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THE TRUMPET WEEKLY

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## ISIS Attacks Christians in Mosul

BY RICHARD PALMER

**"Y**OU HAVE heard what we cannot recount without deep sorrow how, with great hurt and dire sufferings our Christian brothers, members in Christ, are scourged, oppressed and injured in ... the ... cities of

the East. Your own blood brothers, your companions, your associates ... are either subjected in their inherited homes to other masters, or are driven from them ....

see **CHRISTIAN** page 12



Iraqi Christians who fled from violence in the northern city of Mosul pray at MarAfram church in a village east of Mosul.



**STEPHEN FLURRY**

## Why So Much Hatred for Jews?

The 'new' anti-Semitism goes much deeper than you think.



## Thousands March to East Jerusalem

**THE HUFFINGTON POST** | July 25

**A**T LEAST two people have died and more than 200 have been injured as Palestinians marched from Ramallah to East Jerusalem to protest against the Israeli campaign in Gaza. Organized by President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah movement, more than 10,000 people are estimated to have taken part in the uprising, which was met by resistance from Israeli forces as it approached East Jerusalem. The event is being tweeted under the hashtag #48kMarch.

Further protests in the West Bank and East Jerusalem are expected following noon prayers on Friday, the last Friday of Ramadan, after the Palestinian Authority called for a "day of rage" over the bloodshed in Gaza.

Israeli media is reporting that the latest West Bank demonstration is the largest protest since the Second Intifada, which ended in 2005. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) reportedly

employed "riot dispersal means" in an attempt to disrupt the demonstration. ...

An Israeli Army spokeswoman told the Agence France-Presse (AFP) ...: "There are thousands of rioters there. They are rolling burning tires and throwing Molotov cocktails and fireworks at soldiers and border police.

"The soldiers are responding with riot disposal means."

According to Reuters, protests also broke out within the city of Jerusalem, close to the al-Aqsa Mosque. Israel launched its offensive on July 8 to stem the tide of rockets fired into the Israeli heartland from the Gaza Strip. Earlier on Thursday, 15 Palestinians were killed when a UN-operated school within Gaza was struck by shells. ...

The protests came ahead of a meeting of Israel's security cabinet to discuss a U.S.-drafted proposal for a ceasefire in Gaza, Israeli public radio said.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said he was "appalled" by the attack on the UN school.

Speaking in Cairo ahead of talks

with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, he said: "I was shocked and appalled by what has happened in Beit Hanoun. It is totally unacceptable."

## Rockets Found in Second UN School

**THE WIRE** | July 22

**W**E'RE OFFICIALLY through the looking glass here with rockets and United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) schools in Gaza. For the second time in a week, the United Nations agency disclosed that rockets were discovered in one of their vacant schools. ...

This time, though, it was a little bit different. The rockets were being stored in a facility within close proximity of roughly 3,000 displaced Palestinians.

[From the UNRWA statement:] "The school is situated between two other UNRWA schools that currently each accommodate 1,500 internally displaced persons."

If you're looking to confirm the oft-repeated Israeli narrative that Hamas and terrorist groups in Gaza endanger Gazans by hiding weapons among the civilian population, then this episode is your smoking missile. Throw in a second incident involving a United Nations agency that is criticized by Israel for its seeming bias and you've got absurdity that would make Samuel Beckett blush.

As the Israeli Foreign Ministry told *The Times of Israel*: "How many more schools will have to be abused by Hamas missile squads before the international community will intervene? How many times can it turn its head the other way and pretend that it just doesn't see?"

As we noted yesterday, UNRWA came under fire last week not only after rockets were discovered in a vacant school, but also as its critics accused the agency of turning the rockets over to "local authorities," which in Hamas-run Gaza, could mean the

# Obama to the Rescue—of Hamas

Caroline Glick, **REAL CLEAR POLITICS** | July 23

**O**PERATION PROTECTIVE Edge is now two weeks old. Since the ground offensive began Thursday night, we have begun to get a better picture of just how dangerous Hamas has become in the nine years since Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip. And what we have learned is that the time has come to take care of this problem. It cannot be allowed to fester or grow anymore.

We have known for years that tunnels were a central component of Hamas's logistical infrastructure.

What began as the primary means of smuggling weapons, trainers and other war material from Hamas's sponsors abroad developed rapidly into a strategic tool of offensive warfare against Israel.

As we have seen from the heavily armed Hamas commando squads that have infiltrated into Israel from tunnels since the start of the current round of warfare, the first goal of these offensive tunnels is to deploy terrorists into Israel to massacre Israelis.

But the tunnels facilitate other terror missions as well. Israel has found tunnels with shafts rigged with bombs located directly under Israeli kindergartens. ... Other exposed shafts showed Hamas's continued intense interest in hostage taking. ... Today the presence of sedatives and multiple sets of handcuffs for neutralizing hostages found in tunnel after tunnel indicate that Hamas intends to abduct several Israelis at once and spirit them back to Gaza. ...

Hamas's tunnels are also the key component of their command and control infrastructure inside Gaza. Hamas's political and military commanders are hiding in them. The reinforced bunkers and tunnel complexes enable Hamas's senior leadership to move with relative freedom and continue planning and ordering attacks. ...

As a member of the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas is not a stand-alone terror group. It is part of a much larger web of Islamic jihadist terror groups including al Qaeda and its affiliates as well as the Shiite Hezbollah. Like Hamas, all of these threaten several major Sunni Arab states.

Due to their recognition of the threat Hamas and its allies pose to the survivability of their regimes, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have taken the unprecedented

step of supporting Israel's efforts to defeat Hamas.

