



Nepalese earthquake victims search for their belongings among the debris of their homes on April 29, in Bhaktapur, Nepal.

## Shaken: Why the Nepal Earthquake Happened

By Philip Nice

**T**HE WORLD BEGAN SHAKING. THE FURNITURE, THE LIGHTS, THE plates on the table, the glasses on the shelf—the whole room, the whole building, the whole *city*. Windows shattered, foundations crumbled, buildings disintegrated. For those who were in Nepal on April 25, the Earth itself might as well have shaken off its axis.

For thousands of Nepalese, April 25, 11:56 a.m., was the end. The last sight of home, the last breath of air, the last heartbeat. By the time the last grim worker trudges through the debris at the last house in the last village and digs out the last corpse, the mountain of recorded fatalities may exceed 15,000 lives. About 14,000 more have been injured, lacerated by flying glass, struck

by plummeting concrete, half-crushed by collapsing walls.

All because there are two tectonic plates 9 miles down and about 50 miles northwest of Kathmandu—and on April 25, they shifted a bit.

“Me and my mom were at terrace washing clothes, and suddenly the house started shaking,” Manisha Dahal told the *Trumpet* from Kathmandu two days later. “We could not run as it was shaking tremendously. We sat on the terrace hugging each other. After few seconds, we saw a building fall down right in front of us. Then we saw a cloud of dust in the sky. We then saw a few building collapse at a distance.

“My vision became blur, and I thought we would not survive.

My only thoughts were that my mom was with me and I am lucky for that. Even then, it did not stop shaking. Birds and dust filled up the sky and we could see other houses swing. Then, after a while the shaking stopped, and we went downstairs on the open road. As soon as we were on the road, we felt the second quake. Everybody were holding each other and praying for it to be over. ...

"The houses kept falling in front of our eyes. Heart-beating, mind-numbing day. Till now, I have experienced 28 shakes, and we are terrified to go inside. We spent the night in the open grassland, which was OK, despite of cold. Then, in the middle of night, it rained. We tried to go inside thinking the shaking would not be repeated, there was a shock again."

Manisha and those around her would have to endure more than 100 terrifying aftershocks. They would have to grieve for thousands of their fathers, their grandmothers, their infant sons, lost to a 7.8-magnitude monster. Tens of thousands like her would huddle in makeshift shelters, shell-shocked, petrified, at risk of disease, and unable to return to their pulverized neighborhoods.

Why did this happen?

Why are so many suffering? Why are husbands without wives, mothers without daughters, grandfathers without grandsons? Why did they die?

Because a piece of Earth clicked? Is that it?

News about the Nepal quake has been everywhere. Facts and statistics, updated by the hour, are beaming around the world.

But have you heard any adequate—any true—answer to the most important, basic and burning question here: *Why did these people die?*

Most of us do not even ask, because we know we cannot answer. The rest of us just incorporate this shockwave of suffering into whatever our worldview already is: *It's because of time and chance. It's because there is no God. It's because God can't be bothered. It's because God works in mysterious ways.*

No. This earthquake meant something. These people died for a reason. That cost is too high for us to shrug this off. We need to face this thing.

Let's start here: Each of us is roughly a 7-billionth of a cubic mile big. We live on a 260-billion-cubic-mile particle named Earth. Earth has a hot core, a semisolid rock mantle and a thin crust. The crust consists of slim plates with tiny folds and grooves on

its surface. On the surface, in some places, if you get really, really close, you can see a delicate dusting of man-made structures. And inside those structures are miniscule human beings.

What happens if there's a tiny twitch in the crust? Or if the gaseous layer above it swirls a bit? Or if part of it gets damp? Thousands of those particulates called humans perish.

We continue only because we have been given a place among the stars under a warm sun, because a vast network of tailor-made natural systems works together to nurture us fragile little beings. This existence came from somewhere. This compassionate design came from someone.

Because creation came from a Creator, it follows that environmental disasters have a spiritual dimension. Thankfully, the someone who created our planet and created us reveals Himself to human beings. He is God.

*But a God who lovingly made creation would never allow humans to suffer.* That is a false argument, based not on God's actual nature, but on our own ideas.

God punishes. We can see that in the Bible, and we can see that in the news. Why? Because we sin. We sin so much that if God doesn't intervene, we will drown in it. We are on our way to violently deleting ourselves from this planet, no environmental disasters needed.

So God uses something no human being can control to *communicate* with us: our environment. We just need to get the message: *If your entire world is shaking, something is wrong.*

When earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, mudslides, tornadoes and fires strike, does that mean God is lashing out at us in retaliation? No. It is God's loving correction for those who will recognize it. Does it mean that the people who die as buildings collapse on them are extra-sinful people? Jesus Christ Himself answered this exact question. He said that those who die in such disasters are a *warning* to the rest of us that unless we *repent*, we will likewise perish.

Jesus also taught this decisive revelation: Death is temporary. Christ is the resurrection, and He says that those who died in His day under the Tower of Siloam and in our day in Nepal will eventually be resurrected. Then they will have the opportunity to be shaken from a sinful way of life, to be jolted out of a wicked and doomed existence.

The same opportunity that we have, right now.

## MIDDLE EAST

### Reaching the Limit

NOW | April 30

**I**S THIS THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR BASHAR ASSAD? ... IT IS more accurate to say, however, that the war in Syria has entered a new phase. Call it defining the regime's limits. Some of these limits are structural, related to demographic realities; others are a function of new geopolitical dynamics, namely the organization of an anti-Iranian regional coalition.

What's clear is that the territorial gains the regime made over the past two years, and only as a result of massive Iranian support,

represent the peak of what it can hope to achieve. This phase of Iranian-engineered resurgence has hit the wall.

