

Trumpet Weekly

AUGUST 21, 2015



The Europe of the Bible Takes Shape

Richard Palmer | August 20

MORE THAN 70 YEARS AGO, HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG GAVE A series of very clear and dramatic forecasts of where world events are leading. Since his death, Gerald Flurry has continued issuing the same warnings.

More than ever before, those warnings are becoming reality. [Germany dominates Europe](#), and the Continent is on its way to becoming a superpower, just as Mr. Armstrong forecast 70 years ago.

Last month, the European Council of Foreign Relations (ECFR) published a paper titled “The Road Back to European Power.” In it, the unofficial, though influential, think tank aimed to “help kick-start the strategic phase of this discussion” of the “comprehensive stocktaking of Europe’s external relations.”

In just about every area of world news, the ECFR’s analysis bears a striking resemblance to that forecast by Herbert W. Armstrong.

America Divorced From Reality

Perhaps the most striking part of the document is what it says about the United States. “[T]he current picture is one of continental drift, as Americans and Europeans become decreasingly capable of or interested in working together effectively in an ever more contested world,” it says.

“The old bargain is quite simply no longer on offer,” according to the ECFR report.

It is a two-pronged push. Europe believes America is an unreliable ally, on which it can no longer depend for its security. At the same time, America is actively and deliberately encouraging Europe to develop a strong military power independent of the U.S.A.

This new bargain will mean “a new division of labor.” It means a new military relationship, with both the U.S. and NATO—one where “Europe’s larger states—notably Germany—can leverage

their geo-economic power to take on greater responsibility within the alliance.”

This is exactly the kind of break Herbert W. Armstrong forecast for years.

America has a “chronic weakness,” he wrote in the *Plain Truth* in 1971. America’s leaders fail “to recognize who are our real friends, and who are our enemies.” The nation relies on its allies as “lovers.”

Europe’s ‘It’s Complicated’ Relationship With Russia

“Europe’s first priority must be to limit the damage caused by the crises on its eastern and southern borders,” wrote the ECFR. To deal with Russia, they called for a policy of “tough love”—a “dual strategy of sanctions and outreach.”

The approach they encourage is similar to the one Germany is already taking—“cooperative confrontation”—as we outlined last month in our article “[Germany and Russia Back to Business as Usual](#).”

It is also the approach forecast by the two trends we’re watching in European-Russian relations. On the one hand, fear of Russia is pushing nations like Poland and others in central and Eastern Europe closer to Germany. Drawing too close to Russia would jeopardize Germany’s relations with these countries. But on the other, Germany and Russia have a lot of shared interests, which is why we’ve warned our readers to watch out for [another Molotov-Ribbentrop pact](#).

Invading Africa

“How can the EU do more to tackle conflict, instability, the rise of terrorist networks, and the effects of climate change, and create better economic prospects in the broader southern Mediterranean, Sahel and sub-Saharan African regions?” asks the ECFR.

One of the major solutions the authors recommend is greater and better coordinated military power. “While many European governments are instinctively wary of sending their own troops to Africa, the convergence of humanitarian crises and terrorist threats on the continent is changing their calculations. After France led the way in intervening in Mali and the Sahel, the Netherlands, Estonia, Scandinavian countries, and even Germany have sent smaller numbers of troops to Africa in the last two years.”

They write that nations like Nigeria and Senegal want greater EU military cooperation, and note that “Europeans still have greater security assets in Africa than China.”

This use of military force in the wider North African region [to combat Islamic terrorism](#) is something Gerald Flurry drew attention to [back in 2013](#): “Germany is making strong inroads as well. Both of these powers are racing to get as much control of North Africa as they can. They will inevitably clash with each other.”

‘A Realistic Starting Point’

Joseph de Courcy wrote that the new paper by the ECFR is “a more realistic starting point” for Europe’s foreign policy.

This starting point matches exactly what the *Trumpet* and *Plain Truth* have been saying for decades.

How? The *Trumpet* relies on Bible prophecy to forecast world events. It’s a starting point many are reluctant to accept, but it is proving more and more accurate as time goes on.

As more and more current events align with what we’ve been teaching for years, you need to acquaint yourself with what the Bible forecasts for the near future. For a good outline of what is prophesied to happen around the world, read our free booklet [He Was Right](#).

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MIDDLE EAST

TrumpetDaily

RADIO SHOW

THE FIRST-CENTURY APOSTASY | AUGUST 21

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Islamic State Is Heading for Lebanon Next

Arutz Sheva | August 19

THE SYRIAN REGIME’S SITUATION TOOK A TURN FOR THE BETTER when in May 2013, Hezbollah’s infantry entered the conflict in full force in an attempt to conquer the city of al-Qusayr, located between the Jussieh border crossing that separates northeast Lebanon from Syria and the Syrian city of Homs. Al-Qusayr was

of great importance to Hezbollah

The Syrian Army did not succeed in conquering al-Qusayr, so the Iranian Revolutionary Guard command decided to bring in Hezbollah to free the town from anti-Assad rebels headed by the Free Syrian Army and Jabhat al-Nusra. Hezbollah managed to

win the tough battle

In 2014, however, Islamic State made its appearance, and in June 2014 it began fighting heavily in Syria, conquering large swaths of land in the eastern, thinly-populated part of the country. ...

[An] important detail of Islamic State's strategy is its efforts to gain control over border passes, thereby stopping overland traffic between Syria and its neighbors—Iraq, Turkey and Jordan—and resulting in a partial siege of Assad's regime. Up until this week, Lebanon was the only country whose border crossings were still in Assad's hands.

That ended when advance forces of Islamic State infiltrated westward to the area south of Homs this week, surrounded al-Qusayr and overran Hezbollah positions guarding the Jussieh crossing that joins Homs with northern Lebanon. Hezbollah lost tens of fighters in the short battle that took place in an area where it did not expect to be attacked.

