

# THE PHILADELPHIA **Trumpet**



FROM THE EDITOR **GERALD FLURRY**

## How the *Trumpet* Is Different

**H**OW DOES OUR NEWSMAGAZINE, THE *PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET*, differ from other magazines? If you can understand that difference, it could be the greatest discovery of your life!

Many are intrigued by recent advancements in space, particularly the James Webb Space Telescope. Our founder, Herbert W. Armstrong, was also interested in these kinds of advancements, because they put human beings face-to-face with a powerful question. In a Nov. 29, 1971, letter, he recalled watching one of the NASA moon landings. “That started a train of thought,” he wrote. “On the one hand I had to reflect on the question: How TREMENDOUSLY GREAT is the human mind? Not only can it devise and produce the means of flying to the moon and back—but also all the marvelous intricate mechanisms—such as the modern computer! Yet man has been unable to solve his own problems here on Earth! And today people are becoming more and more concerned over these problems and evils.

“People are bewildered!

“With such fantastic MIND-power ... with all the vast accumulation of KNOWLEDGE, man still has not brought world PEACE, happiness, universal abundant well-being.

“Science has not produced it—nor government, nor religion, nor education, nor sociology. As I wrote then, the crying need of this hour is a VOICE that can explain WHY—that can POINT THE WAY!”



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**The Greatest Nation on Earth?**

Today, the *Trumpet* magazine is that *voice!*

Our magazine focuses on the most important issues of this age. And we show you *why* these subjects are so critical to your life.

The world's number one problem is that of human survival. However, we show in many of our articles how humanity *is definitely* going to survive—but only after experiencing the worst suffering ever.

Our writers explain the profound *meaning* behind world news. The *Trumpet* shows you where world events are headed. Then we describe the inspiring outcome.

That means there is a *vast difference* between our magazine and those you see on the newsstands.

Here is another excerpt from Mr. Armstrong's letter: "For every effect there has to be a CAUSE! Human civilization seems always to be ignoring the CAUSE and trying to eradicate the EFFECT. World War I was at the time called the war to END all wars. But wars do not abolish more wars.

"WORLD PEACE can come only by knowing the CAUSE of peace, and applying it!

"By the thousands, readers of the *Plain Truth* are beginning to understand some of the BASICS of right KNOWLEDGE—the CAUSES of peace, happiness, abundant well-being. They are learning THE WAY that MAKES SENSE—that WORKS in their own lives. Lives are being turned right-side up. Lives are being enriched. They are finding the TRUE VALUES, discarding the false. They are learning HOW TO LIVE. They

are doing better financially, learning how better to handle finances. They are finding the way to happiness!

"In the world today it seems almost no one is helping people to live better lives." The *Trumpet* magazine is a notable exception.

Here is the conclusion to Mr. Armstrong's letter: "Our readers are unique among magazine readers! Their minds are on things that really count! The things that make life a JOY! They come to have UNDERSTANDING of world conditions—and their causes. Of world trends—not in a narrow or partisan political sense, but altogether ABOVE politics. And they come to face the future with CONFIDENCE. We are in a worldwide work of GIVING—with nothing to sell—but GIVING of the knowledge and the principles that make for better and happier living. And this activity is financed solely by those who, voluntarily and unsolicited, have become contributors—co-workers with us in freewill offerings—giving that we may GIVE."

After Mr. Armstrong died, the powerful *Plain Truth* (it had reached a circulation of 8 million) became like other magazines—only much worse than most. And today that magazine is dead.

However, the *Trumpet* is continuing in the tradition of the *Plain Truth* published by Herbert W. Armstrong.

If you are not yet a subscriber, please call the telephone number on the back cover for your free subscription. ■

# Rising From the German Underground

The dream of German dominance did not die with Hitler. The German business empire was planning a Nazi comeback when it saw that World War II was lost. It's all documented for anybody to see!

**BY GERALD FLURRY**

**A**NGELA MERKEL RETIRED AS CHANCELLOR of Germany in December. Just before finishing her 16 years in power, she made some statements that ought to shake the nations! But most people don't understand German history, and these statements mean almost nothing to them.

Donald Tusk, former president of the European Council and former prime minister of Poland, said he had a private conversation with Merkel about the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. Much of Europe and the United States (especially under Donald Trump) have criticized this project, which benefits Russia and Germany but endangers Eastern Europe and could lead to a major war. Tusk called Merkel's public support of the pipeline her "biggest mistake." But the most revealing thing he said was that *she privately admitted to him* that SHE WAS "HELPLESS" TO DO OTHERWISE BECAUSE OF PRESSURE FROM GERMAN BUSINESSES.

"Ms. Merkel has consistently defended the controversial gas pipeline in the face of intense opposition from the U.S. and Germany's EU allies," the *Telegraph* reported. "But Mr. Tusk claimed she had told him privately that SHE HAD NO CHOICE BECAUSE OF THE PRESSURE SHE WAS UNDER FROM GERMAN BUSINESS LEADERS" (Nov. 29, 2021; emphasis mine throughout).

On this issue, German business leaders had enough power to overrule the chancellor! The people may vote for one thing, but *if business leaders want something else, they win.*

What does this mean, and why is it so important? If you know German history

and Bible prophecy, few statements from a German leader could be more revealing—and frightening!

## Plans Laid in Defeat

In any wealthy country, big business has a lot of power. Just look at the role Facebook and social media have in America's news coverage and even the U.S. election. A key reason America doesn't do more to stand up to China is because so many American businessmen are getting rich through deals with China.

When big business has this level of influence, it is concerning, no matter which country it's in. But in Germany, there is an additional, critical cause for concern.

Toward the end of World War II, in August 1944, representatives of massive German companies like Krupp, Messerschmitt, Volkswagenwerk and Rheinmetall met with senior Nazis at the so-called Red House meeting. A U.S. intelligence document, declassified in 1996, says that these business leaders were told they must "prepare themselves to finance the Nazi Party, which would be forced to go underground ..."

By 1944, these leaders knew they would lose World War II. So they were *already planning for the next round!* This document says, "Existing financial reserves in foreign countries must be placed at the disposal of the party so that a strong GERMAN EMPIRE can be created after the defeat."

Those at that meeting understood that the most prominent members of the Nazi Party

would be condemned as war criminals. “However,” the document maintains, “in cooperation with the industrialists, it is arranging to place its less conspicuous but most important members in positions with various German factories as technical experts or members of its research and designing offices.”

As stunning as this revelation was, the media didn’t report much on it, so people eventually forgot. The *Trumpet* reported extensively on it, and we have not forgotten! You can read this entire declassified document, and learn how the first shot of World War III has already been fired, by requesting a free copy of my booklet *Germany’s Conquest of the Balkans*.

In that booklet, I wrote, “How alarming! Why was so little written about this in 1996? Why did it take so long for it to be declassified? America and Britain have fallen asleep—our people don’t understand what is happening behind the scenes! That is why we feel compelled to return to these issues again and again. Hardly anyone else will!

“Historians have long debated whether or not a secret Nazi plan was made for a postwar, international network. Now that it has been confirmed, as Elan Steinberg of the World Jewish Congress said, ‘the central question is whether it has been carried out.’

“The obvious answer is, it has!”

This deliberate plan to safeguard the long-term well-being of the German empire and prepare for its future resurrection is explosive truth. And it is proved by other evidence from that time period.

IN 1944, GERMAN GEN. CARL-HEINRICH VON STÜLPNAGEL SAID THE GERMAN WAR MACHINE WOULD RISE AGAIN AND THAT AMERICA WAS ITS TOP TARGET. “One day we shall come back,” he said on Nazi radio, Sept. 1, 1944. “Until then, *à bientôt*,” meaning, “Goodbye for now.”

Senior German leaders knew the war was lost and made plans to escape so they could help Germany rise again. Plans had already been laid for senior Nazis to flee to Latin America. Many junior operatives would simply fade into the background. There are now mounds of concrete, indisputable evidence that German business leaders, intelligence

operatives, soldiers, politicians and civil servants all went underground after World War II.

## A Warning Unheeded

In *Germany’s Conquest of the Balkans*, I cite proof from Brian Connell’s 1957 book *A Watcher on the Rhine* of the Nazis carrying out their postwar plan. As he wrote, in 1947, just two years after the war, Allied authorities foolishly turned the job of denazification to the Germans! What a farce!

In the state of Bavaria, for example, Connell wrote, “The Bavarian administration is largely in the hands of those who controlled it under Hitler .... Almost all of the 1,000 teachers who were removed for political reasons have been reappointed, representing roughly 60 percent of the teaching staff employed by the Ministry of Education. Sixty percent of the 15,000 employees in the Finance Ministry are former Nazis, and 81 percent of the 924 judges, magistrates and prosecutors in the Ministry of Justice.”

Although the Allies tried to install new teachers in German education, “many of the former Nazi teachers have found their way back,” Connell wrote. On top of that, “In western Germany, the newly prosperous Ruhr industrialists, the still impenitent core of former Nazis ... represent a challenge to the democratic order.”

Given this shameful history, should it surprise us that right-wing extremism is still popular in Germany today—even in high political and military circles?

My booklet also cites another important report that received little press. It was given by Herbert W. Armstrong on May 9, 1945, just nine months after the secret meeting between German industrialists. In it, Mr. Armstrong said, “The war is over, in Europe—or is it?”

“We don’t understand German *thoroughness*,” he said. “From the very start of World War II, they have considered the possibility of losing this second round, as they did the first—and they have carefully, methodically *planned*, in such eventuality, the *third* round—World War III! Hitler has lost. This round of war, in Europe, is over. And the Nazis have now gone UNDERGROUND.”

As I wrote in that booklet, many scoffed at Mr. Armstrong's warning message in 1945. Yet look at how closely his report mirrors what was said in the secret document that was not made public until 50 years later! *Only God's messenger* COULD HAVE GIVEN SUCH A PROPHETIC MESSAGE OVER 60 YEARS AGO!

## **A Business-Driven Empire**

For centuries, German industry and the German empire have worked hand in glove. The contributions Germany's trade and industry have made to German power are so critical that when the Second Reich was established in 1871, the flag of the new German empire paid tribute to it. This flag—still seen at far-right rallies today—combined the flag of the German state of Prussia with that of the Hanseatic League, a trading network centered on Germany that began in 1241 and held its last meeting in 1669. This network of trading cities spread German influence and power deep into Russian territory, throughout the Baltic, into Scandinavia and even across the North Sea. It even went to war with its enemies to secure its interests.

The idea that the German empire and German business prosperity go hand in glove became deeply rooted in the German people. It found its most public expression in 1891, when leading German industrialists founded the Pan-German League. Its slogan was “Deutschland über alles”—“Germany over all.” And as the 1965 edition of the *Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course* states, “They utilized the trademark ‘Made in Germany’ as proof of German superiority. Behind their commercial and business methods was a central, PERMANENT strategy—with the GOAL OF CONQUERING THE WORLD! It was they who were largely responsible for inducing the kaiser to enter World War I.”

The success of German business became “a powerful source of national pride that inspired a patriotic unity in many Germans,” writes Katja Hoyer in her book *Blood and Iron: The Rise and Fall of the German Empire*. Germany developed “a powerful economic backbone that drove the clamor for expansion.” These

businessmen believed they could help Germany dominate the world, and that this domination would bring them great profit. Even more, the league believed that Germans were a “superior race” and wanted to stop them from mixing with inferior people, especially Jews.

Germany lost World War I, but these beliefs were not defeated. These business leaders went on to back and finance the Nazi Party.

Some business leaders backed Adolf Hitler very early. One of Germany's richest men, Ernst Borsig, met Hitler in 1921 and began fundraising for him. Gen. Erich Ludendorff was a member of the Nazi Party who backed Hitler. Industrialist Fritz Thyssen met Hitler in 1923 and also began supporting him.

The support for Hitler was effectively a continuation of the policies of the Pan-German League. Emil Kirdorf, the “Chimney Baron” whose company operated Europe's largest coal-mining operation, was an early member of the Pan-German League who went on to support Hitler. He joined the Nazi Party in 1927 and invited Hitler to give a lecture to other industry leaders at his house. He introduced Hitler to other senior business leaders, and he bailed Hitler out when he ran into personal financial trouble.

In the critical 1932 election, Lufthansa lent Hitler an airplane free of charge, enabling the aspiring politician to travel far more easily than any other candidate.

Support for Hitler's ambitions went far beyond those executives who formally joined the Nazi Party. University of Edinburgh historian Stephan Malinowski said, “There's a gray zone between Nazi and non-Nazi, and if you look at the conservative elites, you will find that around 90 percent of them share close to all the negative aims of the Nazis. What the Nazis shared most with the power elites—be they military, industry, land owners, judges, university professors—is a language of fear, of hatred, of disdain for democracy, for the republic, Communists, Jews, trade unions, modern art” (Sept. 9, 2019).

By late 1932, though the Nazi Party was close to power, it was also close to bankruptcy. Joseph Goebbels worried that “the entire party



may collapse.” In Berlin, “the financial situation ... is hopeless,” he wrote. But Hermann Göring invited 25 top German industrialists to a secret meeting in Berlin on Feb. 20, 1933, where Adolf Hitler encouraged them to support the party. Robert Jackson, America’s top prosecutor at Nuremberg, wrote, “[T]he industrialists ... became so enthusiastic that they set about to raise 3 million Reichsmarks [worth about \$30 million today] to strengthen and confirm the Nazi Party in power.”

At first, their investment seemed a spectacular success. The industrialists received windfall after windfall as the new Nazi government spent huge amounts of money on rearmament, flooded the Reich with newly conquered wealth, and gave these businessmen access to slave labor to work in their factories. Businesses and other assets were stripped from Jews and handed to Hitler’s industrial backers.

“It is often forgotten that the army, industry, universities and engineering were not necessarily directed and run by ‘Nazis,’” said Malinowski. “They were run by power elites. There was a power compromise between industrialists, landowners, civil servants, academics, judges and the Third Reich, and for a long time it seemed to be going very well” (op cit).

These industrialists knew that if they lost the war, they could just blame Hitler—and remain free to prepare for a third round.

In their 1945 book *The Plot Against the Peace: A Warning to the Nation!*, journalists Michael Sayers and Albert E. Kahn warned: “During the past 40 years Germany has had three entirely different political regimes. Until 1918, Germany was a monarchy under Kaiser Wilhelm II. Until 1933, Germany was a republic under Social Democratic ministers. From 1933 on, Germany was a fascist dictatorship under Adolf Hitler. Yet under each regime, *the same men ruled in Germany*. Behind each political facade, the reins of power were held by a small group of not more than a few thousand military leaders, industrialists, Junkers and scientific experts who constitute the German General Staff. This General Staff is the real permanent government of Germany, not only controlling Germany’s military affairs, but

also German economy, technology, schools, universities and politics.”

This is why Ms. Merkel’s disclosure should shake the world: **THE REAL POWER IN GERMANY LIES WITH THE SAME PEOPLE WHO PUSHED GERMANY TO WORLD WAR TWICE BEFORE!**

## **An Economic Miracle**

You can prove through history that Germany has repeatedly demonstrated a deep-seated desire to conquer the world.

After the war, the stained legacy of the Nazis meant that for a time Germany could not publicly glory in its army or its military conquests. But German business bounced back quickly—and once again, business success became a source of national pride. By the 1950s Germans were reveling in the *Wirtschaftswunder*—the economic miracle—their country had produced after World War II. During that decade, Germany’s economy grew 8 percent a year, faster than anywhere else in Europe. By the early 1960s Germany was once again the largest, most dominant economy in Europe. Though they could no longer be proud of their army, Germans could celebrate the achievements of Volkswagen, Siemens, Krupp and BASF.

Today, Germany is the world’s third-largest exporter, competing with the U.S. and China. The economic power built by German business has made it the dominant power in Europe. And because businessmen pay the bills, they also call the shots.

