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THE TRUMPET WEEKLY

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Where the Vatican's Call for Military Intervention in Iraq Is Headed

BY TIMOTHY OOSTENDARP

IN RECENT weeks the world has finally started to pay serious attention to the barbarism of the Islamic State, the radical Islamist group taking over Iraq and Syria. The growing outcry includes voices from Pope Francis and the Vatican, who are concerned about the genocide of Christians in the Middle East.

Criticized for his weak, uncommitted response to the Islamic State, the pope appears to be changing his tune.

During his Sunday blessing on August 10, "Pope Francis used *unusually strong language* to condemn the actions of [the Islamic State]," according to the *Guardian* (emphasis added throughout).

see VATICAN page 12



Syrian Chemical Weapons Destroyed: A Victory for America?

Callum Wood | August 21

HERALDED BY the *New York Times* as “a rare foreign policy achievement for President [Barack] Obama,” the last of Syrian President Bashar Assad’s 1,300-ton stockpile of deadly chemical weapons has reportedly been destroyed.

But can the United States really celebrate this moment as a great victory? While nobody can deny that the world is better off without Assad’s chemical stockpile, the destruction of the weapons is actually a testimony to America’s *failures* in Syria.

The death toll of the Syrian civil war has reached a staggering 170,000 people. The death toll at the time of the chemical weapon attack in September last year, which nearly sparked an American response but instead led to the disarmament deal, was 115,000. Shrapnel-filled, explosive-laden barrels have claimed more lives in the civil war than chemical weapons have. That means at least 55,000 people have died in the ongoing conflict—without the use of any chemical weapons.

If the U.S. was ready to carry out airstrikes after Assad killed 1,000 people with chemical weapons, why is there no red line when he kills multiple tens of thousands over the

course of a year? Chemical weapons are extremely deadly, but are shrapnel-filled, explosive-laden barrels any different? These crude barrels have claimed more lives in the civil war than chemical weapons have.

While the international community can speculate on the size of Assad’s arsenal of chemical weapons, the only “official” numbers come from Assad himself. The world has no way of knowing if he only handed over a percentage of his chemical weapons, while retaining the remainder.

Besides, Assad can use industrial chlorine gas as a weapon, as he did in the town of Kafr Zeita on April 11, killing 1,200 people.

While the destruction of Syria’s declared chemical weapons is good news, it has come at a high cost. The price paid has been in thousands of lives and American credibility. When Assad crossed President Obama’s red line, and suffered no serious consequences, America’s already-tarnished image as a policymaker backed by force was shattered. With no credibility behind it, any future steps America makes to bring about peace in war-torn Syria will be severely hindered.

Why Condemn ISIS But Accept Hamas?

Alan Dershowitz, ALGEMAINER | August 20

PRESIDENT BARACK Obama has rightfully condemned the [Islamic State’s] beheading of American James Foley in the strongest terms. ...

At the same time that President Obama has called for an all-out war against the “cancer” of [the Islamic State], he has regarded Hamas as having an easily curable disease, urging Israel to accept that terrorist group, whose charter calls for Israel’s destruction, as part of a Palestinian unity government. I cannot imagine him urging Iraq, or any other Arab country, to accept [the Islamic State] as part of a unity government. ...

Why then the double standard regarding [the Islamic State] and Hamas? Is it because Hamas is less brutal and violent than [the Islamic State]? It’s hard to make that case. Hamas has probably killed more civilians—through its suicide bombs, its murder of Palestinian

Authority members, its rocket attacks and its terror tunnels—than [the Islamic State] has done. If not for Israel’s Iron Dome and the Israel Defense Forces, Hamas would have killed even more innocent civilians. ...

Is it the manner by which [the Islamic State] kills? Beheading is of course a visibly grotesque means of killing, but dead is dead and murder is murder. And it matters little to the victim’s family whether the death was caused by beheading, by hanging or by a bullet in the back of a head. Indeed most of [the Islamic State’s] victims have been shot rather than beheaded, while Hamas terrorists have slaughtered innocent babies in their beds, teenagers on the way home from school, women shopping, Jews praying and students eating pizza.

Is it because [the Islamic State] murdered an American? Hamas has murdered numerous Americans and citizens of other countries. They too are indiscriminate in who they kill.

Is it because [the Islamic State] has specifically threatened to bring its terrorism to American shores,

while Hamas focuses its terrorism in Israel? The Hamas Charter does not limit its murderous intentions to one country. Like [the Islamic State], it calls for a worldwide “caliphate,” brought about by violent Jihad.

Everything we rightly fear and despise from [the Islamic State] we should fear and despise from Hamas. Just as we would never grant legitimacy to [the Islamic State], we should not grant legitimacy to Hamas—at the very least until it rescinds its charter and renounces violence. ...

Iran: Nuclear Deal Not a Treaty

STRATFOR | August 18

IRANIAN FOREIGN Ministry legal adviser Jamshid Momtaz said August 18 that the Joint Plan of Action, an interim nuclear deal signed by Iran and P5+1 members [on] November 24, is not an international treaty and that both sides are to take action voluntarily in six or 10 months, BBC reported,

The Islamic State Threatens the United States—Again

Anthony Chibarrirwe | August 25

IN AN execution video released on August 18, the Islamic State, formerly known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, threatened to “drown all [Americans] in blood,” if the United States continues its airstrikes in Iraq. Titled “A Message to America,” the video depicted the beheading of American photojournalist James Foley, and threatened that he would be one of many Americans they will target.

The terrorists used Foley to try to effect America’s withdrawal from Iraq. In the video, Foley was coerced to pronounce this declaration before his head was sawn off: “I call on my friends, family and loved ones to rise up against my real killers, the U.S. government.” He went on to say that the United States had “effectively put the last nail in my coffin.”

