

# The Choice Before Germany and Europe

*Helga Zepp-LaRouche addressed the convention of the German political party she founded and leads, “Civil Rights Movement Solidarity,” or BüSo, on Sept. 17, just one week before the German national elections, in which she headed its slate of candidates in Berlin. Her address has been translated and edited, and the title above and subheads have been added.*

Dear BüSo members, honored ladies and gentlemen, dear guests,

This is already a memorable moment in history. I think we have a real problem in this election campaign, if you know what’s going on in the world (and I think you all know a lot about it, because you are in contact with the BüSo), and you compare it to the “virtual reality” in Germany, as presented by the media and the so-called established, acknowledged parties, one might almost think that there are two perfectly parallel universes, where one has almost nothing to do with the other.

The good news is, of course, that there is only one universe. Therefore, this condition we have in Germany is temporary and will surely disappear.

I would like to begin by expressing my deep optimism that I think that the chances that the cause of humanity will prevail, in a relatively short time, are extremely good: the victory of mankind. By this I mean a new epoch in the history of mankind, much more in accordance with man’s character than that which nowadays presents itself with the trans-Atlantic axiomatics; This is absolutely within reach, and I hope I will be able to explain it to you in such a way

that perhaps by the end of my speech, you will share my optimism.

For if the situation is viewed only from Germany—and most of our citizens really only view the world from within the parameters of how it appears in Germany (which is, however, in absolute, diametrical opposition to the historical processes which are developing at this moment)—if the information which can be obtained from the BüSo were gone from our website and our newspaper, and all that were available to us were what the ordinary citizen learns from the mass media, and from the debates, or the so-called “duels” between [leading candidates] Merkel and Schulz, or even other politicians, which is what they are doing in the election campaign: this is actually largely a collection of *Fake News*, of false information that creates a completely wrong picture of the world.

For example, almost everything, or more precisely, 98%, of what the ARD (Germany’s Association of



BüSo

*BüSo organizers bringing reality to members of the German population.*

Public Broadcasting) says about President Trump is negative. And most of it has always a so-called “spin,” where, even if they report a fact occasionally, there is always a negative implication. The same is true for President Putin, who is Satan incarnate, if the media is to be believed, and one is surprised that he is not portrayed with cloven hooves and breathing sulfur. Of course, the coverage of China is primarily negative; there is currently a giant explosion of so-called “China bashing.” The biggest fake news of all, of course, is what the EU itself says about its own economic condition.

In other words, if one is restricted to such sources of information—unless the citizen is truly truth-loving and researches all the international press resources, and has an idea of where the important processes are taking place and is looking specifically for that information—he or she has almost no chance of getting a coherent picture.

For example, when we have information tables on the streets, we frequently encounter people here and there who have come to a definite conclusion, but even that is often like the famous Italian minestrone, the vegetable soup with radishes, potatoes, cucumbers and all sorts of other vegetables, which is to say it is not cohesive—and that is really a difficult problem.

In spite of all this, even statistics show that in Germany only 42% of the people are satisfied with the course of events, with government policy. This is roughly the same as in America. By contrast, in China, 87% of people are happy about the direction the Chinese government has taken.

The biggest problem—and this is the main problem we in BüSo have in this election campaign, where we have to fight against such obstacles—is that our citizens are saddled with a fully controlled public opinion which is policed by the media; a control of information that carefully ensures that the really important topics are not discussed, and that their existence is not known at all. Germany today, to put it mildly, is less well informed than Dresden was at the time of the GDR [the former communist East Germany], when at that time Dresden was known as the “Valley of the Clueless.” As a result, there is no debate, no discussion among citizens, among institutions in Germany—less than in any other country I know of.

What does the future actually hold for Germany? What is the role of Germany in the community of nations in this world? What is the perspective for the

future? Where do we want Germany to be in 50 or 100 years?

### **Juncker’s Absurdistan**

If you listen to the recent speech by EU President Juncker on the so-called situation of the European Union, then you think you are not in Germany, but in Absurdistan. Because what Juncker said has nothing to do with reality! Juncker obviously has zero idea that the EU’s reputation has suffered enormously worldwide. It is by no means the case that the EU serves as a model for the integration of other groups of states, as was earlier the case, for groupings such as the African Union, ASEAN or MERCOSUR. That time is long past, and lately the EU has shown its true face in the treatment of refugees. The attempt to organize detention camps in dictatorial states, and to use Frontex, the EU coast guard and border agency, to repel refugees, has called into question every claim to represent human values, Western values, and even democracy, before the eyes of the whole world.

This has not yet found any entry—not even a glimmer—in the thinking of Juncker, who instead says all EU members should enter the Euro currency zone. This is a completely absurd demand. Recall once again what the EU directed against the countries of southern Europe—Greece, where the banking policy has ruined one-third of the European economy; similarly in Italy, Spain, and Portugal, where, ultimately, the cost-cutting measures have only led to the result that 97% of the so-called rescue money that was supposedly given to Greece, flowed right through to the European banks, while Greece remains really desperate, except for the latest developments in cooperation with China. This procedure is now about to be repeated with Bulgaria, Romania, and with other EU members not yet in the Eurozone. This is a completely absurd demand.

Then there’s Juncker’s idea that the future Europe should have a European finance minister, who is likely to pick the pockets of the citizens even better than Mr. [European Central Bank President Mario] Draghi has done with the ECB so far. That is an absolutely crazy idea. The zero-interest rate policy of the ECB has significantly attacked, *de facto*, savings deposits and pension claims, and this is, of course, a creeping expropriation of the savers and pensioners. And a continuation of this zero-interest policy is completely impossible, in the long term anyway.

But perhaps the most idiotic aspect of what Juncker

proposes, at the request of the Ministers for Economic Affairs of Italy, France, and Germany, is that the EU should set up a mechanism that can block Chinese investments in Germany, in so far as they go into infrastructure and energy areas, or into technologically sensitive areas.

