

# Trumpet Weekly

JANUARY 15, 2016

Police stand guard in front of Hauptbahnhof main railway station after right-wing populist groups gathered on January 9 to protest the New Year's Eve sex attacks in Cologne, Germany.



## ‘Cologne Has Changed Everything’

Richard Palmer | January 12

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



**“W**HAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN THE GERMAN PUBLIC REALIZES THAT IT HAS BEEN DECEIVED BY ITS LEADERS?” That’s what *Trumpet* columnist Brad Macdonald wrote, complete with small caps, two weeks ago in his article “[Germany, Migrants and Angela Merkel’s Big Lie](#).” The German people were being lied to about the problems involved with mass migration, he explained, which could lead to a dangerous explosion once they wake up.

That wake-up began in Cologne, Germany, on New Year’s Eve. That night, a mob of around 1,000 people gathered outside

Cologne central train station and began molesting, robbing and even raping passersby. At the time of this writing, over 500 crimes have been reported to Cologne police from that evening, and that number continues to climb. At least 200 reports were sexual assaults.

A leaked police report stated that “[w]omen literally had to run the gauntlet through the mass of drunk men, in a way you can’t describe.” One person talked about how he arrived at the station and saw “countless weeping women.” German news media has

been full of women tearfully recounting their story.

Cologne was the worst affected city, but not the only one. Over 100 crimes have been reported for the same evening in Hamburg. Women in Frankfurt, Helsinki, Zurich and Salzburg suffered a similar fate, albeit on a smaller scale.

Yet the first instinct of authorities was to cover up everything. The day after the attacks, the Cologne police described their city on New Year's Eve as having "a joyful, party atmosphere."

"As in years past, we are looking back at a mostly peaceful New Year's celebration," they wrote. "Reasons to intervene were mostly physical assault and disturbance of the peace."

There was nothing in the media either. The attacks occurred Thursday night, but the next day and all weekend almost all of the national news media was silent.

Why? The men committing this assault had been described as "North African" or "Arab" looking.

They were migrants. The government, the police and the media were afraid of an anti-migrant backlash, so they tried to cover up the mass sexual assault of hundreds of women.

"Almost as great a scandal as the attacks themselves has been the failure of national newspapers and public broadcasters to report on them until days after the event," wrote *The Local*. ZDF a German public broadcaster, was forced to apologize for being so slow to cover the story.

Of course, something so big could not be kept secret. But even toward the end of last week, once the truth was out, government officials still tried to cover up part of the story. They insisted that there was no evidence that recent migrants or asylum seekers were involved in the attacks—while leaked police reports and police officers' statements to the media revealed the exact opposite.

That lie has also completely collapsed. "Those in the focus of criminal police investigations are mostly people from North African countries," said the police. "The majority of them are asylum seekers and people who are in Germany illegally."

With the truth revealed, the outrage is growing.

Both police officers and politicians have said what happened in Cologne is a "completely new dimension of crime."

"The pressure built up by the images and stories from Cologne make it virtually impossible to continue on as before," wrote Spiegel Online. Their article was titled "How New Year's Eve in Cologne Has Changed Germany."

"Cologne has changed everything; people now are doubting," said the vice president of Merkel's Christian Democratic Union, Volker Bouffier.

"Europe in Crisis Over Sex Attacks by Migrants Amid Calls for Emergency EU Meeting" was the *Telegraph's* headline.

As that title says, the repercussions go beyond Germany. "The idea of multicultural Europe has failed," said Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, as he called for an emergency European Union summit to discuss the attacks. "The migrants cannot be integrated, it's simply impossible," he said.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán called for a complete stop of all immigration. Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydło said the attack "should shake up public opinion at last."

As all those quotes expose, these events are triggering a backlash against immigrants similar in scale to the November 13 terrorist attacks in Paris. But the backlash also goes further than that.

Germany's entire political establishment has failed. Politicians have consistently played down the problems posed by the arrival of over a million migrants last year. The media refused to report on Cologne until forced to do so. The police did not prevent the mob sexual assault; they did not defend the women that night; and they tried to cover it up the next day. Many victims have spoken out about their frustration toward the police. The migrants defiled them with complete impunity.

The police haven't even punished the attackers. So far only one or two dozen, out of around 1,000, have been arrested—around 98 percent have gotten away with it. Some, or even all, of those arrested may well be let go and simply disappear. Local Police Union Chief Rainer Wendt said, "It is highly uncertain whether in the case of the Cologne attacks even one conviction will be made." The vast majority of these attackers are unpunished, at large, and could try the same thing again.

No wonder Germans are angry. Much of that anger is directed at German Chancellor Angela Merkel. "The aftershocks spreading from allegations of New Year's Eve assaults by migrants in German cities have provoked the biggest challenge to Chancellor Angela Merkel since she threw open Germany's borders to refugees last summer," wrote the *Wall Street Journal*.

"For all who have supported Merkel's immigration policies, New Year's Eve is the worst-case scenario," wrote *Speigel*.

"Even Merkel's most ardent supporters were finding it hard to defend the generosity toward refugees that only a few months ago had been a source of intense German pride," wrote the *Times* in an article titled "Sex Mob Sparks Revolt Against Mama Merkel."

But Germans have been let down by more than just Ms. Merkel. Germany's entire political system, its entire establishment, is being brought into disrepute by its handling of the crisis.

