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THE TRUMPET WEEKLY

AUGUST 1, 2014

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EU Slaps Tough Sanctions on Russia

BY RICHARD PALMER



Flowers lay on the ruins of the Malaysia Airlines plane MH17 in the Donetsk region.

THE EU imposed tough sanctions on Russia after Russia-backed separatists brought down the MH17 airliner last month.

Now, “tough” is a tricky word. It could mean a lot. Europe’s sanctions on Russia, which entered into force August 1, are “tough” in that they exist. In previous rounds of sanctions, the EU was just playing games, banning a handful of Putin’s friends from visiting the EU just so Brussels looked like it was doing something. They were fake sanctions.

These sanctions are different. Russia will notice them; they will cause real pain and have costs for Europe. *EU Observer* reported that EU sources expect the new sanctions to cost Russia \$30.8 billion this year (1.5 percent of its gross domestic product) and \$100.5 billion next year (4.8 percent of its GDP). It also reported that the EU expects to lose \$53.7 billion this year (0.3 percent of EU GDP) and \$72.5 billion next year (0.4 percent of EU GDP) once Russia retaliates against the sanctions.

However, that’s not tough enough to stop the Russians. To them, keeping foreign troops out of Ukraine is a matter of survival, and they’re fighting for a way to guarantee that European troops will never be stationed in Ukraine. When the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague slapped

a \$50 billion fine on Russia earlier this week, the *Financial Times* recently quoted a “person close to Mr. Putin” as saying: “There is a war coming in Europe. Do you really think this matters?”

Russia sees itself as a soldier fighting in a battle of life and death. A soldier in such a situation won’t be intimidated by a large parking fine.

What the Sanctions Will Accomplish

The meat of these sanctions aims to cut Russia off from the global financial markets. Though they won’t stop Russia, the sanctions have the potential to have a major impact on world affairs.

Europe has spent the past five years learning how much damage this can do to a country. The EU has banned its citizens from any long-term investments (over 90 days) in Russian state-owned banks. This includes Sberbank, the largest lender in all of central and Eastern Europe. Its share price has fallen by nearly a third since the start of the year. VTB, another major bank on the EU’s sanctions list, has seen its share price fall by one-fifth over the same time period.

see **SANCTIONS** page 12



STEPHEN FLURRY

The Anti-Jewish Surge: No Big Deal—Right?

More people are hating Jews, and the Jews are afraid.



Rouhani: 'Festering Zionist Tumor'

WASHINGTON FREE BEACON | July 31

IRANIAN PRESIDENT Hassan Rouhani lashed out at Israel in vitriolic terms on Wednesday, referring to Israel as a “festering Zionist tumor.”

Rouhani, who has been championed by Western media as a moderate reformer who could change Iran’s extremist ways, appears to be adopting a violent tone similar to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, who has advocated for the complete destruction of Israel in recent days.

“Today, this festering Zionist tumor has opened once again and has turned the land of olives into destruction and blood, and littered the land with the body parts of Palestinian children,” Rouhani was quoted as saying in a statement that was translated by the Brookings Institution.

Rouhani’s comments have received little attention in the Western media, which rushed to congratulate the Iranian leader last year for sending

a greeting to Jews during the Rosh Hashanah holiday.

Rouhani went on to compare Israel to the jihadists affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL or ISIS), which Iran is fighting against in Iraq.

ISIL is “a second festering tumor that murders people in the name of Islam,” Rouhani said, adding that “analysts say that both of these tumors [are] derived from the same origin.” ...

Saeed Ghasseminejad, an Iranian dissident and cofounder of Iranian Liberal Students and Graduates, warned that Rouhani and Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, the lead negotiator in talks with the West, are fooling the world by posing as moderates.

“Rouhani and Zarif to Khamenei are the same as Joachim von Ribbentrop was to Adolf Hitler,” Ghasseminejad said. “Both are loyal servants to a dangerous apartheid regime that wants to change the world order dramatically and is ready to use any means available to reach its deal. Like Ribbentrop, it is their job to fool the world, buy time for the regime, and

sell a fake image to the world.”

Michael Rubin, a former Pentagon adviser on Iran and Iraq, slammed U.S. media for perpetuating the myth that Rouhani is a Western-style moderate. “The Iranian government counts on the fact that the American media will act as useful idiots,” Rubin said. “Some self-censor for access, others simply believe what they read in English—for example Rouhani’s Rosh Hashanah tweet—and ignore completely what the Iranian leadership says in Persian.” ... Rubin noted that several years ago Rouhani boasted about his ability to appease the United States with promises of diplomacy. ...

As Western leaders such as President Barack Obama seek to get closer to Rouhani, his regime has armed terror groups such as Hamas and sought to spread regional chaos. ...

“The mullahs in Tehran have significantly increased their influence as the United States wants to please Iran by recognizing what is being called Iran’s legitimate interests as a major power in the Middle East,” [Ghasseminejad] said.

Hamas Kidnaps IDF Soldier Just 90 Minutes Into Ceasefire

Andrew Marcus, GATEWAY PUNDIT | August 1

JUST 90 minutes into the “humanitarian” “ceasefire” Hamas emerged from a terror tunnel, detonated a suicide bomb and took one Jew hostage back through the tunnel.

Terrorists emerged from a tunnel shaft, and a suicide bomber detonated near soldiers prior to the suspected kidnapping; the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) says ... it is in the midst of efforts to track down [the] missing soldier.

Some of the terror tunnels are almost 2 miles long and cost upwards of \$1 million each to construct. Some of that construction money comes from American taxpayers. Some of those tunnels were built with entrances *inside* United Nations buildings, ostensibly with tacit UN approval.

'We Are Potentially Looking at the Beginnings of a Holocaust'

JERUSALEM POST | July 28

THE SITUATION facing European Jewry is "simply intolerable, unacceptable and inexcusable," Israeli Jewish Congress President Vladimir Sloutsker told M.K.s and foreign diplomats at a special session of the Knesset Immigration Absorption and Diaspora Affairs Committee on Monday.

