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THE TRUMPET WEEKLY

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Without Scotland, There Is No Great Britain

BY BRAD MACDONALD

EVEN THOUGH the Scots voted against independence, one lesson stands paramount: Great Britain is dead. The "No" vote prevailed, but it was a Pyrrhic victory. Westminster will try to restore the confidence of the Scots, especially the young, but the inclination toward separation and independence is strong, and it has momentum. As they say, the die is cast.

The referendum has left many of us dazed. What just happened? How did we get here?

I think I know the answer, or at least part of it. Two

weeks ago, when polls showed that the "Yes" campaign had a marginal lead, I, like many others, was shocked. Since then, the shock has morphed into fairly acute melancholy and sadness. In fact, I've been surprised at how personally I have taken this. The reason why is simple: It is an assault on my identity.

Although I'm Scottish by heritage, I'm Australian by birth and by nature. For me, being Australian means being part of the British Commonwealth, a colossal network of independent and unique peoples **see SCOTLAND page 12**



Unionist supporters gather near George Square on September 17 in Glasgow, Scotland.



September 11 in Benghazi, Libya

THE TRUMPET DAILY | September 17

How one date and one city symbolize American power, from 2001 to 2012 to 2014

STEPHEN FLURRY



Iran Is Not Without Sin

Abdulrahman Al-Rashed, ASHARQ AL-AWSAT | September 11

WE CAN all agree with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in his criticism of the U.S.'s hesitation to confront extremist organizations in Iraq and Syria. However, it is difficult to accept his televised statement that Iran warned of the threats of extremism and religious dogmatism and that Iran has, from the beginning, stood against this barbaric phenomenon.

Everyone blames Saudi Arabia for the spread of Islamic extremism across the world, and there is some truth in this. However, it is not a result of official state policy, but a product of social activity, unlike Iran, which is responsible for much of the institutionalization of Islamic extremism via state policy.

Iran has contributed to the creation and spread of extremist Islamic organizations under the banner of exporting its Islamic Revolution. It was only

after the genie escaped the bottle that Iranians felt the gravity of the threat against them and against their allies in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon.

Iran has also supported extremist Sunni groups in northern Lebanon since the 1980s against Saudi Arabia's allies. Iran also established and supported extremist Palestinian groups in a bid to weaken Fatah and the Palestinian Authority, as part of a regional competition to influence Palestinian decision-making. Since the 1980s, Iran has been a supporter of the Muslim Brotherhood, particularly in Egypt and Sudan. It also glorifies Sunni terrorists, naming a street in Tehran after Khaled Islambouli, who assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. All in all, there's plenty of evidence regarding Iran's mistakes in sponsoring Sunni and Shiite religious extremism and activities.

Therefore, Iran must not throw stones at the Islamic State ..., the Al-Nusra Front and other brutal Sunni groups when it has done so much to foster them. Much of today's religious

extremism is a direct result of the Islamic Revolution, which brought an extremist Shiite religious group to power in 1979. ...

Yes, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of [the Islamic State], is a terrifying extremist figure, and so was Hezbollah's Imad Mughniyah, who was notorious for his brutality. Both of them abducted civilians and killed civilian hostages. ... Iran raised and trained such people, and currently supports the Houthis in Yemen—a tribal group which follows the Zaydi sect and whose members converted to Shiism. They are currently, like [the Islamic State], calling their leader a caliph, and declaring themselves to be in a state of rebellion against [Yemen], looting cities and towns that oppose them. Despite this, Iran supports and helps them. ...

Related: "The World's Newest Most Radical 'State'"

Iran Could Lead Fight Against Islamic State

TELEGRAPH | September 18

JOHN KERRY suggested today that the task of defeating the Islamic State could fall to Iran and the Syrian government if the U.S. was "failing miserably" in its effort to defeat the jihadists.

The hypothetical scenario raised by the secretary of state is likely to be a new frustration for the White House, which has spent the day quashing speculation by American generals that U.S. ground troops could be sent back to Iraq. ...

Mr. Kerry repeated President Barack Obama's pledge not to deploy ground troops under any circumstances but then raised the prospect of Iranian and Syrian intervention.

"I'm not going to get into hypotheticals but you're presuming that Iran and Syria don't have any capacity to take on [the Islamic State]. I mean, who knows?

'When We Say the Red Line, We Mean the Red Line'

DAILY CALLER | September 17

IRANIAN PRESIDENT Hassan Rouhani mocked President Barack Obama and ripped America's strategy to destroy the terrorist group the Islamic State ... in an interview with NBC News Wednesday.

"Are Americans afraid of getting casualties on the ground in Iraq?" asked Rouhani, referring to the Obama administration's crystal-clear pledge that it will not send American combat troops to fight [the Islamic State]. "Are they afraid of their soldiers being killed in the fight they claim is against terrorism?"

"If they want to use planes, and if they want to use unmanned planes so that nobody is injured from the Americans, is it really possible to fight terrorism without

any hardship, without any sacrifice?" he continued. "Is it possible to reach a big goal without that? In all regional and international issues, the victorious one is the one who is ready to do sacrifice."

Rouhani, who called America's coalition to defeat [the Islamic State] "ridiculous," also subtly ridiculed Obama's failure to enforce his own red lines

"When we say the red line, we mean the red line," said Rouhani, whose Shia theocracy is also staunchly opposed to [the Islamic State], a Sunni terror group. "It means we will not allow Baghdad to be occupied by the terrorists or the religious sites such as Karbala or Najaf [to] be occupied by the terrorists."

I don't know what's going to happen here," he said. "If we're failing and failing miserably who knows what choice they're might make [sic]." ...

The U.S. has insisted that it will not coordinate militarily with either [Syrian President Bashar] Assad or the Iranians.

But this week Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, claimed that the U.S. had privately approached Tehran seeking cooperation against [the Islamic State]. He rejected the approach, saying the U.S. had "corrupt intention and stained hands."

