

# Trumpet Weekly

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Indiana Gov. Mike Pence spoke during a press conference on March 31 about the state's controversial Religious Freedom Restoration Act which has been condemned by business leaders and Democrats.

## Boycott Indiana? What Next?

INDIANA IS IN THE NEWS—AND NOT JUST FOR HOSTING THE Final Four in the NCAA national basketball tournament. The state passed a law on March 26 reaffirming First Amendment religious freedoms, saying that the government cannot coerce or force business owners from acting contrary to their conscience or religious convictions.

The law does not specifically reference sexuality or green-light discrimination on the basis of sexuality. But it does grant protection for private companies to do business in accordance with their religious beliefs, giving them access to a court in order to prove that their religious liberty is “substantially burdened” in a dispute.



JOEL HILLIKER

This has set the maddened mobs on fire.

The crusaders for “tolerance” are incensed. They contend that the law could mean people denying service to homosexual would-be customers. They say anyone unwilling to contribute to a homosexual wedding should be fined or jailed into submission. And this movement is organized. Immediately, #BoycottIndiana became a trending topic on Twitter and other social media. Homosexual supporters are attempting to freeze

the whole state out of the national economy. And they are having some success.

Seattle and San Francisco both imposed bans on all state-funded travel to Indiana. Connecticut Gov. Dan Malloy signed an executive order imposing the same ban for his entire state, and the state of Washington quickly followed suit. Some of Indiana's biggest employers, such as Salesforce and Angie's List, made public stands against engaging in further business in Indiana. Media and politicians have bombarded Indiana with vitriol.

Rewind to 1993. The Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) passed 97-3 in the Senate and President Bill Clinton signed it into law. The ACLU supported it.

This Indiana law is a version of that same law. It doesn't force anyone to do anything. It doesn't segregate. It protects *against* force, *against* government coercion.

How times have changed. Twenty-two years later, the liberals who supported RFRA now denounce it. They treat even the remote possibility of someone having legal means to defend a Bible-based business decision as hateful. They insist that the government should be able and is in fact obligated to *force* an individual to act contrary to his religious convictions. This coercion is necessary in order to protect the rights of homosexuals to live in a world where every last person they interact with behaves as though

their actions are wonderful. Any business that won't cater to them should be shut down.

Outspoken devotees of homosexuality want to penalize anyone who isn't openly supportive. They would love a society where everyone wholeheartedly embraced homosexuality—but barring that, they want a Disneyland where everyone at least is forced to *pretend* to embrace it.

In the world they are creating, if you don't love homosexuality, you had better pretend you do, or the government will come after you.

This is the gauntlet thrown down against anyone with a moral conviction against anything, especially homosexuality. Comply or be punished. Become a believer or suffer the consequences. Subject yourself and even your religion to the force of the government.

How is this zealotry different from those who try to convert people to a religion with the sword?

For acting to protect the right of individuals to act according to their religious beliefs, so they can be legally heard if they feel compelled to defend themselves against doing something or supporting something they believe is sinful, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence is suddenly one of the most hated people among the homosexual orthodoxy. For defending religious liberty—one of America's most basic founding principles, and *a luxury that most people throughout the sorry chronicle of human history have not had*—Gov. Pence is “setting the clock back 200 years.”

When Barack Obama became president, he publicly opposed same-sex “marriage.” It was only *three years ago*, in the spring of 2012, that he announced his personal view had “evolved” to support it.

Suddenly, anyone uncomfortable with same-sex “marriage” is accused of living in the 1950s—or the 1700s.

All at once, President Obama's public position from three years ago is considered as archaic and backward as the racial segregation of the Jim Crow South, or even slavery.

The reality is that we are a *long, long* way from the time when homosexuality was publicly condemned. In today's world, a baker who declines to make a wedding cake for a homosexual couple had better have some courage, because he is going to face some serious backlash, and quite possibly the end of his career. We aren't talking about government-funded businesses, but private citizens in a free market who are turning down business at financial loss to

themselves in order to follow what they believe is a more important principle. In today's social climate of toxicity over this issue, no business owner would turn down business unless his convictions against same-sex unions were deep.

Businesses have been forced to shut down simply because of activist-initiated vendor boycotts, with no specific legal action being taken. Homosexual activists are virulently aggressive about tarring anyone who crosses them, heaping on them as much public scorn as possible. And they are using every legal weapon at their disposal to punish them.

And all of this is done in the name of—irony of ironies—*tolerance*. “Tolerance” of homosexuals has become such a moral imperative that it justifies vicious persecution of anyone who fails the standard.

This is bullying, pure and simple. Its purpose is to make it *illegal* to hold a biblically based view on the subject of homosexuality.

Just the fact that Indiana—like 19 other states before it—felt compelled to pass a law reaffirming the protection of freedom of religion tells you something about the state of America. The *need* for this law is explicitly confirmed by the *reaction* against it: ugly, sanctimonious, wrathful, hateful, profane, strident and rowdy.

That reaction tells you *far more* about the current state of this country than even the law itself.

Homosexual activists have successfully forced “conservatives” who support actions like RFRA into embarrassed backpedaling. Indiana lawmakers are in full damage-control mode and have promised to amend the new law. “Conservatives” feel they must preface any statement of support for religious freedom with vociferous approval of homosexuality. They don't dare say anything that could be construed as discriminatory, or anything other than *pro-homosexual*. In today's America, that would be political suicide.

The fact is, it's too late for laws like this. The momentum in America is entirely in the homosexual movement's favor. These folks are finding ways to turn even minor setbacks like Indiana's reaffirmation of RFRA into stunning victories. Woe to anyone who steps in their path.

