

Trumpet Weekly

DECEMBER 11, 2015

French National Front President Marine Le Pen speaks December 6 after the results of the first round of regional elections were announced.



France's National Front Claims Record-Breaking Victory

Richard Palmer and Brandi Davis | December 10

MARINE LE PEN'S NATIONAL FRONT (FN) IS MORE POPULAR THAN ever. Once viewed as an illegitimate, radical fringe party, FN has become France's most popular party, claiming a historic victory in the first round of regional elections last Sunday. The elections are not yet complete, but in the first round of voting, FN won 28 percent of the vote, winning the majority in six of France's 13 regions. The second round of votes is still pending, set to take place on Sunday, but one thing is clear: France is looking for change.

"[T]he damage has been done," according to Politico's Pierre Briançon. Whether or not FN takes home further wins in the second round this Sunday, the fringe party's rising popularity has been firmly established. It is yet to be seen how well this

protest-movement-turned-political-party can govern large territories, but nevertheless, the historic win at the polls prods observers to keep a close eye on Marine Le Pen and FN in the lead-up to the 2017 presidential elections.

FN has been on the rise since Le Pen took over the party from her father in 2011. The year before, in the same regional elections, the FN won only 11 percent of the vote. Since then, Le Pen has worked to "detoxify" her party, removing herself from her father's extremist rhetoric. While softening the party's image, FN is still staunchly nationalistic, and Le Pen remains outspoken in her calls for the restoration of France's "territorial, monetary, legislative and economic" sovereignty—and her denunciation of Islam.

It's a message that could take her far in a country brutally forced to confront its problems with radical Muslims in its midst, while mired in economic problems—often blamed on the euro.

The National Front's success in France sets a precedent for many other fringe extremist parties in Europe to go mainstream. Stratfor writes: "Le Pen is simply the most visible face of a wider European trend: the weakening of traditional parties and the rise of anti-establishment forces that criticize both the European Union and the elite that support it."

In Germany, the euroskeptical party AfD (Alternative for Germany) held only 4.7 percent of the popular vote in 2013, its first ever election campaign. Just one year later in the 2014 elections, it won up to 12.2 percent in some regions.

The German fringe party's success is attributed primarily to the refugee crisis. German Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union and its sister party, the Christian Socialist Union, have fallen in polls from 43 to 35 percent, due to Merkel's handling of the crisis.

In recent months, the anti-immigrant Sweden Democrats

have polled at around 27 percent—making it Sweden's most popular party. It too has come from nowhere—in 2010 it won only 5.7 percent.

Spain's anti-austerity Podemos party won 15 seats in the Andalusia region.

In Greece, anti-austerity Syriza party has transformed from a fringe party to now the governing party of the struggling country.

Similar advances of fringe parties into mainstream politics can be seen in the Netherlands, Hungary and Austria.

The recent crises are reshaping Europe. Europeans—be they French, German, Swedish, Spanish, Danish, Greek, Hungarian or Austrian—are calling for change in the established system. But the change they are looking for means returning to a much older, deep-rooted system.

These European crises are remarkably similar to those of the 1930s. Europeans were desperate for answers and sought out radical parties for extreme solutions—just like today. For more on where this rise of nationalism and fringe parties is heading, read "Déjà Vu."

MIDDLE EAST

TrumpetDaily

RADIO SHOW

THE HIGHWAY CODE AND THE PETITION TO BAN DONALD TRUMP FROM
BRITAIN | DECEMBER 11

MEDIA DISCOVERS THE ROOT CAUSE OF ALL THAT TROUBLES AMERICA:
DONALD J. TRUMP | DECEMBER 10

DONALD TRUMP AND THE FUNDAMENTAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE UNITED
STATES | DECEMBER 9

GERMANY: ANGELA MERKEL'S COVER-UP AND THE MUTABLE GERMAN |
DECEMBER 8

DECEMBER 7, 1941—A LESSON WE CAN'T AFFORD TO FORGET | DECEMBER 7

The Collapse of the PA May Already Be Here

Times of Israel | December 6

UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN KERRY'S SCENARIO outlining a potential collapse of the Palestinian Authority (PA), laid out Saturday at the Saban Forum in Washington, D.C., sounds more than realistic.

For a change, the U.S. administration, an expert at making fatal mistakes in the Middle East, seems to read the state of Palestinian affairs correctly

... What, exactly, will a PA disintegration [or collapse] look like? At the start, probably the way things happened Thursday [a Palestinian opening fire on Israel Defense Forces soldiers]. Maybe an isolated incident, with a Palestinian police officer or two who decide to attack Israeli targets and cause many Israeli casualties.

From there, an Israeli response will follow. Or maybe an Israeli retaliatory shooting will bring a high number of Palestinian casualties.

And then will come a grassroots demand by members of the security services to act against soldiers and settlers.

And as happened at the beginning of the Second Intifada in 2000, we will see more and more Palestinian soldiers and police joining the demonstrations and attacks against Israelis. ...

The security and economic burden on Israel will be heavy. And, of course, in the longer term there will be a departure from the vision of two states, or—as they will call it on the right—a sobering up. Welcome to the binational state.

Iran Flouts One Rule. Why Not All?

Commentary | December 8

SENIOR U.S. INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIRMED A SECOND major missile test was conducted by Iran on November 24 near its border with Pakistan. ... This missile is an improved version of ... the type tested in October and also a technological step up from its existing arsenal.

