



U.S. President Barack Obama

President Obama's Remarkable Defense of the Iran Nuclear Deal

Joel Hilliker and Aaron Hudson | June 3

YOU SHALL KNOW THEM BY THEIR FRUITS. THIS ANCIENT PROVERB reveals how to discern a person's underlying motives. Look at what they produce—their deeds. How someone looks, even what they say, matters little in comparison to what they do.

This is a principle worth remembering when reading Jeffrey Goldberg's recent interview with President Barack Obama, in which the president unwaveringly defended his belief that the Iranian nuclear deal will be a success.

The president's policy on how to tackle Iran is predicated on his personal conviction that Iran should be given an opportunity for diplomacy first; then, if this is not successful, the United States can still engage militarily. He intensely believes Iran is unlikely to attack America's allies due to America's overriding power.

But while this policy is being enacted, look at America's deeds: It is effectively tripping over itself as it hastily pulls out of the

Middle East. The notion that this is a result of a "realist orientation," let alone that it reflects a genuine policy of "deterrence" and "containment," is a fantasy.

Tehran's radical Islamist government is aggressively achieving regional hegemony. Israel and smaller Gulf states in particular are extremely vulnerable to Iran's ambitions. That is doubtless a major reason why no less than 12 other Middle East nations have plans to develop nuclear energy, or have signed nuclear cooperation agreements. It is certainly why public discussion by Saudi Arabia and other nations about gaining nuclear capacity commensurate with Iran's has been ramping up in recent weeks.

When Goldberg asked about this developing arms race, President Obama spoke as if he doesn't even believe it is happening. "There has been no indication from the Saudis or any other Gulf Cooperation Council countries that they have an intention to

pursue their own nuclear program.”

What makes him so confident? He says these nations know that U.S. deterrence is their best shield of defense. “[T]he protection that we provide as their partner is a far greater deterrent than they could ever hope to achieve by developing their own nuclear stockpile or trying to achieve breakout capacity when it comes to nuclear weapons, and they understand that.”

Yet with recent examples of overthrown governments such as Egypt, Tunisia, Libya and Yemen freshly in mind, these nations could be forgiven for wondering whether Washington’s shield was shut down for maintenance on those days.

The president says diplomacy must have a fair go. After all, there is always American deterrence to fall back on. But if your neighbor went nuclear, how much confidence would you place in American deterrence? It is easy for a politician in Washington to feel secure—he doesn’t live in the neighborhood. But if American deterrence fails, then it will be Israel and the Sunni Arabs who will feel the brunt of Persian hegemony.

The president asserted that Saudis wouldn’t pursue a nuclear program because it “would greatly strain the relationship they’ve got with the United States.” This is extraordinary faith in the loyalty of America’s allies, especially considering all that his administration has done to strain and fracture those alliances, and the increasing, demonstrable hostility toward the U.S. that Saudi Arabia and other one-time allies have been exhibiting.

As the P5+1 nations negotiate a proposal, the success of any such deal would require Iran’s total support and transparency. But here the train comes completely off the rails. Iran has an established, proven track record of stretching out negotiations and then derailing them. That is its “fruit.”

The Iranians are already hinting the present deal may go beyond the June 30 deadline as they balk again at the prospect of having weapons inspectors actually inspect their weapons.

Fifteen years of failed negotiations tell us that while one side seeks a peaceful outcome, the other seeks the bomb. Goldberg asked the president how he can reconcile the “venomous anti-Semitism” of the Iranian regime with the idea that it “is practical, and is responsive to incentive, and shows signs of rationality.” The president essentially played down Iran’s anti-Semitism, saying its leaders “use anti-Semitic rhetoric as an organizing tool. At the margins, where the costs are low, they may pursue policies based on hatred as opposed to self-interest.” But, he said, the U.S. is keeping the *costs* of anti-Semitism and expansionist ambitions high through the use of the sanctions (which Washington seeks to remove) and “the military option I’ve made clear I preserve” (which Washington has demonstrated that it has absolutely no intention of using in any meaningful way).

For good measure, President Obama managed to remind Goldberg that Iran doesn’t have a monopoly on anti-Semitism: European leaders have been guilty and, besides that, “there were deep strains of anti-Semitism in this country”—the United States! So, the thinking presumably goes, why single out Iran as uniquely horrible for such attitudes?

On top of that, the president concluded, Iran’s leaders are actually less interested in lashing out in irrational anti-Semitism than they are in “maintaining power [and] having some semblance of legitimacy inside their own country.” Their real motives are economic, not ideological, he argued.

This deal the president is negotiating is poised to relieve sanctions against the Iranian Republic, flooding Iran’s cash-strapped economy with about \$150 billion. Many are concerned that money will be used to further the leaders’ ambitions of funding terror and extending Iran’s power in the Middle East. Just look at what Iran is already achieving on a tight budget—and imagine the nation with a steroid injection of \$150 billion.

But President Obama—ever the believer in the mullahs’ rationality—believes instead that the ayatollah will spend the money on making life better for Iranians.

Goldberg relayed his skepticism on this point. President Obama responded: “Well, I don’t think [Treasury Secretary Jack Lew] or anybody in this administration said that no money will go to the military as a consequence of sanctions relief. The question is, if Iran has \$150 billion parked outside the country, does the IRGC [the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps] automatically get \$150 billion? Does that \$150 billion then translate by orders of magnitude into their capacity to project power throughout the region? And that is what we contest, because when you look at the math, first of all, they’re going to have to deliver on their obligations under any agreement, which would take a certain period of time.

“Then there are the mechanics of unwinding the existing restraints they have on getting that money, which takes a certain amount of time. Then [Iranian President Hassan] Rouhani and, by extension, the supreme leader have made a series of commitments to improve the Iranian economy, and the expectations are outsized. You saw the reaction of people in the streets of Tehran after the signing of the agreement. Their expectations are that [the economy is] going to improve significantly. You have Iranian elites who are champing at the bit to start moving business and getting out from under the restraints that they’ve been under.”

The president acknowledged that some money could fund terrorism, but said the ayatollah’s primary concern is to improve his nation’s economy.

