

Trumpet Weekly

NOVEMBER 6, 2015



Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, former German minister of defense

Guttenberg Condemns Europe's Leadership

Richard Palmer | November 6

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



EUROPE IS BEING OVERWHELMED WITH CRISES, AND THE CURRENT leadership cannot cope, former German Defense Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg said at the 2015 *Fortune* Global Forum on November 4.

Taking part in a panel discussion titled "Navigating Global Volatility," Guttenberg began by discussing what he called the deepest crisis Europe has faced in the last couple of decades—the

immigration crisis. He warned that it impacts some of the core elements of Europe and condemned the dramatic lack of leadership within Europe.

"The problem is we are stumbling from one necessary short-term solution to the next necessary short-term solution," he said.

"You need a short-term solution for ... probably 1.3 million refugees—highly uneducated by the way—in Germany this year," he

continued. “You need a short-term solution for how to deal with Austria. You need a short-term solution of what happens if we have our German *Charlie Hebdo*, which is only a matter of time We’ve been lucky so far”—referring to the terrorist attack last January in Paris which killed 11 people.

“You’ll need a short-term solution for energy prices that might be affected,” he said. “You need a short-term solution for this and this and this and that. And at the same time you have a construct of the European Union, which is constantly somehow involved or somehow affected by here an election, there an election, there an election”

“You are dealing ... with a patient on the operating table where you have 28 very distinct, talented doctors standing around this operating table,” he explained. “And once in a while someone is stumbling over the plug of the heart-lung machine, and then the patient groans, and then they would put the plug back into the wall and everyone will be happy the patient is still alive. But again, another short-term solution.”

Guttenberg bemoaned the fact that no leader in Europe was willing to risk losing an election to make the decisions that need to be taken. This is “another breeding ground for growing nationalism in countries where you didn’t dream of growing nationalism,” he said.

He was also critical of Germany’s domestic politics, condemning the very worrying finger-pointing going on between the members of Germany’s coalition. He said that German Chancellor Angela Merkel is overawed by the idea of being a leader and that her style is to lead from behind, using ad-hoc solutions to deal with the problems of the day. There was a time she could have begun a Europe-wide debate on a substantive issue, he said, but not now—implying that his former boss has lost a lot of her stature in Europe.

However, Guttenberg didn’t see the crisis as all bad news. He said that it could lead to a “cathartic moment” where Europe puts an end to some of its founding lies and is forced to find real, long-term solutions for its problems.

He was equally critical of Europe’s leadership when it came to Russia. When asked if he thought Russia would invade the Baltic states, he gave a confident no. NATO, he said, was not standing up to Russia. Russia could invade Europe all the way up to Moldova, and NATO would do nothing. Why would Russian President

Vladimir Putin take the risk of attacking a NATO member when there’s so much other territory out there that he could be taking without that risk?

The final question of the discussion revolved around the biggest changes businesspeople could expect in the world in the next five years. Guttenberg said that businessmen would have to become much more used to paying attention to geopolitical events, warning that they’re going to impact our lives much more. He also said that in five years’ time, we’d all be asking ourselves why we didn’t spend more time and effort preparing for the first major cyberattack.

Also on the panel were Eurasia Group Founder Ian Bremmer and Allianz SE Chief Economic Adviser Mohamed el-Erian. Both forecast a dramatic increase in volatility around the world, with the rise of China changing the global balance and more 9/11-type events hitting Europe.

Guttenberg’s decision to comment publicly on so many of the top issues facing Germany today is interesting.

He made his first small comeback to European politics last month when he joined an advisory team for Christian Social Union (CSU) leader Horst Seehofer. Officially, his job is to advise the CSU on foreign policy in the run-up to the next election.

But *Spiegel* reports that Seehofer has greater ambitions for his new hire. “Markus Söder and Ilse Aigne are seen as promising candidate successors to Seehofer,” *Spiegel* wrote on October 26. “Yet he doesn’t include them in his strategy team. Instead Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg is experiencing a comeback” (translation ours).

“It is very likely that Seehofer’s competence team is to serve as more than just the preparation for the upcoming elections; it is also meant to discipline eager potential heirs. ... Seehofer wants to appoint his future five representatives in the CSU leadership including ... Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg” (ibid).

Germany is in crisis. Guttenberg is condemning leaders both on the national and European level for not showing leadership and, at the same time, may be at the start of his own comeback.

For more information on why Guttenberg is a man to watch, read *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry’s article “[Has Germany’s Strongman Finally Arrived?](#)” from the latest print edition of our magazine.

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MIDDLE EAST

TrumpetDaily

RADIO SHOW

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Iran and Saudi Arabia Clash Inside Syria Talks

Josh Rogin, Bloomberg View | November 4

IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA CLASHED REPEATEDLY LAST WEEK INSIDE the diplomatic talks on Syria, with Iran accusing Saudis of terrorism. Their tension threatened to end the new negotiations just as they began in Vienna on Friday.

Inside the nine-hour meeting, according to two Western officials briefed on it, Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif and Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir got into a heated argument, during which Zarif blamed Saudi Arabian nationals for the 9/11 attacks. The comments startled the participants, who included [United States] Secretary of State John Kerry, and the room went quiet after Zarif's remark.

Zarif confirmed to me that he made the remark and pointed out that he was not blaming the Saudi government for the 9/11 attacks, just Saudi nationals. Fifteen of the 19 attackers were Saudi citizens.

Western officials who were briefed on the meeting said the anecdote showed the difficulty of getting Iran and Saudi Arabia to discuss anything civilly, much less come to an agreement on Syria, where both sides have proxy forces in the fight. ...

