

Trumpet Weekly

APRIL 28, 2016



U.S. President Barack Obama speaks in London on April 23.

President Obama Confirms: The Special Relationship Is Dead

Stephen Flurry | April 26

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA PROVOKED AN uproar in the British press over the weekend. At a press conference last Friday, he offered his long-awaited take on Britain's position within the European Union. At the briefing, he began, as he often does—saying he wasn't in the United Kingdom to meddle in British affairs. Then he proceeded to do exactly that. He attacked the Leave campaigners who say that if they prevail, the UK could still negotiate favorable

trade benefits outside the EU bureaucracy. Mr. Obama said:

I think it's fair to say that maybe some point down the line, there might be a UK-U.S. trade agreement, but it's not going to happen anytime soon, because our focus is in negotiating with a big bloc, the European Union, to get a trade agreement done, and the UK is going to be in the back of the queue—not because we don't have a special relationship, but because, given the heavy lift on any trade agreement, us having access to a big market with a lot of countries—rather than trying to do piecemeal trade agreements is hugely inefficient.



STEPHEN FLURRY

CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/Getty Images

The response has touched a number of nerves. Even ahead of Mr. Obama's visit, many were pointing out the hypocrisy of an American leader encouraging Britain to remain in a union that the United States would not tolerate for an instant. It is inconceivable that the U.S. would allow a foreign bureaucracy to create most of its own laws, give foreign judges jurisdiction in its territory, and even allow American citizens to be arrested, deported and denied their usual constitutional rights based on the whim of foreign police forces. Yet here was the president urging the UK to remain in exactly this type of relationship.

But his declaration that Britain must wait at the back of the queue is what rankled the most. It confirmed to many that the special relationship between the U.S. and UK is dead.

Michael Crowley wrote in *Politico* that "an implied point of Obama's call for Britain to reject a proposed exit from the European Union is that the country isn't significant enough to remain a key U.S. partner if it's no longer part of the EU."

"The problem is the dismissive way in which Obama spoke about Britain: as a country that's too small to be worth bothering with on its own," wrote Fraser Nelson at the *Spectator*. "A country that might matter, as part of a massive block of the EU, but is too tiny for his ever-so-busy officials in the State Department to bother with."

Mr. Obama spoke a great deal during his visit about the "special relationship" America has with the United Kingdom. But when it came to doing something—negotiating a trade deal—he had nothing to offer.

Ignoring his words, what does America's *actions* under Mr. Obama say about the "special relationship"? What are its fruits?

Just one month in to Mr. Obama's presidency, late *Trumpet* columnist Ron Fraser outlined the direction it would take:

The coming of the Obama administration has mortally wounded the natural symbiosis of diplomacy between Britain and America. This is a radical departure from the 200 years of mutual support and cooperation between the U.S. and Britain, particularly in matters of defense and security. The Blair-Bush years were the swan song for that strongest of natural, yet unwritten, alliances.

Instead, America is drawing close to new friends. Crowley noted that despite all the president's talk, "when Obama delivers a grand address about Europe on Monday, he'll do it from Germany—not Britain." He continued:

The first European country to join American strikes against the Islamic State in Syria? Not Britain but France, which plays a bigger military role in the anti-ISIS campaign that Obama calls his top priority.

When Obama wants to crank up pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin, he calls German Chancellor Angela Merkel. It was then French President Nicolas Sarkozy who persuaded him to bomb Libya in 2011.

Crowley wrote that "it's hard to name a way" Mr. Obama's "affection for Great Britain ... has driven his foreign policy." He continued:

"There's a big difference" between Obama's relationship with the UK and that of predecessors like George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan, said James Rubin, a former State Department spokesman in the Clinton administration who now lives in London. In past years, "the special relationship had a more powerful impact on international relations, definitely," Rubin said.

Xenia Wickett, head of the U.S. and the Americas Program at Chatham House, wrote that the UK is "increasingly ... just one of America's many strategic relationships." She continued:

What is clear is that increasingly the UK is not "first among equals" in Europe but "one among many" for the United States. America is diversifying its relationships. More and more the U.S. can find other allies and friends to fulfill the needs in which the UK no longer has interest.

When you look at the fruits—which countries America works with, who the president talks to on the phone—it is clear that there is no longer a special relationship between the United States and Britain.

This is exactly what Herbert W. Armstrong predicted. He described in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* how God prophesied of the phenomenal rise to power of both Britain and the United States. God also prophesied of our simultaneous decline. Coinciding with this precipitous decline in world power and influence is the unraveling of the relationship that once bound these two brothers so tightly together.

The Prophet Isaiah described this dramatic unraveling, which occurs just before the latter-day appearance of the prophesied Messiah: "Manasseh shall devour Ephraim, and Ephraim Manasseh; Together they shall be against Judah" (Isaiah 9:21; New King James Version).

What a perfect description of the present-day relations between America and Britain—and Israel. These nations are FAMILY. Historically, they have been the strongest of ALLIES, each a critical partner to the others. But today, America and Britain are turning against each other, and together, they are turning against the Jewish state.

These three Israelite nations—which have maintained such strong and durable alliances through generations—were PROPHESIED to forsake their special alliance and to engage in furious strife and contention with one another. This is now happening before our eyes.