The U.S. has not denied making the request in private.

Syrian Child Discusses Killing Soldiers

JERUSALEM POST | September 18

THE SYRIAN civil war, well into its third year, has not only claimed more than 190,000 lives and displaced millions of people from their homes, it has turned a number of children into soldiers, unmoved by taking the life of another.

A Lebanese television report, broadcast this week and translated by MEMRI, tells the story of these child soldiers, who "arrive here as children and quickly turn into killing machines."

The report focuses on 12-year-old Midyan Abu al-Qa'qa, who voluntarily joined the ranks of rebel fighters, after his father was killed in battle in the

south of Idlib.

The boy operates as a sniper at the Wadi Deifr Camp, east of Maarat al-Nu'man.

"I get up in the morning and try to shoot some soldiers. Sometimes I manage to shoot one or two, and sometimes I don't. There's nothing to it. I feel fine," Midyan told the Lebanese station.

"I killed my first soldier on this front. When I killed him, I didn't feel anything. He was the first, but then came a second, and a third. I've gotten used to being a sniper," he said.

The report quoted a veteran rebel soldier as saying that "children make the best soldiers. When you give them orders, they obey. They never doubt anything." ...

Related: ["The Plight of the Children"](#)

Syria Kept 'Significant' Chemical Weapons

JERUSALEM POST | September 18

ISRAEL BELIEVES Syria has retained caches of combat-ready chemical weapons after giving up raw materials used to produce such munitions under pressure from foreign powers, a senior Israeli official said on Thursday.

Summarizing Israeli intelligence estimates that were previously not disclosed to avoid undermining the Syrians' surrender of their declared

chemical arsenal, the official said they had kept some missile warheads, air-dropped bombs and rocket-propelled grenades primed with toxins like sarin. ...

[Syrian President Bashar] Assad agreed to give up the chemical arsenal, which Damascus had previously not acknowledged having. However, he denied his forces had used them and accused rebels of such attacks.

International diplomats told Reuters this week that Syria had revealed a previously undeclared research and development facility and a laboratory to produce the ricin poison.

Those disclosures appeared to support Western assertions in recent months that the Assad regime had not been fully transparent in detailing its chemical weapons program.

Using chemical weapons against Israeli targets, even on a small scale, "wouldn't be a game-changer, it would be a game-ender" for Syria, the official said.

He was less sanguine, however, when asked about the possibility that Islamic State insurgents in Syria and Iraq might get hold of Assad's remaining chemical weapons.

"I haven't seen any information that they [Islamic State] have received them. I would not be surprised if they are interested, though, in receiving them," he said. ...

Related: ["About Those WMD in Syria"](#) and ["The Shocking Story About WMD in Jordan"](#)

Bolton: Don't Forget About Iran's Nuclear Program

John Bolton, **NEWSMAX** | September 15

IRAN'S NUCLEAR weapons program, now operating largely outside [U.S. President] Barack Obama's attention span, is still making steady progress. While Ukraine's crisis and the creation of the menacing "Islamic State" in the ruins of Syria and Iraq have dominated international headlines, Tehran has been hard at work strengthening both its nuclear infrastructure and its bargaining position as new negotiations with the UN Security Council's five permanent members (plus Germany) reopen. ...

Tehran's diplomats also have taken advantage of the Islamic State threat to demonstrate "common interests" with America, thus ingratiating Iran further with the Obama administration and legitimizing the regime as a terrorism opponent.

Obama seems to not understand or care little about Iran's relentless strategy to advance its nuclear weapons objectives. Perhaps the weight of the Ukraine and Islamic State crises have overwhelmed his national security team—or perhaps the impending November elections—but Obama is even more at sea dealing with Iran than ever before. And this is surely bad news. ...

Iran is in no hurry. As long as diplomacy continues, Tehran is busy opening further holes in international sanctions and continuing its [35-year] nuclear program. The pressure, self-imposed to be sure, is actually on Obama. Either he reaches a final agreement he can trumpet as a success before our midterm elections, or he announces something soon thereafter, avoiding the political consequences if, from America's perspective, the deal is as bad as many expect.

The prospect of a bad deal is high. All reports of the negotiations stress that vast differences remain between the sides on the central issue of how much uranium enrichment Iran will be allowed going forward.

The right amount is zero. Iran should not be permitted to conduct any nuclear-related activity as long as the

ayatollahs remain in power, given their record of dissimulation and obstructionism and their obvious intention of becoming a nuclear-weapons state.

Unfortunately, the Obama administration long ago conceded on that "red line," as on so many others.

While the United States was still naming companies violating sanctions, Iran's oil exports continued climbing. Reuters reported that in July, exports were 29.4 percent above 2013 levels, with purchases by China "accounting for most of the increase." China, of course, is a Security Council permanent member, supposedly upholding and enforcing the council's sanctions. And given Russia's recent performance on Ukraine, there is scant hope America and Europe will get any help there either.

Revealing and highly troubling was the International Atomic Energy Agency's September 5 report. Although Iran has complied with the interim deal's minimal obligations concerning its nuclear program, these steps are essentially cosmetic, easily and quickly reversible. ...

Combined with other findings in its report, the IAEA is unable "to conclude that all nuclear material in Iran is in peaceful activities."

Optically, the low point might come in just days when the UN General Assembly opens in New York. Last year, Obama seemed like a supplicant, desperately seeking a telephone call or meeting with Iran's President Hassan Rouhani. Our leader had to settle for talking to Rouhani as the latter's limousine headed toward JFK airport to return to Tehran.

This year, Obama might get his photo op and a meeting. We can only hope that he doesn't declare afterward, as Neville Chamberlain did returning from Munich in 1938, that he has achieved "peace for our time."

