

A REAL BREAKTHROUGH

French President Macron Joins China's New Silk Road

Helga Zepp-LaRouche's Jan. 11 Webcast can be seen at new-paradigm.schillerinstitute.com. This is an edited transcript.

Harley Schlanger: Hello. I'm Harley Schlanger from the Schiller Institute. Welcome to this week's international strategic webcast with Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the president of the Schiller Institute.

We're again in a situation where there have been some very phenomenal breakthroughs, things which are completely outside of what you would expect, but most of the world is still not hearing about them. Most important was the visit of French President Emmanuel Macron to China. This has enormous implications. Helga, catch us up on what this means.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche: Well, this is a real breakthrough, and I know that many people have different opinions about Macron, but I must say, if somebody goes in the right direction, one should be positive about it. What he did, is he went on a three-day visit to China. He is the first European leader to visit since the 19th Party Congress of the Communist Party of China, and he went to Xi'an first, which is the place where the ancient Silk Road started from the Chinese side, and made a very remarkable speech. And I would urge all interested political people—people who are really trying to get to the truth of the matter—don't believe what you read in the media, just read the speech, [here](#) or [here](#).



Xinhua/Wang Ye

China President Xi Jinping (left) at welcoming ceremony for France President Emmanuel Macron, before their talks in Beijing, China.

It's a 1 hour and 15 minute speech, and the fact that he admits some of the most horrible mistakes of Western policy is a reason why I tend to believe that he really is making a change in French policy.

For example: He not only fully endorsed the New Silk Road of China, he called it a “treasure of civilization”; he said we must never repeat the mistakes of the past, such as in Iraq and Libya. He also said he wants to invite China to cooperate with France in projects in Africa, so that France would not repeat the mistakes of the past, of imperial unilateralism in Africa. He said that one must make sure that one does not create new dependencies politically and economically under the pretext of development aid, but that therefore he invites China to participate, because if China and France work



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President of France Emmanuel Macron in China.

together on the development of Africa, these mistakes can be avoided.

There were many other elements in his speech: He praised the Chinese policy as creating a great epic, one of the great epics of history. He said, we in the West have become tired, and epics are not allowed any more, but they are exactly what is needed.

I think this is a very, very positive development. On the plane on the way back to Europe, he was asked by reporters, “But what about the tension between the EU and China?” And he said this is not to be blamed on China; it’s entirely the fault of the EU.

These sorts of statements really convince me that he means what he says, and I find it highly interesting that shortly after his speech in Xi’an, the EU put out a statement saying that it wants to come forward with its own plan of connectivity intended to be linked up with the Belt and Road Initiative of China. This was welcomed by the Chinese Foreign Ministry, which praised it, saying this means there will be a win-win cooperation to the benefit of both sides.

So, there is a lot going on, and I think this is very positive, because this can only be an inspiration for President Trump, because if even the EU, which has been *really* against this initiative, which it tried to block entirely for years—if even it moves now . . . Obviously one has to see what they do about financing this, because the famous, or infamous “Juncker plan” for infrastructure, which supposedly had 350 billion euros, never materialized because it was all based on the idea of private investments which never came. Because, ob-

viously, this kind of infrastructure cannot be financed by private capital, but this is something which needs a credit system. And that would mean the EU has to change. It would have to abandon its [zero-deficit] debt brake, which is now in the constitutions of all member-states, and Germany, too, if it were ever to join, would have to abandon the [no-deficit] policy of the so-called “black zero.” In fact, Germany just had a budget surplus, I think of 38 billion euros, which is quite a bit. So it could start investing some of this money in these projects, because the infrastructure in Germany is also in a very pitiful condition—let alone other European countries.

This is a breakthrough, and all the various opponents of the New Silk Road, I think they will realize that the Silk Road is there, it’s coming, it’s spreading, and it is a new paradigm. And I think it’s the victorious paradigm, as compared to the outdated neo-liberal model.

Reflections of a Positive Initiative

Schlanger: I think this is absolutely extraordinary. Let me ask something that’s important. When you came back from the Belt and Road Forum [in May 2017] you made a very strong point of the fact that the Europeans *must* respond, particularly the Germans. But you said, what’s going on with Brussels and Berlin? And now we see this possible move from the European Union.

On the other side, Helga, this is not getting much coverage in the Western press, and what we’re seeing now, is that there’s a new round of attacks on China. You mentioned that there have been some in the German press. What are they saying?

