

Trumpet Weekly

SEPTEMBER 18 2015

Pope Francis on his visit to South America this past summer



The Francis Revolución

Callum Wood | September 18

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



CUBA IS ABUZZ WITH PREPARATIONS IN THE LEAD-UP TO POPE Francis's historic September 19 visit. His altar for mass is steadily rising on Havana's Plaza de la Revolución. And looming large over that stage gazes an immense portrait of Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

Following in the footsteps of his predecessor, and his predecessor before him, Francis will preach to the masses in front of the iconic 118-foot-tall depiction of Latin America's most famous revolutionary.

It is a fitting backdrop. The political ideologies of social and economic reform of Pope Francis are in their own way revolutionary.

During his latest trip to South America, the pope made some of his strongest ever criticisms of capitalism. Francis blasted what he called a "subtle dictatorship" and urged a revolt against it. These remarks highlight the pope's staunch anti-capitalism, as well as an antagonism to those who advocate it.

Today, almost 50 years since the death of Che Guevara, in a world with more than 1,800 billionaires, Pope Francis, with his barely concealed attacks on the capitalist United States, is renewing the call for global revolution.

Market Watch's Paul Farrell called Pope Francis "a revolutionary destined to end up in the history books right up there with

Lenin and Marx, Mao and Castro.” He continues, “[Pope Francis] is obviously inciting revolution, wants civil disobedience and political insurrection, he is egging the poor into rebellion against a vastly outnumbered rich.”

In an article for *Time* magazine, Christopher Hale gave *four foundations* to the pope’s revolutionary ideologies. They are:

- Land, lodging and labor are “sacred rights.”
- People—not profits—must be the center of the global economy.
- We can’t wait for change.
- Lasting change must begin from below.

Hale writes on the first point, “In what is perhaps his boldest claim to date, Pope Francis argued that everyone has a God-given right to have a job, to own land, and to have a home. This [statement] goes well beyond the traditional social teaching of the Catholic Church, which argues for the dignity of work, but doesn’t go as far to say that everyone has a God-given right to have a job.”

The pope’s statement has all the hallmarks of the former government of Jacobo Árbenz Guzmán. Árbenz was president of Guatemala when Che Guevara was alive. It was Guzmán who enacted land reform policies that stripped capitalist companies, such as United Fruit, of hundreds of thousands of acres in Guatemala and gave it to the peasant class.

Francis has attributed the plight of millions in Latin America to the greed of capitalism. In his recent trip to Bolivia, Pope Francis called capitalism “the dung of the devil.” These words are being well received by the poorer classes of Latin America. And why not? The pope is giving the masses a cause to rally against, saying that wealth and opportunity will be the prize for success against American capitalism.

And Francis is right in some respects. Western-style economic systems are broken; they are motivated by greed, and are influenced by big corporations that don’t necessarily have their workers’ best interests at heart. But does that make Pope Francis’s solutions any more tenable? Will his “change from below” spell prosperity, peace and tranquility? As *Trumpet* columnist Brad Macdonald stated on the July 22 *Trumpet Daily Radio Show* airing on KPCG.fm:

“The solution is not the social doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church. Look at the history of the Roman Catholic Church. Look at Europe during the Middle Ages when the Catholic Church was the central authority. Did Europe prosper? Was Europe a continent of peace and happiness and tranquility when the pope’s religion was in control?”

No. It was the *Dark Ages*. The ignorant peasant class lived destitute under the gaze of the vastly wealthy Catholic Church. Can Pope Francis offer anything more by tearing down capitalism?

Hale continued (op. cit.): “If it wasn’t clear before, it is now: Pope Francis is no moderate. In what some are calling a ‘nearly revolutionary’ speech, Francis gave a 55-minute papal tour de force in Bolivia ... calling for structural change to a global economy that runs ‘counter to the plan of Jesus.’”

The pope is revolutionizing Latin America *against* the United States. It is much more than a call to arms for the rebel-hearted. Pope Francis is making it a religious obligation to tear down capitalism—and the nations that perpetuate it.

During his fiery speech in Bolivia this July, Francis proclaimed, “Let us not be afraid to say it: We want change, real change, structural change.” His speech was preceded by Bolivian President Evo Morales, who sported a jacket adorned with the face of Che Guevara. The president gave the pope a wooden hammer and sickle—the symbol of communism—with a figure of a crucified Christ resting on the hammer.

The combination of Catholicism and communism seems a volatile mix, yet Pope Francis is harnessing both for a purpose to wage an all-out assault on capitalist America and to bring about global revolution. Pope Francis means to stir up rebellion. Revolution will be directed at those who exemplify capitalism, primarily the United States. Thus if Francis is to tear apart the global economy and rebuild it with his Catholic ideologies, capitalist America must be confronted.

Trumpet editor in chief [Gerald Flurry](#) wrote in the March *Trumpet* issue: “If Pope Francis is to be taken at his word, he could not possibly wish for the capitalist example nation to thrive, prosper and continue inflicting its ‘tyranny’ on the world. If he is sincere in saying the capitalist system is a force of destruction, then he would feel not only justified, but *obligated* to use his influence to weaken it.”

As the *Trumpet* has repeatedly warned, Pope Francis intends to remake the global societal structure. Che Guevara’s days as the face of revolution are over. Latin America’s new revolutionary face is that of the first Latin American pope.

This year has already seen Vatican-induced changes to Cuba and the broader region. Now the stage is set for the attack on American capitalism to continue, only this time it will not be by the likes of Che Guevara and his guerrillas, but by the leader of the most powerful religious organization on Earth.

MIDDLE EAST

TrumpetDaily

RADIO SHOW

[BRITAIN'S LURCH TO THE LEFT | SEPTEMBER 18](#)

[INTRODUCING THE LEADER OF BRITAIN'S LABOR PARTY | SEPTEMBER 17](#)

[HOW FAILURE CAN HELP | SEPTEMBER 16](#)

[WHY POLICE ARE DISCOURAGED | SEPTEMBER 15](#)

Islamic State Jihadis 'May Be Posing as Syrian Refugees'

Press Association | September 14

ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND THE LEVANT (ISIL) COULD BE SENDING jihadis out of Syria posing as refugees, a Lebanese government minister has warned.