Because of the breakdown in this historical alliance, God says that Britain and Judah, the little nation called Israel, will turn to Germany for help in time of need, rather than the United States.

This brotherly division and these shifting world alliances are not strengthening the United States, Britain and Israel. This division comes as the world is in more turmoil than any time since the end of the Cold War—and when dangerous new powers are rising. This prophesied division is making our peoples more vulnerable to these ascending world powers! For much more on this subject, be sure to study Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

 Follow Stephen Flurry

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RADIO SHOW

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WHAT BREXIT WOULD MEAN FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPE | APRIL 26

PRESIDENT OBAMA DID ORDER THE CHURCHILL BUST TO BE REMOVED | APRIL 25

Iran to Activate Hamas in Mosul

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



IRAN IS REPORTEDLY PLANNING TO DEPLOY HAMAS MILITANTS TO help liberate the Iraqi city of Mosul. According to a report released by the London-based Arab daily *A-Sharq al-Awsat* on Sunday, Hamas would join Hezbollah and Houthi militants who are fighting to free Mosul from the Islamic State.

Mosul has been under Islamic State control since June 2014.

The report also said Iran is planning to use Hamas to destabilize the autonomous region of Kurdistan. The *Jerusalem Post* wrote:

The [Islamic] Revolutionary Guards [Corps] are planning to deploy forces affiliated with Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis in [oil-rich] Kirkuk, from which they would gradually advance toward Kurdistan.

Iran strives to destabilize Iraqi Kurdistan because it views the Kurdistan regional government, headed by President Masood Barzani, as a grave threat to its clout in its neighbor, Iraq.

The *Post* concluded, “Iran’s reported plans regarding Hamas are ambitious and would have to overcome the Palestinian organization’s position of neutrality in regard to the regional conflict between Iran and Saudi Arabia.”

It remains to be seen how Hamas will respond to Iran’s call. But this development indicates Iran’s clout in the region and to what extent the Islamic Republic is willing to go to retain and expand it.

Consider reading our 2003 article [“Is Iraq About to Fall to Iran?”](#)

T More Troop Deployments to Syria

Anthony Chibariwe | April 29

IN 2013, UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN KERRY assured that military intervention in Syria would be limited to an “unbelievably small, limited kind of effort.” That effort will surge six-fold to about 300 ground troops in the next few weeks, according to a statement from President Barack Obama.

Speaking at an industrial fair on April 25 in Hanover, Germany, President Obama announced plans to send additional troops to Syria to help fight the Islamic State. “[G]iven the success [of the initial deployment], I’ve approved the deployment of up to 250 additional U.S. personnel in Syria, including special forces, to keep up this momentum,” he said.

Back in 2013, the Obama administration viewed Syrian President Bashar Assad as the primary threat. In fact, the military intervention Kerry discussed constituted the red line the administration drew for Assad.

Today, the tables have turned: The red line has been blurred

into obscurity, and the Islamic State is the new tyranny in Syria, precisely as President Assad [hoped](#). This latest troop deployment to Syria is the biggest expansion of U.S. ground forces in Syria since the civil war began in 2011, three years after then presidential candidate Barack Obama promised to end America’s wars in the Middle East. In fact, on multiple occasions in the past, the administration has assured Americans that there won’t be U.S. boots on the ground in Syria—a fact State Department spokesman John Kirby vehemently denied on Monday.

Regardless, the president insisted that the troops will not lead the fight on the ground but will train and assist local forces in fighting the Islamic State. The rebels will gain access to close air support from the U.S.

But will that effort even suffice?

Officials say U.S. deployment will only be a counterterrorism campaign that is not intended to affect the outcome of the civil

war. But the rebels want more. A spokesman for the Syria Democratic Forces coalition told Reuters that “any support [Americans] offer is positive, but we hope there will be greater support.” An official from the High Negotiation Committee coalition of rebel forces said, “Syria will not be free of terrorism until we see the end of the Assad regime’s reign of terror. We need help in freeing

our country from Assad as well as from [the Islamic State].”

In Hanover, President Obama urged Europeans to expand intelligence sharing and increase their cooperation in the fight against the Islamic State. “Even as European countries make important contributions against ISIL [the Islamic State],” he said, “Europe, including NATO, can still do more.”

Will the Alawites Abandon Assad?

A LEAKED DOCUMENT REPORTEDLY FROM THE RELIGIOUS ALAWITE leaders in Syria claimed the Islamic sect was dissociating itself from the regime of President Bashar Assad.

Al-Monitor asked, “[Are Syria’s Alawites Turning Their Backs on Assad?](#)” It wrote:

The document was criticized, especially by opponents of the Syrian regime, for not being signed and dated and for including several grammatical and spelling mistakes, all of which challenges its credibility, they said. Nevertheless, the Western media gave it political dimensions that it did not initially have regarding the Alawite sect’s disassociation from the regime and the Assad family.

Alawite Sheikh Ahmad Bilal said the document was distorted as part of a “media war on Syria.” An American-based observer told Al-Monitor, “The document is real, and there are secular elites and Alawite clerics behind it. ... These Alawites are distinguishing themselves from the regime, without opposing it.”

Al-Monitor believes the document was not intended for the Alawite or Sunni masses but rather for the West. The news organization concluded: “What remains to be seen is why this document was issued now, at the moment when the Syrian state is being restructured, amid calls for a federal regime and concerns of division into several small states.”