The video also showed another journalist, Steven Sotloff, whom the Islamists said would be next if the U.S. continues its airstrikes.

Such threats from the Islamic State terrorists against America aren’t new. In a video interview posted on August 7, a spokesman for the Islamic State warned, “God willing, and we will raise the flag of Allah in the White House.” Almost two months ago, the same Islamists threatened to attack “every American embassy in the world ... with car bombs.”

In 2009, the leader of the Islamic State, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, gave this chilling warning: “I’ll see you guys in New York.” He said that to U.S. officials soon after he was released from detention.

The Islamic State’s history of belligerence and beheadings goes all the way back to its founder Abu Musab al Zarqawi. He rose to infamy by his execution of American engineer Nick Berg in 2004 as a response to U.S. invasion of Iraq and the Abu Ghraib prison scandal. Since then, the Islamic State has been on a relentless beheading spree, executing both the great and small, men and women, old and young.

citing Iranian state-run news agency IRNA.

“One of the most worrying aspects of Iran’s growing power is its flirtation with nuclear weaponry. Back in 1992, the European newspaper ran a front-page article titled ‘Iran Has N-Bomb,’ which stated, ‘Iran has obtained at least two nuclear warheads out of a batch officially listed as ‘missing’ from the newly independent republic of Kazakhstan, formerly part of the Soviet Union’ (May 7, 1992). Considering Iran’s aggressive foreign policy, this report certainly has the ring of truth.

On top of this, Iran has had a nuclear program of its own for many years. There have been information leaks that show Iran, while publicly stating that its program is purely for energy use, actually wants other nations to know it could be a nuclear threat.”

—Gerald Flurry, *The King of the South*

in June provoked a spiral of violence that led to the war in Gaza, the first acknowledgement of the movement’s involvement.

Hamas, which controls Gaza, has up to now refused to confirm or deny Israeli accusations that it masterminded the abduction and killing of the three young men, one of them a joint U.S.-Israeli citizen, in Hebron.

“There was much speculation about this operation, some said it was a conspiracy,” Saleh al-Arouri told delegates at the International Union of Islamic Scholars in Istanbul on Wednesday, according to a recording of the meeting posted online by organizers.

“The popular will was exercised throughout our occupied land, and culminated in the heroic operation by the Qassam Brigades in imprisoning the three settlers in Hebron,” he said, referring to Hamas’s armed wing. ...

Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal, who is in exile in Qatar, denied knowledge of the abduction but praised its perpetrators.

Nearly three weeks after the kidnappings, 16-year-old Mohammed



Abu Khudair, a Palestinian living in East Jerusalem, was abducted, beaten and burned to death by, prosecutors said, a group of Jewish extremists.

Protests broke out in Abu Khudair’s neighborhood and Hamas responded by firing rockets at Israel from Gaza.

That escalated into a full-scale war with Israel in which more than 2,000 Palestinians, most of them civilians, have been killed, as well as 64 Israeli soldiers and three civilians in Israel.

Two Palestinian suspects Israel has named as the kidnappers of the three seminary students remain at large.

Israel said a third suspect arrested by its security forces admitted under interrogation to organizing the kidnapping with funds from Hamas in Gaza.

Hamas Claims Abducted Israeli Teens

REUTERS | August 21

A TOP Hamas official said members of his militant group kidnapped three Israeli teenagers whose deaths

Germany Emerges as Key Figure in Ukraine

NEW YORK TIMES | August 19

WITH [UNITED States] President [Barack] Obama facing a host of other problems around the world and at home, Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany is emerging more and more as a pivotal leader on the Ukraine conflict.

But while the leadership role plays to her image and Germany's sense of its importance in Europe, it has Ms. Merkel dancing delicately between opposing forces.

On Monday, she descended on Latvia for six hours to deliver a message: She sympathizes with the Baltics' fears in the wake of Russia's annexation of Crimea and involvement in eastern Ukraine. She agrees that NATO's treaty about standing behind alliance members in need "is not only a hypothetical possibility, but a very real option that we will act upon when needed."

"We must be prepared for this," she said, "and these preparations must be stronger than we thought a few years ago."

But while that reflected her disillusionment with President Vladimir V. Putin's Russia, she made equally clear that Germany—and presumably other NATO powers—would not agree to a permanent presence of allied troops in countries bordering Russia at a NATO summit meeting in Wales next month, as the Baltic States have demanded.

That, she said, would flout the NATO-Russia accord of 1997. Instead, she and Prime Minister Laimdota Straujuma of Latvia suggested after talks on Monday, the allies will

maintain a "persistent presence," involving allied troops in air surveillance, near-constant maneuvers or training that keeps NATO forces on the ground much of the time in member states like Poland or the Baltics—a compromise, but not one likely to set off Mr. Putin's wrath.

Ms. Merkel's involvement in the Ukraine crisis deepened Tuesday, when it was announced in Berlin that she would travel to Kiev, the capital, on Saturday for talks with Ukrainian leaders. Hours later came the announcement that Ukraine's leader and Mr. Putin will meet next Tuesday in Belarus—only their second face-to-face meeting and one that the Germans, among others, have been pushing for weeks. ... More delicately, it puts her in Ukraine on the 75th anniversary of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, in which the Nazis and Soviets secretly agreed to divide Poland and bring the Baltic states under Soviet domination.

Memories of those occupations have stirred anew in the Baltics in recent months....

With Mr. Obama immersed in crises from Iraq to Ferguson, Missouri, and other European leaders facing their own domestic problems—Britain is riveted by Scotland's referendum on independence, France is mired in economic and political woes—[Ms. Merkel] is ever more the guiding spirit at European summit meetings as well as handling Ukraine in between, diplomats say. ...

