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THE TRUMPET WEEKLY

OCTOBER 3, 2014

Syria teetering on the brink 2

How Iran scammed America 4

World sinks beneath sea of debt 5

Chinese ship 'perfect fit' for Russian Navy 7

The greenback's days are numbered 8

## Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg: Positioned for a Comeback?

BY BRAD MACDONALD

**Y**OU CAN drive the man out of politics, but you can never drive politics out of the man. Case in point: Karl-Theodor Maria Nikolaus Johann Jacob Philipp Franz Joseph Sylvester Freiherr von und zu Guttenberg.

A few years ago Baron Guttenberg was Germany's defense minister, the nation's most popular politician, and the individual many were certain was next in line to become chancellor. Today Mr. Guttenberg resides in Connecticut, America, where he was banished in 2011 following a massive scandal surrounding the discovery that he had

plagiarized parts of his doctorate. Although he no longer holds an office, he remains an astute, pragmatic politician, a dynamic communicator, and a born leader.

He is, therefore, a man to watch.

Guttenberg has strong views on all the major issues, including the United States-Germany spying scandal (and the relationship in general), Putin's war on Ukraine, the Islamic State's rise in Iraq and Syria, the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, Germany's military, and Germany's role on the international stage. His opinions are **see COMEBACK page 12**



Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg leaves the panel discussion of the Bavarian Economic Association on Security in Global Trade and Logistic Streams on January 30, in Munich, Germany.

## Syria Is Ready to Explode

Anthony Chibariwe | October 1

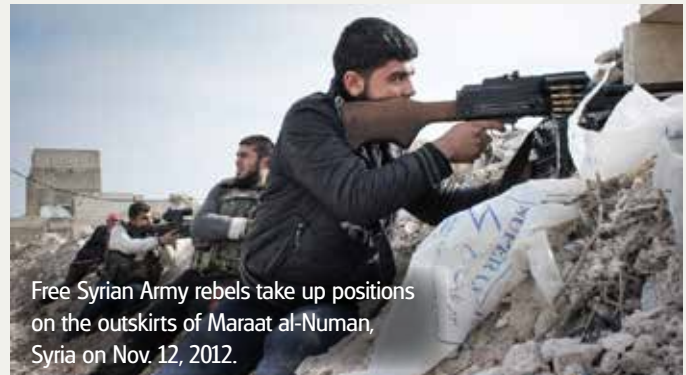
THE HOUSE of Representatives voted 273-to-156 on September 17 in favor of legislation to authorize the Obama administration to arm and train “moderate” Syrian rebels against Islamic State. The following day, the Senate voted 78-to-22 for the same authorization. The United States can now legally spend \$500 million to arm and train about 5,000 “vetted” rebels in Syria. Islamic State has about 20,000 militants in Syria.

That’s the extent to which the Syrian crisis has deteriorated.

As recently as August, U.S. President Barack Obama was against arming any of Syria’s rebels. In an interview with the *New York Times*, Obama said that “with respect to Syria, it has always been a fantasy—this idea that we could provide some light arms or even more sophisticated arms to what was essentially an opposition made up of former doctors, farmers, pharmacists and so forth, and that they were going to be able to battle not only a well-armed state but also a well-armed state backed by Russia, backed by Iran, a battle-hardened Hezbollah, that was never in the cards.”

Now, that “fantasy” is reality, and Congress is supporting it. At a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the day before casting his “yes” vote, Sen. Marco Rubio cited “credible reports” that asserted that the biggest enemy facing the “moderate” opposition forces in Syria is the Assad regime—not necessarily Islamic State. Those reports said that Syrian President Bashar Assad’s forces were stepping up their fight against the “moderate” rebels that are battling both Assad and Islamic State. When Rubio asked Secretary of State John Kerry whether the United States may need to protect those “moderate” rebels from Assad, Kerry’s response was, “[Islamic State] first. That’s our policy.”

At a September 16 Senate Armed Services Committee hearing, Gen. Martin Dempsey admitted that Assad has killed more rebels than Islamic State has. When questioned



Free Syrian Army rebels take up positions on the outskirts of Maraath al-Numan, Syria on Nov. 12, 2012.

by Sen. John McCain whether the rebels the U.S. plans to train would only fight against Islamic State and not the Assad regime, General Dempsey said he believed that “as we train them and develop a military chain of command linked to a political structure, that we can establish objectives that defer that challenge into the future. We do not have to deal with it now.”

It doesn’t bode well for the world if America’s military leaders are content with deferring problems into the future instead of preventing them from happening.

Assad is one challenge the U.S. has deferred into the future. Now there seem to be other problems more menacing than Assad in Syria.

Islamic State too was a deferred challenge. It was allowed to morph from an Iran-supported al Qaeda in Iraq into the Islamic “caliphate” it now claims to be.

The crisis in Syria is a disturbing spectacle of the lack of leadership in the United States, as [Isaiah 3 foretold](#). Gone is “the mighty man, and the man of war, ... and the prudent, ... the captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor” (verses 2-3). Leaders who once were against war have quickly flip-flopped and are now supporting “bad options.” It appears the U.S. is set to make the same mistakes in Syria as it did in [Iraq](#), [Afghanistan](#) and [Libya](#).

## Palestinians Submit Statehood Plea to UN

TIMES OF ISRAEL | October 1

THE PALESTINIANS have asked the UN Security Council to set a deadline of November 2016 for an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

A draft resolution circulated to council members and obtained Wednesday by the Associated Press

also called for “a just resolution” of the status of Jerusalem as the capital of two states, and of the Palestinian refugee problem.

It follows Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas’s announcement to the UN General Assembly on Friday that he would ask the council to set a deadline for an Israeli withdrawal.

The draft also demands an end to all Israeli military operations and settlement activities, the opening of

all border crossings in the Gaza Strip, and deployment of “an international presence” throughout the Palestinian territories to protect Palestinian civilians. ...

“As soon as we get that, we are willing to return to the negotiating table,” [Abbas] said, according to the *Haaretz* daily.