Islamic State chalked up several gains: It isolated Damascus, cutting it off from the Alawite coastal area, surrounded the cities of al-Qusayr and Homs, gained control of an important border crossing, and surprised Hezbollah in what it sees as a strategic victory, as Hezbollah will now have to transfer fighters from Syria back to Lebanon in order to protect the country and its Shiites. ...

For the past three years, [Hezbollah leader] Hassan Nasrallah has been claiming that Hezbollah fought in Syria in order to survive in Lebanon, but it looks as though its involvement in Syria has not brought about the hoped-for results. The opposite is true, it increased the Sunni rebels' motivation—Islamic State and Jebhat al-Nusra—to take revenge on Hezbollah in its own strongholds, that is, in Lebanon. ...

The Sunni stranglehold over the Alawite sect in Syria, Assad's regime, the Shiites of Lebanon and the Hezbollah militias is

growing tighter, with the voices of those under siege calling out for aid to their patrons in Tehran and Moscow. That is the reason for the feverish efforts of politicians in those two countries this week, attempting to find a solution of some kind to the war in Syria before Assad, his people and the Lebanon Shiites fall under the knives of Islamic State. As time passes, the chances of finding a solution are less and less realistic, especially since the rebels and Islamic State are already picturing the blood gushing from the necks of their opponents, the Shiites of Lebanon.

The fate of the Druze, Christians and Alawites in Lebanon will be no better than the fate of the Shiites, and Lebanon—once called the Switzerland of the Middle East—may soon become its hell on Earth.

Israel, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Iraq must join forces with regard to Hezbollah's rocket stores, because if and when they fall into the hands of Islamic State, they will in all probability be launched against each one of those countries. Iran, the main supplier of these missiles, will take revenge on whoever allows Islamic State to carry out its plans against the Lebanese Shiites.

The ayatollahs of Iran, whose regime is the main chess piece in the Middle East, will put the billions it receives as a result of the Iranian Nuclear Agreement to good use in order to get back at anyone who supported, aided and helped the Sunni militias in Syria, starting with Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the Emirates, Turkey and Israel. That makes it imperative for anyone who cares about the future of the Middle East to put an end to this scenario's possible occurrence before it is too late. The chaos that Iran has wrought in Yemen is exactly what it will do in Lebanon, if given the chance. ...

RELATED: [THE KING OF THE SOUTH](#)

Iran's Secret Self-Inspections

Wall Street Journal | August 19

THREE MORE SENATORS HAVE DECLARED AGAINST President Obama's Iran nuclear deal in recent days, and don't be surprised if more follow after Wednesday's bombshell from the Associated Press. The news service reports that Iran will be allowed to use its own inspectors at the secret Parchin nuclear site under its secret side agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

This is a new one in the history of arms control. Parchin is the military complex long suspected as the home of Iran's nuclear-weapon and ballistic-missile development. The IAEA has sought access to Parchin for more than a decade, and U.S. officials have said the deal requires Iran to come clean about Parchin by agreeing on an inspections protocol with the IAEA by the end of this year.

But that spin started to unravel three weeks ago with the discovery that the Parchin inspections were part of a secret side agreement between the IAEA and Iran—not between Iran and the six negotiating countries. Secretary of State John Kerry has said he hasn't read the side deal, though his negotiating deputy Wendy

Sherman told MSNBC that she "saw the pieces of paper" but couldn't keep them. IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano has told members of the U.S. Congress that he's bound by secrecy and can't show them the side deals.

That secrecy should be unacceptable to Congress—all the more so after the AP dispatch. The news service says it has seen a document labeled "separate arrangement II." The document says Iran will provide the IAEA with photos and locations that the IAEA says are linked to Iran's weapons work, "taking into account military concerns."

In other words, the country that lied for years about its nuclear weapons program will now be trusted to come clean about those lies. And trusted to such a degree that it can limit its self-inspections so they don't raise "military concerns" in Iran.

Keep in mind that the side deal already excludes a role for the U.S., and that the IAEA lacks any way to enforce its side deal since it has no way of imposing penalties for violations. Iran has also already ruled out any role for American or Canadian nationals on the inspection teams. ...

[A] White House spokesman told AP merely that the U.S. is “confident in the agency’s technical plans for investigating the possible military dimensions of Iran’s former program.” That sounds like a confirmation.

The news raises further doubts about a nuclear pact that is already leaking credibility. Unfettered access to Parchin is crucial to understanding Iran’s past nuclear work, which is essential to understanding how close Iran has come to getting the bomb. Without that knowledge it’s impossible to know if Iran really is a year or more away from having the bomb, which is the time period that Mr. Kerry says is built into the accord and makes it so worth doing. ...

By the way, the reference in the IAEA document to “separate arrangement II” suggests there may be more than one side deal. Congress should insist on seeing every such side deal or else pass a resolution of disapproval on the principle that it can’t possibly

approve a deal whose complete terms it hasn’t even been allowed to inspect.

Meanwhile, bipartisan opposition continues to build in Congress. New Jersey Democrat Robert Menendez on Tuesday became the second Senate Democrat to oppose the deal “For me, the administration’s willingness to forgo a critical element of Iran’s weaponization—past and present—is inexplicable,” said Mr. Menendez in explaining his opposition. ...

“Instead of trusting people based on what they say, the Bible says we should ‘know them by their fruits’ (Matthew 7:16). Iran’s fruits show it will violate this next agreement. But this time, the stakes are much higher.”

