



U.S. President Barack Obama delivered his highly anticipated address to the Muslim world on June 4, 2009, at Cairo University in Egypt. President Obama said that he wanted "a new beginning" with the world's 1.5 billion Muslims.

‘A New Beginning’ for Soon-to-Be Nuclearized Middle East

Aaron Hudson | May 20

WHEN PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA SPOKE AT CAIRO UNIVERSITY in Egypt on June 4, 2009, his speech, titled “A New Beginning,” was seen as his attempt to reach out to the Muslim world with a message of peace and cooperation.

This speech *did* give the Middle East a new beginning—but not in the way some would think.

Working hard to court Iran in particular, President Obama said, “No single nation should pick and choose which nations hold nuclear weapons.”

Unsurprisingly, this proclamation quickly rippled throughout the region. It appeared to be a go-ahead for the Middle East to nuclearize.

In what has transpired since, it is clear this seismic shift in United States foreign policy has irresponsibly destabilized and set ablaze the Arab world.

Eighteen months after that watershed speech, in December

2010, the Arab Spring began. By February 2012, governments had toppled in Egypt, Tunisia, Libya and Yemen. Uprisings had occurred in Syria and Bahrain. Major protests had been held in Iraq, Algeria, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco and even Sudan. It seemed Muslim youth were in the mood for change, and, morally boosted by the U.S. administration, they brought about chaos and havoc upon themselves.

With a destabilized Middle East, the only real beneficiaries of the Arab Spring have been Iran and the Islamic State.

Is this what President Obama had in mind when he spoke of “new beginnings”?

Currently the P5+1 nations are working to regulate Iran’s nuclear program in exchange for ending debilitating economic sanctions. Yet whatever the negotiations yield on June 30 in Vienna, the nuclear arms race has begun.

In fact, 12 other Middle East nations have plans to develop

nuclear energy, or have signed nuclear cooperation agreements. These nations started actively pursuing their nuclear goals after 2005, when it became known Iran had made advances in enriching uranium.

Iran's drive for nuclear technology has been the primary catalyst for this nuclear arms race throughout the region. Yet most Arab nations believed America would never let Iran acquire the bomb. That changed in the Cairo speech of 2009. There President Obama gave Iran his implicit approval—notwithstanding how he has continually maintained he will not allow Iran to get the bomb.

Just months earlier, in April 2009, the late King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia expressed to the world, “If [the Iranians] get nuclear weapons, we will get nuclear weapons.”

Today, reports are emerging that Pakistan could be selling ready-made nuclear weapons to Saudi Arabia. The house of Saud has an on-tap supply at their fingertips.

Smaller Gulf states are also feeling compelled to keep up with the regional heavyweights out of sheer fear.

At a Camp David conference on May 14, President Obama reassured the Gulf states that he would “deny Iran the ability to obtain a nuclear weapon.” His reassurances fell on deaf ears. The Gulf states are petrified of an aggressive Iran and now have firsthand experience in what this dangerous direction in U.S. policy has achieved back home. Regional security has been shattered.

As a result, the Middle East is starting to muscle up. In a time when nuclear reactors are being shunned by the West, Middle East countries—especially Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey and Jordan—are planning to build them by the truckloads. The United Arab Emirates began building a reactor back in 2012 in Abu Dhabi and has plans for another.

The Arab world sees Iranian hegemony engulfing the region and will not tolerate a nuclear-armed Iran. As a deterrent, the nations want their own nukes!

The arms race is on, and it's a mad dash to the finish line to beat Iran.

Nearly six years since President Obama delivered the Cairo speech, the Middle East *has* indeed had a “new beginning”—a nuclearized one.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry forecast in June 2009 (“[How President Obama's Cairo Speech Will Shake the Nations](#)”)

precisely how that speech would affect our world: “*President Obama's speech is a great turning point in this world. It is going to play a major role in terrifying prophecies of your Bible being fulfilled. It is beginning because of the broken will of America. God is going to shake this world and start by shaking America, Britain and the Jewish nation for their sins!*”

Can the current arms race in the Middle East be traced back to the Cairo speech? Was it a turning point? The facts speak for themselves. In spite of what America's president says today, when the leader of the free world gives his seal of approval for Iran to acquire the bomb, that is a turning point!

Now the world's most volatile hotspot is about to become a nuclear free-for-all with an approving nod from America's commander in chief.

The fact is, President Obama has the means and power to shut down Iran's nuclear program if he wanted to. He doesn't want to because, he says, *who are we to decide whether genocidal maniacs should have the bomb or not?*

Has the world become a safer place as America retreats from the Middle East? Does the thought of a nuclearized Middle East make you shake? It should—and it will!

The world is still reeling from the fallout of the Arab Spring: Iran's belligerent takeover of neighboring nations through proxies; its regional naval hegemony; the rise of the Islamic State; and now, the genesis of a nuclear arms race. President Obama's policy has made the world far more dangerous.

A nuclear Iran is not just a danger to Israel, or even Sunni Arabs. Iran is a danger to the world at large. Biblical prophecies indicate events are about to grow far worse before they become better. The Middle East is about to explode!

Bible prophecy reveals that it will eventually be a stripped-down, German-led Europe comprised of 10 nations or kings that will act swiftly to defeat Iran and radical Islam (Daniel 11:40-43).

This clash of civilizations is soon to occur, and America's foolish foreign policy decisions to allow the Middle East to nuclearize are leading to this event. The shaking of the nations has begun.

If we are prepared to listen to God, we will see how all these prophesied events will soon lead to the glorious return of Jesus Christ. This is the real *new beginning* the Middle East needs!

MIDDLE EAST

Saudi Arabia vs. Iran: What Should We Expect?

Jerusalem Post | May 21

SAUDI ARABIA'S WAR ON HOUTHIS, IRANIAN LOYALISTS IN YEMEN, was least expected. The Saudis did not speak much about their plans, nor did they even issue a warning. They have taken the Houthis by storm and have fully mobilized their advanced air force—the second-largest in the Middle East after Israel's. ...

