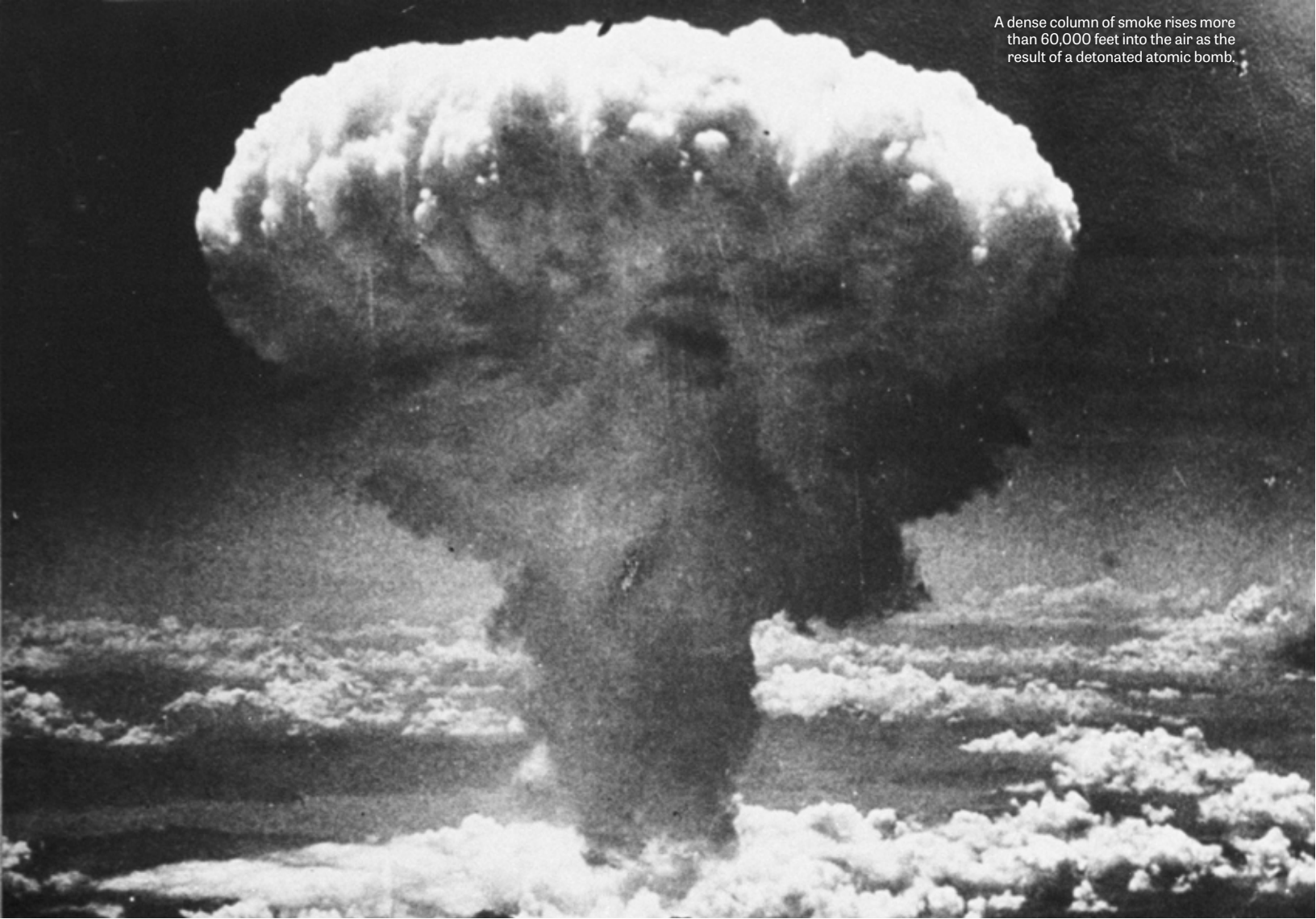


Trumpet Weekly

JANUARY 8, 2016

A dense column of smoke rises more than 60,000 feet into the air as the result of a detonated atomic bomb.



A Black Eye for America's Nuclear Agreements

Jeremiah Jacques | January 7

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



DO YOU KNOW WHICH COUNTRY'S NAME GOES IN THE BLANKS OF this United States presidential speech?

"Good afternoon. I am pleased that the United States and

_____ yesterday reached agreement on the text of a framework document on _____'s nuclear program. ... Under the agreement, _____ has agreed to freeze its existing nuclear program

and to accept international inspection of all existing facilities. This agreement represents the first step on the road to a nuclear-free _____. It does not rely on trust. Compliance will be certified by the International Atomic Energy Agency.”

If your answer was “Iran,” you could not be faulted. The statements sound eerily similar to speeches U.S. President Barack Obama made last year about the nuclear agreement America made with Iran.

But the statements were not about Iran, and they weren’t delivered by President Obama. They are words spoken by Bill Clinton in 1994 about a nuclear deal his administration had reached with North Korea.

Twelve years after President Clinton made those statements, in 2006, North Korea detonated its first nuclear bomb. In 2009 and 2013, the North Koreans detonated two more plutonium-based bombs.

Then Tuesday, North Korea ratcheted up its defiance and the threat it poses to a new level by detonating what it claims was a bona fide *hydrogen* bomb—an exponentially more powerful weapon than the first three.

Intelligence officials are not yet sure if the bomb was indeed a full-fledged hydrogen device or not. But the explosion shook the world, drawing condemnation from the Western world, Japan,

South Korea and even Russia and China—North Korea’s staunchest allies. The United Nations called the test “profoundly destabilizing.”

But few onlookers called attention to the parallels between America’s failed nuclear deal with North Korea and the agreement it recently made with Iran.

We are told everything will be different with Iran. This time around, the deal *guarantees* that Iran can’t develop nuclear weapons. President Obama assured us of this, saying, “This deal is not built on trust, it is built on verification.”

But isn’t that uncannily similar to what President Clinton said about the North Korean deal? And hasn’t Iran already provided ample evidence showing that it has no more respect for its deal with America than North Korea had for the 1994 agreement?