Businesses have helped bind Eastern Europe’s economies tightly to Germany. Roughly 15 percent of German machinery exports are sold in Eastern Europe, and German automaker Volkswagen is the biggest employer in Slovakia. German industrial giants like Audi, Bosch and Siemens have far-reaching business ties in Hungary, and 2 million Poles are actually learning to speak German to make business transactions easier. These countries cannot undermine or diverge significantly from German business interests or they will do great damage to themselves.

Right now Germany is an economic power. It has a smaller but growing military power.

German leaders know their global clout rests on the shoulders of their businessmen. This gives those businessmen tremendous influence. And just as in the lead-up to World War I, it is German industry that is making the case for Germany's expanded global role.

In 2010, German President Horst Köhler said publicly that the reason Germany was fighting in Afghanistan was to “protect our interests, for example, free-trade routes, or to prevent regional instability, which might certainly have a negative effect on our trade, jobs and income.” It was a jarring contrast to how Western leaders try to frame all military activity in entirely altruistic terms, talking about things like freedom and democracy. In fact, Köhler was forced to resign for these comments! Since then, however, these sentiments have become common in Germany.

But this history is not the only reason to take Ms. Merkel's statement about having to cave to German business seriously.

## **A Rising Beast**

The book of Revelation has this important prophecy about an end-time European power: “The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is” (Revelation 17:8). “Bottomless pit” is not the best translation here. It is referring to a pit that goes on and on, as if no one can ever deal with the problem in that pit.

This is referring to Germany, which will form the heart of a coming European super-state. After World War II, the elites who had caused that war went underground. Their underground activity continues *to this day*. This prophecy describes this German-led power as a *beast* that “was, and is not, AND YET IS.” It *appears* to be gone—but it is just underground!

Verse 10 continues: “And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.” This prophecy

is specifically dated to the time of the *sixth* of seven resurrections of this European empire. As we prove in our book *The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy* (request a free copy), that sixth resurrection was Hitler's Third Reich. This prophecy dates to that time because God's servant Herbert W. Armstrong was on the scene declaring this prophecy at the time of Adolf Hitler—the “one [who] is.” Now, a seventh is coming—the one that “is NOT YET COME.”

Here is how this prophecy describes this coming European power: “And the ten horns which thou sawest are TEN KINGS [10 European leaders], which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings *one hour with the beast*. These have one mind, and SHALL GIVE THEIR POWER AND STRENGTH UNTO THE BEAST” (verses 12-13). We can expect 10 strong leaders to arise in Europe—surely some of them are already in power—and come together to strengthen a European super-power *led by Germany*.

The next chapter reveals that businessmen and industrialists, referred to in prophecy as “the merchants of the earth,” will throw their weight behind this political-religious power. And once again, their investment will appear to pay off in a spectacular way. Revelation 18:3 foretells that these merchants “are WAXED RICH” thanks to this new Babylonish empire. Verses 12-13 chillingly list many commodities that will be sold throughout this kingdom. Just as in World War II, much of this business empire will be built on the back of “slaves, and souls of men.”

Is it absurd to think of German businesses profiting again from slave labor?

Siemens's own website notes that during World War II, the company's “activities ... included the use of forced labor.” Yet the company leaders say they've learned from their history and changed. “Siemens has taken a clear position on this matter—repeatedly, responsibly and clearly,” its website states. Yet *right now*, Siemens is lobbying hard to be allowed to continue using products made by Chinese slaves in the Xinjiang province. Shamefully, many American companies also work with slave labor in Xinjiang. But has Siemens really

learned its lesson? Can you be sure it would never repeat its World War II history?

Ezekiel 27 gives an even more detailed prophecy of merchants, or businessmen, exploiting wealth from around the globe. Tyre is symbolism for modern-day Germany. The next chapter states that “by your wisdom and your understanding you have gotten wealth for yourself, and have gathered gold and silver into your treasuries; by your great wisdom in trade you have increased your wealth ...” (Ezekiel 28:4-5; Revised Standard Version). The Bible continually emphasizes the connection between this empire and business.

Revelation 17:17 describes the merchants who will enrich themselves off this beast power: “For God hath put in their hearts to *fulfil his will*, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.” Note that! God says that this business-fueled German-led empire will *fulfill His will*. Other prophecies show that it will wreak unspeakable destruction on America and Britain and other English-speaking nations. How could such atrocities possibly be the will of God?

The Bible explains that the reason for this is that God will actually use this terrifying beast to *correct* the modern-day nations of Israel for their grievous sins. In Isaiah 10:5, God calls this power “the rod of mine anger”! He is going to use this power to punish and **CORRECT** His people.

After that, however, God will correct **THIS EMPIRE**. He also wants to reach those people and give them the opportunity to get to know Him!

Ezekiel 28 makes clear that this is a *modern prophecy* by telling us what comes next: **GOD HIMSELF PROMISES TO INTERVENE TO BRING THIS POWER DOWN!** He will then bring about a time of great peace. God says He will gather

the modern nations of Israel—those the Holy Roman Empire has persecuted and enslaved—in their own land. “And they shall dwell securely in it, and they shall build houses and plant vineyards. They shall dwell securely, when I execute judgments upon all their neighbors who have treated them with contempt. Then they will know that I am the Lord their God” (verse 26; RSV). But more than that, God says He will “manifest my holiness in them in the sight of the nations” (verse 25; RSV). God will use Israel to teach all the world, including Germany, about Him and His holiness.

Once all the wars have ended and Jesus Christ has established His government on Earth, the whole world *will* finally listen to God. The conclusion of the prophecy in Ezekiel 27 and 28 paints a beautiful picture of a world where the evil spirit being that has repeatedly motivated this Holy Roman Empire has been put away.

Revelation 17:14 also describes this inspiring outcome: “These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.”

Yes, Jesus Christ Himself will prevail over this European empire. But right now, it is rapidly rising to frightening political-economic-military superpower status! “They that are with him”—God’s faithful people—are today proclaiming His warning message to the world: The Holy Roman Empire is rising one final time!

Germany is about to repeat its dark history. In fact, the Bible tells us it will be much worse than what happened during World War II! (Matthew 24:21-22). But it is leading to the permanent end of this power and to the establishment of the wonderful World Tomorrow! ■



# TROUBLING HISTORY: VOLKSWAGEN

**V**OLKSWAGEN (VW) WAS FOUNDED BY THE Nazis on May 28, 1937, as part of Adolf Hitler's vision to enable every German family to own their own car. Originally operated by the German Labor Front, Volkswagen exploited more than 15,000 slave laborers from nearby concentration camps. In 1944, one VW plant engineer traveled to Auschwitz to select 300 skilled Jewish metalworkers to make military vehicles for the reich.

As World War II was ending, Volkswagen sent two representatives—Drs. Ellenmayer and Kardos—to meet S.S. Obergruppenfuhrer Dr. Scheid and other Nazi industrialists to plan for Germany's economic recovery after Hitler's ultimate defeat. Allied spies found out about this plan to rebuild the Nazi empire, yet American policymakers still decided to make Volkswagen the focus of their effort to resuscitate the German auto industry.

VW remains a mammoth company to this day, and it retains considerable clout with the German government.

In 2017, the U.S. accused German carmakers Volkswagen, Daimler AG, BMW, Audi and Porsche of pursuing a coordinated strategy of misrepresenting emission results to make diesel cars more competitive at home and abroad. They violated the U.S. antitrust law. Within the European Union, several of these companies were accused of working together as a cartel.

*Der Spiegel* reported that starting in 2006, Daimler, BMW, Audi and VW held secret meetings to agree on a common strategy to deceive U.S. government environmental agencies. A lot of evidence indicated that these companies, the chief of which was Volkswagen, cheated (at the cost of emitting more carbon dioxide) to gain a competitive advantage.

The German government talks endlessly about the need to protect the environment. Nevertheless, these companies escaped with light punishment. Germany's automotive industry, by far the biggest in Europe, supports 800,000 German jobs and accounts for 5 percent of the nation's overall economic output.

Initially, 5 million diesel cars would have been banned from the streets for failing to meet the carbon dioxide target. Instead the carmakers and the government agreed that a software update would suffice. *Spiegel Online* pointed out that this solution is "the most inexpensive for the carmakers and the worst for human lungs."

The German government let VW off with light punishments. In the U.S., Volkswagen sold 580,000 affected vehicles and was forced to pay \$25 billion in fines, penalties and other damages. In Europe, it sold 8 million vehicles, yet Germany fined it only \$1.1 billion.

**JOSUÉ MICHELS**

# TROUBLING HISTORY: IG FARBEN

**T**ODAY, WINTERSHALL IS ONE OF THE leading companies pushing Germany closer to Russia and backing the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

Not long ago, Wintershall's parent company, BASF, was part of the conglomerate IG Farben. And IG Farben, according to German magazine *Handelsblatt*, was "The Company That Enabled Hitler's World War."

"IG Farben played so important a role in Hitler's war machine and in the Holocaust that it came to be called 'the devil's chemist,'" the *New York Times* noted in 1999. "It manufactured Zyklon B, the gas-chamber poison, among many other products, and its factories exploited more than 35,000 slave laborers, many from Auschwitz. It even built a concentration camp of its own to improve efficiency."

Executives from IG Farben, along with those from Krupp, played a key role in persuading German businesses to bail out the Nazis in 1933. United States Gen. Telford Taylor said that the directors of IG Farben have "major responsibility for visiting upon mankind the most searing and catastrophic war in human history."

After defeating Germany in the worst war in human history, Allied forces divided IG Farben into four separate companies: Bayer, BASF, Hoechst and Cassella. "Germany is still haunted by many ghosts from the dark years of Nazi rule," the *New York Times* wrote, "but few are as enduring or as strange as the specter of IG Farben."

Today, IG Farben's successor companies are far more powerful than IG Farben ever was.

**JOSUÉ MICHELS**

# Russia and Germany: Partners in Crime

History and Bible prophecy warn of what to expect when these two nations embrace.

**BY RICHARD PALMER AND JOSUÉ MICHELS**

**G**ERMANY AND RUSSIA ARE RENEWING AN alliance that is shaking the world. These two countries' newest joint project, the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, seems like a mere business deal. It is not. In fact, analysts and officials have informally labeled it the "Molotov-Ribbentrop pipeline," after the pact between Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin that facilitated World War II.

Completed but not yet operational, Nord Stream 2 will transport natural gas directly from Russia to Germany through the Baltic Sea, bypassing Poland and Ukraine. It will

enable Russia to blackmail Central and East European countries by cutting off their gas supply while continuing to sell gas to more lucrative West European clients, increasing Russia's economic and political power over nations it lost when the Soviet Union collapsed.

When Nord Stream 2 comes online, it will allow Russia to dominate Eastern Europe, and Germany to dominate the rest of Europe, even more than they already do.

Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel indicated that she does not support the pipeline, but that she was powerless to stop

it (article, page 2). This raises the question, who really is pushing Germany into this new alliance? And why?

The pipeline's main financier is Gazprom, which is controlled by the Russian government and, significantly, employs former German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder as Nord Stream's chairman. The next two largest financiers are Wintershall Dea and E.ON, which have together contributed more than 30 percent of its funding. The former is part of the German company BASF, the largest chemical company in the world. E.ON is a European electric utility company, also based in Germany.

**Gerhard Schröder:** Schröder was voted out of office in 2005, but before he handed over power to the new government, he hastily signed an agreement to create the original Nord Stream pipeline from Russia to Germany.

"That is an ugly thing for a politician to do," *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in 2018. "He knew the people had already voted him out, yet he decided to set this project in motion. This indicates what is happening with this German-led European power: It is being hijacked by leaders who don't always act in their people's interests!" (*Trumpet*, September 2018).

Remarkably, the politicians who have succeeded Schröder over the past 17 years have continued to support the project.

**Wintershall:** This is Germany's largest oil and gas producer. Its parent company, BASF, also relies heavily on natural gas supplies from Russia to maintain its dominance as the world's largest chemical producer. With an annual revenue of about \$67 billion and 122,000 workers worldwide, about half of whom are in Germany, BASF wields strong influence over German politicians.

Wintershall has been working with Russia's Gazprom for decades and has stakes in two large natural gas fields in western Siberia that connect to the original Nord Stream pipeline. Wintershall CEO Mario Mehren said in 2018, "Russia is the most important region for Wintershall! And Russia will *remain* the most important region for Wintershall" (emphasis added). That is a telling statement. Apparently

Russia is a more important partner to these German business leaders than the United States or the rest of the European Union.

**OMV:** Austrian energy company OMV, a third of which is owned by the Austrian government, has a 10 percent stake in Nord Stream 2. Its CEO, Rainer Seele, was previously the CEO of Wintershall, and he has led both companies in close cooperation with Russia. Seele is also the president of the German-Russian Chamber of Commerce Abroad, which has a membership of 50,000 and is supported by Germany's Economics Ministry. He is surely using all the pressure of this powerful lobby group to launch the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

But businesses working directly on Nord Stream 2 aren't the only ones pushing Germany and Russia closer together.

## A Deep Relationship

About 4,000 German businesses have a presence in Russia, and they collectively invest nearly \$4.5 billion annually. "No other European country comes close to the German presence" in Russia, wrote the *Economist* last year. "Most of these companies have no intention of leaving. On the contrary, more may be piling in" (March 27, 2021).

An Ernst & Young study found that German businesses had started more than 400 projects in Russia over the last 20 years, more than any other European country. The Leibniz Center for European Economic Research noted that German family-owned businesses listed Russia as the emerging market they trusted most.

German supermarkets Metro and Globus each employ over 10,000 people in Russia. German manufacturers of staples, gypsum, precision-measuring equipment, pharmaceuticals, farming equipment, water pumps and heating systems have all set up shop in Russia.

The Center for Strategic and International Studies reported, "Many of Germany's largest companies also have extensive business ties to Russia. ... The influence of big business within Merkel's center-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU) has limited the center-right's appetite ... for a confrontational approach to Moscow even though the chancellor herself is

comparatively hawkish.” These businesses are substantially influencing Germany’s foreign policy toward its eastern neighbor.

Russia’s invasion of Crimea in February 2014 demonstrated how this political pressure works.

### **Going to Bat for Russia**

After Russia forcibly annexed Crimea, it proceeded to invade eastern Ukraine. The world was outraged. Many liberals were shocked, having believed that this kind of naked aggression was a thing of the past. Politicians from Germany, Europe and the United States planned economic sanctions to punish Russia.

But then German businesses leaped into action to thwart the sanctions. It started in March of that year, at the height of the crisis, when Siemens CEO Joe Kaeser visited Russian President Vladimir Putin. This was no small gesture. Eighty percent of Russian power stations use advanced turbines manufactured by Siemens. This German company has been instrumental in upgrading Russia’s transport infrastructure. BNE IntelliNews, a site focused on business news in emerging markets, wrote: “Siemens probably has one of the best and closest relations to the Kremlin of any foreign company working in Russia” (April 17, 2018). Kaeser’s visit sent a very public message that no matter what the politicians decided, *Siemens would work to continue business as usual.*

Kaeser was broadly criticized for the visit, but the tone had been set. Many other businesses took similar, though less public, measures. “Although German companies have toned down their public criticism of sanctions since the CEO of Siemens was vilified in the press for meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin in late March, a behind-the-scenes lobby effort remains in full force,” CNBC reported. “Out of public view ... lobbyists for German industry continue to warn loudly against steps that might lead to a full-blown economic confrontation with Russia in the hope that Merkel could waver” (May 16, 2014).

The German-Russian Chamber of Foreign Trade, which at the time represented over 800 businesses (now over 1,000), sent a private

paper to the German government warning that existing sanctions were having a “massive impact” on German business and their extension would cause “irreparable damage.”

These lobbying efforts did not prevent Ms. Merkel from imposing sanctions on Russia. But they did ensure the sanctions did not entirely cripple Russian-German trade. And Ms. Merkel herself confirmed that the businesses’ lobby directly contributed to the success of one of the most geopolitically significant projects in recent history.

