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AMERICA'S TROOP SHUFFLE

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Try, Try AGAIN

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of another Mideast peace failure

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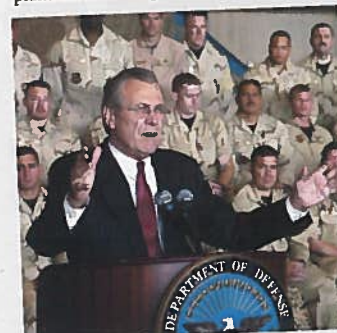
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Israel's "Will to Withdraw"

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN ISRAEL TODAY?

For the past decade, the Jewish nation has tried to negotiate peace with the Palestinians. The process has been an abysmal failure.

The basic assumption behind the process is that the best way to secure long-term peace is to *withdraw*. For example, three years ago Israel pulled its troops out of Lebanon, which were stationed there to prevent assaults on Israelis from the terrorist group Hezbollah. The problem is, Hezbollah didn't stop its attack. It simply moved its attack right up to the Israeli border.

Still, it appears the Jews see no other option but to continue this flawed strategy. The American president is pressuring Israel to allow the creation of a Palestinian state within a couple years. Many Israelis agree this is the solution.

Some of the Jews do see where the problem lies. Here is what Shmuel Schnitzer wrote in the Israeli newspaper *Maariv*, Sept. 14, 1994 (emphasis mine throughout): "For the first time in 2,000 years, we are preparing to deny our historical rights, both the divine promise and in terms of referring to the land by the name of its people, 'The Land of Israel'—a land which belongs to the children of Israel, from then and to eternity. [The Jews are only one tribe of Israel. Request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.]

"SUDDENLY, WE ARE GRIPPED BY A WILL TO WITHDRAW. A delight in withdrawing, euphoria in cutting ourselves off from it. Pulling out of Eretz Yisrael (the Land of Israel) will be a holiday. We shall say: 'Goodbye, not *au revoir*.'"

Israel today is making the same mistake ancient Israel made. And unless they repent, they are going to have the same tragic end!

The problem is that God has broken their will, or the pride of their awesome power, because of their sins (Lev. 26:19). And the problem is only going to get worse until they repent!

Mr. Schnitzer continued, "First we referred to parts of the homeland as 'territories.' That's a term which evinces no love, no link. 'Territories' are not ours. We never dreamt of territories, nor prayed to return to them. We didn't nurture them with the blood of our young men. We didn't hear in them the calls of our prophets and we didn't bury our forefathers in the 'territories.' We didn't fight over the 'territories' with the

Canaanites and the Egyptians, the Babylonians, Greeks and Romans, the British and the Arabs. We didn't read of them in the Book of Books, nor yearn constantly for them.

"WE ARE A GENERATION THAT IS BETRAYING ITS FOREFATHERS, THEIR FAITH AND THEIR SACRIFICE. We are now engaged in tearing out the heart of the land from ourselves, undercutting everything which we nurtured.

"AN ENTIRELY NEW JEWISH PEOPLE IS BEING CREATED BEFORE OUR VERY EYES. A nation which doesn't belong to its land, which doesn't continue the past, which will inherit nothing and is promised nothing. THE BIBLE IS NO LONGER OUR CALLING CARD. IT'S A MERE HISTORICAL CURIOSITY" (ibid.).

God clearly gave the Jews their land. But the "peacemakers" don't like to refer to it as a gift from God, because they have no faith in God.

So we see a "new Jewish people" unwilling to fight as in the past. Now they have a broken will.

A U.S. intelligence document stated that the Arabs now believe the Jews have lost their will to fight. Few reports could signal a greater danger! The

Arabs will exploit this weakness. You can be certain of that.

Mr. Schnitzer wrote, "Suddenly, paths of peace are more important than the paths down which we traveled for 2,000 years, more important than our prayers and our faith.

"I ask myself what kind of Jewish people will this be with no attachment to its land, without all the places of the book of Joshua, the wonderful vistas there, WITHOUT THE INTENSITY OF THE PROPHETIC VISION, without the heritage of our fighters who spilt their blood for the country which was promised them and their descendants?

"This is the will of the majority, and we are told that in a democracy the majority's will is that which counts.

"But let us not forget on the eve of our holiest day (the Day of Atonement) that while a majority can rule, it hasn't a monopoly on truth and on good sense. A majority can make a tragic mistake, create a golden calf and dance about it" (ibid.).

The Jewish people are now looking to the *will of the majority*, not the great God who gave them their own land.

Request our free booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy* to understand what God says will happen to Israel. Events show that the peace pacts are more important to them than their faith in God. That is a sure recipe for disaster!



"PEACE" AT ANY COST In May, Israeli left-wing group Peace Now demonstrates outside Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Jerusalem.

FEATURE

Fated for FAILURE

Why the Mideast peace process is still doomed BY JOEL HILLIKER

THE TRUMPET HAS SAID FROM THE BEGINNING THAT THE Mideast peace process was fated for failure.

"This peace treaty is a 'monumental occasion' to most U.S. leaders. America sponsored this public treaty signing," Editor in Chief Gerald Flurry wrote after the 1993 Oslo Accords. "Their hopes are high that peace is coming to the Middle East. Your Bible says those hopes are going to be shattered! '[T]he ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly' (Isa. 33:7)" (*Trumpet*, Nov. 1993).

With the U.S.-sponsored "road map to peace," hopes rose once more that a solution could be found. The toppling of Saddam Hussein, the growing intolerance of terrorism, the appointment of a Palestinian leader besides Yasser Arafat—these were taken as signs that, perhaps, this time would be different.

But as events quickly showed, this time is no different. As with previous peace initiatives, violence in Israel actually surged. In just a week, 60 Israelis and Palestinians were killed in suicide bombings, shootings and missile attacks. The Islamic terrorist group Hamas refused to call a ceasefire. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon promised to continue attacks on Hamas. The violence and stonewalling that some are calling mere "bumps in the road" on the road map are in fact indicative of insurmountable obstacles.

Why? Because the essential reality is unchanged: Israel still has not won its war for acceptance. Sizeable numbers of

The essential reality is unchanged: Israel still has not won its war for acceptance.

Palestinians simply will not tolerate any bargain that recognizes the State of Israel. Until they do, Israel's security is in jeopardy, and sizeable numbers of Israelis simply will not tolerate any bargain that recognizes a Palestinian state.

Thinktank Stratfor described the hopelessness of the situation in its "Geopolitical Diary" of April 30. A Palestinian had blown himself up near the U.S. Embassy in Israel just hours after the Palestinian Parliament installed the cabinet of Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas. "The suicide bombing



NO DEAL Palestinian militants, an armed offshoot of Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, carry the body of a suicide bomber in May.

sums up perfectly the fundamental dilemma in any Israeli-Palestinian peace process," Stratfor wrote. "Regardless of what institutional arrangements are in place, the Palestinian National Authority does not control all Palestinians. A large segment of the community intensely opposes any agreement that recognizes the State of Israel and commits itself to paramilitary operations against it. Regardless of how small the number might be that takes this position, the fact is that some Palestinians will. So long as this group is prepared to carry out suicide and other forms of attacks, they have control of the peace process." In the boiler room of this tiny country, it doesn't take but a small minority of such individuals to tip the scales away from resolution and toward violence.

"To make peace, the Palestinians must give the Israelis what they want the most: guaranteed physical security. That means that the Palestinian state must be strong enough to shut down active opposition—without Israeli intervention. This has never existed, nor is it possible to imagine how it will exist in the future. There will always be a faction prepared to attack Israel and trigger an Israeli counterattack against the Palestinians. No Israeli government will ever be able to say that a peace agreement should be signed if physical security can't be guaranteed by the Palestinians" (ibid.). It is an obvious gamble: If you give the Palestinians statehood, will it give them enough power to crack down on their own extremists or will it, in fact, give them greater power to push Israel?

Again the issue comes down to fundamental acceptance of Israel's right to exist—something too many Palestinians have not done.

Here is Stratfor's bitter conclusion: "The situation is back where it was after Camp David, when great hopes encoun-

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tered hard reality. The greater the hope, the harsher the response. It is for this reason that we always have been and continue to be extremely pessimistic about any comprehensive settlement between Israelis and Palestinians, and why we are always dubious about peace initiatives. Some people say it's worth a try. Our view is that it really isn't, because every time someone tries, the situation gets worse."

RED-LINE ISSUES

EVEN BEYOND THE BASIC SECURITY CONCERNS, THERE ARE AT LEAST two red-line issues that kill any hope of agreement: 1) right of return for Palestinian refugees; and 2) Jerusalem.

The refugees question is a deal-breaker: There are millions of Palestinian refugees, mostly the families of Arabs pushed out of Israel in the 1948 war, dispossessed and living in neighboring countries. They haven't been integrated into these countries—for example, in many places they are barred from certain professions; they are not able to own land. To the second and now third generations, they are kept in refugee status. The Palestinians want them to have the right to return to their homes within Israel. But over the past half-century, Jews have settled in many of those areas. And, even more worrisome for the Jews, the right of return would mean demographic suicide for the State of Israel: With at least 3.7 million Palestinian refugees living today (and growing by 100,000 each year), the sheer number of Arabs that would come into the territory would quickly overwhelm the Jewish population.

Implicit within this key Palestinian demand is their notion that the Jews really don't belong in Israel—that it belongs to the Arabs. As Egyptian President Gamal Abdel

Nasser told an interviewer in 1961, "If the refugees return to Israel, Israel will cease to exist." On the other hand, some Jews claim Israel as their God-given homeland. This is an issue that neither side is willing to compromise on.

Even more fundamental is both sides' absolute non-negotiability over Jerusalem. In May this year, on "Jerusalem Day," which commemorates Israel's capture of East Jerusalem in the 1967 war, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said in a televised statement, "We will never let go of Jerusalem! Never!" In response, Nabil Abu Rudeina, a senior Palestinian official, said, "Holy Jerusalem, which was occupied in 1967, is the key to peace in this area. Without holy Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state, there will be no peace" (*Agence France Presse*, May 29).

Trumpet Editor in Chief Gerald Flurry has consistently pointed to this problem as being the one that will derail the whole process. "Jerusalem is a powder keg, loaded with nuclear potential! ... Today the Israelis and Palestinians are in a bloody deadlock over who will control Jerusalem. They have tried for years now to resolve their many differences through negotiation and compromise. But their talks *always break down over Jerusalem!*" (*Jerusalem in Prophecy*). You need to understand why Jerusalem is such a conundrum. Mr. Flurry's booklet is a must-read to understanding the nature of the conflict—as well as its future—from a biblical perspective.

In the Middle East, pessimism is absolutely justified! Those analysts of the situation with a shred of realism all understand the same thing: In the words of Joe de Courcy, "Our conclusion, then, is an unhappy one. We can see no prospect that the current post-Saddam push towards a Middle East peace settlement will produce a mutually satisfactory outcome. ... In essence, this is a problem that can only be managed, not solved" (*Courcy's Intelligence Review*, May 14).

Stratfor went one step further: "Apart from AN OCCUPATION OF THE REGION BY FOREIGN TROOPS—which would have to be crazy to take on the task—there is no way to solve the problems. Some problems are insoluble, and this seems to be one of them" (June 12; emphasis mine). Read the article on page 4 to understand the chilling truth behind that statement—because the Bible shows that foreign troops—and crazed ones at that—WILL occupy Israel in the near future.

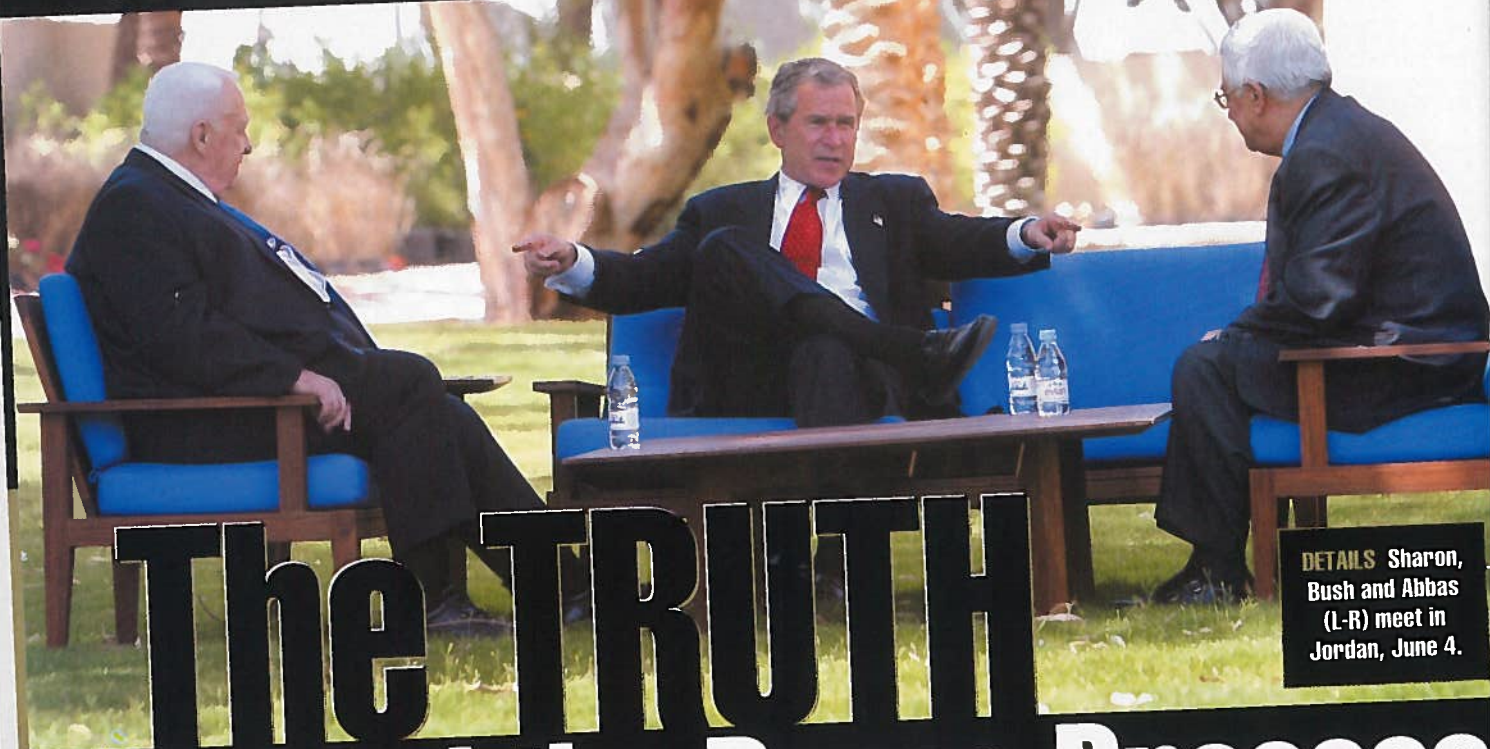
FUNDAMENTAL FLAW

WHY CAN'T THE JEWS AND ARABS JUST GET ALONG?

The real issue isn't land, or settlements, or statehood. The fundamental disagreements are not caused by material matters—but *spiritual!*

"From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?" (James 4:1). Neither the Jews nor the Arabs know the way of peace!—though they both presume to know. But there is something vital missing from their understanding.

It is simply impossible to resolve this conflict by addressing material concerns. No agreement, no contract, no peace plan will prove acceptable to all factions within both sides and bring peaceful agreement and security for all. The only solution to this nightmare is to turn to God in heartfelt national repentance—looking for *His* solution. And, the Bible shows, if they do not do so quickly, God will have to intervene personally to IMPOSE His solution! ♦



The TRUTH Behind the Peace Process

President Bush is trying to resuscitate the peace process.
How will the participants fare after another failed attempt?

BY JOEL HILLIKER

THE LAST TIME THE MIDEAST PEACE process filled daily headlines, it failed—disastrously.

That was Camp David, in July 2000. There, then-Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak offered an enormous bill of goods to Yasser Arafat, asking for only *peace* in return—a simple acceptance by the Palestinians of Israel's right to exist. But the Palestinian leader turned him down. And shortly after, things turned ugly. An *intifada* began that still continues, having claimed about 3,000 lives to date.

The outcome was hardly a shock. Why? Because Israel's real war has *always* been one of just trying to win *acceptance*.

This is a tiny, Western-style democracy of 6 million—80 percent of whom are Jewish—crowded by hostile, autocratic monarchies and Islamic republics with combined populations approaching 400 million. Some of the fiercest hostility comes from the Palestinian

portion of Israel's own population, which has fought an off-and-on war for independence from the beginning.