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

TW IN BRIEF

■ Afghanistan on the brink

Afghanistan is a step closer to political stability or civil war, depending on the results of an inquiry into its disputed elections and how those results are released. Officials reported on Wednesday that talks between Afghanistan's rival presidential candidates, Abdullah Abdullah and Ashraf Ghani, have stalled again over the current election results. Abdullah is assumed to have lost the vote, but he is insisting that the margin be narrowed by invalidating more of Ghani's ballots. Abdullah also wants the results delayed until a power-sharing

agreement is reached between the feuding sides. There is a lot of uncertainty in the air and fears of debilitating ethnic division. Ghani's ethnicity is Pashtun, and he's from the Pashtun region of southwest Afghanistan. Abdullah is half-Tajik and half-Pashtun, and he is from central and northwestern Afghanistan. President Hamid Karzai—Afghanistan's only president since 2001—may be required to remain in office if the stalemate continues without a solution. Mahmood Karzai, brother of the president and ally of Abdullah, commented, "If the negotiations break down, if there is a threat of civil war, then there

are alternatives—there could be an interim government, or the president could stay on." The Taliban is happy about the leadership crisis in Afghanistan. When it bombed government buildings on September 4, it sent this message about the leaders gathered at NATO's summit in Wales: "Their 13-year-old occupation is now seen as a historical shame." The Taliban's taunt continued, "It was planned that Afghanistan's next leader would participate in the Wales Summit. Now their plans have come to naught." The American-led effort to "liberate" Afghanistan is proving to be a bloody and costly effort [spent in vain](#).

Russia Eyes Moldova and the Baltics

STRATFOR | September 16

WITH THE standoff continuing between Russia and the West over Ukraine, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov pointed out Wednesday that the “point of no return” has not yet been reached in Russia-EU relations. Nonetheless, several events in recent days show that the competition between the two sides is becoming more complex and spreading deeper into the former Soviet space.

The Ukrainian theater continues to be the primary source of contention, and one that has recently seen a significant evolution. ... [T]he ceasefire agreed to between Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and Russian President Vladimir Putin on September 5 ... can be seen as an acknowledgement by Poroshenko that Ukraine cannot defeat the pro-Russian forces and retake the eastern regions through the use of force.

On September 16, Poroshenko took his conciliatory efforts a step further by introducing legislation to give these regions a special status that would expand their powers of self-rule for a period of three years and provide amnesty to separatist fighters who have not committed capital crimes. ... The combination of the military losses and the granting of greater political autonomy marks an important gain for Russia and a significant setback for Ukraine and its Western backers. ...

Meanwhile, Russia continues to threaten to exploit its own levers of influence in Ukraine, particularly in the energy, economic and military spheres. ... [N]egotiations over natural gas supplies remain at an impasse between Russia, Ukraine and Europe. In addition, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said on September 16 that Russia needs to boost its forces in Crimea due to the Ukrainian crisis and a buildup by Western military forces in the region

Such pressure tactics from Russia have not been limited

to Ukraine. Speaking at an annual conference for Russian expats in Riga on September 13, the Russian Foreign Ministry’s human rights envoy, Konstantin Dolgov, warned against discrimination of ethnic Russians in the Baltic states. Echoing the admonitions of several other top Russian officials in recent months, Dolgov said Russia’s top priority is to protect ethnic Russians all over the world. With Russian minorities accounting for more than 25 percent of Estonia and nearly 30 percent of Latvia, such messages carry considerable weight in the Baltics. Dolgov’s warning also shows that Russia is not afraid to push back against the West, at least rhetorically, even in EU and NATO member states. ...

Russia also reacted scathingly to Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta’s recent calls in a campaign speech for the reunification of Moldova and Romania by 2018. The Russian Foreign Ministry denounced the statements as “inadmissible” and called for authorities in Moldova and Europe to condemn the comments. ... Russia’s immediate reaction to Ponta’s statements, which were not particularly novel, ... were meant to signal that Russia’s interests would need to be taken into account regarding Moldova. ...

The Baltics and Moldova are trying to strengthen and reinforce their ties with the West, but they remain vulnerable to Russian political, economic and societal influence and manipulation. This creates a similar foundation for conflict that underlies the competition occurring in Ukraine. And while the contest occurring in Moldova and the Baltics is certainly subtler than the one in Ukraine, it remains in Russia’s interests to remind these countries and their Western backers that—depending on how far they pursue integration with the West—the “point of no return” is still within sight.

Germans Carry Out Islamic State Attacks

DEUTSCHE WELLE | September 17

THE GERMAN government is alarmed about a growing number of its citizens carrying out suicide bombings on behalf of the Islamic State ..., reports a research team including journalists from the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* newspaper as well as German broadcasters NDR and WDR. The team says it could confirm five separate attacks by Germans and is currently looking into a further three to four incidents.

Almost all of the attacks were carried out this year in Iraq—primarily in the northern Kurdish region and Baghdad, claims the team in its report published on Wednesday. It further cites information from Western intelligence agencies that the number of suicide strikes carried out by Europeans has quadrupled since March, attributing the Islamist militia’s increased deployment of Westerners in part to propaganda purposes.

“We don’t want death being sent from Germany to Iraq. Exporting terror is unconscionable and must be stopped,” said German Interior

Minister Thomas de Maiziere to the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* in response. ...

Meanwhile, the German government has already banned providing support to the Islamic State group in an effort to have legal recourse against returnees associated with the group. That move came in the wake of reports that an estimated 400 German nationals and residents have joined the militant group in Syria and Iraq. Now the question for security officials is how to prevent the outflow of German jihadists and sympathizers in the first place.

