

Trumpet Weekly

DECEMBER 4, 2015

Migrants from Syria wait in line to cross the border near the northern Greek village of Idomeni on November 26, at the Greek-Macedonian border.



How Many Syrian Refugees Are Terrorists?

Anthony Chibariwe | December 2

WHEN THE WAVE OF REFUGEES FROM SYRIA REACHED ITS PEAK in September, European politicians opened wide their borders. Ever so compassionate, they welcomed the refugees by the thousands and reassured their citizens that their acts of kindness would not jeopardize national security.

They were wrong.

In their actions, they completely disregarded reality—not to mention the warnings from both terrorists and counterterrorism experts. Leaders like German Chancellor Angela Merkel even went as far as threatening to take legal action against those nations that were wary of accepting Syrian refugees, citing Geneva Convention protocols on refugees.

Remarkably, *the United States is following in Europe's footsteps!*

Politicians are opening U.S. borders to Syrian refugees. In their compassion, they have already received about 2,000. In his Thanksgiving Day radio message, President Barack Obama compared Syrian refugees to the first Pilgrims who sailed to America on the Mayflower in September 1620.

Like European politicians, the Obama administration has reassured Americans that accepting refugees would not jeopardize national security—completely disregarding reality. It has ignored its track record of miscalculating serious terrorist threats. You might recall the dangerously flawed comparison of the Islamic State to a JV team and recent false assurances that the Islamic State was a contained threat.

In its reassurances, the Obama administration also disregarded

the warnings from both terrorists and counterterrorism experts. On NBC's *Meet the Press* program on November 15, White House deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes said: "We have very extensive screening procedures for all Syrian refugees who have come to the United States. There is a very careful vetting process that includes our intelligence community, our National Counterterrorism Center, the Department of Homeland Security, so we can make sure that we are carefully screening anybody that comes to the United States."

However, the counterterrorism experts themselves say it's *impossible* to thoroughly vet the Syrians seeking refuge in American cities. About that vetting process, FBI director James Comey said in October: "We can only query against that which we have collected. And so if someone has never made a ripple in the pond in Syria in a way that would get their identity or their interest reflected in our database, we can query our database till the cows come home, but [nothing will] show up because we have no record on that person."

You might also recall that the U.S. completely failed to thoroughly vet rebels it allied with in Syria.

When European authorities revealed that at least one of the suspects in the Paris attacks entered Europe on the Syrian refugee pretense, 31 American states declared they would not accept any Syrian refugees under current circumstances. And not unlike German Chancellor Merkel, the Obama administration threatened legal action against those states, citing the Refugee Act of 1980.

A Lesson From Paris?

The Paris attacks sent a strong warning to Europeans about the danger posed by the influx of migrants.

Prior to the attacks, in September, the Islamic State had claimed that 4,000 of its terrorists had already traveled to Europe disguised as Syrian refugees. Syria's ambassador to India, Riad Abbas, reaffirmed those claims shortly after the Paris attacks when he said, "Among the refugees who went to Europe, maybe more than 20 percent belong to [Islamic State] groups. Now Europe has received bad element[s] into their ground. They will face further problem[s] in future."

Likewise, the United States will face problems in the future if it brings in Syrian refugees that it is not capable of vetting, as

the FBI affirmed.

On November 19, the FBI said its intelligence officials are maintaining "tight surveillance" on "dozens" of suspected radicals plotting attacks similar to those in Paris. A week later, Fox News reported that the FBI's elite surveillance teams are tracking at least 48 high-risk Islamic State suspects in the United States.

We don't know for sure how many of those suspects are Syrian refugees. But we do know that it's impossible to thoroughly vet them. Some people might argue that those "dozens" of Islamic State suspects are born-and-bred American citizens who converted to Islam and turned rogue. But doesn't that reveal the extent of the influence the Islamic State has even in the United States? How much more influence could it have on migrants and refugees from Syria?

At least 66 people have been arrested in the U.S. in the past 18 months for Islamic State-related terrorist plots. And yes, some of those would-be terrorists were refugees.

A Spring 2015 Global Attitudes survey by the Pew Research Center indicated that among 11 representative nation-states in the Muslim world, as many as 14 percent of a population had a favorable opinion of the Islamic State; as many as 62 percent of a national population didn't know whether their opinion of the terrorists was favorable or not.

These numbers are "indicative of at least 63 million ISIS supporters—and potentially upwards of 287 million if the undecided are included in the calculation," wrote Sierra Rayne for the *American Thinker*. "These numbers suggest there are, at a minimum, hundreds of millions of ISIS supporters worldwide."

And to make matters worse, scholars on Islam tell us that [Muslim migration](#) is an integral part of strategy for "remaining and expanding"—for conquest.

A week prior to the Paris attacks, astute observers, like former German Defense Minister [Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg](#), said it was "only a matter of time" before Germany experienced a terrorist strike. Although Germany itself wasn't hit (yet), its next-door neighbor was.

Can the same observation be made for the United States?

Just look at Europe's history since September. Then study what Bible prophecy says about terrorism and "the stranger that is within."

MIDDLE EAST

TrumpetDaily

RADIO SHOW

AMERICA'S NO-NAME, NON-RELIGIOUS ENEMY AND THE STORY OF A BULLA FOUND 'ALMOST' BENEATH A PALESTINIAN HOME! | DECEMBER 4

ANOTHER MASS SHOOTING, THE VATICAN 'SUPERPOWER' AND MORE ON THE HEZEKIAH BULLA | DECEMBER 3

INTRODUCING THE HEZEKIAH BULLA | DECEMBER 2

GLOBAL COOLING AND THE DEARTH OF TRUE LEADERSHIP | DECEMBER 1

OUR DISTRACTION ADDICTION, PLUS UK TELEVISION PROGRAM CLOSING IN ON THE MYSTERY OF THE AGES GOAL | NOVEMBER 30



A Tiny Object With One Gigantic Message

Stephen Flurry,

Trumpet Daily | December 4

The seal of King Hezekiah brings the Bible to life!