We explained the final outcome of the Syria civil war and of the new alliances that will emerge thereafter in our article “[How the Syrian Crisis Will End.](#)”

Did Assad Give the Islamic State a Safe Passage During Withdrawal?

ACCORDING TO A VIDEO RELEASED SUNDAY BY A FACTION OF REBELS from the Free Syrian Army, Islamic State militants withdrew from the strategic town of al-Dumayr under aerial protection from Bashar Assad’s army.

Reportedly, the Syrian government struck a deal with the Islamic State when the radical Islamists withdrew from the town that’s only 20 miles from Damascus on April 20.

The [Jerusalem Post](#) reported:

According to this agreement, the regime forces, that were besieging the town, would allow the organization’s fighters, especially the wounded ones, to leave al-Dumayr, in exchange for ISIS surrendering the heavy ammunition it seized in the town.

According to the Syrian media, ISIS withdrew from the town accompanied by ambulances of the Syrian Red Cross that carried injured ISIS fighters.

The Syrian rebel organization denounced the developments described in the video and claimed that it is additional evidence of the cooperation between the Syrian regime and ISIS.

Such accusations of collusion are neither new nor unfounded. Evidence abounds that Bashar Assad systematically supports the Islamic State in order to distract the world’s attention from his murderous regime. You can read more about it in “[Playing Both Sides in Syria.](#)”

EUROPE

Trumpet Hour

GERMANY BUILDS AN AIRBASE IN TURKEY, ISLAMIC STATE IN MEXICO, CANADA TO LEGALIZE WEED, AND MORE | APRIL 28

WILL BRITAIN LOSE GIBRALTAR, AN ELECTION LANDSLIDE IN AUSTRIA AND GLOBAL SOIL CRISIS | APRIL 27

T Europe's Right-wing Reaction to the Migrant Crisis

Kieren Underwood | April 27

THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF PROBLEMS FOR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES dealing with the migrant crisis: refugee housing, unemployment, cultural integration, the threat of terrorist attacks, etc. But in the last six months, another issue has arisen that politicians are no longer ignoring: the violent reaction of their right-wing populations.

With German Chancellor Angela Merkel's open-door policy, Germany took in a record 1.1 million refugees in 2015, more than any other European country. *Der Spiegel*, one of Europe's most influential magazines, admitted in mid-2015 that Germany had become a "nation split in two." Here are some of the results:

- 1,005 crimes against refugee shelters were reported in 2015 (500 of them in the last three months of the year), a five-fold increase from the previous year. In violent attacks, nearly one third of offenders had no prior criminal record.
- 93 refugee shelters were set on fire in 2015, with a number of other failed attempts. In contrast, 2014 saw only six arson attacks on shelters.
- Numerous busloads of refugees have been escorted by police after protesters rallied against them receiving shelter.
- Marches involving thousands of right-wing, anti-migrant protesters have become common; some resulting in injured police officers. Counter protests have gathered as much as 35,000 people to show support for migrants.

The New Year's Eve Cologne attacks, in which up to 1,000 women were reported to have been sexually assaulted by North African- and Arab-looking men, pushed Germany's soft middle ground toward right-wing philosophies. The cruel acts by some

individuals since prompted the *Economist* to state it has been "a miracle no refugee has yet been killed."

In 2015, Sweden took in the most refugees per capita in all of Europe. The 160,000 refugees who arrived—nearly an additional 2 percent of the population—prompted *Foreign Policy* to pronounce its crisis as the "death of the most generous nation on Earth."

As in Germany, Sweden's right-wing political groups have received an upsurge in attention. Many politicians try to downplay any notion of a crisis—Sweden has a proud history of welcoming needy refugees. Those who favor a change in national policy point to the following:

- Swedish police were called to over 5,000 incidents at asylum centers in 2015.
- An outburst of arson attacks late last year saw over a dozen prospective refugee houses set on fire in a matter of months.
- According to PBS, the Swedish government is set to launch a taskforce designed to crack down on "vigilantes who might be thinking about taking the law into their own hands."

Both these countries are indicators of the growing tensions in other European nations. The recent terrorist attacks in Brussels will likely shift the political middle ground to the right. France's right-wing party, the National Front, saw a surge in popularity after the November 2015 Paris terrorist attacks, which killed 130. As the *Trumpet* has predicted for years, Europe will be looking for new leadership—for someone they believe can handle the crisis. For more in-depth analysis of this trend in Europe's most influential country, read "[Germany, Migrants and the Big Lie](#)."

T Catholic and Protestants Unite Politically

Josué Michels | April 27

POPE FRANCIS NEEDS TO LEAD THE WORLD IN CONFRONTING RADICAL Islam, said the leader of approximately 600 million Protestants. Thomas Schirrmacher, chief theologian for the World Evangelical Alliance, declared this in an interview published Nov. 5, 2015. He was among the 270 cardinals, bishops and experts attending the assembly. *Die Welt* reported that Pope Francis and Schirrmacher had in-depth discussions throughout the three-week synod.

Schirrmacher said that they discussed closer cooperation in family politics, as well as a decisive approach against the persecution of Christians in the Middle East. He said (*Trumpet* translation throughout):

[T]he international community would be obliged to stop the genocide. There would be a good chance for success

if the Christian world, with the pope at its head, takes a strong stance for such a classification of oriental Christian persecution.