Education Minister Elias Bou Saab suggested that as many as 2 percent—one in 50—of the refugees could be “radicals,” which he said would be “more than enough” to cause problems. ...

The minister conceded that he had no firm information on terrorist infiltration of refugees, but said his “gut feeling” told him it was happening.

Asked if ISIL could be sending militants under cover of being

refugees, Mr. Saab said: “Yes, they bring some people, the smugglers. They organize groups and send them out.”

Groups were arriving which looked very different from the usual refugees, he said. “They are all dressed with something unified, uniform, vests,” he said.

“I don’t have any information. My gut feeling is yes they are facilitating such an operation. For what reason, I don’t know.”

Mr. Saab said he thought militants could be going to Europe via Turkey and Greece. ...

Hamas Calls for 'Revolution' Against Palestinian Authority

Arutz Sheva | September 17

THE HAMAS TERROR MOVEMENT’S INCITEMENT AGAINST ISRAEL continues to escalate, in what appears to be a crusade for another wave of terrorism and a new intifada.

Simultaneously, the group, which controls Gaza, is maintaining its intensive campaign to delegitimize the rule of the Palestinian Authority in areas of Judea and Samaria.

Khalil al-Haya, a Hamas leader, spoke at a rally in Gaza on Tuesday, asserting that his movement is ready to fight for the al-Aqsa Mosque against “Israeli occupation.”

Haya blasted the Palestinian Authority and ordered Palestinian people to rise up and overthrow it, as well as continue attacks against Israel to protect the mosque atop the Temple Mount.

“The time has come for the West Bank to rise up and oppose

authority, particularly those who coordinate security with Israel (i.e. the PA),” Haya charged. “It’s time for this government to be thrown into the trash dump of history.”

... Haya [also] argued “we have a right to be angry and rise up and set fire to the ground under invaders ... we say your occupation of Jerusalem won’t last long.” ...

“For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.”

[Zechariah 14:2](#)

Hamas Shifts Public Relations Strategy

Al-Monitor | September 16

IT IS NOW OBVIOUS THAT SINCE THE END OF THE RECENT WAR IN the Gaza Strip, Hamas’s military wing, Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, has been carrying out popular action and field activities instead of Hamas’s political wing, which had handled direct communication with the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip over the years. Hamas’s military wing took it upon itself to organize military training camps for boys and young men dubbed the “vanguards of liberation camps” during the students’ midterm break in January and during their summer vacation in August.

Almost daily in most regions in the Gaza Strip, al-Qassam Brigades militants perform military parades at various times over the day and the night. ...

[A Hamas] source explained that Hamas [had previously adopted] a certain approach to attract young people through its preaching department, which is usually concentrated in mosques scattered across the Gaza Strip to train these young men. Afterward, some of them are transferred to the military wing. The source said, “This approach has changed today. Today we aim to attract young people through summer camps organized by al-Qassam Brigades and then we refer them to the preaching

department, which contributes to their educational upbringing, contrary to the previous approach that was more time-consuming.”

The source added, “Few young men are attracted through mosques and the preaching department, but through al-Qassam Brigades summer camps and other popular activities, attracting young men became faster and more effective. Al-Qassam Brigades need fighters, not preachers, since there is a shortage in fighters as a result of successive wars. This shortage must not only be compensated for, but rather the number of fighters must be increased.” ...

[A]nother source in al-Qassam Brigades’ leadership told Al-Monitor on condition of anonymity, “The decline in the number of fighters is not only due to wars and military confrontations, but there is also the time factor. Members are getting older and no longer physically fit to serve as fighters on the front lines. We are in dire need of younger fighters.” ...

RELATED: “HAMAS FULFILLS BIBLE PROPHECY”

State Department Issues Travel Warning for Libya Near Benghazi Anniversary

Washington Free Beacon | September 16

THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON WEDNESDAY ISSUED A TRAVEL WARNING for U.S. citizens traveling to Libya just days after the third anniversary of the 2012 terrorist attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi.

The government agency also recommended that U.S. citizens currently in Libya “depart immediately” because of the “unpredictable and unstable” condition of the country.

“On July 26, 2014, the U.S. Embassy suspended all embassy operations in Libya and relocated staff outside of the country because of ongoing violence between Libyan militias in the immediate vicinity of the Embassy,” the travel warning advised. “The security situation in Libya remains unpredictable and unstable.”

The State Department said that global terrorism alerts indicate that extremist groups continue to plot terrorist attacks against U.S. entities in Libya and the broader Middle East.

“The Libyan government has not been able to build its military and police forces and improve security following the 2011 revolution. Many military-grade weapons remain in the hands of

private individuals, U.S.- and UN-designated terrorists, and other armed groups,” the warning stated. “In addition to the threat of crime, the threat of kidnapping is high and various groups have called for attacks against U.S. citizens and U.S. interests in Libya.”

The U.S. government, which prohibits U.S. commercial flights in Libyan airspace, is “very concerned about the targeting of commercial transportation” in the region, the [travel warning] explained.

The State Department also took into account the unrest created by the Islamic State ... in the Middle East when issuing the travel warning. ...

“Libyan chaos is now the ideal setting for Iran to bring that nation into its deadly terrorist web. The government that replaces [Muammar] Qadhafi will be a thousand times worse.”

Gerald Flurry, “Egypt and Libya to Join Iran's Terror Network,” *Trumpet*, October 2011

Temple Mount Violence Escalates

Al-Monitor | September 16

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



THERE'S BEEN A LIVELY DEBATE IN ISRAEL OVER THE PAST YEAR AS to whether the country is on the verge of a third intifada. There are great arguments for and against. The debate intensifies whenever violence erupts, and dies down when things return to a state of relative normalcy. ... [T]here can be no doubt about the current reality. These are not normal times.