Jubeir, the Saudi foreign minister, traveled to Bahrain the next day and spoke forcefully against the Iranian involvement in Syria

... On Monday, Iran threatened to withdraw from the talks because of Jubeir's comments. ...

In Bahrain on Saturday, British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond told me that he was cautiously optimistic that the Vienna talks that Kerry spearheaded could bear some fruit. But he said the Saudi position as described by Jubeir, requiring Iranian forces to leave Syria at the beginning of the process, would not work. ...

Iran has never agreed to the Geneva terms. Notably, the joint statement coming out of Vienna makes no mention of the transitional governing body. It simply states that the UN will convene a political process leading to a new constitution and new elections. If that language stands, Iran will have scored a major concession that opens the door for [Syrian President Bashar] Assad's continued rule.

The U.S., in its effort to bring Iran to the table, may be putting the solution to the Syria war further from reach.

Iranian Military Hackers Take Aim at Obama Administration Officials

Reuters | November 5

IRAN'S REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS STEPPED UP HACKING OF E-MAIL and social media accounts of Obama administration officials in recent weeks in cyberattacks believed linked to the arrest of an Iranian-American businessman in Tehran, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on Wednesday.

The newspaper, citing unnamed U.S. officials, said people working on Iran policy appeared to be the focus of the cyberattacks, with personnel in the State Department's Office of Iranian Affairs and the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs among those hacked. Other targets included journalists and academics.

The latest reports of a surge in hacking attacks come after a landmark international agreement in July that eased severe economic sanctions on Iran in return for Tehran curbing its nuclear

program to ensure it is not used for developing weapons.

The Revolutionary Guards, a powerful branch of the Iranian military, have regularly made hacking attacks on U.S. government agencies in recent years, but a source told the *Journal* the hacking increased after the arrest of Siamak Namazi in mid-October. ...

Namazi is head of strategic planning for Crescent Petroleum, an oil and gas company in the United Arab Emirates, and has worked for think tanks in Washington. He had been detained and interrogated regularly by the Revolutionary Guards before his arrest. ...

RELATED: ["AMERICA'S ACHILLES' HEEL"](#)

Iranian Commanders Refuse Orders to Fight in Syria, Report Says

Jerusalem Post | November 4

IRAN'S INCREASING MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN SYRIA TO SUSTAIN President Bashar Assad's regime is costing more and more casualties and top commanders of the elite Revolutionary Guards force have been charged with mutiny and treason for refusing orders to fight there, a pan-Arab daily newspaper reported on

Wednesday.

A source quoted by the London-based *Asharq al-Awsat* daily said several Revolutionary Guard generals from Ahvaz province, which has a significant Arab population, have chosen to retire or go into business rather than fight in Syria.

An official investigation has been launched into the large numbers of generals from that region suddenly retiring from service, the source told the paper, which backs Sunni-dominated Saudi Arabia, a rival of Iran's Shiite regime.

The source said further that a rise in deaths among the Revolutionary Guards' special Quds force has led its leadership to recruit higher-ranking officers to fight in Syria. ...

The report could not be independently confirmed.

Ali Alfoneh, an Iran expert and senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies Washington-based think tank, told the *Jerusalem Post* the real number of Iranian casualties in Syria was not known and Tehran has every reason to downplay the degree of its involvement and losses there.

"My survey of open-source data collected from the Persian language accounts of funerals in Iran, shows that 165 Iranian nationals, 154 Afghan nationals, and 26 Pakistani nationals—all

Shiites—have been killed in combat in Syria since January 2013," Alfoneh said. ...

"Ever since the first Russian military engagement in Syria on September 30, there has been a marked increase in Afghan and Iranian casualties making October the bloodiest month in the entire course of the civil war for Iranian and Afghan forces," said Alfoneh.

Thirty-four Iranians were killed in October while Afghan combat fatalities numbered 22. ...

"This indicates the Quds Force is spread thin in several regional conflicts and has suffered heavy casualties in Syria," he said. ...

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Syria Jihadists Capture Regime Town Along Vital Road

Agence France-Presse | November 5

JIHADISTS ON THURSDAY SEIZED A KEY TOWN ALONG A VITAL road in Syria's central Hama province, where regime forces are struggling to gain ground despite a month of Russian air strikes.

The setback for Damascus came as France announced it would deploy an aircraft carrier to boost its fight against the Islamic State

group, which has seized control of large parts of Iraq and Syria.

And in an apparent spillover of Syria's war, five people were killed in a suicide attack in a Lebanese town along the border. ...

The jihadists "seized full control of the town of Morek after a fierce offensive," the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group, said. ...

Egypt's Sisi Calls for NATO Help in Libya 'Vacuum'

Agence France-Presse | November 4

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ABDEL FATTAH AL-SISI CALLED FOR NATO powers to help rebuild Libya, beset by violence since an uprising backed by the Western military alliance toppled leader Muammar Qadhafi, in an interview.

Sisi was quoted in British newspaper the *Daily Telegraph* ahead of a visit to London in which he is to discuss security cooperation with [British] Prime Minister David Cameron.

"Libya is a danger that threatens all of us. If there is no government then this only creates a vacuum where extremists can prosper," Sisi said, according to the *Telegraph*.

"It was a mission that was not completely accomplished We must support all efforts to help the Libyan people and the Libyan economy."

Libya has descended into chaos since longtime dictator Qadhafi was ousted in 2011 and killed in the midst of an uprising supported by NATO states. ...