In their Easter messages, theologians of both the Catholic and Protestant churches called for more commitment in the refugee crisis. Initially, both the Catholic Church and Protestant groups encouraged Germany to welcome more migrants. After the huge influx of refugees, however, this gradually changed; many Catholics now say it is unchristian to not control the borders.

Tagesspiegel reported on April 15 that German religious officials, both Protestant and Catholic, disagree with Merkel's recent policies. But because the churches supported her welcoming culture in the beginning, they find it hard to express their criticism

openly. Now that the chancellor is under so much pressure, the churches don't want to "stab her in the back." But with the intensifying refugee crisis and the genocide of Christians in the Middle East, they feel the urge to stand up and speak out.

Schirrmacher knows that Christianity will have a stronger sway if it is united. Therefore, he said, the pope can represent both churches "in ethical and political issues," giving him the

backing of 1.8 billion followers.

As history and prophecy show, a political system is often driven by a religious ideology. Today, we see the churches in Europe uniting under papal leadership. Soon religious involvement in politics will increase even more. To learn more about the religious future of Europe, read editor in chief Gerald Flurry's article "[Looking to Charlemagne](#)."

Austria Swings Right

ONE OF THE BIGGEST HEADLINES IN EUROPE THIS WEEK COMES from Austria, where the two mainstream parties have taken a battering, and instead a party typically described as "far right" is number one. Matthew Karnitschnig and Vince Chadwick explain the importance of what has just happened in their article "[Austrian Far Right Stuns Europe in Presidential First Round](#)":

Austria's anti-immigrant Freedom Party won big in the first round of presidential elections Sunday, as concerns over the refugee crisis and the economy prompted voters to abandon the ruling establishment in droves.

With all districts counted, Norbert Hofer of the far-right FPÖ claimed 35.3 percent of the vote, while candidates from the two governing parties—the Social Democrats (SPÖ) and center-right coalition partners the People's Party (ÖVP)—failed to make the run-off. In the last election six years ago, the two mainstream forces together garnered 80 percent of the vote, compared to just over 20 percent Sunday.

Though the presidency is a largely ceremonial office, the election result is being described as a political "earthquake" in Vienna. It means that Austria's next president will come from neither the Social Democrats nor the People's Party for the first time since 1945. Those parties currently rule the country in a grand coalition and have dominated its politics for decades. As elsewhere in Europe, that old political order appears to be crumbling.

Austria "has entered a new phase in its history," wrote Andreas Koller of the *Salzburger Nachrichten*, a daily. "The

consequences of Sunday's election are nowhere close to becoming clear."

Hofer, previously a little known party functionary, will face off against Greens candidate Alexander van der Bellen, projected to have won 21.3 percent Sunday, in a run-off scheduled for May 22. ...

In the polls leading up to election day, van der Bellen was consistently in the lead.

While the result has shocked many in Austria, where it is viewed as a protest vote, it comes amid deep frustration with the ruling class.

Only 12 percent of Austrians think the country is moving in the right direction with 52 percent saying it isn't, according to a recent poll. ...

Recent polls suggest the FPÖ would easily win parliamentary elections if they were held today, with more than 30 percent of the vote.

The party has capitalized on fears about what the influx of refugees will mean for the country. Austria has taken in more refugees per capita than Germany since the crisis began. In that regard, the election result will serve as a reminder to other EU countries of the political cost of embracing refugees.

This frustration with mainstream leaders and even the whole political system is one the most dangerous trends in Europe at the moment. For more on this, see the infographic from the latest print edition of the *Trumpet* magazine: "[The Fringe Is In](#)."

What Happens to Europe When Britain Leaves?

MANY BELIEVE THAT IF BRITAIN VOTES TO LEAVE THE EUROPEAN Union that other nations will follow and the whole Union could unravel. [The Center for European Reform](#), a London-based think tank, disagrees. Instead, it wrote, "Brexit could in the very long run give a new push to eurozone integration." It also said that without Britain, the EU may spend more on its military and integrate further:

Without Britain, the 27 remaining members might find it

easier to start framing a Common Defense Policy. It is possible that Brexit, coming on top of crises in Europe's neighborhood, might encourage EU member-states to invest more money in the European defense project and overcome their divisions. All continental powers have a shared interest in defending the security of their citizens and territory.

Leonid Bershidsky summarizes the report for Bloomberg View and points to the one big danger that the report warns of:

All in all—unless one believes in the magical effect of Brexit on euroskeptics’ electoral performance throughout Europe—the EU’s losses from Brexit would be easily manageable. It’s likely that the momentous event would bring the remaining EU members closer, ultimately contributing to the creation of a truly borderless market that, as a unit, would be more competitive with other global economic powers. The relationship with the U.S. would probably balance itself after a while, and a solution would be found to the defense issue.

There is, however, one problem that might prove harder to mitigate in the long run—that of Germany’s uncontested dominance. “Germany’s preponderance in the EU has grown in the past five years, because of the disengagement

of the UK, the relative weakness of both France and the European Commission,” the Center for European Reform report says. “This situation is not in Germany’s interests or those of the other member states.”