Israel held its ground for decades by prevailing in military struggles—but still never won its war for acceptance. In weary exasperation, in 1993 it turned to the path of *negotiating* for that acceptance. But negotiation doesn't win wars, and seven years of Israel giving up land didn't bring the Palestinians any closer to accepting the Jewish state. Camp David proved that.

Now, after two and a half years of responding to the drumbeat dirge of Palestinian terrorist attacks with military reprisals, again Israel is talking about negotiating for acceptance. The Arabs will take whatever Israel is willing to give. But they will never embrace the idea of having a Jewish state in their midst. The situation is insoluble. The peace process will fail again.

So as we watch this awkward dance, this doomed flirtation, between Israel and the Palestinians, with principally the United States and Europe looking

on, the question is *not* whether they can succeed—they cannot. Rather, the interesting points to consider are twofold. First, what is *motivating* these four parties in trying again? Is it mere naïveté, or are other agendas at play? And second, what will be the *effect* upon each of them of yet another failure? How will one more breakdown hurt—or *benefit*—these four parties?

The answers to these questions are very telling.

America's Motivation

Why try again?

The common reasoning for resurrecting the peace process could roughly be described, *Yes it looks impossible, but we can't afford not to try.*

To fulfill promises he made before the Iraq war, President George Bush became personally involved. Before this, he was virtually hands-off; last summer he essentially dodged the question by saying the U.S. would deal with Arafat. But this year, as tension over Iraq increased, Mideast leaders accused the U.S. of ignoring the real issue in the region while going after something much less critical. “The conflict between Israel and

Palestinians is the litmus test for United States-Muslim relations, and it has increasingly become a source of great hostility toward America" (*Current History*, January 2003).

After dispatching Saddam Hussein, the U.S. naturally turned its attention to Israel—at least in some measure, to defuse Mideast anger over lingering post-war problems in Iraq. The reasoning of President Bush's administration seems to be, *At least we need to try—even if it fails, as long as we are seen as being involved, no one can really fault us.* By this point, the Palestinians had put Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas in place—someone Bush agreed to deal with. The president reiterated a formerly stated goal to establish a Palestinian state by 2005.

The U.S. is certainly entering the situation with pragmatic skepticism, but its goals are easy enough to discern: It would like nothing more than to be the mediator of Mideast peace—to project its benevolent power in a diplomatic rather than a violent way. Its best-case scenario: By finally solving this age-old problem, it turns the global tide of rising anti-Americanism and decreases the terrorist threat to its interests.

There are flaws in this line of thinking, however. As Charles Krauthammer wrote last year after Bush's first public suggestion of accepting Palestinian statehood, violence in Israel is not likely to decrease if the Palestinians are given their own sovereign territory. "Today terrorism is reduced (Israel stops 90 percent of planned attacks) because the Israeli army goes into Palestinian territories to seize and stop terrorists. After statehood, this becomes an invasion of another country. The terrorists will have sanctuary. Every time Israel pursues them, the Security Council will be called into emergency session, and America will be censured unless it condemns this Israeli 'invasion.' The net effect will be more terrorism and increased resentment of American diplomacy" (*Washington Post*, June 20, 2002).

As the last two and a half years have amply proven, the Palestinians are host to several terrorist groups. It seems ironic that, while President Bush has declared war on states that support terror and harbor terrorists, he is now taking specific and concrete steps to create another one of them.

Again, the issue gets back to Arab acceptance of Israel. Clearly, any peace pact would be based upon the illusion of acceptance. But in reality, there would simply be one more Arab state in the region resenting Israel's existence—another state with internal ter-

state—a ludicrous idea. There is an element of hopelessness in their commitment to the peace talks. Readers must watch Israel closely in this respect, because as we will see, *this weariness is specifically prophesied to worsen to the point of desperation.*

It seems ironic that, while President Bush has declared war on states that support terror and harbor terrorists, he is now taking specific and concrete steps to create another one of them.

rorist factions it could not control, intent on Israel's destruction.

Israeli and Palestinian Motivations

Now, what is motivating the other players in the peace process? Why, firstly, would Israel get involved in more peace talks? The answer is, they are tired of war.

Having survived half a century with a commitment to preserving its national security through strength, Israel seeks an easier way. Its weariness is manifest even in the policy of limited military retaliation for Palestinian terrorist strikes: Israel wants to prove that it will not take terrorism lying down, yet it wants to avoid alienating the world if possible. It lacks the will to resolve the problem decisively, choosing instead a policy of low-level armed resistance.

The Palestinians certainly perceive the weakness in Israel's tactic. "Wars begin when the attacker expects acceptable costs in relation to the benefits of fulfilling his objectives, whether rational or irrational, perceived or actual," said Victor Davis Hanson to the Middle East Forum on May 6. "... Palestinians continue to murder Israeli civilians believing exhaustive violence will force their capitulation. They base this on Israel's lack of military retaliation after 39 SCUD missiles landed within its territory during the first Gulf War; the unilateral Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon; and the astonishing offer made at Camp David by the Barak government. These events have generally been perceived by the Arab world as indicators of a weak national character" (www.meforum.org).

Now virtually friendless, Israel is bearing pressure from all sides—even America—to cut a deal. It wants more than anything to believe that the Arabs can be simply *bargained* into giving up their goal of destroying the Jewish

What about the Palestinians? What do they hope to achieve from more peace talks?

The Islamic world is rife with anti-U.S., anti-Israel sentiment. Generally it is a dull frustration; in some places, it is roiling anger. Do these peoples really want to see the U.S. successfully broker a peace pact between Israel and the Palestinians? Sadly, no. For that pact to be considered generally acceptable within Mideast Islamic populations, it would essentially need to eliminate the Jewish state! No deal considered workable to the U.S. and to Israel would ever meet with their approval.

So in what way do peace talks further their objectives? To the extremists among the Palestinians, the answer is that they don't help at all. This is why terrorist violence will continue to be a problem. To the rest, there is a shrewd realization that after two and half years of fighting with little gain, clearly violence isn't working in and of itself. It must be used in conjunction with negotiation. *Perhaps the violence has worn the Israelis down, the thinking goes—softened them up for another round of peace talks.*

The Palestinians largely have nothing to lose, and everything to gain, from the resumption of peace talks. Because their only bargaining chip is abstract—a mere *promise* of security to Israel—they lose nothing permanent by signing whatever contract Israel puts in front of them. Still, deciding how much to accept and agree to requires some finesse, because, naturally, the better they play their hand, the greater the sympathy and support they retain from the international community.

Europe's Motivation

Now, we cannot overlook one other critical player in this drama. What is Europe's interest in the peace process?

PEACE PROCESS

First, it must be understood that Europe *does not* want to see the U.S. successfully bring peace to Israel.

The lead-up to the Iraq War exposed the true colors of the European Union's relationship with the U.S., as France and Germany did everything they could to stonewall America's war aims and frustrate its war plan. Although these countries are usually more guarded about their true objectives, they are staunchly against American superpower and want to limit its influence wherever possible. They didn't want to see America win in Iraq—they do not want to see America win in Israel. No one could prevent America from achieving its simple war objectives in Iraq. But *many* people and factions can and do prevent the U.S. from achieving peace in Israel.

The vastness of U.S. power and hegemony is still a major issue in everyone's minds except those of the Americans and the Israelis (to whom, the more powerful the U.S. is, the better). Joe de Courcy analyzed the situation this way: "Anti-Americanism in Europe, Russia, Latin America and Asia is growing, and there are signs of an incipient global anti-American coalition in the making, headed by Russia, China and France. ... The importance of multilateralism is the key point of difference between the U.S. and this incipient anti-U.S. grouping, but U.S. support for Israel is also a defining issue" (*Courcy's Intelligence Review*, May 14). Unfortunately for America, the Mideast peace process is where these two points of contention between the U.S. and the rest of the world coalesce.

Particularly in Europe's mind, there is a massive chess game going on, with world power as the prize.

Europe wants to undermine the U.S., yet do it in a way that doesn't

make it look like a spoiler of Mideast peace. Of course, in this situation it isn't too hard to do that, because the number of factors required for peace to prevail are extraordinary, and, even with all participants compromising all they could, it might still be impossible. When we watch the situation carefully, we easily spot how Europe is cannily undercutting the peace process.

Consider, for example, the power struggle going on between Arafat and the new Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas. Arafat is trying to marginalize Abbas and prove himself indispensable to the peace process; President Bush is doing everything possible to legitimize Abbas as a leader, including visiting with him personally—something he would never have done with Arafat.

Thus, the perfect opportunity for spoilage opens itself to Europe: It simply continues to speak and work with Yasser Arafat, and couches its defiance of everything the U.S. is trying to do in elevated language about the importance of not trampling on the will of the Palestinian people!

But Europe's strategy is borne of something even deeper than mere anti-Americanism. Europe has a historical vested interest in *gaining control in the Mideast—particularly* JERUSALEM.

Consider the question from a perspective of pure self-interest. What does Israel have to offer the world? Nothing—except Jerusalem. (What do the Arabs have to offer? Oil.) Is the U.S. interested in controlling Jerusalem? Not at all. The U.S. supports Israel because of their similarities in culture. There is a simple issue of loyalty at stake.

On the other hand, Europe, particularly Germany, harbors historical and present *hostility* toward the Jews. Anti-



OPPORTUNITY EU Special Envoy Miguel Moratin (C) meets with Abbas (L) and Yasser Arafat in Ramallah shortly after Abbas took office.

Semitism continues to be a black mark on Europe to this day—finding its way even into serious public discourse and political campaigns. The fact is, Europe has no interest in supporting the Jews—except insofar as they desire to appear fair and balanced as an alternative mediator of Mideast peace. But why do they desire that? Intelligent people could debate this matter forever, but the Bible gives us the real reason: a long-held yearning to CONQUER the Holy Land!

Effects

Having examined what is going on in the minds of the various parties involved, now let's use the outline of Bible prophecy to speculate how the landscape might look after this latest peace initiative has gone the way of a its failed predecessors.

In the U.S., some analysts say President Bush has little to lose in undertaking this effort. If it fails, at least he could say he tried, and no one would blame him for failing to resolve an impossible situation. That may be, but considering the fact that campaigning for the 2004 presidential election is already underway, it seems fair to s

10 YEARS OF FAILURE

Jan. Secret Israel-PLO talks begin in Oslo, Norway.

1993

May Israel, PLO agree in Cairo on initial implementation of Oslo Accords.

1994



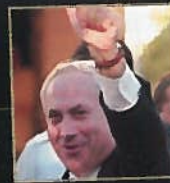
1995

Sept. Arafat, Rabin sign Taba agreement in Washington to expand Palestinian self-rule in West Bank and Gaza.

1996

May Peres loses election to Benjamin Netanyahu, whose slogan was "peace with security."

1997



Sept. Arafat, Rabin sign Declaration of Principles in Washington on the basis of the Oslo channel.



July Arafat makes triumphant return to Gaza to take up position as head of new Palestinian self-rule authority.

Nov. Rabin assassinated by student opposed to Israeli withdrawal from West Bank. Shimon Peres takes over.



Jan. Israel hands over 80% of Hebron to Palestinian rule.

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that the president's opponents—not to mention the liberal American media—will exploit any failure to the utmost.

The divisions within the U.S. are great, and loud is the criticism of Bush even over what many would consider to be his successes. Right now it is Bush's *foreign policy* that is earning him about two-thirds approval among Americans—in spite of a widely perceived failure in his domestic policy. But what would happen if problems continued to simmer in Iraq and Afghanistan, and Bush also proved himself powerless to bring Mideast peace? It seems unlikely that his approval ratings would withstand too many such failures. The bold nature of Bush's foreign policy comes with political risk.

And will the next president actually be *tougher* in protecting American interests? Will the next president command greater respect among other nations? Be more effective in demanding concessions from the two sides of the Mideast conflict? It is unlikely.

But regardless of whether or not the current president remains in office, continued U.S. failure to achieve stability in Israel will mean it is increasingly sidelined as a peacemaker. This is exactly what Europe is hoping will happen.

As for the Palestinians, another failure in negotiation will not alter their basic strategy of pressuring Israel through violence.

Among the Jews of Israel, the more failure there is in the peace process, the more weary the people become. Like the ancient, biblical nation of Israel, it is increasingly trusting in men—even, to its own peril, in enemy nations—rather than the all-powerful God. As contradictory as it may seem, the longer the situation prevails without a solution, the likelier Israel is to pin its

hopes on this catastrophic negotiation policy. And the more inadequate U.S. measures prove to be, the weaker and more desperate Israel will become for an alternate mediator to turn to.

Biblical prophecy illuminates Israel's deplorable posture. As *Trumpet* Editor in Chief Gerald Flurry has explained, the Bible refers to the present nation of Israel as "Judah" (hence the name Jew). Hosea 5:13 reveals the true nature of the peace process by calling it Judah's "wound." "When ... Judah saw his wound, then went Ephraim to *the Assyrian* [the biblical name for modern Germany], and sent to king Jareb: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound." Judah's wound is incurable—and it takes them right into the waiting arms of Germany—its historical arch-enemy—and the European Union.

This is how Europe will be the ultimate beneficiary of the doomed peace effort!

Europe is effectively using a variation of the same tactic it employed in order to conquer the Balkans—allowing a crisis to devolve into seeming hopelessness, and then stepping in to offer itself as the solution.

The well-known prophecy of an end-time "abomination of desolation" (i.e. Matt. 24:15) is describing a European "peacekeeping" army moving into Israel—most likely at the invitation of the Jews! "And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that THE DESOLATION THEREOF IS NIGH" (Luke 21:20). That army will be directed by a powerful church with religious designs on the holiest of cities. And what will appear to be Jerusalem's ultimate salvation will suddenly become Israel's bloodiest holocaust!

Pity the poor Jews who fail to recognize the resurrected spirit of the Holo-

caust, as events are marching inexorably in this very direction.

Yet, as eager as they are to invite the EU in, even the Palestinians are wholly unaware of Europe's real intent. Prophecy reveals that they too will be blindsided when Europe's armies march into the Holy Land.

"And at the time of the end shall the king of the south [an Islamic consortium that could include a Palestinian contingent] push at him: and the king of the north [the German-led European Union] shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships [probably launched from a European outpost in Cyprus]; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. He shall enter also into the glorious land [Israel], and MANY COUNTRIES SHALL BE OVERTHROWN ..." (Dan. 11:40-41).

This is the terrifying end awaiting the inhabitants of the land of Israel! This is the terrible trap into which the Jews of Israel are directly walking! This will be the final "peacemaking" legacy left by today's rising unholy European empire! A worse massacre than Jerusalem has ever seen.

This is the terrifying truth behind the peace process. Events are hurtling toward this crisis at the close. Time is desperately short. The *Trumpet* is to serve as a warning. God promises protection for the truly repentant. "Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and LIVE: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for WHY WILL YE DIE, O HOUSE OF ISRAEL?" (Ezek. 33:11). ♦

Request your free copy of Gerald Flurry's powerful booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*.

Oct. Netanyahu signs Wye River Memorandum outlining further Israeli withdrawal from West Bank.

May Ehud Barak wins decisive victory over Netanyahu.

July Peace summit at Camp David in U.S. breaks down after two weeks over claims to Jerusalem.



Dec. Barak resigns.

June U.S. President Bush calls on Palestinians to choose new leaders if they want peace, their own state.

April Bush's "road map" for peace presented to Israeli and Palestinian prime ministers. Violence ensues.

Jan. Netanyahu coalition in disarray over Wye implementation. Knesset votes to bring elections forward.