That agenda is reflected in the

The End of an Epoch

GERMAN FOREIGN POLICY | September 12

FOREIGN POLICY makers in the German Bundestag are calling for the deployment of the Bundeswehr against the terrorist organization “Islamic State” in Iraq. ... The CDU/CSU parliamentary group’s foreign policy spokesperson, Philipp Mißfelder, has declared, he does “not rule out” German participation in “air strikes” and can conceive of the Bundeswehr training Iraqi soldiers. Combat missions by ground troops, on the other hand, would be out of the question. Karl-Georg Wellmann, Mißfelder’s CDU/CSU parliamentary group colleague, is also in favor of German participation in the war and explicitly calls for the “deployment of German soldiers in aerial reconnaissance units within the framework of surveillance flights.” ... Omid Nouripour, the Green parliamentary group’s foreign policy expert reiterated his call, made last August, for the deployment of German soldiers. Nouripour proposes “to air-drop supplies.” “The Lufthansa cannot do this, but the Bundeswehr can.”

The Bundeswehr had begun to establish a military nucleus in northern Iraq, already before the call was raised to participate in the war on [the Islamic State]. Since August 27, a “six-soldier military liaison team” has been set up with the German General Consulate in Irbil northern Iraq. The soldiers are under the Foreign Ministry’s authority and officially have “the task of helping to coordinate on the ground additional German aid”—i.e., to organize “the transfer of aid deliveries and military equipment.” Their role, however, has already been significantly expanded. As one officer from Irbil explained, they also provide training in how to use the equipment (radios and assault rifles) and are in close contact with Iraqi Kurdish troops and the military administration in Irbil. They have “a good insight in the so-called Peshmerga Ministry,” which one must “visualize as a defense ministry of the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan,” the officer said. “Through the daily briefings in the Peshmerga Ministry,” they also follow, with the utmost attention, the ground war against [the Islamic State], according to a report.

German arms deliveries to Iraqi Kurdish troops, organized by German soldiers in Irbil have already begun. ... Because of the volume of the arms export, German

government advisers have begun demanding a full debate on Middle East policy. It is conceivable that German weapons are contributing “to altering the region’s balance of forces,” and this “should, at least, be discussed,” declared Markus Kaim from the “Security Policy Research Group” of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs ...

Experts, in fact, are expecting wide-ranging upheavals all across the Middle East. “The Arab world finds itself in the deepest crisis since the Mongols invasion in the 13th century and the destruction of Baghdad in 1258,” writes [Rainer Hermann], the editor of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* ... With the disintegration of nations and the cancellation of borders in large portions of the Arab world, the “post-colonial transitional era of the Middle East is drawing to an end, but the contours of a new Arab order are not yet in sight.” The current upheavals, which have “unleashed locally operating centrifugal forces,” will, “persist, in all probability, for quite a while.” Hermann explains how various alternative structures—religious associations, traditional tribal or local warlords—in Iraq, in Syria or in Libya are filling spaces left by the destroyed state structures. ...

Hermann expects that the “wars and shifting alliances ... will produce a new political map.” Possibly, “Iraq may be broken up into three new countries—a Shiite, a Kurdish and a Sunni—which could extend into what is today Syria.” The latter is referring to the territory currently more or less under the control of [the Islamic State]. In Syria, “the current republic will be left with a stretch of territory along the axis Damascus-Aleppo and the Mediterranean coastline.” “The Kurds” will get their “autonomy,” while eventually “a Sunni rebel-held territory, south of Damascus,” could become permanent. “Libya cannot be maintained within its current borders,” writes Hermann, and Yemen also “will break up into at least four parts.” “Why shouldn’t there be three Iraqs, if the one Iraq is nonfunctional?” asked the author. “Why shouldn’t there be six or more Libyas, when a single Libya cannot be held together?” ...

The struggle against the [Islamic State] terrorist organization “will take time” predicted the foreign policy speaker of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group, Philipp Mißfelder. Actually, there are indications that the West seeks to use this fight to impose an “order” on the carcass left behind by the disintegration that it caused. ...

interior minister’s comments about putting a stop to the export of terror, which were echoed by the chief official for domestic security in Ahmet C.’s [a 21-year-old suicide bomber from the western German town of Ennepetal] home state of North Rhine-Westphalia. ...

In recent weeks, ... lawmakers have said that Germany faces a general threat from radicalized residents who have taken part in extremist

campaigns in other parts of the world.

“Many will come back here and commit attacks,” [Hans-Georg Maassen, the head of the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, which deals with domestic security at the federal level] warned, adding that many Islamists would like to see jihad waged in Germany. ...

Islamists have thus far carried out no large-scale terror attacks on German soil. However, security officials

say a number of plots connected with Muslim extremists have been thwarted or have failed within the last decade.

Four men were arrested this spring for allegedly planting a pipe bomb that failed to detonate at Bonn’s central train station in December 2012. Similarly, two men were later arrested and charged for placing explosives in luggage on board regional trains near the city of Cologne in July 2006. Those

bombs also failed to go off as planned.

Germany's first and only deadly strike rooted in Islamism took place on March 2, 2011, when two U.S. soldiers were killed and two others severely injured at the Frankfurt airport. ...

"Al Qaeda has promised a terrorist attack against Germany. ... I think that could very easily happen, and that could even be ... a stimulus to the biggest change in world events in quite a long time."

—Gerald Flurry, *The Key of David*, Aug. 1, 2010

TW IN BRIEF

■ Russian victory: Ukraine-EU trade deal on hold

The EU and Ukraine agreed to delay the implementation of their trade agreement, pushing it back from November of this year until Dec. 31, 2015, at a meeting in Brussels, September 12. This trade agreement has been at the heart of Ukraine's conflict with Russia, and the delay marks a major victory for Moscow. It has, in essence, been kicked into the long grass—Russia now has more time to ensure Ukraine doesn't move toward Europe. Pro-Westerners in Ukraine accuse President Petro Poroshenko of caving in to Russia. The *EU Observer* reported that a "Ukraine-based EU diplomat" said that news of the delay caused "shock, astonishment." Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko said the delay

was "a betrayal of national interests." Ukraine's Deputy Foreign Minister Danilo Lubkivsky resigned in protest. The deputy governor of the central Dnipropetrovsk region wrote, "I am speechless," in a Facebook post. "The last time this happened, we had Euro-Maidan." Russian President Vladimir Putin has demonstrated that using military force gets results. Ultimately this naked use of force will stir Europe to build the power needed to defend itself. In the meantime, Putin is proving himself a powerful figure to watch carefully. For the information on this powerful Russian leader, read our article "[Putin Won't Just Survive, He'll Thrive.](#)"