"Now America and the West have paved the way for another Iranian victory in Libya. We are rejoicing about the overthrow of Libya's Muammar Qadhafi, while we should be mourning. Libyan chaos is now the ideal setting for Iran to bring that nation into its deadly terrorist web. The government that replaces Qadhafi will be a thousand times worse."

"Egypt and Libya to Join Iran's Terror Network,"

Trumpet, October 2011

Fortress of Antiochus Epiphanes Uncovered in Jerusalem

Brent Nagtegaal | November 3

ON TUESDAY, ARCHAEOLOGIST DORON BEN-AMI ANNOUNCED that the famed Akra (citadel) of Antiochus Epiphanes had been discovered in Jerusalem's City of David.

Up until that announcement, little had been found testifying to the massive Hellenistic intrusion into the city early in the

second century B.C.

Along with the city wall, the base of a fortification tower was unearthed, having a width of over 12 feet and a length of over 60 feet. Attached to the lower portion of the wall was a sloped embankment known as a glacis. This was made up of layers of

soil, stone and plaster designed to keep attackers away from the base of the wall, a key feature of a defensive city wall. According to a press release from the Israeli Antiquities Authority, this glacis extended as far down as the bottom of the Tyropoeon valley, the depression on the western part of the ancient city.

Around the massive wall, lead slingstones typical of Antiochus's army were discovered, as well as bronze arrowheads featuring a trident symbol on them—the mark associated with Epiphanes. Further corroborating the dating of the wall were a number of coins, the earliest of which dates to the time of Antiochus Epiphanes. On top of that, hundreds of pottery handles impressed with markings from Rhodes that were used for wine vessels were also discovered, testifying to the Hellenistic nature of the fortress's inhabitants.

Following an unsuccessful bid to conquer the Ptolemaic kingdom in Egypt in 168 B.C., Antiochus IV (Epiphanes) ventured back to Judea and unleashed one of history's most atrocious anti-Semitic attacks on the fledgling province of Judea. He ransacked the capital city of Jerusalem, sacrificed swine flesh on the altar of sacrifice in the temple courtyard, and then set up a statue of Jupiter in the holy of holies. Afterward, he ravished the countryside in order to destroy any vestige of the Holy Scriptures he could find, as well as killing those who would not comply with his decrees.

Then, in order to ensure the Jews didn't rebel, he constructed a massive fortress in the northern part of the City of David and stationed a permanent garrison of his troops there.

This famed building stood for the next quarter of a century, a constant affront to the Jews as it sat adjacent to the temple. Even after the Maccabean revolt against Antiochus Epiphanes was successful at reclaiming Jerusalem in 165 B.C., the Jews still could not take the citadel. In fact, for the next 20-plus years, long after the death of Antiochus Epiphanes in Babylon, a garrison of Seleucid troops continued to be stationed in the Akra, constantly hounding those visiting the temple grounds.

It was only after Simon, the elder brother of Judas, came into power over the new, restored Jewish state in 142 B.C., that the Seleucid forces were finally ousted from the Akra a year later. Then, to ensure that foreigners would never again hold captive the religious practice of the Jews, Josephus records that Simon led a three-year, night-and-day effort to destroy the Akra completely, even grinding down part of the ground it rested upon.

How could these excavators find evidence of the Akra if Simon destroyed it? Possibly it was because they were digging in the very western reaches of the Akra, which would have been the lowest portion of the hill, far from the crest of the City of David to the east.

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Iraq Parliament Curbs Premier's Powers **Wall Street Journal | November 2**

IRAQ'S PARLIAMENT VOTED TO BLOCK THE PRIME MINISTER FROM unilaterally passing anticorruption measures and other reforms, dealing a setback to the U.S.-backed leader as he struggles to tackle an economic crisis and fight the Islamic State insurgency.

The unanimous vote by Iraq's 328-seat parliament would require Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to seek approval from parliament before enacting any new measures, including the cancellation of redundant ministerial posts and cuts to government salaries. The vote doesn't reverse the few changes Mr. Abadi has already made, but it curbs his ability to independently enact new measures.

Monday's vote marks a shift in political and public opinion from nearly three months ago, when the parliament backed Mr. Abadi's corruption-fighting measures after widespread protests by activists and religious leaders against rampant graft and moribund public services.

Beyond limiting the potential for changes to Iraq's gridlocked

political system, the vote highlights Mr. Abadi's growing isolation as opponents from within his own ruling bloc rebel against his leadership.

"What happened today was like an alarm for withdrawing confidence from the prime minister and the cabinet," said ... a parliament member from Mr. Abadi's State of Law bloc. ...

Dozens of lawmakers within Mr. Abadi's State of Law coalition have instead thrown in their lot with former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who remains the leader of the coalition, and is exploiting widespread discontent with Mr. Abadi to attempt a comeback little more than a year after his own party removed him from office.

Mr. Abadi's declining support among lawmakers threatens to further diminish Washington's influence by empowering Mr. Maliki and his supporters among hard-line Shiite politicians and Iranian-backed Shiite militia groups, both of which have sought to check America's role in Iraq. ...

EUROPE

TrumpetHour

WEEK IN REVIEW: GUTTENBERG DIAGNOSIS OF EUROPE'S ILLS, EGYPT'S PRESIDENT UNDER FIRE, TAIWAN-CHINA RECONCILIATION, STEALING AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY AND MORE | NOVEMBER 6

BRITAIN COURTING CHINA, IRAN IN SYRIAN PEACE TALKS, DISCOVERY OF GREEK FORTRESS IN JERUSALEM, AND MORE | NOVEMBER 4

Angela Merkel Will Survive—But Will the Soul of Postwar Germany?