What has been happening in Jerusalem over the past year and spreading to other places every so often is a type of intifada, even if it hasn't been described or defined as such. Nevertheless, it is alive and kicking, and no one seems to have any control over it—not Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, not Israel and not even Hamas, which is investing its best efforts in fanning the flames.

On the evening of September 13, as the Jewish New Year was getting underway, Alexander Levlovich, 64, died in Jerusalem when his car was battered by a volley of rocks in the south of the city. The stone throwers, who came from the Palestinian village of Sur Baher, attacked many other cars driving along the road connecting their village to the Jewish neighborhood of Armon HaNetziv. ...

The phenomenon of stone throwing and Molotov cocktails, which has been growing in the greater Jerusalem area, is the less pressing problem, at least as far as Israel is concerned. As has already been reported in Al-Monitor, the center of all the tension and the source of all the incidents is the Temple Mount. It is the most potentially volatile powder keg in the Middle East, if not the entire world.

On Sunday morning, an Israeli police force burst into the Temple Mount compound. They were responding to intelligence

reports that young Palestinians were conspiring to attack Jews visiting the site during the holiday. The arrest [of several young Palestinians] led to clashes on the Temple Mount between Palestinians pouring out of al-Aqsa Mosque and the Israeli police, who were subjected to a barrage of rocks and fireworks. In the end, the mosque was closed, and hundreds of Jewish visitors were allowed to visit the Temple Mount.

Accounts of the incident spread quickly throughout Jerusalem. The familiar call of “Come save al-Aqsa!” echoed across the Old City and the Palestinian neighborhoods of East Jerusalem. ...

The bottom line is that East Jerusalem is burning. The flames may be low, at least for now. So far, the weapons of choice are rocks and Molotov cocktails, and there are random stabbings. Still, if we have learned anything from living in this region it is that even a small fire can quickly become a major conflagration.

The main problem faced by both sides is an utter lack of hope. ...

There is currently no diplomatic process It is true that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced in London and Italy that he is ready to renew direct talks with Abbas immediately, but there isn't a single person in Europe who believes that he is sincere. Concerned about a potential wave of anti-Israel boycotts and sanctions now brewing in Europe, Netanyahu is trying to wrap himself in a cloak of fictitious negotiations. ...

Abbas is also caught in a trap. He has no diplomatic solution on the horizon, Hamas is pressuring him from Gaza and the international community has lost interest in his problems. Today, they are much more concerned about events in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya, and especially by the refugee crisis in Europe. Abbas is now considering resigning, or declaring that the Oslo Accord

is canceled, or doing nothing and going with the flow. ...

Faced with these problems, the Israeli government is trying to cover the growing cancer with Band-Aids. ...

[Measures implemented thus far] offer no solution. They will not change the reality we face. Israel and the Palestinians are

stuck together in the same powder keg, and as of now, at least, no one has any cold water to keep the encroaching flames in check. What people do have is oil and gasoline—and plenty of it.

RELATED: [JERUSALEM IN PROPHECY](#)

Livni: Europe Is Removing Sanctions From Iran and Using Them on Israel

Jerusalem Post | September 15

M.K. TZIPI LIVNI EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT EUROPE'S POLICIES towards the Middle East as she headed to Berlin Tuesday night for the G-7's forum on women's political participation.

"Israel must change the situation in Europe, in which they remove sanctions from Iran and put them on Israel," Livni said. "Iran is getting legitimacy, while Israel is losing it. Trade with Iran will increase, and with Israel it will decrease."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel invited Livni to participate in the conference, and the former foreign and justice minister plans to meet with German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter

Steinmeier, as well as members of the Bundestag and the German media.

Livni and Steinmeier are expected to discuss the world powers' agreement with Iran and Israel's concerns over the immediate collapse of the sanctions regime and improved ties between Europe and Tehran, as well as the European Parliament's call to label Jewish products from the West Bank.

"Even after the agreement, Iran remains a state supporter of terrorism, which continues to promote its extremist agenda and talk about destroying the State of Israel," she said ahead of the trip. ...

EUROPE

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[THE POPE VISITING CUBA, JERUSALEM VIOLENCE, RUSSIA IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE FED'S INTEREST RATE FAKE-OUT | SEPTEMBER 18](#)

[AMERICA'S SEXUAL REVOLUTION OF TEEN, THE IMMIGRATION CRISIS IN TURKEY, AND MORE | SEPTEMBER 16](#)

Meet the Anti-Imperialist 'Friends' of Corbyn

Daniel Finkelstein, Times | September 16

BEFORE JEREMY CORBYN'S IDEAS CAN BE CRITICIZED, THEY MUST first be properly understood. ... There is something a little odd about all the quotes we have read, isn't there? The ones in which Mr. Corbyn describes Hezbollah and Hamas as "friends," and the death of bin Laden as an "attempted assassination" that was "a tragedy," and the crimes of ISIS as equivalent to the actions of American troops fighting Iraqi insurgents in Fallujah.

The oddity lies in the fact that Mr. Corbyn says he does not approve of the actions of bin Laden or ISIS, that he only called Hezbollah "friends" as a peace gesture, and that even though he invited Sinn Féin/IRA to Parliament he doesn't support IRA bombing.

This leads his supporters to suggest that the quotes are smears. But they aren't. He wasn't caught saying these things in private. He said them deliberately and the record is quite clear. ...

Mr. Corbyn is a new-left anti-imperialist He regards the violence of organizations such as Hezbollah and the IRA as a bad thing. He is able to say therefore that he disapproves of it. That he does not condone it. What he never says, however, is that the violence is clearly their fault.

The reason he does not say this is that he does not think it. The new-left anti-imperialist idea is that the origins of all violent movements is the adventurism of Britain and the United States, oppressing less well-off people in order to defend the interests of global capitalism. The murders of al Qaeda or the IRA are the actions of liberation movements, who, whatever one may think of them, are just fighting back.