As Brad Macdonald wrote in his article, a growing number of Germans are becoming disillusioned, not just with Ms. Merkel but with mainstream politics. He wrote:

"They are regular, sound-thinking, rational people, many of whom have terrific empathy for those suffering in Syria and elsewhere. These people are simply concerned about the impact millions of migrants will have on their nation, its institutions, its infrastructure, its economy, its culture, and on the German people. They are concerned about Germany's future. But Angela Merkel refuses to give too much serious attention to these concerns and refuses to tell the truth about the impact the migrants are having and will have on the German nation.

"If she continues to do this, Germany's chancellor risks transforming the German people—and Germany itself—into something very different and much more frightening than the democratic, peaceful, friendly, nation Germany is today. ...

"The more disillusioned, frustrated and angry the German people become, the more vulnerable they will be to radical politics and radical leaders with radical solutions. Even now, all that's needed is a match, some sort of catalyst to ignite the national frustration and fury."

Watch the news coming from Germany to see if Cologne will provide that catalyst. To understand what is building in Germany, go back and read "[Germany, Migrants and Angela Merkel's Big Lie](#)."

 Follow [Richard Palmer](#)

# TrumpetDaily

## RADIO SHOW

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OBAMA: 'NO NATION DARES TO ATTACK US'; AND PRESSURE MOUNTS ON ANGELA MERKEL | JANUARY 13

HOW GERMANS VIEW ADOLF HITLER, AND GOD'S WARNING TO REMEMBER | JANUARY 12

SEX ATTACKS IN COLOGNE HAVE GERMANY ON THE BRINK | JANUARY 11

## Islamic State Targets EU Tourists in Istanbul Attack

EU Observer | January 13

FOREIGN TOURISTS WERE THE MAIN TARGET OF TUESDAY'S BOMB attack in Istanbul, which killed 10 people. Germans, eight of whom died, were the main victims.

"Today Istanbul was the target. Before, Paris, Copenhagen, Tunis and so many other areas," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in a statement.

"International terror changes the places of its attacks, but its goal is always the same—it is our free life in a free society," she added, saying terrorists "are enemies of all humanity, whether in Syria or Turkey, in France or Germany."

The German Foreign Ministry also called on German citizens to "avoid crowds in Istanbul and other big cities in Turkey." ...

"We have determined that the perpetrator of the attack is a foreigner who is a member of [the Islamic State]," said Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu ...

[A related terrorist attack last October at an opposition rally in Ankara] was designed to create political instability ahead of the November 1 general election. But Tuesday's attack is designed to hurt Turkey's economic and diplomatic interests.

According to Turkey's *Hurriyet* newspaper, Turkish

intelligence warned police in December and in early January that tourists, diplomatic missions, NATO and other international organizations are [Islamic State] targets. ...

Germany takes Turkish warnings "very seriously," a German official told *Der Spiegel*. ...

The Istanbul bombing happened shortly after a visit to Ankara by EU Commissioner Frans Timmermans for talks on implementation of an EU-Turkey plan to reduce migrant flows.

Turkey is home to 2 million Syrian refugees. The EU would like them to stay there instead of coming to Europe. Turkey is also involved in the Syrian conflict. ...

"The EU and Turkey stand united against all forms of terrorism," EU Diplomacy Chief Federica Mogherini and EU Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn said in a statement Tuesday.

"The fight against terrorism was recognized as a priority at the EU-Turkey Summit on 29 November 2015, and we must step up our efforts in this regard in full respect of our obligations under international law, including human rights and humanitarian laws," they said.

## ISIS Shifts to Libya After Strikes in Syria

Washington Free Beacon | January 12

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



THE ISLAMIC STATE TERROR GROUP IS MAKING SIGNIFICANT GAINS in Libya as hundreds of its members have been detected moving there from Syria and Iraq in recent weeks amid stepped-up bombing and tighter border controls. ...

ISIS leaders have notified recruiters to urge foreign fighters wishing to join the group to consider traveling to Libya, as border controls in Turkey have tightened, making it more difficult to reach the group's stronghold in Syria, said officials who spoke on



condition of anonymity. ...

A think tank, the Libyan Center for Terrorism Studies ... estimated recently that the number of Islamic State fighters in Libya is increasing and provides a current estimate of some 10,000 fighters. ...

Losses by the group in Iraq and Syria don't "reflect the group's long-held and continuing expansionist agenda," the official said. ...

ISIS also sought to take over Libya's Al Sidra oil fields and port near the city of Ras Lanuf on January 4 in a surprise military offensive. The group has used black market sales of oil as a main source of revenue. ...

Germany's military is considering a training mission for the Libyan Army, according to the German newspaper *Der Spiegel*.

Up to 200 troops of the Bundeswehr, as the German military is called, could be sent to Tunisia within the next few months to train Libyan soldiers and counter the spread of ISIS fighters.

The German military is currently training Kurdish fighters in northern Iraq and the Libyan mission would be similar. ...

Egypt also is concerned about new threats posed by the expansion of the Islamic State in Libya and warned recently that the danger is increasing, according to the Cairo newspaper *Al Akhbar*.

"ISIS is reinforcing its positions in Libya," the newspaper stated in a January 8 commentary. "Al Qaeda still has its factions there. The danger is growing for the countries of the region, and Europe will not tolerate this situation much longer because the danger is concentrated on the other side of the Mediterranean." ...

