



# California Water and Infrastructure Report

## For April 30, 2020

### by Patrick Ruckert

**Published weekly since July, 2014**

**An archive of all these weekly reports can be found at both links below:**

<http://www.californiadroughtupdate.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaDroughtUpdate>

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*“The world will never be the same after the COVID-19 pandemic. The 'cause' of the pandemic cannot be hidden by the 'China-China-China' hysteria (a replay of the failed 'Russia-Russia-Russia' campaign which attempted to remove Donald Trump from office and sabotage his effort to establish friendly relations with Russia and China). The cause was not a person or a country, but the destruction of the American System following the assassination of John Kennedy, and the 50 years of austerity which destroyed the infrastructure and the industries of the Western world and the developing sector alike—and especially the taking down of the public health systems, to maximize the profits of the Wall Street firms which controlled the privatized healthcare companies.”*

*From the article below on the Schiller Institute International Conference held last weekend*

## A Note To Readers

Last Saturday and Sunday the conference of the Schiller Institute, *“Mankind’s Existence Now Depends on the Establishment of a New Paradigm!”* provided the thousands of internet participants the ideas necessary to transform our civilization at this moment of breakdown crisis of the entire existing system. So, we begin this week's report with some coverage of the conference.

*“Drought, the Weather and COVID-19”* begins the second section this week. California's drought continues to intensify, Washington State has a surprisingly serious drought in the center of the state, and other western states are becoming dry. And how will fighting wildfires be handled with the COVID-19 pandemic raging?

*“COVID-19 and the Breakdown of the Food Supply Chain,”* includes several items discussing the broader causal background to the now well-known crisis of American farmers being forced to euthanize

their livestock at unheard of rates is highlighted during the fourth panel of the Schiller Institute conference as leaders of half-a-dozen farm organizations presented both the crisis the farmers face and what must be done.

The next section is, *“Bailing Out the Banks Just Never Stops; Time for Glass-Steagle,”* which, of course, reports on the continued pumping of trillions of dollars into the Wall St. banks, while next to nothing is done to rebuild the nations infrastructure.

The final section is, *“Schiller Institute Conference: Mankind’s Existence Now Depends on the Establishment of a New Paradigm!”* It includes links to each of the panels of the Schiller Institute conference.

## **Schiller Institute Conference: Mankind’s Existence Now Depends on the Establishment of a New Paradigm!**

<https://schillerinstitute.com/blog/2020/03/29/conference-mankinds-existence-now-depends-on-the-establishment-of-a-new-paradigm>



**International online conference, April 25-26, 2020**

**[Panel 1: The Urgent Need to Replace Geopolitics with a New Paradigm in International Relations](#)**

**[Panel 2: For a Better Understanding of How Our Universe Functions](#)**

**[Panel 3: Creativity as the Distinctive Characteristic of Human Culture: The Need for a Classical Renaissance](#)**

**[Panel 4: The Science of Physical Economy](#)**

## **Schiller Institute Conference—A New Way of Thinking Brings the World Together for a New Paradigm**

<https://larouchepac.com/20200428/schiller-conference-new-way-thinking-brings-world-together-new-paradigm>

April 28, 2020

Lyndon LaRouche, following the 2008 financial breakdown of the Western financial system, presented the emergency measures required to end the British Imperial financial policies which created the

bubble in the first place, but warned that only a combination of the world's four major powers—Russia, China, India and the United States—working in tandem, collaboratively, could construct the new international economic structure to replace the bankrupt monetary system centered on the City of London and Wall Street. Those proposals were rejected, in favor of massive bail outs of the “too big to fail” banks, causing the creation of a bubble twice as large today—nearly \$2 quadrillion in mostly worthless derivative gambling debts. That idiocy was joined by the imposition of vicious austerity measures in the trans-Atlantic nations and in the developing sector in Africa and Ibero-America.



*Lyndon LaRouche and Helga Zepp-LaRouche address Pasadena, CA Schiller Institute conf, "Developing the Pacific and Ending the Grip of Empire." November 2, 2013 (Schiller Institute Photo)*

This past weekend, the Schiller Institute held a two-day conference, under the title “Mankind’s Existence Now Depends on the Establishment of a New Paradigm!” An estimated 2,500 people attended the conference online over the course of two days, from over 55 countries, from Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. As of Monday afternoon, the total number of visits to the first panel on YouTube had already risen to 5,300. Among the more than forty speakers, keynote speeches were presented by Schiller Institute Founder Helga Zepp-LaRouche, by the 1st Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, and by the Consul General of the People’s Republic of China in New York. In combination, these speeches demonstrated both the possibility and the urgency that “the East” and “the West” can work together to end the imperial division of the world into warring blocs, to address the existential threats now facing mankind from both the coronavirus and the global economic and financial disaster sparked by the pandemic.

Over 200 questions were submitted during the conference, from several African and South American Ambassadors, from farmers, from elected officials, and from patriots and citizens around the world. The speeches were translated into multiple languages.