The most interesting part of Mr. Corbyn's quote about bin Laden's death was, actually, not so much that he called that event a tragedy. It is that he used the exact same word about 9/11. "The World Trade Center was a tragedy." Not an outrage, not a heinous act. A tragedy. This was not a word employed by accident.

He used it because he thinks that al Qaeda are not properly to be regarded as the sole authors of their aggression. And that the IRA are not fully responsible for their bombing. Ditto Hamas. ...

[T]his position has two problems. The first is that this characterization of British and American foreign policy is grotesque. It is not necessary to believe either country is morally blameless in order to agree that both have been the front line of the defense of

liberty against oppression for a hundred years. ...

The second is ... the Corbyn position results in sympathetic dalliance with literally anyone who can be seen as being a liberation movement. The rocket firers of Hezbollah, the car bombers

of the IRA, the suicide bombers of al Qaeda in Iraq. Hugo Chávez. Homophobes, beheaders, anti-Semites.

All these become “friends” to share platforms with. People whose violence you disapprove of but also overlook

Merkel ‘Expects Cameron to Back EU Army’ in Exchange for Renegotiation

Peter Foster and Matthew Holehouse, *Daily Telegraph* | September 12

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



ANGELA MERKEL WILL EXPECT DAVID CAMERON TO DROP HIS opposition to an EU army in exchange for supporting Britain’s renegotiation, the *Telegraph* has been told.

The German chancellor will ask Britain to stand aside as she promotes an ambitious blueprint to integrate continental Europe’s armed forces.

It comes as Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission, said Britain will get a deal if it gives the green light to a raft of powerful new EU institutions.

A Berlin source said agreeing not to “block” Ms. Merkel’s defense plans is a “favor” that she would seek from Mr. Cameron as he looks for her support in the renegotiation.

“If you want favors, you have to give favors,” the source said.

“If Cameron wants a ‘flexible Europe,’ he must let other members integrate further. Yes—opt out, opt out, opt out—and then shut up.”

While there is no expectation or obligation for Britain to take part in steeper integration, the creation of an EU army could marginalize Britain within NATO and result in the United States downgrading the special relationship with Britain in favor of Paris and Berlin, experts warn.

While Mr. Cameron backs tighter eurozone integration, he faces a dilemma over whether the risk of a diminished strategic position is a price worth paying in his renegotiation.

The *Telegraph* has seen an unpublished position paper drawn up by Europe and defense policy committees of Ms. Merkel’s party, the CDU, that sets out a detailed 10-point plan for military cooperation in Europe.

It is understood to closely reflect her thinking, and calls for a permanent EU military HQ, combined weapons procurement, and a shared military doctrine.

The paper says it is “urgent” to integrate armed forces “in the face of multifaceted crises.”

It calls for “a permanent structured and coordinated cooperation of national armed forces in the medium term.

“In the long run, this process should, according to the present German coalition agreement, lead also to a European army subject to Parliamentary control.” ...

A similar paper has been circulated by Elmar Brok, a key Merkel ally, within the EPP Party group in the European Parliament. It describes the lack of an EU military headquarters as “absurd.”

Frances Burwell, vice president of the U.S.-based Atlantic Council think tank, said the United States would welcome integration to make wasteful European defense spending more efficient. ...

Under the treaty, Britain could not be forced to join a joint army, but it cannot veto its creation. Until now, European leaders have been reluctant to push ahead with the plans, in part to avoid a split on defense with Britain, whose expenditure on defense is only matched by France.

The paper proposes an Operational Headquarters, a European Medical Command and a Joint Helicopter Wing as first steps under a project that would save billions in duplication between countries.

Since 2007, the EU has had two rotating emergency battle-groups of 1,500 men, but they have never seen combat—something Mr. Barnier dubs a “failure” that “must be addressed.”

A combined military is necessary “in order to become a vector of the EU as a global actor,” and to “significantly strengthen the European pillar within NATO,” the paper says.

It notes: “UK does not share an interest in a closely integrated European defense, whereas Germany and France, together with the Benelux countries, Italy, Spain and, more recently, Poland are more open to the idea.”

It adds: “Clearly, security in Europe is today high in demand and low in supply, begging the question: ‘If not now, when?’” ...

A Huge Opportunity for German Salafists

Stefan Laurin, *Die Welt* | September 15

EACH DAY TRAINS FULL OF SYRIAN REFUGEES ARRIVE FROM Southern Europe. They have escaped war, the barrel bombs of Bashar Assad’s regime and the terror of ISIS. But in Germany,

it’s not just aid organizations and volunteer humanitarian workers awaiting them. There are also the Salafists, who see them as potential recruits for their fanatical religious convictions.

Pierre Vogel, a German-born convert and Salafi leader living in Berghem, in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, has published a list of recommendations for the followers within this Sunni Muslim movement specifying the most effective techniques for approaching and recruiting refugees. Vogel advises followers to locate and visit, in groups, all surrounding refugee camps.

He further claims to know how to win over destitute refugees: "Bring gifts," he advises. He also suggests they offer help to the workers at the refugee camps or to meet refugees at nearby mosques.

Vogel is not alone. There are other recruiters too. People have been spotted close to the refugee camps, distributing the Koran. In Hamburg, they have openly contacted refugees in a reception

center for asylum seekers. ...

Their goal is to hinder integration and to religiously radicalize the refugees. ...

The Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution has not yet identified a core area for the Salafi publicity campaign, but it has confirmed that Salafist activity has been detected in Dortmund, also in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. That's where the majority of refugees arriving to the state are provided with first aid before being sent to Germany's main cities.

With the number of Muslim refugees on the rise for the foreseeable future, they can expect to be prime targets of these religious fanatics.

Iceland's Capital Declares Boycott of All Israeli Goods

Times of Israel | September 16

THE REYKJAVIK MUNICIPALITY PASSED THE MOTION, WHICH approved a boycott of Israeli goods "as long as the occupation of Palestinian territories continues," Iceland Magazine reported.