Zepp-LaRouche: Yes, actually it is quite incredible. Because one day before Macron made this really very excellent speech in Xi’an, there was a long article, I think over four pages in the Sunday edition of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ)* which is the leading neo-liberal newspaper in Germany. And this is a vitriolic attack, saying China now has a sinister plan, that they are digital communists who are trying to have surveillance of everything, and they go on—it is just absolutely void of any comprehension of the fact that Xi Jinping has, indeed, introduced a completely new paradigm into international politics, based on respect for the other country’s social system, respect for the

sovereignty, and respect for the UN Charter. And even they cannot avoid mentioning that China has had an unprecedented success story in lifting 800 million people out of poverty in a very short period of time. But then they use that to say that China wants to take over the world. It's just absolutely insane.

And they quote Niall Ferguson, they quote the director of the supposedly expert think tank MERICS—Sebastian Heilmann is his name—to warn in the starkest terms against the sinister intentions of China.

Now, obviously, China is putting healthy pressure on other countries—you cannot maintain, as in Germany, an absolutely exaggerated, green ecologist policy, when China is moving forward in all high-tech areas. One of the most positive developments of the Macron visit to China is that there is now a big agreement to have cooperation in the area of nuclear energy: They are building a reprocessing plant in China together, and some other projects, while Germany foolishly made an exit from nuclear energy, which is really not the way to go. And you can see that the prices of energy are going up in Germany, and driving away all the energy-intensive firms. So what China is doing is putting healthy pressure on some countries.

Also, there is major cooperation in aerospace between France and China, so I think it is a very welcome provocation, and some people are freaking out, including, for example, a program on the German-Swiss-Austrian television network 3sat, which said China is taking over Switzerland. I have not seen this program yet, but I have heard about it. So I think a hysterical reaction is emerging because the Chinese are, indeed, proposing a model which is more attractive, especially to developing countries, than the austerity policy of the EU or the policy of Wall Street, or the policy of the City of London. We will see more of that.

But I'm absolutely convinced that now since the East European, the Central European, the Mediterranean countries, and now also France, Switzerland, and Austria all cooperating, it is only a question of time before it will be clear. And this recent EU statement—even though one has to look at what it says in the fine print—all of these are reflections of the fact that this *is* the only positive strategic initiative on the global agenda, and I think it will win.



Macron's agreements with China impact Europe's extreme environmentalist policy. Shown, an antinuclear demonstration in Berlin.

The Real Issues Facing the U.S.A.

Schlanger: And this is what you have been talking about for a long time, that the new paradigm is unstoppable. I just want to get your thoughts on what's happening in Berlin where now there are ongoing coalition talks. Is any of this being reflected in Germany?

Zepp-LaRouche: Well, if it is reflected, they are trying their very best to hide it, because it has not come out in the open. There was lip service by German Chancellor Merkel, when the G-20 summit took place in Hamburg [in July 2017], that she wants to cooperate with China in some projects in Africa, but nothing has been heard about this since. [Foreign Minister and Vice Chancellor] Gabriel went on record to accuse China of dividing the European Union—and Macron, by the way, refuted that! He said the EU is disunited all by itself, and it's not China's fault.

So we have to see. Given the very close interweaving of the German and French economies and the specific history of the German-French relationship, one has to see how this plays out. Because I think that if Macron is taking such a leadership role at a moment when Germany does not have anything but a caretaker government, and Theresa May is very weakened because of the Brexit, then Macron has taken a leadership role for Europe. And I have the hope that the self-interest of German industry, the *Mittelstand*, where there is a growing interest, will eventually shift the policy. At the Sorbonne, the big university in Paris, they announced that

they want to have 11 major conferences on the New Silk Road: The first one will be addressed by the former Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin.