Gerald Flurry, “Negotiating Human Survival,” *Trumpet*, September 2015

Iran Flexes Its Muscle in Baghdad

Stratfor | August 20

IRAQ’S DIVISIVE FORMER PRIME MINISTER, NOURI AL-MALIKI, returned to Baghdad on Wednesday after attending a religious conference in Tehran, ending days of speculation over whether the former premier would stay in Iran to avoid possible charges stemming from an ongoing anti-corruption campaign. The charges relate to Maliki’s responsibility for Baghdad’s failure to prevent the fall of Mosul in June 2014 as well as several long-standing accusations of corruption and cronyism.

Numerous protests in areas such as Iraq’s oil-rich, predominantly Shiite region of Basra and Baghdad have spurred current Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to undertake reforms aimed at easing the strong ethnic and sectarian divisions that the Islamic State’s seizure of vast swaths of Iraqi territory have exacerbated. But rumors published by Gulf Arab media outlets have overshadowed Maliki’s return, focusing instead on the role of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Maj. Gen. Qassem Suleimani in encouraging Shiite resistance to Maliki’s potential trial. The fate of Iraq’s former prime minister is largely symbolic, but the editorials and rumors swirling around the region have clearly expressed the Gulf Arab monarchies’ fears of Iranian influence in Iraq and Tehran’s concerns that al-Abadi could become independent of its assistance. Iran is flexing its muscle in Iraq, allegedly organizing Shiite militias against Maliki’s trial. As they have so many times

before, Maliki’s woes give Iran an excuse to meddle in Iraqi affairs.

According to a Wednesday report in the *Khaleej Times*, Suleimani visited Baghdad to organize opposition to Abadi’s attempts to deliver Maliki as a scapegoat to Iraqi protesters. Iranian-backed Shiite militias, religious organizations and politicians voiced their support for the former prime minister, displaying Iran’s considerable institutional clout in Baghdad. ...

[D]uring Maliki’s tenure, Iran’s primary goal was not necessarily to maintain a lackey prime minister but to prevent a strong, stable Iraq from emerging. ...

[D]espite the threat of the Islamic State, Iran has been able to count Baghdad in its sphere of influence. Tehran is keen to curtail Sunni Arab and Turkish defiance to its position in Baghdad, but it is using Maliki to contain pushback against Iran-supported Iraqis.

“For several reasons, Iran should be condemned and reviled by the U.S., and friendless in the world. But, amazingly, its position and its power among nations—even the U.S.—is the strongest it has been in modern history and only continues to increase. ... Bible prophecy indicates that what we are witnessing is essentially the cocking of the gun that will trigger a nuclear World War III!”

“Conquest Through Sabotage,” *Trumpet*, May 2004

TW IN BRIEF

UN to let Iran inspect suspected nuke site: The Associated Press is reporting that it has obtained secret documents indicating that Iran will be allowed to use its own inspectors to investigate a nuclear research site it has been accused of using to develop nuclear weapons. The document details a secret

agreement Iran reached with the United Nations agency that normally carries out such work as part of the larger nuclear framework agreed to by United States President Barack Obama and the five world powers in July. The revelation severely undercuts the Obama administration’s insistence that the nuclear deal

is not based upon trust, but underpinned by strict, verifiable inspections. Despite this new information, it is not expected that

enough Democrat votes will be swayed to obtain the two-thirds majority needed to derail the deal.

EUROPE

Trumpet Hour

EUROPE BESIEGED BY IMMIGRANTS, POLAND TURNS PRO-GERMANY, AND MORE | AUGUST 21

U.S. MILITARY BASE UNDER THREAT, THE WAR ON MANMADE CLIMATE CHANGE, DODO BIRDS AND MORE | AUGUST 19

The World According to Duda Jan Cieski, Politico | August 19

BARELY A WEEK INTO HIS TERM, POLAND'S NEW PRESIDENT IS moving to realize a hallmark campaign promise: to pivot central Europe's most important country to closer security ties with its immediate eastern neighbors.

In so doing, Andrzej Duda courts confrontation with Russia and strains in Poland's recent good vibes with Berlin and Brussels. It is a risk that the 43-year-old, right-wing leader sounds eager to run.

"Poland's foreign policy doesn't need a revolution," Duda said in an interview with Politico, "but it does need a correction."

A small but telling sign of the new Polish orientation was this week's announcement of the destination for his first overseas trip on August 23: Estonia, the small Baltic nation and NATO ally that sits on the doorstep of a newly assertive Russia. Brussels isn't on his immediate travel itinerary.

"I think we can intensify relations with our partners, especially when it comes to the countries of central and eastern Europe," Duda said. ...

He called Russia's military intervention in Ukraine the past 18 months "alarming" and "a rebirth of the imperial spirit, of imperial nostalgia" that threatens other neighbors. He wants Poland to do more in response.

Poland could be a "security guarantor" of the three Baltic states, he said. The country has the largest military in the region and is in the midst of an expensive defense modernization program.

His office is calling for a summit of central European leaders in November to push for a large and permanent NATO ground

presence in the region. ...

Speaking over the roar of airplane engines on his way back to Warsaw last Thursday after a visit to a Polish-German-Danish regional NATO headquarters in Szczecin—the only permanent alliance base in formerly Communist central Europe—Duda said that his priority would be to overcome German resistance to an expanded NATO ground presence in the region. His second overseas destination as president is Berlin.

Echoing the views of Estonia's hawkish President Toomas Ilves, Duda is eager to strengthen the security ties with the U.S. and see American GIs on his soil. ...

His political mentor was Lech Kaczyński, the president who was killed in an airplane crash in Russia in 2010. The late president once called Duda his "son," and Duda has referred to himself as Kaczyński's "spiritual heir." ...

Kaczyński [tried] to build an anti-Russian alliance stretching from the Baltics through Ukraine to Georgia; a scheme that was scrapped after his death. ...

