

# The New Silk Road Is Changing the World: The U.S. Must Join in 2018!

*Helga Zepp-LaRouche's Dec. 28, 2017 webcast can be seen at [newparadigm.schillerinstitute.com](http://newparadigm.schillerinstitute.com). The transcript has been edited.*

**Harley Schlanger:** Hello—I'm Harley Schlanger with the Schiller Institute. Welcome to this week's Schiller Institute International Webcast with the founder of the Schiller Institutes, who is also the President of the German Schiller Institute, Helga Zepp-LaRouche.

The last weeks have been absolutely full of developments of significant importance, that can be only understood from the standpoint that the Schiller Institute has been presenting. There are the continuing effects of the Mueller investigation, as the neo-cons are attempting to re-emerge; but against that, the great opportunity that's presenting itself because of the tremendous accomplishments in recent months of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative. And I think, Helga, that's probably the best place to start, because, again, we see the potential if the United States were to join with China—so let's start with that.

**Helga Zepp-LaRouche:** Yes, it is really amazing: There are two realities in the world. The mainstream media in the West, in the United States and Europe—not all European countries, but some—almost manage to completely ignore that reality, and ensure that the people of the United States and many European coun-

tries don't even know about it. This is a big scandal: What you are referring to is the fact that in the almost four and a half years now since Xi Jinping, the President of China, put the Belt and Road Initiative, the New Silk Road, on the table, we see a dynamic which is unbelievable. First of all, China is economically exploding with development, with optimism, and with very ambitious infrastructure projects—we should talk about that in detail in a minute. Well over 70 countries and 40 large international associations and institutions, are cooperating with the New Silk Road. All of these countries have been gripped by an enormous sense of optimism, which some people call the "Silk Road Spirit," a sense of entering a new era of mankind—while the rest of the Europeans and Americans don't know it! The only people in the

United States who have an inkling of it, are those from West Virginia and some other states who travelled with President Trump on his recent China trip, and came back with enormous deals, like West Virginia's MOU for \$83 billion over the next 20 years. People really see that the United States could absolutely join and be a part of it.

The key battle in the world, is with the old neo-cons, the neo-liberals, who want to stick with geopolitics. They want to keep the image of China and Russia as enemies, and continue the British empire game of divide and conquer, playing one section against another. Clearly the winning strat-



*Presidents Trump and Xi witnessed West Virginia Secretary of Commerce Woody Thrasher and China Energy President Ling Wen sign an MOU between China Energy and the state of West Virginia, as part of the U.S.-China Business Exchange trade mission.*

egy is—and that is what Xi Jinping has put on the agenda— “win-win” cooperation of all nations of the world, based on the idea of a new paradigm, a “community for a shared future of mankind,” a common destiny, the idea that geopolitics can be overcome. And more and more countries are joining with this new conception.

So, can we get the kinds of changes in the United States in particular, but also in Western Europe, to join in this new paradigm in time, before a new financial crash comes down on us? It’s hanging over our heads like a Sword of Damocles. Can we do it in time, or will this battle for civilization be lost? I’m very optimistic it can be won, but it requires activity: This is not a case of dialectical materialism, or historical materialism, where positive events simply take on a life of their own. The *subjective* factor always plays a very large role. One place you can see this very clearly is in the person of Xi Jinping, who has really taken an already positive Chinese development, and given it a complete upgrade, and a complete transformation into a new paradigm. We need people in the West who will do likewise.

The Schiller Institute is absolutely committed to doing everything possible that we can to get the United States and Europe to cooperate with the New Silk Road, because that will be *the* decisive battle for the coming year.

**Schlanger:** You just mentioned the amazing developments in China, and we can go through some of them, but there were figures that were released just yesterday from I think it was *Global Times*, the Chinese publication, of \$350 billion in new investments in China this year. That’s on top of what had already been invested as part of the growth of the Belt and Road Initiative, this year with other countries, and these of course are just in one year, and are much larger than that over a number of years. And then the \$83 billion for West Virginia, that’s almost more than what’s been spent in the whole United States, in infrastructure, recently. And you’ve seen some of these projects, it’s really quite amazing.

**Zepp-LaRouche:** Yes, I think I mentioned how absolutely impressed I was both by the high-speed rail system in China—it’s wonderful to travel on trains that go 350 km/h (about 220 mph), with no noise and no

*China's 600 km/h maglev (magnetic levitation) train project, launched in 2017, is in full swing.*

shaking; they’re now building a new system which can go 400 km/h, and they’re already planning a new maglev train which will go 600 km/h. Then there is the longest sea bridge, between Hong Kong, Macao, and Zhuhai, which is incredible, which I stood on just 15 km away from Hong Kong. This took 120 patents to accomplish, because many engineering and technical problems had to be solved.

