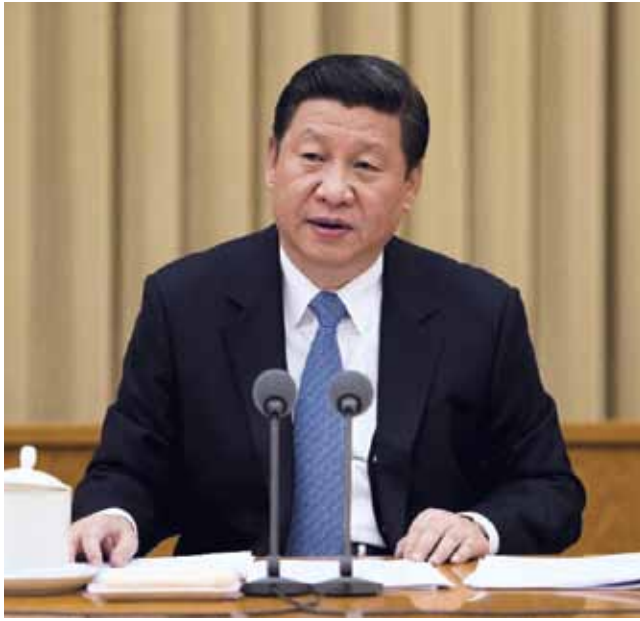
Xi's speech was a sober outline of both the new foreign policy potential opening up for China in the present world situation, and the threats to it. He urged Chinese officials to use this situation wisely in order to secure China's place in the world, a world which has not completely come to terms with China's rise as a major economic and political power.

International Tensions

As Xi was speaking, students in Hong Kong were being whipped up by political agitators, from both within and outside Hong Kong, to continue their attempts to completely shut down the Hong Kong economy until their demands are met to change the agreement on elections reached at the time the British turned over the former colony to China in 1997. Similar operations were ongoing in Ukraine, where the U.S. and NATO, working with fascist elements in Kiev, were doing their best to foment new "color revolutions" in Russia itself, one of the critical allies of China.

"We should be fully alert to the grave nature of international tensions and struggle," Xi said, "but we also need to recognize that peace and development, the underlying trend of our times, will remain unchanged. We should be keenly aware of the protracted nature of the contest over the international order. On the other hand, we need to recognize that the direction of reform of the international system will remain unchanged."

With the initiation of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the Maritime Silk Road projects last Summer, President Xi laid the basis for a new international order, one based on economic development and technological progress. The rapid economic growth of China, which has raised hundreds of millions of people out of poverty, would now be used to bring similar de-



Xinhua/Li Xueren

President Xi Jinping addresses a conference on diplomatic work, 2013.

velopment to China's neighbors and to the world at large.

Not mentioned explicitly, but critical to the outlook Xi presented, is the intensifying alliance between China and the other BRICS nations, especially Russia, for both defense against NATO/U.S. threats, and a development perspective for the world.

Opposition from London, Washington

This vision of a new Westphalian perspective has not, however, been welcomed by all. The Obama Administration, watchdog for the London-New York-based financial oligarchy, has responded with a chilly silence to President Xi's offer to join the new Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Silk Road Fund—an offer made personally by Xi to Obama in Beijing last month.

Xi stated at his press conference with Obama on Nov. 12: "These proposals and initiatives are open and inclusive in Asia; they are not exclusive. We welcome the active participation of the United States and other relevant countries so that together we can promote and share prosperity and peace in the Asia Pacific."

But the financial oligarchy is not happy to see its own bankrupt system undermined by the type of arrangements put together by China and its friends in the Asia-Pacific. They are prepared to fight tooth and nail to protect their system from any such "threats," and

seem willing to bring the world to the brink of thermo-nuclear war in that endeavor.

The Asia "pivot" of the Obama Administration—building up the U.S. Cold War alliances with Japan and others in order to contain China—and the fomenting of discontent in critical areas for China like Hong Kong and Xinjiang province, as well as NATO's war mobilization over Ukraine, are a part of that obstructionist policy. Thus the somber tone of President Xi's remarks to his colleagues.

The battle being conducted on the diplomatic front to win support for the New Silk Road policy is absolutely crucial in preventing that "battle" from being shifted onto the field of military conflict.

Championing the Developing Countries

President Xi's speech was meant to create a heightened awareness among the Chinese leadership and responsible party officials, as well as the diplomatic corps, of the tremendous importance of their endeavors. The attractive power of the Chinese initiatives, especially for the countries of the developing sector, which have endured the most devastating suffering from the futile attempt to bail out the bankrupt financial system, cannot be underestimated. Xi promised that even the least among these will not be forgotten, as witnessed by the amount of time he spent on a recent diplomatic mission to the Fiji Islands, as well as a large section of the South Pacific overall.

"We are firm in our position that all countries, regardless of their size, strength, and level of development, are equal members of the international community," Xi told the Beijing conference, "and that the destiny of the world should be decided by people of all countries. We should uphold international justice and, in particular, speak up for developing countries...."

"We should manage well relations with other major countries, build a sound and stable framework of major-country relations, and expand cooperation with other major developing countries. We should strengthen unity and cooperation with other developing countries, and closely integrate our own development with the common development of other developing countries."

"We should step up results-oriented cooperation, actively advance the building of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road, work hard to expand the converging interests of various parties, and promote win-win cooperation through results-oriented cooperation."

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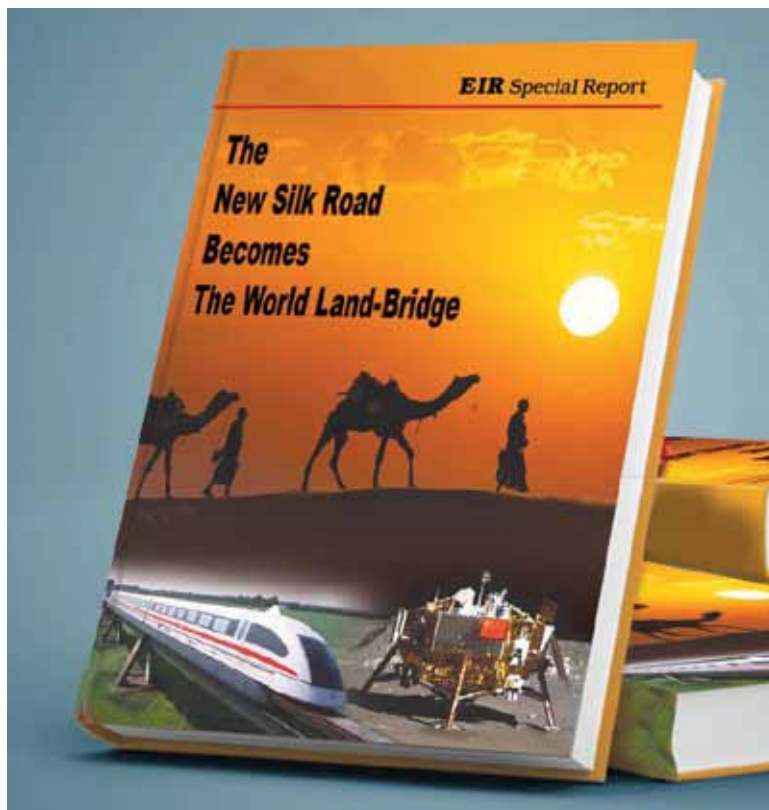
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NATO, Merkel Are Playing With a Cuban Missile Crisis

by Helga Zepp-LaRouche

Nov. 29—The current policy of President Obama, Prime Minister Cameron, NATO, the EU, and Chancellor Merkel is concentrated on a single goal: driving President Putin out of office by a policy of regime change. All the stops have been pulled out for a foreign-steered color revolution, not only in Ukraine, but also in Russia: escalation of sanctions and economic war to ruin the Russian economy with the aim of overthrowing Putin; escalating military expansion; and a NATO arms buildup. These measures are a “chicken game,” but a game with thermonuclear fire, at the end of which we may all be obliterated.

Have We Learned Nothing from History?

Alastair Crook, a former officer of Britain’s MI6 secret service, writing on his website ConflictsForum.org on Nov. 14, quoted William Polk, one of the three members of President John F. Kennedy’s crisis management team during the Cuban missile crisis, who recently [warned](#) that we are today in exactly the same escalating spiral of confrontation as occurred then, one that could lead to a real war. Now as then, writes Polk, there is an inability to grasp how the “other” perceives us, a refusal to accept the other’s “truth” and subjective experience of history, or even to acknowledge that there might be another “truth” out there, other than our own.

Polk recalls that it was the stationing of combat-

ready, nuclear-tipped American Jupiter missiles in Turkey, aimed against the Soviet Union around the clock, that prompted the Soviets to station nuclear missiles in Cuba. And that contrary to the usual representation, the United States by no means forced Khrushchov to back down, but rather, both sides quietly pulled back their missiles. Indeed, the Americans realized that a further escalation would have led to a nuclear war. Polk warned urgently that today exactly the same pattern of confrontation is playing, out and those responsible have obviously learned absolutely nothing from history.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov criticized exactly this “strategy” on Nov. 22 at a meeting of the Council for Foreign and Defense Policy in Moscow. The West, he said, “went all out in Ukraine and supported extremists, thereby giving up their own principles of democratic regime change. What came out of it was an attempt to play chicken with Russia, to see who blinks first. As bullies say, they wanted to Russia to ‘chicken out’ (I can’t find a better word for it), to force us to swallow the humiliation of Russians and native speakers of Russian in Ukraine.”

The question is how long Putin and the Russian government will keep their cool. First, all promises not to extend NATO to the borders of Russia were broken. Two-digit billions were spent for “color revolutions” to topple Russia-friendly or neutral governments in East-

ern Europe, with the help of paid activists—a strategy that now the Russian and also Chinese military characterize as a method of irregular warfare.

President Vladimir Putin, in an interview with Germany's ARD-TV on Nov. 17, pointed out that the true intention of the EU Association Agreement for Ukraine was to weaken the Russian economy, through duty-free import of EU products to Ukraine (and thus to a country within the customs regime of the Commonwealth of Independent States): "This means that all European goods would simply enter the customs area of the Russian Federation via Ukraine"—a measure of economic warfare that was intended as such at the time.

Then the West scandalously backed a Nazi coup on Feb. 21 in Kiev, whereby State Department official Victoria Nuland's favorite, "Yats" (Arseniy Yatsenyuk) became prime minister. The Nazis' atrocities against the Ukrainian population were ignored, and when the population of Crimea responded to these developments in a referendum by choosing to become part of Russia, a deafening chorus of Pharisees began singing that this referendum destroyed the legal order in Europe. Since her speech in Sydney, Australia, on Nov. 17, Chancellor Merkel has herself been giving a solo performance in this spectacle.

When the Russian government recently introduced a resolution in the UN General Assembly, calling on governments to denounce the glorification of Nazi ideology and the denial of Nazi crimes, only three States voted against it—the United States, Canada, and Ukraine—while the EU countries all abstained! It is telling that the other EU countries are taking this attitude, but for the German government to do so, is inexcusable and abominable.

Shifts in Germany

While a not insignificant part of the German population is unwilling to undertake the mental effort to understand how the Ukraine crisis unfolded, and therefore is taken in by the anti-Putin propaganda of the lock-step media, others are of the opinion that Merkel, at the very least, should maintain dialogue with Putin. But what sort of dialogue?

The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung* reported on a policy paper from the Chancellor's Office, according to which the Petersburg Dialogue—a bilateral German-Russian discussion forum founded in 2001—should be "reformed" and get a new leadership.

Both the chairman of the German-Russian Forum, Mathias Platzeck, and the chairman of the Petersburg Dialogue, Lothar de Maizière, are evidently considered too uncritical of Russia. Merkel has thus adopted the positions of critics such as the deputy chief of the Union parties caucus in the Bundestag (parliament), Andreas Schockenhoff; Green party Bundestag member Marie-Luise Beck; as well as representatives of several non-governmental organizations. The Dialogue is also therefore supposed to become a forum for critical engagement with Russian policy. Schockenhoff has already been mentioned as a possible successor to de Maizière.

Thus the fox is to be placed in charge of guarding the chicken coop. Schockenhoff, after all, at a recent event replied contemptuously to a question from the audience concerning the policies of the BRICS countries, saying that the Russian economy is facing collapse anyway, and Putin will soon be gone. If this cold warrior should actually be named for this post, it would be tantamount to a declaration of war against Russia, and the Petersburg Dialogue would be better off simply closing down.

Rather belatedly, various trade associations, such as the 1828 Saxony Industry Association are now finally criticizing the sanctions against Russia as a threat to a relationship of trust that took 25 years to build up. As correct and important as these statements are, they fall short. Thanks to Chancellor Merkel's contentious policies, Germany is participating in the thermonuclear chicken game against Russia, and the time is now just a few minutes before midnight.

The obvious additional problem is that this time, there is no Kennedy in the White House, whereas Obama has removed Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel from office, because Hagel was acting more in accord with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who are oriented toward war prevention, than to the White House.

What Germany now urgently needs is an open and honest debate about the strategic situation and what our real interests are. Chinese President Xi Jinping's offer to Obama is still on the table, that the United States and other major countries should work together with China and the BRICS countries in building a new economic order and the New Silk Road. Chancellor Merkel should either respond positively to this offer and immediately lift the sanctions against Russia—or she should retire.