Now, while the Houthis still offer some resistance they no longer have the ability to operate freely in Yemen as they did before. But this is not the end of the story. ...

First, the Saudi military operation, called Decisive Storm, was

the first time—this century—that an Arab state took the initiative to attack Iran's interests anywhere. The Houthis are generously financed and equipped by their fellow Shiites, the Iranians. They are considered Iran's army in the Arab Peninsula, just like Hezbollah is Iran's puppet in Lebanon.

Before the Saudi strikes, Houthis had taken control of most of Yemen, including the capital, thus stretching Iran's influence to the mouth of the Red Sea, something Iran has never been able to do before; Iran could have disrupted navigation through the Red

Sea and targeted Saudi towns bordering Yemen.

Saudi Arabia's choice to fight Houthis was least expected by Iran itself—in fact, it could have never happened were it not for the 30-something Saudi deputy crown prince, Mohammed bin-Salman.

The young Saudi royal has led a campaign to convince the Saudi monarchy to fight Iran single-handedly. At the same time, he had to convince the Obama administration to support the war

But what does all of this mean? It means a young Saudi royal, Mohammed bin-Salman, was able to humiliate Iran before the world by ruthlessly attacking its only allies in Arabia, the Houthis, and Iran could not do a thing for them. Just before the war, Iran's media was speaking of sending soldiers to support the Houthis, and also of sending military supplies. None of that materialized; Salman has shown Iran that Saudi Arabia can inflict serious damage on it. This is unprecedented in modern Arab history

Iran has been verbally threatening everyone in the region in recent years, and after the nuclear talks began with the U.S. seemed to some to be untouchable. Salman has shown this not to

be the case, slapping Iran in the face

What does this mean for Israel? It means that Israel is not the only state in the region willing to punish Iran militarily; it also means Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was right when he addressed the U.S. Congress warning it of Iran. ...

Before the Saudi operations began, many called Israel crazy for wanting to counter Iran's hostility with military action. Now Saudi Arabia has set an example of possibly the best method to silence Iran. ...

On the other hand, the war is not exactly over; since the Saudis announced the end of operations in Yemen, the Houthis had been trying to target Saudi border towns, and Saudi jets have ruthlessly responded each time. ...

Editorial Note: The Bible calls the nation of Iran the “king of the south.” This seems to indicate that Saudi Arabia will not win any prolonged war against Iran. Iran is the real power to watch in the Middle East.

On Iran, Iraq and Ramadi

NOW | May 21

THIS WEEKEND THE WORLD WAS TREATED TO A QUINTESSENTIAL episode in the long-running series of the Middle East's schizophrenia. On Saturday morning, news spread that in an overnight raid, U.S. Special Operations Forces killed a key ISIS commander widely known as Abu Sayyaf, a sort of ISIS minister of energy, if you will. It was a momentary reprieve of good news, because on Sunday morning we were met with reports of Ramadi's stunning capture by the Islamic State (ISIS). While spinmeisters were busy spinning, and the appropriate partisan talking points were polished up, Iran's Revolutionary Guards commander, Qassem Suleimani, took a plane to Baghdad. Suleimani was there, presumably, to help coordinate a potential counteroffensive by Iranian-backed Shiite militias. He might as well have taken a victory lap in the Green Zone, however, for Hajj Qassem has plenty to celebrate.

Much of the reaction following Ramadi's fall has been around what it means for the U.S.-led campaign against ISIS. ... John Kerry tried to downplay the fall of the city, expressing his “absolute confidence” that there will be a reversal in the days ahead. According to Washington, this is the ebb and flow of war. ... In the partisan mudslinging, however, a larger point is neglected.

Iran is the key player to be watched following the seizure of Ramadi. Following his appointment as prime minister, Haider al-Abadi has staked his political survival on being a more inclusive leader for Iraq. ... It seems the prime minister has failed, and Iran's allies in Baghdad, including Nouri al-Maliki, are maneuvering to completely sideline him.

With the specter of ISIS a mere 80 miles from Baghdad, it is very difficult to find voices that will argue against Iran's help. And why should they? What seriously protects Iraq today from ISIS? The only reasonable answer—whether we like it or not—is Iran.

Indeed, the Iraqi government has already called on the Shiite militias (also known as the Popular Mobilization Units) to join the fight to retake Ramadi. A top adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has declared that ISIS will meet the same fate in Ramadi as it did in Tikrit. That city was liberated by a ground force whose backbone was made up of Shiite fighters helped by American air cover. When Iran essentially leads the liberation of Ramadi, who can argue against it having been Iraq's best friend?

The dispiriting thing is that this trend does not seem to be reversible. Iraq's Security Forces (ISF) are wholly unprepared, and widely-varying estimates float around about when they could conceivably be ready for the much-anticipated Mosul offensive. ... Americans back in combat on Iraqi soil, in any meaningful number, are a non-starter with the Obama White House. An Arab force is equally unlikely if only for its conceivable sectarian make-up, and Kurdish Peshmerga forces alone will also not suffice.

All this reinforces the impression that Iran is the only option. ...

Regardless of the tactical success of any potential Iranian-led offensive to repel ISIS from Iraq, the strategic die has been cast. For the foreseeable future the only foreign power that has any serious purchase in Iraq is Iran. And this—the complete dissipation of Iraq's sovereignty vis-a-vis Iran—is a potentially game-changing development for the spread of radicalism in the country; for sectarian divisions, for the Iran/Saudi Arabia cold war, and potentially for Iraq's political and territorial integrity.

Though an Iraq floating in the Iranian orbit seems a fait accompli today, it did not always have to end this way. Iraqi Shiites were not always willing allies of Iran; Iraqi Sunnis were not always ambivalent about their central government. Ever since the U.S. invasion, however, decisions made and not made paved the path to this point. It was Iran alone that successfully exploited Iraq's

deepening cleavages and was both willing and capable of playing

the long-game. And to the victor, naturally, go the spoils.

