

our organization supported at that time.) Emergency aid measures should be complemented by a civil society campaign in the countries that bear primary responsibility for the continuation of the war, and in particular the “war through sanction,” as I would call it. Apart from dealing with the *symptoms*, it is required also to address the *causes* of the humanitarian catastrophe and to draw lessons for the future. And this is exactly what this, our meeting of today, is all about, I would say.

The noble principles of human rights—supposedly

the core of our democratic polities and the basis of *international legitimacy*—will be utterly meaningless if we allow governments that claim to act in our name to put power above law, and to continue punishing entire peoples in the name of “humanity.” This would indeed signify the *moral collapse* of the trans-Atlantic world, which, at this stage of global affairs, only an alert and valiant civil society can prevent—through challenging its leaders in the court of public opinion.

Thank you for your attention.

Wilfried Schreiber

Global Governance—An Answer from China and Russia?

Prof. Dr. Wilfried Schreiber is a Senior Research Fellow at the World Trends Institute for International Politics, in Potsdam, Germany. He delivered these remarks to the second panel, titled “The Method of the Coincidence of Opposites: Only a United Worldwide Health Effort, Without Sanctions, Can Reverse a Worldwide Pandemic,” of the May 8, 2021 Schiller Institute conference, “The Moral Collapse of the Trans-Atlantic World Cries Out for a New Paradigm.”



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lives for it; not to mention the huge devastation of their own country. In the race for the German capital and in the battle for Berlin alone, some 170,000 Soviet soldiers lost their lives in the last two weeks of the war. They played a major role in saving Germany from the first American atomic bombs, which were actually intended for Berlin and Dresden. This is the greatest cultural act we have to thank the Soviet Union for.

Today, 76 years later, Russia is once again presented as the enemy

Dear Ms. Zepp-LaRouche, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Thank you very much for allowing me to speak to you, especially on a day like this.

Today has been a special day for me since my childhood. For the people of eastern Germany (the DDR), the Eighth of May was a national holiday for over 45 years—as the day of surrender and victory in the Second World War and the day of liberation from Nazi barbarism. For this, the sincere thanks of all German citizens belong to the Allied victorious powers. This was the decisive prerequisite for a new democratic beginning—in the West as well as in the East.

Above all, we should not forget that it was the Soviet Union, invaded by Germany, which had to pay the main part of the blood toll for this victory and liberation. Twenty to 25 million citizens of that country gave their

to the citizens of this country. Day after day, the mass media pour buckets of hatred, malice and slander on this country and its representatives. The experiences of the past are concealed or distorted.

Today, 76 years after the end of the war, we must note that the confrontation between the great powers has taken on a dimension more dangerous than that of the Cold War period, given the technological progress of the last 30 years. In particular, since the beginning of Joe Biden’s presidency about 100 days ago, the rivalry between the United States and the European Union, on the one hand, and Russia and China, on the other, has intensified dramatically. There is no doubt that the beginning of this process started, at the latest, during Obama’s presidency. The Russians and the Chinese are by no means entirely blameless in this either.

Russia-China Joint Statement on Global Governance

But we should not only look, paralyzed, at the real contradictions in the world today, but also recognize the signs that point to possible solutions. One such example is the [Joint Statement](#) ... on Certain Aspects of Global Governance in Modern Conditions, issued by the Russian and Chinese foreign ministers in Guilin on March 24 of this year. For the first time, China and Russia signed a joint political declaration of principles, which was addressed to the transatlantic West, but was hardly noticed by the official policy of the West.

This declaration sends two signals to the Western world:

First, China and Russia have questioned the generality of the West's geopolitical rules of the game—particularly the West's interpretation of democracy and human rights.

Under the slogan of a “rules-based order,” Western interpretive patterns for democracy and human rights are being made the benchmark for global development. This view is based on the self-image of the trans-Atlantic West as the highest level of human civilization, to which all other cultures—within the framework of which the nearly 200 nations of this world coexist—must subordinate themselves.

One should remember the U.S. political scientist Samuel P. Huntington, who already in the mid-1990s in his book *The Clash of Civilizations* called the belief in the universality of the Western world “false, immoral, and dangerous.” In a policy of the West that “does not take different cultural values into account,” Huntington recognized the root of conflicts between nations of different cultures. This is precisely what is evident in the recent wars in the Balkans, the Caucasus, and the Middle and Near East.

De facto, the absolutization of Western values in foreign policy has a missionary character with a neo-colonialist claim. This model of civilization corresponds to the life image of the “white man,” who has consistently practiced his global claim to power since the beginning of the 16th Century and has attempted to subjugate the non-European world ever since Columbus discovered America. This is ultimately structural racism. I cannot go further into that, but the G7 summit which took place May 2-3 is an example of that.