This is a serious violation of two [United Nations Security Council] resolutions about Iranian missiles that were passed in the wake of the signing of the nuclear deal. ...

What explains Iran's determination to push ahead with these tests?

One interpretation is that they are racing against the clock to finish all ballistic tests this year before preparing to accept the UN restrictions. ...

The problem here isn't so much these particular missiles, although they do pose a potentially lethal threat both to Israel and moderate Arab nations in the region. Rather, it is the precedent that has been set by an American refusal to take Iran's violations of these agreements seriously. ...

If small rules were broken then big ones would follow as the Islamist regime tested U.S. forbearance for cheating. ...

ISIS's Imminent Demise

Daniel Pipes | December 5

UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2249, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY on November 20, sums up the consensus that the Islamic State poses a mortal danger to civilization by calling it an "unprecedented threat to international peace and security." There's also a widespread sense that ISIS will be around for a long time Permit me to disagree strenuously on both counts.

On the first: ISIS is not exactly the equivalent of Nazi Germany. It's a little bug that the powers could quash at will if they put their minds to it. It survives only because no one really takes it seriously enough to fight with ground troops, the only gauge of an intention to prevail.

On the second: Between its alienation of its subject population and its gratuitous and unrestrained violence toward foreign countries, ISIS has made enemies of nearly everyone. ...

Contrary to other analysts, I foresee that ISIS will disappear

The Iranians already know that President Obama never had any intention of treating the deal and related restrictions on missiles as sacrosanct. The point of the exercise wasn't so much to stop the Iranian nuclear program since the pact allows Tehran to continue its research and will expire in a decade anyway. ... Obama sees Iran as an ally in the struggle against ISIS. That explains his reluctance to take action against Iran's Syrian ally Bashar Assad.

But the reliance on Iran as an ally against ISIS is mistaken

... [It] misses the point about Iran's role in the Middle East. As Ruthie Blum notes in *Israel Hayom*, the U.S. is forgetting that Iran remains the largest and most dangerous state sponsor of terrorism in the world. In that sense, though ISIS is dangerous in its own right, it also providing the perfect distraction for Iran as it continues its surreptitious efforts to create a nuclear weapon.

With the missile test violations under its belt and the U.S. uttering not a word in reply, Tehran is set to begin the period covered by the nuclear deal preparing to push the envelope on all of its restrictions. Their path to a bomb is assured by the fact that the deal expires, but Iran may not be satisfied with waiting for it to expire. ...

without warning and as abruptly as it arose. This could follow on some combination of internal revolt, internecine feuds, economic collapse, and external attack.

And when that happy day comes, we can all focus on the real "unprecedented threat to international peace and security," namely nuclear weapons in the hands of Iran's apocalyptic leadership.

"Iran is king of the Middle East. Its influence permeates the governments and politics of every nation in the region. It is the regional hegemon and the central force motivating all of the major troubles that emanate from the region. And as the leader of the region that receives the most attention from Western nations, Iran has successfully gained a massive amount of influence in international affairs."

"Iran Is King," *Trumpet*, May 2006

Iraq Asks Germany for Help in Fight Against Islamic State

Deutsche Welle | December 7

IN A MEETING WITH GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER FRANK-WALTER Steinmeier in Baghdad on Monday, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi requested that Germany play a more active role in the fight against the so-called "Islamic State."

The DPA [Deutsche Presse Agentur] news agency reported that the Iraqi premier had in particular asked the German government to provide help with troop training. German forces in Iraq are currently training Kurdish soldiers in the country's autonomous north.

"The threat of terrorism is not only a threat to Iraq, but also to Europe," said Abadi, speaking with DPA.

Steinmeier's visit to Iraq had not been publicly announced before his arrival over security concerns. ...

Steinmeier assured Abadi that he did not take "the tasks that stand before you and the international community" lightly, adding that he had "listened carefully" to the request. He did not make any specific commitments related to the fight against terror but did announce plans for Germany to help build five field

hospitals in the recently liberated territories.

Abadi's request came hot on the heels of the German parliament signing off a major military support role in combating [the Islamic

State] in Syria, assisting the international coalition's airstrikes with logistics and reconnaissance. The military campaign will also see the deployment of 1,200 German troops to the region. ...

Western Officials: Iran Retreating From Syria Fight **Eli Lake, Bloomberg View | December 10**

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



IRAN IS BEGINNING TO WITHDRAW ITS ELITE FIGHTERS FROM THE Russian-led military campaign in Syria, according to U.S. and other Western military officials, suggesting a fissure in what President Barack Obama derided last month as a "coalition of two."

U.S. officials tell me they are seeing significant numbers of [Islamic] Revolutionary Guard Corps troops retreat from the Syrian combat zone in recent weeks, following the deaths and wounding of some of top officers in a campaign to retake Idlib province and other areas lost this year to opposition forces supported by the West and Gulf Arab states. ...

In late October, Gen. Joseph Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, testified there were 2,000 Iranian troops in Syria leading the fight to save [Syrian President Bashar] Assad. ...

One estimate shared with me by a senior Western defense official said there were only 700 [Islamic] Revolutionary Guard Corps members now fighting in the Russian-led offensive. ...