EUROPE

A United Europe Is Closer Than You Think

Miguel Otero-Iglesias, Politico | May 19

THERE IS A STRONG CONSENSUS ON THE EUROZONE CRISIS AMONG economists and political analysts both in Europe and the United States: for the eurozone to endure, it would need to develop into a fiscal union and, consequently, a political one. In the same breath, however, influential commentators argue that this is politically unfeasible in the current context of a heightened north-south divide within Europe. And there seems to be a strong consensus among pundits that political union in Europe is a pipe dream.

The problem is that this oft-repeated assertion—usually invoked as if it were irrefutable—is thrown at audiences without a shred of evidence to back it. The naysayers simply point to the latest European parliamentary elections as clear evidence of a rising tide of euroskepticism. In doing so, they err, for they equate eurocritics with euroskeptics.

The French National Front and UKIP are against the very concept of the EU; but they should not be confused with Spain's Podemos, Syriza in Greece, and the Italian Five Star Movement, who are against this EU in particular. There is a big difference. If you give Alexis Tsipras, Pablo Iglesias or Beppe Grillo the chance of having a federal and democratic union, with a Commission president directly elected by the peoples of Europe, they would very likely sign up to it. Give it to Nigel Farage or Marine Le Pen, however, and they would laugh in your face. That is the difference between eurocritics and euroskeptics. ...

That euroskeptics are no more than 20 percent does not necessarily mean that the remaining 80 percent are keen to create a United States of Europe; far from it. However, the figure does call into question the widespread assertion that political union in Europe is impossible. There is little conclusive evidence on the subject. However, data from the Eurobarometer—the closest we have to a gauge for measuring public opinion in Europe—suggest that Europeans want more, not less, integration. The difference is

whether they live or not in the eurozone. While 67 percent of those within the zone are in favor of the euro, only 35 percent outside it are. In the UK the figure is 20 percent, but in Germany it rises to 74 percent. The same can be said about having a European identity. Up to 62 percent of those in the eurozone feel that they are European as well as their own nationality, but outside the eurozone the figure is 53 percent. Not surprisingly, only 39 percent of Britons feel European (compared with 64 percent of the French).

Thus, there is a significant difference between the eurozone, where a stronger European identity is developing, and the rest of the EU, especially the UK. This might also explain why so many British commentators (and U.S.-based pundits who visit London regularly) are overly skeptical about the possibility of creating a political union. ...

Overall, the limited evidence available strongly suggests that Britons do not want further integration, but that all other Europeans, especially those in the eurozone, are more open to the idea. ... [The] more important question, is whether the EU should develop into a federation of nation states. Here, only 41 percent are in favor, but, again, those against are even fewer, at 34 percent. A whopping 25 percent just do not know.

Although the evidence is inconclusive, there appear to be three points to consider:

- those who claim that European political union is impossible contradict the evidence;
- support for further integration is greater in the eurozone than in the rest of the EU, especially the UK;
- and those who say the EU is an elite-driven project should think again.

It may well be that the peoples of Europe (especially in the eurozone) want more integration, but that it is their national governmental elites that are holding back because they stand to lose the most from a greater degree of union.

Defiant Greeks Force Europe to Negotiating Table as Time Bomb Ticks

Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, Telegraph | May 20

EUROPE'S CREDITOR POWERS HAVE STARTED TO WOBBLE. BERLIN, Paris and Brussels are coming to the grim conclusion that Greece may not capitulate as expected, and time is running out fast.

Athens is now warning openly that the "moment of truth" will come on June 5, when the country faces default on a €300 million (US\$331 million) payment to the International Monetary Fund,

unless the EU authorities hand over the next tranche of bailout cash.

It would be hazardous to bet the integrity of monetary union on the assumption that this is just a bluff.

For the past four months the creditor bloc has been dictating terms, mechanically repeating the same demand that Alexis Tsipras and his Syriza rebels deliver on an austerity contract that

they vowed to repudiate and which the previous conservative government was unable to implement. ...

Yet creditor bluster has reached its limits. It is by now clear that Syriza is so angry, and so driven by a sense of injustice, that it may be willing to bring the whole temple of monetary and political union crashing down on everybody's heads, if pushed to the brink. ...

The mood was already clear at a "war cabinet" 10 days ago when all wings of the party agreed that they would stand and fight—whatever the consequences—rather than submit to demands for a further cut in wages and pensions, or accept any deal that fails to offer debt relief and imposes a primary surplus above 1 percent of GDP.

Pensions have already been cut by 44 percent, and 48 percent for public sector workers, and these stipends are the final safety net for Greek society. The recipients are literally feeding their children and grandchildren and extended kin. More than 900,000 registered unemployed—or 86 percent of the total—receive no benefits.

The Greek drama has, in any case, escalated to a higher level. Washington has brought to bear its immense diplomatic power, warning Germany ever more insistently that it would be a geo-strategic disaster of the first order if an embittered Greece were to spin out of control and into the orbit of Vladimir Putin's revanchist Russia.

Wiser heads in Berlin need no persuasion. ... Chancellor Angela Merkel is in turn meeting groups of M.P.s from her

Christian Democrat family, quietly warning them that the Bundestag may have to vote on a third rescue package for Greece even if Syriza stands fast on its "red lines" and does not fully comply. The southeastern flank of NATO cannot be allowed to unravel. ...

Syriza put forward a detailed list of reforms weeks ago. The creditor powers rejected the suggestions out of hand. Yanis Varoufakis, Greece's finance minister, told me that EU authorities were interested only in securing a ritual submission. "The reforms were a smokescreen. Whenever I tried talking about proposals, they were bored. I could see it in their body language," he said.

The creditors could have found common ground with Syriza at any time had they wished to negotiate. What has abruptly changed over the past week is the mood at the Kanzleramt and the Elysée, the twin power centers of the EMU (Economic and Monetary Union) system.

Ms. Merkel and French President François Hollande together called for fast-track action on Tuesday. "We expect that decisive progress now be made in the relevant forums. It's in everyone's interest that Greece stays in the eurozone," said the German chancellor. ...

