

# Trumpet Weekly

APRIL 22, 2016



Cows on a dairy farm near Cambridge in New Zealand's Waikato region, known for its fertile land and dairy industry

## Bought Out: China's Attack on Agriculture

Callum Wood | April 20

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



**E**CONOMIC WAR IS BEING WAGED IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC. THOUGH it lacks the grizzly kill zones of Iraq or Afghanistan, the quiet rolling slopes of New Zealand and the plains of central Australia are pivotal battlefields.

Agriculture and, subsequently, the economies of both Australia and New Zealand are being attacked by China through aggressive and often underestimated policies. Being the largest trade

partner of both countries, China has a crucial role to play in these Western economies. Chinese trends have repeatedly led to devastating consequences for both Australia and New Zealand.

Targeting dairy cows doesn't sound like warfare. But if the dairy industry makes up 25 percent of your exports—as it does for New Zealand—any threat to the industry is a threat to the nation.

Since 2014, New Zealand's milk prices have plummeted by 60 percent, leaving many farmers exposed to crippling debt. One survey by Federated Farmers shows that 11.1 percent of New Zealand's dairy farmers are under mortgage pressure, with 3 percent at extreme risk.

The effects of the downturn have hit the farmers and their families hard. Reports indicate that suicide rates for those living in New Zealand's rural areas are 20 to 50 percent higher than in urban areas.

For those trying to get away from the farm, there are falling prices to contend with. According to Real Estate Institute, the median sales price per hectare (2.47 acres) for dairy farms in New Zealand fell 19 percent from December 2015 to February 2016. Some farmers are holding out until prices rise; others are strongly encouraged by the banks to sell cheap to avoid bankruptcy.

This massive debt affects the entire economy. Forecast growth is bleak, estimated by the central bank to be 2.3 percent in 2016.

How could this collapse happen to an industry that only a few years ago was thriving? The answer lies with New Zealand's investors.

China has been buying up big. In 2013, China bought a record 622,000 tons of milk from New Zealand. Just last year, a tin of baby formula sold for \$50 more in China than in Australasia.

Eager to cash in on China's desire for milk and baby formula, many nations planned as though the rush would continue. Farmers and governments invested heavily in the dairy industry. Business boomed, particularly the dairy-oriented economy of New Zealand. New Zealand assumed China would buy all it could produce and at a premium price.

Then the Chinese pulled out.

All along, China was manipulating the commodity price. The Chinese weren't using the baby formula and milk—they were stockpiling it. Beijing pulled the same tactics on Australia's mining industry in 2013. China created an artificially high demand, built up stockpiles, then pulled out of the market.

For New Zealand, the results have been disastrous. Milk prices were at \$5.87 per kilogram (or just over 1 quart) two years ago. Today, they are at \$2.73 per kilogram.

Farmers planned for the high prices to continue, not realizing the product was being stockpiled. While hoodwinked by the Chinese, the nation is in many ways the author of its own fate. Banks issued loans to help farmers expand to fulfill China's needs. But few stopped to consider that China's need for dairy would be short lived and that farmers should invest based upon a more moderate economic climate. Now farmers face mortgages and loan payments beyond their means to pay.

This plays right into China's hands. Asia and the Pacific Policy Society states:

It is likely that corporate dairy farming companies' properties and private dairy farm sales will increase over the next accounting period. If this happens, the Government and Overseas Investment Commission may come under pressure from farm owners and lenders to allow Chinese corporates to purchase New Zealand farms in fire sales, to spare farmers from bankruptcy, and so that banks can recover their funds.

China is playing the long con: It sacrificed higher costs for dairy products in 2015 for a shot at buying out cheap Kiwi farms.

China's artificial inflation of a market so pivotal to New Zealand's economy was a thinly veiled attack. The economic effects have been catastrophic. New Zealand's dairy industry is \$28 billion in debt. That equates to 20 percent of its gross domestic product. The average debt per dairy farm is now \$2.4 million. Each farm averages fewer than 400 cows, with 50 percent of those farms facing a second annual loss this year. All of this breeds incentive to sell cheap to China.

Australia is faring no better. Its largest dairy farm, Van Diemen's Land Company, was sold to Moon Lake, a Chinese company, earlier this year. The \$220 million sale included 25 dairy farms on 17,000 hectares of land.

Tasmanian independent M.P. Andrew Wilkie said, "Selling Van Diemen's Land to a foreign bulk commodity enterprise will result in milk or milk powder shipped offshore in bulk." He cited the current shortage of baby formula—nicknamed "white gold" in China—due to Chinese demand. The Chinese don't just want the product; they want the cow and the land it grazes on.

Another big sell in the works is that of the S. Kidman & Co. cattle empire—Australia's largest private landowner. Chinese-owned Shanghai Pengxin Company has offered \$270 million to buy the Kidman properties. The farms it may now sell to China run over 200,000 cattle, spanning three states and territories with an impressive 39,000 square miles. That is roughly the size of Kentucky.

These examples are just the latest. China bought 50 farms in Victoria in 2014. It also bought Australia's largest cotton farm in 2013. Over the past five years, a number of large wineries and sugar farms have also fallen to the Chinese.

Many supporters of these deals argue that they promote development and necessary investment the government couldn't otherwise bring. But there is also the risk of streamlining. China wants to invest more in Australia's rail and road network, gaining the ability to streamline goods from Chinese farms in Australia to Chinese ports in Australia then on to China itself.

Then there is national security to worry about, unrelated to the economic attack. Chinese investment companies are often hand in glove with China's Communist Party, and they often have the same goals.