With Germany, Duda doesn't carry the same emotional distrust or historical baggage that the Kaczyński twins did. Lech Kaczyński called off a 2006 meeting with Chancellor Angela Merkel after Germany's *Die Tageszeitung* newspaper compared the twins to uppity potatoes. Jarosław once warned that Merkel "belongs to a generation of German politicians who would like to reinstate Germany's imperial power" in cahoots with Moscow.

Duda's wife, Agata, teaches German, and in the interview he said he has a lot of German friends. ...

800,000 Asylum Seekers Expected in Germany This Year; Austria Considers Legal Action as Berlin Backs Mandatory Distribution Quotas Open Europe | August 20

GERMAN INTERIOR MINISTER THOMAS DE MAIZIÈRE YESTERDAY announced that the German government has revised its forecast for the number of refugees expected to arrive in the country

to 800,000. The minister argued that "Germany cannot bear the strain if, as has been the case, around 40 percent of all asylum seekers to Europe come here. The reform of the Dublin system

into fair European burden-sharing with fixed quotas must be pushed forward,” adding that without such a fair distribution, the lack of border controls within the Schengen area will have no long-term sustainable basis. Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung estimates that dealing with this number of refugees will cost Germany around €10 billion (US\$11.3 billion) this year...

Meanwhile, Austria is threatening to launch a legal challenge against the European Commission over its “unfair” proposals for

the distribution of refugees across the EU, reports DPA

Separately, Slovakia announced yesterday that it will only accept Christian refugees to the country. Prime Minister Robert Fico cited “security risks,” whilst Ivan Metik, the spokesperson for the Interior Ministry, cited the absences of mosques in Slovakia as a reason, “How can Muslims be integrated if they do not feel comfortable here?” he told the BBC. ...

Greece Gives German Firm Rights to Run 14 Airports

Associated Press | August 18

GREECE HAS AGREED TO SELL TO A GERMAN COMPANY THE RIGHTS to operate 14 regional airports. The deal is the first in a wave of privatizations the government had until recently opposed but needs to make to qualify for bailout loans.

The decision, which was published in the government gazette overnight Monday to Tuesday, would hand over the airports, including several on popular tourist island destinations, to Fraport AG, which runs Frankfurt Airport, among others across the world.

The concession, worth €1.23 billion (US\$1.37 billion), is the first privatization decision taken by the government of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, who was elected in January on promises to repeal the conditions of Greece’s previous two bailouts.

The government had initially vowed to cancel the country’s privatization program, but Tsipras has been forced to renege on his preelection promises in order to win a deal on a third international bailout for Greece, worth €86 billion (\$97.5 billion). Without the rescue loans, the country would default on its debts and risk being forced out of Europe’s joint currency.

Citing the rescue loan agreement, Fitch international agency late Tuesday raised Greece’s credit rating by one notch, from CC

to CCC—but still near the bottom of the rating scale and deep in junk bond territory. ...

The government’s U-turn on preelection promises to secure its new bailout has sparked a rebellion within Tsipras’s governing left-wing Syriza Party, increasing the possibility of early elections being called as early as next month.

The prime minister is widely expected to call a confidence vote in his government this week after dozens of Syriza lawmakers voted against him during the ratification of the new bailout deal in Parliament last Friday. ...

“[A]s German-Foreign-Policy.com declares, Germany is proposing ‘the renunciation of core sovereignty rights by South Europe’s indebted countries’ This in addition to German elites calling for what really amounts to the seizure of Greek national assets in the name of what in reality has become the imperialist (Holy Roman) European Union of the German nation. Continue to watch for the prophesied fracturing of the EU into 10 leading entities, each yielding their national sovereignty to Rome and Berlin (Revelation 13 and 17).”

“Germany Guts Greece,” theTrumpet.com, Oct. 6, 2011

ASIA

Iran and Russia Use Nuclear Deal to Boost Military Ties

Fox News | August 18

MONDAY’S MEETING BETWEEN RUSSIAN AND IRANIAN FOREIGN ministers is fueling new speculation both countries are forging closer ties after July’s nuclear agreement.

Fox News National Security Analyst K.T. McFarland spoke to foreign-policy experts John Hannah and Anna Borshchevskaya about Iran’s evolving relationship with Russia.

“We’ve seen the warming of Russian-Iranian relations ties for several years now ... now that we have a new deal, they are simply profiting from it,” said Borshchevskaya, a fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. ...

U.S. officials first raised concerns when it was revealed Iran’s Quds Force commander Qassem Suleimani met with Russian officials in Moscow in July. Suleimani was able to travel despite a travel ban and UN Security Council resolutions barring him from leaving Iran.

The Iranians also are expecting the Russians, by the end of

2015, to deliver the S-300 air defense missile system to Tehran as part of a deal signed earlier in the year.

“This is a very dangerous development of course; this part of the Iran deal,” said Hannah, senior counselor at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

Hannah suspects that even though the conventional arms embargo remains in place for five years, “we will see Iran go on a shopping spree for the most advanced conventional weapons in both Russia and China.”

He sees the Iranians wanting advanced air defense systems because “when Iran is ready to break out a nuclear bomb, it will make its airspace impenetrable from both U.S. and Israeli military attacks.”

The Iranians and Russians are looking to test their strategic partnership once again in Syria. Both countries support Syrian President Bashar Assad’s regime as it fights moderate rebels and

ISIS terrorists.

“Russia has been very quick to step into this vacuum on Syria when it came to dealing with Assad ... because Russia and Iran agree pretty much on what to do in Syria ... we will see a

continuation of” that cooperation, said Borshchevskaya.

RELATED: [“IRANIAN GENERAL QASSEM SULEIMANI’S VISIT TO MOSCOW”](#)

Russia-Germany Tensions Mount Over Military Drills, Bomb Scares

ValueWalk | August 16

PHOTOGRAPHS OF A RUSSIAN MILITARY DRILL HAVE RESULTED IN some tense exchanges between Germany and Russia after the images were discovered to depict Russian bombs bearing anti-Germany slogans that hark back to the World War II period.