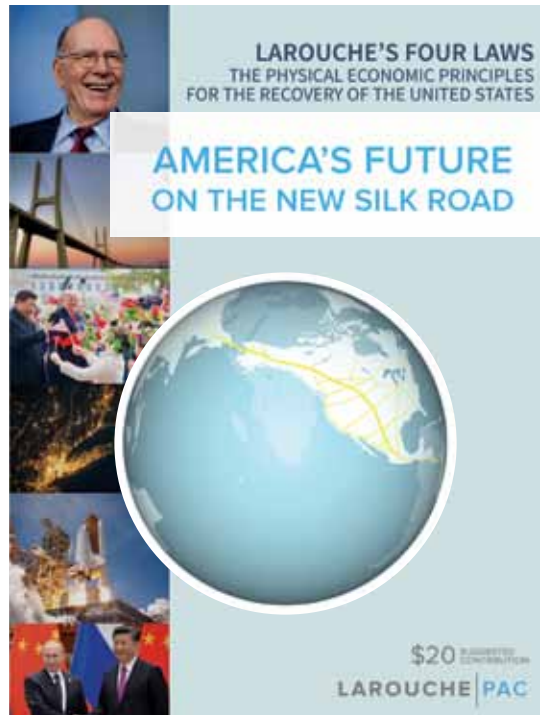
So, I think the subject will be on the agenda and it will grow. Hopefully the Germans, who are resisting, as reflected in this very idiotic article in *FAZ*, will have to learn that if they don't want to be sidelined completely, they had better cooperate.

Schlanger: That brings us to the situation in the United States, where the President has continued to talk about the importance of the relationship with China, and yet, there seems to be a lot of pressure on him, from Wall Street, and from the so-called “deficit hawks” in Congress, to have no infrastructure plan in the United States.

Now, we did hear the other day that one of Trump's aides said that Trump is saying, “just spend the money.” Where do things stand in terms of the United States' involvement with the potential promise of the Trump-Xi Jinping relationship?

Zepp-LaRouche: It's very difficult to say because part of the Republican Party is obviously not in favor of a credit system and Hamiltonian policies, which is the only way that you could finance such a massive infrastructure program. Trump said \$1 trillion, the American Society of Civil Engineers talks about \$4.5 trillion, and the Chinese even said what the United States really needs is \$8 trillion. I would say that is a modest figure, given the fact that if you compare, China has now 22,000 km of high-speed rail systems; they want to have all major cities connected by high-speed rail by the year 2020, as compared to virtually no high-speed rail in the United States.

So there is no such system in the United States, and the bridges are falling apart, the subways are in bad shape, and then there is the damage from all of these hurricanes. So I think the only way that Trump could solve this problem is to fulfill one of his election promises to return to the American System of economy. That



means a national bank, and that means Glass-Steagall. And therefore, I think it's extremely good, Harley, that your article was just published on the website of Roger Stone, and I heard that six other websites also covered it. The headline of this article is, “[Time Now for LaRouche's Economic Policies](#),” and that is exactly to the point.

Our colleagues in the United States are distributing a new pamphlet, explaining why the United States should join the New Silk Road and implement the Four Laws of Lyndon LaRouche. Its title is, “[LaRouche's Four Laws: The Physical Economic Principles for the Recovery of the United States—America's Future on](#)

[the New Silk Road](#).” And I would ask all the people who are watching this program to contact us and help us in the distribution of this pamphlet, and help shape what President Trump can do, because that is very largely a question of whether he has the support of his own constituency, against other interests, which want to prevent that. And obviously, if the Democrats were patriotic, they would just say, “Let's cooperate on Hamiltonian politics in an infrastructure buildup for the benefit of the country.”

But I think it requires a major mobilization because of the forces who want to prevent it. You know, the people who think you need profit rates of 25%—which you don't get from infrastructure—who want to block this kind of investment, so it's a battle. And you listeners should join it in the right way.

Don't Pay Cash for Trash

Schlanger: I think the viewers should know, on the two major issues facing the United States, and facing the world right now, you and your husband have been at the forefront of putting forward the solutions: We've mentioned the work that you've done on the New Silk Road and publicizing the spirit of the New Silk Road.

We also have taken responsibility for fighting against the coup in the United States against Donald Trump. There were some developments on that in the



Fox News anchor Tucker Carlson (left) interviewing former U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, Joe DiGenova (right).

last couple of days, and we see the desperation of the anti-Trumpers, with this *Fire and Fury* book, and the calls for the 25th Amendment, attempting to say President Trump is childish or crazy or a danger. You also see Mueller threatening to interview Trump.

On the other side, [our dossier](#) on Mueller is getting very wide circulation, and this week there was a very strong statement from the former U.S. Attorney for Washington, D.C., Joseph DiGenova. That's quite a significant development, isn't it?