If you know the outlook for the world at the moment, and the state of the trans-Atlantic financial system, and that the only hope is cooperation with China, then you can only say that Juncker's proposals are absolutely self-destructive, and demonstrate an incredible arrogance, because the German economy is by no means in such a shining state as a result of contrary political directions.

One consequence is the so-called "energy turn" (*Energiewende*), the exit from nuclear power, without having a real alternative. This policy has led to a rise in the price of energy and a huge increase in electricity prices, which in turn has led to the departure of energy-intensive companies. This is basically cutting off the branch you are sitting on.

The problem that we have in this *Bundestag* [parliamentary] election is therefore: How should citizens make a responsible choice as to the future of Germany? The citizens are the sovereigns, but how are they to be able to, or how can they determine the right choice, and why is it, from the point of view of history, that it is a truly catastrophic prospect that Ms. Merkel is to be Chancellor for another four years?

It would be equally stomach-turning to imagine a Federal Chancellor Schulz [the SPD candidate]. Unfortunately the other parties provide no alternative. Look at the electoral slogans of these parties. You will find a series of speech-bubbles and empty terms: "Social justice." How is this even possible with this European Union? Or from the Christian Democratic Union [party]—"For a Germany in which we live well." That's nice, but how is that to be done? And when you slowly melt the term on the tongue, it has an implicit, unspoken, anti-foreigner connotation—not pronounced, but it flows seamlessly in that direction.

Or then, really brilliant: "New Thinking." That's from the Free Democratic Party. This is always good; one should always think anew every day; but it is contentless. It is interesting that the [public employees'



*The European Commission, under President Jean-Claude Juncker, directed a ruinous banking policy against the economies of Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Greece. Below, an anti-austerity demonstration in Greece.*

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union] VERDI and various other organizations have recently filed a complaint against the ARD public broadcaster at the Broadcasting Council, because they have calculated that the FDP has received just as much broadcasting time on several topics as all other parties combined. So there is a clear preference, of hoisting the FDP into the *Bundestag*, at any cost, as the representative of this neo-liberal, monetarist economic policy.

I must say, in honor of Herr Lindner [the FDP chairman], that he has done something right. He has demanded that Germany must improve her relations with Russia, but that was his only idea—which, of course, is not so terribly new.

Then: "The future needs new ideas. And one who is able to put them through." That is Herr Schulz. The question is, of course, what is the content? What is the



vision? Where is the text?

## The Really Crucial Issues

What are the real issues? The most important is war and peace. It should be clear to everyone that in the age of thermonuclear weapons, peace must be our most important concern. If we do not achieve world peace, the existence of mankind is no longer guaranteed. If nuclear weapons are ever used, the logic of the strategies is that *all* nuclear weapons are used. There is relevant literature: armaments expert Theodore Postol and others have argued in detail as to why there is a fundamental difference between the use of thermonuclear weapons and conventional weapons.

The second issue is equally existential. We are on the brink of a new financial crisis which, if not prevented, will be much worse than that of 2008. And since all the tools of the so-called “toolbox” of the central banks have been exhausted, such a crash must lead to absolute chaos. Thus, a new financial crash, or alternatively, a new, just global economic order, is the second most important issue.

There is a third issue. Shall we remain in the old paradigm of the trans-Atlantic neo-cons with their wars of intervention that created the refugee crisis, the geopolitical confrontation with Russia and China, and the gap between rich and poor? Or shall we participate in the creation of a new paradigm in which we overcome geopolitics with the New Silk Road, or as President Xi Jinping has said: Let us take the leap away from geopolitics to a new paradigm of humanity and the common goals of humanity?

Then a fourth issue: the image of Man. There is no debate in this election about the image of Man. The question is, is man only a parasite that pollutes the environment, and the fewer people there are, the better? This is essentially what one hears in brainless conversation. Are there no thoughts about anything nowadays? Or is mankind the only known creative species, that, through his continued scientific and technological progress, is able to investigate the laws of the universe more and more, and thereby improve the bases of life for the whole species?

These are just the most important topics—I could add others.

With regard to war and peace—how is that to be seen? It should be absolutely clear to everyone that world peace can only be maintained if Russia, China and the U.S.A. co-operate. And, of course, Europe—

but Europe is not so important in this case. If the greatest nuclear powers Russia, the U.S.A., and China, do not find a common denominator, and instead continue to the brink of armed confrontation over geopolitical conflicts, in the Middle East, in Korea, or Ukraine, then it is only a matter of time until this goes terribly wrong. That is why what the media reports about these issues is actually not just outrageous, but borders on the criminal. If you believe the media, cooperation and understanding between the U.S., Russia, and China is absolutely impossible.

Why? Because if what the media say is true, and President Trump is simply incompetent, put into power by Putin, and a racist, and that it is better to impeach him today than tomorrow—if all this is true, then it is indeed hopeless.

But in reality, this is Fake News. You do not have to be a fan of President Trump to say: The American citizens who voted for him—that’s about half—do not see him as a racist. He is not a racist. He may not have been trained by Baron von Knigge [The German author of what is considered to be an authoritative guide to behavior, politeness, and etiquette—ed.], but he has quite a few advantages that make him seem to be the candidate preferred by half the American population: He wants to stop the interventionist wars that Bush, Obama and Hillary Clinton stood for, and he promised in the election campaign that he would improve relations with Russia.

That is why this whole “Russia-gate” was set up against him, which has now collapsed, because it is perfectly clear that the whole thing was an invention of the British empire. There was no Russian “hacking” of the computers of Hillary Clinton. It was an inside job, done precisely with the idea of blaming Russia for it. Hillary Clinton has not come to terms with the fact that she lost; she has just published a new book in which she asks what happened, and blames everyone except her own inability to respond to the needs of the voters. And meanwhile, this “Russia-gate” has just fallen apart because a group of former intelligence operatives has provided [forensic evidence](#) that, for technical reasons, there could have been no hacking.