The Russian Navy organized military drills in the Baltic region in early August 2015. Staged by the Russian Navy Baltic Fleet, the exercises were organized at the Chernyakhovsk airbase and were marked by the presence of the Baltic, the Black Sea, the North and the Pacific fleets. ...

With legends like “To Berlin!” and “For Stalin” inscribed on the bombs, the photographs have created widespread panic and alarm in the German media. Many German civilians commenting on various social media platforms have expressed concerns that the incident might be an indication of a new Cold War taking root. ...

The German media, in particular, has raised the issue of the same slogans being used by the Soviet Red Army to rally troops during its march on Germany. The incident raises uncomfortable memories and questions, and as such, has created something of a stir. ...

While speaking to the Russian news agency Sputnik News, a member of the Russian Ministry of Defense claimed that German concerns and accusations pertaining to the slogans being an act of malice are completely unnecessary. “Neither while being stored in warehouses, nor, moreover, during any training or

otherwise exercises had any inscriptions whatsoever been put on any ammunition,” the official was quoted to have said. ...

While the debates about the authenticity of the photographs and the facts behind the inscriptions continue to invite different positions, the current editor in chief of the website they were procured from, Flot.com, has stated that the pictures were indeed taken during the drills at Kaliningrad Oblast. Mr. Sergei Sochevanov, the editor in chief, has also attested that the slogans were inscribed onto a training aircraft bomb. ...

“‘But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him’ (Daniel 11:44-45). This is where the rise of Europe and Russia is leading. It is building now even as I write.

“The ‘tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him’—united Europe. That means the frightening news comes from the northeast. Look on any world map and see who is located northeast of Europe—Russia and China, which will soon unite.”

Gerald Flurry, “Russia Frightens Europe—and Fulfills Bible Prophecy,” *Trumpet*, January 2004

U.S. Navy on Alert: China, Russia to Launch Largest-Ever Joint Navy Exercise

Washington Times | August 18

THE CHINESE AND RUSSIAN NAVIES ARE GEARING UP FOR THEIR largest-ever joint exercises, slated to begin Thursday in the Pacific with more than 20 ships and featuring anti-submarine operations as well as a joint-beach landing. ...

While analysts say the operations have increased in size and sophistications during recent years, the Chinese and Russian navies have held five such joint exercises over the past decade.

But in the current round of exercises, Chinese frigates have reportedly made their first-ever visit to the Russian Novorossiysk naval base in the Black Sea.

President Vladimir Putin made headlines in the area Tuesday by joining a Russian Navy team aboard a small vessel that plunged into the Black Sea along the coast of the Crimean Peninsula, which Moscow annexed from Ukraine last year.

The U.S. Naval Institute’s online news and analysis portal, USNI, said Tuesday that the coming China-Russia exercises will be the second series of joint drills in less than a year. ...

Russia Today also reported that the upcoming exercises mark the first time the Chinese Navy has taken part in a joint operation in the Sea of Japan, which borders North and South Korea and Russia, as well as Japan. ...

Six helicopters, five fixed-wing aircraft, 21 units of amphibious equipment and 200 marines are said to be preparing to join the exercise from the Chinese side, with the Russian Navy reportedly planning to send 16 surface ships, two submarines, 12 naval aircraft, nine amphibious vehicles and 200 marines. ...

“The Russia-China axis is no longer merely a forecast. It is here, and it is changing the world. The world now faces the most

serious crisis since World War II, and it is thanks in part to America's broken will and mismanaged power.

"In their book, Schoen and Kaylan argue that 'only a rebirth of American global leadership can counter the corrosive impact of this anti-democratic alliance, which may soon threaten the peace and security of the world.'

"Such a rebirth won't come about by something as meaningless as 'getting the GOP back in the White House.' The nation's ills are too numerous and too deep-rooted to be remedied by a topical balm of that kind. But there is a solution for America's crisis in leadership, and for the increasing power, cooperation and belligerence of the Russia-China axis. To understand it, read *Russia and China in Prophecy*.

Trumpet, January 2015

South Korea Evacuation After Shelling on Western Border

BBC | August 19

SOUTH KOREA HAS ORDERED THE EVACUATION OF RESIDENTS from an area of its western border after an exchange of fire with North Korea, reports say.

North Korea fired a shell at a South Korean military unit on Thursday, prompting the South to retaliate with several artillery rounds, the South's Defense Ministry said.

South Korea's National Security Council is due to hold an emergency session.

The western sea border has long been a flashpoint between the two Koreas.

North Korea fired a projectile towards Yeoncheon, a town

northwest of Seoul, at 15:52 local time (06:52 GMT), the Defense Ministry said.

Reports suggest the target could have been a loudspeaker broadcasting anti-Pyongyang messages.

The South then fired "dozens of rounds of 155mm shells" towards where they thought the rocket was launched from, the ministry added in a statement.

There were no immediate reports of any injuries or damage on either side.

The two Koreas remain technically at war, because the 1950-1953 war ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty. ...

AFRICA/LATIN AMERICA

Pope Francis Stunt Stirs Falkland Islands Tension

Times | August 20

POPE FRANCIS UNWITTINGLY HELD UP A SIGN DEMANDING NEW discussions on the status of the Falkland Islands at his general audience, the Vatican said.

The pope was handed the sign by an Argentine activist yesterday, and a photo of him brandishing it was quickly retweeted by the Argentine President Cristina Kirchner and Argentina's Foreign Ministry.

On Thursday, however, a Vatican source said the pope "did not know what he had in his hands."

The sign, which read, "It's time for dialogue between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the Falkland Islands," showed a map of the islands, which are called the Malvinas in Argentina.

