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THE TRUMPET WEEKLY

DECEMBER 5, 2014

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## Ferguson Is Only the Beginning if Loretta Lynch Replaces Eric Holder

BY ANTHONY CHIBARIRWE

**A**N AFRICAN-AMERICAN heritage is not the only thing outgoing Attorney General Eric Holder shares with the Obama administration's nominated replacement. When President Barack Obama nominated Loretta Lynch on November 8 as the next attorney general, he selected

Holder's ideological double. Both Holder and Lynch espouse the same radical racial prejudices that now stoke the flames of race riots in the United States.

Lynch is currently the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York.

**see LYNCH page 12**



Attorney General nominee Loretta Lynch (center) speaks after U.S. President Barack Obama (right) introduced her as his nominee to replace Eric Holder (left)

## U.S. Walks Fine, Awkward Line

WASHINGTON POST | December 3

IRANIAN FIGHTER jets are now said to be bombing the Islamic State militant group in Iraq. It's an escalation in Tehran's presence there—and a development that has forced U.S. officials to walk a fine line while addressing it.

The latest example came Wednesday, when Secretary of State John F. Kerry was asked if he was aware of any Iranian air-strikes in Iraq, and whether he thought they were helpful in the fight against the militants. He declined to confirm whether any occurred and said Tehran and Washington are not coordinating military actions, a standing talking point for U.S. officials in recent days. But the secretary went a step further, saying Iranian airstrikes wouldn't necessarily be a bad thing.

"I think it's self-evident that if Iran is taking on [the Islamic State] in some particular place and it's confined to

taking on [the Islamic State] and it has an impact ... the net effect is positive," Kerry said .... "But that's not something that we're coordinating. The Iraqis have the overall responsibility for their own ground and air operations, and what they choose to do is up to them." ...

**"Now that Iraq has been taken out of the picture, Iran is even closer to becoming the reigning king of the Middle East. It may seem shocking, given the U.S. presence in the region right now, but prophecy indicates that, in pursuit of its goal, Iran will probably TAKE OVER IRAQ. At least, it will have a heavy influence over the Iraqi people."**

—Gerald Flurry, *Trumpet*, June 2003

Several Iraqi military victories against the militants this fall have come with Iranian involvement, and the commander of Iran's Quds force, Gen. Qassem Suleimani, has paid a visit to Iraq .... Lebanon's Hezbollah militia group—long backed by Iran—also may have been involved.

The Pentagon press secretary, Adm. John Kirby, said Tuesday that he had seen the media reports about Iran launching airstrikes on the Islamic State, and had no reason to doubt them. But he declined to take any position on them. ...

## Israel's Parliament Votes to Dissolve

December 3

ISRAELI LAWMAKERS voted Wednesday to dissolve its parliament, known as the Knesset. Elections will likely be held in March, two years ahead of schedule.

Israel's current government, led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, came to power in early 2013. However, it has remained divided over the country's major issues.

Wednesday's vote passed unanimously with one legislator abstaining. The vote is the initial step in forming a new government. Next week, more voting could officially dissolve the Knesset and usher in new polls. If the votes go as expected, the parliament will have served the second-shortest period in Israel's history.

Netanyahu called for the early elections after firing Justice Minister Tzipi Livni and Finance Minister Yair Lapid. The prime minister explained his

decision regarded their harsh attacks on his government.

Israel will now have to deal with election campaigns while **facing rising terrorist activity and increasing isolation.**

## Balance Between Israel and Hezbollah at Risk

STRATFOR | December 4

THE LEBANESE militant group Hezbollah is in an increasingly difficult position as the Syrian civil war rages on next door, consuming resources and threatening strategic supply lines. Access to advanced weapon systems, including surface-to-surface missiles and rockets, is key if Hezbollah hopes to hurt Israel enough to deter military action. The conflict between the two actors is in an incredibly precarious stage: Hezbollah must threaten Israel enough to prevent an attack, but if the group poses too acute a threat, Israel may decide to preemptively conduct

an offensive strike.

Complicating matters are the interests and relations between Iran, the principal supporter of Hezbollah, and the United States, an important ally of Israel. It is within this dynamic context that we are examining various reports that emerged in November that Hezbollah has acquired Fateh-110 short-range ballistic missiles from Iran. ...

The nuclear negotiations between Iran and the United States could also be motivating the alleged transfer of weapons. The reports of the Fateh-110 sale followed U.S. proposals to expand the nuclear negotiations into inspections on Iran's missile programs. The transfer could be a direct message from Iran that the programs are off the table. It also shows the United States and Israel the implications of failing to reach a deal with Iran. In other words, the move may be simple leverage for Iran in these larger talks.

**Related: "Iran Nuclear Deal Postponed ... Again"**

# U.S. and Iran Both Attack the Islamic State

NEW YORK TIMES | December 3

IRANIAN FIGHTER jets struck extremist targets in Iraq recently, Iranian and American officials have confirmed, in the latest display of Tehran's new willingness to conduct military operations openly on foreign battlefields rather than covertly and through proxies.

The shift stems in part from Iran's deepening military role in Iraq in the war against the Sunni extremists of the Islamic State. But it also reflects a profound change in Iran's strategy, stepping from the shadows into a more overt use of hard power as it promotes Shiite influence around the region. ...

For months, Iran has flashed its military prowess around the region. It has offered weapons to the Lebanese Army and supported the Shiite Houthi rebels in Yemen who have taken over the capital, Sana, where a car bomb struck the Iranian ambassador's residence on Wednesday.