Hans Kundnani, *Spectator* | October 29

AS ANGELA MERKEL APPROACHES HER 10TH ANNIVERSARY IN power, Germans are talking about a possible *Kanzlerinendämmerung*—a “twilight of the chancellors.” Anger is growing at Merkel’s handling of the migration crisis. Germany, which has only recently reconciled itself to the idea that it is a “country of immigration,” must now integrate vast numbers of asylum seekers, beginning with the million who are expected to arrive this year. At the same time, the country has been hit by two huge corruption scandals, involving Volkswagen and the DFB, the German football federation. The odds are that Merkel will survive—it’s hard to see at the moment who can replace her. But the unprecedented challenges she now faces threaten something more fundamental: Germany’s postwar identity.

Germans like to believe that they have moved beyond nationhood in the classical sense; that they have developed a post-national identity based on “constitutional patriotism” This identity was in large part informed by a sense of responsibility and contrition for the Nazi past and the Holocaust. ...

In reality, German postwar identity is more complex than this account allows. For a long time the embryonic “post-nationalism” that developed in the Federal Republic from the 1960s onwards coexisted uneasily with a rather regressive citizenship law based on the principle of *ius sanguinis*, or “citizenship by blood,” which went back to 1913. Until the law was reformed by Gerhard Schröder’s “red-green” government in 2000, Germany continued to define itself in ethnic terms. Even second- or third-generation Turkish immigrants were officially “foreigners.” ...

Moreover... the pride in their country that many citizens felt often came not from the German constitution or from dealing with the Nazi past, but from economic success. In his 2008 book on German myth, *Mythen der Deutschen*, the political scientist Herfried Münkler wrote that, against the background of the postwar *Wirtschaftswunder*, or “economic miracle,” the Mercedes symbol had replaced the Iron Cross as a symbol of German national pride. Habermas also argued that, in the absence of alternative sources of national identity, a kind of economic nationalism had developed in Germany. ...

Many, including Merkel, refer to Germany as an “export nation”—a term that suggests that exports are central not just to the German economy but also to national identity itself. ...

The tension between these two versions of German postwar identity was expressed most clearly in the statement allegedly made by the Bavarian Christian Democrat leader Franz Josef Strauss, that “a people that has achieved the economic success

that we have has a right to hear nothing more about Auschwitz.”

In this context, Merkel’s problems take on greater significance. The migration crisis is clearly the biggest and most important. When the scale of the influx of asylum seekers to Germany became apparent in September, Merkel told the German public: “We can do it!” ...

However ... [t]here has already been an angry backlash from voters, and that could increase. Since the crisis began, the euroskeptic and increasingly xenophobic Alternative für Deutschland (AfD), which had seemed to be falling apart ... has been rising in the polls again. Meanwhile attacks on asylum seekers have taken place on an almost daily basis.

The resurgence of the AfD and the increasing frequency of attacks on asylum seekers illustrates how fragile Germany’s sense of identity remains. ...

This is also the significance of the football scandal. The 2006 World Cup was the moment when, in the popular imagination, the new multi-ethnic Germany came into being. ... But *Der Spiegel*’s recent allegations that the DFB created a slush fund and paid kickbacks to Fifa officials in order to secure the World Cup have retrospectively tainted that moment. ... A great moment of German pride has been soured.

Meanwhile, the Volkswagen scandal threatens Germany’s identity as an export nation. Over the last decade, Germans have increasingly seen their export-driven economic success as a model for others But precisely because automobiles were the symbol of Germany’s *Exportstärke*, or export strength, the revelations that Volkswagen cheated on emissions tests in the United States has tainted the success of German exports.

The scandal also broke at a time when other developments, such as the economic slowdown in China, had already illustrated the fragility of Germany’s export-dependent growth model. In short, Germany’s export success looks less sustainable than before. ...

[T]he extraordinary consensus which centered on Merkel and which has dominated German politics over the last decade seems to be unraveling. That consensus, around a synthesis of center-right economic policies and center-left social and environmental policies, was based on the idea of Germany being a country of immigrants, as well as an export nation. As the challenges that Merkel now faces put this sense of identity under increasing pressure, German politics may be about to become more contested and unpredictable, though this may be no bad thing for Europe. When the Merkel era does finally come to an end, it is not at all clear what kind of country she will leave behind.

A Mass Migration Crisis, and It May Yet Get Worse

Rod Nordland, *New York Times* | October 31

THEY ARRIVED IN AN UNCEASING STREAM, 10,000 A DAY AT THE height, as many as a million migrants heading for Europe this year, pushing infants in strollers and elderly parents in wheelchairs, carrying children on their shoulders and life savings in their socks. They came in search of a new life, but in many ways they were the heralds of a new age.

There are more displaced people and refugees now than at any

other time in recorded history—60 million in all—and they are on the march in numbers not seen since World War II. ...

The most striking thing about the current migration crisis, however, is how much bigger it could still get.

What if Islamic State militants are not beaten back but continue to extend their brutal writ across Iraq and Syria? What if the Taliban continue to increase their territorial gains in

Afghanistan, prompting even more people to flee? A quarter of Afghans told a Gallup poll that they want to leave, and more than 100,000 are expected to try to flee to Europe this year.

There are between 6 million and 8 million people displaced in Syria, along with more than 4 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan.

Egypt's 5 million or more Copts, the Middle East's last remaining major Christian sect, are deeply worried about their future in an unstable and hostile country. Ancient minority groups like the Yazidis of Iraq are already homeless, as are many small communities of Assyrian, Nestorian and Chaldean Christians from northern Iraq.