President Obama actually acknowledged several of what he called Iran’s “destabilizing activities”—its missile program, shipping weapons to Hezbollah, “sending agents into Yemen,” and “other low-tech asymmetric threats that they’re very effective at exploiting.” But in his view, none of these are reasons for denying them sanctions relief. Why?

Because these are activities “they’ve been doing *despite sanctions*” (emphasis added).

By what logic does such thinking operate?

Lessons from thousands of years of history have shown: Don’t negotiate with people who want to kill you. Certainly don’t empower them with riches. Yet this is at the foundation of the nuclear deal.

But is there more to it than mere failure to discern Iran’s underlying motives? Again, we must judge by fruits. The current U.S. administration has established a pattern of actions that align with the interests of the leaders in Tehran and that run counter to the interests of Israel and even of the United States itself. Read Brad Macdonald’s May-June 2015 *Trumpet* article, “[America’s Chamberlain?](#)”

The only real way to discern a situation is by the fruits. Understanding biblical prophecy and looking at Iran’s history, combined with the president’s alarming policies, we can know with confidence that this deal will end in catastrophe.



Why Would Assad Support the Islamic State?

Callum Wood | June 5

THE CONCEPT OF SYRIAN PRESIDENT BASHAR ASSAD AND THE Islamic State working side-by-side might seem outlandish when you consider that the Islamic State seized the city of [Palmyra](#) from Assad's forces only a week ago. But no sooner than [clashes](#) between the two erupted, reports began circulating that the two were in fact working together elsewhere in the nation.

The incident occurred on May 31, when the Islamic State fought rival rebel groups north of the Syrian city of Aleppo. While skirmishes between the terrorists are common, this particular fight was interesting because the Islamic State was supported by Syrian airstrikes.

The United States accused Assad of supporting the Islamic State's advances toward Aleppo by bombarding the rebel factions, leaving them too weak to resist the Islamic State onslaught.

For Assad, the Islamic State constitutes a major threat to his regime. The terrorist group has had enormous success in Iraq and eastern Syria. Now the group is battling to dominate the rebels in the north as well as push at Damascus in the south.

Yet despite this risk, there are a few strategic reasons why Assad

would be happy to lend aid to the Islamic State in northern Syria.

First, consider Assad's losses should Aleppo change hands. Right now the city is controlled by the rebels. If the Islamic State takes control, what ground has Assad lost? The city will transfer from the hands of one enemy to another. And more importantly, Assad will then be facing just one enemy in the region, not two.

The situation has another benefit for Assad. With troops stretched thin and airstrikes ineffective on their own, allowing the Islamic State to take on the rebels cuts Assad's losses. Assad can afford to soften the rebels then sit back and watch the ensuing bloodbath without having to [get his hands dirty](#) or lose precious troops.

Many of the rebel groups are supported directly or indirectly by outside nations such as Saudi Arabia and the United States. If Assad helps the Islamic State remove the rebels, then he faces just one enemy—an enemy that doesn't have the backing of the international community.

That is the driving motivation behind [Assad's support of the Islamic State's](#) fight against the rebels.

Assad's Rule

Jerusalem Post | June 3

THE IMMINENT FALL OF BASHAR ASSAD'S REGIME HAD BEEN PREDICTED many times over the past few years since the advent of the misnamed "Arab Spring" in Syria. So far, however, all announcements of Assad's demise have proven premature.

This, though, does not mean that he's holding on.

We are merely witnessing a plodding process of disintegration whose direction, nonetheless, is unmistakable.

Assad already doesn't rule his county, except for a few undersized, beleaguered enclaves whose prospects for survival are steadily diminishing.

The decision by the Russians to pull out most of their advisers and seconded personnel from what remains of Assad's strongholds has fueled speculation in recent days that the Kremlin has finally given up on its floundering protégé and that he can no longer expect its automatic support.

Moscow's move only underscores the obvious, considering that all of Assad's major military installations are now controlled by his foes.

Coupled with these signals is the near-hysteria broadcast by

Assad-ally-in-chief Hassan Nasrallah of Hezbollah.

He now suggests that his outfit might go so far as to order compulsory conscription for all Lebanese Shiites to come to Assad's aid. Many Shiite families have ceased sending their teenage sons to school, lest they be forcibly mobilized there.

From Israel's vantage point, Hezbollah may be bleeding but it is still very much a force to be reckoned with, whereas Assad is a lost cause. The tacit trust that he would keep our northern frontier quiet has long dissipated.

Any way we look at it, Assad—the semi-rational "devil we know," strong enough to maintain calm on the border but not strong enough to endanger Israel—is no longer a player.

The sides fighting over the scraps of his erstwhile empire offer Israel a choice between the frying pan and the fire. It is only a matter of time till the battling Syrian militias turn their guns on reviled Israel to garner glory and win the contest for the coveted title of "most anti-Zionist." ...

Post-Assad Syria is likely to become every bit as unstable as post-Qadhafi Libya. ...

Iran's Nuclear Stockpile Grows, Complicating Negotiations

New York Times | June 1

WITH ONLY ONE MONTH LEFT BEFORE A DEADLINE TO COMPLETE a nuclear deal with Iran, international inspectors have reported that Tehran's stockpile of nuclear fuel increased about 20 percent over the last 18 months of negotiations, partially

undercutting the Obama administration's contention that the Iranian program had been "frozen" during that period.

But Western officials and experts cannot quite figure out why. One possibility is that Iran has run into technical problems that

have kept it from converting some of its enriched uranium into fuel rods for reactors, which would make the material essentially unusable for weapons. Another is that it is increasing its stockpile to give it an edge if the negotiations fail. ...

Mr. Obama must decide when to lift the harshest of the sanctions against Iran. If he lifts the sanctions, even partially, before

Iran has destroyed or shipped all but the last small amount of uranium, he might lose leverage in ensuring that Iran complies with the rest of its pledge.

On the other hand, waiting too long risks unraveling a deal, especially if ordinary Iranians see no economic benefits from cooperation. ...