Calling the rise in anti-Semitic incidents accompanying Israel's invasion of Gaza an "sos situation," Sloutsker warned that if left unchecked, such behavior could lead to another European genocide.

"Never before since the Holocaust, have we seen such a situation as today," he said, referring to the Continent-wide demonstrations by pro-Palestinian activists, a number of which have degenerated into violence and many of which have featured racist rhetoric. "We are potentially looking at

the beginning of another holocaust now. These events will only grow in scale across Europe." ...

Jews in Belgium are being asked: "Why are you killing children in Gaza," Rafael Werner, a representative of that country's Jewish community, recounted, asserting that there is little distinction being made between Jews and Israelis. ...

The situation in Europe is "dire," added French M.P. Meir Habib, a Jew who represents expatriates in the National Assembly. While praising the French political leadership for their commitment to defending the country's Jewish community, he said that hearing calls for the deaths of Jews at demonstrations left him "concerned that there will be a second Toulouse," a reference to the 2012 shooting deaths of several Jews in the city. ...

2,500 People Killed in Syria During Ramadan

MIDDLE EAST EYE | July 29

ALMOST 2,500 people were killed in Syria during the month of Ramadan, the Syrian Network for Human Rights reported on Monday.

Of these, an estimated 1,440 were civilians killed by pro-government forces, including over 230 children. Four hundred thirty-three rebels from unidentified factions reportedly died at the hands of Syrian Army soldiers during the month beginning June 28. According to the report, the Islamic State killed dozens of civilians and over 200 rebels from other factions during the same period. ...

[S]ignificant losses were recorded by [Syrian President Bashar] Assad's forces, with reports on Tuesday that they have once again lost control of Shaar gas field, after retaking it from Islamic State fighters on Saturday.

Continued losses among the ranks of the Syrian Army have led to a wave of rage among its supporters, reports Arabic daily *al-Arabiya*. ...

Meanwhile, Islamic State supporters on Twitter seem buoyed by recent advances they have claimed.

One, whose handle is Ja'far, claimed on Tuesday that dozens of fighters from the Free Syrian Army had defected to [the Islamic State] during fighting in the town of Akhtar in Aleppo governorate, far

northern Syria near the border with Turkey.

He claims that fighters from Jund al-Aqsa, another rebel group active in Syria's war, have now joined [the Islamic State].

He also said that soldiers loyal to Assad had attempted to flee the fighting in al-Raqqah by posing as civilians, commenting that "morale ... is terrible." ...

Related: "How the Syrian Crisis Will End"

Anonymous 'Knocks Out' Mossad Website

RUSSIA TODAY | July 31

HACKER GROUP Anonymous has reportedly taken down the website of the Israeli secret service Mossad in protest of Israel's military incursion in Gaza. The "hacktivists" have already targeted a number of organizations in their mission to stop the "genocide."

In a previous attack on Monday, Anonymous knocked out multiple Israeli government sites after one of the organization's members died in the West Bank over the weekend ... after Israeli settlers and soldiers opened fire on demonstrators, reported Bethlehem-based Ma'an News Agency.

Anonymous launched a hacking campaign against Israel coinciding with the beginning of Operation Protective Edge on July 7. Anonymous

claims that since its operation began, it has taken down "thousands" of Israeli-based websites. The hacktivist group also released 170 log-in details last Monday which they said belonged to Israeli officials.

Anonymous has also issued an appeal to all of its followers to intensify their attacks on Israeli websites. ...

Related: "Electronic Jihad"

'We Are Coming For You'

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS | July 30

A FLORIDA-BORN suicide bomber left a disturbing message for America before he carried out a May attack in Syria: "We are coming for you."

A new video released by al Qaeda-linked fighters in Syria allegedly shows 22-year-old Moner Mohammad Abu-Salha ripping up his American passport and chewing parts of it before setting it on fire.

In May, Moner Mohammad Abu-Salha became the first known American to carry out a suicide bomb attack in Syria's civil war when he detonated a truckload of explosives in an effort to kill Syrian troops.

And before he blew himself up, Abu-Salha had returned to the United States for months following training with Syrian Islamic militants, the *New York Times* reported Wednesday.

Arab Leaders Stay Silent

NEW YORK TIMES | July 30

BATTLING PALESTINIAN militants in Gaza two years ago, Israel found itself pressed from all sides by unfriendly Arab neighbors to end the fighting.

Not this time.

After the military ouster of the Islamist government in Cairo last year, Egypt has led a new coalition of Arab states—including Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates—that has effectively lined up with Israel in its fight against Hamas, the Islamist movement that controls the Gaza Strip. That, in turn, may have contributed to the failure of the antagonists to reach a negotiated ceasefire even after more than three weeks of bloodshed.

“The Arab states’ loathing and fear of political Islam is so strong that it outweighs their allergy to Benjamin Netanyahu,” the prime minister of Israel, said Aaron David Miller, a scholar at the Wilson Center in Washington and a former Middle East negotiator under several presidents.

“I have never seen a situation like it, where you have so many Arab states acquiescing in the death and destruction in Gaza and the pummeling of Hamas,” he said. “The silence is deafening.” ...

The dynamic has inverted all expectations of the Arab Spring uprisings. As recently as 18 months ago, most analysts in Israel, Washington and the Palestinian territories expected the popular uprisings to make the Arab governments more responsive to their citizens, and therefore more sympathetic to the Palestinians and more hostile to Israel.

But instead of becoming more isolated, Israel’s government has emerged for the moment as an unexpected beneficiary of the ensuing tumult, now tacitly supported by the leaders of the resurgent conservative order as an ally in their common fight against political Islam.

Egyptian officials have directly or implicitly blamed Hamas instead of Israel for Palestinian deaths in the fighting

And the pro-government Egyptian news media has continued to rail against Hamas as a tool of a regional Islamist plot to destabilize Egypt and the region, just as it has since the military ouster of President Mohamed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood one year ago. ...

The diatribes against Hamas by at least one popular pro-government talk show host in Egypt were so extreme that the government of Israel broadcast some of them into Gaza.

“They use it to say, ‘See, your supposed friends are encouraging us to kill you!’” Maisam Abumorr, a Palestinian student in Gaza City, said in a telephone interview. ...