RELATED: ["AN IMPORTANT TREND TO WATCH AS ASSAD'S RULE WEAKENS IN SYRIA"](#)

EUROPE

Trumpet Hour

[TIME'S PERSON OF THE YEAR, IRAN RETREATING FROM SYRIA, EX-GUANTANAMO DETAINEE, AND MORE | DECEMBER 11](#)

[FRENCH ELECTIONS, TURKEY VS. RUSSIA, UNIVERSITY TOMFOOLERY AND MORE | DECEMBER 9](#)



Adolf Hitler Was Satan-Possessed **Gerald Flurry,** **The Key of David | December 11**

God prophesies of a coming German leader who will be worse than Adolf Hitler. To understand how this man will gain power, we must comprehend the unseen force that guided Hitler.



Europe's Barbarians Inside the Gate

Nouriel Roubini, Project Syndicate | November 30

BERLIN—I AM ON A TWO-WEEK EUROPEAN TOUR AT A TIME THAT could make one either very pessimistic or constructively optimistic about Europe's prospects. ...

But of all the problems Europe faces, it is the migration crisis that could become existential. In the Middle East, North

Africa, and the region stretching from the Sahel to the Horn of Africa, there are about 20 million displaced people; civil wars, widespread violence and failed states are becoming the norm. If Europe has trouble absorbing a million refugees, how will it eventually handle 20 million? ... But the solution proposed by

some—close the gates to refugees—would merely worsen the problem, by destabilizing countries like Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, which have already absorbed millions. ...

If economic solutions aren't found, eventually these regions' conflicts will destabilize Europe, as millions more desperate, hopeless people eventually become radicalized and blame the West for their misery. Even with an unlikely wall around Europe, many would find a way in—and some would terrorize Europe for decades to come. ...

But Europe is not doomed to collapse. The crises that it now confronts could lead to greater solidarity, more risk sharing, and further institutional integration. Germany could absorb more refugees (though not at the rate of a million per year). France and Germany could provide and pay for military intervention against the Islamic State. ...

And there is light at the end of the tunnel for the eurozone. ...

More risk-sharing will start in the banking sector (with EU-wide deposit insurance up next), and eventually more ambitious proposals for a fiscal union will be adopted. ...

The pattern in Europe has been that crises lead—however slowly—to more integration and risk-sharing. ... In a world of existing and rising great powers (the U.S., China and India) and weaker revisionist powers (such as Russia and Iran), a divided Europe is a geopolitical dwarf.

Fortunately, enlightened leaders in Berlin—and there are more than a few of them, despite perceptions to the contrary—know that Germany's future depends on a strong and more integrated Europe. They, together with wiser European leaders elsewhere, understand that this will require the appropriate forms of solidarity, including a unified foreign policy that can address the problems in Europe's neighborhood. ...

Merkel, *Time* Magazine and Our Take on Why She Deserved the Honor

George Friedman, *Geopolitical Futures* | December 10

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL WAS NAMED “PERSON OF the Year” by *Time* magazine today for having the most effect on the world in 2015. It is a surprising but not inappropriate award. ...

Germany is caught between a rock and a hard place. ... [I]t is caught between the rock of needing an integrated Europe, and the hard place of having to potentially deploy substantial resources to maintain that system. ...

The economic crisis of 2008 created a massive threat that Merkel had to handle. The European free trade zone purchased half of Germany's exports and therefore, supported one quarter of Germany's economy. ...

If Merkel simply let Greece off the hook, other debtors, maybe Italy, would be the next. So Merkel could not permit Greece to simply default. On the other hand, if the pressure grew so great that Greece lost all incentive to repay the debt and decided to protect its economy by not only leaving the euro but also the free trade zone, it would set a potentially catastrophic precedent. Put different, if Greece bolted and defaulted and did not sink into the bowels of the Earth, others might follow its lead. And if they did, Germany would lose its global market for various reasons.

Therefore, Merkel invented a marvelous game that it played over and over. First, it focused on Greece as if it was the only troubled economy in Europe, making it clearer that Greece was uniquely at fault. ... Second, it ferociously attacked Greece for the utter irresponsibility of anything Greece had ever done, carefully forgetting that for every bad borrower, there is a bad lender. She threatened Greece with expulsion and disaster. Then as the

last moment occurred, an agreement was reached where Greece would agree to all matters of concessions. Merkel could claim that her ferocity cowed the Greeks. Of course the concessions that the Greeks made could never be fully honored since Greek resources were vastly outstripped by Greek debts.

But the fact that the Greeks could not honor the promises they made simply allowed the game to be repeated endless times. The Greeks were never expelled, never left, and never actually lived up to any promise they made. But it was the moment of ferocity followed by capitulation which focused attention. ... All nations were aware of German ferocity. All of them saw Greece crumble in fear. ... And the sheer ferocity of Merkel motivated others to pay up. ...

[T]he purpose of the EU was moral as well as economic. It was intended to tame the German spirit. In a continent still scarred by grandparents' recollections of the war, Germany's reemergence was not without concern. ... Merkel escaped one trap, at the price of passing through a door she never wanted to pass through—the door in which Germany openly managed Europe's affairs, and did so with a stick as well as a carrot.

Merkel deserved to be named *Time's* “Person of the Year” because she has had the greatest impact on the world. Her management of the European economic crisis has led Germany from being an utterly benign power to being an assertive and frightening one. That is not a bad thing for most nations to become, but it is a tough place for Germany to be. Merkel took Germany there and no one else changed the world more than she did in doing this.

