

Trumpet Weekly

SEPTEMBER 4, 2015



Police officers survey the damage after a local business was burglarized and looted during a protest march in Ferguson, Missouri, on August 9.

Why Are Murder Rates and Violence Rising in American Cities?

Joel Hilliker | September 2

ON TUESDAY MORNING, LT. CHARLES JOSEPH GLINIEWICZ, A police officer in Chicago, was chasing three suspects on foot—and they shot and killed him.

Just last Friday, Deputy Darren Goforth, a policeman in Houston, was gunned down from behind while gassing up his car.

Such sickening headlines are becoming like a steady drumbeat in our lives in America.



JOEL HILLIKER

On Monday the *New York Times* reported, “Murder Rates Rising Sharply in Many U.S. Cities.” These figures have been falling for years—but suddenly, cities across America—at least 35 of them, according to a recent survey—are suffering a reversal in that trend, reporting increases in homicides, violent crimes or both. Among them:

- Milwaukee experienced 86 murders in the whole of 2014. This year, with summer not yet over, there have already been 104.

- In New Orleans, the first eight months of last year saw 98 murders. The same period this year saw 120.
- Baltimore had 138 homicides through August last year. This year the number is 215.
- Washington’s first eight months last year had 73; this year: 105
- St. Louis through August 2014: 85 murders. This year: 136.

Why the sudden increase in urban murders? The *Times* says, “[N]o one is claiming to know for sure.”

Last Wednesday, a black man in Virginia, angry about what he considered racism, murdered two reporters on live television.

The *Washington Post* took that opportunity to note: “We’re now averaging more than one mass shooting per day in 2015.”

Why is this happening?

One Cause: Undermined Law Enforcement

There are a number of contributing factors. One that cannot be ignored is what the *Times* article describes as “intense national scrutiny of the use of force by the police [which] has made officers less aggressive and emboldened criminals.”

Yes, prominent voices in government—including the president—and the press have been accusing America's law enforcement of endemic racism. They have said that this hate is deep-seated—even “part of our DNA,” to use the president's words—and must be exposed. They demand “justice” without specifying just what that means.

Is it working?

Just hours after Goforth's murder, a group of “black lives matter” protesters in Minnesota marched behind a group of police officers down a highway near the state fair grounds. They were chanting, “Pigs in a blanket, fry 'em like bacon.”

This is supposed to address and decrease racism in America?

Seeking Racial ‘Justice’

It makes me wonder: What exactly do the people agitating for racial justice want? What sort of justice are they talking about?

Here's another question: Are the efforts of those who are supposedly seeking to right racial wrongs actually helping blacks and other minorities?

Look at the rise in murder and violence in America's cities. Who is suffering? In Milwaukee, of the 107 murders so far this year, 85 have been black people. Of the 223 murders in Baltimore this year, 200 have been black.

Do the lives of those people matter? The calls for justice aren't the sole cause for the rise in crime, by any means. But there is evidence that this inflammatory rhetoric is contributing to the problem—and no evidence that it is solving anything.

Where to Find Real Solutions

In his article “[How to Solve America's Race Problems](#),” *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry discussed a REAL SOLUTION. It is the solution that *Jesus Christ* advocated: FORGIVENESS. Doing the hard work of trying to *love one another*.

Now, however, there are voices essentially branding it *racist* to say that black people should forgive white people. (Here is one—from Salon.com: “Why America Needs to Reject the Charleston Massacre's Dangerous Narrative of Forgiveness.” The article explains: “Well-intended forgiveness has been seized on by the media and those in power as an excuse to ignore white supremacy.”) That is lunacy.

The point Mr. Flurry made is profound and irrefutably true:

When we seek a Bible solution, we will achieve positive results—as was beautifully evidenced in Charleston. But when we seek *our own* solutions, contrary to Scripture, the results will be bad, and problems will proliferate. “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12).

Witnessing America's growing unrest and violence, I have assumed that those calling for racial justice would disagree with the assertion that their proposed “solutions” are contributing to these problems. I have thought that they would deny any connection.

But lately I have wondered how many of them would actually view these stories *positively*, in a twisted way—if they might not perceive rising violence and mayhem somehow as a step forward in the march toward the kind of “justice” they seek!

Whether or not that is the case, it is certain that momentum is building. The tempo of these stories is quickening. And the more they happen, the more they feed on themselves. The trend is intensifying—to America's great peril.

‘Full of Bloody Crimes’

We are witnessing the fulfillment of the prophecy of Ezekiel 7:23: “Make a chain: for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence.” This foretells a time when crime and violence in the end-time nations of Israel would be so prevalent that one crime would literally follow another like links in a chain. That is exactly where the U.S. finds itself today.

We have brought it upon ourselves. By rejecting God, by refusing His solutions, by exalting our own perverse reasoning, by nurturing hate and division, by embracing lawlessness and sin, by dissolving our families and leaving our children to raise themselves—we have invited our own destruction.

Read the rest of Ezekiel 7 to see how God is going to punish this nation. The curse of violence within our cities is only the start. It will intensify, and continue to deplete our strength and sap our will as a nation. It is going to weaken us to the point where we are susceptible to being *taken over*—as this prophecy warns—by hostile foreign powers. That is where this terrible trend is leading us.

Is that the kind of justice we want? Because that is the kind of justice we are going to get.