Some pro-government Egyptian talk shows broadcast in Gaza “are saying the Egyptian Army should help the Israeli Army get rid of Hamas,” she said.

At the same time, Egypt has infuriated Gazans by continuing its policy of shutting down tunnels used for cross-border smuggling into the Gaza Strip and keeping border crossings closed, exacerbating a scarcity of food, water and medical supplies after three weeks of fighting.

“Sisi is worse than Netanyahu, and the Egyptians are conspiring against us more than the Jews,” said Salhan al-Hirish, a storekeeper in the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahiya. “They finished the Brotherhood in Egypt, and now they are going after Hamas.” ...

“The pendulum of the Arab Spring has swung in Israel’s favor, just like it had earlier swung in the opposite direction,” said [Khaled] Elgindy, [a former adviser to Palestinian negotiators who is now a fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington].

“But I am not sure the story is finished at this point.”

Officials are now looking into who the man met with and what he did during that time in the United States between the two Syria trips, according to the report.

The 31-minute video, released on Thursday, also recorded the 22-year-old’s messages to America.

“You think you are safe? You are not safe,” he said. ...

“Know that Islam is coming and will dominate over you,” he said. “We will come with AKs. We will come with our bombs. We have small weapons, but we will take you down. We have hearts of lions. You are scared of death, while we love death.” ...

In the video ... the 22-year-old addresses his past life in America. “I lived in America. I know how it is. ... You think you’re happy. You’re

not happy. You’re never happy. I was never happy. I was always sad and depressed.” ...

“I want to rest in the afterlife, in heaven. There is nothing here and the heart is not resting,” he said. “Heaven is better.”

Related: “The Future of Terror” and “The Ordinary Face of Terror”

Iran Rallies Muslims to Arm Hamas

Anthony Chibariwe | August 1

DURING A prayer ceremony on Tuesday marking the end of the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan,

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called on every Muslim around the world to arm Hamas in its fight in Gaza against Israel.

“[T]he Muslim world has a duty to arm the Palestinian nation by all means,” Khamenei said. In a reference to Israel, the ayatollah continued, “This rabid dog, this rapacious wolf, has attacked innocent people and humanity must show a reaction. This is genocide, a catastrophe of historical scale.”

Iran hates Israel and is a staunch supporter of Hamas. Over the years, Iran surpassed donor Arab nations like Saudi Arabia to become Hamas’s staunchest supporter, militarily and financially. However, that cash and arms flow dwindled under the strain of Iran’s economic sanctions and

because of ideological differences with Hamas over the Syrian civil war.

After firing almost 3,000 rockets into Israel in little over a month and losing some of its military hardware to Israeli counterstrikes, Hamas needs help replenishing its arsenal. But the European Union and the United States are calling for Hamas's disarmament.

In its July 22 statement, the EU said it "strongly condemns the indiscriminate firing of rockets into Israel by Hamas and militant groups in the Gaza Strip, directly harming civilians. These are criminal and unjustifiable acts. The EU calls on Hamas to immediately put an end to these acts and to

renounce violence. All terrorist groups in Gaza must disarm. The EU strongly condemns calls on the civilian population of Gaza to provide themselves as human shields."

While more sympathetic toward the Palestinians, even to the point of "siding with Hamas," as Caroline Glick astutely observed, the U.S. has also called for the disarmament of Hamas. "We also believe that any process to resolve the crisis in Gaza in a lasting and meaningful way must lead to the disarmament of Hamas and all terrorist groups," U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said.

Khamenei quickly jumped on these calls for Hamas to disarm as

inhumane: "They [Israel] have been pounding innocent people day and night and these men women and children are defending themselves with minimum means, and now Americans and Europeans want to take even that away ... so that those merciless beasts could pound without qualm."

Ayatollah Khamenei's exhortation will resound with many observers, especially considering the global sympathy and support the Palestinians enjoy at the expense of the Jews. *Trumpet* executive editor Stephen Flurry discussed this extensively in his *Trumpet Daily* video, "[Why So Much Hatred for Jews?](#)"

EUROPE

German Officer New U.S. Army Europe's Chief

ARMY TIMES | July 31

A GERMAN Army brigadier general who recently served with NATO forces in Afghanistan is assuming duties as the chief of staff of U. S. Army Europe, the first time a non-American officer has held that position.

Brig. Gen. Markus Laubenthal, most recently the commander of Germany's 12th Panzer Brigade in Amberg, and chief of staff of Regional Command North, International Security Assistance Force Afghanistan, will be stationed at USAREUR [United States Army Europe] headquarters, Wiesbaden, Germany. ...

Laubenthal also has served as military assistant to the deputy commander of operations and assistant chief of staff of operations for NATO forces in Kosovo.

As the major staff assistant to USAREUR commander Lt. Gen. Donald Campbell, Laubenthal will synchronize the command's staff activities much as American predecessors have in the past.

"This is a bold and major step forward in USAREUR's commitment to operating in a multinational environment with our German allies," said Campbell.

"U.S. and German senior military leaders have been serving together in NATO's International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan for years. Sustaining the shared capability from this experience will benefit both the U.S. and German armies," said Campbell who has headed the Army's largest and oldest overseas command since 2012.

Ukrainian Patriots

GERMAN FOREIGN POLICY | July 30

FIVE MONTHS after the Kiev coup, vigorously supported by Berlin, a right-wing extremist party may become pro-Western Ukraine's strongest political force. According to a recent survey, the Radical Party, of the ultra-right-wing politician, Oleh Lyashko, could currently expect 23.2 percent of the votes. Lyashko made himself a name with his brutality against the Kiev regime's eastern Ukrainian opponents. He is also cofounder and

supporter of the Azov Battalion, a militia of over 100—mainly fascist—combatants, including a Swedish neo-Nazi sniper. He has reported that other snipers had already been in action for the opposition during the Maidan protests. It has never been revealed who fired the fatal shots on February 20. In this highly charged atmosphere, the Ukrainian government is taking steps that indicate a political cultural development even further to the right. It is planning to censor films and books from Russia or to restrict their sales. ...