Jean-Claude Juncker, the Commission's chief, admitted poignantly to *Die Welt* that the whole project is in dire trouble. "Europe has lost a huge amount of prestige. Nobody takes us seriously in foreign policy anymore," he said. ...

The EMU creditors have Mr. Tsipras by the scruff of the neck. He has a knife to their throats.

Army Chief Calls for 'Massive' Funding Boost

The Local | May 21

THE BUNDESWEHR (GERMAN ARMY) CHIEF OF STAFF BRUNO KASDORF claimed on Wednesday that he faces a funding shortage of €4 billion (US\$4.4 billion).

"The financing situation today is clearly insufficient," the army's most senior soldier told the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, complaining that the army had been under-financed since 1990.

With an eye on continuing fighting in Ukraine and threats to other Eastern European NATO members, Kasdorf said that "restocking our munitions is not sufficient, we are way behind on modernizing our equipment; it is also imperative that we add to our munitions stocks."

He conceded that defense minister Ursula von der Leyen had started on the path of reform but warned that "in the middle term it isn't sufficient—the required investment is huge." ...

As an example of the lack of equipment at his disposal, Kasdorf mentioned night vision goggles, of which he claimed to only have 20 percent of the required amount. "In terms of night vision goggles for drivers, we only have 1 percent of what we need."

The army chief also claimed that current plans to buy 350 Puma armored personnel carriers fell about 100 short of the required number. ...

2014 saw a succession of embarrassing high-profile failures with helicopters and transport aircraft.

Many of Germany's allies are pushing for the Federal Republic to take a more assertive role in foreign policy.

But politicians are often reluctant to increase army funding for fear of a pacifist public reacting badly.

Europe Plans Military Response to Migrant Crisis

Washington Post | May 18

THE EUROPEAN UNION ON MONDAY APPROVED THE USE OF MILITARY force to take on migrant smugglers in the Mediterranean, significantly escalating Europe's response to a crisis that has left at least 1,800 people dead this year.

The decision allows European governments to move ahead

with plans for a naval operation that has been taking shape for weeks and that officials say is crucial to any attempt to confront the burgeoning tide of smuggler vessels ferrying migrants from North Africa to Europe.

The ultimate aim of the mission is to destroy smuggler vessels

before they take on their human cargo. But that will require authorization from the UN Security Council, which has begun to consider the matter since EU officials made their case in New York last week.

Approval is far from certain, especially after Russian officials expressed misgivings about a mission that could involve European warships operating in Libyan territorial waters. ...

Rights groups, meanwhile, have warned that the militarization of the crisis could put migrants who already face grave dangers and limited options in an even more perilous position. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has said that there is no military solution to the problem, and he has urged European leaders to

take a holistic approach that focuses on the root causes of the unprecedented migrant surge.

Nonetheless, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini expressed optimism Monday that the EU's decision to approve the military operation will help spur the United Nations into action and allow European forces to go after smuggler vessels at a time when attempted crossings are expected to rise with the summer heat. ...

EU officials have said that the operation will not involve European "boots on the ground," but Mogherini said Monday that Europe will ask for Libyan cooperation in combating smuggler networks both on land and at sea. ...

TW IN BRIEF

EU PARTNERSHIP MEETING: THE EUROPEAN UNION IS HOLDING its first Eastern Partnership summit since the Ukraine conflict began. The last summit, a year and a half ago, helped trigger the standoff between the West and Russia over Ukraine. Leaders from the European Union will meet with top officials from Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia and Moldova in a two-day summit held today and tomorrow. This time, EU leaders aim to keep a low profile and avoid confrontation with Russia. Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt told the world not to expect any big developments.

ISLAMIC STATE TERROR SUSPECT SMUGGLED TO EUROPE: A Moroccan native who helped stage an attack in Tunisia two months ago that killed 22 people, was arrested in a town near Milan, Italy on Tuesday night. Police believe the man was forced to leave Sicily and then traveled to Tunisia to contribute to the attacks on the Bardo museum in Tunis in mid-March. The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack. It's unclear when or how the man made it back into Italy after the attack. Some Italian politicians believe he made his journey on a migrant boat. The arrest supports fears about the Islamic State's ability to smuggle terrorists into Europe.

MACEDONIAN PROTESTS: THOUSANDS RALLY FOR PM GRUEVSKI: Tens of thousands of Macedonians staged a rally to support Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski on Monday. The rally was held outside parliament in the capital Skopje and comes a day after demonstrations were held against Gruevski's government. A camp, holding thousands of anti-Gruevski protesters, has been set up outside government offices near the parliament. Protesters say they will remain at the camp until Mr. Gruevski

quits. Mr. Gruevski is facing corruption allegations, but is denying any wrongdoing.

EU MINISTERS MEET TO FINALIZE MEDITERRANEAN NAVAL MISSION: The European Union's foreign and defense ministers finalized a new mission to combat human trafficking in the Mediterranean, on Monday. Starting in June, the EU will deploy surveillance aircraft and warships off the coast of Libya. Ahead of the meeting, in Brussels German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen said "the highest priority" is to rescue migrants in danger. However, the mission will also attempt to identify and destroy trafficking ships before they set sail. Libya's internationally recognized government in Tobruk opposes the EU plan. One government spokesman told Agence France Presse that the idea of having military boats in Libyan waters is "not considered humane." Over 5,000 people have died in the past 18 months while trying to cross the Mediterranean in dinghies and fishing boats.

PRINCE CHARLES MEETS GERRY ADAMS: PRINCE CHARLES shook hands with Gerry Adams, a top leader of the political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) terrorist group yesterday. Adams is accused of authorizing several terrorist attacks and publicly gloated after the IRA murdered Earl Mountbatten, along with two children and an 83-year-old widow. Earl Mountbatten was Prince Charles's great-uncle and the two were especially close, making yesterday's meeting in Galway, western Ireland, particularly personal for the prince. Violence between the Catholic-backed IRA terrorists and British authorities has dropped dramatically since a power-sharing deal was reached in Northern Ireland in 1998, but a spate of protests last year showed that there is still plenty of anger simmering below the surface.

