

# Trumpet Weekly

MAY 6, 2016

U.S. President Barack Obama attends a press conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel before meeting with EU leaders on April 24, in Hanover, Germany.



## President Obama and America's Love Affair With Europe

Stephen Flurry and Richard Palmer | May 5

THE EUROPEAN UNION IS “ONE OF THE GREATEST POLITICAL AND economic achievements of modern times,” United States President Barack Obama said last week. While Europeans are turning increasingly against the Union, America’s president sounded more pro-EU than many of Europe’s own leaders.

While in London on April 22, he provoked angry headlines with his comment that “the UK is going to be in the back of the queue” if it leaves the EU. But in Germany he delivered a much more positive speech.

He said, in a joint press conference on April 24, that his

relationship with German Chancellor Angela Merkel “is as important a relationship as I’ve had during the course of my presidency.”

“She has been steady,” he said. “She is trustworthy.” That’s the real special relationship today.

The bulk of his speech on April 25 focused on the European Union. “I’ve come here today, to the heart of Europe, to say that the United States, and the entire world, needs a strong and prosperous and democratic and united Europe,” he said, receiving applause.

“Perhaps you need an outsider, somebody who is not European, to remind you of the magnitude of what you have achieved,” he told them.

Has Mr. Obama talked about any other group of nations this way?

The *Trumpet* has long warned that a strong, reasonably unified union of European nations would be a major rival and threat to America. Now, with the European project seemingly on the brink of disaster, Mr. Obama is fighting for it to hold together. He is encouraging the rise of the Holy Roman Empire—the empire that will bring about America’s demise.

His threat to Britain shows the [end of the special relationship](#) between the U.S. and United Kingdom. But it also shows America’s commitment to the EU—he’s willing to threaten the nation that used to be America’s closest friend and ally in order to keep the EU together.

“We need a strong Europe to bear its share of the burden, working with us on behalf of our collective security,” President Obama added. He even complained saying, “I’ll be honest, sometimes Europe has been complacent about its own defense.”

But this strong support for Europe should not be surprising; the U.S. has encouraged the creation of this Union right from the start.

“To begin at the beginning, European integration was an American idea,” wrote George Friedman on Geopolitical Futures. “While Paul-Henri Spaak and Robert Schuman may have thought of the idea, it was the Marshall Plan that first had increased European integration as one of its goals.”

The European project—back then in the forms of the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Economic Community—was one of the top recipients of American money.

CIA officials created and funded the American Committee on United Europe (ACUE). ACUE ran “a domestic propaganda campaign designed to persuade American public opinion of the need for a more united Europe,” wrote the Roosevelt Study Center.

However, its “main duty was to arrange discreet American financial assistance for the European supports of such federalist initiatives as the Council of Europe, the Schuman Plan, the European Army.”

The CIA “was funding the ACUE to the tune of about \$1 million a year, making it one of America’s most expensive covert operations of the early Cold War period,” it wrote.

The European Movement, led by Robert Schuman and former Belgian Prime Minister Paul-Henri Spaak, among others, was one of the most important groups pushing for the creation of a federal Europe. ACUE provided the majority of the movement’s funds—reaching as high as two thirds after 1952—and it funded its youth group entirely.

Richard J. Aldrich, currently professor of International Security at Warwick University, wrote then that “the discreet injection of over \$3 million between 1949 and 1960, mostly from U.S. government sources,” into the European Movement “was central to efforts to drum up mass support for the Schuman Plan, the European Defense Community and a European Assembly with sovereign powers.”

This pro-European policy went right to the top. One memo from 1950, for example, giving instructions for a campaign to create a European Parliament, was signed by Gen. William J.

Donovan. Donovan had been the head of the Office of Strategic Services, the World War II precursor of the CIA. Donovan chaired the ACUE, with the 1950s CIA director, Allen Dulles, as the vice chairman. The CIA’s first director, Walter Beddel Smith, was on the board.

The *Telegraph*’s Ambrose Evans-Pritchard wrote last week: “The Schuman Declaration that set the tone of Franco-German reconciliation—and would lead by stages to the European Community—was cooked up by the U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson at a meeting in Foggy Bottom. ‘It all began in Washington,’ said Robert Schuman’s chief of staff.”

They wanted this to go further than simply a trading block. They wanted a power to counter the Soviet Union, and so America had the same vision of a European superstate that was held by federal Europe’s most ardent supporters.

In a memo from 1965, the CIA encouraged the vice president of the European Community to create a shared currency. But the CIA wanted it done discretely, so that it wasn’t discussed “until adoption of such proposals would become virtually inescapable.” It wanted Europe to adopt a common currency to force it to unite further against the wishes of its voters—exactly the strategy adopted by EU elites in the 1990s with the creation of the euro.

The CIA also wanted Britain in the EU. So it worked to turn the Labour movement around from its euroskeptic stance. Aldrich wrote that “they sought to undermine the staunch resistance of the British Labour government to federalist ideas.” It’s impossible to tell if the Labour Party would have supported the EU without that help—it seems like it may well have done so—nevertheless the Labour Party changed course, paving the way for Britain to join the EU.

That’s not to say the whole EU is something cooked up by the CIA. It had plenty of support within Europe and from other powerful bodies, like the Catholic Church, for example. As Aldrich wrote, “[T]he history of ACUE shows us prominent European politicians in search of discreet American assistance, rather than the CIA in search of proxies.” But America clearly nurtured, supported and encouraged the movement toward European federalism.

America is responsible for creating so many of the movements that threaten it today—and nowhere is that more true than in Europe. This power is becoming increasingly independent of the U.S., yet America’s leaders keep building it up.

