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THE TRUMPET WEEKLY

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Rotherham: The Town Where Gang Rape Is 'a Usual Part of Growing Up'

BY RICHARD PALMER

BRITAIN WAS shocked by the content of a report published last week describing massive sexual exploitation of teens in and around the town of Rotherham. From police to local politicians, authorities have looked the other way for years as hundreds of youths have been subjected to horrific abuse.

The report, written by Prof. Alexis Jay, found that approximately 1,400 minors were sexually exploited between 1997 and 2013—and that's a "conservative estimate."

"It is hard to describe the appalling nature of the abuse

that child victims suffered," the report states. Even in the dry, factual language of an official report, it is difficult reading.

The children "were raped by multiple perpetrators, trafficked to other towns and cities in the north of England, abducted, beaten and intimidated," the report continues. "There were examples of children who had been doused in petrol and threatened with being set alight, threatened with guns, made to witness brutally violent rapes and threatened they would be next if they told [see ROTHERHAM page 12](#)



Children walk along the street on August 27 in Rotherham, England.

Pool Party for Militants at U.S. Embassy in Libya

Anthony Chibariwe | September 3

THE BACKYARD of an evacuated residential annex of the United States Embassy in Tripoli, Libya, hosted an apparent pool party for Islamist militants, as a YouTube video posted on August 31 paraded. The videotaped militants are part of the Libya Dawn coalition of Islamist fighters who have taken control of much of the nation's capital.

Some of the euphoric jihadists in the video were in military uniform; others wore casual summer attire. Some were armed with guns; some roamed the party with cellphone cameras. Others took turns swan diving from a second-floor balcony into the compound's pool.

The scene encapsulated how far the United States has plunged from its status of a reputed, resolute, decisive superpower.

When the U.S. led the invasion of Libya in Operation Odyssey Dawn in 2011, *Trumpet* readers knew exactly what to expect. Realizing the true victors of that operation, editor in chief Gerald Flurry warned in October of that year that “the government that replaces Qadhafi will be a thousand times worse. And you can prove this is going to happen!”

Operation Odyssey Dawn has given rise to Libya Dawn—a coalition of jihadi militia which has since taken over much of Tripoli, including the American diplomatic compound and Tripoli International Airport. Western intelligence reports distributed the last week of August show that 11 commercial airliners are missing from the airport, raising fears of 9/11-style terrorist attacks.



In addition to rival militia groups, Libya has rival governments—an illegitimate, Islamist one in Tripoli, and an elected one that fled the capital to Tobruk. Former Libyan general, Khalifa Haftar, has taken the fight to the various Islamist groups in the country. The elected, non-Islamist government neither endorses nor denounces him.

Since Qadhafi's ouster, Libya has grown so volatile that it no longer has a [U.S. diplomatic presence](#). Marines evacuated American personnel to Malta on July 26.

Libya's chaos coupled with U.S. inaction has prompted other nations to act. Egypt and the United Arab Emirates clandestinely flew fighter jets to attack some of the Islamists' bases in Tripoli—completely ignoring the United States. The real significance of those airstrikes is huge, as *Trumpet* executive editor Stephen Flurry explained in a recent *Trumpet Daily* program.

Obama: ISIS 'a Manageable Problem'

TRUTH REVOLT | September 3

PRESIDENT [BARACK] Obama spoke in Estonia Wednesday morning about the recent beheading video released by [the Islamic State] terrorists. In language that continues to give the impression that the president is trying to downplay the threat [the Islamic State] poses to the world, he called the well-armed terrorist group “a manageable problem” if “the international community” works together. ...

“[T]he question is going to be

making sure we've got the right strategy but also making sure we've got the international will to do it. This is something that is a continuation of a problem we've seen certainly since 9/11, but before, and it continues to metastasize in different ways. And what we've got to do is make sure that we are organizing the Arab world, the Middle East, the Muslim world, along with the international community to isolate this cancer.

“This particular brand of extremism that is first and foremost destructive to the Muslim world and the Arab world and North Africa and the people who live there. They're the ones who are

most severely affected. They're the ones who are constantly under threat of being killed. They're the ones whose economies are completely upended to the point where they can't produce their own food and they can't produce the kinds of goods and services to sell in the world marketplace.”

Poll: 4 to 1, Want War With Islamic State

WASHINGTON EXAMINER | August 31

AS HE waffles on U.S. policy toward terrorists in Syria dubbed [the

Iran Dramatically Shifts Iraq Policy to Confront Islamic State

REUTERS | September 2

AS PRESSURE built up for Nouri al-Maliki to step down from the prime minister post in Iraq last month, Iran, his most ardent supporter, stayed surprisingly silent as top Iranian officials worked to get him out.

Similarly, when the United States, regularly denounced as the Great Satan by officials in Iran, began bombing inside Iraq last month, Tehran stayed quiet.

This marked shift in Iran's approach to Iraq is a response to the gains of Islamic State, the militant group which has torn across Iraqi territory and come within striking distance of the Iranian border.

Islamic State fighters in Iraq have engaged in acts of brutality, including beheadings and mass executions, often targeting Shiites, whom they consider to be heretics. The majority of Iranians are Shiite Muslims.

As a result of this threat, Iran has had to take a more flexible approach to its policy in Iraq, which has led to a series of dramatic shifts, experts say.

Not only have officials in Tehran dropped their support for Maliki and turned a blind eye to renewed U.S. attacks in Iraq, they have also reached out to arch rival Saudi Arabia and participated in talks about the security situation in Iraq. ...

"Iran was supportive of Maliki and said to hell with the others until the army collapsed," said a senior Iraqi official who asked not to be identified because of the sensitive subject.