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U.S. Set to Lift Sanctions on Iran

Wall Street Journal | December 2

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION SAID IT EXPECTS TO START LIFTING sanctions on Iran as early as January after the United Nations' nuclear watchdog found no credible evidence that Tehran has recently engaged in atomic-weapons activity. But the agency reported that the country had pursued a program in secret until 2009, longer than previously believed.

The mixed findings in the report, which also indicated that Iran showed limited cooperation with investigators, fueled critics who said the July nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers, as well as the White House's move on Wednesday, were too easy on Tehran.

Nonetheless, senior U.S. officials said they expected the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA's) 35-nation board of governors to vote this month to formally close its decade-long probe of Iran's suspected past weapons work. International sanctions on Iran could then be lifted as early as January, U.S. officials said, once Tehran completes additional steps required to constrain its broader nuclear program.

"Iran has provided what [the IAEA] says was sufficient," said a senior U.S. official working on the implementation of the Iran deal. "We had not expected a full confession [by Iran], nor did we need one." ...

Why It Matters That Iran Lied

Commentary | December 2

AFTER A DECADE OF DENYING THAT IT HAD EVER WORKED ON A nuclear weapon, the IAEA's [International Atomic Energy Agency's] conclusions about the pre-2009 period are definitive. There is no longer the slightest doubt that Iran was working to create a nuclear weapon before 2009. In other words, the Iranian government lied. And it continued to lie throughout the negotiations with the Obama administration and Western allies. The question the president and others who actually think the nuclear deal is a reasonable solution to the problem of the nuclear threat must answer is if Iran lied for so long, what makes them think the Islamist regime is willing or even capable of telling the truth and abiding by the terms of the pact they've signed with it? ...

The lack of conclusive information about PMDs [possible

Once sanctions are lifted, Iran stands to gain huge economic benefits in coming years. The first batch of sanctions relief would end most U.S., European and UN financial and energy curbs and free up around \$100 billion in Iranian oil revenue that is held overseas under U.S. sanctions. ...

The agency, in its 15-page report submitted to its board, was blunt in its assessment that Iran had a coordinated program to develop nuclear weapons until 2003, and a less-structured effort until 2009. ...

The agency said in its report that Tehran had aggressively sanitized the Parchin site in recent months. ...

Iranian officials have said in recent weeks that they hope to receive sanctions relief by the end of the year.

Under the agreement, Iran still needs to complete some key steps in reducing the scale of its nuclear program. This includes taking off-line thousands of centrifuge machines used to enrich uranium, converting a heavy-water reactor to produce less plutonium, and shipping out Iran's stockpile of low-enriched uranium to third countries.

U.S. officials said they believed Iran might be able to finish these requirements by as early as January to have the sanctions lifted.

military dimensions] also means that Western estimates about Iranian "breakout" time to a nuclear weapon are mere guesses, not reliable calculation. And with the Parchin precedent firmly in place, it now appears that the IAEA hasn't the will or the desire to upset the apple cart by pressing for truths that might illustrate just how fraudulent any further assurances about military research are. That makes it clear that any Iranian cheating will be treated as a minor detail that isn't important enough to blow up a process that the West is already heavily invested in.

Though treated as a sidebar to the main arguments about the nuclear question, the investigation of Parchin has turned out to be highly instructive. We now know that the deal isn't likely to be enforced. Unfortunately, so do the Iranians.

Iraqis Think the U.S. Is in Cahoots With the Islamic State, and It Is Hurting the War

Washington Post | December 1

ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE BATTLE AGAINST THE ISLAMIC State, suspicion of the United States runs deep. Iraqi fighters say they have all seen the videos purportedly showing U.S. helicopters airdropping weapons to the militants, and many claim they have friends and relatives who have witnessed similar instances of collusion. ...

"It is not in doubt," said Mustafa Saadi, who says his friend saw U.S. helicopters delivering bottled water to Islamic State positions. He is a commander in one of the Shiite militias that last month helped push the militants out of the oil refinery near Baiji in northern Iraq alongside the Iraqi Army.

The Islamic State is "almost finished," he said. "They are weak. If only America would stop supporting them, we could defeat them in days."

U.S. military officials say the charges are too far-fetched to merit a response. "It's beyond ridiculous," said Col. Steve Warren, the military's Baghdad-based spokesman. "There's clearly no one in the West who buys it, but unfortunately, this is something that a segment of the Iraqi population believes." ...

"What influence can we have if they think we are supporting the terrorists?" asked Kirk Sowell, an analyst based in neighboring Jordan ...

In one example of how little leverage the United States now has, Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi pushed back swiftly against an announcement Tuesday by Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter that an expeditionary force of U.S. troops will be

dispatched to Iraq to conduct raids, free hostages and capture Islamic State leaders.

Iraq's semiautonomous region of Kurdistan, where support for the United States remains strong, has said it would welcome more troops. But Abadi indicated they would not be needed. ...

"The Iranians and the Iranian-backed Shiite militias are really pushing this line of propaganda, that the United States is supporting [the Islamic State]," Warren said. "It's part of the Iranian propaganda machine."

The perception plays into a widening rift within Iraq's ruling Shiite elite over whether to pivot more toward Iran or the United States. ...