They understand that a decisive Israeli blow against Hamas in Gaza will directly benefit them. Not only will Hamas be weakened, but its state sponsors and terrorist comrades will be weakened as well.

Presently, Hamas's most outspoken state sponsors are Qatar and Turkey. ...

By Tuesday morning, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in Gaza had destroyed 23 tunnels. The number of additional tunnels is still unknown. While Israel had killed 183 terrorists, it appeared that most of the terrorists killed were in the low to middle ranks of Hamas's leadership hierarchy.

Hamas's senior commanders, as well as its political leadership have hunkered down in hidden tunnel complexes.

In other words, Israel is making good progress. But it hasn't completed its missions. It needs several more days of hard fighting.

Recognizing this, Israel's newfound Muslim allies have not been pushing for a ceasefire.

In contrast, the Obama administration is insisting on concluding a ceasefire immediately. ...

To advance this goal, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in Cairo on Monday night with an aggressive plan to force on Israel a ceasefire Hamas and its state sponsors will accept.

As former ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren told the media, it is clear that neither Israel nor Egypt invited Kerry to come over. Their avoidance of Kerry signals clearly that the U.S.'s two most important allies in the Middle East do not trust U.S. President Barack Obama's intentions.

And their distrust is entirely reasonable. ...

Chances that Kerry will secure a ceasefire in the near future are small. In all likelihood, the government will be able to buy the time necessary to complete the mission in whole or large part. But the fact that the U.S. has chosen at this juncture in the operation—with Israel enjoying unprecedented support from the most important Sunni states in the region—to side with Hamas and its state sponsors in their demand for an immediate ceasefire speaks volumes about the transformation of U.S. foreign policy under Obama's leadership.

rockets went right back into circulation.

## The Only Solution Is Israel's Destruction

**DAILY CALLER** | July 23

**I**RAN'S SUPREME leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, stated on Wednesday that the only solution for the region is the destruction of Israel, and that the

armed confrontation must expand beyond Gaza. ...

Fars News Agency, a media outlet run by the Iranian state, reported today that Khamenei addressed the conflict in Gaza in a meeting with Iranian college students. "These crimes, which are beyond imagination and show the true nature of the wolfish and child-killer regime, [show] the only solution is its destruction," the ayatollah declared to his audience. "However, until that time, the expansion of the armed

resistance of the Palestinians of the West Bank is the only way to confront this wild regime."

Khamenei then criticized America, claiming its defense of Israel is "shameful," and suggested that its support affects Iran's behavior towards America.

"The anti-American and anti-West view in Iran is a logical view based on experience and a righteous calculation," he said. ...

He then emphasized, "As said by

Imam Khomeini [the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran] Israel must be destroyed. ... However, until that time with the help of God for this cruel and murderous regime to be destroyed, strong confrontation with steadfast armed resistance is the only solution against this destructive regime.” ...

“We believe that the West Bank needs to be armed just like Gaza and those interested in the future of Palestine must become active in this field [guerrilla warfare] so that the suffering of the Palestinian people through their strength and their weakness due to the Zionist regime is reduced,” he said. “Some Western countries, including America and filthy England, defend with clarity the crimes that no ordinary person would. The president of America, in the face of these child killings, destruction, torture and suffering of the people in Gaza, with a comical logic states that Israel has the right to defend itself! Don’t the Palestinians have the right to defend their lives and security?” ...

In related news, the Revolutionary Guards revealed that they have made

missiles capable of penetrating Israel’s Iron Dome.

The missile, named Hormoz 1, is claimed to be the first anti-radar ballistic missile to be able to penetrate and destroy missile defense systems such as the Iron Dome and America’s Patriot missile system. The missile has a speed of Mach 5 and can pinpoint a target from a very long distance. The Guards claim the missile can now destroy the Iron Dome, as well as any Patriot missile defense system, and that the missile could be used to attack the radar systems of U.S. vessels and carriers in the Persian Gulf.

In continuation of negotiations in Geneva between the P5+1 [United States, Russia, China, United Kingdom, France and Germany], and Iran, a four month extension to the original agreement was agreed upon to find a peaceful solution to Iran’s nuclear program. In return for the agreement on the extension, the Islamic regime will receive \$2.8 billion in six installments. The Islamic regime had received \$7 billion after the negotiated agreement in November 2013 with a six-month

deadline to finalize the agreement, but has so far refused to back down from its demand to continue developing its nuclear program.

A recent report suggests that the Islamic Republic has yet to address the concerns of the International Atomic Agency on work developing detonators used as an explosive device for atomic bombs. The regime, which originally denied such work, has stated the experiment is for civilian purposes.

## Syria’s ‘Deadliest Week’

**BBC** | July 23

**I**T HAS been described as one of the most deadly weeks in Syria since fighting began three years ago.

More than 1,700 people have been killed in seven days as fighting intensified after President [Bashar] Assad was sworn in for a third term.

Fighters for the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) have been accused of killing many government troops in a battle at a gas field. ...

## EUROPE

### Reflections on German World Cup Victory

**Richard Palmer** | July 24

**“W**ELCOME TO the German Century,” declares the July 25 cover of *Newsweek*’s Europe edition. When Germany won the World Cup on July 13, it provoked the usual global discussion on what it says about the victor. For Germany, the verdict is very positive.

“Spot a problem. Analyze it. Solve it.” That’s the German way, *Newsweek* writes. “The German way of doing things that emerged out of the ashes” of two world wars “has not only been deemed acceptable neither hated nor feared—it is also emerging as the best path forward for Europe, the West, the world,” the article states.