## The Real Situation

The reality, however, is, that despite all the attacks by the neo-cons and the media on Trump, there has now been an at least some instances of excellent cooperation between America and Russia in the case of Syria, where



UNHCR/R. Hussein

*Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq load their luggage on to a boat on the Tigris River to return home.*

five de-escalation zones have just been put into operation; ISIS is as good as defeated as a result. It has no geographical base except for the most minimal niches, and instead there is cooperation between the U.S.A. and Russia. As a result, 600,000 refugees have already returned to their homes, and the massive reconstruction of Syria and Iraq is now beginning. There was just a big conference on this in Damascus, where there was a division of labor between Russia, which will supply the energy; China, which will build the infrastructure; Iran, which will build industrial parks; and all other nations will be invited to participate.

Did you read about it in the [big German dailies] *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* or in the *Bildzeitung*? I doubt it very strongly, for although I look at them every day, I have not seen it.

More problematic, of course, is the situation in North Korea, where a dispute is still taking place in the Trump administration between the neo-cons in the Republican Party and Trump, which unfortunately has led to a situation where the Pentagon is sticking with the policy of Bush and Obama, which terminated the earlier, very positive policy launched under South Korean President Kim Dae-

jung, who set in motion the “Sunshine Policy” where South Korean and North Korean engineers and workers worked together with Russians in the construction of industrial zones in North Korea.

This effort was sabotaged by Bush and Cheney at the time, and in its place they substituted the encirclement policy against China and Russia. Unfortunately this is still the policy, reflected by the installation of the THAAD missiles in South Korea. But Russia and China have both demanded a workable solution, consisting of a double-freeze: North Korea conducts no more nuclear tests, and no more missile tests, and the U.S.A. and South Korea conduct no more military maneuvers. This was wrecked by the United States and South Korea. Kim Jong-un, who has observed

the situation carefully, said recently that the only chance he has to survive personally, is to make North Korea a full nuclear power—with long-range missiles and nuclear warheads—because in his eyes, that is his only chance to avert a fate like that of Saddam Hussein or Muammar Gaddafi.

Russia and China have the policy that the only way a solution to the North Korean crisis can be found is



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*The Rason-Russia railway link, constructed by North and South Koreans along with Russians during the “Sunshine Policy” period between North and South Korea, extended a standard gauge rail line from Russia to Rajin Port in North Korea.*



State Department

*U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland and U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt (left), with Ukrainian President-elect Petro Poroshenko (right) in Warsaw, June 4, 2014.*

with the diplomatic path, and that is a demand that we emphatically, also in the U.S.A., have made our main theme. For it is not the case that China holds the key to the Korean crisis, but rather the U.S.A. The U.S.A. needs to change its policies, and then the Korean conflict can be solved simply by diplomatic negotiations.

Equally problematic is the situation in Ukraine, which is estimated by some Russian observers to be perhaps even more dangerous than North Korea. This is due to the fact that Russia is not the only one that triggered this crisis.

The narrative you read in the media is that it was the occupation of the Crimea by Russia which caused the crisis. This is absolutely absurd. The crisis in Ukraine began, in 1997, when the neo-cons in Washington committed themselves to the doctrine of the Project for a New American Century, whose idea was that the world must become unipolar, and that all governments which oppose this unipolar world are to be removed by means of “color revolutions,” by regime changes, or by interventionist warfare. During the collapse of the Soviet Union, promises were made to Gorbachov and others that NATO would never extend its troops to the borders of Russia. While these promises were being made, a different policy was already in place, as Jack Matlock, who was then Ambassador in Moscow, very clearly said.

Former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt put the date of the beginning of the Ukraine crisis at 1992, with the Maastricht Treaty, because that was the point where the

decision was made to expand the EU eastwards—without any limits!

Robert Cooper, a British diplomat and advisor currently serving as a Special Advisor to the European Commission with regard to Myanmar, once said that the EU is the greatest imperial expansion in history, and without end; so the states are to be integrated endlessly. That was why Victoria Nuland could boast that the U.S. State Department alone had spent \$5 billion on NGOs in Ukraine, which led to the Orange Revolution in 2004, and then to the attempt to incorporate Ukraine into the EU, to which President Viktor Yanukovich would not agree at the EU summit in Vilnius; and then to the Maidan, where the NGOs combined with the fascists to overthrow the legitimately elected government.

The German government played an absolutely active part. The Konrad Adenauer Foundation, like the State Department, got in on the act with Wladimir Klitschko, the former boxer; then Victoria Nuland, who in the famous telephone call with the four-letter word against the EU, announced that she wanted to have “Yats” [Arseny Yatsenyuk] take over as Prime Minister, as he soon did.

When one considers all of this, the sham of the so-called “narrative,” with respect to the Ukraine crisis, is absolutely scandalous. And it is also scandalous when, in this tradition, Merkel, through the EU, extended sanctions against Russia, until at least March 2018, and possibly even until September. This is diametrically opposed to German interests.

### **New Financial Crisis?**

Now to the third theme: new financial crisis or equitable new world economic order. We are sitting on an absolute powder keg. On the very day that Mr. Juncker announced how wonderful the economic situation in Europe is, the Adam Smith Institute published a report—the Adam Smith Institute, a neo-liberal think-tank based in Britain, published a report stating that the next financial crisis is an accident waiting to happen, simply because the situation is so completely tense.

At the same time, the European Financial Market Authority issued a warning that the next crisis is imminent. The reasons for this are the internal tensions in the U.S.A., which they say is the danger of civil war, and geopolitical crises.





Wikimedia Commons

*Commodity speculation: Houston oil traders' office.*

In the meantime, even the mass media—*Der Spiegel*, *Die Welt* and others—have warned that the next financial crisis is only a matter of a short time from now. The former Italian Finance and Economics Minister, Giulio Tremonti, has said that the situation is the same as between the two world wars. The “First World War” was in 2008, then comes an interregnum, where the real causes that led to the First World War (the 2008 crisis) are not resolved, so they are discharged in the “Second World War”—the imminent next financial crisis that will surely come on if no countermeasures are deployed.