Notice the alarming trend of investments by Chinese companies. There is the century-long lease of the Port of Newcastle—right down the road from the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Williamstown base. There is also the Landbridge Group's acquisition of the Port of Darwin for a century. Darwin is the home of United States and Australian navies, air forces and barracks. Then there is the convenient "sister port" agreement between Qinzhou and the Port of Townsville—close to RAAF base Townsville. And don't forget the China-connected firm buying the land adjacent to the Australia Security Intelligence Organization headquarters in the nation's capital, Canberra.

Can anyone still believe that the Chinese companies Australia and New Zealand trade with so eagerly are not tied to the belligerent Chinese government?

New Zealand has sought to keep up with China's demands, and in doing so, it has exposed itself to crippling debt and the risk of having to sell itself to Chinese investors. As for Australia, it has

already happened. Following the 2008 crisis, Australia poured money into the mining sector and gave everything it could to China. Now the market is gone, and economic pressure is leading to Australia selling itself off piece by piece.

Napoleon Bonaparte once said, “China is a sleeping giant. Let her sleep, for when she wakes she will shake the world.” That

giant has awoken in Southeast Asia and Australasia. For years, we have done everything possible to feed it and appease it. Now it is coming for our farms, our ports and our industry.

Keep watching the *Trumpet*, and read our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*. This giant was prophesied, and it is soon going to help shake the whole world.

## MIDDLE EAST

# TrumpetDaily

## RADIO SHOW

[SPENT IN VAIN: HOW AMERICA'S MILITARY WASTES HUGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY | APRIL 21](#)

[IRAN AND ISIS — FRIENDS OR FOES? | APRIL 20](#)

[MARINE CORPS GRAPPLES WITH LOW MORALE, STEEP BUDGET CUTS, OUTDATED AIRCRAFT AND POOR TRAINING | APRIL 19](#)

[AMERICA IS BLIND TO THE GROWING RISK OF CATASTROPHIC WAR | APRIL 18](#)

## ‘The Words “Never Again” Resonate With Iranians, Too’

### WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOHAMMAD JAVAD ZARIF WROTE AN op-ed in the *Washington Post* that explained why Iran is building up its defenses.

From Zarif’s explanation, it was clear the nuclear deal wasn’t enough for Iran. He wrote that, as important as the deal was, “the worrying reality is that we now face a far greater challenge. Those who once hid behind the smokescreen of the artificial crisis over my country’s peaceful nuclear program have stepped up their damaging adventurism.”

He explained:

[T]he West does not appear to be focused on joining hands to eradicate militant extremism. Neither is there much discussion of how a country such as Saudi Arabia has become the world’s third-biggest military spender, overtaking Russia. And rather than focusing on how Yemen was bombed to rubble for 12 relentless months—and thus turned into a tinderbox of famine and poverty and a breeding ground for al Qaeda—scare-mongering about Iran and its defensive capabilities is back in full swing.

During the intensive negotiations over complex issues surrounding Iran’s nuclear energy program, my country insisted at every turn that our defenses were not on the table. But our argument was not centered on sovereignty, nor on the fact that our military is vastly outspent by those of many of our Western-allied neighbors. We simply made

reference to the recent past.

That past Zarif referred to was the Iran-Iraq War. He said his country bore the brunt of Saddam Hussein’s Western-supplied “sophisticated weapons.”

Zarif then added,

The words “never again” resonate with Iranians, too.

It is against this backdrop that we develop and test our indigenous defensive capabilities. We have no other choice, as we continue to face major hurdles in fulfilling our military hardware needs from abroad, even as our neighbors procure such hardware in mind-boggling quantities. Indeed, our military budget, for all the alarm raised by the West whenever we test a new system, is a small fraction of what is spent by our neighbors, which have a fraction of our territory or population to defend.

How ironic. As we wrote in “Made in America: A Nuclear Middle East,” it’s Iranian belligerence and U.S. incompetence that triggered the arms race in the Middle East. And as Bloomberg View columnist Eli Lake wrote, “‘Never again’ is of course most associated with preventing another Holocaust against the Jews. ... Zarif is the front man of a regime that not only threatens to wipe out the world’s only Jewish state, but also actively denies the Holocaust. In June, Iran will host a competition where it will give

a \$50,000 award to the cartoonist who best mocks the Nazi genocide.”

## President Obama's Saudi Arabia Trip

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA'S VISIT TO SAUDI Arabia began with a snub: King Salman did not personally welcome the president at the tarmac—he only sent a small delegation.

Mustafa Alani, a security analyst at the Gulf Research Center, noted that the Saudi gesture was unusual and that it was meant to send a clear message that the Saudis have little faith in the president.

President Obama's visit came as families of the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks applied more pressure on the Obama administration for legislation that allows them to sue the Saudi government. The families want the United States to declassify 28 pages of a congressional report on the attack. They believe that information implicates Saudi Arabia in the terror attack. Nineteen of the hijackers were Saudi Arabians. It's likely that President Obama will veto that legislation; he said such legislation would increase the likelihood for other countries to sue the United States.

Iran is clearly advancing its pretext for going ballistic and nuclear.

Regardless, Saudi Arabia warned that if that legislation is passed, the kingdom would sell off hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of U.S. assets.

Tensions are high.

“To make matters worse,” wrote Bloomberg View's Eli Lake, “Obama has said—in an interview published last month in the *Atlantic*—that the Saudis must learn how to share the Middle East with Iran.”

However, during his trip, President Obama “really cleared the air” with King Salman when the two met on Wednesday. “Yet even as White House officials stressed that the leaders made progress,” reported CNN, a prominent Saudi official said that “‘a recalibration’ of the U.S.-Saudi relationship was needed amid regional upheaval, dropping oil prices and ongoing strains between the two longtime allies.”

In a November 2013 article, we asked, *Why is Saudi Arabia getting so bold?* The reason is tied to what Saudi Arabia fears most.