"Iranians are very realistic people, very patient. They weigh their national interests very carefully. They don't want a front with the Islamic State that extends from Iran all the way to the Mediterranean," he added. ...

Islamic State], President [Barack] Obama is being handed rare American support for a military attack against the terrorists, according to a new poll.

In its latest survey, YouGov.com finds that the nation has done a 180 in just a year, and now supports military action by nearly 4 to 1.

Some 63 percent of Americans back a Pentagon strike against the terrorists to 16 percent who don't. A year ago, those numbers were reversed when Americans were asked about striking Syrian troops commanded by President Bashar Assad, with 60 percent opposing military action and 20 percent supporting it.

The flip-flop comes as television news is filled with stories of horrific murders of those captured by [the Islamic State], and reports of American airstrikes against the militants. ...

The YouGov poll revealed a rare change of heart for Americans, many war-weary with the U.S. actions in Iraq and Afghanistan. ...

Kurds: U.S. Forces Fighting in Iraq

DAILY MAIL | September 2

AMERICAN SPECIAL Forces commandos are on the ground fighting in northern Iraq, according to a published report, just a week after [United

States President] Barack Obama said that wouldn't happen. And with a second brutal beheading in Syria, the president may soon have to decide how much more military might to deploy.

Even as he has authorized more than 100 target airstrikes against the Islamic State ... in Iraq, Obama told the American Legion on August 26 that "American combat troops will not be returning to fight in Iraq."

"I will not allow the United States to be dragged back into another ground war in Iraq," he said, adding later that "the answer" to [the Islamic State] "is not to send in large-scale military deployments that overstretch our military."

His parsing of words—"combat troops" and "large-scale"—now seem calculated to produce platoon-sized loopholes.

A *Daily Beast* freelance reporter wrote Tuesday that he saw "what appeared to be bearded Western Special Operations Forces" in a caravan of armored vehicles near the Iraqi town of Zumar. ...

"They didn't wear any identifying insignia," the reporter added, "but they were visibly Western and appeared to match all the visual characteristics of American special operations soldiers."

This particular freelancer should know: He's a 27-year-old former U.S. Army Ranger who served three tours

in Iraq and two in Afghanistan.

A Peshmerga commander, backed up by Kurdish intelligence sources, confirmed that "Yes, German and American forces are on the ground here. They are helping to support us in the attack." ...

Probe Into Iran Nukes Back to Square One

ASSOCIATED PRESS | September 3

ANew and seemingly promising AUN probe of allegations that Iran worked on atomic arms has stalled, diplomats say, leaving investigators not much further than where they started a decade ago and dampening U.S. hopes of reaching an overarching deal with Tehran by a November deadline.

Expectations were high just two weeks ago, when chief UN nuclear inspector Yukiya Amano emerged from talks in Tehran with Iranian President Hasan Rouhani saying Iran had given "a firm commitment" to cooperation and suggesting that years of deadlock had been broken. ...

The [International Atomic Energy Agency] inquiry is formally separate from the U.S.-led talks. But Washington says a successful IAEA investigation must be part of any final deal. That now seems unlikely by the November 24, deadline already delayed



STEPHEN FLURRY

Intifada in Jerusalem, War in Europe—Time to Wake Up!

THE TRUMPET DAILY | September 4

Two of the most dangerous places on the planet are boiling over.



from July 31 even if the two sides agree by then on the rest of a deal meant to limit Iran's nuclear capacities in exchange for sanctions relief.

A determination that the probe has stalled would embarrass Mr. Amano considering his optimistic comments after August 17 talks with Mr.

Rouhani. It also would strengthen those in U.S. Congress and elsewhere who are skeptical of predictions that Mr. Rouhani's assumption of the presidency last year marked a turn away from confrontation on the nuclear issue. ...

Since [an Iran-IAEA agreement in February], the UN agency has sought information on three issues—alleged experiments with detonators that can be used to set off a nuclear explosion, separate work on high-explosive charges also used in nuclear blasts, and alleged studies on calculating nuclear explosive yields.

Iran denies wanting or ever working on nuclear arms. The diplomats said that as of Wednesday morning it had provided information only on the detonators, insisting that they were used for oil exploration. While such applications are possible, the agency says that its body of interconnected information suggests that they were being tested for nuclear weapons use.

No information has been given on the other two issues, the diplomats said

Related: ["Just What Is Iran Up To?"](#)

EUROPE

New Dangers in U.S.-Russian Standoff

STRATFOR | September 3

THE UNITED States and Russia entered a new and more dangerous phase of their pseudo-Cold War this week.

On the surface, it might appear the opposite. Just as U.S. President Barack Obama tried to reassure Europeans on the frontline with Russia that NATO would be there to support them, Russian President Vladimir Putin threw out an expertly timed proposal to defuse the crisis in eastern Ukraine and even compelled Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to claim a ceasefire agreement had been achieved after a phone call with the Russian leader.

The reality of the situation is that Russia is trying to impose on Kiev and its Western backers yet another frozen conflict on the Russian doorstep, one that Moscow will use to demand respect from a still-defiant United States on the contours of a Russian sphere of influence. In just under three weeks, Russian-backed forces blunted a deep Ukrainian thrust into separatist strongholds.

Though Ukrainian forces had plenty of political support from the West, the United States and its NATO partners had much more to risk in putting boots on the ground than did Russia, which was barely cloaking the heavy armor and personnel pouring across the border.

This rapid turnaround on the battlefield had two main purposes.

The first was to assert Russian military power and convince the West that Moscow would not be afraid to use it in spite of the economic consequences. The second was for Moscow to use its military gains to make it appear that the West was utterly irresponsible in trying to wrest Ukraine out from Moscow's shadow. Now, by dangling an ambiguous ceasefire before the Americans, Russia is essentially telling the United States that to defeat Russia it must fight Russia directly, knowing that NATO is loath to engage directly with the Russian military. And if the West is still unwilling to confront Russia in a direct military conflict, then Russia is quite ready to make a deal.

