

# Trumpet Weekly

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Patrick Pelloux (4th left) stands with Mayor of New York Bill de Blasio (3rd left) and Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo (5th left) near flowers placed near the offices of French satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo in Paris on January 20.

## Middle East: The Greatest Threat to Europe Since the Cold War

By Callum Wood

**A**S MUSLIM GUNMEN OPEN FIRE IN EUROPEAN CITIES, AND HOME-grown terrorists constitute a real and present danger, analysts frequently refer to the Middle East as Europe's greatest threat. One such analyst is former MI6 chief Sir John Sawers.

In his first interview since retiring from the British Secret Intelligence Service in November, Sir Sawers told the *Financial Times* that the Middle East constitutes as great a threat to Europe as the Cold War Soviet Union did until its dissolution in 1991.

"The rigidity we had on Europe's doorstep for two or three decades posed a set of problems," said Sir Sawers, "and now the turbulence we have got on Europe's doorstep is posing another set of problems—in a sense, more acute ones because the disorder in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen creates a whole series of challenges for us."

To place some perspective on Sir Sawers's statement, by the

early '60s, the Soviets had enough nuclear weapons to destroy the world. Those weapons poised for launch on Europe's doorstep for years. By 1986, an estimated 40,000 nuclear warheads were scattered amongst the major world powers.

That is the scenario Sir Sawers believes equals the Middle East's threat on Europe.

The threat, as Sir Sawers put it, involves "the entirety of the region." But it can be boiled down further. After all, Europe isn't threatened by Israel—a key player in the region. It is not Jews or other non-Muslims that are attacking Europe. It is Muslim extremists. We see this in the backlash now occurring in German cities. Anti-Islam rallies across the nation draw thousands of chanting, slogan wielding protesters.

So what of the threat posed by Islam? Without delving into the details, here are a few examples of why Islam is a threat.

## Homegrown Terrorism Is a Threat

The threat now facing Europe often comes in the form of terrorist attacks by radicals—many of whom are well trained—born and raised within the country. Many travel to nations like Yemen or Syria where they are indoctrinated and trained how to carry out attacks once they return home. Although falsely labeled “lone-wolf” attacks, all come from the same pack: Muslim.

We saw it in the *Charlie Hebdo* massacre and the massacre at the kosher market in Paris a few days later. The attackers were fluent French-speaking Muslims.

In London, two British Muslims hacked off the head of Drummer Lee Rigby. He became a target because he was wearing military attire.

Another attack was recently thwarted in Belgium. The ring-leader—a Belgian-Moroccan Islamic State fighter named Adelhamid Abaaoud—is still at large. While the attack was stopped before the terrorists could carry it out, this terrorist cell was well established and prepared within the heart of Belgium.

The potential for more threats is also high. An estimated 5,000 European nationals are fighting in Syria. The director of Europe’s police organization, Europol, Rob Wainwright, said that this constituted the “most serious terrorist threat Europe has faced since 9/11.” Those fighters are being trained in terrorist tactics and glutted on radicalized ideals. When they return to their home countries in Europe, the result is barbarism and massacres—the likes of which we recently saw displayed on the streets of Paris.

## Terrorist Nations Are a Threat

Sir Sawers’s statement can also be applied to Middle Eastern nations—primarily Iran.

This one nation constitutes a direct threat to Europe because of its nuclear program. Iran is moments away from being nuclear armed. It has an advanced ballistic missile program. It already has missiles in its arsenal that can reach Europe. Since the start of 2015, reports have come to light showing Iran has weapons plants in Syria, bringing its intercontinental ballistic missiles even closer to Europe.

Then there is the threat posed to European trade routes. The potential for Iran to gain control of the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz is a dire threat. The *Trumpet* has written extensively on what might happen should Iran choose to close those crucial waterways. Europe is looking to unshackle itself from its dependence on Russia for natural gas. The Middle East is a logical alternative, but Iran-driven instability could deprive Europe of its energy needs.

Iran’s maritime control reaches beyond the waters close to its borders. It funds the rebel Houthi extremists in Yemen, which in turn endangers the Gulf of Aden—the southern gateway to the Red Sea. Closing this waterway would make the Suez Canal useless, dramatically lengthening the travel of seaborne trade—driving prices higher.

Add to all this the fact that Iran has a long-term plan for regional dominance in the Middle East. Tehran’s aggressive policies threaten the livelihood of the more “moderate” Arabic nations such as Saudi Arabia—with whom Europe no doubt would hope to secure a closer trade relationship.

Outside of Iran, Syria’s chemical weapons remain a threat despite international efforts to remove them completely. And the

Islamic State continues to capture and execute internationals—including Europeans—despite the world rallying to try to crush the group.

## The Middle East Threat in Prophecy

In the face of all these threats emanating from the Middle East, it would appear that Sir Sawers is right: Europe’s greatest threat today is radical Islam.

But, in the same interview with the *Financial Times*, Sir Sawers said, “The world is much harder to predict. It’s much harder to navigate your way through the fragmentation of power and politics and ideas.” That is why it is so important to look at world events through the light of Bible prophecy. This source explains in detail where Europe’s main threats lie.

To understand Europe’s role in Bible prophecy, we first need to know its biblical identity. Our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire* explains German-led Europe’s role as the king of the north.

As prophesied in Daniel 11:40, the king of the north will come up against the king of the south. This is none other than radical Islam led by Iran. You can read more about this in our article “Three Reasons Why Iran Is the ‘King of the South’ of Bible Prophecy.”

In *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes: “Germany, which has virtually no oil, is waiting for an opportunity to take control of the Middle East. It has planned this for years. [This] could be the main reason for the clash between the king of the north and the king of the south.

“Control of Jerusalem could also lead to war. Both the Catholics and Muslims desperately want Jerusalem.”

As Daniel 11:40 proves, war will come, and Europe will deal with the Middle East threat. The German-led assault will be swift—Daniel calls it a “whirlwind” attack.