Zepp-LaRouche: It was on the largest radio station during morning drive-time in Washington, where Mr. DiGenova said that the people trying to oust Trump with this coup, that they're committing treason, and that he is certain that a criminal prosecution of all of those involved will follow. And then he went through all of their crimes, and he named all the names. This is not out of this world, because right now in the Congress, in the House Intelligence Committee, and in the Judiciary Committee in the Senate, the investigation is progressing. And I just heard that all the requested documents which [House Intelligence Chairman] Congressman Nunes had subpoenaed, have been delivered now. This pertains to the emails between Peter Strzok and Lisa Page; it pertains to the bank accounts of Fusion GPS, and similar documents.

So one can expect that light will be shed on all of this, and if things are really pursued, this could indeed lead to criminal prosecution with quite interesting results.

I think a sign of this new counteroffensive is also that President Trump's lawyer has now sued the very publication which went public with this terrible dossier of Christopher Steele. In the first place, this was *BuzzFeed* and also Fusion GPS. These suits are now launched, and it will get very interesting, because it's not decided. And this book *Fire and Fury* is such a lie-filled piece of trash-for-cash—people who buy this book should know that they're paying cash for trash.

So I think the situation is wide open, but it's not yet settled: It's a huge fight, and the role of the British, not only in the person of Christopher Steele, but also in the whole involvement of British intelligence in the coup against President Trump—has to come onto the table. Because it is not just evidence of treason in the United States, it's

also what we call the British empire, which is the system which is situated with its headquarters in London. And it's about to go bankrupt, because we are looking at a new potential crash much worse than 2008.

All of this is very, very dramatic. But it's not hopeless, not at all.

Strike with Optimism

Schlanger: What's interesting is that you also see the defensiveness of the other side: Simpson, one of the founders of Fusion GPS, had an op-ed in the *New York Times*, and then the *BuzzFeed* editor also defended his position in producing this report and circulating it.

So I think there's a lot that can be said on this, but then on the other side, very interesting: With all the talk of the danger of President Trump—his infantile side and so on—you have the President of South Korea making a very strong statement, thanking President Trump for the openings between North and South. Where is that headed, Helga?

Zepp-LaRouche: That is very interesting, indeed. Because, on the 9th, two days ago, there was a meeting between the head of the unification committee of North Korea and the Unification Minister of South Korea, and they decided that North Korea will participate in the Olympic Games next month in South Korea; that the two delegations will march together as one into the Olympic Games; and that the Red Cross will help families to meet, which are divided between North and South.

Kim Jong-un said he would be willing to enter direct talks with the South Korean President. And as you mentioned, President Moon Jae-in said that Trump deserves a lot of credit, because it was Trump's policy which made all of this possible.

Now, as far as I know, this was not reported *anywhere* in the Western media! Even so, people should be very happy that in this very dangerous conflict around the Korea Peninsula, there are now signs that it can be overcome. And as we know, there were a lot of back-channel discussions between the United States and North Korea, and Russia and China and North Korea. Trump, Putin, and Xi were also on the telephone on these matters. So I think this is indeed something which goes to the credit of Trump, and the fact that the same media which are lying about him every five seconds, are not reporting that President Moon is thanking him, just shows how biased they are and that they are not concerned about the well-being of the people—neither those of North or South Korea, nor the rest of the world either.

But I think this is a very, very positive development, in a very dangerous world. And we should be optimistic that conflicts *can* be solved, through dialogue, through political means, and economic development; and the Korean situation is one very good example of that.

Schlanger: And just another point to emphasize that: The media are trying to get rid of Secretary of State Tillerson, saying that Trump is about to fire Tillerson; when Tillerson has openly said that U.S. policy is *not* regime change in North Korea, and I think that's played a role. And the *Wall Street Journal* just two days ago had an article saying the U.S. is game-planning for war in North Korea—should it be a small war, a limited nuclear war, and so on. And Defense Secretary Mattis came out and said we're not preparing for war, we prefer diplomacy.

So again, you have the lying media on the one side, and you have the actions in the world on the other.

Just to come back to what we started with, the developments around the New Silk Road, there has been a whole series of these—in Panama, Africa including Zimbabwe—and again, these are not being reported. I



Xinhua/Newsis

Representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and South Korea met Jan. 9, 2018 at the truce village of Panmunjom, and have agreed at the just-ended inter-Korean dialogue to hold separate military talks, with the DPRK also consenting to send a delegation to the 2018 Winter Olympics.

think it would be very useful if you could just give people a sense of how this is proceeding, including in the United States.

Role of France, Japan, the U.S.

