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Naïve question concerning high HIV / AIDS in Russia

On his trip this week to Eastern Europe, the Watchdog inquired as to why the governments do not endorse normal harm reduction measures in Russia and the Ukraine, such as Methadone and Buprenorphine substitute treatment programs to combat the devastatingly high rates of heroin

addiction, and syringe exchanges to prevent HIV/AIDS from the sharing dirty syringes.

The response: *“The government officials are in the drug business, so why would they want to reduce use?”* How very sad.

The world is shifting on its axis

From when **“China Rules the World”**, pgs. 369 and 373, by Martin Jacques

“Apart from its extraordinary longevity and bursts of efflorescent invention, the most striking feature of Chinese history is the fact that while Europe, following the fall of the Roman Empire, fragmented into many parts, and ultimately into many nations, China was already moving in exactly the opposite direction and starting to coalesce. It is this unity that has ensured the continuity of its civilization and also provided the size which remains so fundamental to China’s character and impact. Unity is one of the most fundamental propositions concerning Chinese history, if not the most fundamental.

“We can assume that Chinese hegemony will involve at least four fundamental geopolitical shifts: first, the Beijing will emerge as the global capital; second, that China will become the world’s leading power; third, that East Asia will become the world’s most important region; and fourth, that Asia will assume the role of the world’s most important continent, a process that will also be enhanced by the rise of India. These multiple changes will, figuratively at least, amount to a shift in the earth’s axis. The world has become accustomed to looking west, towards Europe and more recently the United States: that era is now coming to an end.”

And Friday morning first thing? Back to handing out newsletters to early shoppers at the Central Market. Hope to see you there.

PA Health care: Bye-bye, safety net

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS: Last week, more than 200 Pennsylvania organizations and individuals warned Gov.-elect Tom Corbett about a crisis that will hit within weeks after he takes office.

The bare-bones health-insurance program called adultBasic could run out of funding by the end of February – and 43,000 current participants would

lose their lifeline to medical care. Like thousands of other Pennsylvanians, they would have to wait until 2014, when the health-care-reform law will become fully operational. The impact of so many people being thrown off the rolls at once would be devastating, not only for those who would lose their safety net but for health-care providers and the general economy...

Should USA have open borders with its neighbors?

“When China Rules the World, The End of the Western World and the Birth of a New Global Order” focuses attention on 2050, the world of our children and grandchildren. With the rapid development of China, India and Brazil and their areas of hegemony, the world’s great economies will likely be in the following order: China, India and the United States, Europe, then Japan and Brazil.

With China in ascendancy and India its most likely rival, the USA standing by itself will be dwarfed in economic and military power due to its relatively small population and internal market, and subject to a world economy controlled largely by others.

Consider the following approximate current populations:

China: 1,342,000,000; India: 1,130,000,000;
Brazil: 190,000,000; Europe: 731,000,000

Japan: 127,000,000; USA: 311,000,000; Mexico:
111,000,000; Canada: 34,000,000

In order to counter the domestic market places and size of the economies of China and India, the USA might be much better served to have united with Canada and Mexico, thus bringing its population in 2010 numbers to 456,000,000. Furthermore, an open door population policy with our neighbor to the south and other Latino countries would halt the decline in domestic birth rate and enable population to grow in parallel with the other major powers of the world.

Another approach is to think of the Western World – Europe plus the USA, Mexico and Canada - as a single entity. 731,000,000 plus 456,000,000 comes to 1,187,000,000, a market and alliance that is roughly the size of China and India.

A major factor for consideration is the worldwide natural resources consumed by lifting several billions from poverty to a middle class standard. China is resource poor but has spent a decade in acquiring trading alliances and ownership rights to commodities throughout Africa, South America and elsewhere in recognition of its future needs. On the other hand, much of the USA’s resources have been depleted. It is Canada that is resource rich.

While the Chinese have shown amazing foresight and discipline in developing their nation since 1978, the United States has careened from folly to folly, squandering its wealth on a military industrial complex, an exorbitant health care system, and economically suppressing its middle class in favor of the top half of one percent of its population. In contrast to China, India, Brazil and others, U. S. slow growth seems destined for at least several years and perhaps for decades unless corrective actions are taken, which seem so unlikely due to ignorance and partisan politics.

With the future in mind, open borders or even a merger with our neighbors both north and south and a close economic alliance with Europe may be the single best thing we can do on behalf of future generations.

**The above have been excerpted from NewsLanc.com.
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