To learn about the dangerous implications of this trend, request a free copy of our booklet *Redefining Family*.

 Follow Joel Hilliker

## MIDDLE EAST



### Saudi Arabia Launches Airstrikes in Yemen

Callum Wood | March 27

THE SAUDI AIR FORCE BEGAN CONDUCTING AIRSTRIKES against the Houthi rebels in Yemen on March 26—the day after Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi fled the nation by sea. Saudi ambassador to the United States Adel al-Jubeir said the attacks would keep coming until the

deposed government was restored. But since Hadi has fled the nation, that eventuality is fading fast.

So far, the airstrikes have been focused on Houthi-controlled cities across the country in an effort to slow the charge of the Shiite militias. Houthis have been driving south

toward the port city of Aden, seizing territory with ease.

The Houthis have had a string of successes since their initial takeover of the capital Sanaa in late September. This week they initiated a second push, driving south toward the last remnants of Hadi's forces in and around Aden. The second push has been aided by a 185-ton weapons shipment from Iran, which came through the Houthi-controlled al-Saleef port. The Houthi immediately put the weapons to use.

In response, Saudi Arabia, the chief backer of the Sunni populace, has spearheaded a series of airstrikes backed by multiple Arab nations. This escalation in Saudi Arabia's role shows how vital Yemen is to both Sunni and Shia interests.

Traditionally, Saudi Arabia has confronted Iran and its proxies via its own proxies. But as of Thursday, Saudi

Arabia became directly involved.

The Saudis cannot afford to see Yemen fall to Iran. The porous border between Yemen and Saudi Arabia would quickly become a back door into the Saudi nation. Add to that the fact that Yemen is gatekeeper to one of the most strategic waterways in the world, and suddenly you see why Yemen is so important.

As *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in the April edition of the *Trumpet*, "The Houthis' takeover of Yemen was not just a grassroots revolution. It was a part of a deliberate and calculated [Iranian strategy to conquer the Red Sea](#)."

Right now we see the Saudis striking out against Iranian interests. However, Bible prophecy indicates that another [far greater power](#) will be the one to put a stop to Iran's belligerence.



## America Is Now on Better Terms With Iran Than It Is With Israel

Stephen Flurry, *Trumpet Daily* | March 31

TERRIFYING PROPHECIES ARE NOW UNFOLDING IN THE Middle East.

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## The Capitulationist

Bret Stephens, *Wall Street Journal* | March 30

FOR A SENSE OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THE CAPITULATION represented by Barack Obama's Iran diplomacy, it's worth recalling what the president said when he was trying to sell his interim nuclear agreement to a Washington, D.C., audience in December 2013.

"We know they don't need to have an underground, fortified facility like Fordo in order to have a peaceful program," Mr. Obama said of the Iranians in an interview with Haim Saban, the Israeli-American billionaire philanthropist. "They certainly don't need a heavy-water reactor at Arak in order to have a peaceful nuclear program. They don't need some of the advanced centrifuges that they currently possess in order to have a limited, peaceful nuclear program."

Hardly more than a year later, on the eve of what might be deal-day, here is where those promises stand:

*Fordo*: "The United States is considering letting Tehran run hundreds of centrifuges at a once-secret, fortified underground bunker in exchange for limits on centrifuge work and research and development at other sites." —Associated Press, March 26

*Arak*: "Today, the six powers negotiating with Iran ... want the reactor at Arak, still under construction, reconfigured to produce less plutonium, the other bomb fuel." —*New York Times*, March 7

*Advanced centrifuges*: "Iran is building about 3,000 advanced uranium-enrichment centrifuges, the Iranian news media reported Sunday, a development likely to add to Western concerns about Tehran's disputed nuclear program." —Reuters, March 3

But the president and his administration made other promises, too. Consider a partial list: ...

*Ballistic missiles*: In February 2014, Wendy Sherman, the lead U.S. negotiator, testified to Congress that while the interim agreement was silent on Iran's production of ballistic missiles, "that is indeed going to be part of something that has to be addressed as part of a comprehensive agreement." This point is vital because ballistic missiles are a central component of a robust nuclear arsenal.

Except missiles are off the table, too. "Diplomats say the topic [of missiles] has not been part of formal discussions for weeks," the AP reported Monday.



*Break-out:* President Obama has repeatedly insisted that the U.S. will only sign a deal that gives the U.S. and its allies a year's notice if Iran decides to "break out" and go for a bomb.

But if the Iranians won't come clean on their past weapons' work, it's impossible to know how long they would really need to assemble a bomb once they have sufficient nuclear material. ...

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## John Boehner in Israel: 'The World Is on Fire'

Politico | April 2

JOHN BOEHNER THINKS THE "WORLD IS ON FIRE." AND America isn't doing nearly enough to stamp it out. ...

"I wouldn't have believed that I would be involved in as much foreign policy as I am today," Boehner said in his hotel near Jerusalem's Old City. "And it certainly isn't by choice. It's just that the world is on fire. And I don't think enough Americans or enough people in the administration understand how serious the problems that we're facing in the world are."

Indeed, with Iran talks ... the Middle East in a constant state of upheaval, and the relationship between Obama

and Netanyahu at a low point, Boehner has emerged as an unlikely power center in U.S. foreign policy. ...

"We've got some big, serious problems, and there's no overarching strategy to deal with it. You've heard me say this for two years. I am even more convinced of it today," Boehner said. He added, "Here's the essence of what I've learned on this trip: The problem is growing faster than what we and our allies are doing to try to stop it." ...

"What bothers me is it looks like the administration is so hungry for a deal just to have a deal so they can say they have a deal," Boehner said. ...