Zepp-LaRouche: Well, you know, we published this book in 2014, *The New Silk Road Becomes the World Land-Bridge*, and that is what is happening. Because as the New Silk Road Spirit is catching on in many countries, we see now an agenda full of conferences on projects, and development proposals which were on the drawing boards for decades, but now they've become real. One big conference, for example, takes place at the beginning of February in Phuket, Thailand, cosponsored by the Chambers of Commerce of the British, French, Germans, and Australians in Thailand, on the Kra Canal. There's also high-level Japanese and Chinese involvement.

The Kra Canal would have *huge* significance for all of the ASEAN countries, because it would create a new sea route through Thailand. We had a conference on this in 1984 which was addressed by my husband. And this is obviously one of the big mega-projects. It would involve something like \$55 billion, and it would be a tremendous economic stimulus for all of ASEAN, actually.

Then you have the very important development in Latin America, where Panama, which used to have diplomatic ties with Taiwan, shifted now to the one-China policy. There was a major state visit of the Panamanian President to China, and China is now building a major high-speed railroad from Panama City to a little town

called David, at the border of Costa Rica. This has a signal effect for all the other Caribbean and Latin American countries that still have ties with Taiwan, because there is also tremendous cooperation of Chile with the New Silk Road. China is building a high-speed rail system there as well. And even in Brazil, support is growing for a bi-oceanic railroad from Brazil to Peru and also to other Latin American countries.

Also very important—I keep repeating this, because I think it’s one of the key elements of strategic realignment in the world—is the fact that Prime Minister Abe of Japan has announced that he wants to put the relations between China and Japan on a new level; he wants to cooperate with the AIIB, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank; and he asked China if they could cooperate on projects in Africa together.

I think this is *really* significant, because if such conflicts as the one between China and Japan can be overcome through joint economic development in the New Silk Road, I think that is a sign of the future, and a sign of the “community of destiny” of which Xi Jinping talks, becoming a reality.

Additionally, the railroad between Djibouti and Addis Ababa has now officially opened, and there is a tremendous change of attitude! If you talk to Africans these days—diplomats or other people—they have a completely new self-confidence. They demand economic development, being treated as equal partners, and they don’t want just to get sermons about human rights and democracy, and no development—which has been the attitude of the West so far.

So Macron is now making concrete plans—because after all, half of Africa is francophone, and France has an enormous expertise, in part for bad reasons, namely French colonialism, which in part was very bad. But the fact that Macron explicitly said that France does not want to repeat these mistakes, and therefore wants Chinese help through collaboration in Africa—I think this is incredible! And I wish that all African Americans in the United States would catch up with that and get engaged, because obviously, the United States could also play a very positive role if it were to cooperate in such economic development.

No Excuses!

There are some people who say this will never happen because the military-industrial complex in the United States will prevent it. But as my husband already pointed out in 2005 around the crisis of the U.S.

auto industry, everything can be retooled! You can retool the plants you are using for military production to become part of a tremendous development program. That is a thought which will probably sound unlikely to some people, but I think that is the way to go! The question is, how can we build a world where we as humanity can survive and create really human conditions?

There are traditions in the United States associated with Lincoln, John Quincy Adams, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Kennedy; there are periods the United States could reconnect with, and then reach out and join hands with other nations such as China and Japan, in any case, but also Europeans, if they change. We should not be pessimistic and say these things cannot be changed.

I have found people who, as soon as you say these things, come up and say, “Oh, Macron is controlled by the bankers, so he will never do this,” or, “He’s not speaking the truth.” Whatever you say, they have an answer, and they say, “This can never work.” but I have found that many times this sort of pessimism is just a comfort zone, because once people have dug in their heels in their pessimism, it also means they don’t have to do anything, because the world is hopeless in any case, so therefore you don’t have to change it.

My attitude is, when things are developing in a positive direction, everybody—almost everybody on this planet—has the possibility for improvement and change for the better if the option is created. So therefore, I would appeal to people to have the culturally optimistic view on these matters, because to sit on your hands and do nothing at a moment of history like this one, is almost a crime.

Schlanger: Helga, the report you just gave makes the point that you and your husband have always made, which is that ideas are the most powerful force in shaping history, and too often, the people who submit to pessimism turn off their brains before they start speaking and saying those things. So I think people should take to heart what you just reported, go to our websites, look at the videos we’re producing, download the dossiers, purchase the reports—the reports on West Asia and African development—and we can make this happen!

So with that, I think we’ll conclude the webcast. Helga, thank you very much, and we’ll see you next week.

Zepp-LaRouche: Yes, till next week.