TW IN BRIEF

■ **Jews fear another holocaust is starting in Europe**

Speaking before the Israeli Knesset and foreign diplomats on Monday, Israeli Jewish Congress President Vladimir Sloutsker said, "Never before since the Holocaust, have we seen such a situation as today." Referring to the protests in Europe, he continued, "We are potentially looking at the beginning of another holocaust now. These events will only grow in scale across Europe." Since Israel began Operation Protective Edge in Gaza to destroy

Land for Gas: Merkel and Putin Secret Deal

THE INDEPENDENT | July 31

GERMANY AND Russia have been working on a secret plan to broker a peaceful solution to end international tensions over Ukraine.

The *Independent* can reveal that the peace plan, being worked on by both Angela Merkel and Vladimir Putin, hinges on two main ambitions: stabilizing the borders of Ukraine and providing the financially troubled country with a strong economic boost, particularly a new energy agreement ensuring security of gas supplies.

More controversially, if Ms. Merkel's deal were to be acceptable to the Russians, the international community would need to recognize Crimea's independence and its annexation by Russia, a move that some members of the United Nations might find difficult to stomach.

Sources close to the secret negotiations claim that the first part of the stabilization plan requires Russia to withdraw its financial and military support for the various pro-separatist groups operating in eastern Ukraine. As part of any such agreement, the region would be allowed some devolved powers.

At the same time, the Ukrainian president would agree not to apply to join NATO. In return, President Putin would not seek to block or interfere with Ukraine's new trade relations with the European Union under a pact signed a few weeks ago.

Second, Ukraine would be offered a new long-term agreement with Russia's Gazprom, the giant gas supplier, for future gas supplies and pricing. At present, there is no gas deal in place; Ukraine's gas supplies are running low and are likely to run out before this winter, which would

spell economic and social ruin for the country.

As part of the deal, Russia would compensate Ukraine with a billion-dollar financial package for the loss of the rent it used to pay for stationing its fleets in Crimea and at the port of Sevastopol on the Black Sea until Crimea voted for independence in March.

However, these attempts by Ms. Merkel to act as a broker between President Putin and Ukraine's president, Petro Poroshenko, were put on the back burner following the shooting down of the MH17 plane in eastern Ukraine.

But insiders who are party to the discussions said yesterday that the "German peace plan is still on the table and the only deal around. Negotiations have stalled because of the MH17 disaster but they are expected to restart once the investigation has taken place." ...

A spokesman for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said they had no knowledge of such negotiations taking place. However, the spokesman said he thought it highly unlikely that either the U.S. or UK would agree to recognizing Russian control over Crimea. ...

Some of Germany's biggest companies have big operations in Russia, which is now one of Europe's biggest car markets, while many of its small to medium companies are also expanding into the country. Although Russia now provides EU countries with a third of their gas supplies through pipelines crossing Ukraine, Germany has its own bilateral gas pipeline direct to Russia making it less vulnerable than other European countries. ...

Related: "Another Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact?"

Hamas terror tunnels into Israel, protests demonizing Israel have been staged throughout Europe, Canada, the United States, Australia and elsewhere. These protests generally feature chanting anti-Semitic slogans, burning Israeli flags, and even trying to incite violence against Jews and Jewish property. In several protests, Jews have been assaulted. Protests were particularly violent in Paris where thousands have rallied and attempted to attack Jewish synagogues and shops. In Berlin, police kept a close eye on protests on Thursday, where slogans that threatened violence against Jews were chanted repeatedly. Such chants against Jews "haven't been seen since the founding of the Federal Republic of Germany" after World War II, said Micha Brumlik, senior adviser at the Berlin-Brandenburg Center of Jewish Studies. It is little wonder that so

many Jews fear violence, or worse, another holocaust. How soon before one of these protests become another Kristallnacht? Watch Stephen Flurry's *Trumpet Daily* "[Why So Much Hatred for Jews?](#)" to see where this abhorrence of Israel is heading.

■ Hungary turns its back on 'liberal democracy'

"Liberal democracy" is not the way forward, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said July 26, promising to turn his nation into an "illiberal state." Speaking at a retreat of ethnic Hungarian leaders, Orban declared that "liberal democratic states cannot remain globally competitive." "Today, the world tries to understand systems which are not Western, not liberal, maybe not even democracies, yet they are successful," he said, pointing to the success of Russia, China, India,

Singapore and Turkey. "The new state that we are building in Hungary today is not a liberal state," he said. "It doesn't deny liberalism's basic values such as freedom but doesn't make it its core element. It uses a particular, national approach." Orban is the first EU leader to publicly state that his nation needs to experiment with something other than liberal democracy. The speech is the latest in a series of events that debunks the illusion that history is a story of inexorable progress toward the adoption of liberal democracy. As Orban pointed out in his speech, a big part of this stems from the 2008 financial crisis. Radical change is much more appealing to poor and starving masses than it is to prosperous and content ones. But America has also been telling the world repeatedly that dictatorship works, and can even be better than

democracy. This is the message it sends when it keeps backing down to authoritarian regimes like Russia and

China: *democracy weak, dictatorship strong*. Taking the long view of history, the rule of liberal democracies are the

exception, not the norm. Read our article "[Hungary Turns Its Back on 'Liberal Democracy'](#)" for more.

ASIA

Russia's Proxy War on Ukraine Becoming Open War

Jeremiah Jacques | July 27

Russia is firing artillery at Ukrainian military targets across the border, and plans to send new advanced rocket weaponry to pro-Russia fighters in eastern Ukraine, according to a July 24 statement by the U.S. State Department.

"We have new evidence that the Russians intend to deliver heavier and more powerful multiple rocket launchers to the separatist forces in Ukraine, and have evidence that Russia is firing artillery from within Russia to attack Ukrainian military positions," State Department deputy spokesperson Marie Harf said during a news briefing.

The State Department declined at that time to reveal sources for the assertions, but on July 27, Washington released satellite images and analysis backing up the claims.