Obama Threatens to Cut U.S. Support at UN in Israeli Interview

Arutz Sheva | June 2

U.S. PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA GAVE AN INTERVIEW WITH Israeli media on Tuesday, in which he threatened that an Israeli refusal to renew peace talks with the Palestinian Authority (PA) will “make it hard” for the U.S. to veto motions in the UN against Israel.

In an interview with Ilana Dayan for Channel 2’s *Uvda* (Fact) TV show aired Tuesday night, Obama commented on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s statements before elections in which he said that a Palestinian state won’t be founded on his watch.

Obama noted that later Netanyahu distanced from the statement and “suggested that there is the possibility of a Palestinian state. But it has so many caveats, so many conditions, that it is not realistic to think that those conditions would be met anytime in the near future.” ...

Describing Netanyahu, Obama said ..., “Netanyahu ... is somebody who’s predisposed to think of security first. To think perhaps that peace is naive,” he continued. “To see the worst possibilities, as opposed to the best possibilities in Arab partners

or Palestinian partners, and so I do think that right now, those politics, and those fears are driving the government’s response. And, I understand it, but ... what may seem wise and prudent on the short term, can actually end up being unwise over the long term.”

Obama then issued a threat to Israel: ... “If there are additional resolutions introduced in the United Nations ... up until this point we have pushed away against European efforts for example, or other efforts. Because we’ve said, the only way this gets resolved is if the two parties worked together,” he said, referring to European moves to unilaterally recognize the PA as a state. ...

“It appears we are witnessing the prophesied breaking of the historic brotherhood between America and the Jewish state. Zechariah 11:14 states that in the end time, God will ‘break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.’”

Trumpet, April 2015

EUROPE

Greece Misses IMF Payment in Warning Shot as Showdown With Europe Escalates

Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, Telegraph | June 4

GREECE IS TO TAKE THE DRASTIC STEP OF SKIPPING A €300 MILLION (US\$332.5 million) payment to the International Monetary Fund on Friday

It is the first time that a developed country has ever missed a payment to the IMF since the creation of the Bretton Woods institutions at the end of the Second World War. ...

The IMF said it had been notified by the Greek authorities that they would pay the entire €1.6 billion (\$1.8 billion) due this month on June 30, dusting down a procedure last used by Zambia in the 1980s.

The shock move came as leaders of the ruling Syriza movement were locked in a series of emergency meetings

Senior figures in the party lined up to denounce the “ultimatum” from Brussels as another wasted moment after four months of acrimonious talks. “It cannot form the basis of an agreement,” said Tassos Koronakis, the party secretary.

Alexis Mitropoulos, the deputy speaker of parliament, called it “the most vulgar and murderous plan” that shattered hopes of a deal just as everybody was expecting a breakthrough. Others daubed their war paint and vowed angrily that there would be no

“surrender.”

The skipped payment is the clearest sign to date that the crisis is escalating to a dangerous level as Syriza refuses to buckle. It will not be resolved without European statesmanship of a high order, so far lacking. While the authorities sought to play down the Greek decision, it was clearly intended as a warning shot. Syriza had the money at hand. It chose not to pay as a conscious political choice.

The Greeks accuse the IMF of violating its own rules by colluding in an EMU-led policy that leaves the country with unsustainable debts. Athens is implicitly threatening to escalate the situation all the way to a full default to the IMF, setting off a grave institutional and political crisis within the Fund itself.

Syriza leaders say they are unwilling to burn any more of the country’s dwindling cash reserves to pay creditors until there is a credible offer on the table, insisting that their priority is to pay pensions and salaries and avoid default to their own people.

One cabinet minister told the *Telegraph* that the proposals by creditors seemed designed to bring about a deliberate rupture. “They want to force us into a position where we can’t sign,” he said.

“In a strange way we are all breathing a sigh of relief. We were

afraid of a bad deal that would split the party but this is so atrocious it makes life easier. None of us can accept it," he said. ...

Yet events risk spinning out of control much sooner if there is a collapse of confidence. Analysts warn that deposit flight was already running at €400 million (\$443.3 million) a day earlier this week and may now set off a fast-moving chain of events, leading to the sort of deposit lockdown seen in Argentina during the peso crisis in 2001, followed by a parallel currency or IOUs, and a temporary nationalization of the banking system—if the European Central Bank cuts off the liquidity lifeline. ...

Syrian Prelate Begg West to Intervene Against Islamic State; Cathedral Severely Damaged

Catholic Culture | June 3

AS THE FORCES OF THE ISLAMIC STATE ADVANCE IN SYRIA AND Iraq—with millions of Iraqis in flight, in the words of *L'Osservatore Romano's* June 3 front-page headline—the Melkite Greek Catholic archbishop of Syria's largest city begged the West to intervene.

"ISIS, which has already killed thousands in the region, is terrifying the faithful in Aleppo," said Archbishop Jean-Clément

Ashoka Mody, a former IMF bailout chief in Europe, said the Greeks are right to resist the demands. "Everything that we have learned over the past five years is that it is stunningly bad economics to enforce austerity on a country in a deflationary cycle. Trauma patients have to heal their wounds before they can train for the 10K," he said...

"Syria should recruit the IMF's research department to be their spokesman because they are saying almost exactly the same thing. The entire strategy of the creditors is wrong and the longer this goes on, the more it's going to cost them, as well as Greece." ...

Jeanbart of Aleppo. "After Maloula, Mosul, Idleb, and Palmyra, what is the West waiting for before it intervenes? What are the great nations waiting for before they put a halt to these monstrosities?"

Archbishop Jeanbart recently returned from a trip to the United States and found that his archdiocesan headquarters had been destroyed, and his cathedral severely damaged. ...

Merkel Welcomes Egypt's Sisi Amid Protests

Local | June 3

CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL WEDNESDAY CRITICIZED EGYPT'S use of the death penalty but pledged closer economic ties with its partner in the fight against Islamic extremism, during a protest-marred visit by President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Merkel stressed the central role of Egypt as an anchor of stability in a conflict-torn region, referring to the Islamic State jihadist group fighting in Iraq and Syria, instability in Libya and Nigeria's Boko Haram militants.