In Syria, Hezbollah, the Iranian-supported Shiite militant movement, and the Iranian paramilitary al Quds force, have kept President Bashar Assad in power. And in Iraq, Iran's once-elusive spymaster, Maj. Gen. Qassem Suleimani,

... has emerged as a public figure ...

"When Baghdad was threatened, the Iranians did not hesitate to help us, and did not hesitate to help the Kurds when Erbil was threatened," Iraq's prime minister, Haider al-Abadi, said in a recent television interview here, referring to the Kurdish capital in the north.

He contrasted that approach to that of the United States, saying the Iranians were "unlike the Americans, who hesitated to help us when Baghdad was in danger, and hesitated to help our security forces."

"And the reason Iran did not hesitate to help us," Mr. Abadi added, "was because they consider [the Islamic State] as a threat to them, not only to us."

Ali Khedery, a former American official in Iraq, said, "For the Iranians, really, the gloves are off."

Of the growing regional role of General Suleimani, Mr. Khedery was blunt. "Suleimani is the leader of Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen," he said. "Iraq is not sovereign. It is led by Suleimani, and his boss, Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamenei"—Iran's supreme leader. ...

## Jordan: Battling Islamic State Is 'World War III'

CBS | December 5

JORDAN'S KING Abdullah believes battling [the Islamic State] and other terrorist groups is "our third world war."

Speaking to CBS *This Morning*, Abdullah stated that [the Islamic State] is a Muslim problem that they need to take ownership of.

"We need to stand up and say what is right and what is wrong. This is no reflection of our religion. This is evil and all of us have got to make that decision," Abdullah, who is in Washington to meet with President Barack Obama, said. "We have to stand up and say this is the line that is drawn in the sand and those that believe in right should stand on this side and those that don't have to make a decision should stand on the other. It's clearly a fight between good and evil. I think it's a generational fight. As I said to President Putin, I think this is our third world war by other means." ...

"We have to have, sooner I hope, rather than later, a strategic holistic approach to being able to deal with all these organizations that actually are

the same—different names, but the same beliefs.

"This is an issue that we really have to combine our strategies and this is sort of one of the reasons why I'm here in Washington ... I know we have to concentrate on Syria and Iraq, but we really have to have a pan-regional approach to this issue." ...

"There's a lot of leaders through the Arab and Muslim world that have had enough and that want to come out in a voice and say, 'Enough is enough,'" Abdullah said. ...

Related: ["Dividing the Middle East"](#)

## U.S. Airstrikes Haven't Reduced the Islamic State's Strength

CNN | December 3

SYRIAN PRESIDENT Bashar Assad told a French magazine that "there haven't been any tangible" signs that U.S.-led airstrikes in his country have weakened [the Islamic State,] despite assertions Wednesday by America's top diplomat that

"significant progress" has been made in derailing the Islamist extremist group.

In an interview with *Paris Match*, ... Assad said his government has "noticed no change" in [the Islamic State] since the air campaign began more than two months ago.

"It isn't true that the strikes are helpful," the Syrian president said. "They would, of course, have helped had they been serious and efficient."

After first striking [Islamic State] targets in Iraq, the U.S.-led coalition went after the group inside Syria in September. These efforts haven't been coordinated with Assad's government, which U.S. and other Western leaders have said they want replaced—even going as far, in some cases, as

**"The crisis in Syria is a disturbing spectacle of the lack of leadership in the United States, as Isaiah 3 foretold. Gone is 'the mighty man, and the man of war, ... and the prudent, ... the captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor' (verses 2-3)."**

**Trumpet, June-July 2006**

Related: ["Syria Is Ready to Explode"](#)

supporting and working with moderate opposition forces fighting to unseat him.

Yet Assad said in his *Paris Match* interview, which took place on November 28 in Damascus ... that

the U.S.-led military campaign has limited use because “you can’t end terrorism with aerial strikes. Troops on the ground that know the land and can react are essential.”

Whether or not the strikes have

hurt [the Islamic State,] there’s been little indication that they or anything else [have] gotten Syria closer to an end to a civil war that erupted after mostly peaceful protests in Daraa province in March 2011. ...

## EUROPE

### German Troops to Tip New NATO ‘Spearhead’

**THE LOCAL** | December 2

**A**MID RISING tensions with Russia over Ukraine, NATO foreign ministers met in Brussels on Tuesday to accelerate the formation of a rapid response force due to include 4,000 German troops.

“Ukraine has conducted itself honorably in holding up the [Minsk] Protocol, Russia and the separatists haven’t done so,” NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said.

“We call on Russia to fulfill its obligations.”

The Minsk agreement, signed in early September, called for a ceasefire and the establishment of a buffer zone between Ukrainian government forces and pro-Russian separatists.

But fighting has continued in the conflict zone, with evidence pointing to Russia delivering tanks and heavy weapons to separatist fighters and breaking international law.

NATO has also criticized Russia’s plans for increasing its military presence in the Black Sea, saying that it could further destabilize the region. ...

Responding to Russian actions in Ukraine this year, the 28-member NATO alliance agreed at a September summit in Wales to create a “spearhead” to the existing NATO Response Force.

Capable of deploying in 2-to-5 days to crisis zones, especially at NATO’s periphery, the “Very High Readiness Joint Task Force” (VJTF) may now take shape next year rather than in 2016.

The exact size and composition of the force—and who will pay for it—are still under discussion and are expected to be announced at a meeting of NATO defense ministers in Munich in February.

Poland and the three NATO members of the former Soviet Baltic republics are especially fearful of Russian military incursions as the conflict deepens in Ukraine.

The decision to form the VJTF was a “clear sign to our allies in the East and a clear sign to Russia,” a NATO official told *Die Welt* newspaper earlier. ...