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## Once Staunch Critic, Cyprus Now Sees Israel as Fighting for Its Survival

### Jerusalem Post | January 12

CYPRUS NO LONGER SEES ISRAEL AS AN AGGRESSIVE COUNTRY imposing its will by force on the Palestinians, but rather as a small nation fighting for survival in the face of much greater odds, Averof Neophytou, head of the country's center-right ruling party said on Monday.

Neophytou, also chairman of the Foreign and European Affairs Committee in the Cypriot House of Representatives, told the *Jerusalem Post* that over the last decade his country—once, alongside Greece, among the most critical of Israel in Europe—now has a "clearer picture" of the Jewish state.

"It is a country of 8 million fighting a struggle for survival and having to face hundreds of millions of Muslims and Arabs, part of whom don't even recognize the right of the existence of a Jewish state," he said. ... [Neophytou] said Cypriots now identify with Israel, since it too is a small country of 800,000 people struggling for its survival. Turkey, its massive neighbor to the north, has a population of about 75 million.

For years, he said, Cyprus had the "wrong perception of Israel,"

partly because it was for so long an active member of the Non-Aligned Movement, before joining the EU in 2004.

"For decades Israel was blamed for creating the instability in the region, but can anyone credibly blame Israel for the instability in Syria, the threat of Islamic State, the Arab Spring that turned into an Arab winter, or the chaos in Libya and Iraq?" he said. ...

**"Today, the briskly flowing, unchecked river of anti-Semitism that cut across the planet during the 1930s has been resurrected. If we understand history, we can know that this torrent of hate and violence, when it reaches its high-water mark and finally overflows its banks, will not only engulf the Jews and the Jewish state, but will also spill over and swamp entire nations and regions. In fact, biblical prophecy shows that it will engulf the planet!"**

*"Anti-Semitism: Why You Should Be Alarmed,"  
Trumpet, May-June 2009*

## In Pakistan They Trust

### Caroline Glick | January 12

IT IS A TESTAMENT TO THE PRECARIOUS STATE OF THE WORLD today that in a week that saw North Korea carry out a possible test of a hydrogen bomb, the most frightening statement uttered did not come from Pyongyang.

It came from Pakistan.

Speaking in the military garrison town of Rawalpindi, Pakistani Army chief Gen. Raheel Sharif said that any Iranian threat to Saudi Arabia's territorial integrity will "wipe Iran off the map."

Sharif made the statement following his meeting with Saudi Arabia's defense minister and deputy crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman. ...

Salman's trip and Sharif's nuclear threat make clear that following the U.S.'s all-but-official abandonment of its role as

protector of the world's largest oil producer, the Saudis have cast their lots with nuclear-armed Pakistan. ...

It would be foolish to view Sharif's nuclear threat as mere bluster. By every meaningful measure, Pakistan is little more than a failed state with nuclear weapons. Pakistan appears in every global index of failed or failing states. ...

Today we are seeing the opening stages of the collapse of the Arab monarchies, and most importantly, of Saudi Arabia. ...

But Iran is just the most visible of three existential threats now besetting the House of Saud. ...

The drop in world oil prices has endangered the kingdom. ...

The third existential threat the regime now faces is the Islamic State. ...

If the House of Saud falls, then the Gulf emirates will also be imperiled.

The Egyptian regime, which is bankrolled by the Saudis and its Gulf allies, will also be endangered. The Hashemite monarchy in Jordan, which is protected by the U.S. and by Israel, will face unprecedented threats.

The implications of expanding chaos—or worse—in Arabia are not limited to the Middle East. The global economy as well as the security of Europe and the U.S. will be imperiled. ...

## Iran and Saudi Arabia in Afghanistan

**Rustam Ali Seerat, Diplomat | January 14**

LAST AUGUST, I ATTENDED A CONFERENCE IN KASHMIR. ON THE WAY to Srinagar, in the hilly areas of the Kashmir valley, I saw billboards of Iran's supreme leaders Ayatollahs Khomeini and Khomeini lining the streets. As a Shia from Afghanistan, this reminded me of years ago when I was a child, and Ruhollah Khomeini's picture was hanging on the walls of my home while my uncle, who had worked in a brick-making factory in Esfahan, Iran, would recite Khomeini's sayings and poems. ...

Religious tensions have surged in the Middle East after Saudi Arabia executed a prominent Shia cleric, along with 46 other political prisoners. ...

**"Now, thanks in no small part to Washington's rapprochement with Tehran, a Middle East nuclear arms race has begun. ... Ibrahim al-Marie, a retired Saudi colonel, said, 'If Iran declares a nuclear weapon, we can't afford to wait 30 years more for our own. [W]e should be able to declare ours within a week.' ... The Arab nations see Tehran's growing hegemony engulfing the region and will not tolerate a nuclear-armed Iran."**

*"Made in America: A Nuclear Middle East," Trumpet, August 2015*

Iran's sponsorship of religious madrasas and clerics in Afghanistan, however, has not been ignored by its regional rival, Saudi Arabia. This was made evident when Saudi Arabia started building the Malik Abdullah Islamic Center, the largest Islamic madrasa in the region, in Kabul. ...

The Iran-Saudi symbol rivalry—an extension of the Shia-Sunni divide—is intensifying the radicalization of religious communities that in Afghanistan have traditionally coexisted in relative harmony. ...

**RELATED: "SUNNI-SHIITE SHOWDOWN"**

## EUROPE

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## Urgent Buildup of German Military

**Gerald Flurry,**  
**The Key of David | January 17**

The problems in Ukraine have given Germany a new urgency to build up its military.