That deal goes well beyond a ceasefire. Russia wants its buffer in Ukraine recognized and respected, along with

The Return of Europe's Sleepwalkers

Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, **WALL STREET JOURNAL** | September 3

THE EUROPEAN Union named new leadership on Saturday. Yet the latest EU summit in Brussels was just another beauty contest with layers of geopolitical cosmetics, lacking any promise of a new beginning. After months of institutional paralysis, European leaders still find ways to rationalize why the EU is not ready to act. In the past year, national and European-level elections and then the summer break have left the EU in an extended freeze.

But eurocratic excuses don't stop the Earth from spinning. Wherever we look, we see horrifying disarray in the world. On Europe's eastern border, there has been a war going on for months. In the Middle East, a lunatic terrorist organization is taking over vast areas with looted, high-tech U.S. arms. Israel and Gaza are on and off ceasefires, and Libya is imploding on the shores of the Mediterranean.

While the U.S. administration is obviously overwhelmed by the variety and gravity of the crises it faces, EU leaders don't even worry about not knowing what to do. They simply have not realized that this is primarily their challenge.

At first glance, recent events like the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, the lightning advances of the Islamic State terrorists, and anti-democratic expressions of admiration for Vladimir Putin by Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán in July are not connected.

However, if European leaders and citizens alike would peek out from their delusional detachment, they would realize that these are all signs of grave threats to the stability of Europe as a whole, and that they all require European-level responses. ...

Russia is waging war on Ukraine, partly as punishment for Kiev's attempt to move closer to the EU. Russia did not stop at Crimea and, unless it is stopped, it will not stop at eastern Ukraine. In the coming winter, Moscow could leave millions of Europeans without heating by reviving its cynical gas-pricing policies. Despite this threat—or perhaps out of fear of it—the EU's response to Russian actions has been halfhearted at best.

Moscow's support of pro-Russia separatists in Ukraine resulted in the deaths of 298 people on the Malaysia Airlines flight. ...

While all this is happening, one EU (and NATO) member insisted on arming and training the Russian Navy, and the leader of another EU member praises Vladimir Putin's

Russia as a role model. Oddly enough, France's Mistral deal—finally suspended on Wednesday—and the infamous speech by Hungary's Prime Minister Orbán produced more upset in the U.S. than in Europe.

And what of the Middle East? ... It is often overlooked that if Europe were to use its leverage effectively, it could have unparalleled influence in the Middle East. The EU is Israel's primary trading partner and the Palestinian territories' largest donor. Yet Europe's performance on the world stage has been limited to issuing useless news releases and a two-page draft about Gaza's reconstruction.

On another front, the Islamic State jihadists flooding the Middle East are estimated by various sources to include about 2,000 European citizens. The EU has no idea how they can be stopped from returning home to Europe after, say, a convenient stopover in Turkey. Making matters worse, it seems that EU governments have become regular patrons of Islamic extremists by channeling large sums (an alleged \$125 million since 2008) to them in ransoms.

After months of cynical hesitation, at least some EU member states now seem to be getting their act together. In recent days the German government finally opted out of its increasingly embarrassing "culture of reluctance" with its decision to deliver arms to Kurdish forces in northern Iraq. ...

Yet Europe is nowhere close to developing a comprehensive strategy. While the world waits, the following measures should be implemented immediately. ...

European members must recognize that their military spending is insufficient and stop taking an American-run and -funded NATO for granted. It is appalling that Germany recently decided to cut military spending by about €800 million (\$US1.05 billion) in 2015.

One hundred years ago, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, setting in motion a swirl of events that brought decades of devastation to the entire continent. The historian Christopher Clark called the leaders of the time "sleepwalkers" for their lack of ability to assess the larger, systemic consequences of their individual actions.

Today we see the menacing signs multiplying, but we have not been willing to accept the fact that armed conflicts have come to Europe's doorsteps again. Today's sleepwalkers do not recognize the consequences of their inaction. It is time to wake up.

sanctions lifted so it can get on with repairing its economy. And with winter approaching, Russia also has the means to turn the screws on Europe's natural gas supply at the same time it holds a clear military advantage on the Ukrainian battlefield.

But the United States is not about to back down completely in the face of Putin's maneuver. Obama arrived

in Estonia on Wednesday with a message of commitment, loyalty and security for any country threatened by Russia. To reinforce that message, NATO will attempt to breathe new life and purpose into the institution by creating a 4,000-strong rapid-reaction force capable of deploying at 48 hours' notice to Eastern European countries on the frontline with Russia. ...

However, this confrontation will not be limited to Ukraine. The key for Russia will be to demonstrate to the West that Russia is not afraid to resort to the unthinkable, even the irrational, in pushing back. Russia announced Wednesday that its strategic nuclear forces will be holding large-scale strategic missile exercises in September. Putin, over the weekend, also told

a youth forum, “I want to remind you that Russia is one of the most powerful nuclear nations. This is a reality, not just words.” ...

France Puts Warship Delivery to Russia on Hold

ASSOCIATED PRESS | September 3

RESPONDING TO international pressure, France suspended the delivery of a warship to Russia at least until November amid security concerns over Moscow’s role in the Ukraine crisis, officials said Wednesday.

The Vladivostok, the first of two Mistral-class helicopter carriers ordered by Russia, was due to be delivered next month as part of a €1.2 billion (\$US1.6 billion) contract—the biggest-ever sale of NATO weaponry to Moscow.

The second ship, named Sevastopol, ironically, after a port in the Russia-annexed Crimean Peninsula, has been slated for delivery next year.

