



A sign for the Bank of Greece in Athens.

## Why Europe Won't Let Greece Go

Richard Palmer | June 18



WE TALKED ABOUT THIS

GREECE IS ON THE BRINK YET AGAIN. IT HAS TO PAY THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund (IMF) €1.5 billion (US\$1.7 billion) by the end of the month. And that's the start of a gauntlet of loan repayments—it owes \$11 billion by the end of September. With time running out, European officials are reportedly preparing for a catastrophe.

What exactly will happen? I don't know. But I do know that in the long term Greece is going to remain under the European Union's influence.

In late 2008, Greece was in serious financial trouble. Greece owed billions to banks and financial institutions across the EU. If these banks didn't get their money, some of them would go bankrupt too, triggering a chain reaction that would cause a global financial crisis.

So Europe stepped in. Now most Greek debt is owned by institutions. If Greece didn't pay back its debts now, it would not trigger that kind of global crisis.

Speculation has risen that this is what EU officials planned all along. The "bailout" in 2008 wasn't designed to save Greece.

It was designed to stave off the crisis long enough for the EU to shore up its position.

Not everyone agrees. Letting Greece quit the euro and go bust still has its economic risks. But there is a more significant reason that some—including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, if the rumors are to be believed—oppose leaving Greece high and dry.

The geopolitical landscape has changed dramatically since 2008. Russia is now openly hostile to much of the West. Meanwhile, the Middle East is in chaos, and that is now Europe's problem. Ambrose Evans-Pritchard wrote in the *Telegraph*: "Nobody should underestimate the political hurricane that will follow if Europe proves incapable of holding monetary union together, and Greece spins out of control. The post-war order is already under existential threat from a revanchist Russia. State authority has collapsed along an arc of slaughter through the Middle East and North Africa, while an authoritarian neo-Ottoman Turkey is slipping from the Western camp. To lose Greece in these circumstances—and to lose it badly—would be an earthquake."

"According to German press reports, Greece is already in secret

talks with Russia on future military cooperation, including a factory to make Kalashnikovs on Greek soil,” wrote *Telegraph* assistant editor Jeremy Warner. “These reports should perhaps be taken with a large pinch of salt as no more than anti-Greek propaganda. Even so, the broader threat of geopolitical realignment is not without foundation.”

Greece, Serbia and a few others in the region have deep historic ties and cultural ties to Russia. Historically, Russia has backed and protected these countries against the powers of central Europe

The Eurasia Group also reported that this problem was on German leaders’ minds: “[T]he prospect of instability in the Balkans, the Black Sea area and the Eastern Mediterranean has become even more pressing. This, rather than financial contagion, seems to be the real problem for Europe and is certainly what currently preoccupies Germany most.”

Such a rapprochement would devastate European security. After having expanded NATO right up to Russia’s borders, the West would suddenly find that Russia had leapfrogged them and gained an ally in prime position to project power in the Mediterranean. In the 1990s, Europe and [NATO fought a war](#) to ensure their control over the Balkans. They’re not about to lose an even more important piece of real estate.

The Middle East is also a major concern here. As the *Trumpet* [has noted before](#), Cyprus is a very strategic base for Europe to project power to the Middle East. Cyprus is Greece’s little brother. Where Greece goes, Cyprus will follow, as much because of economic necessity as cultural ties.

If Greece leads Cyprus and Serbia out of the EU’s orbit, at one stroke Europe’s ability to project power south and east is cut off. Does this mean the EU will pull out all the stops to prevent Greece from leaving the euro? Not necessarily. But it will affect *how* Greece quits the euro—if it does quit in the end.

If Greece leaves the euro, the EU will make sure it remains in the European orbit. Even Wolfgang Schäuble—the bad cop in the Greek drama, who reportedly wants Greece out of the euro—wants to give Greece a kind of European Marshall Plan afterward. Earlier this week, German European Commissioner Günther Oettinger said that EU officials were preparing plans to help Greece if it descends into a state of emergency. They have plans, he said, to ensure the power stays on, hospitals get medical supplies, and the police get paid.

This would also ensure Greece remains a European ally if it leaves the euro. It couldn’t drift over to Russia if its police were being paid by Brussels, or if German cash was keeping the power on.

As the *Trumpet* has said from the start of this crisis, the euro was designed to bring the EU together. Its architects knew it would provoke crises until Europe is forced to create a common government to go with the common currency. Some members of the eurozone may not be part of that common government. But Europe is not going to let this tool designed to create unity push some of its members over to Russia.

**RELATED: “DID THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE PLAN THE GREEK CRISIS?”**

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## MIDDLE EAST

### **Iran’s Tightening Stranglehold of Afghanistan** Anthony Chibariwe | June 16



ONE EASY WAY TO DETERMINE WHERE IRAN WIELDS STRONG regional influence is to identify the highly unstable nations of the Middle East—Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Libya, Sudan—and, as a recent report verifies, Afghanistan.

On June 11, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on Iran’s support for the Taliban. That’s not actually news: Tehran’s documented backing of the Taliban goes as far back as 2007, despite the prior tension that existed between the Shiite Iranians and the Sunni Taliban and Iran’s prior support of NATO’s attack on the Taliban beginning in 2001.

What’s news is how that support has recently *increased* in scope and volume, and how that support has increased *in spite* of the United States bending over backward for rapprochement with Iran. The *Journal*’s report said that Afghan and Western authorities have observed Iran increasing not only its supply of weapons and ammunition to the Taliban, but also its training and recruitment of Taliban militants.

“Iran supplies us with whatever we need,” said one Taliban commander.

According to those authorities, Tehran’s support for the Taliban is part of a two-pronged strategy to counter the clout of both

the U.S. and the Islamic State in both Afghanistan and the Middle East in general.

The [drawdown of U.S. soldiers from Afghanistan](#) has made it a lot easier for Iran to smuggle arms to the Taliban.

Iran is also supporting the Taliban because the terrorist group’s stature in Afghanistan is growing. The Afghan government in Kabul is engaged in peace talks with the Taliban. If the Taliban gains greater influence in Afghanistan, so too will Iran. As one Western diplomat said, “Iran is betting on the reemergence of the Taliban.”