Meanwhile, *Bloomberg* points to the considerable power Germany has already, noting that “the victory is a symbol of the country’s resurgence” in an article titled “Germans, New Masters of the World” (July 14).

“Berlin, not Brussels, is the true political capital” of the EU, Berlin-based journalist Leonid Bershidsky writes.

In Germany, people partied “in celebration of their soccer victory, but perhaps also of something bigger: a new, non-threatening pride and confidence that Germany has allowed itself to feel now that it is finally one strong



German fans prior to the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil

country again,” Bershidsky concludes.

Germany’s *Spiegel* magazine picks up on this same theme. “Germans discovered a new lightness of being in the run-up to their World Cup victory,” begins their July 14 cover article. “It’s a shift apparent not only in football. Increasingly confident and content, Germany is emerging from the dark shadows of its past, but its global role





**GERALD FLURRY**

## Germany's Break From America

Germany and the United States were enemies in World Wars I and II. But for the past 70 years, they have been close allies. That relationship is now changing.



remains elusive.”

Germany “is still searching for its role in the global community,” *Spiegel* wrote in another article in the same issue. “Should it sit quietly in the corner or should it take on a leadership role reflective of its size and economic strength? What is missing is a national team coach, one that stipulates a clear path forward.”

That’s what the *Trumpet* has been saying for years. Germany easily has the power to be one of the world’s leading nations, but it lacks a “team coach” to give the nation the vision of what to do with that power.

But even without that national coach, Germany’s World Cup victory, with the sportsmanlike conduct of its players and gracious treatment of its Brazilian hosts, has confirmed the world’s view of Germany as one of the nicest and most effective nations.

It seems churlish to say it, especially after so much well-deserved praise for Germany, but there are some major reasons to be cautious, as *Trumpet* columnist Brad Macdonald noted in our December 2013 cover article “[We’re All Falling in Love With Germany.](#)”

By all accounts, right now, Germany is a wonderful nation. It sets a

better example than Britain and the United States in so many areas. But, as Mr. Macdonald warns, we cannot be “mesmerized by the moment.” Read that article for a much more in-depth analysis of the dangers involved when we look at Germany’s current standing in historical context.

## EU Sanctions Threaten to Shut Russia Out of the World Economy

**Ambrose Evans Pritchard,**  
**TELEGRAPH** | July 24

**H**ERE is the EU sanctions document under furious debate today ....

Note the heading “Non paper.” It is leaked, not authorized. This is a menu of options. It requires unanimous backing of the 28 ambassadors. Any one country can veto it. Cyprus may find it too much to swallow, and will need a lot of sugar to help it go down.

The MICEX (Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange) index of stocks in Moscow rallied in the mid-morning session and is level for the day. The state-owned banks VTB and Sberbank scarcely missed a beat. Investors are

clearly calculating that nothing will come of this. ...

I hope these investors have good political intelligence in Brussels, London, Paris, Berlin and Washington, because this looks a little cavalier to me—rather like those who continued to buy the dips even after the Austro-Hungarian Empire issued its ultimatum to Serbia in July 1914.

The document makes clear that the aim is to force Russian banks into the arms of the state, bleeding the Russian budget and reserves. This really is “tier III” level. It hammers the whole financial system.

Basically they say there is no way for Russia to get around this if the EU and the U.S. work together. I broadly agree, though it depends on what China does. It takes three to tango, these days. ...

The document prohibits any EU person investing in equity or debt beyond 90 days’ maturity issued by any Russian financial institution that is more than 50 percent owned by the Russian state. ...

The paper acknowledges that the “direct negative impact” would fall most heavily on financial centers, i.e., London, Luxembourg, Cyprus. It does not target the energy sector. This shields East European states with 100 percent dependence on Russian gas.

Italy and Germany get off lightly in one sense, but they will suffer secondary effects from the damage to the Russian economy. In the end, the pain is spread around.

The ban on technology will stop “projects in deep sea drilling, arctic exploration and shale oil.” This would stop BP going ahead with its Rosneft shale venture in the Volga Urals, and would largely kill off Russia’s shale ambitions since its extraction costs are far too high to make fracking worthwhile. They need Western know-how and technology. ...

### **TW** IN BRIEF

#### ■ **Ukrainian government collapses**

Two parties have pulled out of Ukraine’s ruling coalition, a move that will probably force the

government to hold snap elections in October. Leader of the nationalist Svoboda party, Oleh Tyahnybok, said he was withdrawing from the government because “we believe that in the current situation, such a parliament

which protects state criminals [and] Moscow agents, which refuses to strip immunity from those people who are working for the Kremlin, should not exist.” Vitaly Klitschko, the former boxing champion with close links

to Germany’s Christian Democratic Union party also led his Udar (Punch) party out of the coalition. Ukraine now has 30 days to form a new coalition. If that doesn’t happen, it will have to hold new elections.

## ASIA

### Russia’s Role in India and China’s New Entente

**RUSSIA AND INDIA REPORT** | July 24

INDIAN PRIME Minister Narendra Modi’s meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the sidelines of the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) summit in Brazil last week has drawn considerable attention, certainly for good. The meeting provides clues about the direction of the relations between the two neighbors, relations between which belie a steady pattern. Russia has long eyed warming of ties between the two Asian giants.

Xi’s invitation to Modi to participate in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), a premier economic body in the Asia-Pacific, has led to considerable speculation about China’s real motives. Xi also invited India to be a founding member of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. How far are these invitations backed by genuine political power of China? Is the Chinese invitation a shrewd move to moderate some of India’s positions? Is it a move for a trade-off?