"Egypt is one of the central countries in a region marked by unrest and instability," the chancellor said, adding that closer business links would help bring "stability through economic development" in the North African country.

Sisi's visit to Berlin ... drew criticism in the German media over Cairo's support of repressive Arab regimes in the fight against Islamist extremism.

Sisi, Egypt's former army chief, ousted Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in July 2013 and launched a deadly crackdown against his Muslim Brotherhood supporters as well as secular activists.

The crackdown has left hundreds of Morsi supporters dead and thousands jailed, while dozens have been sentenced to death in mass and speedy trials, including Morsi himself who is awaiting a final ruling on his sentence. ...

ASIA

Japanese Paper Fears U.S. Compromise Over South China Sea

Want China Times | June 2

THE U.S. MAY STRIKE A COMPROMISE WITH CHINA REGARDING territorial disputes in the South China Sea because it needs assistance from China to restore peace in Afghanistan, fears Japan's *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*. ... During talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban on May 3, Chinese officials were present along with their U.S. counterparts.

To return a favor for helping to achieve peace and stability in Central Asia, the United States may make a concession to China's land reclamation activity in the South China Sea, the paper said, arguing that China is using the deficiencies of the United States to

take advantage of the states of Southeast Asia. It urged the Japanese government to pay attention to see if the United States will change its attitude regarding Japan's dispute with China in the East China Sea over the Senkaku islands, as they are known to Japan. ...

"We are fast losing our world dominance. That is mainly because we no longer have a world overview. That is why we often work against our friendly allies ... America no longer has the will to lead the world with its power." *Trumpet*, December 1998

PLA's YJ-18 Missile a Nightmare for the U.S.: *National Interest* **Want China Times | June 3**

CHINA'S DOMESTICALLY DEVELOPED YJ-18 SUPERSONIC CRUISE MISSILE may prove to be a nightmare for the U.S. Navy, according to a piece in U.S.-based *National Interest* magazine published on June 1.

The magazine cited a report issued by the U.S. Office of Naval Intelligence, stating that the missile can be vertically launched and can be fired by submerged submarines. A report by the

Pentagon on China's military power said that the missiles maximum range is 290 nautical miles, double that of the Russian 3M-54 Klub anti-ship cruise missile. ...

The YJ-18 has a two-speed design where it travels for the majority of its trajectory at high subsonic speeds until its terminal stage, when it accelerates to 2½-3 times the speed of sound. ...

The Secret Weapons of Russia's Deadly Military **National Interest | June 2**

RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE HAS BROUGHT INTO QUESTION THE very notion of NATO's Article 5, as concerns grow that Estonia might lie next in the Kremlin's attention. Russia's posturing in Ukraine, however, should be seen as that of a weaker power trying to avoid confrontation with a stronger power. It is not that Ukraine could defeat Russia in an outright war, but that Russia actually fears a confrontation with NATO. This is partly why Vladimir Putin has been employing his so-called hybrid warfare, which is essentially war without declaring war. ...

Putin likes to tout Russian martial prowess, but his actions suggest that he does not want actual confrontation with NATO. This still poses a great danger for the West, in that Russian regional goals are still unhampered, although they are being pursued by more subtle methods. The news that Russia and China are pledging to not hack each other also presents a worrying situation, as the U.S. and its allies could soon be subject to increased cyberthreats. Additionally, the conflict in Ukraine has shown how sophisticated the Russians have become in employing electronic jamming and drones.

Well-trained, professional electronic- and cyberunits allowed Russia's forces to cripple lines of communications between the Ukrainian armed forces, thus annex Crimea with little difficulty. Cyberattacks on the White House's e-mail system and Estonia also reveal Russia's wide-reaching ability to gain intelligence through electronic means and to disrupt opponents' lines of communication. These successes have led to hackers being used more and more for military and foreign policy objectives. In the

Donbas, the electronic dominance by Russia has gotten so bad that Ukraine is mulling a bill to ban the use of cell phones by military personnel in the conflict zone. This is part of the Kremlin strategy to divide and conquer, in that Russia can gain a comparable advantage over opponents through disruption and confusion.

In addition to its army of hackers, Russian use of drones reveals the military's focus on better intelligence and professionalization of its forces. Heavy-handed responses like bombarding Chechen cities are gone as tactics. Rather, their war with Ukraine, Russian soldiers and separatists have been working in tandem, using drone reconnaissance to make their artillery attacks incredibly effective. ...

This focus on asymmetric cyber and electronic integration does not seem a short-term means to an end. Russia is taking these concepts to heart, even speaking of building brand new attack drones as part of its arsenal. ...

Russia's continued sabre rattling and incursions into NATO nations should be seen as a threat, but it will most likely not result in an outright war. The point of Russian probing is to elicit a response, but without provoking a united response. The asymmetric attacks by electronic and cyber means will continue, and there have been real steps to help counter them. However, the West needs to realize that this is new facet of the modern Russian military is here to stay. As the Russian armed forces continue their march of modernization, cyber, electronic and robotic threats will grow in their strength and sophistication, and will constitute a very real problem.

South China Sea Debate Could Lead to World War III **Value Walk | June 2**

A CONFLICT, WHICH HAS SHAKEN THE WHOLE WORLD, IS STILL making headlines. And the reason is clear: the tiny islands of the South China Sea could lead to a world war.

It is all about the confrontation between China (and, apparently, also Russia now) from one side, and the U.S. and its allies from the other side, over the vast South China Sea, a body of water larger than the Mediterranean.

These tiny islands are located at the very middle of one of the key routes of shipping traffic, the total amount of which amounts up to \$5 trillion per year. Furthermore, this is a highly important fishing area, at the bottom of which rich oil deposits are likely to be found. ...

There have been reports about China's heavy weapons being deployed to the area, which worries not only the U.S., but also the Asian neighbors.

Japan, one of the U.S.'s closest allies and partners, reinforced its naval force amid the growing war fears, while Taiwan makes a decision to secure nuclear weapons; South Korea has put its military units on alert and the Philippines carried out a number of military drills in the area. ...

