

TW

THE TRUMPET WEEKLY

AUGUST 29, 2014

Putin Will Survive

BY JEREMIAH JACQUES



IN THE aftermath of the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, a growing number of Western voices are saying the reign of Russian President Vladimir Putin is near its end.

It's true that the tough sanctions America and Europe imposed on Russia after the MH17 tragedy were designed to squeeze Russians enough to bring about regime change. Putin's response was to ban virtually all food imports from the United States and Europe. That move is hurting the West, but is also rattling Russian markets and intensifying the discomfort of many Russians. All of this has some of Putin's people questioning the direction he is leading them in.

But despite these developments, the *Trumpet* believes Putin will probably remain in office—and even survive

Syrian rebels capture sole crossing into Golan 2

Germany to sabotage Iran nuke program? 4

Pope Francis is an Islamic State target 4

Pax-Americana's erosion is increasingly clear 5

Debt: The money of slaves 10

politically in the longer term. This is our view for three main reasons.

First, Putin is likely to survive because, despite the increasing economic discomfort Russians are feeling, a growing number of them adore and fully support him. The latest opinion poll, published August 6 by the Levada Center, put Putin's approval rating at a stratospheric 87 percent. It also said that a record 66 percent of Russians think the country is now going in the right direction.

The only time Putin's popularity level soared higher was in September 2008 just after Russia crushed Georgia's military and accomplished a de facto annexation of two Georgian regions. A full 88 percent of Russians expressed approval of him at that time.

The pattern shows that Putin's popularity climbs when he is boldly leading Russia to expand its territory and power. This is because he taps into the national pride abundant among Russians; he harnesses the deep-seated belief of many Russians that they are misunderstood by Westerners.

What about those who don't approve of Putin? There is certainly some opposition. Some are probably eyeing Putin the way vultures watch a wounded bear. But the president's suppression of opposition is likely effective enough to prevent any of the grumbling to translate into regime change.

Putin has taken several steps recently to neuter his opponents. He places several opposition leaders under house arrest or in prison; he enacted laws making participation in opposition rallies a crime punishable by prison time and steep fines.

In mid-August, Putin quietly sacked 18 top-ranking Russian officials. Were they pressuring Putin or disagreeing with him to a degree he found unacceptable? Were they suspected of staging a coup? We don't know, but the message the ouster sends to Russians is clear: Putin is in charge, and he has no tolerance for those who forget it.

Putin has also been clamping down on domestic media. In November 2013, he greatly extended his grip over TV and radio when the media arm of state-controlled Gazprom bought Profmedia. In December, he

see PUTIN page 12

Iran Quietly Arming in the Strait of Hormuz

Callum Wood | August 27

AN UNOFFICIAL Pentagon report stated that Iran's coastline along the [Strait of Hormuz](#) is bristling with antiship missiles and a host of attack vessels, including submarines. This should concern any nation that sails tankers through the strait. Forty percent of global seaborne oil is carried through the strait.

Since the Strait of Hormuz is so narrow, a few sunken tankers and a couple sea mines could close the sea lane for a considerable time—enough time to make oil prices skyrocket and industry throughout the world come to a screeching halt.

According to *Bloomberg*, the Pentagon report stated that the buildup was designed to “deter an attack, survive an initial strike, retaliate against an aggressor and force a diplomatic solution.”

For any kind of military attack to be carried out against Iran, the attacking nation would need to be *desperate* or very fearful.

Since Iran has promised that its nuclear program is

only for peaceful purposes and will not be used to create a nuclear bomb, the potential danger to Europe and the world will not transpire. Right?

But if this is true, why is Tehran arming Hormuz and seemingly preparing to defend itself from invasion?

Could it be because it actually is seeking to build nuclear weapons? Iran knows that if it does acquire the bomb, other nations may respond aggressively. That is why we see the buildup in the Strait of Hormuz today.

Knowing the strategic importance of the strait, Iran will exploit it to discourage other nations from interfering. Even if the recent nuclear negotiations have temporarily slowed its program, it is making necessary precautions to ensure that in the future, when it does go after nuclear weapons, the world

will be less likely to act. But one political entity is prophesied to act. For more information, read [“The Whirlwind Prophecy.”](#)

“Notice the word ‘push’ in Daniel 11:40. In Hebrew, it means to push at, or to wage war. Think about Iran’s nuclear weapons program, its threat to close down Hormuz The primary goal of Iranian foreign policy is to ‘push’ and provoke, to aggravate and infuriate. This prophecy was written 2,500 years ago—and it describes the present situation in the Persian Gulf perfectly!”

—theTrumpet.com, Jan. 26, 2012

Syrian Rebels Capture Sole Border Crossing to Israel

WASHINGTON POST | August 27

SYRIAN REBELS Wednesday claimed control of the only border crossing between Syria and Israel, extending a series of gains in the strategically sensitive Golan Heights in recent days.

The capture of the crossing point is of greater symbolic than strategic significance for the rebels fighting to overthrow Syrian President Bashar Assad, given the decades-old state of war that has prevailed between Israel and Syria.

It does, however, consolidate rebel control over Syria's border with Israel and potentially puts extremists on Israel's doorstep. Al Qaeda-linked Jabhat al-Nusra was among the rebel groups that participated in the battle for the crossing, according to the

Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. ...

Over the past few days, additional rocket fire from Lebanon and Syria has hit Israeli territories and sent residents in parts of northern Israel into bomb shelters. Some said the attacks were probably launched in protest over the Israeli military operation in the Gaza Strip on the southern border. ...

Iran Threatens Surprise Attack

WASHINGTON FREE BEACON | August 26

IRANIAN MILITARY leaders on Tuesday vowed that Tehran would take military action against Israel in response to an alleged Israeli drone that was shot down in Iran on Sunday. ...

