

Trumpet Weekly

DECEMBER 18, 2015

HMAS Adelaide is jockeyed into position for departure by two of Darwin's tugs in the Port of Darwin.



China Controls Darwin for a Century

Callum Wood | December 16

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



FOR THE NEXT CENTURY, AUSTRALIA'S NORTHERNMOST PORT—Darwin Port—will be controlled exclusively by the Chinese. In an October 13 announcement, Chinese-owned Landbridge Group was revealed as the corporation that will now have day-to-day operation and control of the port for the next 99 years—all for the meager sum of AUS\$506 million. The hastily constructed deal will lead to a major upheaval of both Australian and American military and commercial operations surrounding the port.

What Is Landbridge?

Landbridge has repeatedly asserted that it is a “private” enterprise. But like many major Chinese corporations, company ownership is murky at best. Landbridge chairman Ye Cheng is intimately tied to the government of the People's Republic of China. He is a senior member of the 12th National Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Committee. Landbridge takes its orders from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of

China. This committee ensures that Chinese companies act in accordance with the party-state's interests and strategies. When you deal with a company like Landbridge—even if it is officially “private”—you are dealing with the Chinese government.

But the identity of Landbridge goes deeper still. Liberal Sen. Bill Heffernan called for more scrutiny of the company after claims arose of it being a commercial front for the Chinese military.

The company's website reveals the creation of a “people's armed militia” by the Landbridge Group. That's right: an *armed militia* created by a “private” company.

The group has also assisted the Chinese military in problem solving and logistics in maritime training. Details are also emerging of its scientific and technological support of the Chinese military.

This is the company that will now control the Port of Darwin. Be it a self-professed “private” enterprise or not, its intricate links to the Communist Party and military of China should be cause enough for the Australian government to scrap the deal.

Upsetting America

The contract has thrown Australia directly into the middle of a heated contest between the United States and China. And as we have already seen, the move has undoubtedly vastly empowered China—to the detriment of America.

United States President Barack Obama is understandably upset at the contract. The U.S. has marines and support vessels stationed in Darwin, and it has just signed off on a deal with Australia that would see the number of troops rise to 2,500.

But now, given Landbridge's ties to the Chinese military, the security of those troops is being called into question. Both U.S. and Australian forces will now be exposed to the threat of the intelligence-gathering Chinese. Tactics, techniques, force sizes, procedures and traffic—all can be monitored from the Chinese-controlled harbor.

The troops will be totally exposed in a region where counter-ing Chinese interests through the military and economic means is paramount.

Hasty Deal

With so much on the line, it would be a fair assumption that the Australian government would take time to debate the sale. After all, it is binding *for a century*. But such an assumption would be wrong. Officials only allowed 16 days for public submissions on the deal. The government said that the defense forces were happy with the deal. But who was asked? And what were they asked?

Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne only knew about the lease “a few hours” before the contract was announced by the Northern Territory government. President Obama didn't know beforehand at all. Read that again. The president of Australia's most vital ally, and a pivotal bulwark against the onset of Asian influence—the country that stations 2,500 troops right there in Darwin—*was not even told*.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull likely spent more time getting his wife's opinion on which tie to wear the morning of the deal than he did in conversation with President Obama.

Doesn't Affect the Military

So why the nonchalant approach by Australia's prime minister?

Deflecting criticism, Turnbull stressed that the port was not a naval base, thus security was not being compromised. He said the defense department had no concerns because “it didn't affect the Australian Defense Forces.”

This flies directly in the face of a submission to Parliament's public works committee by the Australian Defense Force in February, which said that “Darwin is strategically vital for supporting Australian Defense Force maritime operations across Australia's northern approaches, particularly in mounting operations that involve the (Navy's) amphibious capability.”

“Vital” here means *absolutely necessary, essential*. This means the port's control for the next 100 years by the Chinese *does* in fact affect the Australian Defense Force.

Further still, more than 100 Australian Navy and allied vessels visit the port every year, and that number is expected to grow. Those vessels will be jostling for position on a wharf that is now to be run by the Landbridge Group.

A planned AUS\$18 million amphibious vehicle ramp in the harbor will now only grant Australian military vehicles 60 days access per year, with the rest of the year made available to commercial shipping—and this deal is only guaranteed for the next 20 years. Does that sound like it will affect Australia's or America's militaries?

Darwin in Flames

There was a time when Darwin burned because Southeast Asia was under the control of a single Asiatic power. On Feb. 19, 1942, Japanese bombers hit the port town. It was the first and largest attack on Australia by a foreign power. At least four key vessels were sunk in the harbor. Only a few Japanese aircraft were shot down. Woefully outmatched by the 188 enemy aircraft, the Australian forces were hit hard. At least 243 people were killed, and 300-400 were wounded. At least half of the population of Darwin fled south.

Darwin was *going to be a base for operations* into Asia. Japan had recognized the value of the port and put an end to its use.

The planes had come from carriers in the Timor Sea. They were there because Japan had seized control of nearly every sea-way and island to the north. Singapore had fallen just days earlier, the Philippines two months prior. Japan had come down from the north and seized control.

Today cannot necessarily be compared to World War II in the Pacific, but the lessons should still be ringing in the ears of Australians. If China and the U.S. should go toe-to-toe, it won't be World War II again. Japan had to fight its way south. China is already here. Ports and harbors, straits and seas, all have a Chinese presence already. It can't guarantee Chinese supremacy, but having the trade routes established allows China a distinct advantage from the outset.