From the U.S. actions, it is clear that the Obama administration is not going to hand over the control over South China Sea quite easily. However, do the Chinese care much?

Several senior officials from the People's Liberation Army

have recently visited the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore and joined a series of discussions with leaders of Asian and Western countries.

At the event, it has become apparent that Chinese officials are feeling confident and have little respect for the Obama administration, which has been making accusations but doesn't seem to have adopted a clear strategy yet. ...

However, judging by the U.S.'s rather soft actions against Russia's aggression in Eastern Europe, it can be concluded that the current U.S. administration is unwilling to challenge any aggression and may be perceived as "weak" by other countries, which is probably the case with China.

China saw that the U.S. can be pushed, and it is unclear whether there will ever be a better chance to make claims over the

disputed islands than there is now. However, the Obama administration is on its last legs and when the new president is elected in 2016, the current conflict may eventually lead to a war. ...

"Despite an increase in political and economic cooperation, Asian nations tend to view each other as rivals. More and more citizens of the nations around China believe war should be undertaken if that is what is required to stop Beijing. ... Nationalism and militarism are on the rise throughout Asia. Although the countries' swings to the right are at present designed to protect themselves from other Asian nations, ... all of these intra-Asian hostilities will soon be set aside so they can form a bloc to meet [a coming] colossal European force."

Trumpet, March 2013



China Deploys Surveillance Ships to Waters off Hawaii **Jeremiah Jacques | June 3**

CHINA HAS STARTED DEPLOYING MARITIME SURVEILLANCE VESSELS to the waters off the coast of Hawaii, according to reports by the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*. The Tokyo-based publication says the provocative Chinese move is a countermeasure against United States' activities in the South China Sea.

Over the last 18 months, China has assumed a more aggressive posture in its claims of more than 90 percent of the vast South China Sea. During this time, Chinese forces have built approximately 2,000 acres of artificial landmass on disputed reefs in the area. Forces from China's People's Liberation Army Navy are in the process of building military facilities on the islands, and last

week issued threats to U.S. spy planes surveying the construction.

China's deployment of surveillance vessels near Hawaii comes on the heels of an announcement by PLA Senior Col. Wang Jin saying the strategy of coastal defense can no longer adequately serve China's national interests. Wang made the remarks during a May 26 press conference about the release of China's ninth defense white paper. The implication of the white paper is that a blue-water navy is needed for Beijing to pursue its overseas interests.

The defense white paper also said China must ready itself for a conflict with U.S. forces in the South China Sea

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Invade, Wait—and Invade: The New Outbreak of Violence in Ukraine **Jeremiah Jacques | June 5**

AS REPORTS BROKE WEDNESDAY CONCERNING A NEW ERUPTION of fighting in eastern Ukraine, a picture took shape suggesting that Russian President Vladimir Putin is following a blueprint of expansionism that dates back thousands of years.

It's a blueprint that warfare historian Victor Davis Hanson calls "invade, wait—and invade." In an article from March, Hanson explained: "From Philip of Macedon to Napoleon, aggressors ... took as much as they could at any given time; then backed away for a bit, if they sensed strong opposition was building—only to go back on the offensive when vigilance waned."

For modern Russia, the first part of that blueprint happened last year when Putin grabbed Crimea from Ukraine. After the annexation, opposition built from the Ukrainian government with some backing from NATO and the United States. Putin backed off.

Russia then repeated several iterations of "invade, wait—and invade" in parts of eastern Ukraine. The campaigns placed most of Donetsk and Luhansk under de facto Russian control.

Then, since February, a ceasefire had quieted the Ukraine crisis considerably.

Now, Putin sees that the U.S. has basically accepted the new reality: Crimea belongs to Russia. Putin views this, alongside

European division, as evidence that the opposition is fading again.

The new flare up of violence could mean that, for Russia, the middle part of the military blueprint—the "wait"—is over once again. It could mean Russia's ready to bring more of Ukraine under its control. If Moscow could take Mariupol, it could build an invaluable land bridge connecting the Crimean Peninsula to the rest of Russia.

The new outbreak of fighting coincides with an order by the speaker of the Russian Duma's Federation Council telling the council's senators to be on standby for a possible emergency meeting. Snap meetings are rare for the Council and often mean Moscow is discussing a major military decision. (The last time such a session was called was when senators voted to annex Crimea from Ukraine.)

Ukraine's president said Thursday that Putin is planning a "full-scale invasion." Maybe he is right, and the violence will become an overt Russian invasion. But maybe Russia's advance will remain intermittent, murky and somewhat tenuous: Surprise the opposition—then endure their sermons, back off and bore them. Then after all is quiet, do it again. Here a little, there a little. Invade, wait—and invade.

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Philippines, Japan meeting as China tension escalates: Filipino President Benigno Aquino III was greeted by Japanese Emperor Akihito in Tokyo on Wednesday at the start of a four-day state visit to Japan. President Aquino's visit aims to build on the Philippines-Japan Strategic Partnership and exchange views on recent regional developments. In a speech to Japan's parliament, President Aquino III criticized China's territorial claims in

the South China Sea. He said, "The prosperity of the maritime and coastal East and Southeast Asia, which relies on the free movement of goods and peoples, is at risk of being disrupted by attempts to redraw the geographic limits and entitlements outside those clearly bestowed by the law of nations." The two countries are expected to reach a deal in which Japan will provide the Philippines with 10 patrol vessels to help monitor its islands in the South China Sea.

ANGLO-AMERICA



Socialist Fail: Why Can't Poor People Find Homes?

Robert Morley | June 4

IT IS NOW VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND AN APARTMENT TO RENT in Venezuela. But this is not due to a booming economy or growing population. It is due to socialist dictator Hugo Chavez's ban on evictions and state-mandated rent freezes.

In 2003, former Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez passed a law banning landlords from raising rents. It was supposedly an effort to help poor people who could not afford the cost of rent, which was skyrocketing due to currency devaluation and price inflation. The order led to an almost immediate 25 percent decline in rental units available.

By 2006 the shortage had become so dire that Chavez issued an expropriation ordinance aimed at property owners who would not rent to tenants at government-mandated rates. The number of rental units plunged by 51 percent.