## Europe’s Greatest Threat

Is that it? Is Europe’s greatest threat dealt with by putting down radical Islam? Your Bible says no. Europe’s greatest threat since the Cold War will actually be that self-same adversary: Russia.

In verse 44 of Daniel 11, we see that “tidings out of the east” will trouble Europe. A third figure comes into play. This threat comes from the eastern nations.

The rise of the kings of the east has also been long forecast by the *Trumpet*. (Read our reprint article “The Kings of the East” for a greater appreciation of this immense Asian power-bloc that is forming on the scene today.) The primary nations in this combine are Russia and China—both of which are growing in power and belligerence today.

Russia has always been the primary threat to the European continent. The geographical constants, like the North European Plain—the natural highway into Europe—and Russia’s claim on the territory of much of Eastern Europe, help establish Russia as the dominant threat.

Europe will soon see a dramatic swing back to the Cold-War threat of Russia—just as soon as the short-term threat posed by radical Islam is dealt with.

Consider Russian President Vladimir Putin’s growing power. Russia controls Europe’s gas supplies. It is taking on increasingly aggressive foreign policies as it works to regain former glory. The

Russian bear is waking, and it is waking on Europe's doorstep.

These three biblical figures, the king of the north, the king of the south and the kings of the east, are crucial players in some terrible prophecies that are about to be fulfilled. To make sense of the real threats in the world, we must understand these figures. When we do, we can better understand the earthshaking times.

But there is spectacular news beyond the threats that lie immediately ahead for Europe and the world. That good news involves the soon-coming Kingdom of God. The *Trumpet* warns of these crises, but also gives the hope that lies beyond. That hope is a coming age where people will live happy, abundant lives, free of the threats that ensnare the world today.

## MIDDLE EAST

### **T** Iranian General Killed by Israeli Airstrikes Anthony Chibairwe | January 25

IRAN LOST ANOTHER HIGH-RANKING GENERAL DURING ROCKET attacks on Sunday. This time, the attacker was not Islamic State militants in Iraq, but the Israeli Air Force in the Golan Heights, Syria.

Gen. Mohammed Allahdadi was killed along with five other Iranian military officers and six Lebanese Hezbollah militants in airstrikes. Israel has neither officially confirmed nor denied the strikes.

Iran claimed that its officers were in Syria only to provide advisory services in the fight against the Islamic State. But Israel believes Iran had a different purpose.

Former deputy head of Israeli Defense Forces, Maj. Gen. Eyal Ben Reuven, said Monday that these Iranian and Hezbollah officers were likely plotting a sophisticated attack on Galilee in northern Israel. "If the highest level of Hezbollah commanders were in the Golan Heights and the high level of Iranians, it means that their idea, [what] they're planning could be a kind of operation, an act against Israel on a high level," Reuven said.

Ironically, Iran is now using this foiled plot against Israel to incite even more attacks against Israel. A senior commander in Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), Nasser Soltani, vowed Wednesday that "Israel will certainly pay for what it did."

IRGC head Gen. Mohammad Ali Jafari was more specific: "The path of the martyr Allahdadi is unstoppable," he said on Wednesday. "It will continue until the liberation of the sacred Quds [Jerusalem] and elimination of the Zionist regime as a disgraceful blot in the region."

As the *Trumpet* has reported, Iran lately has been uncharacteristically open about the losses of its generals in foreign conflict zones. And it's using that as justification. General Jafari also assured: "These martyrdoms proved the need to stick with jihad. The Zionists must await ruinous thunderbolts." The IRGC, he said, "will not rest easy" until Israel is destroyed.

Through its terrorist proxies, which include Hezbollah and Hamas, Iran is capable and willing to stir up violence in Israel, especially Jerusalem. Watch as Iran continues to use its fight against the much loathed Islamic State lunatics as justification for its increasing clout in the Middle East and its attack on Israel.

"Bible prophecy," wrote *Trumpet* columnist Brad Macdonald, "tells us that the Arabs will partially succeed in their quest for Jerusalem—and that this will actually be the trigger event leading to the fall of the state of Israel and initiating World War III."

As *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry admonished in our August 2012 *Trumpet* magazine, "Watch Jerusalem!"

### **Iranian Foreign Policy: The Long Arm** Economist | January 24

OFFICIALS IN TEHRAN ARE NOT SHY ABOUT THEIR AIM OF SPREADING influence abroad, nor of their apparent success. Even as the efforts of the West and its Sunni Arab allies look distinctly halfhearted, notably in their fight against the Islamic State, Tehran can claim, with only a pinch of hubris, to run three Arab capitals: Baghdad, Damascus and Beirut.

This week it may have added a fourth: Sana'a, Yemen's capital, where on January 20 Shia Houthi rebels took over the presidential palace .... American and Saudi officials believe the rebel militia is backed by the Iranians, although they deny it in public (and boast of it in private).

The takeover in Yemen came soon after an Israeli drone strike exposed Iranian meddling in another part of the Middle East. The

cross-border attack on the Syrian side of the Golan Heights killed six fighters from Hezbollah, the Iran-backed Shia party-cum-militia in Lebanon, days after the group denied that it was in the area. More surprisingly it also killed Mohammed Ali Allahdadi, an Iranian general. His presence suggests that Iran was trying to establish a presence in an area that has fallen out of Syrian government control and into the hands of rebels with whom Israel appears to be on friendly-enough terms. To its critics, Iran alarmingly holds sway from the Mediterranean Sea to the Fertile Crescent and the Gulf of Aden.

Iran's biggest gains were handed to it by America when, after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, it removed hostile regimes in Iraq and Afghanistan. Iran has continued to extend its



influence, even after a wave of Sunni uprisings that started in 2011 seemed likely to weaken the Shia regime's pull. The Quds Force, the foreign wing of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, has exploited the region's instability. Its tactics include assassinations and bombings overseas, and supplying arms and training to militias deemed helpful to its interests. "The Iranians are experts at taking advantage of chaos," says Shimon Shapira, a retired military man now at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, a think tank.