In an announcement on the eve of a NATO summit in Wales, French President François Hollande’s office called the fighting in eastern Ukraine “grave,” and said Russia’s recent actions harm “the foundations of security in Europe.” ...

As recently as July, Hollande said the deal was too costly to cancel, and even this week, his advisers had indicated that France was ready to go ahead with the first delivery. In July, the president said the Russians had paid for the ship, and France would have to reimburse Moscow if it canceled. ...

A Church for the Poor

Paul Valley, NEW YORK TIMES | September 4

POPE FRANCIS grabbed headlines recently when he announced that Rome had lifted the block on sainthood for Archbishop Óscar Romero of San Salvador, who was shot dead while saying mass in 1980. But much less attention was given to another of

the pope’s actions, one that underscores a significant shift inside the Vatican under the first Latin American pope in the history of the Roman Catholic Church.

Archbishop Romero was assassinated after speaking out in favor of the poor during an era when right-wing death squads stalked El Salvador under an American-backed, military-led government in the 1970s and ’80s. For three decades, Rome blocked his path to sainthood for fear that it would give succor to the proponents of liberation theology, the revolutionary movement that insists that the Catholic Church should work to bring economic and social—as well as spiritual—liberation to the poor.

Under Pope Francis, that obstacle has been removed. The pope now says it is important that Archbishop Romero’s beatification—the precursor to becoming a saint—“be done quickly.” Conservative Catholics have tried to minimize the political significance of the pope’s stance by asserting that the archbishop, though a champion of the poor, never fully embraced liberation theology.

But another move by Pope Francis undermines such revisionism. This month he also lifted a ban from saying mass imposed nearly 30 years ago upon Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann, who had been suspended as a priest for serving as foreign minister in Nicaragua’s revolutionary Sandinista government in the same era. There is no ambiguity about the position on liberation theology of d’Escoto, who once called President Ronald Reagan a “butcher” and an “international outlaw.” Later, as president of the United Nations General Assembly, d’Escoto condemned American “acts of aggression” in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But there is more to the pope’s action than kindness to an 81-year-old man. In a remarkable turnaround, liberation theology is being brought in from the cold. During the Cold War, the idea that the Catholic Church should give “a preferential option for the poor” was seen by many in Rome as thinly disguised Marxism. ...

Previous popes had made similar

critiques of capitalism, but the language of Pope Francis has been more vehement and indignant. ... A new historical moment has arrived. Pope Francis is taking a risk. ...

TW IN BRIEF

■ Polish president gets EU top job

Polish President Donald Tusk will be the next president of the EU Council, European leaders agreed on August 30. The appointment is a milestone in Poland’s relationship with the EU, and marks the first time a Polish leader has been given one of Europe’s top jobs. Poland is now firmly at the heart of the European Union—a major player of the same standing as nations that have been in the club for years, like Italy, Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands. “Just a few years ago no one from Poland would have even been considered for any of these [top] posts,” we wrote six months ago. Go back a decade or two and Poland was firmly behind the iron curtain. But even then, *Plain Truth* founder Herbert W. Armstrong forecast that Poland would break from Russia and become a core European nation. For more on what he said about this transformation, read our article [“Ukraine Crisis Reveals Europe’s Eastern Leg.”](#)

■ Germany plans to train and arm the Kurds

Germany will send trained Kurdish forces to the Islamic State, German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced September 1. It will ship them \$90.7 million worth of arms, including 40 machine guns, 200 rocket-propelled grenades, 500 anti-tank missiles, 16,000 assault rifles, and ample ammunition. The shipments are intended to equip 4,000 men. Germany will either fly Kurds soldiers to Berlin for training, or train them in Iraq. The Defense Ministry has said that sending German soldiers to Iraq in order to train Kurds would not require the approval of Germany’s parliament. This is a major step for Germany, which is why it has taken it longer than many other nations to reach this decision.

Asian Military Cooperation on the Rise

Jeremiah Jacques | September 3

DESPITE THE hype regarding America's "pivot to Asia," the nations of the East see that the United States' military power is becoming ever more hollow. They see America's populace war-weary, its policymakers almost comically disunited, and its president power-thirsty at home but deliberately weak internationally.

In response, many Asian countries are rebalancing and re-aligning. The adjustment is most apparent in the increased military cooperation among them.

As the West has sought to isolate Moscow over the ongoing Ukrainian crisis, Russia and China have entered into a new era of unprecedented military cooperation. In May, the two held their first-ever joint naval exercises near some Japanese-administered islands. The location—in the backyard of America's strongest Asian ally—was not arbitrary.

From August 24 to 29, more than 7,000 troops from Russia, China and three central Asian nations assembled for the largest joint military drill ever held by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). According to the SCO, the massive drills were meant to prepare soldiers to protect the region from potential terrorist strikes. But as analyst Matthew Sussex said, "It is kind of rare to have an anti-terrorist mission which uses battle tanks. It says: 'We are trying to exercise together to coordinate our troops to meet any potential eventuality.'"

Another aspect of the new golden age of Russia-China military cooperation has been a sudden willingness on Moscow's part to share cutting-edge military technology

with the Chinese.

Japan and India are increasingly aware of America's eroding influence in Asia, and increasingly wary of China's rise. Both are impressed by the power and boldness of Vladimir Putin's Russia, but also anxious about its ever steeper tilt toward Beijing.

The answer for each, at least in the short term, may be each other.

On September 1, Tokyo signed an historic deal with India entering into the first-ever India-Japan defense cooperation agreement. The deal marked a historical change in Asian geopolitics: the first time post-war Japan entered such an agreement outside its three traditional alliance partners—the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia.