### **A Historic Partnership**

The idea that Germany has a special relationship with Russia, and a special destiny in the East, goes back centuries. Starting in the 13th century, the German Hanseatic League dominated eastern trade. Russia’s oldest city, Novgorod, became the heart of East-West trade, dominated by this league of great German trading cities.

Moscow has hosted German colonies since the 16th century as German businessmen and settlers set up shop in the Russian capital. Czar Peter the Great (1682–1725) was a regular visitor. He hired German and Italian architects to design his new, more European looking capital city: St. Petersburg. Peter’s regard for the German colony led to a close political relationship between Russia and Germany. He built alliances with the German principalities. His children all married into princely German families.

Russia’s other “the Great,” Catherine (1762–1796), was herself a German princess. She introduced German-style schools into Russia. She encouraged German craftsmen to come to her empire, so much so that Russian words for trades common in her day have German origins. She also brought in large numbers of German migrants, promising to shield them from conscription and many taxes. They were even allowed relative religious freedom. By the time Russia took its first census in the late 1800s, around 2 million people living in Russia listed their first language as German.

These business and personal links frequently helped Germany and Russia form



alliances, which repeatedly dominated and divided Europe between them. Under Catherine the Great, Russia, the German state of Prussia and Austria divided Eastern Europe among themselves—chopping off lumps of Poland until, by 1795, nothing was left. Otto von Bismarck, arguably Germany’s most successful leader, famously quipped, “The secret of politics? Make a good treaty with Russia.”

Less well known is the way Germany worked with Russia to try to return to power after World War I. On April 16, 1922, Germany and Russia signed the Treaty of Rapallo. The treaty made Germany Russia’s main trade partner in Europe. But the full extent of the cooperation was not uncovered until much later. It has since been revealed that within months, German manufacturer Junkers was illegally manufacturing German aircraft and Krupp artillery in Russia. German industrialists helped Stalin’s factories catch up to the Western world.

More secretly, Germany conducted military research, development and training—which was outlawed by the Treaty of Versailles at the end of World War I—in Russia. In exchange, Russia trained with the German Army and shared in the military advances. Germany set up secret bases, factories and airfields in Russia.

This was 20 years before Germany would fight the United States. Adolf Hitler, just 33 years old, hadn’t even begun his rise to power. Yet Russia and Germany were already conspiring against the West. This secret alliance was one of the main reasons Germany was able to explode into power once Hitler became chancellor in 1933.

When German and Soviet ministers met on Aug. 23, 1939, to divide Eastern Europe between them, it was hardly the start of a new relationship. “For two decades this evil stream of exchanges had flowed underground,” writes historian Paul Johnson in *Modern Times*. “Now at last it broke the surface.”

Known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, or the Hitler-Stalin pact, the deal was announced as a “nonaggression pact.” It was the opposite: It defined which parts of Eastern Europe that

Russia could attack with German approval, and vice versa.

It also paved the way for worldwide Communist support for Nazi Germany. Stalin sent Germany 1 million tons of grain, 900,000 tons of oil, 500,000 tons of iron ore and other minerals, allowing Russia’s vast natural wealth to fuel the German war machine.

This was exactly the sort of relationship that Cold War strategists feared. Hans Morgenthau warned that Germany reaching an accommodation with Russia “would signify a drastic change in the distribution of world power.” He warned that Germany has “rational arguments ... in support of an Eastern orientation.”

In 1953, T.H. Tetens issued similar warnings in *Germany Plots With the Kremlin*. He said that “after the Germans have squeezed from us all possible concessions, after they have extorted additional billions of dollars, and after we have relinquished important rights of control, the Germans will turn their backs on us and start their bargaining with the Kremlin. Such a development would not only spell the doom of our whole containment policy in Europe, but it would also result in a new threat by a German-dominated third power bloc.”

This fear proved well founded. German-Russian accommodation freed up both nations, for a short time, to direct their military might elsewhere—at the ultimate expense of tens of millions of lives.

Today a similar scenario is playing out, and among sharp analysts, the same unease and fear is reviving. Andrew A. Michta, dean of the College of International and Security Studies at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, recently warned that Putin aims to “coax Berlin into a ‘neo-Bismarckian’ accommodation that would, in effect, divide Europe into two spheres of influence, rendering the United States increasingly irrelevant to the overall strategic balance in Europe.”

“The above worst-case scenario is less far-fetched than it may seem,” Michta wrote. “It rests on historical patterns of Russian imperialism going back three centuries and has its roots in how Moscow understands Germany’s

role in Europe since Prussia unified the German states” (19forty-five, Dec. 27, 2021). Such an arrangement would kick the U.S. out of Europe and allow Germany and Russia to dominate.

## **Tough Demands**

For a German empire to reemerge and dominate Europe, it would have to push out the United States. The best way to do that would be through a partnership with Russia. It is no coincidence that some prominent people within the business community are working to facilitate that alliance.

Russia is actively working to destroy the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Right now, Russian troops sit poised on the border of Ukraine. And Putin is pushing the U.S. to accept a list of humiliating concessions (article, page 10). If these demands are not met, Russia has promised a “military response” similar in magnitude to the Cuban Missile Crisis.

These demands alone do not resurrect the Iron Curtain and Warsaw Pact, but if the U.S. gives in, it would be a significant step in that direction. Ukraine and others would become second-class states, unable to make decisions regarding their sovereignty without Russian permission. It would amount to a public declaration by the U.S. and NATO that Russia is the overlord of Eastern Europe and that the U.S. operates there only with Russia’s permission. If met, these demands would effectively destroy NATO as a defense alliance.

It is telling that Russia waited until the Nord Stream 2 pipeline was completed before issuing these demands. But the moment winter arrived—when countries need energy and are vulnerable to blackmail—Putin went on the offensive. Nord Stream 2 clearly plays a major role in his plan. Those who built it have given Putin enormous leverage in expanding his empire.

If the United States is pushed out, Germany would be substantially strengthened as the natural leader of Europe. East European nations, unable to look to the U.S. for their defense, would have to turn to Germany. And Germany, absent America’s protection, would be forced to significantly muscle up militarily.

## **A Boiling Anxiety**

In 1870, Bismarck sought to unify the divided states of Germany. To accomplish this, he needed an enemy. Bismarck tricked France into attacking Prussia and used the ensuing conflict as a tool for forging a new, united Germany. Today, German elites hope to score a similar unity—not just within Germany but across the whole of Europe—by using Russia. They know that empowering Putin is a calculated risk. They know that Germany and Russia have been foes as well as friends. But thus far, Germany has been unable to unite Europe as a major power under itself. It needs a stronger tool to put more pressure on European states to put aside their differences and come together.

In the November-December 2008 *Trumpet*, editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote, “[D]id you know that Germany and Russia have probably *already* dealt with their most urgent differences? ... I believe that Germany’s leaders may have already agreed to a deal with Russia, a modern Hitler-Stalin pact where Germany and Russia divide countries and assets between themselves. This agreement would allow each to turn its sights on other targets. Any such deal that may have been struck between Germany and Russia is a precursor to WAR!” ([theTrumpet.com/5560](http://theTrumpet.com/5560)).

If such a deal is in place, it would have to cover what Russia has been doing in Eastern Europe. Does the completion of Nord Stream 2 mean we are reaching a new stage in this partnership? Russia has laid considerable groundwork already. Under “Putin’s Other European Invasion,” the Atlantic Council noted that Putin’s regime is gaining influence over European bankers, lawyers and other elites. Former German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, former French Prime Minister François Fillon and former Austrian Foreign Minister Karin Kneissl are all now board members of Russian government-controlled energy companies.

In his 2018 article “Germany and Russia’s Secret War Against America,” Mr. Flurry noted that not just Russia, but even *Germany* seems intent on destroying NATO. “Nord Stream 2 binds Russia and Germany together in a way

that undermines NATO,” he wrote. “In fact, though Russia and Germany will not say so, THIS PIPELINE PROJECT IS CLEARLY INTENDED TO WRECK NATO. ...

“Many elite Germans feel their nation has now gotten all it can from the U.S. and they are ready to move on. Some powerful Germans today are thinking more and more about the Holy Roman Empire, and they want modern Germany to assume more power of its own in the spirit of that empire. They want to establish Europe as a mighty, German-led superpower. ...

“History shows that Germany and Russia are not actually partners. WHEN THEY ENTER INTO PEACE DEALS AND ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS, IT IS A SIGNAL THAT EITHER OR BOTH ARE PREPARING FOR SOME KIND OF IMPERIALISTIC EXPLOIT. This makes the Nord Stream 2 deal extremely concerning” ([theTrumpet.com/17565](https://www.thetrumpet.com/17565)).

In that article, Mr. Flurry referenced Jeremiah 1:13, in which God gave a prophetic vision of “a seething pot; and the face thereof is toward the north.” “This symbolic language is describing *modern Germany*,” Mr. Flurry warned. “Beneath the surface, that nation is full of simmering dissatisfaction with the current world order. Germans are angry at the U.S., and especially furious with President [Donald] Trump. The imperialistic ambition that prompted Germany to start both world wars is alive and well. It is ‘seething!’”

Evidence of a Russo-German deal are also signs of this seething pot: It exposes how diligently both countries are working to overthrow the U.S.-led world order.

## Where This Deal Is Leading

Prophecy warns that a German-led Europe is about to boil over, spreading its power across the world. It also warns of a “prince of Rosh,” or Russia (Ezekiel 38:1-2; New King James Version), whose aggression will likewise spread around the world.

History shows that the Germans and Russians sign secret deals that remain underground for decades. Modern observers like to think that everyone wants peace and that all nations just want to get along. Past and present events reveal otherwise. Nations want power, and they will conspire and go to war to get it.

In May 1962, the *Plain Truth*—the *Trumpet*’s predecessor, led by editor in chief Herbert W. Armstrong—wrote: “Once a German-dominated Europe is fully established, Germany will be ready to negotiate and bargain with Russia—and behind the backs of the Western allies if necessary.”

History offers ominous warnings about the results of such bargains. The German-Russian relationship has been at the heart of the most destructive conflicts in man’s history.

The Bible offers the same warning, but it also contains a wonderful hope. Mr. Flurry concluded his article: “Men are going to continue in their futile attempts at forging peace. They will have to suffer until Jesus Christ returns. ... BUT HIS RETURN IS TIED TO THIS GERMAN RISING POWER AND THIS RUSSIAN RISING POWER. He says He will return before war has ended all human life! (Matthew 24:22). The rising military powers in Russia and Europe are a big part of what will make it *necessary* for Christ to return.

“God wants us to respond to Him. He says He will help us in any way we need if we will just obey Him. ‘[W]hy will ye die, O house of Israel?’ God pleads in Ezekiel 18:31. He doesn’t want any of us to have to suffer! He is eager to spare us from the coming cataclysmic violence and to bless us.

“We NEED to understand these Bible prophecies. They are preparing the way for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to this Earth. That means all the bad news is about to end. He is going to bring peace, joy and happiness to this world FOREVER.” ■

# THE VICIOUS CYCLE: GERMAN-RUSSIAN RELATIONS

**They are the best of friends. They are the worst of enemies. No relationship between two countries is more fascinating than that of Germany and Russia. And no relationship is more important to the future of the world.**

**1732**

Austria, Prussia and Russia form an alliance to interfere in Polish politics and to prevent Poland from strengthening itself. Instability in Russian-German relations led to the Seven Years' War in 1756, pitting Britain and Prussia against France, Austria and Russia.

**1762**

Peter III, who was born in Germany, comes to power in Russia and switches sides. The Russian soldiers stop invading Prussia and start helping them. Prussia recaptures lost territory, and Austria is forced to make peace.

**1762**

Six months later, Peter III is deposed. His wife, Catherine, takes over as de facto empress. The German Catherine invites Europeans to live and work in Russia. Russia, Austria and Prussia split Poland in a series of partitions, until Poland is removed from the map. Within months, Russia and Prussia have transformed from mortal enemies to closest allies.

**1807**

Czar Alexander I and Napoleon sign the Treaty of Tilsit. It contains a secret clause that divides Europe between Russia and France. Russia secretly agrees to help France against Britain in the West, while France agrees to help Russia

against the Ottomans in the East. In 1812, the alliance falls apart when Napoleon decides Russians are not doing enough against Britain and attacks them.

**1887**

Russia and Germany sign the Reinsurance Treaty. Each nation promises to remain neutral if the other gets involved in a war with another major power (with some exceptions). But in 1890, Bismarck is forced out of office by the new kaiser, Wilhelm II, who quickly reverses the policy on Russia. In 1914, Germany attacks Russia.

**1917**

Germany gives Vladimir Lenin safe passage through Germany to help him reach Russia. Shortly after arriving, Lenin launches the October Revolution. The Communists seize power. Quickly Lenin signs a peace treaty that gives the Germans almost everything they want.

**1939**

The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact divides Eastern Europe between Germany and Russia. The deal is announced as a "nonaggression pact." It was the opposite; it defined which parts of Eastern Europe that Russia could attack with German approval, and vice versa. The alliance collapses suddenly in 1941 when Hitler invades Russia.



# We Said Putin Would Do This

The Trumpet's editor in chief prophesied in 2008 that Russia's strongman would reforge a superpower.

BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

**“THIS WAS THE FIRST MILITARY STRIKE OF a rising ASIAN SUPERPOWER—and there will be more!”** This warning was issued by *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry in 2008, just after Russian leader Vladimir Putin invaded the former Soviet nation of Georgia and pulled a fifth of its territory back under Russian control.

The invasion would prove to be the beginning of something much bigger, Mr. Flurry wrote, part of a “dangerous new era” for the world.

In the 14 years since, this forecast has proved right in one former Soviet republic after another. In 2014, Putin seized Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and plunged eastern Ukraine into a state of protracted conflict that continues to this day as pro-Russia forces—and actual Russian forces—battle Ukrainian government troops. In 2020, Putin ensured that Belarus's longtime dictator stayed in power despite a major uprising, effectively turning Belarus into a Russian satellite state. The same year, he stationed thousands of Russian soldiers in Azerbaijan for the first time where they will remain, apparently, indefinitely. And now Putin has ushered in 2022 with a major move on the world's ninth-largest nation, its greatest source of uranium, and Central Asia's largest economy: Kazakhstan.

## Retaking Kazakhstan

The government of Kazakhstan started 2022 by ending its subsidies of liquefied petroleum gas, a commonly used automotive fuel. Prices soared, and on January 2, a small demonstration erupted in the Mangystau region. Within two days, protests had spread

into every major city in the country and had exploded from a narrow economic grievance into a broad political movement.

“Old man, go away!” many protesters chanted. They were referring to Nursultan Nazarbayev, who led the nation in its final years as a member of the Soviet Union, presided over its transition to independence in 1991, became a close ally to Putin after the latter came to power in 2000, and clung to power through farcical elections in 1999, 2005, 2011 and 2015. He formally stepped down as president in 2019. But the 81-year-old continued to rule, only partly behind the scenes, through his handpicked puppet successor, and he continued his corruption and enrichment of himself, his family and his allies while Kazakhs continued to languish.

Kazakhs have been fuming ever since, and the gas protest acted as a spark that ignited their fury. Protesters tore down statues of Nazarbayev across the country. In Almaty, the nation's business capital and largest city, they set fire to a presidential residence and a mayor's office. They captured the nation's main airport and killed at least 13 members of the national security forces, including two who were reportedly decapitated. At least 350 other security force members were injured.

January brought Kazakhstan's deadliest violence, by far, in its 30 years of independence.

The entire government resigned, with the notable exception of Nazarbayev's handpicked successor, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. As the country's elites, including Nazarbayev, fled in private jets, government officials said they had killed “dozens” of rioters and arrested

thousands. Tokayev pulled the plug on the nation's Internet service in an effort to prevent protesters from continuing to organize. But as the demonstrations spread, it was clear that these efforts were insufficient. Tokayev declared the violence an attempted coup, and called on his powerful neighbor to the north for help.