The previous stage, which began in summer of 2013, might be appropriately named "Assad's deceptive revival." It was characterized by the full-blown intervention of Iran and its militias (primarily Hezbollah) on the side of the regime, and the emergence of the Islamic State in northern and eastern Syria. The intervention of these two players enabled the regime to regain its footing and



to seize the momentum—despite the debilitating structural deficiencies that today are once again revealing themselves. ...

In addition, whereas Iran maintained strategic focus—shoring up the regime—the United States, Saudi Arabia, and the other backers of the Syrian opposition were disunited. President Obama steadfastly refused to take the steps necessary to bring order to the anti-Assad camp and to give it the kind of strategic purpose that Iran brought to the pro-regime forces. These factors allowed Assad and his allies to go on the offensive, expanding a buffer zone around the regime's heartland, and reinforcing positions in and near Aleppo. ...

Saudi Arabia's response to the Iranian intervention has also played a much larger role than most commentators have noticed.

Having recognized that Obama had abandoned America's traditional leadership role in the Middle East, the new Saudi monarch moved to organize regional states to challenge Iranian expansionism. This decision has translated into coordination between Riyadh and other regional players—namely Turkey, Qatar and Jordan—which quickly influenced the course of events on the Syrian battlefield. As a result, the regime's position in Idlib is now collapsing, and it continues to deteriorate in the Daraa province as well. ...

There is still a long way to go, with a procession of new phases to the war. But in the long run, the situation does not bode well for the regime.

**RELATED:** ["HOW THE SYRIAN CRISIS WILL END"](#)

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## U.S. Allies in Middle East Ramping Up Support for Rebel Forces in Syria

**Washington Post | April 29**

**U**.S. ALLIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE RAMPED UP THEIR SUPPORT for rebels fighting against Syrian forces in recent months, potentially widening a gulf over strategy between the Obama administration and its regional partners.

The partners have grown increasingly impatient with the administration's slow march toward training and equipping a viable Syrian opposition force, and its insistence that those fighters focus on the Islamic State, according to officials in the region. To facilitate their primary goal of removing President Bashar Assad from power, the allies have moved ahead with their own plans.

The delivery of additional weapons and financial aid from Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar have facilitated recent advances against government forces in northwest Syria by the Army of Conquest, a newly formed umbrella of diverse rebel groups, including al Qaeda's affiliate and other Islamist groups, along with "moderate" fighters. ...

The initiative comes amid a growing sense in the region that the United States is preoccupied with its nuclear negotiations with Iran and the fight against the Islamic State in Iraq. In the meantime, regional officials and experts said, the Obama administration has failed to come up with a comprehensive strategy that addresses the more immediate concerns of its allies. ...

But what many view as a leadership vacuum is most acutely felt in the case of Syria. In response, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, with an assist from Qatar, recently ended a long estrangement to address their shared concern over the lagging fight against Assad. ...

But the push by U.S. allies to increase support for opposition forces has sparked a swirl of speculation among Syria experts that the [U.S.] administration risks becoming irrelevant if it does not take charge or at least increase its participation in the fight.

Some find it hard to believe the United States is not involved in the new push. "The initiative is being driven by allied Arab states, with Turkey, to push for a decisive military resolution," said Oubai Shahbandar, formerly with the Syrian national coalition ...

"If the Turks and Qataris and Saudis increase their support to the Syrian rebels, I don't think the Americans will be in a position to say, you are wrong," said Jamal Khashoggi, a prominent Saudi commentator with close ties to the monarchy. ...

Many now argue, however, that the United States needs to take more risks in arming the rebels if it wants to stay relevant.

**"THIS IS WORLD NEWS TOLD TO YOU AHEAD OF TIME! Just watch—keep track of this. See if these exact events *don't* happen. ... These verses [in Psalm 83] foretell a MASSIVE SHIFT in alliances among the nations of the Middle East! Events are about to STAGGER the imagination of many authorities in this world! And God prophesied it all thousands of years ago."**

Gerald Flurry, *Trumpet*, September 2012

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## **T** Iran Accused of Massive Cyberattack on Turkey

**Robert Morley | April 29**

**I**RAN STANDS ACCUSED OF ORCHESTRATING A MASSIVE CYBERATTACK on Turkey. Half of Turkey's provinces and 40 million people were plunged into the dark on March 31.

According to the *New York Observer*, the attack shut everything down. "Computers, airports, air traffic, traffic lights, hospitals, lights, elevators, refrigeration, water and sewage, everything

simply stopped. In an instant, Turkey was transported back to the stone ages,” the paper said.

The power outage lasted about 12 hours.

Analysts say the attack was payback for the Turkish prime minister’s support of Saudi Arabia in its battle against the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen. It could also be related to Turkey’s recent moves to topple Syrian dictator Bashar Assad, who is also a strong Iranian ally.

According to *New York Observer*, Iran’s cyberarmy has become

one of the world’s best and has probably inserted malware into the electric grids of many countries—probably even the United States.

If confirmed, this attack on Turkey is the first time Iran has shut down a country through cyberwarfare. It is also the first time any nation has successfully targeted civilian infrastructure.

This attack may have been a first. But in a world increasingly reliant on computer technology, it won’t be the last.

 Follow [Robert Morley](#)

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## **Exclusive: Britain Told UN Monitors of Active Iran Nuclear Procurement—Panel**

**Reuters | April 30**

**B** RITAIN HAS INFORMED A UNITED NATIONS SANCTIONS PANEL OF an active Iranian nuclear procurement network linked to two blacklisted firms, according to a confidential report by the panel seen by Reuters.

The existence of such a network could add to Western concerns over whether Tehran can be trusted to adhere to a nuclear deal due by June 30 in which it would agree to restrict sensitive nuclear work in exchange for sanctions relief. ...

Iran, which has been under sanctions for years, has a long

history of illicit nuclear procurement using front companies and other methods of skirting sanctions.