The unilateral move, widely expected to be shot down in a veto, has been lobbied against by Israel and the United States, which say the conflict

# Fighting the Battle While Losing the War

Melanie Phillips, JERUSALEM POST | October 2

UNILATERALLY CHANGING a global conversation isn't easy. Trying to do so when everyone is shouting in panic and with their fingers stuffed in their ears is enough to daunt the most determined. Yet that's what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attempted to do [when] he addressed the UN and spoke with [U.S.] President Barack Obama. ...

America and Britain are panicking about the threat from Islamic State, so much so they have gone to war ... in Iraq and Syria. Without denying the need to confront the Islamic State threat, Netanyahu wants America and its allies to be most concerned about the thousand-fold more dangerous menace of Iran.

Netanyahu is worried that, since Iran is also fighting Islamic State, this will turn the Iranian regime from pariah into partner and thus provide it with vital leverage in its quest to achieve nuclear weapons capability.

Accordingly, Netanyahu strove to equate Islamic State with Iran and other Islamic terror groups. ... "To defeat [Islamic State] and leave Iran as a threshold nuclear power is to win the battle and lose the war," [he said.] ...

In a speech last week, ... the White House Middle East coordinator Philip Gordon said: "A nuclear agreement could begin a multigenerational process that could lead to a new relationship between our countries. Iran could begin to reduce tensions with its neighbors and return to its rightful place in the community of nations."

This is astonishingly myopic, or worse. The State Department has listed Iran as the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. ... [Iran] is waging a self-declared war against

the West, and repeatedly declares its genocidal intention to wipe out Israel. The only conscionable agreement with Iran is for it to do what it has repeatedly and categorically ruled out, to abandon uranium enrichment and its nuclear program. ...

In Britain, the main anxiety is not about a nuclear Iran but the possibility that Israel might attack it.

Last year the Conservative mayor of London, Boris Johnson, who is tipped by many as a future prime minister, told an adoring TV audience that Iran posed no threat to anyone in the world at all.

This week the British home secretary, Theresa May, observed that "the lesson of history tells us that when our enemies say they want to attack us, they mean it." She was talking, however, not about Iran but about Islamic State, which she described as planning to establish "the world's first truly terrorist state."

But that's precisely what Iran already is. And if Islamic State with its 25,000 followers is such a threat, why isn't Iran, with its standing army of more than half a million and its terror proxies, rocket arsenals and imminent genocide bomb, seen as immeasurably more dangerous? ...

For America, [the State Department] said, Islamic State posed a different threat. But how can this possibly be worse than Iran? ...

The alternatives for the U.S. and its allies are stark.

Either they support Israel in fighting Iran as the principal enemy of the West—or they crumble before Iran and thus inescapably empower its attack on the West. The free world can only hold its breath.

needs to be resolved through a negotiated settlement. ...

Nonetheless, the Palestinians are pushing to try to win the support of nine of the 15 UN Security Council members in order to force a veto. ...

"We are the lords of the land for 3,000 years, Netanyahu can return to his Brooklyn roots," Riyadh Mansour, the Palestinian UN ambassador, said Wednesday in connection with the statehood bid. ...

Abbas's remarks follow a strongly worded address he made at the UN, in which he accused Israel of "genocide" against the Palestinians.

In response, Netanyahu on Tuesday decried Hamas's use of human shields and firing rockets on Israeli civilians and held Abbas responsible.

"And I say to President Abbas, these are the war crimes committed by your Hamas partners in the national unity

government which you head and you are responsible for. And these are the real war crimes you should have investigated, or spoken out against from this podium last week," Netanyahu told the UN General Assembly. ...

## Iran Killed Own Nuclear Scientist

JERUSALEM POST | September 30

THE SISTER of a leading Iranian nuclear physicist widely believed to have been assassinated by Israel as part of an effort to derail the Islamic Republic's drive to create nuclear weapons says her brother was murdered by Iran's Revolutionary Guard (IRI) because he wouldn't cooperate with the effort to divert nuclear activities from peaceful purposes.

When Iranian scientist Dr. Ardeschir Hosseinpour was killed in February 2007, the cause of death was reported to be "gassing" and most presumed the act was carried out by Israel. That belief stood largely because of Iranian accusations to that effect; and because of Israeli policy to neither confirm nor deny such acts. But now, seven years later, Mahboobeh Hosseinpour has come forward with the claim that the IRI was behind her brother's death because of his refusal to be involved in Iran's nuclear enrichment program whose use was for atomic purposes.

If Hosseinpour's account can be confirmed, it could have an impact on the next round of talks between Iran and the P5+1—the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany.

Speaking to The Media Line from Turkey via Skype in a conversation

# Islamic State Recruiting Young Teens

Sam Livingston | September 30

A NEW study found that radical jihadists are now recruiting 15-to-17-year-olds to travel to and fight in Syria. The June study from the intelligence organization Soufan Group found that this younger recruiting is a departure from the typical age range for recruits, which is 18-to-29.

The young recruits are primarily from urban populations. Most are men who have “no significant record of criminal or other antisocial behavior,” according to the study. In a number of cases, the recruits are newly converted to Islam.

The study found that many of these young people express their motivation to fight for Islamic State “as a religious obligation to protect fellow Muslims from attack.” That ideal only intensified when Islamic State declared itself a caliphate in June.

More than 500 British citizens have traveled to Syria

to fight in the last three years. In an article titled “Islamic State: Germany Struggles to Deal With Returning Fighters,” *Spiegel* writes, “Currently, there are around 140 investigations underway in Germany against Islamic State fighters or their supporters. And the number is climbing. Federal state prosecutors have taken on 33 cases involving more than 60 suspects, but the flood of cases has begun clogging up dockets across the country.”