It worked, because the conference demonstrated a different way of thinking from the atomized, disjointed structures of geopolitical, zero-sum thinking imposed by the Empire’s media and corrupted educational systems. Instead, the four panels—strategy, science, classical culture, and physical economy—were presented as a “One,” in the sense intended by those thinkers whose ideas gave rise to the great nations of history—Plato, Confucius, Nicholas of Cusa, Gottfried Leibniz, who all recognized that the “One” was greater than the sum of its parts.

The world will never be the same after the COVID-19 pandemic. The “cause” of the pandemic cannot be hidden by the “China-China-China” hysteria (a replay of the failed “Russia-Russia-Russia” campaign which attempted to remove Donald Trump from office and sabotage his effort to establish friendly relations with Russia and China). The cause was not a person or a country, but the destruction of the American System following the assassination of John Kennedy, and the 50 years of austerity which destroyed the infrastructure and the industries of the Western world and the developing sector alike—and especially the taking down of the public health systems, to maximize the profits of the Wall

Street firms which controlled the privatized healthcare companies.

But the world was also forever changed by this historic Schiller Institute conference. A “certain tone” has been sounded, in this Year of Beethoven, and that tone is resounding internationally, resonating with the New Silk Road, and with the necessary emergence of a New Bretton Woods conference, led by Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping, Narendra Modi and Donald Trump, and other leaders of good will, to replace the decrepit ideas of Empire and geopolitical wars once and for all, while establishing a new just creditary system dedicated to giving every child on Earth the opportunity to develop his or her inherent creative powers to the fullest.

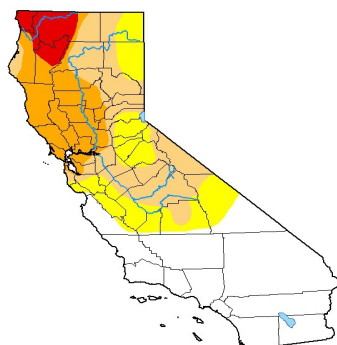
We call on everyone reading this report to [become a member of the Schiller Institute](#), and to purchase Volume I (of the dozens or perhaps even hundreds of volumes to come) of Lyndon LaRouche Collected Works, released this week by the [LaRouche Legacy Foundation](#).

## Drought, the Weather and COVID-19

### U.S. Drought Monitor

The U.S. Drought Monitor this week indicates that just a bit more of the state has entered the “Moderate Drought” category. Examine the two maps below and you can see the expansion of the “Moderate Drought” category over the past week.

U.S. Drought Monitor  
California



April 28, 2020  
(Released Thursday, Apr. 30, 2020)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	41.80	58.20	41.58	19.59	4.96	0.00
Last Week (4-21-2020)	41.80	58.20	35.70	19.59	4.96	0.00
3 Months Ago (4-28-2019)	65.72	34.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12-31-2019)	96.43	3.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (6-01-2019)	95.29	4.71	2.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (4-28-2019)	94.03	5.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:  
None D0 Abnormally Dry D1 Moderate Drought D2 Severe Drought D3 Extreme Drought D4 Exceptional Drought

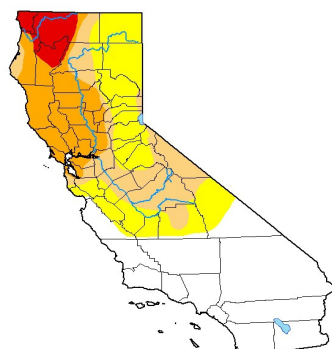
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/about.aspx>

Author:  
Deborah Bathke  
National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

U.S. Drought Monitor  
California



April 21, 2020  
(Released Thursday, Apr. 23, 2020)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	41.80	58.20	35.70	19.59	4.96	0.00
Last Week (4-14-2020)	41.80	58.20	35.70	12.83	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago (4-14-2019)	96.39	3.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12-31-2019)	96.43	3.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (6-01-2019)	95.29	4.71	2.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (4-21-2019)	94.03	5.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:  
None D0 Abnormally Dry D1 Moderate Drought D2 Severe Drought D3 Extreme Drought D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/about.aspx>

Author:  
Brian Fuchs  
National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



## ***Summerlike heat, dry conditions to expand across drought-stricken West this week***

Brandon Buckingham

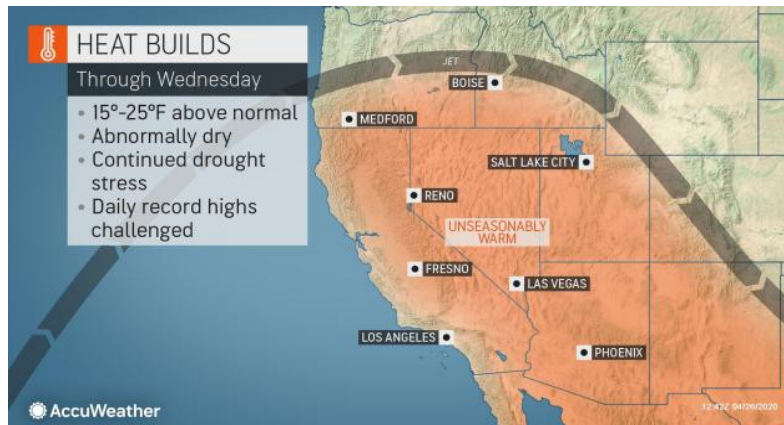
[AccuWeather](#) • April 26, 2020

<https://news.yahoo.com/summerlike-heat-dry-conditions-expand-114106014.html>

A massive [ridge of high pressure](#) is set to expand across the western United States this week, allowing summerlike heat to envelop much of the region.