## NATO's Nuclear Debate

**German Foreign Policy | January 8**

ACCORDING TO THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT'S MILITARY POLICY think tank, the Federal College for Security Studies (BAKS), NATO's "nuclear strategy" should be "rediscussed"—"in view of

Russia," because of Moscow's perceived "neo-imperial aggression" against Eastern Europe. "Russia has definitely backed out of the partnership [with NATO] and is defining itself as an anti-Western

power.” This would necessitate “shortening the time of reaction” for engagement with nuclear weapons as well as “an increase of exercise activities” in the “nuclear field.” ...

Already early last year, BAKS stated that, after having taken a backseat for two decades, the “nuclear deterrence issue” is again “center stage,” not only because of a perceived Russian “aggression against Ukraine,” but also because of “Moscow’s aggressive nuclear posture.” Russia, according to BAKS, has “constantly reinforced and modernized” its nuclear arsenal and them in its “military scenarios.” For example, in 2009, Moscow “simulated the engagement of nuclear weapons against Poland,” and the corresponding maneuvers have been taking place “almost on a monthly basis” since the beginning of the Ukrainian civil war. Under these circumstances, NATO’s doctrine of “nuclear deterrence” is experiencing a “renaissance,” BAKS declared—just as during the Cold War against the Soviet Union, Western nuclear weapons have become a “means of preventing war.”

As BAKS further explains, NATO can rely completely on Germany’s sense of responsibility toward the alliance. The Bundeswehr will continue to provide the “delivery systems” for the Germany-based U.S. nuclear weapons—even if this is very costly.” Appropriately, the German Air Force is regularly participating in the so-called

SNOWCAT exercises (Support for Nuclear Operations With Conventional Air Tactics), during which the crews of Tornado jet fighters practice nuclear attacks. In the near future, the U.S. Army’s nuclear weapons, stockpiled at the 33rd Tactical Air Force Squadron airbase in Büchel (in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate), will be equipped with new warheads. This upgrade will include a very advanced targeting system and the bombs will represent a combined destructive power 80 times greater than the bomb dropped in 1945 by the U.S.A. on the Japanese city Hiroshima. ...

The German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) has expressed itself along the same lines taken by BAKS. For example, it is “conceivable” to “enhance the integration of nuclear weapons” in NATO’s planning, “wherein stronger links are drawn between conventional and nuclear capabilities.” In addition, “nuclear weapons capable systems could become more integrated in maneuver scenarios” and “maneuvers could be held more often and become more realistic.” There is also the possibility that the period will be shortened “in which the U.S. Europe-based nuclear weapons become operational.” The SWP, like BAKS, does not hesitate to pin blame. These above-named measures are only following the “Russian example,” according to the think tank. ...

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## Terror and Migrant Crisis Testing Europe to Limits, Warn EU Chiefs

David Charter and Bruno Waterfield, *Times* | January 14

**T**HE EUROPEAN UNION HAS BEEN TESTED TO ITS LIMITS BY TERRORISM and mass migration, and this week’s attack in Istanbul underlines the gravity of the threat it faces, senior EU figures have said.

The candid prognosis emerged as political leaders in Central and Eastern Europe pointed to the migrant violence against women in Cologne and other cities as proof that they had been right to oppose Angela Merkel’s open-door refugee policy last summer.

Martin Schulz, the German president of the European Parliament, said that the Sultanahmet Square bombing, which claimed the lives of 10 German tourists, suggested that 2016 would bring the toughest challenge to the country’s stability since unification in 1990. He warned that the political fallout from terrorist attacks and migration would also test the EU to breaking point, with Germany having failed in its attempt to solve the migrant crisis through a system of large reception centers and a policy of apportioning asylum seekers between nations.

Jean-Claude Juncker, the president of the European Commission, was equally pessimistic. “The EU was tested to its limits [in

2015], and I cannot see anything to indicate this year will be any different,” he said. ...

“Nobody knows what we are facing this year,” Mr. Schulz said. “We are threatened as never before.”

European diplomats at the gathering were concerned that a worsening German political situation would present the EU with its next crisis.

“The worst nightmare for the European project is an outbreak of populism or political upheaval in Germany. Now it is looking like a real possibility,” a veteran EU diplomat said. “Looking at Germany, especially after Cologne, there is the objective basis for a political explosion if someone lights the fuse.”

The anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany party has hit new highs in opinion polls, but no right-wing populist leader has yet broken through to challenge for power in the same way as Marine Le Pen in France or Geert Wilders in the Netherlands.

Ms. Merkel may decide to suspend Schengen for a couple of years to head off growing nationalism—and that would be “the beginning of the end for Europe,” the EU diplomat said. ...

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## TW IN BRIEF

**G**erman far-right group planned attack on refugees: Four people in Germany were charged with organizing a plan to carry out attacks on refugees and ultra-conservative Islamists, German prosecutors said Wednesday. Three men and one woman began an organization called “Oldschool Society” in 2014

and aimed to carry out attacks in May 2015. They were targeting a shelter housing refugees about 20 miles from the city of Leipzig. Two of the members traveled to the Czech Republic to buy explosives on the black market. There are minor attacks almost daily on refugee centers in Germany.