As the thinness of the American paper tiger becomes increasingly evident, and as Russia and China continue to become more powerful and more aggressive, the Asian nations will increasingly work toward shoring up defense ties with each other.

Some appear to be digging their heels in, working to build alliances that will protect them from the Moscow-Beijing axis. Others seem to be preparing themselves to be allied with or dominated by it. Bible prophecy says that, regardless of which category a given nation currently falls into, almost all will eventually be joined together as a gargantuan power bloc with Russia and China at the helm.

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An Eye on the Baltic States?

George F. Will, WASHINGTON

POST | September 3

VLADIMIR PUTIN's fascist revival is a crisis that tests the West's capacity to decide.

Putin's serial amputations of portions of Ukraine, which began with his fait accompli in Crimea, will proceed, and succeed, until his appetite is satiated. Then the real danger will begin.

Suppose Ukraine is merely his overturf for the destruction of NATO, the nemesis of his Soviet memory. ... Putin has discarded the minor inhibitions of what NATO calls his "hybrid war"—giving slightly surreptitious aid to Russian separatists; brazenly

infiltrating Russian soldiers in unmarked uniforms. Russia has invaded Ukraine, although the Obama administration likes the semantic anesthesia of calling it an "incursion." ...

So, suppose Putin, reprising his Ukrainian success, orchestrates unrest among the Russian-speaking minorities in Latvia, Lithuania or Estonia. Then, recycling Hitler's words that his country "could not remain inactive," Putin invades one of these NATO members. Either NATO invokes Article 5—an attack on any member is an attack on all—or NATO disappears and the Soviet Union, NATO's original *raison d'être*, is avenged. ...

Putin is, the West should similarly acknowledge, more talented and dangerous than either Nikita Khrushchev or Leonid Brezhnev. Their truculence

was not fueled by fury. Putin's essence is anger. It is a smoldering amalgam of resentment (of Russia's diminishment because of the Soviet Union's collapse), revanchist ambitions (regarding formerly Soviet territories and spheres of influence), cultural loathing (for the pluralism of open societies) and ethnic chauvinism that presages "ethnic cleansing" of non-Russians from portions of Putin's expanding Russia.

This is more than merely the fascist mind; its ethnic-cum-racial component makes it Hitlerian. Hence Putin is "unpredictable" only to those unfamiliar with the 1930s. Regarding the roles of resentment and vengeance, remember where Hitler insisted that France formally capitulate in 1940—in the railroad carriage, near the town of Compiègne, where Germany signed

Putin's Chilling Kazakhstan Comments

THE DIPLOMAT | September 3

THERE ARE few places more dangerous these days than to be a friend to the Kremlin. ... To the Kremlin, friendship is a four-letter word. And it seems that Kazakhstan, which has continuously and publicly supported Russia's geopolitical failings, knows this better than anyone. Not only has Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev watched his country's economic surge stumble through the Kremlin's actions, but he's witnessed Putin mangle Nazarbayev's original EEU dream beyond recognition.

But if Kazakhstan wasn't already aware of the potential daggers lining their relationship to the north—for those in the country still believing Russia provided some beacon of righteousness and prosperity—Putin's comments at the recent Seliger Youth Forum should give them pause.

A few days after Minsk's EEU summit, which saw a palpably tired Nazarbayev attempt to broker some kind of mediation, Putin fielded a question from a young woman at Seliger about the role of nationalism in Kazakhstan, and the potential impact the putative jingoism could have on relations with Russia.

Putin answered at relative length Most notably, though, Putin offered that, prior to Nazarbayev, "Kazakhs had never had statehood." Not Kazakhstanis, the citizens of the country sharing Russia's longest border, but Kazakhs. The titular ethnicity of the most prosperous nation in Central Asia, apparently unfamiliar with the intricacies and turnings of statehood. Requiring a Russian hand to guide—especially upon Nazarbayev's departure.

Unfortunately, this wasn't a simple, ahistorical

observation. On multiple occasions, ethnic Russians in northern Kazakhstan have reminded me of their belief that Central Asian states have never existed. Kazakhstan, one told me, is but a Bantustan, with proper civilization brought only by the arrival of Russians. Putin's comments fall directly within this vein. Kazakhstan can be identified with the persona of Nazarbayev, but once he's gone, why would there be any reason to continue with this experiment in statehood?

Nate Schenkkan, a Central Asian analyst, offered the most thorough rundown of the speech to date. As he concluded, "In sum: this is an extraordinary event. I don't know how the Kazakh government will respond to this, but assuredly there are people in Astana in very high places who are both scared and furious." Many were already, following Russian events in Crimea, in eastern Ukraine. Putin's comments were only one more ingredient increasing the trends already extant.

This, then, is the thanks Kazakhstan receives for remaining close to Russia over the past six months, and over the past two decades. Veiled threats about succession issues, and a reminder of the lack of Kazakhstan's historic legitimacy—with dark hints about a nationalistic threat that doesn't exist, but could very well turn self-fulfilling.

Putin has unveiled the two-pronged mode of rhetoric Russia could begin accelerating in Kazakhstan in the near future: that nationalism presents a threat to ethnic Russians, and that the people on the territory of this supposed foreign land never actually had a state. Sound familiar?

the 1918 armistice. ...

Ukraine may be an ethnic casserole susceptible to diminishment by Putin's ladle. But the Baltic states, by virtue of their NATO membership, are, regardless of their histories or sociologies, decisively different. And given Putin's animus, nourished by his negligibly resisted success in Ukraine, he is more dangerous than the Islamic State. ...

Gazprom Starts Mega-Pipeline to China

REUTERS | September 1

PRESIDENT VLADIMIR Putin on Monday oversaw the start of construction on a giant pipeline that is due to ship [\\$400 billion worth of Russian gas to China](#) in the three decades after flows begin in 2019.