This week’s nuclear detonation represents a glaring black eye on America’s attempts to halt nuclear proliferation by making deals with belligerent entities. It shows that when dealing with powers bent on destruction, diplomacy is an ineffective substitute for force.

The question is: Can Washington learn that truth from North Korea detonating bombs in North Korea? Or will it take Iran detonating one in Israel?

 Follow [Jeremiah Jacques](#)

MIDDLE EAST

TrumpetDaily

RADIO SHOW

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD IN EGYPT CHANGES GUARD BUT STILL LOOKS TO IRAN FOR SUPPORT | JANUARY 7

GUN CONTROL, AND THE PROPHESIED MIDEAST REALIGNMENT | JANUARY 6

HOW GEOGRAPHY FOREORDAINED THAT BRITAIN WOULD BECOME THE GREATEST EMPIRE EVER | JANUARY 5

IS IT TIME TO TRASH THE CONSTITUTION? | JANUARY 4

Sunni-Shiite Showdown Callum Wood | January 6

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



JUST TWO DAYS INTO THE YEAR, THE MIDDLE EAST TOOK A GIGANTIC leap toward a major Sunni-Shiite war.

In what might be considered the last straw that broke the camel’s back, Saudi Arabia executed a prominent Shiite cleric, prompting an immediate backlash from Iran.

Protesters in Tehran ransacked and set fire to the Saudi embassy, while police did little to intervene. In response, Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic ties, and so began the latest fracturing of relations between Sunnis and Shiites.

The Shiite cleric Nimr al-Nimr was executed January 2 after more than three years in prison. Arrested in 2012, Nimr was an outspoken critic of the Saudi government. He was executed on charges of inciting sectarian violence and sedition along with a range of other offenses.

Nimr was neither saint nor moderate by any standard, but neither were his captors. The Saudi regime is incredibly oppressive. Nimr died along with more than 40 other convicts.

On Monday, two days after the execution, Bahrain followed

Saudi Arabia's lead and cut all ties with Iran.

The United Arab Emirates also joined Saudi Arabia, but it didn't completely sever ties with Iran. The U.A.E. downsized its diplomatic presence in Iran and recalled its ambassador from Tehran.

The third nation to fall in step with Riyadh is more of a curious choice. Sudan, another predominantly Sunni nation, has waded into the fray. It expelled the Iranian ambassador and the entire Iranian diplomatic mission. It also recalled its ambassador in Tehran.

Sudan's actions show without a doubt that this contention is more about the deepening divide between Sunnis and Shiites than anything else. The Sunni-Shiite rift has widened substantially as of this week, and it is preparing the way for the fulfillment of some amazing geopolitical shifts that are implicit in the [Psalm 83 alliance](#) of nations.

Some of the nations mentioned in this article—Saudi Arabia, the U.A.E. and Bahrain—are in that alliance. Saudi Arabia, the modern-day descendants of Ishmael, is mentioned directly. The other two “are geographically attached to the southeast part of the huge land area of Saudi Arabia,” explained *Trumpet* editor

in chief Gerald Flurry. “We believe they are also Ishmaelites and from a biblical perspective would be considered a part of Saudi Arabia—regardless of their modern boundaries.”

This alliance *does not* include Iran. Neither does it include Iraq—another nation protesting the execution of Nimr. These two nations are destined to form a separate alliance, one you can read about in our free booklet [The King of the South](#).

The Psalm 83 alliance is prophesied to unite *after* the Iranian-led king of the south alliance. We can see the two alliances forming before our eyes today! Last year, we witnessed major upheaval in the Middle East in the form of proxy wars and terrorist groups. While the roles of the Saudis and Iranians have never been overly shrouded, they rarely find themselves in face-to-face exchanges.

This is a battle for control in the Middle East.

All this has happened when world powers were at their most hopeful about talks between the Saudis and Iranians over Syria.

Review our article “[A Mysterious Prophecy](#)” and keep watching. 2016 is shaping up to be one of direct confrontation between the forces of Islam—Shiite vs. Sunni.

Iran Bans Saudi Imports and Pilgrimages to Mecca

CNN Money | January 7

THE FEUD BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN IS GETTING MORE painful.

Iran has banned all imports from Saudi Arabia and told Iranians they can't join pilgrimages to its holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

The announcement Thursday follows Saudi Arabia's decision to break off diplomatic and economic ties with Iran after its embassy in Tehran was attacked.

Saudi Arabia doesn't rank among Iran's top trading partners, but the ban on pilgrimages could hurt: It makes around \$18 billion a year from religious tourism, and Iranians comprise one of

the biggest groups of visitors.

Officials estimate around 600,000 Iranians travel to Saudi Arabia every year to perform pilgrimages. Some flights between the two countries have already been suspended. ...

The diplomatic isolation [as well as the economic and religious isolation, we might add,] comes at a sensitive time for Iran.

The country is hoping to open up to the world when international sanctions are lifted later this year. But it will still need its regional trading partners. Foreign businesses are likely to use places like the [United Arab Emirates] as hubs to expand into Iran. That will be complicated if relations remain strained. ...

Israel Girding for Possible Palestinian Authority Collapse—Report

Times of Israel | January 5

HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN meeting to discuss the potential collapse of the Palestinian Authority, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu instructing ministers to act to prevent the breakup of the West Bank governing body.

Netanyahu told the security cabinet Monday that Israel must take steps to avert the collapse but also warned them to prepare for a worst-case scenario, the *Haaretz* newspaper reported Tuesday.

“We must prevent the Palestinian Authority from collapsing if possible, but at the same time, we must prepare in case it happens,” the paper reported him as telling the closed meeting of top

ministers.

According to the report, the security cabinet ... has held two meetings over the past 10 days to discuss the possibility of the PA's collapse. The discussions come as a wave of terror continues across the country and amid rumors of a political crisis within the Palestinian government.

The meetings dealt with defense establishment assessments that the Palestinian Authority was “liable” to collapse or disintegrate and that such a scenario would create strenuous demands on Israel, forcing it to take charge of both security and civilian affairs in areas currently controlled by the PA. ...

According to the report, some in the nine-member panel,

which includes members of the right-wing Jewish Home party, are reportedly opposed to strengthening the PA and prefer its collapse. ...