## TW IN BRIEF

**Netanyahu: Golan Heights is forever Jewish:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed that the Golan Heights will “remain forever under Israeli sovereignty.” The prime minister was speaking on Sunday at his first cabinet meeting in the Golan Heights. Israel secured control of the Golan Heights from Syria in the Six Day War of 1967. Netanyahu said the time has come for the international community to recognize Israeli sovereignty over the plateau. In response to Netanyahu's comments, Syria's deputy foreign minister said his nation will use any means necessary to retake the Heights, saying, “All options are on the table ... including using military force.” During the ongoing Syrian peace talks, representatives of President Bashar Assad have demanded that the Golan Heights be relinquished to Syria.

**Bahrain's parliament wants declaration of war on Iran:** Iran and Hezbollah must “cease their hostilities against Arab states in general and the Gulf Cooperation Council in particular.” That was a demand made by Bahrain's parliament on Tuesday. It accused the two entities of “waging terror attacks against local

security forces to serve their foreign agenda, destabilize Bahrain, and endanger security in the country.” The parliament of the Persian Gulf nation added: “The time has come to hit these terrorists with an iron fist and confront them decisively in order to deter anyone who aims to destabilize the state.”

**Iran showcases Russian weapons:** Iran showcased Russian S-300 surface-to-air missile tubes and radar equipment during its Army Day Parade on Monday. Russia and Iran had been in talks about a possible military deal. Iran insists it needs such hardware to defend itself from threats of attack, including possible bombings of its nuclear facilities. The S-300 air defense missile systems would give Iran advance warning of any approaching aircraft. At the parade, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani promised to defend Muslim countries from terrorism and from the nation of Israel. The deal between Iran and Russia was made possible by the lifting of sanctions against Iran on January 16. Since then, Iran has conducted four ballistic missile tests and generated business with scores of countries eager to cash in on Iran's lucrative assets.

## EUROPE

# Trumpet Hour

BERNIE SANDERS' SOCIALIST REVOLUTION,  
CHINA'S LAND GRAB IN AUSTRALIA | APRIL 22

EUROPE ENTERS LIBYA, TRAGEDY IN SYRIA, SAUDI ARABIA, OPEN-MINDED  
COLLEGE STUDENTS AND MORE | APRIL 20



## Europe Moves Into North Africa

### WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



THE EUROPEAN UNION IS TAKING CAUTIOUS STEPS TOWARD A MILITARY operation in Libya, along with great operations in North Africa. Andrew Rettman described the latest developments in an *EU Observer* article published on April 19 titled “[EU Navies Prepare to Start Work in Libyan Waters](#)”:

The EU is to make plans for posting security experts to Libya and moving its naval operation into Libyan waters, following initial talks with the country's new government.

EU foreign ministers decided to go ahead after speaking in Brussels via video link with new Libyan Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj on Monday (April 18).

They said in a joint statement that EU security experts would help Libyan authorities on “counterterrorism, border management, countering irregular migration and smuggling of migrants, and trafficking of human beings.”

With huge numbers of migrants poised to begin traveling to Europe from North Africa, the EU has good reason to get involved. Meanwhile, Germany is expanding its military operation in Mali, as German-Foreign-Policy.com reported April 14 in an article titled “[Like in Afghanistan](#)”:

Wednesday, the German government decided to expand the Bundeswehr's training mission in Mali. Based on the European Council's March 23 decision to no longer limit the European Union's Training Mission in Mali (EUTM Mali) to the south of the country .... This would further reinforce the Bundeswehr's presence in northern Mali. Back on January 28, the German Bundestag voted in favor of sending up to 650 German soldiers to northern Mali—in the framework of the UN Blue Helmet mission MINUSMA (United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali). ... Approximately 200 soldiers have arrived so far, another 200 are due to follow. ...

The intervention in Mali is already showing clear similarities to the Afghanistan mission. For example, it was possible to successfully wrest northern Mali from the control of jihadi militias, like it had been possible to temporarily put an end to Taliban control in 2001. Nevertheless, intervention forces—the MINUSMA units as well as the French “anti-terrorist” Operation Barkhane forces—are regularly under attack. According to a report by the United Nations, two out of three MINUSMA convoys, leaving Gao proceeding north toward Anéfis, and even four out of five of the convoys heading east toward Ménaka, were bombed. MINUSMA, with well over 80 casualties is currently considered the most dangerous UN mission. During the few hours of German President Joachim Gauck's brief visit to Mali February 12, seven soldiers were killed in an attack on the MINUSMA base in Kidal. As evidenced by the note confessing the ambush, the attack was literally a warning against

the continuation of the foreign military intervention. ...

Far from the troops of intervention stabilizing the situation, Mali has begun experiencing a spread of terrorism. On the one hand, the well-known structures, such as al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and its splinter group al Mourabitoun have stepped up their attacks. They are being held responsible for the murderous attacks on hotels and a beach resort in Mali's capital, Bamako (Nov. 20, 2015), in Burkina Faso's capital Ouagadougou (January 15) and the beach resort Grand Bassam in the Ivory Coast (March 13), with a combined total of approximately 70 people killed. ... Perhaps even more significant, however, is the fact that alongside these well-known terrorist structures, firmly entrenched in the north of the country, independent terrorist organizations have begun cropping up in the center and in the south of Mali. ... “With the appearance of newer groups in central and southern Mali,” the “terrorist threat” has “spread almost throughout the entire nation,” according to a report of the Malian intelligence service, recently quoted in the journal *Jeune Afrique*.

The expansion of the Bundeswehr's activities to northern Mali also corresponds to Berlin's framework strategy. Experts have regularly pointed out that smugglers and jihadis, who ... Berlin and the EU are seeking to combat ... are operating in the hardly controllable expanses of the cross-border Sahara and Sahel. Therefore, it would be “reasonable for Berlin to aim its foreign and security policy efforts, in the future, more pointedly at regional missions,” wrote, for example, the Federal College for Security Studies (BAKS) last year. ...