Slippery Slope: Are German Ground Troops Inevitable in Syria?

Gordon Repinski and Christoph Schult, *Spiegel Online* | December 8

GERMANY HAS APPROVED THE DEPLOYMENT OF RECONNAISSANCE planes, a frigate and support personnel to support the fight against the Islamic State in Syria. Experts say [the Islamic State] can't be defeated with airstrikes alone. Will Germany ultimately be forced to send in ground troops? ...

In Berlin, government officials say any speculation about ground troops is "imprudent." That, though, sounds more like an effort to choke off discussion than like a convincing argument. After all, nobody in Berlin believes that [the Islamic State] can be defeated from the air alone. ...

The German government is thus focusing on local Syrian fighters. But the experts in Berlin are also noting in off-the-record conversations that there is little faith that these forces will be able to reconquer much of the country.

"At the moment, we have to focus on making sure that the West's strategy works out," says Harald Kujat, a retired four-star German general. "If it isn't successful, then the West will be faced with the question of whether it wants to send in ground troops." The former NATO general sees parallels to the Balkans mission of the 1990s in the current situation. "We would have to send 50,000 to 60,000 soldiers under the leadership of the U.S.A. or NATO into the country," he says. ...

The risk of being taken prisoner—whether due to a technical defect or to being shot down by surface-to-air missiles—is one that will plague German Air Force pilots from the first day of their deployment. But what would happen then? ...

Former Defense Minister Franz Josef Jung [says]: "We can handle that ourselves. The Bundeswehr successfully carried out these kinds of rescue operations in Afghanistan." The implications, though, are clear: German boots on Syrian ground.

German participation in a ground force would be very likely in the event of a ceasefire in Syria. "I could imagine a German deployment on Syrian soil within the framework of a peace agreement with Syria and within the scope of a United Nations resolution backing this peace," says Jürgen Hardt, foreign-policy spokesperson for conservatives in parliament. ...

Should an agreement be reached, Germany would no longer be able to avoid the question of ground troops—even if the Islamic State weren't yet defeated. ... Were Germany to back away from sending troops, the U.S. and France would not likely show much understanding—particularly given how often Steinmeier and Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen have spoken in recent years about wanting Germany to take on a greater role in the international community. ...

German Minister Says Troops Are 'Staying' in Afghanistan

Radio Free Europe | December 6

GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTER URSULA VON DER LEYEN VISITED German troops in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e-Sharif on December 6, a trip that comes after Berlin's recent decision to enlarge its military deployment in the war-torn country.

"The basic message must be: We're staying," the minister told reporters before her flight landed in Mazar-e-Sharif, where 1,500 troops from 21 NATO countries are stationed, most of them

German.

Germany is to increase its personnel in Afghanistan from 850 to 980 and extend its training missions for Afghan soldiers through 2016.

Last week, NATO announced that its troop levels in Afghanistan will remain largely unchanged through next year, despite earlier plans to reduce it. ...

Judy Asks: Is Marine Le Pen Stoppable?

Carnegie Europe | December 9

EVERY WEEK, A SELECTION OF LEADING EXPERTS ANSWERS A NEW question from Judy Dempsey on the foreign and security policy challenges shaping Europe's role in the world. ...

Ulrike Guérot | Founder and director of the European Democracy Lab at the European School of Governance

The short answer is: probably not—or at least, not easily. For quite a while, France's far-right National Front has established something that could be called a *Volkspartei*—a large people's party gathering between 30 and 40 percent of the vote in many areas, and more than 50 percent in some constituencies. Since

2012, the [National Front has gained some 15 percentage points](#) in its electoral performance. This increase has been due to the dramatic economic downturn France has experienced since European austerity policies were introduced

Devastated regions are cheap prey, not only for Le Pen, but even more for her young and beautiful niece, National Front member Marion Maréchal-Le Pen. Both women are portraying themselves as modern Joan of Arcs rescuing the French Republic—from Muslims as much as from the euro. Whether observers like it or not, this seems to work in a country with an ailing political system. ...

Gianni Riotta | Member of the Council on Foreign Relations

Yes, and Donald Trump can be stopped too. But will they be before it is too late? ...

After World War II, Europe and France whitewashed their worst stories. The Vichy regime, anti-Semitism, and torture in

Algeria were photoshopped by a narrative glorifying *la République*, social values, harmony and culture. ...

Marine Le Pen will not goose-step onto the streets. But Europeans are still fighting the ghosts defeated by their fathers, and they are losing the war their children will keep on fighting.

German Angst vs. the Islamic State

Sumi Somaskanda, Foreign Policy | December 7

FOLLOWING THE ISLAMIST ATTACKS ON PARIS, GERMANY HAS unexpectedly found itself on high alert. Germans, who have long felt insulated from the terror that has struck allies around the world, are finally wondering if they could be next.

The growing terror threat is already starting to affect policy in Berlin. Last week, the German government agreed to send non-combat troops to assist in the fight against the Islamic State in Syria. But the growing fears of a strike on German soil have also revived a long-running debate over how to keep the country safe, while protecting a culture of civil liberties deeply rooted in its 20th-century history. ...

It's too soon to tell if Germans' deep aversion to surveillance and strong security will shift in the wake of the Paris attacks. But they did set Germany on edge. ...