That has enabled it to develop a substantial atomic program in spite of aggressive international efforts to curtail it, UN diplomats say. But analysts and Western intelligence officials say sanctions have slowed the development of Tehran’s nuclear program. ...

**RELATED:** [“THE OSTRICH, THE WARRIORS AND THE WHIRLWIND”](#)

## **U.S.-Flagged Ship Intercepted by Iranian Patrol**

**CNN | April 29**

**A** U.S.-FLAGGED SHIP WAS RECENTLY INTERCEPTED BY AN IRAN Revolutionary Guard naval patrol, the U.S. Navy revealed to CNN Tuesday.

The incident occurred on Friday when four Iranian naval vessels surrounded the U.S.-flagged Maersk Kensington in the Strait of Hormuz.

The episode came ahead of an encounter Tuesday in which Iran Revolutionary Guard patrol boats fired shots at a commercial cargo ship and then intercepted the vessel, the Marshall Islands-flagged M/V Maersk Tigris, which was also crossing the Strait of Hormuz. ...

Referring to Tuesday’s incident, Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren said it was “inappropriate” for the Iranians to fire the warning shots.

The U.S. Navy has dispatched one maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft to observe and monitor the situation, Warren told reporters. ...

He did state, however, that “it’s a key concern of the United States to ensure that sea lanes in the region remain open and safe.”

In Tuesday’s incident, the Marshall Islands-flagged vessel was transiting the Strait into the Persian Gulf on an internationally recognized maritime route when the Iranian military contacted the vessel and directed the ship master to “divert further into Iranian waters,” according to Warren.

“The master was contacted and directed to proceed further

into Iranian territorial waters. He declined and one of the IRGNC craft fired shots across the bridge of the Maersk Tigris,” said Warren, referring to the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy. “The master complied with the Iranian demand and proceeded into Iranian waters in the vicinity of Larak Island.” ...

Even though the Strait of Hormuz is in Iranian territorial waters, “innocent passage” is applied—ships are authorized to pass through the body of water assuming they abide by all the rules of the sea—because it is an internationally recognized shipping lane. ...

**“This is the same nation that is about to get the nuclear bomb. Iranian leaders and many of their people believe the 12th imam—their version of the Messiah—is about to return. They think his return can be hastened by creating violence and chaos. Several nations in this world have nuclear weapons—but ONLY IRAN has leaders who harbor such dangerous religious thinking! What will happen when they get nuclear weapons? What sort of nuclear chaos would they stir up if they thought it would cause their messiah to return? In the thrall of religious zealotry, they would not even care about their own destruction if they use a nuclear weapon!”**

**Gerald Flurry, *Trumpet*, April 2015**

## EU Unveils Plan for New Security Networks

Eric Maurice, *EU Observer* | April 29

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION LAUNCHED A BEEFED-UP SECURITY agenda on Tuesday (April 28), but many of the measures depend on whether member states are prepared to better cooperate in the traditionally sovereign areas of intelligence gathering and sharing.

The 21-page Agenda on security is meant to enhance government cooperation against terrorism, organized crime and cyber-crime.

The issues, including preventing radicalization and extremism, have become a top priority following recent terrorist attacks in France and Denmark and a foiled plot in Belgium.

"The challenges are not new, but they have become more varied and complex. We need to do better. Our existing law enforcement tools and cooperation methods are not sufficient," commission

vice president Frans Timmermans told MEPs.

The security document notes "that member states have the front line responsibility for security," but adds they "can no longer succeed fully on their own."

"The European Agenda on security must be a shared agenda between the Union and member states. The result should be an EU area of internal security," says the document.

"For the first time, we proceed towards a comprehensive approach ... with a vision to put together all the necessary tools and services," said migration commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos. ...

According to the strategy, the EU's law enforcement agency (Europol), the judicial cooperation unit (Eurojust), and Frontex, the border control agency, will work more closely together. ...

## Germany Spy Scandal Turns Tables on Merkel Government

Jenny Hill, *BBC* | April 30

"SPYING ON YOUR FRIENDS—THAT'S REALLY NOT ON." THAT'S how German Chancellor Angela Merkel reacted when she discovered her mobile phone had been bugged by American spies in 2013.

So claims that her country's own secret service spied on its European neighbors on behalf of the U.S. have caused embarrassment and outrage in Berlin.

For years Germany's BND intelligence agency has worked with the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA).

The NSA gives German agents a list of "selectors"—mobile phone numbers and IP addresses—which it wants the BND to monitor. The aim is to combat global terrorism.

But in 2008, the BND reportedly told the chancellery that the list of selectors now included targets that had nothing to do with terrorism. Among them, it is claimed, were European businesses such as Airbus.

Now, according to leaked documents, it appears Germany also spied on the French presidential palace, the French Foreign

Ministry and the EU Commission at the behest of the NSA.

No public reaction has yet emerged from France, but the revelation is bound to be damaging to what has been a sound relationship between the two countries.

There is mounting pressure on the German government to disclose how much it knew about the espionage.

In the firing line is Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere, who in 2008 was the minister in charge of the chancellery and directly responsible for the BND. ...

It is not so long, after all, since citizens of former East Germany were routinely spied on by their own government.

Angela Merkel's spokesman maintains that the chancellery was unaware of the extent of the espionage.

That has not stopped the questions.

Another German newspaper has devoted its front page to a "wanted" poster.

Who's the culprit, it wonders. And among the mug shots of politicians and civil servants—Chancellor Angela Merkel herself.

## Soccer Violence Escalates in Europe

Wall Street Journal | April 29

BELGRADE, SERBIA—FANS OF THE SOCCER TEAM RED STAR, FURIOUS at being penned in at the stadium before a match against rival Partizan, began ripping out the hard plastic seats and hurling them by the dozens at the police. ...