There is speculation that China might have offered some concessions to India to bag the key deal—establishing the bank in Shanghai. But a China-India trade-off is not that easy as it is constrained by procedural as well as political hurdles. ...

Perhaps Russia is best suited to play a balancer in this case. Close to India and China, and a key player in APEC and BRICS and regional organizations such as Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Russia will be positioned not only to forward the interests of India but also help broker a deal between India and China.

Russia has supported India’s bid for candidature for many international and regional organizations including United Nations Security Council and SCO, even to the dislike of China. Particularly in case of SCO, it is believed that

India’s membership is withheld due to Chinese prevarication. Xi, during his meeting with Modi, called for India’s active role in the regional organization. But it is yet unclear whether Xi would support India’s membership of SCO.

Russia’s role in crafting symmetry in India-China relations will be crucial. ...

What role can Russia play in this new environment? Besides meeting Xi, Modi also met Russian President Vladimir Putin. Russia is a known strategic partner of India and China, and has been consistent in supporting India’s political ambitions. Add to this China’s willingness to support India in its bid for membership for APEC and SCO, [and] the international politics will come to a full circle with [the] possible rising of a new order. ...

**“China and India have made their pro-Putin stances quite clear. This means that rallied behind Vladimir Putin and Russia’s 144 million people, potentially stand China’s 1.36 billion and India’s 1.24 billion. Backing Moscow’s second-most powerful military in the world—potentially stand China and India with the third- and fourth-most powerful military forces. Alongside Russia’s 8,400 nuclear weapons, may be China’s 240 and India’s 100. Of course, the statements from China and India in support of Putin’s invasion don’t equate to solidified military unity between the three powers, but they do provide strong indication of where Beijing and Delhi would throw their weight in the event of escalation.”**

**—Trumpet, March 2013**

**Related: “Don’t Worry, Putin, Asia Has Your Back”**

### Fighters Had Buk Missile

**REUTERS** | July 23

A POWERFUL Ukrainian rebel leader has confirmed that pro-Russia separatists had an anti-aircraft missile of the type Washington says

was used to shoot down Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 and it could have originated in Russia.

In an interview with Reuters, Alexander Khodakovsky, commander of the Vostok Battalion, acknowledged for the first time since the airliner was brought down in eastern Ukraine on Thursday that the rebels did possess

the Buk missile system and said it could have been sent back subsequently to remove proof of its presence.

Before the Malaysian plane was shot down, rebels had boasted of obtaining the Buk missiles, which can shoot down airliners at cruising height. But since the disaster, the separatists’ main group, the

self-proclaimed People's Republic of Donetsk, has repeatedly denied ever having possessed such weapons.

Since the airliner crashed with the loss of all 298 on board, the most contentious issue has been who fired the missile that brought the jet down in an area where government forces are fighting pro-Russia rebels. ...

Eileen Lainez, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said Khodakovsky's remarks confirmed what U.S. officials had long been saying, that "Russian-backed separatists have received arms, training and support from Russia." ...

"While we may not yet know who actually fired the missile, we have assessed that it was an SA-11 and that it came from a Russian-backed separatist-controlled area," Lainez said. U.S. President Barack Obama's administration has said it is convinced the airliner was brought down by an SA-11 ground-to-air missile fired from territory in eastern Ukraine controlled by pro-Russia separatists. ...

## Putin Passes Law Against Protests

WASHINGTON POST | July 22

**T**HINK THAT Red Square could eventually go the way of Kiev's Maidan? Not if the Kremlin has anything to say about it.

Protesting on the streets of Moscow or any other part of Russia, for that matter—will now not only cost a pretty penny, but also could land you behind bars, after Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday signed a law into effect criminalizing repeated street protests.

The law was one of a few measures Putin signed that are expected to increase the Russian government's ability to control public discourse and the free exchange of information.

There was never really any question that Putin would endorse the measures, which have been going through the lawmaking process for months. But he made the measures official on a day when he also convened the Russian Security Council to discuss threats to the territorial integrity of the country, and

at a time when international scrutiny is focused on what role Russia may or may not have played in the Ukrainian crisis that led to the shooting down of a Malaysia Airlines jet. ...

Under the new laws, protesters found guilty of "holding meetings, rallies, demonstrations, marches and pickets" multiple times during a six-month period will be eligible for a panoply of penalties, including fines ranging from 600,000 to 1 million rubles (US\$17,124 to \$28,540) or two years of salary and up to five years of forced labor or prison.

Putin also signed a law to increase prison time for people who publicly call for anything that might "violate the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation." Individuals can now receive up to four years in prison, instead of three, while appeals made via media and the Internet can bring about a five-year prison term.

Putin also signed a widely discussed law that will force any Internet company hoping to operate in Russia to store Russian clients' personal data inside the country.

But Russian opposition leaders seem pretty certain that no matter what Kremlin officials say, they'll do the opposite. "The Russian authorities are planning to rely on civil society, there will be no crackdown," read a tweet from Navalny's account Tuesday. "Now we'll all go to jail."

## The Real Story Behind Japan's Drone Boom

QUARTZ | July 21

**F**OR DECADES Japan has been the world's playground for design innovation. But now it may become ground zero for the future of something far more hostile: military drones.

The country has positioned itself as one of the unlikely players in the escalating global race for military drones, a move that's controversial both at home and abroad. A veteran Japanese politician even warned that the country's rearmament looked like "a kind of prewar revival." The United States has aided Tokyo in its efforts to rearm,

deploying two unarmed Global Hawk long-range surveillance drones in May to a base in northern Japan, which infuriated both China and North Korea.