The European Union counterterrorism chief revealed that since Islamic State declared itself a caliphate in June, there has been a rise in European jihadists from 2,000 to 3,000. That means roughly one 10th of Islamic State militants are citizens of Western nations. What happens if some of them want to come home? What if they try to sneak back into their home country undetected? These are realistic scenarios that should raise a [high level of concern](#).

arranged by the Iranian opposition group The New Iran, 52-year old Mahboobeh Hosseinpour said that she learned through her sister-in-law, Sara Araghi, of her brother’s secret research, and particularly about a DVD which contained research and formulas for building an atomic bomb 12 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb and methods for neutralizing it. ...

## Unstable Yemen

AFF | October 2

INSTABILITY in Yemen, where Houthi rebels overran the capital last week, threatens regional security, interior ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) said after an emergency meeting on Wednesday.

“The GCC states will not stand idly by in the face of factional foreign intervention as Yemen’s security and the security of the GCC states are one and the same,” the ministers said in a statement after talks in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah.

Yemeni authorities have accused Iran of backing the Houthi rebels in a similar fashion to their support for Lebanon’s powerful Shiite militia Hezbollah. ...

The rebels advanced from their stronghold in northwestern mountains to the capital Sanaa last month, then

seized key state installations with little or no resistance on September 21. ...

Under a United Nations-brokered peace deal signed the day the rebels took control of Sanaa, they are supposed to withdraw once a new neutral prime minister is named.

[Yemen] President Abdrabuh Mansur Hadi has so far failed to appoint a new government chief. The deal also required Hadi to name an adviser from within the rebel movement.

The Gulf ministers from Bahrain, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Saudi Arabia denounced the “armed acts” that occurred. ...

**Related: “A Mysterious Alliance” and “The Danger in U.S. Support of the Gulf Cooperation Council”**

## How Iran Scammed America

THE ATLANTIC | October 1

YOU HAVE to salute the rulers of Iran. They stand on the verge of scoring a stunning diplomatic triumph over the United States. Even more impressive: They did it all on bluff. Their adversaries possessed material advantages in terms of money, technology, military power and more. But Iran’s rulers had

clarity of purpose and the will to win. Without these qualities, the adversaries’ material advantages have seeped away.

A year ago, the rulers of Iran faced disaster. Their currency had lost three quarters of its value, due in largest measure to the tough economic sanctions drafted by Senators Mark Kirk and Robert Menendez in 2011, and very reluctantly signed into law by President [Barack] Obama at the beginning of 2012. Inflation was raging, unemployment was surging. Their most useful regional ally, the Syrian regime’s Bashar Assad, seemed doomed to destruction, attacked from within by a violent uprising and threatened from without by Obama’s commitment to intervene to stop Assad’s use of chemical weapons.

Today, the United States and Britain are coordinating bombing missions with Assad, not against him. Iran has obtained considerable sanctions relief. Its currency has strengthened, inflation has abated, and foreign trade and investment are reviving. The United States has progressively reduced its demands for nuclear limits on Iran. *The New York Times* reports that the Obama administration has retreated from the long-standing demand that Iran dismantle its nuclear centrifuges, instead merely calling for Tehran to disconnect them from each other. Iran’s nuclear-enrichment capacity



would remain intact, and Iran could resume its progress toward a weapon at almost any time, at the price of only the delay necessary to reconnect the maze of tubing.

This most recent proposal marks

the latest in a series of American climb-downs. Iranian negotiators have sniffed at each round of American concessions and insisted on more. As best as outsiders to the talks can tell, they have obtained them. On the

present trajectory, any final agreement will leave Iran paused on the verge of nuclear-weapons capability—and this time, with the U.S. having signed away any non-military means of preventing Iran's final drive to complete a bomb. ...

## EUROPE

### World Sinks Beneath a Sea of Debt

Jeremy Warner, **DAILY TELEGRAPH** | September 29

**A**S IF the fast degenerating geopolitical situation isn't bad enough, here's another lorry load of concerns to add to the pile. ...

On a global level, growth is being steadily drowned under a rising tide of debt, threatening renewed financial crisis, a continued squeeze to living standards and eventual mass default.

I exaggerate only a little in depicting this apocalyptic view of the future as the conclusion of the latest "Geneva Report," an annual assessment informed by a top drawer conference of leading decision makers and economic thinkers of the big challenges facing the global economy.

Aptly titled "Deleveraging? What Delieveraging?" the report points out that, far from paying down debt since the financial crisis of 2008-9, the world economy as a whole has in fact geared up even further. The raw numbers make explosive reading.

Contrary to widely held assumptions, the world has not yet begun to de-lever. In fact global debt-to-GDP—public and private nonfinancial debt—is still growing, breaking new highs by the month.

There was a brief pause at the height of the crisis, but then the rise in the global debt-GDP ratio resumed, reaching nearly 220 percent of global GDP over the past year. Much of the more recent growth in this headline figure has been driven by China, which in response to the crisis, unleashed a massive expansion in credit.

However, even developed market economies have struggled to make progress, with rising public debt canceling out any headway being made in reducing household and corporate indebtedness. ...

In the meantime, the [British] government has been piling on borrowings like topsy, not withstanding attempts by the Chancellor, George Osborne, to bring the deficit under control. Total national nonfinancial indebtedness has therefore barely budged since the start of the crisis.

The UK remains the fourth-most highly indebted major economy in the world after Japan, Sweden and Canada, with total non financial debt of 276 percent of GDP. The U.S. is not far behind with debt of 264 percent of GDP.

However, the real standout is China, which since the

crisis began has seen debt spiral from a very manageable 140 percent of GDP to 220 percent and rising. This is obviously still lower than many developed economies, but the speed of the increase, combined with the fact that it is largely private sector debt, makes a hard landing virtually inevitable.

The only way the world can keep growing, it would appear, is by piling on debt. Not good, not good at all. ...

The crisis has made an already bad situation worse, caused a further, permanent decline in both the level and growth rate of output. This in turn makes it much harder to work off debt; when economies are not growing, debt to GDP tends to rise automatically.

We now see much the same thing happening in emerging markets with output growth slowing markedly since 2008, particularly in China. Buying growth with debt is reaching the limits of its viability.

It is possibly the case that Anglo-Saxon economies, the U.S. and UK, have done better in managing the trade off between deleveraging and output than others. However, this may be largely a conjuring trick.