**Jews in France instructed to hide their Jewish identity 'until better days':** French Jews are now being urged to hide their Jewish identity as a measure of protection. On Wednesday, the head of Marseille's Israelite Consistory, Zvi Ammar, urged Jewish men not to wear skullcaps in public for the time being. The advice comes one day after an Islamic State supporter attacked a Jewish schoolteacher with a machete, injuring his shoulder and hand. The attack was the third on Jews in Marseille in the last few months. The Israelite Consistory leader said issuing the request made him "sick to his stomach." But he said he feels it is necessary "until better days." Ammar called it tragic that Jews now find themselves in this terrible position in such a great democracy as France. "But faced with an exceptional situation," he said, "we have to take exceptional measures."

**Germany sending migrants back to Austria:** Austrian police say that Germany has been sending migrants back to Austria at an increasing rate since the beginning of this month. Most of the migrants being sent back are from Afghanistan, Morocco and Algeria, the Austrian police said. A police spokesman from upper Austria told Agence-France Presse that Germany is sending about 200 migrants back each day, which is up from the 60 that were being sent back daily in December. Germany is upset over the Cologne attacks that took place on New Year's Eve. Fourteen

of the 19 suspects are asylum seekers from Morocco and Algeria.

**Germany PEGIDA protests:** Hundreds of supporters of the anti-Islamic Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamization of the West (PEGIDA) movement demonstrated in the eastern German city of Leipzig last night. They carried signs with slogans like "RAPE-fugees not welcome" and "Freedom for Germany." Protesters urged the closing of borders to asylum seekers and said they would fight the spread of Islam in Germany. Meanwhile, counter-demonstrators, led by Mayor Burkhard Jung, carried a banner saying, "Welcome in Leipzig" and placards saying "No PEGIDA." Police refused to give a crowd estimate, but witnesses said about 2,000 people were on hand for either side.

**Swedish police accused of covering up migrant assaults:** Police in Sweden have been accused of covering up sexual assaults committed by migrant men of Middle Eastern origin on Swedish women and girls. The accusation comes amid a torrent of similar stories emerging in Germany, Austria and Finland. The incidents in Sweden date back to August when a gang of migrant men groped teenage girls attending a festival. A spokesman for the Stockholm police denied that there had been a cover up but admitted that authorities "should certainly have written and told people" about the assaults.

## ASIA

### 2015: Japan's Year in Review

Diplomat | January 9

#### WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



2015—ALSO MEMORABLE AS THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF JAPAN'S defeat in World War II—was a busy year for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Japan's political establishment. Highlights include Abe's state visit to Washington, D.C., in late April, the much-anticipated "Abe Statement" regarding World War II on August 15, the passage of controversial security legislation in September, greater cooperation with Southeast Asian partners in light of Chinese activities in the South China Sea, the signing of the Trans-Pacific Partnership with the U.S. and 10 other Asia-Pacific economies, strengthening ties with India, and progress towards lessening Japan's isolation in Northeast Asia through a November trilateral meeting with Chinese and South Korean leaders and the 11th-hour deal to finally resolve the "comfort women" issue with South Korea. Abe also won a predictable but nevertheless important personal victory when he was reelected as president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in September. ...

The most significant development in 2015 was the passage of legislation to implement Japan's right to collective self-defense and the upgraded U.S.-Japan Defense Guidelines. Unlike any other state in the world, Japan had constitutionally renounced the right to collective self-defense until the Cabinet Legislation

Bureau reinterpreted the text in July 2014 to allow for it.

Legally, this is a significant change. It means Japan's Self-Defense Force could hypothetically come to the aid of the United States and other partners when they are under attack even if Japan does not face a direct attack. However, debate over how meaningful these changes are will continue for the foreseeable future. ...

Because just passing the legislation cost Abe much political support, he will likely tread very carefully in using the legislation unless the situation absolutely requires it. Yet, on the other hand, passing the legislation did matter because it allows Japanese leaders to be better prepared for unpredictable contingencies. They can now plan ahead for how they will respond to "gray zone" situations that could arise anywhere around the world—but particularly in the East China Sea.

Because of Japan's militaristic past, even small changes in Japan's military posture tend to be imbued with over-exaggerated significance—such as the modest increase in Japan's defense budget. Over the course of 2015, Japan has also sought to expand its defense exports and build its military-industrial base by creating the Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency. ...

So what's next in 2016? ... Work will continue on many of the

foreign-policy and security advances made in 2015 of course. But these issues will take a backseat to Abe's need to regain popularity by rebuilding Japan's economy.

**"Japan's decision to scrap the ban on collective self-defense is of profound significance, but the reality is that Japan has long been building toward a military capable of more than defense. Narushige Michishita, a former adviser to Japan on defense and now director of the security and international program at Tokyo's National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, explains:**

**'We are not pacifist in that sense. ... Japan isn't remilitarizing—we are already there.' ... Gen. Douglas MacArthur and the U.S. officials who wrote Japan's constitution were experienced and world wise. If they were around today, they would recognize Japan's shifting tides and take action to reverse them. But U.S. leaders today are snubbing history, turning inward and pushing for dangerous geopolitical shifts. The barriers established to prevent another world war are being systematically dismantled."**

**"Does Japan's Historic Constitutional Change Mean Its Military Secret Will Soon Come Out?," theTrumpet.com, July 2, 2014**

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## **China: The Dilemma of International Intervention** **Stratfor | January 6**

**C**HINA'S MASSIVE ECONOMIC EXPANSION SINCE THE END OF THE Cold War has transformed it from an isolated and impoverished country to a major actor on the world stage. But growth has introduced vulnerabilities, and Chinese economic security interests are now scattered far and wide. At the same time, China has come to see itself as a great power—and one that deserves a military commensurate with this status. Protecting its interests abroad and supplementing economic influence with military influence, however, will require massive changes to the current system. ...

