

Trumpet Weekly

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Iranian soldiers



Iran's War of Terror in Africa

Anthony Chibairwe | May 11

EVEN TO THE CASUAL OBSERVER, IRANIAN MEDDLING IN IRAQ, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Yemen, Bahrain and other Middle Eastern nations is abundantly evident.

Iran is fighting both directly and indirectly against rebel forces in Iraq and Syria. It has tremendous clout in Lebanon via its Hezbollah proxy, and its determination to “wipe Israel off the map” is widely known. Recently, an Iranian general declared that his nation “must make efforts to bring Bahrain back into Iranian territory and transform it into a part of [its southwestern province

of Bushehr].” And in the past four months, three Iranian shipments of weapons have been intercepted in the Middle East. The most recent of those arms shipments was intended for Houthi rebels in Yemen.

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 May 1: “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.”

(Listen to the [Trumpet Hour discussion](#) on this subject.)

Under former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Iran vigorously pursued a “South-South” strategy of stronger economic ties with Latin American and African nations. But as War Is Boring explained, trade and diplomacy became Iranian tools for terror and geopolitical clout.

Iran’s bilateral ties with the small West African nation of Gambia have been strong since President Yahya Jammeh grabbed power in a coup d’état in 1994. Gambia has staunchly supported Iran’s right to a nuclear program. In 2006, Ahmadinejad was the guest of honor at an African Union summit in Gambia. Those strong ties were strained when an Iranian plot to ship arms to anti-Senegalese rebels in Gambia was exposed in November 2010. The weapons were intercepted in Nigeria—they included Iranian rocket launchers, grenades and artillery rockets.

War Is Boring documented the arrests of some members of Iran’s Quds Forces over the past few years. In one raid in 2013, an Iranian-trained Nigerian was arrested for planning to attack Western interests in Lagos, Nigeria.

Another way Iran maintains a strong militaristic influence in Nigeria is through Islamic Movement in Nigeria—a Shiite entity that’s pursuing an Iranian-style revolution in northern Nigeria.

Across the continent in East Africa, Iranians or Iranian proxies have been arrested at least three times in the last four years for plotting bomb attacks in Kenya.

In the Indian Ocean island nation of the Comoros, former President Ahmed Abdallah Mohammed Sambi was, as World Politics Review noted April 14, “an open admirer of the Iranian Revolution.” He had spent time studying Islam in Iran and was nicknamed “the Ayatollah.” When he came into office in 2006, his security personnel included Iranian military officers. “Tehran’s influence subsequently surged in [the] Comoros” following this and other Iranian activities, wrote World Politics Review.

About Sudan, War Is Boring wrote, “[T]he 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.” Sudan’s weapons industry was built with Iranian aid, and its military officials were trained in Iran.

Sudan’s advantage for Iran is its proximity to Israel, via Egypt.

Sudan has hosted training camps for the Palestinian Hamas terrorist group, and has provided a conduit for Iranian arms shipments to the Gaza Strip and Lebanon. Sudan is also strategically advantageous to Iran because it gives it influence over the western side of the Red Sea.

Iran has also had “continuous interference in Somalia’s internal affairs,” according to the Somali Foreign Ministry in January. Somalia accuses Iran of sponsoring Islamic militants in the Horn of Africa nation. It has similarly meddled in the Red Sea nation of Djibouti for strategic purposes.

It’s worth noting that Iran’s ties to many of these nations have been strained in recent months. But the cause of that strain is primarily financial, not ideological. Iran’s chief rival, Saudi Arabia, has cashed in with petrodollars and bought these nations’ allegiances away from Iran.

The World Politics Review concluded: “In spite of its meager return on investment, Iran does not seem prepared to give up on its outreach efforts in Africa. Potential opportunities do exist. ... Concerns in the Sahel and East Africa over the threat of al Qaeda and Islamic State affiliates could provide Iran with an opening to increase its African security engagements.”

The War Is Boring post concluded:

Perhaps indicative of Iran’s resilience within its Africa approach is that it has yet to be visibly affected by the recent nuclear deal between the United States and Iran. The objectives of the Quds Force have appeared to carry onward—the 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.

The chairman of the German Federal Armed Forces Association, Lt. Col. André Wüstner, said in December 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.