ASIA

T Okinawa Governor Presses U.S. for Total Removal of Military Base Jeremiah Jacques | May 22

THE GOVERNOR OF THE JAPANESE ISLAND OF OKINAWA INTENSIFIED calls for the removal of a United States military base from his island on May 20. As local residents expanded demonstrations

against the U.S. base, the governor said he will travel to Washington next week to demand the removal of the base from Okinawa.

Many Okinawans have long resented their role as host to tens

of thousands of U.S. soldiers and American military installations. The U.S. presence covers almost one fifth of the island's area, and has led to some violent crimes committed by soldiers against the locals.

Takeshi Onaga became Okinawa's governor last year, based largely on his hardline stance against the American presence. While others debate where to move the base within Okinawa, Onaga calls for its complete removal from the island.

At a news conference in Tokyo, he said the Okinawans' land was "forcibly taken" from them in the aftermath of World War II. He added that Okinawans watched their homes turn into U.S.

military bases "under the threat of bayonets and bulldozers." ...

But while Okinawans overwhelmingly support for Onaga's stance, the nation as a whole is divided on the issue of where in Japan the U.S. military should be located. A survey conducted this month shows 43 percent of the population supporting leaving the base in Okinawa, while 42 percent oppose. Many say the U.S. military should no longer be in Japan at all.

To understand the significance of these strains on the U.S.-Japan security alliance, read "[Why the Trumpet Monitors Japan's March Away From Pacifism Toward Militarism.](#)"

 Follow Jeremiah Jacques

Japan Moves Ahead on the Military Path

China Daily | May 18

ARMS DEALERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD FLOCKED TO YOKOHAMA last week for Japan's first post-World War II ammunition exhibition because they had enough reason to believe the country was emerging as a new big buyer of weapons.

Coincidentally, the Japanese cabinet approved two bills last week to allow deployment of Japan's quasi-military Self-Defense Forces (SDF) abroad. The bills are expected to be passed during the current session of the Diet, which ends on June 24, fueling a huge demand for weapons and logistics equipment by the SDF. ...

Once the bills become laws, they will necessitate the revision of Japan's 10 existing laws related to the SDF that limit its activities overseas. ...

The shift in Japan's defense policy is taking place at a time when it is increasing its defense budget, lifting the ban on export of weapons and military hardware, and beefing up security and strategic ties with countries like Australia, India, the Philippines and Vietnam.

These steps will enable Japan to become more assertive in Asia and beyond.

At Yokohama's three-day exhibition, Japanese weapons' makers—Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Kawasaki Heavy Industries being the two largest—were trying to elbow their way into the global arms business.

After easing the curbs on military exports last April, Japan has been trying to tap foreign markets for its weapons' industry, including potential deals to sell submarines to Australia and sea planes to India. Japan also wants to sell its submarine-hunting jets to the United Kingdom. ...

Once the new security-related bills become laws, Japan will have no choice but to rewrite the charter. Or, the charter will become just a piece of paper.

RELATED: "[WHY THE TRUMPET MONITORS JAPAN'S MARCH AWAY FROM PACIFISM TOWARD MILITARISM](#)"

Russia's Richest Billionaire: Impact of Sanctions Is Waning

Bloomberg | May 18

RUSSIA'S RICHEST MAN SAID INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS ARE coming back to the country and the impact of sanctions has peaked.

"Now it's getting clear that the situation is more politically stable or predictable," Vladimir Potanin, who heads Russia's biggest miner, OAO GMK Norilsk Nickel, said in an interview with Bloomberg Television on Monday. "Nobody wants more sanctions. I think we reached a stable level in terms of tensions."

Europe and the U.S. imposed sanctions on Russia's energy and finance industries and dozens of prominent individuals last year after the nation annexed Crimea from Ukraine. The ruble lost almost half its value as the central bank burned through currency reserves in an attempt to slow the collapse.

So far this year, there are signs the situation may be stabilizing. The ruble has rallied to become the world's best-performing currency in 2015, while President Vladimir Putin last week met U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry for the first time in about two years.

Investors were expecting more sanctions and more problems for the Russian economy, Potanin said. It's now the "right time" for investors to come back to Russia, he said. ...

Potanin characterizes his relationship with Putin today as that of a businessman discussing issues important to the mining industry. ...

It's not insulting to describe the nation as "Putin's Russia," Potanin said.

"People love him," he said. "Russia loves strong leaders."

"Russians are fiercely loyal to Putin. Instead of seeing him as the cause of the current troubles, they continue to view him as the solution. ... The Westerners who think the current discomfort will be too much for Russians have made a mistake: They have assumed that the Russian capacity to endure suffering and sacrifice in the name of the nation is roughly equal to that of the average Westerner. In fact, it is far greater." Trumpet, March 2015

Japan Has No Future if It Only Follows U.S., PLA Officer Reportedly Told M.P.s

SCMP | May 11

A SENIOR CHINESE MILITARY OFFICER HAS WARNED A GROUP OF senior Japanese lawmakers that Tokyo should avoid boosting its security alliance with Washington, so as not to deteriorate its relations with Beijing, a source with direct knowledge of their meeting said.

“Japan will have no future if it only follows the United States,” the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity on Sunday, quoted the officer as telling the group led by Masahiko Komura,

vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, last week in Beijing.

The officer, who belongs to a think tank affiliated with the People’s Liberation Army, voiced opposition to an agreement between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and U.S. President Barack Obama in late April to strengthen the alliance in the face of China’s increasingly assertive military posture in the Asia-Pacific region, the source said. ...

Can China Save Europe—& Vice Versa?

Real Clear Markets | May 11

OVER THE PAST DECADE, WHILE U.S. PUNDITS AND POLITICIANS soapbox their Kabuki laments over Chinese trade policy and misgiven currency regimes, Europe has quietly emerged as China’s largest trading partner and strategic counterbalance to perceived U.S. economic hegemony.

