

Macron Promises European Cooperation with the New Silk Road!

by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, Chairwoman of the German Political Party *Bürgerrechtsbewegung Solidarität, BüSo*, or Civil Rights Movement Solidarity

This article was written for [Neue Solidarität](#) and has been translated from German.

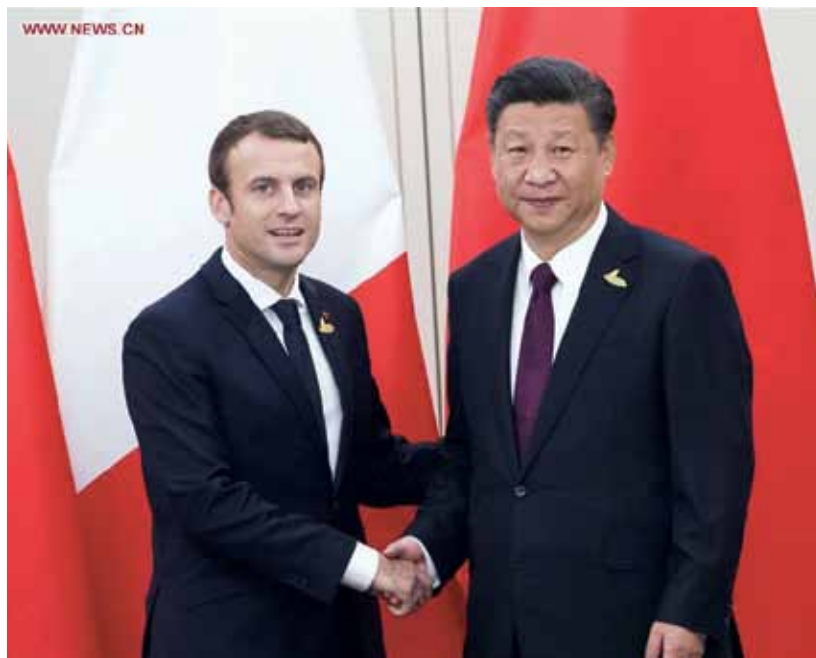
Jan. 12—The three-day state visit of French President Macron to China from January 8 to 10 marks a strategic breakthrough. In a one hour and 15 minute, very emotional and comprehensive speech in Xi'an, he announced France's solid cooperation with China's New Silk Road project, and pledged that he would be a reliable dialogue partner for China, committed to seeing all of Europe cooperate with this initiative. Not only has this started a new era for the relationship between China and France, as the Chinese media commented, but it has clearly highlighted France's role on the world stage.

The speech contained a whole series of features showing that Macron is responding to the new paradigm put on the strategic agenda by China's President Xi Jinping, with his idea of "win-win" cooperation among all nations—ideas that we would gladly hear from Berlin. The West must overcome the "unilateral imperialism" that France and other Western powers have pursued in Africa and elsewhere, he went on. "We have to learn the lessons of the past. Every time we tried to enforce the 'truth' or the 'law' against other peoples, we were wrong, and sometimes we even created an even worse situation. As in Iraq or in Libya today. We must work together to develop respect for the sovereignty of peoples." Macron condemned the West's claim of hegemony; our task is not the art of war, he said, but the art of cooperation in order to give the world the necessary harmony. He thanked China for creating, with the New Silk Road, a new epic, something which the "weary, post-modern" West is incapable of doing, because great

epics are forbidden.

For the site of his speech, Macron had chosen Xi'an, a city rich in symbolism: both the Chinese starting point for the ancient Silk Road, and the birthplace of Xi Jinping. Macron clearly expressed his admiration for China's many contributions to the cultural history of humanity; to this day, he said, China is a land of inventors and engineers, always inventing the future. In Africa, where it has invested so much in infrastructure in recent years, he called on China to work with France and initiate joint projects that would be beneficial to the growth of the entire continent. The New Silk Road and a partnership between France and China, he went on, could help us avoid repeating France's old mistakes of "unilateral imperialism" in Africa.

Le Monde also struck an entirely new tone in republishing an article of the former chief economist of the



Xinhua

Presidents Emmanuel Macron (left) and Xi Jinping.

IMF, Simon Johnson, pointing to China's role as soon-to-be world leader in the field of innovation—a goal he considers already possible for this year. China has not only lifted 800 million people out of poverty within a short time, Johnson notes, it also built the world's largest high-speed rail system (22,000 km as of last year), and the annual consumption within China will rise to two trillion dollars by 2021, thus adding a consumer market the size of Germany to the world economy every year. Johnson is confident that by 2050 China will be the global powerhouse of scientific and technological innovation. (The article was first published in **Project Syndicate** at <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/china-global-innovation-leader-by-simon-johnson-and-jonathan-rune-2017-12>.)



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UK communications headquarters, GCHQ, British counterpart to the NSA.

For his part, President Xi Jinping emphasized that he and Macron share the same views on many issues, and that both nations, as permanent members of the UN Security Council, have a special responsibility for peace and stability in the world.

Of strategic importance are extensive agreements for cooperation between the French nuclear corporation New Areva and the Chinese state-owned nuclear power company, China National Nuclear Corporation, as well as a space cooperation agreement. The two governments published a 27-point joint memorandum.

