

# Trumpet Weekly

NOVEMBER 20, 2015



French President Hollande stands with other government officials to observe a minute of silence on November 16 in Paris to pay tribute to victims of the Paris attacks.

## Paris Attacks: A Milestone in European Unity

Stephen Flurry and Richard Palmer | November 19

**A**FTER THE PARIS ATTACKS, MANY EXPECTED FRANCE TO TURN TO nato and the United States for help. Instead François Hollande looked to the Europe Union. This is the first time the EU's collective defense clause has ever been used.

This is a major milestone in the union's development.

Hollande's call for European help was "a political act and message," said EU Foreign Policy Chief Federica Mogherini. In making this call, he was "underlining that the Europe of defense is something that can be used."

"France has set a precedent for using the EU as the first response to military attack in the Continent, marking a decisive shift away from NATO," wrote the *Telegraph*.

This call cannot help but bring Europe's armies together. Hollande has asked other EU nations to take some of the burden of France's military deployments in North Africa.

Hollande has called for a "broad coalition" to take the fight to the Islamic State. This coalition is another reason that Hollande called for the EU's, rather than NATO's, help. Hollande wants to

work with Russia.

This gets to the heart of the reason why Hollande looked to the EU, not NATO. In doing so, he was declaring that Europe is more than junior partner in America's defense arrangement. Europe is its own power, with its own goals, its own interests, and its own foreign relations. If it wants to work with Russia, it will do so with or without American approval.

This look to Europe also exposes a major division with America. The Bavarian Finance Minister Markus Söder summed up the feelings of many in Europe saying, "Paris changes everything." However, U.S. President Barack Obama's response so far has been to insist that Paris changes nothing.

Consider America's past policy on Islamic terrorism. In May 2013, President Obama declared the war on terror over. The next year, he announced that "the world is less violent than it has ever been. It is more tolerant than it has ever been."

At a press conference on Monday, Mr. Obama showed that the Paris attacks had not changed his mind at all. "We have the right strategy, and we're gonna see it through," he said. There was none of Europe's urgency to act. Instead he talked about the "progress

being made" by America in Syria. His hope for the future lay in the "modest progress on the diplomatic front."

No wonder France doesn't want to turn to American-led NATO. It knows that if it does, it will be business as usual. America may have all that military capacity, but with no willingness to act, it is no help to Europe.

What must European leaders be thinking when they see the American president insist that everything is fine and that his strategy is working? Their rejection of America's leadership here goes much further than just the aftermath of the Paris attack. They're starting to see that America is not going to seriously confront this problem anywhere, anytime—Europe has to look to itself.

Military unity is one of the final pillars that would transform the EU into a superstate. There's still more to do on the economic front, but the euro crisis has forced it to move forward here, and the crisis will keep pushing it forward.

Now the migrant crisis is doing the same for Europe's militaries.

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## MIDDLE EAST

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## Radical Islam—The Invisible Enemy

**Caroline Glick | November 18**

**WE TALKED ABOUT THIS**



**L**IKE HER FORMER BOSS, U.S. PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA, FORMER secretary of state and Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton not only refused to accept the relevance of the term ["radical Islam" to describe the ideology motivating Islamic terrorists to massacre innocents]. Clinton refused to acknowledge what radical Islam stands for.

She merely noted some of what it rejects.

In her words, "I think this kind of barbarism and nihilism, it's very hard to understand, other than the lust for power, the rejection of modernity, the total disregard for human rights, freedom,

or any other value that we know and respect."

Her opponents [at the Democratic Party's presidential debate] agreed with her.

But of course, it is easy to understand what motivates Islamic terrorists. They tell us all the time.

They want the world to be run by an Islamic empire. ...

True, there are competing schools inside of the world of radical Islam.

On the one hand, there is the Sunni version of radical Islam propounded by the Muslim Brotherhood. ... On the other hand,

you have the Shiite version of radical Islam propounded by the Iranian regime in Tehran. Its adherents want the Islamic empire to be ruled by an ayatollah in Tehran.

For Americans and the rest of the free world though, this is a distinction without any real meaning.

The radical Islamic goal of destroying America—and the rest of the world—is the same regardless of who ends up winning the intramural jihad contest.

And as we have seen repeatedly in recent years, the sides are happy to come together to achieve their common goal of killing us and destroying our societies.

The Americans' avoidance of reality is not unique.

The Europeans also refuse to see it. ...

The operational consequences of the West's refusal to acknowledge the nature of the forces waging war against it have been disastrous.

Radical Islam is an ideology that serves both as an organizing principle for civil societies and a military doctrine. By ignoring it, the U.S. and the rest of the free nations of the world have made it impossible to conceptualize or implement a strategy for either discrediting it or defeating its adherents. ...

Abroad, appeasement has taken its most significant form in the U.S.-led nuclear deal with Iran. As the largest state sponsor of

terrorism and the most active radical Islamic imperialist force in the Middle East, Iran is the ground zero of radical Islam. ... As for Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, if Iran had been interested in preventing its rise, [the Islamic State] would never have taken over any territory in either country. ...

The most important component of Friday night's massacre was the terrorists' radical Islamic motivation.

Their belief in their ideology motivated them to die killing innocent people. Everything else was secondary. ...

To defeat these groups, the U.S. and its allies need to adopt a strategy that is rooted in an acknowledgment of the nature of our true enemy: radical Islam. ...