Translated from German by Susan Welsh

Industrialists Resist Berlin's Russia Policy

by Our Wiesbaden Bureau

Nov. 27—The extraordinary tensions within Germany about its strategic orientation are now taking on proportions like those in September 2013 in the United States, when resistance from the military and Congress stopped President Obama's planned attack on Syria, and opened the door to direct U.S.-Russia collaboration on chemical weapons in Syria, as well as on Iran. The hopefully similar developments in Germany, coming from the high-tech small and medium-sized production firms (the *Mittelstand*) and related institutional figures, are as dramatic, and directly related to the fights in the U.S. seen in Obama's attack on the military by firing Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel.

Resistance to breaking economic ties to Russia has forced open warfare in the Berlin government, which became public when Chancellor Angela Merkel demanded the purging of Social Democratic Party leader and chairman of the German-Russia Forum Matthias Platzeck from the Petersburg Dialogue, in order to turn it over to anti-Russian NGOs and to neo-con Bundestag member Andreas Schockenhoff.

The charge of "*Nebenaussenpolitik*," or parallel diplomacy, has become an accusation against those who are trying to keep channels open to Russia—and the German *Mittelstand*, which is spread throughout the country, outside the capital Berlin, has been very active. Klaus Mangold, a senior institutional figure in German industry and finance, arranged for the Nov. 25 appearance of Russian Economic Development Minister Alexei Ulyukaev at meetings and a public event in Stuttgart with the local Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

'Rethink the Sanctions'

Sources have told *EIR* that this was a direct reproach to Chancellor Merkel and those in Berlin pushing sanctions against Russia, including the central trade association bureaucracy, which has succumbed to the official line. Mangold stated at Minister Ulyukaev's public speech, "We should rethink sanctions against Russia."

Ulyukaev addressed the fact of Russia's growing economic ties with China, while emphasizing that Russia wants good ties with Europe, too.

Germany's *Mittelstand*, heavily involved in China, is best positioned to promote a World Land-Bridge triad of Germany-Russia-China as a way out of the dead-end of confrontation over Ukraine.

In response to a question from *EIR* on Ukraine, Ulyukaev stressed the opportunity for economic cooperation that is being lost through the conflict, and what can be done to restore it.

Hartmut Bunsen, head of the Saxony Industry Association and spokesman for all the related associations in the eastern German states, has called on European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker to stop the sanctions, and demanded "an immediate constructive dialogue between the EU and Russia." In October, the Chemnitz-based 1828 Saxony Industry Association presented the German government with a petition signed by 60 *Mittelstand* companies, calling for a quick end to the EU sanctions. The Association's members employ 50,000 workers and have a yearly turnover of EU16 billion.

At the end of September, despite Opposition from the pro-sanctions faction in Berlin, the state government of the eastern state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, on the Baltic Sea, sponsored a Russian Day in Rostock, well attended by local *Mittelstand* firms. Former Chancellor Gerhard Schröder (Social Democratic Party) gave the keynote speech.

Officials of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Germany's east will convene in Chemnitz the first weekend in December, to discuss how to end, or at least modify, the sanctions policy. There is, a source in Magdeburg said, outrage among the chambers, because the sanctions are destroying the *Mittelstand* companies, which in eastern Germany are generally more engaged in Russia, and therefore much more exposed than western German companies to the destructive effects of the sanctions.

These officials are also enraged that companies in other EU countries and the United States do not always stick to the sanctions decrees of their governments and continue to make deals with Russia, whereas the German government expects German companies to follow the sanctions decrees, even at great disadvantage vis-à-vis their competitors from other countries. This situation has to change, the eastern chambers insist.

Mexico's President Defies Color Revolution with Infrastructure Projects

by Dennis Small and David Ramonet

Dec. 1—In a televised speech from the National Palace, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto on Nov. 27 announced a 10-point program for peace, unity, and justice, along with a development plan for the southern region of the country encompassing the states of Guerrero, Oaxaca, and Chiapas, which would have an overall nationwide impact once initiated. This is the most direct counterattack that Peña Nieto's government has made up to now, to address the ongoing destabilization stirred up against his government, which is using as a pretext the grisly kidnapping and likely assassination of 43 teaching students by local policemen from Iguala, Guerrero, associated with the drug mafia.

The very next day, the City of London's mouthpiece *The Economist*, which, along with its sister the *Financial Times*, has been coordinating the attempted "color revolution" in Mexico by remote control, complained noisily that Peña Nieto had "missed a chance to turn the tide," because, instead of reshuffling his cabinet, as they had demanded, he instead insisted on fighting the poverty and inequality that are the basis of the problem.

The Peña Nieto government has been in London and Washington's cross-hairs since it began to build closer economic ties with China and the other BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, and South Africa) over recent months. That includes his Nov. 13 summit meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, which produced \$7.4 billion in energy and infrastructure agreements, as well as ongoing discussion on three major rail projects in Mexico that Chinese companies are proposing to build.

The same day that *The Economist* was reiterating its imperial warning to Mexico, the LaRouche Citizens Movement in Mexico (MOCILA) issued a policy statement titled: "Who Is Out To Unleash a 'Color Revolu-



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According to the British Empire and its Wall Street/White House toadies, Mexican President Peña Nieto committed the grave sin of merely indicating his willingness to join with the BRICS' new paradigm. For that, holy Hell has been unleashed in the country.

tion' To Topple Mexico's Peña Nieto Government, and Why?" with the diametrically opposite policy (see accompanying article). The MOCILA statement, which is circulating widely in Mexican institutional layers, urges the government to move full steam ahead with the BRICS.

The President's Plan

The ten points announced by President Peña Nieto include: a) reorganizing the country's municipal police forces, which in many places have been taken over by drug traffickers, as was the case in Iguala, where the student massacre occurred; b) empowering the Federal government to take over municipalities infiltrated by the drug traffickers; c) measures to protect human rights and fight corruption; and d) establishing a special law en-

forcement operation in the states of Guerrero and Michoacán, with full Federal power brought to bear against the drug networks. Most significantly, he also announced the creation of “new poles of industrial development” in the southern region of the country, including three Special Economic Zones and two industrial corridors.

A map distributed to the Mexican media by the Office of the Presidency (**Figure 1**) makes clear that those projects involve major economic development plans for the port of Puerto Chiapas at the southeastern tip of the country; Lázaro Cárdenas Port and its related industrial corridor on the Pacific Coast; and the Inter-Oceanic Industrial Corridor in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, which would build a rail line and development zone running the breadth of the isthmus from the port of Coatzacoalcos on the Gulf of Mexico, to Salina Cruz on the Pacific.

There are three notable features about this announcement by Peña Nieto.

FIGURE 1
Mexico's Special Economic Zones



Office of the Presidency of Mexico

- First, the very concept that social instability, conflict, and the drug trade—which dominate most of the national territory today—are best combatted with economic development. As Peña Nieto put it: “Peace

Coverage of LaRouche Charges On Mexico ‘Color Revolution’

Dec. 2—Mexican political columnist Rodolfo Sánchez Mena, in his Nov. 23 syndicated column “Reasons of State,” published a lengthy discussion of the crisis facing Mexico and the various options under consideration by the government over how to deal with it. The article reports that the Nov. 13 edition of Iran’s Press TV program “The Debate,” contrasted “the views of Dennis Small of the weekly *Executive Intelligence Review*, *EIR*, with those of the London leftist Isaac Bigio.” The article notes that “*EIR*’s Small clearly identified the protests in Mexico as a color revolution, promoted by the same international financial interests that were behind the uprisings in Ukraine, or in Egypt before President el-Sisi entered office. Small explained the strategic global battle behind the Mexican protests, the determination to stop Mexico from jumping ship from the international financial system

which is sinking under \$2 quadrillion in unpayable financial derivatives. The intention is to stop Mexico from joining the group of nations headed by the BRICS that are building an alternative system, oriented towards the growth of the productive economy.”

Similarly, a policy statement of the LaRouche Citizens Movement (MOCILA) (see accompanying article) has begun to circulate throughout the country, including at a late-November meeting of the Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPPAL) in Mexico City. COPPPAL is an association of center and center-left parties from the region established in 1979 at the initiative of Mexico’s PRI party. This year’s COPPPAL meeting featured a policy discussion among top government and party leaders from across Ibero-America, with some 25 leaders of Asian political parties. One of the topics discussed was the BRICS initiatives for global development. All of those present received a copy of the Schiller Institute’s international petition, “The U.S. and Europe Must Have the Courage To Reject Geopolitics and Collaborate with the BRICS,” as well as a copy of the MOCILA statement.

is also constructed with development.”

- Second, that the last two of the three projects come directly from the legacy of the national development plans of the late President José López Portillo (1976-82), and reflect the reemergence of an important (if still minority) voice for sovereignty and development in the country.

- Third, that among the major deals that Peña Nieto is negotiating with China, is the trans-Isthmus industrial corridor announced in his national address. *EIR* reported on this project in its Nov. 14 edition (see Figure 2).

China-Mexico Relations Stay on Track

There is little doubt that Mexico’s ruling institutions see in China and the other BRICS nations an alternative to the devastation unleashed against Mexico over recent decades. On Nov. 26, the day before Peña Nieto’s national address, he met at the Presidential Palace with the head of China’s National People’s Congress, Zhang Dejiang, at the end Zhang’s nine-day tour of Ibero-America, which also took the Chinese leader to Peru and Colombia. According to the account published by Xinhua, Zhang called on Mexico and China to “work closely in big projects in infrastructure, energy, and high-tech, and expand friendly exchanges in education, science and technology, and culture, in a bid to lift the China-Mexico all-around strategic partnership to a new high.”

The Zhang visit, the first time a top Chinese legislator has visited Mexico since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1972, was a follow-up to the Nov. 13 meeting between Peña Nieto and President Xi.

Peña Nieto told the visiting Chinese legislator, according to Xinhua, that Mexico admires China’s re-

FIGURE 2
Proposed Mexico-China Rail Project



Sources: Hal Cooper; *EIR*.

markable achievements and would like to learn from them, and he underscored Mexico’s commitment to “becoming China’s reliable partner” in such projects. This is an embarrassed reference to the fact that, prior to his trip to China, the Mexican President succumbed to pressure from the White House and London, revoking an earlier contract to a China-led international consortium for the construction of a high-speed rail line between Mexico City and Querétaro. That pressure was part of the color revolution destabilization which the British empire and its American stooges has unleashed against Mexico.

Who Is Out To Topple the Peña Nieto Government, and Why?

The following policy statement was issued by the La-Rouche Citizens' Movement (MOCILA)¹ of Mexico on Nov. 28, 2014, under the headline, "Who Is Out To Unleash a 'Color Revolution' To Topple Mexico's Peña Nieto Government, and Why?" It has been translated from Spanish.

The answers to those questions are not to be found inside Mexico, so don't look there. They lie in Wall Street and the City of London.

The trans-Atlantic financial system is hopelessly bankrupt, with nearly \$2 quadrillion in worthless speculative financial assets that keep growing like a deadly cancer. The British Empire, with its outposts in the City of London and Wall Street, which are the owners of the cancer, wants to salvage its system by subjecting the entire world to its genocidal policies of free trade, globalization, and anti-scientific environmentalism. Above all, it is hell-bent on extinguishing the alternative to the current bankrupt system which is being built by the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) and allied nations in Ibero-America, Asia, and Africa, which together represent more than half of humanity.

As far as that empire is concerned, President Enrique Peña Nieto committed the unforgivable sin of opening up the possibility of linking Mexico to that new bloc, in particular through infrastructure development agreements with China, such as a high-speed rail line between Mexico City and Querétaro; a major rail line covering the route Nayarit-Chihuahua-New Mexico (U.S.); and, above all, a trans-Isthmus rail line and industrial corridor from the super-ports of Coatzacoalcos on the Gulf of Mexico, to Salina Cruz on the Pacific. This latter is a project of truly strategic proportions, going back to the projects and policies of the great Mexican President José López Portillo, a friend

and ally of the American statesman Lyndon LaRouche.

For Mexico, such development projects are the only physical-economic basis for breaking the country free of the Dope, Inc. coup d'état which Obama and his British controllers orchestrated in Mexico in 2009, and reversing the decades of looting under the IMF and the Bush-Salinas² North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) which has left the country at death's door.

When Peña Nieto—who, for much of his term, has not wandered far from the policies of "structural reform" of the labor and energy sectors demanded by London and Washington—announced that he would be traveling to the APEC summit in Beijing in mid-November, to consolidate these rail deals and other agreements with China, and that Mexico had awarded the contract for the Mexico City-Querétaro rail line to a China-led international consortium, the banking crowd went wild. They howled their objection, and used a well-publicized alleged "corruption scandal" to force Mexico to revoke that contract. They added in a second scandal involving the personal residence owned by the President's wife. And they escalated an all-out "color revolution" around the grisly kidnapping and probable murder of 43 students in the drug-dominated southern state of Guerrero, blaming it (without any evidence) on the Peña Nieto government, and using it to create the environment for their desired coup d'état.

Who Issued the Marching Orders?