Daily record-high temperatures could be challenged through much of the week in places like [Phoenix](#) and [Las Vegas](#) as a result.

While triple-digit heat isn't uncommon in these cities, temperatures of this level are more commonly observed in June rather than late April.

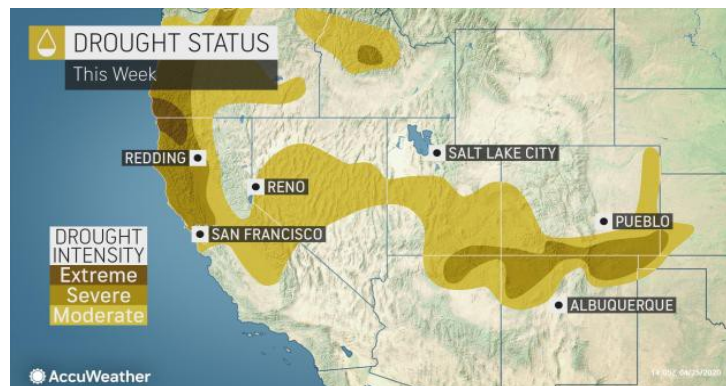


But courtesy of the ridge of high pressure poised to build over the region, both of these cities could record their first triple-digit high temperatures of 2020 this week.

Many other cities across the Southwest can expect similar highs. Along with the heat, plenty of sunshine is in the cards as well, including many across [California that are also battling extreme heat](#).

While the dry season typically kicks off around this time in the Desert Southwest, the unusual heat will not bode well for the expansive drought conditions in place.

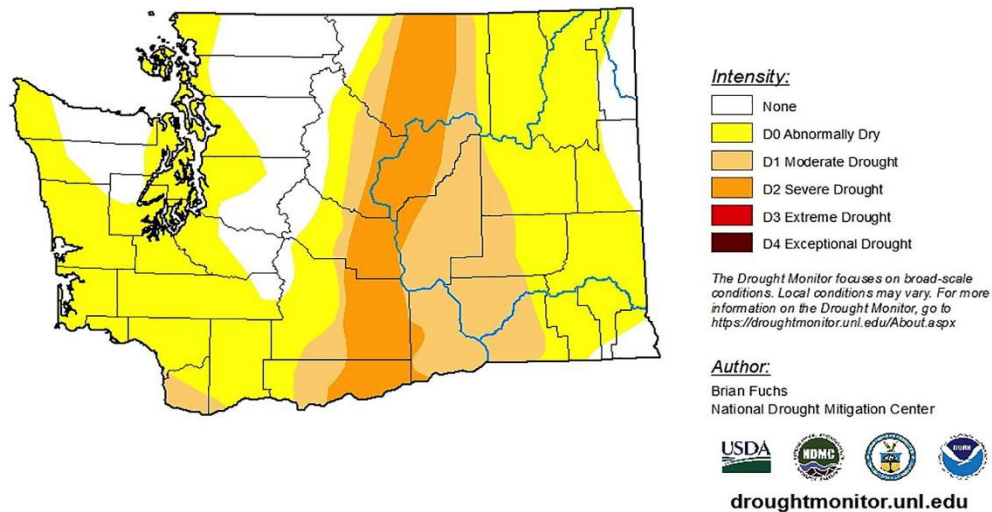
Many locales across the Four Corners region are reporting moderate-to-severe drought according to the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#).



## Severe drought bisects Washington

- *By DON JENKINS Capital Press*
- Apr 24, 2020

[https://www.capitalpress.com/ag\\_sectors/water/severe-drought-bisects-washington/article\\_e109c510-8645-11ea-ac8c-e3c37757ab8f.html](https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/water/severe-drought-bisects-washington/article_e109c510-8645-11ea-ac8c-e3c37757ab8f.html)



*The U.S. Drought Monitor, released April 23, shows parts of Washington range from abnormally dry to severe drought.*

*The U.S. Drought Monitor reported Thursday that the severe drought covers more than 12% of the state, touching parts of Okanogan, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Grant, Yakima and Benton counties. Some 18% of the state, also in Central Washington, is in a "moderate" drought.*

## Wildfires and COVID-19

### How Is the Pandemic Affecting Wildfire Preparedness?

[Henry McCann](#), [Van Butsic](#) April 27, 2020

[https://www.ppic.org/blog/how-is-the-pandemic-affecting-wildfire-preparedness/?utm\\_source=ppic&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=epub](https://www.ppic.org/blog/how-is-the-pandemic-affecting-wildfire-preparedness/?utm_source=ppic&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=epub)



California has experienced catastrophic wildfires and widespread tree death in recent years that have accelerated its efforts to reduce wildfire threats to communities and improve forest health. Fortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic is not deterring these efforts—though it could complicate the work. Activities must be carried out in ways that limit the risk of infection to workers, which can be difficult when managing fire and working with ground crews over days or weeks. Here we explore the impact of the pandemic on wildfire risk reduction.

