

# Neocons and Neoliberals Are Driving for War

*Helga Zepp-LaRouche's weekly Schiller Institute webcast of Jan. 18 can be seen at <http://newparadigm.schillerinstitute.com>*

**Harley Schlanger:** Hello. I'm Harley Schlanger. Welcome to this week's webcast from the Schiller Institute, featuring the Founder of the Schiller Institutes, and President of the German Schiller Institute, Helga Zepp-LaRouche.

Helga, in just looking at the world in the past couple of days, it's clear there's been a worsening of the strategic situation. Much of this has to do with what you might call a neocon offensive, but it seems to be verging on a real crisis. And I want you to catch us up on that, to get started.

**Helga Zepp-LaRouche:** Yes. There were these hopeful signs about Korea, that the conflict could be solved in a detente manner, because North Korea and South Korea had many exchanges on the cultural front



*Ri Son-gwon (right), Chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, shaking hands with South Korean Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon in the truce village, Panmunjom, Jan. 9, 2018.*

around a joint delegation to the Winter Olympics in PyeongChang—also a joint women's ice hockey team—and, in general, the Red Cross is trying to bring families together again. This was all very promising. But now, unfortunately, the situation is being totally hyped up.



*U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, flanked by (left to right) Republic of Korea Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha, Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland, and Japan Foreign Minister Taro Kono, at the beginning of the Korean Peninsula Summit in Vancouver, Canada, on Jan. 16, 2018.*

There was a conference in Vancouver, Canada, to which the United States and Canada invited 24 ministers of all the countries which were allies of the United States in the 1950-53 Korean War, Countries such as Greece and Cyprus were invited, but not Russia and not China.

This was seen as an obvious effort to reinstitute a military alliance against Russia and China, which was met with very sharp criticism from these two countries. This comes in the context of North Korea's warning that the United States has started

tunnel drills preparing an invasion, and is using the 82nd and 101st U.S. Airborne Divisions, which were used for the invasion of Iraq and Grenada.

There was also a very [incisive article in the Chinese Global Times](#) referring to this, which begins by saying that in terms of U.S.-Chinese relations, 2017 was much better than expected, because of the good understanding between President Xi and President Trump. They had three face-to-face meetings, and they've had many letters and telephone exchanges. However, the article points out that the difficulty is that we're not talking with the United States, but the "Divided States," referring to the total division between the pro-Trump and the anti-Trump people. It goes on to say that the United States is becoming increasingly uncomfortable with China, because China is becoming more confident and the United States is absolutely not used to that.

Then the article brings up the subject of trade war, because the GOP is expected to use the trade deficit issue in this year's election campaign. It also points out that North Korea has made such unexpected advances—referring to the fact that North Korea is now a nuclear power with ICBMs—that North Korea has crossed the red line for the United States, and that



U.S. Army/Staff Sgt. Sinthia Rosario

*An M280 Multiple Launch Rocket System, assigned to the Republic of Korea/United States Combined Division, firing into the East Sea off South Korea, July 5, 2017.*

the latter is preparing for a showdown this year. The article states it just like that.

The article also says that sanctions against China will not work, because half of the products exported from China into the United States, come from firms which are American firms.

And then at the very end, it says that the U.S. National Defense Authorization Act of 2018 includes the intention to strengthen military relations with Taiwan and have U.S.-Taiwan naval port-of-call exchanges. But it says when the first U.S. Navy aircraft carrier

docks in Kaohsiung port in Taiwan, that will be the moment the People's Liberation Army will force the unification of China by military force.

So I find this quite worrisome. In addition, you had a false nuclear attack alarm in Hawaii, which we should talk about in a second, but that was also commented on by China's media, saying that this is a warning sign that there is obviously a full-fledged prepared plan for a military war with North Korea. And then three days later you had a missile false alarm in Japan.