“Our response to this aggression will not be diplomatic, we will

retaliate in the battlefield, but will not necessarily announce it,” Brig. Gen. Hossein Salami, the lieutenant commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) was quoted as saying during a ceremony on Tuesday meant to commemorate “martyred” Iranian military personnel.

“The enemy will see and understand it,” Salami was quoted as saying by the semi-official Fars News Agency. “We never step back (in the confrontation) against the enemy. The Islamic Republic is powerful and is capable of confronting any power at any level and we never bring down the level of our goals.” ...

Iranian military leaders announced over the weekend that they had used a surface-to-air missile to shoot down a drone that it claimed was an Israeli-made Hermes 450 unmanned plane. The drone was allegedly on its way to the Natanz nuclear enrichment site, which is believed to



STEPHEN FLURRY

Egypt, U.A.E. Strike in Libya, Ignore U.S.

In the Middle East, America is no longer even in the backfield—it's on the sideline.



be part of Iran's clandestine attempts to build a nuclear weapon. ...

Related: "Jerusalem: Your Thermometer for Measuring Crises"

Gazans Celebrate Hamas 'Victory'

ARUTZ SHEVA | August 26

CELEBRATORY GUNFIRE erupted in Gaza on Tuesday after a long-term truce with Israel went into effect at 7 p.m., on the 50th day of Operation Protective Edge.

Thousands of Gaza residents flooded onto the streets of Gaza City, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists who fired in the air in celebration just moments after the truce began, Agence France-Presse (AFP) correspondents said.

Mosques used their loudspeakers to broadcast raucous chants of "Allahu akbar."

Gaza terrorists in fact breached the truce as soon as it began, firing rockets and causing "color red" warning

sirens to be sounded at 7:05 p.m. in the Gaza Belt region, followed by yet more sirens minutes later.

At 7:15 p.m. more rocket sirens were sounded in the Eshkol Regional Council area, but since then the ceasefire appears to be holding. ...

Related: "Hamas Admits to Murdering Three Israeli Teens"

Assad Policies Aided Rise of Islamic State

WALL STREET JOURNAL | August 22

THE ISLAMIC State, which metastasized from a group of militants seeking to overthrow the Syrian government into a marauding army gobbling up chunks of the Middle East, gained momentum early on from a calculated decision by Syrian President Bashar Assad to go easy on it, according to people close to the regime.

Earlier in the three-year-old Syrian uprising, Mr. Assad decided to mostly avoid fighting the Islamic State to

enable it to cannibalize the more secular rebel group supported by the West, the Free Syrian Army [FSA], said Izzat Shahbandar, an Assad ally and former Iraqi lawmaker who was Baghdad's liaison to Damascus. The goal, he said, was to force the world to choose between the regime and extremists.

"When the Syrian Army is not fighting the Islamic State, this makes the group stronger," said Mr. Shahbandar, a close aide to former Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who said Mr. Assad described the strategy to him personally during a visit in May to Damascus. "And sometimes, the army gives them a safe path to allow the Islamic State to attack the FSA and seize their weapons."

"It's a strategy to eliminate the FSA and have the two main players face each other in Syria: Assad and the Islamic State," said Mr. Shahbandar. "And now [Damascus] is asking the world to help, and the world can't say no." ...

Mr. Shahbandar said the Islamic State's recent success forced the Syrian government and its Iranian allies to ramp up their military assaults, hoping the West will throw its weight behind Damascus and Tehran to defeat the extremists. Such cooperation would put the U.S. and its regional allies such as Saudi Arabia in an uncomfortable position, after years of supporting the FSA and demanding that Mr. Assad step down.

There are some signs that the opposing sides might be willing to work together. In Iraq, the U.S. began arming Kurdish Peshmerga forces this month, while the Iranians sent advisers.

The Syrian government facilitated the predecessor to the Islamic State—al Qaeda in Iraq—when that group's primary target was U.S. troops then in the country. ...

"The Assad regime played a key role in [the Islamic States's] rise," said U.S. State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf at a news conference earlier this month. "They allowed for a security situation where [the Islamic States] could grow in strength. The Syrian regime fostered the growth of terrorist networks. They facilitated the flow of al Qaeda foreign fighters in ... Iraq." ...

Germany Working With U.S. in Iran Nuclear Sabotage

TASNIM NEWS AGENCY | August 27

CHIEF OF the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi accused Germany on Wednesday of complicity with the U.S. in plotting “industrial sabotage” to impair the country’s nuclear activities.

“Before shipping the nuclear equipment to Iran, Germany had dispatched them to the U.S. to carry out industrial sabotage and then sent them to Iran,” Ali Akbar Salehi said in a television talk show on Wednesday morning.

The official also pointed a finger of blame at “certain East Asian countries” for getting involved with the sabotage plan.

He further noted that the plots against Iran’s nuclear activities prompted the country to make great progress in identifying deficiencies. ... “At present, we possess a unique laboratory in the country that can make firm steps in repelling the industrial sabotage,” he added. ...

The official, however, noted that under the auspices of Iran’s Intelligence Ministry, the whole acts of sabotage that targeted the software or hardware of the country’s nuclear facilities have been detected and foiled successfully.

Related: “[The Ostrich, the Warriors and the Whirlwind](#)”

Afghanistan’s Election, U.S. Policy Disaster

Kevin A. Lees, HUFFINGTON POST | August 28

IT’S HARD to pinpoint the exact moment when Afghanistan’s presidential election became a complete absurdity.

With a U.S.-brokered audit process of the election already behind schedule, and with outgoing President Hamid Karzai declaring September 2 as the swearing-in day for the country’s next leader, the election process suffered yet another blow on Wednesday when Abdullah Abdullah, a former foreign minister and the winner of the

election’s first round, angrily pulled out of a UN-led audit process that’s designed to validate the results of Afghanistan’s June presidential election. ...

Despite the last-minute talks, it’s hard to think of a recent national election that has been so thoroughly botched—with such dire consequences for the country’s future. ...