The West doesn't want war. Australia doesn't want to see Darwin billowing smoke. But selling Darwin to China for a *century* is no way to help maintain a balance of power in the region. Australia just offered up its northernmost port to the one nation that is actively enacting aggressive economic and military policies in the region.

Keep watching theTrumpet.com. Darwin was not the first pivotal maritime foothold to be lost to China, nor will it be the last.

TrumpetDaily

RADIO SHOW

MEASURE THE MOMENTS | DECEMBER 17

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THE FORCE AWAKENS: THOUSANDS OF NEW CONVERTS JOIN THE CHURCH OF JEDIISM | DECEMBER 14

Did Putin and Suleimani Meet in Moscow About Assad?

Reuters | December 16

AN IRANIAN NEWS AGENCY SAID ON WEDNESDAY THE COMMANDER of foreign operations for Tehran's elite Revolutionary Guards had met Russian President Vladimir Putin last week, but his spokesman flatly denied the report.

Fars news agency said Gen. Qassem Suleimani, who visited Moscow in July to aid in planning the Russian military intervention in Syria, was back there last week for talks with Putin and senior military and security officials. ...

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov issued a quick denial. "No, there wasn't," RIA news agency quoted him as saying when he was asked whether there had been such a meeting. ...

Suleimani, head of the Quds Force, has been subject to an

international travel ban and asset freeze by the UN Security Council since 2007 for his alleged role in illicit arms trafficking and smuggling nuclear materials.

Fars said that he "held a meeting with President Putin and high-ranking Russian military and security officials during a three-day visit last week They discussed the latest developments in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Lebanon."

Quoting unnamed sources, it added that Putin called him "my friend Qassem" during the reported meeting. ...

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power said Suleimani's earlier visit to Moscow violated the UN travel ban, which Russia endorsed at the time. ...

Experts Say Hamas and ISIS Cooperating to Fight Their New Common Enemy: Egypt

Jerusalem Post | December 17

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



HAMAS AND THE ISLAMIC STATE IN SINAI HAVE BEEN COOPERATING in the smuggling of weapons, demonstrating that while Hamas is a nationalist Islamist movement, it also has common roots from which to build a functioning relationship with jihadists.

"Over the past two years, [the Islamic State in] Sinai helped Hamas move weapons from Iran and Libya through the peninsula, taking a generous cut from each shipment," according to a Washington Institute for Near East Policy report on Tuesday by Ehud Yaari, a Lafer International Fellow at the think tank. ...

Both Hamas and Islamic State trace their origins back to the Egypt Muslim Brotherhood, founded by Sheikh Hassan al-Banna.

While all Islamist movements, including Islamic State and al Qaeda, are offshoots from the more pragmatic Muslim

Brotherhood, they have no patience and use violence to seek immediate results to achieve their goal.

Despite some shared goals between Salafists jihadists and Hamas, such as wanting to establish a caliphate to rule the world, they go about it in different ways.

Islamic State, for example, totally rejects the modern concept of nationalism while Hamas, and its mother movement the Muslim Brotherhood, accept the reality in order to build its power base in each state over time. ...

[Prof. Meir Litvak, the director for the Alliance Center of Iranian Studies at Tel Aviv University,] told the *Jerusalem Post* that, while Hamas and Islamic State have ideological differences, they have a common enemy now, which is the Egyptian government.

"Hamas needs the Salafi jihadists to break the Egyptian siege

on Gaza. The Salafists need Hamas technical know-how to produce short-range rockets and other weapons,” he said.

“Hence, they ignore their ideological differences for the time being and cooperate,” concluded Litvak. ...

Hamas and al Qaeda trained together in Sudan during the early 1990s, and the two terror groups maintained close ties for more than a decade Furthermore, Hamas also cooperates with other Shiite terror supporters and is plugged into the Iran-sponsored terror network

The Gaza-based group’s “deep ties to Hezbollah have yielded finance and operational gains over the years,” [said Jonathan Schanzer, vice president for research at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies in Washington.] ...

“In some cases, this is simply a marriage of convenience. In others, it is a deeper strategic cooperation,” continued Schanzer, adding that in the case of these two terror groups, the shared disdain for Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi’s government could be an indication of the latter.

“We know the radical Islamic movement in Egypt will certainly have a lot of influence in Egyptian politics; and it’s going to swing that nation toward Iran. Ultimately, that means bad news for Egypt because of the final outcome.”

Gerald Flurry, “Iran-Egypt Alliance Prophesied,”
Trumpet, March 2008

Turkey to Set Up Qatar Military Base to Face ‘Common Enemies’

Reuters | December 16

TURKEY WILL ESTABLISH A MILITARY BASE IN QATAR AS PART OF A defense agreement aimed at helping them confront “common enemies,” Turkey’s ambassador to Qatar said on Wednesday.

Establishment of the base, part of an agreement signed in 2014 and ratified by Turkey’s parliament in June, intensifies the partnership with Qatar at a time of rising instability and a perceived waning of U.S. interest in the region.

The two countries, both economic heavyweights, have provided support for the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, backed rebels fighting to overthrow Syrian President Bashar Assad, and raised the alarm about creeping Iranian influence in the region.

Both have condemned Russia’s intervention on the side of Assad’s forces fighting in Syria.

The envoy, Ahmet Demirok, told Reuters that 3,000 ground troops would be stationed at the base—Turkey’s first overseas

military installation in the Middle East—as well as air and naval units, military trainers and special operations forces.