The London *Financial Times* did, when it wrote on Nov. 13 that Peña Nieto's decision to travel to China despite the blackmail and pressure, was unacceptable: "None of this [China deal] bodes well for the truly historic reform program Mr. Peña Nieto has put in place over the past two years."

The London *Economist*, the flagship publication of

1. See *EIR*, Nov. 28 for a report on the Nov. 20 conference of MOCILA in Mexico City, addressed by Helga Zepp-LaRouche.

2. U.S. President George H.W. Bush (1988-92) and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari (1988-94).

the City of London, also did, with its Nov. 8 *Americas* column: “It was a good sign on Nov. 6, when, in an unprecedented move, Mr. Peña ordered the overturning of a controversial award of a \$3.75 billion railway tender because it lacked transparency.”

But the City of London and Wall Street want far more than simply stopping Mexico’s deals with China and its possibly linking up with the BRICS. They intend to subject the country to a bloody “color revolution,” and destroy every institutional vestige of pro-development nationalism remaining in the country, including overthrowing the Peña Nieto government. As the international bankers have known and made clear for decades, the PRI party of López Portillo, of which Peña Nieto is a member, is the main vehicle for that nationalism in modern Mexico, although it also finds expression in other parties and groupings.

In a Nov. 13 article headlined “The ‘New Mexico’ Goes Up in Flames,” the *Financial Times* conjured up the image of a new 1968-style revolt against the Mexican government, recalling that “police gunned down as many as 300 protesters in 1968.” The article then issued its death threat: “There’s going to be another 1968. It feels like it did then. People are fed up,” which the *Financial Times* put in the mouth of a supposed “Juan López, a taxi driver.”

The *Financial Times* knows whereof it speaks. Subsequent research has proven that the 1968 wave of violence that shook Mexico to the root, was triggered by a “third force” of professional sharpshooters posted on rooftops in Tlatelolco Plaza, who shot and killed both protesting students and Mexican soldiers alike, in order to unleash chaos.

The *FT* article added that current protests over the disappearance and likely murder of 43 teacher trainees in the state of Guerrero on Sept. 26, have “turned Mexico into a tinderbox of volatile and increasingly violent protests.” They threaten that “Peña Nieto’s legacy will be built on what he does in the next 4-6 weeks,” and that includes a cabinet shakeup and “fighting corruption.”



MOCILA

The LaRouche Citizens Movement of Mexico (MOCILA) is campaigning to bring the country into the global development perspective of its fellow nations of Ibero-American, in alliance with the BRICS. Shown: MOCILA organizers in Mexico City.

A week earlier, *The Economist* had already specified the heads they want to roll, demanding that the President replace his reliable Interior Minister Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong with their towel boy, former Sonora governor Manlio Fabio Beltrones: “Though it is not in the President’s nature to go outside his coterie, his government would be boosted by a more substantial figure as interior minister, with the freedom to act. The obvious candidate is Manlio Fabio Beltrones, a leader of the PRI in Congress.”

Inside Mexico, opportunist (or worse) political leaders, such as PAN party Sen. Javier Corral Jurado, demanded that the President not travel to China and instead stay home to deal with domestic problems; Senators of the opposition PRD and PT parties said the same thing. And former Presidential candidate and leader of the Morena party, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who also demanded that Peña Nieto not travel, has gone so far as to call for the government to be overthrown and for “regime change” be brought about.

“Regime change?”

How a Color Revolution Works

“Color revolutions” are a form of illegal regime change, carried out under the protective cover of so-called mass protests. The Russian and Chinese governments, themselves victims of such attempted “color revolutions” run by remote control from the United States and Great Britain, have explicitly denounced such oper-

ations as a form of warfare, carried out by other means.

For the British Empire to carry out a successful “color revolution”—whether it be in Mexico, Ukraine, or the “Arab Spring”—the majority of those participating don’t even need to be in favor of the Jacobin destabilization they are involved in. In fact, they are usually foolishly blind as to who is leading them around by the nose, and for what strategic purpose.

More often than not, some 95% of those involved are well-meaning but romantic demonstrators, who are protesting against very real economic and political problems which surround them. They are the naive cannon fodder of the British Empire’s bloody plans.

Another small percentage, perhaps 4%, are professional organizers paid by international NGOs and institutions, such as the notorious National Endowment for Democracy (NED, or Project Democracy), which have the finances and media access to steer the policy direction of the entire operation. Back in 1998-99, the NED spent millions of dollars to finance the “popular revolt” which led to the victory of Vicente Fox of the PAN party in the 2000 Mexican Presidential elections. As the LaRouche movement in Mexico revealed at the time, the stated policy of the NED was that “democracy” would not exist in Mexico until the PRI had lost a Presidential election. Their stated objective was to eliminate the PRI altogether as an institutional force for sovereignty and development.

But to Wall Street and the City of London’s dismay, they were not able to finish the job over the last decade, and the same NED, and many of the same NGOs, are now deployed to deliver the coup de grâce. Just look at the role of Sergio Aguayo’s “Alianza Cívica,” or the “Campaña Global por la Libertad de Expresión A19, A.C.” Go to the NED’s own website to see how much money they have shoveled into Mexico over the years, and who received it (www.ned.org).

Mexicans must wake up. The same international forces that in 2000 brought the “right-wing” PAN into power in Mexico with Vicente Fox and Felipe Calderón, are now steering the “left-wing” demonstrations calling for “regime change” against the Peña Nieto government.

The final, 1% of the “color revolution” consists of professional provocateurs and anarchists, who are deployed to trigger violence on both sides and unleash chaos and ungovernability. That was the role assigned to the “third force” sharpshooters in Tlatelolco in 1968; it is the role being fulfilled today by the small group of trained, hooded shock-troops who throw Molotov

cocktails, burn police cars, and will eventually try to kill policemen and soldiers, and/or innocent demonstrators, in today’s protests in Mexico.

But the stakes today are far higher than in 1968, for Mexico and the world. The British Empire’s trans-Atlantic system is on its death bed, and is trying to impose its policy of fascist austerity, legalized drugs, depopulation, and bloody wars on the entire planet. The BRICS and allied nations have emerged over the course of 2014 and built a viable alternative to this insanity, and today represent more than half of humanity. They are extending an invitation to the rest of the planet to join them.

Mexico must take up that offer. The Peña Nieto government must be defended from the “color revolution,” and pressured to join forces with the BRICS. The nation’s institutions and political leaders need to finally wake up to the fact that pragmatism and concessions to the international bankers will only lead to the nation’s disappearance. And Mexicans who are today being used as cannon fodder for the bankers’ operation, also need to wake up and join the MOCILA’S campaign for Mexico to join the BRICS.

Do not be a sheep taken to the slaughter in Mexico’s “Maidan.”

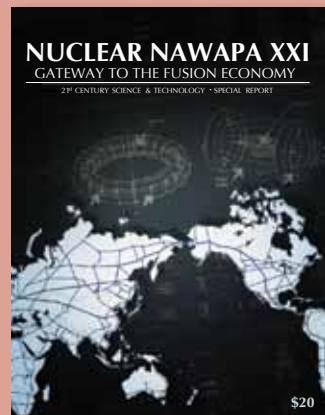
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BRICS Rise Brings Tectonic Shifts: The Case of Australia

by Robert Barwick

MELBOURNE, Nov. 28—“There was a time when, for many of us, Australia was a distant land on the southern edge of the world,” Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, in a guest address to the Australian Parliament Nov. 18, during his four-day visit there. “Today, the world sees Australia to be at the heart of the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean region. This dynamic region holds the key to this world’s future, and Australia is at its crossroads.”

Australia is also at a political crossroads, facing a choice between strategic orientations. Modi’s visit, and the simultaneous state visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping, following the Nov. 15-16 G20 Summit in Brisbane, underscored the deepening economic ties between Australia and the Asian giants, India and China. Mainstays of the BRICS partnership that also includes Brazil, Russia, and South Africa, both nations are reaching out to Australia with offers of cooperation on economic development, such as China’s invitation to join the new Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

Full engagement with the BRICS agenda would be an abrupt turn from the association with the dying trans-Atlantic financial system, which has brought Australia dubious results, including one of the world’s biggest mortgage bubbles, and the fifth-most-traded currency on global, speculative foreign-exchange markets. A growing economic orientation toward Asia also conflicts with the strategic role allotted to Australia by the British strategists who are gunning for a military showdown with Russia and China, and by the Obama Administration, which is on that British imperial line.

U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron exuded hostility toward the BRICS, particularly China, during his guest address to the Australian Parliament on Nov. 14. Mindful that he was preceding President Xi by three days, Cameron attacked the legitimacy of China’s economic rise, condemning the “authoritarian capitalism”

of “countries which claim there is a shortcut to success without the tiresome encumbrance of accountable government and the rule of law.”

U.S. President Barack Obama, for his part, has blatantly pressured Australia to spurn the Chinese AIIB initiative.

In recent decades, the British Crown, the City of London, and their Wall Street and other allies in the USA have been able to assume that Australia was firmly in their camp. But the BRICS commitment to economic development is proving capable of triggering tectonic shifts, including in the case of Australia.

A Subservient Ally

In the intensifying stand-off between the collapsing trans-Atlantic powers and the rising BRICS economies, there is every opportunity for Australia to revive the very best traditions in its own history, such as when it modelled a national bank on the ideas of Alexander Hamilton (in 1911), or allied with Franklin Roosevelt’s USA to defeat fascism during World War II. Despite such brilliant moments, Australia, again and again, has been a subservient ally to first the British Empire, and then to American administrations acting on the British imperial model.

No less a figure than former Australian Prime Minister (1975-83) Malcolm Fraser wrote, in his 2014 book *Dangerous Allies*, that Australia’s history of dependence upon these imperial powers means that it has never been a sovereign country. In recent decades, all Australian governments have marched in lockstep with the British and the Americans, in both economic and military policies.

In the 1980s, coinciding with Reaganomics and Thatcher’s Big Bang of economic liberalization, Australia also adopted a program of radical financial deregulation and deindustrialisation—scripted by the Mont Pelerin Society and related British economic lib-



PIB of India

Indian Prime Minister Modi told the Australian Parliament Nov. 18: "Today, the world sees Australia to be at the heart of the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean region. This dynamic region holds the key to this world's future, and Australia is at its crossroads."

erals. The United States and the United Kingdom are the largest sources of foreign investment in Australia, by far. Under the current Tony Abbott government and its immediate predecessor, Australia is also one of the 12 nations involved in the secretive negotiations for Obama's Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which excludes China.

Australia has usually been the first to commit troops to the post-Cold War conflicts instigated by London and Washington, including the first Gulf War, Afghanistan, and the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Australia is presently being transformed into a military base for Obama's so-called Asia Pivot to contain China, playing host to the U.S. Marines in Darwin, the U.S. Navy, and electronic signals intelligence installations such as Pine Gap, which are crucial to guiding the U.S. nuclear arsenal and Obama's killer drone program.

Indeed, the City of London mouthpiece *The Economist*, in its special issue on the year ahead, proposed

that Australia's identity will be shaped in 2015 by its place in a showdown with China, just as the slaughter of 8,700 Australians at Gallipoli (Turkey), as British cannon fodder during World War I, shaped its 20th Century: "Australia's jostling between China, its biggest trading partner, and America, its main strategic partner, will come into play in the remote outback of Western Australia. America moved a radar system there from the Caribbean in 2014 because Australia's biggest, emptiest state allows quicker detection of satellites launched from China. A second ground station may start operating in Western Australia in 2015. Australia's space-monitoring task would draw it into any conflict between America and China."

National Interest vs. Foreign Demands

Yet, despite this subservience to Anglo-American strategic interests being a dominant orientation among Australia's political class, the stunning rise of China and India is irresistibly drawing Australia into ever-closer economic relations with Asia. This process, ironically, was accelerated by the deregulation and free-trade agenda, implemented by both major political parties in Australia since the mid-1980s, through which the country's traditionally strong manufacturing and agriculture sectors have been savaged.

Now China is Australia's largest trading partner, as the major importer of its massive iron ore and coal output, which has become the focus of its free-trade economy. Australians are acutely aware that it was only China's 2009 economic stimulus policy, following the 2008 financial meltdown, that saved the Australian economy from complete collapse.

Japan is Australia's second-largest trading partner, but India is suddenly zooming into the public consciousness, even more so since Prime Minister Modi's election. The two nations have recently struck major deals for trade in Australian coal, iron ore, and uranium. More surprisingly, Australia's fourth-largest official "export," behind iron ore, coal, and gold, is education, of which the major buyers are hundreds of thousands of foreign students, largely from middle-class families in India and China, who come to study at Australia's public universities.

President Xi toured Australia after the G20 Summit, to finalize a landmark bilateral free-trade deal, ten years in negotiation. Abbott took the occasion of Modi's visit to announce his desire to sign a major bilateral trade deal with India in the next 12 months.