■ German politics shaken by new right-wing party

Germany's newest party, the Alternative for Germany (AfD) continued its dramatic rise on September 14, winning 10.6 percent of the vote in a local election in Thuringia and 12.2 percent in Brandenburg. The party has risen dramatically since this time last year, when it entered its first ever election, winning 4.7 percent of the vote. The AfD is further right than Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU), but it's not far right. It began as a movement fed up with Germany bailing out other European nations. It called for the end of the euro and return to the deutsche mark, and it opposed the EU centralizing power in Brussels. Recently it has broadened its stance to oppose immigration, take a harder line on crime, and call for a return to family values. Its rise shows

that a large number of Germans reject the traditional political parties. We saw the same trend with the sudden rise, and then fall, of the Pirate Party. A growing number of Germans are dissatisfied with the status quo and are looking for a new way of doing things.

■ Swedish voters reject traditional parties

Sweden's main left-wing party, the Social Democrats, won its national election on September 14, with 30.7 percent of the vote, though its limited level of support means it will struggle to lead an effective government. Despite winning, it still received its second-worst share of the vote in 100 years. It won because its main right-wing rivals, the Moderate Party, did even worse, seeing its share of the vote fall from 30.1 to 23.2 percent. The main victors were the Sweden Democrats, a group that has played only a minor role in Swedish politics for years and has been condemned as racist by the mainstream parties. Last election, it won 5.8 percent of the vote, but this time it increased that to 13 percent. Due to its success, neither the left nor right-leaning parties can form a coalition on their own. One side must either invite the Sweden Democrats into government or put together a shaky and probably ineffective coalition. Either way, the Sweden Democrats will benefit. This rise of fringe parties mirrors exactly what happened in Europe prior to World War II. For more on the dangers involved, read our article "[Déjà Vu.](#)"

ASIA

Russia, China Form Rare Earths Alliance

INVESTOR INTEL | September 16

IN 1986, Deng Xiaoping launched the "863 program" aimed to gain control of the rare earths market in the sector, saying: "The Arab countries have oil, China has rare earths." The

15 "rare elements" along with yttrium [and] scandium ("15+2"), have the characteristic of retaining a strong magnetic property, resistant even at high temperatures. They are essential for the production of hard drives, satellites, lasers, digital cameras, wind turbines, fluorescent lights, electric motors, hybrid, mobile phones, guided projectiles, new generation radar and

many other items that are of special military interest. ...

[T]he fall in the supply of China ... has left Russia a serendipitous opportunity to enter the rare earths market. In late 2013, the ICT [Investments, Construction, Technologies] group ... formed a joint venture ... to exploit of an area of about 250 square kilometers in the Yacuzia region ... ICT's plans

Why Modi's India Is Warming to China

SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST | September 17

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping should find the “handshake across the Himalayas” a lot warmer than usual when he starts his India trip today.

As India prepares to overcome the reflexive suspicion of its giant neighbor and open the floodgates to Chinese capital, and Xi responds by opening the checkbook, relations between the two Asian giants are set for, as India's National Security adviser Ajit Doval puts it, an “orbital jump.” ...

[There is] a deeper churning in [India's strategic outlook in favor of China at a time when China is also gravitating toward India](#).

“With the incredibly rapid growth of bilateral trade and recent partnerships such as the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa), India's importance to China has risen to a new level. China considers India as one of its most important strategic partners,” says Guo Suiyan, associate professor at the Institute of South Asian Studies in the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences. ...

“India's strategic circles have noted that the Chinese government has been trying to reach out to India. This has prompted a reassessment of our China policy,” says Jagannath Panda, a research fellow at the Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses in New Delhi.

Though India's foreign policy has a strong strain of continuity and a reassessment of China has been on for some time, it has picked up pace since Narendra Modi's rise to power in May. The reasons have as much to do with the new prime minister's economic priorities as much as his worldview. ...

China is India's biggest trading partner with two-way trade totaling nearly \$70 billion

[E]conomics aside, Modi's China thrust is also a product

of his Hindu nationalistic politics that draws inspiration from Asian nationalism. This ideological tilt is the prime source of his attraction to Japan and Singapore as well. It's also fashioned by his sense of injury over his treatment by the West for his alleged role in a 2002 pogrom against Muslims in Gujarat. While most Western countries, especially the U.S., wouldn't give him visa, he has traveled freely in Asia in past years.

China, which he sees as his economic role model and has visited four times, in particular rolled out the red carpet. ... China and Modi have long liked each other and make no bones about it.

“There are two factors pushing India towards China. The idea that we need the U.S. in a unipolar world is out. With China's rise, Russia's resurgence and the global financial crisis, multipolarity has returned to India's foreign policy outlook,” said Zorawar Daulet Singh, coauthor of *India-China Relations: The Border Issue and Beyond*. “This ongoing shift away

from a U.S.-centric foreign policy has gained momentum as a result of Modi's Asia-centric views. He plainly rejects the U.S. approach of containing China.” ...

“For the first time, both countries are in symmetry on the Dengist maxim that stability at home and peace in the immediate common neighborhood are essential to their modernization programs,” says Sourabh Gupta, a senior research associate at Washington-based consultancy Samuels International. “The Chinese were already committed to it. Now New Delhi is coming around to the idea that these corridors are in its national interest.” ...