### **Could COVID-19 affect the state's ability to respond to wildfires this year?**

Fighting wildfires is an essential service and the state's ability to respond to wildfires this year will not be compromised by the pandemic. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the agency responsible for the bulk of the state's wildfire response, is gearing up for the season by hiring seasonal staff and training crews for the fire line.

"Our staffing levels will be the same as last year to meet the demands of the upcoming wildfire season," said CAL FIRE communication officer Christine McMorrow. To prevent firefighters [from contracting and spreading the virus](#), CAL FIRE is integrating social distancing guidelines into training exercises. The agency is also considering options for making fire camps—where firefighters eat and sleep while battling blazes—less conducive to virus spread.

### **Could it affect vegetation management efforts?**

Most vegetation management efforts have been designated as essential services and are expected to continue throughout the pandemic.

### **What are the potential long-term implications of the pandemic for forest management?**

The economic fallout from the pandemic is forcing the state to [reassess its spending priorities](#). This is generating uncertainty for many programs, including wildfire risk reduction. Spending in this area is one of three priorities for this year. However, it is not clear how much funding will be available for specific programs.

## ***How Can California Fight Wildfires in the Middle of a Pandemic? In a Few Months, We'll Likely Find Out***

[Danielle Venton](#)

Apr 20, 2020

<https://www.kqed.org/science/1962364/how-can-california-fight-wildfires-in-the-middle-of-a-pandemic-in-a-few-months-well-likely-find-out>

*No one knows exactly how this coming fire season will shake out, but experts and fire officials agree the COVID-19 pandemic will make an already hard job much tougher.*

*'We've never fought a fire in a pandemic.'*

*Fire agencies and emergency managers are now planning how they'll fight wildfires, issue evacuation orders, set up shelters and handle power shutoffs in the face of the massive challenge of simultaneously coping with a highly infectious disease.*

*"We've never fought fire in a pandemic," said [Jim Whittington](#), an expert in wildland fire response. "We don't have any sort of lessons from [the flu pandemic of] 1918. So this is going to be a learning experience, and we're going to have to err on the side of firefighter and public safety. And we recognize that there's probably going to be some Catch-22s in our future."*

*One of the biggest impacts could be a strain on the mutual aid system. In normal times, agencies*

*provide support to each other during disasters. But when the crisis is so widespread, that system could become strained.*

*If first responders or their families become sick, or if they are tied up in emergency medical services, then agencies will struggle to maintain peak staffing, and they will be less able to share resources. If a paramedic assigned to a fire engine has to help with the COVID-19 response, for example, "Well, then the engine can't go to the fire," said Christopher Godley, director of emergency management for Sonoma County. "Jurisdictions simply may not have the resources to share with each other like they have in years past. And that was the great success story of our Kincadee fire response last year."*

## **COVID-19 and the Breakdown of the Food Supply Chain**

The broader causal background to the now well-known crisis of American farmers being forced to euthanize their livestock at unheard of rates is highlighted during the fourth panel of the Schiller Institute conference as leaders of half-a-dozen farm organization presented both the crisis the farmers face and what must be done.

That panel discussion is the first item below.

Next, *"How Did It Come to This?"* challenges us all to face the truth of this breakdown crisis: "In a word, the world's physical economy is being destroyed in a vain effort to salvage the cancerous speculative bubble. People's very lives around the planet are being sacrificed on the altar of a dead system, and its Malthusian ideology."

Tuesday night, President Donald Trump, under the National Defense Production Act, signed an executive order to reopen U.S. meat mega-packing plants, for the purpose of relieving farmers from killing their animals because processing is shut down, and to continue the meat supply. *"A Dead System, Not 'Over-Capacity,' Is Behind Farmers' Destroying Food: Put In a New Economic System Now!"* Provides the background.