### The Scrapped Pipeline Project

**GERMAN FOREIGN POLICY** | December 3

**M**OSCOW’S CANCELATION of the South Stream pipeline project is causing Berlin and Brussels headaches. EU bodies and government leaders of EU member states have expressed their wish to continue negotiations on the pipeline, which, in a few years, would annually have pumped 63 billion cubic meters of natural gas to Western Europe. They still see some possibilities for clarification. By delaying the project, Brussels had hoped to exert pressure on the Russian government. Moscow, however, got tired of banging on closed doors and announced South Stream’s cancellation on Monday. Germany is one of the losers, because

it would have been able to expand its influence on the European gas supply through its BASF subsidiary Winterhall participating in the pipeline project. Turkey is the winner, because the planned Russian South Stream gas will now probably transit through its territory. Turkey, a loyal transit country, could become an influential gas distribution hub for the EU—at a time when tensions between Berlin/Brussels and Ankara are rising. ...

### UN on the Way to Recognizing Palestine?

**JEWISH WEEK MAGAZINE** | December 4  
(translation ours)

**T**HE FOUR parties of the Belgian Federal Parliament have agreed

to recognize the state of Palestine unilaterally, according to reports from the Belgian newspaper *Le Soir* on Wednesday.

At the beginning of the week, the parties obviously attained an agreement and now intend to give the Parliament a motion, which formulates the recognition of the state of Palestine. The parties want this motion to be adopted by Parliament, and, according to the newspaper report, the government plans to implement the motion. However, the draft of the motion text fixes no date for the recognition.

If the Belgian government adopts the motion and recognizes the Palestinian state, Belgium would be the second European state to unilaterally recognize Palestine after a similar move by Sweden in October. ...



# Dutch Repatriate 122 Tons of Gold

Callum Wood | December 4

THE CENTRAL bank of the Netherlands announced November 28 that it is repatriating \$5 billion worth of gold. The 122-ton stockpile of gleaming bars represents 20 percent of the Netherlands' total gold supply. It also represents the world's dwindling confidence in the United States as a safe house for foreign gold.

The Dutch are the latest participants in a movement repatriating large quantities of international gold held in the States. The trend toward bringing gold stores home has started to take hold in recent years, sparked by the 2008 financial crisis and fanned by the U.S.'s continued reckless financial policies. Germany announced in January 2013 it would repatriate 300 metric tons of gold from the U.S. and 374 metric tons from France—the largest gold transport on record.

Before the trend took hold in Europe, nations such as Iran, Venezuela and Libya were repatriating their gold. The 2013 move by Germany—the real economic and political leader of Europe—blazed the trail, leaving a clear path for other European nations to follow. The trend extends beyond those nations hostile to the U.S.; it is now trending throughout the Western world.

Even the Swiss government was forced to hold a referendum to see if gold should be brought home. The referendum was aptly named "Save Our Swiss Gold." While soundly defeated, the fact that this referendum was forced on the country shows that the issue is boiling to the surface in Europe.

Another nation that may soon follow in Germany's and the Netherlands' footsteps is France. Right-wing leader Marine Le Pen has demanded that all French gold be brought home and that the French gold sales program be discontinued immediately. As the main opposition leader, and a likely candidate for the presidency in the next election, Le Pen has substantial weight behind her demands.

Ramming home the urgency of her demands, Le Pen concluded, "The stakes are high; it is the future of France in question!"

Amsterdam appears to have reached and acted upon the same conclusion. The logical question is, who else is thinking this way? The U.S. holds the world's largest stockpile of gold—around 75 percent—so no doubt repatriation is on the minds of a few nations.

America hasn't made much of an attempt to ease concerns. The national debt topped \$18 trillion on November 28. Nations undoubtedly wonder what the U.S. plans to back its currency with. Germany's gold repatriation plans are a glimmering wake-up call to nations with gold reserves in the United States.

Germany called on the U.S. for transparency about its gold holdings, requesting an audit of German gold. However, its auditors were left skeptical after they were allowed to see only a small portion of its gold in Fort Knox. The blatant lack of transparency has fueled speculation that the U.S. has used Germany's gold to fund its fighting, and bail out its banks.

Watch as the momentum toward repatriation grows. If the Fed opens the doors to reveal empty vaults, it will mean the end of the U.S. dollar. If the gold is there, and the foreign nations take it, the U.S. will lose another massive advantage: leverage.

Consider Germany. Why was so much of its gold held in the U.S. in the first place? It was taken after World War II to ensure that should Germany rise again, it would not have access to a vast portion of its wealth. Yet today, Germany and even belligerent nations like Iran are allowed to remove their gold!

The U.S. is quickly losing the leverage it once had, and is simultaneously endangering itself to the economic power bloc of Europe—led by the gold-laden Germany.

## Gorbachev: 'U.S. Stoking New Cold War'

TELEGRAPH | December 2

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV has claimed that American "triumphalism" is stoking a new Cold War and called for "avid militarists" to stop dragging Europe into conflict.

The former Soviet leader spoke out as Ukrainian forces and separatist rebels agreed to a partial ceasefire in the civil war in the east of the country, which has killed at least 4,300 people since a Moscow-backed uprising broke out in April.

Mr. Gorbachev said there was still

time to defuse the standoff between Moscow and the West, as he and his Western counterparts had done during the Perestroika period.

"Now there are once again signs of a Cold War," he said in an interview with TASS, the state-owned news agency. "This process can and must be stopped. After all, we did it in the 1980s. We opted for de-escalation, for the reunification (of Germany). And back then it was a lot tougher than now. So we could do it again."

