

# Overflow San Francisco Event Points Toward Revolution in U.S. Economic Policy

by James Duree

July 22—A standing-room only crowd of 120-130 people met July 18 at San Francisco’s beautiful War Memorial Building to discuss “China’s Global Belt and Road Initiative—Will It Change the World?”

The War Memorial Building, across the street from City Hall, was the site of the signing of the United Nations Charter on June 26, 1945. The July 18 meeting marked a step forward in organizing the United States to join the international movement launched by China for the Grand Design of a World Land-Bridge.

The event was co-sponsored by the Schiller Institute and sections of the American Legion, including District 8, American Legion Cathay Post 384, and Post 448 (Veterans for Peace). The speakers were Lt. Col. Roger S. Dong (USAF-Ret.), Michael Steger of

the Schiller Institute, and two diplomatic representatives: Sergei Petrov, the Consul General in San Francisco for the Russian Federation, and Sun Jia, Consul from the Consulate General of the People’s Republic of China in San Francisco. Participating from the audience were representatives of other foreign consulates, news media, and prominent recent supporters of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The diverse audience included many Chinese-Americans and U.S. veterans, along with fighters for the restoration of Glass-Steagall legislation and for [Lyndon LaRouche’s Four Laws](#).

The event was scheduled to begin with a reception at 6 p.m., followed by the actual proceedings starting at 7 p.m. But so many participants had already arrived by



EIRNS/James Duree

*Participants in the July 17, 2017 conference in San Francisco, Calif.: “China’s Global Belt and Road Initiative—Will It Change the World?”*

around 6:15, that Lt. Col. Dong started playing a series of New Silk Road videos on the big screen at the front. They illustrated the development of the Chongqing industrial area in western China, a core part of the Belt and Road Initiative. The video presentation captured the imagination of the audience. As it ended, they erupted in spontaneous applause at a depiction of the future Land-Bridge connection of Eurasia to North America through the Bering Strait.



EIRNS/My-Hoa Steger

### Lt. Col. Roger S. Dong

After the American Legion District 8 Commandant formally opened the event, a Schiller Institute vocal quartet led the audience in singing the National Anthem. Michael Steger then introduced Lt. Col. Roger S. Dong.

Dong, a Chinese-American veterans' leader with a long, worldwide career in Air Force Intelligence, gave a well-illustrated presentation on the Belt and Road Initiative. Dong discussed the issuance of public credit to build the New Silk Road, including the explosion in project financing by the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to \$1 trillion. He stressed that the Belt and Road Initiative is already the "greatest economic and construction project in history."

Dong also emphasized that the "win-win" philosophy embodies the "New Paradigm" behind the Belt and Road. In conclusion, Dong displayed the Schiller Institute's World Land-Bridge map, from the [1997 EIR Special Report](#), and noted that the Schiller Institute "has been advocating this for twenty years," in reference to its intellectual authorship of the New Silk Road policy.

### Only Development Can Eliminate Conflicts

The second presentation was by Consul Sun Jia, from the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in San Francisco. His was of a distinctly different character, and began by discussing the philosophy of

*Speakers at the conference (at the table, left to right): Sergei Petrov, the Consul General in San Francisco for the Russian Federation; Sun Jia, Consul from the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in San Francisco; and Lt. Col. Roger S. Dong (USAF-Ret.). Michael Steger is on the far left.*

China behind the Belt and Road. Some of the most important captions from Sun's visuals follow:

1. "In the time of hardships, a man should seek self-development through efforts on his own, and in success, he should let others be benefitted." Mencius (372-289 BC). (This slide also had graphs of IMF GDP figures for key countries.)

2. "Why did China propose the Belt and Road Initiative?"

Answer: "A country should pursue prosperity and sustainable development while letting other countries live well."

3. "Best to be like water, which benefits all things and does not contend with them."

4. "How does the Belt and Road work?"

Answer: "Horizontal win-win cooperation of one's own accord, is the practice for implementing the Belt and Road Initiative."

