

# Trumpet Weekly

JULY 3, 2015

Jennifer Pinckney (2nd left), the wife of South Carolina State Sen. Clementa Pickney, arrives for his funeral on June 26, in Charleston, South Carolina.



## Heartrending Response of Charleston Church Victims Shows How to Save Race Relations



WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



GERALD FLURRY

RACE RELATIONS IN AMERICA ARE IN crisis and the Charleston church shooting didn't help. It is quite a dangerous, destructive problem.

What is the solution? How do we solve race relations in the United States?

We were shown how in Charleston, South Carolina. There a white racist psychopath, Dylann Roof, killed nine black people—and in terms of race relations, THE RESPONSE OF THE VICTIMS TO THE CHURCH SHOOTING IS ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING STORIES IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

The members of the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston and the relatives of the victims of that church shooting showed the whole world the solution to our race-relations crisis—if only people would pay attention.

### A Christian Example

Mark Berman wrote this in his June 19 *Washington Post* article “‘I Forgive You.’ Relatives of Charleston church shooting victims address Dylann Roof”:

“The relatives of people slain inside the historic African American church in Charleston, S.C., earlier this week were able to speak directly to the accused gunman Friday at his first court



appearance.

“One by one, those who chose to speak at a bond hearing did not turn to anger. Instead, while he remained impassive, they offered him forgiveness and said they were praying for his soul, even as they described the pain of their losses.”

These people offered this murderer *forgiveness*. That is amazing. Why don’t more people do that? We should, IF we are Christians, because that is what Christ did.

When Jesus Christ was crucified, as people were putting Him to death—killing Him for *our* sins—He said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34).

That is really the same spirit that the friends and families of those who were murdered in Charleston had!

“I forgive you,” Nadine Collier, the daughter of 70-year-old Ethel Lance, said at the hearing, her voice breaking with emotion. “You took something very precious from me. I will never talk to her again. I will never, ever hold her again. But I forgive you. And have mercy on your soul.”

You can listen to her in this video:



That is impressive! How many attitudes do you see like that? These people’s words came right out of the Bible, from the very words of Christ.

“Felicia Sanders spoke about her son, Tywanza Sanders, who was killed.

“We welcomed you Wednesday night in our Bible study with welcome arms,” said Felicia Sanders, her voice trembling. “Tywanza Sanders was my son. But Tywanza Sanders was my hero. Tywanza was my hero. ... May God have mercy on you.” ...

“Others, like a relative of Myra Thompson, echoed the forgiving sentiment, calling on Roof to repent.

“I acknowledge that I am very angry,” said the sister of DePayne Middleton-Doctor. “But one thing that DePayne always enjoined

in our family ... is she taught me that we are the family that love built. WE HAVE NO ROOM FOR HATING, SO WE HAVE TO FORGIVE. I pray God on your soul” (emphasis mine).

That is a *striking example* of biblical conduct. There is no room for hate—because the Bible says hate is *murder*! (e.g. 1 John 3:15; Leviticus 19:17-18; Matthew 5:21-22). How many Christians really believe that?

This example should have been held up for the whole nation to follow. It should have *filled the airwaves* after that terrible event. This is a lesson and an example for all of us in a *way of life* that can really solve our problems!

Do we *want* to solve our problems? We ought to think about this example and keep it on center stage for a *long, long time*—IF we really want good race relations, and we want PEACE between the races.

Sadly, just the reverse happened. Instead, the media and national leaders immediately put the focus on the Confederate flag. *That* became the main media story, and the REALLY IMPORTANT story of what happened and how those victims responded simply slipped into obscurity. Apparently we have just about moved on now.

If we don’t learn from this lesson, we are all going to suffer in a way that people can’t even imagine.

But if we want racial peace in this nation, it is critical that we understand why Charleston did not become a Ferguson or a Baltimore. We need to know why the riots and looting and destruction didn’t happen there like in those other cities.

*There is A WAY that leads to peace.* Whether we realize it or not, this is the ONLY SPIRIT that will *ever* solve our race relations. It is what true Christians are COMMANDED to do, by Christ Himself!

### Blessed Are the Peacemakers

“Lots of folks expected us to do something strange and break out in a riot. Well, THEY JUST DON’T KNOW US.” That is what the minister, Norvel Goff, told the “packed, multiracial congregation” of this church at its first service after that grisly attack, according to journalist Jonah Goldberg.

People EXPECTED to see what they saw in Ferguson and Baltimore—but *these* people responded in spirit the way Christ did! They followed His example, and *they brought PEACE to Charleston!*

Here is one of the major doctrines of this church, the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME): “The AME Church has never strayed from the course charted by Richard Allen. The church is wedded to the spiritual doctrine of ‘God our Father, Christ our Redeemer, Man our Brother.’”

That is the truth of the Bible! We *all* came from Adam and Eve—we are all brothers. But a lot of people don’t like that doctrine because they don’t like what Jesus Christ taught! And that is why He was killed! People want to hate other people, and kill other people. They killed the Son of God—and He forgave them. Without forgiveness, not one of us would have an opportunity to receive eternal life.

The motto of this church is, “God our Father, Christ our Redeemer, the Holy Spirit our Comforter, humankind our family.” Humankind really is ALL ONE FAMILY. Yet so many people do not recognize that truth.

In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus Christ said, “Blessed are the PEACEMAKERS: for they shall be called the children of God”

(Matthew 5:9). This is part of the Beatitudes—the BEAUTIFUL ATTITUDES that Christ gave, which are at the very HEART of Christianity. He said *blessed* are the people who make PEACE! *They* shall be called the children of God. If you are *not* a peacemaker—if you make war instead—then you are NOT called children of God by Jesus Christ.

*Making peace* is a beautiful attitude. Doing everything you can to make peace—not war, not riots, but PEACE!