It’s been a difficult summer for U.S. President Barack Obama and U.S. foreign policy interests—the ongoing tensions between Ukraine and Russia threaten Europe’s security, the rise of the Islamic State in Sunni Iraq and Syria goaded U.S. military strikes in retaliation, and Israel’s summer war against Hamas in the Gaza Strip

destroyed two years of efforts by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry to pursue an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

But Afghanistan’s growing political and security crisis represents a fourth major foreign policy headache for Kerry and the rest of the Obama administration. ...

Now, with Abdullah’s decision to pull his observers out of the audit, it’s hard to believe that Afghans will ever fully agree about the actual outcome of the vote. That will ultimately weaken whichever candidate takes office next week.

Related: “[Spent in Vain](#)”

EUROPE

Pope Francis Is an Islamic State Target

HUFFINGTON POST | August 27

THE VATICAN is speaking out against a claim that Pope Francis is a target of the Islamic State militant group, otherwise known as ISIS.

In an article published Monday, Italy’s *Il Tempo* newspaper reported that the pope is a target of [the Islamic State]. The paper, citing an unnamed Italian intelligence source, states the pope—who is considered the “bearer of false truths” by the group—is “in the crosshairs of [the Islamic State]” and that the extremist

group plans to “raise the level of confrontation” by attacking Italy and greater Europe.

However, the Vatican has dismissed the report. ...

[Islamic State] leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who is behind the group’s offense to overtake large regions of Iraq and Syria in an effort to establish its own Islamic State, issued a threat against Rome earlier this summer, near the start of Ramadan.

“Rush, O Muslims, to your state. It is your state. Syria is not for Syrians and Iraq is not for Iraqis. The land is for the Muslims, all Muslims,” he said in an audio recording posted online and reported by the *Telegraph*. “This is

my advice to you. If you hold to it you will conquer Rome and own the world, if Allah wills.”

Earlier this month, [the Islamic State] took control of Iraq’s largest Christian city, CNN reported. At the time, the pontiff expressed concern for Christians in the region.

While he has not endorsed American airstrikes against the group, Pope Francis has said [the Islamic State] must be stopped.

“I can only say this: It is licit to stop the unjust aggressor. I underline the verb: stop. I do not say bomb, make war, I say stop by some means,” he said during a press conference last week, according to CNN. Adding: “It

The Overstretched West

Joschka Fischer, PROJECT SYNDICATE | August 26

THE CHAOTIC consequences of the gradual disintegration of *Pax Americana* are becoming increasingly clear. For seven decades, the United States safeguarded a global framework, which—however imperfect, and regardless of how many mistakes the superpower made—generally guaranteed a minimum level of stability. At the very least, *Pax Americana* was an essential component of Western security. But the U.S. is no longer willing or able to be the world's policeman.

The staggering accumulation of crises and conflicts facing the world today—in Ukraine, Iraq, Syria, Gaza and Libya—are linked to America's new stance. Should matters come to a head in another seismic zone of world politics—namely, East Asia—the world would confront a global catastrophe stemming from the synchronicity of numerous regional crises. Obviously, it would be a crisis that no one could control or contain.

The bipolar world of the Cold War is history Perhaps we are in the middle of a chaotic process that will lead to a new international order—or, more likely, we are only at the beginning of that process. ...

The crisis in Iraq, and the horrific violence of the Islamic State there and in Syria, is largely the result of the West's non-intervention in the Syrian civil war. ...

So the nexus between values and interests is self-evident and renders the conflict over fundamental foreign-policy principles irrelevant. This is particularly true for the

European Union. A Middle East with a brutal, unfettered terrorist state at its center would be a direct threat to neighboring Europe's safety. So why not help those in Iraq who are willing and able to confront this peril?

But if only the West assumes responsibility for maintaining global order, won't it become overstretched, given the number and nature of the crises it faces? Most of these struggles are not clashes between states; they are asym-

metrical conflicts, for which Western societies—including the U.S.—are not equipped. These conflicts are further exacerbated by the ruthlessness that characterizes religious wars—just like those in Europe in the 16th and 17th centuries. So, yes, the West does indeed face a high risk of becoming overstretched.

—Trumpet, January 2014

But what is the alternative, other than accelerating chaos, mushrooming security risks and serial humanitarian disasters? For the West—and for Europe, first and foremost—this dilemma cannot be avoided.

Today's accumulating crises, accompanied by America's strategic fatigue, are forcing Europe to define what role it will play in the future of Western—and global—stability. If the U.S. can no longer bear the burden of *Pax Americana*, Europe must do more for collective security. But Europe cannot assume greater responsibility for global order and stability without unifying politically. Unfortunately, too many European leaders cannot—or will not—understand this.

"As we head into the post-American era, it is Europe that is picking up the mantle of 'leader of the free world.' ... The fact is, Europe is already preparing for the post-American world. ... There are many for whom the idea of Europe reverting to militaristic type is unthinkable. They believe the world today, particularly Europe, has become far too civilized—perhaps even complacent and lethargic—for such a thing to occur. This is a common delusion."

is there that this should be discussed. Is there an unjust aggressor? It would seem there is. How do we stop him?"

TW IN BRIEF

■ French president dissolves government

French President François Hollande dissolved his government on Monday. An open feud had erupted within his Cabinet over economic policies. France has had effectively zero economic growth this year and unemployment is hovering around 10 percent. The European Union is pressuring the country to get its finances in order. Economy Minister Arnaud Montebourg openly criticized Hollande's current austerity measures. Montebourg and two other

left-wing ministers blamed the austerity measures, which were approved by Germany, for causing France's continued economic stagnation. At a Socialist Party rally on Sunday, Montebourg called France a "free country" and said it "shouldn't be aligning itself with the obsessions of the German right." Hollande's approval rating is only 17 percent. Even his support base is criticizing him for failing to restore France's economic growth as promised. Montebourg's criticisms led to French Prime Minister Manuel Valls offering up his Socialist government's resignation. Hollande accepted the resignation and ordered Valls to form a new government by Tuesday, September 2. The *Trumpet* has long forecast that France would take a backseat to

Germany in EU leadership. Although France is one of the EU's largest and most powerful member nations, it is clear that Germany is heavily influencing its economic decisions. This indicates just how much Germany already dominates the EU.