"The reason [why this sentiment is believable] is that the Americans aren't doing the job people expect them to do," [Mustafa Alani, director of the Dubai-based Gulf Research Center,] said. "Mosul was lost, and the Americans did nothing. Syria was lost, and the Americans did nothing. Paris is attacked, and the Americans aren't doing much. So people believe this is a deliberate policy. They can't believe the American leadership fails to understand the developments in the region, and so the only other explanation is that this is part of a conspiracy."

On the streets of Baghdad, most Iraqis see no other explanation. ...

RELATED: "PROPHECY COMES ALIVE IN IRAQ!"

Report: ISIS in Libya Training to Fly Planes

Reuters | December 3

THE ISLAMIC STATE IS TRAINING TO FLY PLANES IN ITS STRONGHOLD in the northern coastal city of Sirte, an Arab newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The terrorist group is using at least one flight simulator, which may have been seized from the country's airports, according to Libyan military sources quoted in the *Asharq al-Awsat* report. ...

[A senior unnamed official said] that the Libyan Air Force unsuccessfully attempted to take out at least one base where this

training is occurring.

The Islamic State in Libya has between 2,000 and 3,000 fighters and is the only affiliate known to have received support and guidance from the extremist group's stronghold in Syria and Iraq, said UN experts who monitor Islamic State and al Qaeda-linked groups for the UN Security Council. ...

RELATED: "IS LIBYA 'A THOUSAND TIMES WORSE'?"

'Germany Can't Let Everyone Else Fight the Islamic State While We Live Comfortably'

Jerusalem Post | December 3

GERMANY HAS NOT HAD ANY MAJOR TERRORIST ATTACKS, BUT THE Islamic State is still a severe danger to it, M.P. Elisabeth Motschmann, a member of the Bundestag's Foreign Affairs Committee, told Israeli journalists Wednesday. ...

"We have to work with France, our important partner in the European Union, to respond to [Islamic State] terror attacks, or we will have them all over the world," Motschmann said. "Our country has had good luck, no big attacks like in France, the UK or Spain, but the danger to us is as big as to other EU countries."

"I don't feel comfortable having German soldiers all over the world, but we cannot let everyone else act while we live

comfortably," Motschmann added. "We have to try to defeat terrorists wherever they are. ... We can't say 'not us.' Germany is strong economically and militarily."

Germany plans to send 1,200 soldiers as technical support, not in active combat, and Tornado planes and surveillance satellites used for reconnaissance, specifically differentiating [Islamic State] bases from civilian areas, and protecting aircraft carriers. In addition, it is increasing its troops in Mali from 150 to 650, and continuing its presence in Afghanistan. ...

"This is a conflict between Muslims. This is not a war of Christians versus Muslims, even though they attack the West," she stated. ...

Erdoğan and Baghdadi: partners in crime? Russia's deputy defense minister has accused the Turkish president and his family of buying oil from the Islamic State. The defense minister told Russia's Interfax news agency Wednesday that Moscow has evidence showing that President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his family have personally benefited from oil transactions with the

terrorist organization. That evidence includes satellite images that reportedly show tanker trucks at Islamic State facilities in Syria and Iraq, which then crossed the border into Turkey. Erdoğan has denied the claims. This is not the first time Russia has accused Turks of dealing in oil with the Islamic State. It is, however, the first time Russia has openly implicated Turkey's top leader.

EUROPE

Trumpet Hour

PAPAL POLITICKING, WAR FOR EAST ASIA, TERRORISM IN SAN BERNARDINO, KING HEZEKIAH, AND MORE | DECEMBER 4

CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE, GERMANY IN SYRIA, HEART HEALTH AND MORE | DECEMBER 2



Paris Terrorist Attacks

Gerald Flurry,
The Key of David | December 4

The November 13 terrorist attacks in Paris reveal a major shift in world power.



Microstate and Superpower: That Vatican in International Politics

Christian E. Riech and Dorothee Niebuhr, Konrad Ardenauer Foundation | October 2015

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



SINCE THE ELECTION OF POPE FRANCIS IN 2013, THE HOLY SEE has come to play an extremely prominent role in the arena of world politics. ... The charismatic leadership by the head of the church is indeed of great importance However, based on its special role on the stage of world politics, the Holy See also has foreign policy resources and networks available that should not be underestimated. The Holy See has, in fact, been involved in central decision-making and events of world politics for a long time, acting patiently behind the scenes, particularly since the middle of the 20th century. ...

The Holy See itself has one of the most close-knit networks of foreign representations in the world Vatican City only has very limited financial resources but enjoys enormous symbolic power at a religious, cultural and social level. ...

In the 20th century, Catholic social teaching increasingly saw itself as the Third Way between liberalism and Marxism. ... The

Polish Pope John Paul II in particular was ascribed an important role in the collapse of communism, or at least in helping to accelerate the end of the Cold War. This underscores the highly effective and powerful synergy between the political and spiritual dimensions of the Holy See's foreign policy activities. It also illustrates how the Holy See's power of action extends beyond the church through the pope's role as political spokesman. ...

The rise of the Holy See as an influential political actor in the international community of states after World War II was strengthened further by decolonization. While the European powers had to withdraw from their colonies in Africa and the Caribbean, the Catholic Church and the Holy See under Pope John Paul II succeeded in extending their presence in the global South. ...

One current example of the Holy See's policy of peace is the rapprochement between Cuba and the United States, particularly

since 2014. This rapprochement owes a great deal to the mediating efforts of the Holy See, which is seen as an honest broker by the two opposing sides. ...

The Holy See also plays a peace-making role in the Colombian peace process. ... Its soft power is based on its reputation as an honest broker, a role whose impact has been increasing since the end of the Cold War. ...

