

California Drought (and Flood) Update



For May 18, 2017

by Patrick Ruckert

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<http://www.californiadroughtupdate.org>

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

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*In the coming two days, I hope that by engaging in full exchanges of views, we will contribute to pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative, **a project of the century**, so that it will benefit people across the world.*

Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China

At the Opening Ceremony of The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

14 May 2017

A Note To Readers

President Xi is right, last weekend the Project of the Century, the Belt and Road Initiative, has made its mark on the center of the world stage. And it is that project which holds the key to breaking free of the trap that this state is presently in as we stumble along attempting to avoid more water management system disasters.

As world leaders from more than 100 nations, including the U.S.A., return to their home countries from the historic Belt and Road International Forum in Beijing, they are pronouncing far and wide that a new paradigm for world affairs has been established, both economically and culturally. In a very real sense, the title of the EIR Special Report from 2014 — [*The New Silk Road Becomes the World Land-Bridge*](#) — has become a reality.

Underway is the greatest infrastructure building project in human history, a project that meshes well with the stated policy of President Trump to rebuild America's decrepit and absolutely inadequate infrastructure. The President has now opened the door for potential Chinese investment in building that U.S. infrastructure.

President Trump's personal representative to the Beijing conference, National Security Council director for East Asia policy Matthew Pottinger, opened the door for U.S. participation in the Belt and Road Initiative. A short article on Mr. Pottinger's statements from Beijing can be found below, along with more extensive coverage of the conference.

Yet, and to state bluntly what must be on the mind of every thinking American, not only is such a tremendous potential in danger of being sabotaged by the ongoing attempted coup de tete against the U.S. President, but unless the American people rise up now to defeat that coup, they will have demonstrated a moral unfitness to call themselves citizens.

A couple of excerpts from the May 18, 2017 statement by LaRouche PAC summarizes the case:

“Nonetheless, anyone dependent for news on the U.S. press, or reports from the U.S. Congress, would know none of this. Rather, nearly the entirety of the 24-hour news cycle in the U.S. consists of hysterical rants about President Trump. If any of it were believed, one would think the President is a puppet of evil Russia and evil China, that he is guilty of treason for doing his job and doing what he promised in his campaign — ending the Bush and Obama "regime change" war policies, and restoring America's industrial infrastructure, and the jobs that go with it.

“Do not believe the lie that Trump is on the defensive, that his actions have undermined his credibility, as peddled ad nauseum in the media. The fact is, Trump is on the offensive, to end the British Imperial era of history. The British and their assets in the U.S. — the neocons in both parties and on Wall Street, and the corrupt elements in the intelligence community, especially the FBI — are absolutely hysterical that their geopolitical division of the world, and their ability to induce the U.S. population to passively accept austerity and war, is being destroyed by Trump's move to bring the U.S. into the New Silk Road, and to work with Russia to crush the terrorist scourge. His stated intention to restore Glass-Steagall simply drives the British assets further into panic mode.”

The full statement is here: <https://larouchepac.com/20170518/new-silk-road-spreading-world-wide-including-us-which-why-trump-under-attack>

This week's report

The weather is bland, the climate is changing (as usual), the Valley is sinking, lots of controversy continues around the Oroville Dam spillway, rationing ahead for the Colorado River, and more talk about the President's infrastructure plan. That just about sums it up.

Not quite, one more item. California, as we all know, has been for decades a pioneer leading the nation into the depths of degeneracy, stupidity, and downright suicidal ideas and policies. Though it was not the first state to do so, last year the voters passed a law to legalize marijuana. Last week I covered an article on how the marijuana growers in the northern part of the state have wrecked tremendous damage on the forests and streams.

Marijuana is money, in addition to being a statement by users that “my mind does not matter.” The last item in this week's report on how Napa's vineyards are about to be replaced by marijuana fields. Yes, it is all about money. The destruction of the nation's real physical economy is reaching for a new low.