Beijing's 2008 defense white paper set the tone for these changes, and each subsequent year has brought further refinement. ... The greater vision laid out in China's 2015 defense white paper makes it clear that the goal is to fully transform the role of the military, reorienting each branch toward overseas operations and expanding the military's role to include the protection of Chinese interests abroad. ... This will mean a dramatic shift from China's internally focused model, which fit with China's stated policy of noninterference, toward one in line with that of the global powers, which use their military influence abroad as an active tool of national power. ... This represents an explicit shift in China's rhetoric, away from simply being one of many responsible stakeholders in the international system to being a great power with a military commensurate with its role.

The challenge for China is that it may have to test these changes sooner than expected. Iran has already suggested China take a more active role in resolving security issues in the Middle East. Russia, too, has welcomed China's new counterterrorism law and suggested it provides a foundation for more active international cooperation between the two countries. Beijing also recently launched its massive Belt and Road Initiative. ... It has also dedicated aircraft carriers to a future role of securing key maritime routes that fall under Belt and Road. In short, as China adjusts its legal structure to allow overseas actions and restructures its forces to be able to carry out such actions, it will be called upon to use them—perhaps unexpectedly. Already Chinese forces have increased joint training exercises with countries around the world and have been gaining experience as part of UN peacekeeping operations, even if rarely in direct combat operations. ...

Following the guidance of Deng Xiaoping, China has largely pursued a noninterference policy with the idea of not showing its overseas military strength. ... This taboo has steadily eroded, with China first participating in UN and antipiracy operations and by taking a more assertive role in the South and East China seas. These regional interventions, in turn, have provided an incentive for neighboring powers, such as Japan, to actively counterbalance China. ...

## **South Korea Fires Warning Shots After North Korean Drone Seen** **ABC | January 13**

**S**OUTH KOREA ON WEDNESDAY FIRED 20 MACHINE-GUN WARNING shots after a North Korean drone briefly crossed the rivals' border, officials said, the first shots fired in a Cold War-style standoff between the Koreas in the wake of the North's nuclear test last week.

The North Korean drone was flying dozens of meters (yards) south of the border and turned back to the North after the South fired the shots, South Korean defense and military officials said, requesting anonymity because of office rules. The shots did not hit the drone.

North Korean drone flights across the world's most heavily

armed border are rare, but have happened before. ...

Animosity has been high since the North's claim on January 6 that it tested a hydrogen bomb. There is widespread skepticism over the H-bomb claim, but whatever the North detonated underground will likely push the country closer toward a fully functional nuclear arsenal, which it still is not thought to have. The North previously conducted atomic bomb tests in 2006, 2009 and 2013.

Since Friday, South Korea has been blasting anti-Pyongyang propaganda and K-pop songs from huge speakers along the border. ...



## South Korea Calls for 'Bone-Numbing' Sanctions on North for Nuclear Test

Reuters | January 13

**S**OUTH KOREA WARNED NORTH KOREA ON WEDNESDAY THAT THE United States and its allies were working on sanctions to inflict "bone-numbing pain" after its latest nuclear test, and called on China to do its part to rein in its isolated neighbor. ...

North Korea said it had tested a powerful hydrogen bomb, but

the United States and various experts doubt that, as the blast was roughly the same size as that from its previous test, of an atomic bomb, in 2013. ...

China is the North's main ally and trade partner but it has made clear it opposes its bombs ....

## Putin Ally Says Opposition Should Be Tried as Enemies of the People

Reuters | January 13

**O**NE OF RUSSIAN LEADER VLADIMIR PUTIN'S MOST HIGH-PROFILE allies has accused the opposition of trying to exploit the economic crisis to destabilize the country, using Stalin-era rhetoric to suggest unnamed individuals be put on trial for sabotage.

Ramzan Kadyrov, the Kremlin-backed leader of Chechnya, called the liberal opposition, which has only one lawmaker in the 450-seat parliament, enemies of the people, a phrase recalling language used during the reign of terror unleashed by Soviet leader Josef Stalin in the 1930s.

"Representatives of the so-called ... opposition are trying to profit from the difficult economic situation," Kadyrov told reporters .... "Such people need to be regarded as enemies of the people and traitors. They should be put on trial, with maximum severity, for sabotage." ...

Mikhail Kasyanov, one of the opposition's leaders and a former

prime minister, said: "There is no such concept in our Constitution, but from Soviet history it is widely known that in Stalin's time that is what they called anyone who thought differently ... and that such people were liquidated." ...

**"There is grumbling behind the scenes in the Russian Duma and among some oligarchs who, because of the trade war, are watching their wealth wither. A few are probably eyeing Putin the way vultures watch a wounded bear. But the president's suppression of opposition is likely effective enough to prevent any of the grumbling to translate into regime change. ... As a result of all these measures, Putin's opposition has lost momentum. Meanwhile, his supporters are multiplying."**

*"Putin Won't Just Survive, He'll Thrive," Trumpet, October 2014*

## Amid Russian and Chinese Military Actions, New SU-35S Fighter Jets Sent to Far Eastern Russia

International Business Times | January 11

**R**USSIA'S EASTERN MILITARY DISTRICT IS EXPECTED TO SOON receive two major additions to its air regiment, in the form of two new Sukhoi SU-35S fighter jets, the district's press service said, Sputnik News reported Monday. The jets, upgrades of the SU-27, were slated for deployment in Primorsky Territory, which is situated in the far east of Russia between China's northern Heilongjiang province and the Sea of Japan. ...