When order was restored and the game finally started, Partizan fans rained dozens of flares on the police, spewing smoke that covered the field and blinded the players. Play was suspended.

Scenes like these, witnessed at a game on Saturday between

Belgrade's bitter crosstown rivals, underscore the growing fear of a surge in soccer-related violence in Europe.

Violence has long surrounded European soccer, but recent figures—and some extreme, headline-grabbing examples—suggest it may be getting worse, driven by Europe's economic struggles and what's seen as an accompanying rise in nationalism and racism. ...

Eruptions have become too frequent to list. In Spain, a

43-year-old fan died in a bloody 200-person brawl in November outside a Madrid stadium. Dutch fans in February rampaged through Rome, damaging a priceless 400-year-old fountain. Greece briefly suspended its soccer leagues this year after a series of violent outbreaks.

Racist incidents, from throwing bananas at black players to anti-Semitic or antigay chanting, also appear to be rising; the

### **German Police Prevent Terror Attack** **Deutsche Welle | April 30**

**T**HE TWO SUSPECTS, IDENTIFIED AS HALIL AND SENAY D., WERE arrested overnight in Oberursel near Frankfurt, *Die Welt* newspaper reported Thursday.

While searching the suspects' apartment, police found a pipe bomb, explosives, a rifle and ammunition, as well as tools that can be used to detonate a bomb, the paper said on its webpage. ...

Recently, Halil D. was observed surveying an area around

UK-based group Kick It Out counted 71 discriminatory incidents in Britain this season compared with 43 at this point last year. ...

Experts say statistics on soccer-related violence should be treated with caution, but some, at least, are troubling. In Germany, officials reported 7,863 soccer-related offenses last season, up from 4,576 in 2005-06. Italy saw 1,515 last year, up from 1,161. ...

Oberursel, near the path of a bicycle race scheduled for May 1. This prompted the police to arrest both him and his wife in order to avoid endangering participants and the audience, according to *Die Welt*.

The investigators also believe that Halil is connected to the al Qaeda terror network and Islamist groups in Frankfurt, the newspaper reported. ...

## **ASIA**

### **China-Russia Navies to Hold First Mediterranean Joint Drills** **Associated Press | April 30**

**T**HE NAVIES OF CHINA AND RUSSIA PLAN TO HOLD JOINT DRILLS IN the Mediterranean Sea for the first time in mid-May, China's Defense Ministry announced Thursday, in the latest expansion of the growing informal partnership between the two militaries.

The exercises also illustrate China's continued engagement with Russia at a time when Moscow has been shunned by much of the international community over its support for separatist rebels in Ukraine.

The Joint Sea 2015 exercises will feature nine surface ships, including three from China that are currently taking part in anti-piracy patrols off the coast of Somalia, ministry spokesman Geng Yansheng told a monthly news conference.

The drills involve rescue, resupply and other missions, including the firing of live ammunition, Geng said.

"The purpose of the exercise is to strengthen the friendly exchanges between the two sides ... and to improve the capability of the two navies to deal with maritime threats," Geng said. He said the drills did not target any third parties and were not a response to fighting and instability in places such as Libya and Syria ....

China and Russia frequently align on major international issues and Beijing has refused to join in the condemnations and economic sanctions leveled against Moscow for its backing of the Ukrainian rebels. ...

**"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? ... This Asian cooperation blindsided many in the West. When Russia took Crimea, even top-notch analysts like Ambrose Evans-Pritchard were convinced China would side with the West against Moscow. ... The Trumpet has never made that mistake in reading Asia's powerhouses. Actually we have been proclaiming for over 50 years that Russia, China and other Asian nations would ally themselves in the end time. And we are in that end time now."**  
Gerald Flurry, *Trumpet*, May-June 2014

### **T Nepal Earthquake Death Toll: 5,000 and Rising** **Jeremiah Jacques | April 28**

**M**ORE THAN 5,500 PEOPLE ARE NOW CONFIRMED DEAD AS A result of a massive earthquake that struck Nepal on April 25, local officials say. At least 11,000 were injured by the 7.8-magnitude earthquake, and tens of thousands more were displaced. The death toll is expected to rise sharply as rural areas are examined,

and could surpass 10,000.

The epicenter was less than 50 miles northwest of Nepal's capital, Kathmandu. It was the most severe earthquake to strike the Himalayan nation since 1934. More than 100 aftershocks have followed.

On April 27, Kathmandu resident Manisha Dahal described her experience with the quake and its aftershocks during an interview with the *Trumpet*: “Me and my mom were at terrace washing clothes, and suddenly the house started shaking,” she said of the initial jolt. “We saw a cloud of dust in the sky. We then saw a few building collapse at a distance. My vision became blur and I thought we would not survive. My only thoughts were that my mom was with me and I am lucky for that. Even then, it did not stop shaking. Birds and dust filled up the sky and we could see other houses swing. Then, after a while the shaking stopped and we get went downstairs on the open road. As soon as we were on the road, we felt the second quake. Everybody were holding each other and praying for it to be over. Then we tried to call our family members but the network was down. ...

“The houses kept falling in front of our eyes. Heart beating, mind numbing day. Till now, I have experienced 28 shakes and we are terrified to go inside. We spent the night in the open

grassland, which was OK despite of cold. Then, in the middle of night, it rained. We tried to go inside thinking the shaking would not be repeated, there was a shock again. Wet and cold, we survived the night.”

Tens of thousands like Dahal have crowded into makeshift camps and shelters around the country. Officials say waterborne and infectious diseases are a risk in these camps because of the crowded conditions.