There are now clear signs that Asia's economic pull on Australia is fracturing the once airtight solidarity between Canberra and the White House. In a sudden and unprecedented development, tensions in the relationship are being aired publicly. On Nov. 23, a senior member of the Australian government, Trade Minister Andrew Robb, lashed out at Obama for the latter's speech at the University of Queensland on the eve of the G20 Summit. Obama had emphasized action on climate change, singling out the famous Great Barrier Reef off the Queensland coast as being at special risk. The Abbott government, which won election just over a year ago on a promise of scrapping the despised carbon tax imposed by the previous government, was incensed that Obama was interfering in domestic Australian politics.

Columnist Paul Kelly reported in *The Australian* newspaper of Nov. 24, "Robb told Sky News's Australian Agenda program yesterday he was 'surprised' by Obama's speech, he believed the President was 'not informed' about Australia's climate change policy, that his 'content was wrong,' that Australia's 2020 targets were 'roughly comparable' to those of the US and other nations, that his speech gave 'no sense' to government efforts to protect the Great Barrier Reef and that his remarks were 'misinformed' and 'unnecessary.' In short, *Robb dumped all over Obama*" (emphasis added).

Robb's scathing attack on Obama followed a more diplomatically worded protest letter sent by the Foreign Minister to the White House on the same issue, and a reported verbal stoush between Abbott and Obama in the final session of the G20 leaders Summit.

The AIIB Invitation

It was clear, however, that the tension expressed by Robb was not simply over being lectured on climate change; fundamentally, it went back to Obama's direct pressuring of Abbott not to join the AIIB. Earlier in the same interview, Robb, who, as Trade Minister, spends more time in China than any other member of the government, enthusiastically endorsed the Bank, and hinted at a change in Australia's decision not to participate.

He said: "I see good things coming out of this [the AIIB], an enhanced reputation for China as a proponent of stable regional development, and the test is the governance provisions, and we've said to them if we get those governance provisions in place, and they've moved a long way already on that I must say, then we'll

be there with enthusiasm and we'll be encouraging Japan and the United States to follow suit and join this regional bank.... I am 100 per cent certain that the Prime Minister will sign up."

Robb was not speaking for himself alone. A broad cross-section of Australian politicians, diplomats, industry executives, and academics was fiercely critical of Abbott's snub, in October, of China's invitation to join the AIIB. Initially, Australia had been expected to join, and Abbott had indicated in a Cabinet meeting his inclination to do so. The view of many Australians interested in the issue was set forth by Peter Drysdale, Emeritus Professor of Economics at the Australian National University (ANU), and widely recognized as the intellectual architect of APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation), who declared in a Sept. 22 column in East Asia Forum, "It should take no more than a nanosecond to conclude that countries like Australia, Korea, Japan, and the United States should partner in this enterprise."

But Abbott, seemingly at the last minute, declined to join, and didn't even send an Australian delegation to Beijing to observe the Oct. 24 signing ceremony of the AIIB Memorandum of Understanding. Then it emerged that U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, at the Oct. 20 inauguration of Indonesian President Joko Widodo in Jakarta, had personally pressured Abbott not to join; that Obama had reportedly telephoned Abbott on Oct. 22 with the same message; that this had led to a special meeting of the National Security Committee of Cabinet, at which Foreign Minister Julie Bishop presented the argument that China could convert financial influence, through loans from the AIIB, into direct military advantage in nations close to Australia; and that this strategic pressure was behind Abbott's turnaround on the AIIB. This chain of events was perceived, correctly, as Abbott's having bowed to Obama and placed U.S. demands above Australia's clear national interest.

Notably, three former Australian prime ministers, from both major parties, condemned the decision to not join the AIIB. One was Malcolm Fraser, the former Liberal Party prime minister. Ironically, the other two were Labor PMs Bob Hawke and Paul Keating, who had overseen the super-deregulation of the 1980s and '90s. Keating blasted the rejection of the AIIB as the "worst decision" of the government's term, and took aim at Obama. "What would the Americans say if we advised them about their trade policies in South Amer-



DoD/Edward Gutierrez III, US Navy

The U.S. has moved a radar system to Western Australia, to allow closer detection of Chinese-launched satellites. Here, U.S. Navy traffic controllers track radar signatures aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard off the Australian coast

ica?” Keating demanded to know, in the Oct. 30 *Australian Financial Review*, “What sort of short shrift would we get?”

Former Australian Ambassador to China Geoff Raby told an Oct. 28 Future Forum discussion on the Asian Century in Sydney, that Australia’s not joining was a mistake. “Not being a founding member of something like this is a very big call,” the Oct. 29 *Sydney Morning Herald* reported him saying. “I don’t understand why we don’t want to be at the outset of a new regional institution.”

The World Has Changed

When Chinese President Xi delivered his guest address to the Australian Parliament on Nov. 17, he diplomatically omitted mention of the AIIB, but emphasized the commitment to economic development which China shares with its BRICS partners, and which gave birth to the AIIB. “First, China remains unshakeable in its resolve to peaceful development.... China needs peace,” he said. “Second, China remains unshakeable in its commitment to pursuing common development.... A world that is developing will promote the development of all countries.... China sincerely hopes to work with other countries in the to enlarge the pie of

common interest and achieve win-win progress.... China will ... accelerate the building of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. This will create a virtuous cycle of development and security in the Asia-Pacific region.” He concluded, “Oceania is a natural extension of the ancient maritime Silk Road, and China welcomes Australia’s participation in the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road...”

The defiance of leading Australians, including such key architects of the City of London-Wall Street takeover of Australia’s economy in the 1980s as Hawke and Keating, to Obama’s

and his British cronies’ attempts to smother the rising economic power of the BRICS bloc, and Australia’s potential affiliation with it, indicates the power of the earthquakes touched off by the BRICS process. In his comments to the *Australian Financial Review* Keating declared, “The multi-lateralism of the North Atlantic post-1947 is over. The world has changed, and there will be a centre of gravity in the Pacific and East Asia, as there has been for the last 250 years in the Atlantic.”

Malcolm Fraser stated the matter more universally, in greetings to the Schiller Institute’s October 30th Anniversary conference,¹ as a choice not of shifting allegiances from one power-bloc to another, but between a world of rivalries between power-blocs escalating into world war, or a world where all nations work in partnership for development. He wrote, “There is an option and that is for the most powerful Western nations to realize that there have been great changes in the world, that the strategic context has altered, that other powers such as the BRICS are emerging and that the West should collaborate with them as partners to establish a more equal and a more just world.”

1. See *EIR*, Nov. 14, 2014, for Mr. Fraser’s greeting to the Schiller Institute conference in Frankfurt, Germany.

EIR Brings Transaqua Plan, BRICS to Lake Chad Event

by Lawrence Freeman and Donielle DeToy

Dec. 1—For more than 30 years, the gigantic water project known as “Transaqua,” which would refill the shrinking Lake Chad, revitalizing a body of water on which 40 million Africans depend, has been placed before all international development agencies as well as the nations of the region. Yet, over all this time, not one feasibility study has been carried out. The de facto financial diktat against great projects, exercised through the international financial institutions and the mis-named environmentalist movement, has taken it off the agenda.

Fortunately, in the context of the growing optimism created by the BRICS nations, which have vowed to fund huge infrastructure projects in the developing world, that boycott is beginning to be broken.

On Nov. 17-18, the inaugural meeting of the International Scientific Committee, established to advise the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC),¹ was held at its headquarters in N’Djamena, the capital of Chad. *EIR*’s



EIRNS/Donielle DeToy

Members of the International Scientific Committee of the Lake Chad Basin Commission gathered in N’Djamena, Chad, Nov. 14, 2014: Executive Secretary Dr. Sanusi Abdullahi (fourth from right), and EIR’s Lawrence Freeman (third from left).

Lawrence Freeman² and Italian engineer Dr. Marcello Vichi, intervened to expand the prevailing limited view concerning the urgent strategic necessity for refurbishing Lake Chad.

Dr. Vichi, who drafted the original proposal in the late 1970s for the great Transaqua water infrastructure project, which would transfer a substantial amount of water from the super-moist Congo River Basin to the

1. The Lake Chad Basin Commission was formed in 1964 by Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Chad. In 1996, the Central Africa Republic joined, and Libya became a member-state in 2008.

2. Participants appointed Kostoingué Bouguyana, lecturer at the University of N’Djamena, as chairman, and *EIR* Africa specialist Lawrence Freeman, as vice-chairman, of the International Scientific Committee.

arid Chad River Basin—published under the title “Transaqua: An Idea for the Sahel”—wrote a letter, delivered to members of the committee, provocatively challenging them to take up the fight for Transaqua (see below). Noting that the project has been slandered as “utopian” and “megalomaniacal,” Vichi said: “Allow yourself one moment of megalomania. Do it in the interest of your children and grandchildren.”

The executive secretary of the LCBC, engineer Sanusi Imran Abdullahi, also spoke on both days of the session on the importance of studying the Transaqua proposal (see below), and requested that the International Scientific Committee respond to Dr. Vichi’s letter.

The current rationale on how to prevent Lake Chad from drying up even further is dominated by simplistic practicality about conservation and managing the meager existing waters of the lake and its tributaries. Freeman challenged the other participants to reject the prevailing zero-growth mentality, and instead think about the potential that a great infrastructure project like Transaqua would have in transforming the economies and environment of all the countries involved, from the Great Lakes Region to the Sahel. He also encouraged the commission to look for collaboration with the BRICS and its New Development Bank, as the West has no interest in funding infrastructure projects for Africa.

Will Lake Chad Disappear?

Lake Chad is a freshwater lake located 13° latitude north and 14° longitude east in the Sahel. The total drainage area of the hydrographic basin is almost 2.4 million km², about one-eighth of the land area of the African continent. The hydrologic basin, which encompasses all the tributaries, is 967,000 km², an area larger than the states of New York, Virginia, and Texas combined.

It is the fourth-largest lake in Africa, behind lakes Victoria, Tanganyika, and Nyassa (Malawi), but is extremely shallow, from as low as 1 m to a maximum of 12 m, and suffers from a severe loss of water through evaporation due to the hot, dry climate.

Lake Chad, which is thought to be the remnant of an inland sea that existed 13,000 years ago, is reported to have been as large as 1 million km², in 6500 B.C. after

FIGURE 1
The Transaqua Project



Transaqua will bring approximately 100,000 cubic meters (81 million acre feet) of freshwater from the Congo River Basin, through 2,800 km of navigable canals, to Lake Chad.

the last glacier melt, and 400,000 km² in 4000 B.C. It was considered to be one of the largest lakes in the world, but since 1963, has shrunk by 90%, from a surface area of 25,000 km². While many estimate today’s size of the lake, which consists of northern and southern pools of water separated by large sand dunes called the Great Barrier, at less than 2,000 km², Mohammed Bila, a geologist who has been examining surface waters through remote sensing for the LCBC since 2004, believes that due to heavy rains in 2012, the lake may now be as large as 4,500 km², with some water in the northern pool for the first time in many years.

The measurements of the lake region are done in collaboration with NASA’s MODIS satellite which provides 250-km resolution images of the basin four times a

day, and Germany's Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), which measures rainfall and groundwater. Tracking life activities on the lake and surrounding basin area is also done in coordination with Germany's Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GmbH).

Rainfall varies greatly from the northern portion of the Lake Chad Basin in the Sahara Desert, with as little as 100 m, to as much as 1,000 m at the southern edge—the Sudanian zone. Most significant has been the decrease in rainfall in the Sahelian zone, the central and largest portion of the basin, as well as a decrease in water flowing into the lake from its major tributary.

The Chari River, flowing from the Central Africa Republic and the Logone River from Cameroon, join at N'Djamena, becoming the largest tributary, providing 90% of the lake's water, but its volume has decreased from 40 km³ to between 21–25 km³. The Komadougou-Yobe tributaries from Nigeria provide only a small portion of water flow into the lake.

Bila attributes the decrease in rain in the Lake Chad Basin to the southerly movement of the tropical convection zone, which is where the cold air from Europe in the north meets the warm air from southern Africa, producing rain.

What Causes the Lake To Shrink?

There are unconfirmed reports that the lake had disappeared and then reappeared thousands of years ago, and that as recently as the first half of the 16th Century, the lake almost completely dried up, demonstrating that the causes for the contraction of the lake are not anthropomorphic. However, we do not yet understand precisely the complex causation of the lake's shrinkage. There are four layers of aquifers under the lake at varying depths: the Quaternary, closest to the surface, followed by the Pliocene, Continental Terminal, and Cretaceous. It is also unclear what type of interaction, if any, there may be between the aquifers under Lake Chad and the large Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System that spreads throughout Sudan, Chad, Libya, and Egypt.

Although there has been an increase in rainfall over the last 14 years, if there are more severe droughts like those of 1973 and 1984, the lake will dry up without human-engineered water transfer.

Over 40 million Africans on the Lake Chad shore-



EIRNS/Donielle DeToy

Residents of one of the small islands on Lake Chad; it is estimated that more than 58,00 people live on the islands.

line and its surrounding basin are directly dependent on its water. As the lake has diminished in area and depth over the last 50 years, the population has been forced to migrate and adjust to even less tenable living conditions. Farmers and fisherman subsist on this shrinking body of water, with over 58,000 inhabitants, predominantly Chadian and Nigerian, residing on islands in the lake. They travel among the islands for trade, supplies, and limited education, some by long motorized canoes, or water taxis.