5. "The Belt and Road Initiative, shining with the wisdom from the East, is a plan that China offers the world for seeking common prosperity and development."

His most important point was: "Only development can eliminate the root cause of conflicts, protect the basic rights of the people, and meet the people's yearn-

ing for a better life.” He added: “The Belt and Road will benefit regions that have:

- 63% of global population,
- 29% of world’s output, and
- \$2.1 trillion of GDP.”

He showed a terrorist running in front of a fire in some conflict, juxtaposed to the famous NASA photograph of the Earth from space at night, with the caption: “1.2 billion people have no access to electricity.”

### **Putin on Belt and Road**

The Consul General of the Russian Federation in San Francisco, Sergei Petrov, made it clear that Russian President Vladimir Putin has unreservedly embraced the Belt and Road Initiative, and intends to integrate the Belt and Road with the Eurasian Economic Union program of Russia and other post-Soviet nations. Dong reported afterwards that many in the audience—especially the Chinese-Americans—were surprised, even shocked, to learn of Russia’s full endorsement of the Belt and Road.

In addition to the old Silk Road, the Consul General alluded to the history of the “Tea Route.” Russian fur traders used to obtain sea-otter fur in Alaska, and ship it to China, where it was highly prized. They returned with Chinese tea to sell in Russia and elsewhere in Europe.

Petrov discussed his recent meeting with a trade representative from the Russian Federal Republic of Tatarstan, and the related project of a Moscow-to-Kazan high-speed railway, which is projected to continue to Chelyabinsk, Russia, and from there to China. This is an aspect of Russia’s involvement in the Belt and Road Initiative. The Consul General emphasized that “China invited us” to join the BRI, and that Russia’s involvement in the Belt and Road is a “long-term, principled commitment.”

Petrov invited all the participants to attend the coming “Vostochny” (“Eastern”) Economic Forum in Vladivostok this coming September, and the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) in May 2018.

He concluded by quoting a recent remark of President Putin’s: “Let us pave this road to development and prosperity, together.”

### **BRI Requires Hamiltonian Credit**

The final report was by Michael Steger, Director of the Schiller Institute in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Steger had recently delivered a two-hour presentation on the Belt and Road at the Graduate School of Business at the University of San Francisco. He began his July 18 report with the shocking contrast seen by Schiller Institute founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche, in her 1995 visit to China—compared with her earlier trip there in 1971, during the Cultural Revolution. He played an excerpt of Zepp-LaRouche’s famous introduction to the [LaRouche PAC World Land-Bridge](#) video. Helga says, “We will see how easy it is to change the world for the better.” Steger emphasized the role of Lyndon LaRouche in forecasting in 1988 the end of the Berlin Wall, and the role of Mr. and Mrs. LaRouche in formulating the “Productive Triangle” concept as the initial bridge between East and West. He recalled their opening of the dialogue with China in the early 1990s, to emphasize the need to end geopolitics.

Steger focused on two key areas: (1) the astounding power requirements which will be needed to create and run the New Silk Road, and (2) why only a competent, Hamiltonian credit policy, with 1-2% annual interest rates and multi-decade maturities, could possibly fund these great projects. The contrary “bankers’ arithmetic” approach, with its 10-12% interest rates, would result in paying back nearly \$1 trillion over forty years, on a \$10 billion loan! (Assuming a loan under such terms could ever be paid.)

### **How Do We Get This Done Here?**

The first question to the speakers, expressing a common concern of participants, was, “So, how do we get the Belt and Road Initiative implemented here in the United States?”

Subsequent questions ranged from security concerns, to India’s reservations on the BRI, to the crisis in the European Union, and the importance of fusion energy. Apparent throughout the discussion, was the wholesome shock-effect this well-composed event had had on their minds. Optimism ran through the discussion, as people grappled with the reality of the potential of the present historic moment. In particular, the interchange between the three groups—the veterans, the Chinese-Americans, and the LaRouche supporters—brought an entirely new dynamic to this event, portending additional openings for bringing the United States into full participation in the Belt and Road.