To the extent that meaningful reductions in private and financial sector debt have been achieved without greater damage to output, it is only because there has been a parallel and very substantial increase in public indebtedness.

Despite the deficit reduction rhetoric, George Osborne, the UK Chancellor, has in fact been doing the bare minimum to keep the markets off his back. He's also had plenty of help from the Bank of England, which itself has become leveraged to the gunnels with government debt to ease the path back to fiscal sustainability. Nonetheless, this is plainly a much better place to be than the eurozone, which has imposed entirely counterproductive debt controls on governments and thus far at least, denied them the luxury of debt monetization by the European Central Bank. The result is a crushing depression for much of the single currency bloc. ...

The world economy may have entered a vicious circle where excessive debt constrains demand to such a degree that both interest rates and inflation, and therefore growth too, remain permanently low. This way of thinking may be unduly pessimistic, but it is also worryingly plausible...

## ■ Germany's embarrassing failures prompt military spending debate

Germany's military cannot fulfill its promises to NATO, German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen warned September 28. Her statement comes after a series of mishaps exposing major maintenance failures in the German Army, while defense experts call for more military spending. Germany's military commitments may be small compared to America's, but over the last decade, Germany has operated a series of overseas military missions unprecedented in its postwar history—all without a corresponding increase in military spending. The result is a military stretched to its limits. "The poor state of Germany's military, which has dominated headlines in the last week, is also threatening the peace of the country's coalition government," wrote the *The Local*. A German-language paper said the news from Germany's armed forces is reminiscent of a slapstick movie. America is disengaging from Europe to take care of its own regional problems, forcing Europe to militarize. This transformation may require Germany, as well as other European nations, to increase their spending. For more on who will take over as America steps off the world stage, read ["The World's Next Superpower."](#)

## ■ Germany's corporate buying spree

German companies spent nearly \$65 billion on American companies already this year, *Bloomberg* reported

September 23. In 2013 it totaled a mere \$3.7 billion. This coincides with a six-fold increase of European businesses buying out United States businesses. With European sanctions against Russia, corporations are looking toward the U.S. European companies are chasing deals that promise growth and safety, outside of the debt-impaired European Union. Last month, four German companies agreed to buy American companies. The biggest was Merck KGaA's acquisition of Sigma Alrich for \$17 billion. Merck wants to expand its research lab and pharmaceutical chemicals. Siemens Chief Executive Joe Kaeser aims to capitalize on the American shale-gas boom to build his company's presence in the U.S. energy market. Another notable German corporate takeover this month was ZF Friedrichshafen's purchase of TRW Automotive, one of America's largest auto suppliers. The \$12.4 billion acquisition makes ZF Friedrichshafen the world's second-largest automotive supplier after another German automotive giant, Robert Bosch GmbH. "The major motivation for this transaction is technology-driven and to serve markets in the field of electro-mobility and autonomous driving," ZF Chief Executive Stefan Sommer said. Germany's corporate buying spree last month also saw the world's third-largest independent software manufacturer, SAP, purchase Concur Technologies for \$8.6 billion. German corporations are reaching beyond their nation's borders to gain control of strategic industry. To understand why this is significant, read

*Trumpet* columnist Robert Morley's article ["Germany's Corporate Blitzkrieg."](#)

## ■ Germany trains Kurdish fighters

Germany has sent 40 paratroopers to train Kurdish forces in northern Iraq, and its military is training 32 Kurdish Peshmerga fighters in Bavaria, Germany, until October 3. This is part of a package of support that includes equipment for 10,000 Kurdish fighters at a cost of just over \$90 million. As the world's number three arms exporter, it is common for Germany to supply other nations with military hardware. Two big customers are Israel and Saudi Arabia, both living in the world's powder keg. Germany has also sent hardware to Algeria, U.A.E. and Qatar. What makes the September shipments to Peshmerga forces and the Kurdish Worker's Party located in Iraq unique, is that it marks the first time Germany has sent weapons to a non-state entity. In September, Germany also agreed to send troops to Senegal to fight Ebola. The *Trumpet* brought out, "As an event on its own, this use of the German military is a positive development. But it is also part of the trend where German leaders are trying to persuade the public to support a greater use of the military." Germany's leaders are pushing for a greater role in the world. Sending military hardware to Kurdish Peshmerga forces after deploying troops to Senegal begs the question: Where will this lead? To learn more about this trend, read *Trumpet* columnist Brad Macdonald's article ["Germany's Identity Crisis."](#)

# ASIA

## Russia: Time to Upgrade Our Nukes

**I24NEWS** | September 28

**R**USSIAN FOREIGN Minister Sergei Lavrov said Sunday that the time had come for his country to modernize and upgrade its nuclear and

conventional arsenals. ...

Lavrov called on the West to stop trying to do everything their own way with no consideration for the bigger picture and the interests of other nations, specifically addressing the U.S.-led coalition against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

"I very much hope that the U.S. will

finally see the light and realize that they can no longer act as the prosecutor, judge and executioner in every part of the world, and that they need to cooperate to resolve issues," he said.

As to be expected from the world's quintessential renegade, the carrot came after the stick when Lavrov stressed that Russia is actually

# Chinese Warships Perfect Fit for Russian Navy

WANT CHINA TIMES | September 30

THE AUGUST issue of Russia's *National Defense Magazine* has advised the country to buy warships from China to compensate for its own weakness in shipbuilding and to strengthen Russia's power in the Asia-Pacific region.

China's Type 054A frigate may be an ideal option for Russia, the report said.

With debate sparked by the suspension of a French delivery of two Mistral-class amphibious assault ships to Russia, the need to bring in escort ships is all the more pressing. ...

Ukraine, one of the few countries capable of producing combustion turbine engines, had been providing services to Russia before the sanction prohibiting the engine's export to the country. Other countries that could build combustion turbine engines include the U.S., the UK and China, said the report.