The rise of [the Islamic State], a Sunni jihadist movement straddling Iraq and Syria, has only strengthened Iran. ... Iranian officials boast of being the ground force for America's air strikes. Politicians—Iranian and Iraqi—talk of Baghdad being intact, and the government in place, thanks only to a ring of defenses set up around the city by Qassem Suleimani, the head of the Quds Force; some call him "Supermani."

Similarly Syria has fallen ever more under Iran's spell. ... Mr. Assad relies on Tehran for cash, advice and training for its paramilitary fighters. In Lebanon, Hezbollah's military force rivals that of the country's army, and it has maintained a tenuous military balance with Israel.

Iran's rising influence is a concern for Saudi Arabia and America. The Saudis are rich but mostly ineffectual and the Americans are reticent and often unwelcome [to] outsiders. Whereas the Saudis are building a 600-mile-long wall along its border with Iraq to keep out [Islamic State] militants, Iran has waded into Iraq to support Shia militias.

Yet Iran's reach has limits. ... Propping up the Syrian regime is reckoned to have cost billions of dollars that it can ill afford now that oil prices have fallen and Western sanctions bite hard. Oil exports are down to less than half the pre-sanctions level of 2.5 million barrels per day. Some in Lebanon say Iranian largesse to Hezbollah has been trimmed. ...

Some in the West think a nuclear deal could be part of a grand bargain to stabilize the Middle East. But more likely Iran would simply pocket a deal on its nuclear program and continue its current policy in the region. Indeed it is already hinting at doing so.

Some Iranian officials, who think Saudi Arabia has refused to cut its oil production in an attempt to weaken Iran, talk about making mischief there by stirring up the oppressed Shia minority in the east. "It's not that we want to make trouble there," says a political adviser to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader. "But we have sent a message that if we wanted we could have the same benefits in the Gulf as we did in Iraq and Afghanistan."

**"One of the tools of chaos Iran helped to forge is now taking on a life of its own—and may well force Iran to take its strategy to a new, deadlier level. ... Without Iran's help, oil-rich Iraq descends into utter chaos, taking what is left of American prestige and the global economy with it."**

*Trumpet, September 2014*

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## Yemen Falls Into Iran's Orbit as Region Caught Asleep at the Wheel

**Jerusalem Post | January 21**

**I**RANIAN-BACKED SHIITE HOUTHİ REBELS ARE ON THE VERGE OF A coup in Yemen as Sunni rivals within the country and regionally seem helpless to stop them.

Sunni countries in the region are distracted by more pressing instability at home and of the threat from Islamic State and other radical groups. The West, focused on the Islamic State and its coordinated action in Syria and Iraq, sees Yemen as a side show.

"GCC [the Gulf Cooperation Council] must intervene now to save Yemen," the UAE-based *Gulf News* headlined its editorial on Tuesday, in a sign of the shock of Yemen's Sunni Gulf neighbors.

"Al Houthis already control 14 provinces out of 21," the paper noted, adding that "the GCC cannot watch idly while the Iran-allied al Houthis terrorize a neighboring country and flex their muscles in a region already riddled with conflicts."

If the Houthis are able to solidify control over the Arabian Peninsula's southernmost country, which abuts the Red Sea, whence ships travel to and from Eilat, Aqaba and the Suez Canal, they could endanger Israel's and other countries' sea traffic.

On display across Sanaa, the group's slogan "Death to America, Death to Israel" is modeled on revolutionary Iran's motto, and many Yemenis draw parallels between the Houthis and another of Iran's Shiite protégés—Lebanon's Hezbollah. ...

"By fiddling while Yemen burns, the Saudis have given Iran a

huge new advantage along its southern border," [David Andrew Weinberg, a specialist on Gulf affairs and a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies,] said. ...

"The Houthi takeover of Yemen means absolutely everything to Iran. They are watching events unfold there like an investor watching his investments return hefty dividends," said [research analyst Oren] Adaki.

"Iranian officials could hardly contain themselves during the first days following the Houthi seizure of Sanaa in late September. They openly boasted that Sanaa had fallen into their sphere of influence and eagerly announced that they support the Houthis."

**"'While it is far too soon to write the final chapter on the uprisings' impact,' the New York Times wrote, 'Iran has already benefited from the ouster or undermining of Arab leaders who were its strong adversaries and has begun to project its growing influence.' Actually ... students of Bible prophecy know EXACTLY where this is leading."**

Stephen Flurry, "Iran Wins Big in the Middle East," Feb. 25, 2011

## Europe's Porous Borders Abet Terrorism

Intermountain Jewish News | January 22

**A** CLASSIC CASE OF THE LAW OF UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES: Blur the borders of Europe in order to eliminate the relentless wars among its nation states, and end up with terrorists easily slipping across those borders with their lethal weapons.

From Caesar to Charlemagne to the founders of the League of Nations, the idea was to eliminate the causes of frequent, bloody national conflict on the Continent. Beginning with the visionary Jean Monet and his post-World War II Coal and Steel Community, the European Union gradually came into being. How wonderful, how naive, it sounded: Let the Germans share their coking coal with the French, and let the French share their iron ore with Germany, and both nations (and many other participants in the “community”) would make steel. And while they were making steel, they would not make war.

It worked—up to a point. Not even a visionary like Jean Monet could see into the global world in which we now live. ...

War between century-old enemies was to become, in the words of French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman, one of the key proponents of a postwar European community, “unthinkable, but [also] materially impossible.”

As the European idea advanced, the initial rights incorporated into the original concept were extended. The free movement of persons was part of the original Treaty of Rome. While once the community allowed for the free movement of workers only in the coal and steel industries, successive treaties extended free movement to the citizens of all community member states in all industries. By now, under the Schengen Agreement, travel to and from member states has become passport-free—regardless of whether the traveler is a citizen of a member state. No more identification checks, even when boarding a flight, so long as its destination is within the Schengen Zone.