Mr. Gorbachev, 83, who has run a civil society foundation since he retired from politics, said he thought the United States was largely to blame for the confrontation today. "I don't want

to praise our government too much," he said. "It has also made quite a few errors, but today the danger comes from the American position. They are tortured by triumphalism." ...

## Eurasian Economic Union to Drop Dollar

TASS | December 2

TRANSACTIONS in dollars and euros could be banned within the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU)—Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Armenia, the *Izvestia* newspaper reported on Tuesday.

The EEU countries could switch to national currencies (ruble, Belarusian ruble, Kazakhstani tenge and Armenian dram) in mutual payments by 2025-2030, the chairman of the board of directors of Russia's National Payment Council, Alexander Murychev, told the newspaper.

"It is necessary to raise a question before the national banks of the member states on excluding the U.S. dollar and the euro from interstate payment transactions," said Murychev, detailing a concept for the EEU development,

which was unveiled during a meeting in Kazan on Friday.

Statistics shows that around half of mutual payment operations between the EEU member states account for the U.S. and the euro, thus increasing the dependence of the trade bloc on the foreign countries' economies.

The new concept envisages that the EEU member states should create a joint payment space allowing carrying out transactions with due regard to the compatibility of national card systems, including BelCard (Belarus),

Armenian Card (Armenia) and their Russian counterpart, which is currently under development.

Natalya Burykina, who chairs a committee on financial market of the State Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament, said the initiative of switching to the national currencies makes sense as the idea is to create a single economic space in the framework of the EEU, according to the report. ...

**Related: "A De-Dollarized World"**

## ASIA

### Japan's Shinzo Abe Tries to End World War II

**NATIONAL INTEREST** | December 2

**J**APANESE PRIME Minister Shinzo Abe will do "whatever it takes" to sign a formal peace treaty with Russia ending their outstanding territorial dispute, according to state-run Russian media outlets.

According to the reports, which cited Japan's Kyodo News Agency, Abe pledged in a speech on Monday to redouble his efforts to resolve Japan's long-standing territorial dispute with Russia over the Kuril Islands (Northern Territories).

"I shall resolve the problem of [the] Northern Territories and conclude a peace treaty," Abe was quoted as saying in a speech with a local mayor. He added, "As a politician and prime minister, I will achieve it whatever it takes [sic]."

Russia and Japan have long disputed the four islands in the southern Pacific. Indeed, the two countries technically remain at war as the territorial dispute prevented them from ever inking a formal treaty ending their World War II hostilities. ...

Abe's comments on Monday may signal his intention to resume his earlier outreach efforts towards Moscow.

On the other hand, it is just as likely that Abe's speech was motivated by domestic politics. Abe made the comments while meeting with Shunsuke Hasegawa, the mayor of Nemuro of Hokkaido Prefecture, which is located right near the Kuril Islands. The territorial dispute with Russia is an important local political issue as many Hokkaido residents used to live on the Kuril Islands before being forced into exile by Russia.

For what it's worth, Russia appears to be interpreting Abe's comments as a domestic political ploy. An ITAR-TASS report on Tuesday said that most "experts" believe that "Japanese Minister Shinzo Abe's declared intention to conclude a peace treaty with Russia after resolving the territorial dispute is first and foremost addressed to the domestic audience on the eve of elections .... Some interpret this pledge as an attempt to put pressure on Moscow."

### China Must Improve Ties, Says President Xi

**THE TIMES OF INDIA** | November 30

**C**HINA SHOULD firmly uphold its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights while handling disputes, but at the same time, the nation should step up diplomatic efforts with neighboring countries, President Xi Jinping has said. ...

He added, "We should promote neighborhood diplomacy, turn

China's neighborhood areas into a community of common destiny, continue to follow the principles of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, promote friendship and partnership, foster an amicable, secure and prosperous neighborhood environment, and boost win-win cooperation and connectivity."

Mr. Xi has emerged as the strongest leader in China, as he heads the party, military and the presidency.

His speech in this week's conference will set the tone for Chinese

diplomacy in trying to resolve disputes with a host of countries including India, Japan as well as the South China Sea dispute involving several southeast Asian countries. ...

China should advance multilateral diplomacy, work to reform the international system and global governance, and increase the representation of China and other developing countries, he said.

"We should step up results-oriented cooperation, actively advance the building of the Silk Road Economic

# Plunging Ruble—How Will Putin Respond?

Mike Larson, **MONEY AND MARKETS** | December 3

**R**USSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin is in a box—and it's shrinking by the day!

The combination of falling oil prices, economic sanctions and a collapsing currency are squeezing him more and more each day. With little relief on the way, the only question now is "How will he respond?"

[T]he Russian ruble now buys just 1.9 U.S. cents. That's a 39 percent plunge year-to-date. Some 16 percent of that move came in just the last week, the worst collapse since the country's 1998 debt default.

Russia's central bank has been raising interest rates to stem the outflow. ...

But none of that is working. A key reason? Russia is incredibly sensitive to energy prices. Roughly half of the country's budget is funded by oil and gas revenue. The recent plunge in energy prices is costing Putin an estimated \$140 billion a year ... at least!

Russia's own officials now expect the domestic economy to shrink 0.8 percent in 2015. That's a huge swing from the previous estimate of 1.2 percent growth, and it would mark the first Russian recession in a half-decade.

The country does still have a huge pile of foreign currency reserves—roughly \$420 billion. It can use that dough to mitigate the ruble's decline and the domestic economic fallout. But even that reserve horde is down \$90 billion so far in 2014 ....

The question for investors and politicians on both sides of the Atlantic is how Putin will respond.