The “multi-purpose” base will primarily serve as a venue for joint training exercises. The agreement also grants Qatar the option of setting up its own base in Turkey, he said in an interview. ...

“Today we are not building a new alliance but rather rediscovering historic and brotherly ties,” [Demirok] said, referring to the Muslim Ottoman Empire, which, before its collapse in 1920, stretched from Eastern Europe to the Arab Gulf.

“With the perceived disengagement by the United States from the Gulf, what we are witnessing now is a diversification of potential allies,” said Jean-Marc Rickli, a professor at King’s College London teaching at Qatar National Defense College. ...

German Lawmakers Approve Increase to Military Contingent in Afghanistan Next Year

Associated Press | December 17

GERMAN LAWMAKERS HAVE APPROVED A SLIGHT INCREASE TO the country’s contingent in the NATO-led training force in Afghanistan.

Parliament voted 480-112 on Thursday to authorize the military’s continued deployment in Afghanistan next year, with 10 abstentions. The contingent’s maximum size was raised from 850

to 980.

NATO foreign ministers agreed earlier this month to keep about 12,000 troops in Afghanistan next year, roughly 7,000 U.S. troops and 5,000 from other NATO member states and partners. ...

RELATED: “THE WHIRLWIND PROPHECY”

Islamic State Has ‘Revolutionized’ Terrorism, FBI Director Says

Reuters | December 16

ISLAMIC STATE HAS “REVOLUTIONIZED” TERRORISM BY SEEKING to inspire small-scale individual attacks around the world through social media, encrypted communications, and slickly

produced propaganda, FBI director James Comey said on Wednesday.

“Your parents’ al Qaeda was a very different model than the

threat we face today,” Comey said at a counterterrorism conference in New York City.

He said the Federal Bureau of Investigation currently has “hundreds” of investigations in all 50 U.S. states involving potential Islamic State-inspired plots. ...

“Twitter works as a way to sell books, as a way to promote movies, and it works as a way to crowdsource terrorism—to sell

murder,” Comey said [of the Islamic State’s use of social media].

Islamic State also employs “end-to-end” encryption when communicating with individuals who it believes are willing to carry out killings in its name, Comey said. ...

Comey said he is convinced that law enforcement and technology companies can work together to solve that problem without compromising personal privacy. ...

Arc of Terror: ISIS Evil Tentacles Spread to Afghanistan as Splinter Taliban Group Joins **Express | December 17**

THE FANATICAL TERROR GROUP, [THE ISLAMIC STATE], HAS CAPITALIZED on a splintered Taliban to spread its evil tentacles to key regions close to the Afghan capital Kabul.

NATO commanders are increasingly fearful that the momentum is building behind the extremists, who have carved out huge swathes of neighboring Iraq and Syria.

The Pentagon warned this week that ISIS was now “more operationally active” in Afghanistan and had begun “openly fighting the Taliban for the establishment of a safe haven.” ...

They are seeking to establish a regional base in the city of Jalalabad—the capital of Nangarhar—he said and had named its

Afghan outfit Khorasan. ...

But the group is also attempting to expand along Afghanistan’s border with Iran as well as regions in the northeast.

The land grab could open up key supply routes into Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, allowing ISIS to expand in Central Asia. ...

The military chief warned the fledgling “caliphate” in Afghanistan had the potential to launch attacks on Britain and the West.

RELATED: [“BURIED IN AFGHANISTAN”](#) AND [“THE WORLD’S NEWEST MOST RADICAL ‘STATE’”](#)

Islamic State Could Defeat the West Online in World War III, Warns Security Expert **Express | December 17**

DAYS AFTER TECHNOLOGY BILLIONAIRE ELON MUSK CAUTIONED that World War III could erupt at any time, cybersecurity expert John McAfee has claimed Islamic State could win.

Mr. McAfee—the antivirus software creator—has warned the United States and the West are only prepared for traditional warfare, not an online war.

He has claimed our “arsenal of bullets, bombs, tanks, planes, boats, missiles and our nuclear capabilities” will be of no use in future global conflicts. ...

“We can make educated guesses or, more prudently, explore the different possibilities and scenarios. And for a scenario of cyberwar, we are woefully unprepared—one could even say defenseless.

“What good will tanks, planes and missiles be if you cannot locate the enemy to engage them? And what will the outlook be for us as the enemy takes down massive pieces of our infrastructure at will, without ever setting foot on our shores?” ...

“If we are unable to protect our networks, everything connected to them can be infiltrated by hackers. In our modern world this includes our power grid, nuclear power stations, planes, cars and our entire financial infrastructure. These will be the weapons of cyberwar—turned against us in a perversion of their intended purpose. We are living in a doomsday machine of our own design.”

RELATED: [“AMERICA’S ACHILLES’ HEEL”](#)

EUROPE

Shattered Hopes: A Farewell to European Arms Control? **Richard Weitz, World Affairs | Autumn Edition**

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



EVEN BEFORE RUSSIA INTERVENED IN UKRAINE, EUROPEAN ARMS control was in trouble. Russia and the West were accusing one another of violating the letter and the spirit of existing agreements. Moscow complained about NATO’s ballistic missile

defenses (BMD), conventional military deployments in former Soviet bloc states, and other measures Russians described as threatening. ...

There are no prospects of new European arms control

agreements anytime soon. If anything, the coming years could see the failure of existing treaties without their renewal or replacement. ...