I think these developments demonstrate that the situation is really very unstable. At this Vancouver meeting, Tillerson rejected the "double freeze" offer by Russia and China, and Trump as well. In an interview with Reuters, he said that maybe there is no peaceful solution for North Korea. I think that these are all warning words and signals.

**Schlanger:** There seems to be a bit of schizophrenia here, because at the same time that President Trump had a very positive discussion with President Xi Jinping, I think two days ago, in addition to the positive motion between South and North Korea—the South Korean President last week praised President Trump. However, at the same time, this growing chorus against China is emerging.





The *Economist* last December had a story about China's "sharp" power, and China "infiltrating" and "menacing" American universities, recruiting people through what? The Confucius Institutes, doing such subversive things as teaching Chinese to Americans. So there's definitely something afoot here. Helga, you mentioned the Hawaii situation. Do you have anything more on that?



*Turkish army tanks take part in offensive to oust Kurdish militia from Afrin, Syria, on Jan. 22, 2018.*

**Zepp-LaRouche:** It's now well known that this alarm took place, reporting that nuclear missiles were in flight against Hawaii, and everybody started to look for shelter and call up their relatives, because they thought this was the last time they would be able to talk to them. It took 38 minutes for the message to get through that this was a false alarm.

Tulsi Gabbard, the Democratic Congresswoman from Hawaii, made a very important statement about that incident. She said that the idea that you could have an instant nuclear war is directly tied to the crisis in Korea, and she indicated that the only way to stop this crisis, is for the United States to stop the policy of regime change, because as long as Kim Jong-un is convinced that the only way for North Korea to avoid the same fate as Saddam Hussein and Qaddafi is for North Korea to be a full-fledged nuclear power, this problem will continue. So she demanded an immediate end to this regime-change policy.

And I already mentioned that the *Global Times* article said that this is a signal that there are already full-fledged war preparations for a U.S. military conflict with North Korea, which obviously could easily get out of hand. This article also mentions, by the way, that the U.S. forces are on high alert all the time, and you only have minutes to stop the crisis, or it could get out of control.

I think we are in a very, very difficult and very dangerous moment again.

**Schlanger:** Another part of that dangerous moment is the discussion of a new U.S. strategy towards Syria. After both President Trump and Secretary of State Tillerson said the U.S. policy is not regime change, it appears as though they're again

bringing up the the idea that Assad must go. Why is that happening now?

**Zepp-LaRouche:** There seems to be a reassertion of neocon policy in the Trump Administration, because, as you said, it had previously been said many times that the focus is no longer on Assad. But now Tillerson, in a speech at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, spoke about a new Syrian strategy. He said it was a mistake for the United States to prematurely leave Iraq in 2011, and we will not make this mistake again. The U.S. will stay there [in Syria] for an indefinite period of time, until ISIS is completely defeated. He also said that the United States insists on Assad's eventual departure.

This is unacceptable! Syria is a sovereign government, and this is basically a precursor for a new crisis around Syria.

In addition, there is a new military conflict: [Turkish President Recep Tayyip] Erdogan and some other politicians in Turkey have accused the United States of militarily supporting a group of Kurds which the Turkish government calls terrorists, because there are certain members of the Turkish opposition PKK involved. There are already Turkish tanks and troops being deployed right now. Erdogan said that this is a plan to divide Syria. Another spokesman said this is a plan to divide NATO, because this is unacceptable for Turkey, which is a member of NATO.

This escalation is similar to what you see in the North Korea crisis, and I think it is directly connected to the incessant drive for a coup against Trump in the United States. It sometimes seems that he is being sur-

rounded by such people. Trump’s policy was—and that has been acknowledged by Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping—to improve the relationship with Russia and China, but there are these vacillations which are very, very worrisome.

**Schlanger:** Some of the attacks on China and Russia—on their press arms, such as *RT* and *Global Times*—are coming from the National Endowment for Democracy, which has also been very much involved in the coup against Ukraine. There is also the Hoover Institution, as you mentioned. So, it’s the same old networks, and these are the people Trump ran against in his Presidential campaign.