Does he back down in Eastern Europe and try to re-engage the West? Stop supporting Ukrainian rebels, pull out of Crimea and curtail his military aggressiveness?

Or does he lash out like a cornered animal, and launch a full-scale invasion of Ukraine? Threaten his Baltic neighbors? Take some other kinds of retaliatory steps that Europe and the U.S. haven't strongly considered?

Many Russians think Putin will continue to thumb his nose at the West, citing the country's historical resistance to change forced upon it. Citizens of Leningrad and Stalingrad endured horrendous conditions during World War II, yet managed to fight off German invaders. And the entire country put up with years and years of economic challenges and political battles with the West during the Cold War.

As a *Bloomberg* story noted today: "The West is wrong in its understanding of the motivation Putin and his inner circle have," said Evgeniy Minchenko, head of the International Institute of Political Expertise in Moscow. "They think Putin is a businessman, that money is the most important thing for him and that by pressing him and his allies financially they will break them."

So far, everything that has happened in Eastern Europe has ironically had a positive impact on U.S. markets. "Fear money" has been fleeing European markets and the European currency, and finding its way here instead. But if a full-scale shooting war breaks out, that trend could be severely challenged.

Belt and the 21st-century maritime Silk Road, work hard to expand the converging interests of various parties, and promote win-win cooperation through results-oriented cooperation," he said. ...

## China to Develop More Aircraft Carriers

THE TIMES OF INDIA | December 1

**B**UOYED BY successful trials of its first aircraft carrier, China plans to build more new carriers as it looks to spread out its global naval presence in the midst of maritime disputes with a host of neighbors.

China is planning to build more aircraft carriers in addition to the two-year-old Liaoning, which it purchased from Ukraine and commissioned in 2012, state-run *Global Times* reported on Monday. ...

Ministry of national defense spokesman Yang Yujun said last August that although the Liaoning is China's first aircraft carrier, "there will surely be more in future."

He said China will consider the development of aircraft carriers in accordance with its national defense needs.

Military experts confirm that the country needs at least three carriers to form a basic battle force, the report said. ...

Although Chinese authorities have claimed that China's aircraft carrier is not being built with a specific target in mind, military experts said that to maintain China's maritime rights [the] Chinese Navy will have to break the "first island chain" blockade to gain access to the Indian Ocean, the report said. ...

Experts say China's military logistics infrastructure will soon be mature enough to allow the country's new

homemade carrier, once completed and commissioned, to form a powerful battle force, it said.

## Putin, Modi to Sign Major Defense Deals

RUSSIA AND INDIA REPORT | December 3

**R**USSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin will arrive in New Delhi this month for his summit with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to further strengthen the "special, privileged strategic partnership" between the two countries. In the run-up to the summit, the two leaders have already reaffirmed that defense cooperation is an important pillar of bilateral strategic partnership which will be high on the agenda of their talks. Over the past months, the two sides have been conducting talks to straighten the loose ends of some of the major pending

defense deals to be timed for signature during the summit.

Following his assuming office of prime minister in May, Putin met Modi, for the first time, on the sidelines of [the] BRICS [Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa] summit in Fortaleza (Brazil), in July, and second time, at G-20 summit in Brisbane (Australia) in November. During both these meetings with the Russian president, Modi reiterated

that he looked forward to working with Putin to further deepen the strategic partnership between Russia and India, especially in the field of military-technical cooperation.

Recently, India's new Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar said that as a policy, the country would stress on working on joint projects with his partners, such as Russia. In a way, Parrikar reemphasized the long-standing partnership between Russia and India

in the field of state-of-the-art weapons, acquiring unprecedented importance now with increased diversified military-technical collaboration. In fact, the diversified defense cooperation between the two countries has become the need of the hour. ...

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

## LATIN AMERICA/AFRICA

### Al Shabaab Separates Non-Muslims From Muslims

**CNN** | December 2

**A**L SHABAAB militants raided a quarry in Kenya, separating non-Muslim workers from their Muslim counterparts and executing them, a spokesman for the group said Tuesday. At least 36 bodies were found Tuesday dumped in the quarry in the village of Kormey, near the Somali border, the Kenyan Red Cross said. ...

Last month, the Islamist militants ambushed a bus in Kenya and sprayed bullets on those who failed to recite Koran verses, killing at least 28 people, authorities said. ...

The group says the latest attacks are a response to the police raid on multiple mosques in the port city of Mombasa after explosives were found in one.

"Our Mujahideen forces are always ready to launch frequent deadly cross-border attacks against Kenya as a revenge," group spokesman Sheikh Ali Dheere said in a statement read

on a pro-al Shabaab radio station in Somalia.

After news of the quarry attack surfaced, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta said he accepted the resignation of the country's national police chief, David Kimaiyo. ...

In September, a U.S. airstrike killed al Shabaab leader Ahmed Godane. The terror group later replaced him and vowed to avenge his death.

**Related: "The Last Crusade"**

## ANGLO-AMERICA

### Obamacare Encourages Businesses to Hire Illegals

**Kiall Lorenz** | December 2

**T**HE COMBINATION of President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act (aka, Obamacare) and his decision to grant amnesty to illegal immigrants in the United States means firms have a \$3,000-per-employee incentive to hire illegals instead of U.S. citizens, according to November 25 reports.

Illegal immigrants are now eligible for work permits but not public benefits such as Obamacare. Being ineligible for health care gives these immigrants a head start over

American citizens in obtaining a job. Since American businesses are not required to provide them with health care, they could potentially save [upto] \$3,000 per worker. In other words, immigrants are \$3,000 more lucrative to hire.