The 2,500 mile "Power of Siberia"

pipeline, being built by state-controlled Gazprom, forms a key part of the Kremlin's energy strategy, symbolizing Russia's attempts to wean itself off dependence on European markets that account for most of its exports.

"Just now, we along with our Chinese friends are starting the biggest construction project in the world," Putin told a Chinese delegation

He said the first gas pipeline between Russia and China: "Will not only allow us to export gas, but to develop gas infrastructure in our country, to speed up (economic) development, not only in this region, but in the whole country." ...

The long-awaited deal with China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC) was a diplomatic coup for the Kremlin after a decade of difficult negotiations, and a symbol of its efforts to strengthen economic ties with Asia as Russia's economy faces the effects of Western

sanctions over the crisis in Ukraine. ...

On Putin's command "Begin!" two workers lowered their protective visors and welded the first segment of the black pipeline with flaring blowtorches. ...

"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 these nations are gladly tilting right back toward Russia. ... As the European Union scrambles to find ways of reducing its dependence on Russian gas and oil, China has giddily increased its consumption, signing a \$400 billion deal in May to buy Russian gas. It was the largest known business transaction in human history."

—Trumpet, October 2014

Japan Appoints Pro-China M.P.s

GUARDIAN | September 3

JAPAN'S PRIME minister, Shinzo Abe, has signaled a rare attempt to mend fences with China when he appointed two M.P.s considered friendly towards Beijing to two senior posts in his governing Liberal Democratic party (LDP).

The move was part of a major revamp of Abe's administration after a run of mixed economic data and an unpopular increase in the sales tax saw his popularity ratings drop to around 50 percent, compared to around 70 percent in the months after he took office in December 2012, vowing to kick-start the world's third-biggest economy. ...

The appointment of two men known for their close ties to China could advance efforts to set up the first meeting between Abe and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, at the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) summit in Beijing this autumn.

"He is sending a strong message to China that he wants to improve ties. Tanigaki and Nikai both have good ties with China," said political analyst

Atsuo Ito. ...

Chinese officials said they hoped the personnel changes would help ease tensions. ...

"Bible prophecy confirms that the time will soon be here when the U.S. will be removed from the picture and Asian nations will rise up powerfully. Scripture makes plain that rather than go it alone, several Asian juggernauts will pool their resources, consolidate their power and form a military force of proportions the world has never seen."

—Trumpet, January 2014

Poor Knowledge of Russian History

THE MOSCOW TIMES | September 04

RUSSIA'S FOREIGN Ministry has asked social media users to help teach U.S. President Barack Obama a history lesson after he claimed Russia is trying to regain territories that it lost in the 19th century.

"Quiz for amateur historians: what parts of Russia ... were lost in the 19th century?" the ministry said Thursday in a Facebook message.

Obama on Wednesday said Russia's involvement in Ukraine was a sign it was "reaching back to the days of the tsars, trying to reclaim lands lost in the 19th century [but] this is surely not the way to secure Russia's greatness in the 21st century," according to a statement on the White House website.

In fact, the only lands that Russia lost in the 19th century were the Fort Ross settlement on the coast of California, which it sold to a U.S. businessman for \$30,000, and Alaska, which it sold to the U.S. government for \$7.2 million—neither of which Russia lays current claim to.

Amid escalating tensions with the West, Russia has been relentless in pointing out its foes' ignorance about the country.

Late last week Russia responded to a jibe from Canada's mission to NATO by teaching it a "geography lesson" with a map showing the recently annexed peninsula of Crimea marked as belonging to Russia.

"Helping our Canadian colleagues to catch up with contemporary geography of Europe," the Twitter post read.

Having covered history and geography—what subject could be next?

AFRICA/LATIN AMERICA

Nigeria: Boko Haram Declares Caliphate

Richard Palmer | September 2

TERRORIST GROUP Boko Haram has declared the establishment of a caliphate in northern Nigeria according to a video obtained by Agence France Presse on August 24. The group has already killed more than 4,000 people this year according to recent figures from *Amnesty International*. In the previous four years, it killed 3,600. The United Nations estimates that the group has forced 650,000 to flee their homes.

Boko Haram gained international notoriety when it kidnapped nearly

300 Nigerian school girls and the world responded with the [#Bring-BackOurGirls](#) campaign. Despite celebrity support from around the world, including American First Lady Michelle Obama, the campaign made no difference.

Abubakar Shekau, Boko Haram's leader, declared the caliphate after the group took control of Gwoza within the past few weeks. With a population of over a quarter of a million, Gwoza is the largest city Boko Haram has captured to date. Many of its inhabitants reportedly fled to the nearby mountains.

Boko Haram is also expanding its operations in Cameroon, even kidnapping the wife of the vice prime

minister. In reality, the Nigerian soldiers probably fled—like Iraqi soldiers before the Islamic State.

Some dispute whether Boko Haram declared a caliphate or merely an Islamic state. Either way, it is declaring independence from Nigeria and signaling its intent to hold the territory it has captured. It is a bold move that indicates the group considers itself strong enough to retain its territory rather than simply retreat before a military assault as it has in the past.

"If Boko Haram ever develops truly international ambitions, it could carve out an arc of instability stretching from northern Nigeria via Cameroon, Central African Republic and South Sudan into East Africa," Peter Dörrie

wrote on the War Is Boring blog. He noted that a comprehensive defeat of the militant group would require “thousands of well-equipped foreign soldiers, a substantial overhaul of the Nigerian Army itself, as well as an admission on the part of the Nigerian government that it can’t handle the

situation on its own.”

Until now, Boko Haram has not posed much of a threat to Western interests. Its “caliphate” is in northern Nigeria, far from the oil-rich south.