You mentioned the Mueller investigation: Do you think this is a major part of the resurgence of the neocons, trying to pin Trump down and keep him totally tied up with this investigation?

**Zepp-LaRouche:** Yes. The British newspaper, the *Spectator*, reported one year ago that these forces will not stop trying to neutralize Trump, either by carrying out a coup, by impeachment, or by assassination. One option is to pin Trump down so that he capitulates to these neocon policies, and get him “reined in” as they say, into the existing trans-Atlantic geopolitical policy. I don’t think that is the end of the whole story, but I think the coup forces are clearly not yet defeated. I find it quite remarkable that somebody who doesn’t like Trump at all—Ray McGovern, from the Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS)—said that this is a *clear coup* that the FBI is involved in. Only somebody who is completely blind will not see that it’s a coup involving British intelligence against the sovereign government of the United States.

There is now a growing number of congressmen who are demanding prosecution against Obama’s director of national intelligence, James Clapper, for his role in all of this, and the ongoing hearings in the Congress may lead to indictments, or to a special prosecutor against the people who are doing this—so it’s not yet decided.

But I think we must stay alert.

### How Can You Be So Optimistic?

**Schlanger:** Clapper has also been saying that Russia and China have been attacking the “very fundamental underpinnings of our democracy.” So he’s someone who’s very much involved.



LBJ Library/Jay Godwin

*James Clapper, the Obama Administration’s Director of National Intelligence.*

And on this same note, I just picked up a story today, reporting that a spokesman for Barack Obama said that Obama is going to play a prominent role in the 2018 elections. Now, in some ways, he never left, because hasn’t he been one of the people coordinating the whole Russiagate story?

**Zepp-LaRouche:** Yes, he moved into a house in Washington, to practically be the leader of this “resist” movement. And I think people have forgotten, that the danger now is that Trump may fall back into the same policies which were absolutely characteristic of the Obama Administration in respect to the escalation in Syria and similar types of operations. People should remember that it was Obama who launched all illegal drone attacks. This is very worrisome, because the problem now is that it appears that no one in the United States is capable of implementing the kinds of policies which we are campaigning for very hard—the immediate ending of the danger of a financial crash through reinstatement of Glass-Steagall, and the [Four Laws](#) which my husband designed several years ago. This is really an appeal to our viewers to refer to us, because I think that what is lacking right now is a positive leadership for the United States.

**Schlanger:** It’s not a coincidence that this new escalation is occurring as the warning signs of the popping of a new financial bubble have emerged, and this is having a profound effect in the United States, because we have a possible government shutdown coming up. They’re playing games with that—but these are all diversions. The real issue is, why are we still tolerating the Bush-Obama policy of protecting Wall Street and

destroying the physical economy? That's the basis for the mobilization around the Four Laws.

If you could just say a little bit more about that, because we do have our organizing teams on Capitol Hill, we have a new pamphlet on LaRouche's Four Laws, and this is the unique solution to this crisis.

**Zepp-LaRouche:** Right now, we're at the beginning of the explosion of the corporate debt bubble. There is Carillion, a huge firm in Great Britain which is folding up; and then you have the Steinhoff Group in South Africa which is near collapse, with ramifications for many major banks, which have had significant losses; that is all related to the fact that the corporate debt bubble is much, much worse today than in 2008. And the situation is simply much worse in terms of all the parameters than 2008.

The very interesting author, Nomi Prins, who used to be a high-ranking manager in Goldman Sachs, has written her sixth book [*Collusion: How Central Banks Rigged the World*, May 2018]. There is a preview available—the book will come out in May—in which she describes how as a real insider, she worked for Goldman Sachs for 15 years, and as she was climbing up the career ladder, she came to know how criminal the activities were on the higher level of this bank, as well as all the others. She decided to no longer pursue that career, and instead to become part of the solution. So she is a whistleblower so to speak, and she describes how, after 2007-2008, the Federal Reserve and the other central banks, by issuing zero interest rate money, and turning on the liquidity pump, have pumped \$16 trillion into the system just since 2007 and 2010. And as you know, this is still going on to the present day.