**"By definition, the war on terror was always a misnomer. You can't fight a war against a military tactic without identifying the people and the ideology behind it. ... As we have written from the very beginning, it should have begun with radical Islam, HEADED BY IRAN—the world's leading state sponsor of international terrorism. But because of politically correct paralysis and reluctance to offend an entire religious movement, the U.S. government opted for a fuzzy definition."**

**"The War With No Name," theTrumpet.com, March 27, 2009**

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## **German Army 'Could Join UN Syria Mission'**

**The Local | November 18**

**G**ERMANY MIGHT SEND GROUND TROOPS INTO SYRIA ON THE CONDITION that there is a UN resolution covering any military intervention, *Der Spiegel* reported on Friday citing government sources.

Ministers "are not ruling out deploying troops" to Syria, the weekly newsmagazine reported.

That would be a big step up from Germany's current role in the battle against ISIS of arming and training Kurdish Peshmerga troops in northern Iraq.

Officials close to Chancellor Angela Merkel believe it's increasingly likely that German troops might be called on to supervise a negotiated ceasefire. ...

Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said on Monday that he believed there was hope for peace negotiations going on in Vienna, which involve the EU, Russia and the U.S., as well as regional powers such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

There would be no purely military solution to the threat of ISIS, Steinmeier warned at the time.

The cabinet decided on Wednesday to moderately restrengthen the Bundeswehr's presence in the northeast of Afghanistan.

The upper limit of soldiers involved in the mission will be raised from 850 to 980, but the central principal of the mission—to train and advise local forces—will remain unchanged.

There are no plans to return to conducting combat missions.

But the government wants to change the text of the mission statement to allow the Bundeswehr more room to advise their Afghan counterparts. ...

**"Germany has a global strategy, and what is occurring in Syria fits into that strategy perfectly. ... For Germany, Syria's revolution isn't about a humanitarian crisis at all. It's about geopolitics and how Berlin can aggressively advance its strategic interests in the Middle East! ... BIBLICAL PROPHECY REVEALS THAT, VERY SOON, Syria will no longer align with Iran. IT ALSO SHOWS THAT GERMANY WILL HELP CAUSE THIS SPLIT."**

**"How the Syrian Crisis Will End," Trumpet, September 2012**

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## **Taking Terror Abroad: The Islamic State's New Strategy**

**Spiegel Online | November 17**

**F**OREIGN INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS SAY THE ATTACKS HAVE BEEN orchestrated by high-level Islamic State operatives in Syria. ...

The centrally steered attacks [in Paris] mark a shift in strategy for the Islamic State. For the first time, the jihadists have planned



and carried out attacks against countries currently waging war against [the Islamic State]. The attacks in Paris, in particular, carried out as commando actions, took European intelligence services by surprise. ...

[A]lthough the Islamic State praised the killing of editorial staff at *Charlie Hebdo* in January, it at best inspired the actions of the radicalized perpetrators, rather than organize or order such attacks itself, a journalist with Germany's *Süddeutsche Zeitung* wrote on Monday.

But that appears to have changed now. "We have to prepare for a new situation," a high-ranking security official in Berlin said.

Increasingly, [the Islamic States's] actions are starting to

resemble those of al Qaeda at the start of the new millennium. At the time, al Qaeda terrorist cells carried out attacks in New York, Washington, Madrid and London in the name of the organization. After this weekend's Paris attacks, [the Islamic State] has already announced the U.S. capital to be a future target. The head of the CIA has said he assumes there will be further [Islamic State] attacks against targets in the West.

There's another disturbing novelty here as well: Paris marks the first time the terrorist militia has deployed suicide bombers in Europe. ...

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

## **U.S. Officials: ISIS Aggressively Pursuing Chemical Weapons**

**Associated Press | November 19**

**T**HE ISLAMIC STATE GROUP IS AGGRESSIVELY PURSUING DEVELOPMENT of chemical weapons, setting up a branch dedicated to research and experiments with the help of scientists from Iraq, Syria and elsewhere in the region, according to Iraqi and U.S. intelligence officials. ...

U.S. intelligence officials don't believe [the Islamic State] has the capability to develop sophisticated weapons like nerve gas that are most suited for a terrorist attack on a civilian target. So far the group has used mustard gas on the battlefield in Iraq and Syria.

But Iraqi officials expressed concern that the large safe haven the extremists control since overrunning parts of Iraq and Syria last year has left Iraqi authorities largely in the dark over the [Islamic State] program. ...

But [Iraqi security expert, Hakim] al-Zamili, citing intelligence reports he has access to, told the Associated Press that the group has managed to attract chemical experts from abroad as well as Iraqi experts, including ones who once worked for Saddam Hussein's now-dissolved Military Industrialization Authority. The

foreigners include experts from Chechnya and Southeast Asia, the Iraqi intelligence officials said.

[The Islamic State] recently moved its research labs, experts and materials from Iraq to "secured locations" inside Syria, Zamili added—apparently out of concern of an eventual assault on Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, captured by [the Islamic State] in the summer of 2014. ...

Retired Lt. Gen. Richard Zahner ... noted that al Qaeda tried for two decades to develop chemical weapons and didn't succeed, showing the technical and scientific difficulties.