In December, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry warned against moves to weaken the PA, describing the situation as teetering on the brink of disaster. ...

At the same time, Kerry slammed suggestions made by Palestinian leaders that the Palestinian Authority could be dissolved, and that Palestinians could end security cooperation with Jerusalem. ...

Vatican's First Official Accord With Palestine Takes Effect **Times of Israel | January 2**

THE VATICAN'S FIRST ACCORD WITH THE PALESTINIANS—AN agreement that Israel has attacked as counterproductive to the Middle East peace process—has come into force, the Holy See announced Saturday.

The accord was signed in June, just over two years after the Roman Catholic Church recognized the Palestinian territories as a sovereign state in February 2013.

The accord covers the operation of the church in areas of the Holy Land under Palestinian control, but its significance has been seen in broader terms as a symbol of growing international

"Now notice what we wrote at [theTrumpet.com](#) back in August of 2008: 'The Arabs of the Fatah party currently control the West Bank. However, Hamas terrorists (and weapons) are present throughout the West Bank, and there is little doubt that they are working toward getting control of this strategic region of Israel.'"

"Hamas Sets Its Sights on the West Bank,"
[theTrumpet.com](#), Dec. 23, 2012

backing for a Palestinian state. ...

Israel attacked the accord as premature and counterproductive to efforts to get the Palestinians to resume direct negotiations with the Jewish state.

The Vatican's recognition of the state of Palestine—joining dozens of others—followed a November 2012 vote in favor of recognition by the UN General Assembly. ...

RELATED: "THE COUNTERFEIT PEACEMAKER"

Kremlin Official: Russia Will Not Put Hamas and Hezbollah on List of Terror Groups **Jewish Telegraphic Agency | January 5**

THE FIGHTING IN SYRIA WILL NOT AFFECT RUSSIA'S DECISION TO keep Hamas and Hezbollah off its list of terrorist organizations, a senior Kremlin official said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Gennady Gatilov told the Interfax news agency last week that while his country concurs with the United States' definition of some organizations that are operating in Syria as terrorist groups, Russia is "not even discussing Hezbollah and Hamas with the Americans."

Gatilov's remark, made in response to a question by an Interfax

journalist, came as his country was discussing with Washington the possibility of promoting steps to weaken the Islamic State, al Qaeda and Jabhat al-Nusra. ...

Russian officials have said repeatedly that Hamas and Hezbollah, which are allies of Syrian President Bashar Assad, will not be recognized as terrorist organizations by Moscow. These groups or some of their sections are listed as such by the European Union, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, among other nations.

Who Lost the Saudis? **Wall Street Journal | January 3**

THAT HEADLINE QUESTION MAY SEEM PREMATURE, BUT IT'S worth asking if only to reduce the odds that the Saudis are lost as we enter the last perilous year of the Obama presidency. Iran and Russia have an interest in toppling the House of Saud, and they may be calculating whether President Obama would do anything to stop them.

This comes to mind watching the furious reaction by Iran and its allies to Saudi Arabia's New Year execution of 47 men for terrorism. ...

Iran already has ample reason to want to topple the Saudis ... The two are fighting a proxy war in Yemen, after a Saudi-led coalition intervened to stop a takeover by Iran's Houthi allies. The Saudis are also the leading supporter of the non-Islamic State Sunnis who are fighting Syria's ally Bashar Assad. Russia and Iran are

allied with Assad.

Then there's Saudi oil production keeping oil prices low. As the biggest exporters in OPEC, the Saudis have refused to cut production to stem a supply glut that has cut prices to \$37 a barrel. This means Iran will get much less benefit from its renewed ability to export oil under its nuclear accord with Mr. Obama.

Saudi exports are also punishing Russia, the world's second largest oil producer, which by some accounts needs oil at \$100 a barrel to satisfy Vladimir Putin's domestic promises. The ruble dropped to its lowest level to the dollar in 2015 last week on the prospect of still-lower oil prices. Russia and Iran would benefit greatly from internal Saudi turmoil or the threat of a larger regional war that caused oil prices to spike.

None of this means a direct Iran-Saudi conflict is imminent,

though with dictatorships you never know. Iran had no good reason to fire rockets within 1,500 yards of the USS Truman last month, but it may have been testing to see how the U.S. would react. The administration didn't respond until the news was leaked, and then with a mild military statement.

The White House decision last week to walk back U.S. sanctions against Iran after its recent ballistic-missile tests may also embolden Iran to take greater risks. ...

As for the Saudis, they can be forgiven for doubting that they can count on President Obama. Fairly or not, they concluded from the fall of Egypt's Hosni Mubarak that this administration will abandon its friends in a pinch. They saw his "red-line"

reversal in 2013 in Syria, Mr. Obama's accommodation to Russian revanchism in Crimea, and that he now may let Assad keep power in Syria. The Saudis intervened in Bahrain in 2011 without telling the U.S., and they recently formed a new Sunni-state coalition to fight Islamic State—again without the U.S. ...

"This seismic shift in geopolitical momentum—away from America and toward a clutch of non-Israelite, Gentile powers, accompanied by an escalation in brutal violence and war—is actually good news, ultimately. It is one of the signs Jesus Christ gave of His imminent return!"

"What Happens After a Superpower Dies?" Trumpet, January 2014

Muslim Brotherhood Supporters Clash With Security Forces Outside Cairo Hotel **New York Times | January 7**

SECURITY FORCES AND SUPPORTERS OF THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD exchanged fire outside a hotel in Cairo on Thursday, in a sign of political tensions in advance of the fifth anniversary of the 2011 revolution later this month.

The gunfire at the Barceló Cairo Pyramids hotel caused only superficial damage to the front of the building and to a tour bus parked outside, and no injuries were reported. The episode represents another blow to a tourism industry that has been devastated by terrorist attacks and political unrest.

The Islamic State's affiliate in Egypt claimed to have brought

down a Russian passenger jet in October, killing 224 people. But the government said that the violence on Thursday stemmed from civil unrest in which tourists had not been directly targeted.

The exchange occurred when about 15 people gathered on a side street and fired homemade flares at security forces stationed outside the hotel, the Interior Ministry said in a statement. ...