The debt of governments, companies, student loans, and auto loans are on average 40-80% worse than 2008. Why? Instead of ending the excessive derivative speculation, and ending proprietary trading, what have the central banks done? They have gone for zero-interest policies, money printing, and rescue packages; the ECB has pumped 80 billion Euros a year into the financial system, an enormous amount of liquidity. However, this did not mean that companies invested in real investments, but rather in the buying up their own stock shares, which of course looks excellent on the books—the stock market profits go up, the shares are elevated—while at the same time the companies are so indebted that Draghi simply does not dare to raise the interest rate even a quarter of a percentage point, because then the entire house of cards would collapse. All the so-called “stress tests” are fictions.

The ECB has simply ignored the whole issue of Level 3 derivatives—these are the derivatives that do not even have a market price because they are virtually unsalable—with the argument that each major bank has its own model, its own algorithm which it uses to assign value, and that the ECB has no competence to investigate this. You can toss their assurances straight into the trash bin, because these stress tests simply did not take place.

In these circumstances, a “more of the same” policy, as especially Ms. Merkel and for that matter also Schulz promote, is really irresponsible. For if the new financial crash occurs, since the “tools” have already been used, and the zero-interest policy has already taken place, the collapse into chaos and its consequences will be absolutely unimaginable.

### **The Mood in the U.S.A. is Changing**

That is why what you hear from the media is irresponsible—above all, because the prospects for a solution are not discussed. In contrast to the way Trump is depicted, what you have never heard from the media has been a change in his thinking as a result of the unusual series of natural catastrophes, namely the hurricanes, where Hurricane Harvey destroyed Texas and caused a total damage estimated at least \$200 billion; also in Florida and the other southern states—just as we have some recollection in Germany of such flood catastrophes. When men are threatened by such catastrophes, it is the natural tendency of humans that their humanity comes to the fore. And in the case of Texas and Florida, this has resulted in an unprecedented outpouring of aid and solidarity, from volunteers who have flown there, and from neighbors who have helped one another. And this has changed the poisonous climate previously produced by the media and the Democrats against Trump, who were recently demanding his immediate impeachment. And now, leading Democrats like Chuck Schumer, Nancy Pelosi and Diane Feinstein have met with Trump and, for example, have agreed upon emergency aid for the flood victims. Several leading Democrats have said that it is no longer good enough to be simply against Trump. Because they have noticed that that has not helped them at all. Trump won some by-elections, because the population is not swal-

lowing it. Americans are not so stupid as to not notice when they are presented with one fairy-tale after another. That is why the Democrats have already turned their backs on “tactical calculations,” and are now looking for a dialogue with Trump, which is of course a huge blow to the neocon leaders in the Republican Party.

This is very important. Yesterday [September 16] Trump, in his weekly radio address, appealed to all Americans to rebuild the country—and basically a spirit of the good Samaritan now prevails, where it doesn’t matter whether someone is Republican or Democrat.

Yesterday there was a large demonstration in Washington, where our people had a great deal of influence. Now we really have the prerequisites to bring the Four Laws proposed by Lyndon LaRouche into the debate: Glass-Steagall, the banking separation system that Trump promised in the election campaign; a return to the policy of Alexander Hamilton, which Trump also promised; a national bank like Hamilton’s first Bank of the United States; a credit system; and a rebuilding of the U.S.A.

For many people, this may seem to be absolutely unimaginable, but those of you who have been in the United States lately, know the infrastructure is in a worse state than in the final phase of the DDR [German Democratic Republic, the former East Germany]. In the freeways, they have potholes. I would definitely not recommend driving a Fiat 500, because the chances are relatively good that you will be swallowed up. The subways in New York have decayed, they are 100 years old, there are fires and derailments of trains. There are only 250 km of high speed rail track in the U.S.A. Two hundred fifty km! And with a maximum speed of only 90 miles per hour. You have to imagine this; China now has 20,000 km of high speed rail track on which the trains go at 200 mph and are much better than the ICEs in Germany.

### **The U.S.A. Must Work with China**

The U.S.A. is therefore in such an urgent need of infrastructure investment, that we have launched a huge



Donald Trump speeches & press conference

*President Trump meeting with GOP Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (on couch, left), Democratic Party Senator Chuck Schumer, and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Sept. 6, 2017.*

campaign for China and the United States to work together. China has already said that the United States needs \$8 trillion in infrastructure investment, and is willing to cooperate there. This is the only chance America has. If Trump does not implement Glass-Steagall and the full program of the “Four Laws,” then he will not get any funding for it. Neither can the budget be endlessly increased, nor new debts taken; the United States has already \$20 trillion in government debt, an absolute absurdity, while we are pointing out that China has \$1.4 trillion in U.S. government bonds as currency reserves, and could use these reserves sensibly by investing in building infrastructure in the U.S.A.

Contrary to what you hear in the media, such investments are not out of the question. The good news is that Trump is not the crazy man the media depict him to be. He has developed a very good line of communication to Xi Jinping. Since their summit at Mar-a-Lago in April, they have constantly telephoned each other, even during the ongoing Korean crisis. They had a very good meeting in Hamburg at the G20 summit, and right now, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Yang Jiechi, the State Councilor of China (the number three position in the government) are preparing a state visit for Trump, probably to take place at the end of November during the ASEAN meeting, and there is a good chance that the anti-geopolitical perspective will take a good step forward.



## The Dynamics of the New Silk Road

That is to say, the possibility that there can be cooperation between Russia, the U.S.A. and China is a potential that absolutely exists. And if you read *Forbes* magazine—that's the only coverage. If you listen to the rest of the media, you may hear only one per cent positive coverage. Nonetheless, there is a completely new dynamic with the New Silk Road. The new paradigm, which the BüSo wants to put on the agenda, already exists, and has so for a long time. It is what we have widely promoted since the inception of the BüSo, but I would say even longer by my husband and myself, 40 years—in the case of my husband even over 50 years. This is going to happen. There is a new world economic order coming that is completely different from anything you know in Germany or even in Europe.