However, he said, U.S. intelligence agencies have consistently underestimated the Islamic State group, which has shown itself to be more capable and innovative than al Qaeda and has greater financial resources. Given that and its inheritance of Saddam-era experts, he said, it could realistically reach a "limited" program for battlefield uses. ...

**RELATED:** ["ABOUT THOSE WMD IN SYRIA"](#)

## **Israel Considers Suing EU Over Decision to Label Settlement Products**

**Haaretz | November 19**

**I**SRAEL IS CONSIDERING FILING A LAWSUIT WITH THE WORLD Trade Organization (WTO) over the European Union's decision to label products in European food markets that originate from the West Bank and other settlements beyond the 1967 lines. ...

A Justice Ministry official said Deputy Attorney General Roy Shondorf believes suing the European Union at the WTO could be beneficial and is worth exploring. ...

Foreign and Economy Ministry officials said the chances of such a suit succeeding are extremely slim and that it could cause

more harm than good.

They said such a step could lead to a countermove by Arab states against Israel in the WTO that would lead to a decision against Israel. As a result, the WTO could issue a statement that products made in the settlements aren't legal at all under international law, and therefore should be boycotted, not merely labeled, these officials said. ...

**RELATED:** [JERUSALEM IN PROPHECY](#)

## **Israel Says 55 Iranians Killed In Syria's War**

**Reuters | November 19**

**A**ROUND 55 IRANIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN KILLED IN Syria's civil war, Israeli intelligence believes, and a think tank close to Israel's spy services said the toll is undermining support

among Iranians for Iran's actions in Syria. ...

Speaking to Reuters, a senior Israeli military officer cited Israeli intelligence findings that "55-plus" Iranian personnel had

been killed in clashes with Syrian rebels, in addition to a Hezbollah death toll he put at between 1,000 and 2,000. ...

A regional security source who declined to be identified by name or nationality said that, at its peak, the Iranian force deployed in Syria was made up of 1,800 personnel, but that

number had since been reduced to 1,300.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani had called for the current deployment to be halved but was coming up against opposition from hardliners in the [Islamic] Revolutionary Guard Corps, the source added, declining to say where this information came from.

## EUROPE

# Trumpet Hour

THE WAR CRY IN EUROPE, THE ISLAMIC STATE'S EXPANDING BATTLEFRONT, CHINA'S AIR FORCE AND MORE | NOVEMBER 20

PARIS ATTACKS, ISLAM A RELIGION OF PEACE?, BATTLE OF TOURS AND MORE | NOVEMBER 18

## War: A Mission of Generations

German Foreign Policy | November 17

### WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



FOLLOWING LAST FRIDAY'S TERRORIST ATTACKS IN PARIS, LEADING German media have begun speaking of a new world war. ... The West finds itself "in a world war" against the "Islamic State" writes the chief editor of Germany's flagship daily, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine*. "The West—in fact, the entire planet"—has currently been forced into "a third world war," writes Berlin's daily, the *Tagesspiegel*, the majority of whose readers are in the German capital. As the *Tagesspiegel* explains, the "Third World War" is even taking on "proportions ... that extend beyond the global character of conventional warfare." Several regional news outlets and tabloids have also accepted this wording ... "The fight against the 'Islamic State,' the Taliban and Boko Haram is not being waged with the necessary intensity for a world war," they claim. ...

The anti-jihadi war is "a mission of generations and cannot be accomplished in a few years," it is predicted. The current lack of success "should not be looked upon with self-recriminations,

retreat" or with "half-heartedness." One commentator declared that it is "well known" that "the struggle against terrorism has failed, because of half-heartedness. The West has lacked cohesiveness and perseverance." ...

The European countries must defend themselves "with police and intelligence services ... with surveillance and prevention," they write. "In Germany and the rest of Europe," "police and intelligence services" should "be better equipped and in an even more tightly coordinated network." "An EU anti-terrorist headquarters, with police and intelligence services in one complex," would be helpful. "The heavily armed, rapid deployment units, planned for the German Federal Police," may "be needed sooner" than expected. "The Bundeswehr must play a greater role in domestic security." ... The Internet must "absolutely" be placed under stronger surveillance. "Freedoms, which should be protected, will be curtailed," remarked one of the publishers of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. ...



## The Paris Bloodbath Awakens a Sleeping Giant in Europe

Stephen Flurry | November 17

LAST WEEK'S ATTACK ON PARIS WAS THE WORST VIOLENCE THAT city has seen since World War II. ... Now that the reality of what has just happened is sinking in, the big question on the minds of people around the world is, *how will Europe respond?*

French President François Hollande called the Paris attack an ACT OF WAR.

Compare their reaction with Spain's non-response to the terrorist attack on Madrid in 2004. After that, Spain capitulated to the jihadists! This time around, France appears to be dead set on seeking revenge.

Germany too may be gearing up for action. "Do we now have to go to war?" asked Germany's most popular newspaper *Bild*.

It speculated that France could invoke NATO's mutual defense clause and quoted several German politicians stating Germany's preparedness to use military force.

Many Europeans have already made a direct connection between this attack and Europe's ongoing refugee crisis.

Prof. Peter Neumann, a terrorist expert at King's College London, told Britain's Channel 4 that if "someone related to the influx of refugees" was involved in the attacks, it "could almost lead to uncontrollable riots and attacks in European cities."