■ Germany approves Algerian arms factory

German Economics Minister Sigmar Gabriel has given Rheinmetall approval to build a factory for making Fuchs armored personnel carriers in Algeria, according to a report published by *Spiegel* on August 24. The decision to allow Algeria to build 980 Fuchs 2 vehicles is unprecedented. Early last year it emerged that Algeria was now the top destination for

German weapons. “Radicalism is spilling out from Egypt and spreading over northern Africa,” *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in the April 2013 issue. “These radicals are now trying to take over Algeria, but they are beginning to face some opposition from Germany and the European Union. Algeria has a strong supporter in Germany. That is going to make a big difference for these terrorist groups.” Later he wrote: “I think you’re going to find Algeria getting

a lot of help from Europe, especially Germany.” This is exactly what we’re seeing now. For more on what is happening in Algeria, read Mr. Flurry’s article, “[Watch Algeria!](#)”



ASIA

Russia, China Could Gain Battlefield Tech Edge

Jeremiah Jacques | August 24

WASHINGTON IS forging ahead with massive defense cuts that have some analysts concerned that [Russia and China could soon gain an edge over the United States in several advanced military technologies](#).

Total shortfalls in the U.S. defense budget over the next five to 10 years could reach \$1 trillion, according to a National Defense Panel report released last month. The panel was co-chaired by Bill Perry, who was Secretary of Defense under President Bill Clinton, and Gen. John Abizaid (Ret.). Their report says unless the trend is reversed, the effect on the U.S. military will be stark:

“Today the Department [of Defense] is facing major readiness shortfalls that will, absent a decisive reversal of course, create the possibility of a hollow force that loses its best people, underfunds procurement, and short-changes innovation. The fact that each service is experiencing degradations in so many areas at once is especially troubling”

The cuts will ripple across all branches of the U.S. armed forces, having an obvious effect on aircraft, watercraft and tanks. They will also have an impact—less immediately noticeable, but more detrimental—on the *advanced military technologies* that have, for decades, granted American forces a critical battlefield edge.

These include space-based targeting/deployment systems, reconnaissance and navigation methods, robotics, unmanned submarines, “global strike capability” systems and stealth technology.

Former Missouri senator and former member of the National Defense Panel, James Talent said that “the problem isn’t just an administration that acts as if America is weak. The problem is also that America is weak, and becoming weaker, relative to the threats posed by its adversaries—which is the only measurement of military power that

really matters. The world will get a lot messier until that changes.”

Meanwhile, two of America’s most powerful adversaries, Russia and China, are investing ever-larger percentages of their growing gross domestic products into developing advanced military technologies.

Langley’s Intelligence Group says Moscow and Beijing are making strides in these areas that could eventually give them an edge over the United States. “Russia and China ... are ramping up their considerable scientific expertise from the ground all the way up into space,” Langley’s wrote on August 13. They are “looking for ways to use new technologies to blunt U.S. hegemony in areas of the world they deem of interest.”

The ongoing Ukraine conflict has provided glimpses into the advancements Russia’s military has made. “Numerous reports from the region describe Russian army units with advanced equipment comparable to that used by the U.S. military and other Western militaries, such as Germany and the United Kingdom,” Langley’s wrote.

As the West has sought to isolate Moscow over the Ukrainian crisis, Russia and China have entered into a new era of unprecedented military cooperation. Part of this has been a new willingness on Moscow’s part to share its cutting-edge military technology with the Chinese.

While victory on the battlefield results from numerous factors, the most important may be a technological advantage. The U.S. military, at present, maintains such an edge. But it is not self-sustaining; it has to be constantly sharpened by the soapstone of ample funding. If current trends persist, the next generation of U.S. troops might find themselves on the battlefield, not only in smaller numbers, but also with their technological edge blunted.

Follow Jeremiah Jacques: [Twitter](#)

Russian Columns Enter Ukraine

ASSOCIATED PRESS | August 28

TWO COLUMNS of tanks and military vehicles rolled into southeastern Ukraine from Russia on Thursday after Grad missiles were fired at a border post and Ukraine's over-matched border guards fled, a top Ukrainian official said.

Echoing the comments by Ukrainian Col. Andriy Lysenko, a senior NATO official said at least 1,000 Russian troops have poured into Ukraine with sophisticated equipment, leaving no doubt that the Russian military had invaded southeastern Ukraine.

"The hand from behind is becoming more and more overt now," Brig. Gen. Nico Tak said at NATO's military headquarters, adding that Russia's ultimate aim was to stave off defeat for the separatists and turn eastern Ukraine into a "frozen conflict" that would destabilize the country indefinitely.

"An invasion is an invasion is an invasion," tweeted the Lithuanian ambassador to the UN, Raimonda Murmokaite.

The UN Security Council will hold an emergency meeting on Thursday afternoon.

"Russian forces have entered Ukraine," Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said, canceling a foreign trip and calling an emergency meeting of the country's security council. "Today the president's place is in Kiev."

Poroshenko urged his citizens to resist giving into panic. "Destabilization of the situation and panic, this is as much of a weapon of the enemy as tanks," Poroshenko told the security council.

As Poroshenko spoke, the strategic southeastern town of Novoazovsk appeared firmly under the control of separatists and their Russian backers, a new, third front in the war in eastern Ukraine between the separatists and Poroshenko's government in Kiev.

Russia's ambassador to the EU, Vladimir Chizhov, told the BBC that "NATO has never produced a single piece of evidence" of Russian troops operating in Ukraine. He said the only Russian soldiers in Ukraine were the 10 captured this week, who Moscow insists had mistakenly wandered across the border.