China's Type 054A frigate, codenamed Jiangkai II by NATO, is a perfect fit for the Russian Navy for many reasons. First of all, the model was designed and built with help from Russia's leading shipmaker, the Northern Design

Bureau in St. Petersburg. Second, the ship is equipped with weapons and electronic facilities that are designed according to the specs of samples, allowing the parts to be interchanged conveniently. Third, the advanced warship meets Russia's demands for powerful weapons, invisibility, adaptability and endurance. Finally, the Type 054A frigate worked well with Russian flotillas well during the Russia-China military drill in May, which shows its capability to work side-by-side with Russian ships. ...

Russia has been a mentor to China as it builds up its national defense technology. Now that the Chinese student has outpaced the Russian teacher, "there is no shame" asking for assistance from China, the report said.

Exporting battleships to Russia would be a win-win situation for China, too, since the Russian ships could be leverage on the side of the PLA to balance the influence of U.S. and Japanese maritime forces in the Asia-Pacific.

Related: "Asian Military Cooperation on the Rise"

interested in normalizing the relations with the U.S., "but it was not us who destroyed them. Now they require what the American would probably call a 'reset,'" Lavrov said.

In conclusion Lavrov said Russia has "no desire to continue a sanctions war, trading blows," but added: "First of all, it is important that our partners understand the futility of ultimatums and threats."

## Huge Crowds Join Hong Kong Protests

CNN | October 1

HONG KONGERS marked China's National Day in unprecedented fashion Wednesday, as pro-democracy protesters thronged the streets of the Asian financial hub for what is shaping up as a critical day in the territory's "Umbrella Revolution."

Huge crowds took to the streets throughout the annual public holiday marking the anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Since 1997, when the sovereignty of Hong Kong was handed back to China, the holiday has been marked by a massive fireworks display, which was canceled this year because of the

political unrest. ...

The protests were triggered by Beijing's plans for Hong Kong's political future—specifically, Beijing's recent decision to vet candidates for the chief executive position in 2017.

## RusHydro: More Asian Investment

REUTERS | September 30

RUSSIA'S LARGEST hydropower producer, RusHydro, is planning an extensive roadshow to attract investment from China and Singapore, seeking to strengthen business ties with Asia as Moscow's relations with the West cool. ...

Punitive measures imposed on Moscow by the West over the Ukraine crisis have encouraged the state-controlled company's pivot towards Asia in line with the Kremlin's strategy to improve relations with Asian countries. ...

RusHydro executives will tour Shanghai, Hong Kong and Singapore between November and March, seeking partners for projects centered in eastern Russia, including a plan to build four 2-gigawatt power plants in the remote Amur region near the

border with China. ...

In May, RusHydro signed a number of cooperation agreements with leading Chinese energy firms, including PowerChina and Dongfang Electric, during a visit by Russian President Vladimir Putin to Shanghai .... The company is also aiming to step up cooperation with India ....

**"These Asian powerhouses have made clear that they support Putin. ... When these Asia nations—extremely powerful nuclear-armed countries—begin to show solidarity with each other regarding moves like that, what does that portend for the world? I tell you it is woe to the world. It will cause many serious problems. And it is going to affect everyone."**

— Gerald Flurry, *Trumpet*, May-June 2014

## Repairing Ties With Japan

JAPAN TIMES | September 30

EXPECTATIONS THAT rapprochement may benefit their economies have prompted China and South Korea to

reconsider their strained relations with Japan, but obstacles still need to be cleared before [Japanese] Prime Minister Shinzo Abe can hold his first summit talks with their leaders.

Abe has repeatedly said he hopes to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping and South Korean President Park Geun-hye when Beijing hosts the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum summit in November. But Xi and Park have so far refused to meet one-on-one with Abe, citing disagreements over territory and perceptions of wartime history. ...

At a press conference earlier this month in Tokyo, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga expressed hope that Abe and Xi will meet later this year.

"If the world's second- and third-largest economies talk, the meeting will be a dynamic one," the top government spokesman said. ...

While many people are worried about Japan-China ties, South Korea is more likely to engage with Japan at the urging of the United States as Washington intends to keep close contact with Tokyo and Seoul amid concerns over China's growing assertiveness in the Asia-Pacific region. ...

Abe was once very outspoken on China's attempt to change the status quo on disputed territories by force, mentioning it on almost every trip to a foreign country. But he has recently toned down his references in the hopes of mending Japan-China ties. ...

## Three Years to Dump the Dollar

**EXAMINER** | October 1

ON SEPTEMBER 30, the head of Russia's second largest bank stated in an interview that it will take only two to three years before the ruble could be completely disconnected from the dollar and SWIFT system, and become fully convertible in transacting direct trade in the Russian currency. Andrey Kostin, the head of Russian bank VTB, pointed to America's part in the Ukraine conflict as the catalyst for Russia now deciding to pursue a path

away from the dollar and towards one where the U.S. cannot use SWIFT and other forms of economic warfare to restrict nations in their pursuit of free global trade.

SWIFT is the primary conduit which the U.S. uses to facilitate the purchasing of dollars by other countries to allow them to buy oil and other commodities under the reserve currency system. However, with the creation of the BRICS bank earlier this year, and the construction of their own form of SWIFT, Russia is now poised to disconnect from the Western controlled SWAP system at any time. ...

Many of the moves currently taking place by Russia, China and other BRICS nations is a direct result of America and NATO's interference in Ukraine, and their imposed economic sanctions on Russia and high level Russian oligarchs. These restrictions are leading Russia to not only oppose the proprietary reserve currency and petrodollar system, but provide the potential for all nations to have an alternative in trading for oil, natural gas, commodities and, eventually, all trade goods.

While Russian banker Andrey Kostin gives a modest outlook of two to three years before a complete disconnect could be achieved away from dollar hegemony, prior moves within the Eurasian and BRICS partnerships have come much faster and much more decisive. And should the world achieve that point of critical mass, where a majority of nations are willing to bypass the dollar for international settlement and instead accept the ruble or yuan as an equivalent trade currency, then the end of the dollar as the reserve currency would occur in a much faster time frame.