Xi Jinping proposed to the world a New Silk Road in 2013, only four years ago. But in these four years an enormous dynamic has developed, and an infrastructure and economic development program is underway worldwide which is already twelve times or even twenty times the size of the Marshall Plan after the Second World War.

The fact that this is not discussed here in the media borders on the criminal, because if Germans knew that there was such a development, and they could see the options and opportunities for Germany in this program, the mood would be much better.

I would say that the very fact that we are absolutely clear with regard to the responsibility of the neocons, the parties and the media, is probably the reason why, in this election campaign or otherwise, they have tried to cast any contact that we have with the public in a negative light—such as this impudent broadcast on the ARD about the so-called small parties—because they can not bear to have people know about this perspective at all.

The New Silk Road now involves over 70 nations, all of Eurasia or nearly all of Eurasia. Latin America is covered by it, as is Africa. It is a completely new concept, which Xi Jinping always calls the “community for the future of mankind.” And Xi Jinping has shown a tremendous personal commitment to the new world order. He has made 28 state visits, travelling to 56 states on five continents, creating optimism everywhere, especially in developing countries, which is absolutely unprecedented.

But this is not what the media report, claiming instead that it is only the Chinese drive for power, the power fantasies of China, that wants to buy the whole

world, and which supposedly wants to replace Anglo-American imperialism with a Chinese imperialism. It is really extremely important that we oppose this negative propaganda—which is what it is.

Cui Tiankai, the Chinese ambassador to Washington, recently delivered a speech in New York, in which he said he had looked through history, and that there were 16 instances in which an ascending power overtook the dominant power. In 12 of these 16 cases, it came to war, and in four cases the rising power simply overtook the dominant power. He said that China does not want to follow the twelve examples where war came—nor even the four, where China would simply replace the dominance of the U.S.A., but instead prefers a completely new model of cooperation, mutual respect for sovereignty, non-intervention, and the acceptance of the social model of the other, where one does not try to impose on the other its own model of so-called human rights or so-called democracy, by imposing so-called Western values—or for that matter Chinese values or Russian values, but rather, to seek mutual advantage in a win-win cooperation.

That is truly inspiring. I know that Europeans have great difficulties in recognizing this. For, above all, when one is accustomed to the policies we have here, one automatically projects those policies onto others. If the media here peddle the line that China has only geopolitical intentions—it is rather that it is the local media that have geopolitical intentions. If you hear someone retail the nonsense that China only wants to carry out its interests at the expense of others, that's because that's the policy here. How can you imagine that there could be a country or a political leader who has the common good in mind? That's why people have so much trouble.

## China's Economic Miracle

One must simply see: The Chinese model is the greatest example of an economic miracle in history. I would even say it is better and more inspiring than the German economic miracle after the Second World War. And I am speaking with real authority, because in contrast to the China experts in the media—I would say, everyone—I was in China in 1971. I do not think one of these people can claim that, but I was on a trip in 1971 that took me to Africa and Asia, and I spent about three months in China. I got there on a freighter which, while undergoing renovations in Shanghai, allowed me the opportunity to travel around Shanghai, to Tianjin and to Beijing.



NASA

*Deng Xiaoping (center) and his wife Zhuo Lin (right of him) being briefed by Johnson Space Center director Christopher C. Kraft (right front) on Feb. 2, 1979.*

I can assure you that China at that time was in an absolutely catastrophic state. The people were unhappy. I was still very young. Many tearful people told me in German or English (in Qingdao and Shanghai, many people spoke either German or English), stories about the Red Guards tearing people out of their beds at night, and sending them to work in the fields. The few people who had a developed profession, like a pilot or an engineer, were sent to the countryside, allegedly for “petty bourgeois corruption.” The Red Guards had all the works of art painted red. In Beijing at the Summer Palace, I saw the wonderful arcades all covered in red. It was a period that Chinese today describe as the low point in their history, roughly comparable to the twelve years of National Socialism in Germany. One could say that that was the low point in Germany. This was a time when Confucianism was attacked.

And then came the change. The

“Gang of Four” was finally defeated after the death of Mao Zedong, and Deng Xiaoping introduced the first economic reforms. There was a relatively fast economic improvement. At that time, mistakes were made; China accepted the role of being the land of cheap manufacturing, the environment was damaged, the ground water was spoiled, the air was polluted, and there were bad factories. But then things progressed relatively quickly, at least on the east coast and in the south of China. And then, especially in the last 30 years, the Chinese economic miracle came, which has really led to the biggest contribution by China to the improvement of human rights by any country.

And this the ARD did not mention in their interview with me, which took about half an hour, out of which they took only one sentence, namely the question: “Are there any human rights violations in China?” And I said, “No,” and then they cut it off. The rest of my sentence was, “the reason is that China has liberated 700 million people from the deepest poverty, and poverty is one of the biggest human rights violations, and that is why China has an excellent record, so it is an excellent success story.” The ARD, of course, did not report this, and at the end of the interview, they brought in an agent provocateur who said the BüSo supported dictatorships like China and Russia. This is really a prime example of how to turn something around completely.

But the conditions of the 1970s and 1980s are not the reality in China today. Today there is a profound optimism in the Chinese people, and a large middle



cc:Rehman

*The Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River, China.*



Chinese Academy Of Sciences

*China's Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) reactor.*

class of about 900 million, a huge market for Europe and the U.S.A., potentially, and that is why this policy of “China bashing” is like sawing off the branch on which you’re sitting. China plans to overcome the last four percent of poverty by 2020, especially in rural areas. China has committed itself to helping to overcome poverty all over the world, and above all, China has a completely different approach. They rely on the brilliance of their citizens, the Confucian idea of life-long learning. They now have 2,000 students enrolled in doctoral programs for nuclear fusion; they have the world’s most advanced fusion energy experiment. And they will connect all major cities by high-speed railways by 2020. In problem regions, i.e., where cities are too large, as in the case of Beijing—take the region of Beijing-Hebei-Tianjin—they are building entirely new cities, in order to reduce the congestion, along with environmentally friendly industries. So they are acting quite differently from the West.