A Weather Report

As we set to swelter in temperatures near 100, Tioga Road workers muscle through snow

By Jim Silva

Modesto Bee

May 17, 2017

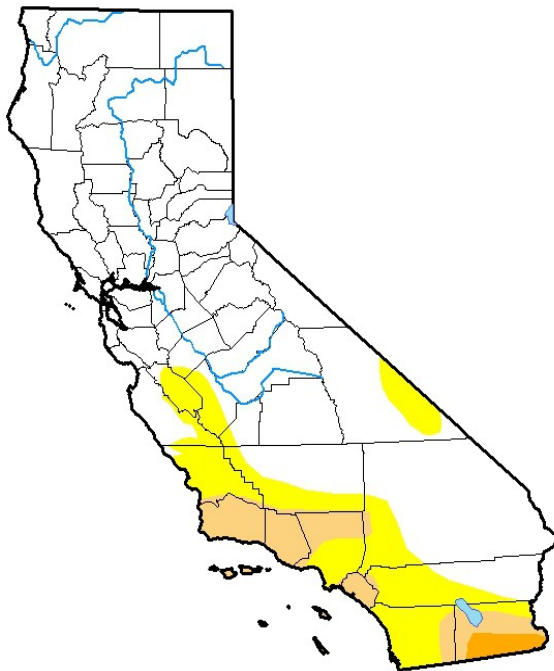
<http://www.modbee.com/news/weather/article150777987.html#storylink=cpy>

As the Northern San Joaquin Valley barrels toward a wave that will bring temperatures to near triple digits, workers near Yosemite are struggling with snow that's as high as a basketball hoop.

The [National Weather Service](#) predicts a high of 96 degrees on Sunday and 98 on Monday in the Modesto area. That's an increase of more than 25 degrees from the mild temperatures the region has seen early in the week.

U.S. Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor California



May 16, 2017

(Released Thursday, May 18, 2017)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	76.47	23.53	8.24	1.06	0.00	0.00
Last Week 05-09-2017	76.47	23.53	8.24	1.06	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 02-14-2017	43.94	56.06	24.19	7.41	0.73	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2017	18.07	81.93	67.61	54.02	38.17	18.31
Start of Water Year 09-27-2016	0.00	100.00	83.59	62.27	42.80	21.04
One Year Ago 05-17-2016	5.50	94.50	86.39	63.57	42.99	21.04

Intensity:

- 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. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

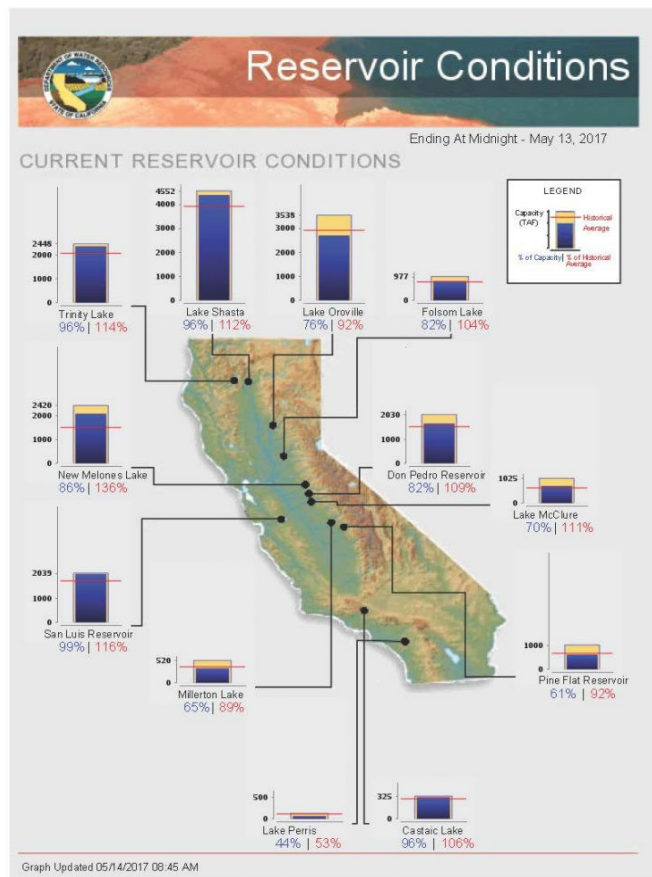
Author:

Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Reservoir Graph



Once Again: The Drought May Be Gone, But The Damage Will Not Away Soon, If Ever

Maybe you guessed it. Groundwater drawdown during the drought has been severe, and recovery, if ever, will take years. The following article from the *Sacramento Bee* is excerpted.

You could fill Shasta Lake 7 times with farm groundwater lost during state drought

By Ryan Sabalow and Phillip Reese

Sacramento Bee

May 17, 2017

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/water-and-drought/article151099812.html#storylink=cpy>

Central Valley farmers created a groundwater deficit large enough to fill an empty Shasta Lake seven times in order to keep their profitable orchards alive during California's epic five-year drought.