Related: “Results of Largest Election in Human History Mean India-Russia-China Ties Will Advance”

“2014 has been tumultuous. And perhaps the most significant occurrence was the decision by both India and China to support Russia's bullying of Ukraine and takeover of Crimea. ... With Modi now in power, India's support of Russian aggression could greatly increase, and the same may be true of India's stance on the increasingly belligerent behavior China is displaying toward many of its neighbors. The rising cooperation between these nations represents a deep geopolitical shift”

—theTrumpet.com, May 20

have gained stronger momentum as a result of the tensions resulting from the political and military crisis in Ukraine. ...

If Russia cannot consider the EU as a reliable market because of geopolitics (European industrial powers needing rare earths will be hard pressed to promote sanctions against Russia), Moscow can still [secure] such outlets as Japan and the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa). Taking a page from the potash industry, where Russia had an alliance and pricing cartel mechanism with neighbor Belarus, Russian rare earth

producers could establish a rare earths cartel of convenience with China.

Last May, Russia and China (which are already linked by the “Shanghai Pact”) decided to increase their gas trade. A Sino-Russian rare earths cartel would be far more powerful than the gas one, being able to dictate world prices. Secondly, Russia could obtain the technology required to undertake a cost-effective exploitation of its resources. China, would gain deeper trade penetration toward Western Europe linking it to Germany more directly, potentially weakening the links with the United States. China and

Russia would also have all the materials needed to expand their military, thanks to the materials to advance new generation weapons from lasers to drones.

Putin Could Capture the Baltics in 2 Days

THE BALTIC COURSE | September 18

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT Petro Poroshenko has revealed that during one of his recent conversations with [Russian President Vladimir Putin](#), the Russian leader had threatened to him that

"I could capture Riga, Vilnius, Tallinn, Warsaw and Bucharest within two days if I wanted to," informs LETA/UNIAN.

According to German newspaper *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, Poroshenko told European Commission President José Manuel Barroso about these threats by Putin on September 12. ...

As reported, at the end of August, Putin threatened Barroso that he could capture Kiev within two weeks if he wanted to.

Related: "Lithuanian Ambassador: 'Putin Is Not Finished'"

Japan Keeps 47 Tons of Plutonium

XINHUA | September 16

THE JAPANESE government said Tuesday that the country's plutonium stockpile rose about 2.9 tons to 47.1 tons as of the end of last year, according to local media. ...

Reports in June exposed that Japan failed to include the 640 kilograms [1,411 pounds] of unused plutonium in its annual report to the International Atomic Energy Agency in 2012 and 2013, raising concerns over Japan's potential to develop nuclear weapons as the stockpile [is] allegedly weapons grade.

Of the 47 tons of plutonium Japan possesses, about 10.8 tons have been stored in the country and the rest kept in Britain and France, where spent

nuclear fuel from Japanese power plants has been reprocessed, according to the report.

TW IN BRIEF

■ Russians campaign to crown president as 'Czar Putin'

A campaign is underway in Russia to coronate Russian President Vladimir Putin as the nation's czar, according to a September 9 report by Ukrainian daily *Eizvestia.com*. The Moscow-based movement, called "For the coronation of the Russian President," is collecting signatures for its petition both online and at locations across Russia. The organization's stated mission is to "reconstitute a monarchy in Russia and to appoint Vladimir Putin to the position of czar" of the nation. "We believe Putin has done so much for Russia and deserves to govern Russia until the end of his days, and then hand power ... to one of his sons or daughters." The organizers say they will deliver the signed petition to officials in Moscow for consideration. Weeks before the earliest tensions of the Ukraine crisis began, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry identified Vladimir Putin as the "prince of Rosh" discussed in Bible prophecy. Since then, Putin's popularity at home has soared and his power has sharply increased. He is increasingly wielding that power like a mighty monarch. The movement pushing for coronation remains small, and is unlikely to produce results. Nevertheless, this news adds to the growing body of evidence suggesting a monarchical

component of the reign of Vladimir Putin—"prince of Rosh."

■ China works toward maritime 'Silk Road'

Leaders from China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) gathered in Nanning on September 16 to discuss the establishment of a new maritime "Silk Road." Anciently the maritime Silk Road created bonds of trade and friendship between China and the Southeast Asian countries. The reestablishment of this route would boost China-ASEAN relations beyond their already robust levels. From 2004 to 2013, the two sides quadrupled their trade from \$105.9 billion to \$443.6 billion. By creating the world's largest free trade zone of developing countries, this Silk Road would continue to build the region into a mecca of commerce. During the 11th China-ASEAN Expo, Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli delivered a speech outlining a six-point plan to establish the maritime Silk Road that would "promote the Asian spirit of unity, cooperation and mutual assistance." The steps are: deepening political mutual trust, improving quality and performance of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement, strengthening connectivity, boosting maritime operations, creating sub-regional cooperation, and increasing cultural and people-to-people exchanges. Gaoli ended his speech by quoting the Chinese parable, "When brothers share the same purpose, they will be strong enough to cut through metal."

AFRICA/LATIN AMERICA

Mexico's Drug Cartels Mull Alliance

EFE | August 29

SEVERAL OF Mexico's major drug cartels are pursuing an alliance, capital daily *Reforma* said Friday, citing unnamed intelligence sources.

The Juarez organization and Los Zetas are among the groups trying to

create a "cartel of cartels," the newspaper said in a front-page story.

The impetus to band together comes after each of the criminal outfits has experienced significant setbacks, the sources told *Reforma*.

Senior figures from the Jalisco Nueva Generacion Cartel, the Juarez-based mob run by the Carrillo Fuentes family, Los Zetas and the Beltran Leyva cartel met in June in Piedras Negras, a city in

the northern border state of Coahuila, according to the sources. ...

Conflict among rival cartels and between the criminals and security forces has claimed well over 100,000 lives in Mexico since December 2006, when then-President Felipe Calderon decided to militarize the struggle against the drug trade.