MIDDLE EAST

TrumpetDaily

RADIO SHOW

[DID JESUS CHRIST DO AWAY WITH GOD’S LAW? | MAY 12](#)

[THE POWER OF BEYONCÉ AND JAY-Z | MAY 11](#)

[DOJ TARGETS NORTH CAROLINA OVER BATHROOM LAW | MAY 10](#)

[THE GUARDIAN OF TRUTH IN A WORLD OF DECEPTION AND LIES | MAY 9](#)

North Korea: Iran's Plan B for a Nuke?

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



EVEN AFTER THE RECENT NUCLEAR DEAL, IRAN CONTINUES advanced centrifuge research, and it's yet to come clean on the possible military dimensions of its nuclear program.

Iran appears to have retained all its aspirations to stamp a "Made in Iran" label one day on its first nuclear bomb. But it may just as well import a ready-made one.

The *National Interest* and the Heritage Foundation asked in a joint article on May 10, "[Could North Korea Secretly Build an Iranian Bomb?](#)"

Tehran could by all public accounts adhere to the P5+1's (China, France, Germany/European Union, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States) Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). But concurrently, Iran could work clandestinely with another country to advance its nuclear weapons program, essentially circumventing the International Atomic Energy Agency's inspections and monitoring of the nuclear program inside Iran.

What better candidate for covert cooperation than cagey North Korea?

The article explained Pyongyang's credentials, which include

four nuclear tests, progress in miniaturizing testing devices into warheads that can be mated to ballistic missiles, advancement in both land-based and subsurface ballistic missile technology, and a willingness to share its military and nuclear technology.

"From Iran's perspective, the need for 'nuclear networking' with North Korea is greater than ever," they wrote, because of the benefits Tehran is reaping from the current nuclear deal. Pyongyang, on the other hand, could use Iranian help with its space program and its strangled economy.

The article concluded:

Lastly, both countries despise the United States and some of its allies (e.g., South Korea and Israel). Accordingly, Iran and North Korea would benefit from the existence of another state that threatens America with nuclear-tipped ICBMs.

In other words, there's plenty of political and military motivation for these two rogue states to get together on nuclear and/or missile matters, arguably even more so today than last summer, before the JCPOA came into effect.

As *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in 2008, "[Nuclear Iran Means Nuclear War.](#)"

Turkey Fights the Islamic State in Syria

UNITED STATES OFFICIALS SAID TURKEY'S ELITE FORCE STAGED A weekend raid on Islamic State fighters on Syria's northern border with Turkey.

"What's going on in Syria is a historic showdown," said Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported the details on May 10:

A small group of elite Turkish soldiers entered Syria on Saturday to help more effectively target Islamic State fighters who have been launching rocket attacks into Turkey for weeks, American officials said. ...

The operation was part of an expanding effort by the Turkish military to push Islamic State away from a vital 60-mile stretch of the Turkey-Syria border that serves as the group's main lifeline, according to U.S. officials.

U.S. forces have been working with the Turks on the Turkey-Syria border. *WSJ* said that U.S. officials think Turkey's weekend operation was part of an intelligence-gathering mission against the Islamic State. It noted: "Turkish military operations in Syria risk antagonizing President Bashar Assad and Russia, which is providing the Syrian leader with vital military support."

A 'Recipe for Disaster' in Afghanistan

A RECENTLY DECLASSIFIED PENTAGON REPORT REVEALED CONFUSION among United States troops over combat operations in Afghanistan. According to witnesses interviewed in the report, U.S. special forces were confused about how far they were allowed to engage in combat to help fight the Taliban.

The heavily redacted 700-page report followed an investigation into the botched air strikes at a Doctors Without Borders hospital on Oct. 3, 2015.

American special forces in Afghanistan are technically considered consultants, not combatants. But when Kunduz fell to the

Taliban for 15 days last September—the first time a major Afghan city fell to the militia since the war began in 2001—U.S. forces took a more offensive role.

The *New York Times* reported on May 8:

[U.S. President Barack] Obama has portrayed that combat role [in Afghanistan] as over. But as the Taliban in Afghanistan and the Islamic State in Iraq have threatened the delicate stability he hoped to leave behind, American forces are increasingly being called on to fight.