The initial earthquake also triggered an avalanche on Mount Everest, killing at least 18 climbers and guides and trapping many others. The massive quake was also felt across parts of China, India, Tibet, Pakistan, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

Why is so much violent weather assailing the nations of the world? Those personally affected by the earthquakes in Nepal need answers. You need answers. These answers can be found in our free booklet [Why ‘Natural’ Disasters?](#)

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## Shinzo Abe: First Japanese Prime Minister to Ever Address Joint Session of Congress

Robert Morley | April 30

JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE LAID A WREATH AT THE World War II memorial in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday. Abe also offered solemn condolences for the Americans who died in World War II as he became the first Japanese leader in history to address a joint meeting of Congress.

“History is harsh. What is done cannot be undone,” he said. “With deep repentance in my heart, I stood there in silent prayers for some time. My dear friends, on behalf of Japan and the Japanese people, I offer with profound respect my eternal condolences to the souls of all American people that were lost during World War II.”

But Abe stopped short of offering an apology for Japanese conduct during the war, including sexual enslavement of tens of

thousands of Asian women by Japan’s imperial army.

South Korea and a number of U.S. lawmakers have sought such an apology, but Abe did not offer one.

During his address, he also sought support for a 12-nation trans-Pacific trade pact that has divided Congress and provoked opposition in Japan. He told lawmakers that it’s about spreading the shared values of the rule of law, democracy and freedom.

Abe’s visit comes as America actively encourages Japan to rewrite its pacifist Constitution and become more militarily independent. American strategists see Japan as a counterweight to China, and want it to become more geopolitically aggressive despite its history.

 Follow [Robert Morley](#)



## In Dangerous Departure From Pacifism, Japan Revises Defense Guidelines

Jeremiah Jacques | May 3

JAPAN TOOK YET ANOTHER STEP AWAY FROM PACIFISM ON APRIL 27 when it unveiled new defense guidelines that expand the Japanese military’s global reach. Under the previous restrictions, Japanese forces were allowed to assist United States forces only if they were directly engaged in defending Japan’s territory and vicinity. Those guidelines long kept Japan out of overseas conflicts.

Under the new guidelines, Japanese forces can deploy anywhere on Earth to help friendly nations under attack.

Before and during World War II, the Japanese military authored some of the worst brutality in mankind’s history. In the immediate aftermath of that tragic history, America occupied Japan and drafted its Constitution. U.S. leaders wanted to

ensure that military fanaticism would not rise again in Japan. So in the new Constitution, they included a clause banning war as a means for Japan to settle international disputes. Shortly after that, the U.S. and Japan signed an agreement saying America would defend Japan in the event of an attack.

These new guidelines that Japan unveiled have the full support of American leaders. But if U.S. leaders remembered Japan’s wartime past and the reason why America forced Japan to be pacifistic in the first place, then they would not allow Japan’s march back to militarism to continue. To understand more, read [“Why the Trumpet Monitors Japan’s March Away From Pacifism Toward Militarism.”](#)

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## **S. Korea Spy Agency Says Kim Jong Un Executed 15 Top Officials**

**Daily Star | April 29**

**N**ORTH KOREA'S KIM JONG UN ORDERED THE EXECUTION OF 15 senior officials this year, including several who complained about the young leader's policies, South Korea's intelligence agency said Wednesday.

Those executed included two vice minister-level officials, the Yonhap news agency reported, citing legislators who attended a briefing by the National Intelligence Service (NIS).

Both were punished for opposing or complaining about Kim's directives, the legislators said.

The Kim dynasty has ruled reclusive and impoverished North Korea for more than six decades with an iron fist and a pervasive

personality cult.

The NIS suggested Kim Jong Un was following the well-trodden path of his father and grandfather in using regular purges and executions to ensure discipline and loyalty.

Kim had his uncle and one-time political mentor Jang Song-Thaek executed in late 2013 on an array of charges, including treason and corruption.

Jang had played a key role in cementing the leadership of the inexperienced Kim, who took over after the death of his father and longtime ruler Kim Jong Il in December 2011. ...

## **Russia Seizes Ukrainian President Poroshenko's Candy Factory**

**Reuters | April 28**

**R**USSIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE SEIZED THE ASSETS OF A CONFECTIONERY factory owned by Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko in the Russian city of Lipetsk in order to block their sale, parent company Roshen said on Tuesday.

Since March 2014, when Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and pro-Russia rebels rose up in eastern Ukraine, the Lipetsk plant has been raided by armed police, boycotted and accused by Russian politicians of supporting extremism.

"It is safe to say the Russian side is deliberately taking all

possible steps to prevent the company selling its assets in Russia," Roshen said in a statement. ...

Poroshenko, nicknamed the Chocolate King, promised when he was elected last May to sell Roshen, which takes its name from the middle two syllables of his surname and had pre-crisis annual sales of \$1.2 billion. However, the eastern conflict and resulting economic crisis are likely to have complicated the sales process and no deals have yet been announced. ...

## **LATIN AMERICA/AFRICA**

## **Sudan Maintains Balancing Act with Saudi, Iran**

**Reuters | April 30**

**T**HE WAR IN YEMEN HAS GIVEN OMAR HASSAN AL-BASHIR, A skilled political operator who has ruled Sudan for a quarter century, an opportunity to show wealthy Sunni powers that he can be an asset against Iranian influence—if the price is right.

Bashir has maintained power amid region-wide unrest in part by navigating a shifting patchwork of alliances that has seen Khartoum at different times draw close to Osama bin Laden, the United States and Iran.

Now it appears that Bashir and many of his countrymen hope that supporting a month-old Saudi-led bombing campaign against Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen will encourage Gulf powers to pour aid and investment into Sudan's struggling economy.

If Bashir, who this week won another five-year term, pulls off yet another juggling act by winning Arab cash without completely alienating Iran, it will strengthen his argument at home and abroad that only he can steer his fractious country through an increasingly complicated region. ...