When compared with Lockheed Martin's F-22 Raptor, the

Sukhoi SU-35 costs \$85 million less (the Raptor is \$150 million, the Sukhoi \$65 million) but has a greater range and a slightly higher long-range cruising speed, although the Raptor has a higher maximum speed, according to the data website Axleageeks.

Other countries interested in the SU-35 include China, which, in November, spent \$2 billion buying them from Russia, and Indonesia, which ordered 12 of the fighter jets in November to replace the F-5 Tigers it has used since 1980. ...

## ANGLO AMERICA

## RBS Cries 'Sell Everything' as Deflationary Crisis Nears

Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, Telegraph | January 11

**R**BS [THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND] HAS ADVISED CLIENTS TO brace for a "cataclysmic year" and a global deflationary crisis, warning that major stock markets could fall by a fifth, and oil may plummet to \$16 a barrel.

The bank's credit team said markets are flashing stress alerts akin to the turbulent months before the Lehman crisis in 2008. "Sell everything except high-quality bonds. This is about return

of capital, not return on capital. In a crowded hall, exit doors are small," it said in a client note.

Andrew Roberts, the bank's research chief for European economics and rates, said that global trade and loans are contracting, a nasty cocktail for corporate balance sheets and equity earnings. This is particularly ominous given that global debt ratios have reached record highs.

“China has set off a major correction, and it is going to snowball. Equities and credit have become very dangerous, and we have hardly even begun to retrace the ‘Goldilocks love-in’ of the last two years,” he said. ...

Morgan Stanley has also slashed its oil forecast, warning that Brent [the global benchmark for crude oil] could fall to \$20 if the U.S. dollar keeps rising. It argued that oil is intensely leveraged to any move in the dollar and is now playing second fiddle to

currency effects. ...

RBS first issued its grim warnings for the global economy in November, but events have moved even faster than feared. It estimates that the U.S. economy slowed to a growth rate of 0.5 percent in the fourth quarter, and accuses the U.S. Federal Reserve of “playing with fire” by raising rates into the teeth of the storm. “There has already been severe monetary tightening in the U.S. from the rising dollar,” it said. ...

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## New Navy Ships Have Trouble Surviving the High Seas

**Bloomberg | January 14**

**T**HE U.S. NAVY IS SPENDING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO REPAIR new high-speed transport ships built by Austal Ltd. because their weak bows can’t stand buffeting from high seas, according to the Pentagon’s chief weapons tester.

“The entire ship class requires reinforcing structure” to bridge the twin hulls of the all-aluminum catamarans because of a design change that the Navy adopted at Austal’s recommendation for the \$2.1 billion fleet of Expeditionary Fast Transports, Michael Gilmore, the Defense Department’s director of operational test and evaluation, said in a report to Congress.

“The Navy accepted compromises in the bow structure, presumably to save weight, during the building of these ships,” Gilmore wrote lawmakers, including Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain, in a September letter that wasn’t

previously disclosed. “Multiple ships of the class have suffered damage to the bow structure.”

The speedy catamarans are designed to transport 600 short tons of military cargo and as many as 312 troops for 1,200 nautical miles at an average speed of 35 knots. They’ve been deployed to Africa and the Middle East as well as to Singapore as part of the U.S.’s Pacific rebalance and are being considered by military officials for expanded use there by the Marines. The vessels fill a transport gap between larger, slower vessels and cargo aircraft. ...

The Navy bought 10 of the shallow-draft vessels, at about \$217 million each. Five have been delivered and are in operation, while the other five are under construction at Austal’s Mobile, Alabama, shipyard. ... So far, the Navy has spent almost \$2.4 million strengthening the bow of the first four vessels delivered since late 2012.

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## Iran Goes Bombastic—and Ballistic

**Anthony Chibariwre | January 17**

**I**N OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, IRAN TESTED TWO BALLISTIC MISSILES capable of carrying nuclear payloads. When the United States and the United Nations verified the tests in December, they found Iran guilty of violating a 2010 United Nations Security Council resolution that forbids Iran from even developing ballistic missile infrastructure—an infraction that warrants the punishment of economic sanctions.

According to a report by the *Wall Street Journal*, the White House was scheduled to announce plans for new sanctions on Iran on December 30. Instead, it announced an indefinite delay of the imposition of those sanctions.

Critics attributed the Obama administration’s irresolution to fiery rhetoric from Iran. Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesman, Hossein Jaber Ansari, condemned the planned sanctions as “arbitrary and illegal,” vowing that “Iran will resolutely respond to any interfering action by America.”

President Hassan Rouhani warned, “If [the] U.S. continues its illegitimate interference with Iran’s right to defend itself, a new program will be devised to enhance missile capabilities.” He directed his defense minister “to continue with greater speed and seriousness the plan for production of various missiles needed by



the armed forces within the approved defense policies.”

Then, on January 6, Iran unveiled a new underground cache of Emad precision-guided missiles in footage it displayed on national television.

Meanwhile, both opponents and proponents of the nuclear deal—Republicans and Democrats alike—urged the Obama administration to implement the promised sanctions as a way to ensure that Iran will not cheat in the nuclear deal the U.S. agreed

to in July.