The massive scale of California's groundwater pumping is outlined in a study released Wednesday by researchers at UCLA and the University of Houston. The researchers conclude that California's

pending groundwater regulations remain woefully behind what is necessary to bring the state's groundwater levels back into balance.

"Pumping groundwater during a drought isn't an unreasonable strategy," said Dennis Lettenmaier, the UCLA professor of geography who led the study. "The problem is: Do you have a strategy to make it sustainable, which means putting it back in? As near as I can tell, the answer to that is 'no.'"

Farming groups say they had no choice but to drill and pump so much during the drought because state and federal regulators limited their surface water deliveries to protect endangered fish.

"There's no reason that we can't recover from the current amount of groundwater pumping or overdraft that's existing now," said Mike Wade, the executive director of the California Farm Water Coalition. "The answer is providing sufficient surface supply to meet those agricultural and urban water supply needs."

Much of the the past 17 years has been dry with only a few wet winters in between, so the wet winter California just experienced only goes so far to recharge the state's groundwater deficit, said Thomas Harter, a groundwater expert with the [UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences](#). Harter was not affiliated with the study.

"We're close to 10 years in the hole or maybe more," Harter said. "Just one winter is going to give us some back, but it's not going to give most of what we've lost in these droughts. We would need many more above average to wet winters to make up what we've lost."

Meanwhile, an increase in pumping has exacerbated a number of problems in the Central Valley. Huge swaths of the valley floor have sunk substantially through a process known as subsidence. In some areas, bridges and concrete canals have started to collapse. Researchers said overpumping also has raised costs for farmers as they burn electricity and spend tens of thousands of dollars on new pumps to pull water from deeper and deeper in the earth.

And here is an excerpted article on subsidence

Valley sinking due to groundwater depletion; threat to aqueduct remains

By Monica Woods

KXTV

May 11, 2017

With rivers, creeks, lakes and reservoirs full to overflowing, it's tempting for Californians to breathe a sigh of relief and stop worrying about water conservation. One season of heavy rainfall was enough to wash away the surface drought. The drought we're still in is for the water we can't see underneath the surface: groundwater.

Years of digging deep to draw water to the surface had left groundwater severely depleted, and the end result is subsidence -- or sinking of the ground.

Some parts of the Central Valley sank 28 feet between 1925 and 1977 because of excessive pumping, according to Dr. Joseph Poland, a pioneer in land subsidence. In earlier days, pumping was the only way for Central Valley farmers and residents to get water during the long stretches of drought to which California is prone.

By the late 1970s, the opening of the California Aqueduct began transporting the Sierra snowmelt downhill through a series of canals, tunnels and pipelines to Southern California and into the Central

Valley.

The Aqueduct is now threatened by the very problem it helped to alleviate. Damage from sinking, caused by subsidence, has compromised the water transport system, elevating Central Valley flood risks, according to Jeanine Jones with the Department of Water Resources.

Work to repair and bring the California Aqueduct to its original design capacity would cost hundreds of millions of dollars, not including repairs that have already been made.

Oroville Dam Update

The first two excerpted articles are simple reports from the dam, updating the state of repairs. It is the third article, “Will Trump reimburse California for Oroville Dam? It may come down to pre-existing conditions,” that made me smile. How in the hell did the debate on replacing Obamacare intrude upon the Oroville Dam disaster? Read it and find out.

The final two items in this section presents a conflicting set of ideas: Great and productive infrastructure vs. how to maintain it once it is built. That becomes a question when instead of continuing with an economy based on physical principles of development, instead we turn the economy to one that merely focuses on money. The article and some commentary on it make the issue clear.

OROVILLE DAM SPILLWAYS UPDATE

May 17, 2017

From the Department of Water Resources:

Transition from Incident Emergency Response to Incident Emergency Recovery

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) on Sunday completed transition from Incident Emergency Response to Incident Emergency Recovery at the damaged Lake Oroville spillways.

Emergency Recovery includes construction of the main spillway and the emergency spillway throughout the summer and fall. The main spillway will be operational by November 1 to accommodate flows from winter storms. Additional work will begin again in 2018 to complete reconstruction of both spillways.

Reconstruction Activities

Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. is expected to ramp up construction work on May 22. The complete recovery or replacement of the spillways will be done in multiple phases due to the enormity of the project and the time limitations of the construction season.