Ferguson on Europe's Front Pages. Why?

M. S., ECONOMIST | August 19

I WOKE up today to find my Dutch morning paper, the *Volkskrant*, dominated by a full-page spread on the results of the independent autopsy on Michael Brown, the shooting victim whose death has plunged the town of Ferguson, Missouri, into protests and riots. The situation in Ferguson also headlined today's editions of Spain's *El Pais*, Portugal's *Publico*, Denmark's *Politiken*, France's *Liberation*, and Germany's *Der Tagespiegel*, *Die Tag-zeitung* and *Die Welt*.

The racially charged protests over police brutality in Ferguson are an important story, but the level of attention they are drawing in Europe is frankly bizarre. Police killings of unarmed black men occur regularly in America,

and Ferguson is a small, faraway mid-western town. Yet the protests there are drawing more focused attention in northern European media than the anti-austerity riots in Greece did during the euro crisis. When Paris saw anti-Semitic riots following pro-Gaza demonstrations on July 13, it did not even make a sidebar item on the front page of the next day's *Die Welt*. ...

On Monday the Ukrainian Army was taking over Luhansk, the Kurds were reconquering the Mosul dam from [the Islamic State], Israel and Hamas were still locked in negotiations over extending their ceasefire, and the [World Health Organization] announced that the number of Ebola victims had topped 1,200. All of these stories are closer and more relevant to Europeans than issues of racial justice in the St. Louis suburbs. So what is Ferguson doing on Europe's front pages?

Part of the attraction of the

Ferguson story for Europeans may be a bit of Schadenfreude enjoyment of America's racial woes. Europeans got tremendous political mileage out of America's racial conflicts in the 1960s, using American racism as a negative pole to rally support for counter-American projects both on the Gaullist right and on the socialist left. In recent years it has been Europe that has struggled with anti-immigrant racism and an integration model that seems to work much worse than America's. Europeans weary of criticism over rising xenophobia may be relieved to see that America still has its own troubles.

In a similar fashion, countries such as China, Russia, Egypt and Iran are exploiting the Ferguson riots to try to blunt human-rights criticism of their own repressive activities.

"Obviously, what the United States needs to do is to concentrate

on solving its own problems rather than always pointing fingers at others,” huffed an editorial published by *Xinhua* on Monday. “We would like to advise our American partners to pay more attention to restoring order in their own country, before imposing their dubious experience on others,” Russia’s Foreign Ministry declared Friday.

This sort of nonsense essentially recaps scripts developed by the Soviet Union in the 1960s and ’70s, and there’s nothing to say about it except that it should be entirely disregarded.

Racism is far more ubiquitous, deep-seated and reflexive in both China and Russia than it is in America or Western Europe, precisely because events like those in Ferguson lead America to engage in a soul-searching national debate, while similar events in Russia and China generally lead either to no internal self-examination or to a hardening of racial animosities. Persistent racial discrimination and prejudice in America should not lead America or other countries to be any less harsh in their condemnations of China’s treatment of Tibetans and Uighurs, or of Russia’s treatment of Chechens, Dagestanis, Roma, Vietnamese, etc.

That said, there’s another reason why the events in Ferguson are so interesting to a European public, and for that matter to everyone else. The confrontation in Ferguson, as many observers have noticed, looks uncannily like the ones in Ukraine, Gaza and Iraq. There is clearly some kind of a global blowback going on, in which military techniques of forcible population control developed for use at the periphery of states’ areas of sovereignty are now being applied at the center. Leonid Bershidsky, a brilliant Russian journalist and editor, laid out the similarities in a fascinating column [on August 18] in *Bloomberg View*. “Police officers around the world are becoming convinced they are fighting a war on something or other, whether that’s drugs, terrorism, anarchists or political subversion,” Mr. Bershidsky writes. “This mindset contrasts with the public’s unchanged perception of what the police should

be doing, which is to keep the streets safe, a conceptual clash that can lead to unexpected results.” ...

Putin Rouses Europe Tankmakers

BLOOMBERG | August 18

THE UKRAINE crisis is pushing European governments to review the role of the weapon that dominated Cold War defenses as the strength of Russian ground forces stirs political concerns: the battle tank.

The cost and war-fighting benefits of developing common armored vehicles for the region could also spur consolidation beyond the pending merger of Germany’s Krauss-Maffei Wegmann GmbH and France’s Nexter Systems SA, said Frank Haun, chief executive officer at KMW, maker of the 62-ton Leopard 2.

[Russian President] Vladimir Putin’s massing of Russian troops on the Ukraine border has left frontline nations pondering the strength of armored brigades that have shrunk since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Haun said in an interview at KMW’s Munich base. Nordic countries including Finland and former communist states such as Poland are among those reviewing capabilities. ...

While defense spending in Western and Central Europe fell 2.4 percent last year to \$312 billion, budgets have begun to revive in states bordering Russia, with increases in Poland, Finland, Norway, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

Finnish President Sauli Niinistö met with Putin on August 15 for talks about the escalating tensions after saying the world was on the brink of a new Cold War. Finland has a longer land border with Russia than the rest of the European Union combined. ...

In Russia, the T-90 tank remains in high production, with almost 1,700 built and a successor, the T-99, in development. The capabilities of the country’s heavy armor are also a source of national pride, with a “tank biathlon” held outside Moscow in the first half of August attracting 70,000

spectators and crews from China to Venezuela, according to state-run news wire RIA Novosti. ...

Concern about the need to respond to a more aggressive Russian foreign policy comes as European tank manufacturing undergoes its biggest upheaval for decades, with KMW poised to create a new regional “champion” via the Nexter deal that should enhance interoperability among armies while helping to pare costs and eke out research budgets, Haun said. ...