This is why what the AME Church did is so critical in American history. How many times have you seen such an attitude that really shows *how to have peace*? And how important is peace in our nation!

### Racial Harmony

In its first service after the massacre, the AME Church's minister said, "Some wanted to divide the race—black and white and brown—but no weapon formed against us shall prosper." How different that is from the approach we often see! And look how it works! This approach works, and the other doesn't.

Then this congregation sang these words about God: "You are the source of my strength, you are the strength of my life." Not other people, not the mob or anything else—GOD is the source of their strength, the strength of their lives. That is biblical! God will give you strength and power and might if you trust Him.

"The congregation gave the loudest standing ovation of the morning after Mr. Goff thanked law enforcement, particularly poignant at a time when the relationship between blacks and the police remains strained nationwide," the *New York Times* reported. This minister THANKED THE POLICE. How does THAT compare with what we usually see?

Jonah Goldberg also wrote, "Less shocking, but almost as uplifting, was the conduct of the broader Charleston community, which has been unified and dignified, despite the expectations of some in the media—and the accused gunman, who'd *singled out Charleston because of its success at racial integration*."

Goldberg reported of "tens of thousands of South Carolinians, white and black, marching in unity across the Ravenel Bridge on Sunday night." They were all walking together, in harmony, in spite of this terrible violence. The whole nation should follow their example.

YOU CAN SEE WHY CHARLESTON HAS SUCH GOOD RACE RELATIONS.

Because the people think like the people in this church!

### A House Divided

Dylann Roof singled out this community because of its good race relations. His murderous rampage shows that there are evil forces in this world—forces that don't want peace in America or anywhere else.

Do you really recognize what is behind that? 2 Corinthians 4:4 reveals that the god of this world is *Satan the devil*. Though he is invisible, he is worshiped in this world. *That* is why we can't have peace! The devil *hates* peace! He and his demons have been cast to this Earth and are now confined here and using violence, hate and murder to destroy America (Revelation 12:9-12).

Christ made this amazing prophecy: "EVERY KINGDOM DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF IS BROUGHT TO DESOLATION; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand" (Matthew 12:25). This is America's future if it remains divided: It will come to desolation!

This world is full of nations waiting to pounce on the United States and destroy it. Russia and China and radical Islamists are gobbling up neighboring territory right now. They are *eager* to see America fall. And when they look here and see race problems, riots, chaos and anarchy, they see a very vulnerable nation! Do you think they wouldn't attack America if it is divided, full of people hating each other and tearing each other apart? History cries aloud that they absolutely *will*! There are many nations that would *love* to see America's demise!

If America continues down the course it is taking, it is inviting its own downfall. If we keep stirring up hatred, it will consume us.

Jesus Christ said, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Matthew 5:44). Again, that sounds like the people in Charleston.

The way these people responded would bring PEACE to America! The other way—the way we have been seeing so much—brings riots and race wars. How else can it end?

Like it or not, there is only one solution to America's race crisis, and we must go to the Bible to find it. In Charleston we were given an example that shows that it WORKS! What a monumental lesson. It is a lesson that America needs to learn—and quickly.

## MIDDLE EAST



### Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Iran and the Self-Fulfilling Prophecy

Callum Wood | July 2



WE TALKED ABOUT THIS

FROM THE MOMENT HOUTHI REBELS SWARMED THROUGH THE Yemeni capital of Sanaa, the neighboring nation of Saudi Arabia called the coup an Iranian power grab.

But the moment the Saudis announced they were to intercede with airstrikes in an attempt to thwart the apparent power grab, Saudi Arabia appears to have initiated a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Before the Houthi takeover, Iran was intricately involved in laying the groundwork for the coup. It armed and trained Houthi soldiers. It sent some to Lebanon for pilot training, even though

the group did not have decent aircraft until very recently. Iran supplied cash, medical provisions and teachers to the Houthi schools, ensuring the transformation of the former youth movement to the radical rebel group we see today.

When the Yemeni coup began, the Houthis fought against a number of secessionists, government loyalists, Sunni tribes and factions such as the deadly al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. The Yemeni populace was given the opportunity to choose a side. The Houthis would undoubtedly have a far greater struggle on



their hands if the population turned against them.

But in a stroke of good fortune to the Houthis and Iran, the Saudis attacked.

Saudi Arabia launched an airstrike campaign against the rebels, targeting military outposts and facilities. The air raids have since expanded to target the homes of key members. The devastation has been significant, particularly in the Sanaa and Saada governorates. And as the Houthis claim more territory, Saudi airstrikes similarly expand—affecting more of the population.

Yet these very attacks are leading to a total Iranian victory in Yemen. Saudi Arabia's strategy is turning the populace against the supposed liberators!

Adding further to the destruction of Saudi-Yemeni relations

is Saudi Arabia's blockade of humanitarian aid (along with weapons) to Yemen from Iran.

With one hand, Iran portrays itself as a helper that wants to send aid to the people but is blocked by suspicious international forces. With the other hand, Iran strengthens the Houthis' position to ensure that the Iranian proxy seizes as much of Yemen as possible.

But both hands are tightening Iran's grip on the nation.

Iran has been planning this takeover for years—playing the long game and waiting for the right moment. The Saudis have just given it to them.

**RELATED: "IRAN GETS A STRANGLEHOLD ON THE MIDDLE EAST"**



## The Most Grotesque Manifestation of America's Appeasement of Iran

Anthony Chibairwe | June 3

EVER SINCE THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION AND THE IRAN HOSTAGE crisis of 1979, the United States cut off its diplomatic ties with Iran. Astoundingly, though, they do share robust military ties on the ground: in Iraq.

A June 22 report by Bloomberg View, based on revelations from two senior officials from the Obama administration, showed that the U.S. and its archenemy, Iran, now share the Taqqadum military base.