The five countries, Mauretania, Mali; Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad joined forces in February 2014 around the French-led “anti-terrorist” “Barkhane” operation. Over the next five years, the EU will grant billions in support to this alliance. Without waging operations all the way into the desert regions, success is unimaginable. The Bundeswehr will, therefore, be operating in northern Mali.

“Northern Africa is turning into a battleground with enormously important prophetic implications,” *Trumpet* editor in chief [Gerald Flurry wrote in April 2013](#). He continued:

These terrorists are sponsored, for the most part, by Iran. Iran has designs on being the strongest power throughout the region and is extending its reach throughout North Africa.

But Iran isn't the only one interested in Africa. Germany is making strong inroads as well. Both of these powers are racing to get as much control of North Africa as they can. They will inevitably clash with each other.

The terrorist groups Germany is facing do indeed [have links to](#)

**Iran.** We're seeing this dynamic form already. Germany is deploying heavily in Mali, taking control of both the police and military training missions. Germany military commands want to use their presence in Mali as a springboard to a much larger presence in North Africa, as we described on our website back in December:

Chairman of the German Federal Armed Forces Association Lt. Col. André Wüstner said that the recent terrorist attack in Mali "makes it clear once again" that a "ring of fire" extends "from Afghanistan via Yemen, Syria and Iraq to Africa."

"It is not enough to tackle the [Islamic State] in Syria," he said. He called for "robust, battle-powerful forces" to be stationed in Mali.

Roderich Kiesewetter, president of the association of the Bundeswehr reservists and foreign-policy expert for Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union, stated "firmly" that "the Bundeswehr will send more than 1,200

soldiers in the anti-[Islamic State] fight." NATO will have to send ground troops into Libya, he explained, noting that "the German Air Force, Navy and German police officers can help to stabilize Jordan, Lebanon and Libya."

Former inspector general of the Bundeswehr Harald Kujat had a similar message, warning that even if the West destroys the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, it "will not be totally defeated." Instead, it will "dodge." The Islamic State is already setting up shop in Libya, and it's spreading into Mali, Kujat warns.

A clear consensus is emerging from the leaders involved in military decision-making: Germany's military must confront radical Islam across a range of battlefronts, stretching from northwestern Africa to Afghanistan and Central Asia.

Watch for Germany to continue to battle radical terror in North Africa.

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## Europe and Islam: A Clash of Civilizations

AS ISLAM CONTINUES TO ATTACK EUROPE, ROBERT D. KAPLAN provides a historical look at the relationship between European Islam in an article titled "[How Islam Created Europe](#)" for the May issue of the *Atlantic*:

Denys Hay, a British historian, explained in a brilliant though obscure book published in 1957, *Europe: The Emergence of an Idea*, that European unity began with the concept (exemplified by the Song of Roland) of a Christendom in "inevitable opposition" to Islam—a concept that culminated in the Crusades. The scholar Edward Said took this point further, writing in his book *Orientalism* in 1978 that Islam had defined Europe culturally, by showing Europe what it was against. **Europe's very identity, in other words, was built in significant measure on a sense of superiority to the Muslim Arab world on its periphery.** Imperialism proved the ultimate expression of this evolution: Early modern Europe, starting with Napoleon, conquered the Middle East, then dispatched scholars and diplomats to study Islamic civilization, classifying it as something beautiful, fascinating, and—most crucial—inferior.

In the postcolonial era, Europe's sense of cultural preeminence was buttressed by the new police states of North Africa and the Levant. With these dictatorships holding their peoples prisoner inside secure borders—borders artificially drawn by European colonial agents—Europeans could lecture Arabs about human rights without worrying about the possibility of messy democratic experiments that could lead to significant migration. Precisely because the Arabs lacked human rights, the Europeans felt at once superior to and secure from them. ...

The Continent has absorbed other groups before, of course. In fact, Europe has been dramatically affected by

demographic eruptions from the east: In the medieval centuries, vast numbers of Slavs and Magyars migrated into central and eastern Europe from deeper inside Eurasia. But those peoples adopted Christianity and later formed polities, from Poland in the north to Bulgaria in the south, that were able to fit, however bloodily, inside the evolving European state system. As for the Algerian guest workers who emigrated to France and the Turkish and Kurdish guest workers who [immigrated] to Germany during the Cold War, they represented a more containable forerunner to the current migration.

Today, hundreds of thousands of Muslims who have no desire to be Christian are filtering into economically stagnant European states, threatening to undermine the fragile social peace. Though Europe's elites have for decades used idealistic rhetoric to deny the forces of religion and ethnicity, those were the very forces that provided European states with their own internal cohesion. ...

Europe has responded by artificially reconstructing national-cultural identities on the extreme right and left, to counter the threat from the civilization it once dominated.

Although the idea of an end to history—with all its ethnic and territorial disputes—turns out to have been a fantasy, this realization is no excuse for a retreat into nationalism. The cultural purity that Europe craves in the face of the Muslim-refugee influx is simply impossible in a world of increasing human interactions. ...

The question is thus posed: What, in a civilizational sense, will replace Rome? For while empire, as Said documented, certainly had its evils, its very ability to govern vast multiethnic spaces around the Mediterranean provided a solution of sorts that no longer exists.

Europe must now find some other way to dynamically

incorporate the world of Islam without diluting its devotion to the rule-of-law-based system that arose in Europe's north, a system in which individual rights and agency are uppermost in a hierarchy of needs. If it cannot evolve in the

direction of universal values, there will be only the dementia of ideologies and coarse nationalisms to fill the void. This would signal the end of "the West" in Europe.

## The Greek Crisis Still Simmers

**E**LIZABETH ANDERSON EXPLAINS HOW BRITAIN'S VOTE ON THE European Union could have major implications for Greece in an article titled "[Greece 'Could Leave Eurozone' on Brexit Vote](#)":

Greece could crash out of the eurozone as early as this summer if Britons vote to leave the European Union in the upcoming referendum, economists have predicted.