That money did not go into investment in the real economy. Instead, that essentially *gratis* money, money at absolutely no cost, was used by the big banks and big corporations in large part to buy back their own stocks. This of course increased the profit of these people by incredible margins. As a result, they became richer and richer; but the corporate debt bubble also became bigger. And this is now threatening to explode again.

*Anything* could trigger that collapse. We are sitting on a powder keg, and as you said, I think there *is* a direct connection between the worsening of the financial crisis, and the willingness of these same people to go for military adventures which could lead to World War III. This geopolitical faction does not want to see a situ-



creative commons

*The New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street, New York City.*

ation where China and the Belt and Road Initiative are growing; the Chinese economy is doing well and all the countries which are cooperating with China are doing well, while their own system is collapsing. So I think there is an *immediate* connection between the danger of a new financial crash, and the military escalation.

That makes our own global intervention very important, for our colleagues in the United States in particular. They are deployed to go to the Congress. They have many meetings in both Houses of the Congress. They are deployed to go to the state capitals, and they have many meetings there. We have produced a brochure going through the need for the implementation of these Four Laws and why the United States must join with the New Silk Road in a new paradigm.

That mobilization is really important, and the good thing is that we are finding more and more people who are really trying to understand the principles involved. Why Glass-Steagall is absolutely urgent? Why do you need to go back to a Hamiltonian National Bank and a credit system? Why do you need a crash program in space exploration and fusion technology in order to increase the productivity of the economy? People are trying to understand these concepts and show more seriousness, and of course we hope that this will also influence the surroundings of the State of the Union address, which Trump will give on Jan. 30. We need a



mass mobilization of people to urge their Representatives and their Senators to do this.

Because, as you know, the problem is that the Democrats are generally not far from Wall Street, and neither are the neocons in the GOP, so it requires a very strong mobilization from the base of the population.

**Schlanger:** And just a couple of figures to amplify what you were saying: In the last five years, corporations have added \$4.5 trillion to their debt, so it's now over \$14 trillion. And of that, \$2.7 trillion was used to buy their own stocks! So more than half of the lending to corporations went directly into stock purchases, and that's why the stock market is up—and that's why it's a bubble.

I'd like to pose a simple question to you—it's not really that simple, but—in the face of all this insanity, you've remained a fount of optimism, and a lot of people communicate with me, asking: "What is it that you guys know, that we don't, that we pessimists don't know?" I think this is an important point, because we were talking, before the program, about the Chinese intervention into Latin America and in Africa. There's so much going on that Americans don't know about—but where does this optimism come from?

**Zepp-LaRouche:** It comes from several sources. Let me first talk about the objective one, and then I'll come to the subjective one.

Objectively, when you look at the world from the top, so to speak,—I mean, you don't look at it from inside Germany, or inside the United States, or some other country—but look at it from the overall historical process which is unfolding right now. Then you see the clear division. In the trans-Atlantic world, there are people who generally expect that the future will be worse, that the coming generations will be worse off than they are, and that is a foregone conclusion. After all, they are told that the resources are limited, that you have to have restraint and conservation, and all of this kind of ideology. And look at the social injustices, the rate of poverty in the United States and in Europe—even in Germany, every sixth child is poor. There is an unbelievable situation in countries like Italy and Spain, and in Greece, where you have youth unemployment of 50-60%. So people have a grim perspective on the future.



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*Pensioners demonstrate against austerity in Greece.*

In large part, the politicians have absolutely nothing to offer as a vision for the future. The best example for that right now, is the never-ending coalition talks in Germany, which have already been going on for more than four months since the election. *None* of the parties has said one single word about what the future of Germany should be. Where should the world be? So people generally are desperate, they're frustrated, they think things are getting worse—and then they see all these calamities in the world, and they say, "I can't even look at the news any more—it's all terrible."