The latest edition the Islamic State's English-language magazine, *Dabiq*, which lists Germany as one of the "crusader" nations allied

against the Islamic State, is a chilling reminder of de Maizières' repeated warning that Germany is in the "crosshairs of international terrorism." German authorities have started emphasizing the threat from homegrown Islamist extremism, which is historically seen as a smaller problem here than in Britain or France. According to the Federal Criminal Police Office, or BKA, around 1,000 Germans are considered part of the Islamist terror scene, and 420 are believed to be a risk to national security. ...

At home, fear and uncertainty are now on the rise. A poll conducted a few days after the Paris attacks revealed that some 60 percent are worried Germany will be attacked. And a survey conducted by the market research group Infratest-Dimap last month showed 91 percent of Germans are on board with additional security measures, ranging from increased police presence to identity checks. For a country usually wary of such measures, those numbers are striking. ...

Polish Deputy Defense Minister Says Poland Considering Request for U.S. Nukes

Jack Caravelli, Washington Free Beacon | December 7

POLISH DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER TOMASZ SZATKOWSKI TOLD Polish media outlet Polsat that his country is considering a request for access to the NATO nuclear sharing program. Szatkowski did not identify what types of nuclear weapons Poland might request.

Shortly after the remarks were reported, the Polish Defense Ministry issued a statement denying it was contemplating such

a request. ...

Under the nuclear sharing program, however, NATO has based nuclear weapons at various times in Italy, Germany, Belgium, Turkey and the Netherlands. At the November 2010 Lisbon Summit all 28 NATO members agreed that as long as there were nuclear weapons in the world, the alliance would maintain its own nuclear weapons capabilities. ...

ASIA

Russia, China Object to UN North Korea Human Rights Meeting

Voice of America | December 8

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



CHINA AND RUSSIA MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PREVENT THE UNITED States from calling a meeting of the United Nations Security Council on human rights in North Korea this week, but they are expected to stop it from passing any punitive resolutions.

The Security Council is made up of five permanent members with veto rights: the United States, China, Russia, France and Britain; as well as 10 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms.

Last year the 193-member UN General Assembly voted to send to the Security Council a resolution to refer North Korea to the International Criminal Court based on a UN Commission of Inquiry that documented its network of political prisons and widespread human violations that include torture, enslavement, rape and murder.

The Security Council debated the measure but declined to call a vote given the near certainty that North Korea's allies Russia

and China would veto it. ... It is unlikely that at Thursday's meeting China and Russia will agree to support the resolution to refer North Korea to the International Criminal Court. ...

"One analyst recognized from the beginning that the UN would be, not just a failure at peacekeeping, but a catalyst to conflict. 'Already I see the clouds of World War III gathering at this conference,' theologian Herbert W. Armstrong said at the organization's inaugural meeting in 1945. 'I do not see peace being

germinated here, but the seeds of the next war!' ... Mr. Armstrong knew that the United Nations would not—could not—bring peace to this world. How did he know? By looking into God's Word, which reveals the nature of man. The Apostle Paul said, 'And the way of peace have they not known' (Romans 3:17). Mr. Armstrong learned, through the Bible, that peace would never come on the Earth by mankind; it could only be possible by Jesus Christ, upon His return with His world-ruling government to usher it in (Revelation 20:4-6; Isaiah 2:2-4; 9:6-7; 11:1-9)." "Do Russia and China Deserve to Sit on the UN Human Rights Council?" theTrumpet.com, Nov. 19, 2013

Russia Launches Syria Submarine Strikes Ahead of Talks

Agence France Presse | December 9

RUSSIA FLEXED ITS MILITARY MUSCLES AS IT LAUNCHED STRIKES in Syria for the first time from a submarine stationed in the Mediterranean, ratcheting up its bombing campaign in the war-torn country.

The strikes came with Syria's splintered opposition due to begin Saudi-organized talks in Riyadh on Wednesday for difficult discussions on forming a united front in potential talks with President Bashar Assad to end the country's years-long conflict.

Moscow's latest strikes hit "300 targets of different kinds" in

the past three days and helped Syrian Special Forces recover the black box of the Russian warplane downed by Turkey last month, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said. ...

The Russian Defense Ministry said it had upped the intensity of its strikes in Syria since Saturday, dropping 1,920 bombs over the past four days.

Putin said Tuesday that the Calibre missiles launched from the submarine could be equipped with nuclear warheads—but said he hoped they would "never be needed in the fight against terrorism." ...

Russia Offers Turkish Slot to India

Russia and India Report | December 9

RUSSIA IS OFFERING INDIAN COMPANIES A CHANCE TO REPLACE Turkey in the Russian market, Russia's visiting deputy prime minister, Dmitry Rogozin, told journalists in New Delhi. ...

Kim Jong-un's Uncle Defected to U.S. Amid N. Korean Power Struggle

Korea Times | December 9

IN NORTH KOREA, BEING PART OF THE LEADERSHIP'S FAMILY BY NO means excludes you from danger.

The uncle of current leader Kim Jong-un, Lee Kang, decided to come out of the woodwork Wednesday.

He admitted that his family defected to the U.S. out of fear that he would become victimized during a political power struggle leading up to the death of former leader Kim Jong-il.

Kang and his wife, who is the sister of Kim Jong-un's mother, cared for the current dictator nearly 20 years ago while he studied in Switzerland.

After moving back to North Korea as Kim became an adult, the

couple felt the need to get out while they could.