"Far-right groups were quick to seize on the Paris terror attack as evidence of a need to curb immigration," wrote the Associated Press. But "while it's the extremists on the far-right who are grabbing most of the headlines, *mainstream Germans are increasingly being drawn into inflammatory rhetoric—and at times anti-foreigner sentiment*" (emphasis added throughout).

The article details the "wave of fury" sweeping across Germany—prompting a "steep rise in attacks on refugee shelters"—and this was before November 13!

In an article titled "What's Happening to My Country?", Markus Feldenkirchen wrote that the "mood in the country is akin to a drunken rage of the kind last seen in the beer halls of the 1920s Weimar Republic—that period of crude, uncivilized behavior that paved the way for Hitler's rise and the most brutal decade in world history." Here again, this was in an article that appeared on *Der Spiegel's* English-language website the day *before* the Paris attacks.

The migrant crisis has already been the biggest challenge for German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Bavarian Premier Horst Seehofer has been a key leader in the right-wing opposition to her open door for migrants. Speculation about Merkel's resignation increases by the day.

In the November-December 2015 *Trumpet* print edition, columnist Brad Macdonald said, "Europe is experiencing a transformative identity crisis."

Compare that with what Peter Foster wrote for the *Telegraph* in the aftermath of the Paris attacks: "The Paris attacks ... threaten

the 'very essence' of the European way of life, as far-right parties seek to capitalize on the attacks, analysts have warned."

He continued, "With Paris now enduring this second major terror bloodbath in under a year, questions are now being asked about how much longer both Europe's open-border system and vision of a tolerant, multicultural society can survive."

If people would just look at history, they would see where this is leading. Notice what Stratfor's George Friedman wrote after the *Charlie Hebdo* attacks in Paris earlier this year: "French Prime Minister Manuel Valls has called this a war on radical Islam. If only they wore uniforms or bore distinctive birthmarks, then fighting only the radical Islamists would not be a problem. But Valls' distinctions notwithstanding, the world can either accept periodic attacks or see the entire Muslim community as a potential threat until proven otherwise.

"It is difficult to imagine another outcome save for another round of ghettoization and deportation. This is repulsive to the European sensibility now but certainly not alien to European history. Unable to distinguish radical Muslims from other Muslims, Europe will increasingly and unintentionally move in this direction."

"A massive clash is brewing," Macdonald wrote on November 14.

Daniel 11:40 says, "And at the time of the end shall the king of the south PUSH at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall ENTER into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over."

God says there will be a clash in this end time between the kings of the north and south. These are the same two forces that were pitted against each other during the Crusades—Catholic Europe and radical Islam! The Bible says Islamic forces will aggressively "push" at Europe. The European Union will retaliate forcefully against the Islamic push.

For more on the clash of these two powers, read *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry's article "The Coming War Between Catholicism and Islam."

 Follow [Stephen Flurry](#)

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## After Paris Attacks, a Darker Mood Toward Islam Emerges in France

Adam Nossiter and Liz Alderman, *New York Times* | November 16

NOVEMBER IS NOT JANUARY. ... UNLIKE THE RESPONSE IN JANUARY after attacks at the satirical newspaper *Charlie Hebdo* and elsewhere left 17 dead, there were no grand public appeals for solidarity with Muslims after the Friday attacks that left 129 dead in Paris. There were no marches, few pleas not to confuse practitioners of Islam with those who preach jihad.

Instead, there was a palpable fear, even anger, as President François Hollande asked Parliament to extend a state of emergency and called for changing the Constitution to deal with terrorism. It was largely unspoken but nevertheless clear: Secular France always had a complicated relationship with its Muslim community, but now it was tipping toward outright distrust, even hostility.

The shift could be all the more tempting because the government is struggling to find its footing politically as it is threatened

on its far right by the anti-immigrant National Front Party.

Already, tough talk from officials in the government shows them shifting rightward, calling for new scrutiny of mosques, extending the state of emergency, and possibly placing restrictions on the 10,000 or more people loosely indexed as possible threats to the state. France needs to "expel all these radicalized imams," Prime Minister Manuel Valls declared Saturday. ...

The concern among Muslims in France is palpable. "We're already feeling the backlash. It started right away," said Latetia Syed, 17, whose family gathered on Sunday near the Bataclan concert hall, where 89 people were killed on Friday, to pay respect to the victims. "There was a flood of violent language on Facebook to kill Muslims."

The grim public mood, with hardened jaws and frowns on the emptied streets, is bubbling up. Deep shades of distinction

that previously separated France's political groupings—left, right and far-right—on how to handle the terrorist threat, or

even how to deal with France's large Muslim community, are blurring. ...

## **France's Forever War**

**Benjamin Haddad, Foreign Policy | November 17**

**I**T'S TRUE THAT FRANCE HAS WITHSTOOD LAST WEEK'S ENCOUNTER with Islamist terrorism. But the storm has not yet passed—not nearly. France is only at the beginning of what will be a very long war. ...

Yet the word “war” does not fully encompass the complexity, durability and multifaceted nature of the threat that France now faces. ...

Intelligence experts I have spoken to off the record now compare France, as well as its European neighbors, to Israel, which has accommodated itself to a perpetual battle with radical adversaries. French society, similarly, may have to brace for future attacks. ...