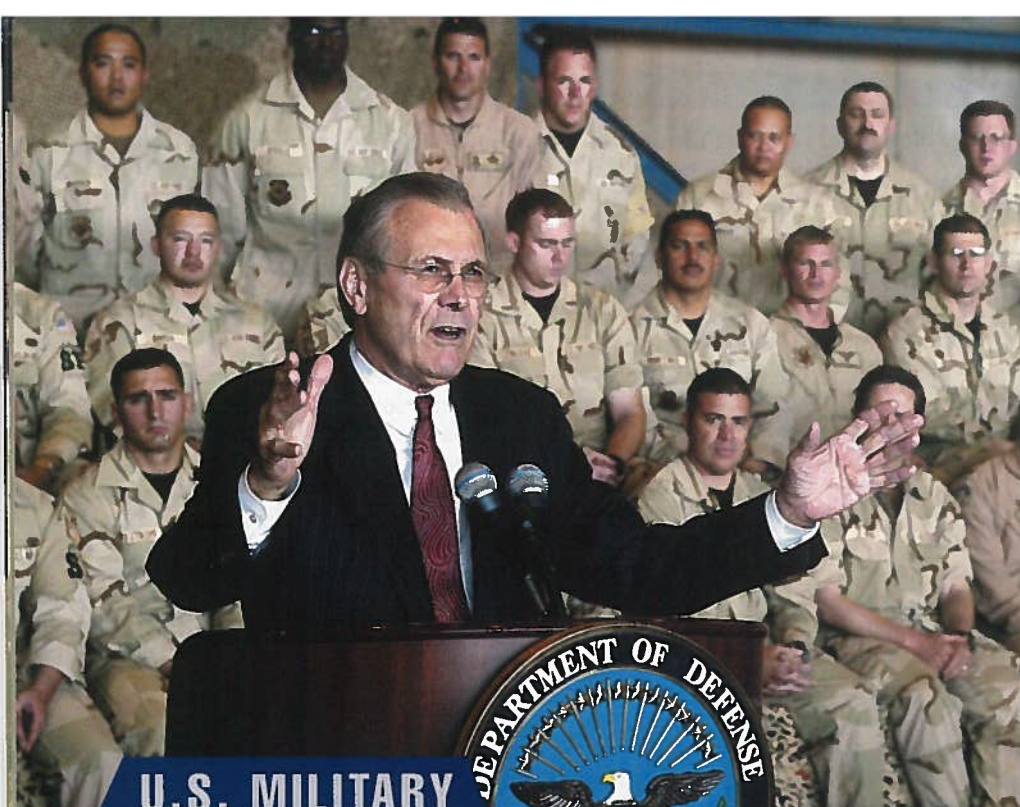
Sept. Israelis, Palestinians sign revised deal based on stalled Wye River accord to revive peace process.

March Israel hands over West Bank to Palestinians—last part of a transfer originally agreed upon at Wye River.

Feb. Ariel Sharon elected prime minister. Uses victory speech to call for national unity and peace in Mideast.

March Deputy leader of Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, agrees to become prime minister.





to move everywhere There is not going to be a place in the world where it's going to be the same as it used to be" (*Los Angeles Times*, May 29).

According to the Associated Press, May 1, U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said it would take several months to reconsider the military's global basing requirements, but he indicated that "BIG CHANGES ARE LIKELY IN EUROPE AND ASIA" (emphasis mine throughout).

The Pentagon's sweeping plans have called for moving U.S. troops in South Korea further south within that country. Also, the U.S. is considering a drawdown of its Marines stationed on Okinawa, Japan, while increasing its security presence in Australia and Southeast Asia.

There is talk of closing the majority of bases in Germany and Italy, or at least significantly downsizing the number of troops there. For example, the Army's 17,000-strong 1st Armored Division, deployed to Iraq mostly from bases in Germany, will not return to Germany. The *Los Angeles Times*, May 1, reported of the latter move, "The plans represent the most significant reshuffling of U.S. forces in Europe since the end of World War II, when American troops tore the swastikas off hundreds of German army facilities and moved in to protect the emerging West Germany against Soviet ambitions."

The Pentagon wants to close many bases in Western Europe and move into Eastern European countries that supported the recent operation in Iraq—countries like Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland and Romania. U.S. strategists believe that moving into these Eastern European countries, as well as into Central Asia, will aid in the fight against radical Islam by placing its troops at staging points closer to hotspots—and will also allow the U.S. to keep a watchful eye on unpredictable powers such as China and Russia.

The post-9/11 realignment of U.S. troops will considerably change our world, perhaps even on the level of the terrorist attacks of two years ago. It will accelerate an ominous chain of events awaiting America. Though the U.S. is merely trying to protect itself from serious threats, these military shifts will actually CONTRIBUTE to a greater threat—one that will lead to the downfall of the United States of America!

U.S. MILITARY SHUFFLING THE DECK

Where the global realignment of U.S. troops is leading

BY RYAN MALONE

OUR WORLD IS CHANGING MORE rapidly than ever.

The forceful diversion off-course of four jetliners under the crazed hands of a band of terrorists on the morning of September 11, 2001, changed our view of the world. The consequent warping of the New York City skyline heralded a new geopolitical reality.

The U.S. led the way in dealing with the world's newest insecurities and dangers when it declared war on terror. The face of the Middle East was altered as the U.S. toppled tyrannical regimes in Afghanistan and Iraq. Old relationships among Western powers were tested; new relationships formed. Asia was rocked as its nations dealt with their own pockets of radicals, from Southeast Asia to the Korean Peninsula.

Now, in less than two years, the world is markedly different than it was before 9/11, and the pace at which it continues to change makes it almost

exhausting—and downright unnerving—to watch.

Still, the face of the world will continue to transform. The United States is continually adjusting to the threats of the post-9/11 world. Recently, it has begun to rethink the structure of its overseas military presence.

Since World War II, America's overseas bases have been key to its foreign policy, protecting national and—in Washington's mind—global security. To alter this presence is another monumental shift to our rapidly changing world.

Global Realignment

In late April, U.S. troops began a significant pullout from American bases in Saudi Arabia—where the U.S. has had a presence for over 12 years. Ten thousand troops were stationed there at the height of the Iraq campaign; by the end of the summer, these troops will have moved to neighboring Qatar.

This is just the beginning. Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Douglas J. Feith said, "Everything is going

SHIFT Before a group of U.S. troops, Donald Rumsfeld announces plans to withdraw from Saudi Arabia and rethink troop deployment around the world.

Cold War vs. Post-9/11 Threats

To understand the meaning behind the current military realignment, we need to understand why the U.S. established such an extensive overseas presence in the first place.

After World War II, American bases were set up in Europe and Asia as part of the Allied clean-up after the devastation and, ultimately, to deter Soviet and Chinese Communist expansion. The strategic geography of America's military presence was a major factor in the near-half-century-long Cold War.

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, the Pentagon has cut the number of U.S. troops stationed overseas by nearly half, and military bases worldwide have been reduced 26 percent. The most significant drawdowns came in Europe—mainly Germany, which hosted 80 percent of U.S. troops stationed in Europe during the Cold War. America's presence in Germany dropped from 285,000 troops at 800 sites to 94,000 troops at 260 sites. Of the 47 major bases in Germany during the Cold War, 21 were reduced in size and personnel by more than 80 percent after 1990.

Asia saw cutbacks during the 1990s as well. By 1992, the U.S. had withdrawn from its bases in the Philippines. In post-World War II Japan, the U.S. had nearly 3,000 military facilities populated by 260,000 military personnel. Today less than 100 facilities house fewer than 50,000 personnel.

Downsizing and closing bases was all the U.S. cared to do under the anti-military Clinton administration—no thought was given to *relocating* the bases. Officials considered it too expensive to abandon one facility and build another elsewhere.

Such was the state of the U.S. military in its decade of relative quiet, after the Cold War era. It was a decade of drawdowns and base closings—but without any major restructuring.

Then came the terror attacks of September 11, thrusting the U.S. into a world where the threat was entirely different from that of the mid-20th century. The dictum of the past era's military had been to protect or contain specific

The post-9/11 realignment of U.S. troops will considerably change our world, perhaps even on the level of the terrorist attacks of two years ago. It will accelerate an ominous chain of events awaiting America.

..... geographic regions and to always be prepared to fight any threats on two fronts, given that America has to protect both an Atlantic and a Pacific front. The drawdown resulted in diminished capacity under a philosophy that called for preparedness on one front—the Pacific only. The new strategy, however, would demand that the U.S. contain an elusive, radical faction deployed globally.

Not long after 9/11, the Pentagon began to rethink the structure of its overseas forces. Now, the dozens of U.S. bases in Germany, several throughout Western Europe and one in Iceland don't seem justified. Instead, along with the recent withdrawal of troops from Saudi Arabia, the U.S. is planning to relocate troops to keep watch on what it terms the "arc of instability"—stretching from the Caucasus to the Middle East and into North Africa.

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For more on America's military, see "America Has Won Its Last War" under Editors Choice.



UNWELCOME Moving U.S. troops is tempting to the Pentagon in places like South Korea where many want the U.S. to leave.

Ample Reasons to Regroup

In addition to the post-Cold War, post-9/11 mentality, there are other factors fueling the base shifts.

For one, many of the countries where U.S. military bases are located have expressed increasingly anti-American sentiment. Of the 112,000 U.S. troops stationed in Europe, 76,000 of them are in Germany—the host country that was most vocal about its opposition to the Iraq war. In general, Germany has been supportive of the bases themselves, if not the Iraq war, because of the financial boost these bases give local economies. But when Austria closed its airspace to American planes during the campaign, this action forced the U.S. to consider moving bases out of Germany and further south. When one U.S. brigade left its base in Italy to parachute into northern Iraq, the Pentagon had to delay the deployment several days while obtaining the Italian government's permission. Senior U.S. military officials were somewhat disgruntled over the delay—particularly the need to make sure it didn't ruffle any feathers in the host country.

In Asia, where the U.S. keeps 100,000 of its troops, anti-American sentiment in the countries that host them has risen dramatically of late. Angry protests in South Korea and Japan well demonstrate the general feeling about U.S. presence in the East. In both countries, the U.S. has now drastically reconsidered its military presence. In addition to a near-pullout in Okinawa, the U.S. is also considering a major realignment of forces in Seoul, South Korea—where it feels the bases are too close to the tense border with North Korea, and that an attack from North Korea would mean a large number of American casualties and the need to flee south to regroup anyway. Also, the abuse and discrimination American troops receive from locals in Seoul makes moving out an attractive option.

Other reasons for the realignments are financial. Military officials argue that the overseas basing situation needs serious revamping because the Pentagon has more bases than necessary to support the current size of the military—since, during the 1990s, the number of troops was cut proportion-

ately more than the number of bases was. Once the U.S. recoups the cost of shifting its troops either to consolidate a base or to close one altogether, the U.S. will end up saving billions of dollars a year.

Filling the Vacuum

So here we stand on the brink of more globe-altering events. A redefinition of the U.S. presence in Europe and Asia will redefine the entire balance of power in these areas.

In Asia, a decreased presence in Japan sends a clear signal that the U.S. wants that country—currently perceived as restricted by its pacifist con-

stitution, written by Americans after World War II—to play a greater role in East Asian security. The U.S. will move south while it encourages Japan to keep a vigilant eye on the shaky Korean Peninsula, as well as on China, the growing economic giant.

A similar pullout in Western Europe and redeployment of U.S. troops east and south will have consequences on the balance of power in the burgeoning German-dominated union of European nations.

In addition to a regional shift in the balance of power, there is another factor to consider when the U.S. presence evaporates from these nations. When

U.S. troops pull out of a base, they leave behind valuable military infrastructure. Take the current pullout in Saudi Arabia, for example. Though most of the functionality of the installation will be gone, “Nothing’s going to be torn down,” said Rear Admiral Dave Nichols. “It’ll remain wired, but most of the computers and whatnot will be taken out” (*International Herald Tribune*, April 30). According to Nichols, the idea is to be able to restart the base in an emergency.

There’s no telling how intact the U.S. will leave its remaining bases in Germany after it closes them. In the 1990s, when the U.S. shut down certain bases

THE MESSAGE OF SAUDI ARABIA

AFTER THE IRAQ CAMPAIGN, THE REASONS FOR A CONTINUED U.S. presence in Saudi Arabia became nonexistent, according to U.S. officials. The troops were placed there after the 1991 Persian Gulf War “to enforce the UN Security Council resolutions on Iraq,” said Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on April 15. At an April 29 news conference, U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said it was “now a safer region because of the regime change in Iraq.” This outcome of the war has gone “almost unnoticed—but it’s huge,” according to Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz.

U.S. policymakers also knew, however, that one of Osama bin Laden’s main objections to the Saudi government was the presence of U.S. troops there—an objection that led to the establishment of al-Qaeda. In fact, the terror organization’s battle cry was *to remove the U.S. presence from Saudi Arabia*. Bin Laden said in 1996 that there was “no more important duty” than to oust U.S. troops from the country. The presence of American troops was thus fueling the Islamist opposition inside Saudi Arabia.

“It’s been a huge recruiting device for al-Qaeda,” said Wolfowitz. “I think just lifting that burden from the Saudis is itself going to open the door to other positive things.” Riyadh said that with the U.S. presence gone, it would be able to crack down more easily on al-Qaeda. And Washington believed it would have more diplomatic leverage with its troops gone, and be able to press Riyadh to lower the boom more brutally on radical Islam in the kingdom.

But since the U.S. began pulling out, al-Qaeda has not died down—it has not been appeased. Rather, it has come back emboldened.

Just two weeks after the U.S. began to pull out, bomb attacks in Riyadh, the country’s capital, killed over 30 people; other post-pullout incidents also have the fingerprint of fundamentalists in the country. Some of Saudi Arabia’s neighboring countries also felt a surge in radical activity. The al-Qaeda leader has demanded the U.S. withdraw from the ENTIRE Arabian Peninsula. Clearly the terror group was not appeased by the troops moving just across the Saudi border to Qatar.

RADICALS REMAIN
Al-Qaeda was blamed for terror attacks in Riyadh that occurred two weeks after the U.S. announced a military pullout from Saudi Arabia.



Two problems now exist.

First is the possibility that the U.S. pullout sends the message to Osama and his cohorts that terrorism works—that you can rally a band of radicals behind you, attack three of America’s most significant buildings, and within two years achieve what you originally set out to do: get the U.S. out of Saudi Arabia.

The other problem is that the U.S. believes it has lifted “a burden” from the Saudis by removing American troops—eliminating “a huge recruiting device” for al-Qaeda. But will al-Qaeda suffer a recruitment shortage with the U.S. gone from Saudi Arabia, or even—if it were to come to this—from the entire peninsula? Or will the recruitment only intensify in other countries? Iraq, for example, is now full of increasingly disgruntled, out-of-work soldiers who want to be heard—so much so that they have threatened suicide attacks. These are people ripe for al-Qaeda’s recruitment plan. After leaving Saudi Arabia, will the U.S. actually renew strength in al-Qaeda members and sympathizers in Middle East countries to the point where it INCREASES its presence?

The U.S. has pulled out of Saudi Arabia because of the supposed decrease of the threat in Iraq. But it has not contained the flames of the radical Islamic camp on the Arabian Peninsula. Could any move by the “Great Satan” ever *appease* this radical mind? No matter what it does in the Middle East, or where it goes, the U.S. will be unable to satisfy the radicals—even if in the minority—who can wreak havoc on the Middle East and the United States itself.

Clearly, America is fighting a war it will not win.

in Germany, many of the bases themselves were converted into housing complexes and businesses—but others remained as military installations.

In Germany, first call on purchasing the land of a former base goes to the GERMAN MILITARY—allowing it to claim, for example, the U.S.'s 18,000-acre-plus Wildflecken Training Range after it closed in 1994. By far the largest of the closed bases, Wildflecken was initially a training area for Nazi troops prior to World War II. It is now used to train Germany's Bundeswehr, though NATO and U.S. troops still train there—as guests.

While the European Union is charging ahead with the creation of its military force, and as the U.S. pulls out of more and more bases, German-led Europe will undoubtedly take advantage of the lack of U.S. presence, using remaining infrastructure to help the fledgling Euroforce.

The Significance of It All

But why should anyone be concerned that the U.S. will abandon its posts in

Germany or Japan—or that it will move to sites it deems more strategic in light of the increased threat of terrorism and other, new instabilities?

The concern should be over the fact that the U.S. isn't

seeing the REAL long-term threat! However legitimate the threat that radical Islam, or North Korea, or the arc of instability, poses to America's well-being, the U.S. is ignoring the one area that will soon CAUSE the downfall of its domination of the world.

Bible prophecy discloses that the nations of Anglo-America will soon fall to a German-driven united Europe—a final revival of the Holy Roman Empire.

Concerning the presence of U.S. troops in Germany, one senior military official asked, "Why do we need a joint force to be in Germany, where there's nothing happening? ... You have to have troops close to ports and airfields that are closer to the action. And you also want to have them in a place where people agree with what you're doing, so they don't shut down ports and they don't shut down air-



"GATEWAY TO EUROPE" German Bundeswehr troops patrol the U.S.'s strategic Rhine-Main Air Force Base, which is scheduled to be returned to Germany by 2005.

fields" (*Los Angeles Times*, May 1).

And that's the U.S. view of Germany. They aren't the close allies we once thought they were—but still, "there's nothing happening" there, in America's mind. However, this in fact is the nation—if only we would heed Bible prophecy—that we need to be watching most of all!

As editor in chief of the once-matchless *Plain Truth* magazine, Herbert W. Armstrong told his readers to keep their eyes on the stretched-thin U.S. military and watch for withdrawal of its troops worldwide. He forewarned how this would reshape the world, and accelerate the rise of a dangerous threat to American existence.