With the Joint Declaration of their foreign ministers

of March 24, 2021, China and Russia have sent a signal that the time of colonialism and neocolonialism is finally over. The claim to universality of the Western canon of values was rejected.

Unity in Diversity

This brings me to the second signal emanating from this declaration:

Second: The unity of the world is reflected in its diversity. And this diversity demands cooperation and dialogue across all different interests and contradictions. This is the core of the declaration, which the Western world does not want to perceive.

This second signal points to the solution of the conflict and is in this respect also an offer to the “West.” The Joint Declaration calls for “putting aside differences, developing mutual understanding and cooperation in the interest of common security and geopolitical stability.” In doing so, it emphasizes “the common preservation of the international legal system.” And in this international legal system, the United Nations is assigned the central role. The commitment to the United Nations Organization is the quintessence of the Russian-Chinese position. In particular, it is a matter of strengthening the UN Charter and the principles and goals enshrined therein. What is meant here are the principles of equality and sovereignty of all peoples and states and the consideration of their national characteristics instead of the absolutization of Western values.

Not supremacy and the right of the strongest should dominate the world order, but the common responsibility of all nations, in a multilateral system. The declaration therefore refers to the Permanent Members of the Security Council, who are to “take the lead in protecting international law and the world order based on it.” That is why a summit of the Permanent Members of the UN Security Council is also proposed.

Russia and China by no means emphasize the values of their cultures and nations, but merely want to “conduct a dialogue in these areas for the benefit of the peoples of all countries on the basis of equality and mutual respect.” At the end of the declaration, “dialogue as a central instrument of international politics” is again explicitly emphasized, “aiming at uniting all countries of the world instead of serving confrontation.” We need dialogue, not in spite of confrontation, but because of it.

And not the abolition of the United Nations, but its strengthening, is the need of the hour. Despite all the real shortcomings of this unique institution and the many attempts to abuse or destabilize it for hegemonic interests, the following is true: There is no alternative to this institution of the international community of nations. And this institution also has the power to live up to its responsibilities.

The implementation of the [UN Treaty](#) on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons testifies to this: The

non-nuclear-weapon states have prevailed. This treaty has been valid international law since January 22 of this year—legally effective, however, only for the 86 signatory states. This is a start that needs to be built on.

Dialogue is the central instrument for reducing confrontation and building a real multipolar world. And the United Nations Organization is the bridge we must build to achieve this.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Sayed Mujtaba Ahmadi

A Perspective for the Economic Development of Afghanistan in the Setting of the New Silk Road

Sayed Mujtaba Ahmadi is the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Afghanistan in Canada. The following is an edited transcript of the remarks he presented to the first panel, “Can Mankind Still Extinguish the Now-Lit Fuse of Thermonuclear War?” of the May 8, 2021 Schiller Institute conference, “The Moral Collapse of the Trans-Atlantic World Cries Out for a New Paradigm.”



Sayed Mujtaba Ahmadi

At its height, Afghanistan stood at the crossroads of the historic Silk Road where different cultures and societies from around the world met and exchanged ideas and goods with one another.

Today, Afghanistan is working hard with the countries concerned to revive the Silk and Lapis Lazuli routes, as well as to contribute to the improvement of Central Asia, South Asia, China, Turkey, Europe, the Middle East, and the rest of the world.

Afghanistan’s integration into the Belt and Road Initiative, is making the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline, and also CASA-1000 (Central Asia and South Asia), an electricity transmission line, operational. The Chabahar port [in

Iran], will help to boost trade, transport, transit, and cooperation in the region and beyond.

Afghanistan’s government’s vision for the expected “End State” of Peace Talks is where all Afghans, including minorities and women, enjoy their fundamental constitutional rights.

Currently, we are focusing on preservation of Afghanistan’s achievements over the last two decades, such as the Republic, and Afghan women’s and minorities’ constitutional rights, women’s role in the Afghan Peace Process, preserving Afghanistan’s two decades of development and milestones in women’s rights.

Afghanistan is situated at the center of the Persian Gulf, the Caspian Sea, and Central Asia, which contain the world’s three largest hydrocarbon reserves.

By capitalizing on its geo-strategic position as well as mineral and energy wealth, Afghanistan has a great deal of potential in playing an important role in stabilizing the Middle East and the world by establishing Afghanistan as an economic bridge between South Asia and Central Asia, the Middle East, Europe, Canada, the United States of America, and beyond.

So, this is our perspective for the economic development of Afghanistan and in the setting of the New Silk Road. Thank you.