The uncertainty following a "yes" vote to Britain leaving the EU would put unsustainable pressure on Greece's cash-strapped economy at a time when it is also struggling to cope with an influx of migrants escaping turmoil in the Middle East and Africa, according to a report from the Economist Intelligence Unit.

The authors of the report say it is highly likely that Greece will be forced to leave the eurozone at some point within the next five years, but that if the UK votes to leave

the EU in June, it could happen much sooner.

Greece is already under a huge amount of pressure and a so-called Brexit could tip it over the edge. The country has large debt payments due in mid-2016, while structural reforms recommended in Greece's bail-out program are "slow burners" and unlikely to deliver any significant growth in the short term. ...

"While the region could probably handle a Brexit, Grexit or an escalation of the migrant crisis individually, it would be unlikely to navigate successfully a situation in which several of those crises came to a head simultaneously," the report, [titled] "Europe Stretched to the Limit," said.

"It is not impossible that this could happen as early as mid-2016, when the UK votes on whether or not to remain in the EU."

## Germany Thinks Cyber Josué Michels | April 16

**"D**EFENDING GERMANY'S FREEDOM IN CYBER SPACE" IS THE new slogan for the German Bundeswehr's advertising campaign. The campaign's goal is to raise awareness of the 800 new job openings for soldiers in the information technology (IT) sector, as well as 700 job openings for IT administrators in the military and civilian sectors. Right now, the Bundeswehr is looking for experts.

Although the Bundeswehr is already Germany's largest employer of IT specialists, with 21,000 occupied positions, it is investing another \$4.1 million in advertising campaigns to attract German IT experts. This might be a result of the 71 million cyberattacks that were directed against Bundeswehr servers during 2015.

Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen saw the need to strengthen the cyber forces last year, announcing in September actions to do so. *Süddeutsche Zeitung* described her plans as gathering cyber resources from every different sector into one separate military organization. The new organizational sector would be on the same level as the Army, Air Force and Navy.

The Bundeswehr's IT department will also work on its offensive cyber skills. Since 2005, Germany has had 60 IT experts stationed in the Tomburg Caserne in Rheinbach where they practice attacks on foreign systems.

Consider what Social Democratic Party politician Reiner Arnold said:

Of course, one needs to keep the possibility open to use offensive cyberattacks in the case of a conflict. But that is a debate that needs to be clarified first in the society, in the parliament and in the legislation. It is not to be thought of

as unethical to stop foreign tanks electronically rather than destroying them violently with weapons.

Stopping the opponent's tanks would leave an attacked country more or less defenseless. Successful cyberattacks could do even more than that. Hackers could have the ability to attack the military servers of an enemy country, preventing it from using its defensive systems. This would prevent another nation from even going to war. The scenario becomes especially dangerous when defense missile systems are prevented from doing their job. It might no longer be important to have the best nuclear bombs but rather to have the best cyber capabilities.

Germany knows this, so it is preparing not only to protect from such an attack but also to lead such an attack. The advertisement campaign for IT soldiers and von der Leyen's preparation for cyberwarfare show the urgency of the matter. History proves that no weapon has been created that was not used—and cyber weaponry is being developed.

Tony Cole, vice president of Global Government at FireEye, told FCW that along with the growing crises in Europe, the United States and Germany will "share a lot more data than they used to in the past." Is that a reasonable step for America to take knowing what Germany has done in the past?

Near the end of World War II, the allies agreed that Germany should never again be capable of starting a war. But today, Germany is preparing for cyberwarfare and making agreements with the U.S. to share crucial data. For more information about America's weakness and Germany's advancements in cyberwarfare, read [Gerald Flurry's article "America's Achilles Heel—and Germany."](#)

## Russia Joins South China Sea Battle as Ally to China

**A**S TENSIONS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA CONTINUE TO ESCALATE, Russia has apparently decided to back the increasingly belligerent Chinese.

Morning News USA wrote on April 20:

... Russia has seemingly joined China in its battle against other claimants over the disputed region. Both nations are working on beefing up their military arsenal and are campaigning against internationalizing the South China Sea dispute.

As if to further support the growing cooperation between the two countries, Russia also announced that it

will be working with China to ensure regional peace and international security. Although some would see this as a move against a common enemy, the United States, Russian Deputy Defense Minister Anatoly Antonov said it is otherwise.

"The cooperation between China and Russia in the military sphere is not directed against someone," Antonov said ....

Despite Antonov's claims, it is clear that Russia and China share a common goal of eroding the power of the United States. The South China Sea may be one arena in which their collaboration could work to that end.

## **T** More Than Half of Russians Want the Soviet Union Resurrected Jeremiah Jacques | April 20

**A** QUARTER CENTURY AFTER THE SOVIET UNION'S COLLAPSE, THE majority of Russians say they regret that it happened and would welcome its revival. An April 19 Interfax report discussed the statistics, which were derived from a Levada Center survey (*Trumpet* translation):

More than half of Russians believe that the Soviet Union's collapse could have been avoided (51 percent), and regret that it happened (56 percent) .... The majority of respondents (58 percent) said they would welcome the revival of the Soviet Union and the socialist system, while ... one in three (31 percent) said they would not want to rebuild the old Soviet socialist system.

The Levada survey was conducted from March 25 through 28 by a representative nationwide sample of urban and rural population. About 1,600 adults in 137 settlements of 48 regions of Russia participated.

Alexey Mukhin, CEO at the Center for Political Information, commented on the survey in an interview with *Vestnik Kavkaza*:

The citizens of Russia feel a concern due to the increased aggressive behavior of NATO. There was an idea in the Soviet Union that our nuclear-missile shield could protect us from any aggression. But, apparently, the feeling of uncertainty, which was cultivated in 1990s, played its role, and citizens simply have a fear for their safety. ...