France has called for an international coalition to step up the current operations in Syria and Iraq and destroy the Islamic State. But even if France successfully weakens the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq or even ends Syria's civil war entirely, that will not eliminate the threat of attacks of the sort we saw last week. ...

But Syria's conflict does not explain why France, along with Belgium and other European countries, have become such fertile breeding grounds for radicalization. Most of the identified terrorists involved in the attacks were French and Belgian nationals. ...

Yet as the interior minister himself noted, security agencies are overwhelmed by the challenge before them. This problem

is reinforced by the fact that radical organizations are easier to implant in France because of its large Muslim communities with disaffected youth. ...

A prolonged conflict will test the patience of the French public, as well as the resilience and openness of the country's political institutions. Marine Le Pen's National Front, a populist far-right party that has won favor with an anti-EU and anti-immigration platform, is already poised to make gains in December's regional elections. She might even win the presidency of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region, which would be an unprecedented victory. A national presidential election will be held in the spring of 2017, and Le Pen could make a strong showing. Elsewhere in Europe, populist rhetoric is likely to continue fueling opposition to refugees, immigrants and the Schengen Area, the European Union's 26-nation free-movement zone. ...

Beyond the Middle East, Europe is becoming a new front for the war against radicalism, and the resilience of Europe's liberal societies should be a major concern to U.S. policymakers. They must ask themselves what kind of interlocutors they want to face in Europe, and France in particular, in the coming years and decades. Amid instability in the Middle East and an absence of U.S. leadership, French conservative policymakers will be tempted to turn to populism at home and Russian President Vladimir Putin abroad. ...

## **Czech President Attends, Addresses Rally Against Muslims**

**Associated Press | November 17**

**T**HE CZECH REPUBLIC'S PRESIDENT MARKED THE 26TH ANNIVERSARY of the Velvet Revolution by addressing a rally of his supporters organized by an anti-Muslim group.

Amid heavy security, the Bloc against Islam rallied Tuesday in support of President Milos Zeman, who is known for his anti-Islam rhetoric. Zeman told the crowd of several thousand that they

aren't extremists. ...

Later in the day, protesters from several anti-immigration rallies joined forces and marched to the government building. They demanded the center-left government resign over its acceptance of a European Union plan to redistribute 120,000 refugees in member states despite its disagreement with it.

## **Merkel Cites Refugees as Boon as Anti-Immigration Party Advances**

**Bloomberg Business | November 17**

**C**HANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL SAID GERMANY'S ECONOMY IS strong enough to absorb the influx of refugees, standing by her open-door policy as a poll showed gains for an anti-immigration party.

Merkel's stance in the aftermath of the Paris terror attacks underscores her willingness to court political risk and resist pressure within and outside her party bloc to close Germany's borders. ...

As Merkel pursues international diplomacy to try to curb the flow of refugees, support for her Christian Democratic Union

rose one percentage point to 35 percent in an INSA poll for *Bild* newspaper. Even so, the Alternative for Germany party, which wants to curb immigration, gained for the second consecutive week, polling 10.5 percent.

That's more than the opposition Green and Left parties, which polled 10 percent each. ...

Alternative for Germany, known as AfD, polled 3 percent in the INSA survey as recently as August, when the [Christian Democratic Union] stood at 43 percent.

## Considering a Northern European Alliance

Stratfor | November 18

A REPORT PUBLISHED BY A DUTCH NEWSPAPER ON WEDNESDAY suggests that some EU members are starting to think about a post-Schengen, if not post-EU, Europe. According to *De Telegraaf*, the Dutch cabinet recently discussed a plan to create a smaller version of the Schengen Agreement that would include only the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and Austria. The report was only partially dismissed by the Dutch foreign affairs minister, who denied plans to create a smaller version of the Schengen zone but admitted that his government was considering an alliance of “like-minded countries” to reduce the influx of asylum seekers in Northern Europe. ...

An alliance among the governments mentioned by *De Telegraaf* is plausible even beyond asylum policies. ...

Put simply, this is not a random list of countries, but a

collection of states that share deep cultural and historic links. In fact, the map that the Dutch government allegedly has in mind bears a remarkable resemblance to the Holy Roman Empire in the late 18th century.

The report about discussions within the Dutch Cabinet coincides with another group of countries figuring out whether to deepen their own ties. The debate over whether to introduce asylum seeker quotas into the European Union has given new life to the Visegrad Group, made up of Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The newly elected Polish government has already stated that keeping strong ties with its Visegrad partners will be a priority, and that Warsaw will also seek to continue its strategic partnership with Romania to create a political axis (and potentially a military alliance) from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea. ...

## ASIA

## This Is Why America Should Fear China's Air Force

National Interest | November 18

### WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



CHINESE AIRPOWER IS ON THE RISE. IF A CRISIS OCCURRED IN THE skies over Taiwan, could Washington really stop Beijing?

Want to know just how far Chinese airpower has advanced over the past 20 years? The U.S. might need 15 times as many aircraft to defend Taiwan as it did in 1996.

That's the estimate of a RAND Corporation analysis of trends in China's air capabilities. Researchers examined two scenarios: A Chinese invasion of Taiwan and a Sino-American clash over the Spratly Islands in four specific years—1996, 2003, 2010 and 2017. Using mathematical air-warfare models, they calculated how many U.S. air wings—each of 72 aircraft—would be needed to achieve 24/7 air dominance over Taiwan and the Spratlys in the face of a massive surge of Chinese aircraft. They also looked at attritional scenarios to estimate how many U.S. air wings would be needed to destroy 50 percent of Chinese aircraft over those targets within seven days and 21 days, which presumably would force China to call off its invasion.