RELATED: "MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD IN EGYPT CHANGES GUARD BUT STILL LOOKS TO IRAN FOR SUPPORT"

Cairo Attack Was More Intense Than Egypt Admits, Says Arab Israeli Witness **Times of Israel | January 7**

AN ATTACK THURSDAY ON A CAIRO HOTEL AND TOUR BUS THAT had been awaiting its Israeli passengers was more intense than the Egyptian authorities claimed, one of the tourists who witnessed the assault said.

Egyptian officials said a gang of youths hurled fireworks and fired birdshot at the tour bus outside a hotel near Cairo's pyramids. The Egyptian Interior Ministry said no one was hurt in the incident. But the Israeli Arab tourists said there had been heavy and lengthy gunfire. ...

The attack came as [Egypt's] Coptic Orthodox Christians were celebrating the Orthodox Christmas in predominantly Muslim Egypt. Most Orthodox Christians follow the older, Julian

calendar and celebrate Christmas on January 7. In Egypt, thousands of policemen were deployed across Cairo and other cities to protect churches and Christian celebrations.

The Egyptian government has for years been battling an insurgency by Islamic militants in the northern part of the Sinai Peninsula. Attacks on security forces there have significantly escalated after the military overthrew Islamist President Mohammed Morsi in 2013. There have also been attacks in the mainland.

Thursday's incident and its proximity to the Giza Pyramids—Egypt's top tourist attraction—could further impact the tourism sector, already decimated in the aftermath of the Russian plane crash.

EUROPE

TrumpetHour

FAILED NUCLEAR DEALS, MIGRANTS ABUSING EUROPEANS, OREGON STANDOFF, AND MORE | JANUARY 8

HOW 2015 CHANGED THE WORLD, PART 2 | JANUARY 6

Cologne Assaults: Police Report Outlines 'Chaotic and Shameful' New Year's Eve

Spiegel | January 7

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS LOST CONTROL OF THE SITUATION in Cologne on New Year's Eve, according to an internal report by Germany's national police, the Bundespolizei, obtained by *Der Spiegel*. The author of the report, dated January 4, is a senior official. He writes: "Women, accompanied or not, literally ran a 'gauntlet' through masses of heavily intoxicated men that words cannot describe." The horde in front of and inside the train station was unmoved by the presence of police.

According to the report, officers encountered many distraught, crying, frightened pedestrians, particularly women and girls. They reported "fights, thefts, sexual assaults against women, etc." Groups of male migrants were repeatedly named as perpetrators.

Identifying those responsible—especially the perpetrators of sexual assaults—"was unfortunately no longer possible." The reason: "Security forces were unable to get all of the incidents, assaults, crimes, etc. under control. There were simply too many happening at the same time." Police were frustrated at their inability to help each victim. At times, it wasn't even possible to record all of the complaints that were being lodged.

The report lists several examples of police officers' experiences:

Officers were hindered from pushing their way through to people calling for help by tight clusters of men.

A man is quoted as saying: "I'm a Syrian! You have to treat me kindly! Mrs. Merkel invited me."

Witnesses were threatened when they provided the names of perpetrators.

People reportedly demonstratively tore up residence permits in front of the police, grinned and said: "You can't touch me. I'll just go back tomorrow and get a new one." The report did not, however, confirm the authenticity of the documents. ...

Physical fights broke out as trains were being boarded; it was "every man for himself."

The situation, which was described in the report as "chaos," was so out of control that there were concerns about serious injuries or even deaths, according to the author. ... The report notes that police officers were "bombarded with fireworks and pelted with glass bottles." ...

The author of the report draws a grim conclusion: The actions of the police officers were met with a level of disrespect "like I have never experienced in my 29 years of public service." Because too few officers were on the scene, the ones that were present "reached the limits of their abilities pretty quickly"—their deployment lasted from 9:45 p.m. until 7:30 a.m. ... The author describes the entire situation on New Year's Eve as "chaotic and shameful."...

'Cover-up' Over Cologne Sex Assaults Blamed on Migration Sensitivities

Justin Huggler, Telegraph | January 6

PUBLIC ANGER IS GROWING IN GERMANY OVER A SERIES OF SEXUAL assaults against women in the center of Cologne on New Year's Eve, amid suggestions that authorities were slow to act due to political sensitivity surrounding the perpetrators' ethnicities.

Politicians and police were facing mounting questions on Wednesday over how a crowd of some 1,000 men "of North African or Arab appearance" was able to mass around the city's main train station on New Year's Eve, with roving gangs allegedly assaulting dozens of women with impunity.

Senior politicians have accused the press of self-censorship over fears the men's reported ethnicities could lead to scapegoating of migrants in general, amid tensions in Germany over its high levels of refugee arrivals.

More than 120 criminal complaints have been filed by women who were sexually assaulted or robbed, including at least two cases of rape. ...

Even Thomas de Maiziere, the German interior minister, spoke out in rare public criticism of the police. "I expect urgent clarification: was it organized, was it really North Africans, and how could they say it all went peacefully the next day," he said. ...

Meanwhile, questions are being asked over why it took five days for the media to report the incidents.

The ZDF public broadcaster issued a public apology after it failed to include the assaults in its main evening news broadcast on Tuesday.

Hans-Peter Friedrich, a former interior minister, accused the media of imposing a "news blackout" and operating a "code of silence" over negative news about immigrants.

"It's a scandal that it took days for the media to pick up the reports," Mr. Friedrich, who was Angela Merkel's interior minister from 2011 to 2013, said. ...

Berlin, Cologne, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Dusseldorf ... New Year's Migrant Sex Assault in Every Major German City

Oliver Lane, Breitbart | January 6

GERMAN CAPITAL CITY BERLIN HAS JOINED THE SAD PARADE OF cities touched by migrant sex violence on New Year's Eve, with hundreds of assaults now reported to police in Cologne and

other cities.

Although on a smaller scale to the unrestrained and unpoliced sex attacks in Cologne, the *Berliner Morgenpost* has

now reported on assaults taking place on the street “in front of the Brandenburg gate.”