Japan is now in a position it hasn't been in for nearly 70 years, when it gave up its right to engage in conflict outside its borders. The country is engaged in a bitter dispute with China over a set of islands that sit on resource-rich seabeds that each claims as its sovereign territory.

Japan is the third largest economy in the world, and the implications for both global peace and commerce could be widespread. ...

According to the country's 2014 defense budget, the increased investments in unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are necessary to "build defense capabilities to ensure security of the seas and airspace surrounding Japan, respond to an attack on remote islands"—a not-so-subtle reference to the disputed Senkaku Islands, or the Diaoyu as they are known in China. For Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, boosting investments in the nation's self-defense forces has been central to his policy of resisting Chinese aggression in the region.

A key long-term goal for Japan's booming drone program is to use these military UAVs abroad to protect the country's interests, said IHS Jane's senior analyst. However, until last month, this would have been illegal due to Article 9 of the nation's pacifist constitution, which explicitly prohibits belligerence. Prime Minister Abe clearly has a different agenda.

In June, Abe granted the nation's Self-Defense Forces more power when he gutted Article 9, the so-called "peace clause." Through a cabinet decision, Abe reinterpreted the article to allow greater use of military force to defend other countries. In doing so, he bypassed parliament and the typical requirement for a referendum for any change to the constitution. ...

Japan's drone situation isn't just a boom, it's a potential game changer with global implications.

**Related: "Does Japan's Historic Constitutional Change Mean Its Military Secret Will Soon Come Out?"**

## On the Verge of a New Credit Crunch?

Liam Halligan, **SPECTATOR** | July 26

**T**HERE'S NO shortage of commentators (and stockbrokers) insisting the outlook is rosy and share prices will keep on rising. And almost all political punditry assumes the UK economy is improving fast and, as next May's general election approaches, will get better still.

Yet alarming evidence is amassing that the global recovery is shaky, stock markets are overhyped and the large Western banks, for all the talk of reform, remain a serious liability. The reality, and it gives me no pleasure to write this, is that we could see a rerun of the ghastly credit crunch of 2007-2008.

America, still the world's largest economy by far, contracted sharply during the first quarter of this year. U.S. gross domestic product fell at an annual rate of 2.9 percent on official figures, the first drop we've seen since the dark days of 2011. The eurozone, meanwhile, remains on the brink of recession, with GDP across the 18-nation currency area expanding a mere 0.2 percent.

Despite this lack of growth, stock indices in the U.S. and across the Western world have repeatedly hit all-time highs in recent months. No matter that GDP is contracting or that U.S. first-quarter corporate earnings were down 3.4 percent. America's S&P 500, the world's most watched stock index, has broken its daily closing price record more than 20 times this year.

The reason, of course, is the Federal Reserve's money-printing machine. Since "quantitative easing" began in response to the late-2008 collapse of Lehman Brothers, the Fed has created thousands of billions of virtual dollars, with the Bank of England chipping in hundreds of billions of similarly computer-generated pounds. Much of this has

found its way into global stock markets, sending equity prices sky-high. Designed as an emergency measure, QE has since become a lifestyle choice, the financial and political equivalent of crack cocaine.

While the Fed has begun "tapering," slowing down the rate of its de facto money printing, the scale of QE remains vast, some \$45 billion a month. That's driven the absurd "bad news is good news" mantra that still dominates the thinking of investors on Wall Street and other major stock markets. Weak economic numbers make it more likely the Fed will relent and slow down or even reverse its tapering, turning up the funny-money dial, and thus stock prices, even more. Forget economic growth and forget corporate earnings. It's all about the Fed.

This blatant rigging of Western equity markets has gone on for several years, with stocks soaring despite weak economic fundamentals. ...

Systemic global risks today may be greater than before the Lehman crisis, the Bank for International Settlements warns, as debts have risen. Across the developed world, the average combined public and private debt ratio is at 275 percent of GDP, compared with 250 percent in 2007. ...

It's undeniable, for those willing to look, that numerous technical stockmarket indicators are now flashing red. ...

This autumn, as the end of Fed "tapering" and rising interest rates loom larger, overvalued Western stock markets will come under intense pressure. Our largely unreformed, debt-soaked, loss-hiding banks mean a sharp asset price correction could spark a systemic crisis, involving not only the "advanced" world but the large emerging markets, too. I don't want it to happen, but there's a good chance it might.

## Pew: America on Its Way Out

Tyrel Schlote | July 21

**A** NEW Pew Research Center study found many nations foresee a new superpower rising in the next few years to replace America—others think it's already happened.

The Pew study, published July 14, reveals that a growing portion of the world doesn't see the U.S. continuing as the world's only superpower for much longer. The study found that "a median of 50 percent of those surveyed," up from 41 percent last year, "see China eventually supplanting

America as the dominant world superpower."

The belief that America will be replaced as the world's superpower is strongest in Europe, a historic supporter of America. Sixty percent of those polled across the seven European nations surveyed thought the U.S. was on the way out or had already been replaced by China. The top four nations that thought America was about to be replaced were countries typically thought of as America's closest European friends: Spain (67 percent), the United Kingdom (62 percent), France (61 percent) and Germany (60 percent). Conversely, only 59 percent of Chinese felt they

would overtake America.