Work has already started on portions of work like road construction and slope stabilization in and around future work areas which needs to be completed regardless of spillway recovery design decisions.

Oroville Dam spillway shutting down for summer repairs

By Ryan Sabalow

Sacramento Bee

May 17, 2017

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/water-and-drought/article151153122.html#storylink=cpy>

Water will stop flowing from Oroville Dam's badly damaged spillway on Friday, in the hopes it's the last time it will be used before the next rainy season.

Even with a heavy snowpack waiting to melt in the mountains above Lake Oroville, state officials say they've drained the reservoir down to the point where they can manage its level through the dam's primary powerplant outlet. The lake was at 74 percent of its total capacity Wednesday.

Department of Water Resources officials say they have a contingency plan in place to use the spillway one more time in case their snowmelt runoff calculations are incorrect.

With no more water gushing down the spillway, contractors working for DWR will start working full-time to shore up the spillway before next winter.

The plan is to fill the giant crater that formed in the spillway with concrete and render it functional to handle storms by Nov. 1, the start of the traditional rainy season. DWR officials say work will continue after Nov. 1, but it will depend on winter rains and the need to use the spillway.

Will Trump reimburse California for Oroville Dam? It may come down to pre-existing conditions

By Ryan Sabalow

Sacramento Bee

May 11, 2017

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/water-and-drought/article150084782.html>

The amount of money Donald Trump's administration reimburses California for repairs to Oroville Dam could depend on whether the state properly maintained the dam's spillway prior to it crumbling this winter, a state water official told lawmakers Thursday.

"Was this deferred maintenance?" Bill Croyle, the acting director of the state Department of Water Resources, told members of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee. "Is there a maintenance issue here because they're not going to cover that. If it's an emergency response, they're going to cover."

'Lethal arrogance'? Oroville Dam crisis sprang from Pat Brown's towering ambition

By Ryan Sabalow, Dale Kasler and Christopher Cadelago

Sacramento Bee

May 14, 2017

<http://www.fresnobee.com/news/state/california/article150278687.html>

America's tallest dam was built from earth, stone and concrete – and the towering ambition of Gov. Pat Brown.

Sixty years before a crisis at Oroville Dam sent [*thousands fleeing for their lives*](#) in February, the late governor brought an almost evangelical zeal to erecting the structure that would hold back the Feather River to deliver water to the parched southern half of the state.

Hundreds of pages of state archives, oral history interviews and other documents reveal a portrait of a man hell-bent on building Oroville and the rest of the State Water Project. Determined to leave a personal legacy, Brown misled voters about the State Water Project's costs, ignored recommendations to delay Oroville's construction and brushed aside allegations that substandard building materials were being used at the dam. His administration steamrolled past a land-speculation scandal, relentless labor strife and the deaths of 34 workers to get Oroville built on time.

Oroville Dam was an extraordinary achievement. It remains [*America's highest dam*](#), rising 770 feet from its base and 922 feet above sea level. In 1964, when it was just half built, it prevented a monstrous flood. It came through an earthquake, measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale, in 1975 with "minor superficial damage," according to a state report. As the linchpin of the state's water delivery network, capable of holding 3.5 million acre-feet of water, Lake Oroville has played a critical role in California's meteoric economic and population growth since its completion in 1968.

Nothing The Sacramento Bee found in the historical records directly foreshadowed the spillway woes, and experts say the problems that plagued construction – the strikes, the land speculation, even the worker fatalities – were on par with big dam projects of that era.

Deconstructing Oroville

Families Protecting the Valley

May 15, 2017

<http://familiesprotectingthevalley.com/news.php?ax=v&n=5&id=10&nid=665>

Instead of owning up to the reality that maintenance of infrastructure has been neglected, the new spin is that it just shouldn't have been built in the first place.

May 15, 2017

Oroville Dam is one of the key elements of California's State Water Project. It is the tallest dam in the U.S. serving us with water supply, flood control and hydroelectricity. It has done its job for 60 years. But, was it all just a big mistake? The Sacramento Bee in the article below says then California Governor Pat Brown "misled voters about the State Water Project's costs, ignored recommendations to delay Oroville's construction and brushed aside allegations that substandard building materials were being used at the dam." They go on to say he brought an "almost evangelical zeal", was "hell-bent on building", had "engineering hubris", and it led to a "lethal arrogance".

Maybe he just wanted to build a dam.