For KMW, joining with the Paris-based maker of the Leclerc battle tank will add new products, technology and markets, none of which would be achieved in a mooted all-German combination with Dusseldorf-based Rheinmetall AG, which makes the Leopard 2’s main canon, firing system and ammunition, the CEO said. ...

The Nexter merger, first mulled more than eight years ago, will seek to replicate the success of pan-European aerospace and defense tie-ups including Airbus Group NV (AIR) and Eurofighter GmbH. ...

Europe’s land-defense manufacturing industry has 17 active production lines for main battle tanks, armored fighting vehicles, personnel carriers and self-propelled howitzers, according to a study by the Brussels-based Center for European Political Studies. That compares with just two sites in the [United States]. ... Britain, which used the world’s first tanks in the Battle of the Somme during World War I, will lose its last assembly line with the shuttering of an historic BAE plant in Newcastle upon Tyne in the second half following final deliveries of Terrier combat-engineer vehicles. ...

TW IN BRIEF

■ Pope calls for war against the Islamic State

Pope Francis called for an international effort to “stop” the Islamic State in Iraq, during a press conference on his way back from South Korea on August 18. When asked if he approved of America bombing the terrorist group, the pope replied, “In these cases where there is an unjust aggression, I

can only say this: It is licit to stop the unjust aggressor.” He continued: “I underline the verb: stop. I do not say bomb, make war, I say stop by some means. With what means can they be stopped? These have to be evaluated. To stop the unjust aggressor is licit.” However, he made clear that he thought this stopping must be done by a community of nations. “One nation alone cannot judge how to stop an unjust aggressor,” he said. “After the Second World War there was the idea of the United Nations. It is there that this should be discussed. Is there an unjust aggressor? It would seem there is.” While these statements may not seem very dramatic, they mark a major change for the usually pacifist pope. “War always marks the failure of peace,” he said last September, speaking on the

subject of the violence in Syria, “it is always a defeat for humanity.” In July, he proclaimed, “Everything is lost with war, nothing is lost with peace.” Now that a large number of Catholics have their lives on the line, the pope has suddenly realized that war is sometimes necessary. For more on where this is leading, see our recent article [“Where the Vatican’s Call for Military Intervention in Iraq Is Headed.”](#)

■ Germany ready to arm the Kurds

Germany is ready to send weapons to the Kurds to help them fight the Islamic State, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said in a joint press conference with Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen, on August 20. With other European Union nations sending weapons to the Kurds,

he announced, “we are ready to do the same.” He said that Germany would send humanitarian and non-lethal equipment such as night-vision goggles, while it coordinates with other EU nations regarding what weapon shipments would be best. A few days earlier, on August 16, Steinmeier visited a church in Irbil’s Christian enclave of Ankawa, under the control of the Kurds. Christian Iraqis fleeing the advance of Islamic State terrorists have taken refuge in the city of Irbil, overwhelming its capabilities to support the refugees. Continue to watch for Europe to become more involved in the Middle East as the United States withdraws from the region. Read [“The World’s Newest Most Radical ‘State’”](#) to learn more about the Islamic State and where these events are leading.

ASIA

Food Sanctions Hit Russian Shoppers

BBC | August 19

RUSSIA’S EMBARGO on imported Western food is hitting its own people, as food prices in Moscow shops have jumped by up to 6 percent in just a week. Moscow officials say frozen fish prices in the capital’s major supermarkets have risen by 6 percent, milk by 5.3 percent and an average cheese costs 4.4 percent more than it did before the August 7 ban took effect.

Russia has banned imports of those basic foods, as well as meat and many other products, from Western countries, Australia and Japan. It is retaliation for the West’s sanctions on Russia over the revolt by pro-Russia separatists in Ukraine.

And it is not just Moscow. On the island of Sakhalin, in Russia’s far east, officials say the price of chicken thighs has soared 60 percent. Before the sanctions these were among the cheapest and most popular meat products in Russia.

In the neighboring Primorye region, fish is now reportedly 40 percent

more expensive than just a few weeks ago. ...

Polls show that the vast majority of Russians approve of the sanctions against Western food. They have been told by government officials and state-controlled TV that the embargo will not affect prices, and that it will actually allow Russia’s own agriculture to flourish. And that message is being believed. ...

China to Buy Russian Submarines?

WANT CHINA TIMES | August 17

CHINA REPORTEDLY signed two military sale frameworks with Moscow, of which Russia will jointly build four Amur-class AIP submarines with China and sell them to the country while China will buy 24 Su-35 fighters from Russia, reports Sina’s military news portal.

It is the first major military procurement China has made with Russia in 10 years, said the report. China needs submarines to counter threats from India’s fleet and build a fleet to

resist America’s influence, said the Voice of Russia, the Russian government’s international radio broadcasting service. A manager for a Russian national defense export company said Moscow and Beijing have been negotiating over submarine technologies. China has not revealed how many submarines it wants to buy and has not scheduled to sign a supply contract.

It is natural for India and China to show interest in Russia’s Amur-class submarines, said a retired Russian Navy general named Sivkov. The submarine is superior to the export version of China’s 877 submarine and China would want the Amur-class vessel since India has them. The Russian submarine can also effectively fight against American submarines and destroy Los Angeles- and Virginia-class nuclear-powered submarines from long distances. Since it produces little noise underwater, American submarines cannot detect ... its presence. The characteristic allows the submarine to ... fire warning shots or destroy enemy ships effectively during real battles. ...

Related: [“Czars and Emperors”](#)

China, Russia Expand Agricultural Trade

CHINA DAILY | August 21

CHINESE COMPANIES exported \$2.1 billion worth of agricultural produce to Russia last year, and China is willing to work with Russia to expand two-way agricultural produce trade, said a Ministry of Commerce spokesman.