Arming, funding, training and recruiting the Taliban, in addition to undermining the U.S., diminishes the influence of the Islamic State in Afghanistan and other places like Syria.

But by supporting the Taliban, Iran does not only come into conflict with the murderous Islamic State or the naive United States, it also comes into direct conflict with other forces fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan—chiefly Germany—the third-largest troop contributor to Afghanistan after the U.S. and Britain.

The Bible reveals that a [German-led European Union](#) will soon confront Iran, the [king of the south](#) of Bible prophecy.

## 49 Percent of Israelis: Obama Purposely Harming U.S.-Israel Ties

Arutz Sheva | June 18

**A** KNESSET CHANNEL POLL PUBLISHED THURSDAY INDICATES that almost one half of the Israeli public agrees with M.K. Michael Oren, the former Israeli ambassador in the U.S., who said this week that U.S. President Barack Obama has “deliberately” caused a deterioration in U.S.-Israel ties. ...

In an op-ed for the *Wall Street Journal* on Monday, Oren said that while Israel may have made “mistakes” vis-a-vis the U.S., Obama’s missteps against Israel were carried out on purpose.

“From the moment he entered office, Mr. Obama promoted an agenda of championing the Palestinian cause and achieving a nuclear accord with Iran,” wrote Oren. Obama abandoned the two core principles of Israel’s alliance with America, he accused.

One core principle was the concept of avoiding public disagreements with Israel so as not to encourage their common enemies to exploit the disharmony, said Oren. Another was “no

surprises.” While Israeli leaders in the past were given forewarning about major U.S. policy statements regarding the Middle East, Obama did not warn Israel before he “changed 40 years of U.S. policy by endorsing the 1967 lines with land swaps—formerly the Palestinian position—as the basis for peace-making.”

Similarly unpleasant surprises occurred, Oren added, when Obama offered to support a UN Security Council investigation of Israel’s communities in Judea and Samaria, and “to back Egyptian and Turkish efforts to force Israel to reveal its alleged nuclear capabilities.” ...

**“[In Zechariah 11:14,] God says that He will “break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel,” the modern-day nations of Israel and the United States (and Britain), respectively.”**

[theTrumpet.com](#), May 26, 2011

## Obama Admin Excluded Iran From Threat Assessment

Washington Free Beacon | June 17

**L** EADING U.S. OFFICIALS ARE EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT NEWLY disclosed efforts by the Obama administration to play down the terrorism threat posed by Iran in an official report issued this year.

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper admitted in a recent letter to top senators that the administration wrongly excluded references to the global terrorism threat posed by Iran and its terror affiliate Hezbollah in the [2015 World Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community](#).

“A specific reference to the terrorist threat from Iran and Hezbollah—which was not included in any of the drafts of the testimony [offered before lawmakers]—would have been appropriate for the 2015 Assessment, but the lack of its inclusion is in no way a change in the [intelligence community’s] assessment,” Clapper wrote in a June 3 letter to top senators.

Clapper’s letter came in response to an earlier letter from a delegation of senators who were seeking to discover why the

Obama administration excluded references to Iran’s global terrorist operations. ...

Some critics accuse the Obama administration of downplaying the terrorist threat posed by Iran and its proxies in order to appease the Islamic Republic and preserve the ongoing talks aimed at inking a wide-ranging nuclear deal. ...

[One of the members of that Senate delegation, Sen. Dan Coats (Ind.), said,] “I welcome Director Clapper’s recognition of that error, but I remain concerned about the administration’s priorities.” ...

Sen. Mark Kirk (R., Ill.), one of the leading critics of the administration’s diplomacy with Iran, said that U.S. concessions to Iran at the negotiating table would only embolden its rogue behavior. ...

**RELATED: “U.S. NO LONGER CONSIDERS IRAN AND HEZBOLLAH ‘GLOBAL TERRORISM’ THREATS”**

## EUROPE

**TrumpetDaily**  
RADIO SHOW

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## Pope Calls for New World Government

Richard Palmer | June 22

NEVER HAS A DECLARATION FROM THE POPE BEEN MORE HOTLY anticipated. The leaking of a draft of Pope Francis's latest encyclical—an official addition to Catholic doctrine—has led to quite the buildup of speculation in the media. The fact that it deals with global warming means that it has been discussed across many different types of media that rarely pay close attention to papal pronouncements. Britain's left-wing *Guardian* newspaper even published whole sections of it.

This suits the pope's purpose for the document perfectly. In his introduction he makes clear that, unlike his last encyclical, he's not just writing to members of the Catholic Church. Instead, "I would like to enter into dialogue with all people," he writes. The *Guardian* called it "the most astonishing and perhaps the most ambitious papal document of the past 100 years."

It's a bold aim for a bold document. Following on from the pope's early criticism of capitalism in his encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium* (*The Joy of the Gospel*) it is a subtle bid for much greater Catholic control over the global economy, global politics and even the whole globe in general.

This new encyclical, called *Laudato Si* (*Be Praised*), is the pope's plea to humanity on behalf of "our sister, Mother Earth." A good chunk of it does deal with global warming. But there's also much on the many other ways man is destroying his planet—through things like pollution, shortages of fresh water and the general "self-destructive" behavior of mankind—warnings that would not be out of place on our website.

This warning especially could almost have come from a *Trumpet* article:

"It is foreseeable that, once certain resources have been depleted, the scene will be set for new wars, albeit under the guise of noble claims. War always does grave harm to the environment and to the cultural riches of peoples, risks which are magnified when one considers nuclear arms and biological weapons."

The pope also warns that "people no longer seem to believe in a happy future; they no longer have blind trust in a better tomorrow based on the present state of the world and our technical abilities"—adding that it has become clear the science does not have all the answers. He addresses "the crisis of family and social ties"—calling family the "basic cell of society."

But it is when Francis gets to the solution of these problems that his letter is most dramatic. Once again, Francis places the blame for both the coming environmental crisis that he foresees, as well as world poverty, on the shoulders of "the current global system, where priority tends to be given to speculation and the pursuit of financial gain." There is some truth to this—man's current system is far from perfect—though it ignores the fact that communism has had more than its fair share of environmental disasters and does much less to help the poor.