"If it is true that the president's actions give employers a \$3,000 incentive to hire those who came here illegally, he has added insult to injury," Rep. Lamar Smith told the *Washington Times*. "The president's actions would have just moved those who came here illegally to the front of the line, ahead of the unemployed and underemployed Americans."

According to 80 percent of Americans, new jobs should not go to illegal

immigrants, but be kept for American citizens. Thirty-five percent of Americans want to see all illegal immigrants pushed out of the country, up from 26 percent last year. Are these Americans justified in their thinking? Do they have reason for concern after President Obama allowed 4.7 million illegal immigrants to remain in the country for three more years?

Jobless aid applications in the U.S. increased by a staggering 21,000 last week. A total of 313,000 applications were submitted, marking the first time since September that 300,000 had been broken in a single week. While colder weather factors into this increase, we can expect this number to continue to grow as job competition



# War Clouds on the Horizon?

Victor Davis Hanson, NATIONAL REVIEW | December 4

THE WORLD is changing and becoming even more dangerous—in a way we've seen before.

In the decade before World War I, the near-100-year European peace that had followed the fall of Napoleon was taken for granted. Yet it abruptly imploded in 1914. Prior little wars in the Balkans had seemed to predict a much larger one on the horizon—and were ignored.

The exhausted Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires were spent forces unable to control nationalist movements in their provinces. The British Empire was fading. Imperial Germany was rising. Czarist Russia was beset with revolutionary rebellion. As power shifted, decline for some nations seemed like opportunity for others.

The same was true in 1939. The tragedy of the Versailles Treaty of 1919 was not that it had been too harsh. In fact, it was far milder than the terms Germany had imposed on a defeated Russia in 1918 or the requirements it had planned for France in 1914. ... The subsequent appeasement of Britain and France, the isolationism of the United States, and the collaboration of the Soviet Union with Nazi Germany green-lighted Hitler's aggression—and another world war.

We are entering a similarly dangerous interlude. Collapsing oil prices—a good thing for most of the world—will make troublemakers like oil-exporting Iran and Russia take even more risks.

Terrorist groups such as the Islamic State feel that conventional military power has no effect on their agendas. The West is seen as a tired culture of Black Friday shoppers and maxed-out credit-card holders.

NATO is underfunded and without strong American leadership. It can only hope that Vladimir Putin does not invade a NATO country such as Estonia, rather than prepare for the likelihood that he will, and soon.

The United States has slashed its defense budget to historic lows. It sends the message abroad that friendship with America brings few rewards while hostility toward the U.S. has even fewer consequences.

The bedrock American relationships with staunch allies such as Australia, Britain, Canada, Japan and Israel are

fading. Instead, we court new belligerents that don't like the United States, such as Turkey and Iran.

No one has any idea of how to convince a rising China that its turn toward military aggression will only end in disaster, in much the same fashion that a confident westernizing Imperial Japan overreached in World War II. Lecturing loudly and self-righteously while carrying a tiny stick did not work with Japanese warlords of the 1930s. It won't work with the Communist Chinese either.

Radical Islam is spreading in the same sort of way that postwar communism once swamped post-colonial Asia, Africa and Latin America. ...

In the late 1930s, it was pathetic that countries with strong militaries such as France and Britain appeased Fascist leader Benito Mussolini and allowed his far weaker Italian forces to do as they pleased by invading Ethiopia. Similarly, Iranian negotiators are attempting to dictate terms of a weak Iran to a strong United States in talks about Iran's supposedly inherent right to produce weapons-grade uranium—a process that Iran had earlier bragged would lead to the production of a bomb.

The ancient ingredients of war are all on the horizon. An old postwar order crumbles amid American indifference. ... Tribalism, fundamentalism and terrorism are the norms in the Middle East as the nation-state disappears.

Under such conditions, history's wars usually start when some opportunistic—but often relatively weaker—power does something unwise on the gamble that the perceived benefits outweigh the risks. That belligerence is only prevented when more powerful countries collectively make it clear to the aggressor that it would be suicidal to start a war that would end in the aggressor's sure defeat.

What is scary in these unstable times is that a powerful United States either thinks that it is weak or believes that its past oversight of the postwar order was either wrong or too costly—or that after Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya, America is no longer a force for positive change.

A large war is looming, one that will be far more costly than the preventive vigilance that might have stopped it.

intensifies.

Since 2009, the economy has created 10 million new jobs. Between both legal and illegal immigrants—those just granted amnesty—President Obama has welcomed close to 10 million immigrants—the same number of immigrants as the total amount of jobs created during his presidential term. Add the \$3,000 incentive, and American citizens face an uphill battle to find a job.

To learn more about the effects of President Obama's amnesty

announcement, read *Trumpet* columnist Joel Hilliker's article "[The Legal Problems of Illegal Immigration Amnesty](#)."

## A Mixed Blessing at the Pump

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT | December 3

IF YOU were lucky enough to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday without

working on Black Friday, you may have heard a number of business reporters announce what OPEC decided this past Thursday in Vienna ... and you may have been stunned by the sudden impact on global crude oil prices when trading resumed Friday morning.

Led by Saudi Arabia, OPEC announced it would stay the course; it would not curb production to tighten supply, and less than 24 hours later, the price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil shed \$7.70 per barrel, falling



**GERALD FLURRY**

## Rioting and Isaiah's Introduction

**THE KEY OF DAVID** | December 5

The introduction to the biblical book of Isaiah gives the solution to the rioting in Ferguson.



to \$65.99. It was the biggest one-day plunge in years.