Shen Danyang, the spokesman, made the comments at a regular press conference when asked about Russia's decision to restrict food imports from the United States and the European Union and increase trade with China.

Based on the China-Russia all-around partnership of strategic cooperation, China is willing to boost economic and trade relations with Russia, and will continue to create conditions for bilateral cooperation in the energy, agriculture, infrastructure and high-tech sectors, he said.

Shen said China's agricultural exporters choose export destinations based on market information, so it is normal commercial behavior for them to expand exports to Russia and arrange other business.

Agricultural produce trade between

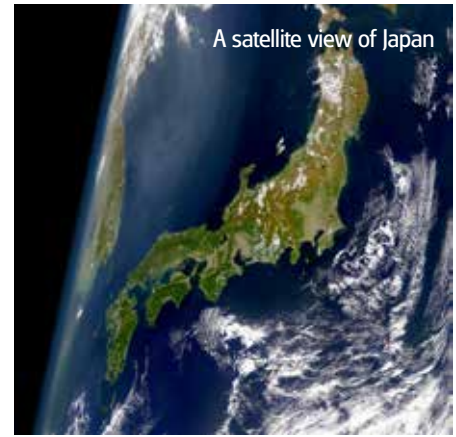
the two neighboring countries has a unique edge and growth potential, he said, adding that the Chinese side will encourage both Chinese and Russian companies to increase agricultural produce trade.

Russia is a major trade partner of China. In the first seven months of 2014, bilateral trade grew by 4 percent year on year to \$53 billion, according to the Chinese customs data.

TW IN BRIEF

■ Japan's race for space

Hazardous space debris in Earth's orbit is spurring Japan to develop a space monitoring division of its Self-Defense Forces. Scientists estimate that around 3,000 pieces of debris are orbiting the Earth, endangering man-made satellites. Japan plans to use this new monitoring division to protect its satellites. However, the way the Asian nation is going about it has some warning that the world may be entering a perilous new phase of escalating space weapon development. In May, Japan and the United States agreed to enhance cooperation in defense-related matters in space. While Japan's plans for these projects are officially defensive



A satellite view of Japan

and for destroying space junk, the technology could just as easily be used to shoot down other nations' satellites and space infrastructure. Look for the space race to heat up. As former *Trumpet* columnist Ron Fraser wrote over a decade ago: "War is endemic to the past and continuing history of mankind. Consider and realize that major wars will never be controlled from this Earth's surface again! From now on, all major wars will be controlled from space." Read "[Does Japan's Historic Constitutional Change Mean Its Military Secret Will Soon Come Out?](#)" to see how Japan is abandoning its pacifist constitution and is militarizing once again.

LATIN AMERICA/AFRICA

Liberia Seals Off Slum to Prevent Spread of Ebola

LOS ANGELES TIMES | August 20

CLASHES ERUPTED Wednesday as security forces sealed off a sprawling seaside slum in the Liberian capital in a bid to prevent the spread of the deadly Ebola virus.

Angry residents stormed barbed-wire barricades and threw stones at the troops, who fired shots in the air to drive them back, news reports said. ...

At least 1,350 people have died, the World Health Organization said Wednesday, and the disease continues to spread, with more than 2,400 suspected or confirmed cases identified.

Over the weekend, residents angry about the placement of an Ebola screening center in Monrovia's West Point slum, attacked the facility, chasing away sick patients and carrying off bloody sheets and other possibly contaminated items, the Associated Press reported.

All 37 patients have been located and are receiving treatment, Liberian health authorities said, but it is unclear how many more people may have been exposed to the disease. ...

In a statement released Tuesday, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf ordered security forces to impose a quarantine on West Point, which is home to about 50,000 people, and on Dolo Town, about 30 miles south of the capital, Monrovia.

She also announced a nationwide curfew from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. and ordered all "entertainment centers" closed indefinitely. ...

Related: "[Disease Pandemics Are Coming](#)" and "[Why Does God Allow Suffering?](#)"

Nigerian Soldiers 'Mutiny Over Weapons'

BBC | August 19

A GROUP of soldiers in northeastern Nigeria is refusing to fight Islamist Boko Haram militants until they receive better equipment, one of the mutineers has told the BBC.

The soldier, who requested anonymity, said at least 40 of his colleagues would refuse orders to deploy. ...

A state of emergency that was declared in three northeastern states last year has failed to curb the insurgency.

Boko Haram is fighting to create an Islamic state in Nigeria, and [it] has stepped up its attacks after being

pushed out of its bases in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State, targeting towns and villages in deadly raids.

"Soldiers are dying like fowl," the soldier, who said he and his colleagues were just outside Maiduguri, told the BBC Hausa service.

"The Nigerian Army is not ready to fight Boko Haram," he said,

explaining that soldiers were not being given enough weapons and ammunition to take them on. "Boko Haram are inside the bush, everywhere," he said. ...

Related: ["Radical Islam Explodes in Nigeria"](#)

ANGLO-AMERICA



GERALD FLURRY

The World Is Descending Into Chaos (Haggai)

It's not just you—the world around us really is descending into dangerous chaos.



Holder: Ferguson Is Deeply Personal

USA TODAY | August 20

ATTORNEY GENERAL Eric Holder flew to Ferguson, Missouri, on Wednesday as the nation's chief law enforcement officer leading an investigation into a police shooting.

He also arrived as an African-American who said he understands the racial tensions that have fueled days of protests that have been marred by violence and mass arrests since the August 9 shooting of Michael Brown by Ferguson police officer Darren

Wilson.

"I am the Attorney General of the United States, but I am also a black man," Holder told Ferguson residents at a community meeting. ...