While Yemenis have yet to abandon their homeland in substantial numbers, their plight is worsening Yemen is not much farther away from Europe than Eritrea, now the biggest source of African refugees, just across the Red Sea, and at some 25 million it is as populous as Afghanistan.

Nor is it only the Middle East and North Africa that European leaders need to consider. The Gallup poll ... found that in Nigeria, which already has double the population of Germany, 40 percent of people would emigrate to the West if they could. And the lesson of 2015—for them and much of the world—is that they can. ...

"We are talking about millions of potential refugees trying to reach Europe, not thousands," Donald Tusk, the president of the

European Council, said in a recent Twitter posting. ...

Europe has spawned mass movements of refugees in the not-too-distant past ... but what is new now is not just the scale of the arrivals, in such large numbers over such a short period of time. It is also the sheer number and variety of problem places they are leaving behind. ...

"Throughout Europe, xenophobia and open racism are running rampant, and nationalist, even far-right parties are gaining ground," Joschka Fischer, the former German foreign minister, wrote recently in an article that appeared on Project Syndicate, an online news service.

"At the same time, this is only the beginning of the crisis, because the conditions inciting people to flee their homelands will only worsen. And the EU, many of whose members have the world's largest and best-equipped welfare systems, appears to be overwhelmed by it—politically, morally and administratively."

Those stresses pose a challenge for the future, experts say, because the flow is unlikely to ebb anytime soon.

"I don't think this wave can stop," said Sonja Licht of the International Center for Democratic Transition. "It can maybe from time to time be somewhat less intensive, we simply have to prepare. The global north must be prepared that the global south is on the move, the entire global south. This is not just a problem for Europe but for the whole world."

Vatican's Financial Troubles Run Deep, According to New Book

Gaia Piagnigiani, New York Times | November 3

POPE JOHN PAUL I, WHO DIED IN 1978, STILL HOLDS MORE THAN €110,000, or about US\$120,000, in a Vatican bank account. The Vatican pension fund is running an €800 million deficit. The Vatican's real estate holdings total €2.7 billion (\$3 billion), seven times more than what is listed on its balance sheets. And the Vatican's governing body had agreed to push Philip Morris cigarettes, for a fee.

If they are to be believed, those are some of the revelations set to be published in a new book by Gianluigi Nuzzi, *Merchants in the Temple*. ...

Mr. Nuzzi wrote an exposé in 2012 that spawned the so-called VatiLeaks scandal.

Mr. Nuzzi has now written a book describing a nest of greed, cronyism and mismanagement at the Vatican and its administrative body, called the Curia, "that couldn't be farther from Francis's

words," as he described it in an interview Monday. ...

"There is a complete absence of transparency in the bookkeeping both of the Holy See and the Governorate," five international auditors wrote to Francis in June 2013, according to Mr. Nuzzi's book, adding that they suspected a "serious structural deficit" for the Vatican.

Among the troubles, Mr. Nuzzi reports large losses on merchandising sold in Vatican shops and rental revenues, as well as "out of control" costs.

He also describes rentals of Vatican apartments and other properties at extremely favorable rates to cardinals and functionaries, including a 1,044-square-foot apartment rented to an unnamed Vatican employee near St. Peter's Basilica for €20.67 (\$22.49) a year. ...

ASIA

T North Korean Government Earning Billions by Forcing Citizens Into Slave Labor Abroad

Jeremiah Jacques | November 3

NORTH KOREA'S GOVERNMENT IS POCKETING BILLIONS OF DOLLARS by forcing its citizens to work in slave-like conditions in other countries, reports on October 29 said.

The workers are forced to labor up to 20 hours a day in some cases—often under total surveillance and with very little food. In most cases, the workers receive no compensation for their work.

When a worker does receive compensation, it is only a few cents for every dollar given to the North Korean government.

Tens of thousands of North Korean citizens are forced to work abroad in this program, and the numbers are increasing. China and Russia hire the majority of the slave laborers, but some Middle Eastern nations are also capitalizing on the cheap labor.

The North Koreans normally work three to 10 years before returning home. And the government takes drastic measures to prevent them from being assimilated into the culture of the country they work in. *Vice News* journalist Shane Smith traveled to Russia to see some of the labor camps and said they are designed to preserve the North Korean culture. “They outsource the labor into miniature North Korean villages, so you don’t ever lose the North Korean experience,” he said. “So it’s like North Korean-type buildings, North Korean propaganda. North Korean pictures, North Korean songs. They wake up and sing the North Korean anthem.”

Immediately upon returning to North Korea, the workers spend a month in reintegration camps. There they can catch up on any propaganda they missed out on while abroad.

North Korea is also careful to choose only family men to send abroad. They are usually over 40 years old and have children. Since the workers have family back at home, they know that if they try to escape, their loved ones will be brutally punished or killed.

The government of “supreme leader” Kim Jong-un is believed to be raking in between \$1.2 and \$2.3 billion per year from the practice.

How has the dangerous personality cult that rules over North Korea survived in the modern world for so long? How has such a spiteful, sadistic and emotionally unstable regime been allowed to develop and maintain nuclear weapons? How has a government that proudly commits crimes against humanity—torturing and enslaving tens of thousands—maintained its power for so many years?

The answer to all of those questions is China and, to a lesser degree, Russia. China and Russia are keeping the dangerous Kim regime afloat, and thereby prolonging the suffering of millions of North Korean people and imperiling global stability. To understand why, read *Trumpet* columnist Brad Macdonald’s article “[Why China Supports North Korea](#).”