Then in 2011, in another poorly conceived attempt to help renters stay in their units at absurdly low government-set rates, Hugo Chavez essentially banned evictions altogether—basically giving squatters' rights to any renters still lucky enough to be in an apartment.

Now Venezuela's once-thriving rental market is almost

nonexistent.

According to Venezuelan paper *Libre Mercado*, in the capital of Caracas, with a metropolitan area of over 5 million, there are only five units officially listed for rent (Global Economic Trend Analysis, June 1).

Is that really so shocking? It is obvious that landlords would not want to risk losing control of their property to a squatter just to earn ridiculously low government-mandated rent. So now, instead of poor people struggling to pay rent, increasing numbers are forced to live in shantytowns without amenities due to the lack of available housing. Once again, socialist central planners make things worse.

Pay attention California and New York: Rent control politics actually lead to housing shortages—making matters worse for poor people.

Socialism does not work. It is a tool used by politicians to maintain power. And eventually, it destroys economies.

RELATED: "HAS AMERICA BEEN INFLUENCED BY COMMUNISM?"

Follow Robert Morley

The Alarmist-in-Chief Rallies the Troops Against Climate Change

National Review | June 2

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA IS LESS THAN STALWART IN THE FIGHT against ISIS and doesn't seem overly concerned about Vladimir Putin's predation in Ukraine or China's aggression in the South China Sea. It is the fight against climate change, an allegedly dire threat to the nation's security, that brings out his inner Churchill.

In remarks at the Coast Guard Academy commencement, Obama pledged his undying hostility to climate change and his determination to fight it on the beaches and in the fields. He called it "one of the most severe threats" we face and "an immediate risk to our national security." ... He hailed the Coast Guard for building more fuel-efficient cutters, and the Marines for deploying with portable solar panels. It was one of the most insipid calls to arms ever made by an American commander-in-chief ...

From the president's urgency, you would think that climate

change is beheading American hostages and taking over large swathes of Middle Eastern countries, toward the end of establishing a hostile climate-change empire. The reality is that, even accepting his premises about the state of the science, he can point only to laughably tenuous connections between climate change and national security.

The president cited drought as one of the causes of the Syrian civil war. Yet an article in the journal *Middle Eastern Studies* notes that Israel, Jordan and Lebanon experienced drought in 2007–2008. None of them collapsed into a genocidal hellhole. Nor is drought unusual in Syria. ...

The president warned of how climate change could create "mass migrations," the kind of disruption that a White House document says will disproportionately affect Africa and Asia.

Even if this is true, how will it implicate our national security?

The United States was content to stand by while 800,000 people died in the Rwandan genocide and more than 5 million in Congo's civil war. If that mass slaughter didn't move us, we aren't going to mobilize the troops to manage climate-driven mass migrations.

Another climate-change hot spot is the Arctic, with President Obama predicting that summers could be ice-free there by around 2050. Man the battle stations? Well, no. A Brookings Institution article notes that "what we're seeing in the Arctic is that receding ice is triggering commercial competition and

governance cooperation; not conflict."

Typically, the president implied clear and present dangers from climate change, although the "consensus" science he purports to champion projects effects on extreme weather roughly 80 years from now. ...

Defining climate change as a national-security threat is simply a rhetorical ploy to stoke alarmism, in hopes of creating support for self-sacrificial anti-carbon policies that can't survive any reasonable cost-benefit analysis. ...

Exclusive Interview: Ian Bremmer Says America Is No Longer 'Indispensable' **Telegraph | May 30**

THE FOREIGN POLICY GURU AND AUTHOR OF *SUPERPOWER* SPEAKS with Peter Foster about American retrenchment, the rise of China, and what it means for Britain's future

After six decades serving as the global policeman, the United States is now signaling its retreat from the world.

With the Middle East engulfed by the flames of sectarian conflict, Europe's borders menaced by the threat of war and China starting to flex its muscles in Asia-Pacific, it is clear the world has entered a new period of volatility.

That uncertainty begs tough questions for Britain: how should we respond And as our traditional ally turns inward, what should that mean for British foreign policy? ...

PF: As we enter this period of post-Cold War instability, is the current U.S. disengagement good or bad for what comes next?

IB: "It's not good, but let's be clear—engagement cannot be half-assed. Engaging doesn't mean telling people you're going to engage and then screwing them over. It means really engaging. It doesn't mean setting a red line, and then backing off. And if you asked me if I believe it is credible right now to take big bets and tell the Europeans 'we're really there for you,' and the Japanese, 'we're really there for you,' and the Gulf states 'we're really there for you,' then the answer is 'no.'"

"Are we going to get presidents that are going to consistently get behind that and really support an American-led world order? It's possible, but I doubt it."

PF: So is playing the "indispensable" superpower role essentially beyond the capacity of America now? Fiscally, militarily?

IB: "No, there are absolutely things we could be doing that would be 'indispensable.' America has money, interest rates are low, and if we want to print money, we can. If we want to support allies, we can. But indispensable doesn't just mean, 'oh we're going to do drone strikes against ISIS.' ..."

"We're the only country in the world that could put the resources on the ground that could actually fix the Middle East. We're the only country in the world that can create global architecture, global alliances. ..."

PF: But right now the American public won't buy into that?

IB: "I don't think so. 'Indispensable' America is now an increasingly extreme sell, domestically, for any American president."

"Americans have gotten disillusioned with the inauthenticity of their own leaders, and the politics and politicians in Washington. ..."

PF: So what does a retreating America mean for Britain? We've long ridden on America's coattails, but it seems clear now that those strategic coattails are shrinking fast.

IB: "America's coattails are shrinking, you're right, but Britain's arms are shrinking even faster. People got mad at me recently for saying that Britain's greatest global influence today has basically fallen to what the *Economist* manages to write every week. I love the *Economist*, but we've come to expect more from Britain historically."

"The post-war world order was built on the back of an incredibly strong transatlantic relationship. That relationship is now at the weakest point we've seen in well over a generation."