Holder was here primarily for briefings on the Justice Department's ongoing investigation into possible civil rights violations related to the fatal shooting. He offered perhaps his most forceful and personal assessment yet of how the 18-year-old man's shooting has reignited a long history of racial "mistrust and mutual suspicion." ...

"The eyes of the nation and the world are watching Ferguson right

now," Holder told a group of community leaders assembled at a local community college. "The world is watching because the issues raised by the shooting of Michael Brown pre-date this incident. This is something that has a history to it, and the history simmers beneath the surface in more communities than just Ferguson." ...

Holder arrived as a local grand jury began hearing evidence to determine whether Wilson should be charged in the fatal shooting.

The Justice Department is conducting a parallel investigation into possible civil rights violations related to the shooting. In an extraordinary move, he also ordered a federal autopsy—the third forensic examination of the body, which was hit at least six times by gunfire.

Before a briefing on the investigation at local FBI headquarters, Holder said the Justice Department had assembled "very experienced" prosecutors and agents to pursue the federal civil rights inquiry.

"Our investigation is different," Holder said in a meeting room surrounded by top local federal officials, including FBI agent in charge William Woods and U.S. attorney Rich Callahan.

"We're looking for possible violations of federal civil rights statutes," the attorney general said.

Holder also met with Missouri State Highway Patrol Capt. Ron Johnson, who is coordinating law enforcement response to the protests. Asked whether he had confidence in the local investigation led by the St. Louis County prosecuting attorney, Johnson



STEPHEN FLURRY

Britain, a Beheading and the Other Immigration Crisis

America isn't the only country being overrun by foreign-born immigrants.



said: “General Holder, by being here, is a guarantee on that.” ...

Compton School Police Getting AR-15s

Ben Shapiro, TRUTH REVOLT | August 20

IN JULY, the school board for the city of Compton in Southern California passed a measure that would allow the school's police to keep AR-15 rifles in the trunks of their patrol cars in case of a school shooting or other attack.

According to KPCC [Southern California Public Radio], Compton Unified Police Chief William Wu urged the board to consider the proposal, saying that school officers are “under-equipped in the event of a terrorist attack or mass shooting.” “This is our objective—save lives, bottom line,” he said.

Chief Wu argued that the current firearms issued to school police would not stop anyone wearing body armor and that an assault-style rifle would be “more deadly” and “more accurate.”

A graduate of a Compton-area high school and founder of the Compton

Democratic Club, Francisco Orozco, told KPCC that the “escalation of weapons” is “very unnecessary. ... The school police has not even earned the right to carry handguns.” ...

Britain's Beheaders

Douglas Murray, SPECTATOR | August 20

IT IS the now familiar nightmare image. A kneeling prisoner, and behind him a black-hooded man speaking to [a] camera. The standing man denounces the West and claims that his form of Islam is under attack. He then saws off the head of the hostage. Why did Wednesday morning's video stand out? Because this time the captive was an American journalist—James Foley—and his murderer is speaking in an unmistakable London accent.

The revulsion with which this latest Islamist atrocity has been greeted is of course understandable. But it is also surprising. This is no one-off, certainly no anomaly. Rather it is the continuation of an entirely foreseeable trend. Britain has long been a global hub of terror export, so much so that senior [United States] government

officials have suggested the next attack on U.S. soil is likely to come from UK citizens. All countries—from Australia to Scandinavia—now have a problem with Islamic extremists. But the world could be forgiven for suspecting that Britain has become the weak link in the international fight against jihadism. And they would be right. This is not even the first beheading of an American journalist to have been arranged by a British man from London.

In 2002, 27-year-old Omar Sheikh was in Pakistan. A north London-born graduate of a private school and the London School of Economics ... organized the kidnapping and beheading of the *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl.

Back then it was possible to dismiss Omar Sheikh as a one-off—a macabre fluke. ... The shrug became a little harder to maintain—though maintained it was—the next year when two British men—Asif Hanif, 21, from Hounslow in west London and Omar Khan Sharif, 27—carried out a suicide bombing in a bar on the waterfront in Tel Aviv. ...

On July 7, 2005, British-born Muslims carried out the first suicide bombings on British soil, with four more attempted a fortnight later. On Christmas Day 2009, the former head of the Islamic Society at University College London attempted to explode a bomb on a plane as it landed in Detroit. Last year, two converts decapitated Drummer Lee Rigby in broad daylight in south London.

It is important to keep in mind that these are just the most high-profile cases. ...

All the while, as the list of jihadists grew, so did the number of places where they could train. Perhaps as many as 4,000 people from Britain are thought to have gone to train or fight in Afghanistan. Estimates of the number of British citizens who have gone to fight in Syria and Iraq range from just over 500 to 1,500. ... If the larger figure is correct, it would be significantly higher than the number of Muslims currently serving in Britain's armed forces. ...

The list goes on. ... Earlier this

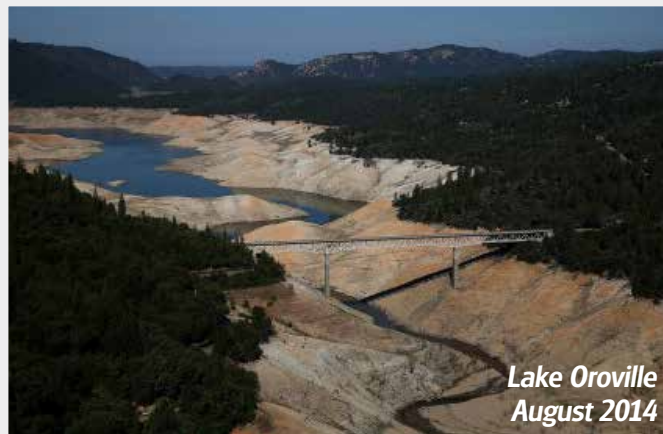
The Scariest Thing About California's Record Drought

WANT TO know the scariest thing about California's historic drought? It is not that last year was the state's driest since the start of record keeping in 1895. Or that this year is set to be even dryer. It isn't that thousands of acres of tinder dry forests have gone up in flames or that fish and wildlife communities are being devastated. Or that orchards and vineyards are being bulldozed, fields are lying fallow, rivers are drying up, thousands of workers are losing their livelihoods, or that food prices are rising as a result.