Further complicating life on the lake is the water foliage, which has overtaken large areas of the basin. A program for dredging the lake, as a precursor to any water transfer, is scheduled to begin in 2015, but will be a monumental task.

Why Transaqua Is Necessary

Restoring Lake Chad to its previous surface area will not only improve the lives of the 40 million Africans directly dependent on it, but is critical to stopping the desertification southward. Transaqua proposes to capture 5%—100 billion of the Congo River's 1.9 trillion m³ of water—that flows, squandered and untapped, into the Atlantic Ocean each year, and instead redirect it north through a 2,400-km navigable canal east of the Congo River, northwest across the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to the Central African Republic (CAR), meeting the Chari River, which would release this additional volume of water into Lake Chad.

This infrastructure project would provide an indispensable feature for a new platform of development in

agricultural, industrial, and electrical production, and transportation, affecting up to 12 African nations, thus transforming a large portion of the continent. This peace-through-development approach would contribute more effectively to dealing with the root causes of the growing insurgencies, such as Boko Haram, in the region, than simply employing counter-terrorism security measures. Abdullahi was correct when he told a Washington, D.C. audience in August that if Transaqua had been implemented 30 years ago, we would not be witnessing the horrors we see in the CAR today.

Until now, there has been only minimal discussion of the much smaller Obangi water transfer project, which would only deliver 320 m³ of water per second, compared to 3,200 m³ per second with Transaqua. At best, the Obangi water project would add about 1.5 meters of water to Lake Chad, increasing its surface area by 7,500 km². Moreover, the Obangi project would not have the same transformative effect on all the countries of the two basins, since the 2,400-km canal extending from the southeast portion of the DRC to the CAR is an essential feature of Dr. Vichi's proposal.

Freeman requested that the International Scientific Committee study the feasibility of Transaqua and invite Dr. Vichi to present his vision directly to the Commission. These sentiments were echoed by Abdullahi.

Look East for Development

The donor countries, dominated by Europe, oppose any water-transfer project, and have made this abundantly clear to the LCBC. Prince Philip's World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the mother of the global anti-growth environmental movement, also opposes Transaqua. Although a study of the Obangi project is included in the LCBC's five-year plan, it has not been pursued enthusiastically, and there is no mention of Transaqua.

As a matter of policy, the West will not support infrastructure development projects for Africa that would save lives, reduce poverty, and improve living conditions for tens of millions of impoverished Africans. U.S. Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Linda Thomas Greenfield stated on the eve of the 2014 U.S.-Africa Summit: "We don't do infrastructure." Europe and the United States have decayed morally, politically, economically, and intellectually; they have no vision for the future for their own nations, much less the rest of the world. Their dying global financial system threatens to drag the whole world down with them.

However, the outlook of the BRICS nations, exemplified by China's construction of a New Silk Road

Economic Belt, and their scientific endeavors in lunar exploration, have an ingrained commitment to economic progress, and a more optimistic view of the future. Freeman emphasized, during the two-day session, that this growing movement of nations, cooperating in grand infrastructure projects to economically develop their countries, are the natural allies of Africa, which should look to them for collaboration to make Transaqua a reality.

LCBC Executive Secretary Abdullahi understands that thus far there has been a lack of political will and funds to carry out the necessary water-transfer projects. Intent on refurbishing Lake Chad, and improving life for all the countries in the basin, Abdullahi told *EIR*: "We need you to make our case known to all those who will listen and try to convince them the time is now."

Marcello Vichi

Transaqua Author Greet Lake Chad Basin Committee

Nov. 18—*This message from Dr. Vichi was read to the first meeting of the International Scientific Advisory Committee of the Lake Chad Basin Committee, N'Djamena, Nov. 17-18.*¹

Please accept a warm greeting by someone who, for more than 30 years, has worked to promote Transaqua among African countries concerned with a development proposal: "An Idea for the Sahel." I was commissioned by the CEO of Bonifica [the engineering firm of the IRI-Italstat Group] to check out the feasibility for the construction of a new "artificial Nile" able to transfer some cubic kilometers of water from the Congo River Basin (at that time it was called Zaire) to the Chad Basin, rescuing the Lake from almost certainly drying out.

The first cartographic analysis and hydraulic studies

1. See Marcello Vichi "Transferring Water from the Congo to Lake Chad: The Transaqua Project," *EIR*, July 22, 2011.

confirmed the hypothesis that it would be possible to intercept about 100 million km³ of water from the high basins of the north-eastern feeders of the Congo River, to pour into Lake Chad, through the construction of an approximately 2,400-km-long canal, without using any power, except the force of gravity.

The group of experts was convinced that the “take-off” of the African continent could never take place by limiting interventions to many small projects, politically important, but almost exclusively for subsistence-producers.

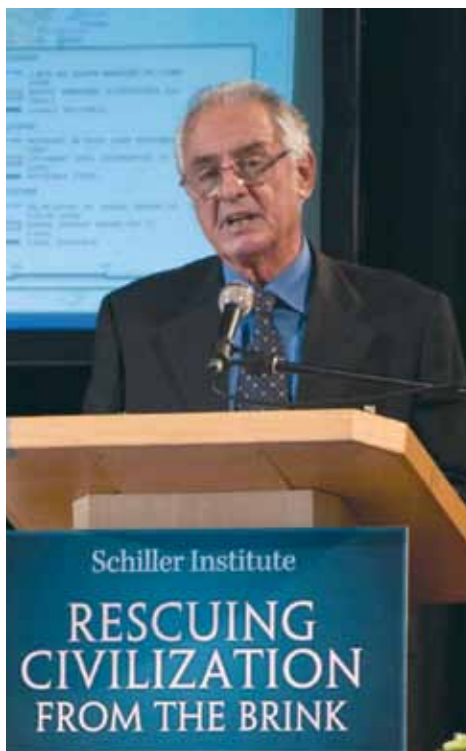
By withdrawing 100 million km³ of water from the circa 1,500 million km³, which, on average, the Congo River pours annually into the Atlantic Ocean, we believe we would also be compensating for a “natural injustice” which, in the face of one of the greatest wastes of freshwater in the world, condemned one part of Sahel to a progressive and increasing drought.

Finally, we thought that the creation of more than 2,000 km of south-north waterway in the heart of the continent, the creation of an industrial “pivot” in the Central African Republic, and a possible east-west, “coast-to-coast” motorway connection between the ocean ports of Lagos and Mombasa, together with a major production of hydroelectric power for local use, were all elements worth at least being considered.

This did not occur.

Why? Because African countries themselves did not fully believe in the “idea,” and did not attempt to obtain from international agencies the necessary financial support to verify the technical-economic, social-political, and environmental feasibility of the initiative. It was not a matter of endorsing the project *a priori*, but just to determine its feasibility.

Even though the feasibility study was never done—and its cost, using modern means, would be reasonable—the project has been viewed as a megalomaniac, pharaonic, utopian initiative.



EIRNS/Julien Lemaître
Dr. Marcello Vichi, shown here addressing a Schiller Institute conference in 2011.

Dear participants, do not allow your initiative to become yet another lost opportunity. Play the “utopia card,” because “utopian” projects—the Suez Canal was in its time no less “utopian” than Transaqua—are today indispensable for the continent, if equatorial Africa wants to really free itself from the burden of endemic indigence, and does not want to lose the race for global development which other continents have long since initiated. Some come to buy your resources, those resources that you have not been able to exploit to your advantage. Allow yourself one moment of megalomania! Do it in the interest of your children and your grandchildren.

What To Do?

I believe that unfortunately—but also luckily—finances move the world. Large multinationals

are always ready to “cooperate” when they smell fat profits. One of the ways to go would be, if I may make a suggestion, the creation of an Ad Hoc Consortium among sovereign states, concerned with examining the idea of Transaqua (Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, C.A.R., and whoever else wants to join), and address as a partner a Consortium of Multinational Companies (European, Chinese, Indian, American, Japanese, etc.), among the best known in the world for the construction of large projects in Africa.

The two consortia, joined in a sort of mixed African-foreign multinational company, could bring together the economic resources to promote a feasibility study, and eventually, in case of positive results, a series of preliminary projects, then executive projects, and ultimately a schedule for the execution of works. It would be fundamental that the “founding partners” of the mixed company clearly share among themselves tasks and responsibilities, mutually ensuring the future activities of execution and management for at least the next twenty years.

I am aware that the approach is neither simple, nor easy, but neither are the problems of the continent. In my view, it is worth trying.

Lake Chad, Transaqua Basis for New Africa

Below is the speech distributed by EIR Africa specialist Freeman at the inaugural meeting of the International Scientific Committee of the Lake Chad Basin Commission in N'Djamena, Chad, Nov. 17, 2014. Freeman entitled his remarks "Implications for Saving Lake Chad in the New Strategic Dynamic."

1. During the last 14 months, there has emerged in the world a new paradigm of thinking among a growing number of nations for cooperation in promoting long overdue economic development driven by large-scale infrastructure projects for energy, rail transportation, and water management. Highlights of this process are:

September 2013: China's President Xi Jinping announced the New Silk Road Economic Belt.

July 15-16, 2014: The Sixth Summit of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) announced the creation of a New Development Bank.

October 2014: Twenty-two nations joined the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Nov. 8, 2014: China announces the formation of the Silk Road Fund, in the run-up to the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference in Beijing.

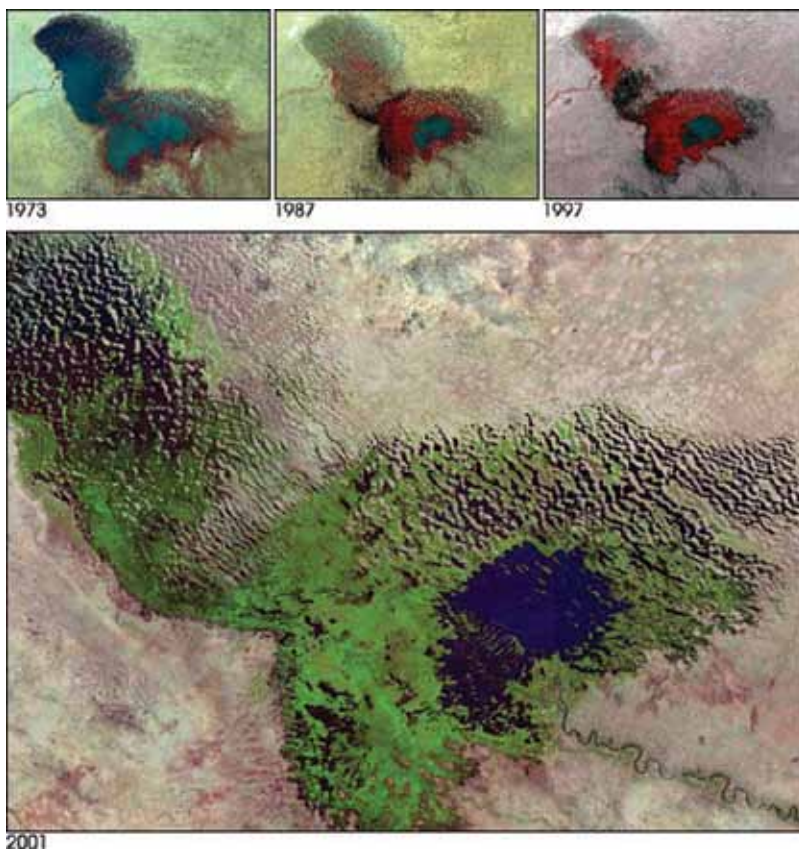
These initiatives exemplify an alternative to the heretofore hegemonic global financial system dominated by the monetarist banking centers of Wall Street, the City of London, and Paris. These developments taken together, and related activities and initiatives in this direction, signify a fundamental change in the world.

What we might call the BRICS/New Silk Road geometry correctly focuses on fostering real economic growth derived from massive investment in infrastructure

projects, contrary to the Western policy of finding new exotic financial mechanisms to maintain the "too big too fail" banks, that are dying under the weight of \$1.75 quadrillion in worthless derivatives.

Saving Lives and Reversing Desertification

2. The two largest bodies of water in the Sahel are the In-Land Mali Delta, and Lake Chad, both of which, if developed, can yield increased food from farming and fishing, required to feed almost 25 million Africans who exist in the Sahel at varying levels of food insecurity. Preventing the disappearance of Lake Chad and refurbishing it to its 1963 level of 25,000 square kilometers, is not just of great importance to the nations of the Sahel and the rest of Africa, but is strategically important to the planet. If we would realize the full potential of the Mali In-Land Delta on the Niger River and restore Lake Chad, we would not only save tens of millions of lives, but also begin the process of reversing the southward march of the desert.



The shrinkage of Lake Chad: "Preventing the disappearance of Lake Chad and refurbishing it to its 1963 level of 25,000 square kilometers, is not just of great importance to the nations of the Sahel and the rest of Africa, but is strategically important to the planet."



EIRNS/Danielle DeToy

Author Lawrence Freeman (right front) on Lake Chad with LCBC geologist Mohammed Bila, Nov. 14.

Large-scale water projects along with east-west and north-south high-speed railroads, and the generation of hundreds of thousands of additional megawatts of electrical power (including large-scale use of nuclear energy), are not fanciful dreams. They are vitally necessary endeavors for the development of the African continent to provide for its future population of 2.4 billion, which is anticipated to occur in less than two generations.