Council members said the boycott was a symbolic act demonstrating the Icelandic capital's support for Palestinian statehood and condemnation of Israel's "policy of apartheid."

Israel's Foreign Ministry condemned the move, and, in an apparent reference to Iceland's status as a hotbed of volcanic

activity, said "a volcano of hatred spews forth from the Reykjavik city council building."

"For no reason or justification, except hatred for its own sake, calls of boycotting the State of Israel are heard," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. "We hope someone in Iceland will come to their senses and end the one-sided blindness fielded against Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East." ...

Scared by Russia, Sweden and Poland Make War Pact

International Business Times | September 15

SWEDEN AND POLAND, BOTH CONCERNED BY INCREASED RUSSIAN military activity in the Baltic Sea, have signed a military cooperation agreement during a meeting of their defense ministers in Warsaw, according to a report from the Local, a European online news site. The military agreement is one of many that Sweden has signed with its neighboring countries over the last year as it looks to compensate for not being part of NATO.

"Once a sea of peace, the Baltic has become a sea of danger," Polish Defense Minister Tomasz Siemoniak told reporters at a

joint press conference in Warsaw Monday with his Swedish counterpart, Peter Hultqvist. Hultqvist said Russia's presence in the region has prompted Stockholm to boost military spending by 11 percent over the last five years, and build better cooperation with NATO members and other countries not attached to the alliance.

The new relationships with Sweden, which is located directly across from Poland on the Baltic Sea, joins cooperative agreements with Denmark and Finland that Stockholm made earlier this year. ...

Migration and Middle East Top EU Agenda at UN

Andrew Rettman, EU Observer | September 14

THE MIGRANT CRISIS AND THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS will top the EU's agenda when world leaders meet in New York for the UN general assembly. ...

This year's edition will start with a speech by Pope Francis, on September 25, likely urging European countries to show compassion to refugees.

It will see Palestine, a UN "observer state," hang its flag on the UN building for the first time in history.

It will see Russian leader Vladimir Putin come for the first time in 10 years and not long after invading Ukraine.

It will also hear from Zimbabwean dictator Robert Mugabe, the current chair of the African Union, and Sudan's fugitive president Omar al-Bashir, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court in the Hague.

For his part, Council chief Donald Tusk got a good spot to speak on behalf of the EU—shortly before lunch on September 29.

But the big EU day is September 30, when UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon chairs a high-level meeting on migration, while EU foreign relations chief Federica Mogherini chairs an event on Middle East peace talks. ...

The Mogherini meeting is to launch a new model for Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The EU plan, based on a French proposal in July, is to enlarge the Quartet, the UN body dealing with the issue, to involve Arab states.

The Quartet includes the EU, Russia, the UN and the U.S.

France had said the "Quartet +" should involve: the five UN Security Council veto-holders (China, France, Russia, the UK and

the U.S.); Germany; Italy; Spain; Arab states; the EU; and the UN.

Mogherini's event is to be limited to Quartet foreign ministers and their counterparts from Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the Arab League only, however. ...

Meanwhile, the UK will be angling for support for its draft resolution on the EU's anti-smuggler naval operation, EU NAVFOR Med.

A contact familiar with the draft text said it aims to authorize military action in a limited maritime zone which connects Libyan waters to Italy.

It would also allow EU navies to take migrants and suspected smugglers to Italy, where authorities will decide who merits asylum, who should be deported, and who should face criminal charges.

The EU says it doesn't need UN Security Council (UNSC) approval for this phase of the operation.

But a diplomatic contact said the UK, for one, wants "UNSC cover" in case clashes with smugglers cause "incidents," alluding to loss of life.

TW IN BRIEF

Europe reintroduces border controls: Germany introduced temporary borders on Sunday evening to better control the huge number of migrants arriving from Hungary via Austria. German officials have said over the weekend that the speed of the arrivals was straining the country's ability to provide accommodation. The closure led to long delays at the border. Austria, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and Slovakia all rushed to follow suit, tightening their borders on Monday. On Monday at midnight, tougher border laws went into effect in Hungary. The Hungarian government is threatening to arrest and jail anyone caught illegally crossing its southern border from Serbia as of Tuesday, and to hold or expel asylum seekers. In the southern border town of Roszke, police and soldiers took position across a railway track, which tens of thousands of refugees, many of whom are Syrian, have used for the past

few months to enter the EU from Serbia. In preparation for the restrictions, Hungarian authorities reinforced gaps in the border with razor wire. The new restrictions appear to have stemmed the tide of migrants. However, the closure of Germany's border leaves many trapped in Austria, and the country is running out of accommodations.

EU migrant resettlement fails: The European Union has failed to reach agreement on a plan to relocate 120,000 refugees arriving in Italy, Greece and Hungary. Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn said late on Monday after chairing a meeting of EU interior ministers that "it was too early for a decision to be taken today." The Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary had been among the nations opposed to a relocation plan leading up to the emergency meeting.

ASIA

Putin's Damascus Steal

Foreign Affairs | September 16

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



THIS YEAR, MOSCOW IS CELEBRATING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF Operation Kavkaz, the Soviet military intervention on behalf of Egypt in the 1969–70 Israeli-Egyptian War of Attrition. The engagement was a key moment in the history of the Cold War. It caught Western intelligence by surprise, and it was the first—and only—time the Soviet military fought the Israel Defense Forces. Operation Kavkaz saved Russia's closest ally from regime change and protected Moscow's strategic assets on Egyptian soil. The Soviet Union's subsequent activism in the region marked the height of Moscow's Cold War achievements in the Middle East.

Once more, the Kremlin is increasingly assertive in the Middle East, and once more, it has surprised the West. Emboldened by its perceived success in addressing regional challenges and capitalizing on opportunities, it has gotten closer than ever to its key diplomatic objective: acquiring a regional status on par with Washington's. ...