The revelation may prove difficult for the German media, which until now has stressed in most reports on the New Year’s rapes that Berlin was not caught up in the scandal.

The paper reports four separate incidents around the site, including a tourist being sexually assaulted by a group of “three to five men,” and two women being “sexually harassed” by men from Pakistan and Iraq.

Another woman came forward to police on Tuesday following national press coverage of the migrant rape scandal to report being “touched” at a music event by “several immoral men.”

More analogous to the Cologne attacks were events in Hamburg, where groups of “southern or Arab appearance” men aged between 20 and 40 sexually assaulted dozens of women.

Police have received 53 complaints of harassment relating

to New Year’s Eve so far, including 39 of sexual harassment. One 19-year-old girl identified by the pseudonym of “Lotta” went out to celebrate the new year in a “chic” dress and high heels. ...

In Stuttgart, two 18-year-old women were assaulted and robbed by a gang of 15 men reports the *Stuttgarter Zeitung*, as well as an unspecified number of other “mostly young women” victims. ...

Düsseldorf saw at least 11 sexual assaults in the historic city center by “North African” men. In contrast to Stuttgart, a police source here was less reticent to admit the scale of the problem, admitting, “The nature of the offenses with which is comparable in Cologne.”

Breitbart London was the first English-language news site to report on the Cologne sex attacks this week, the events having been obscured by German news media until large numbers of women coming forward to report rapes and sexual abuse and online discussion forced events.

Cyberattack on Ukrainian Power Grid Looks to Some Like an Apocalyptic First **Fred Bezhan, Radio Free Europe | January 6**

FOR YEARS, EXPERTS HAVE WARNED WITH MOUNTING CONCERN that critical infrastructure virtually anywhere in the world is vulnerable to cyberattack.

Malicious code sent remotely could shut down or otherwise wreak havoc at airports, hospitals, skyscrapers—anywhere that relies on computers to steer traffic, deliver life-saving technology, or carry out any number of vital functions.

Now, cybersecurity specialists say that doomsday scenario has arrived.

They are pinning a blackout in a swath of war-torn Ukraine last month that darkened hundreds of thousands of homes on code that they say directly shut down at least three regional utilities.

ESET, a Bratislava-based security software firm, called the interruption the first power outage proven to have been caused by a cyberattack. ESET, which studied samples of the malicious code that infected at least three power authorities in neighboring Ukraine, said the malware caused the blackout.

U.S.-based computer security firms Trend Micro and iSight Partners have confirmed ESET’s findings.

Robert Lipovsky, senior malware researcher at ESET, said the incident in Ukraine was “unprecedented” and called it a “dangerous scenario” “It’s alarming that it was so easy.”

Ukraine power company Prykarpattyaoblenergo reported the power outage on December 23 that left about half of the homes in the Ivano-Frankivsk region, in western Ukraine, without electricity. Similar malware was also found in the networks of at least two other utilities in Ukraine. All three blackouts occurred around the same time. ...

The Ukrainian Security Service has blamed Russia for the outages, and the Energy Ministry in Kyiv has set up a commission to investigate the incidents. ...

But Lipovsky said it was difficult to point fingers at anybody because clues in the coding of the malware can easily be forged. ...

“It’s a dangerous precedent,” said Edward Lucas, senior editor at the *Economist* weekly and senior vice president at the Center for European Policy Analysis, a think tank in Warsaw and Washington. ...

The Ukraine incident has raised fears that it could provide a precedent, prompting other countries to use similar tactics. ...

After 1 Million Migrants, Europe’s Borders Are Back **Karl Ritter, Associated Press | January 4**

SINCE IT OPENED IN 2000, THE ORESUND BRIDGE BETWEEN Sweden and Denmark has been a towering symbol of European integration and hassle-free travel across borders that people didn’t even notice were there.

On Monday, new travel restrictions imposed by Sweden to stem a record flow of migrants are transforming the bridge into a striking example of how national boundaries are reemerging. A year of clampdowns on migration and terrorism has all but killed the idea of a borderless Europe where you could drive or train-hop from Spain in the south to Norway in the north without ever having to show your passport. ...

The move is meant to stop undocumented migrants from

reaching Sweden, which abruptly reversed its open-door policy after receiving more than 160,000 asylum seekers last year, mainly from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

It follows the reintroduction of border checks in Germany, Austria, France, Belgium and other countries in what’s supposed to be a passport-free travel zone spanning 26 nations.

The moves are supposedly temporary but are likely to be extended if Europe’s migrant crisis continues in 2016.

“It’s basically every country for itself now,” said Mark Rhinard, an expert on the European Union at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs.

Citing exceptional national circumstances related to security,

terrorism and public order, several European countries have suspended EU rules that required them to keep their borders open to each other.

It's a significant development that strikes at the very heart of the EU project—the free movement of goods and people across borders.

The Bruegel think tank in Brussels says that in 2014 there were almost 1.7 million cross-border commuters in the passport-free zone known as the Schengen Area, after the Luxembourg town where it was created in 1985. Abolishing it would affect their daily lives, but the consequences for Europe would go deeper, given the “visible and powerful symbol of European integration that Schengen represents,” Bruegel researchers Nuria Boot and Guntram Wolff wrote in December.

Whether the temporary reintroduction of borders also means rebuilding mental boundaries between EU citizens remains to be seen. But the migrant crisis is becoming an even bigger challenge to European unity than the cracks emerging in recent years over the bloc's common currency, the euro.

EU nations demonstrated starkly different views on how to deal with the 1 million migrants that crossed the Mediterranean in 2015. Germany and Sweden, until recently, said refugees were

welcome, while Hungary built a fence to keep them out. The Danish government took a series of measures to discourage migrants from going there, including a proposal to seize their jewelry to cover their expenses in Denmark.

Common rules requiring refugees to seek shelter in the first EU country they enter collapsed, as Greece and Italy were overwhelmed by sea arrivals and countries further north just waved the migrants through to their intended destination, often Germany or the Scandinavian countries.

Meanwhile, the EU's efforts to spread refugees more evenly across the bloc met stiff resistance from member states. By November, only about 150 of 160,000 refugees had been relocated from Greece and Italy under an EU plan.