In a co-worker letter dated May 6, 1985, he directed his readers to watch those trends: "The U.S. now has 40,000 troops in South Korea. ... We have over 300,000 troops stationed in Europe. If we get into armed intervention

However legitimate the threat that radical Islam, or North Korea, or the arc of instability, poses to America's well-being, the U.S. is ignoring the one area that will soon cause the downfall of its domination of the world.

[elsewhere] we probably would need to withdraw troops from Europe or South Korea or both. That would IMMEDIATELY CAUSE EUROPE TO RESURRECT THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, AS STRONG INFLUENCES HAVE BEEN TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH. This would fulfill the prophecy that would result in a United Europe—stronger than even the Soviet Union—that will turn on the U.S."

As this magazine has been proclaiming since its inception, Europe has not needed the LACK of U.S. presence to unite or revive the Holy Roman Empire. They are, already—under America's nose—doing just that. But the point to watch, as Mr. Armstrong astutely pointed out over 18 years ago, is that the absence of a U.S. presence in Europe will ACCELERATE such a revival.

It is inevitable that a united Europe will ultimately take the lead as the world's superpower—supplanting America. Whether the U.S. military remains in Western Europe or not will not change this fact.

The absence of America in Europe, however, will accelerate and even AID Europe's growth as a political and military union.

America's military withdrawal is a MAJOR SIGN that events are speeding up—hurtling toward the culmination of Bible prophecy! ♦

With reporting by ANDREW LOCHER

theTrumpet.com

For more on the U.S. in prophecy, see "The End of the Free World" under Editors Choice.

BILLAL OGBALAN/AP/PHOTISTY IMAGES



The Buck Drops Here

It has lost a quarter of its value against the euro in 18 months. What are the implications of the ailing U.S. dollar?

BY RICHARD WILLIAMS

AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF REIGNING supreme, the U.S. dollar has dramatically tumbled in value over recent months. The slide is particularly pronounced when measured against the euro—falling 11 percent in the first five months of this year, making a total decline of 24 percent since the start of 2002.

Gone are the days of the investment boom of the 1990s, when investors poured billions of dollars into the U.S., chasing gains from the tremendous surge in value of the stock market and thus supporting a strong dollar. That money made it cheaper and more profitable for companies to invest, in research and development, in machinery, in improved technology. This investment boosted productivity (output per hour worked), and U.S. economic growth generally outpaced that of the rest of the world.

American, as well as foreign, investors jumped on the bandwagon. No longer was the stock market the exclusive playground of institutional in-

vestors. Stocks became the investment of choice for thousands of U.S. households wanting to share in the spoils.

As the value of U.S. stocks surged during the 1990s (the Dow Jones industrial average more than tripled in that decade), so did the net worth of U.S. households. As an individual's ratio of net worth to disposable income increases, so does his inclination to spend. No longer does he see the need to save for a "rainy day" because he now has an abundance of financial assets at his disposal should that "rain" ever materialize.

Consequently, the dramatic increase in wealth led to a spending spree in the U.S. that has continued ever since.

Financial Markets Unravel

But as the world ushered in the new millennium, the financial markets began to unravel. Stocks had hit their peak. Technology firms led the way on the slippery descent, pulling the rest of the market behind them. Many of the once-famous dotcoms, formerly the pride and joy of the equity market, failed—and billions of dollars of wealth suddenly vanished.

Remarkably, however, consumer spending continued to surge! This was due in part to the unprecedented availability of *credit*. The personal savings rate plummeted to new lows, and in 1997 America's private sector became a net *spender*, reversing a 40-year history of annual savings averaging 2.6 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). No amount of spending seemed to satisfy the newfound appetite of the American consumer.

Consumer spending makes up two thirds of the United States' GDP. It is this consumer spending that has continued to prop up much of the world, to the point where many economies have now become dangerously dependent on this over-indulgent beast (see "The Burden of John Q. Consumer" in our June issue).

The relative strength of the U.S. dollar fit well with consumer tastes. Foreign goods were now cheaper for U.S. consumers, and imports poured in quickly to satisfy voracious consumer appetites. The result was a recurring *current account deficit*, which continues to widen today.

As the wheels of industry began to slow, the Federal Reserve cut interest rates in an attempt to keep this great beast feeding. The rate reductions allowed easier access to capital gains through home equity loans, and also made it more cost effective for business to invest in capital.

However, as a result of the evaporation of wealth, recent business scandals (such as the Enron and WorldCom debacles) and the war in Iraq, business confidence waned, unemployment grew, and growth slowed.

**America is no longer
the attractive,
high-yielding investment
paradise it once was.**

America is no longer the attractive, high-yielding investment paradise it once was.

Despite the recent movement by the European Central Bank to cut interest rates, the benchmark lending rate is still significantly higher in Europe than

Current Account DEFICIT



PROBABLY THE MOST SIGNIFICANT factor placing downward pressure on the dollar is the recurring and record current account deficit.

The current account is made up of three components: the **trade account**, measuring the difference between exports and imports, the **income account**, which largely reflects interest payments on foreign debt, and the **transfer account**—substantially, foreign-aid payments.

The exchange rate is related to the current account because international transactions require exchanging dollars for foreign currencies. When the U.S. imports goods, the foreign supplier must be paid. That payment is then exchanged into the currency of the supplier for use in his home country or to trade with other countries. Hence, if the value of imports is greater than the value of exports, a net sell-off of U.S. dollars occurs, putting downward pressure on the currency.

the U.S. to fuel their own economies. They therefore have a vested interest in ensuring the U.S. dollar does not depreciate against their own currency, thus hurting their export industries.

These nations achieve stability and reduce exchange-rate risk in one of two ways. Either they intervene in currency markets to prevent the slide of the dollar (such as Japan did, buying \$56 billion) or they peg their currency to the U.S. dollar (as is the case with China, most Arab countries and some South American countries). A reduction in the value of the dollar translates into an automatic reduction in the value of the pegged currencies. The upshot is, European exporters are not only less competitive against U.S. firms, but also against much of the rest of the world.

This situation could have serious implications for European economies—especially Germany, Europe's largest. Germany is already in recession (a decline in real GDP for two consecutive quarters). It has proportionately a larger manufacturing sector than other advanced economies, which is especially sensitive to exchange-rate movements.

Unemployment has exceeded 10 percent, and the budget deficit has sur-

it is in the U.S. (2 percent compared with 1.25 percent), giving euro-based assets the advantage over dollar-based assets. The upshot is a flow of funds from the dollar to the euro and hence a reduction in the dollar's value.

Short-Term Benefits to U.S.

So far, the depreciation of the dollar has benefitted the U.S., for several reasons.

The weaker dollar improves the competitiveness of U.S. exporters. U.S. goods are cheaper for its trading partners to buy, giving exporters more pricing power and stimulating demand. This is a welcome development at a time when U.S. manufacturers are struggling.

So great is the advantage of a depreciation to exporters that, in an effort to protect its own export sector, Japan has bought a mass of U.S. dollars—an incredible \$56 billion this year—to curb the dollar's downward slide (and the corresponding appreciation of its own currency). Even with such substantial intervention, Japan has not been able to totally insulate itself from a slide in the dollar.

With an increase in the price of imports, domestic demand in the U.S. is also stimulated as consumers buy American-made products instead of foreign products.

It appears that the U.S. Treasury is relaxing its traditional commitment to a strong dollar in an effort to kickstart an export-led recovery. It is hoped that the combined effect of increased exports and decreased imports will finally turn the tide on what has been an exploding current account deficit in recent years.

Short-Term Effects in Europe

The sliding U.S. dollar is a huge threat to Europe in the short term. The record rise of the euro has sparked fears that it could push eurozone countries into a deflationary spiral.

In the same way that the weaker dollar aides U.S. exporters, a strong euro inhibits European exporters. It makes their goods more expensive and hence less competitive.

The implications of a sliding dollar (and a strengthening euro) for Europe go far beyond affecting only trade with the United States. Because of the immense size of the U.S. economy and the liberal spending habits of its consumers, many of Europe's trading partners have become dependent on

passed the 3 percent limit allowed by the European Union's Stability and Growth Pact, preventing any further significant fiscal stimulus. High labor costs and massive tax burdens are driving German firms to relocate production facilities abroad. An International Monetary Fund study in April noted that there was a considerable probability that deflation would take hold over the next year. The last thing German industry needs now is a rising euro.

As BBC economics correspondent Andrew Walker wrote, "Deflation is so pernicious because it makes debts more burdensome: Personal incomes and profits may fall but debts do not and so they become harder to repay" (May 29).

If the Dollar Should Fall Further

So far, the decline in the value of the dollar has been seen as positive for the U.S. However, should the dollar continue its downward spiral, the consequences could be catastrophic.

Traditionally, the U.S. has had a "strong dollar policy." During the boom of the 1990s, such a policy helped contain inflation. In today's climate, inflation is of little concern and all focus is on stimulating economic activity. But the Treasury walks a fine line between

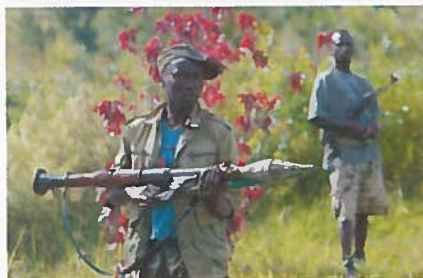
Should the dollar continue its downward spiral, the consequences could be catastrophic.

promoting a dollar policy that creates an environment conducive to exporting and one that goes too far, thereby damaging the environment necessary to attract adequate foreign investment.

The U.S. relies heavily on foreign investment to finance its chronic deficits. A declining dollar erodes the value of U.S.-denominated assets held by foreigners. As Christopher Swann wrote in the *Financial Times*, "The great fear for the U.S. would be that such an explicit abandonment of the strong dollar policy would undermine confidence in the currency, promoting an exodus of investors from U.S. bonds and pushing up interest rates" (May 20).

Since the end of World War II, the U.S. dollar has been the dominant cur-

· continued on page 23



TRIBAL CHAOS A Lendu fighter in northeast Congo, where fighting between armed militias has killed 3 million in four years.

◆ AFRICA

The rape of a nation

It seems that only a catastrophe of gigantic proportions can bring Africa to the headlines of Western newspapers. Unfortunately, there is no shortage of these. This time it is the Democratic Republic of Congo that has the dubious honor of gaining international attention.

In June came a new round of killing in Congo's four-year civil war, after Uganda pulled out its 9,000 troops under a multi-national peace pact.

The civil war, which has witnessed the violent deaths of an estimated 3 million people so far, is fought by rival Hema and Lendu tribal armies, mainly in its northeastern Ituri province. These clans fight for control over the mineral-rich northeastern province, vying for deposits of gold, diamonds, colton (a mineral used in cell phones and video games) and possibly oil.

Nine foreign nations were once involved in this war. Most are now gone as a result of the peace pact, but Uganda and Rwanda still support various Hema factions (with both countries vying for a share of Congolese diamonds and mineral wealth), while the Lendus are supported by the Congolese government.

In any case, the warring resembles too closely the same story that has repeated itself so often in recent African history—greedy and cruel tribal warlords exploiting a citizen army for their own gain, with an aftermath of bloodbath and mayhem.

In the Congo, unarmed UN observers constrained by bureaucracy and inadequate resources stand by while hundreds and thousands are massacred nearby.

The UN Security Council has approved the EU sending a 1,400-strong French-led peacekeeping force to the Democratic Republic of Congo to try to subdue the fierce fighting. However, even the commander, French Colonel Daniel Volot, doubts the possibility of success for reining in this latest outburst of violence.

The EU force will go in, stay until September 1 (its "firmly established" date to mark the "end of the intervention") and then get out fast, patting themselves on the back for "doing their best," with little or no effect for the people of the Congo themselves. The military planners themselves are more than pessimistic. "A European military planner who was issued a copy of the French document said, 'This is the most cynical military briefing I've read in my entire life. Everybody is just laughing at it.'

"Francois Grignon of the International Crisis Group writes in a forthcoming report on Congo: 'This intervention is, on the face of it, totally insufficient to meet the needs of Ituri's pacification'" (*Guardian*, June 12).

While the intervention, as the EU's first mission outside of Europe, will certainly boost the stature and credi-

bility of the EU's fledgling army, it will not improve the lot of the Congolese.

The truth is, this sad area of Africa cannot be helped by any token intervention exercised by such forces. A total change of mind and government—implemented by Jesus Christ—alone can and will finally bring peace to this war-ravaged nation.

◆ VATICAN

Papal politicking

A political institution at its roots, the Roman Catholic Church is excelling itself in swinging the vote within former Soviet states to support membership of the European Union. The Czech Republic is the latest nation to heed the papal call to a "yes" vote, one of seven to respond to priestly admonitions to vote in favor of a return to their former cultural and spiritual "roots."

"Czech voters have watched as Poland, Hungary, Lithuania, Slovenia, Slovakia and Malta have given their blessing to EU entry, though in some cases pro-EU support risked being undermined by low turnout" (Reuters, June 12).

This risk of low turnout prompted the Vatican to direct parish priests to formally encourage the electorate of those nations to vote the Vatican way by announcements from the pulpit on Sunday mornings preceding the vote.

In the Polish Pope John Paul II's home country, voter turnout was put at risk by well-organized anti-EU political parties.

Under the headline "Poles Do as the Pope Tells Them," the *European Foundation Intelligence Digest* reported on "remarks made by the pope on May 18 in which he said that he wanted Poland to join the EU Although the pope also said that Euroskeptics had valid views, his pro-EU remarks were broadcast on every news bulletin in Poland between the date they were made and the date of the election (June 7-8). This meant that a large number of older voters, who might otherwise have been expected to vote no, changed their minds and voted yes The pro-EU propaganda was relentless ..." (June 8). This papally inspired propaganda won the day for the "yes" vote in Poland.

During his recent 100th international trip since gaining office, the pope also campaigned for the EU in Croatia. Thus the wheel turns full circle. It was the pope's endorsement of the German initiative to recognize Croatia and Slovenia as states sepa-



GESTURES Pope John Paul II meets Croatian President Stipe Mesic in Croatia June 5.

rate to greater Yugoslavia that helped spark the Balkan wars of the 1990s. With the EU's rapid reaction force slated to take over Balkan security from NATO, the whole peninsula will soon become, for security and defense purposes, ensconced within the EU.

Already funding Balkan reconstruction following the wars of the '90s, the EU for all intents and purposes has

control of the peninsula economically and politically. It remains but for a cultural and spiritual glue to be poured over these fractious Balkan states to solidify them into a semblance of stability. Enter the Vatican.

Says Pope John Paul II, "Croatia has recently asked to become an integral part, also from the political and economic point of view, of the great family of the European peoples. I can only express my hope that this aspiration will be happily realized: The rich tradition of Croatia will surely contribute to strengthening the Union as an administrative and territorial unit, and also as a cultural and spiritual reality" (Holy See Press Office, June 5).

Thus will be accomplished, by Croatia's response to the pope's propaganda, Berlin and Rome's vision of possession of the strategic Balkan Peninsula.

These political moves on the part of the Vatican show how religion is driving the unification of Europe—just as it has throughout history, and is prophesied in the Bible to do again.

◆ BRITAIN

"Not yet" to euro

Britain's recent "not yet" decision on a referendum to replace its sovereign currency, the pound, with the European Union federal cur-



A STAND An anti-Euro protester in Westminster, London, on June 9

rency, the euro, has raised hackles on the Continent.

Gordon Brown, Britain's chancellor of the Exchequer, sent confusing signals to the British electorate by combining his present rejection of the euro with an undertaking to campaign for its adoption. Frustrated at this fork-tongued approach, the German daily *Handelsblatt's* report was to declare Britain as an increasingly unreliable partner in Europe. *Handelsblatt* raised the question, "How can one work closely with an EU partner which cannot decide on such a decisive issue?" (June 10).

The article went on to point out the danger of such equivocation, not just to the British electorate but also to Britain's continuing acceptance as a member of the EU. "... Blair must fear for his influence in Europe. No other politician knows better than he how important symbols are in politics. The euro stands for the whole European question ..." (ibid.).

London must face the fact that it will soon be called to account for its seemingly diffident approach on key EU questions involving not only the adoption of the euro, but also other vital aspects of the newly drafted and still evolving European constitution.

The British are increasingly concerned about the loss of national sovereignty which acceptance of this constitution will entail. But, of all issues that define a nation's sovereignty, it is free possession and control of its national

currency—its own means of exchange—which is of major symbolic significance.