The top nations that felt America would never be replaced include some that rely on it the most: the Philippines (74 percent), Vietnam (69 percent) and Japan (69 percent). Without the U.S., these nations would quickly be dominated by China. All three nations are currently engaged in territorial disputes with China, and they don't want to see America replaced. Their future hinges on the United States.

The final section of this study examined the growing fear in the Pacific that war could engulf the region soon. The study found that an overwhelming majority saw war as a very real



# 'Kill Jews' in Canada

FREE BEACON | July 22

A GROUP of Canadian Israel supporters who were violently beaten last week by a crowd shouting anti-Semitic slurs said they continue to be bullied on the Internet and in the media by those who claim that they were looking for a fight.

A family of six pro-Israel supporters demonstrating in downtown Calgary was assaulted late Friday by a crowd of around 100 protesters who were demonstrating against Israel's military action in the Gaza Strip.

The victims said they were just trying to express their support for Israel when an angry mob of pro-Palestinian demonstrators surrounded them, began shouting anti-Semitic slogans, and then proceeded to aggressively beat the family, which included a 22-year-old girl and a 52-year-old woman who had recently had stomach surgery. ...

Samantha Hamilton, the 22-year-old victim, said that she and her family just wanted to "go out and show our support."

Events turned violent when a contingent of pro-Palestinian protesters broke off from a larger rally of some 800 to confront the Israel supporters. ... "[W]ithin two minutes, approximately 100 people had crossed over from the other side of the road where the pro-Palestinians were protesting, and we were swarmed and pretty much segregated so we couldn't see, even each other."

The pro-Palestinian protesters shoved flags into Hamilton's face and taunted her with shouts of "kill Jews," "Hitler should finish you off" and "baby killers."

"I heard my mother screaming because six or seven guys had jumped on my brother," who is 19 years old, Hamilton recalled. "He had a star of David on his shirt and they were ripping it off, biting him and scratching him and stomping on him on the ground."

Hamilton says her brother suffered a concussion during the attack.

Hamilton's mother, who had recently gotten out of surgery for a hernia, was spit on, "punched in the stomach and knocked down as well," she recalled.

The 120-pound Hamilton says she was punched in the face while "trying to get the people off my brother. I

was screaming and crying and some guy there decided he wanted to punch me in the face. I also got punched in the back of the head by a man. Then, somebody came up behind me and pulled my hair to pull me to the ground so they could run over and stomp on me."

Hamilton's cousin, 20-year-old Jake Birrell, also came under attack by men who attempted to choke him with an Israeli flag that was draped across his shoulders. "It got pretty violent fast," Birrell recalled. "I was wearing an Israeli flag around my neck. When I was trying to separate people from attacking [his cousin], men came and punched me, and then a bunch of other men punched me."

"It got to the point where they grabbed me by my Israeli flag and pinned it around my neck and pulled me to the ground and kept kicking me," Birrell recalled. "Then they even drug me down the street very briefly, dragging me by the neck by my Israeli flag."

Birrell was eventually able to break away from the mob. "I ran for my life because I had probably 25 to 30 men chasing me through traffic," he said.

Both Birrell and Hamilton maintain that they did all they could to defuse the tension before hostilities erupted, but that the attackers were looking for a fight.

"When they saw the Israeli flags and stars of David, it was on. There was no chance, even if we tried to run or exit," Hamilton said. ...

Calgary police eventually arrived on the scene, but there is no evidence that anyone [was] apprehended or charged in the attack. ...

"Our freedom was taken away [from] us, but there's been no repercussions for the people who took our freedom from us," said Birrell, who claimed that one police officer implied that he was to blame for the attack. "One of the cops told me ..., 'What do you expect coming here wearing that flag?'" Birrell said.

Tensions have remained since the attack due to media reports and video of the incident that has been posted on the Internet. ... "We were six people. To anyone who thinks we wanted that type of altercation that put all of our lives at risk, it's embarrassing," Birrell added.

possibility, "including 93 percent of Filipinos, 85 percent of Japanese, 84 percent of Vietnamese and 83 percent of South Koreans. Moreover, 61 percent of the public in the Philippines and 51 percent in Vietnam say they are *very* concerned about a possible military confrontation with Beijing. And, in China itself, fully 62 percent are concerned about a possible conflict."

Why all this fear of war? The study brings out that it is America's allies in the Pacific who are the most

fearful of war. Why should they be fearful if, as the Pew study showed, America's allies in the Pacific were also the ones who most believed China wouldn't replace the U.S. economically? Simply because that is what they *want* to believe. They don't want America to be replaced by China—they know what's in their future if America is replaced.

The fact that so many are fearful proves what they really think. Even if America is the uncontested economic

superpower, many of its allies are afraid it won't rush to their rescue in the advent of war.

If you take a step back and view all the Pew study's findings together—the growing sense America is going to be replaced; the growing belief China is the new economic power in the world; the fear of war in the Pacific—you clearly see that America really is in decline.

Read "[What Happens After a Superpower Dies](#)" to see what the Bible

# The Drought Apocalypse Approaches

**TAKEPART.COM** | July 24

SCIENTISTS ON Thursday released the results of a first-of-its-kind study that finds the seven states of the drought-stricken Colorado River Basin are depleting groundwater reserves at a rapid rate. That threatens the future of a river that supplies water to 40 million people and irrigates 4 million acres of farmland.

Scientists at the University of California–Irvine, and NASA analyzed data from a satellite that measures underground water reserves to calculate that the Colorado River Basin has lost 65 cubic kilometers—that’s 173 *trillion* gallons—of water between December 2004 and November 2013. That represents twice the capacity of the United States’ largest reservoir, Lake Mead in Nevada. Most worrying, 75 percent of the loss came from groundwater supplies.