A U.S. defense official, quoted by the *Wall Street Journal*, said the direct artillery fire from Russia began "about the same time" Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 was shot down by a surface-to-air missile in eastern Ukraine. That tragedy killed 298 people in what was either a tragic mistake made by zealous supporters of Russian President Vladimir Putin or an intentional act of terrorism. Either way, it is undeniable Putin helped create the conditions that led to the disaster and bears some responsibility for it.

Because of the link to him, and the outcry from the West that followed, many expected Putin to show remorse after the tragedy. They expected the disaster would soften him—at least for a short time. Instead, as this "new evidence"

shows, he intensified Russia's aggression on Ukraine.

Other recent developments also show that Putin was unfazed by the Malaysia Airlines disaster.

First, since the earliest reports broke concerning Flight MH17, a heated info-war has raged from Moscow with the most outlandish explanations imaginable given for the cause of the crash. This successfully obscured the truth in the minds of many onlookers, making the facts seem permanently unattainable.

Then, just days after the tragedy, Putin's forces in Ukraine shot down two Ukrainian fighter jets. The forces claimed to use shoulder-fired missiles, but the Ukrainian military said the jets were flying at almost 17,000 feet—an altitude beyond the reach of such missiles. This points to Russian military involvement.

These developments show that, in the face of international criticism and increased sanctions, Putin has not helped pull back pro-Russia forces. Instead, he has increased his support for them and is giving them assistance at unprecedented levels.

The question becoming more relevant with each passing day of the Ukrainian crisis is this: Who is Vladimir Putin, and why is he having such a deep impact on global affairs? The answer and its implications are more fascinating than anything you could imagine. To learn the answer, read "[Is Vladimir Putin the Prophesied 'Prince of Rosh'?](#)"

Follow Jeremiah Jacques: [Twitter](#)

Moscow May Walk Out of Nuclear Treaty

THE GUARDIAN | July 29

Russia may be on the point of walking out of a major Cold War-era arms-control treaty, Russian analysts have said, after President Obama accused Moscow of violating the accord by testing a cruise missile.

There has been evidence, at least since 2011, of Russian missile tests in violation of the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, which banned U.S. or Russian

ground-launched cruise missiles with a 500- to 5,500-mile (805 to 8,851 kilometer) range. But the Obama administration has been hesitant until now of accusing Moscow of a violation in the hope that it could persuade Vladimir Putin, the Russian president, to stop the tests or at least not deploy the weapon in question, known as the Iskander, or R-500. ...

According to Pavel Felgenhauer ... [Russia has indeed broken the treaty](#) by testing the R-500, which has a range of more than 1,000 kilometers (621 miles).

"Of course, this is in gross violation of the 1987 treaty, but Russian officials

including Putin have said this treaty is unfair and not suitable for Russia," Felgenhauer said. "The United States doesn't have [medium-range missiles] but other countries do have them, such as China, Pakistan and Israel, so they say this is unfair and wrong." ...

Russian officials have previously criticized the 1987 treaty, including former Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov. In 2013, Ivanov, then presidential chief of staff, said of the treaty: "We are fulfilling it, but it can't last forever." ...

Related: "[Russia's Dark Rider](#)"

Russia Constructing 'Security Fence' Across Georgia

SKY NEWS | July 29

RUSSIAN BORDER guards are constructing a vast "security fence" across disputed territory in the former Soviet state of Georgia, establishing a de facto border around the breakaway region of South Ossetia.

Georgia says the move is a creeping annexation of its territory and a violation of its sovereignty.

Russia and Georgia fought a [five-day war over the region](#) in 2008.

Russia is one of the few countries to recognize South Ossetia as an independent state and supports it both economically and militarily—most other countries and the government in Tbilisi consider it to be part of Georgia.

Construction of the fence has accelerated over the last 12 months, as Georgia moved towards signing a free-trade deal with the European Union.

The fence divides villages, and in some cases houses, separating families from their livelihoods and neighbors. ...

Both the U.S. and NATO have condemned the construction of the fence, but Russia says South Ossetia has the "unassailable right" to take such measures to "ensure the security of its borders and its citizens."

Georgia says all this has little to do with the sovereignty or otherwise of South Ossetia, and everything to do with Russia projecting its power, and maintaining a military presence on its border.

"Will the Georgia strike actually spark European unification? Will a crisis occur over Ukraine? That area is the breadbasket of Russia, and surely it is willing to wage war over that as well. We have witnessed the beginning of a new era! We saw an extraordinary military strike by one of the kings of the east! ... Europe can see it! And it is formulating a counterstrategy. ... This will inevitably end in nuclear war! Watch Europe to see how it responds to these dramatic developments in Asia."

—Gerald Flurry, *Trumpet*, October 2008

Russia and India to Bypass Dollar

ZERO HEDGE | July 31

OVER THE past six months, there has been much talk about the strategic proximity between Russia and China, made even more proximal following the "holy grail" gas deal announced in May, which would not have happened on such an accelerated time frame had it not been for U.S. escalation in Ukraine.

And yet little has been said about that other just as crucial for the "*new BRICS-centric world order*"-relationship, that between Russia and India. That is about to change when yesterday the Russian central bank announced that having been increasingly shunned by the West, Russia discussed cooperation with Reserve Bank of India Executive Director Shrikant Padmanabhan. The punchline: India agreed to create a task group to work out a mechanism for [using national currencies](#) in settlements. And so another major bilateral arrangement is set up that completely bypasses the dollar. ...

[According to the Russian Central Bank,] "The meeting was attended by representatives of central banks, ministries and agencies [and] credit organizations in Russia and India. ..."