 Follow Joel Hilliker

MIDDLE EAST

TrumpetDaily

RADIO SHOW

WHITE HOUSE TO KENTUCKY CLERK: ‘NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW’ | SEPTEMBER 4

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THE GREAT SLUMBERING | SEPTEMBER 1

THE LARGEST AUDIENCE POSSIBLE | AUGUST 31

Our World: Losing the War of Ideas

Caroline Glick, *Jerusalem Post* | September 1

WE HAVE ARRIVED AT THE POINT WHERE THE CONSEQUENCES OF the West's intellectual disarmament at the hands of political correctness begins to have disastrous consequences in the lives of hundreds of millions of people.

Speaking last month at the memorial service for the five U.S. marines massacred at a recruiting office in Chattanooga, Tennessee, U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said, "The meaning of their killing is yet unclear, and what combination of disturbed mind, violent extremism, and hateful ideology was at work, we don't know."

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden claimed, the "perverse ideologues ... may be able to inspire a single lone wolf, but they can never, never threaten who we are."

Both men were wrong, and dangerously so.

The meaning of the killings was no mystery.

Mohammed Youssef Abdulazeez shot his victims down in cold blood because he was a jihadist. He wrote of his devotion to the Islamic war for global domination on his blog. He downloaded messages from Anwar Awlaki, the American al Qaeda commander killed in a drone attack in Yemen in 2011. ...

Ideas are the most powerful human force. And the idea of jihad that the Obama administration will not discuss is perhaps the most powerful idea in the world's marketplace of ideas today.

The notion of jihad is fairly simple. It asserts that Islam is the only true religion. All other faiths are wrong and evil. It is the destiny of the one true faith to reign supreme. The duty of all Muslims is to facilitate Islam's global rise and dominion.

How this duty is borne varies. Some take up arms.

Some engage in indoctrination. Some engage in subversion. And some cheer from the sidelines, providing a fan base to encourage those more directly engaged. What is most important is the shared idea, the creed of jihad.

The jihadist creed is a creed of war. Consequently, its adherents cannot live peacefully with non-jihadists.

By definition, those who subscribe to a jihadist worldview constitute a threat to those who do not share their belief system.

Rather than contend with the idea of jihad, the West, led by the U.S., insists on limiting its focus to the outward manifestations of jihadist beliefs. ...

From Nigeria to Egypt to the Palestinian Authority to Pakistan, in Europe, the U.S. and South America, jihadist armies and

individual Muslims are embracing the idea of the caliphate—the ultimate aim of jihad—and pledging or weighing the option of pledging loyalty to [the Islamic State] and its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. ...

Consider Egypt. As Yoni Ben-Menachem reported last month for the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, on August 20, Baghdadi officially asked the Muslim Brotherhood to join [the Islamic State] and pledge loyalty to his caliphate. His request was completely reasonable.

Both [the Islamic State] and the Brotherhood share the same ideology, including the goal of Islamic domination through the renewed caliphate. Like the Brotherhood, Boko Haram in Nigeria, Ansar el-Makdis in the Sinai, and other jihadist groups in Asia and Africa have already accepted Baghdadi's invitation, pledged allegiance to the caliphate and changed their names to incorporate into the Islamic State. ...

[The Islamic State's] goal is apparently to convince the young Brotherhood members to join forces. If the bid is successful, Egypt will become a tinderbox whose destructive force will be cataclysmic.

Then there is nuclear-armed Pakistan.

Last week the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and the Stimson Center published a joint report warning that given Pakistan's rate of nuclear activity, within five to 10 years Pakistan may have the third-largest nuclear arsenal in the world, behind only the U.S. and Russia. According to the report, Pakistan is producing nuclear bombs four times faster than India.

The epicenter of Pakistan's nuclear work is its Baluchistan province. [The Islamic State's] popularity is high and growing in the area, as it is throughout much of Pakistan. ... And as a consequence, the danger that bombs they now build will fall under Baghdadi's control is real and growing. ...

But because of our voluntary intellectual enslavement, we now face a real danger that [the Islamic State] and its demonic notions will take over Egypt. Because we seek to ignore the creed of jihad, Pakistan's fast growing nuclear arsenal could very well become the property of the caliphate.

Ideas are the force that drives history. If we aren't willing to fight for what we believe, then we will lose to those who are. And make no mistake, we are not winning this war.

Pentagon Confirms Islamic State Use of Chemical Arms

Washington Free Beacon | September 2

DE FENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES HAVE CONFIRMED THAT Islamic State terrorists have used chemical weapons in attacks in Iraq and Syria, according to defense officials.

Pentagon officials are aware of rocket and mortar attacks using the blistering agent mustard after samples from four locations in the region were analyzed, said defense officials familiar

with details of the assessment. ...

Elissa Smith, a Pentagon spokeswoman, declined to comment on intelligence or operational matters. But Smith told the *Free Beacon*: “Let us be clear: any use by any party, be it state or non-state actor, of a chemical as a weapon of any kind is an abhorrent act.” ...

The fact that non-state actors such as [the Islamic State] may be further considering the use of chemical arms as weapons of war and terror “is a haunting symptom of the conditions created by the Assad regime when they flagrantly disregard international prohibitions against the use of chemicals as a weapon.”

“These allegations are also a stark reminder to the international community of the threats posed by the ongoing chaos in

Syria and the urgency of reaching a diplomatic solution to the conflict in Syria,” Smith said. ...

“World leaders and news commentators cannot tell you in advance where this crisis will lead. But you can know Syria’s future if you read what we have been writing, based on the Bible, for the past 70 years. What we are seeing right now in Syria is a major biblical prophecy in the process of being fulfilled! What happens in Syria will lead to mighty nations changing course and the foundations of this world being shaken!”