Germany’s leadership is, to a degree, forced and reluctant. Without the UK’s spirited opposition, its role will be institutionalized. Even if the Union becomes closer as a result, there are likely to be more policy errors and more resentment against Germany as the driving force—an attitude that is already widespread in Southern and Eastern Europe. Sometimes a strong dissenting force can be beneficial to a group, and that’s probably the biggest reason why the EU should hope to avoid Brexit.

Germany Builds New Air Base

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



GERMANY IS SPENDING \$73.7 MILLION TO BUILD A NEW AIR BASE in Turkey, *Spiegel* magazine reported. The Local summarized the story in English:

The air base will be built at the site in Incirlik where the Bundeswehr (German Army) is currently flying reconnaissance and refueling missions into Syria, according to a planning paper from the Defense Ministry seen by *Spiegel*.

The new extension to the Turkish base will include an air controller center for the German aircraft, accommodation for soldiers, and a completely equipped combat headquarters.

Germany is also reportedly in discussions with Ankara about a treaty for stationing German soldiers on Turkish soil for long-term deployments. ...

The plans foresee that in the coming six months Germany will invest around €10 million (US\$11.3 million) in an air controller area which is especially for the German

aircraft, a further €15 million (\$17 million) in accommodation for around 400 soldiers, and €34 million (\$38.5 million) in building a combat headquarters from where missions will be coordinated. ...

Most of the projects should be completed by summer 2017.

While up until now Turkey was responsible for providing facilities for its NATO partners, the German Ministry of Defense expects the military campaign against ISIS to drag on, and therefore believes that more permanent solutions are urgently necessary. ...

One opposition politician, speaking to *Spiegel*, expressed surprise at the speed with which Germany’s initial reaction to the Paris attacks has turned into a long-term military presence in Turkey. ...

The *Trumpet* has long forecast that Germany would get more militarily involved in the Middle East. For more on Germany’s plans here, read our e-book [Germany’s Secret Strategy to Destroy Iran](#).

ASIA

Russians Love Trump, Other Countries Not So Much

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



THE PEOPLE OF RUSSIA ARE WEIGHING IN ON THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL race, and they are strongly in favor of Donald Trump. A new YouGov survey published on April 18 explains the trend:

New YouGov research of over 20,000 adults in every G-20 country for Handelsblatt Global Edition reveals [Russia is the only country of the G-20 major economies](#) where people would rather Donald Trump was the next president

of the U.S. than Hillary Clinton. And by a long way: Trump leads Clinton by 21 points in Russia, while Hillary has a lead of *more than* 21 points over Trump in 15 other countries.

Analysts say the explanation may be that Donald Trump has spoken out in favor of normalizing relations between the United States and Russia.

In Spite of the Junta's Vows, Thailand Won't Return to a Real Democracy Any Time Soon

IN ONE OF THE MOST UNDERREPORTED STORIES OF RECENT YEARS, Thailand has reverted from democracy to a military state by sheer force, and despite promises from the ruling junta, it appears unlikely to return to a true democracy anytime in the near term.

The *Diplomat* discussed the situation earlier this month:

... Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha tried to reassure foreign policymakers that Thailand was indeed headed back to democracy next year. Three years after Prayuth launched a coup, he promised ... the generals would hand over power and hold an election. But events in Thailand suggest that [Prayuth and his allies actually are digging in for the long haul](#).

After months of wrangling over a proposed new constitution, the draft revealed by the charter writing committee contains clauses that seem extremely undemocratic. The charter will allow the junta to control the selection of the vast majority of senators who will sit in the upper house

of parliament, if the constitution is approved. In addition, the charter gives the unelected upper house, and other unelected government bodies, far more power than they had under the previous constitution. And the proposed constitution also contains a clause that could allow for an unelected prime minister, potentially another avenue for the armed forces to continue wielding power even after an election for the lower house next year. ...

Meanwhile, last week the junta granted soldiers essentially unrestrained police powers. ...

[T]he junta also is stepping up repression of critics, [and it] will bar any public discussion sessions about the draft constitution, except for those organized by the government. ...

The trajectory of Thailand represents another blow to democracy and could eventually threaten the close relationship the United States has enjoyed with Thailand since the 1800s.

Xi Jinping Is Purging the Chinese Military

SEVERAL REPORTS IN RECENT MONTHS HAVE CALLED ATTENTION to Chinese President Xi Jinping purging his nation's military and have speculated about what it means for China and the world.

National Interest chimed in earlier this month with some compelling analysis. The authors say "[Xi is reviving Maoist-style tactics](#)."

Veteran China watchers ... have paid ... close attention to Xi's establishment of the [People's Liberation Army] PLA Strategic Support Force Analysts have also pondered questions such as the future membership of the CMC and how cooperative the traditionally army-dominated top levels of the PLA's leadership will become under the reforms. ...

[I]t is also necessary to consider the broader implications of Xi's apparent relationship with the military. Many observers have stated the obvious: Xi is as "large and in charge" in military circles as he is in Chinese politics generally. This is true, but his control over the PLA deserves more attention than it has received. ...

Xi is reviving Maoist-style tactics including purges of corrupt officers, forced public displays of respect for Mao and support of Maoist thinking, and a formidable internal monitoring system—to ensure his personal dominance over the military. Xi's leadership style vis-à-vis the military

will have profound implications for civilian-military relations in China. ...