In 1959, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote: “In America we are prone to see only one enemy at a time. For the past 13 or 14 years, the only enemy that we have been able to see is *Russia*. During World War II, the only enemy we could see was Germany and, of course, the ally of Germany at that time, Japan. Russia was then, we thought, our ally.

“But now that Russia is our enemy and we see that enemy, we seem to think that Germany, Japan and the nations that we fought in World War II are now our allies.”

America rebuilt Germany, including its military, to help defend against Russia. And it helped build the EU too. For more on what the Bible says about these decisions, read *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry’s article “[The Significance of Germany’s Break From America](#).”

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# TrumpetDaily

## RADIO SHOW

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## T Will Oman Become Beholden to Iran?

Brent Nagtegaal | May 9

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



LESS THAN A WEEK AFTER THE NUCLEAR DEAL WAS IMPLEMENTED in January, Iran's ambassador to Oman, Ali Akbar Sibaveh, promised: "Friends at times of need are few, and Oman stood with us through thick and thin, and we do not forget our friends." This note of thanks indicates the critical part that Muscat played early on in the nuclear process.

Although the nuclear negotiations between the United States and Iran became public after the election of so-called moderate Hassan Rouhani to Iran's presidential office in the latter half of 2013, secret talks had been going on for years. Those meetings were held in Oman.

According to the *New York Times*, the Obama administration first learned of Iran's desire to discuss its nuclear program in the middle of 2009 when Omani businessman Salem ben Nasser al-Ismaily approached Dennis Ross, then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's special adviser on Iran at the State Department. In Ismaily's hand was an offer from Iran to the Obama administration to negotiate its nuclear program and the lifting of sanctions, among other things.

Given that Ismaily was a known confidant of Omani Sultan Qaboos bin Said, who in turn had a long-standing friendly relationship with Iranians, the State Department thought there was a chance the proposal was authentic and thus allowed Ross to continue correspondence with the Omanis.

Eighteen months later, Clinton arrived in Muscat to talk with the sultan about the potential negotiations. According to the *Times*, Secretary Clinton was prepared to test out the proposition, though she expressed doubt in Iran's ability to negotiate in good faith. On the other hand, it was around this time that President Barack Obama became more involved in the process, calling the sultan himself twice in the next few months to see whether he could deliver an Iranian who had the authority to speak on behalf of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

In the latter part of 2011 to early 2012, U.S. representatives of both Clinton and then Sen. John Kerry arrived in the Omani capital to pursue the option of negotiations. All the while, not a whiff of a potential United State détente with Iran had reached the public.

Remember, the clandestine maneuvering was all done during the presidential term of Iranian firebrand Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, most famous for his declarations to wipe Israel off the map.

Then, on June 14, 2013, former Iranian nuclear negotiator Hassan Rouhani was inaugurated as Iran's president—a supposed embodiment of Iranian moderation. A month later, on the sidelines of a United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York, his foreign minister, Javad Zarif, presented what John Kerry called "very different in the vision" of the future.

Fast forward to Jan. 16, 2016—the nuclear deal implementation day which opened up frozen funds to Iran as well as lifted economic sanctions—and it's obvious why Iran said it won't forget to repay the Omanis.

Clearly, Oman didn't mediate the initial movements of the nuclear agreement purely for altruistic purposes. It had plenty to gain economically from the reintegration of Iran back into the international system. Given that Oman and Iran are just 21 miles apart at its closest point across the Strait of Hormuz, new trade deals would allow for goods to quickly and cheaply pass between the nations.

There are already many fruits to show for the growing integration of the two economies.

The fact that Oman is pursuing what seems to be a pro-Iran policy is not necessarily surprising. While Oman is located on the Saudi Arabian peninsula and is a member of the anti-Iranian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Muscat has long pursued its own foreign-policy agenda. The leadership of Sultan Qaboos has endeavored to enjoy a peaceful coexistence with all of its neighbors. Even during the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s, Oman refused to take sides, though it did allow the United States to use its military bases and landing strips.

As a recent example, when protesters stormed the Saudi Embassy in Tehran following the execution of Shiite Cleric Nimr al-Nimr earlier this year, Oman broke with the GCC and other Sunni states, refusing to cut off diplomatic ties with Iran.

Oman is simply continuing its half-century policy of not getting involved in regional rivalries.

But it's unlikely that Iran sees it the same way. Iran is not moving closer to Oman so that Oman can pursue a more independent

foreign policy. RATHER, ITS BENEVOLENCE IS MERELY A FACADE TO ENSURE OMAN BECOMES [BEHOLDEN TO IRAN](#).



## Journalists Arrested in Egypt's Increasingly Frequent Protests

Kieren Underwood | May 8

**A**MIDST PROTESTS ON APRIL 25 AGAINST EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT Abdel al-Sisi's [transfer of two Red Sea islands](#) to Saudi Arabia, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said that Egyptian police arrested at least 286 people, including 33 journalists.

Sisi's anti-protest laws in Egypt have made it illegal to hold demonstrations without the approval of police.

"Egypt's effective zero-tolerance policy for protests leaves people with no outlet to peacefully express their grievances, and protesting can mean years in prison," said HRW's deputy director for Middle East, Nadim Houry.

According to witnesses of the arrests, police stop commuters on public transportation and pedestrians alike and make warrantless inspections of their mobile phones. Those found with anti-government messages face arrest.

HRW reported: "The allegations against those arrested included incitement to use force to overturn the government, incitement to attack police stations, membership in a terrorist group, promoting terrorist crimes and thoughts through the Internet, publishing false news through social media to disturb stability and security, and incitement to demonstrate without permission."

Reporters Without Borders ranked Egypt 159 out of 180

countries in its 2016 World Press Freedom Index. Egypt's freedom index has dropped significantly in the past decade and now ranks worse than it did under Hosni Mubarak.