Related: "[Will Russia Try to Crash the Dollar?](#)"

TW IN BRIEF

■ Experts say China's new space station is for military purposes

China's Tiangong space station boosted into a higher orbit this week, as experts continued to speculate that the mysterious installation may be mainly for military purposes. Since its genesis in 1992, [China's manned space program](#) has grown with breathtaking speed. Analyst Kate Lanau says that if all goes according to plan, "the next astronaut on the moon will be Chinese." In 2003, China launched its first astronaut into space, becoming one of only three nations capable of human spaceflight capabilities. 2007

saw China shoot down one of its satellites in a demonstration of its powerful anti-satellite technology. In 2010, Beijing launched more satellites than the United States for the first time. Then in 2011, China crossed another milestone by launching the Tiangong, or "heavenly palace" space module into the night sky. Beijing says its space program is peaceful, but because it is operated by the Chinese military, and because officials keep it enshrouded in mystery, many analysts are skeptical. Joan Johnson-Freese, a professor at the U.S. Naval War College, said, "If there's a [Chinese] satellite in orbit, it's hard to tell whether it's taking imagery for crop rotation or targeting." China's space program is rapidly rising as NASA trudges through a period of inactivity and transition. The contrast will hasten the decision of smaller Asian nations to abandon the sinking U.S. ship and begin looking to Beijing.

■ Russia to ban soldier selfies

Moscow is preparing a bill to prevent Russian troops from posting selfies and other photographs on social media sites, according to July 29 reports. The proposed legislation came after soldiers published images on social media sites with captions saying they had been firing artillery into Ukraine. "We shelled Ukraine all night long," Russian soldier Vadim Grigoryev wrote beneath a picture of weaponry he posted last week on Vkontakte, Russia's most popular social media network. The bill is authored by Vadim Solovyov, the head of the Communist Party's legal department. Solovyov says that when posts like Grigoryev's are open to the public, sensitive military information can be used by the Western media "for purposes of provocation." This harms the country's military security, according to Solovyov. Grigoryev's post garnered much attention among users and media alike until his account was suddenly deleted. He appeared on the evening news the next day saying his account had been hacked, and that he was unsure where the photos originated. Clamping down on media, social or otherwise, is nothing new for Vladimir Putin's Russia. For more, read "[Putin II Tightens Grip on Russian Media.](#)"

LATIN AMERICA/AFRICA

Malema: We Will Shut Down Johannesburg

IAFRICA.COM | July 28

ECONOMIC FREEDOM Fighter's (EFF) leader Julius Malema has threatened to shut down business in Johannesburg. Speaking to the *Sunday Times*, Malema said that he plans on leading around 50,000 EFF members to the Gauteng Legislature in protest of party M.P.s being ejected from the house earlier this month.

The members were given the boot by speaker Ntombi Meko for wearing red overalls with party insignia.

On [July 22,] Malema led 2,000 EFF members to the legislature and it quickly descended into chaos.

The protesters stormed into the building, breaking glass doors in the process, while there have been reports of party members looting outside of the building as well. ...

But Malema remains undeterred and he has promised that last week's protest will pale in comparison to what will come next.

"We will shut down business in

this Johannesburg. Once business in Johannesburg is shut down, it means business in the whole of Africa has stopped," Malema told the newspaper.

Related: "South Africa—'The Mouth' Speaks" and "New South African Political Party Threatens Mugabe-Style Land Grabs"

TW IN BRIEF

■ Do Ebola-infected bats threaten the world?

The largest and deadliest outbreak of Ebola on record is continuing to run rampant across the West African nations of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. So far over 700 people have died. The Ebola virus, which has a fatality rate of up to 90 percent, has also been contracted by two Americans who were treating Ebola patients. With an incubation period ranging anywhere from a few days to three weeks, experts fear the infection may be taking hold beyond the borders of the three West African nations. Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation,

has reported one case of Ebola already. The disease traveled across at least three countries before it was detected in Nigeria. If it could get onto a flight there, it could just as easily travel farther abroad. The jump to Nigeria has health experts talking about the possibility of the virus landing in the United States or elsewhere. U.S. President Barack Obama has already been briefed on the threat. Experts say the disease traces back to bats. These small winged mammals are a delicacy in West Africa, and the virus is transferred to humans when infected bats are eaten. The government in Guinea even banned the consumption of bats in an attempt to stop the spread. The problem remains that many portions of the population refuse to adhere to health laws laid down by the state. However, an authority greater than Guinea also forbids the eating of bats: the Bible (Leviticus 11:19). For a better understanding of the laws of clean and unclean foods, and how adherence to this law could drastically change your own health and well-being today, read our three-part series, "[We Are What We Eat](#)."

ANGLO-AMERICA

Congress Brings Socialism to America

Simon Black, SOVEREIGN MAN | July 23

SADLY TODAY I am reporting to you yet another development that seems as if we are all living within the pages of Ayn Rand's seminal work *Atlas Shrugged*.

You may recall from the book that John Galt, the enigmatic protagonist, started off as a young engineer at the Twentieth Century Motor Company. When the owner of the company died, the heirs decided to run the business according to the new enlightened principles of the time. Primarily, they let all the workers vote on how the

factory was supposed to be run and how much everyone should be compensated. And it was soon decided that "everybody in the factory would work according to his ability, but would be paid according to his needs."

Naturally, bright hard-working employees soon left; they found themselves working around the clock for the benefit of others who felt entitled to contribute as little as possible.

John Galt was among the first out the door.

And not long after, the once successful company went bust. No surprise.

Unfortunately this is no longer fiction. Because in the Land of the Free, the United States Congress is striving

to make *Atlas Shrugged* a reality.

Their latest brainchild is to set up a new government bank, stuff it full of taxpayer funds, and loan the money to American workers for the exclusive purpose to help them form collectives and buy the companies they work for.

It's called the United States Employee Ownership Bank Act.

And, straight from the bill, they aim to provide "loan guarantees, direct loans and technical assistance to employees to buy their own companies"

The goal of this legislation, curiously, is to "preserve and increase employment in the United States," which is still problematic six years after the global financial crisis.



GERALD FLURRY

Matthew 24 Unlocks the Seven Seals

In Matthew 24, Christ unlocks the meaning of the seals of Revelation. The first four seals are the four horsemen of the apocalypse. Do you understand the meaning of those seven seals?



Since September 2008, the U.S. government has increased its debt level over 50 percent to \$17.6 trillion.

The U.S. Federal Reserve has increased its balance sheet fourfold, conjuring \$3.5 trillion out of thin air.

All of this was supposed to create jobs. ...

But this legislation—the government effectively sponsoring the communal takeover of private business—is textbook socialism: private property and the means of production owned by the community. ...