The potential for abuse by terrorists and weapons salesmen is obvious. While the coveted United States of Europe is all but here—well, it isn't safe. It isn't compatible with today's security realities and challenges. ...

When the EU was founded, world conflict was still viewed through a classical prism: great powers in battle for power and influence. Germany vs. France. Western Europe vs. Eastern Europe. Capitalism vs. Communism. Now the prism is this: terrorism vs. civilians. The geopolitical landscape has changed.

The founders of the EU didn't reckon on homegrown terrorism, influenced from without by rogue states and non-state, transnational networks. Terror from within the EU's porous borders is a new reality that must be addressed even at the modification of the European Union. A European community may be needed more than ever to provide a united response to a problem that threatens its various member states, but the European Union must recognize its borders and its limitations. It must continue to share intelligence and launch joint operations. But it must also reinstate border controls.

The reason, as we say, is all too obvious, and ironic: Europe's successful cooperative efforts in security have a perverse parallel: the successful cooperative efforts of terrorists.

Two of the terrorists in the Charlie Hebdo shootings, the Kouachi brothers, were on the U.S. no-fly list. What's the use of a no-fly list if identification of the passengers does not occur—as in the case of travel within the Schengen Zone, of which the brothers were resident?

Great Britain realizes this, which is why it never joined Schengen and maintains control of its borders. The benefits of free movement are clear; but the risks are too great. The rest of Europe should now follow the British example.

## ECB Launches Last-Ditch Program to Revive Euro Economy

Reuters | January 22

**T**HE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK TOOK THE ULTIMATE POLICY LEAP on Thursday, launching a government bond-buying program, which will pump hundreds of billions of new money into a sagging eurozone economy.

The ECB said it would buy government bonds from this March until the end of September 2016 despite opposition from Germany's Bundesbank and concerns in Berlin that it could allow spendthrift countries to slacken economic reforms.

Together with existing schemes to buy private debt and funnel hundreds of billions of euros in cheap loans to banks, the new quantitative easing program will pump €60 billion (US\$68.8 billion) a month into the economy, ECB President Mario Draghi said.

By September next year, more than €1 trillion (\$1.14 trillion)

will have been created. ...

Bonds will be bought on the secondary market in proportion to the ECB's capital key, meaning the largest economies from Germany down will see more of their debt purchased by the ECB than smaller peers.

The prospect of dramatic ECB action had already prompted the Swiss central bank to abandon its cap on the franc while Denmark, whose currency is pegged to the euro, was forced to cut interest rates in anticipation of the flood of money. ...

The euro fell, European shares jumped and bond yields in Italy, Spain and Portugal fell with the single currency dropping a full cent against the dollar to \$1.1511.

Draghi has had to balance the need for action to lift the

eurozone economy out of its torpor against German concerns about risk-sharing and potentially being left to foot the bill.

Tensions broke out as the meeting got underway with French Finance Minister Michel Sapin firing a broadside at Berlin.

“The Germans have taught us to respect the independence of the European Central Bank,” he told France Info radio. “They must remember that themselves.” ...

But there are doubts, and not only in Germany, over whether printing fresh money will work.

Most eurozone government bond yields are already at ultra-low levels while the euro has already dropped sharply against the dollar. Lower borrowing costs and a weaker currency could both

help to boost growth but there is a question about how much downside there is for either.

“It is a mistake to suppose that QE [quantitative easing] is a panacea in Europe or that it will be sufficient,” former U.S. Treasury Secretary Larry Summers said at the World Economic Forum in Davos on Thursday.

“There is every reason to expect that QE will be less impactful in a context like the present one in Europe than it was in the context of the United States.” ...

The move comes just three days before an election in Greece where anti-bailout opposition party Syriza is on track to gain roughly a third of the vote.

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## Jean-Claude Juncker Compares British Membership of EU to Doomed Romance

**Telegraph | January 18**

**J**EAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER HAS COMPARED BRITISH MEMBERSHIP OF the EU to a doomed romance and suggested it is time for Britain to get a divorce from Europe.

It is the first time the president of the European Commission has publicly contemplated a British exit and he reinforced his message by insisting he would not get down on his knees to beg Britain to stay.

“People shouldn’t stay together if the conditions aren’t the same as when things started. It’s easy to fall in love and more difficult to stay together,” he said in Paris this weekend.

“I am for the respect of member states, respect between the institutions and member states. I am against all forms of groveling.”

Mr. Juncker, whose appointment to the EU’s top job was opposed by David Cameron, told an elite audience of French

officials that he was ready to discuss British demands for treaty change, but set out “red lines.”

In a blow to the prime minister, the commission president said the EU would reject, without debate, Conservative calls to change treaties to give national authorities more powers to stop large-scale inflows of migrants from Eastern Europe. ...

“Juncker has made it crystal clear there will be no change to the EU doctrine of free movement and mass immigration,” he said. “We want an amicable divorce and a trading relationship to follow.” ...

His comments indicate that some at the highest levels of European politics are now ready to let Britain leave the EU. ...

**RELATED:** [“WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU TAKE THE UK OUT OF THE EU?”](#)

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## Mario Draghi’s QE Blitz May Save Southern Europe, but at the Risk of Losing Germany

**Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, Telegraph | January 22**

**M**ARIO DRAGHI HAS ACHIEVED A SPECTACULAR TRIUMPH. HIS headline offering of €60 billion (US\$67.1 billion) a month in quantitative easing comes in the face of scorched-earth resistance from the German Bundesbank and the EMU [Economic and Monetary Union] creditor core. It is finally big enough to make an economic difference.

Yet today’s shock-and-awe action by the European Central Bank (ECB) comes three years late, after the eurozone has already been allowed to drift into deflation, and very nearly into a triple-dip recession. ...

The bond purchases will not begin until March. They are cribbed about with conditions that may ultimately prove damaging and possibly fatal. ...