The results were staggering. In 1996, China would have been a pushover, with just 2.1 U.S. air wings needed for air dominance over Taiwan. By 2003, that number would have soared to 10.6 wings, and 19.6 wings by 2010. By 2017, the U.S. would need 29.9 air wings—the equivalent of 2,000 aircraft. In other words, more aircraft than America could have the faintest hope of realistically deploying to defend Taiwan.

Simply attriting Chinese aircraft, though not necessarily

stopping them from hitting their targets, would be easier but still formidable. From just 0.8 air wings to destroy 50 percent of Chinese airpower attacking Taiwan in 1996, the U.S. will need seven air wings in 2017, a ninefold increase.

The Spratly Islands would be easier to defend because they are more distant from China. The U.S. would need just 10.1 wings to maintain air superiority over the islands, though this still dwarfs the 0.5 wings that would have been sufficient in 1996.

“Historically, [People's Liberation Army] air forces have not posed much threat to neighboring countries,” the study noted. “In the two decades, however, China has rapidly modernized its airpower.” ...

**“More than 2,500 years ago, the Prophet Daniel was inspired to write that in this modern age, “tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble [German-led Europe].” The northern threat mentioned here is Russia, and the eastern power is China. ... While Russian power has been formidable for centuries, China, until it industrialized, presented no genuine threat to the West. Sure, it was belligerent, but it was a belligerent grasshopper. Now, in the early stages of fulfilling Daniel's prophecies, China is a belligerent dragon—a reality that has Europe on edge.”**

**“The Collapsing ‘China Fantasy,’” *Trumpet*, October-November 2010**



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## Putin Transformed From Outcast to Problem Solver at G-20

**Financial Times | November 16**

**V**LADIMIR PUTIN LEFT LAST YEAR'S G-20 MEETING IN BRISBANE early in a huff, tired of being chided by world leaders over Ukraine. Twelve months on, an audience with the Russian president was one of the hottest tickets in town, as Western leaders were forced to recognize the road to peace in Syria inevitably runs through Moscow.

Few at the annual summit of world leaders have seen such a transformation in their fortunes, or appeared to enjoy it as much, as Mr. Putin moved from a scolded diplomatic outcast to a self-styled problem solver the West cannot ignore.

Whether it was shifting airstrikes to target ISIS rather than Syrian rebels, or backing a political settlement in Ukraine and offering a debt-restructuring deal, Mr. Putin felt he held all the cards as the West came to him for answers.

"I can tell you a secret: I did this [leaving the G20 early last year] for technical reasons, in order not to have to wait in line for departure, that's all," Mr. Putin said at his closing press conference at this year's G20 meeting in the Turkish city of Antalya. "There were no problems at all, not then and not now."

He added: "Of course, though, relations were more tense than today. But life goes on, everything changes: there are new problems, new threats, new challenges, which would be difficult to solve for anyone alone. It is necessary to join forces."

As ever with Mr. Putin, his rhetoric and assertions are often belied by his actions.

A picture of his impromptu huddle with Barack Obama—tweeted out by Kremlin aides—gave the impression of a return to a businesslike, transactional relationship with the U.S. president, even though it was his first since Russia launched its surprise aerial campaign in Syria. ...

And Mr. Putin's pledges to unite against terrorism were mixed with characteristic barbs about the success of French counter-terrorism policy in Syria, or the impotence of U.S. military action in the region. ...

**"Those who underestimate Russia's president do so at their peril. ... Evil often has a way of seeming attractive and enticing, right before it destroys you. ... Leaders of the United States and Britain appear willfully blind to the nature of Vladimir Putin. He is not the schoolyard bully with a penchant for creating mischief and occasionally stepping over the line. He is much more than a macho man caricature who sells himself as a bastion of conservative, traditional values. This man is a killer. He needs to be feared and respected. And confronted."**

*"Fear This Man," Trumpet, January 2016*

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## China Welcomes IMF Backing to Make Yuan World Reserve Currency

**Agence France-Presse | November 14**

**C**HINA ON SATURDAY WELCOMED BACKING FROM IMF [INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND] experts that the yuan should be included in its reserve currencies, saying the move would strengthen the world's financial system.

Now the world's second-largest economy, China, asked last year for the yuan to be added to the elite basket of SDR [Special Drawings Rights] currencies, but until recently, it was considered too tightly controlled to qualify.

It now looks likely the yuan will be formally admitted to the IMF's "special drawing rights" currency basket at the end of the month, which would mark a milestone in China's efforts to become a global economic power. ...

The yuan has rapidly grown in importance in recent years as China—the world's top trading nation—has used it to settle more of its commerce, and made it directly convertible with more currencies. ...

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## Putin Puts \$50 Million Bounty on Heads of Metrojet Bombers

**Fortune | November 18**

**R**USSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN HAS OFFERED A \$50 MILLION bounty for anyone who can find those responsible for blowing up a Russian plane over Egypt last month, sparking a global manhunt for the terrorists.

"We will find them anywhere on the planet and punish them," Putin said in a televised broadcast Tuesday, Reuters reported.