The Iranian delegation to the Holy See is one of the largest. Encouraged by these intensive connections, three U.S. bishops met with four high-ranking ayatollahs in Iran in March 2014. ... [T]he attendees used the four-day meeting to establish a dialogue about nuclear weapons and the role of religious leaders in the process of diplomatic rapprochement. While this was para-governmental diplomatic action in the narrow sense, such probing, informal contacts by non-diplomats can prepare the ground for more official cooperation, not least in the nuclear area.

This illustrates the breadth and depth of the Vatican networks in the area of foreign policy as well. ...

[T]he Holy See is not giving up on its efforts to provide mediation in the region. Recently, Iran's vice president for Women and Family Affairs, Shahindokht Molaverdi, for instance, stated that Pope Francis "has the ability to bring nations closer together, and through this, perhaps he can influence governments." ...

Church-backed [non-governmental organizations] act below governmental level and frequently remain in trouble spots for longer than governmental development cooperation actors, as is currently the case in Syria. ... Not only do humanitarian campaigns improve the situation on the ground, they also generate a great deal of international goodwill toward the Catholic Church and the Holy See, as well as political capital locally—thereby in turn strengthening the Holy See's role as mediator in military conflicts. ...

The Changing Face of Europe

Kaj Leers, Real Clear World | December 2

WHERE IS LEADERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN UNION? WHO DARES to don its trappings, now that German Chancellor Angela Merkel no longer seems to command the authority she did up until the end of the summer? After the attacks in Paris, and with refugees still knocking on the door in their thousands everyday,

The Tax Europe Can't Afford Not to Pay

Ben Judah, New York Times | December 3

IN THE CAPITALS OF EUROPE, THEY ARE CALLING IN THE SPIES AND the generals. I would call in someone far more frightening: an accountant. Europe's states cannot afford the crises they have on their hands.

After the Paris attacks, the European Union needs to achieve three things: to restore control of its borders, screen and resettle its refugees, and retool its security forces to break the urban jihadist underground. Yet from London to Athens, governments are discovering that Europe's financial quagmire has eaten away the very resources this security crisis demands.

Across the Continent, austerity budgets have cut the British Army to its smallest size since the Napoleonic Wars, slashed the

At first glance, the Vatican is a microstate without massive resources. Be that as it may, it does have a great deal of symbolic power, not least thanks to it partially sharing its identity with a world religion, which makes it a superpower after all, religiously, culturally and socially. ... [T]he Holy See's influence has increased steadily since World War I. It intervened regularly at decisive junctures during the course of the transformation of the conflict between East and West. ...

The Holy See has the oldest diplomatic service in the world. Only few other actors of international politics take a similarly clear and consistent stance with respect to global challenges. Also, no other religious community or secular worldview has produced an institution that comes close to the Catholic Church in terms of durability, centralization, global presence and membership. ...

[T]here are clear indications of efforts being made under Pope Francis's leadership to reach out beyond the faith by putting forward ethical-universal arguments rather than Catholic-moral ones. ... Consequently, the Holy See is developing into an informal authority on moral standards reaching far beyond the boundaries of Catholicism. ...

It is precisely the fact that the pope does not command any divisions that gives him his strength. One could say that papal peacekeeping needs no tanks. If we take the role of the Holy See to be acting as an informal authority on moral standards even beyond the realm of the church, the encyclical no longer appears to be an internal epistle but a key instrument of Vatican, or more precisely papal, foreign policy action. In this document, the author addresses the global public not just as head of the church and head of state but as a moral authority. ...

voices that speak with authority are necessary. Yet it is not certain whether anyone will really listen. ...

At the moment, no one can claim the title of popular emperor. That is a problem in itself.

Greek Navy, handicapped the Italian Coast Guard, and seen Bulgarian border police officers protesting on the streets. Europe is not ready for urban warfare against the Islamic State, or even to patrol Greek island shores, let alone to conduct screening of the refugees shipwrecked on Italian beaches. Only a huge injection of cash can change this.

French and German ministers now see the refugee and security crises as linked and have called for a new €10 billion (US\$11 billion) fund to pay for enhanced security, better border controls, and the integration of refugees. It will take more than that. Europe's front-line states are in a miserable financial situation. ...

Before the *Charlie Hebdo* and Bataclan attacks, Mr. Hollande had been planning major defense cuts, including 34,000 members of the armed forces, to bring down this deficit. ...

Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece—all under severe pressure from Europe's refugee crisis—are running budget deficits and have national debts equal to or greater than their annual GDP. Following Paris's lead, Italy is now calling for Brussels to exempt it from eurozone deficit rules so that it can spend more on security, while Athens resents being forced to cut €200 million (\$220 million), or about 5 percent, from its defense budget when it should be policing the islands and screening refugee flows for infiltrators sent by Raqqa, the Syrian city that is the Islamic State's de facto capital. ...

Berlin now faces an ominous bill, too. German authorities are committed to spending €12,500 (\$14,000) a year as a welfare allowance for every asylum seeker, which could add up to €21 billion (\$23 billion) this year. ...

The Syrian war, the Islamic State and the refugee crisis will

not end soon, and the associated costs for Europe are bound to escalate. The European Union needs a crisis levy.

This is how the American government covered expenditures during World War II—with a tax revolution. ... Europe's member states must revive the stalled plans for a Financial Transaction Tax. Charges of 0.1 percent on share and bond dealing, and 0.01 percent on derivatives contracts, could raise as much as €57 billion (\$62 billion) a year. ...

Call it the Paris Fund: Administered by Brussels, this cash should be injected back into the services each country needs to master the crisis—restoring the Italian Coast Guard, resupplying Bulgaria's border protection forces, or expanding Spanish intelligence agencies. This would allow Europe to meet the mass migration with more than the current austerity-hollowed capacities.

The Paris Fund would also enable the European Union to mount military-scale operations to manage, house, screen and airlift refugees. ...