What makes this cooperation so grotesque however, are some of the specific reasons the U.S. and Iran do not have any formal diplomatic ties.

In a press briefing on June 19, State Department coordinator for counterterrorism Tina Kaidanow said, "[W]e continue to be very, very concerned about IRGC [terrorist] activity as well as proxies that act on behalf of Iran."

Some of those proxies the U.S. supposedly worries about are stationed at Taqqadum, and they've fought against the United States before—in Iraq!

One of the militant groups at Taqqadum is called Iraqi Hezbollah. Its leader, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, was sanctioned by the Treasury Department in 2009 for destabilizing Iraq—something that seems to be associated *only* with the [Islamic State](#) these days.

Another group at Taqqadum is the League of the Righteous. In 2007, this IRGC affiliate disguised itself as a U.S. Army contingent, abducted five U.S. soldiers from a military compound in Karbala, Iraq, and then killed them. To this day, the League of the Righteous brags about killing U.S. soldiers.

The commanders of some of these Iranian proxies sit in on U.S. military briefings and spy on American operations. Some of the United States' military hardware often ends up in the hands of some of Iran's proxies at Taqqadum.

One of the senior administration officials who spoke to Bloomberg said, "Even if these guys don't attack us ... Iran is ushering in a new Hezbollah era in Iraq, and we will have aided and abetted it."

---

## The Islamic State Threatens to Overthrow Hamas in Gaza

Middle East Eye | July 1

THE ISLAMIC STATE GROUP ON TUESDAY THREATENED TO overthrow the Hamas government in Gaza, in a 16-minute video statement posted to the Internet from the group's stronghold in Syria.

"We will uproot the state of the Jews [Israel] and you and Fatah, and all of the secularists are nothing and you will be overrun by our creeping multitudes," a masked member of the group said in the video, which was addressed to the "tyrants of Hamas."

"The rule of sharia [Islamic law] will be implemented in Gaza, in spite of you. We swear what is happening in the Levant today, and in particular the Yarmouk camp, will happen in Gaza," the man said, referring to [the Islamic State's] advances in Syria.

[The Islamic State] criticized Hamas for cooperating with Iran and the Lebanese Shia movement Hezbollah. ...

"The road to liberate Palestine goes through Iraq and we are getting closer, day by day ... while they [Hamas] are moving away from that goal," said an [Islamic State] member in the video. ...

## 17 Egyptian Soldiers Killed in Sinai; ISIS Claims Responsibility

CNN | July 1

**I**N A DRAMATIC DEMONSTRATION OF ITS EXPANDING REACH, ISIS apparently launched simultaneous attacks Wednesday on five Egyptian military checkpoints, reportedly killing 17 Egyptian soldiers and injuring 30 others. ...

[A] spokesman for the Egyptian military said 100 terrorists had been killed.

The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria was known exclusively for its activities in those two war-torn countries until recently.

But it has claimed responsibility in the last week for a drumbeat of attacks in a range of countries: the deadly bombing of a mosque in Kuwait on Friday, the horrific beachfront killings in Tunisia the

same day, and now five coordinated military attacks in Egypt. ...

On [June 26], a gunman with apparent ties to ISIS roamed a Tunisian beachfront, shooting 38 people to death and leaving others wounded. Police shot and killed the gunman.

And in Kuwait that same day, a bomber also apparently linked to ISIS blew himself up inside a mosque during Friday prayers, killing at least 27 people.

[The Islamic State's] expanding reach is worrying officials concerned about keeping their populations safe. The interior ministers of Germany, Britain and France traveled to Tunisia this week to meet with that country's interior minister. ...

## Fight Against the Islamic State Draws Hamas, Egypt Closer

Al-Monitor | July 1

**R**ELATIONS BETWEEN HAMAS AND EGYPT HAVE TAKEN AN UNEXPECTED gradual turn for the better, with Cairo expressing satisfaction with Hamas's security approach toward Egypt, especially in the border areas. On June 25, Egyptian military officials praised Hamas for its role in Gaza, its policing of the smuggling tunnels at the border and preventing Salafi jihadists from infiltrating from and into Sinai.

This unexpected expression of gratitude followed a June 6 ruling by Egypt's Court of Urgent Matters overturning the February 28 ruling designating Hamas a terrorist organization, a move that had exacerbated already heightened tensions between the two sides. Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zahri welcomed the court's decision, calling it the rectification of a mistake and confirmation of Cairo's regional role in the Palestinian issue. He said the ruling will have positive repercussions for relations between the two parties.

Hamas's foreign relations chief, Osama Hamdan, told Al-Monitor, "This decision is a step in the right direction toward the

Palestinians and the beginning of a new relationship with Hamas. This is about strategic relations with regard to Egypt's role in the Palestinian cause in light of Hamas's nonintervention policy in Cairo's affairs." ...

It appears that the three meetings in less than two weeks [between Egypt and Hamas in June] focused on three issues: putting an end to the negative media campaigns on both sides, securing the border between Gaza and Sinai and cooperating in the fight against the Islamic State, which has been active in Egypt. ...

**"Daniel 11 tells us that Egypt will end up aligned with Iran—a prophecy the Trumpet has used as its guide to events in the Middle East since before Hosni Mubarak fell. With Egypt as part of the Islamic alliance, Iran will be powerful enough to push against Europe, which will provoke a furious response. Ultimately this alliance instigates World War III."**

[theTrumpet.com](http://theTrumpet.com), Aug. 20, 2013

## EUROPE

# TrumpetDaily

RADIO SHOW

GREECE'S COLLAPSE, GERMANY'S ASCENSION,  
AND HOW IT WILL AFFECT YOU | JULY 3

THE HARVEST IS PLENTEOUS, BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW | JULY 2

WHY DID GOD MAKE ISRAEL HIS CHOSEN NATION? | JULY 1

ISRAEL'S WAR AGAINST THE JEWS AND THE COMING WORLD ECONOMIC  
CRISIS | JUNE 30

BRITAIN'S WORST TERRORIST ATTACK IN 10 YEARS, ISIS RECRUITS POUR INTO  
SYRIA AND THE KOBANI MASSACRE | JUNE 29

## Why the Euro Is Heading for an Earthshaking Crisis

Richard Palmer | June 30



WE TALKED ABOUT THIS

EUROPEAN LEADERS ARE IN A PANIC. GREECE'S BANKS ARE CLOSED. Experts warn the global economy is under threat. And it all hinges on Greece's place in the eurozone.