The Russian Defense Ministry didn't directly deny its troops were in Ukraine, but said the list of Russian military units said to be operating in Ukraine had no relation to reality. ...

Russian stock markets dived as Switzerland joined the European Union in imposing restrictions on Russian state banks and fears grew that the U.S. and EU could impose further sanctions

NATO also produced satellite images to provide what it called additional evidence that Russian combat soldiers, equipped with sophisticated heavy weaponry, are operating inside Ukraine's sovereign territory. ...

The new southeastern front raised fears that the separatists are seeking to create a land link between Russia and Crimea. If successful, it could give them or Russia control over the entire Sea of Azov and the gas and mineral riches that energy experts believe it contains. ...

India, Russia Hold First Ever Joint Drill

BUSINESS STANDARD | August 25

IN A first, the Indian and Russian Air Forces are holding a joint drill with fighter aircraft in a step which is expected to boost defense ties between the two nations.

The Avia Indra-2014 exercise which started Monday at Astrakhan region, near the Caspian Sea in Russia, and will continue till September 5, an Indian Air Force statement said.

"Ex Avia Indra-2014 which has commenced today is the first exercise of its kind between the two air forces and is seen as a major milestone in military relations," the statement added. ... "It will also provide an opportunity to both the forces for exchange of best practices and will cement the foundation for a more professional interaction and growth in the future," the

statement added.

[Defense ties between India and the Russian Federation](#) have a historical perspective as the former Soviet Union was an important supplier of defense equipment to India for several decades. Russian-origin aircraft such as the Su-30 MKI and MiG-series continue to be the mainstay of India's air power.

South Korea, China Upgrade Partnership

XINHUA | August 21

SOUTH KOREA and China have upgraded the bilateral partnership since the two nations set up diplomatic relations in 1992, especially on areas of trade, finance and culture, a South Korean think tank said Thursday.

After Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Seoul in July, the neighbors

strengthened their strategic cooperative partnership, upgrading the quality of bilateral economic cooperation and widening communication channels both politically and diplomatically, the Hyundai Research Institute said in a report.

The report said Xi's visit to South Korea drove [Seoul and Beijing to enter a new era of "politically warmer and economically hotter,"](#) noting that it would be meaningful as this year marks the 22nd anniversary of establishing diplomatic ties on Aug. 24, 1992. ...

India and Vietnam Seek Stronger Ties

THE DIPLOMAT | August 27

INDIA'S EXTERNAL Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj arrived in Hanoi, Vietnam on Monday, for a two-day

visit In addition to meeting Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh, Swaraj also met Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung

Swaraj's visit is widely seen as part of the Indian government's implementation of its long-standing "Look East Policy." The policy seeks to deepen Indian ties with its eastern neighbors in Southeast and East Asia. Minister Swaraj has already visited Singapore and Myanmar this month. During Swaraj's visit ... Vietnam and India agreed to deepen cooperation in the defense and oil sectors, among others. Vietnam has expressed a strong desire for greater Indian involvement and investment in Southeast Asia, to balance China. ...

Abe to Reshuffle Cabinet

JAPAN TIMES | August 26

DURING A meeting with Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) executives Tuesday, [Japanese] Prime Minister Shinzo Abe confirmed that he will reshuffle the cabinet on September 3. "I would like to make fresh changes as we enter the second chapter of Japan's recovery featuring (work on) national security and regional economies," Abe, who is also LDP president, said.

He said the party's new executive lineup will also be introduced September 3, according to a party official. He is considering making major changes to LDP leadership positions, including that of secretary general, which is currently held by Shigeru Ishiba.

Ishiba indicated Monday he will turn down Abe's offer to become state minister in charge of national security legislation. "It's best that someone who thinks the same way as the prime minister answers questions in the Diet," Ishiba said on TBS radio, suggesting he wants to retain his post as No. 2 in the party. ...

In July, Abe's cabinet approved a plan to allow Japan to exercise the right to collective self-defense by reinterpreting the pacifist Constitution. The planned new ministerial post will be vital in passing the necessary legislation,

along with other security policy changes that Abe aims to push forward.

"Japan's decision to scrap the ban on collective self-defense is of profound significance, but the reality is that Japan has long been building toward a military capable of more than defense. Narushige Michishita, a former adviser to Japan on defense and now director of the security and international program at Tokyo's National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, explains: 'We are not pacifist in that sense. ... Japan isn't remilitarizing—we are already there.'"
—theTrumpet.com, July 2

Japan's Fujitsu Buys U.S. Defense Corp.

JAPAN TIMES | August 26

FUJITSU LTD. has acquired GlobeRanger Corp., a Texas-based defense technology company, in the electronics maker's foray into the U.S. defense and national security market. GlobeRanger makes a U.S. Defense Department-adopted radio frequency identification system for managing information on weapons.

Fujitsu bought the company to eventually expand into the global defense market after the [Japanese] government's easing of restrictions on Japan's exports of weapons and related technologies in April.

In fiscal 2013, Fujitsu had transactions with the Defense Ministry worth about ¥40 billion (US\$384.41 million). ...

