

Schiller Institute International Conference
Saturday, July 31, 2021

Afghanistan: A Turning Point in History After the Failed Regime-Change Era

Opening Remarks: A Mobilization Not for War

The conference was opened by the Schiller Institute's Dennis Speed, who included a video excerpt from a speech by Lyndon LaRouche in 1985, to help set the tone of the conference. This is an edited transcript. The full video of the conference is available [here](#).



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Dennis Speed

Dennis Speed: Good day to all around the world who are participating in this event. Today's event marks, we hope, a particular inflection point not only for Afghanistan, but for cooperation among nations throughout the world.

The Schiller Institute has been working for about a year to establish a new method, which is really a way of re-establishing an old method of dialogue, and we hope therefore diplomacy, among nations. It's a method that was pioneered in the Fifteenth Century by Cardinal Nicholas of Cusa, called "the Coincidence of Opposites." It always seeks a higher resolution among persons, as well as nations, that may have been defined in the past as adversaries. Because there's always a higher generalized self-interest, a common good that can, in fact, be identified, apprehended, and then produced for all.

We welcome in that spirit all of the various persons who are participating today from around the world, some of whom you are about to meet, and we note here that we have been informed that the idea of the peaceful development of Afghanistan is supported by the CGTN Think

Tank in the context of this conference.

We are going to begin today by interjecting something about the United States, a different view of the United States military, and a different view about the actual power of the United States. This is a view that was expressed in December of 1985 at another Schiller Institute conference, by Lyndon LaRouche, economist and statesman, who passed away in February of 2019.

Lyndon LaRouche: (1985 video excerpt) The United States, in the 1860s, in the course of the Civil War, had emerged as the most powerful economy and greatest military force on this planet.

This transformation had been accomplished not by the means of war, which are inherently destructive; it had been accomplished by the form of mobilization of our republic by Lincoln, who himself was a profound thinker, contrary to the schoolbooks of today, who was guided by the principles of republicanism in the deepest and purest sense; who organized a mobilization of industry, agriculture, and institutions, and infrastructure-building, to transform this nation and its potentialities into the most powerful economy and military capability on the face of this planet.

Speed: "Not by means of war, which is inherently destructive," but through the power of the economy, which Abraham Lincoln in particular had done a great deal to begin, himself, to create. Now, it's this message that we hope will be heard all over the world, of course, but also specifically in the United States. There is a

need in the world, particularly in a world with thermonuclear weapons.

The idea of diplomacy should not be prevarication, dissembling, misrepresentation, or downright lying. The idea of diplomacy should be that there be an actual policy for economic development and the cultural exchanges and participations that require a kind of mutual understanding of the other person, of the other person's culture, the other person's nation.

In the case of Afghanistan, from which the United States has now militarily removed itself, nonetheless,

the United States is still there; was there for 20 years, and the issue is now that there is a new point of inflection, if you will: Can there be a cooperation established among all of the nations, in a kind of equality of intervention, but that intervention from some higher principle? And what would that higher principle be?

To discuss that, and to give guidance to how that principle can be thought about by all, it's my honor to introduce—as it always is—the Chairman and Founder of the Schiller Institute, Helga Zepp-LaRouche.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche

Afghanistan: The Bright Future for the Coming Cooperation of the Great Powers

Helga Zepp-LaRouche is the Chairman and founder of the Schiller Institute. This is an edited transcript of her keynote address to the July 31, 2021 conference of the Schiller Institute, "Afghanistan: A Turning Point in History After the Failed Regime-Change Era." Sub-heads have been added.

I greet you wherever you may be because we are at a very precious moment of history in Afghanistan, and actually in terms of universal history. There are long periods where states and people just continue a trend. They sort of muddle through, they find patterns. And then, there are what is called in German *Sternstunden der Menschheit*—magic moments in history—when it is possible to change the paradigm completely. And it depends on the quality of the leading individuals in a position of power, and ideas if the potential is wasted and the events end up in tragedy, or if such a moment is used, and a bright and fruitful future can be initiated.

I believe that with the troop withdrawal of the United States and NATO, there is such a situation in Afghanistan. It is apparent to everybody that long wars in Asia are not winnable, as Douglas MacArthur told Kennedy on April 28, 1961, when the President was in conflict with his advisors on what to do in Vietnam.



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Helga Zepp-LaRouche

MacArthur told Kennedy, "Never fight a land war in Asia."

And it should be obvious, even to the most incurable warmongers on the planet, that in Afghanistan, no military solution can succeed. In that sense, there must be a recognition that *all* such endless wars, like in Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, and so forth, belong to a paradigm of geopolitical thinking that has utterly failed. That means that the geopolitics of the British Empire, of the Great Game, of the Arc of Crisis of Bernard Lewis and

Zbigniew Brzezinski, must be outlawed forever. And there should be an agreement among all neighbors of Afghanistan that geopolitical manipulation must be ended and replaced by the application of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

For the people of Afghanistan, the suffering of having been the theatre of such a war for a very long time—ten years of Brzezinski's war, playing the so-called Islamic card against the Soviet Union in the 1980s, which was the source of much of the subsequent terrorism from Chechnya to Xinjiang, including in the European nations. And then recently, twenty years of war of the United States and NATO troops against the Taliban. The suffering of the Afghan people has to stop! The horror of the fear of bombs, of terrorism, of nightly