"The picture does not indicate the pope has taken a position on the issue," said ... *Ciro Benedettini*, a Vatican spokesman

Argentina invaded the Falklands in 1982 to claim the British territory, which lies 300 miles off the Argentine coast, but a British task force retook the islands with the loss of 900 lives.

Islanders overwhelmingly voted to remain British in a 2013 referendum, and the British government has said the question of sovereignty has been settled

In 2012, while serving as the archbishop of Buenos Aires, and before he was elected pope, *Jorge Bergoglio* said Britain had

"usurped" the islands, but has not spoken about the issue since.

However, *Gustavo Hoyo*, the activist who handed Pope Francis the sign on Wednesday, told Argentina's *Clarín* newspaper that "when [the pope] passed by, I explained what this was about and he kindly took the placard and got the picture taken.

"He could have chosen not to do it, but he did."

Argentina's ambassador to the Vatican, *Eduardo Félix Valdès*, told the *Times* that the pope deliberately took the sign and has backed calls for reopening talks on the Falklands.

"There is no Argentinian who would not feel emotional about the pope taking that sign following his discussion of the matter in 2012," said Mr. Valdès. ...

Commenting on the Vatican's statement distancing itself from the sign, he added, "The real sense is that it is the first time it refers to the Malvinas, not the Falklands."

"During the last half of the 20th century, Britain and the United States surrendered almost every critical sea gate in the world. Herbert Armstrong prophesied of these strategic losses because he used the Bible as his guide to understand world events."

He Was Right



The Mystery of the Two Trees

Gerald Flurry,

The Key of David | August 21

Immediately after creating the first man, God taught him about the two trees.



Dangerous Currency War Dragging World Toward World War III

Robert Morley | August 21

IN 1934, UNITED STATES PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT outlawed the private ownership of gold. Some people who refused to turn their gold over to the government went to jail. With the same presidential order Roosevelt shocked the world by devaluing the dollar. The cost for an ounce of gold, previously set at \$20.67, henceforth cost \$35.

President Roosevelt told the country that it was a radical effort to stimulate America's economy. A cheaper dollar would make America's exports less expensive and help American companies sell more products to the rest of the world, he said. More money would flow into America, and more jobs would be created.

It did those things. And it also marched the world another giant step closer to war.

From the world's perspective, President Roosevelt's actions felt like a full-on economic broadside designed to steal a bigger chunk of a stagnating global economy. To the world, it was another—albeit much bigger—salvo in an ongoing global currency and trade war! And it responded in kind.

Today, the economic guns of 1934 are thundering once more. The world's economy is languishing. China, Europe and America face miry growth. Commodity prices have cratered. And demand for materials has been blown to smithereens. Meanwhile, global debt is skyrocketing. Desperate nations are doing everything they can—including destroying their currencies—to stimulate their economies and keep disruptive internal social forces at bay.

But could we really be headed toward world war again? The parallels, at least, are ominous.

It is in this current tense climate that, on August 11, China surprised the world by initiating the *greatest single-day devaluation of the yuan in China's history*.

And that was just the warning shot.

Over the next days, the yuan fell at an unprecedented rate—blowing multi-decade records for depreciation. The move was especially significant because, for the past several decades, China has made sure the value of the yuan closely tracked the dollar.

The fall of the yuan quickly mobilized other nations into action. Kazakhstan and Vietnam announced they would devalue their currencies in response. India, the world's second-largest nation by population, did not even make an official announcement before it depreciated the rupee. Turkey let its lira slide for

a record five days.

The international outrage was loud and clear—and it drew a response from China.

On August 16, Ma Jun, the chief economist at the People's Bank of China, emphatically reassured the world that the Chinese government had “no intention or need to participate in a currency war.” He called commentary to the contrary “completely groundless and unfounded.”

The denial was seen as confirmation that China had indeed entered the global currency fray. And that the war was headed into a new—potentially much more devastating—phase. As if on cue, investors began buying gold as insurance against devaluing currencies. The metal, which had been falling for three years in dollar terms, suddenly firmed up.

And no wonder. China is now one of the most important players in the world economy. When it acts, the world is forced to take notice.

Former U.S. ambassador to China Jon Huntsman told CNN that “people are very, very frustrated” with China's deliberate policy of devaluation. “China is no longer an average player in the global economy. They're the second-largest economy in the world. And when you have the devaluation of 2 percent right off the bat automatically—you're going to have a higher cost burden on the exports from the United States to Asia, and to one of our largest export markets, to say nothing of the impact it's going to have on the region.

Over the course of eight hours, Chinese products became 2 percent cheaper than their rivals in America and elsewhere. During the course of a week, they became 4.8 percent less expensive.

Where will they be in a month or a year? Can American exporters survive such warfare?

Reuters quoted unnamed “powerful voices” within China's government who suggested the yuan needed to fall by 10 percent. Morgan Stanley predicted a 15 percent fall earlier this year.

There will be retaliation.

China's currency bombardment is not happening in a vacuum—just as President Roosevelt's action to devalue and outlaw private gold ownership did not happen in a vacuum.

The 1920s and '30s saw wave after wave of currency

devaluations. Germany, Hungary and Italy virtually destroyed their currencies in an attempt to stimulate their economies. In 1930, America retaliated by passing the Smoot-Hawley Act to protect American producers. It raised the tariffs on 20,000 imported goods to record levels. The impact ricocheted around the world. Twenty-three major trading partners sent letters of protest and threats of retaliation. They were ignored. In May 1930, America's greatest trading partner, Canada, reacted by imposing tariffs on 16 products that accounted for almost a third of U.S. exports to Canada. France and Britain protested and switched to new trade partners. Germany developed a system of self-sufficiency, shunning U.S. products. By 1931, Austria unlinked the schilling from gold and devalued its currency; a move that precipitated the United Kingdom's own exit from the gold standard that same year due to its starving economy. France, learning from the UK's mistake, reinstituted its own gold standard at a much lower level to protect its own export industries. Roosevelt was actually late to enter the devaluation game.