### TW IN BRIEF

#### ■ Japan's largest warship sets sail

Japan's largest warship since World War II set out for its first set of sea trials, reports on September 29 said. The JS *Izumo*—classified as a helicopter destroyer though its flattop design makes it look like an aircraft carrier—is the first of two planned carriers to enter the Japanese Maritime

Self-Defense Force next year. The \$1.2 billion warship is large enough to field 14 helicopters and carry 970 personnel. The vessel can also easily accommodate short takeoff/vertical landing (STOVL) variants of the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter—the first aircraft to combine stealth technology with STOVL capabilities and supersonic speeds. The Chinese have called the *Izumo* an "aircraft-carrier in disguise." The name *Izumo* itself is viewed as a provocation to some of Japan's neighbors, as the original *Izumo* was one of six armored cruisers used in the First and Second Sino-Japanese Wars. Most of the Imperial Japanese Navy was scuttled following World War II, and Japan's pacifist Constitution has long restricted the nation's military to strict self-defense. But in July, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe succeeded in changing the interpretation of the Japanese Constitution. This is facilitating expansion of Japan's military capability and might, including the building of such warships.

#### ■ China's currency finds new markets

In a move to circumvent the United States dollar, China began direct trading between the yuan and the euro for the first time on September 30. This step will strengthen bilateral trade and investments between China and euro-zone members by reducing transaction costs. It also means that the U.S. dollar will not be used as an intermediary currency to calculate rates. Five years ago, the yuan had virtually no presence outside China's borders, but each year since, it has taken on a larger international role. It is now traded directly against the Russian ruble, the Japanese yen, the Malaysian ringgit, the British pound, the U.S. dollar, the Australian and New Zealand dollars. In August the yuan ranked seventh for global payments with more than one third of the world's financial institutions using it for transfers to China. With the American dollar becoming ever more hollow, the yuan has the potential to continue taking on a greater international role.

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





**GERALD FLURRY**

## How Christ Speaks to Us

Jesus Christ speaks to His Church. But if we don't understand how, we will be deceived.



## Your Daily Water Allocation

**San Gabriel, VALLEY TRIBUNE |**  
September 27

**Y**OU PROBABLY know your Social Security number, your driver's license number and perhaps the latest wrinkle in mattress marketing, your sleep number.

But do you know your drought number?

The latter represents the amount of water you are allowed to use per day. If you don't know it, you probably should. Not knowing could cost you money. As California's severe drought moves into a fourth year, state and local water agencies are working on something called "allocation-based rate structures," a kind of precursor to water rationing that's all the rage in Sacramento and in some areas such as Santa Cruz, Irvine and Santa Monica.

Here's how it works: Your local water company, special district or city assigns you and your household a number in gallons—a daily water allocation. Usually, one number applies

to maximum indoor water use, i.e. showers, kitchen and bathroom faucets, dishwashers, clothes washers, etc., and an extra allocation is assigned for outdoor use such as lawn irrigation. ...

"We want you to stay within that budget. That way we know you are using water in an efficient way," according to an instructional video on the Orange County water agency's website. ...

In July, the State Water Resources Control Board passed stage one emergency regulations, giving powers to all local water agencies to fine \$500 per violation. "We were concerned with the lack of alarm we were hearing," said Felicia Marcus, chair of the State Water Resources Control Board. "Our reservoirs are low. Half of the state's storage is gone. It's a frightening situation." ...

"Rates send a powerful signal," she said. "It is one thing to ask for voluntary action ... but that can only go so far. Rates should be designed so you send a financial signal (to customers)" and to enable them to know their water use and compare that with their neighbors. ...

Some local agencies are

implementing a drought number model. In Santa Monica, the city council passed a first-reading in August of an ordinance that would apply an indoor water allocation of 68 gallons per-person-per-capita for every single-family home with four people, said Gilbert Borboa, water resources manager for the city of Santa Monica.

"[If] a customer uses beyond that allocation, then it is possible some penalties might apply," he said. Today, residents are using about 88 gallons per person per day in Santa Monica, he said. ...

## Texas Checks 100 For Ebola

**BBC |** October 2

**A**S MANY as 100 people in Texas are being checked for exposure to Ebola, health officials have said.

The list includes "potential or possible contacts" with Thomas Eric Duncan, a Liberian national diagnosed in Dallas on Tuesday, and "will drop."

Four of his relatives have been ordered to stay home while they are watched for signs of the disease, officials say.

Mr. Duncan, believed to have caught the disease in Liberia, is in a serious condition in [the] hospital.

He was the first case diagnosed on U.S. soil.

In West Africa more than 3,338 have died in the world's worst outbreak of the virus.

There have been 7,178 confirmed cases, with Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea suffering the most. ...

## 1 in 12 Americans Uses Illegal Drugs

**WASHINGTON EXAMINER |** October 2

**A**MERICA is doped up—and drunk. According to a shocking new report from the Health and Human Services Department, there were 24.6

# Obama Has Missed Over Half His Daily Intel Briefings

**BREITBART NEWS** | September 29

A NEW Government Accountability Institute (GAI) report reveals that [United States] President Barack Obama has attended only 42.1 percent of his daily intelligence briefings (known officially as the Presidential Daily Brief, or PDB) in the 2,079 days of his presidency through Sept. 29, 2014.

The GAI report also included a breakdown of Obama's PDB attendance record between terms; he attended 42.4 percent of his PDBs in his first term and 41.3 percent in his second.

The GAI's alarming findings come on the heels of Obama's *60 Minutes* comments on Sunday, wherein the president laid the blame for Islamic State's rapid rise squarely at the feet of his Director of National Intelligence James Clapper.

"I think our head of the intelligence community, Jim Clapper, has acknowledged that I think they underestimated what had been taking place in Syria," said Obama.

According to *Daily Beast* reporter Eli Lake, members of the Defense establishment were "flabbergasted" by Obama's attempt to shift blame. "Either the president doesn't read the intelligence he's getting or he's [making stuff up]," a former

senior Pentagon official "who worked closely on the threat posed by Sunni jihadists in Syria and Iraq," told the *Daily Beast*.