EU Considering Resurrecting Internal Borders in Schengen Zone for Two Years **Open Europe | October 3**

THE EU IS CONSIDERING A PROPOSAL TO RE-IMPOSE INTERNAL borders in the Schengen area for up to two years, an official document leaked by the London-based Statewatch group reveals. Under current rules, Schengen members (which does not include the UK), are not allowed to clamp down on their borders for more

than a period of six months. Greece yesterday hit back at threats by some EU states to suspend it from Schengen for failing to curb the numbers of new arrivals, with its Migration Minister Yanis Mouzalas saying, "This blame game towards our country is unfair." ...

Does Europe Even Matter **Anne Applebaum, Foreign Policy | December 1**

THE EU'S PROBLEMS ARE OFTEN BLAMED ON WHAT MARGARET Thatcher once called its "airy-fairy" ambitions to be a United States of Europe. This year, however, it became clear that most of its failures are caused by EU countries' refusal to pool resources and share sovereignty—to behave like an actual union or even a group of states with common economic and security interests. The euro crisis might have been avoided, for example, if the common currency's members had decided to require the coordination of fiscal and banking policies before a new state could join. The eurozone would have had far fewer members, but Greece would have avoided bankruptcy and Spain, Portugal and Italy would be in better condition too.

Equally, Europe could have helped stem the refugee crisis if its leaders had decided ... to reinforce weaker borders, patrol the Mediterranean with a large and permanent force, and implement clear, shared rules about political asylum that would be strict enough to discourage ineligible people from attempting dangerous journeys. ...

Of course, refugees might not have poured into Europe at all had the EU decided earlier to make a genuine effort to promote political transitions in post-revolutionary Libya or pre-conflict Syria. This was impossible, however, because Europe has no means of projecting influence. ... Only when the Syrian war came

to Paris did the French suddenly realize that the Middle East isn't as far away as they thought.

Twenty years ago, when the United Kingdom and France still had real foreign-policy ambitions—and real armies—the absence of a joint decision-making forum mattered less. In crises, the larger countries could act together, or with the United States, if the EU could not. But now, France has its weakest president in recent memory, and Britain is focused on its own domestic issues. Meanwhile, despite being the Continent's clear economic leader, Germany finds it difficult for obvious historical reasons to speak too loudly or forcefully about anything that even hints at security policy.

All this silence and inaction are strange because while no European state counts any longer as a first-league international power, the EU as a whole is the world's largest and richest economy—a real partner for both the United States and China. If Europe's leaders want to capitalize on that fact, reverse the disasters of 2015, exert real influence, and regain the respect of their own citizens, they must reinforce their institutions and promote their values in their immediate neighborhood. Indeed, if the EU even wants to maintain the peace and prosperity it has preserved for so long, it needs to become far more ambitious, both at home and abroad.

Trying Not to Choose: A Region Pulled Between China and America

The World In | November 2

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



EAST ASIA IS THE SCENE FOR AN UNPRECEDENTED EXPERIMENT IN international relations. Never before have so many countries been so intertwined economically with one big power (China) while looking to another (America) as the ultimate guarantor of their security. So far the experiment has seemed a stunning success. For 40 years, America has not just kept the peace; it has enabled a continental economic boom. And the biggest beneficiary of that has been China. Yet that order is now fraying, as China chafes under what it sees as an American-led world order that is impeding its rise and its natural regional predominance. In 2016, the tensions that this fraying produces may become acute, posing awkward questions for other countries in Asia. ...

[T]he two big powers are now rivals in a growing number of spheres. Asia is where the rivalry is most intense. It will become more so in 2016 for three main reasons.

First, the two countries are doomed to worsening disagreement in the South China Sea. ...

Second, China will increase its activity in these waters, perhaps with a more obviously military dimension It will be encouraged by the American electoral cycle. It seems to have concluded that the Obama White House is weak. All the more reason to make the most of the administration's remaining months, when to the distractions of crises elsewhere will be added that of a presidential-election campaign. ...

A third reason is that China is ever more vocal in opposing

America's network of bilateral alliances that have been the basis of the region's security architecture—with Australia, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea and Thailand. ...

As China challenges the existing order, the smaller Asian countries will find it harder to maintain their excellent relations with both China and America. They insist they do not want to choose between the two, and so far have not had to. ...

Increasingly, however, Asian countries are having to make choices. They have had to do so in security decisions, such as Singapore's agreement to play host to new American warships, or the Philippines' decision to relax its opposition to the presence of American forces. But they are also having to take sides in economic matters. ...

This is ... the year when two regional trade agreements are due to be finalized. The American-led Trans-Pacific Partnership ... has been explicitly advertised by Barack Obama as an attempt to stop China "writing the rules" for Pacific economies. It excludes China, which is trying to complete a "Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership" with 15 other Asian countries

In theory, the two agreements are complementary, and a number of countries are involved in both But the trend in economics as in diplomacy is toward parallel sets of institutions: the old ones, where America has a leading role; and the new, where it is absent and China dominates. It is a rather alarming trend, and one likely only to intensify in 2016.

Russia's Population Is Being Weaponized

Real Clear World | December 3

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN'S POPULARITY IS HIGHER than ever, approaching a perfect 10. ... [T]he Russian population, for the most part, sees the Russian president as Putin the Great.

Much of this result can be assigned to the particular effectiveness of the Russian state media and propaganda apparatus. ...

The Russian people are becoming weaponized—a vehicle for Vladimir Putin and his palace guard at the Kremlin to use at their disposal. If Moscow wants to annex Crimea, the people will support it. If Moscow wants to support the regime of Bashar Assad with military force, as the latter drops barrel bombs on his people, the people will support it. If Moscow wants to further expand the Russian empire at the expense of some other nation-state, the people will, of course, support it. ...