PF: So is it time Britain faced facts and accepted a new reality as a middle-ranking power on Europe's northern fringes. Aspire to be Norway, say, or the Netherlands?

IB: "In part it depends on what America chooses. ... But if U.S. foreign policy continues to be incoherent—as appears likely—then the Brits need to hedge like crazy. ..."

PF: In the book you criticize the Obama administration, above all else, for failing to take a long-term, strategic approach. What does that mean for China ...?

IB: "In the past 35 years there's only been one geopolitical constant in the entire world. Only one. And that's the rise of China. What's really dangerous is that China is the only country of size right now that has a global strategy. We should not pretend that that's not true. They have money; they're spending it. They're building architecture and infrastructure. They're trying to align countries more with their long-term strategic and economic interests as they see them. The fact is the Americans, by far a greater power than China in every aspect, have nothing to respond to that with. That's ludicrous. I think we massively underestimate the Chinese. ..."

Dr. Doom: This 'Time Bomb' Will Trigger Next Financial Collapse **CNN Money | June 1**

THE MAN WHO CALLED THE 2008 FINANCIAL CRISIS IS SOUNDING the alarm about what may cause the next one.

Nouriel Roubini, who has been dubbed "Dr. Doom" for his

dark predictions, warned in an Op-Ed in the *Guardian* on Monday about the existence of a "liquidity time bomb" that he fears will eventually "trigger a bust and a collapse."

The New York University economist joins a growing number of observers who are worried about the issue. Liquidity is the lifeblood of financial markets. It measures how easy it is for investors to quickly sell stocks and bonds. When investors get fearful but can't sell their stocks, it causes even more panic.

Are more flash crashes coming? Roubini pointed to several scary episodes to back up his case that investors should be worried about "severe market illiquidity."

Investors around the world were spooked by the May 2010 flash crash, which sent the Dow Industrials plummeting nearly 1,000 points in about half an hour before recovering.

And then there was the "taper tantrum" in the spring of 2013 when bond yields skyrocketed for a few days after ex-Fed chief

Ben Bernanke suggested ending quantitative easing.

Just last fall, bonds had a "flash crash" of their own, mysteriously plummeting in dramatic fashion on one day before rebounding. One New York Fed official even said reduced liquidity may have played a role in the incident. ...

Yet Roubini and others fear this so-called "money printing" has also raised the risk of asset bubbles in various markets, including China, startups, tech stocks, bonds and luxury real estate. All of these investors have poured into these markets, but will they be able to get out?

Roubini believes we will see more than flash crashes, especially as asset bubbles continue to inflate. ...

3,700 Illegal Immigrant 'Threat Level 1' Criminals Released Into U.S. by DHS

Washington Times | June 4

MOST OF THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT CRIMINALS HOMELAND SECURITY officials released from custody last year were discretionary, meaning the department could have kept them in detention but chose instead to let them onto the streets as their deportation cases moved through the system, according to new numbers from Congress.

Some of those released were the worst of the worst—more than 3,700 "Threat Level 1" criminals, who are deemed the top priority for deportation, were still released out into the community even as they waited for their immigration cases to be heard.

Homeland Security officials have implied their hands are tied by court rulings in many cases, but the numbers, obtained by House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte, showed 57 percent of the criminals released were by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) own choice, and they could have been kept instead.

"Put aside the spin, and the fact is that over 17,000 of the

criminal aliens released last year were released due to ICE discretion, representing 57 percent of the releases," said Mr. Goodlatte. "The Obama administration's lax enforcement policies are reckless and needlessly endanger our communities." ...

ICE officials insist that those who are released are still monitored, often by electronic ankle bracelets but also through a system of phone checks or by paying a bond.

However, nearly all of those released under electronic monitoring broke the terms of their release, according to ICE numbers.

In fiscal year 2014, ICE put about 41,000 immigrants through electronic monitoring, and more than 30,000 of them broke the terms of their release—many of them racking up multiple violations. All told, they notched nearly 300,000 violations in one year alone, or an average of 10 instances per violator. ...

Part of ICE's problem is that it doesn't have enough beds to go out and pick up violators, according to an inspector general's report released earlier this year.

None Dare Say It

Phyllis Schlafly, World Net Daily | June 1

ANN COULTER LIVES UP TO HER REPUTATION OF ISSUING WARNINGS and political comment nobody else dares to say in her newest book, *Adios, America!* It's aptly titled; she makes the case that it is goodbye to the America we know and love if we don't stop diluting our population with people who don't love America, don't respect our Constitution and laws, don't even speak our language, and commit all sorts of unspeakable crimes. ...

Ann Coulter gives hundreds of specific examples of major crimes committed by illegal immigrants and, in particular, crimes against very young women and girls. She shows the devious ways the media conceal the fact that these horrendous crimes are committed by illegals whom our government should never have let into our country.

The media cover-up doesn't conceal merely the nationality of these criminals or the frequency of their crimes. The media cover-up also conceals the depravity of these crimes that are so horrific I can't bring myself to describe them in this column.

Adios, America! spells out chapter and verse on the attitudes and customs of foreigners Obama is welcoming by the millions

into America, including their horrific mistreatment of very young women and even some younger than teens. Where are the feminists when we need them to shout about the "war on women"?

There are many devious ways foreigners can get into the U.S. and then cash in on our generous welfare system. ... The racket called asylum allows a foreigner to claim without proof that he faces persecution in his home country, and then he can qualify for admission to the U.S. plus generous financial support by the U.S. taxpayers. The Tsarnaev family, whose sons bombed the Boston Marathon, were admitted after phony claims of persecution and then cashed in for \$100,000 in U.S. handouts.

Ann Coulter exposes the giant deception covered by the trendy liberal goal of "diversity," which excused dumping 100,000 Somalis on Minnesota. We've allowed 30 million Mexicans to settle inside our country; that's one-quarter of Mexico's entire population of 120 million. ...