Putin responded, with force.

Within 24 hours, the first of some 3,000 Russian paratroopers began arriving in Kazakhstan. They were deployed under the authority of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), which is Russia's answer to the United States-led North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Alongside the thousands of Russian soldiers were small numbers of troops from four other former Soviet republics. Their "main tasks," according to a CSTO statement, were the "protection of important state and military facilities" and "stabilizing the situation."

But Putin has plans for Kazakhstan that go far beyond that.

Putin once declared the collapse of the Soviet Union, of which Kazakhstan was a vital member, the "greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the [20th] century." While much of the world regards that massive, nuclear-armed superpower forged from 15 countries as an "evil empire," Putin looks back on it differently. In those days, he was an agent in the Soviet Union's ruthless spy and police agency, the KGB. In 1989, he was stationed in East Germany, possibly supplying weapons and other resources to German militant terrorist leftists in the Red Army Faction, when the Berlin Wall fell.

Now Putin is the Russian strongman, and he is rebuilding Russian power at home and in his periphery. Over the years Putin has kept Kazakhstan close, to the point of keeping Russia's primary space-launch facility and main antiballistic missile testing site in the country. Now he has thousands of Russian troops on Kazakh soil to help him close his grip on the nation even more tightly.

Nine days after the protests first erupted, the Kazakh government said peace had been restored and that all CSTO troops would soon exit the country. But if you look at Azerbaijan,

Georgia, Libya, Syria and Ukraine, you realize that once Putin puts Russian boots on another nation's ground, he keeps them there for as long as he finds it useful. Given Kazakhstan's resource wealth, population of ethnic Russians, 4,750-mile border with Russia and Soviet history, it is likely that Putin's forces are in Kazakhstan to stay.

"Once Russians are in your house," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken correctly said on January 7, "it's sometimes very difficult to get them to leave."

Geopolitical strategist Peter Zeihan wrote on January 6 that in light of these facts, the best-case scenario for Kazakhstan now is to become a satellite state to Russia, similar to Belarus. He said, "Its days of being functionally independent or even nominally independent are pretty much over."

## **Retaking Ukraine**

Putin's victory in Kazakhstan comes as tension between Russia and the West is at its worst point in recent years. Putin is now openly trying to divide Germany from the U.S. and other NATO members, and has now brazenly asserted that Russia has an exclusive sphere of influence over former Soviet states, particularly Ukraine. In recent months, he has positioned some 100,000 troops near Russia's border with Ukraine, where Russian and Russia-backed forces have already been fighting Ukraine government forces since Putin first invaded in 2014.

The fighting in eastern Ukraine has already claimed the lives of more than 13,000 soldiers and civilians. And with the recent buildup, Putin is showing Ukrainians and the world that he could wage major invasion at any time—*unless*.

On Dec. 20, 2021, while threatening a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Russian dictator Vladimir Putin published an ultimatum to the United States and the West:

- No NATO membership expansion for Ukraine or any nation east of existing members;
- No NATO military activity in the Caucasus, Central Asia or Eastern Europe;

- No new NATO forces deployed into East European nations that joined the alliance after 1997;
- No NATO military exercises in Eastern Europe without Russian approval;
- No United States nuclear weapons deployed abroad, including those already in Europe;
- No United States short- or medium-range missiles stationed within range of Russia.

Surrendering to these demands would obviously render NATO powerless. It would leave Ukraine entirely at the mercy of Putin, and it would trigger the most dramatic change in the world order since the Berlin Wall fell, the Soviet Union collapsed, and the Cold War ended. But that is exactly the point.

Russia says if the U.S. and the rest of the West refuse, it will wage a “military response” comparable to the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, when the Soviet Union attempted to station supersonic nuclear missiles on the Communist island, minutes away from American cities. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said on January 10 that if the U.S. does not comply with the demands, it will be “playing with fire.”

Whether the government of Joe Biden gives in to Putin partly or altogether, Ukraine’s future is looking more and more like its Soviet past.

Some have argued that the upheaval in Kazakhstan has placed limits on Putin’s options on Ukraine, since he may struggle to engage in two simultaneous conflicts. Potential flashpoints in the Baltics, Caucasus and Belarus only add to the view that Putin is overextended. “The Russians are now actively engaged in geopolitical conflicts that are turning hot on almost all of their borders,” Zeihan said on January 17. “The Soviets went out of their way to not face this many foes down at the same time. Now Russia’s doing a bigger carry with fewer resources.”

But these analysts are likely underestimating the potency and importance of Putin’s political and military will. Over the years, the former KGB agent has deftly threaded such

needles with a mix of strategy, opportunism, duplicity and force.

His troops in Kazakhstan, for example, defeated the rioters in a matter of days without the nation or the rest of the world rising up in protest and demanding freedom for Kazakhs. It is possible Putin even helped spark the protests in the first place, not only as an excuse to forcibly subdue anti-Russia sentiment among Kazakhs but also as a means of pressuring Biden over Ukraine. (The Bidens have questionable business ties to the Nazarbayev regime, and Putin may well be using that as leverage to blackmail America.)

The facts show that Putin has not been caught off guard by the various clashes along Russia’s borders. And we should expect him to welcome—and even create—such situations and use them to assert more power over his neighbors as he works to undo that “greatest geopolitical catastrophe.”

### **‘Prince of Russia’**

Time has proved Mr. Flurry was right when he said Putin’s 2008 strike on Georgia was only the start. He accurately forecast Putin’s ongoing dominance of former Soviet nations because Bible prophecy teaches about an Asian alliance that will form in the years ahead.

Around the year A.D. 90, the Apostle John prophesied of a future conflict involving an enormous force: “And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand” (Revelation 9:16). This military of 200 million troops will be about 15 times larger than any army ever assembled in mankind’s blood-drenched history.

Scripture provides several key details about this force. Revelation 16:12 calls it “the kings of the east,” showing it to be a group of mainly Asian countries. Ezekiel 38 and 39 state that it will be led by the “prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal” (Young’s Literal Translation). Meshech and Tubal are ancient names of the modern cities of Moscow in Russia’s west and Tobolsk toward the east. Rosh is a variation of an ancient name for Russia, as shown in the *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary* and other Bible aids.

In his 2017 booklet *The Prophesied 'Prince of Russia,'* Mr. Flurry asserts that the “prince” prophesied in these passages is Vladimir Putin and writes: “The use of all three names [Russia, Moscow and Tobolsk] shows that this is an individual ruler of *all* the peoples of Russia, from the west to the east. The reference to the cities of Moscow and Tobolsk helps us see how vast Russian territory is in these latter days. This giant swath of land indicates the prince will probably conquer more nations of the former Soviet Union.”

In the years since that was written, Putin has asserted more and more power over several former Soviet nations. His latest move in Kazakhstan is a major victory in that strategy.

Mr. Flurry explains that Putin’s leadership of Russia, including his conquests over former Soviet states, shows that a major world conflict is fast approaching. But he emphasizes that there is also great hope at the heart of these

prophecies. Putin’s fulfillment of the “prince of Rosh” prophecy proves the Bible true—and the Bible also prophesies that the bloodshed by the kings of the east and their hundreds of millions will give way to the most hope-filled event in human history. “Mr. Putin’s warfare is going to lead directly into the Second Coming of Christ. ... Vladimir Putin is a sign, literally a *sign*, that Jesus Christ is about to return!” he writes. “This is one of the most inspiring messages in the Bible.

“What we are seeing in Russia ultimately leads to the transition from man ruling man to *God* ruling man! And it is almost here! It is just a few short years away. ... We have to realize that this is all good news because Jesus Christ is going to return to this Earth at the very end of the coming world war. ... Jesus Christ is about to return—biblical prophecy makes that clear. Surely we ought to be studying our Bibles and understanding these prophecies.” ■

# Seeking the Message of the Universe

The latest space telescope promises to teach us dazzling truths with life-changing implications **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

**M**ORE THAN 1,000 PEOPLE FROM 17 COUNTRIES poured tens of millions of hours and \$10 billion over a 25-year span into creating the most elaborate scientific instrument in history. After launching from a rocket on Dec. 25, 2021, the James Webb Space Telescope undertook a 30-day journey to a point in space a million miles from Earth, during which time it unfolded its solar panel, antenna, five hair-breadth polyimide membranes for its tennis-court-size sunshield, secondary mirror and enormous 21-foot beryllium primary mirror. Dozens of complex operations—any one of which, if it failed, would have doomed

the project—executed flawlessly. If remaining operations all go right, the telescope will begin sending scientific images back to Earth in late March and become fully operational in June, showing us infrared light that originated billions of light-years away, exoplanets and other images and data, revealing more about the universe and its history.

The people who created this engineering marvel had to intensively study and precisely obey the laws of physics and other scientific laws. They know that the better they follow those laws in exacting, minute detail, the more successful their efforts will be. They have



spent a generation building this instrument for the purpose of studying more closely the laws and facts of the universe.

Yet astonishingly, many of these scientists are among the strongest believers that there is no Lawgiver, no Creator, no God! Many believe that science and religion are at odds with one another. This belief—this intellectual faith—is illogical, unscientific and false.

In truth, without God, *there would be no science!*

## **An Orderly Universe**

“At the heart of all science lies the conviction that the universe is orderly.” “Science arose only because the doctrine of the rational creator of a rational universe made scientific inquiry plausible.” “Men became scientific because they expected law in nature, and they expected law in nature because they believed in a lawgiver.” “This absolutely fundamental insight came not from the Greeks but thousands of years previously in the Hebrew Bible, with its proposition that the universe was governed by a single God rather than the whims of many gods. Western science grew from the novel idea that the universe was rational; and that belief was given to us by Genesis, which set out the revolutionary proposition that the universe had a rational Creator.” “The fact that there are rules at all is a kind of miracle.”

These statements by mathematician John Lennox, historian Rodney Stark, authors C.S. Lewis and Melanie Phillips, and Nobel Prize-winner for quantum electrodynamics Richard Feynman are rational, logical and irrefutable.

We take it for granted that the universe operates in a grand, celestial clockwork of inexorable, perfect laws. That is why we build things like space telescopes, for example. That is *how* we build them. This would not be the case if not for God—the God of the Bible.

Because of the Bible, we recognize God as a Creator with incomprehensibly vast and exquisite creative power, yet interested in and loving toward human beings. We understand God as a rational Being of constancy, reason,

order and law. James 4:12 characterizes Him as the “one lawgiver.” The Bible shows that He is the source of moral and spiritual law as well as the physical laws of conservation, mechanics, gravitation, relativity, thermodynamics, electromagnetism, photonics, quantum mechanics and radiation.

Without God, and without the Bible, our very idea of a Creator would be totally different.

“The God I believe in—the God that I know exists, because I can prove it!—is the God who created all things,” *Plain Truth* founder Herbert W. Armstrong wrote. “He is the Creator not only of matter, but also of force, of energy, of ALL THE LAWS that exist: the laws of chemistry, the laws of physics—spiritual laws as well as physical laws to regulate man’s life and man’s happiness” (*Plain Truth*, February 1986).

Most people throughout ancient history were pagan. They believed in numerous gods living in a spiritual world. They saw lights moving across the heavens and believed they were gods. They believed that everything on Earth was controlled by the power and often capricious, inconsistent, conflicting wills of the gods and was therefore *inherently irrational*. Even Muslims, who believe in one overall god, believe that Allah does whatever he wants whenever he wants at the moment, and therefore the universe is *inherently irrational*. Stark writes that many Muslim scholars “held that all efforts to formulate natural laws are blasphemy because they would seem to deny Allah’s freedom to act. Thus did the Chinese, Greek and Muslim images of God and the universe deflect scientific efforts.”

The patriarch Abraham saw the heavens much differently. Because of his relationship with the Creator, he learned that those lights men saw in the night sky moved according to a perfect, set, unchanging *order*. The movement of the sun, moon, planets, stars and events like eclipses all followed laws, laws so precise that they could be scientifically recorded and predicted. He reasoned with Babylonian observers that those lights therefore could not be gods exerting their own wills but rather lights created and controlled by the will of *one* true, lawful, ordered, perfect God! Every time

you look at the night sky, you are seeing this inescapable fact.

## Fine-tuning

Modern scientists in the West are infamous for denying God even as they study scientific laws that all come from one source; even as they base all their thinking about the history, present and future of everything in the universe on the *fact* that the universe is filled with perfect, finely tuned laws; even as they build their discoveries on the discoveries of scientists who knew scientific laws came from the one Lawgiver.

“Sir Roger Penrose, professor of mathematics at Oxford, says that the balance of nature’s laws is so perfect and so unlikely to have occurred by chance that an intelligent Creator must have chosen them. The philosopher Anthony Flew progressed from being Britain’s most renowned atheist to a religious believer through a ‘pilgrimage of reason.’ ... What he found particularly compelling was evidence of the fine-tuning of the universe. From this he concluded that the laws governing the universe had been crafted to move it toward the sustenance of life, and that all the arguments seeking to explain this away were hopelessly flawed” (Melanie Phillips, *The World Turned Upside Down*).

Scientist Stephen Meyer describes the universe as consisting of a “degree of initial fine-tuning that really is not adequately reflected by the word ‘exquisite.’ I’m not aware of a word in English that does justice to the kind of precision we are discussing” (*Return of the God Hypothesis*).

Think of an office, and all that is in it: furniture, file drawers, books, papers, equipment, binder clips, staples and so on. There is an infinite number of ways all those objects could be crammed into that room *disorderly*, even chaotically—only a tiny few that would represent *functional order*. And the latter would take deliberate effort from someone intelligent. This is true of just about everything: Of all the possibilities out there, almost all are chaos. Very, very, very few possibilities are ordered.

This is spectacularly true of the state of the

universe, because of the many factors necessary to support advanced life. If the charge of an electron were slightly different, stars could not burn hydrogen or helium, or they would not explode at all. Many physical forces and constants—gravitation, electromagnetic force, strong nuclear force, the cosmological constant and others—must likewise be *just so*, individually and relative to each other, or matter would never have formed properly, or all would be dark and dead, or the universe would collapse on itself. “The really amazing thing is not that life on Earth is balanced on a knife-edge, but that the entire universe is balanced on a knife-edge,” said physicist Paul Davies, “and would be total chaos if any one of the natural ‘constants’ were off even slightly.”

Trying to reduce to a mathematical probability that this ordered, balanced, meaningful, life-supporting universe occurred by chance, Oxford physicist Sir Roger Penrose calculated that it would be 1 in 10 to the 10<sup>th</sup> power to the 123<sup>rd</sup> power. That baffling number contains *more zeroes* (each of which multiplies it by 10) than the number of elementary particles in the entire universe.

That is beyond impossible. This order came from God—the God of the Bible.

## Seeing the Invisible

“God left it for Newton to discover and reveal to us the law of gravity,” Mr. Armstrong wrote. “MANY things man is able to discover for himself. Those things God has left for man himself to find out. But ‘The UNKNOWN,’ which man *needs* to know, God has *revealed* through the Bible as a *foundation* for knowledge” (*Plain Truth*, January-February 1947).

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the greatest, most influential mathematicians and scientists of all time. He studied the Bible? In fact, the “father of physics” wrote more about *theology* than he did about physics. Newton was struck by scriptures like Romans 1:19-20: “Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even

his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”

*The invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen.* Looking at the Earth, plants, animals, moon, sun, stars and infrared light from distant galaxies, we can see the invisible. When we view the intricacy, variety, beauty, artistry, power, scope, size, scale and majesty that is creation, we are looking right at “his eternal power and Godhead”!

Creation reveals much about God’s nature, God’s plan, God’s very ambitions.