Analysts said OPEC was looking long term, and its November 27 decision represents an aggressive move to accelerate the price war between OPEC and the U.S., and specifically, those companies whose shale oil development have contributed to global surplus and greater price competition across a basket of crude prices from Western Canada to Louisiana to Russia.

The problem, analysts agreed, is supply. ... While all sellers acknowledge that, yes, there's plenty of oil and perhaps too much, you'll have a tough time finding those producers who are ready to cut back on their own. ...

The price war between the superpowers in the oil industry creates pressure for others such as Russia, Iran and Venezuela—and their tolerance levels may trigger additional fallout.

Russia, for instance, "really can't afford to sell less oil," *Bloomberg Businessweek* reported last week. "Oil exports are the country's key source of hard currency, as Western sanctions have sharply limited Russia's access to global capital markets. And Russian oil companies need to keep that money coming in because it's getting more expensive to extract

oil from dwindling reserves in their main Western Siberian oilfields," said Richard Mallinson, a geopolitical analyst at the London research consultancy Energy Aspects.

While American consumers have reason to smile as retail gas prices decline by about a penny per day, the big picture is, perhaps, not as cheery as one might think. That's because the decline in crude oil reflects "persistent demand weakness," according to Scott Shellady, senior vice president for TJM Investments in Chicago.

As much as we'd love to believe that our economy is improving, tepid demand for oil belies that hope. ...

**Related: "Shale-Shocked: Hydraulic Fracking Turns Into a Curse"**

## \$76,000 Per Illegal Alien Child During Surge

**DAILY CALLER** | December 3

**T**HE OBAMA administration paid a Texas-based group more than \$182 million to provide shelter services

for illegal immigrant children at two military facilities for four months this summer.

The Department of Health and Human Services paid the group, BCFS, nearly \$76,000 per child to provide shelter at two 1,200-bed facilities maintained at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio and Fort Sill Army Base in Oklahoma, according to the government watchdog group Judicial Watch, which received documents laying out the expenses through a Freedom of Information Act request.

An estimated 90,000 unaccompanied alien children entered the U.S. this year, mostly from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

Federal law requires that—rather than immediate deportation—minors from countries that do not border the U.S. be turned over to the federal health department while they work through the immigration court system.

Expenses for the 1,200-bed Fort Sill facility totaled \$104,215,608. Another \$77,914,178 was spent to maintain the 1,200-bed Lackland Air Force Base unit. That works out to \$86,846 that American taxpayers paid per bed at the Fort Sill facility, which operated between June 12 and October 18. ...

"It is outrageous that the Obama administration spent nearly \$200 million of taxpayer funds to provide illegal alien children with the types of extravagant high-tech equipment and lavish benefits many American families cannot even afford for their own children," Judicial Watch president Tom Fitton said in a statement.

"And very few American workers are bringing home the \$80,000 the Obama administration pays the BCFS's Incident Management Team for just four months' work. Obama's lawlessness resulted in an illegal alien "surge" that has cost taxpayers tens of millions of dollars in 2014," Fitton continued.

Fitton said that because of Obama's new amnesty plan, which was announced last month and is expected to grant reprieve to up to 5 million illegal immigrants, he expects similar surges of unaccompanied children and other illegal immigrants in the future.



**STEPHEN FLURRY**

## How Christ's Gospel Was Suppressed

**THE TRUMPET DAILY** | December 1

Here is why the world is deceived about God's awesome purpose for man.



## Seventeen States Sue Obama for Executive Order on Immigration

**CHICAGO TRIBUNE** | December 3

**A** COALITION of 17 U.S. states sued the Obama administration on Wednesday saying it acted illegally by issuing an executive order to ease the threat of deportation for millions of immigrants who are in the country without the proper documents.

The case being led by Texas and filed at the Federal Court in the Southern District of Texas said the executive order announced by Obama last month violated constitutional limits on presidential powers. Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, a Republican and the Texas governor-elect, said the lawsuit is not asking for monetary damages but is seeking to have the order declared illegal.

The White House has said the executive order falls within presidential powers, and has argued that the ultimate answer is for Congress to pass meaningful immigration reform.

President Barack Obama's plan

would let up to 4.7 million of the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States stay without threat of deportation, including some 4.4 million who are parents of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents.

"The president is abdicating his responsibility to faithfully enforce laws that were duly enacted by Congress and attempting to rewrite immigration laws, which he has no authority to do," Abbott said. ...

## America Is Now No. 2

**MARKETWATCH** | December 4

**T**HE CHINESE economy just overtook the United States economy to become the largest in the world. For the first time since Ulysses S. Grant was president, America is not the leading economic power on the planet.

It just happened—and almost nobody noticed.

The International Monetary Fund recently released the latest numbers for the world economy. And when you measure national economic output in "real" terms of goods and services,

China will this year produce \$17.6 trillion—compared with \$17.4 trillion for the U.S.A.

As recently as 2000, we produced nearly three times as much as the Chinese.

To put the numbers slightly differently, China now accounts for 16.5 percent of the global economy when measured in real purchasing-power terms, compared with 16.3 percent for the U.S.

This latest economic earthquake follows the development last year when China surpassed the U.S. for the first time in terms of global trade. ...

This is a geopolitical earthquake with a high reading on the Richter scale. Throughout history, political and military power have always depended on economic power. Britain was the workshop of the world before she ruled the waves. And it was Britain's relative economic decline that preceded the collapse of her power. And it was a similar story with previous hegemonic powers such as France and Spain.