A more thorough article discusses more detail: *"Trump Signs Order Keeping Mega-Meat Packers Open; Agriculture Leaders Seek Transformed Meat Sector."*

Discussing the meat packing industry more generally, this article comes next: *"Mega Packing Plants: They Distribute More COVID-19 to the Public Than Meat Supplies."*

### ***Eating Is a Moral Right, A Dialogue With American Farmers***

*An excerpt from Panel IV of the Schiller Institute's April 25-26, 2020 International Online Conference:*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNnuigrJTwc&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2ORrXePw3JsqNwgPIOFP6w_nsDje54yfCYgMYVU6X69l1gxZqhLLNazdE)

[v=aNnuigrJTwc&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2ORrXePw3JsqNwgPIOFP6w\\_nsDje54yfCYgMYVU6X69l1gxZqhLLNazdE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNnuigrJTwc&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2ORrXePw3JsqNwgPIOFP6w_nsDje54yfCYgMYVU6X69l1gxZqhLLNazdE)

*Featuring American farm leaders speaking out against the dire situation American farmers, and therefore Americans, face due to the speculative cartelization of the global food supply. The panel's moderator is Dennis Speed.*

#### ***Speakers:***

*Bob Baker, Virginia; Schiller Institute agriculture co-coordinator,*



*Joe Maxwell, Missouri; former Missouri Lt. Governor, co-founder of Family Farm Action Alliance,  
Tyler Dupy, Kansas; Executive Director of the Kansas Cattlemen's Association,  
Frank Endres; California, member of the National Farmers Organization for 63 years,  
Bill Bullard; Montana, CEO R-CALF USA,*

*Jim Benham, Indiana; State Pres. of Indiana Farmers Union, 20 Yr. National Board member, National Farmers Union,*

*Mike Callicrate, Kansas; Colorado, Bd of Directors of Organization for Competitive Markets, Owner Ranch Foods Direct*

*On April 26, the Schiller Institute international conference was addressed by Bob Baker as part of a crisis report panel comprised of six U.S. farmers and ranchers, similarly stressing the need for immediate emergency measures across all farm sectors in crisis in the U.S. and worldwide, and for the food supply. Baker also spoke of the necessity for putting in a new economics system for the longer-term stability and growth of agriculture and the food supply.*

*Baker stated, "First, emergency action. Intervene to save all agricultural capacity everywhere—herds, flocks, crops, farms, farm families on the land. Use income supports, parity-fair pricing, no foreclosures on farms or essential agri-businesses, and more. Plus, get the food to where it has to be. Commission and dedicate the tonnage of basic grains to the 55 countries completely dependent on outside supplies. Pre-stage it. Use the UN World Food Program proposal for 'humanitarian hubs,' and make it work.*

*"Secondly, for the longer term, start on the full measures for a new economic system for farm and factory production in every nation. No more 'global outsourcing' of food by the empire crowd" of Wall Street and the City of London.*

## **How Did It Come to This?**



A pig farm from Waikato area in New Zealand. Nov, 24, 2014. Photo: Farm Watch / Flickr

<https://larouchepac.com/20200429/how-did-it-come>

April 29, 2020

American farmers are being forced to euthanize their livestock at unheard of rates, as over 25% of hog processing is shut down in the U.S., and the workers in the plants laid off. If not reversed, there will soon be major meat shortages across the country, along with waves of farm bankruptcies. Meanwhile, millions are starving in Africa, while the FAO warns of a five-fold increase of starvation in West Africa

and the Sahel—not to mention the 40 million poor and hungry Americans in this country.

The price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil plunged below \$13 per barrel on Monday, a 72% drop so far this year; and global sales are so low that hundreds of oil tankers are at sea with full loads. The largest U.S. storage areas are so full, that at this rate they will reach maximum capacity in little more than a month. Will we then see oil being burned and dumped, the way farmers have been forced to euthanize their hogs? Meanwhile, the world is desperate for energy to meet every manner of physical need of most of the planet's population.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell stated he preferred to drive U.S. states into bankruptcy and default on their pension funds, rather than allow the federal government to come to their aid in the coronavirus crisis. But neither he, nor the majority of Republicans and Democrats in Congress, have any problem giving Wall Street \$4 trillion in largesse from the Fed.

In a word, the world's physical economy is being destroyed in a vain effort to salvage the cancerous speculative bubble. People's very lives around the planet are being sacrificed on the altar of a dead system, and its Malthusian ideology.

How did it come to this? How did we let it come to this?

Helga Zepp-LaRouche addressed that issue, in a conference call with European associates yesterday, stressing the importance of the [solutions provided by the April 25-26 Schiller Institute conference to just this crisis.](#)

“We absolutely have to change the paradigm,” Zepp-LaRouche said, “and we have to have a Four Power combination to accomplish that,” consisting of the heads of state of the U.S., China, Russia and India. “The crisis is getting worse. The pandemic is by no means under control,” and the global financial breakdown is upon us.

“As we discussed at the conference,” Zepp-LaRouche stressed, “the hard core of the problem is the British Empire. They are responsible for the long-term effects of this policy. As Lyndon LaRouche warned for half a century, it is the British liberal policies which have reduced the living standard in the developing countries, which created the conditions for this pandemic add more pandemics to come in the future—unless we find a completely different approach and preempt it by raising the planet's living standard and by having fundamental scientific breakthroughs.”