Gerald Flurry, “How the Syrian Crisis Will End,” *Trumpet*, September 2012

Suleimani: U.S. Power in Region Has Declined

Al-Monitor | September 1

QASSEM SULEIMANI, THE COMMANDER OF IRAN’S QUDS FORCE, A division of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in charge of operations outside the country’s borders, gave what was billed as “a special speech” to the Assembly of Experts September 1 to discuss regional matters. Parts of the speech were shared with Iranian news agencies by members of the assembly in attendance.

In an interview with Tasnim News Agency, Assembly of Experts member Hojat al-Islam Seyyed Mojtaba Taheri said ... “General Suleimani said that the collapse of American power in the region has happened. He gave the factors for this collapse, and one of the most influential reasons for it is the strong logic of the Islamic Republic of Iran in various arenas.” One of the top headlines in Iranian news agencies this morning read, “The collapse of American power in the region has happened.”

Taheri continued, “General Suleimani said the spiritual influence of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region has resulted in strengthening the line of resistance and the Islamic Revolution, and for this, America and Israel and their allies have been challenged.”

On the fight against the Islamic State ... Fars News reported

Suleimani as saying, “America plans to preserve [the Islamic State] so that Muslims will continue to need the Americans, and in reality they have turned this into leverage.” ...

On the civil war in Yemen, using the formal name for Houthi militias, Suleimani said, “Ansar Allah is a people’s movement, and many people have joined them.” He said that the war in Yemen “is much harder than the war against the Taliban, but Ansar Allah has resisted for more than four months, whereas the Taliban collapsed after two months.” ...

“There is a reason Mr. Armstrong correctly forecast after World War II that America would lose the will to use its power and never again win a war. He knew that when God threatened in Leviticus 26:19 to “break the pride of your power,” He was referring primarily to Britain and the United States in this modern age. The irony is that the same God who promised to break our pride is the one who gave this tremendous power in the first place. ... It is clear now that our broken-willed nations will not wake up to these ever more imminent threats. But you, as an individual, still can.”

He Was Right

The Islamic State Shows Off Currency With Gold Dinar Coins

Independent | August 31

ISIS HAS SHOWN OFF ITS NEW CURRENCY—AS PART OF THE GROUP’S plan for “world domination.”

The militants currently brutalizing parts of Iraq and Syria claim to have produced the gold dinar, with smaller denominations of silver dirhams and copper fulus, in a newly released propaganda video.

Titled “The Rise of the Khilafah and the Return of the Gold Dinar,” the hour-long video claims that only gold is the true

measure of wealth and America’s reliance on bonds and oil are its “Achilles heel.”

Also containing exhortations on world economics, the video explains how its currency will break “America’s capitalist financial system of [slavery],” which is a “symbol of injustice and tyranny.”

The hour-long promotional footage includes staged interactions showing soldiers and shop owners admiring the currency.

It claims that because the gold dinar will be 21-carat, one coin will be equivalent to \$139 (£91) and will destroy America's economy.

As part of their plans for global domination, the video also claims the currency will spread with ISIS across the whole of

Europe "to purify the earth of the corruption that tainted it, after it was set in order." ...

RELATED: ["THE WORLD'S NEWEST MOST RADICAL 'STATE'"](#)

EUROPE

TrumpetHour

WEEK IN REVIEW: EUROPE'S IMMIGRATION CRISIS | SEPTEMBER 4

MURDER AND VIOLENCE INCREASING IN AMERICA | SEPTEMBER 2

Dark Germany, Bright Germany: Which Side Will Prevail Under Strain of Refugees?

Spiegel | August 31

ANGER IS IN THE AIR. ANGELA MERKEL HAS COME TO HEIDENAU and the locals are lined up to see her. But it is anything but a friendly welcome: It is a crowd full of hate. Some call out: "Traitor to your people!" ...

The attacks on refugee hostels in Germany have reached a shocking level this year. By July 6, there were fully 199 of them, and the attacks have shown no signs of stopping. At the same time, though, Germans seem more willing to help than ever before. They visit refugee hostels, bringing along clothes and toys. They cook together with the Syrians and Sudanese. They invite migrant boys to join the football teams where their own children play.

Which Germany will prevail? The Germany of racist chants from the roadside? The Germany of rioters and drunken rock-throwers? "Dark Germany" as President Joachim Gauck calls it? ...

Germany has always harbored its illusions about migrants. In the 1960s, it was said that the workers brought in from Italy and Turkey were only guests in the country, helping hands on the assembly lines of Bosch and Daimler. Then, when they stayed and their children sat next to German kids in schools and Turkish vegetable stands sprung up on every street corner, the overwhelming majority of German policymakers continued to refuse to identify Germany as a country of immigration.

Is a new lie now being told today? Germany's political leadership still hasn't made up its mind and seems simultaneously tentative and courageous. It is hard to know in which direction it will end up going. ...

As many as 800,000 refugees and migrants may arrive in Germany this year, according to Interior Ministry forecasts. And even if we don't really know how things will develop in coming years, one thing is certain: The numbers aren't likely to drop appreciably. The civil war in Syria grinds on, there is no end in sight to terror in Iraq, and the situation in Eritrea isn't likely to improve any time soon, to name just a few significant drivers of migration.