"There is no trust in the Gulf for Omar al-Bashir. ... The leaders

in the Gulf think that Bashir can betray them at any time, so they won't give him aid until he shows he is serious about joining them and leaving Iran," a Gulf diplomat said.

If Khartoum commits to standing up to what Saudi Arabia sees as expanding Iranian influence, Riyadh could claim victory in prying one of Tehran's few Arab allies out of its archrival's orbit, the diplomat said.

Analysts, however, expect Sudan to keep up its regional balancing act by voicing support to the Yemen campaign but keeping a line of communication to Tehran open. ...

[Sudan] is also widely believed to allow covert weapons shipments destined for Iran-backed groups, such as Hamas in Palestine, to pass through its territory, at times prompting Israeli bombing of those convoys.

In exchange, Sudan has benefited from Iranian weapons technology that has helped Sudan become one of the major arms producers in Africa, arms monitors say. ...

Despite the economic pull of Saudi Arabia, influential



elements in government will resist cutting Iran ties completely. ...

**“The Sudan-Iranian and Sudan-Egyptian ties will evolve into a regional alliance**

**between North Africa and Iran. This alliance will ultimately, and perhaps violently, draw in Ethiopia.”**  
theTrumpet.com, Oct. 30, 2012

## ANGLO-AMERICA



### The Conclusion to the Book of Chronicles

**Gerald Flurry,**  
**The Key of David | May 1**

**T**HE CONCLUSION TO THE BOOK OF CHRONICLES CONFUSES BIBLE scholars. But it reveals the ultimate potential of mankind!



### Iran Now Open for Business

**Stephen Flurry,**  
**Trumpet Daily | April 22**

**W**ITH SANCTIONS RELIEF COMING, THE AYATOLLAH NOW HAS money to burn.

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## Sexual Revolutionaries Prepare the Battlespace for a De-Christianized America

**National Review | April 28**

**I**N YESTERDAY'S ORAL ARGUMENTS IN OBERGEFELL V. HODGES (better known as the “gay-marriage case”), the solicitor general of the United States committed a classic “Kinsley gaffe”: He accidentally told the truth.

Normally, in any argument about the next legal step of the sexual revolution, the accusation or even implication that there's a slippery slope is grounds for outrage. Not only shouldn't we explore the legal implications of expanding the definition of marriage, the very attempt is homophobic. ...

It turns out that the sexual revolution—like the French Revolution—demands “de-Christianization.”

Here is the revealing exchange, widely reported yesterday:

JUSTICE ALITO: Well, in the Bob Jones case, the Court held that a college was not entitled to tax exempt status if it opposed interracial marriage or interracial dating. So would the same apply to a university or a college if it opposed same-sex marriage?

GENERAL VERRILLI: You know, I don't think I can answer that question without knowing more specifics, but it's certainly going to be an issue. I don't deny that. I don't deny that, Justice Alito. It is it is going to be an issue.

Those unfamiliar with the Bob Jones case or the law applicable to tax exemptions may not understand the full magnitude of that statement. Tax exemptions are widely available and routinely granted, provided the exempt organization falls within the language and meaning of the statute. ...

The Bob Jones case, however, held that even if an entity fell within enumerated statutory categories—i.e., both religious and educational—the IRS could still lawfully withhold the tax exemption if the entity did not “serve a public purpose” and was “contrary to established public policy.”

In other words, if the IRS could make a supportable finding that the tax-exempt entity was—in essence—harmful to civil society, it could withhold the exemption no matter the designated purpose of the organization. In Bob Jones, the Court found that explicit racial discrimination (bans on interracial relationships) meant that the college was not truly “charitable” and thus could not receive an exemption.

Thus, to be clear, the solicitor general said it was “going to be an issue” whether a religious college that upholds orthodox Christian teachings on marriage and sexuality could even

be considered “charitable.” That a solicitor general could even raise the question represents a sea change in American political culture, potentially placing the government in a state of overt declared hostility against the most basic elements of orthodox faith. ...

Indeed, one of the great accomplishments of the American Revolution was the creation of a state that allowed people of all faiths, of no faith, and of radically divergent views of liberty to carve out a place in a new nation, sustain their own thriving

communities of shared purpose, and live largely free of concern that the state would move to suppress or silence your faith and viewpoint. In 1983, in the Bob Jones case, the Supreme Court made a limited exception to that general principle—as part of the ongoing attempt to eradicate the vestiges of our nation’s greatest moral error and its greatest physical crisis. To even begin to compare orthodox beliefs about marriage to the legacy of chattel slavery, Jim Crow, and a ruinous Civil War is to utterly take leave of any sense of moral proportion. ...

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## As Britain’s Malaise Grows, So Do Worries for U.S.

Nicholas Burns, *Boston Globe* | April 30

FOR 70 YEARS SINCE THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR, THE United Kingdom has been America’s strongest, most trusted and most dependable ally. How long that will be the case is now in question as an inward looking, weaker and less self-confident Britain approaches a potentially transformative election on May 7.

On a visit to London last week, I was struck by the number of influential Brits who worry openly about their country’s ability to confront challenges that, if unmet, may well propel the disengagement and gradual decline of a country that has played a central role in global affairs since the 18th century. ...

By 2020, the British Army will have fewer soldiers than at any time since the Napoleonic Wars. The once proud Royal Navy currently deploys no working aircraft carrier. The next British government may struggle to find the funds to finance the construction of four new nuclear submarines to host Britain’s Trident nuclear weapons force. If it fails to do so, Britain will lose its independent nuclear deterrent, a calamity for the country and its NATO allies.

Britain’s will to lead is also in question. ...

While Labor’s Shadow Foreign Secretary Douglas Alexander is widely respected in the United States, Ed Miliband, the party leader and a candidate for prime minister, barely mentioned the United States in a much anticipated foreign policy speech last week. That startling omission should concern Americans who believe our ties to Britain are vital.