On Monday, others in the intelligence community similarly blasted Obama and said he's shown long-standing disinterest in receiving live, in-person PDBs that allow the commander in chief the chance for critical follow-up, feedback, questions and the challenging of flawed intelligence assumptions.

"It's pretty well known that the president hasn't taken in-person intelligence briefings with any regularity since the early days of 2009," an Obama national security staffer told the *Daily Mail* on Monday. "He gets them in writing."

The Obama security staffer said the president's PDBs have contained detailed threat warnings about Islamic State dating back to before the 2012 presidential election.

"Unless someone very senior has been shredding the president's daily briefings and telling him that the dog ate them, highly accurate predictions about [Islamic State] have been showing up in the Oval Office since before the 2012 election," the Obama security staffer told the *Daily Mail*. ...

million people age 12 or older who used illicit drugs during just one month last year.

"That's enough people to fill every major league baseball stadium in the U.S. 19 times," said the report. There are 30 MLB stadiums.

Even worse: Of the 24.6 million dopers, 2.2 million were adolescents age 12 to 17.

And it doesn't end there. The report added that in 2013, 60.1 million individuals age 12 or older had a binge drinking episode, including 1.6 million adolescents.

The details are from the latest National Survey on Drug Use and Health. They quizzed people 12 and older last year, asking what they used or took "in the past month."

## U.S. Visas Held by 13,500 People in Ebola Countries

**DAILY CALLER** | October 1

ROUGHLY 13,500 people from the Ebola-stricken countries of Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia have visas to visit the United States, according to

federal data.

The data doesn't show how many of those people are already in the United States, but visitors from those countries should be excluded until they can show they're free of Ebola, said Jessica Vaughan, policy director at the Center for Immigration Studies, a group that pushes for low-scale immigration.

"It would be reasonable [for the president] to designate Ebola as a communicable disease of public health significance. That would enable the State Department to impose tighter restrictions on visitors" from countries with Ebola outbreaks, she said.

Under current policies, only people with obvious Ebola symptoms are excluded by border officials. But a person can be infected with the disease, and not show any symptoms, for up to 21 days.

On September 30, federal officials announced that a Liberian had flown into the United States on September 20, and had begun to show obvious symptoms of the disease on the 24th. Disease-carriers can transmit the disease once they have symptoms. ...

Without the visa changes, the federal government is encouraging foreign government officials, professionals

and wealthy people to flee Ebola countries to get free medical services in Texas and other states, she said.

"People are already coming here for 'birth tourism' to ensure their children has U.S. citizenship, Vaughan said.

## Obama 'Rode Over' With Two Illegals

**CNS NEWS** | October 3

PRESIDENT BARACK Obama told the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Thursday night he was accompanied to the convention center by two illegal aliens, whom he called "dreamers."

"I want to give a special thanks to two young men who rode over with me from the White House tonight," Obama said. "Luis and Victor are CHCI (Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute) interns and fellows. They are also dreamers, living and working in the country they call home, and making it a better place for all of us.

"Their stories are inspiring, and along with the other CHCI fellows, they give me great hope for the future. They make me optimistic about what America's all about."

# The RAF Is Too Run-Down to Fight Islamic State

Con Coughlin, DAILY TELEGRAPH | September 30

SO HERE we go again: we're counting the RAF Tornado GR4 warplanes as they take off from Cyprus to attack Islamic fighters in Iraq; and then we're counting them safely back to base. Only this time, our main interest is focused not so much on the number of warplanes flying back from their combat missions, but whether any of them have actually managed to drop their bombs on the enemy. ...

Yet while the RAF and coalition warplanes operating over Iraq now enjoy the advantage of flying missions in uncontested airspace, it seems they are finding it rather difficult to find suitable targets to attack. At least that is the conclusion we must draw from the combat sorties flown by the Tornados thus far; to judge by the full bomb payloads, which are clearly visible as they return to their base at Akrotiri, they are struggling to make serious inroads against the enemy.

Relying on air power alone to confront a resourceful and well-organized outfit such as Islamic State, as I have previously argued, was always going to be a tough call. This reliance, combined with the inability of our political classes to come up with a coherent strategy for dealing with this menace, means that we are now reduced to trying to engage with the enemy from a distance of around 15,000 feet [2.8 miles].

Meanwhile, Islamic State fighters, despite the coalition air strikes they have suffered in recent weeks, were yesterday reported to be involved in heavy fighting with Iraqi forces just a few miles outside the capital Baghdad. This is surely a damning illustration of the limitations of the West's military response.

As numerous retired military chiefs, including Lord Dannatt, the former head of the Army, have warned since the military action was authorized last week, the Islamist threat can only seriously be challenged by combat forces

on the ground. Moreover, these need to be forces capable of prevailing against the determined Islamist fighters which, to judge by the unconvincing performance of the Iraqis to date, are unlikely to be either the Iranian-backed Shia militias or the Kurds' Peshmerga fighters.

But no politician of rank in either London or Washington is even contemplating committing ground forces to deal with [the Islamic State] threat. As a result, the military action that has been authorized now looks more like a token gesture than any serious desire to see this menace destroyed. ...

As Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, the former Chief of the Air Staff, has pointed out, the RAF had 30 combat squadrons at its disposal at the start of the 1991 conflict; today it has only seven. And demonstrating the exquisite lack of foresight with which our politicians these days approach military issues, the MoD is currently in the process of disbanding one of our three remaining Tornado combat formations, 2 Squadron. This at a time when the ageing fleet provides the only aircraft capable of delivering the pinpoint accuracy required to avoid large numbers of civilian casualties—or collateral damage, as the military planners prefer to call them.

Crippling shortages of combat aircraft severely hampered the RAF's effort in the 2011 air campaign to overthrow the Libyan dictator Muammar Qadhafi, with the result that we flew significantly fewer combat missions than countries such as France (which has 15 combat squadrons). On that occasion, David Cameron was forced to delay his decision to scrap two Tornado squadrons so that the RAF could meet its commitments in Libya, as well as Afghanistan. With the air campaign in Iraq set to run for many years, Mr. Cameron should do the same with 2 Squadron's complement of Tornado bombers. ...