The fall of Kunduz “was clearly a desperate situation,” said Brig. Gen. Charles H. Cleveland, the spokesman for the American command in Afghanistan. The soldiers, he said, recognized that “if we don’t really provide some very strong suggestion, direction, whatever you call it—if we don’t get engaged with this quickly—we’re going to have a much larger issue.”

According to the report, the troops repeatedly asked for clarity but never received answers.

“Sadly, the only sounds audible were the sounds of crickets ... though those were hard to hear over the gunfire,” said one soldier. “It’s not a strategy,” he said. “It’s a recipe for disaster in that kind

of kinetic environment.”

Another soldier quoted in the report complained: “‘How far do you want to go?’ is not a proper response to ‘How far do you want us to go?’”

General Cleveland explained that the tragedy at the Kunduz hospital last year was what “restrained” U.S. forces from decisive engagement.

But other authorities disagreed. A senior official told Reuters: “The rules of engagement are trapped in the jaws of political confusion about the mission” [in Afghanistan](#). Another military official pinned the blame on “moral cowardice” on the part of politicians who remain vague about combat missions so that they can “reap the rewards of success without facing the responsibility of failure.”

TW IN BRIEF

Bin Laden’s army to ‘liberate’ Jerusalem: Hamza bin Laden, the son of the late al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, has called on Muslims to target Jews and Jewish interests, according to a new al Qaeda video. The video was obtained by the Middle East Media Research Institute. Hamza also urged Muslims around the world to attack Western interests because of the West’s support of Israel. He praised the stabbing attacks on Jews by Palestinians and called on other Muslims to “participate in the intifada in Israel.” Hamza bin Laden also suggested the creation of an army to “liberate Jerusalem.” He said the army would be based in Syria.

Iran to sue America: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that Iran is preparing international legal action to recover nearly \$2 billion from America. This follows a U.S. Supreme Court order on April 2 that Iran pay the money as compensation

to approximately 1,000 American survivors and relatives of those killed in terror attacks likely organized by Iran. The attacks include bombings directed toward U.S. outposts in Lebanon in 1983 and Saudi Arabia in 1996. “We will not allow the United States to swallow this money so easily,” Rouhani said before a crowd of thousands.

Another Iranian missile test: An Iranian military official announced on Monday that his nation test-fired another ballistic missile. The official told semiofficial Tasnim News Agency that Iran tested the missiles two weeks ago. He said the Iranian military fired precision-guided missiles with a 26-foot margin of error. This latest test is the third ballistic missile test since the Iran nuclear deal was implemented in January. United States officials have condemned these tests, but they stopped short of denouncing them as violations of the nuclear deal.

EUROPE

Trumpet Hour

[RUSSIA'S NEW MEGA-NUKE AND OTHER MOVES TO WAR, AND MUCH MORE | MAY 13](#)

[AMERICA'S NEXT PRESIDENT, THE PHILIPPINES' NEW PRESIDENT, IS THE BIBLE SOCIALIST, AND MORE | MAY 11](#)

Germany’s Military Turnaround

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



GERMANY’S MILITARY IS EXPANDING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A quarter of a century. Agence France-Presse covers the details in an article titled “Germany to Increase Troops for First Time Since Cold War Ended”:

Germany is raising the number of its troops for the first time since 1990, ending a quarter of a century of successive cuts in the Army since the end of the Cold War.

The Bundeswehr is expected to increase in the next seven years by 14,300 soldiers, while 4,400 civilian officers

will also be added to the service, Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen said.

This boost in troop strength is “necessary, given the current situation” of increasing tensions with Russia over the conflict in Ukraine, as well as several foreign missions undertaken by the Army, she said.

Germany is preparing to join efforts to bolster NATO’s presence on its eastern flank bordering Russia, in a bid to reassure east European alliance members rattled by Moscow’s annexation of Crimea.

The Bundeswehr has also deployed troops to Mali as part of a UN mission to monitor a peace deal between the government and northern rebels in the West African country.

It has also joined an international coalition battling [the Islamic State] in Iraq and Syria. ...