This will not change anything tomorrow or next week, but it will change almost everything in the longer term. We have lived in a world dominated by the U.S. since at least 1945 and, in many ways, since the late 19th century. And we have lived for 200 years—since the Battle of Waterloo in 1815—in a world dominated by two reasonably democratic, constitutional countries in Great Britain and the U.S.A. For all their flaws, the two countries have been in the vanguard worldwide in terms of civil liberties, democratic processes and constitutional rights.

**"This seismic shift in geopolitical momentum—away from America and toward a clutch of non-Israelite, Gentile powers, accompanied by an escalation in brutal violence and war—is actually good news, ultimately. It is one of the signs Jesus Christ gave of His imminent return! ... [A]ll of these events are already lining up perfectly to unfold in precise accordance with the Bible's prophetic outline."**

**—Trumpet, January 2014**



## LYNCH from page 1

President Obama noted that she “might be the only lawyer in America who battles mobsters, and drug lords and terrorists, and still has a reputation for being a charming people person.” Over the 15 years she has worked in the Justice Department, Lynch has earned a “non-partisan,” “independent” reputation—prosecuting high-profile Republicans and Democrats alike, U.S. corporations, Asian gangs and al Qaeda operatives.

Lynch’s biggest case—“one of her proudest moments,” as Obama described it—was that of Abner Louima. A black Haitian migrant, Louima was sodomized by a white police officer with a broomstick in a Brooklyn precinct in 1997. The officer received a deserved 30-year prison sentence.

Louima, the victim, recently told a family friend that his case was the last one he could think of in which police officers involved in an assault or killing of a black man went to jail. “In his case,” Louima’s friend wrote for the *New Yorker*, “justice was served in part because of the public pressure, and because there were federal prosecutors involved, including the current nominee for attorney general, Loretta Lynch.”

Louima thinks that what is happening in Ferguson is “not a good signal to send to a [justice] system that’s already not working.” Louima (and perhaps many others) believes that the justice system last worked in New York with his case under *District Attorney Lynch*.

But will the system work for the nation under *Attorney General Lynch*?

Lynch, like Holder, is from the same school of black leaders who detect white racism in almost every case involving black victims. As part of an April panel called “Strengthening the Relationship Between Law Enforcement and Communities of Color,” Lynch believes that “racial bias is pervasive. Research has shown that people who are not consciously mistrustful of African-Americans or intentionally racist can still behave in a way that is influenced by racial bias.” While there may be truth in Lynch’s view, the extent to which it influences policy and public perception is worrisome.

Like Eric Holder, Loretta Lynch deems voter identification laws as racist and fully supports the Justice Department’s legal action against them. “Fifty years after the Civil Rights movement, we stand in this country at a time when we see people trying to take back so much of what Dr. King fought for ... and reverse the goals that have been made in voting in this country,” she said at a ceremony celebrating the legacies of Martin Luther King Sr. and Nelson Mandela. “But I’m proud to tell you that the Department of Justice has looked at these laws, and looked at what’s happening in the Deep South and in my home state of North Carolina, [and] has brought lawsuits against those voting rights changes that seek to limit our ability to stand up and exercise our rights as citizens. And those lawsuits will continue.”

Lynch has also used the same reasoning to oppose the death penalty. “[Y]ou can be as fair as possible in a particular case,” she argued, “but the reality is that the federal

death penalty is still going to hit harder on certain groups.” This means, according to Loretta Lynch, that minorities will always be victims.

Like Holder, Lynch condemns the “school-to-prison pipeline” that she believes some institutions have become. “We understand that rules are important,” she told an audience earlier this year, “but we also know that when we sit and look at schools that have the zero tolerance programs, they are often used, and they take our babies, minority children, black children, Hispanic children, and they put them out of school before they have a chance to learn.”

Is it any wonder then that protesters in Ferguson overlook Michael Brown’s marijuana use, aggressive behavior and disobedience to law enforcement officials, and instead focus only on how he was denied a chance to go to a technical college?

Just as Eric Holder became personally entangled in the cases involving Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown—beyond what a public prosecutor should—Loretta Lynch became personally mired in the Eric Garner case when she met his family in August in a closed-door meeting with Al Sharpton. Garner is a black New Yorker who died after an altercation with a white police officer.

The fundamental racial issues that have dogged Holder’s tenure will not change under Lynch. As John Perazzo of FrontPage Mag sarcastically put it, Loretta Lynch is Eric Holder’s “perfect successor.” Yet President Obama insists that “it’s pretty hard to be more qualified for this job than Loretta.”

Her probable confirmation, unfortunately, will mean more Fergusons, more racial prejudice, more race riots—not less. Wittingly or unwittingly, the racial ideology Holder and Lynch share does not help America’s race problems. In some cases, it legitimizes them.

“All across America,” noted *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry, “the topic of race is dominating discussion more and more. Such issues as crime and punishment, employment, college admissions, income and poverty rates are increasingly viewed through the lens of skin color.” Mr. Flurry wrote this in the January 2015 *Philadelphia Trumpet*, in an article titled “America: The Attack From Within Continues.” He continued: “What will be the outcome of such racist remarks? When you accuse people of racism without any proof—which most of them don’t have, they just spout out the words—you are filling your country with hatred and division that leads to a race war, civil war and violence! These commentators are either ignorant of what they are doing—OR THEY WANT A RACE WAR. SOME EXTREMISTS DO WANT A RACE WAR. AND BIBLE PROPHECY TELLS US THAT THEY ARE GOING TO GET ONE.”

To understand why Ferguson is only the beginnings of what the Bible prophesies, read Mr. Flurry’s article “[America: The Attack From Within Continues](#)” and his booklet [America Under Attack](#). These prophecies reveal the sobering events ahead and the inspiring outcome of God’s intervention in American (and global) politics.