When asked by Al Jazeera if Sisi was "finally losing his grip on Egypt," a former adviser to the ousted President Mohamed Morsi responded: "Is Sisi losing his grip on Egypt? No, because Sisi never had a grip on Egypt in the first place. The illusion that he did is one of the fundamental root causes behind the miserable state of affairs in Egypt today."

Joshua Stacher, author of *Adaptable Autocrats*, which examines how executive powers shaped the uprisings in Egypt and Syria, has no doubt Sisi will be overthrown. He told Al Jazeera: "The state continues to fragment. The unorganized generals have no answer for fixing the post-independent state, its economy, or producing genuine stability by politically engineering social classes. When will Sisi be overthrown? He already has been. The event just has not happened yet."

*Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has predicted for over 20 years that a radical shift in Egyptian politics would bring it in line with Iran. See "[Egypt and Libya to Join Iran's Terror Network](#)" for more.

## Islamic Jihad in Iran

**P**ALESTINIAN MEDIA REPORTED ON SUNDAY THAT ISLAMIC JIHAD militants visited Iran to discuss ways to intensify their armed struggle in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

The terrorist group met with Iran's supreme leader, foreign minister and other senior officials. Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said that it was his nation's "duty from the beginning" to support the Palestinians. The Islamic Republic's defense minister, Hossein Dehghan, also pledged his support, saying, "The secret of victory over the Zionist regime and the liberation of [Jerusalem] lie

in the unity of all Muslims."

The Islamic Jihad's secretary general highlighted the significance of Iran's support for Palestinians. He also expressed disappointment over what he called "Arab indifference" toward the Palestinian cause.

Iranian meddling will prove instrumental to the fulfillment of end-time prophecies about the [fall of Jerusalem](#). The *Trumpet* explains more about those prophecies in "[Jerusalem: Your Thermometer for Measuring Crises](#)."

## TW IN BRIEF

**T**he struggle for peace in Syria: The Syrian truce that was brokered in February has "fallen completely in a few areas," according to United States Secretary of State John Kerry. In others, he said, it's hanging by a thread. The *Jerusalem Post* reported on Tuesday that the truce effectively ended in Aleppo as Syrian President Bashar Assad resumed air strikes on civilians and Western-backed rebels. In the past two weeks of fighting, nearly 300 were killed in the battle for Aleppo. While the Syrian government agreed to a 48-hour "regime of calm" in Aleppo beginning Thursday morning, fighting has intensified in other parts of the country such as Khan Touman and Palmyra.

**A**nother U.S. death in Iraq: The Islamic State killed an American serviceman in a city in northern Iraq on Tuesday. United States Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced that the soldier died in combat (though the White House said he was not in a combat mission). He's the third American to be killed in direct combat since a U.S.-led coalition began its campaign against the terrorist group in 2014. The American soldier had been advising Kurdish Peshmerga troops. Nearly two weeks ago, the United States announced plans to send an additional 200 servicemen to Iraq.



# Trumpet Hour

A PLAN FOR EUROARMY, LEGAL JAPANESE NUKES, IRAN IN AFRICA, FASCIST CROATIA, LONDON'S MUSLIM MAYOR, AND MORE | MAY 6

AMERICA'S RELATIONS WITH GERMANY, GERMANY'S WITH ISRAEL'S, PROTESTS AGAINST TRUMP AND MORE | MAY 4

## Germany Calls for a European Army

### WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



GERMANY WANTS EUROPE TO COOPERATE MORE ON ITS MILITARY, according to a government paper leaked to the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* and the *Financial Times*. “In effect, the leaked draft says that Germany wants the formation of a European army,” wrote Geopolitical Futures.

The *Financial Times* described the paper’s proposals in an article titled “[Germany to Push for Progress Toward European Army](#)” by Alex Barker and Stefan Wagstyl:

Germany is to push for progress towards a European army by advocating a joint headquarters and shared military assets, according to defense plans that could ricochet into Britain’s EU referendum campaign.

Although Berlin has long paid lip service to forming a “European defense union,” the white paper is one of the most significant for Germany in recent years and may be seized by anti-integration Brexit campaigners as a sign where the bloc is heading.

They explained that the report was scheduled to be published after the British referendum, as the idea of a European army is unpopular in the United Kingdom. Their article continues:

In this and other areas, its tone reflects Germany’s growing clout and confidence in pursuing a foreign policy backed by elements of hard power. Initiatives range from strengthening cyberwarfare abilities to contentious proposals to relax the postwar restrictions on army operations within Germany.

“German security policy has relevance—also far beyond our country,” the paper states. “Germany is willing to join early, decisively and substantially as a driving force in international debates ... to take responsibility and assume leadership.”

Jan Techau, a former defense official at Carnegie Europe, said: “This is the time of a new Germany. This is probably the first time a German defense white paper is something like important.” ...

At the European level, the paper calls for “the use of all

possibilities” available under EU treaties to establish deep cooperation between willing member states, create a joint civil-military headquarters for EU operations, a council of defense ministers, and better coordinate the production and sharing of military equipment. ...

Resistance to serious defense integration is well entrenched in many EU states and has hobbled efforts to make meaningful progress in common defense. ... However, about 37 EU security missions have been launched since 2003, including recent operations in Mali and against piracy. If vigorously pursued in Brussels, Germany’s call for joint civil military headquarters would be an important step in enhancing the bloc’s capabilities and ambitions.