“It is also the British Empire which is behind the war drive,” Zepp-LaRouche stated, in particular the efforts to place the United States and China on a collision path. “There is a battle going on inside the United States that matters for the entire world,” she said. “Either we will have an American republic” of the sort envisioned by the Founding Fathers against the British system, “towards which Trump has an inclination; or if the U.S. goes in the direction of the War Party—such as Pompeo, Esper, Navarro and others—we will truly be on a short fuse to World War III.”

### ***A Dead System, Not ‘Over-Capacity,’ Is Behind Farmers’ Destroying Food: Put In a New Economic System Now!***

<https://larouchepac.com/20200430/dead-system-not-over-capacity-behind-farmers-destroying-food-put-new-economic-system-now>

*April 30, 2020*

*Tuesday night, President Donald Trump, under the National Defense Production Act, signed an executive order to reopen U.S. meat mega-packing plants, for the purpose of relieving farmers from killing their animals because processing is shut down, and to continue the meat supply.*

*One farm leader, who spoke [at the Schiller Institute April 25-26 conference](#), immediately stressed today: “OK, but only keep the cartel meat packing houses open until you can phase them out forever. It never should have been this way in the first place.” U.S. and international agriculture have been being destructured during recent decades, so that a few Wall Street/City London cartels dominate all food flows.*

*Now the giant packing houses have become COVID-19 hot zones, comprising two dozen out of some 200 major complexes: 6,600 workers are sick or otherwise off the job; 20 workers and 2 inspectors have died. There is rightly worry whether needed federal forces will be sent in to make the plants safe. Plus, the executive order does not address milk now going down the drain. It does not indemnify farmers for their euthanized animals, without which they will be ruined.*

*Today, ranchers who had been at the Schiller Institute’s weekend conference panel on the “Science of Physical Economy,” proposed many specifics for what must happen now. For example, there are about 1,900 smaller meat-processing plants in the U.S. Build them up with credit and other measures. Back the full range of food preservation technologies, including irradiation. This thinking amounts to making concrete, in areas of special knowledge, a new paradigm of economic activity. There is similar momentum in other areas.*

*In the international context, look at such a dramatic specific as how U.S. pork capacity could right now help supply China, where there is a great shortage because China lost up to half its hogs to African swine fever over 2018-2019. The logistics would be worked out, despite the pandemic. But the geopolitical residue of tariffs is still in the way.*

*Moreover, look at the emergency task of how to supply “daily bread” for hundreds of millions of people in Africa, parts of Asia and Latin America/Caribbean, now hit by the pandemic on top of already insufficient food. A work-up of the tonnages and types of emergency foodstuffs required—not just abstract “money” terms—is under preparation for the Schiller Institute for international discussion.*

*It is this “new paradigm” discussion process, exemplified in the food question, but also in other ways, manifest in the April 25-26 Schiller weekend, that is part of the target for attempted obliteration by the frantic British intelligence campaign now underway to demonize China, Russia, Iran and take down the U.S. Presidency. Each hour brings new extremes condemning China for lying and worse, not because of anything China has done or not done, but because time has run out for those behind the dead geopolitical/monetarist system.*

*Yesterday, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell gave a press conference trying to again pitch his “We will use every tool to save you,” while Americans look on in growing anger at the obvious instantaneous bail-out of any Wall Street bum, but everyday essential businesses and livelihoods are crushed.*

## **Mega Packing Plants: They Distribute More COVID-19 to the Public Than Meat Supplies**

April 23 (EIRNS)—The national map of the mega meatpacking houses (beef, pork, poultry) now shut down, or only partially open, coincides directly with counties with high incidence of COVID-19 cases. The plants function as localized hot zones, given that the working conditions are notoriously bad—crowded, low pay, and grueling. Besides employees who have the virus, dozens of others are not showing up for work, out of fear. Meat processing has one of the highest rates of illegal workers of any sector in the economy.

The destructuring of U.S. meat slaughtering over recent decades into a very few mega-plants, owned by a handful of cartel companies, was a guaranteed disaster as far as reliability of food supply, working

conditions, and public sanitation are concerned. Now, the sector is spreading the virus, and reducing meat supplies.

Besides giant plants shut in South Dakota, Iowa, Colorado, and Minnesota, eyes are on the huge JBS Packerland facility in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Today's *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported on the national situation.

The paper summarized the results of a study of the pandemic and meat packing by the Midwest Center for Investigative Reporting and *USA Today*: "More than 150 of America's largest meat processing plants operate in counties where the rate of coronavirus infection is already among the nation's highest....

"The facilities represent more than one in three of the nation's biggest beef, pork, and poultry processing plants. Rates of infection around these plants are higher than those of 75% of other U.S. counties, the analysis found.

"And while experts say the industry has thus far maintained sufficient production despite infections in at least 2,700 workers at 60 plants as of Wednesday afternoon, there are fears that meatpacking plants will become disaster zones."

A number of smaller plants also shut or went on partial work this week: The Smithfield (hog) plant is down in Martin City, Missouri. Smithfield in Cudahy, Wisconsin is only partially operating as of Wednesday. In western Michigan, the JBS (beef) plant is shut.