Any rational, thinking person has to look at this and ask a simple question: Where is this trend headed? ...

Whether it happens today, tomorrow or five years from now is irrelevant. It's the **TREND** that is so important to pay attention to. ...

Ivy League Schools Produce 'Zombies'

BUSINESS INSIDER | July 30

A FORMER Yale professor and admissions officer, who himself has two degrees from Columbia University, recently wrote a provocative article

for the *New Republic* called "Don't Send Your Kid to the Ivy League."

In his story, William Deresiewicz argues that the culture behind these institutions—shaping children into the perfect elite university candidates, enrolling them in those colleges, and then sending them to Wall Street—inadequately prepares them for real life.

And in his own experience, he's seen that many of these "highly successful" young adults are actually miserable and lifeless. They're essentially "zombies," he says.

Deresiewicz writes: "Our system of elite education manufactures young people who are smart and talented and driven, yes, but also anxious, timid and lost, with little intellectual curiosity and a stunted sense of purpose: trapped in a bubble of privilege, heading meekly in the same direction, great at what they're doing but with no idea why they're doing it."

Venture for America founder Andrew Yang recently wrote a book, *Smart People Should Build Things*, essentially making that same point. Yang points to the fact that most graduates from top American universities are heading to finance and consulting

jobs simply because that's how "success" has been defined for them. Yang argues that instead of ditching their passions and following the pack, talented young people should be starting and building new businesses.

Unlike Yang, however, Deresiewicz places the blame on the universities He says the Ivies and other elite colleges like them are working in a system that places more importance on imbuing status than on education.

He tells parents that they should not sanctify the Ivies for their kids and that they're better off sending them to a small liberal arts college ... that he thinks emphasizes curriculum over image

The Cost of American Indifference

Victor Davis Hanson, NATIONAL REVIEW | July 31

THE OBAMA administration often either denies any responsibility for the current global chaos or claims that it erupted spontaneously. Yet most of the mess was caused by, or made worse by, growing U.S. indifference and paralysis.

Over the last 5½ years, America has had lots of clear choices, but the administration usually took the path of least short-term trouble, which has ensured long-term hardship.

There was no need to "reset" the relatively mild punishments that the George W. Bush administration had accorded Vladimir Putin's Russia for invading Georgia in 2008. By unilaterally normalizing relations with Russia and trashing Bush, Barack Obama and then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton only green-lighted further Russian aggression, which has since spread to Crimea and Ukraine.

There was no need for Obama, almost immediately upon assuming office, to distance the U.S. from Israel by criticizing Israel's policies and warming to its enemies, such as Hamas and the authoritarian Turkish Prime Minister Recep Erdoğan.

Any time Israel's enemies have

CIA Affirms It Spied on Senate

NEW YORK TIMES | July 31

AN INTERNAL investigation by the Central Intelligence Agency has found that its officers penetrated a computer network used by the Senate Intelligence Committee in preparing its damning report on the CIA's detention and interrogation program.

The report by the agency's inspector general also found that CIA officers read the e-mails of the Senate investigators and sent a criminal referral to the Justice Department based on false information, according to a summary of findings made public on Thursday. One official with knowledge of the report's conclusions said the investigation also discovered that the officers created a false online identity to gain access, on more than one occasion, to computers used by the committee staff.

The inspector general's account of how the CIA secretly monitored a congressional committee charged with supervising its activities touched off angry criticism from members of the Senate and amounted to vindication for Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, the committee's Democratic chairwoman, who excoriated the CIA in March when the agency's monitoring of committee investigators became public.

A statement issued Thursday morning by a CIA spokesman said that John O. Brennan, the agency's director, had apologized ... and would set up an internal accountability board to review the issue. The statement said that the board, which will be led by a former Democratic senator,

Evan Bayh of Indiana, could recommend "potential disciplinary measures" and "steps to address systemic issues."

But anger among lawmakers grew throughout the day. Leaving a nearly three-hour briefing about the report in a Senate conference room, members of both parties called for the CIA officers to be held accountable, and some said they had lost confidence in Mr. Brennan's leadership. ...

Sen. Mark Udall, [a] Democrat [for] Colorado, and another member of the Intelligence Committee, demanded Mr. Brennan's resignation. "The CIA unconstitutionally spied on Congress by hacking into the Senate Intelligence Committee computers," he said in a written statement. "This grave misconduct not only is illegal, but it violates the U.S. Constitution's requirement of separation of powers."

"These offenses, along with other errors in judgment by some at the CIA, demonstrate a tremendous failure of leadership, and there must be consequences," he added. ...

The dispute brought relations between the spy agency and lawmakers to a new low ...

The White House publicly defended Mr. Brennan on Thursday, saying he had taken "responsible steps" to address the behavior of CIA employees, which he said included suggesting an investigation, accepting its results and appointing an accountability board. ...

Asked whether the results of the investigation presented a credibility issue for Mr. Brennan, Josh Earnest, the White House press secretary, said, "Not at all." ...

glimpsed growing distance in the U.S.-Israeli friendship, they seek only to pry it still wider. We see just that with terrorists in Gaza who launch hundreds of missiles into Israel on the expectation that the U.S. will broker a favorable deal that finds both sides equally at fault.

Sanctions had crippled Iran to the point that it soon would have grown desperate to meet U.S. demands to stop its nuclear enrichment. Instead, Obama eased trade restrictions just as they were coming to fruition. Iran is now on its way to acquiring a bomb, while supplying missiles to Hamas and Hezbollah.

We had an option in Libya to let the tottering but reforming Muammar Qadhafi government fend for itself. Or we could have taken out Qadhafi and then sent in peacekeepers to ensure a transition to ordered government. But the Obama administration ... participated in a multi-nation bombing campaign and all but

guaranteed that a failed state would be left on Europe's doorstep. Now we have just closed our embassy in Tripoli and fled the country entirely.

There were once-viable choices in Egypt. Instead, the administration managed to alienate the old Hosni Mubarak regime; alienate the elected Muslim Brotherhood, which immediately tried to subvert the democracy; and alienate the military junta that stepped in to stop the Islamization of Egypt. All of these rival groups now have one thing in common: a distrust of the United States.