Geopolitical Futures notes that much of the reason for this, comes from America:

That Germany would push for such a move is in line with a number of dynamics that have developed in recent months. The most important of these has been the U.S. putting substantial pressure on the Europeans to shoulder more of the defense burden in Europe. At the center of that conversation is NATO. Many ridiculed Donald Trump when he called NATO “obsolete” in March and said the U.S. was paying too much to the military alliance, but in that particular case Trump touched a very raw nerve. ...

The Germans may now be saying that NATO is not the most effective way for Europe to defend itself. The suggestion is that a new military alliance may be necessary to fix the one that isn’t working.

Germany is taking U.S. pressure seriously from a public relations viewpoint. Besides these most recent leaks, federal budget proposals in Germany for 2017 released on March 23 showed an additional €1.7 billion (\$1.95 billion) that would be spent on defense in Germany for 2017. But even though Germany has said that it will increase defense spending, and even with a 6.8 percent planned increase for 2016, Germany still spends well below the 2 percent of GDP threshold that all NATO members are

supposed to spend on their military budgets. The Germans feel the pressure from the U.S. and are responding with token measures, hoping that at least showing that they accept U.S. concerns will help maintain the relationship.

The paper does not detail who would pay for this military, or

how decisions are made, so other important steps are still needed. But it shows a marked change in Germany that the nation is now willing to openly take the lead in forming an army. Germany has also been working with its neighbors and is planning to create a multinational panzer division next year. For more on Germany's efforts to create a European army, read our recent article "[Germany Is Taking Over the Dutch Army](#)."

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## Neo-Nazi's Flourish in Croatia

**D**ISTURBING REPORTS OF NEO-NAZISM AROUND FROM CROATIA. EurActiv published an article titled "Pro-Nazi Nostalgia Flourishes Under New Croatia Government" on April 29, writing:

"Nostalgia" for a pro-Nazi past, spurning of ethnic minorities and pressure on the press: Croatian activists say an alarming climate of intolerance is taking hold under a new conservative government.

Since the ruling coalition took power in the European Union country in January, critics say authorities have turned a blind eye—and even contributed to—concerns over a far-right right surge. ...

Although the Ustasha's so-called Independent State of Croatia was a Nazi puppet state—killing hundreds of thousands of Serbs, Jews, Roma and others—their modern sympathizers see them as the country's founding fathers. ...

The downplaying of their atrocities "has existed for years, but in a different intensity," historian Tvrtko Jakovina told Agence France-Presse.

"It has now penetrated cabinet ministers and the mainstream media." ...

"The state is simply not doing anything ... and does not want to" prevent a far-right revival, said Ognjen Kraus,

leader of Croatia's Jewish community. ...

A local television journalist had in January warned citizens of Zagreb, "notably mothers with children," to be careful while walking near a Serb Orthodox Church to ensure priests would not kill them. ...

Prominent satirical writer Ante Tomić was assaulted in the coastal city of Split last month, in an attack condemned by the European Federation of Journalists. But the culture minister said the case "reminds us of the importance of responsibility for words spoken and written in public."

The head of Croatia's agency regulating electronic media also quit last month, citing political pressure.

In the realm of education, Zagreb University students protested after a cooperation agreement was planned between the philosophy faculty—considered a bastion of liberal thought—and the Catholic theological faculty.

The deal, since put on hold, was seen as an attempt to boost the influence of the church, considered a symbol of national identity and traditionally aligned with the HDZ [Croatian Democratic Union].

"It would be a step towards further weakening of secularity in Croatia," said Iva, 20, a sociology student.

## German Right-Wing Party Adopts Anti-Islam Platform

**T**HE UPSTART ALTERNATIVE FOR GERMANY (AfD) PARTY FORMERLY adopted an anti-Islam manifesto on May 1. The party is now the country's third largest, according to opinion polls. The Local described the decision in an article titled "Germany's Right-Wing AfD Adopts Anti-Islam Manifesto," published on May 1:

"Islam Is Not Part of Germany" ran a headline in the AfD policy paper agreed in a vote by some 2,400 members at the party congress in the western city of Stuttgart.

The paper demanded bans on minarets on mosques, the call to prayer, full-face veils for women and female headscarves in schools.

A proposal for a more nuanced formulation—to "stop Islamism but seek dialogue with Islam"—was rejected with boos ...

... More broadly, the AfD is presenting itself as a nationalistic-conservative force that also questions climate change,

would push traditional "family values," reintroduce military conscription, and take Germany out of the euro.

Having entered half of Germany's 16 state parliaments, the AfD—seen as the country's answer to France's National Front and Austria's Freedom Party—has now firmly set its sights on national elections next year.

"In the summer of 2015, they gave us up for dead," a triumphant AfD cochair Frauke Petry told the 2,400-odd delegates, declaring that the party does not intend to settle for the role of opposition group or junior coalition partner.

Instead, its new program should allow the AfD "to win majorities," she told the meeting in the western city of Stuttgart.

Support for the AfD stood at 13 percent, narrowly beating the ecologist Greens as Germany's third-strongest party, according to an Emnid institute survey for the newspaper *Bild am Sonntag*.

The party has been at pains to distance itself from the hardcore far-right and neo-Nazi movements, which are a stubbornly persistent but fringe phenomenon in a country

where collective shame over the Nazi era and the Holocaust run deep ....

## TW IN BRIEF

**Germany to stop supporting Israel?:** Some German officials are calling for an end to Berlin's unconditional support for Israel due to frustrations over Israel's construction of settlements in occupied territories. A member of the Socialist Democrats said: "The perception has been growing in the German government that [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu is instrumentalizing our friendship." This statement essentially accuses Netanyahu of exploiting Germany's friendship with Israel for political gain. In the past, German Chancellor Angela Merkel has often spoken of Germany's "special obligation to support Israel." Because of Germany's deplorable World War II history, including the murder of some 6 million Jews, modern Germany has always felt duty bound to support Israel. But now, in some factions of the

government, there are calls to reconsider that support.