So far, Moscow has mainly projected military power mainly on the European periphery and in the Atlantic. But the Middle East

and the Mediterranean are fast becoming a Russian playground. Indeed, if the Cold War offers any lessons, it is that where Russian diplomacy and naval power goes, ground and air combat components follow. History also teaches that Moscow is not afraid to use its forces for combat missions when allies face existential dangers that put Moscow's strategic assets on their soil at grave risk. This was the logic behind the Soviet decision to establish combined military presence in Egypt and Syria and then to commit forces to fighting there.

In the coming years, Russian assertiveness in the Middle East may hit unprecedented highs. Syria and the battle against ISIS are likely to be Moscow's first outlets. The country might go as far as an intervention—not with advisers but with military personnel taking battlefield responsibilities or even conducting combat missions in the air and on the ground. Regional and international sources already mention such a possibility. The Kremlin has yet to confirm, but Russian official and independent sources, and social media, offer direct and indirect supporting evidence.

Building on Moscow's existing foothold in Syria, Putin may use the forthcoming General Assembly to offer a plan for region's stabilization and to request a UN mandate for a resolved and capable Russia to lead the regional anti-terrorism alliance. If the

growing Russian military infrastructure, equipment and personnel build-up materializes into a combined arms expeditionary force on Syrian battlegrounds, this should come as no surprise; it is the logical continuation of Russia's regional resurgence.

Things to Know About Japan's Vote on Its Military Role **Wall Street Journal | September 15**

JAPAN'S PARLIAMENT IS EXPECTED TO GIVE FINAL APPROVAL THIS week to security legislation that would expand the role of the country's military beyond self-defense, an unpopular initiative that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has made a priority.

Mr. Abe says Japan needs to be more confident. Many believe

he wants to make Japan a country that could contribute equally to the security partnership with the U.S. ...

Mr. Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner together hold a majority in both chambers of parliament, making the passage of the bills practically guaranteed. ...

China Appears to Be Working on Third Airstrip on Disputed South China Sea Islets: Expert **Reuters | September 15**

CHINA APPEARS TO BE CARRYING OUT PREPARATORY WORK FOR A third airstrip in contested territory in the South China Sea, a U.S. expert said on Monday, citing satellite photographs taken last week.

The photographs taken for Washington's Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) think tank on September 8 show construction on Mischief Reef, one of seven artificial islands China has created in the Spratly archipelago.

The images show a retaining wall around an area 3,000 meters (3,280 yards) long, matching similar work by China on two other reefs in the Spratlys, Subi and Fiery Cross, said Greg Poling, director of CSIS's Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative. ...

Poling said other satellite photos from last week showed work was advancing at Subi Reef, where "clearly, what we have seen is going to be a 3,000-meter airstrip and we have seen some more work on what is clearly going to be some port facilities for ships."

Asked about Mischief Reef on Monday, China's Foreign

Ministry spokesman Hong Lei repeated China's claim to "indisputable sovereignty" over the Spratly islands and its right to establish military facilities there.

Security experts say 3,000-meter airstrips would be long enough to accommodate most Chinese military aircraft, giving Beijing greater reach into the heart of maritime Southeast Asia, where it has competing claims with several countries. ...

Three airstrips, once completed, would allow China to threaten all air traffic over the features it has reclaimed in the South China Sea, [Poling] said, adding that it would be especially worrying if China were to install advanced air defenses. ...

"The Trumpet has warned of China's rise in the region for years. ... China's expansion into the South China Sea is just one aspect of its rising dominance and placement in the international community."
"Chinese Building Island Forts in the South China Sea,"
theTrumpet.com, March 23

Russia's Budget Debate Takes an Unexpected Turn **Stratfor | September 10**

THE RUSSIAN STATE DUMA APPROVED A BILL ON THURSDAY TO begin government budget and economic policy planning for next year, though the debate over how to respond to Russia's mounting economic challenges is already underway. This week, however, the economic conflict in the Kremlin seemed to focus less on budgetary planning and more on Russia's standoff with the West. ...

[O]n Tuesday, Kommersant published a report that Russia's Security Council asked presidential aide Sergei Glazyev to come up with a separate economic strategy for 2016 to present to the council on September 15. ...

Kommersant recently leaked what it claims are Glazyev's economic proposals for the Security Council, and the plan clearly reflects his ideology. Glazyev proposes a radical overhaul of the economy next year, including several policies that would mostly cut Russia's financial and economic ties to the West. They would

prohibit Russian entities from using foreign currency, tax the conversion of rubles to foreign currencies, ban foreign loans to Russian firms and require Russian firms that have loans from the West to default on their payments.

The leaked plans sparked a backlash among many of Russia's prominent pundits and economists, who called the proposals a return to the Soviet Union or an attempt to turn the Russian economy into a mixture of Argentina's and North Korea's. And the proposals, if adopted, likely would worsen the already struggling Russian economy. ...

Also, the leak of Glazyev's proposals to Kommersant—a media outlet that Washington watches closely for clues about Kremlin activity—indicates that Moscow wanted to let the United States know it is preparing for more sanctions. It is a signal that Russia is willing to weather the hardships rather than bend to the United States. ...

“Russia, India and Japan are driven, to varying degrees, by the same overriding worldview that drives China: *Ultimately, despite any near-term risks we may have to endure, despite any economic injuries we may have to sustain, the world order that the West*

created must be overthrown.”

“Don’t Worry, Putin, Asia Has Your Back,” [theTrumpet.com](#), March 13, 2014

Standoff After India Dismantles Chinese Watchtower in Kashmir **Want China Times | September 14**

A STANDOFF IS TAKING PLACE IN THE DISPUTED REGION OF KASHMIR after Indian troops dismantled a Chinese watchtower located near the mutually agreed patrol line in the Burtse region of northern Ladakh, China’s *Global Times* reports. ...

After the Indo-Tibetan Border Police of India dismantled the watchtower, the People’s Liberation Army responded by deploying more troops to the disputed region.