## EUROPE

## T The Fourth Reich Is Here, Says German Newsmagazine

Richard Palmer | April 1

MODERN GERMANY IS A NEW REICH, AT LEAST IN AN ECONOMIC sense, *Der Spiegel* concluded in the cover article of its March 21 issue.

"People have even begun talking about the 'Fourth Reich,' a reference to the Third Reich of Adolf Hitler," states the article's introduction. "That may sound absurd given that today's Germany is a successful democracy without a trace of national-socialism—and that no one would actually associate Merkel with Nazism. But further reflection on the word 'reich,' or empire, may not be entirely out of place. The term refers to a dominion, with a central power exerting control over many different peoples. According to this definition, would it be wrong to speak of a German Reich in the economic realm?"

After a detailed analysis of Germany's past and present domination of Europe, the article concludes that no, it would not be wrong. "[A]n empire is in play, at least in the economic realm," the article states. "The eurozone is clearly ruled by Germany, though Berlin is not unchallenged. It does, however, have a significant say in the fates of millions of people from other countries."

*Spiegel's* article is one of the clearest pieces of evidence that shows the forecasts of Germany's rise made by the *Trumpet*, and before it, the *Plain Truth*, are correct.

As *Spiegel* notes, "A heavy accusation has been leveled at Germany—by some in Greece, in Spain and in France but also by some in Great Britain and in the United States.



The euro crisis, a certain breed of politicians, journalists and economists argue, has allowed Germany to dominate southern Europe and to suffocate it in order to impose its principles even as its export policy has meant that the country has profited from that same currency crisis more than any other country."

*Spiegel* explains how the design of the euro automatically put Germany in this leading position, paving the way for a rich, export-focused Germany. But this new power has turned Germany's head. "There is a new tone in Germany," the article states. "It is one that no longer abides by the noble customs of diplomacy. Whispering, suggesting and hinting have been replaced by ranting and blustering."

"The change in Germany's approach to European policy

has been dramatic,” *Spiegel* wrote. “[Former German Chancellor] Helmut Kohl sought to avoid isolation at all costs when it came to important negotiations, but Merkel has all but completely rejected that approach. ‘I am rather alone in the EU, but I don’t care. I am right,’ she once said to a small group of advisers during a discussion about the role of the [International Monetary Fund].”

This situation is exactly what Herbert W. Armstrong, editor in chief of the *Plain Truth*, forecast from the start of the European project. “The United States and the British are striving to bring about a united Europe,” he wrote in November 1954. The outcome of this union: “Germany inevitably would emerge as the leader of a united Europe.”

Two years later he wrote: “The Germans are coming back from the destruction of World War II in breathtaking manner. Germany is the economic and military heart of Europe. Probably Germany will lead and dominate the coming United States of Europe.”

He even forecast the manner of this dramatic German rise, writing that “this empire would start as an economic movement.”

In August 1959, Mr. Armstrong wrote: “European nations are getting together on CURRENCY reform. We now have Euro-Mart—or the European Common Market, entered into by SIX European nations! Here are the LATEST figures, which I have just obtained today: For the year 1958, in general TRADE, this EUROPE combine, \$45.6 BILLION, in first place in the world; the U.S. in second place, \$30.6 billion; United Kingdom third with only \$19 billion, and RUSSIA fourth with a mere \$8.5 billion. THIS IS ONE REASON I HAVE REPEATEDLY WARNED YOU TO WATCH GERMANY!”

Compare that to *Spiegel*’s description of the rise of Germany: “After the end of the Third Reich, German dominance on the Continent appeared to have been rendered an impossibility for all time. West Germany and East Germany both were initially tentative states that more or less willingly subordinated themselves to their big brothers, the U.S. and the Soviet Union. They ceded to the dominance of others.

“West Germany, though, soon developed a new—economic this time—instrument of power: the deutschemark.

Because the West German economy grew rapidly and its sovereign debt remained relatively manageable, the German central bank, the Bundesbank, dominated economic and financial policy in Europe in the 1970s and ’80s. Governments in France, Britain and Italy paid close attention to the decisions being made in Frankfurt. Shortly before German reunification, a senior official in the office of the French president was quoted as saying: ‘We may have the nuclear bomb, but the Germans have the deutschemark.’”

A *Plain Truth* article published in 1985, shortly before Mr. Armstrong died, gives a prescient overview of what has transpired over the past 30 years: “Partly because of its geographic location, equally so because of the dynamic nature of its people, Germany, divided or united, remains at the heart of Europe. And Europe’s future will once again, as so often in the past, be decided by Germany’s decisions.”

It concludes: “Exactly how the union of Europe will come about is not yet clear. Many events must yet transpire. A new leadership in the Soviet Union as well as declining economic fortunes of the entire East bloc are factors to consider.”

After concluding that Germany has “a significant say in the fates of millions of people from other countries,” *Spiegel* warns that “[s]uch power creates a significant amount of responsibility, but the government and other policy-makers nevertheless sometimes behave as though they were leading a small country.”

*Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry devoted a recent television program to this subject. “Germany does not have a strong leader, according to many critics, and they’ve been voicing those views quite often of late,” he said.

Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Flurry both have forecast that the next step in Germany’s history will be the arrival of the strong leadership it currently lacks.

How could these men make predictions that could be proved true, even after so many years? Their forecasts are based upon the truths written in the Bible. To many these sound outlandish, but such a positive track record is certainly worth looking into. To do so, read our free booklet *He Was Right*.