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Taiwan and China’s Presidents Will Meet for the First Time

China Power | November 4

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



IN A FIRST, TAIWAN’S PRESIDENT, MA YING-JEOU, WILL MEET WITH Chinese President Xi Jinping on November 7, according to Taiwan’s Central News Agency. Both leaders will travel to Singapore for the meeting. Ma is expected to publicly explain the details of the trip in a press briefing on November 5. The Mainland Affairs Council will also hold a press conference November 4 to discuss the trip.

It’s a huge breakthrough for cross-strait relations: the leaders of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the People’s Republic of China haven’t met since the PRC was founded in 1949. The PRC in particular has been wary about having such a meeting, worrying that it would convey legitimacy on Taiwan’s separate system of government. ... It’s not yet clear what formula Xi and Ma will use when they do meet together, something that will need to be clarified at Ma’s upcoming press conference. ...

Though the meeting will be historic, Ma will have to sell politicians and the general public in Taiwan on the idea by assuring them the meeting will take place on terms acceptable to Taiwan. ...

Taiwanese government sources were also careful to specify that Ma will not sign any agreements or issue any joint statements with Xi. “[T]he two leaders will exchange views on consolidating cross-strait peace and maintaining the status quo,” according to CNA (Taiwan’s Central News Agency). ...

The meeting will come just under two months before Taiwanese head to the polls for presidential and legislative elections. Currently, the opposition candidate Tsai Ing-wen, chair of the Democratic Progressive Party, is leading in the polls, even after the ruling KMT switched candidates (New Taipei Mayor Eric Chu) in a bid to make the race more competitive. The DPP is already questioning the timing of the visit, according to CNA.

“How could anyone fail to see that Taiwan is destined to become a part of mainland China? These 21 million people are going to be forced into the Chinese mold; and it is going to happen for one reason: because of a pitifully weak-willed America.”

“Taiwan Betrayal,” Gerald Flurry, *Trumpet*, August 1998

China, Japan and South Korea Relations ‘Completely Restored’ After Summit

CNN | November 2

CHINA, JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA SAID THEY HAVE “COMPLETELY restored” relations after meeting Sunday for the first trilateral summit of the East Asian powers in three years.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang met with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Park Geun-hye over the weekend to discuss their contentious World War II wartime history,

trade agreements and defusing the North Korea nuclear threat.

"All sides shared the view that trilateral cooperation has been completely restored in this meeting," Park said.

The meetings, originally held annually, were put on hold in 2012, as relations with Japan, especially over the issue of comfort women, strained.

The meeting was the sixth trilateral summit between the three countries since it kicked off in 2008.

The leaders agreed that the summit would be "held on a regular basis in the three countries," with Japan hosting the next one in 2016. ...

Minor Incident 'Could Spark War' in South China Sea **Telegraph | October 30**

CHINA'S TOP NAVAL OFFICER WARNED HIS U.S. COUNTERPART that Washington's "provocative acts" in the South China Sea could spark war, as the powerful maritime rivals held talks two days after a U.S. destroyer sailed near man-made islands built by Beijing in the disputed waters.

Japan and China Agree on Moves to Mend Ties Further **Reuters | November 1**

JAPAN AND CHINA AGREED ON SUNDAY TO RESTART MUTUAL VISITS of their foreign ministers and hold bilateral high-level economic dialogue early next year, a Japanese senior government spokesman said, as ties between Asia's two biggest economies warm.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang also agreed the two countries would work toward an early implementation of communication mechanisms between their military forces, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Hagiuda told reporters following a meeting between Abe and Li in Seoul.

"At the outset of the meeting, they agreed that ties between Japan and China are on a recovery trend, but that the momentum should be strengthened further," Hagiuda said.

Sino-Japanese relations, haunted by the legacy of Japan's World War II aggression and conflicting claims over a group of East China Sea islets, have thawed a little since Abe met Chinese President Xi Jinping twice since last November. ...

The Latest: Russian Jet May Have Been Downed by Explosive **Associated Press | November 4**

THE LATEST ON SATURDAY'S CRASH OF A RUSSIAN PLANE IN EGYPT that killed 224 people. ...

The British government says it [is] increasingly concerned that a Russian jet was brought down by a bomb and is suspending flights to and from Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

Prime Minister David Cameron's office ... says, "[W]e have become concerned that the plane may well have been brought down by an explosive device." ...

The crash in the Sinai killed all 224 people on the Metrojet Airbus plane. ...

"The Plain Truth magazine, forerunner to the Trumpet, foretold the alliance between China and Japan years ago. An article in the February 1963 edition said, 'There is an utter inevitability of the ultimate tie-up between Japan and Red China! The big question is how long China will remain "Red" and survive without a tie-up with Japanese capitalism.' China today is not as 'Red' as it once was, and its relationship with Japan and other Asian powers is rapidly warming."

"China and Japan Plan First Joint Military Exercises,"
theTrumpet.com, Dec. 1, 2009

Adm. Wu Shengli, China's naval commander [said]: "If the United States continues with these kinds of dangerous, provocative acts, there could well be a severe and urgent situation between frontline forces from both sides on the sea and in the air, or even a minor incident that sparks war." ...

"I hope the Japanese side practices a positive China policy and meets China halfway to promote the continued stable development of bilateral ties," the statement paraphrased Li as saying. ...

"China will unswervingly stick to the path of peaceful development and hopes that Japan continues to go down the same path and that (Japan) does more to benefit regional peace and security on matters of the military and security and respects the concerns of its Asia neighbors," he added.

In an additional step to ease bilateral tension, the two leaders agreed that Beijing and Tokyo will work to restart talks on a contentious issue of oil and gas field development in the East China Sea, Hagiuda said. ...