Fears of rioting and mass panic, dormant since the Greek fires of 2008, are rising again.

A Greek exit of the euro is possible, and maybe even likely. But even if not, the past few years have proven that we'll be back in this situation again. The euro is a crisis-making machine—because of a design “flaw” in the euro.

The euro is fundamentally incompatible with democracy, and it has everything to do with why Europe keeps having these crises.

When a group of nations shares a currency, the nations share a lot of risk. If Greece goes bankrupt, investors immediately worry about the other nations in the eurozone. *What about my money in Portugal? They ask. Is that safe?*

There is a much more direct effect, too. A common currency encourages integration among the economies of the eurozone. If Greece had gone bust in 2008, it would have hurt companies in other European nations, and therefore their governments.

If Greece went bankrupt, it could have forced all of southern Europe out of the eurozone. They would have been forced to use new, very weak currencies. Suddenly it would become much more expensive for people in these nations to buy German goods. German exports would take a hit, causing big problems for its economy. So the shared risk in Greece, and later, Portugal, Ireland and others, prompted eurozone nations to bail out Greece—by loaning it just enough money to pay back its debts for the moment.

But this immediately creates a new problem. German taxpayers were now lending their money to Greece. Quite naturally, they wanted a say in how it was spent. At the same time, and also, quite understandably, the Greeks weren't very keen on being told what to do by the Germans.

It gets worse. If Greece and Germany had two separate

currencies, the economic troubles in Greece would, in time, sort themselves out. Greece's drachma would get weaker, compared to Germany's deutschemark, making German goods more expensive, and Greek ones cheaper, stimulating the Greek economy.

The euro destroys that. The only long-term solution is for Germany to keep giving Greece money until its industry is up to the same level as Germany's. Without this, the money only flows one way—out of Greece and into the coffers of Germany's exporters.

And so we're stuck with angry Greeks versus bossy Germans—forever. This provokes one crisis after another. Add to the discontent the fact that there are many other countries in the eurozone with the same kind of imbalances.

This is always the way it's going to be when a group of separate nations with distinct and even conflicting, national identities are grouped into a common currency. I said earlier this was a design “flaw” in the euro. The quotation marks are there for good reason. To those who designed the euro, it's not a bug—it's a feature.

The brains behind the euro expected it to force the divided nations of Europe to unite under an American-style federal government. They knew that a common currency would simply lurch from crisis after crisis without that unity.

The process of forcing European nations to unite is probably taking longer than the euro's founders foresaw. But there is one organization with deep roots across Europe that could overcome this. In 1979, Herbert W. Armstrong, magazine editor of the *Trumpet's* predecessor, the *Plain Truth*, wrote, “This [European unity] will be made possible by the ‘good offices’ of the Vatican, who alone can be the symbol of unity to which they can look.”

An extreme crisis will bring a new European superpower, guided by the Vatican. Until now, many in Europe have been reluctant to accept this help. But now we see a popular pope eager to get more involved in international politics.

 Follow [Richard Palmer](#)

**RELATED:** [“DID THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE PLAN THE GREEK CRISIS?”](#)



## Germany and Russia Back to Business as Usual

Richard Palmer | July 5

IS THE COLD WAR BETWEEN THE WEST AND RUSSIA OVER UKRAINE finished? For the United States certainly not. But Germany, and therefore much of the European Union, are going back to business as usual.

On June 22, the EU voted to extend sanctions on Russia. Yet in other areas, the relations between Germany and Russia are improving.

The biggest sign of this is the Nord Stream gas pipeline between Russia and Germany. That's an important story in its own right—read Robert Morley's article [“Gazprom's Dangerous New Nord Stream Gas Pipeline to Germany”](#) if you've not done so already. The two countries have teamed up on a project that

allows Russia to cut off gas to any Central or Eastern European country it wants to, while keeping its lucrative contracts with Western European customers intact.

Anything of this magnitude would have been discussed, and almost certainly approved, by the German government. In fact, it appears European governments may have done some serious behind the scenes maneuverings to make this happen.

Another sign of improving relations was the strong European attendance at the St. Petersburg Economic Forum on June 18 to 20. Billed as Russia's version of the Davos forum in Switzerland, it typically attracts highfliers from around the world, especially in the energy industry. Last year, in response to Russia's invasion of

Ukraine, the West discouraged its businessmen from attending. For America, that continued this year. Only 12 chief executives from American companies attended—and even that was billed as a high turnout.

For Europe, it was different. “The attendance list, which includes oil giants BP, Royal Dutch Shell and Total, suggests that European companies are growing increasingly anxious to return to business as usual,” wrote Germany’s *Deutsche Welle*. It also shows that European governments aren’t pressuring their businessmen to boycott the summit the same way as America’s.

Finally, Russia’s handling of the Greece crisis indicates that behind the scenes, relations with Germany are pretty good. Russia bowed out of the whole situation on June 30. “This is Greece’s problem,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. “[It’s a matter] of Greece’s relations with its creditors, it’s not a matter for us.”

Russia could have made the Greek negotiations much harder just by keeping that option on the table, even if it had no intention of following through. By publicly ruling it out, it has strengthened Germany’s negotiation position.

Why would Russia be playing nice just weeks after Europe extended its sanctions?