Perhaps the most serious gap between NATO and Russia has been in the realm of strategic defense. Russians claim that the alliance's BMD systems threaten their offensive nuclear forces despite NATO's long-standing insistence that they do not have the intent or capacity to target Russia's large and sophisticated nuclear missile arsenal. ...

A July 2014 State Department report accused Russia of violating the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, which prohibited Washington and Moscow from producing or flight-testing any ground-launched cruise missile with a range capability of 500–5,500 kilometers [310–3,400 miles]

The Russian government has denied allegations that it has tested prohibited missiles and has since spuriously accused the United States of violating the treaty through its testing of BMD systems with target missiles having INF-prohibited ranges and for its impending deployment of missile interceptors in Romania that could theoretically be reconfigured to launch INF-range cruise missiles. ...

The tactical nuclear weapons (TNW) stalemate between NATO and Russia is long-standing. These weapons—also referred to as “theater,” “short-range” or “battlefield” nuclear weapons but known formally as “non-strategic nuclear weapons”—lack a universal definition, although the term generally includes those

weapons having shorter ranges (less than 500 kilometers) than those prohibited by the INF Treaty. ...

To contribute to intra-alliance harmony and allow NATO members without nuclear weapons to participate in the alliance's nuclear policies, NATO developed a doctrine of “nuclear-sharing” in which the United States agreed to allow some member countries that did not have their own nuclear forces access to these weapons in a war or crisis. In turn, their governments agreed to base them on their territory and acquire their own means of delivering them—currently, specially equipped fighter-bombers. ...

Until Russia alarmed NATO members by annexing the Crimean Peninsula and supporting separatists in Ukraine, there had been a strong movement in the alliance to remove the last remaining TNW from Europe to promote nuclear disarmament, save money, and reduce intra-alliance burden-sharing tensions (over time, a decreasing number of NATO countries have been willing to host these weapons). ...

The mutual NATO-Russian accusations of treaty violations and maneuvering for military advantage extend to the non-nuclear realm. On March 10 of this year, the Russian delegation announced it would no longer participate in the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty, whose adoption in late 1990 helped consolidate the end of the Cold War and establish an environment conducive to security cooperation between Russia and the West. ...

Trumpet Hour

CHINA TAKES AUSTRALIAN PORT, ISLAMIC STATE IN EGYPT, ARMS CONTROL FAILURE, SUPER-SOLDIERS, AND MORE | DECEMBER 18

EUROPE BUILDS FENCES, SAUDI ARABIA'S NEW ALLIANCE, MANKIND TO MARS, THE RICH FOOL, AND MORE. | DECEMBER 16

Merkel, Muslims and the Problem of Multiculturalism

George Friedman, Geopolitical Futures | December 15

GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL SAID ON MONDAY THAT multiculturalism is a sham. She has said this on rare occasions in the past, but it has particular significance in the current debate in Europe over immigration. It is important to understand what European multiculturalism is, as it is not at all like the American concept of the melting pot. The American notion is that all Americans have, or over generations, will develop a common core set of linguistic and cultural values. ...

Europe's concept of multiculturalism is fundamentally different from that in the U.S. It rejects the idea that there is any core, in this case German, and rejects demanding that immigrants over time accept those values. In fact, they reject that anything is intrinsically better than the other. So it's not that they specifically reject Germanness but rather they just don't see it as any better

or worse than anything else. ... The idea of European multiculturalism is that immigrants can retain their fundamental values living side by side in large numbers without creating a common core to facilitate intermingling. ...

As a result, the massive number of Muslim immigrants [was] encouraged to stand apart, retain their own customs and values. ... Historically speaking, tensions and conflict have existed between Muslims and Christians for a thousand years. As a result, a sizable number of Muslims—though not all—developed a fundamental distrust and dislike for European Christians. ... They came to Europe because they lived in poverty in their homes and saw Europe as a place where they could live better. ... [T]hey were not expected to adopt German culture, nor did they wish to do so. ...

The Europeans pretended that multiculturalism was a form of

tolerance. ... What it was in practice was a ghetto without walls. Behind the willingness to accept perpetual distinctions was the unwillingness to allow the stranger to become one of them. ... A German is a German because he was born to the German people, as with the French or the Armenians.

Although Merkel understands that multiculturalism has failed, she doesn't address the alternatives. Citizenship is a legal status. It is not the same as being a full member of the nation in Europe. For that, you need to share not only legal principles but heritage and culture. ... Again, imagine the Irish Catholic coming to America, being encouraged to maintain his uniqueness, but being unable to draw him to the core of America. Imagine what

would happen to his deep hostility to the English. It would not be dissolved but instead purified and hardened. ... I think Merkel means that she wants the Muslims to stop being separate and become part of Germany. She faces two problems. The first is reconciling any historically oriented grievances that some Muslims have against Christians, and that their isolation under multiculturalism intensified the anger. The second is that she has no way to define a path to becoming German. ...

The multicultural ghetto has failed, and there seems to be no option other than conflict, in a continent whose population is declining and who needs more, not less, guests to do the work that there are no longer Germans to do.

Fear, Anger and Hatred: The Rise of Germany's New Right

Spiegel Online | December 11

FOR YEARS, A SENSE OF DISILLUSIONMENT HAS BEEN GROWING ON the right. Now, the refugee crisis has magnified that frustration. Increasingly, people from the very center of society are identifying with the movement—even as political debate coarsens and violence increases. ...