People are used to living in a consumer society, they remember about the deficit, queues and certainly don't regret it. In addition, the rejuvenation process plays its role. It gave us a lot of number of people who don't remember the Soviet Union, all its benefits.

The government of President Vladimir Putin has said he views the collapse of the Soviet Union as "the greatest geopolitical tragedy of the 20th century." He has been working to reverse this tragedy in part by reviving many relics of the Soviet era, including the Intervision Song Contest, a military prep fitness program, the "Hero of Socialist Labor" award, and a grip on domestic media that would earn a hat tip from Comrade Josef Stalin himself.

The new Levada poll shows that these efforts are paying dividends among Russia's population. [Follow Jeremiah Jacques](#)

## **T** Philippine and American Officials Worry Over the Scarborough Shoal Kieren Underwood | April 21

**A** GROWING NUMBER OF AMERICAN AND PHILIPPINE OFFICIALS are expressing worry over Chinese naval activity surrounding the Scarborough Shoal, a small island chain of reefs and rocks with a 29-mile perimeter in the South China Sea, 168 miles from the Philippine coast. Details of a Chinese militarization plan for the shoal were obtained by United States intelligence agencies over the last several months, according to defense officials.

Access to the shoal has been restricted by the People's Republic of China since the Scarborough Shoal standoff in 2012. Both China and the Philippines claim the shoal, maintaining that they have had regular fishing activities in the area. China denies that

its island-building activities in the South China Sea are militarizing the area, but the surrounding countries are worried.

According to *Washington Free Beacon*, China's plans for the Scarborough Shoal were confirmed when a "website for Chinese military enthusiasts posted a detailed plan ... including a runway, power systems, residences, and harbor capable of supporting Chinese Navy warships."

Defense officials were not sure if the posts were of the actual plan of development or an earlier, conceptual stage, but Chinese authorities have used such websites to reveal new military developments in the past.



The U.S. military's top commander in the Pacific, Adm. Harry Harris, has proposed a more muscular response to China's island building, but he has met with strong resistance from the White House.

Adm. John Richardson, head of U.S. naval operations, also has concerns about Chinese activity around the shoal. Richardson worries that an international court ruling, expected in early June, on a case brought by the Philippines against China over its South China Sea claims could trigger Beijing to declare an

exclusion zone in the busy trade route.

Philippine diplomat Jose Cuisia Jr. told a news conference in Manila on April 12 that any Chinese move to turn a disputed shoal into an island would be a "very provocative" step.

With \$5.3 trillion of trade passing through what China asserts as its sovereign territory every year, it is no small dispute. To understand what China has already claimed, read "Literally and Littorally, China Is Gaining Ground."

## At Least 48 Killed in Japanese Earthquakes

**A**T LEAST 48 PEOPLE WERE KILLED AFTER TWO MAJOR EARTHQUAKES struck southern Japan on April 14 and 15. They hit the island of Kyushu.

The *Mirror* reported about the quakes and their aftermath on April 20:

The first quake hit late last Thursday and the largest, at magnitude 7.3, some 27 hours later. ... Of more than 680 aftershocks hitting Kyushu island since April 14, more than 89 have registered at magnitude 4.0 or more on Japan's intensity scale, strong enough to shake buildings.

On Kyushu, nearly 100,000 people were in evacuation centers, some huddling in blankets outside as night temperatures plunged to near freezing. Heavy rain is expected over the area, raising fear that slopes weakened by the quakes could collapse. ...

Hundreds, possibly thousands, of buildings collapsed,

many brought down by their heavy roofs of traditional tiles. Most of those who were killed had returned to their homes after the first quake.

The *Mirror* said that fresh fears struck on Thursday after tremors threatened the integrity of a Fukushima nuclear plant:

Japan was plunged into fresh panic today as a 6.1 magnitude tremor hit the northern coast .... To the dismay of rattled survivors, the latest quake happened close to the site of the Fukushima nuclear disaster ....

In March 2011, some 15,000 Japanese people were killed after a 9.0 magnitude quake struck off the Japanese coast. The event also damaged nuclear facilities, wreaking severe environmental damage on the area.

## China Tests 'Terrifyingly Powerful' Nuclear Missile

**P**ENTAGON OFFICIALS SAID ON APRIL 19 THAT CHINA CONDUCTED a test of its newest and longest-range intercontinental ballistic missile last week, as tensions between the United States and China increased.

The *Washington Free Beacon* reported:

Pentagon officials told the *Free Beacon* the flight test of the new road-mobile DF-41 missile took place Tuesday with two multiple, independently targetable reentry vehicles, or MIRVs, that were monitored in flight by U.S. military satellites and other regional sensors. Officials did not say where the test took place. Past DF-41 launches were carried out from the Wuzhai Missile and Space Test Center in central China.

The flight test came around the same time that a

high-ranking Chinese general made an unusual visit to a disputed South China Sea island. Also, the missile test occurred three days before Defense Secretary Ash Carter visited the aircraft carrier USS Stennis as it sailed in the South China Sea.

The tested missile is capable of carrying up to 10 nuclear warheads and has the longest range of any known missile in the world. It can travel some 7,450 miles in just half an hour before striking several targets simultaneously.

Mark Stokes, a former Pentagon analyst and expert on China's military said: "China and Russia are increasingly coordinating their military forces against the United States and ... China's program of enabling North Korea and Iran to become nuclear missile powers is nearing completion."