 Follow [Richard Palmer](#)

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## Greek Defiance Mounts as Alexis Tsipras Turns to Russia and China

Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, *Telegraph* | April 1

TWO MONTHS OF EU BLUSTER AND REPROOF HAVE FAILED to cow Greece. It is becoming clear that Europe’s creditor powers have misjudged the nature of the Greek crisis and can no longer avoid facing the Morton’s Fork in front of them.

Any deal that goes far enough to assuage Greece’s justly aggrieved people must automatically blow apart the austerity settlement already fraying in the rest of southern Europe. The necessary concessions would embolden populist defiance in Spain, Portugal and Italy, and bring

German euroskepticism to the boil. ...

Yet if the EMU powers persist mechanically with their stale demands ... they risk setting off a political chain-reaction that can only eviscerate the EU project as a motivating ideology in Europe. ...

Alexis Tsipras leads the first radical-leftist government elected in Europe since the Second World War. His Syriza movement is, in a sense, totemic for the European left, even if sympathizers despair over its chaotic twists and turns. As such, it is a litmus test of whether progressives

can pursue anything resembling an autonomous economic policy within EMU. ...

Forced Grexit would entrench a pervasive suspicion that EU bodies are ultimately agents of creditor enforcement. It would expose the project's post-war creed of solidarity as so much humbug.

Willem Buiter, Citigroup's chief economist, warns that Greece faces an "economic show of horrors" if it returns to the drachma, but it will not be a pleasant affair for Europe either. "Monetary union is meant to be unbreakable and irrevocable. If it is broken, and if it is revoked, the question will arise over which country is next," he said. ...

Mr. Tsipras is now playing the Russian card with an icy ruthlessness, more or less threatening to veto fresh EU measures against the Kremlin as the old set expires. ...

He offered to turn Greece into a strategic bridge, linking the two Orthodox nations. ...

Panagiotis Lafazanis, Greece's energy minister and head of Syriza's left platform, was in Moscow this week meeting Gazprom officials. He voiced a "keen interest" in the Kremlin's new pipeline plan though Turkey, known as "Turkish Stream."

Operating in parallel, Greece's deputy premier, Yananis Drakasakis, vowed to throw open the Port of Piraeus to China's shipping group Cosco, giving it priority in a joint-venture with the Greek state's remaining 67 percent

stake in the ports. On cue, China has bought €100 million (US\$108.8 million) of Greek T-bills, helping to plug a funding shortfall as the [European Central Bank] orders Greek banks to step back.

One might righteously protest at what amounts to open blackmail by Mr. Tsipras, deeming such conduct to be a primary violation of EU club rules. Yet this is to ignore what has been done to Greece over the past four years, and why the Greek people are so angry.

Leaked IMF minutes from 2010 confirm what Syriza has always argued: the country was already bankrupt and needed debt relief rather than new loans. This was overruled in order to save the euro and to save Europe's banking system at a time when EMU had no defenses against contagion. ...

Once you start to see events through Greek eyes—rather than through the eyes of the north European media and the Brussels press corps—the drama takes on a different character.

It is this clash of two entirely different and conflicting narratives that makes the crisis so intractable. Mr. Tsipras told his own inner circle privately before his election in January that if pushed to the wall by the EMU creditor powers, he would tell them "to do their worst," bringing the whole temple crashing down on their heads. Everything he has done since suggests that he may just mean it.

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## 21st-Century Warfare

German-Foreign-Policy.com | April 1

THE BUNDESWEHR PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN THE CURRENT restructuring of nato's rapid intervention force. The implementation of a Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) of between 5,000 and 7,000 troops for future offensive operations, known as "Spearhead," is an integral element in this process.

Half of the troops will be German. NATO's Allied Joint Force Commander for Northern and Eastern Europe, German Col.-Gen. Hans-Lothar Domröse is in charge of the creation of the VJTF. According to Domröse, the objective is to get the Western military alliance "into shape" for "waging

wars in the 21st century," which is particularly expressed in the capacity "to be able to control a territorially limited destabilization by elusive subversive enemy forces."

The core of the VJTF will be comprised of the Mechanized Infantry Battalion 371, which disposes of the most modern weapons systems and is stationed in Marienberg (Saxony). The unit has demonstrated its combat readiness in two maneuvers last year. Both maneuvers were to train for combating insurgent separatists—a scenario, the Bundeswehr describes as "very realistic in the current political environment." ...

## Vatican Backs War on Extremists

Daily Beast | April 2

IN HIS STRONGEST STATEMENT YET, THE VATICAN'S MAN IN Geneva endorses decisive military action against terror groups, effectively declaring war on extremists.

Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, the Vatican's top diplomat in Geneva, is not a man to mince his words. For nearly a year now, he has been channeling Pope Francis's cries for peace by edging closer and closer to endorsing war.

On Wednesday, at an address to the 23rd Special Session of the Human Rights Council on the Situation of

Human Rights in Nigeria—Boko Haram, he bit the bullet and endorsed military action against Boko Haram and [the Islamic State] in no uncertain terms. "The ongoing violence, persecution and murder at the hands of the Boko Haram group especially in Nigeria, but also in Cameroon, Benin, Chad and Niger, present serious transgressions under international law, including war crimes and crimes against humanity which require an urgent and effective response from the involved states, together with

the solidarity of the international community,” he said. ... “One cannot be blind to the fact that such extremists groups are growing like a cancer, spreading to other parts of the world and even attracting foreign militants to fight in their ranks.”

Tomasi’s statement, disseminated by the Holy See in Rome, is the most concrete endorsement of military action yet under Pope Francis. In March, in an interview with the *Boston Globe*’s Vatican expert, John Allen, Tomasi hinted that the pope was losing his patience. “We have to stop this kind of genocide,” Tomasi told Allen. “Otherwise we’ll be crying out in the future about why we didn’t do something, why we allowed such a terrible tragedy to happen.”