“A quarter century of shrinking is over. It is time for the Bundeswehr to grow again,” said von der Leyen. “Not only is this not the trend, it actually represents a 180-degree turn in personnel policy,” the head of German Armed Forces Association, André Wüstner, told the *Rhineland Post*. The *Telegraph* wrote:

During the Cold War, the West German Bundeswehr was seen as the first line of defense against a Soviet invasion and was described as “perhaps the world’s best army.”

The government will also ask parliament to raise the upper limit on size of the Army from 185,000, so that the Army can be expanded more rapidly if necessary. *Financial Times* also described the big shift within Germany:

“The personnel increase is not significant in itself,” said Christian Mölling, a defense specialist at the German Marshall Fund of the U.S., a think tank. “But there is a whole package of changes which add up to a large change for Germany.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel’s government is building on the German public’s increasing acceptance of the need for more military spending following Russian President Vladimir Putin’s aggression towards Ukraine and the Islamist terrorist attacks in Europe.

Also, the arrival of more than 1 million refugees in the past year, chiefly from the war-torn Middle East, has convinced many Germans that the world’s crises are coming closer to their front doors—and so require a more active response.

Islam Does Not Belong in Germany

TWO THIRDS OF GERMANS SAY THAT ISLAM IS NOT A PART OF Germany, according to a recent study, showing a dramatic rise in the last few years. Local reports:

For 60 percent of Germans, Islam does not belong in their culture, with only 34 percent of respondents saying that, yes Islam does have a place in Germany, a poll published by Infratest-Dimap on Thursday shows.

This is a dramatic sharpening of public hostility to the Mohammedan faith since ex-President Christian Wulff famously stated in 2010 that “Islam is now also a part of Germany.”

When Wulff made his remark, slightly more Germans agreed than disagreed.

But a poll conducted in August 2014 showed that public opinion was slowly shifting against tolerance.

At that time, 52 percent of respondents were against the idea that Islam is a part of Germany, while 44 percent supported it.

As hundreds of thousands of asylum seekers have arrived in the country from the Muslim world over the last 12 months, public anxieties about the cultural impact have grown.

Thursday’s poll confirms this, showing that 52 percent of respondents fear that the refugee crisis will lead to Islam having too much cultural sway in the Federal Republic.

Terrorist attacks in Paris and Brussels have also led to a fear that Germany could be the next country in the sights of Islamist fanatics.

The Infratest-Dimap poll showed that 72 percent of Germans worry that there will be a terror attack in their country, while a quarter of respondents said they don’t believe that will happen.

The Future Belongs to China—Says Europe

MANY EUROPEANS BELIEVE THAT CHINA IS ALREADY THE WORLD’S superpower, according to Leonid Bershidsky in Bloomberg View.

If there’s one thing on which Europeans agree with Donald Trump, it’s that the U.S. is gradually losing to China. The Middle Kingdom is working hard to improve its image in Europe and investing lots of money along the way. The

Queen of England may think Chinese officials are “very rude,” but outside Buckingham Palace, they are winning influence and friends.

In 2015, a Pew Global Research survey found that a majority of people in major European countries believe China is going to replace the U.S. as the global superpower or that it has already done so. ...

The same study showed that in Germany and France,

more people consider China, rather than the U.S., to be the world's leading economy. That was before China's recent economic troubles began, but those probably won't affect public perceptions greatly: China's size and the prevalence of Made-in-China goods in European stores—where U.S. ones are hard to find—will continue feeding this somewhat premature perception.

None of this appears to make Europeans particularly happy. On the whole, they still mistrust China more than they do the U.S. ...

And then there is the Chinese money coming in—more of it than ever before. Europe is the priority area for Chinese direct investment. Last year, Chinese firms poured a record \$23 billion into the EU, against \$15 billion in the U.S.

Overall, U.S. investment in Europe is still much more plentiful. ... As China expands its influence into the Western world, Europe is far more receptive than the U.S. "Europeans are more conflicted and generally less negative in their feelings toward China than Americans because there is less of a great power rivalry and some also feel the

need at times to distance themselves from U.S.-led initiatives," Yukon Huang of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace wrote in a recent article.

Although the U.S. is still perceived as the more natural ally, China's patient drive for acceptance in Europe is beginning to pay off, especially in the needier, weaker parts of the Continent.