All this matters for Britain’s friends, especially the United States. ...

[C]an Britain maintain [its] unique global role? Next week’s election, which is too close to call, may be critical in answering that question. No matter which party ends up leading the next coalition government, a central concern in the minds of Americans who trust and depend on a strong Britain is this: Will the new government in London arrest the trend of British retrenchment in global affairs? Will it find a way to rekindle the will to lead? ...

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## Negative Interest Rates Put World on Course for Biggest Mass Default in History

Jeremy Warner, *Telegraph* | April 28

HERE’S AN ASTONISHING STATISTIC; MORE THAN 30 PERCENT OF all government debt in the eurozone—around €2 trillion (US\$2.24 trillion) of securities in total—is trading on a negative interest rate.

With the advent of European Central Bank quantitative easing, what began four months ago when 10-year Swiss yields turned negative for the first time has snowballed into a veritable avalanche of negative rates across European government bond markets. In the hunt for apparently “safe assets,” investors have thrown caution to the wind, and collectively determined to pay governments for the privilege of lending to them.

On a country-by-country basis, the statistics are even more startling. According to investment bank Jefferies, some 70 percent of all German bonds now trade on a negative yield. In France, it’s 50 percent, and even in Spain, which was widely thought insolvent only a few years ago, it’s 17 percent.

Not only has this never happened before on such a scale, but

it marks a scarcely believable turnaround on the situation at the height of the eurozone crisis just a little while back, when some European bond markets traded on yields that reflected the very real possibility of default.

Yet far from being a welcome sign of returning economic confidence, this almost surreal state of affairs actually signals the very reverse. How did we get here, and what does it mean for the future? Whichever way you come at it, the answer to this second question is not good, not good at all.

What makes today’s negative interest rate environment so worrying is this; to the extent that demand is growing at all in the world economy, it seems again to be almost entirely dependent on rising levels of debt. ...

The combined public debt of the G-7 economies alone has grown by close to 40 percentage points to around 120 percent of GDP since the start of the crisis, while globally, the total debt of private non-financial sectors has risen by 30 percent, far in

advance of economic growth. ...

It's what Chris Watling of the consultancy Longview Economics has termed the "philosophy of demand at any cost." A crisis caused by too much debt has been fought with even more of the stuff. ...

The flip side of the cheap money story is soaring asset prices. The bond market bubble is just the half of it; since most other assets are priced relative to bonds, just about everything else has

been going up as well. Eventually, there will be a massive correction, in which creditors will suffer sickening losses.

Nobody can tell you when that moment will arrive. We live in an "extend and pretend" world in which economies pathetically fight between themselves for any scraps of demand. One burst of money printing is met by another in an ultimately futile, zero-sum game of competitive currency devaluation. ...

What comes next is anyone's guess.

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## **Tower Hamlets: How a Dictatorship Flourished in the East End**

**Nick Cohen, Guardian Unlimited | April 25**

**I**N LONDON'S EAST END, WHERE SO MANY BATTLES AGAINST REAL fascism were fought in the 20th century, "anti-racism" has become little more than a swindle. Far from being just or noble, it was a pretext to bribe journalists, pay off accomplices and frighten poor immigrants into supporting a crooked demagogue, who despised his "own" people so much he would not even grant them the right to participate in an honest election.

The formal reasons Judge Richard Mawrey gave for disqualifying Lutfur Rahman from office last week are bad enough. The now ex-mayor of Tower Hamlets used fake "ghost" voters to win elections and public funds to buy votes. He offered grants to groups "that hadn't even applied for them." He took money that was meant to be going to the Alzheimer's Society and poor wards that needed all the help they could get. He ran a "ruthless and dishonest" campaign to convince the electorate that John Biggs, his Labor rival for mayor, was a racist. ... The truth of the charge didn't worry him. His only concern was getting the lie out, and seeing it taken up by the local Bengali TV stations, five of which received public money from the mayor.

Not content with that, he rigged the vote by using "undue spiritual influence," an accusation unheard of in a British court since the 19th century. Rahman persuaded clerics to go far beyond saying they thought he was the best candidate. Islam is under threat, they said in so many words. It was the duty of all Muslims to vote for Rahman. If Bangladeshi voters did not, they would be siding with their Islamophobic enemies, perhaps even defying God's will. ...

The worst of Rahman's corruption was not the purloined money, but the way he corrupted leftwing values. ... Anyone who criticized the mayor was a racist. When councilors said the mayor must answer questions, his supporters accused them of "racism." When an opponent appeared at a meeting in a black cardigan—the poor woman was in mourning for her dead husband, incidentally—Rahman's fixer roared that where once the East End had been terrorized by Blackshirts, it was now terrorized by

Blackcardigans.

When Labor ran a candidate against him it was racist. When the BBC investigated him it was racist. ...

The neurotic fear of accusations of race and religious bias helped Rahman build a municipal dictatorship. ... Tower Hamlets First, his political party, was nothing more than a cult of the personality. If you wanted a safe seat on the council, you had to show a lapdog loyalty to Rahman. Speaking of dogs, the judge noticed that when there was not even the slightest justification for an accusation of racism, Rahman and his cronies would accuse their opponents of "dog-whistle politics" instead. By these means, anything and everything an opponent said could be turned into coded racism, even when the racism was only in the mind of the accuser.

Come on, admit it—it's not just in the East End you see these tricks played. The postmodern universities and identity-obsessed scour speech for the smallest hint of bigotry, real or imagined. They seize on it—and with a whoop of triumph—cry that the mask has slipped to expose the true face of prejudice. Surely you have noticed, too, that in the paranoia that follows, careerists and charlatans flourish.