The limits of delayed action are by now well known. Bond yields are already down to 14th-century lows. The ECB cannot force them much lower, though Mr. Draghi did say cheerfully

that it would buy debt with negative rates, prompting audible murmurs of alarm from German journalists.

The decision amounts to an act of political defiance by a majority bloc in the Governing Council—unmistakably a debtors’ cartel of Latin states and like-minded states—and therefore opens an entirely new chapter of the EMU story.

This Latin revolt is to violate the sacred contract of EMU: that Germany gave up the D-Mark and bequeathed the Bundesbank’s legacy to the ECB on the one condition that Germany would never be out-voted on monetary issues of critical importance. ...

Mr. Draghi said there was a “large majority on the need to trigger [quantitative easing] now, so large we didn’t need to vote.” That is an elegant way to describe a pitched battle. No doubt we will learn over coming days just how many hawks voiced their protest, and with what vehemence. ...

Chancellor Angela Merkel said in Davos that the ECB’s

independence must be respected. Yet she also warned that its actions must be within “reasonable bounds” and in accordance with EU law.

Mr. Draghi was quick to tell us that the entire ECB council had signed off on the principle that QE is a “true monetary policy tool in the legal sense.” This gives him some defense against the coming lawsuit by euroskeptic professors in Germany’s top court. Serial litigator Peter Gauweiler has already vowed to file a case.

Yet this is a thin shield. Prior rulings of the court have made it clear that scale matters. The bigger it is, the more clearly it leaks into fiscal policy and violates the budgetary prerogatives of the German parliament. This is a sensitive matter. The court has ruled that no supranational body may usurp the budgetary powers of the Bundestag, for to do so would be to rip the heart out of Germany’s postwar democracy. This legal battle will drag on.

Let me be clear: I have argued for at least three years that the Latin bloc should seize control of the ECB’s machinery and call the German bluff, and this is exactly what has just happened.

They have perfect right to do so. The ECB’s policy has been far

too tight even for euroland as a whole. For them it has been disastrous. The slide towards deflation—and contracting nominal GDP—has caused their debt trajectories to spiral upwards even faster.

Yet nobody should have any illusions about the implications of such defiance. What is at stake is German political consent for the euro project. Bernd Lucke, the leader of the AfD anti-euro party, called today’s decision an “act of desperation and the introduction of eurobonds by the back door” by the ECB.

The Bavarian Social Christians (CSU) are also furious. “With this decision, the ECB has crossed the Rubicon,” said Angelika Niebler, the party’s parliamentary leader. The Bavarian finance minister, Markus Söder, said: “unlimited purchases of sovereign bonds threaten to bring down the whole system.” ...

Mr. Draghi may have saved Italy from a debt-deflation trap in the nick of time. He may have gained another year or two for southern Europe to recover before radical populist parties sweep the stale elites from the political scene. But in doing so he risks losing Germany.

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## **EU Calls for Anti-Terror Alliance With Arab Countries**

**Associated Press | January 19**

**T**HE EUROPEAN UNION ON MONDAY CALLED FOR AN ANTI-TERROR alliance with Arab countries to boost cooperation and information-sharing in the wake of deadly attacks and arrests across Europe.

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said Monday that “we need an alliance. We need to strengthen our way of cooperating together.”

Mogherini later met with Arab League Secretary General Nabil Elaraby. She also attended a meeting of the EU foreign ministers who are preparing for a summit of EU leaders in February focused on terrorism.

Some ministers emphasized the importance of working with Muslim countries, rather than blaming them for the problem.

“They will continue to be in the front line, and we have to work

closely with them to protect both those countries and the European Union countries,” British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said. ...

Belgium deployed the military over the weekend to guard public buildings. As the ministers met, soldiers walked the perimeter of the European Council building, where internal security has also been beefed up in recent days.

Many ministers said no quick solution to the challenge of foreign fighters is likely, and that the real answer is to help end the conflicts in Syria and Iraq.

“That is what, long term, will provide stability and security in this region, and to address the root causes of terrorism and radicalization as well,” said Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallström.

## **Germany’s PEGIDA Leader Steps Down Over Adolf Hitler Photo**

**Guardian Unlimited | January 21**

**T**HE HEAD OF THE GERMAN ANTI-ISLAMIZATION MOVEMENT PEGIDA has stepped down after a picture of him posing as Adolf Hitler went viral. Lutz Bachmann, 41, ... from Dresden and cofounder of the organization, was seen as PEGIDA’s figurehead and his resignation throws the future of the group into doubt.

The picture of Bachmann posing as Hitler after a session at his hairdresser, complete with a Hitler hairstyle dyed black and parted on the right and a toothbrush moustache, went viral on Wednesday after it was published by a local newspaper, the *Dresden Morgenpost*.

PEGIDA’s popularity has led to widespread fears that Germany is in the grip of a new breed of far-right ideologues, and the picture raised questions about the group’s allegiance to the

far-right scene. The image, which had appeared on Bachmann’s Facebook page, was accompanied by the line: “He’s Back,” after Timur Vermes’s best-selling 2012 satirical novel of the same name about Hitler.

Bachmann, a publicity agent, deleted his profile shortly after being contacted by the *Morgenpost*. A *Morgenpost* reader discovered the photograph, along with what appeared to be a closed Facebook conversation between Bachmann and one of his Facebook contacts, in which he described immigrants as “cattle,” “scumbags” and “trash.” The comments were posted on September 19, about two months before the first PEGIDA march in Dresden.

State prosecutors said on Wednesday they had begun

investigating Bachmann on charges of sedition. He resigned after a meeting of the 12 members of PEGIDA's leadership committee at which Bachmann apologized for the picture. A statement is expected to follow on Wednesday evening.

PEGIDA spokeswoman Kathrin Oertel, told *Spiegel Online*

Bachmann's resignation was the "only possibility for the movement." "As an association, we reject the Facebook postings made by Lutz Bachmann in September which have now come to light in the strongest possible terms. They do nothing to nurture trust in PEGIDA's goals or its protagonists." ...