## TW IN BRIEF

**Xi uber alles:** Chinese President Xi Jinping has assumed a more direct role as commander of the country's powerful armed forces with the new title of "commander-in-chief of its Joint Operations Command Center." Xi's new position was revealed in reports aired on Wednesday and Thursday in which

he appeared publicly for the first time donning camouflage battle dress bearing the center's insignia. Xi is already chairman of the Central Military Commission that oversees the 2.3 million-member People's Liberation Army, which is the world's largest standing armed forces. Among numerous other titles, Xi is also leader

of the ruling Communist Party and chair of a recently created National Security Council. As head of the military, Xi has overseen a reorganization of the PLA's command structure aimed at improving integration among the different services.

**Japan shrine:** Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made a personal offering to a controversial shrine on April 21 but refrained from visiting it to mark a spring festival. The Yasukuni Shrine honors Japanese wartime leaders convicted of war crimes. Visits to the shrine by political leaders are regularly criticized by South Korea, China and North Korea, which suffered the bulk of Japan's brutality in Asia. Abe has not visited the shrine since December 2013. Japanese media reported that he had again decided against a visit because of the slowly recovering ties between Japan and its neighbors. Nevertheless, many high-ranking parliamentarians also made offerings to the shrine on Thursday.

**Sex abuse scandal in Japan:** The Catholic Church's sex abuse scandal has stretched into one of the least Catholic countries:

Japan. Former students at a prestigious all-boys parochial school allege they were molested or raped by religious brothers who taught there decades ago. One student said the school sent one of the offending brothers away after the 1965 attack, only to have him return to serve as elementary-school principal for nearly two decades. Allegations from former students have been published in an English-language Tokyo newspaper but otherwise have received little attention in Japan.

**Russia still powerful in Syria:** A report from Reuters released April 15 suggested that Russia's military presence in Syria is still powerful, despite President Vladimir Putin announcing its withdrawal a month ago. Fewer jets have been replaced by more attack helicopters, which are able to provide closer combat support for government troops. Reuters claims its analysis of publicly available tracking data showed no letup in supply missions, with the Russian military maintaining regular cargo flights to its airbase in Syria. A ceasefire has been in place in Syria since February 27, but recent reports have shown indications of it beginning to collapse.

## AFRICA/LATIN AMERICA

### **T** Africa Sees 10-fold Increase in Number of Children Used for 'Suicide' Bombings Jeremiah Jacques | April 18

**T**HE NUMBER OF CHILDREN USED FOR "SUICIDE" BOMBINGS IN some African nations has increased 10-fold during the last year, according to a new report from UNICEF. The children used in the attacks are as young as 8, and more than 75 percent are girls.

The report focused on Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad, showing that the number of children involved in such attacks has increased from four in 2014 up to 44 in 2015. Cameroon recorded the highest number with 21 such bombings, followed by Nigeria at 17 and Chad at two.

In many cases, the children involved likely did not even realize they were carrying explosives, which are often detonated remotely. Nevertheless, the trend has caused many people in the affected areas to fear children. "As 'suicide' attacks involving children become commonplace, some communities are starting to see children as threats to their safety," said Manuel Fontaine, UNICEF's regional director for West and Central Africa. "This suspicion towards children can have destructive consequences; how

can a community rebuild itself when it is casting out its own sisters, daughters and mothers?"

UNICEF said that the "calculated use of children who may have been coerced into carrying bombs has created an atmosphere of fear and suspicion that has devastating consequences."

The primary group behind this carnage is the Sunni Islamist Boko Haram, which is waging a crusade against Shia Muslims, Christians, representatives of the Nigerian government, and any school that it believes is teaching Western education.

Boko Haram's name translates to "Western education is a sin," and it has targeted more than 910 schools so far. Some 1,500 schools have closed as a direct result of its attacks.

Children are suffering more than any other group as a result of Boko Haram's devastating impact. Besides those that the terrorists directly target by kidnapping and weaponizing, an estimated 1 million other children have been left without education as a result of Boko Haram's terrorism.

 Follow [Jeremiah Jacques](#)

## ANGLO-AMERICA



### **God's Holy Day Plan** Gerald Flurry, *The Key of David* | April 22

Does the Bible establish whether we are to keep certain days holy to God? Were these days given to ancient Israel only? The biblical answers may shock you!



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## The United States Is Nearing Insolvency

**I**N OUR AGE OF BLITZKRIEG MEDIA, WE ARE BOMBARDED DAILY with evidence—reports, columns and studies, facts and statistics, pie graphs, line graphs, bar graphs, charts and tables, and figures with seemingly infinite zeroes—detailing America’s horrifying financial state. To the average news watcher, some of these figures make sense, but much of this statistical analysis is just overwhelming.

In a *Time* magazine article titled “[The United States of Insolvency](#),” James Grant broke down America’s financial fix into simpler, more personal terms:

To understand our financial fix, put yourself in the position of the government. Say you earn the typical American family income, and you spend and borrow as the government does. So assuming, you would earn \$54,000 a year, spend \$64,000 a year and charge \$10,000 to your already slightly overburdened credit card. I say slightly overburdened—your outstanding balance is about \$223,000.

Of course, MasterCard wouldn’t allow you to run up that kind of tab. At an annual percentage rate of 15 percent, the cost to service a \$223,000 balance would absorb 62 percent of your pretax income. But the government is different from you and me ....

Unlike private individuals, the American government has a central bank, the Federal Reserve. This central bank can create money out of nothing, either by printing it or simply by digitally creating it. James Grant explains that while America’s framers viewed money as a scale or yardstick, the Fed views money as a magic wand, something that creates value:

Dollars aren’t so much minted these days. Rather, they issue from the Fed’s computers in billowing digital clouds. The cost of producing them is only the energy expended on tapping the keys. The Fed emits these electronic greenbacks to attempt to control the course of economic events. It’s a heaven-sent monetary system for a big-spending government.