TW IN BRIEF

■ China, Russia to expand agricultural trade

China is willing to expand its agricultural produce trade with Russia, Chinese Ministry of Commerce spokesman Shen Danyang said during a press conference on August 18. Russia banned imports of Western foodstuffs on August 7 in retaliation for Western sanctions against Russia for its part in the Ukrainian crisis. Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev announced the ban would include meat, fish, fruit,

vegetables and milk from Western nations—mainly the European Union and the United States. This ban leaves a 700,000-ton gap in the fruit segment alone. "With an entire year of the ban, the Russian produce market is bound to experience a shortage of supply in the coming year, which is a huge opportunity for the Chinese produce industry," said Lu Zuoqi, general manager of the apple division of Goodfarmer Fruits and Vegetables, a Chinese produce company. The West placed sanctions on Russia in an attempt to isolate it from the rest of the world. The moves pushed it away from the West, but [the sanctions are driving Russia toward its Asian neighbors.](#)

■ India-Japan historic defense pact

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming trip to Tokyo (August 30 to September 3) will mark a historical change in Asian geopolitics as India and Japan sign their first-ever defense cooperation agreement. This will be the first time Japan has signed such an agreement outside its three traditional alliance partners: the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia. India has already prepared a draft of the agreement, and the Japanese government is in the final stages of completing its own internal formalities ahead of Modi's arrival. Back in July, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe succeeded in changing Japan's interpretation of its post-World War II Constitution which had previously limited Japan's military to strict self-defense inside its immediate territory. The new interpretation allows for "collective self-defense"—allowing Japan to use force to defend its allies under attack. It was this change that created the opportunity for Japan to enter into more defense agreements, such as this new India-Japan deal.

"Maybe Tokyo would be able to persuade nations like South Korea, Taiwan or India to form an alliance with Japan to counter the China-Russia axis. ... But the strong implication of Bible prophecy is that even if some kind of Japan-led counter-alliance were formed, it would not be long before it joined China and Russia."
—Trumpet, January 2014)

LATIN AMERICA/AFRICA

WHO: Ebola Cases Could Rise to 20,000

GUARDIAN | August 28

THE WORLD Health Organization (WHO) has warned the number of Ebola cases could rise to 20,000 as doctors in Liberia say the deadly virus is now spreading so rapidly they can no longer deal with the crisis. ...

"[It] is a scale that I think has not ever been anticipated in terms of an Ebola outbreak," said Bruce Aylward,

assistant director general of WHO.

He said the increase came from cities including the Liberian capital Monrovia, where a slum was quarantined last week, leading to food shortages and civil unrest. ...

His remarks come as Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF) said it was struggling to cope with the caseload in Monrovia. MSF has just opened a new Ebola hospital in the Liberian capital, and after one week it's already at capacity of 120 patients.

"The number of patients we are

treating is unlike anything we've seen in previous outbreaks," said Lindis Hurum, MSF's emergency coordinator in Monrovia. "This is not an Ebola outbreak, it is a humanitarian emergency and it needs a full-scale humanitarian response." ...

WHO said it is launching a new \$489 million initiative to try to contain Ebola within six to nine months. ...

Related: "Disease Pandemics Are Coming" and "SARS and Rumors of SARS"

ANGLO-AMERICA



GERALD FLURRY

The U.S. Southern Border Crisis Prophesied

America's government, its citizens and the world now recognize that illegal immigration into the U.S. is a major crisis.



Calif. Earthquake Self-Inflicted?

Daryle Hochstetler | August 28

RESIDENTS OF Napa Valley, California, were jolted in their sleep Sunday morning by a powerful 6.0 earthquake at 3:20 a.m. The earthquake's

epicenter near American Canyon was 6.6 miles deep between the Hayward Rodgers fault line and the Concord Green fault line. The shaking reportedly lasted for 10 to 20 seconds, crushing gas and water lines, causing power outages, damaging roads and sparking fires.

This is the largest earthquake in the

area since the 6.9 magnitude Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989, which killed more than 60 people, injured over 3,000 others, and buckled the Oakland Bay Bridge.

But what caused Sunday's earthquake?

According to a study published by the science journal *Nature*, geologists believe the lack of water in San Joaquin Valley is reducing the weight against the San Andreas fault. This activated a fault line that scientists believe has been dormant for over 1.6 million years.

Considering California is experiencing a record drought, this conclusion has startling ramifications. How many more faults—both active and dormant—could be on the verge of releasing? How many of California's future earthquakes might be self-inflicted as rising population levels and intensified agriculture draw ever more groundwater resources?

Even if the drought doesn't provoke more earthquakes, falling groundwater levels are causing the ground to sink, becoming a problem for roads and buildings above.

California's drought is turning into a bigger curse than most people realize.

Why is this state, which used to be so prosperous (and still is to a great

Debt: The Money of Slaves

FINANCIAL SENSE | August 22

FORMER SEN. Alan Simpson recently spoke with Financial Sense Newshour to give an “inside look” at Washington politics and the difficulty of implementing entitlement and tax reform.

Given his disappointing experience as co-chair of the Deficit Commission under President [Barack] Obama and, most importantly, the vitriol with which the Commission’s recommendations were fought by special interest groups, Simpson’s interview provided another sad reminder of the forces working against long-term fiscal reform.

With U.S. debt levels currently over \$175 trillion and growing, Simpson voices the concern of many objective observers and wonders when America’s foreign creditors will say, “Enough is enough. Pay us more interest or we’re not buying.”

Although China recently bought our debt at the fastest pace on record and foreign buyers still show a healthy appetite for U.S. treasuries, we should not assume this trend will remain in place indefinitely.

What about U.S. citizens? How will they be impacted if the mismatch between government spending and revenues

isn’t addressed? One of the primary effects, Simpson says, will be less payouts from entitlements: Social Security, Medicare or things like disability insurance.

Although this may result in an additional hardship for many as they age, we should note that this will probably reorient more of the caretaking responsibility away from the state and the nursing home and back towards a more traditional arrangement seen outside the U.S. where such care (shelter, food, transportation, etc.) is provided by the family.

Simpson notes that other cuts will have to be made For example, “The defense budget of America is \$600 billion a year,” says Simpson. ...

Although it’s easy to point the finger at special interest groups and politicians for America’s bad spending habits, Simpson implies that this problem largely reflects a nationwide mindset of always wanting more and refusing to make sacrifices.

What is the result? A country that goes deeper into debt.

The former senator of Wyoming ends by saying, “Gold is the money of kings. Silver is the money of gentlemen. Barter is the money of peasants. And debt is the money of slaves.”

“The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.”

—Proverbs 22:7

extent), experiencing so many problems?