3. The Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) must take the lead among African institutions for the mission to refurbish Lake Chad. Water transfer is urgent and essential. There has been attention to plans for transferring water from the Obangui River through construction of a dam at Palambo and a canal to feed into the Chari River, the largest tributary to Lake Chad. This water transfer would restore a percentage of Lake Chad, preventing its disappearance at current trends. But that will not return it to its earlier size, which should be the ultimate goal of the LCBC. This project should not be neglected. However, to restore Lake Chad and expand the productivity and output of the countries encompassed by the LCBC, and as well the Great Lakes Region, requires the implementation of the Transaqua water transfer project.

The broad outlines are the construction of a 2,400-km kilometer canal using 5% (100 billion cubic

meters) of the Congo River's 1.9 trillion cubic meters of water that pours out unused into the Atlantic Ocean each year, and sending it north to supply the Chari River, which flows into Lake Chad. Transaqua is not just a water project; it is transformative, a great project that will alter fundamentally the economic processes and lives of all the nations of the LCBC and Great Lakes, thus transforming the African continent.

There should be nothing astonishing about human beings intervening to move large amounts of water from a super-moist basin to an arid basin, thus improving the biosphere for the benefit of mankind. The key to the successful improvement of an economy/society is the ability of a people to increase the output of physical wealth (not money) produced from one production cycle to the next by increasing the productive powers of its people. Technologically advanced infrastructure supplies a crucial ingredient to increasing the productivity of a society. Transaqua would create a corridor of development from the southeast portion of the Democratic Republic of Congo all the way to the Sahel.

Producing Real Wealth, Not Fictitious Money

4. Money is not wealth. All true wealth that has enabled civilization to progress since man's discovery of fire a million or so years ago, is a product of the unique human quality of creativity. The great Russian/Ukrainian scientist Vladimir Vernadsky proved that mankind transforms the "biosphere" into the "noosphere" (the noetic), through the power of his creative intervention. There is no steady state equilibrium of sustainable development. The physical universe is coherent with the human creative principle and history demonstrates that its intention is for continued growth and development. Physicists would call this an "anti-entropic" principle. Thus implementing the Transaqua project is nothing more than intervening to improve "mother nature," if you will, for the benefit of mankind's existence, of which the universe happily approves.

5. Africa is not over-populated, but rather severely underdeveloped. Now is the time to act to improve conditions of life for Africans by realizing the full potential of Africa's enormous natural wealth. Africa has been kept backward by the extreme deficit in infrastructure, as witnessed in the outbreak of the Ebola virus.

Now is the time for Africa take advantage of the

new BRICS/New Silk Road approach to investing in real economic growth, which is spreading to nations comprising over half the population on the planet. Leaders with a vision of what the future of Africa can be, should enumerate identifiable prioritized transformative infrastructure projects that must be accomplished in the next 10-20 years to secure the future of the continent. We need to ensure that saving Lake Chad and Transaqua are foremost on such a list.

Interview: Sanusi Abdullahi

Preparing the Way for The Transaqua Project

Sanusi Abdullahi, an engineer, is the Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission. Lawrence Freeman interviewed him on Nov. 20 in N'Djamena, the capital of Chad.



LCBC

EIR: This week we completed the inaugural session of the International Scientific Advisory Committee of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), which you initiated. Could you summarize what was accomplished in these discussions?

Abdullahi: Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. Let me say that during the last donors' conference for funding the five-year investment plan, it was recommended that we should set up an international scientific committee to guide us in the implementation of the program. We also had that idea, but the meeting reinforced the need. During this same operation, we are pleased to have people who have a wealth of experience, and the discussions were very rich indeed. It was concluded that the committee will intensify activities in 2015 with a set roadmap and specific activities that will help the commission to actualize the program in place.

EIR: Was the meeting successful in your evaluation?

Abdullahi: The meeting was really very successful, because to have participants come from the U.S. and Europe shows the commitment, at least from the people we selected—the fact that they would spare the time. The full participation of the members we invited was very successful.

EIR: We discussed during our deliberation, the need to transfer water to Lake Chad; that simple conservation would not be sufficient. The Transaqua water project, which was developed over 30 years ago to transfer 100 billion cubic meters of water from the Congo River Basin to the Chad River Basin, was discussed in our meeting, but it has not been supported by the donors, nor by institutions from the West. What are your thoughts about the need for us to begin to work on the Transaqua proposal?

Abdullahi: Thank you very much for this question. Let me say we have had the opportunity to get in contact with Dr. [Marcello] Vichi, who was lead engineer for the conceptualization of this Transaqua program; that contact became possible as a result of setting up this committee. That adds value to the fact that the meeting was a success.

The issue of transferring water from the Congo to Lake Chad is, to my mind, the surest way to save this region from so many other problems: not only the issue of climate change, but social, economic integration, and so many other things. During the donor conference, the decision of the political leaders was to stick to taking necessary steps within the Lake Chad area and the tributaries that feed Lake Chad, as a prerequisite to the grand plan to transfer water. From the engineering standpoint, you cannot begin to actualize the transfer of water from the Obangi to Lake Chad, when you know that Lake Chad, as it is now, cannot receive the water.

So yes, we may have some people who are not supporting it at this point in time, but we are not deterred. We are able to articulate good reasons to show them the need to support this program. We are trying to make the work for the transfer of water from the Obangi to Lake Chad a priority; we will show the details and the economic analysis for the program to sell itself, so the revenues can be generated. But now we are concerned about the immediate actions needed to prepare the ground, as it were, for receiving the water.



EIRNS/Donielle DeToy

A boat transports schoolgirls to islands in Lake Chad where they live. The islands appeared as the lake's waters dried up, and the villages on them are illegal. Villagers will have to be resettled when the Transaqua program brings water from the Congo to replenish the lake. Sanusi intends to make sure that the people are relocated to more attractive places and a better life.

EIR: Yesterday my wife and I had the pleasure of taking a boat ride on Lake Chad; we visited a fishing community, where unfortunately, the living conditions were not sufficient for the kind of development of people we need. Do you think that the development of Transaqua would improve the economic conditions of these communities that depend on the lake?

Abdullahi: This is one of the issues we are trying to address, really, to say that this interbasin water transfer program is a long-term issue. The village you saw is an “illegal settlement”; it is supposed to be part of the lake. So we are actually doing a census to map out these locations for eventual relocation in the future. We carry out activities to identify new [villages], and to see if old ones have moved; we are tracking them. Eventually, we will know how to plan to relocate them in an environmentally friendly way, with less social problems, because once you bring in water, you are telling those villagers they have to go. So we are planning.

I had a TV interview about a year and half ago, and I mentioned that we need to identify the people who are living in the lake illegally, as it were. and then try to relocate them properly, with their own consensus, in an environmentally friendly way, prior to the actual transfer of water. We are not even encouraging infrastructure development in those places for now, because we need to relocate the people. We want to ensure that the new locations we are proposing that these people go to will be so attractive that they would

prefer to go there than stay where they are—hopefully, if we get the support.

EIR: We received a letter from Dr. Vichi, the author of Transaqua, which he wrote for the meeting of the International Scientific Advisory Committee [see accompanying article], and he challenged the LCBC and its members to take up Transaqua, because it is an economic development program that will affect not only the Lake Chad

Basin but the Congo Basin as well. He said in his letter, “It is in the interest of your children and grandchildren” to take up this challenge. I was wondering if you could respond to that.

Abdullahi: Yes, thank you. Actually, I am writing a reply to Dr. Vichi to appreciate his interest in this issue and his commitment to Transaqua and the transfer project.

Reality speaks for itself. Since I came on board, I have been trying to find this guy. and luckily for me. I met one gentleman, Lawrence Freeman, in Washington, D.C., who was able to catalyze this process and got me involved. I hope before the end of this year I will go to Italy to find Dr. Vichi, because I consider him the key to our success. I consider him a “reservoir” of knowledge that we need to go to and swim in and drink. And I am sure that knowing him is going to help this program a lot and help the commission.

EIR: Thank you very much for this interview. My wife and I wish the greatest success to the Lake Chad Basin Commission, and we believe that they are in good hands under your leadership, and look forward to future trips and travels and collaboration with you.

Abdullahi: Thank you very much, and my regards to *Executive Intelligence Review*, and we hope to collaborate more, and we need you to make our case known to all those who will listen and try to convince them to do something. And that the time is now!

Hagel Firing Escalates War Danger with Russia

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Nov. 30—The firing of Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel Nov. 24 has seriously increased the danger of general war. His ouster, following the “political impeachment” of President Barack Obama in the Nov. 4 midterm elections, signaled that President Obama—as expected—has chosen to dig in his heels and stick with the White House inner circle of advisors and the disastrous policy course leading now to the heightened danger of world war.

Hagel was fired because he had the audacity to side with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other top military professionals, who viewed the behavior of the White House inner circle—President Obama, Chief of Staff Denis McDonough, National Security Advisor Susan Rice, and Presidential Counselor Valerie Jarrett—as disastrous, and the major obstacle to several urgent policies, including the war against the Islamic State jihadists in Iraq and Syria.

In late October, Hagel sent a two-page memo to Rice, warning that the White House failure to adopt a coherent policy on Syria was jeopardizing the entire anti-IS effort. Contrary to some media accounts, following the original leaking of the memo to the *New York Times* in early November, the Pentagon brass were *not* calling for accelerated regime-change against the Assad government in Damascus. The Pentagon insisted that the United States should not be drawn into what the Joint Chiefs described as a “three-front war”—against IS in Iraq, IS in Syria, and the Syrian Army.

In an interview with *Defense One* on Nov. 17, Gen. Martin Dempsey, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of

Staff, made clear that the mission of the U.S. armed forces was not regime change against Assad; it was the defeat of the Islamic State. Dempsey also insisted that the training of a new Free Syrian Army had to be carried out by the Pentagon, and not by the CIA. In recent months, Dempsey has restructured the U.S. Army to establish a unified Special Forces command, to fulfill precisely such training missions of foreign military forces.

The Hagel memo pressed for the White House to develop a diplomatic strategy for solving the Syrian civil war, now going into its fourth year. Without a political resolution, the U.S. forces could not coordinate against IS with the Syrian Army—the only ground force capable of defeating the jihadists with U.S. intelligence and air support.

In addition to the Syria situation and the war against IS, Hagel and the military commanders were even more alarmed at the growing conflict between President Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin. While the war on IS is an important component of the ongoing U.S. war on terrorism, the military commanders are worried far more about the widening conflict with Russia—knowing such a conflict could quickly escalate to a thermonuclear war.

While the Joint Chiefs maintain clear channels of communication with their Russian counterparts, Pentagon sources confirm that the Ukraine crisis has eroded the longstanding trust, built up over the past 20 years of post-Soviet, military-to-military engagement, and that Obama’s animus toward Putin is making matters worse.

Putin Responds

Both President Putin and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov have made frequent statements in recent weeks about the Obama Administration's policy of regime change in Moscow, through "color revolution"-style asymmetric warfare operations. Last week, Putin spent two days with Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and other top military officials, reviewing Russia's long-term strategic force modernization. In recent months, Russia has significantly expanded its strategic bomber reconnaissance missions; and early in November, the Russians held joint naval maneuvers with China in the Mediterranean Sea—a first.

Beyond the Obama Administration's provocations against Russia, NATO is continuing to push further east, and the Poroshenko government in Kiev is now openly promoting the end to its "non-bloc" status and pushing for eventual NATO membership. The fact of Ukraine even pushing for membership and closer collaboration with NATO is such an immediate strategic provocation against Russia, that German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who has been one of the leading European provocateurs against Putin, made a public declaration that Ukraine can never be allowed into NATO. The German government has been badly split over its policy toward Russia, with Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier promoting closer cooperation, and an end to the self-destructive European sanctions against Moscow, while Merkel has been pushing for abandonment of Germany's traditional "Ostpolitik" of economic and political cooperation with Russia and Eastern Europe.

Other NATO countries, including Poland and Lithuania, are deepening their military ties to Kiev which is further adding to the crisis climate on Russia's western front. Russian officials have asserted that the eastward movements of NATO are in violation of an unwritten agreement that was reached with the U.S. and NATO at the time of German reunification—that there would be no eastward expansion of the Alliance into the former Warsaw Pact countries. That agreement has been shattered, and even former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachov has recently backed President Putin in warning that the West has moved towards confrontation with Moscow.

In a recent interview with the Russian News Agency



DoD/Glenn Fawcett

Defense Secretary Hagel (left) was fired because he had sided with General Dempsey (right) and the Joint Chiefs against Obama's inner circle.

TASS, and on other occasions, Putin has made clear that Russia has no intention of capitulating to the West's provocations and asymmetric warfare gambles. Putin's stand is bolstered by Russia's history, from the Napoleonic Wars to World War II, when Russians suffered extraordinary losses, but preserved their sovereignty as a nation.

Revolt in Democratic Ranks?

The firing of Defense Secretary Hagel is likely to backfire against Obama and his inner circle, as more and more Democratic Party leaders publicly break with the Administration and its disastrous policies. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), the third-ranking Senate Democrat, made waves last week by delivering a blistering attack against Obama in a speech at the National Press Club. Schumer charged that Obama squandered his 2008 electoral victory and a Democratic majority in both Houses of Congress by fixating on his Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") at the expense of urgent job creation and other economic policies.