The oil pipeline could well be a big part of it. That’s a big win for Russia. It can safely assume that the European sanctions are a temporary measure that will remain in place only for a year or two. A longer term threat is Europe’s “third energy package”—a piece of European legislation that aims to reduce the EU’s reliance on Russian oil and gas and halt Russia’s takeover of Europe’s energy infrastructure.

Germany’s pipeline deal destroys the moral force of the third energy package. The pipeline is only legal due because of a technicality—the third energy package only covers infrastructure on European land. The entirety of Nord Stream is under the sea.

Several poorer European nations have been chafing under the energy package. They are struggling financially and Russia is eager to buy their energy assets, or pay them good money in order to build new pipelines on their territory. These nations will be even less likely to listen to lectures from Europe after Germany has made a similar deal with Russia. If Germany’s pipeline goes through, then it will deal a serious blow to Europe’s push for energy independence.

But if Germany is working with Russia again, why allow the sanctions? Germany has a difficult balancing act. On the one hand, it has a lot to gain from Russia. But if it goes too far in that direction, it will lose the trust of Central and Eastern European nations, such as Poland or the Baltics, that are looking to Germany for protection.

So don’t expect a public make-up scene with German Chancellor Angela Merkel hugging Russian President Vladimir Putin in front of the world’s media. Instead, look for quiet deals deprived of publicity.

The German Institute for International and Security Affairs, a think tank that provides advice to the German parliament and government, recommended exactly this path back in May. It recommend a policy of “cooperative confrontation.” This strategy would aim to “decouple certain areas—in the first place energy and international and global security—from conflicts of interest over ‘shared neighborhoods.’” In other words, Germany should work with Russia on energy and security and leave the conflict in Ukraine to one side. To this end, the European Union should work “to restore good relations.”

This is exactly the course Germany is now taking. For more on Germany’s relationship with Russia, read our article “[Another Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact?](#)”

 Follow [Richard Palmer](#)

---

## NATO Warns Germany: Pay Your Fair Share

The Local | June 29

NATO SECRETARY GENERAL JENS STOLTENBERG WARNED ON Monday that Germany and other EU countries should increase their defense spending to meet the alliance’s targets as crises develop around the world.

“I am speaking to all the allies. But as the biggest economy, Germany weighs more heavily than others,” Stoltenberg told the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* the day before the 60th anniversary celebrations of Germany’s membership in the alliance on Tuesday. ...

Germany currently spends around 1.2 percent of GDP on its military, but will increase spending from €32.97 billion (US\$36.6 billion) to €35.01 billion (\$38.9 billion) in the next four years.

But the country would have to increase spending to €58 billion (\$64.4 billion) to achieve 2 percent of GDP immediately. ... At a NATO summit last year, members agreed to meet the 2 percent target within a decade. ...

---

## TW IN BRIEF

**Russia shuts flow off gas to Ukraine amid pricing dispute:** On Thursday morning, Russia halted gas supplies to the neighboring country of Ukraine. The stoppage came after a collapse of pricing talks between Ukraine and Russian state-owned energy giant Gazprom. CEO Alexei Miller said that Gazprom will

no longer send gas to Ukraine “without an advance payment.” The latest energy dispute comes as Russian support to separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine has strained relations between Russia and Ukraine. In the past, these energy disputes have left other European nations without heat in the dead of winter. However, this

time around EU officials have stated that the Continent would not be affected.

**B**elgium-Chinese premier/leaders' meeting: Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said China and the European Union should build a stronger partnership and "turn a new chapter" in bilateral relations. Li made the remarks at the 17th China-EU leaders' meeting in Brussels yesterday afternoon, which he co-chaired with President of the European Council Donald Tusk and

President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker. It also marked the first meeting between Li and the EU's new leadership. Hailing the China-EU ties as one of the world's most important, stable and constructive relationships, Li said China is considering a \$350 billion investment platform to support Europe's economic revival. Juncker said the two sides should build up a stronger partnership of mutual benefit in the face of the current international financial crises and other global challenges. The EU has been China's largest trading partner for 11 years.

## ASIA



### Putin Remembers Yugoslavia

Gerald Flurry,  
The Key of David | July 3

**R**ussian President Vladimir Putin believes his actions in Crimea are no different than the West's actions in Yugoslavia in the '90s.



## Russia Examines 1991 Recognition of Baltic Independence

BBC | June 30

**T**HE RUSSIAN CHIEF PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE IS TO EXAMINE whether the Soviet Union acted legally when it recognized the Baltic states' independence in 1991. ...

Last week Russia's chief prosecutor declared illegal the transfer of Crimea from Russia to Ukraine in 1954. ...

A source at the prosecutor's office, quoted by Russia's Interfax news agency, said the investigation into the Baltic states' independence followed a request from two parliamentary deputies.

In their letter, M.P.s Yevgeny Fyodorov and Anton Romanov, of President Vladimir Putin's United Russia Party, said the 1991 decision to recognize Baltic independence had been taken "by an

unconstitutional body." ...

Reacting to the Russian prosecutor's move, Lithuania's foreign minister called it "a provocation to say the least" and "legally, morally and politically absurd."

**"All the Central Asian countries besides Afghanistan were once a part of the old Soviet Union; for years now, Russia has been on a mission to haul those states and its other Soviet-era satellites back under its umbrella of influence."**

Trumpet, May-June 2010

## Russia Halts Gas Supplies to Ukraine Amid New Spat

AFP | July 1

**G**AS GIANT GAZPROM SAID ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS HALTING ALL natural gas supplies to Ukraine after pricing talks broke down in the latest row between Russia and its war-torn ex-Soviet neighbor.

"Ukraine did not pay for July gas supplies," Gazprom chief Alexei Miller said in a statement.

"Gazprom has halted gas supplies to Ukraine from 10 a.m. July 1," he said. ...