Part of Xi's "China Dream" is to produce a strong military capable of deterring or, if necessary, taking on powerful potential adversaries including even the United States. Xi seems intent on keeping his anticorruption campaign and homage to Mao severely circumscribed, to focus on combating the problem of corruption and rooting out any disloyalty or opposition to reform within the ranks. Mao, on the other hand, sought ideological purity as defined by him at the expense of PLA modernization and professionalization efforts.

To date, there is no evidence that Xi is considering this path. In fact, his military reforms suggest quite the opposite: Xi wants a PLA that demonstrates utmost loyalty to the party, but he also wants a far more competent and operationally capable PLA by 2020—one that is commensurate with China's status as a major world power and capable of protecting China's regional and global interests.

Xi's ambition and his mirroring of Mao is cause for concern. In the name of ideology, Chairman Mao was responsible for the murder of more people than Hitler or Stalin. Under his reign, between 65 and 75 million Chinese were murdered—starved, tortured, bullied to suicide, or executed as traitors.

China Suffering Childhood Obesity Pandemic

THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS ARE NOT THE only ones struggling with a pandemic of childhood obesity. A 29-year study of Chinese children shows that obesity rates there are also rapidly expanding.

South China Morning Post reported on the trend April 27:

Thirty years ago, for every 100 children and adolescents you came across in China, you'd be hard pressed to find even one who was obese. That situation has drastically changed: In 2014, **about one in six boys and one in 11 girls were obese**, a new study shows.

Researchers say China is paying the price of adopting a Western lifestyle and the findings are a wake-up call for Chinese policymakers to take steps to stem the trend. The 29-year study, published on April 26 in the *European*

Journal of Preventive Cardiology, involved nearly 28,000 rural students from Shandong province.

"This is extremely worrying," says Prof. Joep Perk, cardiovascular prevention spokesman for the European Society of Cardiology. "It is the worst explosion of childhood and adolescent obesity that I have ever seen." ...

The prevalence of overweight and obesity in boys increased from 0.74 percent and 0.03 percent in 1985 to 16.4 percent and 17.2 percent in 2014, and in girls increased from 1.5 percent and 0.12 percent in 1985 to 13.9 percent and 9.1 percent in 2014, respectively.

Chinese authorities are calling the news a "wake-up call." But if the situation parallels that of the youth in the U.S., they are unlikely to find an easy solution to the problem.

TW IN BRIEF

President Obama discusses China and North Korea: During his recent weeklong trip to the Middle East and Europe, United States President Barack Obama spoke to CBS about China and North Korea. "[W]ith respect to the South China Sea, rather than operate under international norms and rules, [China's] attitude is, 'We're the biggest kids around here. And we're gonna push aside the Philippines or the Vietnamese,'" Mr. Obama said. "But it doesn't mean that we're trying to act against China. We just want them to be partners with us." Regarding North Korea, he said: "One of the things that we have been doing is spending a lot more time positioning our missile defense systems, so that even as we try to resolve the underlying problem of nuclear development inside of North Korea, we're also setting up a shield that can at least block the relatively low-level threats that they're posing right now."

China's floating nuclear power plants: The People's Republic of China revealed on Friday its plans to build a fleet of floating nuclear power plants to provide energy for the newly constructed island chains in the South China Sea. Electricity is hard to come by in the middle of the ocean, and state-owned China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation plans to supply it to offshore oil platforms and the contentious man-made islands. The idea is not new, with Russia most recently starting to build the floating nuclear plants for remote locations such as the Arctic. Chinese media revealed that as many as 20 plants are being planned.

Nuclear power experts said although there are a few technical obstacles to be overcome, the Chinese have been operating nuclear-powered submarines for a number of years, so the new power plants would not be a big leap.

UN requests North Korea stop provocative action: The United Nations urged North Korea on Monday to "cease any further provocative action." The request came after North Korea conducted a submarine-launched ballistic missile test. North Korea announced it conducted a successful underwater test-fire on Sunday. The UN described the actions as "extremely troubling" and said the incident is another violation of UN Security Council resolutions. North Korea's foreign minister said the United States must stop nuclear war exercises in the Korean Peninsula if North Korea is to cease nuclear tests. The U.S. is not taking the proposal seriously.

Japan stealth plane: Japan's first domestically manufactured stealth plane successfully made its first flight April 22, putting the nation at the forefront of only a handful of nations with stealth capabilities. Defense officials said the X-2 is designed to test the stealth technology that would be combined with the next-generation fighter jet, replacing the fleet of F-2 fighters as early as 2028. Led by Mitsubishi Heavy Industry, the stealth plane comes with radar-resistance features, including a canopy with special stealth-enhancing coating.

AFRICA/LATIN AMERICA

Malema: 'We Will Remove the Government Through the Barrel of a Gun'

THE RULING AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS PARTY IN SOUTH Africa filed treason charges on Tuesday against opposition

leader Julius Malema. The ANC opened the case of high treason against Malema for threatening to topple the government

through violence. Malema told Al Jazeera on Sunday that if the ANC government continues using force to suppress dissent, his supporters will soon run out of patience and remove the government “through the barrel of a gun.”

In his Al Jazeera interview, Malema said the ANC wasn’t the

real enemy. He said the ANC was “standing in the way of [his party’s] goal to crush white monopoly” in South Africa.