Unlike the predominantly Catholic electorates in Europe, which the Vatican is influencing heavily when it comes to the vote on key issues, the British are,

traditionally, freer and more independent thinkers. The euro may yet prove to be the wedge that divides Britain from continuing EU membership.

◆ ASIA

China cozies up to Russia

Two of the world's largest nations are seeking improved relations. Last December, Russia's Vladimir Putin was the first foreign leader to meet with Hu Jintao after Hu officially became president of China. Then, on May 31, Hu made Russia the first stop on his first official trip abroad, where he and Putin discussed arms trade and energy pacts, as well as post-Iraq issues and the need for a multipolar world.

Sino-Russian relations have always vacillated between friendship and apprehension. When Russia sided with the U.S. after the 9/11 attacks and facilitated the entrance of American forces into the former Soviet satellites that border China, Beijing felt slighted and undermined. But with U.S.-Russian relations suffering from the Iraq campaign, Beijing knew that now was the ideal time to renew relations with its northern neighbor.

Fact is, both countries need each other. First of all, "Moscow has been forced to come to terms with Beijing's rapidly growing economic might" (*Asia Times*, May 28). Dmitri Trenin of Moscow's Carnegie Institute said that Russia—once a superpower that matched the U.S. during the Cold War and that looked upon China as a backward country—has now been surpassed by China in

gross domestic product, to where China's GDP is five times larger than Russia's.

Moscow will take advantage of the Chinese market in two major ways: sales of arms and oil.

Moscow doesn't view China as a military threat and is therefore happy to make money off China's desire to modernize its armed forces. China has become Russia's top arms customer.

Secondly, during Hu's May visit to Russia, major headway was made toward the construction of a 1,500-mile pipeline that would pump 700 million tons of oil from Siberia into China over 25 years, linking the two countries as never before. Both would benefit from this, as Russia is trying to find ways to exploit its massive oil reserves in the Far East, while China is trying to



PARTNERS Presidents of China and Russia shake after signing a joint declaration in Moscow, May 27.

reduce its dependence on the volatile Persian Gulf region for its oil.

Watch the continual warming of Sino-Russian relations. Despite their fickle history, the Bible shows that the descendants of China and Russia will be the major components of a massive Eurasian alliance. (See our booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy* to learn more about this.) The recent diplomatic kinship between the two is the latest indication that things are accelerating toward this prophesied outcome.

member should be guaranteed a commissioner to protect their national interests in Brussels.

Bully Tactics

It is noteworthy that these amendments were made to the draft constitution just months after several of the "big" nations scolded a number of candidate countries for their outspoken support for U.S. policies.

For example, last August Romania contractually promised not to extradite Americans to the International Criminal Court. A *Washington Post* article showed how the EU "registered its displeasure with Romania and then warned 'other candidate countries which have also been approached by the United States' not to 'make any more moves to agree to sign such an accord.'

"A few months earlier, the prime minister of the Czech Republic was attacked for making highly ungenerous statements about Yasser Arafat. 'Such language is not what we expect from a future member state,' declared the European Union, an unsubtle threat to the Czech application for EU membership" (Feb. 21).

Most recently, some Eastern European candidates for EU membership openly defied France and Germany by backing the U.S.-led war on Iraq. This again was met by serious rebuke, with French President Jacques Chirac attacking Eastern Europe as "not very well behaved and reckless." For one professor at New York University in Prague, Czech Republic, "[T]he implied message that Eastern Europe must choose between the U.S. and Western Europe seemed cruel after decades of totalitarian rule" (*Reuters*, May 16).

Motivation

After the fall of the Soviet Union and the emergence of a unipolar system with a militarily dominant U.S., to many European leaders the world lacked "balance." Europe's leaders are seeking to counterbalance this lopsided world order by forming a powerful European superstate.

Although it is in Europe's interest to expand its territory eastward for commercial reasons, politically the more influential EU states would rather not have to deal with an additional 10 nations in their executive Commission. That is why they are so



A CALL TO ORDER Valéry Giscard d'Estaing (center), chairman of the European Convention, opens the Convention's working session at EU headquarters in Brussels May 30.

The Bullies of Europe

A rift between "Old" and "New" Europe has recently been brought out in the open. The latest draft of the new EU constitution reveals Old Europe's solution: a consolidation of control within those nations that drive the Union.

BY WIK HEERMA

WHILE U.S. CITIZENS ARE LULLED back to sleep after a Middle East war victory, a new battle rages among European Union member states. As the Union is set to expand from 15 to 25 members next year, the Convention on the Future of Europe has drafted a radically new EU constitution. This draft, presented to European leaders June 20, has enraged many delegates and European citizens over the imbalance of power it would create in EU institutions.

In the proposed amendments, the European Council would replace its rotating presidency with a full-time president. The new post of EU foreign minister would be created, and the European Commission would be pared down. Additionally, qualified majority voting would be extended to include more than 20 additional areas, eliminating the national veto in these areas.

Through these propositions, smaller member states would lose their

equal right to representation in the Commission, and power would be consolidated within the EU's six biggest nations: Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Spain and Poland.

Chairman of the Convention Valéry Giscard d'Estaing declared in May that, "EU member states are *not* equal." He stated that, although member states should have "equivalent rights," this did not mean they should be accorded equality with their bigger cousins. An insider close to Giscard d'Estaing said that the taboo of all states being equal must be broken if the Union is to be built on "sound political foundations."

At present, each country is guaranteed one commissioner, with larger nations having two. The proposed changes limit the size of the European Commission to 15 executive members, "with the Commission president free to choose his team WITHOUT REGARD FOR THEIR NATIONALITY" (*Irish Times*, May 17; emphasis mine). The smaller states, in particular the eastern and southern candidate countries, argue that each

keen on the proposed amendments.

Among eurozone countries, the nations driving the further unification of Europe are also proposing a reduction in influence of nations that oppose increasing federalism. One way is by removing the voting rights of nations with opposing views. "European finance ministers from the 12 single-currency countries moved decisively last night to take more control over their own economic affairs. They said they should be solely responsible for more decisions affecting only the eurozone, and that non-euro countries such as Britain, Sweden and Denmark should not have a vote" (*Financial Times*, London, May 13).

At the Mercy of the Council

In effect, the draft constitution consolidates a new legal entity akin to a giant federal state. An innovative clause (Article 46) has been included proposing that if a country wants to leave the EU, it has to notify the Council of the EU, which will decide, by qualified majority, the terms of the agreement. As the votes of the member states are weighted according to population, can we see the tremendous power this gives Europe's larger nations?

This spells an end to the last relics of sovereignty of each and every member state. Once accepted, member states are bound by a constitution to be enforced by a reduced group of powerful states. If the policies or direction of these few leading nations do not suit a particular member state, it will be pre-

sented the option of withdrawing from the Union, but under the *conditions*—and at the *mercy*—of the members of the Council, in which the most influence is held by representatives from the same nations whose policies caused the withdrawal in the first place!

That is not all. The creation of the post of a permanent president of the European Council, to replace the current rotating presidency, carries implications so far-reaching, no human being—void of revealed understanding—can foresee the consequences. The Council is where EU national leaders meet to set policy. Larger countries complain that the current rotation reduces the EU's effectiveness and dilutes the focus of the presidency and that the musical chairs system can only worsen the bloc's decision-making difficulties when it expands to 25 members in May of next year.

However, "[S]maller countries ... fear that the voting superiority of the larger nations will mean that presidents will come from those countries" (BBC News, May 16). That is a realistic fear. With larger nations having proportionately the most voting power in the Council, the persons to fill the two most powerful positions—the presidency and the minister for foreign relations—could conceivably be chosen by a few heavyweight EU countries.

A Time of Trouble

These far-reaching changes will bring to the fore a most powerful politician to lead Europe. With decision-mak-

ing power in the hands of the nations that want to bring Europe back to world power status, this man will arise in their midst to spark a radical shift in policy that will prove detrimental to the U.S., Britain and the rest of the world (Hab. 1:6-11). The unfolding of the Holy Roman Empire's final resurrection is being exposed in greater detail through these current events.

Watch for the leading nations of Europe to continue bullying their smaller neighbors into submission as the finalization of a European Constitution looms at the EU summit in October. The new European constitution portends the virtual enslavement of member states to the will of those minds that drive this Europower (Rev. 17:13).

The Bible reveals how 10 kings will give their power and authority to this beast power (v. 12)—in tune with the idea we see being proposed for Europe's constitution. Soon, one leader will wield tremendous power in the upcoming "United States of Europe" (Dan. 11:21-24, 36-39)—setting a policy for destruction and waging war as we have never seen to date (Isa. 10:5-7; Rev. 13:4). The constitution that will enable this man to exercise such incredible command is only months from being finally ratified! The final text will be adopted at a conference in October. That singular action will unleash a chain of events destined to rock this world to its very foundations! ♦

The New Voice of the EU?

WITH THE EU CONVENTION WORKING OUT THE TERMS OF a European constitution, the weightier players among the 15 EU members seem to agree that the EU must present a more unified voice to the world—in the form of an EU foreign minister. This individual would conduct the bloc's common foreign, security and defense policies, and the new position would likely involve merging the EU's current posts of external affairs commissioner (currently Chris Patten) and representative for foreign policy (Javier Solana).

Though the new super-position is not expected to be created until 2006, one individual is already regarded by some as the most likely candidate. In fact, oddly enough, few, if any, other names are even being brought forward. German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer is known to have an eye on the post, as well as surprisingly significant support among other EU leaders.

Widely regarded as Germany's most popular politician, the left-wing activist-turned-politician, now with a strong



Fischer

federalist bent, has remained understated about his ambitions. But Germany's *Deutsche Welle* more openly admits, "Fischer ... has made no secret that he yearns for a wider international stage Indeed, shortly after taking over the helm of the German foreign office in 1999, he made clear he hoped to eventually make his job 'superfluous, by replacing it with a European foreign minister'" (May 2).

The move would certainly make some waves. The consequences of such a move for German Chancellor Schröder's Red-Green coalition, which eked into power only with the help of Fischer's popular support, are uncertain. The smaller EU accession states have their reservations about the whole idea, viewing it as yet another blow to their status in the EU and another boost to that of the big states. But their fears are not likely to stop the EU train—fueled as it is by the engines of the big states. "A well-placed diplomat recently told *EUobserver* that it is almost a 'foregone conclusion' that Berlin will get the next big post in the EU" (www.EUobserver.com, May 14).

ZRINKA PETERS

The Gatekeeper of Europe

A year from now, the world's largest federal union of nation-states will be formed, comprising the greatest trading bloc in the world. One nation is set to control the flow of goods and services produced by that monolithic federal economy.

BY RON FRASER

IT HAS BEEN SAID OF OLD THAT "ALL roads lead to Rome." While that may have been true during the successive revivals of the Roman Empire, it has certainly not been the case since the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire at Napoleon's defeat by Wellington in 1814. That battle set the scene for the rise of an even mightier empire than Rome, the great British Empire, which ruled the waves for a century before the great war of 1914-1918 began to sap its energy. Even then, for another 30 years, it was as though all roads led to London, as the British continued to control almost every major sea and land gate around the world, with London as the world's financial capital.

But World War II changed this. The United States rose rapidly to its zenith as an economic and geopolitical force second to none after the war. For the following half-century, it appeared that all roads led to the great cosmopolitan metropolis of New York—icon of commercial power and free enterprise.

Then came September 11, 2001, and New York shook to the thunder of a terror attack. Nothing has been the same since that date, in America or, for that matter, the rest of the world. We have since seen a show of military power, from the world's greatest single nation, without comparison in the conduct of precision warfare, as the president of the United States has taken the fight to the terrorists' home turf.

The latest campaign against Iraq, in pursuit of this war, brought to light extreme differences between the U.S. and the Franco-German axis within the European Union.

In a very deliberate move to outflank America economically and, ultimately, *militarily*, the European Union steadily plods on in its muddled, confusing way, to bring together a mono-

lithic federalist power with the now clearly indicated intention of knocking the U.S. off its perch.

Readers of this magazine will know that we often point to the biblical prophecies which indicate that Germany will be the lead power in a final, prophesied resurrection of the old Holy Roman Empire. There exists some very tangible evidence of this development: Europe's main transit system, *its crucial waterways*.

Strategic Hub

Germany's singular advantage, which has historically proven also to be its downfall, is its location at the very center of Europe.

This central location gives Germany a unique geo-strategic benefit: It stands to gain much by dominating the very *crossroads* between east and west when the EU opens its doors to what the pope has termed Europe's "eastern lung." In June next year, the EU gains that eastern lung with the accession of 10 nations to membership of the Union. The strategic control that Germany will then wield can hardly be underestimated.

The problem that then arises is a historic one. In the past, when Germany has perceived the strength of its position in Europe, it has sought to stretch itself beyond its borders. The Germans call it *lebensraum*—simply put, a desire for more space for Germans to live in. While Germany remained divided, that desire was contained. Since German unification, it has started to raise its head once again.

Referring to an article in the German newspaper *Die Welt*, the Information on German Foreign Policy news service reported, "One of the most influential political experts in Berlin believes that the opportunity has arrived to dispute 'world hegemony' with the USA. He demands that the EU (which he sees as 'a world power in the mak-



Germany's singular advantage, which has historically proven also to be its downfall, is its location at the very center of Europe.

ing') should make use of this chance" (March 8). The fact is, to realize that dream of world hegemony (a recurrent theme in Germany's history), they must first control their traditional empire's homebase: *Mitteleuropa*, the heartland of Europe, the *crossroads* through which all major traffic of goods, services and manpower must flow in the pursuit of business, east and west, north and south.

Crucial to the reconstruction of post-war Germany was the rebuilding of a German *transport and distribution infrastructure*. Up to 1990, West Germany worked at developing a substantial north-south transit system. But not until German unification was it possible for Germany to add to this already highly developed north-south system an infrastructure to cope with the increased load of east-west traffic that unification inevitably would bring.

Following unification, the German government quickly implemented the German Unity Transport Projects. But the vision behind the massive investment in these construction projects was not to just link the former East



and West Germany. Rather, it was “to create the preconditions for good traffic links between *Eastern and Western Europe*” (www.wna-magdeburg.de; emphasis mine). The German leadership of the early 1990s obviously saw German unification as but the start of a much broader *unification of Europe*, to incorporate many states of the old Soviet Union. They immediately began preparations to dominate and control the transit systems that such a united Europe would need for the regular and reliable flow of goods and services, particularly east and west.

The results, viewed from a current perspective—having in mind the imminent extension of the EU eastward to the Ukraine in early May next year—are amazing. Why? A detailed look at the highly developed transport and distribution system that will channel the flow of goods and services throughout the EU economic colossus reveals one singular nation at the controlling hub—*Germany!*

What is particularly intriguing is that the vision of Germany controlling the transport and distribution system for the movement of goods throughout Europe goes way back to Charlemagne, emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. We are merely seeing the systems being prepared to support the resurrection of Charlemagne’s old dream of Germany dominating a united European empire!

GERMANY

“Faster . . . Quieter . . . Deeper”

FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II, THE PORT of Rotterdam, in the Netherlands, was developed into the world’s largest seaport. Presently much of this port’s business comes from Germany. It is Germany’s main oil terminal. But things are about to change.

A year ago Germany announced that it would further develop one of its own ports by extending the facilities to handle deep-water container shipping at Wilhelmshaven, the eastern twin to Bremerhaven. These two great North Sea ports are the principal northern cold-water gateways to sea trade heading in and out of Germany. In a move that will counter Dutch dominance of North Sea shipping, Germany plans to open the new \$755 million facilities at Wilhelmshaven by 2009.

This development comes hard on the heels of the opening of Europe’s now biggest and most modern harbor at the mouth of the Elbe River in the northern German city of Hamburg. This new Alternwerder Terminal features the very latest in harbor technology. Further development currently underway will permit the harbor to increase its present ability to dock two of the largest container ships simultaneously to double that capacity, allowing for the simultaneous docking of four such vessels.

Coincident with this development is Germany’s move into warm water European shipping via their purchase of Greece’s largest naval shipyards. A year ago, Greek Development Minister Akis Tsohatzopoulos said, “Here in Greece, a nautical repair, construction and technological base will be built that will *affect the entire eastern Mediterranean and Eurasia regions* and will contribute to the dynamic promotion of European industry in this new era” (Middle East Newline, June 23, 2002; emphasis ours throughout).

Two years prior to the takeover of this state-owned Hellenic Shipyard by the German corporate consortium of HDW and Ferrostaal, the purchase by HDW of Sweden’s main shipyard company, Kockums, had paved the way for Germany to expand its shipyards out of its home territory.