The state's major reservoirs are nearing crisis proportions. Lake Shasta, the state's largest reservoir, is at 32 percent capacity—and that's the good news. New Melones is at 24 percent; San Luis is at 20 percent; Exchequer is 18



ROBERT MORLEY



**Lake Oroville
August 2014**

[the current] usage rate, California has less than two years of water remaining.”

The state's snowpack, the source of roughly one third of the state's drinking and agricultural water, is only at about 20 percent of its normal water content.

All these things point to the severity of California's drought.

What they don't tell is where it is going to be tomorrow. That is the scariest thing about California's drought.

The archaeological record points to far worse droughts in the past, including some that lasted more than 50 years. *California's current problems are only three years old.*

What would the state that produces so much of the nation's food, and is home to 38 million people, look like after a half-century of drought? This is what Californians should ask themselves. It has happened before. Actually, paleoclimatic data indicate that during the last 400 years, the U.S. has probably received some of the best weather North America has had to offer over the past 2,000—even considering the Dust Bowl of the 1930s.

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Related: “Is a ‘Mega-Drought’ on the Way?”



**Lake Oroville
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percent; Pine Flat is at 12 percent. *There isn't a single major reservoir within the entire state of California at or above its historical average.*

Back in June, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) meteorologist Brad Rippey told 24/7 Wall St., “At

month, Abdel-Majed Abdel Bary from west London appeared in a photo he himself posted on Twitter. He is pictured holding a severed head with the caption “chillin’ with my homie, or what’s left of him.” ...

Of course, one line of argument claims that if we just left all these places alone then none of this would come to us. ... [W]e have very much left Syria alone—and lo and behold, we seem to have created another jihadist generation. ...

Yet remarkably few people seem to realize that this isn't really about us.

Nevertheless, it comes ever closer to home. In recent weeks the black flag of

jihad as used by [the Islamic State] has been flown openly in London—supporters of Isis have appeared on Oxford Street—and elsewhere. Just this week, the imam of a leading Welsh mosque resigned after a pro-[Islamic State] guest preacher was invited to speak at his mosque.

This battle is going on in households and mosques up and down this country. We fear joining up these dots. And we fear giving offense more than we fear the international opprobrium that is coming our way.

The country that brought liberty to much of the world is now exporting terrorism to large parts of it. Britain

needs to look to itself, and address this problem, if there are not to be many more videos like this week's.

California's Economic Collision Course

FORBES | August 19

YOU HAVE heard it before: “As California goes, so goes the nation.” If that is the case, the national economy will be harmed for decades to come because of California's misplaced priorities today. Indeed, by emphasizing high-speed rail over water and failing

No Facts, No Peace

Ann Coulter, TRUTH REVOLT | August 21

IT'S IMPORTANT to remember that, in police shooting cases like the one in Ferguson, Missouri, the initial facts are often wrong. You don't want to end up looking like Rich Lowry, *National Review* editor, whose March 23, 2012, column on the Trayvon Martin shooting was titled, "Al Sharpton Is Right."

Early accounts are especially unreliable when reporters think they have a white racism story. Stirring up racial hatred is how journalists make up for sending their own kids to lily-white private schools. ...

The old media just love creating huge racist hoaxes—which has done so much to improve the lives of ordinary black people!

Luckily for America, especially African-Americans, the advent of alternative media has reduced the Non-Fox Media's ability to stir up urban riots. Today, it's possible to get information that never would have seen the light of day in the 1980s.

In less than two weeks, the original version of the racist police execution of Michael Brown—or "Big Mike"—has already undergone major revisions. We were told:

- Big Mike was the sweetest kid, he'd never hurt a flea. Then we got the store surveillance video of him robbing a liquor store and manhandling the clerk. Perhaps Big Mike committed his first-ever crime 11 minutes before his encounter with Officer Darren

Wilson, but it doesn't look good.

- He was shot in the back.
At least two autopsies now establish Big Mike was not shot in the back.
- He didn't touch the police officer.
This week, we saw the X-ray of Officer Wilson's fractured eye socket.
- He was holding his arms up surrendering when Officer Wilson shot him.
That's at least in doubt now that a video of a Big Mike supporter has emerged, capturing the private conversation of an eyewitness confirming the officer's claim that Big Mike was running at him.

On the tape, one black man tells another: "Him and the police was both in the truck, then he ran—the police got out and ran after him ... Then the next thing I know he comes back toward the truck 'cause—the police had his gun drawn already on him. The police kept dumping on him, and I'm thinking that the police missing ... but he kept coming toward him."

Some would say a private conversation, unintentionally recorded immediately after an event, is more credible than alleged eyewitness accounts by people who know they're talking to the press

But if MSNBC can spend six months on a bridge closure in Fort Lee, New Jersey, they can probably do at least a year on a police shooting in Ferguson, Missouri.

to deal with its debt crisis, California poses a long-term threat to our national economy and is on an economic collision course of increased immigration and lack of water.

California has more than 38 million residents. Despite net losses of millions of residents to other states, California continues to grow through immigration. Latinos now equal the number of non-Hispanic whites in California. With projections that show California's population reaching 45 to 50 million within 20 years, you would think job creation would be job number one for Jerry Brown. ...