"Should Europe, the resurrected Holy Roman Empire, find a way to take advantage—even for a moment—of key resources and strategic holdings of China, Russia and Japan, it would have more than enough power to besiege the Anglo-Saxon nations and enslave them."

"This is why Isaiah's prophecy of an end-time 'mart of nations' that includes both European and Asian powers is so intriguing. And why the trend of collusion between these two great economic blocs is worth watching."

Gerald Flurry, *Isaiah's End-Time Vision*

The Real Danger in the UK

WITH BRITAIN'S REFERENDUM ON EUROPEAN UNION MEMBERSHIP rapidly approaching, the nation's newspapers are full of columns for and against the United Kingdom remaining part of the EU. One of the best was published in the *Telegraph* on May 10 by Angela Epstein, called ["Why Europe-Wide Anti-Semitism Is Driving My Vote for Brexit"](#):

In recent months, I've had cause to interview several Holocaust survivors.

And though each story—can we call them stories, it sounds so banal?—is different, the themes remain unilaterally unsettling: fear, heart-breaking, wrenching separation from a loving mother or desperate father, arbitrary brutality, unimaginable savagery.

But the harrowing testimony of these now elderly men and women also offers an enduring postscript, as each survivor exhorts those who listen to never forget man's inhumanity to man.

For Jews like me, well, how can we forget?

After all, had it not been for the bravery of our Allies holding out against the Third Reich and the geographical inconvenience of our island geography, British Jewry would have also been swept up by the systematic slaughter of the Holocaust. As would other detractors of the genocidal Nazi regime.

Fortunately, despite Hitler's best intentions, this never came to pass.

But such fears remain deeply ingrained in the Jewish DNA. What if joined-up political lunacy ever spread across Europe again? Would Britain be so well equipped to stand alone were we to be yoked together in an already legitimate alliance with Europe?

It's for these reasons that nothing will convince me of the rightness of staying in the EU—even after David Cameron

predicted on Monday that a Brexit will increase the risk of Europe descending into war.

Of course I'm aware that my drawing on comparisons with the Nazis will immediately trigger accusations of paranoia. ... But hasn't every Brexit-remain argument—not least Cameron's war call—been an expression of paranoia?

This is different. ... Examining Brexit through the bloody history of pan-European fascism renders leaving Europe—at least for me—a matter of survival. ...

To remain in Europe is to transfer sovereignty from Westminster for Brussels. Our borders will remain porous; our laws subjugated by those who would aim to, as Chris Grayling put it, "Europeanize" our justice system. ...

Should the far right, hard left or disenfranchised extremist communities ever sweep across Western Europe, how much easier will it be for Britain—Jews and non-Jews—to be overrun by such a contagion should those in power align themselves with such toxic beliefs? ...

It's clear that Europe has a problem with bloodthirsty, visceral anti-Semitism. Look no further than the jihadist murders of Jews in Brussels, Paris and the Danish capital of Copenhagen over the past 12 months, or the heinous attacks in Toulouse three years ago when a gunman shot dead a teacher and three children at a Jewish school in the French city.

Conversely, in its reaction to radicalized Islam, the far right has also mobilized, with the neo-fascist Jobbik party in Hungary, the neo-Nazi Golden Dawn in Greece, and the far-right National Front in France. It seems when it comes to the dangers of Continent-wide fascism, the European mainland has a short memory.

Were the dots to join would it be such a nightmare prophecy to imagine how much easier some unholy alliance could sweep this way were we to remain in the EU? I've no idea, but I'm not taking a punt. ...

Germany attack update: A German man who stabbed four people at a train station near Munich on Tuesday has been sent to a psychiatric hospital. A judge ordered him to be hospitalized after a medical expert concluded that the 27-year-old man was mentally ill. The man, whose name hasn't been released due to German privacy rules, stabbed four people in an apparently random early-morning attack. One of the victims later died from his wounds. Police said Wednesday that the other victims were in stable condition. During the attack, the man shouted, "Infidel, you must die!" and "Allahu Akbar," meaning in Arabic, "God is great." But authorities say they have found no evidence of links to Islamic extremists. They said the man appeared confused during the initial questioning and that it was difficult to obtain coherent information from him.