Nearly 12 years after South Africa gained independence, the rainbow nation is struggling to solve its problems. For more on where South Africa is headed, read [“Democracy or Anarchy?”](#)

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!



Mexican Cartels Smuggling Terrorists Into America

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



MEXICAN DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARE HELPING ISLAMIC TERRORISTS cross the Rio Grande into the United States to explore targets for future attacks. Among these jihadists is an Islamic State operative named Shaykh Mahmood Omar Khabir, a Kuwaiti who lives in the Mexican state of Chihuahua. Khabir has trained hundreds of al Qaeda fighters in the Middle East but has lived in Mexico for over a year, according to information forwarded to Judicial Watch by a high-ranking Homeland Security official.

An [April 26 report](#) by Judicial Watch (JW) reveals:

Now Khabir trains thousands of men—mostly Syrians and Yemenis—to fight in an ISIS base situated in the Mexico-U.S. border region near Ciudad Juárez, the intelligence gathered by JW’s source reveals. Staking out U.S. targets is not difficult and Khabir actually brags in an Italian newspaper article published last week that the border region is so open that he “could get in with a handful of men and kill thousands of people in Texas or in Arizona in the space of a few hours.” Foreign Affairs Secretary Claudia Ruiz, Mexico’s top diplomat, says in the article that she doesn’t understand why the Obama administration and the U.S. media are “culpably neglecting this phenomenon,” adding that “this new wave of fundamentalism could have nasty surprises in store for the United States.”

Judicial Watch has reported on the alliance between the Islamic State and Mexican drug cartels before, even though the

mainstream media has glossed over this partnership. The report continues:

A year ago, Judicial Watch reported on an ISIS camp in this exact area, just a few miles from El Paso. JW’s April 14, 2015 report identified Anapra as the location of the ISIS base, details that were provided to JW by sources that include a Mexican Army field grade officer and a Mexican federal police inspector. Anapra is situated just west of Ciudad Juárez in the Mexican state of Chihuahua. At the time, JW reported that another ISIS cell was established to the west of Ciudad Juárez in Puerto Palomas to target the New Mexico towns of Columbus and Deming. Sources told JW that, during the course of a joint operation, Mexican Army and federal law enforcement officials discovered documents in Arabic and Urdu, as well as “plans” of Fort Bliss—the sprawling military installation that houses the U.S. Army’s 1st Armored Division. Muslim prayer rugs were recovered with the documents during the operation.

Back in 2012, a congressional report from the House Homeland Security Committee warned that Iran was smuggling Hezbollah operatives into the United States, assisted by Mexican cartels. So far, there has not been a major Hezbollah or ISIS-initiated terrorist strike on U.S. soil. Yet this much is certain: The alliance between Mexican cartels and Islamic terrorist is one of the most underreported dangers to America.

T Not Combat Ready: U.S. Marine Corps

Andrew Locher | April 25

THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS AVIATION WING IS SUFFERING from the burden of 15 years' worth of fighting and budget cuts. Fox News ran an exclusive story about this predicament on April 17. The article reported that the vast majority of U.S. strike fighter aircraft are NOT airworthy. But it wasn't just F-18s grounded due to a lack of parts, maintenance or other complications. "Only 42 of 147 heavy-lift CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters are airworthy," Fox reported.

Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have taken their toll on combat aircraft. For more than a decade, the Marine Corps has been called upon to provide close air support, strategic bombing and air supremacy sorties beyond the recommended flight-hour expectation per aircraft.

Exacerbating the problem, budget cuts and sequestration have reduced anticipated budgets for repairs and maintenance to an inadequate level. Fox reported that "U.S. military spending has dropped from \$691 billion in 2010 to \$560 billion in 2015." That is a 19 percent decrease in five years. Adjusted for inflation, it's nearly 21 percent. (Other sources say the 2015 estimate is closer to \$596 billion.)

Adding even more fuel to the fire is the replacement pipeline to meet the mission requirements heaped upon the corps. The Super Stallion helicopters (CH-53E) are to be replaced with upgraded "K" models. The MV-22B Osprey was to be the solution for the rotary-wing aircraft used by the corps. Yet the Osprey has failed to live up to expectations, and several accidents have degraded confidence in this "upgrade." The F-18 Hornets were to be replaced with the [F-35 Joint Strike Fighter](#)—but as the *Trumpet* has reported, known flaws, significant budget overruns, and delays in deployment have delayed the F-35's release.

The Marine Corps claims to be the first to arrive to a combat role. Yet while it is ordered to be most ready when the nation is least ready, it is being asked to do so with less equipment and fewer marines. Current budget allocation from the Department

of Defense falls short of meeting the growing maintenance needs for its aircraft. The Fox News exclusive elaborated on another consequence of fewer operational aircraft: diminished time in the air:

The aircraft shortage means pilots spend less time in the air. "This last 30 days, our average flight time per pilot was just over four hours," said [Lt. Col. Harry] Thomas.

Marine Corps F/A-18 Hornets are supposed to have a shelf life of 6,000 hours, but they are being refurbished to extend the life to 8,000. There is talk that some aircraft might be pushed to 10,000 hours while the Marine Corps waits for the 5th-generation Joint Strike Fighter, which is slated to replace the F-18, but has been plagued by cost overruns.