Our connection with this New Silk Road is really an extremely close one. And this is something that the media control will not be able to change. One can say, this is what Lyndon LaRouche, my husband, and I and our movement have campaigned for worldwide, for 30, 40, 50 years—in the case of my husband, certainly 50 years. For a long time these were only ideas like utopias, only blueprints, only programmatic conceptions. Now that China,—which is probably already the strongest economic power, which is making great strides—has taken it up, it is no longer just a utopian dream.

I’m asked again and again: “Why do you still do this when you have so few electoral successes and you are so ignored?” I do not see it that way. I tend to see that our ideas and our efforts are effective everywhere in the world, and it is only a matter of time before this is recognized and changed in Germany. (Applause.)

### **50 Years of Commitment**

I’ll take you through the stages again, because perhaps this is not known to everyone in detail.

My husband, already in 1975, was invited to Iraq, to the Baath Party celebrations, and met there many “Third World” leaders from

the Non-Aligned Movement, and then came back and held press conferences in Bonn and Milan, saying: “The IMF is bankrupt, morally and practically, because it blocks the development of the Third World through conditionalities.”

The IMF has always demanded that the priority must be the repayment of debts rather than investments in infrastructure or social systems. My husband then proposed the International Development Bank (IDB), the idea that a new credit mechanism would be needed, through which the industrialized countries would finance DM400 billion every year of technology transfer to the Third World.

This was an absolutely correct proposal, and we discussed it for a whole year with embassies from Third World countries or where we had contacts in the affected countries, such as India and elsewhere; and a year later the Non-Aligned Movement in its summit in Sri Lanka published a resolution for a just new world economic order, almost identical in text to what was written in the IDB proposal.

At that time, I think, 70 nations supported the resolution, and I called the head of the DPA [German government press agency] service and asked him, “When are you going to report that? The majority of humanity has just decided on a just new world economic order!”

He replied “Oh, this is not newsworthy, we won’t carry it.” I said, “What? That’s three-quarters of humanity, and you do not consider it worth reporting?” And he says, “No, that’s not our topic.”





EIRNS/Stuart Lewis

*Indira Gandhi at the National Press Club, Washington, D.C., July 30, 1982.*



*Mexican President José López Portillo, Feb. 14, 1977.*

India. We continued this work with her son Rajiv Gandhi. Both were murdered, and this development plan has not been brought to fruition.

We worked on a 50-year development plan for the Pacific Basin. We set up conferences, including in Thailand for the Kra Canal, in 1984. We worked with Mexican President José López Portillo on an integration plan for Latin America, which we called “Operation Juarez.”

Through all these years, we have presented very concrete development plans, and we have worked together with the governments of the countries.

We responded to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 with the program of the Eurasian Land-Bridge. In 1984, my husband forecast that the Soviet Union would collapse if it stayed with its economic policy at that time, rejecting the Strategic Defense Initiative.

At that time there was no one else who had said that the Soviet Union would cease to exist. But as we had already correctly assessed it, we presented a plan for the reunification of Germany—a year before it happened—a plan for the development of the COMECON countries, which was the “Productive Triangle Paris-Berlin-Vienna.” And when the Soviet Union did dis-

band in 1991, we simply extended the plan, by saying that the industrial and population centers of Europe must be connected with those in Asia through infrastructure corridors. We proposed this program to all the governments of Eurasia.

The only government that responded was China. But it took over two years for our proposal to be finally implemented in 1996, because China wanted to work with the EU. Sir Leon Brittan delayed it two and a half years, by arguing (unsuccessfully) that the financing for the Land-Bridge projects must be left in private hands.

In 1996, at a big conference in Beijing on the New Euro-Asia Continental Bridge, I spoke on the develop-

**1989: LaRouche's Proposed European 'Productive Triangle' Rail Development**



EIRNS

Then, of course, there was a huge counter-reaction—Sri Lankan Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and Pakistan Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto were all either killed or destabilized, so this whole movement once again suffered a setback. But we have always worked on these things. My husband also proposed the Oasis Plan in 1975, for the development of the Middle East, through the creation of new water resources to combat the deserts. This Oasis Plan was absolutely under discussion, on many occasions.

At the end of the 1970s, we worked with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on a 40-year development plan for

ment of the regions along the Eurasian Land-Bridge.

Ours was the strategic long-term orientation of China however. They definitely wanted to do it at that time. But as you may recall, the Asian crisis broke out in 1997, when speculators including especially George Soros, manipulated the values of currencies downward by 80% within a week,—what Prime Minister Mahathir of Malaysia described as a crime against the Malaysian people. As a result, there followed the Russian state bankruptcy, the GKO crisis in 1998. This brought the Land-Bridge developments to a standstill, but did not deter us from continuing to campaign for it.

In 1998, I was on a very important trip through four Chinese cities, in a Russian-Chinese delegation, including Prof. Lvov and Prof. Mikhail Titarenko, the top China expert in Russia, both from the Russian Academy of Sciences, and also some top Chinese experts. The idea was to make the concept of the New Silk Road known in the regions. That is why the first conference was held in Beijing, the second in Nanjing, the third in Lianyungang, and the fourth in another place, whose name is always omitted.

That was the idea at the time, and we have organized more and more conferences since then, with our colleagues in Australia, in several African countries, in Sao Paulo where my husband became an honorary citizen of the city, in Brasilia, Rio de Janeiro, in Mexico (where López Portillo said in 1998 that “It is now necessary for the world to listen to the wise words of Lyndon LaRouche”), Beijing, many other Chinese cities, New Delhi, Mumbai, and Bangalore, as well as many European and American cities.

It has frequently been said, “This is a nice plan, but it will never be a reality, because you are too small, and it will not happen at all.” But, it is happening. My fundamental optimism that we can bring about the same effect in Germany, is based on the long arc of our activity and practical experience, which teaches us that if an idea is appropriate, and if it addresses a fundamental need of mankind, it can be implemented.