Our booklet “**Why ‘Natural’ Disasters?**” will explain why these catastrophes are striking California—and why Bible prophecy says more devastating disasters are on the way.

37,477 Illegals, Only 280 Deported

WASHINGTON EXAMINER | August 29

THE OBAMA administration has released a huge majority of illegal immigrant children who poured over the U.S.-Mexico border earlier this year into dozens of tiny counties without notifying the public, while deporting just 280, according to new reports.

The Health and Human Services Department (HHS) released a list of 126 counties 29,890 of the kids were placed into, sometimes with their parents who are also in the United States illegally.

Those counties include some of the most exclusive in the nation, including the Washington suburbs of Fairfax and Loudoun in Virginia and Howard

and Montgomery in Maryland. Fairfax received 1,023. ...

The HHS statistics covered only January to July. Federal officials expect another huge surge of children from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala to begin next week when the temperatures cool. One independent expert said that the second wave this year could include another 30,000 illegal children.

And next year could be even worse. Federal officials who predicted that 90,000 illegal immigrant children will enter the United States this year from Latin America are projecting that to increase to 142,000 next year.

Longtime immigration expert Jessica M. Vaughan said that the tiny number of deportations, which she cited in a report this week, encourages illegal immigrants to rush into the United States believing that they will be able to stay.

“The priority of the administration is to release the individuals to the United States,” said Vaughan, policy director with the Center for Immigration Studies. “They are not trying to persuade people from coming here.” ...

Stock Markets in Its Third Bubble Since 2000

24H GOLD | August 28

THE S&P 500 just passed the 2,000-point psychological threshold, an absolute record for that index, created in 1950 and comprising the 500 largest companies traded on the U.S. stock market, thus being more representative than the famous Dow Jones Industrial Index This new record would seem to show that the U.S. recovery is underway ... but let’s step back a little in order to evaluate these numbers.

[T]he S&P 500 has been quite erratic since the 2000s, with two bubbles that burst! But let’s get back to the ‘80s Back then was the triumph of Ronald Reagan’s “conservative revolution,” which led to a vast liberalization of the economy with whole sectors being allowed to compete ... while at the same time income tax was reduced, thus encouraging wealth creation. ...

In all logic, the S&P 500 starts to rise But, starting in 1995, the trend picks up, with the start of the

Odds Are That Your Pastor Is Keeping the Truth From You

Chuck Baldwin, WESTERN JOURNALISM | August 8

GEORGE BARNA ... recently spoke about a two-year research project studying why modern-day pastors and churches are so silent regarding political issues. ... One-NewsNow.com covered the story:

“On Thursday, George Barna—research expert and founder of The Barna Group—shared with American Family Radio’s ‘Today’s Issues’ about new information he’s compiling at American Culture and Faith Institute ... gauging where theologically conservative pastors are at politically.

“What we’re finding is that when we ask them about all the key issues of the day, [90 percent of them are] telling us, Yes, the Bible speaks to every one of these issues. Then we ask them: Well, are you teaching your people what the Bible says about those issues?—and the numbers drop ... to less than 10 percent of pastors who say they will speak to it.’ ...

“So the thing that struck me has been that when we talk about the separation of church and state, it’s that churches have separated themselves from the activities of the state—and that’s to the detriment of the state and its people,” stated the researcher.” ...

Did you get that? Ninety percent of America’s pastors say they KNOW that the Bible speaks to all of these issues, but they are deliberately determined to NOT teach these biblical principles. That is an amazing admission!

It would have been one thing if the pastors had said that these political issues were not relevant to Scripture; and,

therefore, they didn’t feel called to address them. But the pastors are admitting that, yes, they KNOW that the Scriptures DO relate to our current political issues; but they are deliberately choosing to NOT teach those scriptural principles. ...

I confess: This statistic caught me off guard. So, we can forever dismiss ignorance as justification for pastors remaining silent.

Now, all of the church members out there who have been forgiving of their ministers for not speaking out on the issues by saying things like, “He really doesn’t understand what’s going on,” need to reevaluate their leniency—if they are intellectually honest, that is—and if they truly care about the future of their country. ...

The report goes on: “Why the disconnect? According to Barna, the answer is simple. He suggests asking pastors how someone would know if their church is ‘successful’—which he did.

“‘There are five factors that the vast majority of pastors turn to [when asked that question],’ he explained. ‘Attendance, giving, number of programs, number of staff, and square footage.’”

There you have it: Pastors are more concerned about being “successful” than they are being truthful. They believe if they tell their congregations the truth, their churches will not be “successful.” And it is so refreshing to see Barna directly ask pastors what “success” means to them. So, now we know

“Internet bubble.” ... The bubble burst, beginning of 2000, and the S&P 500 went from a peak of 1,527 to a trough of 800 in 2002, almost down by half. ... That is when Alan Greenspan decided, in order to sustain economic activity, to lower the Fed’s base interest rate ... a lethal mistake! Growth did make a comeback, but it was on the back of housing starts and the infamous subprimes, a pure credit bubble. The rest is history: The S&P 500, again, went from a peak of 1,561 in 2007 to a trough of 683 in March 2009.

Why has the S&P 500 been rising since March 2009? Has growth made a comeback? Barely. ... The only thing that can explain it is the Fed’s QE plans that began at that time. Since then, the index has been progressing at the same rate as with the two former bubbles, which is both revealing and worrisome. There is no sound growth in the economy that could justify such a progression

All the signs are pointing to a third stock market bubble, albeit much bigger than the other two Why? The “fuel” for [the] bubble is much more powerful, since it is the United States central bank, the Fed, with its QE plans (buying treasuries) and its base rate near zero, already having been going on for four years. ...