## Germany: Our Job Is to Strengthen Europe

CNBC | January 22

A TOP GERMAN OFFICIAL HAS SAID THE COUNTRY SUPPORTS Europe's efforts to kick-start the region's economy—including a quantitative easing (QE) program—but that other countries have to sell reforms to their citizens.

"The task for Germany now today is, through its own policies, structural reforms, its own investments, to support the EU and the Commission when it brings on to the market, so to speak, its stability package," Sigmar Gabriel, vice-chancellor and federal minister of economic affairs and energy of Germany, said at the World Economic Forum Thursday in Davos, Switzerland.

"But every nation," he added, "has to have the courage to broach such structural reforms and speak clearly about them without

making people afraid. This is difficult." ...

"There is no alternative. The alternative is to simply prolonging the crisis and this situation becomes untenable for citizens," he said during a discussion about Europe's economy.

Gabriel also said that reform was possible with growth.

"I also believe that, on the whole, European politics and policies ... to stimulate growth, activity and recovery, should not be undertaken by one institution alone," he said.

"The German government is convinced that the program of the European Commission and the one proposed by the president, Mr. (Jean-Claude) Juncker, at least bears in it the opportunity of combining structural reform and growth initiatives and incentives." ...

## Thousands of Poles Hit by Swiss Franc Decision

EU Observer | January 19

LAST WEEK'S DECISION BY THE SWISS CENTRAL BANK TO SCRAP ITS currency cap has had major repercussions in the EU's largest eastern member state, Poland.

The move saw the Swiss franc jump to 4.32 zlotys (US\$1.15) from 3.53 (\$0.94), a rise of more than 21 percent and the most significant in comparison to other European currencies.

For a while it even reached 5.14 zlotys, but Monday (January 21) it was around 4.30. This was a dramatic turn for the almost 600,000 Poles who have mortgages denominated in Swiss francs—particularly as most of them took their loans when the Swiss franc cost 2.50 zlotys.

"It was a very surprising decision by SNB, which caused panic on the financial markets. This move couldn't have been predicted especially since only one month ago the Swiss National Bank was claiming that it would keep the Swiss franc/euro rate stable," Bartosz Sawicki, a financial analyst, told *EU Observer*.

The overall value of credit in Swiss francs, which constitute around 40 percent of all mortgages in Poland, jumped from 131 billion zlotys (\$34.8 billion) up to 157 billion (\$41.7 billion), according to the Polish Bank Association.

For a household, it means that the average monthly installment, which was around 2,000 zlotys (\$534) in October 2014, suddenly jumped by a fifth.

If the Swiss Franc reaches 5 zlotys it will cause a monthly installment hike of one third.

That is too much for an average household to deal with.

"This may lead to a sudden increase in the number of consumer bankruptcy. We had 21,000 endangered loans last year," says Sawicki.

This could also be a threat to some Polish banks, such as Millennium Bank and Getin Noble, which had a large portfolio of Swiss-denominated mortgages. ...

## ASIA

## Russian Spy Ship's Arrival in Cuba Raises Eyebrows

ABC News | January 22

THE HISTORIC U.S.-CUBA TALKS ARE UNDERWAY AND THEY MAY have attracted a new addition to the Havana port.

The Russian spy ship Viktor Leonov CCB-175 parked there Tuesday, laden with high-tech software, radar and 30-millimeter cannon and antiaircraft guns, replacing a cruise ship that had been there the day before.

Normally, the surveillance ship travels up and down the American Eastern Seaboard in international waters, with its radars pointed in the direction of the United States.

On Tuesday, however, just as the Americans were due to arrive for big talks with Cuban officials—the first such high-level talks held in Cuba since the Carter administration—the ship with



reportedly 200 sailors on board was moored. ...

[T]he ship's arrival has many wondering whether it's a coincidence or intentional intrigue.

The Pentagon said that it tracks the Viktor Leonov all the time and that there is nothing to worry about. The Russians said the visit was scheduled long ago. ...

Cubans, who have a three-decade-long dependence on the Russians, said it felt like old times.

"We have normal relations with Russia," Raphael Hernandez

said. "One day, when we have normal relations with U.S., we could have an American ship visiting."

On Tuesday night, President Obama asked Congress to lift the 50-year-old embargo against Cuba during his State of the Union address.

Last month, he established more ways for Americans to travel to the island nation and announced plans to open trade and full embassies in both countries. ...

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## Oil Price Dip to Bring China, Russia Even Closer

CNBC | January 21

**O**IL PRICE WEAKNESS AND SLOWER ECONOMIC GROWTH HAVE created a "window of opportunity" for China to ensure its long-term energy needs by snapping up cheap resources, in particular from Russia, a leading Chinese academic has said.

If the sharp decline in the price of oil continues for a year, China will save over \$100 billion, which will enable it to purchase oil assets from overseas needed for the country's future, Dr. Lin Boqiang the director of China Center for Energy Economics Research at Xiamen University told CNBC.

China will be particularly important for Russia this year, given how sanctions and low oil prices have affected their economy, as the nations forge closer ties he said.

"Lower oil prices are good for China, there is no question about it. China will focus on cooperation with Russia and also the Middle East and Latin America. Right now it presents a window of opportunity for China to go out and buy oil assets," Boqiang said, speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

"For Russia, they really need the market at this moment, there

is desperation there. China has the market—Russia has the resources, so put them together I think it is quite complimentary. Moving forward, even without this (low oil prices) there would be good cooperation, but with this there is even better deals coming," he said. ...

"China is still growing at 7 percent, there are very few other countries in world that grow at 7 percent. U.S., of which I am a big fan, is growing at 2.5 to 3 points, so 40 percent of the growth rate of China. China is still the growth rate engine of the world," he said.