NATO missile defense system becomes operational: A missile defense system in southern Romania that has been in development stages for years will finally become operational today. The NATO system is aimed at protecting Europe from ballistic missile threats. NATO says the missile shield—which is able to track and shoot down incoming missiles—is purely defensive and is, in any case, powerless against Russia's large stockpile of intercontinental ballistic missiles. Russia, however, is adamantly opposed to having the advanced military system on its doorstep. Russian officials have shrugged off the claim that the planned missile shield is intended to fend off missile threats from Iran. President Vladimir Putin has pointed at the determination of the

United States and NATO to pursue the project even *after* a nuclear deal with Iran as a proof that it's aimed against Russia. U.S., NATO and Romanian officials will hold a ceremony today to mark the start of operations at the new site.

Two thirds of Germans are done with Merkel: Almost two thirds of Germans do not want Chancellor Angela Merkel to run for office in next year's elections. A poll published Tuesday asked the people of the nation if they thought Merkel should run for a fourth term: 64 percent said she should not. Merkel has supported policies that have opened Germany's borders to torrents of asylum seekers pouring in from the Middle East and North Africa. The government's embrace of these asylum seekers has upset many Germans and eroded their support of Merkel and her coalition partners.

Austria's chancellor resigns: Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann announced his resignation at a press conference on Monday, saying that Austria needed a chancellor whose party stood behind him and that the government needed a new start. Austria's first round of presidential elections on April 24 saw an outsider from the Freedom Party gain 35 percent of the vote, leading to a large amount of pressure on the two major parties. The vice chancellor will now serve as interim chancellor, and although parliamentary elections are not expected until 2018, an early election is now likely.

ASIA

China's New Pop Culture Icon: President Xi Jinping

A NEW MUSIC VIDEO IS SURGING ACROSS CHINA. IT'S CALLED "How Should I Address You?" The folksy tune is based on an encounter between Chinese President Xi Jinping and an elderly woman in a remote mountain village in central China. The video was crafted as a celebration of the president's concern for the rural poor.

Heavily promoted by state media and praised by viewers, this music video is part of a concerted effort by the Chinese government to update its leader's image for the social-media generation. The feel of the video is similar to the techno-pop tune, "A Man Like Putin," which topped the charts in Russia back in 2002.

In a *New York Times* article, "[Xi Jinping's Extreme Makeover](#)," Chun Han Wong explains:

Updated image-making is a key ingredient in propelling Mr. Xi to preeminence in Chinese politics and public life in the three years since he came to power.

Drawing on imagery that recalls Mao Zedong and on methods that are more Madison Avenue, the publicity campaign has mixed blanket news coverage of Mr. Xi with

social media and viral marketing. The effort has reached deep into the traditional propaganda apparatus and tapped talent well beyond it.

A high-level party office that chiefly oversees foreign affairs has emerged as a creative force in the campaign, turning to outside media consultants—including a boutique firm run by Egyptian-born British nationals—to produce polished publicity films that appeal to younger, more discerning audiences.

China's current president is cultivating a cult of personality unlike any other Chinese leader since Chairman Mao Zedong. After reverting to a more consensus-driven collective leadership style for the past few decades, China is returning to a more authoritarian style of one-man rule. "People are more likely to fall in line behind a clear, strong and visible leader," said Jude Blanchette, a Beijing-based author who is currently writing a book on Mao Zedong. In the coming months, watch for Xi Jinping to partner with Vladimir Putin as he leads China toward regional hegemony over the Asian continent and its surrounding waterways.

The Nuclear Arms Race Begins Again

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



A RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT-OWNED TELEVISION NETWORK, Zvezda, recently claimed that the Kremlin's new "Satan 2" nuclear missile can wipe out an area the size of Texas or France. This statement is an exaggeration. A single SS-30 rocket with a standard payload of 12 independent warheads could only wipe out one city per warhead. Still, the ability to simultaneously destroy a dozen cities is a terrifying prospect.