Dreamers are young people who were brought to this country illegally as children.

In June 2012, President Obama, acting on his own, said those who do not present a risk to national security or public safety could request temporary relief from deportation proceedings and apply for work permits. Around 610,000 young people have been accepted into the program.

At the end of his speech—in which he promised to fix “our broken immigration system” *after* the midterm election—Obama returned to Luis and Victor: “People who love this country can change it,” he said. “America isn’t Congress, America isn’t Washington, America is the

striving immigrant .... Six years ago, I asked you to believe, and tonight I ask you to keep believing, not just in my ability to bring about change, but in your ability to bring about change, because at the end, ‘dreamers’ is more than just a title, it’s a pretty good description of what it means to be an American. ... That’s the spirit that’s alive

in this room. That’s the spirit I saw in Luis and Victor ....

## GET MORE DEPTH



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## COMEBACK from page 1

generally rational, well-reasoned and prescient. And, whether in articles or on TV, he shares them with eloquence, candor and force. If you're familiar with German and European politics, you know individuals like this are rare.

One of Guttenberg's most notable characteristics—and one that stands out more and more—is his foresight and vision. He understands the issues of the day more deeply than most Germans and Europeans.

A couple of months ago, for example, *before* the German government decided to ratchet up its support of the Kurds in Iraq, Guttenberg criticized the government for its weak handling of the Iraqi crisis. “For weeks the militia of [Islamic State] has been massacring innocent people in Iraq and Syria,” he wrote in *Bild*. How has Berlin responded? “We are making ourselves a politically waterproof protective-vest-doctrine,” he said. Guttenberg criticized the policy of Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen as “cynical” and condemned the German government for “letting others do the dirty work in Iraq.”

Just days later, Germany announced that it would begin supplying weapons to the Kurds. It's unlikely Berlin made its decision as a result of Guttenberg's criticism, but the point is, Guttenberg was ahead of Berlin on this issue.

Guttenberg's view of how Europe must deal with Russia is similarly foresighted. From the outset, he has called for Germany and Europe to take a controlled yet uncompromising and dynamic approach to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Writing in *Time* last January, he explained that Germany and Europe needed to confront Putin, not compromise with and appease him. At the time, many thought this view was pessimistic and unnecessarily confrontational. His view, however, has since been vindicated. Since January, Putin has intensified his war on Ukraine, threatened Europe's energy supplies, threatened Baltic states, and caused a commercial airplane carrying almost 300 civilians to be shot down. As dubious as Guttenberg's view might have appeared in January, events have shown he was spot on.

During an interview last month with German newspaper *Kurier*, Guttenberg discussed the crises in Ukraine and the Middle East. Unencumbered by political office, he spoke candidly about how the EU's sanctions against Russia came too late, how Germany was being far too cautious, and how Europe was too divided to do anything serious or lasting. He also analyzed U.S. politics, stating that America was entering the longest “lame duck” presidency in its history. These aren't popular views, at least not right now. But events are proving them accurate. Sooner or later, people will come to see that he was right.

During the same interview, Guttenberg explained how Vladimir Putin's behavior is largely the result of “ongoing weakness in Europe's foreign policy, and a blatant lack of coordination among EU members.” On the issue of Israel-Hamas, and the Middle East in general, he said Europe needs to understand that “nothing is accomplished with



BRAD MACDONALD

noble words, you have to find unity—especially when it comes to one's own backyard.” Again, these words won't make him popular with some European leaders, but what will happen when what Guttenberg is saying proves true?

Will Germany, will Europe, beg this man to come out of retirement?

Guttenberg's ability to see where others do not, to anticipate crises and trends, to forecast, is not a recently acquired skill. He's always been a trendsetter. Perhaps it's the result of his aristocratic background and political pedigree. Wealth and power often allow a person more freedom of expression and personality.

The *Trumpet* has reported this year on the change afoot within Germany's military establishment. Jan Techau, the director of Carnegie Europe, wrote about this recently. “Something is sprouting in Germany,” he wrote. “As Europeans ponder the necessity of military strength after Russia's annexation of Crimea, and NATO charts its course for the post-Afghanistan era, EUROPE'S RELUCTANT CENTRAL POWER IS DOING SOME SERIOUS SOUL-SEARCHING ON ITS ROLE AS A MILITARY PLAYER.”

But notice who the catalyst was: “This reflective process started years ago, when former Defense Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg started to set things straight by calling the war in Afghanistan a war and a fallen soldier a fallen soldier—things that had previously been taboo. But now, after those linguistic adaptations to reality, it seems that a more profound change is happening, one that might eventually lead to a shift in political behavior.”

That's pretty incredible: Germany's present military transformation can be traced right back to Guttenberg's tenure as defense minister!

Did Guttenberg initiate this national conversation? It's difficult to know for sure, *but this is something he has been stressing for months!*

Germany's and Europe's political establishments are increasingly getting on board with Guttenberg. The German public and Europeans in general are still a little ways behind. But events such as the crisis in Ukraine, the gruesome actions of Islamic State and Europe's economic malaise are forcing both Germans and Europeans to recognize reality and come to terms with the fact that Germany and Europe will need to be more active and aggressive.

Considering global events and conditions in Europe, it's easy to see how Guttenberg's stature in Germany, and even Europe, could easily rise—and quickly. Over the past two weeks there have been rumors of a Guttenberg comeback. These center around statements from Horst Seehofer, the head of the Christian Social Union (CSU), the party Guttenberg once served. Seehofer is an ardent Guttenberg ally and supporter, and wants to see him back as a leader within the party.

Could we see Guttenberg return soon to Germany and to Germany's political stage? Only the man himself can answer that question. But given his personality and leadership, and considering the conditions in Germany and Europe, the longer he waits, the more welcome his return will be.

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