But that is only half of the truth, or less than half of the truth. Because if you look at the world from the standpoint of China, you see a completely different vector of developments. First of all, China has undergone the most incredible development. They have lifted 800 million people out of poverty over 20 years! They want to eradicate poverty by the year 2020, *entirely*. They are doing wonderful things in Africa, in Latin America, in other Asian countries, and even some European countries, so there is a sense of confidence; there is a sense that there *is* a future. And then, Xi Jinping at the recent 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, laid out his vision for where China should be in 2020, in 2035, and 2050. He laid out an incredible vision that by that time, China should be a fully modern, strong, socialist country, where the people are living happy lives: It should be culturally advanced, and scientifically strong, and people should have happier lives, not only in China, but around the world.

We know that the economic underpinning of that vision is progressing with the Belt and Road Initiative,

building infrastructure, R&D centers, industrial parks, energy distribution, and production. This is all a realistic perspective, but it has a cultural dimension to it: They want to have a space Silk Road, and a cultural Silk Road. These are all initiatives which have given the Chinese people a tremendous sense of confidence, and that is a spark which has spread, so to speak, to the other countries which are participating in the Belt and Road Initiative.

As I stated at the beginning, China's warnings for this year with respect to the crises in North Korea, Taiwan, and similar situations, are very stark. These warnings show that China is not naïve, and is willing to react to defend its interests. So it's not all rosy and lacking a realistic view. However, the way they go about it, is absolutely one of optimism.

I also think that most people in Russia have the same attitude: This is why the popularity of Putin is at the high level of over 80% right now, despite the difficulties of the sanctions and so forth. I think the difference is that if you have a mission and a vision for the future, then you are optimistic, because it is in your own will and power to realize those visions.

So I think there is a clear division in the world population on this issue.

Now, I wanted to say something about the subjective reasons why, despite all of these dangers, I'm fundamentally very optimistic: The reason is that there is no point in worrying. You have to have a vision of how you want to use your life to contribute to the improvement of the human species. I have a vision which is not exactly the same as that of Xi Jinping, but my vision is also very much like that of my husband, with whom I've been working on this for more than 40 years—that we have a world where every human being on this planet can have a decent life, can have fulfillment of all of the potentialities that each person has—and that mankind can become adult, that we go back to the values which are characteristic of the American Revolution, of the German Classical period, of the Italian Renaissance, and other high points of culture. I'm optimistic that we can retrieve these qualities by having a cultural Renaissance of Clas-



Photo/China Daily

*A teacher introduces a model of a spaceship to students on China Space Day, April 24, 2017, at the Science and Technology Children's Palace of Baotou, which launched a series of activities to promote children's interest in space science.*

sical music, and Classical poetry. Since China is on that road already, by reviving the Confucian tradition, and by placing a lot of emphasis on Classical culture and on scientific breakthroughs, I think that the West should just re-think what our contributions to the advancement of universal history have been, and then revive them, and have a Dialogue of Cultures among the best traditions of all countries.

I think this is the human nature. I don't think the idea of geopolitics, or ravings or rantings like those we hear from Ted Cruz right now, are what make us human. I think we should *not* regard other cultures as an enemy by definition. China has reached out and said, "Let's join for a shared future of mankind. We are a community of destiny," and I think this idea of a joint humanity, of one mankind, is what we have to accomplish if we want to exist as a human species. But I think it is part of human nature that once you have the will and a good plan, and many people work together for the good plan, you can succeed.

**Schlanger:** I would recommend to our viewers, that this Winter, instead of catching the flu, people catch the Silk Road Spirit.

Helga, that brings us to a close. Thank you very much, and we'll see you next week!

**Zepp-LaRouche:** Good-bye.