The men like Newton who fathered modern science approached their studies with this perspective, Bibles in hand. The anti-God bias in modern science only came into fashion as recently as the 1800s. For centuries prior, scientists believed in God, and the most knowledgeable ones believed in the God of Abraham, the God of the Bible. But about 200 years ago, in intellectual vanity some adopted the unprovable premise that nothing exists but matter and energy, that everything in the universe can be explained merely as atoms colliding with atoms. This completely materialistic assumption has come to dominate scientific thought.

Materialistic scientists assumed that matter and energy were eternal, and thus did not feel compelled to try to explain where it all came from. But in the last few generations, as we peer deeper into space, it has become increasingly irrefutable that matter and energy had a definite beginning—a *creation event*. One after another, atheistic hypotheses have been proved wrong.

Meyer describes a conference of top astronomers in 1985. One “was widely respected as one of the great observational astronomers of the 20th century. ... He was also well known as an agnostic with a materialistic philosophy of science .... During his talk, however, he not only described the astronomical evidence for the beginning of the universe; he shocked many of his colleagues by announcing a recent *religious conversion* and then explaining how *the scientific evidence of a ‘creation event’ had contributed to a profound change in his worldview*. I recall his looking intently at the audience and

gravely stating, ‘Here is evidence for what can only be described as a *supernatural event*. ... I think all scientists, at the deepest level, are so startled by what they see in the miraculousness of the inner connection of things in their field ... that they at least have wondered why it is this way’” (op cit; emphasis added).

Some of the more honest, logical, scientific people in the field are making similar admissions. But many emotionally, irrationally *refuse*. They are like outspoken atheist Richard Dawkins, who loved ridiculing creationists. When asked directly about DNA and other evidence of a Creator in the 2008 documentary *Expelled*, he admitted this *might* be evidence of “some kind of designer,” but rather than acknowledge God, he proposed—in all seriousness—the “intriguing possibility” that life on Earth was seeded here by a *hyper-intelligent alien species*. Which, of course, must have come about by an evolutionary process of atoms colliding with atoms.

*Right.* Such people say they speak for science. And they ridicule *you* for believing in the Creator!

## **The Heavens Declare God**

After the flawless launch of the James Webb Space Telescope, NASA administrator Bill Nelson described how this extraordinary project continues a quest as old as humanity itself: peering into the heavens and searching for answers. He mentioned a time, millenniums ago, when “a shepherd grazing his sheep would look up at the night sky. He became a poet. And he penned the words, *The heavens declare the glory of God; the firmament shows his handiwork*. That shepherd, that poet, became king. And those immortal words in Psalm 19 encapsulate the expressions that we have today—the handiwork of God—as we peer back in time, over 13 billion years ago, [and] capture the light from the very beginning of the creation.”

NASA’s highest-ranked official recognizes the Creator behind the universe. Psalm 19 has inspired astronomers and other scientists for centuries. Many of them viewed the Bible and the creation as two compatible means by

which God speaks to mankind. Anyone studying the heavens should likewise be able to recognize His handiwork. Many astronomers still believe in a Creator.

The heavens are *declaring God!*

God designed human beings to use our minds to discover many of His laws ourselves. This new space telescope is an exciting example. But the fundamental knowledge, not just of the right way to live and our very purpose, but even of science, had to come by *revelation from God*. He revealed that knowledge to men like Abraham who believed Him, directly and through the pages of the Bible.

That same Creator made beautiful, constant, life-giving *laws* of cause and effect for the human body *and mind*. That same Creator's laws will bring order, harmony, happiness and full *life* to your marriage, your family, your purpose.

But the same irrational, anti-God spirit that has infected science has infected morality and even religion, insisting that, though physical law is real, spiritual law is a human construct, and that there is no need to learn and obey the perfect laws of God.

Is it *truly* unscientific to recognize that the universe declares the glory of its Creator? Or is it unscientific not to? ■

# Announcing Our New Archaeology Institute

BY BRAD MACDONALD

**M**ANY READERS ARE AWARE THAT THE Philadelphia Church of God, publisher of the *Trumpet*, takes a special interest in biblical archaeology. Over the past 15 years, the church has participated in and sponsored seven archaeological excavations in Jerusalem. Our activity in this field has largely been in support of the late Dr. Eilat Mazar, one of the world's most accomplished and successful biblical archaeologists.

Sadly, the field of biblical archaeology today is in a state of decline. Scientists and scholars are bitterly divided about the role of the Bible in archaeology. The momentum right now is with the biblical minimalists, who deny that the Bible can be used as a reliable historical text in understanding archaeology. This debate has thrust biblical archaeology into an identity crisis, and unless something changes soon, this crucial field of study could vanish.

In an effort to reverse this trend, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry in January

established the Armstrong Institute of Biblical Archaeology (AIBA).

AIBA is a nonprofit, academic and educational institution headquartered in Jerusalem, Israel. The ultimate mission of this institute is to share Israel's biblical archaeology with as many people in Israel and beyond as possible.

AIBA publishes *Let the Stones Speak*, a 32-page, bimonthly print magazine on biblical archaeology and history with articles, interviews, maps, charts, illustrations and photographs designed to bring the remarkable evidence of biblical archaeology to life to both the educated archaeologist and the everyday reader.

AIBA operates [armstronginstitute.org](http://armstronginstitute.org), which provides excavation updates, scientific reports, research resources, documentaries and other videos, podcasts, interactive maps and illustrations, online exhibits and other archaeology content of use to archaeologists and those interested in ancient and biblical history.



AIBA also sponsors in-person learning through public seminars, holds exhibitions in Jerusalem and around Israel, and conducts private tours of the City of David, the Ophel and other parts of ancient Jerusalem. (To reserve a tour, visit the website and click TOURS.)

AIBA also continues to sponsor and participate in archaeological excavations in Jerusalem.

The Armstrong Institute of Biblical

Archaeology is ready to help the field of biblical archaeology in Jerusalem and Israel come to life with a surge in the unbiased, fact-driven, academically and intellectually honest pursuit of the best archaeological methods, archaeological technologies and archaeological historical sources. We are ready to share the discoveries of the past, and those to come, with you. ■

## AIBA OBJECTIVES

- To promote the Bible as a credible and essential historical resource in the practice of archaeology in Israel
- To feature and continue the archaeological work of Dr. Eilat Mazar and her grandfather Prof. Benjamin Mazar
- To analyze and explain archaeological excavations and discoveries past and present in the context of the Bible
- To challenge the unwarranted and unsupported criticisms leveled against the use of the Bible in archaeology in Israel
- To encourage archaeologists to consider and employ Bible history in the practice of archaeology

# Russia's Energy Weapon

Europeans are gripped by one of the worst energy crises in their history, and the Russians have noticed. Natural gas prices have soared to almost five times what they were a year ago. Many Europeans are growing desperate. Russian President Vladimir Putin is pushing the Nord Stream 2 pipeline as a solution to Europe's energy woes, but clear-eyed analysts see that this natural gas pipeline would give Russia power over Germany and the entire European Union.

## Supply and Demand

The primary reason natural gas prices have spiked in Europe is that the supply of natural gas is dwindling while demand remains high. The Biden administration's new moratorium on gas drilling on federal lands has threatened global gas supplies at a time when tensions between Algeria and Morocco are disrupting the flow of African gas into Europe.

**Households** in Europe will pay an average of 54 percent more for energy than they did two years ago. The average residential consumer will spend US\$2,095 on energy this year, up from \$1,360 in 2020.

**Industrial** consumers will see a jump of as much as 70 percent in their electricity and 100 percent in their gas bills this year. That follows a 20 percent increase in electricity and 15 percent rise in gas bills in 2021.

## Bypass

After Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula in 2014, Putin's government halted exports of Russian gas to Ukraine. But Putin continued piping gas to Central European nations via pipelines that run through Ukraine; his only other choice would have been forfeiting billions of dollars in gas exports. The Nord Stream 2 pipeline gives Putin the option to bypass Ukraine and sell gas to Central European nations via pipelines that run through Germany. This is why many have dubbed the Nord Stream 2 the "Molotov-Ribbentrop pipeline." It would empower Germany and Russia at the expense of Ukraine, just like the historic Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact

empowered Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin at the expense of Poland.

## Europe

Norway is the third-largest gas exporter after Russia and Qatar. It supplies 40 percent of the United Kingdom's gas needs and 25 percent of the entire European Union's gas needs. But it cannot supply all of Europe's gas needs on its own.

Great Britain used to be a net exporter of gas, but dwindling North Sea reserves have forced it to import half its gas. Most of the UK's gas comes from Norway, but it also buys liquefied natural gas from Qatar, Russia and the United States.

The Netherlands is one of the few European nations that still produces more gas than it consumes. But it still imports one quarter of its gas from Russia. A 2012 earthquake meant production restrictions for Europe's largest gas field, which will be shut down this year.

Germany is the largest European consumer of gas, and it imports nearly 40 percent of its gas from Russia. Nord Stream 1 is big enough to supply all of Germany's Russian gas needs, however, so the purpose of Nord Stream 2 is to enable Berlin to resell Russian gas to its neighbors. This would make Germany reliant on Russia and Europe reliant on Germany.

## Asia

China's demand for gas has doubled in the past decade, so it is also looking to buy more gas from Russia. That is why Putin wants to build a Power of Siberia 2 pipeline to China. Yet this pipeline could be a huge problem for Germany as it would give Putin the option of

temporarily shutting off gas to Europe while he sells to East Asia instead.

## Africa

Algeria is the world's seventh-largest gas exporter, supplying about two thirds of Spain's

and Portugal's annual gas imports. Yet simmering tensions between Algeria and Morocco threaten supply. On Nov. 1, 2021, Algeria stopped pumping gas into the Maghreb pipeline, which runs through Morocco, across the Straits of Gibraltar and into Spain. ■

# 'Mass Formation Psychosis'

You might recognize the mass hypnosis regarding COVID-19. But there are other near-universal beliefs you need to look into. **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

**S**OMETHING BIZARRE AND TROUBLING IS occurring in America and around the world. It's weird. It's illogical, irrational, dangerous thinking, and on a *mass scale*—and all about the *same thing*. And it is proof of something *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has emphasized for decades.

A good example of this emerged in a leading newspaper in Denmark. In January, its staff openly and publicly apologized to its readers: "For almost two years, we—the press and the population—have been almost hypnotically preoccupied with the authorities' daily coronavirus figures. ... We failed." They admitted that the government inflated coronavirus hospitalization numbers by 27 percent simply by including everyone who tested positive, even if the test was inaccurate and even if the person had no symptoms and was there due to a car accident, for example. Yet as the paper openly admitted, even though narratives like these were blatantly illogical, the press barely questioned it!

Why do millions of people all think the wrong thing about the same thing at the same time?

More and more people are becoming aware enough, confident enough and upset enough to recognize they have believed a very, very, very big lie.

Maybe you can recognize the hypnotic preoccupation that so many people have had

in relation to COVID-19 tyranny. But did this powerful force come out of nowhere? Is it blind and random? Does it only mislead people when it comes to a novel coronavirus and public health policy?

*That same force* has already warped people's thinking *by the millions* on everything from health to voting to race to the environment to freedom to religion to parenting to sex to gender identity to the purpose of life to the very definition of right and wrong.

That same force has already impacted *your* thinking. You already believe some of its big lies.

## Mass Psychosis?

"Our government is out of control on this," one man said on a recent podcast. "And they are lawless. They completely disregard bioethics. They completely disregard the federal common rule. They have broken all the rules that I know of, that I've been trained [in] for years and years and years." Yet hundreds of millions of people are submitting to this dangerous lawlessness, he said, because they are experiencing "mass formation psychosis."

Perhaps you've never heard of this phrase, but it's an attempt to describe a phenomenon that is all around you.

The man who brought this phrase into the public consciousness is not only vaccinated, not only a doctor, and not only a virologist, but a career immunologist who is one of the main

*architects of mRNA technology itself.* His name is Robert Malone.

Malone helped make the major breakthrough in mRNA study in 1988 that laid the foundation for the mRNA technology used in millions of COVID-19 vaccine shots. His name is on the patents. He has spent the last 35 years or so studying and working at or with the University of California, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, the University of Maryland, Kennesaw State University, the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, EpiVax, Atheric Pharmaceutical, Alchem Laboratories and the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases.

Three COVID-19 vaccines are available in the United States. All use genetic manipulation of either mRNA (Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna) or double-stranded DNA (Johnson & Johnson). Malone isn't the final word on the subject, but it is obviously wise to hear what one of the main inventors of genetic vaccination has to say.

"My name is Robert Malone," he said in one video. "I'm a physician and a scientist. But more importantly, I'm a father and a grandfather." He then warned in unmistakable terms that injecting viral genes into children yields spike proteins that can permanently, irreparably damage their brains, nerves, hearts, blood vessels, reproductive systems and immune systems. He warned, "This novel technology has not been adequately tested."

But that is not the worst of what he's warning about. Far worse is "mass formation psychosis."

The *Trumpet* calls it *will worship*.

Malone's video and other statements criticizing the vaccines and government coercion and mandates attracted a lot of hostile attention from the political, medical and media elites. Despite his credentials, they do *not* want you to hear what one of the main inventors of genetic vaccination has to say. They have gone all-in on pressuring people to inject viral genes into themselves and their children, and they are stamping out all disagreement, labeling it "disinformation." This video is likely the evidence that Twitter executives saw and

used as rationale for permanently banning Dr. Malone from the platform.

The day after the ban, Malone spoke with podcaster Joe Rogan about *why* the demonstrably false, unjust, medically dangerous idea of mandatory or heavily coerced vaccination is so widespread. Why do so many people accept it?

"Mass formation psychosis."

That is the term some European intellectuals use to try to explain what happened in Germany in the 1920s and 1930s. As Malone pointed out, Germany was (and is) one of the most sophisticated nations in the world. The Germans were "a highly intelligent, highly educated population," he said, "and they went barking mad." They used their economic and cultural sophistication to follow *Adolf Hitler* into the abyss of atrocity.

Malone pointed to Prof. Mattias Desmet's phrase "mass formation psychosis" and defined it as a society where people have "become decoupled from each other and have free-floating anxiety" because people can't make sense of what is happening. "[T]hen their attention gets focused by a leader or series of events on one small point, just like hypnosis. They literally become hypnotized and can be led anywhere. They will follow that person. It doesn't matter if they lie to them or whatever. ... That is how mass formation psychosis happens, and that is what has happened here."

What a statement!

But the *Trumpet* has written for decades much more clearly and much more powerfully about the real cause of what unfolded in Germany and what is unfolding right now. It is the worship of the will.

## **A Failed Experiment**

Malone noted that an American insurance company has reported the death rate is up 40 percent from pre-pandemic levels among working-age people. "It is starting to look to me like the largest experiment on human beings in recorded history has failed," he said. "At a minimum, based on my reading, one has to conclude that if this report holds and is confirmed by others in the dry world of



life insurance actuaries, we have both a huge human tragedy and a profound public policy failure of the U.S. government and U.S. HHS [Department of Health and Human Services] system to serve and protect the citizens that pay for this ‘service.’”

More than 4.6 billion people across 184 countries have been injected with an experimental mRNA molecule. Thousands have died from adverse effects of this experimental molecule. And now it looks like the overall death rate is still well above what it was before the pandemic. Yet despite all the evidence that COVID vaccinations do not work, the government is looking for ways to force people to get the jab and numerous booster shots.

Those are deadly serious facts, yet governments around the world are aggressively forcing people who are at low risk of suffering severe illness or death to take Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson shots (and to pay for it by the billions with their taxes).

Dr. Malone calls this “the most massive, globally coordinated propaganda and censorship campaign in the history of the human race.” And by censoring him, tech elites are basically confirming his assertion.

U.S. government medical bureaucrat Anthony Fauci and his allies in government and media tell us to “follow the science.” They wrap themselves in the language of medicine, facts and science while they deliberately, systematically censor all science alerting the population that COVID-19 vaccines are dangerous—even if those reports come from a man who invented mRNA vaccine platform technology.