**Germany wants to extend border controls:** Germany and five other members of the European Union sent off requests to the European Commission to extend border controls within the Schengen passport-free travel zone for another six months because they fear another new wave of migrants. Controls on the Austrian-German border have been set up since the beginning of the year but is required under EU law to either abolish or renew them in May. Border controls can only be extended for a maximum of two years. A German interior minister has expressed concern that an increasing number of migrants will try to reach Europe this summer by crossing the Mediterranean Sea from lawless Libya to Italy, then travel north to Austria and Germany.

## ASIA

### China Refuses to Allow U.S. Aircraft Carrier Into Hong Kong

**I**N A SIGN OF ESCALATING TENSIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES and China in the South China Sea, Beijing refused to allow the U.S. aircraft carrier John C. Stennis to visit Hong Kong last week. The U.S. and China have been at odds over Beijing's controversial militarization of South China Sea islands claimed by other nations. This military and diplomatic snub is particularly significant in that the Port of Hong Kong was controlled by U.S. ally Great Britain until as recently as 1997, when British officials turned it over to the Chinese government.

In a *Wall Street Journal* article, "**China Refuses Hong Kong Port Call to U.S. Aircraft Carrier**," Gordon Lubold wrote:

Beijing's refusal to allow the American warships into Hong Kong, the kind of routine visit the U.S. often heralds as evidence of goodwill between the two countries, was a sign of the increasingly chilly relationship. U.S. officials noted that the USS Blue Ridge, an American command ship, is already in the Hong Kong port.

"We were recently informed that a request for a port visit by a U.S. carrier strike group, including the USS John C. Stennis and accompanying vessels, to Hong Kong was denied," said Cmdr. Bill Urban, a Pentagon spokesman. "We have a long track record of successful port visits to Hong Kong, including with the current visit of the USS Blue Ridge, and we expect that will continue."

The canceled port visit affects thousands of sailors, who

had expected five days of "liberty" off the ships. Relatives of some of the sailors also were expected to travel to Hong Kong to meet loved ones after lengthy separations, U.S. officials said.

There was no immediate response from Beijing, which previously has denied passage by other U.S. military vessels as an expression of its displeasure. The last time Beijing refused an American port visit of an American warship was in August 2014, according to U.S. officials, when the USS Haley, a guided-missile destroyer, was turned away. Before that, the Kitty Hawk carrier strike group was denied a port visit in 2007.

Each year, \$5.3 trillion of trade passes *through the South China Sea*, roughly one third of the world's maritime commerce. Since the defeat of the Japanese empire in World War II, America has protected this vital trade conduit and brought peace to this part of the world. Now the American military is in retreat, and other great powers are coming in to fill the vacuum.

Since before the Korean War, China has had a strategy to establish a security buffer extending far from its coast and engulfing the entire South China Sea. The recent military buildup in the Paracels and Spratly islands is bringing China closer to the realization of this strategy. This could dramatically affect maritime trade around the world!

## Japanese Government: We Can Have and Use Nuclear Weapons

### WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



THE GOVERNMENT UNDER JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER SHINZO Abe has stressed that the nation's Constitution does not ban it from having a nuclear weapons program.

The IB Times reported:

The Japanese Cabinet wrote in a response to lawmakers' inquiries Friday that [the nation could own and use nukes](#) .... The statement concerned Article 9 of Japan's Constitution, which condemns war and establishes the country as a pacifist nation. The 1947 regulation prohibits Japan, the only country to suffer atomic attack, from having a traditional military and also renounces offensive weapons, according to the Council on Foreign Relations.

Since the end of World War II, after Japan had allied with Nazi Germany and brutally tried to take over Asia, the Japanese have had the pacifist clause in their Constitution. It has forbidden them from engaging in war and limited Japan to being a pacifist country.

But recently, Article 9 has been under attack by the more

hawkish elements in the Japanese government. They want to do away with all this pacifism and turn Japan into a full-fledged military nation once again. In 2014, they had a major victory when they reinterpreted Article 9 to allow the Japanese Self-Defense Force to become more assertive and to deploy to help friendly countries under attack.

And now members of the Japanese government are saying Japan can have and use a nuclear arsenal. Those who have studied Japan's wartime history would know that this is alarming mostly because of how fiercely determined Japan is to win when it engages in conflict. That determination in the past has made it capable of great ruthlessness. If it was in its power to take a certain action to further Japan's standing in the conflict, then it took that action.

That was the lesson during World War II. Now, if nuclear weapons are a part of its arsenal, and if Japan were to become involved in a conflict once again, it is easy to envision a scenario in which it might use those cataclysmic weapons.

The government did clarify that even though the Constitution does not forbid Japan from having nuclear weapons, it maintains a nuclear-free policy for the time being.

## Chinese President Xi Jinping Assumes New Military Title

CLAD IN CAMOUFLAGE MILITARY FATIGUES, CHINESE PRESIDENT Xi Jinping made an appearance at the joint battle command center of China's Central Military Commission last month. As chairman of the Central Military Commission that oversees the People's Liberation Army (PLA), he urged officers to build a command system capable of winning wars. Shortly after his visit on Wednesday, state and party news media outlets unveiled a new military title for the president: Commander in Chief of the Joint Battle Command Center.

In an article for [Mauldin Economics](#), George Freidman, the founder of both Stratfor and Geopolitical Futures, explained the significance of Xi Jinping's new military title:

The new title in all likelihood means little in terms of actual command, but it has tremendous political significance. Officially, the Chinese are reforming their military, which is logical. The roots of this change, however, lie in China's economic crisis and the need to preserve the regime. ...