And the solution? As soon as Francis starts addressing this subject in Chapter 5 of his letter, he calls for a radical new power to be given control in the world.

This is the heart, core and radical message of this document—not the global warming debate that has taken up so many

newspaper columns. Francis writes that we must think of "one world with a common plan."

Here he builds on the previous pope's, Benedict XVI's, radical call for a "world political authority" in one of his encyclicals. Benedict's statement is dramatic and worth quoting in full—as Francis does: "To manage the global economy; to revive economies hit by the crisis; to avoid any deterioration of the present crisis and the greater imbalances that would result; to bring about integral and timely disarmament, food security and peace; to guarantee the protection of the environment and to regulate migration: for all this, there is urgent need of a true world political authority, as my predecessor Blessed John XXIII indicated some years ago."

This is the genius of Francis. He has exactly the same message as Benedict, but takes it to a *much* larger audience. Benedict never had his encyclicals printed in the *Guardian* or endorsed by left-wing journalists.

But Francis's call goes beyond utopian dream. It's much more specific than some kind of airy-fairy new world order. He also uses language that is very practical. He says "enforceable international agreements are urgently needed" and talks about "global regulatory norms."

"The 21st century, while maintaining systems of governance inherited from the past, is witnessing a weakening of the power of nation states, chiefly because the economic and financial sectors, being transnational, tends to prevail over the political," he writes. "Given this situation, it is essential to devise stronger and more efficiently organized international institutions, with functionaries who are appointed fairly by agreement among national governments, and empowered to impose sanctions."

Last year Francis published what was referred to as his call for "the overhaul of the financial system"—condemning "unfettered capitalism" and saying that the world's economic system had failed the poor. At the time we wrote, "Pope Francis has yet to present a detailed, overt action plan for the global economy." *Laudato Si* is closer to being that action plan. Where do you start in overhauling the world's financial system? The pope's answer is to empower international institutions with teeth and new international regulation. Perhaps this gives us an idea of what the pope will speak about when he addresses the UN in September. During the same trip, he will also be the first pope to address a joint session of Congress.

The global economy has still not recovered from the economic crisis of 2008. The situation in Greece could plunge Europe into more than just a financial crisis at any moment. There are a whole number of problems that could push the world into the abyss. And at this crucial decision point, the pope is publishing his way forward.

Watch for the Catholic Church to push for a key role in establishing these international institutions. For more on the type of global system the Catholic Church endorses, read our 2014 article "[Much More Than an Economic Plan](#)."

 Follow [Richard Palmer](#)

## **German Tanks Roll Back Into Poland** **Bojan Pancevski, Sunday Times | June 14**

**T**HE TINY POLISH TOWN OF SWIETOSZOW DID NOT OFFICIALLY exist during the Cold War; as home to a massive, but secret Soviet tank force ready to strike at the West, it was removed from all public maps and records.

Last week NATO used the base for the first big deployment of a new special force to defend Eastern Europe from an increasingly expansionist Russia.

American Black Hawk helicopters thundered in the skies as German tanks rolled from across the nearby border, along with troops and hardware from seven other nations that make up NATO's Spearhead Force, which was set up last year in response to Russia's intervention in Ukraine ....

The Pentagon last night revealed it had recommended the dispatch of U.S. battle tanks, infantry fighting vehicles and other heavy weapons to eastern Europe and the Baltics to equip a brigade of 5,000 troops. Former Soviet states have sought the transfer of U.S. heavy weaponry to the region, but Washington has been reluctant to incur the Kremlin's wrath. Despite NATO denials, Moscow maintains that a 1997 agreement with the alliance prohibits a military buildup east of the Elbe River.

The developments look certain to anger Russia, which has been conducting large-scale snap maneuvers on its own borders...

When he joined the army, [said Lt.-Col. Paul Kolken of the 1st German-Netherlands Corps], 57, trained near the Iron Curtain under the threat of a nuclear war.

"Now, towards the end of my career, we have moved a full circle, only the boundary is further east," he said. ...

The plan is to create a 30,000-strong highly flexible joint force

that can be rapidly deployed in the Baltic states, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria. ...

Lithuania, once part of the Soviet Union, also hosts NATO drills. Its deep-rooted national fear of Russian aggression led it to reintroduce conscription earlier this year.

Swietoszow, part of Germany until the end of the Second World War, has been a military site since the 19th century, serving as a tank practice range for Erwin Rommel, one of the Third Reich's most prominent military strategists.

But locals—now Poles—were enthusiastic about the arrival of Berlin's soldiers for the first time since the war.

"I remember the Russians here, and not fondly. We are now part of the West, we are part of Europe," said a petrol-station manager who would only give his name as Marcin.

Last week's war games also exposed the shortcomings of the NATO alliance, which has struggled to define its role since the end of the Cold War.

It would take at least 30 days for NATO to deploy 30,000 troops, while Russia has been successfully conducting unannounced mass maneuvers along EU borders, sometimes moving between 80,000 and 100,000 soldiers and heavy equipment within 24 hours. ...

An ambassador from one key alliance country warned: "We are waking up late to this, after years of complacency."...

Although the Russian president was snubbed by the G-7 leaders' meeting in Bavaria last weekend, he received a warm welcome from Matteo Renzi, the Italian prime minister, and was received by the pope. ...

## **Napoleon's Shadow Still Falls on Europe** **Eric Maurice, EU Observer | June 18**

**H**IS NAME, TWO-HORNED HAT, AND TIRED SILHOUETTE WILL BE ON the minds of the thousands of people gathering on a small patch of Belgian countryside this week.

At the battle of Waterloo, exactly 200 years ago on June 18, 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte lost his army, his empire, and even his freedom when he was sent to the tiny South Atlantic island of Saint Helena.

Yet it is he, not Britain's Duke of Wellington and Prussia's Prince von Blücher, the winners of Waterloo, whose image will be everywhere when the battle is commemorated and reenacted.