What you see in the news isn’t an open, may-the-best-facts-win scientific debate. It is a political manipulation designed to frighten people into surrendering their God-endowed rights to a regime. A large part of society is focused like a laser on Fauci and other elites who promise to save them from their anxieties on the one hand, while simultaneously agitating those anxieties as much as possible on the other hand. It’s not a “hypnosis” in the sense of a carnival magic trick. But it is real, it is on a mass scale, and it is *far worse*.

## Look Back at Germany

While Dr. Malone’s comparison to Germany’s experience in the 1920s and 1930s may sound extreme to some, it is dead right. And in a frightening twist of irony, he points out that the mandatory vaccinations are a stark violation of the Nuremberg Code, a set of ethics principles against human experimentation established after Germany’s defeat and the revelations of what happened in the Holocaust.

Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin believed that “[t]he idea becomes a force when it captures the masses,” but Hitler understood that sometimes what captures the masses is not the truth or even the idea as much as it is the emotions. That is why he told Hermann Rauschning, “What you tell people in the mass in a receptive state of fanatic devotion will remain. Words received under a hypnotic influence are radical and impervious to every reasonable explanation.”

This is why Lenin came to power in the bloodiest civil war in history, while Hitler became *der führer* by popular vote. Rauschning called Hitler a “master enchanter” because he was able to bewitch people and lead them anywhere. Today, we see the hypnosis tactics that Hitler used in the 1930s being used to bewitch people about climate change, coronavirus, racism, socialism and many other issues. Americans have not learned as much from Germany’s history as they should.

But my father, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry, has repeatedly looked into and spoken about what happened in Hitler’s mind and how he was able to lead a great nation into such horror.

“Could someone stir up a political revolution simply by repeating a blatant lie over and over and over till people come to believe it?” he wrote in “A Dangerous New Age of ‘Worshiping the Will.’” “Well, this has *already* happened to a shocking degree! ... Hitler had an intense fascination with occult magic. Much of what he told Rauschning about ‘*a new age of magic interpretation*’ came from the German occultist Ernst Schertel. Schertel’s book on magic was one of the most heavily annotated books in Hitler’s personal library. Hitler’s annotations

of *Magic: History, Theory and Practice* include highlights such as ‘the difference between “true” and “false” has disappeared,’ and ‘quite a lot is gained with [magic]: namely the possibility to intervene in this structure, that is to say change the world according to our will. But this is magic, and on this basis, we are able to create reality where no reality is” (*theTrumpet.com/22176*).

We are not talking about circus hypnosis, Disney magic, hocus pocus spells or fictional mysticism. We are talking about the fact that a spirit world clearly exists, that there is clearly *evil* in it, and that it can exert *incredible* power over *huge* numbers of intelligent people.

Hitler did not rely on reason, intelligence, reality, absolute truth or God. He worshiped his own human will and believed he could create his own reality by stirring up negative emotions in others until they became a hypnotized mass behind him. He was being controlled and empowered by something very real, powerful and spiritual.

### ‘Let No Man Beguile You’

Today, there is a lot of emotion surrounding the debate over mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations. There are a lot of angry and depressed people looking to men like Barack Obama, Joe Biden and Anthony Fauci for solutions. But there is not a lot of evidence or facts showing that mandatory vaccinations help stop the disease. This is a perfect environment for mass psychosis.

In the U.S. and other nations, politicians, bureaucrats and public health officials are using the existence of COVID-19, a slightly more potent version of the flu, as an excuse to blot out freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, and many other freedoms. Millions of people are going along with this attack on freedom because the “experts” tell them it’s the only way to save themselves from a devastating pandemic. There is no evidence to support these claims, but society is entering a dangerous time where people worship the whims of their leaders more than factual logic. And leaders are asserting their will to create a new reality, up to and including a pandemic,

mass medical experimentation and an institution of tyranny.

“The Apostle Paul wrote about this very subject,” my father continued in his article. “Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels [*demons*, it should read], intruding into those things which he [*has*] seen [that is the correct translation], vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind .... Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in WILL WORSHIP ...’ (Colossians 2:18, 23). ... Paul reveals what happens when you worship the human will: It leads to essentially worshipping *demons!* That is because the human mind is so vulnerable to Satan’s broadcasting, deception and influence, especially when full of vanity. ... The radical left is casting aside the foundational law of the land, telling us that it is just getting in the way. *We don’t need that old law*, they insist. *We know what justice is. You can trust us!*”

Such will worship turned Germany into a murder machine. It has already stripped Australians of most of their rights, and the U.S. is not far behind.

“We have not learned from this history as we should,” my father wrote. “Could something similar happen today? Could it happen in America?” (*ibid*).

He has spoken on this subject repeatedly, in depth and consistently, for decades. Scroll through the *Key of David* program archive and you’ll see him get to the source of it in dozens of programs, both recent and decades old. He and Herbert W. Armstrong before him could see it coming. Now it’s here.

The only way to inoculate yourself against this type of will worship is to be rooted in the truth (see Colossians 2:6-8). At this point, *only* God can save the United States from the tyranny of the radical left *within* and lurking enemies *without*. Scripture indicates that He will break the power of the will worshipers and the mass psychosis afflicting people in America and beyond.

But why will He do that? Is it so that we can go back to living how we want? No: He is giving us one last chance to repent. Yes, the same power that so blatantly influenced

Hitler and that influences the radicals today has also influenced us—for generations. We as a people have deep-rooted sins *of our own*. In fact, our sins, our forgetting and rejecting God have allowed such evil to gain such power over us. Each of us is influenced by “the god of this world,” “the prince of the power of the air” (2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2). Now, not tomorrow, is the time to realize that.

Mass formation psychosis comes from will worship, will worship comes from sin, and sin is infecting all of us.

“We’re sick as a society,” Malone rightly said—then wrongly said, “and we have to heal ourselves.”

## A Sick Society

If you have awakened to mass formation psychosis regarding coronavirus, get ready to wake up from mass formation psychosis regarding climate change, evolution, sex, family, male leadership and even Christianity. Get ready to wake up to the fact that *you* have been deceived about things *you* believe.

My father wrote in the July 2017 *Trumpet*: “*In spite of all evidence to the contrary*, people insist that sexual license has no consequences—that divorce is liberating—that children are better off without both their biological parents—that a child can be raised by a man and his homosexual lover just as well—that marriage is oppressive, unless it is between two people of the same sex—that biological sex isn’t reality—that ‘gender’ is whatever a person thinks in his mind, and that anyone who won’t play along is a hateful bigot—and many other bizarre fantasies.

“We are being told that we should enthusiastically dismantle the traditional family—the ENTIRE FOUNDATION OF CIVILIZATION—and that we will be stronger as a society for doing so!

“That is an abominable LIE! It is DEADLY DECEIT! It is *satanic propaganda* that will destroy our nations and our civilization!

“Can you recognize how the radical left is leading the West into a world ruled by the WILL and not by intelligence? And many others follow along or do nothing to oppose this satanic, nation-destroying evil” ([theTrumpet.com/15830](http://theTrumpet.com/15830)).

Our age is ruled not by reason and rationality—not by science, not by truth—but by *will*.

More and more of our leaders believe that truth itself does not exist. President Obama wrote that there is no such thing as “absolute truth.” When that is gone, all that remains is *asserting your will over others*. People with such illogical, irrational, unscientific, untruthful beliefs and ideologies cannot convince others through rational arguments. The only way they can enforce their will on others is through deceit, lies, intolerance, bullying, coercion and wresting control of the politicians and the courts.

The source that has influenced millions of people into “mass formation psychosis” regarding coronavirus has existed for decades, for generations, for centuries. For millenniums, it has caused millions of normal people to think illogically about themselves and about their Creator. For more than a century, it has convinced normal and *especially* highly educated people to think that everything came from nothingness; that life came from the lifeless; that purpose, meaning, joy, love and hope are just chemical reactions.

An *enormous* number of people cling to *enormously wrong* beliefs that simply *cannot be true*.

The wake-up call from coronavirus hypnosis is an enormous blessing. The past two years of mass formation psychosis prove that human beings are susceptible *en masse* to wrong thinking that comes from an origin beyond any one human being, group of human beings, nation or group of nations.

Malone said, “[W]e have to heal ourselves.” He talked about people reasoning their way toward unity and other goals. But the belief that human beings can fix their minds themselves is itself a delusion. It denies the absolute fact that our Creator made us incomplete. He empowered our brains with a human spirit that by its very nature is designed to unite with God’s Spirit. Unless and until it does so, God is unable to finish His creation.

Just as it is demonstrably illogical to think that human beings do not have a Creator who loves them and wants to work with them, it is demonstrably illogical to think that there is

not a very different, very real being out there exerting a clear influence on human beings. That being—the prince of the power of the air, the god of this world—deceives the whole world! (Revelation 12:9).

There is no *healing ourselves*, and there

never has been. Humbling ourselves toward our Creator is the *only possible* way to become connected to a power superior to the power that “deceiveth the whole world.”

God is giving people, giving you, one last chance to wake up (Amos 7:8). Take it. ■

# A Warning From South Africa

What happens to a country built on the principles of critical race theory? **BY ANDREW MILLER**

**A** ONCE-PROMISING COUNTRY HAS BECOME a failed state. Almost 30 years ago, Nelson Mandela replaced Frederik Willem de Klerk in an election that astonished the world. Both men shared a Nobel Peace Prize for their work ending racial segregation in South Africa. Now both men are dead. In fact, the death of De Klerk on Nov. 11, 2021, prompted many South Africans to look back on their history and wonder what went wrong.

When the newly elected Mandela entered South Africa’s parliamentary chamber on May 10, 1994, he was announced by a bare-chested tribal *imbongi* shouting tributes to his accomplishments. He told the world, “We enter into a covenant that we shall build the society in which all South Africans, both black and white, will be able to walk tall, without any fear in their hearts, assured of their inalienable right to human dignity—a rainbow nation at peace with itself and the world.” Much of the world’s media followed the example of the *imbongi* and praised Mandela as a moral giant whose strength and sacrifice changed the entire world.

Now a generation has passed. The promise of a peaceful and prosperous South Africa remains hauntingly empty. Instead, rampant corruption has damaged the economy and

people’s trust in the government. One in three people looking for work cannot find it. Rolling blackouts have left millions without power. The murder rate is the world’s highest outside of Latin America’s worst drug-producing regions. Rioters and looters plague the nation’s cities, while black terrorists drive white farmers from their land. Black politicians sing racist songs like “Awuleth’ Umshini Wami” (*Bring My Machine Gun*) and “Dubul’ ibhulu” (*Kill the Boer*).

Who could have foreseen that things would get so bad? Well, while the world was rejoicing at the triumph of democracy in South Africa, the *Philadelphia Trumpet* was warning that post-apartheid South Africa would fall into ruin. We had insight into South African politics the rest of the world did not because we base our geopolitical analysis on the sure word of Bible prophecy.

## African Powerhouse

Like Australia, Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand and the United States, South Africa is a unique nation descended from the lost 10 tribes of ancient Israel. Its recorded history began 370 years ago when Dutch navigator Jan van Riebeeck established a small colony on the Cape of Good Hope. Since the summer



crops grown by Bantu tribes farther north do not grow at the southern part of the continent, much of the region was unpopulated. The pioneering Dutch were later joined by German and French Huguenot immigrants who came to farm the land.

Like the Pilgrims who settled America, the Afrikaners often compared themselves to the children of Israel. Some might have even understood that they were literally descendants of the biblical patriarch named Israel. In 1590, the French Huguenot magistrate M. le Loyer described an Israelite genealogy for the British people in *The Ten Lost Tribes*. In 1700, Dutch historian Mattheus Smallegange outlined an Israelite genealogy for the Frisian and Dutch people in *The New Chronicles of Zeeland*. Whether or not they understood their heritage, it is clear that Afrikaners tried to base their laws on the Bible and put their faith in God for protection.

When the English took control of the Cape in 1806, Afrikaners began trekking into South Africa's rugged interior. There they met Bantu tribes migrating south from their homeland in what is now Zimbabwe. Many were fleeing the Zulu Empire and the Nguni, who were slaughtering millions in the indigenous communities: Hlubi, Mfengu, Ndebele, Ngwane, Soshangane, Xhosa, Zwangendaba and many smaller tribes.

The Afrikaners sent emissaries to seek peace, but the Zulu king ordered them clubbed to death.

The resulting war with the Zulus motivated the Afrikaners to make a covenant with God. On Dec. 16, 1838, prior to the Battle of Blood River, the Afrikaners promised to build a church and forever honor the anniversary of the battle as a special sabbath if God would save them from slaughter. The battle was joined, and 470 Afrikaners defeated 20,000 Zulu warriors. God had honored their prayers, and the Afrikaners honored their promise. They made December 16 their most important memorial of the year: The Day of the Covenant.

The following 64 years were a rich history of progress and prosperity. Afrikaners formed two Dutch republics: the Transvaal and the

Orange Free State. Meanwhile, British prospectors began moving into the interior looking for diamonds, gold and other resources. A series of wars between the British and the Afrikaners eventually culminated with The South Africa Act 1909, which merged the various states in the region into the Union of South Africa.

As a dominion of the British Empire, the Union of South Africa safeguarded trade routes to India and acted as the storehouse of the free world. At its peak, this union accounted for 4 percent of Africa's landmass, 5 percent of Africa's population, 20 percent of Africa's agricultural output, 25 percent of Africa's gross domestic product, 50 percent of Africa's electricity and 60 percent of Africa's industrial production.

By the middle of the 20th century, South Africa was producing vast amounts of antimony, chrome, chromium, diamonds, fluorite, gold, manganese, nickel, platinum, titanium, uranium, vanadium and vermiculite for the British Empire. These minerals and metals help build the dominance of the English-speaking peoples.

But this dominance made South Africa a target for the Soviet Union. The Soviets knew that if they could infiltrate South African politics and seize control of the nation, they could deprive the industrialized West of its crucial supply of minerals. So they established a Communist party in South Africa and went to work.

### **Communist Onslaught**

In the decades after World War I, South Africans increasingly departed from biblical values and moral restraints, as did the peoples of other modern nations of Israel. They adopted a liberal, anything-goes approach. Educators in South Africa began rejecting the idea that laws of morality are eternal and unchanging. As the evolutionary hypothesis took root in the public conscience, people came to believe that what was right in the past may not be right today. Commandments like "Honour thy father and thy mother" and "Thou shalt not commit adultery" began to sound old-fashioned. People abandoned the absolute

morality of Moses and Jesus Christ. They embraced the evolving morality of Charles Darwin and Sigmund Freud.

“The ‘New Morality’ world was spawned after the turn of the century,” Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in *The Missing Dimension in Sex*. “It developed from the embryo stage during World War I. It surged, mostly among teens unnoticed by their parents, on past World War II. The emergence of television after that war gave the trend great impetus. Acceleration sped the downward plunge. The ‘New Morality’ really surfaced during the ’60s, blossomed into full bloom in the ’70s.”

In South Africa, moral decline created fertile soil for communism. In the 1920s, the South African Communist Party started trying to lure white miners away from the traditional biblical values and toward the atheistic values of communism. After the government banned the Communist Party, many South African Communists abandoned the strategy and instead started seeking converts among South Africa’s black population.

The South African government blocked nonwhites from voting because the majority of the Khoisan and Bantu peoples in the region still practiced the values of their tribal cultures. Granting universal suffrage would blot out what remained of the Judeo-Christian principles that the European settlers of South Africa believed in.

In 1961, South Africa became a republic and replaced Queen Elizabeth II as their head of state. But the government retained its colonial-era policy of denying blacks the vote while simultaneously pouring money into the economic development of various black national homelands in an attempt to prepare them for independence. French author Paul Giniewski referred to the development of South Africa’s homelands as the most ambitious economic program devised for uplifting a developing people. Yet the industrialization of South Africa drew away millions of unemployed blacks from their tribal lands into major cities looking for employment, impairing this program and exacerbating the cultural clash between blacks and whites.