Russia supplies around a third of Europe's gas, some half of it

flowing via Ukraine.

Moscow dramatically hiked the price it charges Ukraine following the ouster of Kremlin-backed leader Viktor Yanukovich in February 2014. ...

Volodymyr Saprykin, an energy expert in Kiev, admitted that getting through the winter without Russian natural gas would be problematic. ...

**RELATED: "GAZPROM'S DANGEROUS NEW NORD STREAM PIPELINE TO GERMANY"**





## Russia Surpasses Saudi Arabia as China's Number One Crude Oil Supplier

Daryle Hochstetler | June 28

**I**N MAY, RUSSIA SURPASSED SAUDI ARABIA TO BECOME CHINA'S top provider of crude oil.

China imported 3.92 million metric tons of crude oil from Russia in May, according to Beijing-based General Administration of Customs. Calculations bring this to 927,000 barrels per day—a 20 percent increase from April. In the same month, sales from Saudi Arabia dropped 42 percent to slightly over 3 million tons.

Russia's rise to position number one for China's crude oil imports is a sign of increasing bilateral relations. The West's sanctions on Russia force it to look elsewhere for trading partners. China stepped up to partially fill Russia's void of trading partners.

Russo-Chinese relations are a foreboding sign for the West, given their common ideal: anti-Western sentiment to the core. Both contend that the financial 2008 meltdown illustrates the Western economic model is substandard in comparison to their own.

Improving Russo-Chinese ties are accelerating at an alarming rate, but the *Trumpet* has long watched and warned of warming relations between the two. Friendlier ties herald a time where nations will congeal to become kingdoms—known in the Bible as the “kings of the east.”

**RELATED:** [“THE RUSSIA-CHINA AXIS IS HERE AND IT'S CHANGING THE WORLD”](#)

## Sino-Japanese Relations ‘Improving,’ Says Senior Chinese Official

South China Morning Post | June 26

**C**HINA'S FOURTH-HIGHEST-RANKING LEADER, YU ZHENGSHEG, said on Monday during a meeting with visiting Japanese lawmakers that the two countries' relations were improving.

Yu said Sino-Japanese ties were in difficulties when he held a meeting with Japanese legislators in May last year, but the situation had since improved. ...

The visit led by veteran Liberal Democratic Party lawmaker

Takeshi Noda comes amid increased high-level political exchanges between the two countries.

The meetings started taking place after Abe's first meeting with President Xi Jinping in November, although disputes persist over the sovereignty of islands in the East China Sea and Japan's alleged lack of atonement for its wartime past. ...

## China Crosses Obama's Cyber ‘Red Line’

Washington Post | June 29

**R**EMEMBER HOW PRESIDENT OBAMA FAILED TO ENFORCE HIS “red line” in Syria? Well, it's happening again—this time in cyberspace.

On April 1, Obama drew a cyber “red line” in the sand when he signed an executive order authorizing sanctions against individuals or entities who carry out cyberattacks or cyberespionage against the United States. “Starting today,” Obama declared, “we're giving notice to those who pose significant threats to our security or economy by damaging our critical infrastructure, disrupting or hijacking our computer networks, or stealing the trade secrets of American companies or the personal information of American citizens for profit.”

A senior administration official told the *Post* that the new order would put our enemies in cyberspace on notice that “if you think you can just hide behind borders ... that's just not going to be the case. ... [W]e can hit where it hurts in terms of a financial impact.” The order authorizes the treasury secretary to freeze financial assets, bar commercial transactions, and impose a visa ban on those involved in significant cyberattacks.

“As of today, the United States has a new tool to protect our nation, our companies and our citizens,” Obama declared, “and in the days and years ahead, we will use it.”

Except, he's not using it. In the days after he spoke those words, the United States discovered that Chinese government hackers had broken into the computer networks of the Office of

Personnel Management—stealing the personnel records of as many as 18 million Americans.

Experts told me it was the most devastating cyberattack in the history of our country. One retired four-star general and cybersecurity expert described the OPM hack as a “Cyber 9/11.”

So how has the Obama administration responded? Did it follow through on Obama's threat and impose sanctions on those responsible? Not even close. For weeks, the administration would not even acknowledge that China was behind the attack. ...

The OPM breach is catastrophic, both for our national security and for the individuals whose information has been compromised. ... In other words, Beijing now possesses everything a foreign intelligence service could possibly need to blackmail those holding some of the United States' most sensitive secrets. ...

[W]hat is the administration doing now to protect those whose personal information they failed to protect? They are offering—get this—18 months of “free” credit monitoring service and identity theft insurance. Eighteen months? The loss of personal information lasts a lifetime—and sometimes longer for family members and others whose personal information was included in the stolen data.

The failure to protect this information is appalling. But the failure to respond to an attack of this magnitude is inexcusable. In April, Obama warned that “from now on” his administration would “go after bad actors” who carry out cyberattacks on the



WE TALKED ABOUT THIS

United States. China responded by launching the most audacious attack in history.

So, Mr. President, what are you going to do about it?

**RELATED:** "U.S. VULNERABLE TO 'CYBER PEARL HARBOR'"

## ANGLO-AMERICA



### A World Held Captive

**Stephen Flurry,**  
**Trumpet Daily | July 3**

Follow Stephen Flurry



# TrumpetHour

HOW TO SAVE RACE RELATIONS, THE GREECE CRISIS, PUERTO RICO,  
AND MORE | JULY 3

A LAWLESS DECISION, IS SCIENCE PROVING GOD'S EXISTENCE, AND MORE |  
JULY 1



### A Lawless Decision

**Joel Hilliker | July 1**

**F**IVE PEOPLE JUST CHANGED THE DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE IN THE United States of America.

That is breathtaking.