**"The West's sanctions, coupled with the falling oil price, is driving Russia and China together in a way that otherwise would probably have been impossible. Geopolitically, this is a game-changer."**

"Falling Oil Prices Impact a Lot More Than Your Wallet,"  
theTrumpet.com, Dec. 30, 2014



## Cyberespionage: How China Benefits From U.S. Technology

Callum Wood | January 22

**T**HE UNITED STATES IS BEING BURGLED. WHILE UNCLE SAM DOES all he can to board up his home and set the alarm, thieves continue to break in and help themselves to his merchandise. Military and industrial secrets are being hefted at an alarming scale. Thoughts, ideas and identities are also being snatched up in the process.

Of course, the thieves aren't hefting fighter jets in duffel bags or breaking into company offices to snatch paperwork. The thieves are exploiting what continues to prove itself as America's unlocked door: the cyberworld. And while the cyberdoor swings wide for many thieves, the most consistent burglars are the Chinese.

Chinese fingerprints are often traced in hacks that cost America billions upon billions of dollars in damages, stolen technology and information. Some of the most lucrative steals are made

by targeting companies and subcontractors. The Department of Defense can generally protect itself, but what about the companies that build and design its weapons?

In 2007, China got away with an estimated \$1.4 trillion weapons technology heist. In 2013, two dozen major weapons systems plans were stolen in what may have been the largest breach in U.S. history.

Then on January 18, Edward Snowden leaked new documents saying the Chinese have information on the B-2 Stealth Bomber, the F-22 Raptor, nuclear submarines and missile systems.

Also stolen by Chinese hackers has been what the *Washington Post* called the "backbone of the Pentagon's regional missile defense for Asia, Europe and the Persian Gulf": the designs of an advanced Patriot missile system, an antiballistic missile defense system, and the Aegis ballistic missile defense system.

These systems are the first line of defense against the weaponry already established in nations such as China, Russia and Iran. Now China has the blueprints to that shield. It knows the systems' strengths and vulnerabilities.

Expect China not only to take advantage of the strengths it finds in U.S. designs, but also to find ways to exploit the weaknesses.

A China empowered by U.S. weaponry constitutes a major threat to the Western world. Yet few accept or acknowledge the hits being made on the cyberbattlefield and their dramatic correlation to a coming *physical* battlefield.

*Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has warned of the U.S.'s

cybervulnerability for many years. In May 2005, he wrote: "I believe one key end-time Bible prophecy could well be fulfilled through ... cyberterrorism .... 'They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; but none goeth to the battle: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof' (Ezekiel 7:14). The trumpet of war is to be blown in Israel—mainly America and Britain. ... It seems everybody is expecting our people to go into battle, but the greatest tragedy imaginable occurs! Nobody goes to battle—even though the trumpet is blown! WILL IT BE BECAUSE OF COMPUTER TERRORISM?"

For more on where the cyberwar is heading, read "U.S. Vulnerable to Cyber Pearl Harbor."

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### **Russia Signs Military Cooperation Deal with Iran** **Agence France-Presse | January 20**

**R**USSIAN DEFENSE MINISTER SERGEI SHOIGU ON TUESDAY SIGNED a military cooperation deal with Iran that his Iranian counterpart touted as a joint response to U.S. "interference." ...

The deal provides for joint exercises and military training, as well as "cooperation in peacekeeping, maintaining regional and international security and stability, and fighting against separatism and extremism," the Iranian Defense Ministry website said.

Defense Minister Hossein Dehqan told state television that Iran and Russia had a "shared analysis of U.S. global strategy, its interference in regional and international affairs, and the need to cooperate in the struggle against the interference of foreign forces in the region."

Russia has long been Iran's principal foreign arms supplier,

but their ties took a major hit in 2010 when Moscow canceled a contract to deliver advanced S-300 ground-to-air missiles, citing UN sanctions imposed over Tehran's nuclear program.

Iran demanded \$4 billion in compensation for the cancellation of the \$800 million order.

"The two countries have also decided to settle the S-300s problem," the Iranian Defense Ministry said, without elaborating.

As Russia has been hit by Western sanctions over its involvement in the conflict in Ukraine, it has stepped up its economic ties with Iran in the past year.

The two governments are also both allies of Syrian President Bashar Assad in his nearly four-year-old conflict with Western-backed rebels.

### **Russia Jump-Starts Military Ties With India** **The Moscow Times | January 21**

**R**USSIAN DEFENSE MINISTER SERGEI SHOIGU ON WEDNESDAY met with his new Indian counterpart, Manohar Parrikar, in New Delhi, marking an end to a year of silence on the two countries' myriad cooperative military ventures.

Shoigu's visit marks an expansion of Russia's position as India's largest arms supplier at a time when the U.S. defense industry has targeted New Delhi as a potential source of revenue amid Washington's declining military spending.

India is a key arms export market for Russia: Moscow supplies about 70 percent of New Delhi's military equipment, with sales amounting to \$3.8 billion last year, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. ...

Although many details of the day's discussions have not been publicized, a flurry of Russian media reports cataloging

new and forthcoming agreements between Russian and Indian defense firms indicate that the two sides were able to make headway.

Russia has agreed to supply a wing of MiG-29 fighter jets and Ka-31 helicopters to outfit India's first domestically designed aircraft carrier, the *Vikrant*, news agency RIA Novosti reported. Russia will continue to service the planes and help keep the *Vikrant* in working order. ...

The two defense ministers have agreed to set up a telephone "hotline" with quarterly conference calls to ensure that projects are progressing on schedule.

The most high-profile of these projects is the joint development of Sukhoi's PAK FA fighter jet, which Russia and India hope will rival the United States' F-22 and F-35 stealth fighters. ...

### **Russia Ends U.S. Nuclear Security Alliance** **Boston Globe | January 19**

**T**HE PRIVATE DIPLOMATIC MEETINGS TOOK PLACE OVER TWO DAYS in mid-December in a hotel overlooking Moscow's Red Square. But unlike in previous such gatherings, the sense of

camaraderie, even brotherhood, was overshadowed by an uncomfortable chill, according to participants.