Two centuries on, the French emperor remains a towering figure in Europe's history, and one of the most controversial.

Napoleon is still able to stir seemingly irrational reactions.

When Belgium minted a €2 coin in March to commemorate Waterloo, France filed an official complaint. Belgium retreated, temporarily. But then it produced a limited-edition €2.50 coin instead. ...

### **Dictator or Hero?**

Napoleon's last battle was followed by several decades of stability on the European continent, at least until the 1870 Franco-Prussian

war or even until World War I.

Yet, contrary to commemorations of World War I and World War II, in which defeated Germany and Italy now regularly take part in, Waterloo and the Napoleonic era are still divisive events. ...

"Whereas Germany, for instance, built its national storytelling on the idea that the German people was also liberated from Nazism in 1945, France's relationship with Napoleon is more ambiguous," said van Middelaar, who was also speechwriter for former EU Council President Herman van Rompuy.

As a consequence, "one cannot imagine Cameron and French President François Hollande holding hands on the Waterloo battlefield" like Germany's Helmut Kohl and France's François Mitterrand did in Verdun in 1984.

The historical jury on Napoleon himself is still out.

For some, his 16-year reign is "the birth of modern dictatorship," as Germany's *Der Spiegel* wrote in 2013.

For others, he is the "absolute hero," as France's *L'Express* put it last year.

### **Another Charlemagne**

One thing is sure: He is part of many countries' history.

“Napoleon has become the property of all Europeans. He concerns all of them for better and for worse,” French historian Thierry Lentz told this website.

“In 200 years from now, he will be like Charlemagne. We will not know anymore if he was only French or the sovereign of the European empire he ruled,” said Lentz, who is director of the Paris-based Fondation Napoleon.

In this case, history would come full circle, because, as van Middelbaar noted, Napoleon considered himself as a successor of Charlemagne and not of Louis XIV, the French sun king.

Napoleon appears to be the historical product of Europe’s dramatic history, with both its dark and bright strands alongside one another.

His imperial designs brought war from Portugal to Russia, but also political and administrative progress which laid the foundations for modern Europe.

“Napoleon is not a model, of course. But he arrives at a time

when Europe is made through war,” said Lentz.

In the conquered lands, the emperor imposed the rule of law instead of feudal rules and exported French concepts of equality and social rights, as well as a pyramidal organization of power, said the French historian.

“The administrative organization of European centralized states seems natural today, but it is because everybody copied the Napoleonic model.” ...

**“After centuries of German and Austrian dominance, the Holy Roman Empire revived again for a brief interval of French dominance. It was the Roman Empire in disguise. Napoleon set out to carry on the ideals of Charlemagne, only in a more modern world. Like the German emperors before him, Napoleon envisioned himself ruling the world—and once again through the Vatican.”**

*Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*

## TW IN BRIEF

**E U migrant dispute:** Migrants from Africa are fast overwhelming Italy. On Sunday, Prime Minister Matteo Renzi appealed for more help from Europe as a consequence of this crisis. If Europe refuses to help, Renzi said that the migrant crisis “would first and foremost hurt Europe.” Italian Interior Minister Angelino Alfano also warned that “if Europe is not supportive, it will find itself dealing with a different Italy.” Alfano said that he would use an EU meeting on Tuesday to ask European leaders to set up refugee camps in Libya and help distribute migrants

across the Continent. If Europe refuses, Italian leaders will resort to a secret “Plan B.” The French have tightened their border with Italy to prevent migrants crossing over into their country. This provoked a standoff at one of the border crossings, with some migrants blocking traffic and others holding a hunger strike after being refused entry into France. To understand how Europe is prophesied to “help” with Italy’s migrant crisis, read [“EU to Crack Down on Illegal Immigration”](#) and [“Europe Moves to Stem Illegal Workers.”](#)

## ASIA

### **T** **Has the U.S. Just Suffered a ‘Cyber Pearl Harbor’ at China’s Hands?** Jeremiah Jacques | June 19



**WE TALKED ABOUT THIS**

**H**ACKERS STOLE THE PERSONAL DATA OF ABOUT 14 MILLION CURRENT and former United States government employees in a cyberattack believed to have launched from China, NPR said on June 15.

“This is the most significant breach of federal networks in U.S. history,” House Homeland Security Chairman Mike McCaul said on June 7. China denies any involvement in the attack.

“In my judgment, this was an attack by China against the United States government,” McCaul said. “It quantifies to espionage. And that raises all sorts of issues that we need to deal with.” McCaul added that the “threat indicators” suggest that it was China, “and perhaps nation-state sponsored.”

Experts are calling this security breach “potentially devastating,” with one even asking, “What if Pearl Harbor happened and nobody noticed?” The information stolen in the federal personnel records give hackers a wide avenue to intimidation, blackmail and identity theft. But that’s not the worst part of it. The specific

data stolen also include information about drug and alcohol problems, arrests, bankruptcies, Social Security numbers, and sensitive information regarding spouses, relatives and friends. Possessing this kind of data gives hackers great power over 14 million government workers, past and present.

Glenn Harlan Reynolds, a University of Tennessee law professor said, “With this sort of information, China will find it much easier to recruit agents, blackmail decision-makers and—in the event of a straight-up conflict—strike directly at Americans in the government, all without launching a single missile.”

The obvious vulnerabilities of America’s computer systems also raise the prospect of electrical grids or other computer-dependent systems being compromised.

Since the 1990s, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has warned that reliance on computer technology would become America’s “Achilles’ heel.” In May 2005, he wrote: “I believe one key end-time Bible prophecy could well be fulfilled through ...

cyberterrorism: ... 'they have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; but none goeth to the battle: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof' (Ezekiel 7:14). The trumpet of war is to be blown in Israel—mainly America and Britain. It seems everybody is expecting our people to go into battle, but the greatest tragedy imaginable occurs! Nobody goes to battle—even though the trumpet is blown! Will it be because of computer terrorism?"

The Chinese government's relentless cyberassaults against the U.S. are now public knowledge. The whole world can hear the shrill blasts of the trumpet of war. By refusing to take action to stop the attacks, America is showing the world that its will to use its power is broken. To understand more, read "[U.S. Vulnerable to Cyber Pearl Harbor](#)."