I would like to ask you to help us to get that idea of infrastructure development into the United States. There will be a big, important summit on Jan. 6-7 at Camp David, where President Trump will meet with Congressional leaders—Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Speaker Paul Ryan and others. The issue will be his infrastructure program for the United States. What has been made known so far, is that he wants to channel \$200 billion in Federal money, matched by another \$800 billion of local, regional, and state money over the next 10 years.

That is obviously not enough. The White House said this is a “floor, not a ceiling” so that is good to hear, but I think we need a mass movement for development, for infrastructure development, as India’s Prime Minister Modi had put it a couple of years ago. Because look at the devastation from the hurricanes in the United States and how slowly it is being repaired: Contrast that with the incredibly ambitious program by China to connect every large city with a high-speed rail system by the year 2020. Beyond that, they will take the entire region of Beijing, Hebei province, and the city of Tianjin, which is an area of 130 million people, and completely transform it through modern infrastructure and relocation of industry—make it more livable for the people. Add an extremely ambitious program to eliminate poverty by the year 2020! By taking very active measures, by building roads into poor, rural areas, and connecting them via Internet to enable them to sell their products through e-commerce—it’s just an unbelievable package.

I was just talking to some of our American friends earlier today. China wants to eliminate all of its poverty by the year 2020—Europe should do the same thing. Europe should have a plan to lift its more than 90 million poor people out of poverty by 2020, and the United States should have a similar plan—I don’t know how many people are officially poor in the United States these days, but it must be about 50 million people, so why not say: With such an infrastructure development perspective, all 50 million or so people who are below the poverty line in the United States, could be raised up to a better life. And we need a mobilization for that. Our colleagues in the United States have a new [pamphlet](#), calling for the implementation of the Four Laws of Lyndon LaRouche and for the United States to join the New Silk Road.

So please help us to distribute this pamphlet: Contact us and work with us, because this is not something which will happen by itself, but we need a popular demand for a new paradigm, both in the United States and in Europe.

### The Old Curse of Geopolitics

**Schlanger:** What you just identified gets right to the core of what the fight is in the United States. While it’s true that the Trump proposal on infrastructure so far is



*Sen. Black questioned the wisdom of H.R. McMaster’s National Security Strategy report.*

too small, his intention is to link the United States with the Silk Road—at least that’s what he’s been talking about. And that’s one of the key items that’s under attack by the neo-cons in the Mueller investigation. The reason they didn’t want Trump in the White House in the first place was because they wanted to continue the old geopolitics.

Now, if you look at this, you come head to head with this new “National Security Strategy”—and we talked about this a little bit last week—as a means of countering Trump’s efforts to break with the policies of Bush and Obama. It’s worth reviewing the important battle that this demonstrates is under way inside the administration and inside the country.

**Zepp-LaRouche:** Virginia State Sen. Richard Black gave a very good interview about this National Security Strategy report. He was quite accurate when he said that there was a discrepancy between the report—which was clearly written by the successor of General Michael Flynn as the National Security Advisor, namely H.R. McMaster, or rather some staff around him; and it clearly defines Russia and China as adversaries, as “competitors.” And President Trump, when he presented it—in an unusual move, because normally the President himself doesn’t present it—clearly used milder language. But there were still too many geopolitical ideas in it—such as the claim that the United States and China are competing in the Indo-Pacific region. That notion, as such, is an expression of geo-

litical confrontation against China, which the Chinese media continue to react to very, very strongly, by saying: No, we have offered “win-win” cooperation, and this is the old language of the Cold War, of the zero-sum game.

So it’s very important to recognize that while Trump is doing important things, and it clearly still absolutely represents the potential of getting the relationship with Russia and China on a decent basis—the battle really is by the old bureaucracy, so to speak, by the people who are career diplomats, by people who are on lower levels, like the permanent bureaucracy in the different institutions, who have learned nothing but to try to maintain the status quo. Because the status quo in their mind is associated with their privileges and their way of life, and they usually refuse to learn anything new. They’re not open to new ideas; they are continuing the Anglo-American unipolar world scheme, which is really the British empire.

The battle really is, can we move in time, the United States and Europe, into a new paradigm, where Russia and China are not looked at as adversaries? Can we really move to the idea of a “joint future for humanity,” which is exactly the only way that we can survive?

**Schlanger:** One area in which we have seen a potential for this change is Syria. There is an upcoming conference in Sochi, Russia, to discuss Syria’s reconciliation and reconstruction—reconstruction which involves China’s participation. I think Syria is another place where the U.S. can get involved in cooperation with China.