It is also certain that the newcomers will change our country. Germans have only recently become used to the idea that they live in a country of immigration and now, the next illusion is being destroyed: that there is such a thing as controlled immigration. It isn't just the best minds that are coming to us; it is people fleeing Assad's barrel bombs and Islamic State brutality. They are running for their lives, whether they are illustrious or illiterate.

The good news is that most Germans don't have a problem with this. Sixty percent are of the opinion that the country can absorb the huge numbers of refugees currently arriving But how long will it last? ...

Is history repeating itself? In the 1990s, right-wing extremist parties were able to profit from the fear of an "asylum glut." In 1992, the right-wing nationalist party DVU landed in the Schleswig-Holstein state parliament with 6.3 percent of the vote and the nationalist-conservative Republicans got 10.9 percent in a state vote in Baden-Württemberg. That year, some 438,000 asylum seekers arrived in Germany. This year, almost double that amount is expected.

But times have changed. Germans have become more cosmopolitan and their understanding for misery in the world, and for the motivations driving the refugees, has grown as a result. Furthermore, many frustrated voters don't end up joining forces with the right wing. They simply don't vote at all. ...

Thus far, Europe has responded to the crisis with organized irresponsibility. Italy and Greece allow asylum seekers to continue their journeys, despite the Dublin Regulation, which requires that refugees apply for asylum where they first enter the EU. It is a system that has allowed countries like Germany and France to ignore the true dimensions of the problem for years.

But there are plenty of other indications as well that the EU migration system is collapsing. Hungary and Bulgaria, for example, are building border fences and Slovakia has said it only wants to accept Christian refugees, and not Muslims. Austria's

government announced that it would cease processing new asylum applications. Great Britain intends to pass strict laws against illegal immigration.

Chancellor Merkel is concerned that the refugee crisis has the potential to destroy the European idea. What, after all, are the wonderful ideals worth when all Europe is talking about is how to keep the desperate and rejected away? ...

It is often said that Europe grows in times of crisis. But that isn't how things currently look. On the contrary. It almost seems as though the refugee emergency is bringing out the worst in Europe: xenophobia, isolationism and the eternal argument about who is responsible. But the late summer of 2015 also offers the possibility of reflection. The refugees present Europe with the opportunity to show that it takes seriously the values spelled out in its treaties. ...

Europe's long-term goal, though, has to be that of fighting the causes of migration. Of course Europe won't be able to quickly impose peace on Syria or to transform Eritrea into a democracy. But at the moment, EU member states aren't even trying to look beyond the borders of Europe. EU countries agreed 10 years ago

to increase their development aid to 0.7 percent of their gross domestic products. But hardly any member states have achieved that goal. ...

The coexistence of hundreds of thousands of Arab and African Muslims—in addition to the millions of Turks and people of Turkish origin already living here—will test the limits of German tolerance. The country will again debate whether headscarves should be allowed in government workplaces, whether girls should be required to take coeducational swimming classes, whether minarets can be as high as church steeples, and how loud the muezzins can conduct their calls to prayer. But this is a test that German society can, indeed must, endure.

If, fearing the wrath of voters, politicians duck uncomfortable truths, the hatred will spread and the public will lose faith in politics. Essentially, what Germany is confronted with is a double integration process: that of refugees who are coming to Germany and that of Germans who no longer feel they are a part of their own country. The only way societal cohesion in this new Germany can be guaranteed is if both of these groups are carried along as the country moves forward. ...

Migration Crisis: Hungary PM Says Europe in Grip of Madness **Ian Traynor, Guardian Unlimited | September 3**

HUNGARY'S NATIONALIST PRIME MINISTER, VIKTOR ORBÁN, HAS claimed Europe is in the grip of madness over immigration and refugees, and argued that he was defending European Christianity against a Muslim influx. ...

"Everything which is now taking place before our eyes threatens to have explosive consequences for the whole of Europe," Orbán wrote in Germany's *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. "Europe's response is madness. We must acknowledge that the European Union's misguided immigration policy is responsible for this situation. ..."

... "Today everything is immigration," said the EU president, Donald Tusk, on Thursday. "We live in sobering, shocking times."

"The Schengen treaty is under threat, that's absolutely clear," said Martin Schulz, the European Parliament speaker, after meeting Orbán. "This is a crucial moment for the European Union. A deeper split of the union is a risk we cannot exclude." ...

"This is not a European problem, it's a German problem," said

Orbán in Brussels. "They all want to go to Germany."

Tusk said Europe was split east-west over the influx, with some, such as Orbán seeking to contain the crisis by erecting border fences. Others, led by Germany, wanted obligatory quotas for refugees across the union.

Securing the EU's borders was the most urgent challenge, Tusk said, adding that he expected 500,000 "irregular migrants" to arrive in Europe this year. That seemed an understatement, given that Berlin has projected arrivals of 800,000 for Germany alone. ...

"Those arriving have been raised in another religion, and represent a radically different culture. Most of them are not Christians, but Muslims," [Orbán] said. "This is an important question, because Europe and European identity is rooted in Christianity."

"Is it not worrying in itself that European Christianity is now barely able to keep Europe Christian? There is no alternative, and we have no option but to defend our borders." ...

Czech Police Haul Migrants Off Trains to Germany and 'Write Numbers on Their Arms in Ink' **The Independent | September 2**

THE CZECH PRIME MINISTER HAS CALLED A MEETING WITH HIS counterparts in Austria and Slovakia to discuss the growing influx of refugees in Eastern and Central Europe.