[I]ncreasing numbers of people are united against the state, its institutions, and its elected officials. It is a country in which antipathy towards democracy is gradually increasing while xenophobia is growing rapidly. And it is a country where incidents of right-wing violence are on the rise and refugee hostels are set on fire almost daily. ...

In the past, the right wing was characterized primarily by thugs with shaved heads, bomber jackets and jackboots. ... These street-extremists are still around, but they have received reinforcements. The New Right comes out of the bourgeois center of society and includes intellectuals with conservative values, devout Christians and those angry at the political class. The new movement also attracts people that might otherwise be described as leftist: Putin admirers, for example, anti-globalization activists and radical pacifists. Movements are growing together that have never before been part of the same camp. Together, they have formed a vocal protest movement that has radicalized the climate in the country by way of public demonstrations and a digital offensive on the Internet.

The state and its organs, such as the government and parliament, have become the object of a kind of derision not seen since the founding of postwar Germany. Once again, political representatives are being denounced as "traitors to their people," the parliament as a "chatter chamber," and mainstream newspapers as "systemically conformist." All are insults that have origins in Germany's dark past. ...

The fear of foreigners, of being "swamped" by them, is bonding the New Right together and drawing more "concerned citizens" into their ranks every day.

German society seems more unsettled than it has in a long time. In a survey performed by TNS Forschung for *Spiegel*, 84 percent of respondents said that the large number of refugees currently coming to Germany will result in "lasting changes" to the

country. Some 54 percent said they are concerned that the danger of terrorism is higher due to the influx of refugees and 51 percent believe that the crime rate will rise. Forty-three percent are worried that unemployment will increase.

The answers reflect a deep unease in our society. Many people seem to have lost their orientation. They feel that their concerns are not being taken seriously enough by the federal government, which hasn't exactly given the impression that it has the refugee crisis under control. That doesn't mean that these people will succumb to the siren song of the far-right, but it does mean they have become more susceptible to it. ...

The right-wing populist AfD [Alternative for Germany] now has up to 10 percent support according to the most recent surveys—and this despite an embarrassing power struggle at the top over the summer and an extreme lack of professionalism.

The other parties, though, have been left to helplessly watch the developments on the right wing of the political spectrum. Sigmar Gabriel, who is Chancellor Angela Merkel's vice chancellor and head of the center-right Social Democratic Party, felt in the summer that it was important to keep the lines of communication open to "PEGIDA [Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamization of the West]," the xenophobic protest movement that stages weekly anti-refugee marches in Dresden. Not long after, though, he abandoned that idea, preferring instead to refer to the demonstrators simply as a "pack."

But it is Merkel's conservatives—her Christian Democrats combined with the Christian Social Union in Bavaria—that are the most unsettled. ...

Cases of right-wing violence have increased dramatically in recent months—and the attacks are getting more brutal. On the night of December 7, two baby carriages were set on fire in the entry hall of an apartment complex housing 70 refugees in the Thuringia town of Altenburg. Ten people, including two babies, suffered smoke inhalation. Just two days prior, right-wing activists from Thügida, the local chapter of PEGIDA, had marched through Altenburg with signs reading: "Please continue your flight. There's nowhere to live here."

The demonstration and the fire were only reported in a few

nationwide outlets. People have become used to such attacks in Germany.

By December 7, the German Interior Ministry had registered 817 “criminal acts on asylum hostels.” At the beginning of October, the total was only 505. Compared to 2014, the number of attacks has at least quadrupled. Arson attacks have increased 11-fold, from six in 2014 to 68 this year. ...

An analysis performed by Germany’s Federal Criminal Police

Office has determined that the perpetrators are not always right-wing extremists. Not even a third of the perpetrators identified have had previous encounters with the authorities. The majority had spotless records before they marched off to their local refugee hostel. ...

It seems as if the refugee crisis is bundling the suppressed fears of German society and stirring them into an explosive mixture. ...

German Arms Builders Buck Downward Trend

The Local | December 14

WEAPONS MANUFACTURERS IN GERMANY SAW BUSINESS BOOM in 2014, a report showed on Monday, defying a global trend of decreasing arms sales.

German companies sold 9.4 percent more arms in 2014 than in the previous year, the report for the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) into the 100 biggest arms and military services companies showed.

That was largely thanks to a big boost in business for ship- and submarine-builder ThyssenKrupp, which saw its turnover from arms grow by 29.5 percent.

“[ThyssenKrupp] has several orders in place, in particular for submarines for countries like Turkey, South Korea and Greece, that’s presumably an important part of the total,” SIPRI Germany expert Pieter Wezeman told the *Local*.

The shipbuilder also has rolling contracts with the German Navy to build and maintain its fleet.

But aside from ThyssenKrupp, there was little change at other arms manufacturers. ...

Germany and Switzerland were the only two countries to see

their arms sales grow in Western Europe and the U.S.A.

But Russia was the biggest winner of the 2014 arms race, as companies there saw a 48 percent jump in sales—something SIPRI said reflects high military spending from Moscow and export success for Russian companies.

Moscow’s splashing out on arms could see German companies booking many more orders from Eastern Europe in the future.

Countries across Eastern Europe, unsettled by Russia’s grabbing of territory and military support for rebels in eastern Ukraine, have boosted military budgets—and may well look to Germany to supply their needs.

Just last week, Lithuania ordered 88 Rheinmetall-made Boxer armored fighting vehicles to outfit its army.