The crisis underlines structural flaws in the EU, showing how it has implemented common rules that it just can't enforce once the external pressures become too great, said Karl Lallerstedt, cofounder of Black Market Watch, a Switzerland-based non-profit group focusing on cross-border smuggling.

“It's not a strong federal state that can overrule its members,” he said. “At the same time, individual states have obligations to the EU. So you're in this sort of half-way house.” ...

ASIA

Check Out This Insanely Huge Golden Statue of Chairman Mao Foreign Policy | January 5

CHINESE BUSINESSMEN AND VILLAGERS SPENT NEARLY \$500,000 to build a massive, 120-foot-high golden statue of Communist dictator Mao Zedong in the center of an area brutally affected by famines he helped cause. Under Mao's watch, upward of 45 million people—mainly peasants—are believed to have died in just four years.

The gaudy new statue ... took nine months to build. ...

“Which tyrant is responsible for the murder of the most people in the 20th century? It was not Hitler, Tojo or Stalin. It was Mao

Tse-tung. ... Under his reign, between 65 and 75 million Chinese were murdered—starved, tortured, bullied to suicide, or executed as traitors. Yet here is the most remarkable fact: For China's ruling Communist Party, Mao remains the most honored figure today. His face is on every single bill in the Chinese currency; his portrait hangs on the gate of the Forbidden City on Tiananmen Square in the heart of Beijing; and, as NPR reported in 2011, the official verdict among modern Chinese is that Mao was 70 percent right and 30 percent wrong in his rule.”

“Czars and Emperors,” Trumpet, January 2014

T How the World Changed in 2015 in Asia Jeremiah Jacques | January 6

FOR RUSSIA AND CHINA, 2015 WAS A YEAR OF INCREASING COOPERATION, enduring domestic difficulties with a brave face, and implementing bolder foreign policies.

‘Remember Russia!’

It's impossible to review Russia's navigation through 2015 without placing it in the context of the pivotal year that preceded it. In 2014, Russian President Vladimir Putin shocked the world by annexing the Crimean Peninsula. By making this peninsula part



Chinese President Xi Jinping (front center) poses with the delegates attending the signing ceremony for the Articles of Agreement of the AIIB on June 29, 2015.

of Russia, Putin redrew the world map in his region. Soon after, Russia invaded eastern Ukraine.

When 2015 began, it appeared that Russia was just trying to hold on to the gains it made in 2014, despite heavy sanctions from the West.

But then something quite unexpected happened: Putin launched an unprecedented military intervention in Syria.

He did so largely because he saw that America was retreating from the Middle East. He jumped on the chance to demonstrate to the world that the United States is no longer the go-to global policeman and that Russia is a mighty power.

These are the goals at the heart of Putin's calculus. They show why he's willing to maintain policies that cause economic suffering for Russia.

On the last day of the year, Putin even went so far as to name the United States, for the first time, as one of the threats to Russian security.

China's Challenge

In 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping followed Russia's lead by redrawing the map in his region.

China made artificial islands in the South China Sea and is converting them into military hubs. Beijing uses these to assert ownership over vast swaths of disputed territory in the South China Sea. The islands comprise just a few square miles of turf, but they provide a tangible representation of the broader goal China worked toward during 2015.

T AIIB Gaining Momentum Into 2016 **Callum Wood | January 7**

ENTERING 2016, THE ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK (AIIB) is preparing to take leaps and bounds. The rise of this bank should have the world, and particularly the United States, on high alert. The success of the AIIB heralds the dawn of a new era in Asia—one increasingly influenced by China.

For years, the *Trumpet* has foretold the rise of China as it

The New Nuclear Proliferation Age **Wall Street Journal | January 6**

NORTH KOREA'S TEST SHOWS THE CONTINUING FAILURE OF ARMS control.

The temptation in most world capitals will be to denounce North Korea's Wednesday nuclear test but do little beyond attempting to bribe dictator Kim Jong-un with more cash in return for more disarmament promises. The more realistic view is to see this as another giant step toward a dangerous new era of nuclear proliferation that the world ignores at its peril.

Pyongyang says the explosion, its fourth so far and first since 2013, was a "completely successful" test of a miniaturized hydrogen bomb. That would represent a technological leap, as H-bombs can be thousands of times stronger than the atomic weapons that North Korea tested previously. Pyongyang often lies, and the White House said Wednesday the initial U.S. analysis suggests it wasn't an H-bomb.

Like Moscow, Beijing is weary of the era of U.S. global rule and is pushing against global stability in order to bring down the curtain on that era. China is also eager to be recognized as a great power in its own right.

In the last week of 2015, China openly challenged America by making an incursion into the waters near Okinawa. Okinawa is key to the U.S.-Japan alliance, and it is the core of America's military presence in Japan. This incursion was among Beijing's boldest moves of the year.

Turn the Page

Looking to 2016, we can expect Putin's Russia and Xi's China to be even more ambitious and even more willing to take major risks. That's in large part because they know time is not on their side.

They know that at present, European nations are not integrated enough to present a unified front against them. They also know that as long as President Barack Obama is in the White House, the U.S. is unlikely to do more than gingerly chide them for aggression.

Putin and Xi calculate that after President Obama leaves office in January 2017, the situation could drastically change. They reckon that if someone like Donald Trump or Marco Rubio becomes the next president, their season of license would come to an end. That indicates that in these next 12 months, we could see more and larger pushes from Russia against global stability.

In the year beginning, we will see more cooperation between them and more bold behavior—possibly to a degree that makes us look back nostalgically on the "peace" of 2015.

relates to Bible prophecy. Today, we see how China is dominating Southeast Asia economically. It even has the means to challenge the U.S.-dominated World Bank, an institution that has financed global projects for decades. China is a force to be reckoned with. That is a warning that doesn't just go out to the poor nations of Southeast Asia, but to everyone—the United States included.

But even an upgraded atomic bomb using boosted fission would give Kim a more powerful weapon than the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Kim is estimated to have enough uranium and plutonium production for 50 to 100 bombs by 2020.

This threat is growing well beyond Asia as the North makes progress on warhead miniaturization and missile delivery. U.S. Adm. Bill Gortney of the North American Aerospace Defense Command said last year that Pyongyang has "the capability to reach the [U.S.] homeland with a nuclear weapon from a rocket."