The comment came after Japan had called on China to halt construction of oil-and-gas exploration platforms in the East China Sea close to waters claimed by both nations, concerned that Chinese drills could tap reservoirs that extend into Japanese territory.

Egypt's Islamic State group affiliate has allegedly reiterated its claim to have downed a Russian passenger plane over the Sinai Peninsula last week, killing all 224 people on board.

In an audio recording circulated among militant supporters online Wednesday, a speaker said the crash coincided with the anniversary of the group's pledge of allegiance to the [Islamic State] group. The dates of the crash and the pledge roughly coincide according to the Islamic calendar.

Experts say the militants lack the sophisticated arms needed to shoot down a plane at cruising altitude. The speaker did not

say how the militants brought down the jet.

The [Associated Press] could not independently verify the recording but it resembled previous statements issued by the group. The U.S.-based SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors

jihadi websites, picked up the recording and circulated a translation.

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi said an earlier [Islamic State] claim was “propaganda” aimed at damaging Egypt’s image. ...

India Seals Rs 70,000 Cr Missile Deal With Russia

United News of India | November 2

IN WHAT COULD EASILY BE SAID THE BIGGEST EVER DEFENSE DEAL with Russia, India has stitched a contract to acquire S-400 anti-ballistic missile systems from Moscow at a cost of around Rs 70,000 crores (US\$10.8 billion), top sources in the Defense Ministry said here today. ...

The mega deal, along with an agreement to get another nuclear submarine, is likely to be formally signed during the visit to Russia of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who would be traveling to Moscow sometime in December for an annual summit with President Vladimir Putin, the sources told UNI.

“Russia’s program is not to take Europe and to attack the United States, first. ... [It] calls first for the seizure of Asia. Lenin wrote that the way to Paris, London and New York is via [Beijing] and Delhi,’ the [December 1959 Plain Truth] magazine wrote. ‘[China’s] constant dream for centuries has been ultimate world conquest! ... China knows, however, that in this highly industrialized age she can accomplish this dream only as an ally of Russia. ... [Russian leaders] will ultimately control not only the Russian states, but China ... and India as well!’”

“Asia Stands With Putin,” Gerald Flurry, *Trumpet*, May-June 2014

TW IN BRIEF

Putin softens support for Assad, says it’s not vital for him to remain in power: Russia softened its support for Syrian President Bashar Assad on Tuesday, saying it is not crucial for him to remain in power. Russia has been backing Assad and the Syrian government by flying airstrikes on anti-government forces in the nation. Russia has long been one of Assad’s staunchest supporters.

The United States, on the other hand, has said Assad cannot have any part in Syria’s political future. Since the Syrian civil war began, some 250,000 Syrians have been killed and over a million injured. Around 11 million others have been displaced from their homes—including hundreds of thousands who have fled to Europe. Russia’s softened support for Assad could signal a turning point in the crisis.

AFRICA/LATIN AMERICA

T Pope Francis’s Most Dangerous Trip Yet

Anthony Chibairwe | November 6

IN WHAT WOULD BE A FIRST, POPE FRANCIS MAY BE FORCED TO cancel his visit to one of the African nations on his November itinerary: the Central African Republic (C.A.R.).

The pontiff’s schedule includes a visit to Kenya November 25-27, Uganda November 27-29, and possibly C.A.R. November 29-30. The Vatican announced Monday that the pope’s trip to the violence-stricken nation remains “on the program.” The Vatican’s deputy spokesman Ciro Benedettini told AFP that “Francis greatly desires to go there.” But he also indicated the trip to C.A.R. may be canceled for security concerns.

In his Sunday message at St. Peter’s Square, the pope himself shifted from the certainty he had previously expressed regarding the trip to the Central African Republic. He spoke of it as the “trip I hope to be able to make to that nation.” A senior Vatican official explained the pope’s comments thus: “If the situation worsens, he will not be able to go, and he is aware of that.”

If the trip proceeds as planned, Francis will travel to C.A.R.’s capital, Bangui, where he will visit a refugee camp, a mosque in a notoriously dangerous Bangui neighborhood, and a stadium where he’ll observe mass.

But the Central African Republic is trapped in a “cycle of

violence,” as Pope Francis described it. As we catalogued in “[Central African Republic—The Definition of Catastrophe](#),” this cycle of violence is more than just another African problem—it’s a full-fledged religious war between Christians and Muslims.

The most recent spate of violence in C.A.R. began in September when militants incited people to avenge the death of a Muslim man who was murdered while operating his motorcycle taxi. Since then, at least 90 people have been killed, and hundreds of structures have been destroyed, including a church building and a mosque.

Last Thursday, three Muslims were attacked when they left their Muslim refuge PK5. Two of them were killed and chopped into small pieces. The third was stoned to death. A shell-shocked witness added some disturbing details of the murder: “Even children were stoning the man who moaned and begged for mercy before dying.” Later that day, a Christian was murdered in retaliation.

More have been killed in the proceeding days.

It’s highly likely that Pope Francis will cancel his trip to the Central African Republic. If he does, it would be significant to note what sort of message that cancellation will send to the world about the religious war in that nation.

It would be even more significant to note what sort of message that cancellation would send to Pope Francis himself. To get an idea, research the history of how the Roman Catholic Church

has traditionally responded to persecution from Muslims. *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry's article "The Last Crusade" is a great starting point.

ANGLO-AMERICA



The Little Book

Gerald Flurry, *The Key of David* | November 8

The book of Revelation mentions a little book that God would reveal just before Christ's Second Coming. This book has been revealed, and its contents will affect every person on Earth!