**Zepp-LaRouche:** Yes, I think this is very important, because at the end of January, for two days there will be a huge conference, a national dialogue for Syria in Sochi, with 1,500 delegates—all the opposition groups except the terrorists from Syria will be there, and naturally the people from the Astana process, including Turkey and Iran. This will be a big conference, and one focus for the two days is on the need for a reconstruction of Syria, going out to the world with an appeal for all countries to join and help in the reconstruction of Syria.

I think this is a very, very important meeting. The week before there will be the Geneva meeting, so I think we will see at the beginning of the year a very hopeful change of the situation in the Middle East; because there is now also a new development for Af-

ghanistan. There was a very important meeting of the three foreign ministers of Pakistan, Afghanistan and China, in Beijing, where Wang Yi, the Chinese foreign minister, said the intention is to extend the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, the CPEC, to Afghanistan, to integrate Afghanistan and to rebuild it economically.

So there is a focus on Syria; there is a focus on Afghanistan; and I think these will be important bridge-heads to start reconstructing the entire Middle East. U.S. Secretary of State Tillerson is very much aware of the fact that Syria is one of the areas for U.S.-Russia cooperation in the interests of both. He wrote an op-ed in the *New York Times* recently to this effect. I think it would be a great way for the United States and Russia to consolidate their cooperation by doing exactly that: Reconstruct Syria.

**Schlanger:** What is happening with the Mueller investigation, which is essentially designed to prevent the U.S.A. from working with Russia and China, and how can this coup attempt against Trump be stopped?

**Zepp-LaRouche:** One of the more amusing things was a Tweet which President Trump sent out Dec. 26, where he said, “WOW, Dossier is bogus. Clinton Campaign, DNC funded Dossier. FBI CANNOT (after all of this time) VERIFY CLAIMS IN DOSSIER OF RUSSIA/TRUMP COLLUSION. FBI TAINTED. And they used this Crooked Hillary pile of garbage as the basis for going after the Trump Campaign!” It’s very good that Trump is intervening in this way, because the fight around Mueller-gate is clearly heating up. There is on the one side, a whole series of conservative Republicans, from congressional offices, from the House and the Senate, pointing out that Mueller is completely biased and therefore should step down; that there must be a complete cleanup of the FBI and the Department of Justice. So there is a growing chorus to this effect.

There is also, clearly, still an ongoing mass media campaign and also there was another campaign—and I think this is crucial—I was thinking about how this recent “me, too” campaign about sexual harassment of women became the most debated issue. I said, “why are they doing this?” Naturally, it is true. I think every woman on the planet knows there is a reality to such behavior. But whenever they play up a big issue like



CSPAN

*More of Mueller's lackeys have been subpoenaed by Rep. Nunes' House Intelligence Committee.*

that, there's always the question: Why is it being played up right now? One of the victims of this "me, too" campaign was Congressman John Conyers of Detroit, who was accused of sexual harassment, and he had to resign. Conyers was the ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee; that post was taken over by Jerrold Nadler of New York. Conyers has now been replaced as a Detroit Congressman by a woman named Val Demings who, as her first utterance, said that her main priority will be to keep the Mueller investigation going. In such cases, one asks, what is the relationship between bringing some dirt to the fore—and Congress is unfortunately very famous for such behavior—one real political aim was to replace Conyers, who after all has a very important, 50-year-long record of civil rights fights, of being in favor of a decent health delivery system, and many other virtues—replaced by somebody who is clearly there to keep the Mueller investigation going.

This is again a battle which is

witnesses; each witness takes at least three weeks. Then on the other side, people say this is all a waste of taxpayers' money, and it should be shut down immediately.