"My wife chose the U.S. to find ways to treat her sister [who had been dealing with breast cancer], and I did so for fear of what those in power can do," Lee told Yonhap News. ...

He defected more than a decade before Kim Jong-il passed.

Since then, Kim Jong-un came into power and has shown no signs of running a more compassionate regime.

In fact, he's been cited as the most brutal dictator the Communist nation has ever seen in terms of the sheer number of public executions he has issued during his rule. ...

Lee currently runs a laundry service in the U.S. while

continuing to cover up his identity.

“After the death of Kim Jong-il in December 2011, his son Kim Jong-un took up the reins of North Korea. Many analysts thought the transition would trigger a reversal in the country’s rogue behavior. After all, the young Kim Jong-un had received a Western education, and was an outspoken fan of

Michael Jordan and James Bond films. Optimistic Westerners said that what little information was available about Jong-un suggested that he might abandon the internal oppression and external belligerency that had marked the reigns of his father and grandfather. But Jong-un is desperate to prove himself worthy to his nation’s hard-line military, and it is now clear that, under his rule, nuclear North Korea is more aggressive, more unpredictable and more dangerous than ever.”

“North Korea Threatens U.S. Again” [theTrumpet.com](#), Oct. 14, 2013

U.S. General ‘Concerned’ About Russia, China’s Development of Space Weapons **Washington Free Beacon | December 9**

THE HEAD OF U.S. AIR FORCE SPACE COMMAND SAID ON TUESDAY that he is concerned about Russia and China using antisatellite weapons to create hazardous debris in space, following reports that both countries tested those types of weapons in the last two months.

Gen. John Hyten, commander of the Air Force’s Space Command,

told reporters after a Capitol Hill Club event that he is “concerned about any potential threat that would create debris in space”

... U.S. officials and Americans must recognize that space is a “contested environment now,” he said “Our culture likes space as a benign environment,” he said. “But that’s not the world that we live in.”

China Concerned About U.S.-Singapore Military Ties **ValueWalk | December 8**

THE U.S. HAS SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH SINGAPORE TO increase bilateral defense links between the two states. ... Organized at the Pentagon, the meeting marks a new milestone in the U.S.-Singapore relationship. ...

Addressing the issue at a press gathering, Chinese Foreign

Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chuying said, “I think this kind of increase in military deployment by the United States and pushing regional militarization does not accord with the joint long-term interests of the countries in this region.” ...

India, Russia to Sign Defense Pact for Su-30 Fleet **ValueWalk | December 9**

THE PROPOSED DEFENSE AGREEMENT WILL WORK TO SPEED UP the delivery of spare parts and supplies to help maintain India’s Su-30MKI fleet. ...

The discussion to improve defense serviceability and technical

cooperation between Russia and India is not a new one; Moscow and New Delhi have been working on a long-term defense cooperation process since 2006 and reached a technical assistance agreement in 2012. ...

SCO Members Meet on Security Cooperation **ECNS | December 7**

MILITARY OFFICERS OF THE SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (SCO) member states held a meeting on security cooperation December 5 to 7. ...

They agreed to strengthen military cooperation in various sectors to deal with the complicated and unstable international

security situation.

Founded in 2001, the SCO consists of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, with potential members including India and Pakistan.

India No. 1 Choice for Global Tech R&D **Times of India | December 9**

INDIA REMAINS THE NO. 1 LOCATION FOR MNCs [MULTINATIONAL corporations] to establish product engineering and R&D centers outside their home countries, and the growth of these centers in India is outpacing the average global growth.

India accounted for \$12.3 billion, or 40 percent, of the total of

\$31 billion of globalized engineering and R&D in 2015, according to a study by consulting firm Zinnov. ...

Zinnov, which has been focused on this space since it was founded over a decade ago, finds that 69 percent of all new offshore technology centers this year were set up in India. ...

India accounted for \$7.8 billion, or 21.6 percent, of the total

outsourced engineering and R&D services of \$36 billion in 2015. ...

China to Sign Nuclear, Aviation Deals With Russia

Reuters | December 8

CHINA AND RUSSIA WILL SIGN NUCLEAR ENERGY, AVIATION AND space deals next week during a visit to China by Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, a senior Chinese diplomat said

on Tuesday. ...

ANGLO-AMERICA



What You Should Know About Christmas

Stephen Flurry,

Trumpet Daily | December 11

Have you ever wondered what God thinks about Christmas?

Follow [Stephen Flurry](#)



Ex-Guantanamo Detainee Now al Qaeda Leader in Yemen

Thomas Joscelyn, The Long War Journal | December 9

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



AL QAEDA IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA (AQAP) RELEASED A NEW video featuring a former Guantanamo detainee, Ibrahim Qosi, who is also known as Sheikh Khubayb al-Sudani.

In July 2010, Qosi pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy and material support for terrorism before a military commission. His plea was part of a deal in which he agreed to cooperate with prosecutors during his remaining time in U.S. custody. Qosi was transferred to his home country of Sudan two years later, in July 2012.

Qosi joined AQAP in 2014 and became one of its leaders. Qosi and other AQAP commanders discussed their time waging jihad at length in the video, titled “Guardians of Sharia.”