“There’s a common human dignity we all share,” he said. “And it should be protected at all costs.”

The fighting words amount to a change in long-standing policy for the Holy See, which has traditionally come down hard on military action, especially in previous conflicts. In 2003, Pope John Paul II harshly criticized the American-led buildup in the Persian Gulf ahead of the invasion in Iraq. “War is not always inevitable. It is always a defeat for humanity,” John Paul II told Vatican diplomats at the time. “War is never just another means that one can choose to employ for settling differences between nations.”

“The ongoing violence, persecution and murder at the hands of the Boko Haram group [presents] serious transgressions under international law, including war crimes and crimes against humanity which require an urgent and effective response from the involved states, together with the solidarity of the international community.” ...

## ASIA

### Taiwan Applies to Join AIIB Under ‘One China,’ Sparking Protests

**Diplomat | April 1**

**D**OZENS OF YOUNG PROTESTERS CLASHED WITH POLICE and security guards outside the presidential office in Taipei on the evening of March 31 after the government unilaterally announced that Taiwan would join the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), an international financial institution initiated by China.

After Taipei expressed its interest in joining the AIIB, Beijing said it would welcome Taiwan as long as it joined under the “One China” principle. Beijing’s terms also stipulated that Taiwan must apply through the Taiwan Affairs Office (TAO), the agency under the State Council that handles relations with Taiwan. Beijing does not recognize Taiwan’s sovereignty and regards Taiwan as a province, to be “reunited” by force if necessary. At this writing, the name under which Taiwan applied to join the AIIB remains unknown. ...

Critics say that by agreeing to apply with the TAO rather than via the normal channels used to join international organizations, Taipei appeared to be conceding that Taiwan is part of China. The “One China” framework, a precondition for cross-strait exchanges that Chinese President Xi Jinping has vehemently reaffirmed in recent months, enjoys little support among the Taiwanese population, which cherishes its *de facto* status as an independent country. ...

**“How could anyone fail to see that Taiwan is destined to become a part of mainland China? These 21 million [Taiwanese] people are going to be FORCED into the Chinese mold ....”**

*Gerald Flurry, Trumpet, August 1998*



### Russia Arming Argentina to Enable Grab of Falkland Islands?

**Jeremiah Jacques | March 26**

**R**USSIA IS PREPARING TO LEASE 12 LONG-RANGE, SUPERSONIC bomber jets to Argentina, a move that some in Britain fear is designed to ready Argentina to take the Falkland Islands.

Argentina has long argued that the Falklands—which it calls the Malvinas—are Argentine territory and should be controlled by Buenos Aires instead of London. The dispute escalated into war in 1982 when Argentina invaded the islands, attempting to establish sovereignty over them. The bloody 74-day conflict ended with British forces overwhelming the Argentinians and reestablishing British

control of the islands.

But British defense cuts in recent years leave the Falklands more vulnerable to attack, particularly if Russia beefs up Argentina’s armaments. “It is a very live threat,” British Defense Minister Michael Fallon said March 23 concerning Moscow’s plan to equip Argentina with attack planes. “We have to respond to it.”

Former defense minister Sir Gerald Howarth said of Russia’s plan: “It is very serious indeed. [Russian President Vladimir] Putin has many problems at home and yet he is



ramping up tension in the Falklands.”

Russian politicians and pro-Kremlin newspapers have long taken Argentina's side in the Falklands dispute, routinely criticizing Britain's "colonial occupation" of the islands. Russians sometimes refer to the Falklands as the "Crimea of the Atlantic," a comparison the Argentine government welcomes.

"The Malvinas have always belonged to Argentina, the same way that Crimea also belonged to the Soviet Union until it was given to Ukraine," Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner said last year after Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. Kirchner was among the most vocal supporters of Russia's grab of Crimea, and her support is now winning her tit-for-tat backing from Moscow regarding Argentina's claim on the Falklands.

On March 22, Alexei Pushkov, the head of the Russian Duma's committee of international affairs, tweeted: "Information for London: In the Crimea, immeasurably more reason to be a part of Russia than in the Falkland Islands to be part of the UK."

Putin himself has made his support for Argentina's claims clear as well.

In a sign that the United Kingdom takes the Russo-Argentine cooperation seriously, Fallon said Britain will invest \$265 million to bolster Falklands' defenses over the next 10 years. However, a Ministry of Defense spokesman told the *Express* that Argentina will likely receive the bombers well before Britain does much to beef up its forces, leaving a "real window of vulnerability."

 Follow [Jeremiah Jacques](#)

### **Japan, India Vow to Deepen Defense Ties as China Tensions Rise** **Bloomberg | March 30**

**I**NDIA AND JAPAN PLEDGED TO DEEPEN THEIR DEFENSE TIES as the two nations seek to counter China's growing influence in the region amid escalating territorial disputes.

Indian Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar called on Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo on Monday, his first overseas trip since being appointed in November. Parrikar also met his counterpart General Nakatani as part of the March 29-April 1 visit.

"A strong India-Japan partnership is not only in the national interest of the two countries but is also important for peace and security in the region," India's Defense Ministry said in a statement, citing Abe. Parrikar said he would like to see a strong partnership with Japan in defense equipment and technology, according to the statement.

Converging economic and security interests are driving Asia's second- and third-biggest military spenders closer in an attempt to thwart increasingly assertive Chinese claims over contested lands and waters. Japan is also easing its defense export rules as India, the world's biggest arms importer, is looking to modernize its military. ...