Do not forget either that Rahman at all times enjoyed the mulish support of Ken Livingstone and elements of what now passes for the British left. But with honorable exceptions, London's left-wing press ignored the stink in its own backyard and dismissed the accusations against Rahman as evidence of a "deep substrate of"—you guessed it—"racism." ...

One day, leftists and the Labor Party will pay a price for their neglect and double standards. As it is, the price is being paid by others. Despite bordering on the opulent city, the East End of London is one of the poorest places in Britain. Many of its residents have no education; large numbers of Bangladeshis cannot speak English. They are wide open for hucksters to target. Too many stood back while they were shaken down, while money intended for them was diverted and their right to vote subverted. ...

## **The New Government's Greatest Tasks**

**Caroline Glick, Jerusalem Post | April 24**

**I**N TESTIMONY LAST WEEK BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE IN charge of State Department funding, U.S. Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power acknowledged that the Obama

administration intends to abandon the U.S.'s 50-year policy of supporting Israel at the United Nations.

After going through the tired motions of pledging support for

Israel “when it matters,” Power refused to rule out the possibility that the U.S. would support anti-Israel resolutions in the UN Security Council to limit Israeli sovereignty and control to the lands within the 1949 armistice lines—lines that are indefensible.

Such a move will be taken, she indicated, in order to midwife the establishment of a terrorist-supporting Palestinian state whose supposedly moderate leadership does not recognize Israel’s right to exist, calls daily for its destruction, and uses the UN to delegitimize the Jewish state.

In other words, the Obama administration intends to pin Israel into indefensible borders while establishing a state committed to its destruction.

In about a week, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s new government will be sworn in. The new government will have no grace period before it will be called upon to forge and implement policies to lead Israel through perhaps the most trying time in its history.

Clearly, developing the means to cope with our deteriorating relations with the U.S. is one of the most urgent issues on the agenda. But it is not the only issue requiring the attention of our leaders.

Israel must quickly determine clear strategies for contending with the consequence of U.S.’s strategic shift away from its allies: Iran’s nuclear project. It must also determine the principles that will guide its moves in contending with the regional instability engulfing or threatening to engulf our Arab neighbors.

As tempting as it may be to believe that all we need to do is wait out Obama, the fact is that we have no way of knowing how the U.S. will behave once he has left office.

The Democratic Party has become far more radical under Obama’s leadership than it was before he came into office. Hillary Clinton may very well become the next president, particularly if Jeb Bush is the Republican nominee. And she has evinced no significant interest in moving the party back to the center.

As secretary of state during Obama’s first term in office, Clinton was a full partner in his foreign policy. Although she appears less ideologically driven than Obama, there are many indications that her basic worldview is the same as his. ...

## **Expert: 1 in 10 Births Born to Illegal Immigrants in U.S. Annually** **Breitbart | April 29**

**A**PPROXIMATELY 350,000 TO 400,000 CHILDREN ARE BORN TO ILLEGAL immigrants in the U.S. each year. Due to current policy, all automatically become U.S. citizens, Center for Immigration Studies legal policy analyst Jon Feere testified before a House panel Wednesday.

“To put this in perspective, this means that one out of 10 births in the U.S. is to an illegal immigrant mother,” Feere said at a House Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security hearing titled “Birthright Citizenship: Is It the Right Policy for America?”

He explained that, regardless of the foreign allegiance and/or illegal status of the parents, their children, if born on U.S. soil, are automatically afforded the benefits of U.S. citizenship, including a Social Security Number and U.S. passports. This benefit also applies, he noted, to those born to mere tourists and other people

In light of these changed circumstances, there are in essence two major principles that should guide our leaders today. First, we need to reduce our strategic dependence on the U.S. Second, we need to expand our policy of openly and unapologetically making the case for our positions to the American public. ...

An updated policy must be based on two understandings. First, the U.S. will not stop Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

Second, due to Obama’s commitment to nuclear accommodation of Iran, at this point unless Iran’s nuclear installations are destroyed through military force, it will become a nuclear power. Israel’s survival will be compromised and a nuclear arms race throughout the region will ensue.

Given this reality, Israel’s public diplomacy should no longer be viewed as a means to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power. Rather, Israel should view it as a means to empower American lawmakers and others to stand with Israel in the event that it carries out military strikes against Iran’s nuclear weapons. ...

Open support for Israel by the U.S. public and by politicians and media organs will make it more difficult for the administration to harm Israel in retribution for such action. ...

In short, under the current circumstances, just as the notion of sitting down and signing a peace deal with Syria or Saudi Arabia is absurd, so the notion of reaching a peace deal with the Palestinians is a throwback to an entirely different time. Today the only way to keep the Palestinians of Judea and Samaria separated from the chaos and jihad in neighboring states is to make them part of Israel. As a preparatory step toward that goal, the next government must act to more fully integrate Arab Israelis into Israeli society.

To this end, Netanyahu would do well to appoint a Muslim Arab minister to his government charged with integrating the Arabs more fully into Israeli society.

The world has changed since 2009. America has changed. The Middle East has changed. Israel faces an array of challenges and threats it has never faced before. The next government must understand the dynamics of the situation and quickly forge policies based on the world as it is, not as it was or as we would like for it to be.

with temporary status in the U.S.

“It is unlikely that Congress intended such a broad application of the 14th Amendment’s Citizenship Clause, and the Supreme Court has only held that children born to citizens or permanently domiciled immigrants must be considered U.S. citizens at birth. Some clarity from Congress would be helpful in resolving this ongoing debate,” Feere said. ...

“Birth tourism is becoming much more common with every passing year and Congress will have to address it,” Feere said.

Feere also testified that the many countries that once had birthright policies have shifted away from them.

“The United States and Canada are the only two advanced economies as rated by the IMF to grant automatic citizenship to children of illegal aliens,” he said.