### **Xi Jinping Realized the Proposals**

When Xi Jinping proposed the New Silk Road in Kazakhstan in 2013, we were extremely happy. I think we may have opened a bottle of sparkling wine at the time and claimed this as really our victory. We very quickly updated the various studies we had done over the years, into a comprehensive report, and called it [\*The New Silk Road Becomes the World Land-Bridge\*](#).

At the time we published it in 2014, it was still a utopia. But the Chinese themselves said: This is the most developed proposal, and all Chinese scholars should read this study. The Chongyang Financial Institute sent it to 1,000 think tanks and university faculties in China, with the requirement that all scholars should study it.

We translated it into Arabic. It was presented by the Egyptian Minister of Transport in Cairo as the Egyptian policy for the Middle East and Africa. It has also appeared in German in the meantime. It will soon appear in Korean—it is already translated and is only a question of finding the right publisher. And a second edition of this World Land-Bridge study series, will also appear in a few weeks. It will be even more detailed on the development of the Middle East and Africa.

The situation now is completely changed. China has completely changed the mood in Africa within the framework of the New Silk Road. China has built a 750 km railroad from Djibouti to Addis Ababa, it is building a railway from Kenya which will eventually go to Rwanda, and it has built many dams and industrial parks. The mood of Africans is no longer such that they think they should listen to the sermons of the European politicians, but they say: We want to be treated as equals; we want direct investments; and we want the Europeans to do the same as China.

In accordance with its philosophy, China has invited all countries to participate. It does not just want to establish its own interests in Africa. Xi Jinping has made concrete offers of cooperation to Merkel and others, to participate.

### **Transaqua Will Transform Africa**

An essential aspect of our World Land-Bridge study, which we have been actively presenting at conferences since at least the beginning of the 1990s, is the Transaqua program. Transaqua is a concept that will totally change Africa because it brings about 3-4% of the water from the Congo tributaries at a height of 500 m through a channel system traversing twelve states to Lake Chad. Lake Chad is now shrunk to less than 10% of its original volume, which of course has exacerbated conditions of life and poverty in the region, in the Sahel zone, and has paved the way for terrorist organizations such as Boko Haram.

The Transaqua program would create an inland navigation system, which would allow inland navigation among twelve neighboring countries, and would pro-

vide incredible amounts of water for irrigation of agricultural land; it would increase food production massively; it would generate hydroelectric power for all twelve states; it would facilitate the development of other infrastructure; and when implemented, it will be the largest infrastructure program in history.

There is now a contract for this program between the Chinese government and the Italian government, and between Bonifica—the company that developed this plan—and the Chinese company PowerChina.

PowerChina is experienced in infrastructure; it built the Three Gorges Dam which has forever tamed the Yangtze River, whose flooding used to take thousands of lives every few years. Flood catastrophes will no longer take place there. This is the company, together with Bonifica, that wants to build Transaqua.

Just to emphasize our involvement: *People's Daily* had a long article about Transaqua a few weeks ago, in which they credit the LaRouche organization, *EIR*, and the Schiller Institute for bringing about the connection between China and Italy.

### Our Ideas Will Prevail

This is all really very good. One sees in the case of Transaqua that if it is done right, our ideas will prevail. It may take 20, 30 years, sometimes even longer—as in the case of Plato or Confucius, where it took many years for their ideas to dominate, but one must believe in the *power of ideas*. Ideas are much more important than money, much more important than vote percentages, much more important than democratic majorities. What good is the most perfect democratic majority when the ideas it carries are bad and destructive?

Transaqua is just one example. Another example where our ideas are now concrete, is in the reconstruction of Syria.

Some of you will know that we—as the Schiller Institute—organized a major conference in Frankfurt in 2012, where we discussed a program for the Middle East, and said that the situation can only be stabilized when all the big neighbors—Russia, China, India, Pak-



Map showing the strategic location, for shipping, of the Thai (Kra) Canal.

istan, Iran, Egypt, work together—because this is the only way to calm the situation. And this is exactly what is happening now: A collaboration of Russia, U.S.A., China—India not so much at the moment—but Iran, Pakistan and Egypt—they are all on this course. The New Silk Road is today, finally, being demanded and being built in the Middle East, making it possible to overcome the problem of refugees in the Middle East in a humane way—as well as the problem of African refugees who certainly will not want to come to an unfriendly Europe when their own home represents a future.

The third example of our ideas being realized today is the Kra Canal. The Kra Canal is a project that we have been advocating since the beginning of the 1980s. This is the idea to relieve the congestion in the Strait of Malacca, which has the largest volume of trade in the world—the greatest number of the ships pass through a strait which is very narrow, so it is overloaded, and constantly threatened by pirates. The idea is to build a channel through the Isthmus of Thailand, which then, like the Suez Canal and the Panama Canal, creates a parallel path for transport.

To this end, a conference took place in Bangkok on September 11, six days ago, where some of the speakers who were present also attended a 1984 conference at which my husband and I were present as speakers—but this time there was top participation by the royal institutions of Thailand, by top Japanese institutions, Malaysians, and Chinese. There have been many articles in the Chinese press that have said that China should abso-



lutely be involved, and Japan absolutely as well. And, of course, it is also clear that peace is created by development.

Another place where we are directly involved is Latin America. As you may know, as a part of this operation, we have always used “Operation Juarez” for the infrastructure development of the Latin American continent, which, like Africa, did not have any infrastructure from the colonial era, to speak of. And now, through Chinese intervention, the idea of a bi-oceanic Land-Bridge, a railway connection from Brazil to Peru, and a second link from Brazil through Bolivia to Peru, is quite concrete.

Here, too, there is now a glimmer of light: At the Kra Canal conference, the European Chambers of Commerce took part—the first sign of madness fading [laughs], signs of health—and also on this bi-oceanic railway, especially the southern route, German and Swiss companies are now very keen to get involved.

This is the obvious way out for Germany, because it is in the fundamental interest of German industry, above all the German *Mittelstand* [smaller, independent businesses], to participate in all such projects. That the New Silk Road is growing all over the world, and Germany somehow remains an island that is excluded, is absurd. It will not happen. It is in the self-interest of the German *Mittelstand* to participate in these projects.