Parrikar and Nakatani discussed potential areas for cooperation in defense equipment and technology and "emphasized the need to pursue mutually beneficial future cooperation projects," the Indian Defense Ministry said in a separate statement Monday. The two also "reviewed strategic developments relating to international security situation with emphasis on the interconnected Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions," according to the statement. ...

The two countries have also been discussing the sale of

Japanese US-2 amphibious planes to India, as well as a pact on civil nuclear energy. ...

India is bulking up and modernizing its forces as it reasserts control in the Indian Ocean and along a 14,000-kilometer (8,700-mile) northern land border, parts of which it contests with China.

India last month increased its defense budget by 11 percent to \$40 billion and approved the building of six nuclear-powered submarines and seven new frigates. It plans to spend \$150 billion to modernize its military by 2027.

**"Bible prophecy confirms that the time will soon be here when the U.S. will be removed from the picture and Asian nations will rise up powerfully. Scripture makes plain that rather than go it alone, several Asian juggernauts will pool their resources, consolidate their power and form a military force of proportions the world has never seen. ... Maybe Tokyo would be able to persuade ... India to form an alliance with Japan to counter the China-Russia axis. ... But the strong implication of Bible prophecy is that even if some kind of Japan-led counteralliance were formed, it would not be long before it joined China and Russia. Back in World War II, Japan was the only industrialized nation in Asia, so it was able to chart its own course. This time around, that advantage is removed."**

*Trumpet, January 2014*

### **Weapons Flood Into Putin's European Arms Depot** **Newsweek | March 30**

**W**HILE THE WORLD WATCHED RUSSIA'S NORTH FLEET with trepidation as it launched surprise exercises near the Arctic Circle last week, Vladimir Putin has quietly

been arming another area inside Europe's borders: Kaliningrad, the Russian seaport city in a region sandwiched between Poland and Lithuania, with convenient access to



the Baltic Sea. Vessels from Russia's Baltic Fleet have delivered fighter jets and Iskander missile launchers to the former German city, from where missiles could reach not just to Warsaw and Vilnius but Germany as well.

Sources say that, with sea transport neither quick nor easy to organize, it's clear the Russian armed forces had planned the recent delivery for some time. Indeed, the Russian Army has spent the past several years equipping its Baltic territory with state-of-the-art weaponry. Regional security officials now call Kaliningrad a veritable arms depot. "The Russian armed forces have, for example, installed new S-400 [antiaircraft missiles] there, which have an incredibly long range," says Johan Wiktorin, a

Swedish former military intelligence officer and author of the 2013 book *Korridoren till Kaliningrad* (*The Corridor to Kaliningrad*). The arming of Kaliningrad forms part of a 19 trillion-ruble (US\$322.1 billion) plan to increase the share of modern weapons in the Russian armed forces' arsenal from 10 percent to 70 percent.

According to a recent report by the Casimir Pulaski Foundation, a Polish security think tank, the plan features the acquisition of 120 Iskanders along with 600 aircraft, 1,100 helicopters, 100 ships and 2,300 tanks. Some of these heavy-hitters, including jet fighters and bombers, were recently delivered to a base outside the city where Immanuel Kant wrote his famous treatise on eternal peace. ...

## LATIN AMERICA/AFRICA

### Al-Shabaab Gunmen Kill at Least 70, Take Hostages in Attack on Kenyan University

Wall Street Journal | April 2

**H**EAVILY ARMED GUNMEN EARLY THURSDAY STORMED A university campus in northern Kenya, killing at least [70] people and holding hostages, officials said. Police engaged in gun battles with the militants.

The assault in the town of Garissa, southwest of the Somalia border, was the latest in a series carried out in the region by the Somalia-based Islamist group al-Shabaab and underscores the challenges the Kenyan government faces in thwarting terrorism both from within and across its borders. ...

One witness said the gunmen told hostages to recite a Muslim prayer and allowed only those who could to leave.

The attack elicited a strong response from Kenyan security forces, with police, military and counterterrorism reinforcement sent to the scene, but the hostage-taking

complicated the operation.

Authorities described a fierce gunfight between the attackers and police, with residents reporting explosions as well. ...

In addition to the dead, some [79] people had been injured, according to Abbas Gullet, secretary-general of the Red Cross in Kenya. ...

"Our Mujahideen [militant] brothers today managed to carry out a successful operation in Garissa town," said Sheikh Abdiasis abu Musab, a spokesman for al-Shabaab. ...

"We told the Kenyans to withdraw their army from Somalia," the al-Shabaab spokesman said. "They did not want to listen us, so this is our message to them." ...

**RELATED: "WHY AL-SHABAAB WARRANTS YOUR ATTENTION"**

## ANGLO-AMERICA

### Blowback: China's New Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

Robert Morley | April 3

**T**HE TERM "BLOWBACK" WAS INVENTED BY THE CENTRAL Intelligence Agency to describe the unintended results of American intervention abroad. In particular, it describes situations in which secret actions hidden from the public come back to punch you in the nose.

Classic blowback rocked the financial world on March 12 when Britain and subsequently almost every other U.S. ally joined the Chinese-owned Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)—a bank designed to challenge United States economic supremacy.

"The battle of wills between Beijing and Washington over a China-sponsored development bank for Asia is turning into a rout," wrote the *Washington Times*. "The Obama

administration has found itself isolated and embarrassed as its top allies lined up this week to join the proposed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank."

The story begins with a 2013 speech by the newly coronated Chinese leader Xi Jinping. He would spearhead the creation of a new international investment bank where nations could pool money to invest in the developing world.

Xi Jinping did not hide the bank's purpose. It would compete with the U.S.-dominated World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

But few in Washington paid it much heed.