It is our view that the former Governor, our current Governor's father, was a visionary. He could see the growing population of the state and the need to get water from the North to the South. The project has served the state well for all these decades. But now the problems at Oroville, which we believe are part of a lack of maintenance vision on the part of the current administration, not only with dams, but noticeably with roads and bridges, are being scapegoated. Instead of owning up to the reality that maintenance of infrastructure has been neglected, the new spin is that it just shouldn't have been built in the first place.

If there were problems with the design and construction of Oroville, the state has had 60 years to fix

them, but has done nothing. Now their story is that maybe it was all a misguided vision in the first place.

Maybe President Kennedy was also wrong when he came to the Valley in 1962 to dedicate the San Luis Dam. The Fresno Bee reported "Water projects don't just happen, Kennedy said prior to the groundbreaking. "They are made to happen." The president also praised the entire state for working together to make California more productive by building the water project. [That statement would be instructional for today's California, which is at odds over sharing water.](#)"

Remember, the Colorado River Is an Important Part of California's Water Supply

Reckoning Ahead for Arizona as Water Imbalance Grows on Colorado River

By Matt Weiser

May 18, 2017

<https://www.newsdeeply.com/water/articles/2017/05/18/reckoning-ahead-for-arizona-as-water-imbalance-grows-on-colorado-river>

A new report warns that Arizona could suffer the most pain if Lake Mead's shrinkage triggers a shortage declaration. The state has done a lot to prepare, but more drastic steps may be necessary.

In Arizona, water scarcity is like the background hum of conversation in a popular restaurant: unrelenting. But even in this desert state, the ever-present strain on water supplies could soon be felt more acutely.

As soon as 2019, the water level in Lake Mead on the Colorado River could drop below an elevation of 1,075 feet. That will trigger mandatory cutbacks in water diversions from the reservoir under an agreement negotiated between the federal government and three lower-basin states that rely on the river: Arizona, California and Nevada.

A drought in the watershed now stretching 17 years long is to blame, along with overallocation of the river's water supplies. Every year, the lower basin states have rights to extract 1.2 million acre-feet more water than the river actually produces. This is known as a "structural deficit" in the river's water supplies. It is this combination of factors that enlarges the ugly "bathtub ring" around Lake Mead as water levels shrink year after year.

Arizona water officials have been preparing for long-term shortage for decades. But for the state's 6.7 million residents, the threat has largely been an academic issue, if they've thought about it at all. They could be in for a rude wakeup call when shortage conditions begin.

"This sustained drought we've had, and chronic overuse of the river, have revealed pretty important shortcomings," said Drew Beckwith, water policy manager at Western Resource Advocates, a conservation group based in Boulder, Colorado.

Beckwith's group has released a report, "[Arizona's Water Future](#)," that explains the potential for cutbacks in the state's Colorado River supply and suggests measures to adapt.

Arizona will feel cutbacks the worst, because it has relatively low-priority water rights. It also relies on the river more heavily than the other states. It would lose 320,000 acre-feet of water under shortage conditions in 2019, or about 12 percent of its Colorado River supply.

Beckwith's report notes this could end farming in some parts of Central Arizona, halt new housing subdivisions and increase water rates for many Arizonans.

More cuts will come if Lake Mead shrinks below the additional trigger points of 1,050 and 1,025 feet.

The President's Infrastructure Policy

As both the introduction to this report and the feature section below highlight, underway now is the greatest infrastructure building program in human history. The President has promoted the idea of investing \$1 trillion over ten years in building and rebuilding America's infrastructure. As I have reported often, the President's intent cannot and will not succeed unless there is first a complete financial reorganization, with the first step being the restoration of the Glass-Steagall banking law.

While the President has indicated multiple times he favors that restoration, and there are bills in both houses of Congress to do so, the required action is not yet decisively moving. All should contact their member of Congress and give them a needed kick in the ass to move those bills now. This is the Achilles Heel of this Presidency, and it must move now.

The excerpted report shows once again that the administration is still not clear that the only way the necessary trillions (not just \$1 trillion) required can be mobilized is the second step following Glass-Steagall. That second step is the establishment of a Hamiltonian National Bank or National Infrastructure Bank.

Chao on infrastructure: Trump plan out in weeks

May 15, 11:29 AM EDT

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_TRUMP_INFRASTRUCTURE_PLAN?
SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_TRUMP_INFRASTRUCTURE_PLAN?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao said Monday that the Trump administration's infrastructure plan will be out in a few weeks and will call for \$200 billion in taxpayer money to generate \$1 trillion in private investment.