 Follow [Jeremiah Jacques](#)

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## ICE Announces China a Direct Participant in Gold Auction

**Business Wire | June 16**

**I**NTERCONTINENTAL EXCHANGE, THE LEADING GLOBAL NETWORK of exchanges and clearing houses, today announced that Bank of China has been approved by ICE Benchmark Administration (IBA) to participate in the gold auction, which is used to determine the LBMA Gold Price.

In March, IBA successfully transitioned the LBMA Gold Price to an independently administered, transparent and electronic auction process, replacing the former London Gold Fix which was established in 1919. Since assuming administration of the gold auction, IBA has grown the number of direct participants and significantly increased auction volumes. ...

"We are proud to become the first Chinese and Asian bank to

participate in the gold auction," said Yu Sun, general manager [for] Bank of China London Branch and CEO [for] Bank of China (UK) Limited. "Bank of China joined LBMA as an initial member in 1987, and has been actively participating in the gold trading business in London for over 40 years. Although being the world's largest gold producer and consumer, China has never played a major role in the global gold fixing. Bank of China's direct participation in the IBA gold auction will reinforce the connection between the Chinese domestic market and overseas markets, make the international gold price better reflect the supply and demand in China, and help to promote the internationalization of the Chinese gold market."

## First Enlargement of Shanghai Cooperation Organization

**CNTV | June 17**

**F**OURTEEN YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE Shanghai Cooperation Organization on June 15, 2001. The member states including China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have remained unchanged throughout that time, a rare thing in international organizations.

By contrast after the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, NATO ... was not just preserved but actually expanded from 16 member states at the end of the Cold War to 28 today. ...

At this year's summit in Ufa, Russia, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) will finally open its doors to expansion. At the summit for heads of state in July, the SCO will officially receive India and Pakistan as new members. All member states have basically reached a consensus that India and Pakistan will be the first. ...

Firstly we need to understand that the addition of India and

Pakistan is achieved in the context of continuously improving China-India and China-Pakistan relations. ...

It will be conducive to implementation of the Belt and Road initiative. India and Pakistan are important participants in both the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-century Maritime Silk Road. Two economic corridors—China-Pakistan and Bangladesh-China-India-Burma—are closely associated with promotion of the Belt and Road construction, which needs further cooperation to achieve greater progress. As member states, India and Pakistan have embarked on deepening pragmatic cooperation in politics, economics, trade, science and technology, culture, education, energy, transportation and environmental protection. This will boost Belt and Road construction. ...

It [also] helps resolve border disputes. ... Growing influence means further SCO expansion is only a matter of time. ...

## Gazprom Signs Preliminary Deal to Expand Gas Pipeline to Germany

**Wall Street Journal | June 19**

**R**USSIA'S STATE GAS FIRM OAO GAZPROM SIGNED A PRELIMINARY deal with three European companies to expand a pipeline to Germany, aiming to cement the company as the European Union's main gas supplier even as it faces antimonopoly charges there.

The tentative agreement was the flagship deal signed Thursday at the annual St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, where Russian officials touted participation by foreign executives

as a sign the country hadn't been isolated by Western sanctions.

Gazprom said the planned project with Royal Dutch Shell PLC, Germany's E.ON and Austria's OMV AG would double the capacity of the Nord Stream pipeline that runs from Russia to Germany via the Baltic Sea and was opened in 2011. The companies gave no time frame for the expansion, but Gazprom said they would form a consortium, with the Russian company holding 51 percent.



**WE TALKED ABOUT THIS**



The proposed expansion is Gazprom's latest attempt to reduce its reliance on Ukraine for transiting gas to Europe, its most lucrative market. Disputes between Ukraine and Russia have caused cuts in gas deliveries to Europe twice in recent years.

Gazprom chief executive Alexei Miller said the proposed expansion would make deliveries to Europe, which receives one third of its gas imports from Russia, more secure and reliable. ...

## Japan Pursues Rearmament, Despite Opposition

Defense News | June 14

EFFORTS BY PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE TO NORMALIZE JAPAN'S security posture and bolster its U.S. alliance against China hit an obstacle when the Lower House Commission on the Constitution declared Abe's moves unconstitutional. Still, Japan is expected to pass legislation around August to expand the nation's ability to better support the U.S. in the defense of Japan.

Gazprom is also aiming to build another pipeline, called Turkish Stream, to southeastern Europe under the Black Sea, then via Turkey. ...

Gazprom spokesman Mr. Kupriyanov said expansion of Nord Stream would double its capacity to 110 billion cubic meters (BCM) of gas a year. Along with Turkish Stream, that would allow Russia to stop sending gas via Ukraine, he said. Gazprom delivered 146.6 BCM of gas to Europe last year.

**"In light of Japan's wartime history, all of these steps toward nationalism and militarism are worthy of attention and concern. ... Adding to the concern is the fact that Japan is notorious for failing to express much remorse for its wartime savagery. Japan has also revised history in many cases to downplay its crimes."** [theTrumpet.com](http://theTrumpet.com), April 22

## ANGLO-AMERICA



### Why Most People Don't Understand Bible Prophecy

Gerald Flurry,

The Key of David | June 19

Even if you read the Bible, you cannot understand biblical prophecy without the key that unlocks those prophecies. Do you have that all-important key?



## Charleston Church Shooting: Suspect Confesses, Says He Sought Race War

CNN | June 19

DYLANN ROOF ADMITS HE DID IT, TWO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS said—shooting and killing nine people he'd sat with for Bible study at a historically black church in Charleston, South Carolina.

But why? To start a race war.

That's what Roof told investigators, according to one of the officials.

CNN's Evan Perez and Wesley Bruer were the first to report Roof's confession. Others earlier gave a glimpse into his twisted motivation .... [A] survivor told Sylvia Johnson that Roof answered one man's pleas to stop by saying, "No, you've raped our women, and you are taking over the country ... I have to do what I have to do."