“We don’t know exactly how much groundwater we have left, so we don’t know when we’re going to run out,” Stephanie Castle, the report’s lead author and a water resources specialist at UC–Irvine, said in a statement. “This is a lot of water to lose. We thought that the picture could be pretty bad, but this was shocking.”

Terrifying, actually. Groundwater reserves have accumulated over thousands of years and recharge at an exceedingly slow rate as rainwater and snowmelt seep into

the ground. Rain is rare as the current drought enters its 15th year.

The data indicates that farmers and cities are pumping far more groundwater than can be replenished. At some point, the well will run dry.

“We observe a negative net change in groundwater storage over the 108-month time period [of the study], indicating that groundwater withdrawals (pumping) are not balanced by recharge and must be greater than the observed depletion rate,” Castle said in an e-mail.

Once the seven states of the Colorado River Basin—Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming—deplete their groundwater reserves beyond the point of no return, they will run out of options. Usually, the states rely on aboveground reservoirs like Lake Mead to help them weather dry years. But the water level at Lake Mead has fallen to a historic low, and other reservoirs are drying up fast. ...

“The rapid rates of groundwater depletion will lead to further declines in Colorado River steam flows and, combined with declining snowpack and population growth, will likely threaten the long-term ability” to supply water to the seven states, said Castle. ...

predicts for the world’s future after America.

## Army Cuts U.S. Captains

**REUTERS** | July 23

THE U.S. Army on Wednesday defended its decision to notify 87 captains deployed overseas, including 48 in Afghanistan, that they were losing their jobs, would be transferred home and had nine months to organize their departure from the service.

Senior Army officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the officers were among a group of 1,188 captains notified last month that they were being separated from the service as it draws down from the current 513,800 soldiers to 510,000 by the end of the year due to budget cuts.

With the Pentagon under orders to reduce projected spending by nearly \$1 trillion over a decade, the cuts to the Army will not stop there. The service expects to cut a further 20,000 troops by the end of 2015, to a total of

490,000, on a trajectory to hit 440,000 to 450,000 by the end of the decade.

“We won’t be able to achieve those numbers through natural attrition alone,” one of the Army officials said, making it necessary to use other means to reduce the number of personnel. ...

“We want to give that officer the max amount of time to ... relocate back to wherever his home station is and ultimately make that decision on what he wants to do following the Army,” the official said.

The Army has been roundly criticized by some lawmakers and media over the decision to give so-called pink slips to officers deployed in combat.

The officials said most officers were forewarned they might be on the list because of their service records. None were given slips, but were notified in person and counseled by a general in their chain of command.

The captains losing their jobs will receive some form of separation pay, the officials said. ... Enlisted soldiers and officers at other ranks are facing similar job cuts in the coming months.

## Survey: More Worse Off Because of Obamacare

**WASHINGTON EXAMINER** | July 23

EIGHTEEN PERCENT of Americans, or fewer than one in five, say they or someone in their family is better off because of the Affordable Care Act, according to a new poll by CNN. Nearly twice that number, 35 percent, say they or someone in their family is worse off. A larger group, 46 percent, say they are about the same after Obamacare as before.

In nearly all demographic categories—age, income, education, etc.—more people say they are worse off because of Obamacare than say they are better off.

For example, one might expect respondents with incomes below \$50,000 to be somewhat likely to say Obamacare has helped them. And that is the case: 21 percent say they are better off because of the Affordable Care Act. But 35 percent say they are worse off. (Forty-four percent are the same.) ...

In other categories, the gap between better off and worse off is larger. In just one demographic group, non-whites, is the group of those who say they are better off, 29 percent, bigger than the group who say they are worse off, 17 percent. (Fifty-four percent say they are the same.) ...

The most recent Kaiser Family Foundation poll, for example, found that 18 percent said that they or their family were better off because of Obamacare, while 26 percent said they were worse off and 53 percent reported no difference.

Numbers like those in the CNN poll are always subject to partisan interpretation. For example, Obamacare supporters could add the 18 percent who are better off with the 46 percent who are the same and argue that 64 percent are better off or the same after Obamacare. The law's opponents could add the 35 percent who are worse off to the 46 who are the same and argue that 81 percent are worse off or the same. But the basic better off-worse off number is as solid an indicator as we have of how many people Obamacare is helping or hurting. And if the polling is correct, Obamacare is leaving more people worse off than better off.

## No Policy on Immigration Shouldn't Be an Option

**Thomas Sowell, INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY** | July 21

**I**N A recent confrontation between protesters against the illegal flood of unaccompanied children into the U.S. and counterprotests by some Hispanic groups, one man from the latter group said angrily, "We are as good as you are!"

One of the things that make the history of clashes over race or ethnicity such a history of tragedies around the world is that—regardless of whatever particular issue sets off these clashes—many people see the ultimate stakes as their worth as human beings.

On that, there is no room for

compromise, only polarization. That is why playing "the race card" is an irresponsible and dangerous political game.

The real issue when it comes to immigration is not simply what particular immigration policy America should have, but whether America can have any immigration policy at all.

A country that does not control its own borders does not have any immigration policy. There may be laws on the books, but such laws are just meaningless words if people from other countries can cross the borders whenever they choose.

One reason why many Americans are reluctant to keep out illegal immigrants—or even to call them "illegal immigrants," instead of the mealy-mouthed "undocumented"—is that most Hispanics they encounter seem to be decent, hard-working people.