"These funds will be used to leverage \$1 trillion in infrastructure investment over 10 years," Chao told the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. She said the federal investment in rebuilding America's roads and bridges, as well as water, pipelines and other projects, will be offset by unspecified savings "in order to avoid saddling future generations with more debt."

A Once Great State Reduced to This

As I stated in the introduction above, the combined cultural degeneracy we have undergone over the

past 40-plus years, with the transformation of our economy from a science, infrastructure, industry and agricultural one into a Wall Street financial gambling casino, has led to what is reported in the following excerpted article:

Wine country looking more like cannabis country in California

By Angela Hart

Sacramento Bee

May 11, 2017

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article149815769.html>

California's legalization of recreational marijuana has led to the beginning of a major transformation of wine country. It's been just seven months, but already investors are snapping up property where wine was once produced. Vineyard operators are developing expertise in cannabis cultivation. New, specialty marijuana businesses are sprouting up in Sonoma and Mendocino counties.

The estate in the foothills of southern Mendocino County is being converted into a new cannabis processing and distribution campus, where its founders are also planning to host tourists for marijuana consumption and education – similar to tasting rooms at wineries.

Marijuana tourism could one day rival the region's multibillion-dollar wine tourism industry, and grapes could be replaced with marijuana plants, said state Sen. Mike McGuire, a Democrat from Healdsburg, whose sprawling North Coast district includes a large portion of Sonoma County and the famed weed capital of the U.S. known as the Emerald Triangle.

Value of grapes in wine country: \$55,000 to \$365,000 per acre. Value of California cannabis: \$1.1 million per acre.

State lawmakers are writing rules and regulations for marijuana growing, processing and sales. Cities and counties, meanwhile, are adopting ordinances tailoring local tax and licensing rules. Once finalized, new laws will give growers the legal framework to begin operating in the open.

Feature

The Belt and Road Initiative Forum in Beijing, May 14-15, 2017

Leaders from more than 100 nations, including the heads of state from 29 of them met in Beijing this past weekend to push even more rapidly forward the greatest infrastructure building project in human history. This is trillions of dollars already at work building high-speed rail, ports, roads, power generating plants and dams, and in general connecting with the most modern technology all the nations of the Eurasian continent, the Middle-east and Africa..

The United States was represented at the conference by President Trump's personal representative, National Security Council director for East Asia policy Matthew Pottinger.

What follows is first, a report on Matthew Pottinger's interview to a Chinese publication, and secondly, one of the two presentations given by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the President and founder of the Schiller Institute, and the wife of Lyndon LaRouche.

This report concludes with some links to the events of the conference.

'American Companies Should be Involved' in Belt and Road Projects, Says Trump Rep at Beijing Forum

May 16, 2017 (EIRNS) -- National Security Council director for East Asia policy Matthew Pottinger, attending the Beijing Belt and Road Forum for the White House, granted an interview to Chinese financial periodical *Caixin*, which published excerpts today.

Pottinger said about the forum: "You can really see there is a shared interest in expanding infrastructure connectivity through high-quality investment, financing. That's why American companies should really be involved in a lot of projects we are hearing [about]." He said there will be created a partnership between the U.S. Embassy in Beijing and U.S. companies, in an American Belt and Road Working Group, to serve as the "one node for collaboration in this area." Pottinger stated that there are leading U.S. companies in sectors ranging from engineering to construction materials, and, "We want to learn about specific projects and make sure there is open and transparent bidding so that American companies can be involved."

He added that the United States and China would not be signing any agreements in the B&R for the moment.

But in an article about the interview in *Global Times*, Pottinger is quoted saying that the United States has invited China to attend the *SelectUSA Investment Summit*, which will be held June 18-20 in the Washington, D.C., area. According to their website, the focus of the summit is investment opportunities in U.S state, regional, and local economic development. It includes exhibits of projects and technologies, and is an opportunity to explore foreign investment in American projects.

Helga Zepp-LaRouche speech at think tank forum at the Belt and Road Forum Conference

May 15, 2017

The Belt and Road becomes the World Land Bridge

There has been a breathtaking dynamic of the New Silk Road in the three and a half years since pronounced by President Xi Jinping in 2013. The Belt and Road Initiative has the obvious potential of quickly becoming a World Land Bridge, connecting all continents through infrastructure, such as tunnels, bridges, reinforced by the Maritime Silk Road. As such, it represents a new form of globalization, but not determined by the criteria of profit maximization for the financial sector, but for the harmonious development of all participating countries on the basis of Win-Win cooperation.