“Companies like Kraus-Maffei Wegmann will look with great interest at the situation in Eastern Europe, such as Poland, where there is great interest in items for territorial defense, including tanks,” Wezeman said.

Rheinmetall is also closely involved in the manufacture of Germany’s Leopard 2 tank and upgrades for existing ones. ...

ASIA

Russia and China’s ‘Enhanced Human Operations’ Terrify the Pentagon

Popular Mechanics | December 16

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



U.S. ADVERSARIES ARE ALREADY WORKING ON SOMETHING AMERICA is reluctant to: Enhanced Human Operations (EHO).

EHOs entail modifying the body and the brain itself, creating what some have called “super soldiers.” At a press conference laying the Defense Department’s future research and development strategy on Monday, Deputy Defense Secretary Bob Work warned that America would soon lose its military competitive advantage if it does not pursue technologies such as employing artificial intelligence.

“Now our adversaries, quite frankly, are pursuing enhanced human operations, and it scares ... us,” Work said.

Altering human beings from the inside to more effectively fight in combat presents ethical dilemmas for American scientists and

military planners. Work says those ethical concerns typically don’t apply to authoritarian governments like Russia’s or China’s, but their lack of hesitation in developing EHOs may force America’s hand.

“We’re going to have to have a big, big decision on whether we’re comfortable going that way,” Work admits. ...

[T]he Navy has explored the use of exoskeletons for lifting heavy loads and enhancing shipboard firefighting/damage control operations. In 2013, DARPA [Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency] partnered with U.S. Special Operations Command on a light exoskeleton suit called TALOS (Tactical Assault Light Operator Suit). ...

You could argue that humans have already been boosted, at least primitively. The Islamic State and other terrorist organizations have an extensive history of handing their fighters hallucinogens and other drugs to bolster their savagery.

Apparently DARPA's Defense Sciences Office (DSO) investigated a mind-altering pain vaccine. Once injected into a soldier who had been shot, the vaccine would theoretically reduce the pain from inflammation and swelling. After 30 seconds of agony, the soldier would feel no pain for 30 days. ...

DARPA has also studied whales and dolphins—mammals that

don't need to sleep in long chunks like humans do—as inspiration for creating a soldier who requires little to no sleep for a week or more. ... [T]hey explore[d] powerful anti-sleep drugs like Modafinil. ...

Under a program called the Brain-Machine Interface, DSO investigated how brain implants improve cognitive ability. ... The program also explored the possibility of enabling soldiers to communicate with each other by thought alone. ...

The possibilities for EHOS may be limited only by our imagination—and how much our own creations scare ... us.

China, Pakistan Pledge to Firm Up All-Weather Ties

Live Mint | December 16

CLOSE ALLIES CHINA AND PAKISTAN HAVE PLEDGED TO FURTHER firm up their all-weather ties by promoting a \$46 billion economic corridor, coinciding with a rare simultaneous visits by both the president and the prime minister of Pakistan to the Communist nation.

Chinese President Xi Jinping met his Pakistani counterpart Mamnoon Hussain on Wednesday ... pledging to promote the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and stronger cooperation in all areas. ...

"We are ready to make joint efforts with Pakistan to enrich the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, and explore more substantial cooperation," Xi told Hussain. He said serious high-level contact, including in military affairs, between the two countries will continue. ...

"China's courting of Pakistan fits with its larger strategy. China is rapidly expanding its presence as an economic powerhouse in countries worldwide. ... Biblical prophecy speaks of a massive war—to shake this world very soon—in which an enormous pan-Asian army will march into the Middle East. ... Evidence ... suggests the possibility that, despite its Muslim majority, Pakistan could by that point be allied with that Asian behemoth, contributing not only its gateways but even its soldiers to the effort. ... The U.S. is fading; power is shifting eastward. And Islamabad is entertaining offers from another, more attractive suitor. Watch closely. This appears to be yet another proof among many of the rapidly changing world order—the end of the Anglo-American era and the start of something radically different."

"Pakistan Is Snubbing America. Does It Have Another Suitor?,"
theTrumpet.com, May 18, 2011

Putin Says Trump Is Front-runner in U.S. Presidential Race

Wall Street Journal | December 17

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN DESCRIBED DONALD Trump as the "absolute front-runner" in the U.S. presidential campaign and a colorful and talented person, cheering the American real-estate mogul's calls to improve U.S.-Russian relations. ...

"He's a very colorful and talented person, without a doubt," Mr. Putin said, according to Russian news agencies. ...

Mr. Trump has broken with his main competitors, including senators Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz, who have called for the U.S. to take a firmer stance against Mr. Putin. The real estate mogul has proposed a rapprochement with the Kremlin and vowed to

get along well with the Russian president. ...

Like Mr. Trump, the Russian president has drummed up domestic support by promising to revive his country's greatness. Both politicians have appealed to voters looking for strongmen leaders and have presented themselves as an alternative to President Barack Obama. ...

... Mr. Putin has expressed a desire to end U.S. hegemony in world affairs. The return of the U.S. as an enemy in Russian public consciousness—particularly after Crimea's annexation and the conflict in east Ukraine—has boosted Mr. Putin's ratings at home.

Vietnam Builds Military Muscle to Face China

Reuters | December 17

VIETNAM'S MILITARY IS STEELING ITSELF FOR CONFLICT WITH China as it accelerates a decade-long modernization drive, Hanoi's biggest arms buildup since the height of the Vietnam War.

The ruling Communist Party's goal is to deter its giant northern neighbor as tensions rise over the disputed South China Sea,

and if that fails, to be able to defend itself on all fronts, senior officers and people close to them told Reuters.