The North conducted an apparently successful submarine missile test last month. Pyongyang helped Syria build a secret plutonium reactor that the Israeli Air Force destroyed in 2007, and it has worked with Iran on long-range missiles and possibly nuclear technology.

The larger story here is the rapid fraying of the world's

antinuclear proliferation regime, assisted by the illusion of arms control. The failure with North Korea goes back to Bill Clinton's 1994 Agreed Framework, which he hailed as "a good deal" because "North Korea will freeze and then dismantle its nuclear program" in return for food and energy aid. The North took the cash and kept working toward a plutonium and uranium bomb.

The [George W.] Bush administration tried a tougher approach at first but lost its nerve in the second term and also went the bribery route. We've praised President Obama for not doing the same, but the administration mustered no response to the North's 2013 nuclear test and only light sanctions after its 2014 cyberattack against Sony. The North has now escalated.

The West wants to believe the Iran nuclear deal is an anti-proliferation triumph, but Iran's neighbors view it as a delaying

action at best. They think it guarantees that Iran will eventually build a weapon. Over time this will encourage others in the Middle East to seek their own nuclear deterrent.

In Asia, too, the question is whether North Korea's growing nuclear arsenal will now cause Japan and South Korea to get their own deterrent. South Korean President Park Geun-hye warned in 2014 that after a fourth North Korean test "it would be difficult to prevent a nuclear domino from occurring in this area."

North Korea's latest test should spur a new global resolve against Pyongyang, but it probably won't. ...

The result is that while Mr. Obama entered office promising to pursue "a world without nuclear weapons," he will leave having set loose a new era of nuclear proliferation.

Russia Stands Up to Western Threats, Pivots to East

Xinhua | January 5

RUSSIA HAS UPDATED A BUNCH OF STRATEGIES TO FIGHT AGAINST threats to its national security, as demonstrated by the document "About the Strategy of National Security of the Russian Federation," which President Vladimir Putin signed on New Year's Eve.

Amid ongoing clashes with the West over Ukraine and other fronts, leaders of the country have chosen to stand up to Western threats, while attaching growing importance to security cooperation across the Asia-Pacific. ...

As antagonism between Russia and the West currently shows little signs of receding, Moscow has begun to turn eastward, a strategic transition that is reflected by the national security blueprint.

Mentioning specific relations with foreign countries, the document noted firstly that the strategic partnership of coordination with China is a key force to uphold global and regional stability. It then mentioned the country's "privileged strategic partnership" with India. ...

The Chinese Threat to the U.S. Is Growing

American Thinker | January 4

IF PRESIDENT OBAMA THINKS CLIMATE CHANGE IS OUR GREATEST national security threat, he'd be wise to ponder the change in the global climate of a volley of Chinese DF-21D "carrier-killer" missiles destroying an American carrier battle group on its way to counter, say, a Chinese invasion of Taiwan. ...

As *Investor's Business Daily* noted in January 2015: " ... Launched into space, the DF-21D re-enters the atmosphere and maneuvers at 10 times the speed of sound toward its target." ...

China's military and political ambitions can be seen in not only its unprecedented military buildup, but also in its territorial ambitions, which have laid claims not only to Taiwan, but also to Japan's Senkaku islands in the East China Sea and to virtually all

of the South China Sea, including the disputed Spratly and Paracel Island chains. ...

China is expanding and restructuring its military forces for what it considers an inevitable confrontation with the United States. ...

"The Russia-China axis is no longer merely a forecast. It is here, and it is changing the world. The world now faces the most serious crisis since World War II, and it is thanks in part to America's broken will and mismanaged power."

"The Russia-China Axis Is Here," Trumpet, January 2015

ANGLO-AMERICA



Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?

Gerald Flurry,

The Key of David | January 8

What connection does the 'beast' of the book of Revelation have to world events now leading to Armageddon and the end of this age?



Oregon Standoff—Rancher Supporters Disagree With Occupation

William F. Jasper, *New American* | January 7

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



DWIGHT AND STEVEN HAMMOND HAVE MANY SUPPORTERS IN their hometown area of Burns, Oregon, as well as many sympathizers nationwide, especially among rural populations of ranchers and farmers who identify with their plight. However, few of those supporters appear to support or endorse the armed occupation of the federal wildlife facility by a self-appointed “militia,” considering it misguided, at best, and dangerously counterproductive, at worst.

The Hammonds, father and son ranchers, were prosecuted as terrorists under the federal Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 for controlled burns on their own property in 2001 and 2006 that spread to bordering federal BLM (Bureau of Land Management) land, causing no real damage to around 150 acres and no threat to lives, homes or property of other citizens. In fact, the BLM acknowledged that the 2001 fire for which the Hammonds were prosecuted had actually “improved range conditions” on the public lands. By contrast, federal agencies such as the BLM, Forest Service, National Park Service and Fish & Wildlife Service regularly set “prescribed burns” that get out of control and burn up thousands of acres of forest, grasslands and habitat, as well as destroying wildlife (including “endangered species”), homes, ranches, cattle and other livestock, and even taking human lives. ...

Federal District Court Judge Michael Hogan ruled that imposing a five-year mandatory minimum prison sentence on the Hammonds, as sought by federal prosecutors under the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act would “shock the conscience” of the court. It “would result in a sentence which is grossly disproportionate to the severity of the offenses here,” he said. The Hammonds’ actions, Judge Hogan reasoned, “could not have been conduct intended” under the antiterrorism law. Judge Hogan used

his discretionary authority to sentence Dwight Hammond (now 74 and a model citizen) to three months in prison, followed by three years’ “supervised release.” Dwight’s son Steven (now 45 and a father of three) was sentenced to one year and one day in prison—also to be followed by three years’ “supervised release.” The Hammonds served their sentences starting in 2013. They were also forced to accept a settlement in which they agreed to pay \$400,000 for firefighting costs, and to give the BLM the first option to buy their land if they are forced to sell (which many observers believe is the real motive behind the persecution of the Hammonds). But the Obama Justice Department was not satisfied; it appealed the Hogan ruling and found a judge who would impose the full “terrorist” sentence on the Hammonds.