Kremlin authorities determined that a bomb brought down Metrojet Flight 9268, killing 224 people on board. Putin has

promised payback for the assault and increased Russia's airstrikes against militants in Syria. Russia expanded its strike force in the country by 37 planes and coordinated with French forces in the Mediterranean for attacks via sea and air.

Until now, Russian authorities and the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation had officially avoided connecting the crash with terrorists. ...

## Russia Ready to Work With Anti-ISIS Coalition If It Respects Syrian Government

Agence France-Presse | November 19

**R**USSIA IS READY TO WORK WITH THE WESTERN COALITION FIGHTING the Islamic State group if its members respect Syria's sovereignty, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Thursday.

"We ... are ready for practical cooperation with those countries which are part of the coalition and are ready to develop with

them such forms of coordination that of course would respect Syria's sovereignty and the prerogatives of the Syrian leadership," Lavrov said in an interview with state-run Radio of Russia.

"I am convinced that such forms can be found if we take a pragmatic approach." ...

## China Vows Justice After ISIS Executes National

Straits Times | November 19

**C**HINA VOWED ON THURSDAY TO "BRING TO JUSTICE" THOSE responsible for executing one of its citizens after Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) said it had killed a Chinese captive, the first and so far only known Chinese hostage held by the group.

ISIS said it had killed a Norwegian and a Chinese captive, showing what appeared to be pictures of the dead men under a banner reading "Executed" in the latest edition of its English-language magazine. ...

## China Buys 24 Advanced Russian Su-35 Warplanes in Estimated \$2 Billion Landmark Deal

RT | November 19

**C**HINA HAS SIGNED A CONTRACT TO BUY 24 SUKHOI SU-35 MULTI-purpose fighter jets from Russia, becoming the first foreign buyer of the advanced warplane, according to manufacturer Rostec. The deal, estimated to be worth \$2 billion, is a significant boost to Russia's arms exports.

"The long negotiation on the Su-35 sale to China has been completed. We have signed a contract," Sergey Chemezov, the head of the Russian state-owned high-tech giant Rostec, told *Kommer-*

sant didn't disclose the details of the deal, but *Kommer-*sant cited sources in the Russian arms industry as saying that China had purchased 24 Su-35s at a price of about \$83 million each. ...

China is currently among the world's top five buyers of Russian arms, restoring its position after a slowdown in the late 2000s. Beijing buys advanced Russian jet engines, submarines and surface-to-air missiles, among other high-tech military items.

## Chinese the Most Dishonest, Japanese and British the Least, Study Finds

South China Morning Post | November 17

**C**HINESE PEOPLE ARE THE MOST DISHONEST, AND BRITISH AND Japanese people the most honest, according to a study of truthfulness involving more than 1,500 people from 15 countries.

Seventy percent of the research participants from China cheated in one of two online tests, said researchers at the University of East Anglia in Britain. They found some dishonesty among people in all 15 countries.

In the first test, participants were asked to flip a coin and state whether it landed on "heads" or "tails." They knew if they

reported that it landed on heads, they would be rewarded with \$3 or \$5.

If the proportion reporting heads was more than 50 percent in a given country, this indicated that people were being dishonest, the researcher said.

Participants from China were found to be the least honest, with 70 percent estimated to have lied about which side coins landed on, compared to 3.4 percent of British participants, who emerged as the most honest in this test. ...

## ANGLO-AMERICA



### The Lost Century

Gerald Flurry,

The Key of David | November 20

**T**he biblical record of God's Church abruptly ends during the lifetime of the Apostle John. Why?



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## A Syrian Refugee Lesson for Liberals

Wall Street Journal | November 16

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



**P**RESIDENT OBAMA ON MONDAY ASSAILED THE U.S. POLITICAL backlash against resettling more Syrian refugees, especially Muslims, calling it un-American. Well, maybe he should have thought about that before he decided to do so little in Syria and let the Islamic State build a vast terror sanctuary.

“The people who are fleeing Syria are the most harmed by terrorism; they are the most vulnerable as a consequence of civil war and strife,” Mr. Obama said at a news conference in Turkey. “We do not close our hearts to these victims of such violence and somehow start equating the issue of refugees with the issue of terrorism.”

Mr. Obama was reacting to the political stampede, following Friday’s jihadist massacre in Paris, against the president’s decision to accept at least 10,000 of the millions of refugees fleeing the Islamic State and Syria’s civil war. Every GOP presidential candidate we’ve heard is now calling for restricting the refugee flow into the U.S. At least 12 governors are taking steps to bar them from their states, and Congress will vote sooner or later on blocking funds for Syrian refugee resettlement.

What did Mr. Obama expect? It would be nice, and we would prefer, if Americans accepted Syrians the way they have so many war refugees over the decades—from the Jews of Europe, to the Hmong and Vietnamese, to Cubans and Afghans. The West needs loyal Muslims of moderate beliefs to help defeat the radicals; we shouldn’t want to alienate them.

But refugees from those earlier foreign conflicts didn’t include agents who would continue the war on U.S. shores. As France is

learning, the Islamic State is only too happy to use the Syrian diaspora to plant its agents to kill the French. At least one of the killers last Friday is believed to have migrated from Syria through Greece and into Paris. Nearly all of the other migrants, Muslim and Christian, have no such bloody intent. But can you blame the average American for refusing to volunteer as a next-door neighbor? ...