A new generation of radical leaders mobilized the bitterness of black workers to create a terrorist cell called *Umkhonto we Sizwe* (“Spear of the Nation”). Its mission was to fight against the government, and toward that end it committed dozens of brutal terrorist attacks.

Nelson Mandela was a terrorist and a member of the South African Communist Party Central Committee. He was eventually arrested for his role in bombing dozens of railways and petrol stations. But his imprisonment did not stop the Communist-inspired violence.

The Soviets and the Cubans supplied money and weapons to other South African terrorists in an attempt to aggravate tensions between blacks and whites. Their strategy was to spark a race war, seize control of the country, and establish a Soviet-led cartel to control 60 percent of the world’s diamonds, 75 percent of the world’s manganese, 80 percent of the world’s gold and 90 percent of the world’s platinum.

The threat of Communist domination was why the South African government thought it more prudent to fund the development of black homelands rather than surrender to the African National Congress (ANC).

### **Shameful Handover**

President F.W. de Klerk shocked the world when he released Mandela from prison in 1990, but African National Congress attacks were becoming so common that many feared race war. After the Soviet Union collapsed, President de Klerk appeased black South Africans by releasing a number of Communist prisoners and called his cabinet together to debate legalizing the ANC. Many opposed his plans, but de Klerk legalized all banned political parties, including the Communist Party, and released Mandela unconditionally.

Mandela toured South Africa, giving speeches about peace and reconciliation, but made it clear that the African National Congress would continue its armed struggle if the government continued to withhold the right to vote from the black majority. The government agreed to negotiate and announced elections

for April 1994, in which citizens of all races could vote for any political party.

Mandela formed an alliance between the African National Congress, the South African Communist Party and the Congress of South African Trade Unions. These three parties received 63 percent of the vote, and Mandela was sworn in as the first black president in South Africa.

The world rejoiced at the triumph of democracy in South Africa. Both Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Mandela dubbed post-apartheid South Africa as “a rainbow nation at peace with itself and the world.”

Mandela filled his key cabinet posts with members of the Communist Party. At the time, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry said, “South Africa is the first of the Anglo-Saxon nations to give away its God-given birthright.”

Rather than remembering the Day of the Covenant, seeking to obey and trust in God, and teaching their people, black South Africans and the world at large about His role in their history, His laws and blessings, Afrikaners just *let it all go*.

For all their political and financial expenditure, de Klerk’s and previous administrations had not only failed to educate blacks about the biblical values that South Africa’s early European settlers brought with them, but they lost those values themselves. They shamefully surrendered outright. That is why the *Trumpet* reported in June 1994 that disaster “looms huge on the horizon of South Africa, as godless communism has its day bringing an ANC-dominated government to power with the apparent full endorsement of Western society!”

The past three decades have proved this assessment right. South Africa is now a member of the BRICS alliance, which also includes Brazil, Russia, India and China. Russian efforts to control South Africa’s mineral wealth have largely been successful. Current South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has appointed 16 Communist Party members to his cabinet of 37 ministers. These Communists are now discussing an amendment to the South African Constitution to permit the seizure of white-owned land without compensation. This

comes after at least 3,000 white farmers have been killed in a deliberate attempt to drive whites from their land.

Now South Africa stands on the verge of a civil war that could kill or drive out the remaining white population and transform the nation into the world’s next Cuba, Venezuela or Zimbabwe. The first nation built on the anti-white principles of critical race theory is now a failed state and easy prey. It is a *warning* to the rest of the English-speaking world. If Australia, Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand and the United States continue to reject God’s laws, remain ungrateful for His blessings, drift into more sinfulness, and embrace communism, as South Africa did, they will suffer as South Africa has suffered!

## Lost Birthright

Herbert W. Armstrong explained in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* that the British, Dutch and other northwestern Europeans descended from the ancient Israelites, and that the ancestors of the Americans and the British trace back to two grandsons of Israel: Manasseh and Ephraim. Genesis records God giving these descendants of Abraham major, civilization-shaping birthrights of immense wealth and power. This is why the U.S. became the greatest nation in world history and why the British Commonwealth became a great company of nations. This greatness came as a result of Abraham’s faith and obedience and is a tool for God to use for the good of human civilization, not for the American and Commonwealth peoples to squander and surrender. God also promised that if these nations turned away from Him and His law, as their ancient forefathers did, they too would be conquered and enslaved.

This book is why Mr. Flurry knew South Africa would fall apart after de Klerk’s surrender.

The Prophet Ezekiel describes the time of punishment coming on the end-time nations of Israel in grisly detail. “Make a chain: for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence. Wherefore I will bring the worst of the heathen, and they shall possess

their houses ..." (Ezekiel 7:23-24). The word "heathen" in this passage is not necessarily negative. It comes from the Hebrew word *goy*, meaning non-Israelite. But the "worst of the heathen" refers to the type of non-Israelites like the ones killing farmers in South Africa. They have pledged to kill white people, kill their women, kill their children, kill their dogs, and kill their cats. This prophecy says that so many bloody crimes will occur in the end time that they will be like links in a chain—one following right after another. It describes the seizure of people's homes and war between Israelites and non-Israelites.

This is intense punishment, but it is punishment with a purpose.

God is allowing this chain of violence so that the people of Israel will finally repent and cry out to Him. It is God's great desire to teach all races and nationalities the way to peace and prosperity. If mankind would only obey God's commandments, they wouldn't have to experience such horrific crimes. But the human heart is hard and too proud to admit that it does not know the way to peace, happiness and stability. Tragically, God must allow mankind to learn from their own choices until they finally cry out to Him in repentance. ■

# Learn the Lesson of the 'Great Multitude'

It could protect you from a world of suffering. **BY GERALD FLURRY**

**T**HE BOOK OF REVELATION DESCRIBES A group of people called the "great multitude." This group is so numerous no man can number it. And it holds a powerful lesson that we must understand today. Your very life depends on it!

This critical message at the very heart of the book of Revelation relates directly to the civilization-threatening problems facing our world today—and shows what *you, individually*, must do to be protected from them.

This message is twofold. First, it is a warning. If you heed the warning, you will not have to experience the kind of tribulation the great multitude will experience! Second, this is also a message with magnificent hope. In this world full of troubles, at a very urgent time, we all need to see this hope!

## An Example of God's Mercy

Here is the description of this group: "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which

no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands" (Revelation 7:9). This mass of people, speaking different languages, is clothed in white robes. This indicates that they had heard God's truth and repented. How would they know to repent unless they heard God's message of repentance?

**THIS IS THE TIME WHEN WE WILL SEE THE REAL FRUITS OF OUR LABOR TODAY!**

The context shows that their repentance takes place during the Great Tribulation, a 2½-year period of suffering unlike anything this world has ever experienced. As a result of their repentance during the Tribulation, they will escape the Day of the Lord—the yearlong time of God's wrath that follows the Tribulation.

The painful truth is that these people could have *also* escaped the Tribulation, with all its suffering, had they listened and responded to God's Word *today!*



Nevertheless, this is an example of God's wonderful love and mercy for all of mankind. God always sends a message to warn of an approaching calamity, giving people the opportunity to turn from their sins and repent. We all have that opportunity, but most fail to take advantage of it.

### **Why Palm Branches?**

These repentant people, dressed in white robes, meet Christ with palm branches in their hands. What is the significance of this detail?

The only other place in the New Testament with a similar occurrence is in John 12:12-13: "On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord." These people came with palm branches to meet Christ at His first coming.

When Christ came the first time, God began harvesting His firstfruits, the small harvest that is continuing to this day. Those who understand God's way of life are being prepared today to help Christ rule the whole world in the 1,000-year rule of Jesus Christ on Earth, when the whole world will experience peace, prosperity and joy. God is giving these firstfruits an absolutely staggering reward.

God wants these people to flourish like palm trees (Exodus 15:27; Numbers 33:9). *Smith's Bible Dictionary* says this about palm trees: "[T]hey were renowned in the time of the gospels and Josephus. The Jewish historian mentions the luxuriance of these trees again and again, not only in allusion to the time of Moses ..., but in the account of the Roman campaign under Pompey ..., the proceedings of Antony and Cleopatra. Herod the Great did much for Jericho and took great interest in its palm groves."

There was a time when Jericho was called the city of palms (Deuteronomy 34:3; Judges 1:16). This city was flourishing in many ways! But Jericho today has no palm trees. Even the Mount of Olives once flourished with palm trees, but today there are very few. This

symbolizes the degenerate state of this terrible world. Our world is not flourishing. It is plagued with problems.

Look at our financial condition. Coronavirus restrictions have deeply indebted our governments, destroyed many businesses, and exacerbated a host of already serious economic problems. Commentators and analysts are expressing deep concern; they can see that our finances are not flourishing like the palm tree. And a financial crisis in America would shake the entire world!

Many other crises threaten our world. A belligerent Russia, an expansionist authoritarian China, a rising European superpower, increasing aggression from Iran, division in the United States—to name a few. So many in this world turn a blind eye to these developments.

What is the cause of such problems? We have lost so much of the beauty God created for us, because we are not spiritual as we ought to be. Man continues to degenerate in character. Yes, we make advances in technology, but we don't appreciate God's beauty—the natural world that He created—because we don't think like God.

God never intended for this world to suffer the pain and misery we see today. God gave us the option between life and death—and we chose death (Deuteronomy 30:19). It was our choice. God certainly wouldn't allow this to happen if men followed Him.

Yet God says that even amid this turmoil and upheaval, He will protect those who are submissive and obedient to Him (Revelation 3:10; 12:14). God promises to do that. And He will follow through because He will never, ever lie (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18). But do we really believe God? If there is ever a time to truly believe His promises, it is now. God will protect those who live His way of life *today*. If we do that, He says He will never forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

When you have that assurance, you don't need to fear events on the world scene. You can have trust and faith in the great living God! (To learn about true godly repentance, request my free booklet *How to Be an Overcomer*. It will show you what God expects of you.)

## Will You Repent?

We must understand the tremendous lesson wrapped up in Revelation 7: “And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have WASHED THEIR ROBES, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (verses 13-14). These people had to wash their robes! They were filthy. And God wanted them to clean up. They may have thought they were clean, but they were not. In the Great Tribulation, they had to face reality.

These people washed their robes “in the blood of the Lamb.” That is the precious blood of Jesus Christ. He came to Earth and died for us, suffering as no man ever has, so we can have His righteousness and flourish like the palm tree. He did that for you and me. We must never take His sacrifice lightly. God in the flesh—a being without sin—was marred more than any man and then murdered (Isaiah 52 and 53). That is the price for our sins!

Those in this multitude will repent during the worst suffering in human history. But consider the lesson! Look at how *severely* God had to correct them, and what terrible calamity He had to allow, before they were willing to turn and seek Him! He does not want to have to do that. Those people will escape the Day of the Lord. But they could have completely avoided the suffering of the Tribulation had they heeded God’s warning message *today*.

What depth of suffering does it take to make YOU change? What will it take to make YOU recognize God’s love, and seek His way?

Throughout the Bible, God says He will protect His people from that terrible time because they obey Him now. The great multitude, however, didn’t heed soon enough. They got to the point of nearly losing their physical lives—but repented in time.

Can you recognize when God is trying to reach you? Do you know enough about God to know where He is speaking? The Bible is Jesus Christ in print, and there is only one place on Earth where you can hear the full message He

is speaking. You cannot escape the coming Tribulation unless you know where God is speaking and then heed the message being delivered by His people.

## Learn the Lesson!

There are two big problems with the great multitude before they repent. First, they are not clothed with white robes, meaning they lack righteousness. They had deceived themselves into thinking they were righteous, as many professing Christians do today. Second, these people are not flourishing like a palm tree. God wants us to live with excitement and thrills. He wants us to have the abundant life! (John 10:10). That is the way that God intends everyone to live, but man has chosen not to. He has decided to go his own way.

This innumerable multitude is composed of people who remember hearing God’s warning message and, because of that, turn around. The great multitude must have heard God’s message before the Great Tribulation. But they didn’t commit themselves to it; they didn’t repent, didn’t wash their robes.

Notice a prophecy for today in Ezekiel 33: “And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not. And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them” (verses 31-33). These people loved to hear God’s Word, but they wouldn’t *do anything* with what they heard. Again, this prophecy is for today.

Look at the terrible things happening in the world today. We are on the outer edges of the great storm of the Tribulation right now. Time is very urgent. But you must prove this for yourself.

That is the message the great multitude didn’t heed at the right time. But they will heed it in the Great Tribulation—and then they will come out and turn to God! They will wash their robes with the blood of Christ, and

will come to understand this great and marvelous vision. And the moment they repent, God will bring them out of the Tribulation so they need not face any more suffering. This shows how wonderfully merciful God is.

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth” (3 John 2). God loves us; we are His beloved. He is a God of perfect justice and judgment. He will try us and test us. He will punish us when necessary. But above all things, He wants us to prosper and be in good health. He wants us to flourish like the palm tree! He doesn’t want us living in fear as the whole world does today.

The innumerable multitude will escape the

worst year in this planet’s history. And God is happy to protect them. But He would have done so earlier—if only they had heeded what He says now, while there is still time.

Learn this powerful lesson of the “great multitude”! **YOU ARE HEARING THE MESSAGE OF GOD TODAY! DO NOT JUST FILE IT AWAY IN YOUR MEMORY AND ACT ON IT LATER. ACT NOW!** Turn to God in repentance! Learn to love His way of life and to love the Bible, because there is nothing like it when you truly understand it. God is offering us a life that is full of hope! He wants to protect you and look after you *right now*—and He promises to do so if you turn and obey Him today. That is something to be excited about! ■

# An Outstanding Reason to Obey God

It's the difference between hate and love.

**D**ID YOU KNOW THAT SATAN OBEYS GOD? Maybe you've never thought about this. But God is more powerful than the devil—so when God commands, Satan complies.

When God wanted to free the Israelites from Egypt, Pharaoh repeatedly refused. But God hit him with so many terrible curses that he finally gave in (Exodus 12:29-32). Pharaoh was a type of the devil.

In the book of Job, Satan appeared before God to accuse this righteous man (Job 1:6-8). “Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?” he snarled (verse 10). The devil wanted to bring Job down, but he couldn't cross the boundary God had placed. God told Satan, *Do what you will, but don't harm Job himself* (verse 12). God chose to redraw that boundary to test and develop Job's character. Satan destroyed almost everything Job possessed, but didn't cross the line (verses 13-22). Then he pressed God, hungry to attack even harder. God responded, “Behold, he is in thine hand; but *save his life*” (Job 2:6). Satan struck the poor man with boils from foot to crown (verse 7)—but obeyed. He did not kill Job.

Satan has zero mercy. Full of hate, eager to unleash misery, he has no self-restraint. *The only one who restrains him is God.* He is unable to defy his Maker.

In Matthew 4:10-11, Jesus Christ commanded, “Be gone, Satan,” and the devil left. In Revelation 12:9-12, God cast Satan and his demons out of heaven. He confined them to Earth, and they complied.

The *devil* obeys God—and he completely hates God!

Sadly, *compulsory obedience* is not uncommon. Many people would commit crimes if they knew they wouldn't get caught. In society today, more and more people are taking advantage of weak law enforcement by vandalizing, stealing and worse.

God does want us to obey Him. But what He really seeks is a much different kind of obedience than what so many offer.

Yes, at times God does *demand submission*, as He did with Satan. For example, God commands parents to punish children for disobedience as a means of establishing obedience as a habit (e.g. Proverbs 22:15; 29:15, 17). But that is only a *starting point* for the right kind of obedience to God.

“The *fear of the Lord* is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that *do his commandments* [or *obey*] ...” (Psalm 111:10). This is about more than just fear of punishment for breaking a law: It is *respect and reverence* for the Lawmaker. Proper fear leads to maturity and wisdom. Obedience to righteous laws produces understanding, which reinforces respect for the Lawgiver.