Perceived, because just last fall the IMF recalculated its projection of China’s 2014 GDP, returning the torch of “Worlds Largest Economy”—a handle China carried over 19 of the past 20 centuries. Factoring in the GDP of the runner-up (EU), the composite scale between China and the EU accounts for roughly a third of the world’s economic output.

As we look for China to continue to take the next steps in transitioning its maturing economy away from being driven by unsustainable construction and infrastructure growth to greater breadth of domestic consumption, Europe is well positioned to capture the lion share of trade spoils, with China also greatly benefiting from their deep financing relationship with its largest foreign investor base—Europe.

With trade flows between Europe and China reaching over \$1 trillion in recent years, the immense commonality of their vested interests in one another has only grown, primarily at the expense of more traditional trade partners—namely, the U.S. ...

With China and Europe both aggressively moving to provide more accommodative monetary policies—while further developing crucial and strategic economic synergies, the Ancient and Old Worlds look to pen a new and more prosperous chapter. ...

“Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry has explained that the economic alliance between China and Europe would be underpinned by both sides’ desire to dominate global trade at America’s expense: ‘Two great trading blocs are positioning themselves to control the world. Both power conglomerates are discussed in Daniel 11:40-45 and in Isaiah 23. ... China and Europe have undertaken myriad joint ventures, including the Galileo global satellite system, which was a direct challenge to American’s GPS monopoly in space. Europe and China are also cooperating in nuclear research, motivated in part by the desire to form a strategic alliance as a counterweight to Washington’s nuclear power. ... The relationship we see developing between the “king of the north” [Europe] and the “kings of the east” [China, Russia, etc.] is exactly what Isaiah prophesied over 2,700 years ago!”

[theTrumpet.com, Oct. 28, 2013](#)

Kyrgyzstan Joins Eurasian Economic Union

Astana Times | May 14

KYRGYZSTAN OFFICIALLY BECAME THE FIFTH MEMBER OF THE Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) May 8, joining Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus and Armenia. The meeting of the five leaders, Nursultan Nazarbayev, Vladimir Putin, Alexander Lukashenko, Serzh Sargsyan and newest member Almazbek Atambayev took place in Moscow. ...

Nazarbayev noted growing interest of the international community in the economic union.

“Today, a number of states propose establishing trade and economic relations. For example, during the meeting of the intergovernmental council there were plans to sign the first agreement on a free trade zone between the EAEU and Vietnam. Also, our

agenda includes the beginning of the negotiation process with China on concluding an agreement on partnership and cooperation. The next potential partners at this stage could become Turkey, Iran, India, Mongolia and Azerbaijan,” he added. ...

“In Asia, ... biblical prophecy specifies the emergence of one massive power bloc; departure of American presence; improvement of relations among countries in the region; ... rallying of Russian satellites to the mother country These events are already in motion.”

[Trumpet, February 2005](#)

Russia Plans Army Training Exercises With China, India

Reuters | May 13

RUSSIAN LAND FORCES WILL JOIN TROOPS FROM CHINA, INDIA, Mongolia and Belarus in a series of joint military training exercises during the second half of this year, President Vladimir Putin's office said on Wednesday. ...

Moscow has become especially keen to build closer economic and other ties with the Asian giants China and India since the United States and European Union imposed sanctions on Russia last year over its annexation of Ukraine's Crimean region.

The joint military training exercises will have a focus on peace-keeping and antiterrorist activities, the statement said.

Training exercises are also planned with troops from member

countries of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (ODKB), which includes Russia and several former Soviet republics such as Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. ...

Last week, Xi and Putin signed a \$25 billion deal to boost Chinese lending to Russian firms and a host of other economic accords. China has also invited Russian troops to march in a parade in Beijing in September. ...

Putin also said work was continuing on planned rocket systems "with heightened capabilities" that would be able to circumvent antimissile systems. ...

TW IN BRIEF

CHINESE NAVY WARNS U.S. SPY PLANE IN DISPUTED SOUTH China Sea: The Chinese Navy ordered a United States surveillance plane flying over China's artificial islands to leave the area on Wednesday, according to CNN reporters aboard the plane. The P8-A Poseidon surveillance craft was flying over the islands under construction in the South China Sea when it received eight orders to leave. "This is the Chinese Navy You go!" a Chinese radio operator told the American pilots, who insisted they were flying over international waters. A Filipino military aircraft

recently had a similar experience in the area. Such actions suggest Beijing is trying to create a military exclusion zone above the new islands it is building. The Pentagon is alarmed at the large-scale Chinese military buildup on the islands. Former CIA Deputy Director Michael Morell said that Wednesday's confrontation indicates a definite risk of future war between the U.S. and China. Before the incident, the Pentagon was planning to send military aircraft and ships to the man-made islands in order to confirm freedom of navigation around area.

ANGLO-AMERICA



The Ultimate Key to Success

Gerald Flurry,

The Key of David | May 22

STEVE JOBS WAS PERHAPS THE GREATEST INVENTOR OF HIS GENERATION. What was the secret to his success?



The Prophet Daniel and the Soon-Coming Kingdom of God

Stephen Flurry,

Trumpet Daily | May 17

ON TODAY'S PROGRAM, WE'LL EXAMINE DANIEL'S PROPHECY AND the soon-coming Kingdom of God.

[Follow Stephen Flurry](#)





Strong Dollar Pounding Economy as Trade Deficit Soars

Robert Morley | May 22

THE UNITED STATES' TRADE DEFICIT SOARED 43.1 PERCENT IN March to the highest level since the 2008 Great Recession. The percent rise was the most in 19 years.

Former chief economic adviser to Vice President Joe Biden, Jared Bernstein, blames the strong dollar.

Since January, the dollar *has soared against virtually every currency in the world*. It is up a whopping 18 percent on the USD, an index that measures the value of the dollar against the world's major currencies. Only gold has maintained its value in dollar terms.

And as Vice President Biden's former chief economic adviser indicated—job losses are a result.

In theory, it works like this: A brand new “rhodium silver” Porsche Boxster might have cost €63,000 in June—or about \$85,700. But since then the dollar has gone up almost 18 percent against the euro. Now it only takes \$70,000 to buy the same Porsche.