This column has pointed out, more than once, that I have never seen Mexicans standing on a street corner begging, though I have seen both whites and blacks doing so.

But such impressions are no basis for deciding serious issues about immigration and citizenship. When we do not control our own borders, we have no way of knowing how many of those coming across those borders are criminals or even terrorists.

We have no way of knowing how many of those children are carrying what diseases that will spread to our children. And we already know, from studies of American children, that those who are raised without fathers in the home have a high probability of becoming huge, expensive problems for taxpayers in the years ahead, and a mortal danger to others. ...

During the era of epidemics that swept across Europe in centuries past, people fleeing from those epidemics often spread the diseases to the places to which they fled. Counterproductive and dangerous cultures can be spread to America the same way.

Willful ignorance is not the way to make immigration decisions or any other decisions. Yet the Obama administration is keeping secret even where they are dumping illegal immigrants by the thousands,

in communities far from the border states.

Looking before we leap is not racism—except in the sense that anything the Obama administration doesn't like is subject to being called racist.

Americans who gather to protest the high-handed way this administration has sneaked illegal immigrants into their communities can expect the race card to be played against them. The time is long overdue to stop being intimidated by such cheap—and dangerous—political tactics.

### **CORRECTION** | Gerald Flurry

**I** WANT TO correct something in our July 11 *Trumpet Weekly* cover article, "Pope Rewrites Catholic History." Here is the line that was written in error: "Pope Pius XII was, at very best, neutral in World War II."

The article even discusses how the pope formed an alliance with Adolf Hitler to help bring him to power for favors. Hitler had already killed many Jews and built extermination camps for them and others before the alliance.

Hitler also had many other demoniacal traits.

How could anybody who allied himself with such a monster be neutral?

Secular history has abundantly proven that the Vatican was not *neutral* in World War II (for example, the infamous Vatican ratlines that helped almost all of the Nazi war criminals escape).

But that is not the most serious error in this article. Saying that at best Pope Pius XII was neutral is A WATERING DOWN OF BIBLE PROPHECY ITSELF!

The erroneous statement helps destroy the credibility of the entire article.

To the world, neutrality is all right. But we know it is diabolical when you are neutral toward Adolf Hitler!

## CHRISTIAN from page 1

“Christian blood, redeemed by the blood of Christ, has been shed, and Christian flesh, akin to the flesh of Christ, has been subjected to unspeakable degradation and servitude.

“Everywhere in those cities there is sorrow, everywhere misery, everywhere groaning (I say it with a sigh). The churches in which divine mysteries were celebrated in olden times are now, to our sorrow, used as stables for the animals of these people!”

These could be the words of a modern pope, patriarch or bishop lamenting the persecution of Christians in northern Iraq and Syria, the region now under the control of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Instead, they are 1,000 years old. They come not from Pope Francis, but instead Pope Urban II, as recorded by Balderic Archbishop of Dol, as the pope called Europe to arms, launching the Crusades and driving 100,000 Christians to descend on the Middle East, eager to spill Muslim blood.

It is no exaggeration then, to call the violence unleashed in the region “medieval.” All Christians had to leave Mosul, convert to Islam or pay an unspecified fee by noon this past Saturday (July 19) according to an ultimatum issued by ISIS. Before 2003, 60,000 Christians lived in Mosul in communities that had existed for over 1,500 years. At the start of last month, that number was 35,000. Following ISIS’s deadline, it is believed to be almost zero.

Paying a fee to stay doesn’t look like a real option. Some of ISIS’s warnings didn’t even mention it. Also, the fee always seems to be more than anyone can pay. To give one example, when one Christian father could not pay the amount ISIS demanded, the Islamists raped his wife and daughter in front of him. He committed suicide shortly after.

For Mosul’s Christians, staying means torture and/or death. Leaving means being robbed of everything they’re carrying and having what they leave behind seized by the Islamists.

Two weeks ago, ISIS destroyed a monument revered as the tomb of the Prophet Jonah. Mosul’s churches have been seized and some vandalized. Islamists destroyed the Syriac-Catholic bishopric in Mosul, destroying its library and manuscripts, according to Syriac-Catholic Patriarch Ignace Joseph III Younan.



In the past few days ISIS evicted the Syriac-Catholic monks from the fourth century monastery of Saint Behnam, one of Iraq’s most prominent Christian centers, allowing them to take only their clothes.

“How in the 21st century could people be forced from their houses just because they are Christian, or Shiite or Sunni or Yazidi?” Chaldean Catholic Patriarch Louis Raphael Sako asked.

“This has never happened in Christian or Islamic history. Even Genghis Khan or Hulagu didn’t do this,” he added.

Both the Syriac and Chaldean Catholic Church are in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

“I want to express my closeness and my constant prayer to these families and these people,” Pope Francis said on Sunday, ahead of a moment of silent prayer in St. Peter’s Square in Rome. “Dear brothers and sisters who are so persecuted, I know how much you suffer. I know that you are stripped of everything. I am with you in the faith of the One who has conquered evil!”

“The God of peace will awaken in all the authentic desire for dialogue and reconciliation,” he continued, referring to all the crises in the Middle East and Ukraine going on right now. “Violence will not win over violence. Violence is won over by peace!”

These may not be the fighting words of Urban II, but ISIS’s whole ideology revolves around provoking a conflict with Europe and Rome. That ideology will linger even if ISIS does not.

Radical Islam will continue to push at Europe and Catholicism. It is already repeating the provocations that triggered the Crusades.



Watch for these provocations to continue. Europe will respond eventually. To learn how we know this, read [“The Crusades Are Critical History.”](#)

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