The regime, however, is reducing PLA's massive size, which makes good military sense. It also makes political sense. This allows Xi to eliminate those involved in what is now termed corruption, to confiscate their wealth, and to intimidate others.

This purge is similar to those going on in many institutional bureaucracies in China, except that the size and importance of the PLA outstrips all other institutions. A smaller and reconfigured PLA will pose less of a threat to the regime, even if its military efficiency increases. ...

The PLA will have to be tightly controlled. That is why Xi set up a Discipline Inspection Commission in January specifically for the PLA, answerable directly to the Central Military Commission.

This is also why Xi has taken direct control of military operations. He or his trusted advisers will have direct access to plans and operations. The PLA will come under Xi's direct supervision. ...

The PLA is the center of gravity of the regime, and if Xi loses control of it, he could lose control of everything. Xi would never have appointed himself head of the Joint Operations Command Center if he hadn't felt the move absolutely necessary.

After China's Communist Revolution, dictator Mao Zedong ruled the country. Once Mao died, China went through a political restructuring process that transferred authority to a committee of top Communist leaders—the Standing Committee of the Central Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China. Now that Xi Jinping is president of China, the country seems to be reverting back to one-man rule. The groundwork is now being laid. In his current position, Xi is poised to emerge as a political figure whose role in history outweighs that of Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping combined. It's therefore not hard to envision China, under Xi's leadership, acting out more forcefully in regional conflicts and competing more aggressively for resources. In fact, with Xi positioned to remain China's leader for nearly another decade, it is possible he will preside over *the most powerful, yet destructive period in China's history*.



## Russia Creates Three New Military Divisions to Counter NATO

**R**USSIA IS CREATING THREE NEW MILITARY DIVISIONS TO COUNTER the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's planned expansion into Poland and the Baltic states, according to remarks from Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu on Wednesday. These three divisions would represent around 30,000 troops, but it is still unclear whether or not the units would be created from scratch or restructured from existing military forces.

In a [Reuters news article](#), Dmitry Solovyov and Lidia Kelly wrote:

Russia will reinforce its western and southern flanks with three new divisions by the year-end, officials said on Wednesday, threatening retaliation to NATO's plans to boost its military presence in eastern members Poland and the Baltic states.

While Moscow accuses the Western alliance of threatening ... Russia's security, NATO says intensified military drills and its plans for increased deployments on its eastern

flank are purely defensive after Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimea in 2014 and backed separatist rebels in Ukraine.

U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said on Monday NATO was weighing up rotating four battalions of troops through eastern member states amid rising tension in the Baltic.

Russia has scrambled jets to intercept U.S. reconnaissance planes in recent weeks and made simulated attack passes near a U.S. warship in the Baltic Sea.

The nations of Eastern Europe are growing increasingly concerned about Russian aggression. The United States did nothing to stop Russia's annexation of Crimea and has responded weakly to Russia's provocative behavior toward U.S. ships in the Baltic Sea. As Russia builds up its military forces along its western flank, these Eastern European nations are warming to the idea of a united European military force capable of defending them from the aggressive foreign policy of Vladimir Putin.

## TW IN BRIEF

**C**hina military drills: China's military will carry out more military exercises in the South China Sea this month involving advanced warships and submarines, a state news agency said on Wednesday. The drills have been termed as routine. China claims almost all of the energy-rich waters of the South China Sea,

through which more than \$5 trillion of maritime trade passes each year. The Philippines, Brunei, Vietnam, Malaysia and Taiwan have overlapping claims. China periodically announces such exercises in the South China Sea in an effort to demonstrate it is being transparent about its military deployments.

## LATIN AMERICA/AFRICA

### Iran's War of Terror in Africa

**I**RANIAN MEDDLING IN IRAQ, SYRIA, LEBANON, ISRAEL, YEMEN, Bahrain and other Middle Eastern nations is abundantly evident, even for the casual observer.

What's less apparent, however, is Iranian meddling in Africa.

In the article "[Iran's Other Shadow War Is in Africa](#)," the War Is Boring blog wrote:

Sub-Saharan African states, in particular, have long been the setting of Iranian intrigue. In a contradictory arrangement, the public face of Iran's relationship with Africa is that of economic strengthening for mutual benefits, while simultaneously engaging in covert action undermining the stability of the very economies Tehran seeks to work with.

The article highlighted three times in the last four years that Iranians or Iranian proxies were arrested for plotting bomb attacks in Kenya.

The article added, "the longest running and most noticeable of Iran's engagements in Africa is with the Islamist Sudanese regime. While the two nations have had significant differences over the ongoing Yemeni Civil War, their military cooperation

runs deep."

In 2010, Nigerian security forces intercepted a shipment of Iranian rocket launchers, grenades and artillery rockets. In 2013, an Iranian-trained Nigerian was arrested for planning to attack Western interests in Lagos, Nigeria. The article also documents other arrests of other members of Iran's Quds Forces. Some of those operatives were plotting to ship arms to anti-Senegalese rebels in Gambia.

The article concludes:

[T]he plot to bomb Nairobi was revealed *after* Iran and the P5+1 coalition of states agreed to the first details of the deal. ... Iran seeks alternative avenues to gain an edge, [and] the opportunities in Africa for asymmetrical conflict can be unpredictably advantageous and could strengthen an otherwise less dangerous player.

It is thus unlikely that Iran will give up its meddling on the continent any time soon—nuclear deal with the United States or not.

Chairman of the German Federal Armed Forces Association Lt. Col. André Wüstner once said that terror in Africa "makes it

clear once again” that a “[ring of fire](#)” extends “from Afghanistan via Yemen, Syria and Iraq to Africa.” This could well be the reason

Europe, as the Bible prophesies, will unleash a “[whirlwind](#)” attack in the Middle East and Africa.