Economic war raged. Trade war raged. World war loomed.

This is where we are today. And a case can be made that China is actually late to the game.

Following the 2008 Wall Street meltdown, the Federal Reserve slashed interest rates to zero and burned repeated rounds of quantitative easing into reducing the dollar's valuation. Brazil promptly declared "currency war" in return, vowing to defend domestic industry from cannibalization of the West. But forces were already in motion. The Bank of England quickly followed the Fed's boot prints. Then as Europe's economic crisis intensified, the European Central Bank opened up with its own quantitative

cannons. The Bank of Japan also lit the fuse.

China is no more or less to blame for this international mess than anyone else. But that doesn't change the media narrative: Just as it was prior to World War II when countries were denounced for devaluing their currencies to gain competitive advantage—the world's reaction to China's recent yuan devaluation continues to intensify.

China is today's financial kamikaze.

The world is goose-stepping toward full-scale trade war. This is something the *Trumpet* has been warning about for years. It is something that Herbert W. Armstrong famously forecast to millions of people on radio and in print. Throughout his 53-year work, he often described the conditions that would precede the biblically prophesied economic collapse of the United States.

Despite being the most stable currency in the world, the American dollar would one day be in "jeopardy of being devalued," he once wrote. When the dollar plummets, he warned, inflation will erupt and this will ultimately lead to "eventual economic collapse for the United States."

Based on Bible prophecy, he warned that the beginning of World War III would be "*economic in nature*." About America and Britain in particular, Mr. Armstrong stated: "God prophesied a virtual trade war will get underway against the United States and Britain—and [that] our national economics will falter, and then collapse!"

Fast-forward to today and that prophesied worldwide trade war could be now.

And as history and prophecy both show—world war could be next.

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World Shipping Slump Deepens as China Retreats

Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, *Telegraph* | August 17

WORLD SHIPPING HAS FALLEN INTO A DEEP SLUMP OVER THE late summer, dashing hopes of a quick recovery from the global trade recession earlier this year and heightening fears that the six-year economic expansion may be on its last legs.

Freight rates for container shipping from Asia to Europe fell by over 20 percent in the second week of August, even though trade volumes should be picking up at this time of the year. The Shanghai Containerized Freight Index (SCFI) for routes to north European ports crashed by 23 percent in five trading days.

The storm in the shipping industry comes as the New York state manufacturing index for July plummeted to a recessionary low of minus 14.9, the lowest since the Great Recession and one of the steepest one-month drops ever recorded.

The new shipments component fell to -13.8, and new orders to -15.7. A similar drop occurred in 2005 and proved to be a false alarm, but the latest fall comes at a delicate moment for the world economy.

There is now a full-blown August storm sweeping through global markets. The Bloomberg commodity index dropped to a fresh 13-year low on Monday and the MSCI index of emerging market equities touched depths not seen since August 2009.

A closely-watched gauge of emerging market currencies has

fallen for the eighth week—the longest run of unbroken declines since the beginning of the century—led by the Malaysian Ringgit, the Russian ruble and the Turkish lira.

China's surprise devaluation last week continues to send after-shocks through skittish global markets already on edge over a likely rate rise by the U.S. Federal Reserve in September—though this is now in doubt.

The currency move was widely taken as a warning that the Chinese economy is in deeper trouble than admitted so far, a menacing prospect for exporters of raw materials and for trade competitors in Asia. It threatens to transmit a fresh deflationary impulse through the global system.

The great worry is that companies in emerging markets will struggle to service \$4.5 trillion of U.S. dollar debt taken out in the boom years when quantitative easing by the Fed flooded the world with cheap money, much of it at irresistible real rates of 1 percent. This is up from \$1 trillion in 2002. ...

What is even more disturbing is that fresh port data from Asia suggest that the downturn dragged on into July, and may even have deteriorated.

Singapore—the world's second-largest entrepot—saw a 13.3 percent contraction in container volumes from a year earlier, the

worst performance since the sudden stop in trade after the Lehman crisis.

The growth in cargo shipments for all the major ports in East Asia (that have reported so far) fell to a new cycle-low of 0.6

percent in July, according to tracking data collected by Nomura. “The clock is ticking on the third quarter. We remain skeptical of those trying to ‘call a bottom,’” it said. ...

Army Kicking Out Decorated Green Beret Who Stood Up for Afghan Rape Victim

Fox News | August 21

THE U.S. ARMY IS KICKING OUT A DECORATED GREEN BERET after an 11-year Special Forces career after he got in trouble for shoving an Afghan police commander accused of raping a boy and beating up his mother when she reported the incident.

The case of Sgt. 1st Class Charles Martland now has the attention of Congress

Martland is described by many of his teammates as the finest soldier they have ever served alongside.

But his Army career changed course during his second deployment to Afghanistan in 2011. After learning an Afghan boy was raped and his mother beaten, Martland and his team leader confronted a local police commander they had trained, armed and paid with U.S. taxpayer dollars. When the man laughed off the incident, they physically confronted him.

They were punished by the Army at the time—but why exactly

Martland is now being discharged is a matter of dispute. Army sources cited his accolades, including being named runner-up for 2014 Special Warfare Training Group Instructor of the Year from a pool of 400 senior leaders in Special Forces, in questioning the decision. ...

Casey, a former Green Beret teammate who would only use his first name since he is now a member of a federal counterterrorism team, told Fox News, “If I was a commander, I would have given him an award. They saved that kid’s life.” ...

Martland ... has been fighting to stay in the Army. ... “It’s sad to think that a child rapist is put above one of our elite military operators. Sergeant Martland was left with no other choice but to intervene in a bad situation. ... The Army should stand up for what’s right and should not side with a corrupt Afghan police officer,” [Rep. Duncan Hunter] told Fox News. ...