Vietnam's strategy has moved beyond contingency planning. Key units have been placed on "high combat readiness"—an alert posture to fend off a sudden attack—including its elite Division

308, which guards the mountainous north. ...

“As China rises and the U.S. slides, each Asian nation is working itself into one of two categories. In the first camp are countries following Japan’s example. They see China’s shadow growing longer and darker and are reacting by building up

their own defense forces. Among the nations in this category are Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, South Korea and Indonesia. In the second are the countries taking the realist path of Russia and Thailand. They are preparing to be allied with or dominated by China. Among the countries in or edging toward this camp are East Timor, North Korea, Myanmar, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Mongolia, Pakistan”

“Reshaping Asia,” *Trumpet*, October 2011

Obama’s Plan to Arm Taiwan War Is Boring | December 16

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION HAS INFORMED THE U.S. CONGRESS of a proposed \$1.8 billion arms package for Taiwan, according to Capitol Hill sources.

The arms package—which is more modest than previous such deals—includes a host of weapons that could blunt an amphibious invasion by the People’s Republic of China. But the restrained scale of the deal is likely an attempt to avoid incurring Beijing’s wrath.

China regards Taiwan as a breakaway province since the two sides were separated during the Chinese civil war that ended in 1950. The United States—while recognizing only one China—is legally bound to defend the island in case of military action by the mainland.

“The U.S. obligation to provide Taiwan with the weapons it requires for self-defense should not be subject to political considerations, including undue concern about offending sensitives in Beijing,” said Rep. Randy Forbes, chairman of the House

Armed Services Seapower and Projection Forces subcommittee and cochairman of the Congressional China Caucus.

“These sales ... are essential to sustaining the military balance in the Asia-Pacific and upholding regional stability.” ...

In all, the proposed arms package is far more modest than previous such deals—and the drop off comes as Chinese forces grow ever more capable. Indeed, no weapon included in the package would seriously even the balance of power across the Taiwan Strait, which has steadily tipped in Beijing’s favor in recent years. ...

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

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

5 Things You Need To Know About Vladimir Putin’s Annual News Conference Wall Street Journal | December 16

SPEAKING DURING A NEWS CONFERENCE ON THURSDAY ... Russian President Vladimir Putin covered a lot of ground, from trying to reassure Russians that the peak of the economic crisis has passed to saying that he doesn’t see the relationship with Turkey improving any time soon

1. Russia has passed the peak of the crisis, despite some bad stats.

“To understand [the current economic situation in Russia] one must know these numbers and base [statements] on them. ... [S]tatistics show that that the Russian economy has overall overcome the peak of the crisis, not the whole crisis, but the peak.”

2. Russian operations in Syria are a perfect “training drill.”

“It’s hard to imagine a better training drill. In principle we can train there for a long time without making a substantial dent in our budget.”

3. Turkey may have been trying to impress the U.S. by downing a Russian warplane.

Responding to a reporter’s question about whether a third party was involved in the downing of a Russian plane over the Syrian border, Mr. Putin said: “We don’t know. But if someone in the Turkish leadership decided [to try to please the Americans] then I don’t know whether they acted correctly or not.” ...

LATIN AMERICA/AFRICA

Iran Condemns Nigerian Army Attacks on Shiites Voice of America | December 15

IRANIAN OFFICIALS HAVE CONDEMNED THE NIGERIAN ARMY’S crackdown on a Shiite religious sect that reportedly left hundreds dead in the country’s north.

Iran’s parliament on Tuesday called on the Nigerian president to launch an investigation into the deaths, while the Foreign Ministry summoned the top Nigerian diplomat to protest the killings.

Activists and sect leaders say up to 1,000 Shiite Muslims were killed during weekend raids in the northern city of Zaria, in Kaduna State. ...

The violence began Saturday after members of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria blocked a highway and according to witnesses stoned the convoy of Nigerian Army chief Gen. Tukur Buratai. An Army spokesman called the stoning an “attempt to assassinate” the general.

The Shiite group [denied the charge and said] the Army had launched a preplanned attack on the group.

It says troops launched attacks and killed people

“indiscriminately” at three locations

The Islamic Movement of Nigeria seeks to establish an Islamic state in northern Nigeria through an Iranian-style revolution.

The group is not connected to Boko Haram, the Islamist radical sect blamed for more than 10,000 deaths in Nigeria during the past six years.

“In February [2013], *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry warned that ‘Northern Africa is turning into a battleground with enormously important prophetic implications.’”

[“Will Iran Try to Take Over Nigeria?,” theTrumpet.com, June 26, 2013](#)

ANGLO-AMERICA



Hezekiah's Great Example of Faith

Gerald Flurry,

The Key of David | December 18

The biblical example of one ancient king shows us how to handle trials, even when they turn into mountainous obstacles.



Three Signs We've Reached the Top in the Financial System

Simon Black, BMG | December 16

ALL GREAT FINANCIAL BUBBLES HAVE WATERSHED MOMENTS that signify the height of lunacy. ... “It should have been so obvious,” here are a few events that may qualify:

The \$75 billion loan: [Anheuser-Busch] InBev just secured a \$75 billion loan to buy rival SABMiller. This is the biggest commercial loan in history, roughly equivalent to the GDP of Azerbaijan. It's incredible that anyone is able to borrow an amount like this

The junk bond collapse: In 2013, the yield on junk bonds dipped below 5 percent for the first time in history. Now that trend is reversing, the junk bond market is stalling, and investors are losing their shirts. ... This could be the beginning of the end of the massive financial bubble.