In early January, seven House Democrats wrote a letter to President Barack Obama saying, “Inaction from the United States would send the misguided message that, in the wake of the [nuclear deal], the international community has lost the

willingness to hold the Iranian regime accountable for its support for terrorism and other offensive actions throughout the region.”

“If the president’s announced sanctions ultimately aren’t executed,” commented Rep. Mike Pompeo, “it would demonstrate a level of fecklessness that even the president hasn’t shown before.”

## **Rise in U.S. Terror Plots Tied to ‘Unprecedented’ Spike in Immigration**

**Washington Free Beacon | January 14**

**T**HERE IS GROWING CONCERN ON CAPITOL HILL THAT A RECENT spike in the number of foreigners arrested in the United States on terrorism charges is the result of a flawed Obama administration immigration policy that will grant residence to around 170,000 individuals from Muslim-majority nations in the coming year, according to conversations with lawmakers and congressional sources.

With the indictment last week of two Iraqi refugees who allegedly conspired with ISIS, a number of lawmakers are now warning that poor screening methods and an administration plan to boost immigration will endanger national security.

Recent efforts by Congress to investigate the immigration histories of at least 113 foreign-born individuals snagged on terror charges since 2014 have been blocked by the Obama administration. There are at least 1,000 open investigations into ISIS members residing in the United States, sources said.

New cases of legal immigrants participating in alleged terrorist plots are cropping up on a near daily basis, according to Sen. Ted Cruz (R., Texas), who has been spearheading an effort to investigate how these individuals are passing through U.S. security screenings.

“Almost every day there is a new case that documents the relentless attacks being waged against our nation,” said Cruz. “We have militants who have infiltrated waves of refugees to come to America and plot attacks. We have Americans who have traveled abroad to train returning to wage jihad here. We

have home-grown terrorists who are receiving instruction online to hatch attacks.”

“We have to stop treating this pattern as the isolated actions of lone wolves,” Cruz added. “They are a pack.”

Networks of radicalized individuals are already forming within the United States due to a massive influx of more than 680,000 immigrants from Muslim-majority nations during the past five years, according to Stephen Miller, spokesman for Sen. Jeff Sessions (R., Ala.), another lawmaker who has worked to expose flaws in the U.S. immigration system. ...

On Tuesday, a Maryland man was arrested for attempting to join the al Shabaab terror network. Last week, a Philadelphia police officer was nearly killed by an assailant who pledged allegiance to ISIS. ...

Meanwhile, previously undisclosed documents released by the State Department on Wednesday reveal that it has known since 2004 that “Arab extremists” are being smuggled into the U.S. via Mexico. ...

Cruz and Sessions launched an investigation last week into the Obama administration’s refusal to release the immigration records of those 113 foreigners brought up on recent terrorism charges, including the San Bernardino shooters.

The administration, including the Departments of State and Homeland Security, has withheld this information from the senators since August. ...

## **Alex Becomes First Atlantic Hurricane to Form in January Since 1938**

**Washington Times | January 14**

**A**MAZINGLY, IN THE DEAD OF WINTER, A RARE HURRICANE IS swirling in the eastern Atlantic Ocean.

Alex, which was named a subtropical storm on Wednesday, has steadily strengthened over the past day and is making history as an extraordinarily rare January hurricane. The National Hurricane Center says Alex is the first Atlantic hurricane to form in January since 1938. (Hurricane Alice of 1955 first formed in late December, but lasted into January.)

The storm has peak winds of 85 mph, just about 5 mph shy of the 1938 January hurricane, the strongest on record for the month.

Positioned 490 miles south of the Azores, Alex is making a

beeline toward the group of islands that sit about 900 miles west of Portugal. The Azores government has issued hurricane warnings for most of the islands. Only 10 hurricanes on record have tracked within 200 miles of the Azores, all in August or September, notes the Weather Channel’s Jonathan Erdman.

“Alex is in a rare spot for September, much less January,” tweeted Eric Blake, a forecaster at the National Hurricane Center. “It is only the 2nd hurricane on record to form north of 30N (latitude) east of 30W (longitude).” ...

**RELATED: [WHY ‘NATURAL’ DISASTERS](#)**

## TW IN BRIEF

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**Rail traffic says something is wrong with the U.S. economy:** Railroad cargo in the U.S. dropped the most in six years in 2015, and things are not looking any better this year. A recent note from Bank of America says that the degree of the current sustained weakness has not occurred since the 2009 economic crisis. Bank of America analyst Ken Hoexter says the past 30 years of data show that all such slumps either preceded or accompanied economic slowdowns. Mike Shedlock, an economic analyst at Sitka Pacific Capital, says that ocean freight volumes are also signaling economic slowdown.

**Oil prices fall below \$30 per barrel:** Oil prices briefly fell below \$30 a barrel on international markets Friday. It was the lowest price since April 2004. The price for a barrel of Brent Crude has fallen by 70 percent in the past 15 months. In the U.S., West Texas Intermediate fell below \$30 per barrel on Tuesday before rebounding. Investment bank Morgan Stanley predicted on Monday that oil prices could hit \$20 per barrel, while on Tuesday, Standard and Chartered said it could even go as low as \$10 per barrel. Low oil prices are already hitting towns and cities across Texas and Oklahoma, but if prices hit those levels, expect mass layoffs and significant spillover effects in housing and social services.



### The Destruction of a Religious Empire

**Stephen Flurry,**  
**Trumpet Daily | January 16**

What happened to the work of Herbert W. Armstrong?



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