A friend recalled a drunken Roof ranting one night about his unspecified six-month plan "to do something crazy" in order "to start a race war." And the Berkeley County, South Carolina, government tweeted a picture of him in a jacket with flags from

apartheid-era South Africa and nearby Rhodesia, a former British colony that was ruled by a white minority until it became independent in 1980.

By telling authorities his aim, Roof admitted he attacked unarmed civilians for political purposes in an act of terror.

What led the 21-year-old South Carolinian to adopt this sick reasoning and take such actions Wednesday night? Did anyone else help him or even know about his plans? And what is his general mental state? All are major, looming questions. Another is what American society should or will do now, if anything, to prevent similar tragedies.

In the meantime, nine families are left to mourn and a community is left to come together, ideally, to heal. ...

How did Dylann Roof get to the point of being accused of one of the most hateful, violent race-related crimes in recent memory?

His uncle, Carson Cowles, told the *Washington Post* that Roof's



mother “never raised him to be like this.” Those who knew him, though, paint a picture of someone who has long voiced racist sentiments, even if they never anticipated he’d act on them like this. ...

John Mullins recalls “racist slurs in a sense” that Roof made while the two attended White Knoll High School in Lexington, South Carolina, though he also remembers him having black friends.

“He would say it just as a joke,” Mullins told CNN. “I never took it seriously. But ... maybe [I] should have.” ...

**“Racism is an issue Americans fear to face. But racism is about to violently explode. The good news is that it will lead directly to the end of racism forever.”**

Gerald Flurry, *Trumpet*, March 2012

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## **British Spies Betrayed to Russians and Chinese** **Sunday Times | June 14**

**R**USSIA AND CHINA HAVE CRACKED THE TOP-SECRET CACHE OF files stolen by the fugitive U.S. whistleblower Edward Snowden, forcing MI6 to pull agents out of live operations in hostile countries, according to senior officials in Downing Street, the Home Office and the security services.

Western intelligence agencies say they have been forced into the rescue operations after Moscow gained access to more than 1 million classified files held by the former American security contractor, who fled to seek protection from Vladimir Putin, the Russian president, after mounting one of the largest leaks in U.S. history.

Senior government sources confirmed that China had also cracked the encrypted documents, which contain details of secret intelligence techniques and information that could allow British and American spies to be identified.

One senior Home Office official accused Snowden of having “blood on his hands,” although Downing Street said there was “no evidence of anyone being harmed.”

Sir David Omand, the former director of GCHQ, said the news that Russia and China had access to Snowden’s material was a “huge strategic setback” that was “harming” to Britain, America and their NATO allies.

Snowden, a former contractor at the CIA and National Security Agency (NSA), downloaded 1.7 million secret documents from Western intelligence agencies in 2013 and released details of sensitive surveillance programs to the media. ...

Two weeks after his initial leak in June 2013, Snowden fled Hong Kong for Moscow where he claimed political asylum. He

has remained under the protection of Putin’s regime since. ...

And last night David Cameron’s aides confirmed the material was now in the hands of spy chiefs in Moscow and Beijing.

A senior Downing Street source said: “It is the case that Russians and Chinese have information. It has meant agents have had to be moved and that knowledge of how we operate has stopped us getting vital information. ...”

The confirmation is the first evidence that Snowden’s disclosures have exacted a human toll. “Why do you think Snowden ended up in Russia?” said a senior Home Office source. “Putin didn’t give him asylum for nothing. His documents were encrypted but they weren’t completely secure and we have now seen our agents and assets being targeted.”

A British intelligence source said: “We know Russia and China have access to Snowden’s material and will be going through it for years to come, searching for clues to identify potential targets.

“Snowden has done incalculable damage. In some cases the agencies have been forced to intervene and lift their agents from operations to prevent them from being identified and killed.”

Omand said the leaked information would enable China and Russia to plug any of their intelligence capability gaps and warned that could spark “a global intelligence arms race.” ...

A U.S. intelligence source said the damage done by Snowden was “far greater than what has been admitted.”

It is not clear whether Russia and China stole Snowden’s data, or whether he voluntarily handed over his secret documents in order to remain at liberty in Hong Kong and Moscow.

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## **Katie Pavlich: Obama’s Anti-Police Ideology** **The Hill | June 15**

**A**S PRESIDENT OBAMA STARTS TO WIND DOWN HIS TENURE IN THE White House, with just a year and a half to go, he’s focusing on federalization of local police forces in the name of “justice.” Attorney General Loretta Lynch will be his go-to on this project, just as Eric Holder was before her.

The goal, according to the White House and Department of Justice, is to take a close look at police practices across the country to ensure minorities, in particular African-Americans, aren’t

unfairly singled out for police scrutiny.

But Obama’s long record shows he isn’t necessarily interested in police brutality; instead, he holds an anti-police ideology.

It all started way back in 2009 when Obama, before he knew all of the facts, accused the police of “acting stupidly” after his friend, Harvard Prof. Henry Gates, was briefly arrested for breaking into his home. ...

This was a look at Obama’s perspective on the police—take a



**WE TALKED ABOUT THIS**

glance at the White House visitor log, the president's consultants and the people he nominates, and you'll get a clear picture of how anti-police he really is.

So-called civil rights activist and race baiter the Rev. Al Sharpton has been to the White House nearly 100 times since 2009, and regularly provides consultation on race issues to the president. Obama and Holder went out of their way to participate in events for Sharpton's National Action Network and proudly displayed his logo behind them during speeches.

"You know, actions speak louder than words. You put Al Sharpton next to you, you just told everyone, 'I'm against the police,'" former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani said recently. He's right.

The president's stoking of racial flames in Ferguson, Missouri, and Baltimore, actions also taken by Sharpton, further proves this point. ...

But the most prominent example of Obama's anti-police ideology came last year when he nominated Debo Adebile to head the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

Adebile voluntarily took on the case and cause of America's most notorious cop-killer, Mumia Abu-Jamal, 30 years after he was convicted of murdering Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner. Abu-Jamal shot Faulkner, who was just 26 years old, multiple times, including in the face. Keep in mind that it's the DOJ Civil Rights Division that investigates and brings lawsuits against police departments and officers around the country.