This could change. The group has links to al Qaeda, and some interpret the latest video to be a declaration of

support to the Islamic State, and a pledge to join it.

Boko Haram is dangerous and growing stronger.

Europe is battling radical Islam across [North Africa](#). Continue to watch Boko Haram—the group could open up another front in this war.

ANGLO-AMERICA

America’s Electric Grid; Blackout Could Kill 9 of 10

WASHINGTON EXAMINER | September 3

FORMER TOP government officials who have been warning Washington about the vulnerability of the nation’s largely unprotected electric grid are raising new fears that troops from the jihadist Islamic State are poised to attack the system, leading to a power crisis that could kill millions.

“Inadequate grid security, a porous U.S.-Mexico border, and fragile transmission systems make the electric grid a target for [the Islamic State],” said Peter Pry, one of the nation’s leading experts on the grid.

Others joining Pry at a press conference later Wednesday to draw attention to the potential threat said that if just a handful of the nation’s high voltage transformers were knocked out, blackouts would occur across the country.

“By one estimate, should the power go out and stay out for over a year, nine out of 10 Americans would likely perish,” said Frank Gaffney, founder and president of the Center for Security Policy in Washington.

A lack of electricity would shut off water systems, impact city transportation services and shut down hospitals and other big facilities. Fresh and frozen foods also would be impacted as would banks, financial institutions and utilities.

Pry provided details of recent attacks on electricity systems and said that [the Islamic State] could easily team

with Mexican drug cartels to ravage America.

He told Secrets, for example, that the Knights Templar drug gang blacked out the electric grid of the Mexican state of Michoacan in 2013 to provide cover for killing those fighting the drug trade.

“The Knights Templars and other criminal gangs in Mexico will do anything for money, and [the Islamic State], the richest terrorist organization in history, has hundreds of millions of dollars at its disposal,” said Pry.

“[The Islamic State] could hire one of the Mexican cartels, or one of their criminal gangs already in the U.S., or activate jihadist terror cells already in the U.S., and inflict a multi-state blackout immediately, within days or weeks. Perhaps even a nationwide blackout,” Pry explained to Secrets.

“I am not saying it is likely they will do so. But given the capabilities and objectives of [the Islamic State] and our obvious vulnerabilities, it would be foolish to ignore the threat to the grid, to regard the threat as unlikely. Our planning should be based on imminent asymmetrical threats, and not assume that another 9/11 large-scale attack is years away,” he added.

The Texas Department of Public Safety recently said they believe there is evidence that [the Islamic State] plans an attack. ...

U.S. Military Reliance on Russian Rocket

WASHINGTON TIMES | September 2

THE RISING tensions with Russia over its aggression in Ukraine is creating national security concerns inside the Pentagon, where the military’s largest satellite program is reliant on a rocket engine produced by Moscow.

The Air Force said it has begun looking for alternatives to the RD-180 rocket engines for its Evolved

Expendable Launch Vehicle program—the fourth largest line item in the U.S. defense budget—now that Russia has threatened to cut off the technology in its tit-for-tat struggle with the U.S.

Lawmakers and national security analysts said they were aghast that the military allowed itself to become so dependent on Russian military technology during an era of uneasy relations.

“What were we thinking? It’s clear now that relying on Russia for rocket engines was a policy based on hope,

not good judgment,” said Michael V. Hayden, a four-star Air Force general who headed the National Security Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency before his retirement in 2009. ...

“Relying on Russian rocket engines to launch American spy satellites may have not been a problem when the U.S. and Russia were working together to build the International Space Station, but it’s definitely a problem now,” said Michael Waller, a political warfare professor at the Washington-based Institute of World Politics and a vocal



GERALD FLURRY

In the Beginning—Part 1

Why do we exist? This fundamental question has haunted mankind throughout history. Do you know the answer?



critic of Russian space dominance. “The fact that we are dependent on the Russians for rocket engines gives Vladimir Putin a chokehold over the United States.” ...

1 in 10 California Workers in Country Illegally

LOS ANGELES TIMES | September 3

A REPORT released Wednesday by researchers at [University of Southern California] found that immigrants who are in California illegally make up nearly 10 percent of the state’s workforce and contribute \$130 billion annually to its gross domestic product.

The study, which was conducted in conjunction with the California Immigrant Policy Center, was based on census data and other statistics, including data from the Department of Labor and the Department of Homeland Security. It looked at a variety of ways the estimated 2.6 million immigrants living in California without permission participate in state life.

Among the study’s findings:

- Immigrants who are in California illegally make up 38 percent

of the agriculture industry and 14 percent of the construction industry statewide.

- Half of the immigrants in the state illegally have been here for at least 10 years.
- Roughly 58 percent do not have health insurance. ...

But those who call for stricter enforcement of existing immigration laws say assessments of immigrants’ share of the GDP does not account for the large cost governments incur in providing schools and other services to immigrants here without permission.

Steven Camarot, of the Center for Immigration Studies, which favors stricter restrictions on immigration, also said that bigger economies are not necessarily better. “A bigger economy doesn’t mean the people are richer,” he said.

College: Videogames Are a Varsity Sport

WALL STREET JOURNAL | September 2

SEAN BENSEMA stayed up late one recent evening practicing and woke up unusually early the next morning

to prepare for the biggest moment of his life: a tryout for an athletic scholarship to college.

The shaggy-haired 18-year-old didn’t need to change out of the T-shirt he slept in or even leave his parents’ house to make the squad. He just set up his laptop on the dining-room table and started stunning his enemies with fire shot from the hands of his digital avatar.

Mr. Bensema is among 150 players competing for a spot on the nation’s first varsity videogame team. At stake: a scholarship that might be worth \$50,000. ...

In a time of tight budgets, many colleges have been cutting back scholarships and eliminating programs in sports like swimming and gymnastics.