With Congress returning from Thanksgiving recess, the pressure on Obama, from Democratic Party leaders, to purge his White House team and bring in competent, experienced advisors, for his final two years in office, is likely to escalate. But if the Hagel firing is any indication, it will take much more pressure—including the threat of impeachment—to force a stubborn, narcissistic Obama to change. That test of courage for the Democratic Party leadership may be the last best hope for preventing a further plunge into strategic showdown with Putin's Russia.

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL CONGRESS

BRICS Nations Aim For the Moon and Mars

by Marsha Freeman

The momentum for stretching mankind's scientific inquiry into the farther reaches of space now lies with Eurasia, as was clearly shown at the International Astronautical Congress, held in Toronto Sept. 29-Oct. 3. (See our previous coverage of the Congress in *EIR*, Nov. 2 and Nov. 7, 2014.)

Two of the groundbreaking events in space exploration over the past year were the December 2013 landing of China's Chang'e-3 spacecraft and Yutu rover on the surface of the Moon, and the Indian Mars Orbiter Mission's successful insertion into orbit around the Red Planet, on Sept. 24. With these milestones, China joined the U.S. and Soviet Union as the only nations to have landed robotic spacecraft on the lunar surface; and India became the first nation in Asia to orbit Mars.

India and China have taken different space exploration paths. India has not yet had a manned space mission, which China accomplished in 2003. And China has not yet sent a spacecraft to Mars. Although it is misguided to think that these two nations are in an (often-asserted) "Asian space race," it is the case that each country's recent success has helped to spur the other to push forward. And within the new economic paradigm created by the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), space exploration is a necessity and a reality.

For both China and India, these outstanding accomplishments do not stand alone, but are indicative of a broader scientific and educational agenda, and a

long-term commitment to develop their populations through science, education, and great economic projects.

India's Mars Mission

India's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), enthusiastically supported by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, sent back its first image of Mars on Sept. 24. On Oct. 15, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) released photographs taken by MOM showing the movement of Mars' diminutive moon, Phobos, across the face of the planet.

But just as MOM was settling into its orbit, comet Siding Spring grazed the planet at a distance of less than 88,000 miles, on Oct. 19. To take advantage of this rare close encounter, scientists at ISRO studied what scientific measurements could be taken by MOM, and results from the encounter are forthcoming. Two NASA orbiters, Europe's Mars Express, and the U.S. rovers Opportunity and Curiosity, were also mobilized for this event.

On the sidelines of the Toronto conference, the heads of NASA and ISRO signed two documents formalizing space cooperation projects. First, a Mars Working Group was established, which will meet once a year to assess the potential for future joint missions to Mars. On Oct. 14, discussing the first scientific results from NASA's MAVEN mission, Principal Investigator Bruce Jakosky reported that a member of the Indian Mars team would visit his group in November, where



ISRO

Technicians ready the Indian Mars Orbiter Mission spacecraft for testing, before its Nov. 5, 2013 launch.

an agreement on sharing Mars data collected by both spacecraft “will be hammered out.”

A second agreement formalizes work on a sophisticated NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) spacecraft. The mission includes one radar system from each nation, at different frequencies. In combination, the radars will have a resolution of just a centimeter.

The mission will measure the deformation of the Earth’s surface due to earthquakes, volcanic unrest, subsidence, uplifts, and landslides. It will be able to track the dynamics of the cryosphere, such as glaciers, sea ice, permafrost, and ice sheets; track changes in vegetation and wetlands; and support global disaster responses. The NISAR mission plans a 2020 launch.

India’s Space and Science Agenda

Indian scientists are now planning the next steps in both lunar and Mars exploration, following the stunning success of their first missions. The 2008 Chandrayaan-1 Indian lunar orbiter will be followed by a second, more ambitious mission, now in the planning stage. “The aim is, three years from now, an Indian lander and Indian rover will land on the Moon,” ISRO chairman K.S. Radhakrishnan told the press on Nov. 11. India is also planning a second Mars orbital mission, he said, which would be ready at the earliest for the 2018 launch opportunity. Unlike MOM, which was

primarily a technology demonstration mission, the second craft will focus on science.

But a major challenge that India now has on the agenda is manned orbital missions. At the Toronto conference, Koppillil Radhakrishnan, the chairman of ISRO, announced that India will soon carry out an unmanned test of a crew capsule, in order to demonstrate the safe return of a spacecraft through the Earth’s atmosphere, and its recovery. Since 2013, ISRO has also been developing space suits and life support systems for astronauts. On Nov. 4, Radhakrishnan told reporters that the unmanned crew vehicle would be launched in December, on the experimental GSLV-Mark III rocket. The 3.6-ton capsule will be taken to a height of 100-120 kilometers and ejected from there to land in the Bay of Bengal, in order to test the heat shield.

From early in its space program, India has seen international cooperation as beneficial and necessary. At present, it has cooperation agreements with 33 nations, many in the field of space applications. A natural focus has been its Asian neighbors.

Prime Minister Modi proposed in a speech earlier this year, that there should be a “SAARC satellite,” under the auspices of the eight-member South Asian Association Regional Cooperation group. Among the member states, India is the only one with a number of satellites providing data on a wide range of applications. It now wants to extend coverage to all the 1.7 billion people in the SAARC region. This proposal was discussed at the 18th SAARC Summit in Nepal the last week in November, and supported as a way to “greatly benefit SAARC’s social-economic growth,” by Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaska.

A breakthrough has been made in international space cooperation by India, with very wide-ranging potential. On Sept. 21, ISRO chairman Radhakrishnan told the press that, for the first time, China and India came to an agreement to work together, “creating a strong space presence in Asia.” “This is not just a gesture,” he stressed, “but a concrete step forward to cooperation.” As for the focus of the cooperation, “right now, broadly speaking, it will be natural disasters and remote sensing, which are natural choices. But by March-April 2015, the joint working team would have prepared a roadmap, chalking out various options and opportunities for concentrated efforts in space exploration.” Combining the strengths of the Indian and Chinese space programs would accelerate the entire international space exploration endeavor.

China's 'Open Door' Space Policy

Bowing to political pressure from the United States, Canada did not issue visas to either the Chinese or Russian space agency heads, or large numbers of their delegations, to attend the Toronto congress. The irony of barring China's top space officials, is that in the conference papers that were presented, China invited the international community to participate in its most ambitious space missions. But without the top leadership of China's National Space Administration present, it is likely there were missed opportunities to take the Chinese up on their offer.

The next major step in China's manned space program will be the construction of a multi-module laboratory complex in Earth orbit, starting in 2018. On Sept. 10, at a press conference during the annual meeting of the Association of Space Explorers in Beijing, China's most senior astronaut, Yang Liwei, invited other nations to participate. "We've reserved a platform to cooperate with other countries in missions, by having designed interfaces for our space modules so that they can dock with modules of other countries," he said. This offer was amplified at the conference in Toronto.

A conference paper by Zhou Lini, from the Center for National Security and Strategic Studies at the National University of Defense Technology, reported that China's station will be composed of three 22-ton modules, which can accommodate three astronauts for six-month stays. The Chinese core module and two experiment modules will comprise the basic station. There will be five docking ports, which will enable the 66-ton station to be expanded to up to 180 tons, comparable to Russia's 1990s Mir station. (For the sake of comparison, the two-dozen-nation International Space Station weighs nearly 420 tons.)

According to Zhou, at the highest level of cooperation, other countries could build their own scientific laboratory modules, to be docked to the station. They could either launch the module to the Chinese station themselves, or have China launch and deliver it for them. China's space station "can be reached by rockets launched from Cape Canaveral as well as French Guiana on the Equator, enabling participation in the



National University of Defense Technology

China has given an open invitation to all space-faring nations to join its future modular space station. The two components that are labeled "Experiment Modules I and II" are available spots for docking other countries' laboratories to the station.

construction of the [Chinese] Space Station by the United States and Europe," the paper invitingly states. It is also an option to have foreign astronauts trained in China, and transported to the station either on foreign spacecraft or on China's Shenzhou craft. (The European Space Agency currently has astronauts learning Chinese.)

Utilizing the facilities of the station also provides opportunities for international cooperation. Payloads for experiments could be jointly developed, and could include experiments in life science, materials science, and microgravity physics. China has set up the International Cooperation and Exchange Center of China Manned Space Engineering to promote and facilitate such cooperation.

Developing interoperable hardware for international rescue of crew members in an emergency, another area for cooperation that China proposes, has been talked about for decades, but has never come to fruition. Such a capability would be evidence of "a new form of international humanitarian spirit," the author of the paper proposes.

To the Moon and Mars

At a press conference on Sept. 24 at China's Foreign Ministry, spokesman Hua Chunying replied to a question about the Indian Mars launch. "We congratulate India on its successful launch of the mission Mangalyaan into Mars orbit," she said. "This achievement is the pride of India, as well as Asia, and also represents a major step in humanity's peaceful exploration and utilization of outer space." But it is also the case that "the



China National Space Administration

China has accelerated its Chang'e lunar development program, toward its goal of mining helium-3 on the Moon, for fusion fuel. During the Chang'e-5T1 mission this Fall, the spacecraft took this photograph of the far side of the Moon (never seen from Earth), with the Earth in the distance.

Indian Mars mission has put pressure on China,” a Chinese representative told this writer at the Toronto Congress. Unfortunately, China’s first attempt to study Mars was a small orbiter carried on Russia’s Phobos-Grunt mission, which failed to leave Earth orbit. China has been mapping out its own Mars exploration program.

In June, China’s chief lunar scientist, Ouyang Ziyuan, told the International Planetarium Society conference in Beijing that China plans to land a rover on Mars in 2020, and to return soil samples to Earth a decade later. Much of the capability for this deep-space exploration already has been developed and used by China’s lunar missions, added Ye Peijian, chief scientist for the Chang’e lunar missions from the China Academy of Space Technology. Li Ming et al. in a paper in Toronto, explained that Chang’e-2 was sent into deep space after completing its lunar mission, and is now more than 80 million kilometers from Earth. Such an accomplishment “opens the door to asteroid exploration,” they stated, as well as Mars.

Chinese space officials put a prototype Mars rover on display at Airshow China 2014, on Nov. 10. They said that although there has not been an official govern-

ment announcement of a Mars mission, a rover is being designed. It is similar to the lunar Yutu (“Jade Rabbit”) rover, but “larger, tougher, and a better climber.” It will be able to negotiate larger rocks, and its wheels will be better able to withstand rough terrain. The rover will be tested in the rugged terrain of Tibet and tasked to handle large rocks in the Gobi Desert.

China’s lunar exploration program has been accelerated due to the success of the first three missions. Rather than repeat last December’s Chang’e-3 mission and land a spacecraft and rover on the Moon, lunar planners decided to cancel that back-up mission, and instead take the next step. The Oct. 23 launch of China’s fourth mission to the Moon, informally designated Chang’e-5T1, was designed to help lay the basis for the very challenging 2017 Chang’e-5 mission, to land a craft on the Moon, scoop up soil, and return the sample capsule to Earth.

Chang’e-5T1 successfully tested the ability of a vehicle to return to Earth from the Moon, at a high-speed 25,000 miles per hour, testing a “skip reentry” technique, dipping the craft into the atmosphere to slow it down through friction, before the final descent to Earth. It landed successfully on Nov. 1.

One of the hallmarks of China’s lunar exploration program is the long-term goal of mining the rare isotope helium-3, to fuel the fusion energy power plants of the future on Earth. Recently, both Russia and India have also expressed the importance of such an effort.

On Oct. 8, Russian cosmonaut Alexander Volkov, speaking at an All Russia Science Festival in Chelyabinsk, said, “There is water on the Moon, and there is helium-3, which is better than any other energy source existing on the Earth. . . . One day, we will run out of oil and coal, and mankind will need energy. Then, we will start supplying it from the neighboring planet.” And on Oct. 14, Indian technologist Apathukatha Pillai told reporters that helium-3 fusion is of great interest to India and other countries. “I predict by the next two decades, we could see missions being carried out to tap the resources in the Moon,” he said.

But not everyone is as farsighted. At the Toronto Congress, *EIR*’s William Jones raised this stated Chinese lunar mission objective, during a session on the exploration of the Moon. “Every scientist I have spoken to says that it is not possible to use helium-3 in fusion,” respected space professional John Rummel responded. “In fact, it may even be poison for fusion reactors!”

This ignorant reply was countered by Bernard

Foing, the European Space Agency's chief scientist on lunar missions. "The Chinese have a long-term view in their lunar exploration," he explained. "They think in terms of the next 100 years. Obviously, if you can collect thousands of tons of helium-3 on the Moon, and transport it to Earth, this would be a tremendous boon to mankind. They must develop their lander capable of bringing human beings back to the Moon, begin planning a lunar base, develop the equipment for mining the resources, and put in place a system to transport the material back to Earth. It is a long-term project, but this is the way they are thinking about their program." And China is already working on each necessary phase of this long-term project.