In February 2014, six major law enforcement organizations representing more than 1 million law enforcement officers across the country, including the Fraternal Order of Police, sent scathing letters to senators and Obama opposing Adebile's nomination. Adding insult to injury, it was later revealed these organizations weren't consulted before Obama put Adebile up for the position. ...

Adebile's nomination was such an affront to justice, the rule of law and the law enforcement community he was voted down by the Democrat-controlled Senate, 52-47. Regardless, the White House called his failed confirmation a "travesty." ...

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## **Toxic Algae Bloom Off West Coast Largest Ever**

**Reuters | June 17**

**A** TOXIC ALGAE BLOOM IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN STRETCHING FROM California north to Washington State might be the largest ever detected off the U.S. West Coast, scientists said on Tuesday.

The bloom, which first appeared in May, involves microscopic algae that produce a neurotoxin potentially fatal to humans called domoic acid, according to researchers at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Levels of domoic acid in California's Monterey Bay are some of the highest scientists have ever observed, Raphael Kudela, professor of ocean sciences at the Santa Cruz campus, said in a statement.

"The domoic acid levels are extremely high right now in Monterey Bay, and the event is occurring as far north as Washington State," he said. "It appears this will be one of the most toxic and spatially largest events we've had in at least a decade."

Researchers are concerned that shellfish and other marine life, including razor clams, crabs, hake and West Coast sardines, could have elevated levels of domoic acid.

The acid has been responsible for several deaths and has sickened more than 100 people, according to the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. ...

## **Everyday Plastics Plunge Men Into Fertility Crisis**

**Sunday Times | June 18**

**P**LASTICS HAVE CAUSED A SHARP DECLINE IN FERTILITY AMONG men, leaving only one in four with "good" sperm, scientists say.

Chemicals called phthalates—found in plastics and products such as shower curtains, car dashboards and cleaning materials—can be breathed in, consumed or absorbed through the skin of pregnant women, inhibiting testosterone production in male fetuses, leading to sons with low sperm counts.

Other chemicals, known as PFCS and found in raincoats and non-stick pans, were also linked to poor-quality sperm. Niels Jørgensen, associate professor at Rigshospital, Copenhagen, told the European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology's conference in Lisbon that society should be "very worried" by studies showing falling sperm quality in men across Europe.

Men are taking longer to father a child, often with older women, and they increasingly need fertility treatment, he said. Researchers believe that at least some of the decline in birth rates in the Western world may be attributable to lower sperm quality.

Professor Jørgensen advised that women should try to avoid

cosmetics, and even warned of the risks of sunscreen, "because what you put on your skin, you absorb." He added: "Many of these chemicals may not do much harm individually ... but we are exposed to thousands of chemicals. If you want to apply some kind of precautionary principle I think we should try to reduce what we are exposed to."

Laboratory tests on sunscreen had shown an effect on semen quality, he added, saying: "With the knowledge we have—we have limited knowledge—if I was to advise my own family I would say, 'Don't use it.'" ...

Studies in Denmark have suggested that sperm counts today are 25 percent less than in the 1940s, and a study published in 1992 showed a 50 percent decline in sperm quality worldwide in the past 50 years.

Chris Flower, of the Cosmetic, Toiletry and Perfumery Association, said: "... Not to wear sunscreen is an outrageous piece of advice because we know the risks of sun damage, and to suggest that not using sun protection products is a good idea is a terrible thing to do." ...

## **Americans Have Lost Confidence ... in Everything** **U.S. News and World Report | June 17**

**A**MERICANS HAVE LITTLE CONFIDENCE IN MOST OF THEIR MAJOR institutions including Congress, the presidency, the Supreme Court, banks and organized religion, according to the latest Gallup poll.

"Americans' confidence in most major U.S. institutions remains below the historical average for each one," a Gallup spokesman said in a news release. Only the military, in which 72 percent of Americans express confidence, up from a historical average of 68 percent, and small business, with 67 percent confidence, up from 63, are currently rated higher than their historical norms. ...

Only 8 percent have confidence in Congress, down by 16 points from a long-term average of 24 percent—the lowest of all institutions rated. The rating is about the same as last year's 7 percent, the lowest Gallup has ever measured for any institution.

Thirty-three percent have confidence in the presidency, a drop from a historical average of 43 percent.

Thirty-two percent have confidence in the Supreme Court, down from 44.

All in all, it's a picture of a nation discouraged about its present and worried about its future, and highly doubtful that its

institutions can pull America out of its trough. ...

"Americans' confidence in most major institutions has been down for many years as the nation has dealt with prolonged wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, a major recession and sluggish economic improvement, and partisan gridlock in Washington," the Gallup spokesman said. "In fact, 2004 was the last year most institutions were at or above their historical average levels of confidence. Perhaps not coincidentally, 2004 was also the last year Americans' satisfaction with the way things are going in the United States averaged better than 40 percent. Currently, 28 percent of Americans are satisfied with the state of the nation."

The Gallup spokesman added: "From a broad perspective, Americans' confidence in all institutions over the last two years has been the lowest since Gallup began systematic updates of a larger set of institutions in 1993." ...

The police also have experienced a drop in public esteem, with 52 percent of Americans saying they are confident in the police compared with 57 percent who have been confident in the police historically. ...

Forty-two percent express confidence in organized religion, down from 55. ...

## **Adultery Websites Should Be as Unacceptable as Race-Hate Websites** **Theo Hobson, Spectator | June 13**

**T**HE WEBSITE ILLICITENCOUNTERS.COM CONNECTS MARRIED PEOPLE who are interested in straying, in cheating on their spouses. Or, as the website puts it, people who are "looking for a little romance outside their current relationship." The site now has a million British users.

If you are old-fashioned and simplistic enough to disapprove of this, as undermining of marriage, then one of the company's recent press releases can help you towards a more sophisticated view. Having polled 200 of its stalwart adulterers, who have been using the site for 11 years, it found that two thirds said that their extramarital adventures had strengthened their marriages. The website also claims that by helping people to stray "discreetly," it makes an affair less likely to be rumbled. In other words, it saves you from seeking risky thrills with the leaky-mouthed village tart, leading to the collapse of your marriage, if it can be called a marriage. One user says: "I need to get my kicks from somewhere, having a secret affair is what exhilarates me the most—it's a high you can't experience anywhere else in life."