Putin has used the church to wrap himself in the Orthodox religion, and this is another way to impact Russian emotions. In the Russian people's eyes, the president is doing God's work. He is making Russia into the Third Holy Roman Empire, a Christian stronghold opposing the Islamic forces of evil.

This is the essence of Putin's brilliance in manipulating the Russian people. He knows exactly how to push their hot buttons, what will make their emotions boil and their support for the Kremlin's policies strengthen.

The recent order by Putin directing the Russian armed forces to work with France as allies in the fight against the Islamic State and its terrorist attacks, is an example of that brilliance. Russians have a soft spot for anything French. Before the October Revolution, aristocratic Russians would only speak French. Wealthy Muscovites travel to France often, import French furniture, and adore French wine. All at once Putin drove a wedge into NATO, stroked the Russian public, and marginalized the United States.

The downing of a Russian airliner by the Islamic State, and the shoot-down of a Russian SU-24 by Islamist Turkey, have further cemented Putin's grip on power. Yes, Russia's economy is shrinking, but Russians will suffer through this hardship gladly as long as Putin puts on the show. ... They will tighten their belts further for the state. ...

Putin is now simply invincible and will only leave office when

he is ready to leave office, with a handpicked successor firmly ensconced in the trappings of power.

Putin is able to do whatever he wants to do going forward in terms of expansionism and foreign policy. When paired with an extremely weak American president and a European Union coming apart at the seams, this makes for an extremely dangerous combination.

“This soaring popularity is in part because Putin has convinced Russians to view their setbacks as noble sacrifices made in the name of the war effort. ... The Westerners who think the current discomfort will be too much for Russians have made a mistake: They have assumed that the Russian capacity to endure suffering and sacrifice in the name of the nation is roughly equal to that of the average Westerner. In fact, it is far greater.”

“Can the Russians Endure the Faltering Ruble?”

theTrumpet.com, Dec. 24, 2014

Kremlin Promises Response to Montenegro's Accession to NATO

Russia Beyond the Headlines | December 2

THE JOINING OF MONTENEGRO TO NATO WILL LEAD TO A RESPONSE from Russia, Russian presidential press officer Dmitry Peskov said.

“Moscow has always said at various levels that the continuing expansion of NATO, the NATO military infrastructure eastward, of course, cannot help but lead to a response from the east, that is, from Russia, in terms of ensuring security and maintaining a parity of interests,” he told reporters, commenting on the NATO decision to begin negotiations on the accession of Montenegro to it. ...

“The Balkans perfectly capture the relations between Russia and Europe. Europeans have many reasons to fear Putin. He can do them a huge amount of harm. But this also means they have a lot of reasons to cooperate with him. Germany's and Russia's interests intertwine in so many areas—the Balkans, Syria, Greece and Cyprus, on energy and on the economy. Germany has very strong incentives to work with Russia. But it also has excellent reason to fear Russia, and to build up its defenses at the same time.”

“Will Putin Reignite the Balkans?” Trumpet, January 2016

China Vows ‘Enhanced Cooperation’ With Russia Against Terrorism

Breitbart | December 1

CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING ANNOUNCED MONDAY HIS nation would work to take on a broader role in the international war against terrorism, promising Russian President

Vladimir Putin China would be at his disposal to aid in antiterror efforts. Russia has deeply involved itself in the Syrian civil war on the side of Syrian dictator Bashar Assad. ...

Worldview: Russia's Military Buildup a Game-Changer in Syria

Breitbart | November 29

RUSSIA'S DEPLOYMENT OF ITS ADVANCED S-400 AIR DEFENSE MISSILE systems at Syria's Khmeimim airbase one day after Turkey shot down a Russian warplane has effectively implemented a no-fly zone under Russian [decree] over most of Syria, as well as Lebanon, Cyprus, half of Israel, western regions of Iraq and Saudi Arabia, and a vast part of Turkey. ...

This is certainly a “game-changer,” as it makes many flights by American, Israeli and Turkish planes almost impossible without permission from Russia. In fact, Russian media are bragging that the U.S. and Turkey immediately stopped airstrikes since the S-400 systems were deployed, and Turkey is avoiding all flights near the Syrian border. ...

7 Reasons America's Presidential Candidates Should Fear China's Military

National Interest | December 1

MISSILES: ... China now deploys one of the largest and most diverse missile arsenals in the world—from the shorter-range tactical and theater to intercontinental. ... Every target from Taiwan to Tulsa, Oklahoma, is now within reach of China's missile threat.

Sea Mines: China has one of the world's largest inventories, including over 30 varieties of contact, magnetic, acoustic, water pressure, remote control, mobile, and rocket-rising mines. ...

Submarines: China has the world's fastest growing fleet of conventional diesel-electric subs. ...

Fast Attack Catamarans: The Type 022 Houbei class may

be the smallest vessel in China's anti-access arsenal. However, a hundred of these cats moving at 40 knots towards an America aircraft carrier strike group can unleash cruise missiles in “salvo attacks” as the carrier group simultaneously comes under fire from antiship ballistic missiles, shore-based cruise missiles, and torpedoes and missiles fired by attack subs. ...

Fifth Generation Fighters: [T]he Chengdu J-20 “Mighty Dragon” is a multi-role fighter combining elements of America's F-22 and F-35, while China's Chengdu J-31 “Gyr Falcon,” ... offers a more compact design evocative of the F-35. ...

Aircraft Carrier Strike Groups: While America's navy

shrinks and its shipyards begin to wither, China's shipyards are robustly producing the complete range of ships needed for global force projection, including several new carriers. ...