California still has one of the nation's highest unemployment rates. Also, more than 30 percent of the nation's welfare recipients are Californians—even though California has just 12 percent of the nation's population. It is not surprising, therefore, that California is ranked [number] one in poverty. ...

California is the most regulated, highest-taxed, most in-debt state in

America. According to government data, from the municipal to the state level, California governments have more than \$1.1 trillion in debt—much of that tied to pensions. ...

High debt, high taxes, high regulations and high poverty are not exactly the foundation on which to add 7 to 12 million people. California's private sector needs an economic recovery far more robust and broad-based to absorb those new people. Unfortunately, California continues to make bad decisions with long-term implications.

Perhaps worst among them is Brown's decision to make high-speed rail a higher priority

than water. ... To combat the lack of water brought on by drought and environmental policies that favor fish over people, California farmers are behind a drilling boom—for groundwater. The problem is that, at current rates of consumption, some believe California could run nearly dry of groundwater within two decades. ...

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VATICAN from page 1

“Unusually strong language” is probably an overstatement by the *Guardian*. Compared to previous popes, and considering the dramatic cruelty of the terrorist group, it is easier to make the case that Francis’s remarks are merely stronger than they were before.

However, the pope’s remarks, and some recent decisions made by the Vatican, clearly reveal that the Vatican is toughening its stance.

Two recent moves signal how serious the Vatican and the pope are about the situation in Iraq. Pope Francis has dispatched his close ally, Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Prefect for the Congregation of the Evangelization of Peoples, as a personal envoy to the country. Also, according to the *Guardian*, the Vatican plans to meet with all its envoys from the region in September.

Internal encouragement added to external pressure have prompted the pope to speak out.

Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, the president handling Eastern Catholic churches, in his August 7 statement published by the Congregation for the Oriental Churches thanked the pope for his “attentive closeness” to the developing situation and called the Islamic State’s actions “acts against God.”

Catholic.org, a hub for the dissemination of Catholic news, has kept its readers abreast of developments in Iraq. The website has even provided gory photos of brutality it believes are a result of the Islamic State’s violence. Many of the victims are women and children.

One caption for a photo of a decapitated little girl exhorts: “All humanity owes a debt to this baby girl, to find her murderers and bring them to justice, dead or alive. That the nations of the world and its citizens sit complacent is the greatest embarrassment to civilization and should be the source of deep shame to all. Everything less that we do ... pales by comparison. *We have a moral imperative to act.*”

On August 12, the Vatican continued its call for more action, even condoning military intervention. Archbishop Giorgio Lingua, the pope’s ambassador to Baghdad, told Vatican Radio that United States President Barack Obama’s decision to bomb Islamic State militants was “something that had to be done.” Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, the Vatican envoy to the United Nations in Geneva, followed that up by telling Vatican Radio that “military action in this moment is probably necessary.”

This past Monday, while returning from a five-day trip to South Korea, Francis continued his push for Western intervention by suggesting that the West must stop the Islamic State with whatever legal means available. “Where there is unjust aggression,” he told reporters, “I am not saying ‘bomb’ or ‘make war,’ but ‘stop him.’ The means by which he can be stopped must be evaluated. Stopping the aggressor is legitimate.”

USA Today noted that Francis’s remarks were “a rare pronouncement that goes against the Vatican’s usual guidance against the use of force.” As the article goes on to explain, just last year during an open-air August mass, Francis objected to the idea of military intervention in

Syria stating, “Violence and war are never the way to peace.”

Sometime last week Francis also wrote to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in what Britain’s *Daily Mail* described as “an ‘urgent appeal to the international community to take action to end the humanitarian tragedy now underway.’” Francis wrote, “The tragic experiences of the 20th century, and the most basic understanding of human dignity, compels the international community, particularly through the norms and mechanisms of international law, to do all that it can to stop and to prevent further systematic violence against ethnic and religious minorities.”

Many have taken Francis’s ongoing comments as a push for war.

In what could be a related response to Vatican efforts to generate a response to the Islamic State, Germany has also agreed “in principle” to send various armaments to Kurdish forces fighting the terrorist group. Currently, the militants are better armed with superior American military equipment and weapons obtained from retreating Iraqi forces. German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier explained that the barbaric violence in Iraq and the growing threat to Europe was the reason for the decision. European leaders are concerned that the Islamic State will advance further; thus, putting Kurdish forces on an equal or better footing with the terrorist group is a growing priority.

If Germany does send armaments to the region, it will join other European nations, including France, which has already sent arms to Kurdish fighters. Italy is also contemplating sending used machine guns, ammunition and anti-tank rockets.

In recent months, the Islamic State has taken aim at both Europe and America, but its turn toward Europe is most notable and geopolitically significant. When the group’s leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, declared the Islamic State a “caliphate” on the first day of Ramadan, June 29, he said, “Rush, O Muslims, to your state. Yes, it is your state. Rush, because Syria is not for the Syrians and Iraq is not for the Iraqis. ... The land is for the Muslims, all the Muslims. ... This is my advice to you. *If you hold to it you will conquer Rome and own the world, if Allah wills.*”

Such braggadocio is sure to have gained the Vatican’s attention. “Rome” is a code word for the Vatican and the Catholic religion. So we should expect the Vatican to continue to marshal its considerable political power and influence against the Islamic State and radical Islamic terror.

As the butchering and pillaging in Iraq continues, and as the Islamic State’s threats against Europe grow, the Vatican will strengthen its own calls for action. Someone must fill the vacuum created by the astonishing decline of American power. Prophecy boldly states that void will be filled by Germany, guided by the Vatican. In the future, expect Europe and Germany take the lead in dealing with the Islamic State’s threat.

To learn more, read editor in chief Gerald Flurry’s recent *Trumpet* article [“The Dark Side of the Pope’s Visit to Jerusalem.”](#)