In the previously undisclosed discussions, the Russians

informed the Americans that they were refusing any more U.S. help protecting their largest stockpiles of weapons-grade uranium and plutonium from being stolen or sold on the black market. The declaration effectively ended one of the most successful areas of cooperation between the former Cold War adversaries. ...

Official word came in a terse, three-page agreement signed on December 16. A copy was obtained by the *Globe*, and a description of the Moscow meeting was provided by three people who attended the session or were briefed on it. They declined to be identified for security reasons. ...

Specialists said the final meeting was a dismaying development in a joint effort that the United States has invested some \$2

billion in and had been a symbol of the thaw between East and West and of global efforts to prevent the spread of doomsday weapons. An additional \$100 million had been budgeted for the effort this year and many of the programs were envisioned to continue at least through 2018. ...

The Russians also told the Americans that joint security work at 18 civilian facilities housing weapons material would cease, effective January 1. Another project at two facilities to convert highly enriched uranium into a less dangerous form also has been stopped. ...

Some warn that the distrust on both sides could bleed into other areas, including arms control treaties. ...

## **Russia to Build 10 Arctic Airfields by 2016**

**The Diplomat | January 15**

ACCORDING TO A RECENT REPORT BY IHS JANE'S 360 BASED ON official Russian sources, Russia is looking to have 14 operational airfields in the Arctic by the end of the year. Currently, Russia uses and operates four airfields. According to Russian Deputy Defense Minister Dmitry Bulgakov, an additional 10 will be in place by the end of 2015, helping the Russian state better monitor and enforce its Arctic claims. Russia is a major Arctic country—the largest by population. Out of the Arctic's total population of 4 million, up to 2 million live in Arctic Russia.

According to Jane's, no Russian officials or state media sources have revealed the approximate location of these airfields. It would make sense for Moscow to ensure that the airfields are spaced across the entire expanse of Russian Arctic territory to allow for better aerial defense coverage of the region. The Russian military

will likely use these airfields to base MiG-31 interceptors and Mil Mi-8 helicopters.

Despite its capacious non-Arctic territory, Russia has increasingly prioritized its Arctic claims primarily for the transportation and resource benefits of the region. ...

The Russian military plans to create two new military brigades for use by a united Arctic strategic command by 2016. The addition of new air bases in 2015 will grant additional strategic flexibility for the Russian military. All of these changes are part of Russia's Arctic doctrine, which was enunciated in 2008. Under the doctrine, Moscow will plan to field a combined-arms force, including military, border and coast guard units, within the Arctic region of the country by 2020. In order to do so, Russia is investing heavily in Arctic militarization. ...

## **LATIN AMERICA/AFRICA**

## **Zimbabwe Set to Give White Farmers 90 Days to Vacate Farms**

**News24 | January 22**

WHITE FORMER FARMERS SHOULD BE GIVEN 90 DAYS TO VACATE their farms if the land they occupy has been allocated to a black person to avoid legal battles, the Zimbabwean government has reportedly said.

According to the News Day, Land and Rural Resettlement Minister Douglas Mombeshora said government would not allow contract farming arrangements where the indigenous farm owners would get only 10 percent of total produce while their white partners grabbed the lion's share.

Only white farmers specializing in dairy and cattle breeding or those who openly support the ruling Zanu-PF party would be spared, a *Daily News* report added.

This comes a few days after Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa said Zimbabwe was set to intensify its land grabs, targeting the country's remaining white farmers and those with multi

farms.

Opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) warned on Monday of "more chaos" on white and former white-owned farms. ...

President Robert Mugabe and his Zanu-PF party launched the land reforms in 2,000, taking over white-owned farms to resettle landless blacks. Mugabe said the reforms were meant to correct colonial land ownership imbalances.

At least 4,000 white commercial farmers were evicted from their farms. ... Mugabe made headlines last year when he vowed that whites would never be allowed to own land in Zimbabwe.

Mugabe at the time also warned black Zimbabweans against partnering with whites in agriculture deals.

**RELATED: "HONDO!" IN ZIMBABWE**

## New York City May Yank Terror Report to Appease Muslims

Washington Times | January 19

**N**EW YORK CITY MAY TAKE DOWN A TERROR REPORT FROM ITS website that alerts law enforcement and citizens alike to the characteristics of would-be terrorists because critics say it discriminates against Muslims and is deeply flawed.

The *New York Post* reported that the 92-page document, “Radicalization in the West: The Homegrown Threat,” is at the heart of secret talks between city officials and attorneys trying to settle federal lawsuits against New York politicians and law enforcement authorities for their monitoring of mosques.

The city has reportedly stopped monitoring mosques, but now is being asked to take down the report from its website by those who see it as a promotion tool for “religious profiling” and discrimination against Muslims, the newspaper said.

But law enforcement officials say removing the report,

especially in the face of brutal terror attacks in Paris, would send the wrong message.

“The harm is that it sends the message that the [New York Police Department] is going to back down on its counterterrorism effort in the name of political correctness,” said one former New York City police official, the *New York Post* reported. “Shame on the NYPD if they do.” ...

The report warns that most radicalized Islamists started their lives in “unremarkable” ways ... and that most terrorist hopefuls were well-educated male Muslims between the ages of 18 and 35.

The report also pointed out ... the mindset of recent converts, saying: “Their need to prove their religious convictions to their companions often makes them the most aggressive,” the *New York Post* quoted.



### Extreme Danger of U.S.-Cuba Deal

Gerald Flurry,

The Key of David | January 23

**I**N THE MIDST OF THE COLD WAR, THE SOVIET Union deployed missiles just 90 miles from the contiguous United States. This was perhaps the closest the world ever came to nuclear war.



### A More Excellent Way

Stephen Flurry,

Trumpet Daily | January 23

**T**OMORROW'S WORLD—HERE TODAY!