Antisatellite Weapons: China continues to grow a diverse

set of "hard kill" and "soft kill" [antisatellite weapons] capable of destroying or blinding a U.S. network that has given the U.S. military its global edge for decades—and the U.S. economy a tremendous sustained lift. ...

AFRICA/ LATIN AMERICA

Expanding Beyond Nigeria, Boko Haram Threatens Region

Wall Street Journal | December 3

JUST OVER A MONTH AGO, IBRAHIM FOUKORI'S HOME VILLAGE of Baroua in eastern Niger was a bustling farming community of 3,000 people. Now, it is burned to the ground and abandoned.

The villagers, like hundreds of thousands of others in the region, have escaped the advances of Boko Haram—the West African affiliate of Islamic State that is infamous for its unrestrained butchery and enslavement of hundreds of teenage schoolgirls.

"Every man took their children and wives and just ran for their lives," said Mr. Foukori, who represents the area on the western shores of Lake Chad in the parliament of Niger. ...

Boko Haram ... started out as a radical Islamist sect in northern Nigeria's Borno province more than a decade ago. ... This year, however, Boko Haram dramatically expanded its campaign of killings and bombings far beyond Nigeria's borders. It attacked the three other countries in the Lake Chad area—the former French colonies of Niger, Cameroon and Chad.

That expansion has coincided with Boko Haram's leadership

pledging allegiance to Islamic State's "caliph" Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in March and rebranding itself as the jihadist group's "Province of West Africa." ...

[The Niger Army] hasn't been able to check Boko Haram's spread into the southeastern region of Diffa.

Already, more than one third of Diffa's population, estimated at 600,000, has been displaced by the conflict. Some 151 schools have shut down. ...

In a country with the world's highest birthrate, they have been particularly successful in recruiting local young men. Some of them had to prove their loyalty by slitting the throats of their own fathers, according to local residents and officials.

"When Boko Haram are threatening a village, people call the army for help but the army doesn't come," said Hadiza Kiari Fougou, a researcher at the Higher Institute of Environment and Ecology in Diffa whose relatives live in villages raided by Boko Haram. "The army says: These are your own children. And we must admit the truth. These are their children." ...

ANGLO-AMERICA



The Paris Climate Summit Is About Destroying Capitalism

Robert Morley | December 3

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA ARRIVED IN FRANCE on Monday to attend the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris. In his opening speech he apologized to the world for how America has helped cause global warming. He said he personally came to the conference "as the leader of the world's largest economy and the second-largest emitter to say the U.S.A. not only recognizes our role in creating this problem, we embrace our responsibility to do something about it."

But don't be fooled: The Paris talks are not primarily about saving lives, preventing civil war, or stopping the Earth from warming.

The talks are, however, about money and power. They are about fomenting a revolution.

In February, the executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change revealed the real motivation behind the Paris climate talks. She said: "This is the first time in the history of mankind that we are setting ourselves the task of *intentionally, within a defined period of time, to change the economic development model that has been reigning for at least 150 years,*

since the Industrial Revolution. ... This is probably the most difficult task we have ever given ourselves, which is to *intentionally transform the economic development model* for the first time in human history" (emphasis added throughout).

The Paris climate summit is about revolutionizing the world's economic system.

And what system is that?

Capitalism.

As Pope Francis said on Monday: The world is headed toward "suicide" if a climate agreement isn't reached. "Africa is a victim," he said. "Africa has always been exploited by other powers ... there are some countries that want only the great resources of Africa. But they don't think about developing the countries, about creating jobs. Africa is martyr, a martyr of the exploitation of history."

As a result, Africa is "mired in poverty and social injustice," he said. *This has to change.*

A dying world justifies extreme action, according to Pope Francis.

Capitalism has increased inequality and caused the destruction of the environment for “profit at any price” he told a crowd earlier this year. Capitalism is “the dung of the devil,” he said.

But the pope is just one force behind the Paris summit—albeit a powerful one.

Just take a look at the various climate-change protests taking place around the world. They are filled with anti-capitalist, socialist and increasingly openly Communist activists. And these people are not just hangers-on; *they are the protest organizers*.

“**System Change, Not Climate Change**” is the message behind this movement. Many call themselves “ecosocialists.” Click the above link and read the list of demands. Still think these people are not looking for a revolution?

As the keynote speaker at last year’s massive People’s Climate Rally in Oakland said: “What we are facing is a systemic problem. A conflict between two systems. First is the environmental system, which sustains life on Earth. Then there is the economic system of capitalism that is attacking the stability of our environment. *Capitalism and a healthy environment cannot coexist!* ... [W]e’re going to have to disrupt and transform the capitalist system. That is why we say, ‘System Change, Not Climate Change!’”

And who is the biggest purveyor of capitalism? Where is the home of the evil capitalists that needs to be destroyed?

According to mainstream environmentalists, America’s economic system is rooted in colonialism and slavery and based on

exploitation. And it needs to be destroyed.

So it is more than odd that a U.S. president would so strongly embrace a movement whose stated purpose is to destroy the economic model that defines America’s way of life. It is this blatant anti-capitalism/anti-Americanism purveying the climate-change movement that led previous administrations to reject the Kyoto Protocol talks and other environmental agreements.

America has nothing to gain at these talks—unless you believe America’s system needs to be completely torn down and revolutionized. Unless you believe that America is a force of evil in this world—that *America is defined by systems of oppression*.

From an economic, geopolitical perspective, the Paris talks don’t make much sense for America. They do threaten America’s economy though.

We all like clean air. Pollution is not a good thing. And America has made huge strides in protecting the environment, especially when you consider that developments now regularly get stopped due to things like desert tortoises and Delhi Sands flower-loving flies.