This situation is wreaking havoc on farmers and ranchers. They have started lining up standby plans in the Farm Belt states for hog euthanasia. In Canada, farmers have started this in the eastern provinces, according to the Canadian Pork Council today.

## **Bailing Out the Banks Just Never Stops; Time for Glass-Steagle**

### ***Fed Junks Reserve Requirements for Demand Deposits, Adding \$200 Billion to Bank Bailout***

*April 28 (EIRNS)—On March 26 the Federal Reserve put into operation a policy change that eliminated reserve requirements that U.S. banks need to hold on demand deposits, which means on checking accounts.*

*Banks, for sound reasons, usually were obliged to hold reserve requirements of the following level: for medium to large banks, which hold the vast majority of checking accounts and deposits, they had to hold a 10% reserve ratio: meaning that if a bank customer held \$1,000 at the bank in a checking account, the bank had to set aside \$100 in reserves. Smaller banks had lower reserve requirements.*

*This practice, though the reserve ratio might vary, goes back more than 200 years in the U.S. banking system. This meant that if a bank customer wrote a large check that bounced, the bank would not fail (since the money the bank lent might come from other customers' deposits).*

*Why the need for this policy reversal now?*

*As of March 30, the Federal Reserve reports that there are \$2.25 trillion held in demand deposits/checking accounts, which would have obliged banks to set aside some \$200 billion in reserves. But now, the banks need hold zero in reserve, comprising a \$200 billion bail-out to the banks, while making the banking system far less safe. This is part of the process of the Congress's and the Fed's \$4*



*trillion bailout of speculative paper, to the benefit of Wall Street and the City of London.*

## **McConnell Says Government Should Not Bail Out the States—Wall Street, However, Is Another Matter**

April 28 (EIRNS)—Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) was asked on the “Hugh Hewitt Show” on April 22 about federal government help to states in difficult financial situations, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. He answered:

“I mean, we all represent states. We all have governors regardless of party who would love to have free money. And that’s why I said yesterday we’re going to push the pause button here, because I think this whole business of additional assistance for state and local governments need[s] to be thoroughly evaluated.... There’s not going to be any desire on the Republican side to bail out state pensions by borrowing money from future generations.”

He went on to say: “Yeah, I would certainly be in favor of allowing states to use the bankruptcy route [which is not allowed by law at this point]. It saves some cities. And there’s no good reason for it not to be available.”

McConnell’s response is a case of textbook sophistry. The big elephant sitting in the middle of the room is the ongoing mega-trillion bailout of the bankrupt Wall Street and City of London banks which the Senate and House alike, Republicans and Democrats alike, have voted up with nary a whimper of protest.

There have been protests from various quarters about McConnell’s comments, but no one has dared talk about that elephant. For example, New York Gov. Mario Cuomo stated: “One of the really dumb ideas of all time just came from Sen. Mitch McConnell. His suggestion to let states go bankrupt makes no sense. He says he doesn’t want a Blue State Bailout. 15,000 people died ... this is not the time for politics.” Cuomo further stated that it was “vicious” for McConnell to suggest that “this is a blue state bailout.”

President Donald Trump jumped into the fray on April 27, also without mentioning the Wall Street elephant: “Why should the people and taxpayers of America be bailing out poorly run states (like Illinois, as example) and cities, in all cases Democrat run and managed, when most of the other states are not looking for bailout help? I am open to discussing anything, but just asking?”

## **Schiller Institute Conference: Mankind’s Existence Now Depends on the Establishment of a New Paradigm!**

Here are the four panels of the conference, the list of speakers and links to each panel:

<https://schillerinstitute.com/blog/2020/03/29/conference-mankinds-existence-now-depends-on-the-establishment-of-a-new-paradigm/>

### **Panel 1: “The Urgent Need to Replace Geopolitics with a New Paradigm in International Relations”**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_OCAxLIpAMY&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR39w1DGdoGeMrjx4n1\\_ya1pW1hquagj-](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_OCAxLIpAMY&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR39w1DGdoGeMrjx4n1_ya1pW1hquagj-)

[lvFP8\\_R9r55sIIHySsOV8T\\_kzI](#)

### **Speakers in Panel 1:**

Dennis Speed, moderator, Schiller Institute

Lyndon LaRouche (video clips)

Helga Zepp LaRouche, Founder and Chairwoman, Schiller Institute

Dmitry Polyanskiy, 1st Deputy Permanent Representative, The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

H.E. Ambassador Huang Ping, Consul General of the Peoples Republic of China in New York

Jacques Cheminade, Chairman, Solidarité et Progrès, former French Presidential Candidate

Michele Geraci, Economist from Italy, former Undersecretary to the Development Ministry in Rome

Bassam el-Hachem, Professor Social Science Institute, Lebanese University in Beirut.