So now Americans might start buying more Porsches and Benzes and fewer Corvettes and Cadillacs. Or more Airbuses and fewer U.S.-assembled Boeings. Or more Mexican-made Maytags.

So what is the solution? Bernstein says raise the minimum wage and spend more.

Really?

Raising the minimum wage increases expenses for businesses. Thus, U.S.-produced goods become more expensive, or companies embrace mechanization to reduce workforces and keep costs down. Minimum wage laws result in the exact opposite of what proponents say they are trying to accomplish.

And what about “investing” in infrastructure?

Investing implies a return—that you get more out than you put in. What kind of return might America expect from these investments? Nobody knows. What kind of return did America get from

those “shovel ready” projects we heard so much about a few years ago? Nobody knows.

Yet very serious and smart economists still promote these “investments.” What is the return on building a new bridge, or a new road? Does anybody know? Didn't the old bridges and roads do the job? And is replacing a bridge an investment or an expense? How about investing in more schools with bigger gymnasiums and pools? Does that result in better grades, smarter students? Hasn't the government already tried that? How has building state-of-the-art schools in inner cities worked? Has handing out iPads and laptops to students produced better outcomes?

And America is the most indebted nation in the world. So “investing” is really code for “borrowing to invest.” Don't investment planners warn people against that? Won't future generations have to pay back that debt? Again, no one seems to care.

The truth is that America's problems go far deeper than a soaring dollar or a monthly trade deficit.

America faces deep structural problems that hit at the heart of American society. These problems are not primarily economic in nature either, although they have economic consequences.

America's problems are moral and spiritual. This is what America must understand if it wants real change. And no amount of money, or government mandates will fix these problems unless they address these issues.

If America wants to prosper, it needs to fix its way of life. The economic consequences—joblessness, poverty, crime, poor health—would then largely take care of themselves. And minimum wage laws and government spending projects to reduce poverty wouldn't even be an issue.

For now, enjoy the soaring dollar and inexpensive imports while they last.

 Follow [Robert Morley](#)

Lying Inc.

Victor Davis Hanson | May 18

HEROIC QUARTERBACK TOM BRADY WAS APPARENTLY CAUGHT lying about his involvement in deflating footballs. ... His defense is that he did not need to use underinflated footballs to win, so what did a lie or two matter? ...

No one ever quite believed Lance Armstrong when he swore that he was not using enhancement drugs; they assumed he certainly was doping, but preferred to see him excel and set records first, and then only later get caught and fess up. ...

The national hero Gen. David Petraeus was caught lying when he told federal officials that he had not shared top-secret documents with his mistress. ... Bill Clinton's untruths. Academics assured us that in matters of adultery, constructing competing narratives is quite understandable for all involved and sometimes good etiquette.

NBC anchor Brian Williams was not so much a liar as a bard, who spun yarns about life-against-death encounters, in which

as Achilles he was always at the forefront of turmoil. Williams lied simply because as a talking head he could become both oral poet and Homeric hero all at once. His autobiographical sagas certainly jazzed things up at 6 p.m. ... And why not lie, when NBC itself doctors 911 tapes to confirm that George Zimmerman was a racist?

Everyone knows that “hands up, don't shoot” was an outright lie. Michael Brown never did or said that. Forensics, logic and the majority of eyewitness accounts confirm that the strong-armed robber struggled with a policeman, lunged at his weapon, ran away, and then turned and charged him, not that he was executed in polite submission.

Does that lie matter? Not at all. “Ferguson” is routinely listed as proof of police racist brutality—and by no less than the president of the United States. Michael Brown is now the Paul Bunyan of the inner city. U.S. congressional representatives and professional

athletes alike chant and act out “hands up, don’t shoot” dramatics. The public shrugs that although it is all a lie, it is felt to be sort of true on the theory that something like that could happen one day, and thus it is OK to lie that it already has. ...

Community agitator and frequent White House visitor Al Sharpton has lied repeatedly about his income taxes and the reasons why he cannot produce accurate tax records, in the manner that he habitually lied about the Tawana Brawley case, the Duke Lacrosse caper, and the Ferguson “hands up, don’t shoot” meme. ...

Hillary Clinton, to be candid, is a habitual fabulist. She entered public life lying about everything from her 1-1000 cattle futures con to the location of her law firm’s subpoenaed legal documents. Recently she has been unable to tell the truth in any context whatsoever. She will lie about big and small, trivial and fundamental, from the immigrant myths about her grandparents to the origins of her own name Hillary to her combat exposure in the Balkans. The subtext of “what difference does it make” was something like: “Even if you find out that I lied about the run-up to and follow up on the Benghazi killings, it won’t matter in the least to my career.” ...

Her press conference on the disappearing e-mails was unique in American political history in that *everything* Ms. Clinton said was, without exception, a demonstrable untruth. It is not that no one believes her, but rather than no one can possibly believe her Even her own supporters know that she lied, and trust that it likely will not hamper her presidential run. ...

Both Hillary and Bill Clinton lied about almost every aspect of the Clinton Foundation. She knew that the foundation was created to spend 90 percent on travel and insider salaries and benefits, and 10 percent on direct grants to charities, that it offered thin moral cover to skullduggery, and that it drew donations from zillionaires, who in turn offered Bill Clinton lopsided lecture fees that he otherwise would not have commanded, and expected favorable U.S. government treatment for their cash. ...

President Obama’s approval ratings seem to have gone up

almost in direct proportion to the degree he has lied. On over 20 occasions in reelection scenarios, Obama lied in stating that he would not issue blanket amnesties and order non-enforcement of current immigration law given that it would be unconstitutional and unlawful to do so. We accept at the time that such assurances were about as truthful as his convenient opposition to gay marriage—rhetorical constructs that warp and weave according to the realities of the next election. ...