Two days after Macron's speech in Xi'an, the EU, which has hitherto been the main brake on Europe's cooperation with the New Silk Road, issued a memorandum of understanding, indicating that the EU now wants to come up with its own approach to building European connectivity, to be coordinated with the Chinese initiative. This was immediately welcomed by the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

And Germany?

Of all these developments, however, the citizens in Germany learn next to nothing. One day before Macron's speech in Xi'an, the *FAZ's* Sunday edition printed a venomous tirade by one of its publishers, Holger Steltzner, titled "China's Road to World Power," which attempts to compete with the tone of the "Stürmer" or the "Schwar-

zen Kanal." [Editor's note: these were propaganda organs of the Nazi movement and the East German government, respectively.] The author gives vent to his tantrum about "digital communists" with such abandon, that it is as if the GCHQ, NSA and Edward Snowden never existed. The purpose of the article, which picks up the "unilateral imperialism" of the West addressed by Macron and projects it upon China, is obviously to create paranoia among medium-sized companies that they may be taken over by communist cells. China is acting effectively against corruption, while plutocracy prevails unabashedly in the West, where despite triple-digit billion-dollar swindles, such as,

for example, the LIBOR scandal, not a single banker has gone to jail. Also quoted is the head of MERICS (a think tank which supposedly knows all about China), Sebastian Heilmann, who warns of the "socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era" and who should probably rename himself "disease man." [Editor's note: this is a joke on the name "Heilmann", which means "healing man."]

The problem with such tirades is not only that they are a malicious poisoning of the well, but that people in this country, in the absence of objective reporting on the most important strategic initiative not only for the world economy, but also for world peace, are being deprived of their right to be able to form their own opinion. It deprives them of the hope that there can actually be a positive future for humanity. What do you call that? Hope-icide?

All the more important, then, is Emmanuel Macron's intervention in China and his pledge to bring Europe into unified cooperation with the New Silk Road. The issue is now irrevocably on the table, regardless of the conceptual pitfalls that lie along the way.

The party leaders of Germany's Grand Coalition, however, who have just reached an agreement to form a government, have as yet not uttered a word about cooperation with the New Silk Road or about Macron's pledge. Both Macron and the representatives of the planned Grand Coalition want to promote the further integration of Europe, with a banking union, a capital market union and the exchange and control of data. Beside the fact that

German voters will hardly be enthusiastic about seeing even more money flow into the opaque, unloved megabureaucracy in Brussels, what has been announced so far leaves the essential problems completely out of the picture.

The main reason that the southern European countries have been driven into ruin by the Troika's austerity policies, as well as why no infrastructure investments have been made—be it in the Balkans or in Germany—and why the countries of Eastern, Central and Southern Europe are so openly in favor of cooperation with China, has to do with the “debt brake” and “black zero” policies (both concerned with balancing budgets), and the ECB policy in favor of speculators. The continuation of these policies after 2008 means that we are facing a much bigger crash than at that time. If the EU and the potential new German Grand Coalition stick to this policy, the new EU plan will be just as impossible to implement as the famous Juncker plan, whose financ-



European Central Bank headquarters.

ing amounted to the proverbial “peanuts.”

Nothing less will do than the realization of the Four Laws, which Lyndon LaRouche has defined as an absolute prerequisite for overcoming the crisis: a Glass-Steagall banking separation system, a new credit System in the tradition of Alexander Hamilton, and full integration into the principles of the New Silk Road, which Xi Jinping calls a “community of destiny for mankind.” What China is presenting are really radically new ideas in strategic terms, and people in Europe should not be so arrogant as to dismiss it or see it as a threat.

These ideas of Xi Jinping, however, are in principle very much in line with the principles of the humanist tradition of Europe, in the sense that they place the common good and the creativity of man at the center of politics. In addition, we need a political discourse that does not exist at all in the oh-so-democratic West, but certainly does in China.

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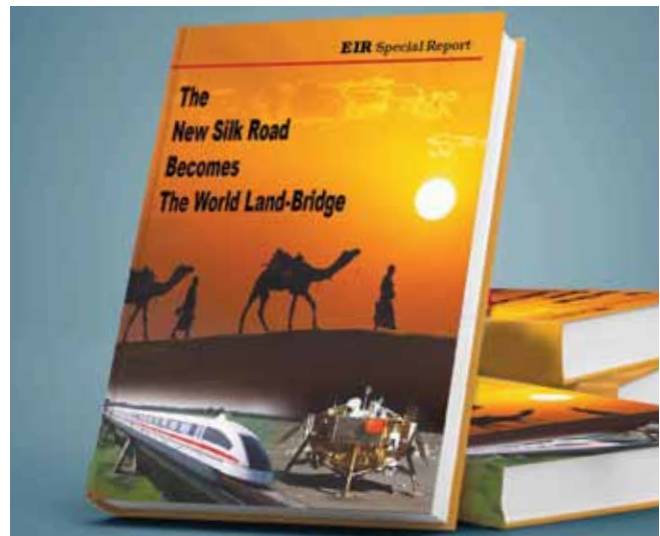
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