Antonio “Butch” Valdes, founder, Philippine LaRouche Society, Democratic Party of the Philippines

### **Panel 2: “For a Better Understanding of How Our Universe Functions”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQlZ-2CcXiY&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR1E5LswtarQ0rrTy8Fqa12ukCwhh9lpI0ndTWd9e3RodJIq5YMQLBCNpMo>

### **Speakers in Panel 2:**

Jason Ross, Moderator, LaRouche Science Team

Megan Beets, LaRouche Science Team

Ben Denniston, LaRouche Science Team

Jean-Pierre Luminet, PhD, Astrophysicist; emeritus researcher at National Center of Scientific Research

Michel Tognini, Astronaut; Association of Space Explorers founding member alt Cunningham,  
Apollo Astronaut arie Korsaga,

PhD Astrophysicist, Burkina Faso en.

Joe Pennacchio, New Jersey State Senator, sponsor of Fusion Energy Resolution

Will Happer, PhD, Professor Emeritus of Physics, Princeton University

Guangxi Li, MD, PhD, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Beijing

### **Panel 3: ‘Creativity as the Distinctive Characteristic of Human Culture: The Need for a Classical Renaissance’**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cy0uh-BYs7s&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR15cfJRRrLu64w-xImgOAomMV\\_JbmsT8KNP1UrivvgVQixH7Qk149euFMI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cy0uh-BYs7s&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR15cfJRRrLu64w-xImgOAomMV_JbmsT8KNP1UrivvgVQixH7Qk149euFMI)

### **Speakers/Singers:**

Dennis Speed, moderator;

John Sigerson, tenor, Margaret Greenspan, piano (Beethoven, “An die ferne Geliebte,” Op. 98);  
 Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. (“I Have Insisted That Music Is Intelligible!”);  
 Helga Zepp-LaRouche, Founder and Chairman, Schiller Institute;  
 William Warfield, (“A Poetic Musical Offering”);  
 Eugene T. Simpson, Professor Emeritus of Voice and Choral Literature, Rowan University of New Jersey, Founding Curator of the Hall Johnson Collection (“Hall Johnson and the Dvořák Dream: From Spiritual to Art Song”);  
 Willis Patterson, bass-baritone, Professor Emeritus/Associate Dean of the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance (“The Presence of the Classical Principle in Folk Music”);  
 John Sigerson, Schiller Institute Music Director, co-author of A Manual on the Rudiments of Tuning and Registration (“The Physical Power of Classical Poetry and Music”);  
 Diane Sare, Founder and Co-Director, Schiller Institute NYC Chorus and Leah DeGruchy, Schiller Institute (“On the Employment of Chorus in Politics”);  
 Teng Jimeng, Professor of American Studies at Beijing Foreign Studies University;  
 Gregory Hopkins, Founder and Artistic Director, Harlem Opera Theater.

#### **Panel 4: ‘The Science of Physical Economy’**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVAUkB8zCqc&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR1-44qwhAlbDd3mnukoypl16fqrAzilyd4QFhqrIk-d8WTDuFsZlOnlijY>

#### **Speakers:**

*Dennis Speed*, moderator;  
*Dennis Small*, United States, Schiller Institute Director for Ibero-America (“LaRouche’s Legacy: Foundation of the Modern Science of Physical Economy”);  
*Sébastien Périmony*, France, Schiller Institute representative (“When Africa Looks to the Stars”);  
*Cédric Mbeng Mezui*, Gabon, author, financial sector expert, Think Tank FinanceAfrika (“Unlocking the Potential of Africa—Ideas by Alexander Hamilton”);  
*Phillip Tsokolibane*, Leader of LaRouche South Africa (“Make Africa an Economic Powerhouse to Benefit All Mankind”);  
*Ms. Yang Yan*, Political Counselor, Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Paris (“Franco-Chinese Cooperation in Africa”);  
*Bob Baker*, United States, Schiller Institute agriculture co-coordinator;  
*Joe Maxwell*, former Missouri Lt. Governor, co-founder of Family Farm Action Alliance;  
*Tyler Dupy*, CEO of the Kansas Cattlemen’s Association;  
*Frank Endres*, California, member of the National Farmers Organization for 63 years;  
*Bill Bullard*, Montana, CEO of R-CALF USA;  
*Jim Benham*, President, Indiana Farmers Union, and National Board member of the National Farmers Union;  
*Mike Callicrate*, Colorado, Independent Cattle Producer (“Feed the Future: Eating Is a Moral Right. A

Dialogue With American Farmers”);

*Prof. Mario Roberto Morales*, professor, writer, and recipient of Guatemala’s Miguel Ángel Asturias National Prize for Literature, 2007 (“The Productive vs. the Speculative Economy: A View from Central America”);

*Jack Lynch*, consultant, former Vice-President of First Midwest Bank of Illinois (“Reinstate Glass-Steagall”);

*Daisuke Kotegawa*, Research Director at Canon Institute, former Japan Ministry of Finance official, former Executive Director for Japan, International Monetary Fund (“Failure to Address Cause of 2008 Financial Collapse Caused Public Health Collapse”);

*Ellen Brown*, President, Public Banking Institute (U.S.A.) (“Productive Credit, Not Predatory Debt”).