Islamic scholars ensure the “correctness” of the “jihadist project,” according to Qosi. And the war against America continues through “individual jihad,” which al Qaeda encourages from abroad. Here, Qosi referred to al Qaeda’s policy of encouraging attacks by individual adherents and smaller terror cells. Indeed, AQAP’s video celebrates jihadists who have acted in accordance with this call, such as the Kouachi brothers, who struck *Charlie Hebdo*’s offices in Paris earlier this year. The Kouachi brothers’ operation was sponsored by AQAP.

The al Qaeda veterans shown in the video emphasized the

importance of following the advice of recognized jihadist ideologues. Although AQAP’s men do not mention the Islamic State by name, they clearly have Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi’s group in mind. Al Qaeda has criticized the Islamic State for failing to follow the teachings of widely respected jihadist authorities, most of whom reject the legitimacy of Baghdadi’s self-declared “caliphate.”

Qosi’s appearance marks the first time he has starred in jihadist propaganda since he left Guantanamo. His personal relationship with Osama bin Laden and time in American detention make him an especially high-profile spokesman.

A leaked Joint Task Force Guantanamo (JTF-GTMO) threat assessment and other declassified files documented Qosi’s extensive al Qaeda dossier. In the threat assessment, dated Nov. 15, 2007, U.S. intelligence analysts described Qosi as a “high” risk to the U.S. and its allies. ...

While detained at Guantanamo in 2003, Qosi was asked why he stayed true to bin Laden for so many years. According to JTF-GTMO, Qosi explained it was his “religious duty to defend Islam and fulfill the obligation of jihad and that the war between America and al Qaeda is a war between Islam and aggression of the infidels.”

Qosi made it clear in AQAP’s new production that he hasn’t changed his opinion in the 12 years since.

Russia's Dollar Exit Takes Major New Step

F. William Engdahl, *New Eastern Outlook* | December 5

FOR SOME TIME BOTH CHINA AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION HAVE understood, as do other nations, that the role of the U.S. dollar as the world's major reserve currency is their economic Achilles' heel. So long as Washington and Wall Street control the dollar, and so long as the bulk of world trade requires dollars for settlement, central banks like those of Russia and China are forced to stockpile dollars in the form of "safe" U.S. treasury debt, as currency reserves to protect their economies from the kind of currency war Russia experienced in late 2014 when the aptly-named U.S. Treasury Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence and Wall Street dumped rubles amid a U.S.-Saudi deal to collapse world oil prices.

Now Russia and China are quietly heading for the dollar exit door.

Russia's state budget strongly depends on oil export dollar profits. Ironically, because of the role of the dollar, the central banks of China, Russia, Brazil and other countries diametrically opposed to U.S. foreign policy are forced to buy U.S. treasury debt in dollars, de facto financing the wars of Washington that aim to damage them.

That's quietly changing. In 2014, Russia and China signed two mammoth 30-year contracts for Russian gas to China. The contracts specified that the exchange would be done in Renminbi and Russian rubles, not in dollars. That was the beginning of an accelerating process of de-dollarization that is underway today.

On November 27, Russia's Central Bank announced that it was including the Chinese renminbi into the central bank's official reserves for the first time. As of Dec. 31, 2014, official Central Bank of Russia reserves consisted of 44 percent U.S. dollars, and 42 percent euros with the British pound slightly more than 9 percent. The decision to include renminbi or yuan into Russia's official reserves will increase the use of the yuan in Russian financial markets, to the detriment of the dollar. ...

But the actions of Russia and China to replace the dollar as

mediating currency in their mutual trade, a trade whose volume has grown significantly since U.S. and EU sanctions in March 2014, are not the end of it.

Gold is about to make a dramatic return to the world monetary stage for the first time since Washington unilaterally ripped up the Bretton Woods Treaty in August 1971. ...

Since that time, rumors have persisted that, in fact, the gold chambers of Fort Knox are bare, a fact that, were it to be verified, would spell curtains for the dollar as reserve currency. ...

Into this dynamic, the central bank of Russia has been adding to its official gold reserves in dramatic fashion in recent years. Since the growing hostility with Washington, the pace has become far more rapid. From January 2013, Russia's official gold has expanded by 129 percent to 1,352 tons as of Sept. 30, 2015. ...

Today is a different era to be sure. Russia has far and away replaced South Africa as the world's third-largest gold-mining country in terms of annual tons mined. China has become number one.

Western media have made much of the fact that since U.S.-led financial sanctions, Russian central bank reserves of dollars have fallen significantly. What they do not report is that at the same time the central bank in Russia has been buying gold, lots of gold. Russia's total reserves in U.S. dollars have fallen recently under sanctions by some \$140 billion since 2014 parallel with the 50 percent collapse in dollar oil prices, but holdings of gold are up by 30 percent since 2014 as noted. Russia now holds as many ounces of gold as the gold exchange-traded funds do. In June alone, it added the equivalent of 12 percent of global annual gold mine production according to seekingalpha.com. ...

A Russian-Chinese alternative to the dollar in the form of a gold-backed ruble and gold-backed renminbi or yuan, could start a snowball exit from the U.S. dollar, and with it, a severe decline in America's ability to use the reserve dollar role to finance her wars with other peoples' money.

Nearly Half of Youth Say 'American Dream' Is Dead: Harvard Poll

Bloomberg | December 10

AMERICA'S YOUTH ARE DOWN ON THE FUTURE, WITH NEARLY half of those ages 18 through 29 believing the "American Dream" is more dead than alive, a nationwide survey released Thursday by Harvard University's Institute of Politics shows.