Study Finds That Violent Video Games May Be Linked to Aggressive Behavior

Independent | August 17

PSYCHOLOGISTS HAVE CONFIRMED THAT PLAYING VIOLENT VIDEO games is linked to aggressive and callous behavior.

A review of almost a decade of studies found that exposure to violent video games was a “risk factor” for increased aggression. ... The findings have prompted a call for more parental control over violent scenes in video games from the American Psychological Association (APA).

A report from the APA task force on violent media concludes: “The research demonstrates a consistent relation between violent video game use and increases in aggressive behavior, aggressive cognitions and aggressive affect, and decreases in pro-social behavior, empathy and sensitivity to aggression.”

The report said no single influence led a person to act aggressively or violently. Rather, it was an “accumulation of risk factors” that resulted in such behavior. ...

Dr. Mark Appelbaum, who chaired the APA task force, said: “Scientists have investigated the use of violent video games for

more than two decades but to date, there is very limited research addressing whether violent video games cause people to commit acts of criminal violence.

“However, the link between violence in video games and increased aggression in players is one of the most studied and best established in the field. ...”

The task force conducted a comprehensive review of more than 300 violent video game studies published between 2005 and 2013. ...

“Anywhere we fail to confront evil—among nations, within communities and schools, in our families, within ourselves—it will spread. As God said, sin is waiting to attack you, longing to destroy you.

“But don’t forget: You can conquer it.”

“A Lesson From Virginia Tech,” Trumpet, June 2007

Report: Groundwater Pumping in California Has Land Sinking

Associated Press | August 20

VAST AREAS OF CALIFORNIA’S CENTRAL VALLEY ARE SINKING faster than in the past as massive amounts of groundwater are pumped during the historic drought, state officials said Wednesday, citing new research by NASA scientists.

The data shows the ground is sinking nearly two inches each month in some places, putting roads, bridges and vital canals that deliver water throughout the state at growing risk of damage.

Sinking land has occurred for decades in California because of excessive groundwater pumping during dry years, but the new data shows it is happening faster as the state endures its fourth year of drought.

“We are pumping at historic levels,” said Mark Cowin, head of the California Department of Water Resources. He added that groundwater levels are dropping to record levels—up to 100 feet

lower than previously recorded.

Scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory did the research using images taken over time from satellites and airplanes.

California is the nation's leading agriculture state, but drought

has put one fifth more land out of production this year than last year. ...

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Will the Unthinkable Happen Again?

Stephen Flurry,

Trumpet Daily | August 21

Jesus Christ answers!

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TW IN BRIEF

People protest after black teenager who pointed gun at police is killed: A man who pointed a gun at police was shot and killed by officers in northern St. Louis Wednesday afternoon. Two police officers were carrying out a search warrant on a home when two men ran out the back door. One of the men—18-year-old Mansur Ball-Bey—pointed a gun at the police and was in turn fatally shot. Others in the house were arrested without incident. Four guns and cocaine were discovered at or near the house. Police are still searching for the other man who fled the scene. Both of the officers are white. The incident has sparked protests in the St. Louis area just over one year since the killing of Michael Brown. So far nine people have been arrested, and police have deployed tear gas to disperse the protesters.

Planned Parenthood cut up babies' faces: In the latest video released by the Center for Medical Progress, former abortion technician Holly O'Donnell described how U.S. abortion agency Planned Parenthood would cut open babies' faces to get to the brain. O'Donnell was a procurement technician for StemExpress and would harvest organs at Planned Parenthood facilities. In the video, released Wednesday, she describes the incident that drove her to quit her job and become a whistleblower. She was holding an aborted baby that looked very close to being fully formed and able to survive on its own. A Planned Parenthood technician was even able to temporarily restart its heart. Then they cut through its face to take out the brain. Several states have defunded Planned Parenthood in the wake of similar videos. However, U.S. President Barack Obama has promised to veto any attempts to do this at the federal level.

Sexual revolution occurring in UK: Half of young people in the United Kingdom say they are not totally heterosexual, according to a survey published August 16. The YouGov poll asked individuals to rate their sexual preferences on a scale of 0-6, with 0 being completely heterosexual and 6 being exclusively homosexual. Forty-nine percent of 18-to-24-year-olds said they were

not totally heterosexual; 43 percent placed themselves somewhere between 1 and 5, which is classed as bisexual; 46 percent said they were totally heterosexual; and 6 percent completely homosexual. The results revealed that the younger generation is more likely than the rest of society to see their sexuality as flexible. For all age groups in Britain, 19 percent said that they were bisexual.

White House has hired its first openly transgender staff member: The White House announced on Tuesday the appointment of its first openly transgender staff member. It is a step toward the White House's goal of appointing more homosexual, bisexual and transgender people to leadership positions. Raffi Freedman-Gurspan will be the outreach and recruitment director for presidential personnel in the Office of Personnel. As such, he will be tasked with making sure the White House is giving more opportunities to the LGBT community. White House senior adviser Valerie Jarrett says Freedman-Gurspan's commitment to empowering the lives of transgender Americans, especially transgenders of color, reflects the values of the Obama administration. National Center for Transgender Equality Executive Director Mara Keisling noted that President Barack Obama has long said he wanted his administration to look like the American people and this means including more transgender Americans.

One hundred thirty-five unaccompanied children caught at U.S. border each day: During the month of July, an average of 135 unaccompanied children per day were caught illegally crossing into the United States from Mexico. The latest data about the border crossings was released on Monday by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The agency said the total number of unaccompanied children apprehended for the month was 4,177. This sets a monthly record and brings the total for the year to just under 30,000. In addition to unaccompanied children, another 4,506 family units were apprehended during July.