But there is a danger in the global climate-change movement. This movement may once have been about improving the environment, and theoretically stopping ocean levels from swamping coasts, etc., but now it has morphed into something that seeks to completely upend the global economic system. And that means starting with America.

 Follow [Robert Morley](#)

Krauthammer’s Take: Obama’s on ‘Thin Ground’ Lecturing Russia on ‘Quagmires’

National Review | December 1

IT’S “REMARKABLE” PRESIDENT OBAMA, WHO DOESN’T UNDERSTAND America’s national interests, is trying to score points against Putin for not advancing Russian interests, Charles Krauthammer charged tonight on Fox News’s Special Report. Responding to Obama predicting Putin will eventually realize his Middle East strategy is failing and that he’ll realign Russia alongside America’s Syrian campaign, Krauthammer said, “For a guy who doesn’t understand the American national interests, that’s a remarkable statement.”

“Then he actually added something and said, ‘With the

memory of Afghanistan fresh in his mind, Putin will understand he’s in the quagmire,’” Krauthammer continued. “The Russians left Afghanistan 25 years ago. The people stuck in the quagmire today are Americans under Obama. He’s been in office seven years, 76 percent of the combat deaths of Americans in Afghanistan has occurred under Obama and there is little doubt that our position in Afghanistan today is weaker than it was seven years ago when he came into office.”

“So when he’s trying to instruct Putin on national interests and on quagmires, he’s on rather thin ground,” Krauthammer said. ...

CNN Sources: San Bernardino Shooter Was Radicalized and Communicated With More Than One International Terror Suspect

The Blaze | December 3

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



SAN BERNARDINO SHOOTER SYRED FAROOK WAS APPARENTLY radicalized and in touch with more than one international terrorism suspect, according to law enforcement sources cited by CNN.

Farook reportedly communicated with an overseas terror suspect over the phone and using social media.

The network also reported that Farook traveled to Saudi Arabia at least twice prior to Wednesday’s shooting that left 14 people dead and at least 17 injured. During one of those trips, Farook reportedly brought home Tashfeen Malik, his wife and partner in crime, on a “fiancé visa.” ...

President Barack Obama said on Thursday that the San

Bernardino shooting could be related to terrorism, but could also be “workplace related.”

Farook was born in the U.S. to a Pakistani family, was raised in Southern California, and had been a San Bernardino County employee for five years, according to authorities and acquaintances. ...

The attackers invaded the center about 60 miles east of Los Angeles around 11 a.m., opening fire in a conference area where county health officials were having an employee banquet. Farook

attended the banquet, then left, then returned with murderous intent.

“They came prepared to do what they did, as if they were on a mission,” Burguan said.

Farook and Malik were found with assault rifles and semiautomatic handguns, and were wearing “assault-style clothing” with ammunition attached, authorities said.

Three explosive devices—all connected to one another—were found at the social services center, police said. ...

Carter Telling Military to Open All Combat Jobs to Women **Associated Press | December 3**

DEFENSE SECRETARY ASH CARTER WILL ORDER THE MILITARY TO open all combat jobs to women, the Associated Press has learned, rebuffing attempts by the Marine Corps to exclude women from certain front-line combat jobs. ...

Carter is giving the armed services until January 1 to submit plans to make the historic change.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, Gen. Joseph Dunford, former Marine Corps commandant, had argued that the Marines should be allowed to keep women out of certain front-line combat jobs, citing studies showing that mixed-gender units aren’t as capable as all-male units. Carter’s decision was a rejection of that

argument.

Carter’s order will let women serve in the military’s most grueling and difficult jobs, including as special operations forces, such as the Army Delta units and Navy SEALs, according to the defense official.

The decision comes after several years of study, and will wipe away generations of limits on how and where women can fight for their country.

Only the Marine Corps sought any exceptions in removing the long-held ban on allowing women to serve in dangerous combat jobs. ...

TW IN BRIEF

IMF agrees to allow Chinese yuan into international currency basket: U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew said the U.S. intends to ensure the dollar stays the world’s leading reserve currency. His comments come after the International Monetary Fund elevated the Chinese yuan into a basket of currencies alongside the dollar, euro, yen and pound on Monday. Lew told Bloomberg Television that the dollar remains the reserve

currency of the world for a good reason and that they are watching China to make sure that they follow through with their commitments to stop manipulating their currency in unfair ways. Since all major central banks manipulate their currencies, Lew’s comments were taken to mean that the Obama administration is still wary about China’s inclusion into the IMF’s international currency reserves.

OTHER NEWS

T Seal of Biblical King Hezekiah Found in Jerusalem
Trumpet Staff | December 2

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



DR. EILAT MAZAR HAS UNEARTHED A NEW DISCOVERY FROM HER latest archaeological excavation in Jerusalem: the bulla of King Hezekiah of Judah. The clay seal stamped with Hezekiah’s name was found in the royal quarter of the Ophel and marks Mazar’s newest biblically related find.

At a press conference in Jerusalem Wednesday morning, she provided the English translation of the Hebrew inscription on the bulla: “Belonging to Hezekiah [son of] Ahaz, King of Judah.” Mazar’s archaeological team discovered the private seal of the king during a recent phase of excavations by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The Bible records that Hezekiah, son of Ahaz, ruled the kingdom of Judah from its capital, Jerusalem, 14 generations after King David, during a major military conflict with Assyria. 2 Kings 18:5 notes his historical significance by recording: “[A]fter him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him.”

[Mazar’s other discoveries](#) in Jerusalem include King David’s palace, Nehemiah’s wall, bullae belonging to princes who persecuted the Prophet Jeremiah, a Davidic-era secret tunnel, and a Solomonic-era wall. She plans to publish Volume 1 of her final report on her recent Ophel excavations later this month.