IBM and China's Military-Industrial Complex: A Troubling Report

National Review | November 3

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



HELPING TO MODERNIZE CHINA'S INDUSTRIAL BASE MAY BE GOOD for business, but it is potentially dangerous for U.S. national security. A new report by a U.S. research firm ... concludes that the U.S. is erring on the side of endangering national security.

The report, by Defense Group Inc., takes a close look at IBM's partnerships with Chinese companies that have "deep and troubling ties to the Chinese military, defense industry, and state security apparatus." The report concludes:

"Through these partnerships IBM is endangering the national and economic security of the United States by providing the Chinese government with the means to perfect and innovate these sensitive, high-level technologies. ... China strategy has three important implications for U.S. technological security and economic competitiveness:

"Threatens U.S. commercial and technological advantages

"Compromises U.S. military and government supply chains

"Enhances Chinese military technological capabilities"

The Pentagon's latest report to Congress on China's growing military power provides critical background: "China continues to

leverage foreign investments, commercial joint ventures, academic exchanges, the experience of repatriated Chinese students and researchers, and state-sponsored industrial and technical espionage to increase the level of technologies and expertise available to support military research, development and acquisition. China's long-term goal is to create a wholly indigenous defense industrial sector, augmented by a strong commercial sector, to meet the needs of [People's Liberation Army] modernization and to compete as a top-tier supplier in the global arms market."

The Pentagon report goes on to explain that China intentionally tries to integrate "defense and civilian sectors to leverage output from China's expanding science and technological base." ...

Congress should take a close look at whether our export control laws need to be tightened in light of the increasingly sophisticated technology that companies like IBM are transferring to Chinese entities. In many fields of strategic competition, from cybersecurity to missile technology, offensive capabilities currently have a decided advantage over defensive ones, both in terms of effectiveness and cost. ...

U.S. Posts a Record Deficit in Manufacturing Trade

Bloomberg | November 4

THE U.S. TRADE DEFICIT IN MANUFACTURING HIT A RECORD \$74.7 billion in September, according to an analysis of new Census Bureau data by RealityChek, a reliable blog on manufacturing and trade.

That could become fodder for debate in the presidential election, where candidates have been arguing over the plight of American factory workers. ...

The swelling of the manufacturing trade deficit is more evidence that while the overall U.S. economy has recovered from the 2007-09 recession, the manufacturing sector continues to lag. While overall employment is up 3 percent since the start of the recession, in December 2007, manufacturing employment is down 10 percent. ... [T]he U.S. appears headed for an annual record deficit in manufacturing.

The Alliance for American Manufacturing noted that U.S. imports from China hit a record of \$45.7 billion in September, and President Scott Paul said the inflow is “killing America’s manufacturing recovery.”

Thanks to the lowest oil imports in a decade, the overall U.S. trade deficit shrank in September to \$40.8 billion from \$48 billion

in August, according to the Census Bureau. But the one-month dip masks a rising trend. “A weakening global economy, soaring dollar, and global petro-recession with an associated inventory overhang are hurting exports and widening the deficit despite the improvement once expected with the big drop in oil prices,” Action Economics of Boulder, Colorado, said in a statement.

Kraft Heinz to Close Seven Plants, Cut 2,600 jobs

Reuters | November 4

KRAFT HEINZ CO., THE MAKER OF JELL-O, OSCAR MAYER MEATS and other brands, said on Wednesday it will close seven factories and lay off about 2,600 employees in North America as it seeks to cut costs.

The move to trim 5.9 percent of its workforce comes less than three months after the company, created when H. J. Heinz Co.

merged with Kraft Foods Group, said it would eliminate 2,500 jobs in the United States and Canada.

Shares of Kraft Heinz, which currently has about 44,100 employees, were unchanged in after-hours trading at \$75.82.

Investors and analysts have been expecting cuts at the company since the \$46 billion merger was announced in March. ...

Gun Sales Set Record for Sixth Month in a Row

Associated Press | November 4

THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION PROCESSED A RECORD number of background checks in the month of October, indicating that gun sales were at an all time high for the sixth month in a row.

The FBI’s National Instant Background Check System processed 1,976,759 firearms-related checks in October. That is a 373,290 increase in checks over last year and a new record for the month. It also makes October the sixth consecutive month to see a record number of checks. ...

Gun-rights activists have pointed to Democrats’ calls for

new gun control measures as one reason why gun sales have increased. Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton has said that the Supreme Court is wrong on the Second Amendment, that Australian-style mandatory gun buybacks should be considered in the United States, and that she would implement new gun control through executive action.

“Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton are the best gun salespeople on the planet. The more they scream for new gun control laws the more guns walk off the shelves at gun stores,” said Alan Gottlieb, the head of the Second Amendment Foundation. ...

Russian President Vladimir Putin Tops Forbes’ 2015 Ranking of the World’s Most Powerful People

Forbes.com | November 4

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN (NO. 1) TAKES THE TOP SPOT out of 73 on Forbes’s seventh annual ranking of “The World’s Most Powerful People” for the third year in a row. German Chancellor Angela Merkel (No. 2) moved up three spots from last year, while President Barack Obama (No. 3) dropped one spot, making

it the first year a sitting U.S. president has not made it into the top two spots. Pope Francis (No. 4) retained his place this year, ahead of General Secretary, Communist Party of China’s Xi Jinping (No. 5), who fell two spots. ...



Does God Exist?

Stephen Flurry, Trumpet Daily | November 6

If you face this question and you answer it, it will affect literally everything in your life!