It is therefore important, that one does not look at the BRI from the standpoint of an accountant, who projects his statistical viewpoint of cost-benefit into the future, but that we think about it as a Vision for the Community of a Shared Future. Where do we want humanity as a whole to be in 10, 100, or even in a 1000 years? Is it not the natural destiny of mankind, as the only creative species known in the universe so far, that we will be building villages on the moon, develop a deeper understanding of the trillions of galaxies in our universe, solve the problem of till now incurable diseases, or solve the problem of energy and raw material security through the development of thermonuclear fusion power? By focusing on the common aims of humanity we will be able to overcome geopolitics and establish a higher level of reason for the benefit of all.

It is obvious, that the World Land Bridge is ideal for completing the development of the landlocked

areas of our planet. The colonialization of nearby space will be the obvious next phase of the infrastructural opening up of the natural habitat of man.

Looking at the world land map, the United States is not merely a country surrounded by two oceans and two neighbours, but can be a center part of an infrastructure corridor which connects the southern tip of Ibero America through Central and South America with the Eurasian transport system via a tunnel under the Bering Strait. Since President Xi Jinping made the offer to President Trump for the US to join the Belt and Road Initiative, there is now a practical proposal on the table, where the US can become an integral part of the World Land Bridge. The infrastructure requirements of the US, which are enormous, could be a perfect opportunity to convert all or part of the \$1.4 trillion China is holding in US Treasuries into such investments via an infrastructure bank. For example, the US really needs approximately 40 000 miles of fast train lines, if they would want to match the Chinese plan to connect every domestic larger city by fast train by the year 2020.

The US economy would experience a tremendous boost through such a grand scale infrastructure investment, and could in turn export into the fast growing Chinese market, and once competition is replaced by cooperation, the opportunities for joint ventures between the US and China in third countries are enormous.

Since President Trump has declared his intension to reintroduce the American System of Economy of Alexander Hamilton, Henry C. Clay and Abraham Lincoln, and also reintroduce the Glass Steagall legislation of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the possibility of an early establishment of a National Bank and a Credit System in order to channel Chinese holdings into infrastructure investments is near.

While more and more European nations, both outside and within the EU, are recognizing the tremendous potentials of the BRI and express the intension to become a hub for Eurasian cooperation, the EU itself has been reserved, to be diplomatic.

There is however one huge challenge, where the member states of the EU could be convinced to cooperate with the BRI: It is the refugee crisis. The only human way to heal this moral wound of Europe is the active integration of European nations in a Grand Design development plan for all of Africa with the BRI.

The positive new prospect of US-Russia de-escalation and military to military cooperation in Syria, along with the Astana process, now puts stabilisation of the entire region in sight. Offers by China to extend the New Silk Road to Southwest Asia already exist.

The New Silk Road must--as the ancients did--lead to an exchange of the most beautiful expressions of culture of all participating countries in order to succeed. The true meaning of Win-Win cooperation is not just the material benefit of infrastructure and industrial development, but of making the joyful discovery in other cultures of the beauty of their classical music, poetry and painting, and, by knowing them, strengthen our love for mankind as a whole.

In the building of the World Land Bridge all nations will cooperate on studying how to apply the laws of the Noosphere to the establishment of durable forms of self-government. The development of the creative mental powers of all people in all nations, will give all of mankind the sense of unity and purpose which will make our species truly human. When we organize our societies around scientific and artistic discovery, we will perfect our knowledge on how we can continuously advance the process of self-development of mankind, intellectually, morally and aesthetically, and we will find our freedom in necessity--doing our duty with passion!

Links to reports on and to the events of the Belt and Road Forum:

China's 'Project of the Century' Is Launched; What's Our Responsibility Now?

<https://larouchepac.com/20170514/chinas-project-century-launched-whats-our-responsibility-now#.WRkAL6aL6WZ.facebook>

Spotlight: World leaders chant Belt & Road chorus

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/14/c_136282837.htm

Full text of President Xi's speech at opening of Belt and Road forum

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/14/c_136282982.htm

Speech at the One Belt, One Road international forum

President of Russia Vladimir Putin

<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/54491>

Interview: Belt and Road Initiative to become "a true world land bridge"

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Belt and Road Forum---the opening of a new era

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