## TW IN BRIEF

**The failed state of Venezuela:** The Venezuelan economy has already failed by nearly all standards. The Venezuelan state is almost next. The *Washington Post* wrote: “It’s come to this: The country with the largest oil reserves in the world can’t afford to brew its own beer, stay in its own time zone, or even have its own

people show up to work more than two times a week.” The International Monetary Fund predicts the Venezuelan economy will shrink 8 percent and that its inflation rate will shoot to 720 percent. Murders, violence and looting are on the rise. As the *Post* wrote, “It’s a grim race between anarchy and civil war.”

## ANGLO-AMERICA



### The Mystery of Evil Spirits

Gerald Flurry, *The Key of David* | May 6

The Bible teaches that evil spirit beings inspire the evil plaguing human beings. Could this be true?



### Anticapitalists Riot in May Day Protests

Andrew Müller | May 4

**C**OMMUNISTS, SOCIALISTS, ANARCHISTS AND ANTICAPITALISTS OF all shades celebrated International Worker’s Day on Sunday by staging rallies, protests and riots around the world. While Communist countries like China, North Korea, Cuba and Vietnam continue to hold massive Soviet-style parades every May 1, anticapitalist activists in the non-Communist world set aside May Day as a time of protests against the bourgeoisie.

May Day protests in Seattle, Washington, turned violent as protesters threw rocks and Molotov cocktails at the police. One officer from the Seattle Police Department sustained a facial laceration. Another officer was bitten, and yet another hit by a Molotov cocktail. Nine people were arrested during this May Day mayhem: three for assault, one for property destruction, five for obstruction.

Several hundred anticapitalist demonstrators, many wearing masks, marched through the streets of Montreal, Quebec, on May Day, waving signs and chanting anticapitalist slogans. This demonstration turned violent after about an hour, when protesters started throwing projectiles and breaking windows at a downtown police station. The Montreal Anticapitalist Convergence, a Canadian anarchist organization, issued a statement saying the goal of the event was to “disrupt commercial activity dominated by the local bourgeoisie.”

Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn joined thousands of May Day protesters in central London on Sunday. The crowd of people he addressed carried flags with images of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin and a literal red flag emblazoned with a hammer-and-sickle emblem. Corbyn is the first Labour Party leader to address a May Day crowd in decades.

Hooded youths clashed with police in Paris, France, this May Day. During a rally against planned labor reforms, a crowd of about 300 people clashed with police, hurling bottles and other projectiles at the officers. Police dispersed the crowd with tear gas but only arrested three people. About 80,000 people marched throughout France on Sunday, including up to 17,000 in Paris.

During the past century, it has been common for far-left radicals to protest, riot and attack police officers every International Worker’s Day. More recently, however, such violent protests have become common during other times of the year. Just last week, demonstrators rolled over cars, broke windows, and threw bricks in protest against a speech given by Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump in Costa Mesa, California. Such wanton displays of violence are eliciting comparisons to Weimar-era Germany, when left-wing socialists and right-wing nationalists warred against each other in violent street clashes.

Increasingly, people seem to be abandoning the rule of law for the law of the jungle. This way of handling things will not bring peace or human rights; it can only lead to revolution and war. Left unchecked, this escalating civil unrest will completely transform both America and Europe!

To understand the effects of this civil strife in America, please read editor in chief Gerald Flurry’s article “[The Roots of America’s Dangerous Turn Left](#).” To see the direction Europe is heading, read “[The Resurgence of Nazi Germany](#),” a chapter from our booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.

## Bill Gross: Government Will Soon Be Giving People Free Money to Not Work.

**B**OND INVESTING LEGEND BILL GROSS CROSSED OVER TO THE dark side this week. In his May 4 Investment Outlook letter titled “Culture Crash,” he says that America should start printing money and dropping it from “helicopters.” He says this is the only way forward for America’s economy.

Our new-age economy—especially that of developed nations with aging demographics—is gradually putting more and more people out of work.

What should the policy response be? Retraining and education sound practical and are at the head of every politician’s promised ticket for the yellow brick road, but to be honest folks, I doubt that much of it will be worth the expense. Four years of college for everyone might better prepare them to be a contestant on Jeopardy, but I doubt it’ll create more growth; for the universities perhaps, but not many good jobs for the students.

So far so good. Problem identified. Gross then goes on to identify the cause of America’s looming unemployment epidemic—which he says boils down to our tech-heavy economy in which robots are rapidly replacing workers.

And then with one giant leap, one of America’s biggest capitalists falls headfirst into the never-never dreamland of every socialist utopian (emphasis added).

Instead we should spend money where it’s needed most—our collapsing infrastructure for instance, health care for an aging generation, and perhaps on a revolutionary new idea called UBI —Universal Basic Income. If more and more workers are going to be displaced by robots, then they will need money to live on, will they not? And if that strikes you as a form of socialism, I would suggest we get used to it. Even Donald Trump claims he won’t leave anyone out on the street—a liberal Republican thought if there ever was one. And they are on the street you know. Check out any major downtown in the U.S. if you want to see our

future culture. Not the stadiums with the box seats; the streets with the tents and grocery carts. But the concept of UBI is not really new or foreign to capitalistic cultures like that of the U.S. We already have sort of a UBI floor. It’s called food stamps and the earned-income tax credit, but those alone will not keep the growing jobless and homeless off city and suburban streets. **The question is how high this UBI should be and how to pay for it, not whether it’s coming in the next decade. It is.** Strangely, the concept is endorsed more by conservatives than liberals and in Silicon Valley as well. Even with a theoretical \$10,000 UBI per eligible citizen, the cost of \$1-2 trillion is seen as an income pool to consume many of the high-tech products they produce.