Pilots are being asked to remain operational ready with aircraft that are well beyond their engineered limits. Not only has time spent refining their skills in the air been reduced, but pilots are now limited by aging aircraft that could pose safety risks outside of combat roles.

If the U.S. can't afford to maintain what it has and the Marines are asked to wait for new equipment, how can they maintain morale while potential enemies flex their muscles? Just within the past month, the U.S. military has faced harassment with combat-simulated flybys, shadowing of reconnaissance aircraft, and other highly provocative actions. If American forces aren't equipped with reliable equipment, how can they respond effectively?

The U.S. military is replacing hardware with flawed, poorly engineered and expensive hardware. The U.S. no longer has the best equipment and most highly trained forces on the planet. Those days have given way to budget realities and broken will. America is becoming a paper tiger—and our enemies are becoming increasingly aware of it.

T Canada to Legalize Weed by Next Spring

[theTrumpet.com](#) | April 25

THE SAME DAY AROUND 25,000 PEOPLE ATTENDED VANCOUVER, Canada's annual pot rally on April 20 to celebrate "National Weed Day," Canadian Health Minister Jane Philpott announced new legislation to be introduced next spring. It is intended to "keep marijuana out of the hands of children and profits out of the hands of criminals." What is that legislation? The legalization of marijuana.

A new poll released from the Angus Reid Institute on April 20 revealed that 68 percent of Canadians support the legalization of marijuana. In 2001, Canada became the first nation to legalize

medical marijuana—allowing people suffering from terminal illnesses to use the drug to ease their symptoms. Now, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau seeks to fulfill his election promise to legalize the drug for recreational purposes.

While details about the legislation are vague, Philpott revealed Canada's plans to work "with law enforcement partners to encourage appropriate and proportionate criminal justice measures." Speaking at a United Nations General Assembly on drug use in New York, she continued, "We know it is impossible to arrest our way out of this problem."

The Angus Reid poll also revealed that while 68 percent of Canadians believe that legalizing marijuana will have positive effects, 51 percent worried that legalization would make it “easier for children to get and use marijuana.”

Philpott said that the policies and regulations enforced through the legislation will be “the best way to protect our youth while enhancing public safety.”

Will the new legislation protect the youth? Many argue that marijuana should be legalized because people will find a way to obtain it anyway. However, legalizing it will make it more prevalent and accessible. Those deterred from using weed due to the difficulty of obtaining it illegally will be able to obtain it more easily. According to Canada’s Youth Smoking Survey 2012–2013, nearly three quarters of youth who smoke report they obtained their cigarettes from social sources—family and friends who purchased the tobacco legally.

TW IN BRIEF

President Obama: We’re living in “most peaceful” era in human history: United States President Barack Obama announced in Germany on Monday that we are living in the most peaceful era in human history. “That may surprise young people who are watching TV or looking at your phones and it seems like only bad news comes through every day,” he said in Hanover. “But consider that it’s been decades since the last war between major powers. More people live in democracies. We’re wealthier and healthier and better educated, with a global economy that has lifted up more than a billion people from extreme poverty, and created new middle classes from the Americas to Africa to Asia.” Mr. Obama shortly thereafter announced that he is sending 250 more military personnel to fight the Islamic State in Syria.

London mayor suggests President Obama has “ancestral dislike” of UK: A recent article in the *Sun* by London Mayor Boris Johnson stated that United States President Barack Obama’s hostile attitude toward Britain might be based on his “part-Kenyan” heritage and “ancestral dislike of the British Empire.” Johnson

“I am proud to stand up for our drug policy that is informed by solid scientific evidence and uses a lens of public health to ... minimize harm,” stated Philpott at the beginning of her speech. She continued by saying that the solution to the devastating consequences of drugs and drug-related crime are “within our grasp” and based on a “firm scientific foundation.”

It’s ironic that the health minister is discussing legalization of a drug proved to be very unhealthy. “[S]olid scientific evidence” reveals that teenagers who use marijuana have a reduction in thinking, memory and learning functions and experience depression and anxiety. Even teens who stopped using the drug after two years showed brain abnormalities that appeared “similar to brains of schizophrenics.” Usage can cause breathing problems, bronchitis and increased risk of heart attack. Heavy marijuana users also report more relationship problems and lower life satisfaction.

said that the U.S. would never dream of engaging in an anti-democratic arrangement like the European Union. President Obama had an article in the *Telegraph* newspaper last Friday encouraging the United Kingdom to remain in the European Union. Many in Britain’s euroskeptic community are condemning this endorsement of the European Union.

New anti-LGBT law in North Carolina: Demonstrators encircled North Carolina’s statehouse Monday, some in support and others in protest of new laws about public bathroom access for transgender people. The demonstrators gathered because of the Republican-backed law, known as House Bill 2, which says people must use restrooms in accordance with their biological gender. At least 18 protesters opposing the bill were arrested Monday evening when they entered the office of a top legislative leader to voice their opposition. Thousands of Christian conservatives and other supporters of the bill gathered on a lawn behind the legislative building on the opening day of the legislature, praising the measure.



Television’s Darkest Age

Stephen Flurry,

Trumpet Daily | April 22

TV content is descending to new lows.

[Follow Stephen Flurry](#)