All of the above information is important to keep in mind when considering the boiling resentment felt by many in rural communities toward federal authorities who have publicly smeared the Hammonds as “arsonists” and “terrorists,” and have now sent them to prison for a second time. Nevertheless, relatively few Hammond supporters appear to be supportive of the armed “militia” effort led by Ammon and Ryan Bundy to occupy the facilities at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge near Burns. ...

Hopefully, the occupation will end peacefully and soon, and without gunfire or bloodshed. However, as we pointed out in 2014 (“War on the West: Why More Bundy Standoffs Are Coming”), the enormous federal footprint in the western states, combined with the tyrannical regulatory agenda of the federal agencies and their allies in the militant environmental movement, are guaranteeing that more desperate farmers, ranchers and rural property owners will be unjustly pushed off of their land—and many, inevitably, will resort to desperate measures.

Defy America, Pay No Price

Charles Krauthammer, *Washington Post* | January 7

IF YOU’RE GOING TO ENGAGE IN A FOREIGN-POLICY CAPITULATION, might as well do it when everyone is getting tanked and otherwise occupied. Say, around New Year’s Eve.

Here’s the story. In October, Iran test-fires a nuclear-capable ballistic missile in brazen violation of a Security Council resolution explicitly prohibiting such launches. President Obama does nothing. One month later, Iran does it again. The administration makes a few gestures at the UN. Then nothing. Then finally, on December 30, the White House announces a few sanctions.

They are weak, aimed mostly at individuals and designed essentially for show. Amazingly, even that proves too much. By 10 p.m. that night, the administration caves. The White House sends out an e-mail saying that sanctions are off—and the Iranian president orders the military to expedite the missile program. ...

The Gulf Arabs—rich, weak and, since FDR, dependent on

America for security—are bewildered. They’re still reeling from the nuclear deal, which Obama declared would be unaffected by Iranian misbehavior elsewhere. The result was to assure Tehran that it would pay no price for its aggression in Syria and Yemen, subversion in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, and support for terrorism. ...

The Saudis feel surrounded, and it’s not paranoia. To their north, Iran dominates a Shiite crescent stretching from Iraq, Syria and Lebanon to the Mediterranean. To the Saudi south, Iran has been arming Yemen’s Houthi rebels since at least 2009. The fighting has spilled over the border into Saudi Arabia.

The danger is rising. For years, Iran has been supporting anti-regime agitation among Saudi Arabia’s minority Shiites. The Persian Gulf is Iran’s ultimate prize. The fall of the House of Saud would make Iran the undisputed regional hegemon and an emerging global power.

For the United States, that would be the greatest geopolitical setback since China fell to communism in 1949. Yet Obama seems oblivious. Worse, he appears inert in the face of the three great challenges to the post-Cold War American order. Iran is only the most glaring. China is challenging the status quo in the South China Sea, just last week landing its first aircraft on an artificial island hundreds of miles beyond the Chinese coast. We deny China's claim and declare these to be international waters, yet last month we meekly apologized when a B-52 overflew one of the islands. We said it was inadvertent.

Rand Paul Objects to Obama's Use of Executive Actions for Guns

Des Moines Register | January 7

REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL RAND PAUL SAID HIS MAIN objection to the president's recent executive action on gun control isn't about the law itself, but "whether or not he can pass laws without any authority from Congress."

The Kentucky senator said at a campaign event here he objects to the president's executive action from a constitutional standpoint. President Obama on Tuesday announced he wants to expand background checks for gun buyers and license those who sell firearms, even in private transactions. ...

"If his executive order were cutting taxes and doing things I like, I would still oppose it because only Congress gets to do those things. He doesn't get to do them," Paul said. "So it's important because if you allow the president the power to write law, basically you're setting a president up who can become like a king and

The world sees and takes note. As it does our response to the other great U.S. adversary—Russia. What's happened to Obama's vaunted "isolation" of Russia for its annexation of Crimea and assault on the post-Cold War European settlement? Gone. Evaporated. John Kerry plays lapdog to Sergei Lavrov. Obama meets openly with Vladimir Putin in Turkey, then in Paris. And is now practically begging him to join our side in Syria.

There is no price for defying Pax Americana—not even trivial sanctions on Iranian missile-enablers. Our enemies know it. Our allies see it—and sense they're on their own, and may not survive.

do whatever they wanted." ...

He said the San Bernardino shooter, Syed Farook, was given guns through a private transaction, which was already illegal in California. Most of all gun sales in the state must be made through a licensed dealer, according to the California Office of the Attorney General.

"If myself and my uncle are at home and we do a private transaction, how do you know that? Do gun control laws deter criminals or do they only affect really primarily law-abiding citizens?" Paul said.

He added he believes the only way to truly regulate private gun sales is to enact a registry, but he objects to having public records of gun ownership.

GMO 'Frankenfish' Salmon Gets FDA Approval

Christian Science Monitor | January 5

THE GENETICALLY MODIFIED SALMON GROWS ABOUT TWICE AS quickly as normal salmon. Could it be on American dinner tables soon?

After years of contentious debate, 'frankenfish' may finally be on its way to a supermarket near you.

The U.S. Food And Drug Administration (FDA) in November began allowing a genetically engineered (GE) animal to be produced for consumption—a first for America.

The Massachusetts company AquaBounty Technologies was given approval to make available a genetically modified Atlantic salmon, the AquaAdvantage salmon.

The company added a growth-hormone-regulating gene from the Pacific Chinook salmon and a gene from an eel called the ocean pout to allow the new salmon to produce growth hormones year-round instead of only in the spring and summer. ...

But now the FDA decision is a precedent that may mean more genetically altered animals are on their way. ...

Others wish the FDA would require mandatory labeling of the fish, instead of issuing volunteer recommendations for consumers and businesses looking to avoid the man-made creation. ...

It could be more than two years before the modified salmon moves into supermarkets, according to AquaBounty. ...



How to Be an Overcomer

Stephen Flurry,

Trumpet Daily | January 8

God will not do for us what we can do for ourselves.

Follow [Stephen Flurry](#)