Almost every element of his promises about Obamacare—easy online signups, reduced premiums and deductibles, maintenance of current policies and doctors, national savings, and less frequent emergency room use—were not just untrue, but realized in advance as simply not possible. Almost every parameter that Obama outlined in advance about the current Iranian talks proved about as true as were his redlines to Syria should it use chemical weapons. As a good community organizer, Obama accepts that his noble goals are government-mandated egalitarianism and that such utopian agendas require any means necessary to achieve them. And so he lies and the public seems bored and apparently appreciates why he must do so.

When elites customarily lie without much consequence, the public follows their examples

Lying is insidious. When it becomes institutionalized at the top, cynicism and lawlessness follow below.

“This spirit is the father of liars, and there is no truth in him. He hates truth and gleefully casts it to the ground. He is a master deceiver. Lies are his currency and his trade. He distorts, deludes and dissembles with confidence, boldness, arrogance, a sneer of superiority, utterly without compunction, hesitation or remorse. As [Gerald Flurry] points out, we are in the time when this being is growing more wrathful and vindictive—and more successful in his conquests—as his time grows short (Revelation 12:12). This is a defining reality of our day.”

theTrumpet.com, Feb. 9, 2013

China Gold Will Break World Dependence on U.S. Dollar **Sputnik | May 15**

CITING FORMER U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE CHAIR ALAN GREENSPAN, Chinese economic observer Jin Zihou suggested that the Chinese renminbi would deal a lethal blow to today’s financial system if Beijing converted its \$4 trillion assets into gold.

Since the U.S. dollar’s power is gradually fading, China, the U.S.’s biggest creditor, may potentially destroy the U.S. dollar, Jin emphasized.

Still the U.S. dollar remains the “biggest player,” accounting for 60 percent of global reserves. However, many countries are seeking ways to limit the power of the U.S. dollar and become less dependent on it.

According to Jin Zihou, the only way for Beijing to end the U.S. dollar’s reign is to accumulate a significant amount of gold, namely 30,000 tons. In this case, China will be able to challenge America’s longstanding dominant position in the global trade and financial markets.

Remarkably, Alasdair Macleod, a researcher and former executive director at an offshore bank in Guernsey and Jersey, pointed

out that between 1983 and 2003 China could have secretly accumulated almost 20,000 tons of gold. ...

He elaborated that by liberating public gold ownership in 2002 and forming the Shanghai Gold Exchange, Beijing has reduced the need for currency intervention to halt the renminbi rising. ...

So far, China may soon release an update of its real gold reserves, while Beijing’s officials are making attempts to include the yuan into the International Monetary Fund’s basket along with the U.S. dollar and other major currencies. Meanwhile, China has already concluded currency swap deals with about 28 states and established a yuan trading center in Switzerland.

Moreover, Beijing is encouraging de-dollarization among the Shanghai Cooperation Organization members. The Russo-Chinese energy deal concluded in the yuan and the ruble in 2014 was heralded by experts as a signal of a potential shift from one type of monetary system to another.

However, Western economists express doubts over China’s volume of gold reserves. ...

According to Duowei News, a U.S.-based media outlet, it is unlikely that China's gold holdings have already reached 30,000 tons. Still, no one will argue that China has been accumulating gold on a large scale in recent years, while its international

influence and position in global trading has been strengthening tremendously. The Chinese economy is likely to outpace the United States by 2016, and it is not excluded that finally the yuan will replace the U.S. dollar as the world's main reserve currency.

Boy Scouts President: Lift Ban on Gay Adults

CNN | May 21

ROBERT GATES, THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, called for the organization to end its ban on gay adults in remarks at the organization's national business meeting Thursday.

Citing "the social, political and judicial changes taking place in our country" regarding laws and sexual orientation, Gates said that "the status quo in our movement's membership standards cannot be sustained."

He added, "Our oath calls upon us to do our duty to God and our country. The country is changing, and we are increasingly at odds with the legal landscape at both the state and federal levels. And, as a movement, we find ourselves with a policy more than a few of our church sponsors reject, thus placing Scouting between

a boy and his church."

Gates noted that the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy was overturned by a judge in 2010, when he was defense secretary, prompting Congress to repeal the law. He said decisions on the Boy Scouts' policy could also be dictated by the courts, and it would be better "to seize control of our own future."

He also said that the Boy Scouts would not revoke the charters of councils that currently oppose the ban. ...

The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest advocacy group for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities, said it was "a step in the right direction," though HRC President Chad Griffin said he hopes there's more to come. ...

Krauthammer: Obama Admin Is 'Either Delusional or Cynical'

Fox News | May 19

ON "SPECIAL REPORT" TONIGHT, CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER reacted to how the Obama administration is responding to the fall of Ramadi to ISIS.

The White House has downplayed the situation as a "setback."

Krauthammer said that the administration is "either delusional or cynical."

"I would hope cynical, because otherwise we're in deep trouble," he remarked. "This is a tremendous defeat. This isn't only a geographic defeat, the fact that Mosul is gone, Fallujah is gone and now Ramadi is gone. It's that the Iraqi Army once again ran."

"Our whole idea is that we will train the Iraqi Army," Krauthammer said. "If you train people who want to fight, but don't know how to fight, that will work."

He noted that we had that opportunity in Syria and that it worked, because Syrians wanted to fight.

Krauthammer said that the situation is completely opposite in Iraq.

"All the training in the world is not going to help them," he said. "If you have no interest and no commitment in the war, you're going to run. And that's why we are losing badly."

Later in the evening on "Hannity," we heard more from Krauthammer on the fall of Ramadi to ISIS.

He argued that this is the end result of Obama's decision to withdraw from Iraq completely at the start of 2012. ...

RELATED: "DEATHBLOW TO THE DOLLAR"

TW IN BRIEF

CANADIAN POLICE ARREST 10 YOUTHS FOR TRYING TO JOIN THE Islamic State: Ten youths at Montreal's Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport were arrested last week over suspicions that they planned to join the Islamic State terrorist group. The Royal

Canadian Mounted Police said on Tuesday that no charges have been brought at this time, though all 10 young people had their passports confiscated. The arrests are part of an alarming trend that has seen 3,400 Western citizens go to fight for the Islamic State.