A senior Chinese military official told New Delhi Television that the watchtower built in the Burtse region of the Depsang

Plains is close to the airstrip at Daulat Beg Oldie and the Karakoram Pass, which are considered two points of strategic importance from China’s perspective. The Indian government objected to the construction of the watchtower because the Depsang Plains are claimed by both India and China.

The *Economic Times* of India said that a meeting will be held between the Chinese and Indian commanders in the region on September 14. ...

TW IN BRIEF

FUKUSHIMA DUMPS FIRST BATCH OF ONCE-RADIOACTIVE WATER in sea: Japan’s Fukushima nuclear plant began releasing previously contaminated water into the sea on Monday. Tokyo Electric Power Co. discharged 850 tons of water it had extracted from the ground near the plant into the sea, saying a filtration process had now made it safe. The removal of highly radioactive substances such

as strontium and cesium meant the groundwater was now safe to release into the environment, the company said. But the company has a long way to go. It is currently extracting 300 tons per day of contaminated water from the ground and it has another 680,000 tons of highly radioactive water that was used to cool the reactors during the meltdown, which still needs to be disposed of.

ANGLO-AMERICA



‘I Will Break the Pride of Your Power’

Gerald Flurry,

The Key of David | September 18

America’s society is crumbling under the weight of domestic problems such as family breakdown, race riots and drug addiction. Why all these troubles?



Why the Federal Reserve Did Not Raise Rates

Robert Morley | September 17

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



YOU KNOW THE MOVIE SCENE: A HOSPITAL PATIENT HAS A HEART attack. Beep. Beep. Beep. Beeeeeeep. The heart monitor flatlines, the patient spasms, and the doctors swarm into action. Now consider the following chart—especially the part since 2009.

Doesn’t look like a healthy cardiogram, does it? For *more than six years* the Federal Reserve’s interest rate has flatlined

between zero and 0.25 percent—the lowest level ever. *Nothing even remotely similar to this has occurred in United States monetary history.*

Yet, astoundingly, on September 17 the Federal Reserve announced that it was content to keep rates where they are.

Why?

An interest rate rise could cause “panic and turmoil,” the chief economist for the World Bank warned last week. “It is the compounding effect of the last two weeks of bad news,” he said. “The world economy is looking *so troubled* that if the U.S. goes in for a very quick move in the middle of this I feel it is going to affect countries quite badly” (emphasis added throughout).

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is warning about such rate increases too. In a September 5 letter, it said there are still too many risks to global growth to risk raising rates. “Monetary policy must stay accommodative to prevent real interest rates from rising prematurely,” the IMF said. Managing Director Christine Lagarde said in June that the Fed should hold off on increasing rates until at least 2016.

Here is the trouble: The world, *especially America*, is addicted to debt.

After the 2008-2009 Wall Street meltdown there was a lot of talk about how businesses and economies needed to deleverage and pay down debt.

But the opposite happened.

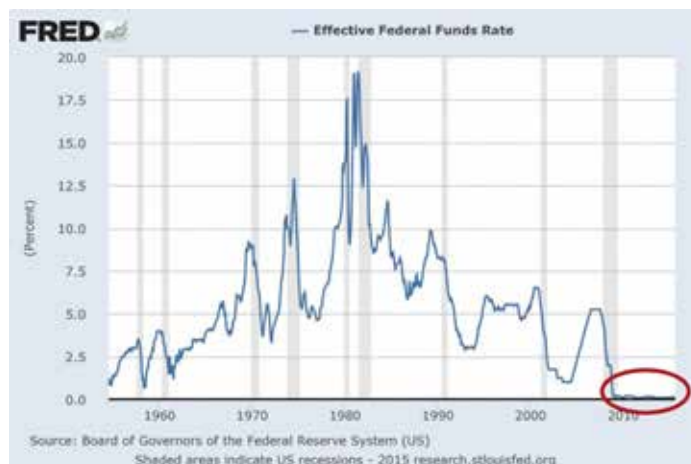
The Federal Reserve prevented the natural rebalancing the economy needed. It prevented the bad debts from being wiped out and overleveraged companies going bankrupt by slashing interest rates to record lows and printing money by the trolley load.

There was no debt jubilee. No debt release. Instead: almost seven years later, debt levels are higher than ever. In America, non-financial sector debt is 21 percent higher than it was in 2007. U.S. federal debt is up almost 40 percent during that time! Most countries around the world have increased their debt even more.

The debt bubble is back.

And history shows that when debt bubbles pop they often set off panic and turmoil.

In June, the Bank for International Settlements warned that central banks needed to begin *raising* rates immediately to stop bubbles from forming and prepare for the next downturn.



Current monetary policy was “stretching the boundaries of the unthinkable,” it said.

It warned that central banks had relied on the same debt-fueled economic policies to fix the economy that were responsible for causing the economic crisis in the first place. If central banks didn’t start raising rates soon, it said, when the next economic crisis struck central banks would have no room to cut rates to stimulate growth.

The president of the Minneapolis branch of the Federal Reserve seems to be prepping for a rate increase too. On September 8, he said that once the Federal Reserve begins raising rates, the government must do everything it can to counteract the tightening effects.

TO KEEP THE ECONOMY STABLE, THE GOVERNMENT MUST ADD MORE DEBT, he said.

This is why the Federal Reserve will be very slow to raise interest rates, if at all. There is now so much debt that even a small increase in rates could be catastrophic—far better to keep the American patient in its comatose state.

[Follow Robert Morley](#)

Marine Life Slashed by Half Since 1970: WWF Agence France-Presse | September 16

POLLUTION, INDUSTRIAL FISHING AND CLIMATE CHANGE HAVE killed off half of marine life in the last four decades, according to a WWF (World Wildlife Fund) report released on Wednesday.

Species essential to global food supply—especially in poorer nations where fish provide essential dietary protein—were among the hardest hit, the conservation group’s Living Blue Planet Report said.

The family of fish that includes tuna and mackerel, for example, has declined by three quarters since 1970.