Ann asks a relevant question: "Why can't we adopt Israel's policy on immigration?" What do you think Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would do if thousands of Israelis were being

murdered by uninvited foreigners coming illegally into Israel?
If you guessed, “Give them in-state college tuition, driver’s

How ABC’s World News Tonight Became a Ratings Winner **Washington Post | June 1**

LITTLE BY LITTLE, ABC’S *WORLD NEWS TONIGHT* HAS CLIMBED TO the rocky summit of Mount Nielsen. After years of also-ran status, the evening newscast has caught up to NBC’s *Nightly News*, the ratings champ for more than five years. The two programs now jockey for the title of America’s most-popular TV news source.

How did that happen? ...

The story of *World News Tonight*’s ascension [started] even before ABC decided to replace anchor Diane Sawyer with rising star David Muir in September. At the same time, the venerable broadcast has slowly evolved into a newscast engineered for the social media age. In important ways, *World News* looks and sounds different from its competitors. It’s brighter, tighter and indeed quite a bit lighter than its evening rivals.

Under Sawyer, *World News* became noticeably softer, with a greater emphasis on celebrity and entertainment stories, weather coverage, crime fare, news-you-can-use and YouTube’s hottest videos. The trend has continued, and perhaps accelerated, with Muir, 41, at the anchor desk.

News from Washington—a staple of the broadcast since its Peter Jennings glory years—now fights for air. It usually loses: *World News* devoted half as many minutes to Washington stories as CBS did during the first four months of the year, and about 40 percent less than did NBC, according to Andrew Tyndall, who tracks the networks’ newscasts through his eponymous newsletter.

In perhaps a first for a national newscast, *World News* no longer has a full-time correspondent reporting on Congress. ...

Although Muir has anchored from [Cuba](#) and the Middle East, there’s far less world news on *World News Tonight*, too. During May, the broadcast led with domestic news almost every night of the week, despite a flood of developments in Syria, Iraq, Europe and elsewhere.

The news on *World News* can be serious and important, but the serious stuff is often fleeting. On a typical Tuesday broadcast

licenses, and free medical care,” you would be laughed at. But that’s what Obama gives to our illegal aliens. ...

in May, the lead story was a “breaking” report about a missing U.S. military helicopter in Nepal (the “breaking” element was unclear, given that the helicopter had been reported missing about 30 hours earlier). The second story was a report about a commercial jet’s “scary landing” (as a bold graphic labeled it) in Hawaii. The event produced no injuries, but the story did have the kind of visual element—video of a damaged plane—that made it compelling for *World News*.

The last quarter of the broadcast included amateur video of a man being extricated from a car involved in a crash, a home invasion caught on a security camera, and footage of two men flying jet packs in Dubai.

It’s not just what *World News* covers that sets the broadcast apart, but how quickly it covers it. By design, Muir’s newscast has a faster and more urgent pace than those of his predecessor and rivals. According to Tyndall’s statistics, the average correspondent’s news report on *World News* was just 100 seconds last fall, compared with 138 seconds on NBC and 121 on CBS. ...

ABC executives acknowledge that their newscast is different but say that’s a positive development. ...

In the meantime, ABC News has lost some of its most experienced journalists to CNN. ...

Several former ABC News journalists described various states of disappointment about the changes at *World News*. Speaking on background, they lamented the rapid-fire presentation, the emphasis on visually arresting but largely vapid videos, and the diminution of news from Washington and abroad. ...

Editorial Comment: Stories like this reveal why you need the *Trumpet Weekly*. We might never have a popular message, but no stories about firefighters rescuing cats stuck up trees will be found here.

Teachers Complain, Chaos Reigns as St. Paul Schools Spend Millions on ‘White Privilege’ Training **EAGnews.org | June 2**

HAVE THE TAXPAYERS OF ST. PAUL SPENT NEARLY \$3 MILLION OVER the past five years to bring chaos and danger to their schools and students?

Apparently so.

In 2010, the St. Paul school district began a contractual relationship with the Pacific Educational Group (PEG), a San Francisco-based organization that tries to help public schools deal with achievement and disciplinary issues involving black students.

PEG packages and sells the concept of victimization, for a very high price.

It claims that the American education system is built around white culture, tradition and social norms—aka “white privilege”—to the unfair detriment of black students.

PEG believes that black students will only achieve if school curricula are customized to meet their cultural specifications. It also rejects the concept of using suspensions or expulsions to discipline black students. ...

Not long after PEG started working with St. Paul school officials, crucial policy changes were made

Special needs students with behavioral issues were mainstreamed into regular classrooms Student suspensions were replaced by “time outs,” and school officials starting forgiving or ignoring violence and other unacceptable behavior, according to various sources. ...

The result has been general chaos throughout the district, with far too many students out of control because they know

there are no real consequences for their actions.

A local publication called *CityPages* recently told the story of Becky McQueen, an educator at St. Paul's Harding High School. "Last spring, when she stepped into a fight between two basketball players, one grabbed her shoulder and head, throwing her aside," the *CityPages* article explained. "The kid was only sent home for a couple of days. ... The following week, two boys came storming in, hit a girl in the head, then skipped back out. One of them had already been written up more than 30 times.

"Yet another student who repeatedly drops into her class has hit kids and cursed at an aide, once telling McQueen he would 'fry' her a**." She tried to make a joke of it—"Ooh, I could use a little weight loss." Her students interjected: "No, that means he's gonna kill you."

McQueen now has her students use a secret knock on the classroom door, so she will know who to allow in, the article said.

"There are those that believe that by suspending kids we are building a pipeline to prison. I think that by not, we are," McQueen told *CityPages*. "I think we're telling these kids you don't have to be on time for anything, we're just going to talk to you. You can assault somebody and we're gonna let you come back here."

There are similar horror stories from many other school buildings in the district

RELATED: ["MINNEAPOLIS PRINCIPALS NOT ALLOWED TO SUSPEND BLACK STUDENTS, ONLY WHITE ONES"](#)



Matthew 24 Unlocks the Seven Seals

Gerald Flurry,
The Key of David | June 5

IN MATTHEW 24, CHRIST UNLOCKS THE MEANING OF THE SEALS OF Revelation. Do you understand the meaning of those seven seals?



Raising the Ruins

Stephen Flurry,
Trumpet Daily | June 1

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