The POPPY Loan: San Francisco Federal Credit Union wants

to help its customers buy unaffordable homes in the overpriced region of northern California. So they rolled out a new loan program called the Proud Ownership Purchase Program for You. POPPY loans allow customers to borrow up to \$2 million with no money down, at 4 percent interest. And you don't have to take out private mortgage insurance either.

This is all eerily reminiscent of the 2006 housing bubble, and we know how that ended.

Central banks have printed so many trillions of dollars that nothing makes sense in the financial system anymore. ...

Don't ignore the risks, or assume that politicians and central bankers can fix this mess. They've missed the message that 2006 called, and it wants its bubble back.

The Travesty in Baltimore

National Review | December 17

THE CHILLING THING ABOUT THE HUNG JURY THAT RESULTED IN A mistrial for officer William G. Porter, the first Baltimore cop to stand trial on charges arising out of the death of Freddie Gray, is that it was a hung jury.

This was a prosecution that should never have been brought, based on such a stark lack of evidence that there was not even probable cause to make an arrest, much less proof beyond a reasonable doubt to convict a man presumed innocent. The jury should have acquitted Officer Porter in record time. Indeed, the case should never have gone to jury deliberations because the

trial judge should have dismissed it when the state rested without proving any crimes.

Yet the demagoguery created such an atmosphere of intimidation that at least one juror voted to convict. We may never know what the numerical split was in the vote of the 12 jurors. We know for a fact, however, that a riotous element of the community, which has the prosecutors and the government in its thrall, has made clear that no verdict except “guilty”—regardless of the lack of proof—will be acceptable if Baltimore is to be spared more violence.

Jurors, who are supposed to weigh cases without fear or favor,

are beset with concerns about their personal safety, the safety of their families, and the fate of the city. In that setting, even though there was no proof, it was an act of great courage for jurors to vote “not guilty.” Understand that when defendants are tried separately—there are six police officers charged in Mr. Gray’s death—the prosecution will always start with its strongest case. Winning a conviction makes convictions (by trial or guilty plea) much more likely in the other cases; anything less than a conviction can make the other cases unravel. In fact, the remaining cases are rumored to be so weak that prosecutors reportedly see the conviction of Porter as critical—i.e., once convicted, Porter would have no more Fifth Amendment privilege to refuse to testify, so the state could then compel him to appear as a witness and, they hope against hope, provide the evidence they now lack.

So the Porter case was state’s attorney Marilyn Mosby’s best shot. That the prosecution’s presentation was woeful will come as no surprise to readers who’ve followed Mosby’s antics here: Her rush to bring charges before the investigation was anywhere near complete; her politicized rant in announcing the charges, nakedly acknowledging that they were intended to satisfy the

mob’s cries of “no justice, no peace”; her embarrassing need to dismiss false-imprisonment charges brought because she was either unaware of or indifferent to the governing law; and so on.

Nor should anyone have been surprised by her signature tactic: a relentless pattern of concealing exculpatory evidence from the defense: e.g., the fact that Gray was under the influence of drugs when arrested; the fact that he’d claimed prior back injuries in the few weeks before his death; the fact that the medical examiner initially ruled Gray’s death accidental but changed the finding to “homicide” after meeting with Mosby; the fact that the medical examiner concluded that the police did not intend harm to Gray and that Gray would not have sustained his severe injuries if he had remained in the prone position the police had placed him in; etc.

The prosecution did not have a case. ...

Finally, it bears noting that, like Freddie Gray, Officer Porter is African-American. That fact is clarifying. The campaign against the police is driven by race-mongers pushing a racial injustice narrative. But it is against the police. We’re told “Black Lives Matter,” but when it comes to black cops ... not so much.

Syrian Immigration Quietly Tops 100,000 Since 2012

Fox News | December 16

A PROPOSAL TO ADMIT 10,000 SYRIAN REFUGEES TO THE UNITED States has ignited a bitter debate in Washington, but more than 10 times that number of people from the embattled country have quietly come to America since 2012, according to figures obtained by FoxNews.com.

Some 102,313 Syrians were granted admission to the U.S. as legal permanent residents or through programs including work,

study and tourist visas from 2012 through August of this year, a period which roughly coincides with the devastating civil war that still engulfs the Middle Eastern country. Experts say any fears that terrorists might infiltrate the proposed wave of refugees from United Nations-run camps should be dwarfed by the potential danger already here. ...

TW IN BRIEF

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



Federal reserve finally raises rates: The Federal Reserve raised interest rates for the first time in nine years on Wednesday. It is the end of a historic era that began in the lead up to the 2008 economic crisis. For seven years, interest rates have been stuck near zero percent. But for those yearning for a return to the days when savings accounts actually yielded appreciable interest—it may still be a long wait. As expected, the

Federal Open Market Committee increased the range of the federal-funds rates by 25 basis points, to 0.25 percent to 0.50 percent. Following the statement, the Dow Jones jumped by more than 200 points. There is much discussion on whether now was the time to raise rates, and by how much. The reality is that seven years of zero percent interest rates has already caused extensive economic distortions resulting in speculative bubbles. Sitka Pacific analyst Mike Shedlock says it is just a matter of time before they pop.



The Mystery of the Kingdom of God

Stephen Flurry,

Trumpet Daily | December 18

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