Metadata collection or surveillance of mosques or Muslim students doesn’t compare to what a frightened American public might support if a Paris-like event occurred on Rush Street in Chicago or the Mall of America in Minneapolis. The internment camps for Japanese-Americans in World War II were a shameful period in U.S. history, but Franklin D. Roosevelt, a progressive hero, allowed the camps under political pressure after Pearl Harbor.

The same point holds for overseas interventions. Mr. Obama boasts that he has avoided George W. Bush’s Iraq mistake by not intervening in Syria. But doing nothing also has moral consequences. These now include the rise of a terrorist caliphate, the worst refugee flood in Europe since World War II, and the increasing risk of Paris-like killings across the West. Mr. Obama’s foreign policy of liberal nonintervention may lead to the deaths of far more innocents than creating a Syrian safe-zone and destroying the Islamic State would have.

If Mr. Obama fought the Islamic State with half the vigor with which he delivers moral lectures, he’d find that a much less fearful America would welcome far more refugees.

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## Can Anything Stop Companies From Loading Up on Debt? UBS Says No

Tracy Alloway, Bloomberg | November 18

**I**T’S NO SECRET THAT COMPANIES HAVE BEEN TAKING ADVANTAGE of years of low interest rates to sell cheap debt to eager investors, locking in lower funding costs that have allowed them to go on a spree of share buybacks and mergers and acquisitions.

With fresh evidence that investors are becoming more discerning when it comes to corporate credit as they approach the first interest-rate rise in the U.S. in almost a decade, it’s worth asking whether anything might stop the trend of companies assuming more and more debt on their balance sheets.

In a note published on Wednesday, UBS analysts Matthew Mish and Stephen Caprio offer an answer to that question. After looking at ... factors that could theoretically derail the corporate debt train they answer: pretty much nothing.

For a start, they note that higher funding costs are unlikely

to dissuade companies from continuing to tap the debt market since, even after a rate hike, financing costs will remain near historic lows. ...

Higher market volatility has often been cited as one factor that could knock the corporate credit market off its seat, but the UBS duo sees little reason for it to put a dent in debt issuance. “In a low-yield environment, we anticipate significant [volatility] selling interest to resurface so long as fundamentals are not falling off a cliff,” they said. ...

That leaves downgrades by credit-rating agencies as one catalyst that could spark a turn in the cycle; downgrades of corporate credit have already exceeded upgrades this year at some of the bond graders. Here, Mish and Caprio offered some stunningly blunt words. “Might the rating agencies spoil the party?”

they asked. “In the end, we believe strong economic interests will overwhelm rationale considerations. Rating agencies remain heavily dependent on new issuance activity, face significant competitive pressures (as issuers will select two of three ratings) and appear unconcerned with where we are in the credit cycle (e.g., see Moody’s latest conference call).”

Ouch.

With UBS having taken all those potential catalysts firmly off the table, that leaves just fundamentals to worry about. Who, for the past few years, has been worrying about those? [Sarcasm?—Editor]

“Bottom line, we struggle to envision an end to the releveraging phenomenon—absent a substantial correction in corporate earnings and/or broader risk assets,” concluded the UBS analysts.

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## How Nearly 70 Have Been Arrested in America Over ISIS Plots In the Last 18 Months

### Daily Mail | November 18

U.S. AUTHORITIES HAVE CHARGED AT LEAST 66 MEN AND WOMEN with ISIS-related terror plots on American soil—including a handful of refugees, Daily Mail Online can reveal.

The terror group has set its sights on Washington, D.C., as it vows to further infiltrate the West and ramp up its blood-soaked offensive. ...

Analysis by Daily Mail Online reveals that a handful of foiled plots have already involved immigrants accused of harboring sympathy for ISIS.

The threat also comes from within, with American teenagers and Islamic converts among those seduced by the group’s torrent of chilling online propaganda.

They include a U.S. Air Force veteran accused of waging war on the country he once served, and a National Guard soldier who allegedly plotted to gun down his own colleagues.

Others are seemingly ordinary American citizens, including a young nurse, a pizza parlor boss, and schoolgirls tricked into becoming shrouded ISIS brides.

Some have conspired to travel or send friends abroad to link up with fundamentalist fighters, while others have planned for jihad closer to home—with Capitol Hill among the targets for a foiled bombing raid. ...

The earliest arrest was 18 months ago. ...

## TW IN BRIEF

**B**iggest El Niño Ever and Possible Killer La Niña on the Way: Pacific Ocean water temperatures hit a record high during the week of November 9, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said on Tuesday. This makes the current El Niño the strongest in recorded history. The last record high was in November 1997, and analysts say that history indicates we should expect very dramatic weather in the U.S. Pacific and west Texas

over the next three months. It could also mean drought in Australia and other parts of the South Pacific. However, there may be another consequence. Strong La Niñas tend to follow strong El Niños. Following the 1997 El Niño event, Hurricane Mitch helped 1998 to become the most destructive hurricane season to that point. If ocean temperatures swing as dramatically as they did that year, then the 2016 hurricane season could be very deadly.



### Herbert W. Armstrong's Signature Prophecy

Stephen Flurry, Trumpet Daily | November 20

**H**e forecast Germany would become the powerhouse of Europe—in 1945!

Follow [Stephen Flurry](#)