According to local media, in the early hours of Tuesday morning around 200 were arrested on trains arriving from Austria and

Hungary in the southern Czech region of Moravia.

Pictures in Czech media showed police officers writing registration numbers on the wrists and arms of migrants with permanent marker pens

Germany will soon be able to ‘stop and destroy’ refugee vessels: German Marines will be used in the European Union’s military action against the criminal human-smuggling networks operating in the Mediterranean. The Bundeswehr, Germany’s armed forces, could begin to stop and destroy vessels of human smugglers outside the Libyan coastal waters as early as October. The German battleship Schleswig-Holstein and the combat support ship Werra have already been collecting information on smuggling routes in preparation for an eventual EU military attack. The refugee crisis is forcing EU leaders to coordinate militarily. To learn more, read [“Europe’s Migrant Dilemma Will Lead It Deeper Into Africa.”](#)

Pope forgives abortion: Pope Francis declared on Tuesday that he is allowing all priests to absolve women of the “sin of abortion” if they repent with a “contrite heart” in the church’s upcoming Year of Mercy. He said he is acutely aware some feel they have no choice but to abort. Francis said in a letter published by the Vatican that he has met many women bearing “the scar of this agonizing” decision to abort. He said God’s forgiveness cannot be denied to those who repent. The Year of Mercy runs from December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016. The Catholic Church says believers must go to the church for the forgiveness of serious sins. However, its own popes have admitted that the church of the Bible never followed this practice.

ASIA

Russian Troops ‘Fighting Alongside Assad’s Army Against Syrian Rebels’

Telegraph | September 2

RUSSIAN TROOPS ARE FIGHTING ALONGSIDE PRO-ASSAD FORCES in Syria, state television in Damascus and several reports have claimed. The video footage claimed to show troops and a Russian armored vehicle fighting Syrian rebels alongside President Bashar Assad’s troops in Latakia.

It is reportedly possible to hear Russian being spoken by the troops in the footage.

In further indications of Russian “mission creep” in Syria, a Twitter account linked to Jabhat al-Nusra, al Qaeda’s Syrian branch, published images of what appeared to be Russian planes and drones flying over Idlib.

And a Russian naval vessel was photographed heading south through the Bosphorus Strait carrying large amounts of military equipment, according to social media and a shipping blog.

While Russian military advisers are thought to have been in Syria for months, as the Kremlin tries to support its key Middle

East ally, if confirmed, this would mark the first evidence of troops fighting on the front line.

It is possible the Russians in the state television clip could have been contractors, thereby putting some distance between themselves and the Kremlin.

An unnamed activist with the Syrian rebel group the Free Syrian Army told the *Times*: “The Russians have been there a long time.

“There are more Russian officials who came to Slunfeh in recent weeks. We don’t know how many but I can assure you there has been Russian reinforcement.”

Russia is also delaying the launch of an international investigation aimed at assigning blame for chemical weapons attacks in Syria, UN Security Council diplomats said on Wednesday, though Moscow’s UN envoy said the holdup was for technical reasons. ...

China to Cut Troop Levels by 300,000

Reuters | September 3

PRESIDENT XI JINPING ANNOUNCED ON THURSDAY HE WOULD CUT troop levels by 300,000 [Xi] said China would cut by 13 percent one of the world’s biggest militaries, currently 2.3 million strong.

The Defense Ministry said the cuts would be mostly complete by the end of 2017. The move is likely part of long-mooted military rationalization plans, which have included spending more money on high-tech weapons for the Navy and Air Force. ...

Greg Austin, a professorial fellow at the East-West Institute

in New York, said the troop cuts had nothing to do with curbing military power. “It’s a determination to expand military power by redirecting money to higher impact, higher technologies, which can have more strategic effect,” he said, referring to the maritime, cyber and space frontiers.

Peng Guangqian, deputy head of China’s Council for National Security Policy Studies, said ... “This indicates a change of the PLA training strategy; with more focus on actual combat.” ...

Putin Says Russia-China Relations at 'Historic Peak'

ValueWalk | September 1

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN TOLD THE PRESS THAT despite their differences, Russia and China share common goals.

Putin told the TASS and Xinhua news agencies ... that Russian-Chinese relations may have “reached a peak in their entire history.” He says that there is a “deep respect” and “consideration for each other’s key interests,” which allow a genuine friendship to blossom. ...

China has become Russia’s key trade partner and cross-border trade has reached around \$88.4 billion. Putin says that Western sanctions, which he calls “illegitimate restrictions imposed by certain Western countries against Russia,” do not impact Moscow’s relationship with Beijing. ...

Putin’s emphasis on maintaining good relations with China is shown by the fact that he has visited the country 13 times since 2000. ...

Taiwan Defense Ministry Assesses Chance of PLA Invasion

Want China Times | September 1

JUDGING FROM CHINA’S MILITARY INVESTMENT AND MODERNIZATION in recent years, China would probably invade Taiwan under certain circumstances, Taiwan’s Ministry of National Defense said in a report submitted to the country’s Legislature on Monday.

In its 2015 report on China’s military power, the ministry

assessed that China might invade Taiwan in some critical situations, which could include a declaration of formal independence or moves by the country toward de jure independence. Other scenarios also include massive civil unrest, Taiwan obtaining nuclear weapons, or foreign troops being deployed in Taiwan.