And how should America finance this wonderful idea of providing each citizen a free basic income? Higher taxes? Nope.

**Drop the money from helicopters.** Now, even though this idea sounds more fictional than Trump’s 15-foot wall, it really isn’t. Milton Friedman, then Ben Bernanke and now a host of respected economists including the conservative *Economist* magazine itself are introducing the idea. These advocates do not really intend to throw money out of choppers. **In broader terms, they are advocating fiscal stimulus, but stimulus that isn’t paid for with private borrowing or taxes. ...**

**Instead, the money can be printed by central banks as it has been recently.**

So there you have it. The groundwork for the very thing that liberal academics, lefty politicians and central bankers scorned sound-money advocates for crying wolf over is now happening. The thing “quantitative easing” would supposedly never ever lead to—namely the printing of money to create a massive welfare state—is now likely being considered at the highest levels. When billionaire capitalists start endorsing social utopian fantasies, it is never a good sign.

## London Set to Elect First Muslim Mayor

### WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



**L**ONDON WAS SET TO ELECT ITS FIRST MUSLIM MAYOR ON Thursday. Labour representative Sadiq Khan defeated conservative candidate Zack Goldsmith in a campaign that was filled with accusations of anti-Semitism and extremism. Reuters reported “[Labour Set to Recapture London After Bitter Mayoral Campaign](#)”:

The fight to run London—the top prize in the local elections—has pitted Labour’s Khan, 45, the son of an immigrant bus driver, against Conservative Zac Goldsmith, 41, the elite-educated son of a billionaire financier. The winner will replace Conservative Boris Johnson, who has run the city of 8.6 million people for the past eight years ....

On the eve of the vote, Prime Minister [James] Cameron and Labour leader [Jeremy] Corbyn went head-to-head over Khan’s and Goldsmith’s campaigns in a heated parliamentary debate.

Cameron accused Khan of sharing “a platform with an extremist who called for Jews to drown in the ocean,” while Corbyn accused the Conservatives of “smearing” Khan.

Khan says he has fought extremism all his life and that he regrets sharing a stage with speakers who held “abhorrent” views. But the former human rights lawyer has also had to distance himself from Corbyn after a row over anti-Semitism.

The Labour leader ordered an inquiry into charges of anti-Semitism after suspending Ken Livingstone, a political ally and a former London mayor, for saying Adolf Hitler had supported Zionism.

The Bible warned of Britain's liberal immigration policies causing major problems. In Hosea 7, God warns that Britain "hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned. Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not."

## Illegal Immigrants Surge to 2014 Levels Amid Fear Trump Will Close Border

UNACCOMPANIED ILLEGAL MINORS ARE ARRIVING EN MASSE AT the southern United States border again. The Hill reported May 5, "[Illegal Immigrant Numbers Skyrocket at Mexican Border](#)." The figures released by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) reveal that the rates of child migration are equal to 2014 levels, which swamped border authorities, immigration courts and health and humanitarian workers—and many U.S. towns and cities. The Hill wrote:

The new figures raise the specter of another increase this summer. That would almost certainly inflame another political showdown in a volatile presidential year in which the issues of race, immigration and border security have been pronounced—particularly due to the hard-line enforcement approach adopted by the presumptive GOP nominee Donald Trump.

Through the first six months of fiscal 2016, which ended on March 31, border officials apprehended 27,754 unaccompanied children, the CBP reported—a 78 percent jump from 15,616 apprehended in 2015, and just shy of the 28,579 apprehended in 2014.

For family units, which consist of at least one child traveling with at least one adult, the increase was even more dramatic. In the first six months of 2016, 32,117 families were apprehended, the CBP reported—an increase of 131 percent from the 2015 figure (13,913) and 62 percent from the 2014 figure (19,830).

Kevin Appleby, director of international migration policy at the Center for Migration Studies, said one reason for the surge was that smugglers have adapted to the border crackdown by Mexican authorities.

## TW IN BRIEF

**Drop box for babies:** In an effort to discourage mothers from aborting or illegally abandoning their unwanted babies, advocates in Indiana are pushing for more climate-controlled baby drop boxes. "The boxes work a bit like a cross between a library book drop-off and a people-pod you might find in a Japanese capsule hotel," reported the *Washington Post*. "Padded and kept at comfortable temperature, the small box automatically alerts emergency responders within a minute of a baby being deposited." Each box costs about \$2,000. Some opponents of the baby boxes are concerned that the boxes may "encourage women to give birth in unsafe and life-threatening conditions." They also say that "safe haven" legislation has done little to end child abandonment in fatal or near-fatal environments.

**Twelfth straight month of record gun sales:** This April saw the most gun-related background checks of any April on

record, making it the 12th month in a row for record gun sales. The Federal Bureau of Investigation ran 2,145,865 checks through the National Instant Background Check System last month. That represents an increase of over 400,000 from the previous record set in April 2014. This indicates that 2016 will pass 2015 as the biggest year on record for gun-related background checks. Gun rights advocates say calls for gun control from politicians such as Hillary Clinton have fueled the surging gun sales.

**Puerto Rico defaults:** A spiraling Puerto Rico debt crisis reached a new milestone on Monday as the island missed nearly \$370 million in bond payments. Officials warned of worse to come if the U.S. Congress doesn't act soon to help resolve the situation. Puerto Rico has payments totaling nearly \$2 billion on July 1. For now, the economy of the U.S. territory remains in collapse, with increasingly severe social problems.



### The Bible's Bloodiest Book

Stephen Flurry, Trumpet Daily | May 6

The book of Judges shows what happens when man rejects God's law.

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