Reflecting the sour mood of the overall electorate, 48 percent of those asked "For you personally, is the idea of the American Dream alive or dead?" responded "Dead." Those who picked "Alive" accounted for 49 percent.

While the race or ethnicity of the poll's respondents didn't significantly impact the results, the level of education of those questioned did play a role in determining the answer. Fifty-eight percent of college graduates said the dream was alive for them personally, compared to 42 percent of those not in college or who had never enrolled in college.

"It is disturbing that about half of the largest generation in

America doesn't believe the American dream is there for them personally," said John Della Volpe, the institute's polling director. "That frustration, I think, is tied into a government they don't trust and they don't think is working for them." ...

A strong majority—66 percent—of potential Democratic primary voters in the age group said the fact that Sanders is a self-described democratic socialist made "no difference" in their likelihood to support his candidacy.

Among young Republicans, billionaire Donald Trump is backed by 22 percent, closely followed by retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson at 20 percent. ...

Overall, a majority of 56 percent of those in the age group say they would prefer a Democrat to win the White House in 2016, a net increase of 5 percentage points since the institute released a similar poll in April. ...

Those 18 to 29 most value integrity, level-headedness and authenticity—not experience—in a future president, the poll shows.

The survey of 2,011 Americans ages 18 to 29 was taken October 30-November 9. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.8 percentage points on the full sample.

Britain Is No longer a Christian Country and Should Stop Acting as If It Is, Says Judge **John Bingham and Steven Swinford, Telegraph | December 7**

B RITAIN IS NO LONGER A CHRISTIAN COUNTRY AND SHOULD STOP acting as if it is, a major inquiry into the place of religion in modern society has concluded, provoking a furious backlash from ministers and the Church of England.

A two-year commission, chaired by the former senior judge Baroness Butler-Sloss and involving leading religious leaders

from all faiths, calls for public life in Britain to be systematically de-Christianized.

It says that the decline of churchgoing and the rise of Islam and other faiths mean a “new settlement” is needed for religion in the UK, giving more official influence to non-religious voices and those of non-Christian faiths. ...

Chinese Devaluation Is a Bigger Danger Than Fed Rate Rises **Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, Telegraph | December 2**

T HE YUAN HAS FALLEN TO THE LOWEST IN FIVE YEARS AGAINST the dollar. If China devalues in earnest, it will be an earthquake.

The world has had a year to brace for monetary liftoff by the U.S. Federal Reserve. A near certain rate rise next week will come almost as a relief.

Emerging markets have already endured a dollar shock. The currency has risen 20 percent since July 2014 in expectation of this moment, based on the Fed's trade-weighted “broad” dollar index.

The tightening of dollar liquidity is what caused a global manufacturing recession and an emerging market crash earlier this year, made worse by China's fiscal cliff in January and its erratic, stop-start efforts to wind down a \$26 trillion credit boom. The shakeout has been painful: Hopefully the dollar effect is largely behind us.

The central bank governors of India and Mexico, among others, have been urging the Fed to stop dithering and get on with it. Presumably they have thought long and hard about the consequences for their own economies.

It is a safe bet that Fed chief Janet Yellen will give a “dovish steer.” ...

Such a bias towards easy money may contain the seeds of its own destruction if it forces the Fed to slam on the brakes later. But that is a drama for another day.

The greater risk for the world over coming months is that China stops trying to hold the line against devaluation and sends

a wave of corrosive deflation through the global economy.

Fear that China may join the world's currency wars is what haunts the elite banks and funds in London. ...

Bank of America expects the yuan to reach 6.90 next year, setting off a complex chain reaction and a further downward spiral for oil and commodities. Daiwa fears a 20 percent slide. My own view is that a fall of this magnitude would set off currency wars across Asia and beyond, replicating the 1998 crisis on a more dangerous scale. ...

The RBA [Reserve Bank of Australia] said Chinese exporters are trying to keep their foreign earnings in dollars and large discrepancies are building up under “errors and omissions.” There has been a “reduction in the willingness of China's foreign suppliers to receive payment in RMB (yuan),” it said. ...

Whether China has an over-valued currency is a hotly debated question. ...

What is clear is that China has suffered a major currency shock. The yuan has been strapped to the rocketing dollar through its peg at a time when it needed a weaker exchange rate, and this has been made worse by Japan's devaluation game next door and by crumbling currencies in Russia and East Asia. ...

Premier Li Keqiang has so far resisted devaluation, knowing that this would draw out the agony, would lead to Japanese-style “zombie” companies on life-support, and would play into the hands of vested interests and party dinosaurs he aims to defeat. ...

The stability of the yuan and the world currency system rests on thin political ice.

TW IN BRIEF

G un sales **blasting records:** A record number of firearm-related background checks were processed in November, making it the seventh consecutive monthly record. The Federal Bureau of Investigation processed 2,243,030 firearm background checks during the month—an astonishing 236,111 more than the previous record set in 2012. If trends hold for December, 2015 will become a record year for gun sales. Second Amendment advocates note that sales surge after violent attacks take place and

when political rhetoric about restricting guns escalates. In October, police stumbled upon a massive cache of 10,000 guns when police executed an unrelated search warrant at a South Carolina home. According to authorities, the owner was a gun hoarder who was not involved in illegal gun trafficking. Over the past 17 years, the agency has processed 222 million background checks for gun purchases. During this time, 2.4 million gun purchases have been blocked.