Related: "Mexico: Bordering on Collapse"

Scottish Referendum: The Balkanization of the UK Has Begun

Norman Tebbit, THE TELEGRAPH | September 19

THE PEOPLE of Scotland have resisted the [Scottish National Party] SNP's allurements to leap (without a life jacket) into the torrent leading to separation. Instead they have landed themselves in the bog of greater devolution and dragged England and Wales there too. ...

Indeed, the only party leader to have emerged from it all with clean hands and increased public support is Nigel Farage.

Of course it might all have been worse. ...

After the promise of an ill-defined bung of greater devolution having been made without the consent of Parliament ... it now falls to Mr. Cameron to secure a majority for it. That may not be entirely straightforward. If he fails he would have little option but to seek a mandate in an early general election, despite the self-inflicted incubus of his fixed-term Parliament legislation.

Mr. Milliband too faces some awkward questions. If he were to win an overall majority of, say, 10 or 15 including 45 from Scotland, how would he manage in divisions on matters devolved to England or English regions? Would they be

able to vote on English devolved matters, although English M.P.s cannot vote on Scottish devolved matters?

Mr. Farage has suggested that we need a full-scale constitutional convention. Mr. Cameron thinks a committee chaired by William Hague could sort it all out. Since neither the prime minister, nor the cabinet have yet done so, I am inclined to think that Mr. Farage may be right.

It is extraordinary that after 300 years of successful constitutional political development during which the United Kingdom achieved unparalleled military, scientific, industrial, social and political progress (including the world's finest civil service), it has almost all been vandalized in a few decades of "progressive" politics and modernization.

What will now be ahead as we plunge into the "regional devolution" of England? What will [we] do if a devolved administration in one of our great cities proposes to govern under Sharia law?

The Balkanization of this kingdom has begun. Unless we wish to go the way of the Balkans we had best work out how to reverse, rather than to accelerate it.

Australia: Islamic State Beheading Plot

REUTERS | September 18

MILITANTS CONNECTED with radical group Islamic State were planning to behead a member of the public in Australia, Prime Minister Tony Abbott said on Thursday, after hundreds of police raided homes in a sweeping counterterrorism operation.

Abbott said there was a "serious risk from a terrorist attack" days after Australia raised its national terror threat level to "high" for the first time, citing the likelihood of attacks by Australians radicalized in Iraq or Syria. ...

More than 800 police were involved in the pre-dawn security operation in Sydney and Brisbane, which was described as the largest in Australian history and resulted in the detention of 15 people, police said.

Abbott told a news conference that members of the radical group had planned to conduct a public beheading.

"That's the intelligence we received," he said.

Media reported that the plans included snatching a person at random in Sydney, Australia's largest city, and executing them on camera, draped in the group's black flag.

The exhortations, quite direct exhortations, were coming from an Australian who is apparently quite senior in [the Islamic State] to networks of support back in Australia to conduct demonstration killings here in this country," Abbott said

Four Terrorists Caught at U.S. Border

TOP RIGHT NEWS | September 18

CONGRESSMAN JASON Chaffetz broke this stunning news Wednesday that four known terrorists were apprehended at the U.S. border in Texas on September 10—the day before the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

Chaffetz questioned Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson on

whether he is "aware of any apprehensions of suspected or known terrorists."

Johnson dodged the question.

Representative Chaffetz told Megyn Kelly ... "There were actually four individuals trying to cross through the Texas border, who were apprehended at two different stations, that do have ties to known terrorist organizations in the Middle East."

More Children Muslim Than Christian in Some British Cities

Nick Hallett, BRIETBART |

September 15

THERE ARE NOW more Muslim children than Christian children growing up [in] several British towns and cities. Figures from the 2011 census show that in places such as Birmingham, Bradford and Leicester, a child is more likely to be raised in Islam than Christianity as Britain's demographics radically change.

The census shows, for example, that



GERALD FLURRY

'In the Beginning'— Father of Lights

The Bible calls God 'the Father of lights.' He has given human beings a potential more dazzling than the stars.



of 278,623 young people in Britain's second-largest city, Birmingham, 97,099 registered as Muslim compared to 93,828 as Christian.

Meanwhile in Bradford, 52,135 youngsters, forming 45 percent of the total, are Muslim, compared to 47,144 Christians. Leicester has 22,693 young Muslims compared to 18,190 Christian children.

The London borough of Tower Hamlets has the biggest difference, with 62 percent of children being raised Muslim. Christians in the borough are vastly outnumbered by 34,597 to just 8,995.

However, despite the change among young people, the overall figures show that Christianity is still the most popular faith in every part of England and Wales, even in towns and cities seen as highly culturally diverse.

A total of 27.9 million people described themselves as Christian, compared to 1.8 million Muslims, who make up the second-largest faith.

Overall, there are also far more Christian than Muslim youngsters.

However, analysts are now beginning to warn that the growing number [of] people following nontraditional faiths could lead to segregated and divided communities

40 American Islamic State Fighters Return

WASHINGTON FREE BEACON |
September 19

REP. TIM Bishop (D., N.Y.) warned during a recent speech that up to 40 radicalized U.S. citizens who have fought alongside the Islamic State ... have already returned to the United States, where they could pose a terrorist threat.

Bishop claims that of the 100 or so Americans who have traveled to the Middle East to join [the Islamic State's] ranks, some 40 have returned and are currently being surveilled by the FBI, according to his remarks

"One of the concerns is the number of U.S. citizens who have left our country to go join up with [the Islamic State]," Bishop said during the speech. "It is believed there have been some number up to 100 that have done that."

"It is also believed that some 40 of those who left this country to join up with [the Islamic State] have now returned to our country," Bishop said, eliciting shocked responses from some in the crowd. ...

Lawmakers have warned that radicalized [Islamic State] fighters

could clandestinely enter the United States through the porous southern border. ...

Bishop said that while [the Islamic State] poses an extreme threat, it is not yet capable of attacking the United States, though that could change as the group grows in strength and resources.