You may struggle to pay that mid-teens rate on your outstanding credit-card balance. The Treasury gets by paying an average of just 1.8 percent on that portion of the debt, held by savers and investors both here and abroad. Defined in this way, we owe \$13.9 trillion. The \$19 trillion figure ticking upward on the famous National Debt Clock adds the debts the government owes itself. (How does this pseudo bookkeeping work? The Social Security Administration takes in—temporarily—more than it pays out. With the surplus it buys Treasury bonds. The bonds enlarge the debt clock’s debt.) It’s not so important that the government pays itself on time. What is important is that the government pays its public creditors on time. So cast your eyes on the exact numerical rendering of that slightly smaller sum: \$13,903,107,629,266. It is unmanageable.

America is facing a tough situation. But instead of dealing with the underlying causes, it has chosen to try to cheat the market by printing its way out of its economic problems. Creating money out of thin air may temporarily stimulate an economy, but as history clearly shows, the medicine is eventually worse than the disease. The end is always the same—a worthless currency, a destroyed economy and a bankrupt nation.

## Democratic Socialism Is Coming to America

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



**W**HETHER OR NOT HE BECOMES THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY NOMINEE for president of the United States, Bernie Sanders has already won his much-touted revolution on the streets. Approximately half of American voters under age 30 now think socialism is a good idea for the country. To a large degree, Bernie Sanders has convinced Americans to proudly claim their radical-left positions.

In a *Time* magazine article titled “[Bernie Sanders Has Already Won His Revolution](#),” Sally Kohn explains how Sanders has largely achieved his primary objective:

I’m not sure if I’m a democratic socialist or not. Admittedly, I haven’t thought about it much because it didn’t seem practical. There was no way I could be a “serious person” in American political thought and the media if I declared myself or even flirted with being a democratic socialist.

That was before Bernie Sanders.

Whatever the outcome of his presidential nomination bid, I suspect one of the lasting impacts the Sanders campaign will have on American politics and activism is the increasing willingness of political leaders and ordinary Americans to more proudly claim bold left positions.

In the pre-World War II progressive era, socialist presidential candidates like Eugene V. Debs never got more than 5 percent of the vote. Even as late as President Barack Obama’s election in 2008, socialism was considered a dirty word, even as many of the tenants of socialism were being touted under alternate labels. Today, however, the word “socialist” has lost its stigma:

According to polls, millennials today view socialism more favorably than capitalism, as do the majority of Democrats. Other polling suggest that more than one third of

Americans as a whole view socialism positively overall.

Somewhere in the midst of this, Sanders plays an important bridging role—simultaneously suggesting to radical-left activists that they can and should try to connect their ideas in the mainstream, while showing more mainstream liberals that expressing more left positions is not self-destructive but may, in fact, create new openings for both voter enthusiasm and policy leadership that centrist liberalism had foreclosed.

Whether or not Sanders becomes the next president of the United States is really a moot point. The next generations of

Americans have already embraced his ideals. America's descent down this socialist tract will only further exacerbate its gargantuan economic and moral problems.

One of the biggest problems with socialism is the disregard for the role of the private-property rights in creating incentives, which stimulate economic growth. When a business is owned by the public—who decides its own wages—incentives to promote wise stewardship are eroded. Private property encourages responsibility, while communal property fosters irresponsibility, waste, neglect and mismanagement. This is why God inspired the Apostle Paul to write in 2 Thessalonian 3:10 that “if any would not work, neither shall he eat.”

## TW IN BRIEF

**Huge U.S.-Mexico drug tunnel found in San Diego:** San Diego authorities recently uncovered one of the longest cross-border drug smuggling tunnels between Mexico and the United States, U.S. officials reported on Wednesday. This tunnel is 874 yards long and runs from an elevator shaft in Tijuana to a hole in the ground enclosed within a fenced-in lot set up as a pallet business on the American side. Authorities from San Diego discovered 2,000 pounds of cocaine and more than 14,000 pounds of marijuana in the tunnel. In the past five years, federal authorities have detected more than 75 cross-border smuggling tunnels, most of them in California and Arizona.

**Severe flooding in Houston, Texas:** More than a foot of rain deluged America's fourth-largest city, Houston, Texas, Monday and Tuesday. The flooding has shut down major highways and left at least five people dead, officials say. Heavy flooding has become nearly an annual rite of passage in the practically sea-level city, where experts have long warned of the potential for catastrophe and have criticized city leaders for not doing more to address the problem. In northwest Houston, apartment dwellers were forced to leave their homes by rescue boat.

**Virginia high school accused of transgender discrimination:** According to a federal appeals court Tuesday, a Virginia high school discriminated against a transgender teen by forbidding her from using the boys' restroom. This case has been

closely watched since North Carolina enacted a law last month that requires transgender people to use public restrooms corresponding to the gender listed on their birth certificate. In the Virginia case, a three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals—which also covers North Carolina—ruled 2-1 to overturn the Gloucester County School Board's policy. They said it violated Title IX, the federal law that prohibits discrimination in schools. The case could have implications for the North Carolina law that critics say discriminates against LGBT people.

**Biden criticizes Israel:** Hours after a Palestinian bus bombing in Jerusalem on Monday injured at least 21 people, United States Vice President Joe Biden criticized Israel. In a speech to the Israeli advocacy group J. Street, Biden said that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government was leading Israel “in the wrong direction.” “I firmly believe that the actions that Israel's government has taken over the past several years—the steady and systematic expansion of settlements, the legalization of outposts, land seizures—they're moving us, and, more importantly, they're moving Israel in the wrong direction,” he said. Biden only briefly pointed out the refusal of Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas to condemn terrorism against Israelis. His comments reflect increasing frustration for Israel in the Obama administration. Tensions between America and Israel have only increased following the Iranian nuclear deal, as the two nations' leaders struggle to see eye to eye.



### Television's Darkest Age

Stephen Flurry, Trumpet Daily | April 22

TV content is descending to new lows.

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