TW IN BRIEF

■ Popular M.P. defects to anti-EU party

Conservative M.P. Douglas Carswell announced on Thursday that he would leave Britain’s Conservative Party and join the euroskeptic United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP). He will resign his seat in parliament, he said, and seek re-election as a UKIP candidate. Carswell’s defection could create major change in Britain’s politics. Ventral political commentator

Peter Osborne called it a “seismic political event.” UKIP did very well in the European Union elections in May, but seemed set to fade back into relative obscurity in the run-up to the general elections next year. Carswell could change all that. He is popular with conservative grassroots, and he is also one of the Conservative Party’s top thinkers. He could soon be the first UKIP member elected to Britain’s Parliament. He could help give UKIP a coherent ideology and show that it can be a real force in politics. Most of all, he strengthens the forces of euroskepticism in Britain. The government is under more pressure than ever to shift away from the EU and Brussels, or see its most committed supporters defect. Carswell’s defection is just part of the growing anti-EU feeling in Britain—something the *Trumpet* has forecast for years. For more information, read our article “[Britain Was Warned!](#)”

PUTIN from page 1

dissolved Russia's primary state news agency, RIA Novosti, and gave its facilities to Rossiya Segodnya, a news agency that is totally submissive to the Kremlin. He then went after smaller threats, passing legislation requiring any bloggers with more than 3,000 subscribers to register with authorities.

As a result of these measures, Putin's opposition has lost momentum. Meanwhile, his supporters are multiplying.

Second, Putin can weather the Western frost by continuing to warm up to Asian nations. Since the earliest days of the Ukraine crisis, he has been tilting Russia ever more steeply toward the East, especially China and India. And they are gladly tilting right back toward Russia.

In March, after Russia annexed Crimea, most in the West believed the so-called international community would stand together in condemning the move. But both Beijing and New Delhi made clear that *they supported Putin*. Both powers have consistently refused to join in on Western sanctions. Both have made strengthening ties with Moscow a top priority of their foreign policies. Both have robust economic interests in Russia, and share increasingly in Moscow's anti-Western ideology.

Westerners seemed to think the MH17 tragedy would change the minds of the Chinese and Indians. But both were more critical of the West's response to the tragedy than to Russia's reported involvement.

As Europe scrambles to find ways of reducing dependence on Russian gas and oil, China has giddily increased its consumption, signing a \$400 billion deal in May to buy Russian gas—the largest known business transaction in human history. BRICS nations, mostly China and Brazil, are also supplying Russia with much of the food that it has stopped importing from the West.

Leaders in the West enjoy referring to the “international community” when they discuss the force that opposes Russia, but in reality such solidarity does not exist. Western attempts to isolate Russia have failed. And as tensions between Moscow and the West intensify, we can expect Russia's lean toward Asia to become its permanent geopolitical posture.

Third, the *Trumpet* believes Vladimir Putin will likely survive because of evidence in the world's most reliable geopolitical authority: the Holy Bible.

It would be easy to scoff at that statement, but consider the Bible's track record in forecasting major geopolitical events. Scripture foretold the rise and fall of the Chaldean Empire, the Persian Empire, the Greco-Macedonian Empire, and several iterations of the Roman Empire. Then, years after those scriptures were written, all these kingdoms rose up and then crumbled away exactly how and when the Bible had said they would.

In the case of the Greco-Macedonian Empire, the Bible even prophesied the vital role that would be played by *one individual*: Alexander the Great. Passages in the book of Daniel foretold—some 200 years before he was even born—Alexander's fierce conquests and sudden demise. (For a full explanation, request a copy of our free booklet *History and Prophecy of the Middle East*.) Alexander was shown the

scriptures that had foretold his rule, and he believed that he did, in fact, fulfill the prophecies. First-century historian Josephus recorded: “And when the book of Daniel was shewed him, wherein Daniel declared that one of the Greeks should destroy the empire of the Persians, he supposed that himself was the person intended; and ... he was then glad ...” (*Antiquities of the Jews*, Book 11, Chap. 8, Sec. 5).

Alexander the Great isn't the only history-altering individual whose impact was prophesied by Bible writers. Among the others are Josiah, the king of Judah; Cyrus, the king of Persia; and even Winston Churchill, the prime minister of Britain. All were prophesied to come on to the scene generations before they were born. And there is another important individual whose appearance was foretold in the Holy Bible: Vladimir Putin.

Around A.D. 90, the Apostle John wrote: “And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them” (Revelation 9:16). That's describing an army of 200 million men—far more people than were even alive when that prophecy was written.


The Bible provides many vital details about this largest army ever assembled on Earth. Revelation 16:12 calls it the “kings of the east,” which shows it to be a confederacy of Asian nations. Other scriptures reveal that the confederacy will have one lead country—and one individual man at the helm.

A prophecy in Ezekiel 38 lays out some of these important details. “And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, ‘Son of man, set thy face unto Gog, of the land of Magog, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy concerning him’” (Ezekiel 38:1-2; KJV, Young's Literal Translation). *Rosh* was the ancient name of Russia, once called *Rus*. Many encyclopedias and commentaries (such as the *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary*) recognize this.

The passage goes on to discuss the conquests of the mighty army led by this “prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal.” So, who is this mighty prince?

A study of the above scriptures, placed alongside other Bible passages, and viewed in the context of current events in Russia, makes the answer clear. Here is what editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote about it in the September *Trumpet*: “I strongly believe Vladimir Putin is going to lead the 200 million-man army. ... Can you think of any other Russian politician who could become so powerful and have the will to lead Russia into the crisis of crises? ... This much is absolutely certain: The restoring of Russia's power by Vladimir Putin—the prince of Russia—was prophesied! He has already solidly allied Russia with China. The prophecy about the prince of Russia includes that main alliance. ... The only question is whether or not Putin personally finishes the entire prophecy.”

Since the *Trumpet* has this vital understanding of Vladimir Putin's role in end-time prophecy, we do not agree with those who think he won't survive the current turmoil. Part of this prophecy is already fulfilled, and it seems likely that Putin will survive to fulfill even more of it.

Follow Jeremiah Jacques:  [Twitter](#)