Robert Morris University, a small, accredited private school whose main campus is in downtown Chicago, has taken a different tack—boosting the number of athletic scholarships to more than 700, from 150 a decade ago, in a bid to stem declining enrollment.

Today, among the school’s more than 3,200 undergraduates, there are scholarship athletes in bowling, color guard, cheerleading and dance. One student gets \$6,000 for dressing up as “Fuzzy,” the school’s eagle mascot. Other athletic scholarships that have been or are being considered include roller derby, bass fishing and paintball.

Touted as a way to improve team spirit and develop life skills, the scholarships are a way to drive down the \$44,000 cost of tuition, room and board.

Kurt Melcher, the Associate Athletic Director at Robert Morris, dreamed up the idea of a videogame scholarship this past spring when he came across a game called “League of Legends.” ...

Mr. Bensema was initially disappointed by the scholarship offer—which was less than he hoped for. He calculates he will graduate with at least \$40,000 in debt—significantly more than if he attended state school. But after some soul searching he decided to head to Robert Morris.

“I’m doing a sport that’s cool,” he said. “And it could lead somewhere. There’s a lot of people making a lot of money playing videogames.”

anyone. Girls as young as 11 were raped by large numbers of male perpetrators. This abuse is not confined to the past but continues to this day.”

“One young person told us that ‘gang rape’ was a usual part of growing up in the area of Rotherham in which she lived,” the report states.

This abuse left the victims terribly scared. “The impact sexual exploitation had on them was absolutely devastating,” the report reads.

Even the report’s author, someone who has investigated these kinds of scandals before, was “shocked” at “the horrible nature of the sexual acts” and the “utter brutality” that she uncovered. “It was truly frightening that people in our country could be doing that,” she said.

How could such widespread abuse go on without being noticed for so long? The answer to that question exposes a terrible sickness at just about every level of British society.

Consider the police. Professor Jay’s report says that in two cases, girls’ fathers tracked down their daughters, found the houses where they were being abused, and called the police. The police arrived—and arrested the fathers.

In another case, the police found one of these victims in a derelict building with some adult males. Her companions were not investigated for child rape—instead she was arrested for being drunk and disorderly.

The police give no priority to these kinds of crimes. Instead, as the report states, they are “regarding many child victims with contempt and failing to act on their abuse as a crime.” Several earlier reports “were ignored and no action was taken to deal with the issues that were identified in them.” Time and again school teachers, taxi drivers and others tried to raise the alarm, but the police refused to listen.

Ultimately the police and local authorities seemed more concerned with bureaucratic box-ticking, meeting targets, and making themselves look good than they were about the welfare of these young girls.

There is one final sickness in Britain’s society that, even after this scandal, the nation still refuses to address: its highly sexualized culture. When a man who is 10 years older tries to push these girls into a sexual relationship, they think it’s normal. When he asks her to sleep with his best friend, she’s not outraged. After all, the biggest thing she’s learned from pop culture about being an adult woman is that she has to be sexy in order to be liked and valued.

Without this “sex-is-everywhere” society, would teens let older men talk them into these deviant sexual relationships?

This culture has affected the police and council authorities too. One of the abusers, married with children and a pregnant wife, got a 14-year-old girl pregnant. The council officials treated the relationship between the teen and the older, married man as perfectly normal. He was even invited along to her antenatal appointments.

The council officials and social workers are steeped in a “don’t judge” philosophy. They are routinely told to treat teenagers as adults capable of making their own decisions when it comes to sex and relationships. These girls can talk to the social workers about contraception or get an

abortion and the staff are strictly forbidden, by law, from informing the parents.

When these girls were abused by older men, that same training kicked in. Council officials justified their attempts to squash investigations by saying that they were protecting the children’s privacy.

Many right-wing commentators have, quite rightly, condemned the council for sacrificing these girls because they didn’t want to rock the racial boat. But a read of the official report shows that this warped attitude to teenage sex was an even bigger factor in refusing to face the problem.

This scandal proves that teenagers are not adults. This is another politically incorrect truth that even now no one wants to talk about. They do need the help of parents, or, if they are not around, adult authority figures—especially when it comes to sex and relationships. But the British government, social workers and all of society teach the exact opposite.

These social workers are at the forefront of our “anything goes” society. To them, these young girls were just making a “lifestyle choice” by sleeping with older, married men. If they weren’t shocked by this today, then chances are in five or 10 years’ time, the rest of us won’t be either.

‘The Whole Head Is Sick’

“The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint,” reads God’s description of our society today. “From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment” (Isaiah 1:5-6). Britain’s sick society has completely failed to protect some of its most vulnerable little children.

The report gives 15 more detailed examples of abused girls. Each story is tragic. One girl, for example, was left so convinced of her own worthlessness that she tried to kill herself through “serious overdoses and trying to throw herself in front of cars.” She should have been happily preparing for the rest of her life, instead she wanted to be hit by a car.

Another girl came from an abusive family background with parents who had mental health problems. She was “very naive and desperate for affection.” Instead she was “sexually exploited ... by adult males she thought were her boyfriends.”

Multiply that tragedy by 1,400 and you see what has happened *in just one city* in Britain. What a sick society to allow that to happen. What a weak and faint government and police force to not stop it.

“To avoid rocking the multicultural boat,” local leaders “fed 1,400 children to the sharks,” concluded the *Telegraph*’s chief interviewer, Allison Pearson.

She’s right. But there is no quick solution to Britain’s head-to-toe sickness. Everything, from the family, to the government, to the whole of society, needs to be fixed.

God does plan to fix all of it. For more on God’s solution to Britain’s problems, read our article “[The Hope That Politicians Can’t Give You.](#)”

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