Philippines Asks for U.S. Military Assistance in South China Sea

Diplomat | August 31

LAST WEEK, PHILIPPINE DEFENSE SECRETARY VOLTAIRE GAZMIN requested military assistance from the head of U.S. Pacific Command, Adm. Harry Harris Jr., to strengthen the Philippines’ position in the South China Sea, AFP reports.

According to Col. Restituto Padilla, a military spokesperson of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), “It was a specific request on the part of the secretary of national defense to Harris to get their assistance in ... resupplying and rotating troops.”

He emphasized that Admiral Harris made no commitment during the meeting to fulfill the request concerning the “West Philippine Sea” (Manila’s name for the closest section of South China Sea). ... The Philippines specifically asked the United States for assistance in monitoring the situation in the South

China Sea in “real time” by providing surveillance and reconnaissance assets

... Gazmin and Harris also discussed the Pentagon’s new Asia-Pacific Maritime Security Strategy which, while noting that “the United States takes no position on competing sovereignty claims to land features in the region,” slightly reprimands Manila. ...

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

Gerald Flurry, We Have Had Our Last Chance

China and Russia Are Using Hacked Data to Target U.S. Spies, Officials Say

LA Times | August 31

FOREIGN SPY SERVICES, ESPECIALLY IN CHINA AND RUSSIA, ARE aggressively aggregating and cross-indexing hacked U.S. computer databases—including security clearance applications, airline records and medical insurance forms—to identify U.S. intelligence officers and agents, U.S. officials said. ...

Counterintelligence officials say their adversaries combine those immense data files and then employ sophisticated software to try to isolate disparate clues that can be used to identify and track—or worse, blackmail and recruit—U.S. intelligence operatives. ...

The officials say China’s state security officials tapped criminal hackers to steal the files, and then gave them to private Chinese software companies to help analyze and link the information

together. That kept the government’s direct fingerprints off the heist and the data aggregation that followed.

In a similar fashion, officials say, Russia’s powerful Federal Security Service has close connections to programmers and criminal hacking rings in Russia and has used them in a relentless series of cyberattacks. ...

“The Trumpet has been warning about America’s vulnerability to cyberattack for nearly two decades. ... One key end-time Bible prophecy in Ezekiel will likely be fulfilled through cyberwarfare. ... ‘[T]hey have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; but none goeth forth to the battle ...’ (Ezekiel 7:14). It

appears the trumpet of war is blown in America and Britain, but a nation-crushing tragedy occurs: Nobody answers the call to battle! Is this because our ... government and our military in-

frastructure, have been paralyzed by a massive cyberattack?"
"Barbarians Within the Gates," *Trumpet*, July 2012

30 Deals to Be Tabled During Putin's September Visit to Beijing **Sputnik | September 1**

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN PLANS TO DISCUSS TRADE and economic cooperation, and international issues with his Chinese partners during his visit to Beijing on September 2-3, according to the president's aide Yuri Ushakov. ...

Ushakov said that about 30 documents are scheduled for

signing in Beijing, but the contract on the Power of Siberia 2 gas pipeline is not on the agenda. ...

The president's aide emphasized the goal of increasing bilateral trade to \$200 annually by 2020. ...

AFRICA/LATIN AMERICA

Why China Is Lending \$5 billion to Struggling Venezuela **Economist | September 2**

SITTING IN FRONT OF A BLOWN-UP CHINESE WATERCOLOR PORTRAIT of Hugo Chávez, President Nicolás Maduro announced a new \$5 billion loan from China in his weekly television program, which aired on September 1. In the two-hour show ... he briefly announced that the deal had been signed, before panning to footage of marching Chinese soldiers and a clip of himself playing drums with Chinese dignitaries.

The deal has not been confirmed by Chinese authorities, but has been reported in the Chinese press. ... It is hard to see any economic advantage to China from the deal. Growth in China's oil imports has been slowing down. Imported oil is increasingly stored in emergency reserves rather than being consumed. World markets are awash in the stuff. ...

If the deal has any upside for China, it is for the companies which may receive Venezuelan contracts as a condition of the deal, as is usual for its development finance projects. If they are unprofitable—as many oil investments are nowadays—the developing-country government will be on the line, not the Chinese companies.

Thus the China Development Bank can lend money to stimulate domestic companies without anyone in China taking the risk.

This model, however, looks unsuitable for Venezuela, which is teetering on the brink of default. ... China has already sunk \$56.3 billion in loans into the flailing Venezuelan economy since 2007, and about \$20 billion is outstanding. ...

"China wants to cut back exposure, but now has an addicted borrower on its hands," explains Ricardo Hausmann, professor of economics at Harvard University and an ex-minister of planning in Venezuela. Indeed, it is difficult to refuse friends when they are in one's living room; the Venezuelan president is in Beijing for tomorrow's grand military parade, alongside a collection of developing-world leaders. Mr Maduro has also been cuddling up to Vladimir Putin, also present at the parade, in his efforts to avoid financial collapse. The exercise of soft power in Venezuela may be the real justification for Chinese (and potentially Russian) lending. The surprising thing, perhaps, is that Venezuela remains a geopolitical prize worth competing for.

ANGLO-AMERICA



God's Physical House Is Here Today

Gerald Flurry,

The Key of David | September 4

You need to know where God dwells in spirit here on Earth.



T The EPA's Waters of the United States Rule Sunk by Judge, but Federal Power Grab Is Full Steam Ahead

Robert Morley | September 3

ACCORDING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA), its actions are necessary to protect people. It says that the Navigable Waters Act gives it the authority to protect America's transport waterways. It is a principle held up by the courts.