United States House

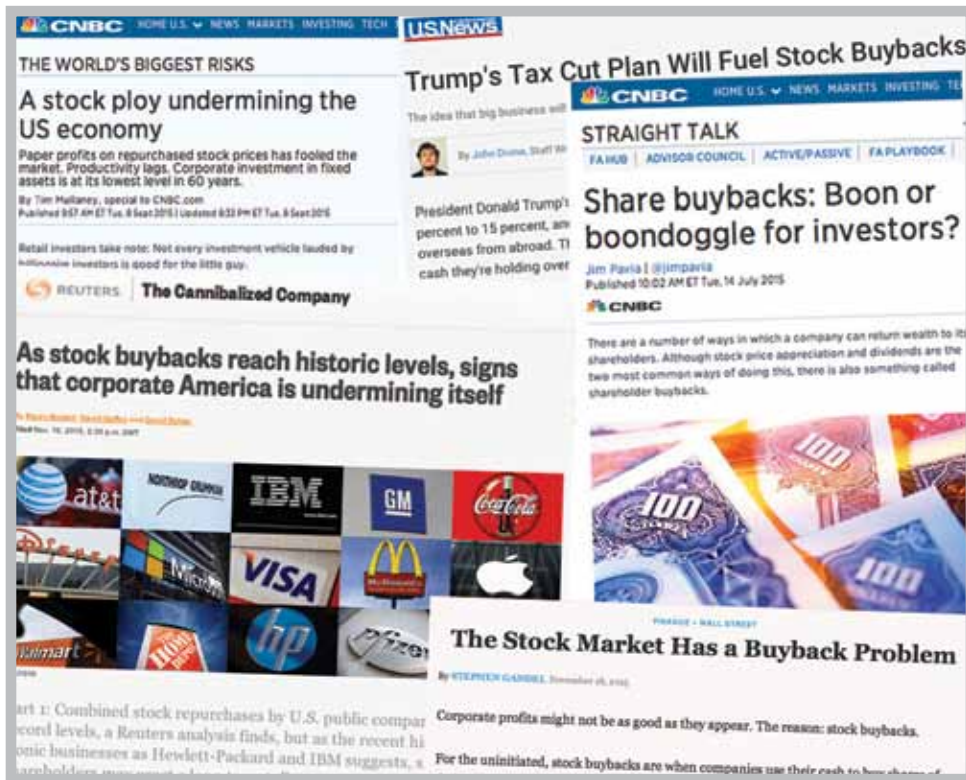
*Cong. John Conyers (top), forced to resign; Cong. Val Demings (bottom), his replacement on the Judiciary Committee, declared her priority to defend the Mueller investigation.*

not yet decided. I think there are many interesting leads in the Congressional hearings. For example, one person who was an assistant to Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) and who was in contact with Christopher Steele, giving McCain the Steele dossier who then gave it to the FBI—has now been subpoenaed by the House Intelligence Committee. His name is David Kramer. And there are many other interesting hearings coming on.

Many people on the side of Mueller, like Rep. Adam Schiff, for example, say this investigation will go on for months because there are hundreds of new

It's very unclear how this battle will end, but we are asking people to understand that the task-force that went after my husband and his organization in the 1980s and 1990s, the people who covered up 9/11, and the people who are now going after Trump are all the same apparatus. It is really too shortsighted to just call it the "deep state": The "deep state" idea completely leaves out the British angle, which we have documented in a [dossier](#) on this affair, which I'm also asking you to get ahold of and help us circulate.

So it's very clearly not decided, but I'm very optimistic that the potential to squash this Muellergate, and get rid of it, so Trump can do his work—that potential is there, but it requires a real mobilization of you and others who want to keep America as a republic and have it join the New Silk Road.



That's what my view is on this matter.

**Schlanger:** What is your view of the tax bill just signed by President Trump? Will it create jobs?

**Zepp-LaRouche:** The best way to look at it, is that a tax reduction, as an isolated measure, in the context of the casino economy which is still going on and is threatening the world with a big crash—a tax cut as such does not solve the problem. As a matter of fact, it gives tax breaks for the largest banks and the large corporations, but that does not mean they are going to invest that in the real economy and infrastructure. A good way to look at it, is that last year, U.S. corporations paid altogether \$300 billion in taxes, but they were able to invest a half-trillion—\$500 billion—into buying up their own stocks, which is a clear manipulation of the market and just doesn't achieve anything, except making the rich richer. I don't think that that is really the solution.

What is needed is nothing less than what my husband, Mr. Lyndon LaRouche, has prescribed: You need a full-fledged return to Glass-Steagall, which President Trump had promised in the election cam-

paign, and so far he has insisted that he is going to keep all of his election promises. So the potential that he will implement Glass-Steagall is absolutely there. It's also clear that Wall Street is trying everything possible to prevent that from happening, but we require a return to Glass-Steagall, exactly as Franklin D. Roosevelt implemented it in 1933, in combination with a National Bank in the tradition of Alexander Hamilton, and a credit system; then cooperation with the New Silk Road: You need this entire package. And you need in particular, in the United States, a Fourth Law of Mr. LaRouche, which is the

crash program in high technology to increase the productivity of the labor force.

Again, I always refer to China, as the one country which is doing it in the right way. They're driving an absolute crash program on the development of thermonuclear fusion power. They just announced that they want to build a new fusion test reactor as the successor to the European ITER in France, which will give China the possibility of achieving thermonuclear fusion in the foreseeable future. They also have an extremely ambitious space program.

The United States absolutely needs this kind of increase in productivity through high technology, and an improvement in the productivity of the labor force, and its industrial capacity. If you look at the present labor force in the United States, which is plagued by a drug epidemic, by an opium epidemic, you need really that kind of future orientation to get the kind of spirit which is needed.

So this is the perspective that has to be adopted in the year 2018, because the present status quo is not going to last. I appeal to all of you, use this New Year to get the United States and European countries into the New Silk Road spirit.