Through a network of cooperative efforts with the most important European shipbuilders, German interests now control a vast international shipyard group.

It is particularly interesting to note, having in mind the devastation wrought by German U-boats during World War II on Allied naval and merchant vessels, the following claim by HDW, made on their own corporate website: “Today the yard is the world leader in the construction of non-nuclear submarines. The Class 209 submarine at 61 units is the most-often-built diesel-electric submarine since World War II. Special merit is due to the Class 212A and 214 submarines, equipped with an air-independent propulsion system on the basis of hydrogen and fuel cells, which allow the boat to cruise submerged for weeks. *HDW is the only company in the world currently able to offer a fuel cell propulsion system for series production. . . . The shipyard in Karlskrona is building the world’s first ‘Stealth’ corvettes—virtually undetectable by the electronic eyes and ears of the adversary*” (www.hdw.de).

HDW’s corporate website speaks of the consortium’s development of “the newly emerging German submarine fleet” in the early 21st century.

Following Germany’s defeat in World War II, the HDW parent corporation operated the only major shipyard (in Kiel Bay, Nazi Germany’s shipbuilding mecca) to escape total dismantling at direction of the Allies. It is most interesting to see the same company involved today in aggressively building both merchant and military vessels for Germany’s expansion of its empire under the aegis of the European Union. HDW’s motto for their expanding submarine division, “faster, quieter, deeper,” could just as well apply to the rapid development of German war technology, which remains largely undetected and unreported by the world’s press and media.



U-BOATS Assembly line of Nazi submarines inside shipyards in Hamburg, Germany.

Crucial Waterways

One of the most effective ways of moving goods across Europe has, since ancient times, been via its waterways.

The Rhine River, with a total length of 1,320 kilometers (820 miles), is Germany's longest and most important river. It is also Europe's busiest waterway. Since pre-Roman times, the Rhine has been an important trade route. But it was the rise of the Roman Empire that led to a vast increase in traffic on this key waterway, primarily as a result of the movement of Roman troops either fighting in Rome's various imperial wars, or being ferried backward and forward to man the ever-widening borders of the empire. This traffic inevitably led to important trading centers such as Cologne, Mainz and Koblenz emerging along its banks.

In addition to the Rhine, the other key river system that flows through Germany is the Danube. Looking at a map of Germany, it becomes obvious that a waterway joining both river systems, thus connecting the North Sea with the Black Sea and the Turkish Straits, has obvious advantages.

Charlemagne was the first to seek to develop such an interconnected waterway during the eighth century. He did not succeed.

In 1836, King Ludwig I of Bavaria began construction on Charlemagne's unfinished project. The result was the Ludwig-Danube-Main Canal (Ludwigskanal). This became the navigable link between the Main River and the Danube in 1845. In 1941 the canal works ground to a halt as labor and funds were diverted to the Nazi war machine. The development of today's canal, designed for 1,250-ton "Euro" class ships, was begun in 1959 in concert with the developing Common Market in Western Europe.

The Rhine and the Danube were finally connected, fulfilling Charlemagne's dream, on September 25, 1992, just two years after East and West Germany reunited. The Main-Danube Canal comprises a 171-kilome-



SHIPPING NEWS The bustling Rhine—Europe's busiest waterway—is Germany's longest and most important river.

ART TODAY

pass the bottleneck of the Turkish Straits. Germany stands ready to fulfill the role of gatekeeper of this crucial pan-European transit system.

Whereas both the Rhine and Danube are international waterways open to transit by vessels of any nation, the Germans have cleverly manipulated their sole national control of the vital waterways crossroads of the Main-Danube Canal. This crucial canal is the central link without which this whole massive system is worthless.

ter section of the 3,500 kilometer-long waterway linking the North Sea with the Black Sea. That is twice the length of the Panama Canal. Some 18 million tons of goods are transported on the Main-Danube Canal annually.

One section of the original canal works started by Charlemagne, now called the Karlsgraben, still exists today. It remains a living witness to the dream of European hegemony by the first of the "holy" Roman emperors, and a reminder for those who have an eye for history in tune with prophecy of the future of the final resurrection of that ancient entity!

As Europe's most strategic waterway, the Rhine is now connected with the Baltic Sea via the west German canal system, with the Black Sea via the Main-Danube Canal and with the Mediterranean Sea via the Rhine-Rhône Canal. All that remains is the completion of alternate shipping infrastructure to by-

As an additional control on inward-bound vessels from the east, this vital connecting link of the Main-Danube Canal was built so that it is too narrow for the wider vessels used by the former ideological and economic foes of Germany from the old Soviet bloc. Thus, the German rivers merchant fleet is spared competition by foreign fleets that could have undercut their cargo transport rates. A clever move by the Germans!

The Final Links

But, with eastward expansion imminent, perhaps the most significant and certainly the most ambitious of German waterways projects was that nominated as Project 17 within the German Unity Transport Projects. The *piece de résistance* within this visionary transport scheme involves the development of a canal bridge, nearly 1 kilometer long, over the Elbe River at Magdeburg, directly linking the Mittelland Canal and the Elbe-Havel Canal.

With the focus in Germany shifting from west to east, symbolized by the relocation of the seat of German government from Bonn to Berlin, the final link in the east-west waterways system is this immense aqueduct, bridging the Elbe River. This will allow seagoing vessels to enter the very heart of Berlin in less than a year's time.

Up to now, shipping traveling from Germany's massive North Sea ports to Berlin had to make huge detours before it could head in the direction of the German capital and on into Eastern Europe. The new canal bridge will



HULTON ARCHIVE (2)

CONNECTIONS Charlemagne (L) devised the plan of joining Germany's main waterways; in 1836, King Ludwig I began the project.

speed the transfer of goods east and west along one of the busiest transport routes in Europe.

This huge engineering feat was actually begun within an earlier decade of German expansionary vision, the 1930s, but was abruptly terminated during World War II.

Revived in 1998, the great canal bridge project is nearing completion as the time approaches for eight Eastern European nations to join a federating Europe.

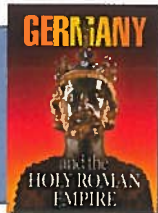
Unified by common currency, governmental institutions, judiciary, police and defense, the EU is now being increasingly unified through its massive waterways transport system—largely under the control of the EU's historically most aggressive member nation. *Germany's gateway to the east is about to open.*

Complementing the interlocking of Europe's great waterways transit system is an EU plan to complete the networking of the Continent's whole transport infrastructure by 2010. This includes road and rail systems. The German ministry of transport refers to this, in military terms, as a "pan-European infrastructure offensive." The goal is the complete re-orientation of Germany's pre-unification north-south transit network to a post-unification, pre-EU expansion orientation east-west.

Plans include a 23,000-kilometer high-speed rail network, an additional 50,000 kilometers of conventional rail routes, and a trans-European road network totaling 58,000 kilometers, primarily consisting of autobahns and dual carriageways. All this will link with the primary means of shifting goods in Europe, *the inland waterway network.*

The German economy exhibits significant structural problems working against its immediate recovery. Yet Bible prophecy indicates that this nation will lead a powerful merchant-based economic empire (Rev. 18). Watch for Germany to quickly take control when the EU opens its doors to the east in May 2004 as the gatekeeper manning the crossroads of Europe! ♦

For an overview on this vital subject, request your free copy of our booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire.*



Retooling for War

Is Germany truly the pacifist country that the whole world has been led to believe that it is over the past 50 years? There is more than meets the eye behind the alleged change in the German national character.

BY RON FRASER

SOMETHING'S AFOOT IN EUROPE. THE PR spin does not ring true with the evidence of history.

Much was made, particularly in the European press, of the pacifist stand taken by German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's government against involvement in the recent Anglo-American-led campaign in Iraq. The European press hailed this self-righteous stand as proof positive of the change in historic German motives. Here was dramatic evidence that a historically warmongering nation had morphed into the world's leading peace lover.

Had it really? Behind the front-page news of Germany thumbing its nose at the mighty U.S. lurked other news, more consistent with Germany's past, yet largely ignored or not understood by the hacks that feed the daily stories to the popular press.

EU's First Military Ventures

One headline, which appeared in a Pakistani newspaper, should have been plastered across the front pages of every single newspaper in the U.S., Britain and its dominions and, in particular, the tiny nation of Israel. "EU Launches First Military Venture" read the banner above a story in the *Dawn* of March 30. Datelined at Brussels, where the European Union is headquartered, the story led as follows:

"The European Union launches its first military operation on Monday, but this groundbreaking if modest new venture for the 15-nation economic bloc may draw scant attention because of the Iraq war.

"To the intense frustration of EU officials, the launch of Operation Concordia, taking over a 300-soldier peacekeeping mission in Macedonia from NATO, has been overshadowed by



Schröder

PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS

the giant military action in the Gulf.

"In normal times, this would be front page news. Now, we'll be lucky to get a line in the briefs column," one official said."

So it was, indeed, that one of the most groundbreaking news events of the 21st century (to those who really understand current events in relation to Bible prophecy) hardly saw the light of day in the daily newspapers of Anglo-America and tiny Israel.

Why was *this* event so important? Simply because this European Union military force is destined to become a fighting machine superior to *all* others—yes, even, believe it or not—even superior to the current mind-staggering power of the United States of America!

"Although tiny in scope and limited to six months, the Macedonian mission is an important test bed for future larger and more complex peacekeeping and humanitarian operations for the 15-nation EU's embryonic rapid reaction force" (ibid.).

From acorns come oak trees. This acorn, this "tiny in scope" mission, is but a launching pad for far larger, future "peace enforcement" missions ahead. As the *Financial Times* was able to at least deduce, "[C]ue bugles here—it is the EU's debut, after lots of agonizing, in military operations and thus *terribly symbolic*" (March 12; emphasis mine throughout).

Knowing the prophetic destiny of this EU "debut ... in military operations," a far better way of rendering that observation would have been to describe it as "symbolically *terrible*!"

Though it may have appeared that this launching of the Euroforce's first military action came after "lots of agonizing," the EU certainly wasted no time in mounting its *second* military action. Within just two months of de-

◆ EUROPE

ploying troops in Macedonia, the EU underwrote its intention to mount missions anywhere in the world by its speedy reaction to a UN request to mount a peacekeeping force in Africa, catching many a pundit by surprise with the rapidity of this response.

"The European Union is preparing its second military undertaking, this time in the former Belgian colony of Congo. The deployment could occur more quickly than was at first thought. ... [T]he United Nations ... specifically asked the European Union to support the UN mission in Congo. ... The force is to be sent by the middle of July at the latest. The EU force is likely to comprise some 2,000-3,000 soldiers. ... The war in Congo is one of the greatest unreported wars in history" (*Die Welt*, May 28; see article, p. 14).

Military Procurement

At the same time that the EU was responding favorably to this latest request to deploy its rapid reaction force, yet another news story of tremendous significance failed to make an impact in most English-language dailies. The huge, European aeronautical industry conglomerate Airbus announced on May 27 that it had signed up "the most ambitious European military procurement program ever undertaken."

Now *that* is a most significant event! But did you read of that story in your newspaper? *EUbusiness.com* described it as the "biggest joint venture ever in the European defense industry"—expected to create or secure 40,000 jobs in Europe, 10,500 of which will be in Germany (May 27).

"The contract was inked in Bonn, western Germany. ... Airbus is owned ... 80 percent by the European aerospace group EADS ..." (*ibid.*). And which country has the major shareholding in EADS (European Aeronautic Defense and Space Company)? *Germany*, through the one-third share owned by Daimler-Chrysler!

Why is this contract such a big deal?

"Tuesday's signing confirmed orders from the seven European nations for 180 A400M military transport planes. ... Tuesday's signing became possible after a German parliamentary commission gave the final go-ahead last week for Berlin's order The A400M would be the transport backbone of Europe's rapid reaction force, which is being



IN ACTION In Macedonia, March 31, NATO handed over its military operation there to the EU. This was the first all-EU military mission, and will pave the way for many more to come.

created independently of NATO" (*ibid.*).

The EU is entering the fast lane. We are about to witness a progressive change in the moribund EU economies—one of the most structurally problematic, at this time, being the German economy. This huge Airbus contract is but a forerunner of many more *ambitious military procurement programs* yet to be initiated by the EU.

Europe will soon add 10 more nations to its current list of 15 members. That will bring a host of industrial factories and labor under the overall di-

rection of Brussels. The production capacity of this federal union of 25 national economies will be massive—unprecedented in all of history.

Retooling Industry

Germany is Europe's largest industrial nation. Not only that, Germany—this "pacifist" Germany—seemingly so reluctant to go to war, viewed by the world as being a laggard when it comes to its government's defense budget, currently exhibits, by far, the heaviest investment in defense-related indus-

tries within all of Europe. It is the major investor nation in European aeronautical and space industries. It is, by far, the largest investor in Europe's merchant and military naval shipbuilding and port infrastructure (see article, p. 19). A slew of German industrial conglomerates such as Bayer (formerly IG Farben), Daimler-Chrysler, Rheinmetall, Thyssen, Zeiss, Vodafone, BMW, Dornier, Babcock—most being household names harkening back to the early days of German industrial development—are deeply enmeshed in cross-sharing deals that dominate the defense industries in Europe.

Apart from this, it would bear well for us to remember that the non-defense related industrial capacity of Germany, which is, in itself, huge by world standards, showed an all-too-ready capacity in the 1930s and '40s to retool from production for domestic consumption to output for military needs, when the occasion presented itself. Back in the 1930s, Hitler took hold of an ailing German economy and a demoralized electorate and within six years built it into an industrial giant, producing the world's greatest, most highly mechanized and sophisticated war machine.

That was in the days *before* the microchip! *Before* instantaneous digital communications! *Before* man's penetration of outer space!

General Staff

One thing Hitler did have, which made a tremendous difference and played a most influential role in bringing his dream of world conquest to a prospect of reality, was the *German General Staff*.

Following World War I, Germany was barred by the Treaty of Versailles from possessing a standing army—but it cleverly kept the German officer cadre intact, its General Staff, while demobilizing its military forces. Most crucial to raising an effective military force is to first have in place an effective command-and-control structure. That is the principal reason why Hitler was able to retool German industry for war and raise a standing army of millions within just six years of taking on the German chancellorship.

For 57 years, following World War II, Germany had no General Staff in place. It was simply banned *forever* by the victorious Allies following the war. At that time in history, our Anglo-

American leaders recognized only too clearly the grave danger that the continuing existence of the German General Staff would pose to world order and world peace.

How short is our memory! How naive are our present-day leaders! Last year the German government brought back into existence that which a more enlightened Anglo-American leadership banned *forever*, for *all* time: the *German General Staff*! Now it has a new name: the Command Staff of the Armed Forces.

A year later, the EU, a Franco-German idea from its inception, mounted the first military venture by its new rapid reaction (read *blitzkrieg*) force, under Franco-German leadership!

A multinational peacekeeping force in Afghanistan is presently under German leadership. The German navy is deployed in the Horn of Africa. The EU rapid reaction force is undertaking its second mission in two months. Meanwhile, in Bonn, the most significant defense-related contract in Europe's history has just been signed. This will secure business for a division of a massive aerospace and defense conglomerate in which Germany owns the major share, and will supply Germany with the largest order among all client nations who are signatories to this deal!

When will we wake up?

You need to see where this "peaceful" Germany, under the cloak of the European Union, is really leading this world! You can know the outcome of this beginning revival of German militarism, in *advance* of the event!

"God is going to bring Germany and the Holy Roman Empire down after that ancient war machine has brought the world down. But then God raises it all back up again—His way—with His government, His law, and His righteousness. The Germans are an exceptionally talented people who are going to be a very great people in the World Tomorrow. God just needs to channel that talent in the right direction. Then they will serve God with the same zeal they have unknowingly served Satan all these years. *All* will be to the glory of God the Father" (*Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*, p. 35). ◆

Request your free copy of *Nahum—An End-Time Prophecy for Germany* for a complete perspective on this subject.

rency in the world. America has been regarded as a safe place to store wealth, both on the personal level and on the national level (foreign exchange reserves). This has especially been so during times of financial crisis such as the Mexican banking crisis in 1994-1995 and the Asian financial meltdown in 1997.

But with declining asset values, foreign investors may be forced to take their investments elsewhere, placing wealth in safer havens such as gold or buying up assets denominated in a currency where value will be protected.

Capital Flight

With Japan desperately trying to devalue the yen in an attempt to keep it on par with the dollar, the obvious place for investors to protect their assets is in Europe. Further declines in the dollar could result in a massive capital flight from the dollar to the euro.