But now it says it has reinterpreted the act and found out that it actually has a *far greater jurisdiction than it realized*. Not only does it have authority over bodies of water that are large enough to transport goods by boat, but it has the authority to regulate the streams, ditches, gullies, swamps and even seasonal waters that potentially feed into any navigable waterway—plus 4,000 feet of land in any direction from any such culvert, wash, arroyo, mud-flat or seasonal marsh.

That's a lot of territory. Hundreds of millions of acres.

"Today's rule marks the beginning of a new era in the history of the Clean Water Act," said Assistant Secretary for the Army (Civil Works) Jo-Ellen Darcy. "This is a generational rule and completes another chapter in history of the Clean Water Act."

Yet not everybody is happy. PacificLegal.org calls it "undoubtedly the largest expansion of power ever proposed by a federal agency."

The American Farm Bureau Federation says that the EPA power grab puts 99 percent of Pennsylvania and Montana, and 100 percent of Virginia under the federal agency's authority. Vast oceans of other states fall under the EPA's claim of domain too.

Suddenly, and without congressional input, the EPA has placed the majority of the rivers and farmland in the United States under its regulatory control. The EPA is "radically" expanding its jurisdiction over land use, says the Federation.

The EPA has become a "threat" to communities, as opposed to a servant, Sen. James Lankford of Oklahoma told the Edmond Business Chamber of Commerce on August 27. "They are taking 40-year-old laws and reinterpreting them in a way no president has ever done."

Federal Judge Ralph Erickson found that "the EPA has violated its congressional grant of authority in its promulgation of the rule at issue and ... it appears likely the EPA failed to comply with [Administrative Procedure Act] requirements when promulgating the rule."

Judge Erickson also found that the states "have demonstrated that they will face irreparable harm in the absence of a preliminary injunction. Once the rule takes effect, the states will *lose their sovereignty over intrastate waters that will then be subject to the scope of the Clean Water Act*" (emphasis added throughout).

But notice how *The Hill* characterized the response of the Obama administration. "In a statement shortly after the ruling, THE EPA WAS DEFIANT AND SAID THAT THE INJUNCTION ONLY APPLIES IN THE 13 STATES THAT FILED FOR IT" "In all other respects, the rule is effective on August 28," the statement says.

The court says no, but the administration doesn't care. More



Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Gina McCarthy.

than half the states in the union have filed legal challenges to the EPA's new rule interpretation. Dozens of businesses and citizen groups have filed challenges, but the administration doesn't care. It is going to enforce it anyway.

It believes it is above the law.

Both Congress and the Senate have passed legislation to stop the EPA power grab. But President Barack Obama has said he will veto any attempt to stop the EPA!

The opposition is almost universal, yet the EPA says it will do it anyway because what it is doing is *by popular demand*.

Senator Lankford says this is a lie too.

The EPA has become a tool of politics. Instead of *enforcing* laws created for the people and by the people via Congress, it is showing itself to be an *activist arm* of far-left environmentalist groups. Its hallways are increasingly staffed with campaigners as opposed to scientists.

As EPA administrator Gina McCarthy said after her appointment by President Obama, "I will tell you that I didn't go to Washington to sit around and wait for congressional action. Never done that before, and don't plan to in the future."

This kind of lawless behavior is taking America in a very dangerous direction.

"Governments promise peace—but bring wars," noted Herbert W. Armstrong. "They promise benefits for the people, and then extract from the people the cost of the benefits plus excessive costs of government. Government promises are empty. The people are the pawns who fork over the money in order to get a part of it back."

"Now is high time to awake out of sleep," said **Stephen Flurry** on *Trumpet Daily Radio Show* on Tuesday, as he quoted the Apostle Paul: "The spirit of slumber is strong."

Big government, bad government, activist government, dictatorial government is steaming full speed ahead—and if you don't wake up, you will get dragged behind it and drowned.

 Follow [Robert Morley](#)

More Than Half of Scots Would Vote for Independence in Second Referendum

Simon Johnson and Michael Wilkinson, *Telegraph* | September 2

NICOLA STURGEON IS UNDER MORE PRESSURE FROM SNP [Scottish National Party] supporters to promise a second referendum after a new poll showed for the first time a majority of Scots would support independence if another vote was staged now.

The Ipsos Mori survey for STV found that 53 percent of people would vote “yes” to separation, compared to 44 percent who

wanted to remain part of the UK and 3 percent who were undecided.

The poll of 1,002 Scots also predicted an SNP landslide in next May’s Holyrood election, giving the party a larger majority than it won in 2011, and suggested that Labor would do even worse if Jeremy Corbyn is elected as its UK leader. ...

Coordinated Strategy Brings Obama Victory on Iran Nuclear Deal

New York Times | September 3

JUST BEFORE THE SENATE LEFT TOWN FOR ITS AUGUST BREAK, A dozen or so undecided Democrats met in the Capitol with senior diplomats from Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia who delivered a blunt, joint message: Their nuclear agreement with Iran was the best they could expect. The five world powers had no intention of returning to the negotiating table.

“They basically said unanimously this is as good a deal as you could get and we are moving ahead with it,” recalled Sen. Chris Coons, the Delaware Democrat who lent crucial support to the deal this week despite some reservations. “They were clear and strong that we will not join you in reimposing sanctions.”

For many if not most Democrats, it was that message that ultimately solidified their decisions, leading to President Obama on Wednesday securing enough votes to put the agreement in place over fierce and united Republican opposition. One after another, lawmakers pointed to the warnings from foreign leaders that their own sanctions against Iran would be lifted regardless of what the United States did.