New Russian Capabilities

The Russian space agency is focused on the future, with a new ten-year plan due out before the end of this year. Although much of the top leadership of the national space agency Roscosmos was not allowed to attend the Toronto conference, the papers that were presented there reflected a dramatic increase in funding for space programs, and described new manned space and planetary initiatives that are underway.

The Ukraine-related sanctions placed upon Russia over the past half year, while not (yet) affecting cooperation on the International Space Station (ISS), have had an impact in related fields. These motivated the Russian leadership to, first, make a commitment to develop the domestic capability to produce space hardware that it has until now imported, and, second, to broaden cooperation with other nations, notably China, and formulate its future plans jointly with non-U.S. partners.

On Oct. 31, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitri Rogozin, questioned about cooperation with China, replied: "We have rather energetic relations with the People's Republic of China, and Western countries should be thanked a lot for that. I am not even joking." The sanctions policy "broke some psychological barriers, which probably existed in someone's head regarding cooperation with China," he explained.

In November, a delegation of Roscosmos and rocket and space industry representatives went to the Interna-



Khrunichev State Research and Production Space Center

Russia is rebuilding and modernizing its space industry, including the new Vostochny Cosmodrome. The Angara rocket, seen here being assembled, will be the first new post-Soviet launch vehicle.

tional Aviation & Aerospace Exhibition in Zhuhai, China, where specific projects were to be discussed with representatives of China's space industry. On Nov. 11, plans were unveiled to deploy several monitoring stations in China for Russia's GLONASS navigation satellites, and several Chinese sites are being evaluated. The United States has refused to allow GLONASS stations on American soil.

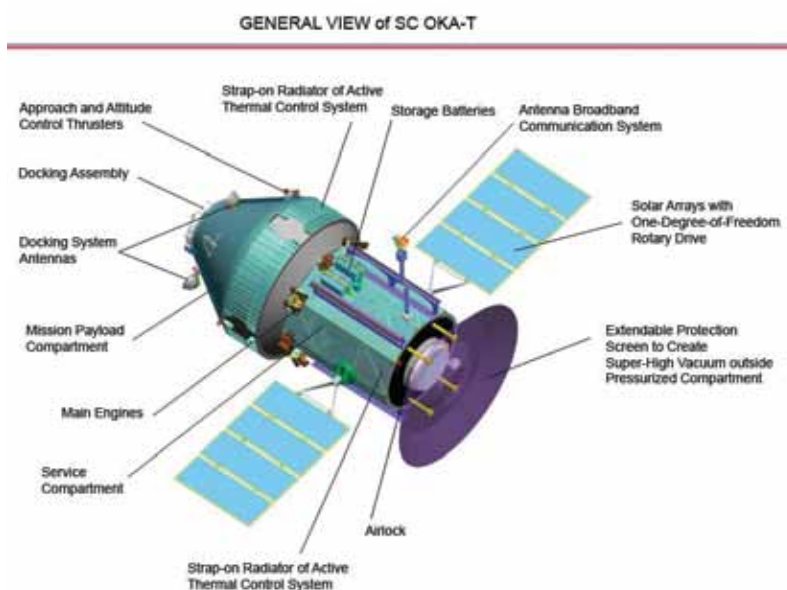
One immediate focus of the 2016-25 long-range plan is the completion of the Vostochny launch complex in the Russian Far East, for which \$5 billion has been allocated. Vostochny opens new possibilities by allowing Russia to launch its new heavy-lift Angara series of rockets, and eventually its manned missions, from a new, state-of-the-art facility on Russian soil. (The Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan has been the base for all Russian manned space flights since Soviet times.)

Russia is also upgrading its venerable Soyuz

manned spacecraft, developing a next-generation manned vehicle to replace it, and completing the long-delayed modules to be added to the ISS.

At the Toronto conference, an exciting addition to the ISS complex was discussed by Dr. Igor Sorokin, from the S.P. Korolev Rocket and Space Corporation Energia. It is a free-flying research and manufacturing module, designated OKA-T, which is now under development. The robotic spacecraft will fly near the ISS, co-orbiting with the station. It will provide a microgravity environment for experiments, free from the vibrations caused by the movement of the crew in the station.

OKA-T will be attached to the station periodically for servicing and repair by crew members, and for the exchange of completed experiments for new ones. It is scheduled for launch in 2018. These flexible space platforms can be designed for one scientific discipline's experiments, such as materials processing, with specialized equipment required for that, or can accommodate a broad range of experiments at the same time.



S.P. Korolev Rocket and Space Corporation, Energia

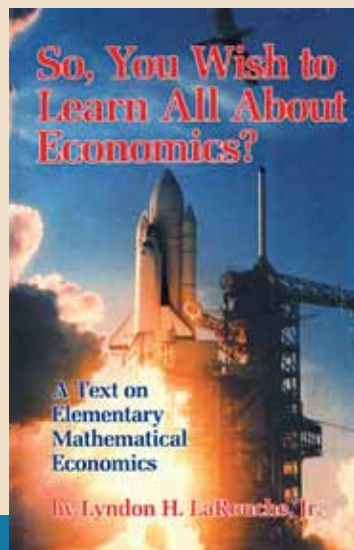
A new, free-flying space laboratory, the OKA-T, will be launched to the International Space Station in 2018. Separated a short distance from the ISS, it will be able to accommodate microgravity experiments, free from the vibration of crew movements on the station.

Such free-flying unmanned experiment modules were originally envisioned by NASA, for similar materials processing and other research, but were never funded.

The Moon Is the Focus

Russia is planning a series of new lunar exploration missions, with the goal of carrying out manned missions to the Moon after 2030. Several presentations in Toronto described how, in order to gain time, and augment its own technical capabilities, Roscosmos is in discussions with the European Space Agency to carry out joint lunar missions, of increasing complexity. This cooperation would build upon two joint Russia-ESA ExoMars missions, which are already under development, and will be launched during this decade. Papers on the future lunar missions were presented in Toronto by joint Russian-European technical teams.

The first planned Russian lunar mission in this new series, the Luna-Glob Lander, or Luna-25, will demonstrate a soft landing at the lunar south pole, long-duration operations on the surface, and survivability during the two-week lunar night. It is an ambitious mission, which will conduct investigations of the Moon's very-low-density exosphere, deploy high-speed penetrators for subsurface study, and also carry an instrument to

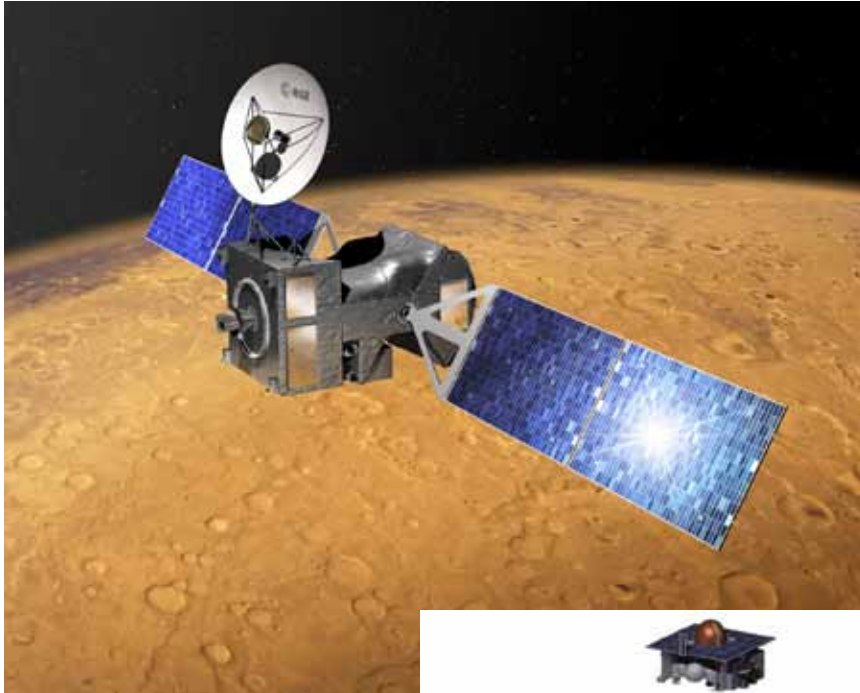


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ESA

Two joint European/Russian robotic missions will be launched to Mars over the next five years. The ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter, seen in this artist's drawing (above), will investigate methane and other atmospheric trace gases, and will carry along a descending and landing demonstrator module.



NPO Lavochkin

The Russian Space Science Institute hopes to re-do the Phobos/Grunt mission, to the tiny moon of Mars.

study galactic cosmic rays. After some delay, Luna-Glob has been scheduled for 2018.

Luna-26, the Luna-Resurs Orbiter, will follow, to conduct scientific investigations from orbit and to act as a communications relay for the lander that will arrive on the next mission. Luna-27. The Luna-Resurs Lander, now planned for launch in 2019, will validate more advanced exploration capabilities at the south pole. All of these missions are prerequisites to a future manned mission.

ESA has been considering what it can contribute to Russia's lunar exploration program, "taking into account current and foreseen budgetary constraints in Europe." The idea is for ESA to contribute already-developed advanced technologies to the Russian missions, which ESA can then use in its other missions. This would also protect skilled jobs in industry and research institutions in Europe.

Europe's Pilot system is a very sophisticated autonomous landing system, which could be used in Russia's lunar missions. The PROSPECT systems provide analysis of potential resources at any location on the Moon, by drilling into the subsurface, and analyzing samples on site. SPECTRUM would enable network-like communications among multiple craft at the Moon, and access to communications by engineers in mission control with landers that have no direct line-of-sight with the Earth.

Looking further into the future, ESA is considering developing a joint Lunar Polar Sample Return mission with Russia, in the 2020s. "Developing capabilities together with Russia is an example of cooperation that can be extended to a more global scenario," a paper presented at the Congress concludes.

Although Russia has greatly expanded its international outreach, it remains committed to developing its own leading-edge technologies,

and ambitious national missions. And despite a lack of success in the past, it is not giving up on Mars.

A "reboot" of Russia's Mars missions is "a matter of honor," said Lev Zeleny, director of the Academy of Science's Space Research Institute, on Oct. 13. The 2011 Russian Phobos-Grunt mission, in which the spacecraft failed to leave Earth orbit, will have a second try, he said. This is unlikely to happen before 2024, but that will enable it to benefit from the two cooperative ExoMars missions Russia is carrying out with Europe in 2016 and 2020.

The alignment of nations cooperating to meet the challenges of exploring space is dramatically shifting. With China, India, and Russia now taking the lead, the other BRICS countries, and all of the nations that will join the World Land-Bridge, will be able to participate in this great project of exploration.

Reject Geopolitics, Join the BRICS

EIR endorses the following petition, now being circulated by the Schiller Institute. It's been slightly abridged.

In today's nuclear age, the consequences of a geopolitical policy of confrontation with Russia and China can only be the thermonuclear extinction of the human race. Therefore, every effort must be made to cooperate to solve the multiple crises facing humanity.

The BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) have united to pursue a policy of economic development, not just for their individual countries, but for the benefit of the people of all nations. To that end, they have created a New Development Bank to invest billions in necessary development projects.

China recently initiated the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), joined by over 20 Asian nations as founding members, and along with it, has set up a Silk Road Development Fund.

At the APEC conference in Beijing, Chinese President Xi Jinping invited President Obama to join the efforts of China and other Asian nations, including Russia, in the development of the New Silk Road.

These initiatives are not geopolitical in nature. Contrary to the Transpacific Partnership (TPP) advocated by Obama, which excludes Russia and China, the BRICS-related initiatives, including the Chinese proposed Free Trade Area of the Asian Pacific (FTAAP) are inclusive. They are based on the concept expressed by the late Pope Paul VI that the "new name of peace is development." Thus, in Australia, at the recent G-20 meeting, both Xi and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke of the twin goals of achieving global peace and ending poverty through economic development.

There is no problem in the world that cannot be solved by such an approach, and conversely, no problem that will be solved without it. . . .

While the U.S. has abandoned the Kennedy space program, the Chinese are committed to a lunar program focused on the exploitation of helium-3 for the purpose of generating unlimited fusion energy. With collaboration among the U.S., Europe, Russia, China and India, among other nations, man could finally realize Johannes Kepler's vision of mastery of the laws of the Solar System for the benefit of man.

Only such an approach will restore the United States and Europe to their original purpose, as expressed in the European Renaissance and the American Revolution, a purpose which the U.S. and Europe have increasingly abandoned. Now, much of the rest of the world has adopted this purpose, and is urging Europe and the U.S. to re-adopt.

We therefore call upon the U.S. and Europe to abandon the suicidal geopolitical policies of the past which led to the two previous World Wars, and are leading to a third, and to build a future for all humanity by readopting the principle of the Treaty of Westphalia by basing foreign policy on the principle of the "benefit of the other," which ended the Thirty Years War in Europe; and on John Quincy Adams' concept of a "community of principle among sovereign nation-states."

That is the only course coherent with the true nature of man as the only creative species. Any other course is based on a concept of man as an animal and leads to human extinction.

As patriots of our own nations, and as citizens of the world, we call on our fellow citizens and the leaders of our nations to have the courage to break the current cycle of escalating bestiality by accepting the generous offer to collaborate with the BRICS.

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