Such a flight of capital could have catastrophic effects on the U.S. economy as the country attempts to finance chronic deficits. At the same time, it could open up access to new and cheaper sources of funding across Europe.

The *Financial Times* stated, "With the current account deficit approaching \$600 billion this year, the U.S. needs to attract around a net \$2.7 billion of overseas funds every working day. This will become ever harder if the market starts to fear that the dollar's fall will be allowed to gather pace" (ibid.).

Swann also wrote, "The dollar's slide is now forcing companies and investors to protect themselves against further falls in the dollar, which will erode the value of their U.S. assets or undermine their position in the U.S. market. Overseas investors own about 45 percent of U.S. government bonds, 35 percent of corporate bonds and 12 percent of equities and have been taking urgent steps to protect their huge stake in the U.S. economy. Since hedging the currency involves selling the dollar forward, there is a risk of a vicious cycle developing, analysts said" (ibid.).

While the current slide in the dollar's value has, so far, been beneficial to the United States, markets can turn on a dime. Further devaluation could severely disrupt asset markets, sending huge waves rippling through the economy and pushing the dollar into a financial abyss! ◆

VIEWPOINT

RYAN MALONE

A Tale of Two Perspectives

On one side of the world, a long-term historical outlook is keeping one World War II antagonist in check; on the other side, short-sightedness is letting another rise to power.

AFTER WORLD WAR II, THE UNITED States and its allies went to great lengths to ensure that their two greatest enemies of that war—having just been defeated—would remain unable to “disturb the peace of the world” again. Those were actually the words of Winston Churchill in a signed document about American-British policy on Germany in 1945.

Nazi Germany was the main force behind the European faction of the Axis powers. In the East was the Asian side of the Axis: Japan. Both Germany and Japan had shared one vital commonality during this war: Both wanted an empire, or a *reich*, as the Germans called it. What the Germans did to Czechoslovakia and Poland, Japan did to China and the Philippines. The damage each did to its respective neighbors involved the greatest atrocities of mankind to that point: unheard of cruelty to fellow man—from the Jewish Holocaust to the Rape of Nanking and the Bataan Death March.

Hundreds of battles and two atomic bombs later, the Axis powers were defeated—all major German cities in a heap of ruins, and two Japanese cities melted beyond recognition. The Allies wanted to ensure that neither country could inflict such worldwide horror ever again. They quartered Germany into occupation zones and began a rigorous but short-lived campaign to disarm it and root out Nazism for good. In the East, Japan received a new constitution with an important clause stating that it would renounce war and never maintain a military of any kind.

Skipping ahead nearly 60 years, we have a markedly different global situation. As time passed and memories faded, Germany and Japan both became allies to the U.S. Though the U.S. still has a military presence in both nations, it has been drastically diminished over the past decade. Only two years after the war, the Germans were



OUTRAGE A South Korean protests near the Japanese embassy in Seoul over the Japanese prime minister's visit to a war shrine.

left to denazify themselves (a project they conveniently terminated four years later). Today the U.S. allows the German military full access to several American bases. And since the war, the U.S. has softened the interpretation of Japan's pacifist constitution to imply that self-defense is an appropriate use of the Japanese military.

Obviously, U.S. memory is pitifully short-lived. But this is not a uniquely U.S. phenomenon. The European mindset is similar—this short-term perspective pervades the *Western* democracies. These nations—once pummeled by the Nazi war machine—are again allowing Germany to rise to dominance.

There is, on the other hand, quite a different mentality in the East. Japan is still relatively unable to rise militarily.

Why? Memories of World War II are still fresh in the minds of Chinese, Koreans, Taiwanese and Filipinos who were all ravished by Japan's fierce power.

Why this difference in thought, even though the same amount of time has passed for Asians as Westerners since World War II?

Germany has been militarily active in Europe for several years now—since the onset of the Balkan crisis—with encouragement from the U.S. and Britain. But every time Japan's troops merely warm up for any type of military operation—no matter how minor—or a prominent Japanese official shows the slightest bit of nationalism, OUTRAGE erupts in Asia. Three times, Japan's current prime minister visited a war memorial that honors Japan's war dead (World War II's most savage participants are honored there), and each time, Chinese, Koreans and other East Asians have held massive protests. Diplomatic and political tensions rise—all from a seemingly simple visit. Japan sends logistical support to the U.S. military in the Indian Ocean after the 9/11 attacks, and Asia tenses up. Japan's officials hint that the nation should consider nuclear power or even mere missile defense, and the region cries out in fear (more so than when North Korea openly ADMITS to having a nuclear program).

The Occident and the Orient certainly have two different mentalities—two different perspectives of history. The Oriental mind tends to think more *long-term* than the Western mind.

Contrast the amount of time it took most Americans to minimize the impact of the 9/11 attacks to the Asian way of thinking. During President Richard Nixon's 1972 visit to China, Premier Zhou Enlai was asked his assessment of the 1789 French Revolution. He said, “It is too early to say.”

As a cultural norm, the Oriental mind thinks more long-term—ahead into the future, and back into the past.

Winston Churchill, who believed that history was prophecy, tried to get Britons to have that kind of memory between the two world wars—only a little over 20 years apart—to keep Germany from wreaking havoc on the West another time around.

To have a long-term perspective of the past and the future would do the Anglo-Americans well, because those

Recolonizing Latin America?

The EU and the Vatican have joined forces in a move reminiscent of the Holy Roman Empire's dominance of Latin America in the 16th century.

BY GARETH FRASER

WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR, THE European Union and Latin America are set to sign one of the most comprehensive bilateral agreements ever witnessed between two continents.

Together they will create a dominant cross-Atlantic power bloc linked by trade, mutual economic interest, and social, political and religious affinity.

What so few understand is that the key players behind the scenes in the creation of this massive trade bloc have worked patiently for over 50 years to see their master plan implemented.

In fact, the groundwork was laid during a secret meeting of a number of Germany's principal industrialists in Strasbourg, France, in August 1944. At this meeting, plans were drafted for the repatriation of German funds to other countries in preparation for the development of a new German empire based on global trade and investment.

There followed the establishment of the Vatican "ratlines," an interconnection of underground safe houses and transit routes whereby SS officers and Nazi Party members escaped from Europe only to turn up in foreign countries under a new name, complete with a new identity. Many of these senior

Nazi party members headed for Latin America. Once ensconced in their new abodes, they became respectable businessmen or technocrats attached to some of global business's most respected names. Others were involved in training the military and security forces of various dictators in Latin America as that continent headed into its revolutionary phase of coup and countercoup following World War II. Many supplied support as secret service agents during the Cold War when the Soviet Union was involved in trying to destabilize the region.

Ironically, this was often done with the support of the U.S. in the interests of waging the Cold War against the Soviets. In other instances, the Americans simply turned a blind eye, as long as they continued to receive intelligence from these agents, who were in fact working toward their own fascist ends.

Inroads

By the late 1940s, German officers had largely penetrated the military and security forces of Argentina. Krupp's industrial strength was well established in Brazil. Hitler's Croat "Ustashi" Chief Ante Pavelic was heavily influencing security in Paraguay. Nazi intelligence agents populated IG Farben (Bayer) in Chile and Venezuela, and Nazi Party

who don't remember history are destined to repeat it, as Santayana said.

This becomes especially important when considering the PROPHEMIC perspective. The Bible shows that Germany will once more disturb the peace by its classic desire for a reich. Europe, far from being the deterrent that Asia is to Japan, will be at Germany's side either willingly or by coercion, as in the past, while the Anglo-American nations of the U.S., Britain and others fall victim.

.....
When it's all said and done—people will look back on the final world war, as they did at the end of World War II, and wonder, *Why didn't we see it coming?*

Almighty God, the greatest historian and long-term visionary, foresaw this coming war. He also took into account the fact that the Western mind would allow, and even AID, the Germans—that some nations once opposing Germany would JOIN WITH IT in a powerful political, economic and military union—while others would be betrayed and defeated.

This is not to say that Asia's firm grip on war memories will keep Japan down forever. Nor is this to say that a clear historical perspective alone would save us from destruction. It would require ridding ourselves of the naïveté, idleness and pride that causes us to forget the LESSONS of history!

History is teaching us something. And it is showing us exactly what is *prophesied* to happen. When it's all said and done—people will look back on the final world war, as they did at the end of World War II, and wonder, *Why didn't we see it coming?*

A more long-term perspective is far from enough. We need God's perspective. We need the foresight to ask, *Why would God allow such destruction to come upon us? How can we be protected from such atrocities?* And that is something that no one but GOD can show us. ◆

theTrumpet.com

For more, see "A Law of History" in our booklet *The Former Prophets under Literature.*



OVERTURES The EU is trying to improve relations with the Mercosur trade block, as EU officials' July 2002 three-day visit to Brazil showed.

organizers of Brueckmann & Co. were firmly on the ground in Ecuador.

Since then, German businesses, their path often smoothed by agents of the Holy See, have increasingly led the penetration of the European Union into key industrial, agricultural and commercial industries within Latin America. German corporate giants such as Krupp, Siemens, Bayer, Volkswagen, I.G. Farben and Deutsche Bank steadily became household names across the Central American isthmus, through that crossroads of intrigue, Panama, and clear down to southern Chile and Argentina.

From the time of Germany's reunification and the resultant push for a stronger political voice on the world stage, the EU has stepped up its infiltration of Latin America. Earlier this year it even established an office in Cuba, right on the U.S.'s back doorstep (see "Communism to Catholicism?" in our May issue).

EU and Mercosur

On November 25, 1999, after signing a historic free-trade agreement with Mexico, the EU announced that it was working to conclude formal talks toward a free-trade pact with the entire Latin American region, thus combining what is known as the Rio Group (which includes Central America, the Andean Community and Mercosur) with Cariforum (which includes all Caribbean countries). The crowning jewel, however, is clearly the Latin American common market—Mercosur. Since that time, both sides have moved rapidly toward the 2004 deadline for signing a formal agreement on free trade.

Mercosur is a vast economic bloc incorporating Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay with Chile and Bolivia as associate members. It is actually based upon the EU common market model, but without the supranational institutions. The EU has long planned to use an agreement with the us\$1 trillion Mercosur market to gain control of the region. The EU-Mercosur free-trade agreement will cover 90 percent of two-way trade. This new "strategic alliance" directly usurps U.S. efforts to garner greater economic prosperity from the region.

Brazil and Argentina have the greatest bilateral trade among Mercosur members. Both countries, present-

ly being stimulated to economic recovery, are set to dominate the southern continent's relations with the EU. Significantly, the newly elected German Catholic leader of Argentina, Nestor Kirchner, has declared support of EU-Latin America trade relations in preference to any trade deals with the U.S.-dominated free trade association.

Last March, EU Commissioner for External Relations Chris Patten and EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy, alongside EU foreign ministers, met in Athens, Greece, with their Latin American counterparts from the Rio Group, Mercosur, the Andean Community, Mexico and Chile. Understandings were reached that will propel developments forward in anticipation of a summit meeting in Mexico between Latino countries and the EU to cement a common trade policy next year.

The EU is working feverishly to establish itself as the top trading partner and investor in Latin America, taking advantage of the region's economic and political weakness as it struggles to find its feet following decades of instability and the boom-and-bust era of the 1990s. During that decade, international banks with swollen coffers flooded the region with capital, without first ensuring adequate structural reform in the Latino countries. The result was a blowout of debt in most of their economies to the point that they now kneel at the altar of their benefactors, pleading for favorable back-out terms. This has put many countries in the region at the mercy of anyone who offers the incentive of continuing investment, grants or financial aid, without significant strings attached. Thus the EU finds itself in a position of considerable power.

The EU is currently Mercosur's main trading partner, accounting for 33 percent of its trade imports and 30 percent of its total exports in 1998. Overall trade between the two blocks that year exceeded 49 billion euros (us\$57 billion).

The establishment of a cross-Atlantic free trade area would enable a greater flow of EU exports, which are currently subject to high duties and in-

ternal taxes. According to EU officials, the EU-Mercosur free-trade area could result in additional annual profits of more than 6 billion euros (us\$7 billion) for the Europeans and nearly 5 billion (us\$5.9 billion) for Mercosur.

In the European Commission's June 1999 report "European Union, Latin America, Caribbean—Advancing Together," it is noted that the driving force in Euro-Latin trade in the past decade has been a comprehensive document generated in 1994 "under the impetus of the German presidency." As the *Trumpet* has previously reported, it happens so often that where Germany leads, Europe follows. It comes as no real shock that German exports and imports to and from Latin America far outweigh those of all other EU member states.

Europe's exports to Latin America grew by 164 percent between 1989 and 1999, while Latin exports to EU countries rose by 29 percent. Over half of all of Latin American financial aid came from EU coffers. The EU is also the largest donor of bilateral official development assistance to the region. Not surprisingly, the same EU report boldly claimed that, as a "partner of the European Commission, the EIB [European Investment Bank] has become one of the principal European players on the subcontinent."

In perhaps the most powerful statement in the report, the EU declared, "The *European alternative* can thus represent a viable counterweight to what is sometimes perceived as *excessive economic and political dependence*." The European Commission is referring to a dependency on the U.S.—Latin America's largest trade partner until being overtaken by the EU.

In May 1962, Herbert Armstrong's *Plain Truth* magazine declared, "[T]he United States is going to be left out in the cold as two GIGANTIC TRADE BLOCS, EUROPE and LATIN AMERICA, mesh together and begin calling the shots in world commerce."

The *Plain Truth* cautioned its readers in its April 1966 issue, "Can you see

■ MERCOSUR members
■ Associate members



why we warn readers that the Latin American Common Market and the Central American Common Market are dangerously close to becoming partners with the European Common Market?

"Can you see these giant combines are dangerously close to turning their backs on America and Britain, once and for all? Can you see why we warn you that the Nazis—hiding out all over South America—are dangerously close to rising again ...?"

The facts are in! The passage of time has proved Mr. Armstrong absolutely right! The old generation of *underground* Nazis is now dying out. But their Latin American legacy lives on, being passed to the men in gray flannel suits who continue to traverse the Atlantic *above ground* in pursuit of their global corporatist empire.

The Vatican Connection

Let us now note the role that religion is playing in this partnership.

Catholic roots in South America go back to the discovery of America in the 15th century, when the Vatican-inspired evangelization of the entire Western hemisphere was set in motion. Still, what so many foreign-policy gurus failed to see during the Cold War was that *religion* would be the force that subsumed the empty, godless ideology of communism, with its abject failure to promise any vision beyond a limited life of hard labor for little return.

It took the right man at the right moment to bring that point powerfully home to foreign-policy circles around the world. The man was Karol Wojtyla, a Polish candidate for the papacy; the moment was just when the strain of forcing a moribund economy to compete with the power of the mighty U.S.'s free economy began to show cracks in the USSR's armor. The rest is history. But of particular note is that this Polish pope chose *Mexico* as the object of his first overseas visit upon gaining office in 1978.

Immediately upon his ascension to the papal throne, Pope John Paul II commenced a campaign to rid the church in Latin America of the liberalism that had penetrated it under Communist influence. He started at the U.S. southern border and worked south from there. By the end of the century he had achieved his aim. With

the liberals largely removed, the Vatican had consolidated Latin America's most powerful link with Europe: the force of religion.

South America is the only continent on Earth dominated by a single universal religion—Roman Catholicism. The fear of purgatory for the mass of Catholics is much more potent than is the fear of deprivation or loss in this present life. This gives the Vatican powerful control over the collective minds of its Latino adherents.

The Vatican is fully cognizant of the fact that *more than half* of the world's Roman Catholics live in Latin America! Pope John Paul II recognizes the centuries-old power and influence that Catholicism had upon the Spanish-Portuguese world. During his tenure of office, the present pope has visited almost every country in South America. He instigated a great new wave of evangeliza-

tion in the region, perhaps the most concentrated effort in centuries to call the sheep back to the Roman fold. He has traversed backward and forward across the Latino zone in an effort to stabilize the region in preparation for the fulfillment of his vision of a revived "Holy" Roman colonial empire.

No geographic area outside of Europe is more aligned with the Vatican today than the Mercosur countries. With an office in every Latino country, the Holy See maintains a dominant and influential presence in the region. "To speak of Latin America means to recognize ourselves in a singular fraternity that is based on common origins," said Guzman Carriquiry, undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for the Laity. "Our roots are Christian. Our culture is Christian. Catholicism will be the decisive factor for national construction and for Latin America's

Ships of Tarshish

BIBLICAL TARSHISH SPLIT EAST AND WEST. The eastern family founded the Japanese nation. With the discovery of the New World, many thousands of the people of western Tarshish (mainly modern Spain and Portugal) moved westward across the Atlantic. Today, there are more people of Spanish and Portuguese blood in Latin America than in Europe.