But the president’s potentially legacy-defining victory—a highly partisan one in the end—was also the result of an aggressive, cooperative strategy [under the direction of Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California] between the White House and congressional

Democrats to forcefully push back against Republican critics, whose allies had begun a determined, \$20 million-plus campaign to kill the deal. ...

“There was a plan, and there continues to be a plan,” Ms. Pelosi said in an interview. ... She acknowledged that the memories of the previous summer health care fight were “useful because I could say to people that we have to be proactive because I know the other side will be.”

The administration, too, went all-out. At the White House, administration staff members set up their own West Wing war room and even created a separate Twitter account, @TheIranDeal, to make their case.

Cabinet members and other senior administration officials talked directly with more than 200 House members and senators. The president spoke personally to about 100 lawmakers, either individually or in small groups, and aides said he called 30 lawmakers during his August vacation on Martha’s Vineyard. ...

Opponents of the agreement said they could not remember another recent policy battle where the White House and Ms. Pelosi were so driven. In tandem, they made the Iran vote a strong test of party loyalty. ...

Iran Promises to ‘Set Fire’ to U.S. Interests

Washington Free Beacon | September 3

A SENIOR IRANIAN MILITARY OFFICIAL HAS VOWED TO “SET FIRE” to all U.S. interests in the region and maintained that the Islamic Republic welcomes war with America, according to regional reports demonstrating that Tehran is still committed to fighting the United States in the wake of a recently inked nuclear accord.

“In threatening remarks,” a top Iranian commander of the Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) stated that Iran is prepared to “annihilate” U.S. and Israeli war forces should they “take the slightest military move against Iran,” according to Iran’s state-controlled Fars News Agency.

“We monitor their acts day and night and will take every opportunity to set fire to all their economic and political interests if they do a wrong deed,” Brig. Gen. Hossein Salami, the IRGC’s

lieutenant commander, was quoted as saying in Tehran on Thursday.

In a direct threat to both the United States and Israel, Salami promised to “cut off enemies’ hands and fingers will then send its dust to the air,” according to the report.

These Iranian military officials were responding to multiple claims by U.S. officials that a military option against Tehran still remains on the table, despite the recently inked accord, which aims to constrain the Islamic Republic’s contested nuclear program.

In May, Salami said that Iran desires a war with the United States.

“We have prepared ourselves for the most dangerous scenarios and this is no big deal and is simple to digest for U.S.; we

welcome war with the U.S. as we do believe that it will be the scene for our success to display the real potentials of our power,” he said at the time.

The comments came on the same day that the Iranian military unveiled a new missile defense system to track enemy threats.

University of Tennessee Ditches Gender Pronouns

ABC 9 | August 29

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE IN KNOXVILLE IS DITCHING GENDERED pronouns.

According to the university, students and staff are being asked to ditch “he” and “she” to make the campus more gender-neutral.

Instead, the school’s Office for Diversity and Inclusion wants everyone on campus to use all-inclusive words like “ze” to make it easier to include all genders.

This movement away from traditional gendered pronouns is becoming more common.

Within the last couple of years, Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center representative Leah Ford decided ze did not want to be labeled as she or he.

“The system can detect and trace targets, take decisions for the operation of the missile systems, decide about the type of weapon systems needed, assess and foresee hostile targets, and field commanders can easily take a final decision with the data provided by the command and control system,” according to Fars. ...

“Ze, zim, zirs, people just choose what feels most comfortable to them,” said Ford. Ford felt most comfortable when people used gender-neutral pronouns.

“When I am asked what my pronouns are it makes me feel a lot more comfortable,” said Ford.

Many Memphians are talking about the university’s decision.

“We have to analyze what is gender in the first place,” said Forrest Deacon, who agrees with the decision to go gender neutral.

Some feel that this is the best way to make all people, regardless of gender identification, feel included.

“To set that gender norm now, I hope it transcends through not just Tennessee, but America,” said Taylor Smith. ...

Kentucky Clerk Who Won’t Give Marriage Licenses to Same-Sex Couples Is Going to Jail

Huffington Post | September 3

THE KENTUCKY COUNTY CLERK WHO ROSE TO PROMINENCE FOR refusing to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples is now headed to jail.

A federal judge on Thursday ordered Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis to be jailed for contempt of court. She has waged a personal war against the Supreme Court’s decision to legalize same-sex marriage.

Davis first defied an order by Kentucky Gov. Steven Beshear (Dem.) for clerks to follow the law. After she was sued in federal court for her noncompliance and ordered to issue marriage licenses, Davis refused again. She sought a delay of that order and lost, so she brought her plea all the way to the Supreme

Court, which this week effectively required her to comply.

She has since continued to defy the order, citing “God’s authority.”

The Guardian reported that U.S. District Judge David Bunning said during a court hearing Thursday that Davis would be jailed until she complied with his order to issue licenses. She was led from the courtroom by U.S. marshals.

The same-sex couples suing Davis asked Bunning to hold her in contempt, but recommended financial penalties, not jail time. Davis argued in a court filing on Wednesday that it was impossible for her to authorize same-sex marriage licenses because the action “irreparably and irreversibly violates her conscience.” ...



Where the Breakdown in Family Is Leading Us

Stephen Flurry,

Trumpet Daily | September 4

No society can survive the destruction of the God-ordained institution of family

Follow [Stephen Flurry](#)