Illicitencounters.com portrays adultery as sexy and natural—and it's not alone in this. Suddenly there's a swarm of sites advertising "married dating" services: affairsclub.com, nostring-sattached.com, victoriamilan.com, ashleymaddison.com (slogan: "Life is short. Have an affair."). There's even a married dating watchdog, which adopts a very lofty tone of voice and claims to sort the "decent" adultery sites from the rip-offs. There are films about adultery, a hit TV series (*The Affair*) and endless magazine features all toying with the idea that married couples can have their wedding cake and eat it.

And can they? Is this all just harmless hanky-panky, another step towards liberation? I don't think so. I think we should

consider that all these websites are seriously morally wrong, just as wrong as an organization that promoted racism.

That might sound excessive. But is it really? If we think that marriage is a morally good thing, then why shouldn't we defend it as strongly as we defend the principle of equality? ...

On sexual morality, we seem to have two principles. One: Any sort of sex between consenting adults is fine, it is one's right, for sex is the purest realm of individual self-expression. Two: Marriage is good. Its stability enables people to flourish, and is probably the best structure within which to raise children. It is an immense contributor to "the common good." ...

In practice, this tradition gets subtly sidelined by the easier appeals to individual rights. ... So the problem is not that we have stopped believing in the moral good of marriage. The problem is that we are losing the habit of expressing this belief. That's a dangerous loss. Our inarticulacy will allow the belief to weaken, to fall into disrepair. This is already happening. Today's liberal-lefties marry apologetically, as if they are slightly letting the side down. They are embarrassed to be opting in to a tradition that Tories see as morally important. ...

But you can't remove morality from marriage, or make it a merely personal matter. ... And marriage's power to spread social virtue is rooted in the trust that is established between a sexually faithful couple. To say that an affair can strengthen a marriage is like saying that a pacifist movement can be strengthened by some bombing. ...

Affirming the morality of marriage is awkward. Square though it sounds, it means questioning whether we should be so tolerant of the entertainment industry's hedonistic view of sex. It's easy enough to criticize crass reality shows and porn; it's trickier to

admit that quality dramas such as *Mad Men* are part of the problem (as indeed are most novels about adultery, however highly esteemed as art). But if there is serious moral worth in marriage, then there is serious moral worth in fidelity, and we must say so, however uncool we sound. We must challenge the narrative of sex as pure self-expression, and affirm the narrative of sex as something whose ordering, in marriage, brings order.

### **U.S. Financial Outlook Has 'Worsened Dramatically'**

**Bob Adelman, *The New American* | June 17**

**I**N ITS JUST-RELEASED REPORT "THE 2015 LONG-TERM BUDGET Outlook," the Congressional Budget Office stated bluntly: "The long-term outlook for the federal budget has worsened dramatically over the past several years, in the wake of the 2007-2009 recession and slow recovery .... If current law remained generally unchanged in the future ... growing budget deficits ... would push [the national] debt above its current high level."

It's all about government spending that's baked into the cake: The Baby Boomers retiring and asking the government to make good on its Social Security and Medicare promises and the rising costs of healthcare along with "an increasing number of recipients of exchange subsidies and Medicaid benefits attributable to the Affordable Care Act [which will] push up spending ... if current laws ... remain unchanged," said the report.

The CBO created two avenues for politicians concerned about the matter to pursue: one, to keep the deficits from going any higher, and the other to bring them back down to historic levels. For the first, taxes would have to increase by \$1,450 per person per year, starting immediately, or Social Security benefits would have to be cut by \$2,400 per person per year, starting immediately.

The second scenario is even worse.

**"Since it is a basic truism that a solid family structure is the foundational bulwark of any stable and permanent society, this fact means only one thing—civilization as we know it is on the way down—and out—unless that great 'unseen strong hand from someplace' soon intervenes and saves today's sick society."**

Herbert W. Armstrong, *The Missing Dimension in Sex*

The report considers the consequences of doing nothing: At some point investors in government bonds would become concerned about getting their money back and would demand higher interest rates to compensate for that risk. This would accelerate the deficits to new levels. As the report noted, "The larger the government's debt, the greater the risk of a fiscal crisis."

The need to fund those promises would drain capital that would otherwise be invested in business opportunities in the hopes of generating wealth, further slowing the economy. ...

Using the CBO's numbers and applying them to a lower middle class family illustrates the point. A family making, say, \$40,000 a year, with debts of \$180,000 (home mortgage, car payments, credit cards, etc.) is going to have difficulty making minimum payments, to say nothing of paying down those debts. But if the real debts are \$2 million, there's no way. That's the real conversation that the CBO is avoiding with its long-winded but largely irrelevant discussions of various scenarios to bring down the national debt.

In his 1926 novel, *The Sun Also Rises*, Ernest Hemingway had two of his principal characters, Bill and Mike, engage in the following conversation:

Bill: How did you go bankrupt?

Mike: Two ways: gradually, and then suddenly.

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# Trumpet Hour

[World Falls Apart and America Focuses on Bruce Jenner | June 17](#)

[U.S. Backtracking on Iranian Nuclear Inspections, and more | June 15](#)

[Greece's Economy in Financial Crisis and Why Pope Francis Can't save the World | June 19](#)

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## TW IN BRIEF

**E**arth's aquifers depleting rapidly: Human activity is leading to the rapid draining of important underground water reserves. The findings released in the *Water Resources Research* journal on Tuesday looked at 37 of the Earth's biggest aquifers between 2003 and 2013. Eight of these were classified as "overstressed," meaning they were being sucked dry with almost no natural replenishment to offset the usage. Five other aquifers were determined to

be "extremely or highly stressed." The world's most overstressed source is the Arabian Aquifer System, which provides water for 60 million people in the Middle East. In drought-stricken California, the Central Valley aquifer was labeled as "highly stressed." However, the study also concluded that detection methods must advance before rates of groundwater depletion can be fully known.