The more you obey God's law, the more you will understand it. And the more you understand God's law, the more you will come to *love* it. That LOVE inspires the kind of obedience God is looking for.

In Ephesians 6:5-6, the Apostle Paul tells workers to obey their bosses—but not in just any old way. He specifically says, “Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, *doing the will of God from the heart.*” In other words, obey your employer sincerely and wholeheartedly. In several scriptures, God commands this kind of complicity with the authorities in our lives as a means of developing sincere obedience to God Himself (e.g. Romans 13:1-7).

It's a profound thing to think about: Mere obedience to God doesn't necessarily make you any better than the devil! The question is, what is happening in your heart? God praises those who obey “*from the heart*” (Romans 6:17).

“And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to *fear* the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways [or *obey*], and to *love him*,



and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul” (Deuteronomy 10:12). Note the progression: Godly fear leads to obedience, which leads to *love*—which inspires you to commit to a life of eternal service in God’s Family!

God doesn’t want grudging, satanic obedience. He wants joyful, heartfelt obedience from His loving children. He wants us to *love* His way of life just as He does.

“O how love I thy law!” (Psalm 119:97). Learn to *love* the Sabbath, honesty, marital fidelity, tithing, and all God’s laws! Get to the point where if someone said, “You don’t *have to* keep the Sabbath,” that would sound just as

ridiculous as, “You don’t *have to* enjoy your favorite food.”

That love is what motivated Jesus Christ to obey His Father, even to the point of torture and death.

This depth of love and obedience is not something you can work up yourself. You have to pray that God will help you by the power of His Holy Spirit working with you. But the more you love God and His way, the harder you will strive to obey Him because you *want to*. And soon, you’ll be able to work together with God to teach the *whole world* to keep God’s beautiful law of love. ■

# WORLDWATCH

## EUROPE

Germany's new chancellor, **Olaf Scholz**, is in a very weak political position. Leader of the Social Democratic Party, he is leading a divided government consisting of two parties from the left and one from the right.

Meanwhile, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) of his predecessor, Angela Merkel, named a new leader, **Friedrich Merz**, who is something of a rival to Merkel within the CDU. Merkel was a centrist who asked forgiveness for Germany's past and opened borders to migrants. **Merz is right-wing, has emphasized pride in German history**, and has stated that immigrants should blend into a guiding culture rather than retaining their own and making Germany even more multicultural. Merz is less favored by party elites but popular with regular voters.

Merz is also of a different religion than Merkel. In June 2021, the *Irish Times* wrote, "Decades of Catholic CDU leaders were shaken in 2000 with the election of Merkel—a Protestant pastor's daughter." **Merz, however, is a strong Catholic** and, notably, considers the persecution of Christians around the world "an attack on our freedom." Bible prophecy states that Germany and Europe will become much more Catholic and far more confrontational with Islamic nations and other powers. The shift to the right of one of Germany's most important political parties could play a role in fulfilling this prophecy.

Austria has also experienced a change in leadership. After withdrawing from politics in December, political star **Sebastian Kurz took a job with an American company**, a move reminiscent of German political star **Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg's** strategy after resigning in scandal in 2011. The *Trumpet* is watching both, especially Guttenberg, for an eventual comeback.

Meanwhile, **European governments have steadily increased punishments for citizens who refuse COVID vaccines**. The interior ministers of **Germany's** states agreed to deploy more police forces to catch those who

disobey coronavirus rules, prioritizing this over other duties, such as traffic enforcement, and the country is considering implementing a vaccine mandate. **Austria** instituted a vaccine mandate that began February 1. Also in February, **Italy** began fining unvaccinated individuals over 50 who showed up to work. **France** has barred people who are unvaccinated, even if they have tested negative for COVID-19, from entry to entertainment and hospitality venues. "The people of Europe are being conditioned to accept more tyrannical leadership," wrote *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry in the summer of 2020. The implementation of vaccine passport laws shows this prophecy in action. ■

## MIDDLE EAST

**Iran has continued expanding its radical terrorist influence in the Middle East**. Its rival, **Saudi Arabia**, has been at war with Iran-backed Houthi rebels in **Yemen** for seven years. In November 2021, it conducted air strikes on targets in Yemen's capital, Sanaa, including what it claimed was a secret site of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). Iran has been accused of smuggling weapons to the Houthis for years, but if its IRGC is deployed in the capital city, its involvement is deeper than previously realized. **A Houthi takeover of Yemen would enable Iran to threaten shipping through the Babel-Mandeb strait**. This sea gate is so crucial that **Djibouti**, which lies directly across the strait, hosts more foreign military bases than any other country in the world. The U.S. Department of Energy says this passage at the southern end of the Red Sea is one of the world's most important oil choke points.

While Iran's control over Yemen is strengthening, its grip on **Syria** could be slipping. **Shipping containers that likely held Iranian munitions in the Syrian port city of Latakia exploded in an air strike on Dec. 28, 2021**. Israel is suspected of conducting the attack. Iran has supported the Syrian regime of

**Bashar Assad** throughout the nation's 11-year civil war. It transports weapons, personnel and other resources through Syria to Lebanon. Bible prophecy suggests that Iran will provoke a European empire into war, and threatening its oil supply will likely be a major factor. Yet a prophecy in Psalm 83 states that Syria (here called the Hagarenes), will ally with Germany (prophetic Assur). Iran maintains its alliance with Assad and Syria, but Bible prophecy shows that while the air strike on Iran in Yemen foreshadows growing Iranian power, an air strike on Iran in Syria foreshadows something very different.

Meanwhile, Europe is making other advancements into the Middle East that could help it counter Iran. French President **Emmanuel Macron** visited the **United Arab Emirates** in December and **announced a \$19.2 billion weapons deal** that includes France's largest-ever foreign sale of fighter jets. One analyst said this marks "the first time that a close U.S. partner in the Arab world will rely more on French technology than America." This follows decades of American deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan that are ending in ignominy. Arab states that fear Iran and its radical Islamist allies are looking for support, leading them to Europe. Macron characterized the deal as "active cooperation in the fight against terrorism."

As America's strategy in the Middle East fails and Iran continues to threaten the security of Gulf states and their oil supplies to Europe, **watch for Germany, France and other European nations to form the prophesied alliances of Daniel 11 and Psalm 83.** Read about this in our booklet ***The King of the South.*** \* ■

## **ASIA**

Violent protests in **Kazakhstan** in January caused the government, which has ruled the former Soviet nation since it became independent in 1991, to call on Russian strongman **Vladimir Putin** for help. **Putin deployed Russian troops into the country.** He is actively rebuilding Russian power in **Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Belarus** and beyond.

**Putin strengthened Russia's partnership with China** at a Dec. 15, 2021, teleconference

with Chinese General Secretary **Xi Jinping** in which the two announced that their nations' relationship is now superior to a formal alliance. They pledged to support each other's interests. In China's case, this includes obliterating democracy and freedom in Hong Kong, conquering Taiwan, crushing China's Uyghur minorities, and controlling the East and South China Seas. Putin's interests include creating an energy crisis and a migrant crisis in Europe, reigniting war in the Balkans, working with Germany to divide it from its NATO allies, and threatening war in eastern Ukraine.

**On Dec. 20, 2021, Russia published a list demands for NATO** and threatened military action if they were ignored (article, page 10). If followed, these would constitute the biggest changes in the world order since the end of the Cold War. It appears to have backing by China.

After China publicly backed Russia's illegal annexation of Ukrainian territory, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in "**Asia Stands With Putin**" that the support was "a stunning fulfillment of a biblical prophecy!" In our May-June 2014 issue, he wrote: "[W]e have been proclaiming for over 50 years that Russia, China and other Asian nations would ally themselves in the end time. [W]e are in that end time now."

Meanwhile, **the Chinese government is stockpiling grain**, apparently due to fear of famine. ZeroHedge wrote in 2019: "Does China believe that we are on the verge of a major global crisis? The Communist Chinese government has always been very big into planning, and it appears that they have decided that now is the time to hoard food, gold and other commodities." In the two years since, China has dramatically increased its grain holdings. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says China will soon have 69 percent of the world's corn reserves, 60 percent of its rice reserves, and 51 percent of its wheat reserves (the U.S. has 12, 1 and 6 percent of these same commodity reserves, respectively). A nation with 20 percent of the world's population has managed to stockpile far more than half of the globe's grain, leading to steep price increases across

the globe that may push more countries into famine. In the event of a trade war, global famine or other emergency, China appears to be ready. ■

## ANGLO-AMERICA

Inflation is eating away at America's economic strength as a crime wave destroys its major cities, rampant political corruption destroys both its military and its electoral system, and wildfires burn down its forests.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported on January 12 that **the Consumer Price Index rose 7 percent in the 12-month period ending December 31, more than at any time in the last 39 years.** Food increased 10 percent, gasoline increased 56 percent, and used cars increased 37 percent. *Shadowstats.com* states that if inflation were calculated the way it was in 1980, it would be more than 15 percent.

On Dec. 20, 2021, Defense Secretary **Lloyd Austin** announced **new policies allowing the military to purge conservatives from the ranks.** Based on the premise that the January 6 Capitol protest was an act of domestic extremism, these guidelines ban "advocating terrorism" or "supporting the overthrow of the government." Service members' social media activity will be monitored, and soldiers who support Donald Trump or think the 2020 U.S. presidential election was rigged may be dishonorably discharged.

The **Chan Zuckerberg Initiative**, led by Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan, has hired **Meghan Urisko.** Urisko is a former steering committee member of the Democratic Socialists of America who is still an official "dues-paying member" of the socialist group's Los Angeles and national chapters. The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative spent \$419 million on election operations in 2020, bankrolling local government election offices and staffing them with far-left activists. Now **Zuckerberg and Chan are hiring overt socialists, indicating that their election meddling will be even more overtly partisan in 2022 and 2024.**

**Colorado concluded 2021 with the most destructive fire in its history.** The Marshall Fire scorched at least 991 homes in Boulder County. Sheriff Joe Pelle said he believes that downed power lines sparked the fire, which spread through dry vegetation, driven by winds reaching 100 mph. As a result, seven people were injured, three are still missing, and thousands were left without gas, water or power. The Bible dogmatically states that God controls the weather (Nahum 1:3; Job 38:28; Amos 4:7). It states that God gives gentle rain in its season as a blessing for obedience to His laws. It also states that He upends weather systems as a curse for disobedience (Leviticus 26:3-4, 14, 19-20). You can read more in our booklet ***Why 'Natural' Disasters?\**** ■

## HOMICIDE IN AMERICA

At least **12 major cities** hit all-time homicide records in 2021.

1. **Albuquerque**, New Mexico
2. **Austin**, Texas
3. **Baton Rouge**, Louisiana
4. **Columbus**, Ohio
5. **Indianapolis**, Indiana
6. **Louisville**, Kentucky
7. **Philadelphia**, Pennsylvania
8. **Portland**, Oregon
9. **Rochester**, New York
10. **St. Paul**, Minnesota
11. **Toledo**, Ohio
12. **Tucson**, Arizona

**St. Louis, Missouri**, is the most dangerous city in the world outside of Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela.



# The Greatest Nation on Earth?

Face reality: You are no longer in it.

**D**O YOU BELIEVE AMERICA IS THE STRONGEST country in the world? It's time to open your eyes: You are living in the post-American world.

The United States has enjoyed the world's largest economy for about two lifetimes. But depending on the measurement, China has already surpassed it or is about to. It is building a sprawling trading network that encompasses more than 140 nations. Recently, it signed an agreement with virtually every nation in Latin America and the Caribbean that helps it replace the U.S. as the region's top trade partner. The plan covers almost all aspects of life, from learning Chinese to mining to exploring space, for more than 680 million people in 33 countries—and is plainly aimed at taking over America's backyard.

Such are the deals China is securing that enable it to flood the world with inexpensive exports and thus amass mountains of cash. This wealth it reinvests in foreign countries, then uses this as leverage to gain control of their resources and infrastructure. China is building a global empire, quickly and relentlessly. Meanwhile America, opposed to tyrannies but war weary, relies on economic weapons to freeze regimes like Russia, North Korea, Pakistan, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Venezuela and Cuba out of diplomacy and trade. China, itself a tyrannical regime, is happy to welcome them as they rush into its arms. It just signed a “comprehensive strategic partnership” with Iran that will flood the Islamist terrorist state with cash, as well as providing military training, weapons development and intelligence sharing that could upend the Middle East's balance of power.

America is in retreat, pulling out of Europe and deserting the Middle East. Last summer it evacuated Afghanistan in the most humiliating fashion conceivable, reinstating the

very terrorist organization we went there to defeat, betraying foreign allies and abandoning our own people. Russia, by stark contrast, is reconstructing the Soviet empire bit by bit through intimidation and outright invasion. It is building a potent energy weapon against Eastern Europe, reigniting conflict in the Balkans, deploying troops in Kazakhstan, warring against Ukraine, and fatally undermining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. China is annexing the South China Sea, crushing its Uyghur population, and snuffing out freedom in Hong Kong. It is isolating Taiwan and preparing to invade; one wonders who would stop it if it chose to do so. America certainly has no stomach for war over a remote island in East Asia. Though Americans vociferously decry the evils of *American* oppression and imperialism, they are oddly mute about the expansionist neocolonialism of dictators Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin.

America is in a leadership crisis. Half the leaders have come to believe a demonic ideology: radical policies, economic madness, hatred of tradition, unrestrained amorality. They encourage lawlessness on the street while weaponizing law to destroy their political foes. They lie, cheat, steal, even kill to serve the “greater good” of attaining and clinging to power. The *other* half of the leaders are too irresolute and weak, too compromised, to stop them from destroying the country. And they all spend an inordinate amount of their time seeking reelection and finding ways to appeal to self-interested, ignorant voters. The paramount leaders of Russia and China don't bother with elections, debates with legislators, term limits or any other checks on their power. What they say is what is done, whether it's installing an Orwellian surveillance state, laying tens of thousands of miles of high-speed rail, colonizing the moon, or expanding and modernizing their nuclear arsenals.

America shackles its industry and economy with regulations and restrictions to appease special interests and foreign environmentalists. China scorns climate change protocols with impunity. It is too busy dominating the global 5G rollout, strengthening its automotive sector, developing the digital yuan, erecting skyscrapers in new megacities, modernizing, militarizing and colonizing to concern itself with carbon emissions. While the standard of living in China has been rising rapidly for more than four decades, America's infrastructure is decaying, our cities are filling with homeless, drug abuse is mushrooming, inflation and personal debt are rising, incomes are falling, and our population is swelling by some 2 million illegal immigrants a year who disregard our laws and culture. Americans might denounce repression of speech, censorship and punishment of dissent in nations like Russia and China, but we have surrendered our own freedom of speech to Big Tech and leftist politicians. Our Bill of Rights doesn't protect political differences, church attendance and religious belief—it safeguards smut and filth, and the right of men to compete in women's sports.

China's educational system is churning out

engineers and scientists. It is preparing its next generation for world dominance. The next generation of Americans are learning that math is white supremacist, grammar is unnecessary, and advanced placement classes are discriminatory. History classes fixate on the nation's supposed sins rather than the nobility of our founding principles. Instead of reading and writing, schools encourage elementary-age children to explore gender fluidity.

America is far along a steep civilizational decline and has been overtaken by foreign powers on a very different trajectory. History will judge us harshly for being so self-absorbed, so distracted by virus variants, so preoccupied with pronoun preference and race reparations, so naive in assuming our own invincibility, so heedless, so blind—while China moved into Cuba, Russia single-handedly dismantled NATO, and Iran became a nuclear-armed state. The American era is over. Historically speaking, the fall of such a great power is a dangerous time. In fact, the Bible prophesies what comes next: "the times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24; Revelation 11:2). It won't be pretty. America let it happen. And it is about to be blindsided by it. ■