Last Friday, the decision by five Supreme Court justices in *Obergefell v. Hodges* halted national deliberation, usurped state powers, and exceeded the legal mandate of the nation's highest court in order to make same-sex "marriage" the law in all 50 states.

In his dissent, Justice Antonin Scalia wrote this: "A system of government that makes the people subordinate to a committee of nine unelected lawyers DOES NOT DESERVE TO BE CALLED A DEMOCRACY" (emphasis added throughout).

Do you recognize the seriousness of what just happened?

In their explanation of the legal reasoning underpinning their ruling, those five justices made the extraordinary assertion that the *U.S. Constitution* actually demanded it. Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote this in the majority opinion about same-sex couples: "Their hope is not to be condemned to live in loneliness, excluded from one of civilization's oldest institutions. They ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law. *The Constitution grants them that right.*"

Until just a few years ago, every society in human history has defined marriage—which actually is civilization's oldest institution, not just "one of" the oldest—as a union between a man and a woman. Yet supposedly the U.S. Constitution—written over two

and a quarter centuries ago—grants the right to a redefinition.

How so? The court majority found it in the "due process" clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. This clause is being increasingly used to justify whatever lawyers want it to justify. ...

Here is how Justice Kennedy explained this in the majority opinion: "The generations that wrote and ratified the Bill of Rights and the Fourteenth Amendment did not presume to know the extent of freedom in all of its dimensions, and so they entrusted to future generations a charter protecting the right of all persons to enjoy liberty AS WE LEARN ITS MEANING. When *new insight* reveals discord between the Constitution's central protections and a received legal stricture, a claim to liberty must be addressed."

By this reasoning, "the Constitution's central protections" could include *anything* if we gain "new insight" to understand it to be so. We can define "freedom" however we want and claim that the Constitution protects it.

In truth, this reasoning has nothing to do with the Constitution. It pays no *actual* heed to the intent of the Bill of Rights' authors. It simply represents judges doing what they want to do.

That is what happened last week: Five justices cast aside the law they are supposed to uphold and made a decision—now binding on 320 million Americans—based on their personal preferences.

When the ruling was announced, Chief Justice John Roberts

did something he has never done during his nearly 10 years on the Supreme Court bench: He read aloud a summary of his dissent. This is what he said: “If you are among the many Americans—of whatever sexual orientation—who favor expanding same-sex marriage, by all means celebrate today’s decision. ... But do not celebrate the Constitution. It had nothing to do with it.”

This tells you a lot about America today. About the state of its judicial system and the hubris of its top judges. About how wrecked the republic is in terms of leaders’ respect for the Constitution’s definition of and limits to their powers, and how little concern Americans have about that.

This issue is also deeply revealing of America’s current *moral* condition, though few are even willing to talk about it. Already the question of same-sex “marriage” was being debated and decided by *states*. Some few had rejected it, but the clear trend was more and more states *redefining marriage*.

We didn’t *define* marriage in the first place. It takes considerable arrogance and audacity to “redefine” it.

“This Court is not a legislature,” Justice Roberts wrote in his dissent. “Whether same-sex marriage is a good idea should be of no concern to us. Under the Constitution, judges have power to say what the law *is*, not what it *should be*. The people who ratified the Constitution authorized courts to exercise ‘NEITHER FORCE NOR WILL but merely judgment.’”

The five judges in this majority are not exercising judgment; they are exercising *force* and *will*. They are *forcing* their view on every American, and they are exalting their OWN WILL above the LAW.

Thus, what was founded as a democratic republic is now a nation in which top judges make decisions based on their ideas about what is “best for children”—rather than on *what the law says*. A nation in which top judges believe *their opinions* trump states’ rights.

“For those who believe in a government of laws, not of men, the majority’s approach is deeply disheartening,” Justice Roberts wrote. “Supporters of same-sex marriage have achieved considerable success persuading their fellow citizens—through the democratic process—to adopt their view. That ends today. Five lawyers have closed the debate and enacted their own vision of marriage as a matter of constitutional law.”

Later he wrote, “The majority’s decision is an act of will, not legal judgment. The right it announces has no basis in the Constitution or this Court’s precedent. The majority expressly disclaims judicial ‘caution’ and omits even a pretense of humility, openly relying on its desire to remake society according to its own ‘new insight’ into the ‘nature of injustice.’ As a result, the

Court invalidates the marriage laws of more than half the states and orders the transformation of a social institution that has formed the basis of human society for millennia, for the Kalahari Bushmen and the Han Chinese, the Carthaginians and the Aztecs. JUST WHO DO WE THINK WE ARE?”

That is a superb question. Who do these judges think they are?

How concerned are you that five lawyers have just granted themselves the power to make these decisions for you?

This ruling gives an extraordinary picture of just how far America has fallen from the rule of law.

The *Trumpet’s* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has been warning about this trend—and the devastating consequences it will have for this country—for 15 years. His booklet *No Freedom Without Law*, originally published in 2001, is more relevant today than it has ever been.

Chapter One, “What Is True Freedom?”, gives an important introduction into this subject. Chapter Two, “Justice and Our ‘Evolving Constitution,’” reveals the danger in exactly the kind of reasoning behind the Supreme Court’s decision last week. And Chapter Three, “The War Against Law,” shows the wisdom in the Founders’ fight to enshrine the rule of law in the Constitution—and the lesson history has taught time and again about what happens when it gives way to tyranny.

“We are not prepared to die to defend our security, as we were in our past,” Mr. Flurry wrote. “This is the supreme sign that our will has been broken—and that our republic cannot stand.” You can read these chapters online, or we will be happy to send you a free copy of this booklet.

Justice Thomas wrote that the majority “disregards the most plausible understanding of the ‘liberty’ protected by [the ‘due process’] clause, and distorts the principles on which this nation was founded. *Its decision will have inestimable consequences for our Constitution and our society.*”

Every religious liberty scholar out there knows the Supreme Court’s ruling will put tremendous pressure on those who disagree with this redefinition of marriage. Activists are eager to ramp up their use of the courts to challenge, silence, compel and bully into submission anyone who puts up the slightest resistance to their cause.