The people of Tarshish have always been important seafarers. King Solomon's fleets were named "the ships of Tarshish."

Who has not heard of the Spanish armada that almost conquered Britain in 1588, or the famous "discoverer" of America, Spanish Admiral Christopher Columbus?

The ships of Tarshish are prophesied, along with other great fleets of the modern world, to be major haulers of goods to and from the gigantic European Union, which is called in prophecy the "marketplace for the nations" (Isa. 23:3, New King James Version).

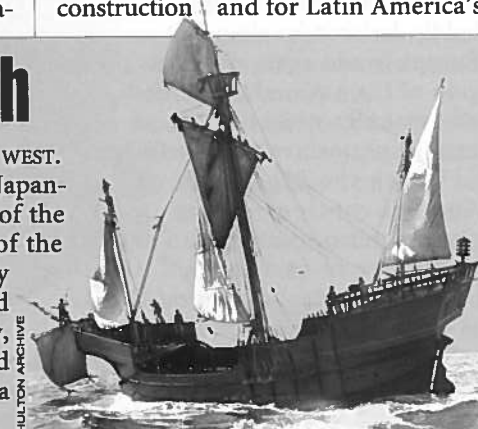
Notice the role that the Latinos will play: "Tarshish was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of all kind of riches; with silver, iron, tin, and lead, they traded in thy fairs" (Ezek. 27:12).

In July 1965, the *Plain Truth* warned of what was coming. "Flowing across the Atlantic to feed the hungry furnaces of the Ruhr and the other industrial complexes of Europe will come the rich mineral resources of Latin America."

South America, rich in natural resources, is an attractive smorgasbord for resource-hungry Europeans. Silver from Mexico and Peru, tin from Bolivia and iron ore from Venezuela and Brazil will enrich the European colossus. Europe needs a steady supply of these and other raw materials, which Latin America can provide in abundance.

Do you see the seriousness of the developing EU-Mercosur combine?

Just as when an earlier Holy Roman Empire held sway, the Vatican and the EU are busy reviving that old institution to reach out once again across the Atlantic and capitalize on the wealth of the Americas.



FULL MAST The *Santa Maria*, a ship of the Spanish Admiral Christopher Columbus.

integration in world globalization” (ZENIT, April 2).

And now, after nine rounds of meetings led by the EU, what began as an effort by the underground, post-war Nazi movement to connect Latin America with Europe has steadily metamorphosed into a partnership centered upon “social similarities”—a recognition of the strength of the religious connection to the Catholic Church.

The EU and Latin America are more than just a trade duo. They are a religious, commercial and political partnership—and their time is ripe.

Where Is It Leading?

Remember, while Germany still lay in the ashes of defeat following World War II, Herbert Armstrong warned that it would again rise to power beneath the cloak of a uniting Europe. Looking through the lens of Bible prophecy, he boldly declared for almost 60 years that Europe would again dominate the region of Latin America, politically and economically, while the Vatican would exercise ultimate religious influence.

Watch the EU assault on Latin America continue and intensify. A signed agreement is expected in 2004.

We live in tumultuous times—times of great geopolitical earthquakes as old alliances between world powers collapse and new ones form. The *Trumpet*, in the tradition of Herbert Armstrong, continues to report these events as they happen. The whole world needs to know what is happening between Europe and Latin America! With Herbert W. Armstrong gone, only the *Trumpet* can tell you.

Britain and America have failed to heed the warning of the lone voice crying out in a wilderness of geopolitical confusion. They have continued in national disobedience to the supreme laws of God. As a result of their failure, their birthright promises are being stripped away; the Eurocombine, supported by a great false church, is prophesied to soon stride atop the world and enslave the English-speaking nations (Rev. 17).

Their only hope is to heed God’s end-time warning, yield themselves to His power and turn to God in national repentance and obedience. ◆

**Request your free copy of our booklet
The Rising Beast for more proof of the
currency of these end-time prophecies.**



LETTERS

Will Iraq Soon Fall to Iran?

“I have been monitoring the *Trumpet*’s predictions, especially in the Middle East. Now Iraq is falling to Iran with the help of the U.S.; and Israel may negotiate half of Jerusalem by placing its hope in the so-called ‘road map to peace.’”

Delta State, Nigeria

TODAY I RECEIVED MY ISSUE OF THE *Trumpet*. Let me just say this: Wow. Mr. Flurry, as usual, tells it like it is and backs it up with God’s words. After reading “Is Iraq About to Fall to Iran?” I know this world has been in a Code Orange status for a long time and will be until the return of Christ.

Montclair, N.J.

CONGRATULATIONS ON A SUPERB ARTICLE BY Ron Fraser. He has a realistic insight of the current role of Poland. Readers will be surprised further when the U.S. moves many of its military bases to Poland from Germany during the next 12 months.

Davie, Fla.

OF ALL THE TITLES FOR ARTICLES I HAVE read, “The Dream That Was Raised From the Ruins” is one of my favorite. It is not just meaningless words or an empty promise, but the words are backed by one of the most substantive messages I have actually witnessed. A down payment of what’s to come.

Email response, Edinburg, Tex.

Victory

TWO YEARS AGO, MR. FLURRY PROPHESED that the PCG would get the chance again to preach the message of *Mystery of the Ages*. But at that time I thought, it is impossible. I believed that we’d never get the chance to read Mr. Armstrong’s works. But of course, God works miracles. I am happily surprised to know that the PCG now owns the copyrights of Mr. Armstrong’s works. This is the best example of God’s miracles I have ever known in my life. Like God was behind Mr. Armstrong, now I feel His presence in the Philadelphia Church.

Jignesh, India

I CANNOT QUITE REMEMBER THE BOOKLET OR magazine I was reading some time ago in which Mr. Flurry said something like this: “I prophesy to you today that in one way

or another all the works of Mr. Armstrong will be made available to the public sooner or later.” The exact wording I can’t remember, but as I continued to receive my booklets and the *Trumpet*, I kept those words in mind. A few days ago I received the *Trumpet*, and on the front page, there in bold letters at the top, it said, “PCG Owns All Copyrights.” I was amazed and thrilled. Truly, this is just another proof that God is leading the PCG to do His work.

E-mail response, Australia

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE BOOK *Mystery of the Ages*, and I am surprised to see that there is still a church that prints the truths of the Bible. Most of the churches out there have thrown out the truth of the Bible to teach their doctrines and theories of men. I have received the *Trumpet* magazine for a couple of years, but I never really read it or paid much attention to it, because I am very skeptical about literature that I read. Also, I have never sent any financial support, yet the *Trumpet* always seems to be there in my mailbox. Now that I have read *Mystery of the Ages*, I will pay much more attention to the articles contained within the *Trumpet*.

Springhill, Fla.

THE ARTICLE BY RODNEY ATKINSON WAS superb. This issue was excellent, on the state of the world. It sure is hotting up, and there is a powder-keg about to blow!

E-mail response, Australia

Letters to the Editor must include the writer’s name and address and should be sent to The Trumpet, P.O. Box 1099, Edmond, OK 73083, or e-mailed to letters@theTrumpet.com. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

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MARK JENKINS

The Education Crisis

There is a real crisis in today's education—but what is it?

ONE THING THAT MOST EVERYONE, REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL affiliation, race or gender, can agree on is that education reform in our nations is critical. Yet, while everyone agrees that reform is necessary, they do not agree on what that reform should be. Moreover, not only do people disagree on a *solution*, but also there is little consensus on what the *problem* actually is.

Just what *is* the problem with today's educational system?

The budgets for public schools are abysmally low—but that isn't the real crisis. Even if all of the world's treasuries were granted to the educational system, the crisis would rage on. The masses would still be woefully undereducated.

In many cases, the child-to-teacher ratio is greatly unbalanced. Often there are too many children per classroom. Yet this is not the true crisis in education either. Five teachers to a single child still wouldn't solve the problem, because the teachers themselves are subject to the same crisis that the students are.

There is a tremendous debate raging about whether schools would be better off being state-run, under a voucher system, or altogether privatized. This too is ultimately irrelevant.

The world's education systems, even in the United States and other First World nations, often fail to teach even the most basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic. About 115 million primary-age children in the world are not even enrolled in school; 862 million adults are illiterate. And yet, even this tragedy is not at the core of the problem.

John Adams, the second U.S. president, said, "There are two educations. One should teach us how to make a living and the other how to live." The loss of this second type of education is at the heart of today's educational crisis!

Much of the time, our educational institutions adequately prepare modern youths to earn a decent income after high school or college. Yet, when it comes to instilling true standards, codes of conduct and right morals into the minds of pupils, our school instructors are, by and large, inept—simply because they have never received a true education in how to live by these living laws which govern success.

The crux of the educational crisis is this: Mankind has forgotten where true education comes from. Why? Because man has cut himself off from the *source* of true education—revelation from our Creator God about how to live.

Schools don't—and can't—offer their students true education in right living, because the Creator God has been forcibly shut out of the public school system. The precept of separation of Church and State, one intended to protect

freedom of religion, has been used to gradually eliminate religion as part of America's national identity.

And the phenomenon is not new. The choice to reject godly education is as old as man himself!

Bible history reveals that when the first man, Adam, chose to eat of the forbidden fruit, he rejected God as the true Revealer of knowledge. He observed his situation, used

his own human reasoning to determine that he could eat of that fruit, and then conducted the first-ever human "scientific" experiment to see what would happen. Adam's offspring have been doing the same thing ever since—relying on observation, experimentation and human reason for the acquisition of material knowledge.

A frank look at today's educational systems shows that humans continue to experiment with no foundation for knowledge.

People continue to teach erroneous conclusions based on their false premises.

No wonder there is an education crisis! When you start with a wrong premise, you will get a wrong result every time.

God's Word, the Bible, provides basic instruction on every topic that could possibly be taught at any school—science, architecture, farming, finances, etc. It provides the necessary *foundation* God intended us to build upon. Yet, mankind as a whole has rejected the revealed truths contained in the Bible as a basis for how to live. And so, he doesn't know how to properly conduct himself. If we don't know how to *live*, how can we possibly know how to *educate*?

However, humanity's rejection of the Almighty God doesn't have to stop you and your family from receiving godly education. God wants you to have the best education possible!

But be warned. There is no four-year diploma granting you a godly education. A doctorate won't provide it either. Becoming a professor in this world's leading institutions does not guarantee that you yourself are truly educated.

The only thing that will make you truly educated is revelation from God. He is the only source and foundation of all true knowledge.

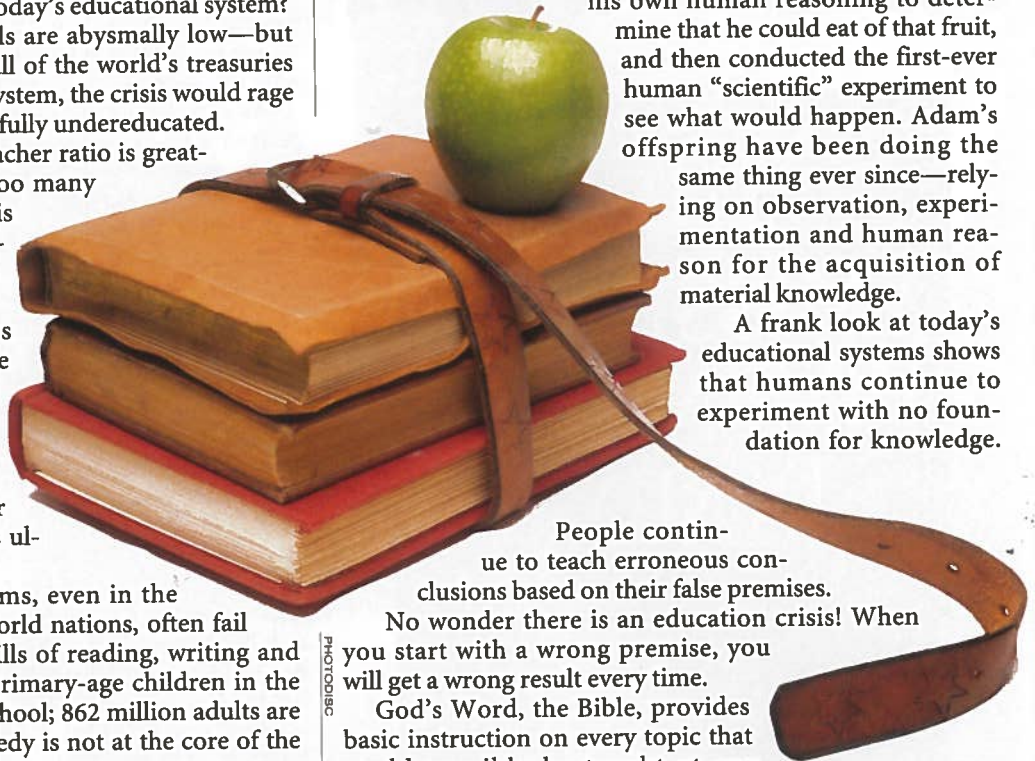
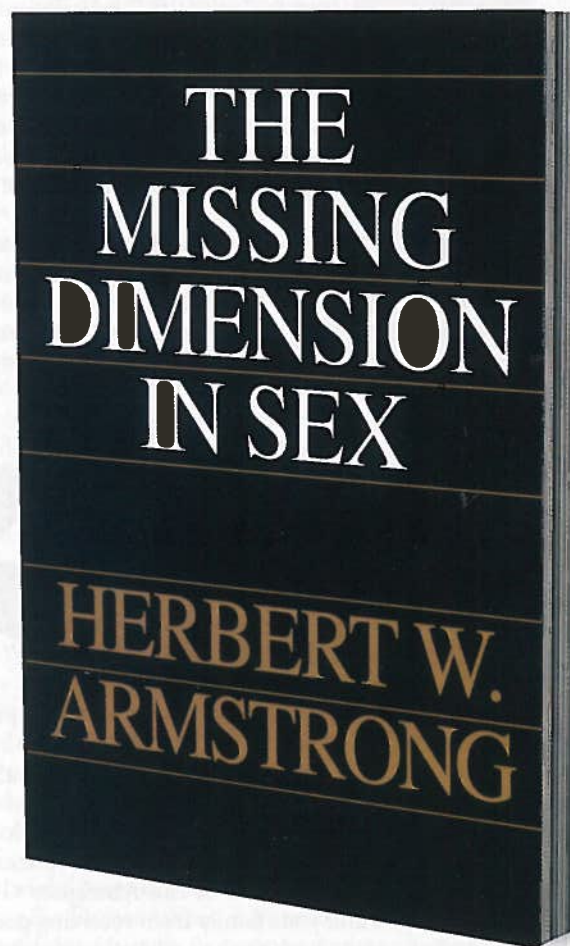


PHOTO: BOB

For more on true education, request your free copy of **The Missing Dimension In Sex**, or read it online at www.theTrumpet.com.

YOU NEED THIS BOOK!



IF EVER THE WESTERN WORLD NEEDED A BOOK, IT NEEDS THIS one now! In no area of human life has there been such drastic social change as in that of SEX.

The so-called New Morality, first unleashed by World War I, intensified by World War II, completely KO'd Western civilization during the decades of the 1950s, '60s and '70s.

Prior to the First World War, it was illegal in the United States to publish, sell or distribute a book of instruction on the subject of sex. After World War I an avalanche of books, pamphlets, magazine and newspaper articles, teachings on sex, descended on the public. Sex has been hurled at the public in every manner—in movies, in television, in all advertising, in TV commercials.

Yet in all this, *the most vitally needed dimension of knowledge was missing.*

As everywhere sex came to be freely talked about, morals relaxed. The "New Morality" became accepted by society. Divorces escalated. Family and home life became almost nonexistent—yet a solid family structure is the very foundation of a stable and enduring society.

There has floated abroad the delusion that whatever is new and different is "more progressive" and "modern," and therefore better. Far more often it is retrogression!

The *purposes* and true *meaning* of both sex and marriage are extremely vital to know. Regardless of how much knowledge the reader may have acquired on the subject, he will find much that is new to him in this book—and he will come to see this entire subject in an entirely new light.

We have tried to make this text as plain and understandable as it is frank. We have endeavored to make it easy to read. This work has been produced out of genuine concern and deep compassion for a humanity *robbed* by false teachings, as well as by ignorance, of the joys, the delights and the rich blessings which have been made possible. But these may be OURS today, if only we will open our minds to receive what has been missing until now.

Read and reread it, from beginning to end, with a clean heart, a right spirit and an understanding mind!—and you will be richly rewarded.

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG



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