“In the space of a single generation, human activity has severely damaged the ocean by catching fish faster than they can reproduce,” Marco Lambertini, head of WWF International, said in a statement. ...

Fish are not the only marine organisms in steep decline, the report found. Large swathes of coral reef, mangroves and sea grasses have died off or been hacked away. This loss has decimated fish populations and, in turn, imperiled some 850 million

people who depend directly on these ecosystems for their livelihoods.

Half of all coral has already disappeared

At the same time that the volume of marine life is diminishing, so too is the number of species, both in the ocean and on land, other research has shown.

Indeed, scientists believe Earth has entered a sixth “mass extinction event,” with species disappearing 100 times more quickly than only a century or two ago.

There have been five such episodes over the last half-billion years, the most recent wiping out all non-avian dinosaurs and most other forms of life some 65 million years ago.

The WWF stressed that marine life can be restored if the human population starts to live within sustainable limits. ... “These changes are happening in our lifetime,” Lambertini said. “We can and we must correct course now.”

The Pentagon Just Spent \$41 Million to Train 'Four or Five' Syrian Fighters

Foreign Policy | September 16

ONLY ABOUT "FOUR OR FIVE" U.S.-TRAINED SYRIAN REBELS remain on the battlefield to take on the Islamic State after the Defense Department spent over \$41 million to train and equip a small group of about 60 earlier this year, a senior military official said Wednesday.

After months of training by U.S. Special Forces at bases in Turkey, the so-called New Syrian Army fighters were sent back into Syria in July, said Gen. Lloyd Austin, head of the U.S. Central Command. Within days, they had been almost completely wiped out after being attacked by al Qaeda-linked al-Nusra Front forces, who captured, killed or scattered most of the U.S.-backed forces.

The \$500 million train and equip program was sold to Congress in late 2014 and aimed to produce about 5,400 Syrian fighters by the end of this year. On Wednesday, Austin and Undersecretary

of Defense for Policy Christine Wormuth both conceded those numbers will not be met.

Under repeated questioning about the current size of the program, Wormuth said there are "between 100 and 120" additional fighters being trained in Turkey.

The Senate panel was not pleased.

"Let's not kid ourselves, that's a joke," said Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.) in her response to the number of Syrians still in the fight.

"So we're counting on our fingers and toes, where we envisioned 5,400 by the end of this year," said Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.).

"This is just a total failure," lamented Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.). ...

America's Legal Order Begins to Fray

Wall Street Journal | September 13

AFTER TWO DECADES OF THE MOST REMARKABLE CRIME DROP IN U.S. history, law enforcement has come to this: "I'm deliberately not getting involved in things I would have in the 1990s and 2000s," an emergency-services officer in New York City tells me. "I won't get out of my car for a reasonable-suspicion stop; I will if there's a violent felony committed in my presence."

A virulent antipolice campaign over the past year—initially fueled by a since-discredited narrative about a police shooting in Ferguson, Mo.—has made police officers reluctant to do their jobs. The Black Lives Matter movement proclaims that the police are a lethal threat to blacks and that the criminal-justice system is pervaded by racial bias. The media amplify that message on an almost daily basis. Officers now worry about becoming the latest racist cop of the week, losing their job or being indicted if a good-faith encounter with a suspect goes awry or is merely distorted by an incomplete cellphone video.

With police so discouraged, violent crime has surged in at least 35 American cities this year. The alarming murder increase prompted an emergency meeting of the Major Cities Chiefs Association last month. Homicides were up 76 percent in Milwaukee, 60 percent in St. Louis, and 56 percent in Baltimore through mid-August, compared with the same period in 2014; murder was up 47 percent in Minneapolis and 36 percent in Houston through mid-July.

But something more fundamental than even public safety may be at stake. There are signs that the legal order itself is breaking down in urban areas. "There's a total lack of respect out there for the police," says a female sergeant in New York. "The perps feel more empowered to carry guns because they know that we are running scared."

The lawful use of police power is being met by hostility and violence, often ignored by the press. In Cincinnati, a small riot broke out in late July when the police arrived at a drive-by shooting scene, where a 4-year-old girl had been shot in the head and critically injured. Bystanders loudly cursed at officers who had started arresting suspects at the scene on outstanding warrants, according to a witness I spoke with.

During anticop demonstrations in Ferguson, Mo., last month, 18-year-old Tyrone Harris opened fire at police officers, according to law-enforcement officials, and was shot and wounded by police in response. A crowd pelted the cops with frozen water bottles and rocks, wounding three officers, while destroying three police cars and damaging businesses, Ferguson police said. "We're ready for what? We're ready for war," some protesters reportedly chanted. ...

Officers are being challenged in their most basic efforts to render aid. A New York cop in the Bronx tells me that he was trying to extricate a woman pinned under an overturned car in July when a bystander stuck his cellphone camera into the officer's face, trying to bait him into an argument. ...

Supervisors may roll up to an incident where trash and other projectiles are being thrown at officers and tell the cops to get into their cars and leave. "What does that do to the general public?" wonders a New York detective. ...

Jim McDonnell, head of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the nation's largest, tells me that the current anticop animus puts the nation in a place where it hasn't been since the 1960s. "The last 10 years have witnessed dramatic decreases in crime," Sheriff McDonnell says. "Now, in a short period of time, we are seeing those gains undone."

Even the assassination of police officers doesn't appear to cool the antipolice rhetoric. A day after a Houston police deputy, Darren Goforth, was murdered while filling his gas tank last month, Black Lives Matter protesters—as online video chillingly attests—marched in St. Paul chanting: "Pigs in a blanket, fry 'em like bacon." ...

Thousands of African-Americans are alive today because of a law-enforcement achievement that now is in danger of being squandered. In the current eruption of violent crime, the overwhelming majority of victims have been black. ...

Police officials I have spoken with in recent months say that they long to hear America's leaders change the tone of the national conversation before respect for the rule of law itself deteriorates further. They're still waiting.