We could have made a choice in Iraq to negotiate a bit more with the Nouri al-Maliki government, leave behind a few thousand token peacekeepers, and thereby preserve the calm achieved by the surge. ...

The U.S. once had choices in Syria. ... [W]e chose [to] loudly threaten Assad while doing nothing. Now a bloody dictatorship and its bloody jihadist enemies share a

general contempt for a perceived weak America.

There were choices on our own border as well. ...

The Obama administration apparently has assumed that calm, not conflict, is the natural order of things. ...

If conflict does arise, the U.S. counts on sermonizing without feeling any need to back up tough and often provocative rhetoric with action. ...

In 2017, Obama may well leave office claiming to have reduced our military while avoiding conflict during his tenure. But will he also be able to assure us that China, Iran and Russia are less threatening; that the Middle East, the Pacific and the former Soviet republics are less explosive; that our own border is more secure—and that America is safer?

To paraphrase Robert Frost: Two roads diverged in the world, and we always took the one of least resistance—and that has now made all the difference.

SANCTIONS from page 1

“The aim is to force Russian banks into the arms of the state, bleeding the Russian budget and reserves,” wrote the *Telegraph*’s Ambrose Evans-Pritchard.

However, the sanctions do not apply to the European subsidiaries of these banks, which will mitigate some of the damage.

The EU took a similar approach to Russia’s energy industry. Refusing to buy oil and gas from Russia would be painful, so instead it’s withholding investment in Russia’s oil industry. In time, this could be painful. The International Energy Agency estimates that Russia needs \$750 billion in extra investment over the next 20 years to prevent a drop in its oil and gas production. Russia also needs Europe’s technology in order to obtain oil in hard-to-reach places.

So if Russia cannot get this money from Europe and America, where else is there to turn? The obvious answer is China and India. We’ve already seen that as Russia increasingly antagonizes the West, it’s drawing closer to Asia. Jeremiah Jacques wrote about this in his article [“The Rise of Asia.”](#) These sanctions will only strengthen this trend.

Germany’s Role

As yet, there’s no completely reliable account of Germany’s role in putting together the latest package of sanctions. But for them to go into effect, they must have been approved and probably even encouraged by Germany.

That’s all we know for sure, but there are hints of drama behind the scenes. Here’s one account from Britain’s *Telegraph*: “As recently as last Friday night, sources in Washington involved in tracking the negotiations were deeply pessimistic that a divided Europe could muster the collective political will to impose meaningful economic pain on Moscow. However, the mood in Europe is understood to have changed radically over the weekend after Mr. Putin failed to return several phone calls from Angela Merkel, the German chancellor.”

The *Wall Street Journal* gives a different, but similar, account: “Three days after the crash of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, German Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin for at least the 30th time since the Ukraine crisis erupted.

“She had a blunt message, according to people briefed on the phone conversation: Call me if you have progress to report in defusing the conflict.

“That was July 20. The two leaders haven’t spoken since.

“The silence marks a breach in perhaps the most important relationship in European geopolitics, illustrating the daunting challenges facing the West in trying to calm the crisis in Ukraine. More broadly, the frayed relationship between Ms. Merkel and Mr. Putin shows the disintegration of a decades-long effort by both Germany and Russia to bind the World War II adversaries to each other. Mr. Putin, in particular, appears to have given up, for now, on his years-long project of nurturing Germany into the role of Russia’s closest European partner, illustrating the increasing degree of international isolation he seems prepared to accept.

“Ms. Merkel’s well of patience with Mr. Putin finally ran dry in the aftermath of the Flight 17 disaster, German officials say, as promises by the Russian president to lean on the rebels to improve the situation at the crash site failed to change things on the ground. Departing from past efforts to avoid a quick escalation of the West’s response, Ms. Merkel threw her weight behind sanctions targeting swaths of the Russian economy despite doubts in Berlin over their efficacy.”

Here’s how things worked in the past: Russia upset Europe and America. America would impose sanctions. Europe would talk about it. Then Merkel would chat to Putin on the phone. He would agree to give Europe a few meaningless, face-saving concessions and in return Europe would only impose meaningless, face-saving sanctions.

This time, that process broke down. Putin refused to listen to Merkel and so, for the first time, Europe imposed meaningful sanctions. Is this Germany’s way of demanding that Russia take it seriously?

Exactly how much of that is true is hard to tell. Merkel may also have been pushed into sanctions by the German people. Like many German magazines and newspapers, *Spiegel* has not had a clear position on sanctioning Russia, with some writing in favor of sanctions and some against. After the MH17 disaster, that changed. “Stopping Putin: The Time Has Come for Europe to Act” ran the title of its editorial. The cover page of the July 28 edition read, “Stop Putin Now!”

Chancellor Merkel has never been one to stand in the way of German public opinion and this, rather than Putin’s refusal to talk, could have been what brought her around.

Escalation

The biggest potential impact of these sanctions is their potential for escalation. If Russia responds with its own sanctions, or even military action in Ukraine or elsewhere, this could prove the start of a vicious cycle that pushes Russia and Europe farther into opposing camps.

That’s not a certain outcome. Putin’s next move will probably be to try and win a few EU countries over to his side, breaking down European unity. But the potential for danger is there.

“You can applaud the actions of the West, or condemn them, but you can hardly ignore them,” Evans-Pritchard wrote. “In the 30 years or so that I have been writing about world affairs and the international economy, I have never seen a more dangerous confluence of circumstances, or more remarkable complacency.”

“The fear you see in Europe because of events in Crimea is going to cause 10 leaders in Europe to unite in a sudden and dramatic way,” *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in May, in [“The Crimean Crisis Is Reshaping Europe!”](#)

The latest sanctions could accelerate that process, forcing Europe to draw closer in fear of Russia while forcing Russia toward China and India after being shut out of Europe’s economy.

For more on the effects Russia’s invasion of Crimea is having on Europe, read Mr. Flurry’s cover article from the May-June issue of the *Trumpet*.

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