This is the leading dynamism in the world, and this is what is happening in Eastern Europe, which is taking place in the “16 + 1” states [sixteen Central and East European countries plus China]. Greece just had a great trade fair in Thessaloniki, where all the press agencies of Southern Europe were present, all of whom said, in effect: “No, what the EU says is perfect nonsense—China is not a threat; China is not buying the Port of Piraeus against Greek interests, but quite the opposite—Greece can only survive through Chinese investment.” China is building a railway from Budapest to Belgrade, and the EU wants to ban it. That is absurd! The EU has done nothing for 20 years. China is not the reason why the EU is divided. It is China which has turned toward a divided Europe with offers to help.

The Chinese are very self-assured, and the Serbs are glad that China is there, the Hungarians are glad, and the Italians are glad. Spain and Portugal want to be “hubs,” not just for the final phase of the Eurasian Land-Bridge in Europe, but as hubs for trade with Latin America and the Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa.

The idea that this somehow ought to be resisted is therefore completely absurd. And if you look at the enormous change that has happened in just four years—four years really is just such a trice, that is, from the point of view of history. It’s really nothing. Then the idea that “Europe,” the EU *status quo*, with its guidelines and crazy prescriptions, which must be preserved—it’s all really ridiculous. I am, therefore, really optimistic that this EU, in the form it now exists, will end up very soon in the dustbin of history, and instead a completely different order will be hegemonic, namely the cooperation of sovereign states in the greater interests of mankind.

In other respects there are already discussions underway—if you came here by train, ICE, you would never get this idea—but elsewhere there are quite different ideas. Think of what the camel was for the old Silk Road—camels, horses, donkeys, etc.—which greatly improved the crossing of the desert and steppes. Human beings would never have been able to walk through the Taklamakan desert, the Gobi desert, or other deserts. It was the camels that made it possible.

Taking their place, in the last four years we have witnessed 40 or perhaps even more direct trains from China to Europe departing every week, from Chongqing, Chengdu, Yiwu, Lianyungang, Xi’an and various other Chinese cities, traveling to Duisburg, Hamburg, Lyons, Rotterdam, Madrid—filling all these cities with great optimism, because the railroads bring jobs again. Duisburg, for example, which had been completely run down by the deindustrialization policies, now sees itself with unique opportunities as the largest inland port of Europe and Germany.

But that’s not all. Conventional railways, even if fantastic, are only for now. Already there are automated, fully air-conditioned containers for goods that are very sensitive and must survive temperature differences from +40 C in summer to –45 C in winter using climate control—containers which are remotely controlled, which are GPS-capable—these are the “camels” of the New Silk Road.

There are quite a few other ideas. For example, China and Japan are building new rapid transit systems, to soon connect Kunming, Singapore, Moscow, and Beijing. China is developing the new Fuxing railway, also a new conventional high-speed railroad, which will travel at 400 km/h. China, Japan, and the U.S.A. are already developing hyperloop systems that will allow speeds of 1,000 km/h, initially to transport goods,



Xinhua/Zhu Xiang

First direct cargo train leaving for Europe from Zhengzhou, capital of China's Henan Province.

and soon thereafter passengers. Supersonic aircraft are now also being developed, so that the entire transportation system and the connectedness of mankind will be completely transformed in the future.

### To a Mankind Growing Together

The future of mankind will be different. It will be based on the idea that we are really growing together into one humanity. The idea that there are national interests that must be enforced against other national interests is a completely outdated idea that has no future. The future of mankind is the joint development of space, cooperation in the great themes that are in the interests of all people.

And it will above all lead to a different cultural understanding. Dialogue of classical cultures means that every nation will bring to life the high phase of its own culture in the way, for example, that China is having a renaissance of Confucian culture. The ideas of Confucius are what inspire Xi Jinping. Xi Jinping is a Renaissance man; he is a Confucian philosopher who develops the idea of Confucius, that every human being not only develops all his abilities evenly to a harmonious whole—which is the same idea as Friedrich Schiller, or Wilhelm von Humboldt—but also the harmonious development of families, the development of the nation as a whole and the coexistence of the nations among each other, by the fact that each nation develops all the potential that exists in it and that there is then an exchange, so that chauvinism and xenophobia and backwardness will disappear.

For China has recognized, just like the BüSo—I do not know who is more inspiring, perhaps this is an idea which must necessarily come because it simply lies in the nature of things—that contact with, and learning of the other culture leads to love when one recognizes the beauty of the other culture.

Why is it, for example, that when you go to hear an orchestra, there are more Chinese, Japanese, or Koreans in attendance than Europeans? Because in those cultures, the beauty of European classical music is recognized and not seen as a threat. Beethoven and Bach are universal poets, composers—they have long

belonged to all mankind.

And it will be in the same way that the best blossoms of other cultures will also be part of our general knowledge here in Europe, as will be the case again with classical music. The beauty of Chinese painting, e.g., “literati painting,” where one can see the painting—landscape or animals or people—and a poem, and the calligraphy, the beauty of the writing, where one can understand what a metaphor is—better than that in European painting, because there is no such specific match in European painting. It will also be noted that many other cultures have produced works of art which enormously enriches us as humanity.

That is why, I think, we must not only look at the next few weeks, or even only up to the *Bundestag* election, which is only a step for us—a step from which, however, we must rapidly progress.

If you ask me, “Who is going to prevail, Mr. Juncker, Mr. Draghi, Mr. Schäuble?” Then I would argue that these people belong to a defunct paradigm, which really does not exist any more. They attempt to maintain a status quo that does not correspond to the interests of mankind and has no chance of survival. The only chance that these people have is to make a 180-degree turn and accept the new paradigm.

Even though I do not think that some of these people are flexible and mobile enough, I think we’ll prevail, and I think our BüSo program has put a New Silk Road and a renaissance of classical culture on the agenda, and this will determine the future of Germany. (Applause.)