Welcome to the new United States of America—ruled not by laws, but by men. Brace yourself. It won’t last long.

For more information about how America got to this point and what the consequences will be, request a free copy of our booklet on the subject, *Redefining Family*.

 Follow Joel Hilliker

---

## Polygamous Trio May Sue for Right to Marry

Newser | July 1

A MONTANA MAN INSPIRED BY LAST WEEK’S SUPREME COURT decision legalizing gay marriage has applied for a marriage license so that he can legally wed his second wife. Nathan Collier and his wives Victoria and Christine applied at the Yellowstone County Courthouse in Billings yesterday in an attempt to legitimize their polygamous marriage. Montana, like all 50 states, outlaw bigamy—holding multiple marriage licenses—but Collier

says he plans to sue if the application is denied.

“It’s about marriage equality,” Collier says. “You can’t have this without polygamy.” County clerk officials initially denied the application, then said they would consult with the county attorney’s office before giving him a final answer.

Yellowstone County chief civil litigator Kevin Gillen said he is reviewing Montana’s bigamy laws and expected to send a formal



response to Collier by next week. "I think he deserves an answer," Gillen says, but added his review is finding that "the law simply doesn't provide for that yet."

The Supreme Court's ruling made gay marriages legal nationwide. Chief Justice John Roberts said in his dissent that people in polygamous relationships could make the same legal argument

## **U.S., Cuba Restoring Diplomatic Ties After 54 Years**

**Reuters | July 1**

**T**HE UNITED STATES AND CUBA FORMALLY AGREED ON WEDNESDAY to restore diplomatic relations on July 20, setting up a trip to Havana by John Kerry, who would become the first U.S. secretary of state to visit the country in 70 years.

Sealed by an exchange of letters between U.S. President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raúl Castro, the deal fulfills a pledge the former Cold War enemies made six months ago. It also attempts to end the recriminations that have predominated ever since Fidel Castro's rebels overthrew the U.S.-backed government of Fulgencio Batista on Jan. 1, 1959.

The letters set a date of July 20 for the reestablishment of relations, and embassies could be opened at that time or later.

Kerry, speaking from Vienna, said he would visit Havana to raise the U.S. flag outside the future U.S. embassy, currently labeled an interests section.

"The progress that we mark today is yet another demonstration that we don't have to be imprisoned by the past," Obama said from the White House Rose Garden. ...

A long battle of subterfuge and outright aggression followed as Cuba closely aligned with the Soviet Union, nearly leading to nuclear war in 1962 over Soviet missiles stationed on the island.

Isolating Cuba had been a foreign-policy pillar under 10 U.S. presidents, continuing long after the fall of the Soviet Union in

1991. ... that not having the opportunity to marry disrespects and subordinates them. Collier, 46, said that dissent inspired him. He married Victoria, 40, in 2000. He and his second wife, Christine, had a religious wedding ceremony in 2007 but did not sign a marriage license to avoid bigamy charges.

1991. ...

Cuba's Communist government controls the media and represses political opponents ....

With diplomatic relations restored, the United States and Cuba will turn to more difficult bilateral problems likely to take years to resolve.

Cuba's Communist government said in a statement that to have normal overall relations, the United States must rescind its economic embargo and return the naval base at Guantanamo Bay, which it has leased since 1903, as sovereign Cuban territory.

Asked whether he could envision a day when the United States might give up the base, U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter told a Pentagon news conference there was "no anticipation and no plan, with respect to the Guantanamo Bay naval station in Cuba." ...

A Cuban government statement said the United States also needed to halt radio and television broadcasts beamed into the country and stop "subversive" programs that the United States says are intended to promote democracy. ...

Following 18 months of secret negotiations brokered by Pope Francis and Canada, Obama and Castro announced in December they planned to reopen embassies and normalize relations. The agreement also included a prisoner swap.

## **Puerto Rico Governor Says Island Can't Pay Its Public Debt**

**Associated Press | June 29**

**T**HE GOVERNOR WARNED THAT PUERTO RICO CAN'T PAY ITS \$72 billion public debt as international economists released a critical report Monday on the island's economy.

The news from Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla delivered another jolt to the recession-gripped U.S. island, as well as a world financial system already worrying over Greece's collapsing finances. ...

The governor hopes to defer debt payments while negotiating with creditors, spokesman Jesus Manuel Ortiz said late Sunday, confirming comments by Garcia that appeared in a report in the *New York Times* published that evening.

"There is no other option. I would love to have an easier option. This is not politics, this is math," Garcia is quoted as saying in the *Times*.

Puerto Rico's bonds were popular with U.S. mutual funds because they were tax-free, but hedge funds and distressed-debt buyers began stepping in to buy up debt as the island's economy worsened and its credit rating dropped. ...

"The last four administrations have kicked the can down the

road," said Villamil. "At this point, there is no more can to kick. So we're going to take some very strict measures and some very profound measures. It's going to hurt, but there's no way out."

A report released Monday by a former World Bank chief economist and others found that Puerto Rico's fiscal debt is larger than originally thought and urged the government to act quickly. ...

The U.S. territory's situation has drawn comparisons to Greece, where the government decreed this weekend that banks would be shuttered for six business days and restrictions imposed on cash withdrawals. ...

Puerto Rico's public agencies owe a large portion of the debt, with the power company alone owing some \$9 billion. The company is facing a restructuring as the government continues to negotiate with creditors as the deadline for a roughly \$400 million payment nears.

Garcia has taken several measures to help generate more government revenue, including signing legislation raising the sales tax to 11.5 percent and creating a 4 percent tax on professional services. ...



**WE TALKED ABOUT THIS**