"It is a very, very complex and very, very dangerous threat and I think the plan that the president outlined the other night [in his national speech] is a good plan," Bishop maintained. ...

"We remain mindful of the possibility that an [Islamic State]-sympathizer—perhaps motivated by online propaganda—could conduct a limited, self-directed attack here at home with no warning," Matthew Olsen, director of the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center, said in a speech earlier this month. ...

TW IN BRIEF

■ **Archbishop of Canterbury sometimes doubts if God exists**

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said during an interview at Bristol Cathedral, published on YouTube September 13, that even he, as the leader of around 80 million Anglicans, sometimes struggles with doubt in the existence of God. "I mean there are moments, sure, where you think 'Is there a God?', 'Where is God?'" he said. Later he made clear that he still believed in God, despite those moments of doubt. "It is not about feelings, it is about the fact that God is faithful, and the extraordinary thing about being a Christian is that God is faithful when we are not," he said. But he went on say, "We know about Jesus—we can't explain all the questions in the world, we can't explain loads of things but we know about Jesus." When Welby says these things, he is speaking from the heart—his seven-month-old daughter died in a car crash in 1983. That's a tragedy that is hard to deal with. But despite what the archbishop says, the Bible actually does reveal the answer to these questions. For the answers, read our article ["Why Does God Allow Suffering?"](#)

SCOTLAND from page 1

united by a common legacy, by common systems of law, morality and religion, and by a common monarchy. Scotland is a fellow member of the British Commonwealth. But it's more than that. Scotland is an integral member of the United Kingdom, an amalgamation of the four peoples that comprise the throbbing heart of the British Commonwealth.



BRAD MACDONALD

Without Scotland there is no Great Britain. Without Great Britain there is no British Commonwealth, at least not the British Commonwealth I have always admired, and that has shaped my sense of identity.

Again, how did we reach this point?

The answer, at least a good part of it, turns on this question of identity. Here in Britain (which includes Scotland, for now), it is no longer fashionable to be British. Since World War II a multitude of factors—political correctness, revisionist historians decrying the British Empire, secularism, the rise of multiculturalism and tolerance—have converged to destroy the sense of national identity. There is no longer a defining sense of being *British*. At least not the British we once were.

Pretend you're an average Briton, American, Australian or Canadian, and ask yourself: What does it mean to be British in the 21st century? Or American? Or Australian? Or Canadian? Now compare your answer to that of your great-grandfather. A century ago, he would have answered that question with vigor, sincerity and clarity. He'd have told you that being British meant being Christian, or in the very least subscribing to Christian mores and values. Being British meant possessing a clear sense of right and wrong; it meant having a morality that was a function of Britain's Judeo-Christian heritage. Being British meant loyalty to God, King and country. Being British meant being the world's chief proprietor of the English language, of the rule of law and democracy.

One hundred years ago, being British meant being an enthusiastic and unapologetic child of a globe-girdling empire. This empire wasn't perfect (what human empire is?), but it was far more benevolent than others and was a force for great good and civility in the world. Scotland was an integral part of this empire, and made countless important contributions. Although it only comprised a small part of the empire, Scotland furnished some of its greatest explorers, colonialists, politicians, warriors, authors, intellectuals and inventors. During the 1750s, at least 50 percent of the East India Company—the enterprise at the foundation of the British Empire—were Scots.

This is not to say the British Commonwealth or Great Britain was culturally, politically or even religiously homogenous. Britain is comprised of different peoples, each with distinct and often clashing personalities and interests. The Scottish and English, in particular, have a long history of contention and war. But there has always been a larger sense of familial affection and loyalty. Despite the

differences, the British have been one family. One hundred years ago a Scot was a Scot, but he was also happily, willingly, British. Same goes for an Englishman.

Today, that willingness to identify with being British is gone. The sense of identity no longer exists, at least not in the traditional manner. Today, depending on the age or class, being British means drinking on the weekend and worshiping football. It means using politically correct jargon instead of telling the blunt truth. It means unabashedly accepting, even adopting, foreign cultures and treating them as superior to your own. It means tolerating what was once considered evil, in the name of progressivism.

There is no longer respect and admiration for the empire and what it stood for. There is no loyalty to Judeo-Christian values. No admiration for Great Britain's heritage, for its vital contributions to the English language and culture, or to the economies, infrastructure and legal systems of peoples and countries the world over. In contemporary Britain, there is no such thing as being British. Why?

Because select self-righteous British have systematically destroyed what it means to be British.

Melanie Phillips described it aptly: "It's difficult to persuade people to stay part of a Britain that has fragmented its own collective identity and purpose on so many different levels."

No one provided the Scots with a rousing, positive vision of what it would mean to remain part of Britain. No one reminded them of what England and Scotland have accomplished together—and provided a vision of what they could accomplish together in the future. There once was a dream called Britain. Now the world is not our problem. There are no rights and wrongs—just British neo-colonialist arrogance—and sadly, a prevailing sense of shame of its history.

As Phillips put it: "The Scots understand what it is to be Scottish and feel good about Scottish achievements. Many in Britain no longer know what Britishness is—and if they think they do, they are told they should hate it. The Scots are proud of their past; the British are constantly apologizing for theirs."

We are here today because the very quality—the defining sense of identity—the clear and indomitable sense of what it means to be British—that for more than 300 years has bound Scotland to England, and England to Scotland, is gone. This sense of identity had been diminished for decades, chiseled away by revisionist historians abolishing the British Empire, by multiculturalists embracing other cultures and religions, and by politically correct politics undermining patriotism and loyalty to Britain.

Really, we shouldn't be at all surprised by what we are witnessing today in Scotland. This moment has been brewing now for decades. It's just as King Solomon stated 3,000 years ago: "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Today there is no vision of being British, and Britain is perishing.

I can't speak for you, but that makes me more than just a little sad.

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