Then a strange thing happened last year. Australia announced it would join with China to become a *founding*

member of the bank.

America was *shocked*. Australia is one of America's closest allies.

The State Department hyperventilated. President Barack Obama made a personal call to Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbot to voice his concern. American lobbyists pounded the pavement.

The message was clear: Don't join China's bank!

Australia recanted.

Crisis averted.

Then the United Kingdom dropped an economic bomb.

In a move that the *Financial Times* said *even shocked the Chinese*, British Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne said his nation would apply to join the AIIB as a *founding member*.

The announcement caught Washington completely off guard.

Five days later, in a joint statement, Germany, France and Italy, the world's fourth-, sixth- and eighth-largest economies, said they too would join China's bank. Norway, Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands and Denmark filed for membership as well.

Even South Korea and Taiwan—two nations very dependent on America for geopolitical and military support—said they will join China's bank.

It was the week the world revolted.

Now Australia is indicating that it will probably join the AIIB after all.

But why has the world so dramatically spurned U.S. concerns?

Blowback.

With Britain, it was blowback for a litany of slights since the dollar replaced the pound as the world's reserve currency following World War II. Think Suez crisis; supporting independence movements within the Commonwealth; forgiving German and Japanese war debts, but making Britain pay interest for 60 years; breaking the pound and forcing Britain out of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism; etc.

But especially, it is blowback from the cold shoulder President Obama gave Britain—starting practically from his first day in office.

It began with President Obama downgrading America's "special relationship" with Britain to a "special partnership." It continued when President Obama sent back the bust of Winston Churchill. It became a trend when he

began referring to the British-ruled Falkland Islands by the name Argentina uses, the Malvinas. Then there was President Obama's royal visit to the UK in 2009. On that trip he presented Queen Elizabeth with an iPod which contained, among other things, music by American artists and video recordings of two of his speeches.

When then-Prime Minister Gordon Brown came to America to show support for its new president, President Obama canceled the formal podium-to-podium, dual-flag-waving Rose Garden press conference normally reserved for state visits. In its place, he opted for an informal, low-key, 30-minute office chat. Mr. Brown gave President Obama a penholder carved from the timber of an anti-slave ship. President Obama gave Mr. Brown a DVD box-set of American movies.

British papers talked about national humiliation and embarrassment.

The *Daily Telegraph* boiled: "We get the point. ... We're just one of many allies and you want fancy new friends. Well, the *next time you need something doing, something which impinges on your national security, then try calling the French, or the Japanese, or best of all the Germans*" (emphasis added).

Well, "next time" arrived.

But while the blowback from Britain might have been personal, it was more about business for America's other allies.

"But after years of endless wars, spying, debt, money printing, bailouts and insane regulations, the rest of the world has had enough," writes Simon Black, author of the Sovereign Man economic blog. "And they're looking for an alternative."

The global embrace of the AIIB is a massive coup for China. It is a huge step toward making the yuan a reserve currency.

And it is a sign that although the U.S. dollar appears strong right now, its long-term fundamentals are fracturing. And with it, American power and prosperity.

A week after the British joined the AIIB the Chinese state-run Xinhua news agency jubilantly opined: "Welcome Germany! Welcome France! Welcome Italy!"

You can envision the grins.

America wasn't smiling though. Blowback hurts—like a smack to the face. And sometimes, like a knife in the heart.

 Follow [Robert Morley](#)

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## How British Jews Lost Their Self-Confidence

Anshel Pfeffer, *Haaretz* | April 1

MARCH 12, 2014 WAS A RED-LETTER DAY FOR BRITISH JEWRY. In the narrow foyer of the Knesset building in Jerusalem, the great and good of the community establishment ... had flown in especially to watch Prime Minister David Cameron address Israel's parliament. They were not to be

disappointed.

Cameron's eloquent speech highlighted the warm ties between the two countries, affirmed his support of Israel's democracy and security, and made just a tiny mention of any disagreement over the settlements.

But the highlight for the overseas guests was when he commented on the Jewish community in England, which he described as “an absolute exemplar in integrating into British life in every way.” He promised to personally defend its religious rights and fight anti-Semitism. ... All was bright in Britain’s Jewish future, and they flew back to London basking in a warm feeling of acceptance and appreciation.

Five months later, those same community leaders would be heckled at open meetings and angrily accused of not doing enough to defend Israel and fight anti-Semitism.

The criticism in the British media of the Israel Defense Forces’ Operation Protective Edge in Gaza last summer and the corresponding rise in reported anti-Semitic incidents had shaken the self-confidence of British Jews to the core.

Young “grassroots” groups were challenging the establishment, from left and right; polls appeared indicating that half of Britain’s Jews felt they were back in the 1930s and were considering emigration. The methodology was dubious, at best, but the fact that the dodgy polls had even been commissioned was telling.

Speaking to friends in London at the time, I was astonished how British Jews who had never seemed very interested in communal affairs or Israeli politics were worked up. They felt under attack, and though none of them had experienced any form of threat themselves, something in their sense of security had cracked.

In the following months, the number of anti-Semitic incidents returned to its normal, relatively low, level, but

the terror attacks on Jews in Paris and Denmark, while happening in other European countries, have kept the tensions alive.

Former Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks wrote in the *Wall Street Journal* last October, “Today, Jews are beginning to ask, ‘Will we have English grandchildren?’” And, speaking at a memorial event for the four Jews killed in the January attack on a Paris kosher supermarket, Home Secretary Theresa May said, “I never thought I would see the day when members of the Jewish community in the United Kingdom would say they were fearful of remaining here in the United Kingdom.”

Where was all this coming from? ...

In today’s multicultural England, every minority is being encouraged to celebrate its origins. “The British are all obsessed now with identity and ethnicity,” says journalist Neerpal Dhaliwal, whose parents emigrated from Punjab to Britain. “Everyone is talking about a parallel otherness rather than working on a common culture. In the past, I never got asked to write about Indian stuff; now, that’s all I’m asked to do.”

And for Jews, celebrating their identity is inextricably linked today with Israel. The argument over where to place the gray lines—where, once crossed, legitimate criticism of Israel’s policies becomes racist and anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism—will probably never be settled.

What is clear is that for many, the relentlessly negative depiction of Israel in the local media has undermined their self-confidence as British Jews. ...

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## Iran Accuses U.S. of Lying About New Nuke Agreement

Washington Free Beacon, April 2

**J**UST HOURS AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF WHAT THE United States characterized as a historic agreement with Iran over its nuclear program, the country’s leading negotiator lashed out at the Obama administration for lying about the details of a tentative framework.

Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif accused the Obama administration of misleading the American people and Congress in a fact sheet it released following the culmination of negotiations with the Islamic Republic.

Zarif bragged in an earlier press conference with reporters that the United States had tentatively agreed to let it continue the enrichment of uranium, the key component in a nuclear bomb, as well as key nuclear research.

Zarif additionally said Iran would have all nuclear-related sanctions lifted once a final deal is signed and that the country would not be forced to shut down any of its currently operating nuclear installations. ...

“The solutions are good for all, as they stand,” he tweeted. “There is no need to spin using ‘fact sheets’ so early on.”

Zarif went on to push back against claims by [United States Secretary of State John] Kerry that the sanctions relief would be implemented in a phased fashion ....

“Iran/5+1 Statement: ‘U.S. will cease the application of ALL nuclear-related secondary economic and financial sanctions.’ Is this gradual?” he wrote on Twitter.

He then suggested a correction: “Iran/P5+1 Statement: ‘The [European Union] will TERMINATE the implementation of ALL nuclear-related economic and financial sanctions’. How about this?”

The pushback from Iran’s chief diplomat follows a pattern of similar accusations by senior Iranian political figures after the announcement of previous agreements. ...

On Thursday evening, Zarif told reporters the latest agreement allows Iran to keep operating its nuclear program.

“None of those measures” that will move to scale back Iran’s program “include closing any of our facilities,” Zarif said. “We will continue enriching; we will continue research and development.”

“Our heavy water reactor will be modernized, and we will continue the Fordow facility,” Zarif said. “We will have centrifuges installed in Fordow, but not enriching.” ...

Zarif also revealed that Iran will be allowed to sell “enriched uranium” in the international market place and will be “hopefully making some money” from it.





## **The Real Star Wars**

**Gerald Flurry,**

**The Key of David | April 3**

LEARN ABOUT THE SPIRITUAL WARFARE THAT BEGAN BEFORE MANKIND WAS CREATED AND CONTINUES TO THIS DAY.



## **Panic in the Markets as Poll Jitters Hit Sterling**

**Francis Elliot, Philip Aldrick and Sam Coates, Times | April 2**

**J**ITTERS HIT THE MARKETS YESTERDAY AS ANALYSTS WARNED investors that Britain faced the prospect of a weak and ineffective government after a dead-heat election.

With the polls still tied, forecasters unanimously predicted a hung parliament on May 7. A growing number calculate that it is likely neither Labor nor the Conservatives would be able to form a stable government, even with the support of a second party.

The pound fell against the euro yesterday .... Sterling volatility, one measure of market concern, is now higher than before any poll since 2000, including the Scottish referendum last year. ...

Whitehall is preparing for at least three weeks of haggling if it becomes clear that even a tie-up between two

parties would leave them short of an overall majority. ...

Britain was reliant last year on £98 billion (US\$145.4 billion) of overseas funding to finance both private and public sector spending. At 5.5 percent of GDP, it was the highest annual current account deficit since records began in 1948.

Blackrock, the fund-manager, said: "Gaping current account and budget deficits make the UK particularly dependent on the kindness of strangers."

Ross Walker, UK economist at Royal Bank of Scotland, said: "Political upheaval might serve to draw attention to the UK's economic, fiscal and financial imbalances."

The pound has fallen 4.4 percent against the dollar in the past month and 2.8 percent against the euro since mid-March. ...

## **Prepare for Chaos Far Worse Than in 2008**

**Bill Bonner, Daily Reckoning | March 1**

**Y**ESTERDAY, THE DOW FELL 77 POINTS. GOLD HELD ABOVE \$1,200. Somewhere ahead is much more exciting action. The Dow could fall 1,000 points ... or 2,000 points in a single day.

And when this happens, we believe the ensuing chaos and panic will be worse than it was in 2008.

First, because debt is higher today than it was then. Six years ago, the "national" debt was under \$10 trillion. Now, it's around \$18 trillion. Total debt is higher too. About \$50 trillion in 2007, it's now closer to \$60 trillion.

There was more subprime mortgage debt in 2007, but now we have subprime auto debt, subprime student debt, subprime government debt, and subprime corporate debt too.

The crisis of '08 came at the top of a boom. We're now nowhere near a boom. People are saving money, not spending it. China is slowing down, not speeding up. World trade is fading, not growing. The velocity of money—a key indicator of boom conditions—started going down in 2007, and it's still going down.

Homeownership has fallen to a 20-year low. Labor force participation has been in decline for 15 years. And the rate at which men of working age drop out of the labor force and become "inactive" has risen 33 percent since 2008.

These things mean that when the crash comes, the economy will be less resilient. Already weak, the economy will sink still lower. And then, what will the Fed do?