David Axe wrote in a Daily Beast article, "[Russia's New Missile Means the Nuclear Arms Race Is Back On](#)":

Moscow's arsenal of roughly 7,000 atomic weapons—1,800 of which are on high alert—and America's own, slightly smaller arsenal—again, only 1,800 of which are ready to fire at any given time—plus the approximately 1,000 warheads that the rest of the world's nuclear powers possess are, together, more than adequate to kill every human being on Earth as well as most other forms of life.

Russia's new Satan 2 nuclear missile, even when mounted on a SS-30 rocket, doesn't fundamentally alter this equation. What does alter this equation is what the Satan 2 missile represents. The Daily Beast article continues:

But that doesn't mean you shouldn't be alarmed. The SS-30 is only the latest manifestation of a worrying trend. After decades of steady disarmament, the United States and Russia are pouring tens of billions of dollars into building new and more capable nuclear weaponry that experts agree neither country needs nor can afford.

The SS-30 by itself is just slightly more destructive than older Russian missiles. It's what the new weapon *represents* that's frightening. The post-Cold War nuclear holiday is over. And apocalyptic weaponry such as Russia's new SS-30 are back at work, making the world a very, very scary place.

There are 15,000 to 20,000 nuclear bombs on this planet. The United States and Russia keep hundreds of bombs on high-alert status, which means they can be released in minutes. India, Pakistan and Israel have the bomb. North Korea—an unstable, unpredictable regime—has nuclear bombs. Some people believe that some terrorists already possess nuclear weapons. Then there is Iran, the greatest terrorist regime in the world, on the cusp of getting the bomb. The fact that Russian state media is openly bragging about a bomb that could wipe out Texas or France shows the specter of nuclear war is back once again to haunt the world.

The Philippines Elects Its Own Version of Donald Trump

WHILE UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE DONALD J. Trump might seem like a one-of-a-kind type of guy to many Americans, he's actually only a "Made in the U.S.A." version of a nationalist strongman model that is growing in popularity around the world. Russia has Vladimir Putin, China has Xi Jinping, Turkey has Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and now the Philippines have President-elect Rodrigo Duterte.

Duterte, the mayor of Davao City, was elected to be the next president of the Philippines on Tuesday. As a self-described socialist, Duterte says he is wary of the U.S.-Philippine security alliance. Duterte rose to prominence on the political scene by making crass comments that would probably make even Donald Trump blush. For example, when discussing the rape and murder of a female Australian missionary, he commented that she was beautiful and he was disappointed he didn't get a chance to rape her first. This was meant to be an attempt at humor.

According to CNN article "The Philippines Gets Its Own Trump," by Frida Ghitis, Duterte's popularity keeps rising because he is seen as a politically incorrect strongman who can end government corruption:

Duterte's outlandish promises resonated with a public fed up with crime and corruption. He would, he vowed, do things differently, not like the "Trapos," the traditional politicians. "The Punisher," as he is known, said he would kill 100,000 criminals and toss their corpses into Manila Bay. In his previous job, he had bragged about having links to

death squads to clean the city. Human Rights Watch backed his claims.

Would he become a dictator? Sure, he said, why not? He reportedly said he would issue presidential pardons for himself and all who helped with the civic cleanup or massacres, whichever term you prefer. Again, he was joking. Maybe. Either way, his poll numbers kept climbing, and his opponents panicked.

Since Duterte rose to power based mostly on his domestic policy platform, one of the biggest unknowns about him is his China policy. Last February, however, he shocked many by suggesting he might be willing to soften the Philippines' stance against Chinese control over the South China Sea.

In a *Washington Post* article, "Rise of Philippines' Duterte Stirs Uncertainty in the South China Sea," Emily Rauhala explained:

The arrangement Duterte proposed would see the Chinese build railroads in his home region in return for his temporary silence on the South China Sea. "Build us a railway just like the one you built in Africa, and let's set aside disagreements for a while," he said.

Duterte later expressed skepticism about the Philippines' case at the tribunal, questioning the worth of a ruling that China has said it won't accept. "I have a similar position as China's. I don't believe in solving the conflict through an international tribunal," he said.

He also expressed support for bilateral talks with Beijing and suggested the possibility of joint exploration of the area's natural resources. "If negotiations will be in still waters in one or two years, I will talk to the Chinese," he said.

Beijing has been calling for bilateral talks with its South China Sea neighbors, one by one. Critics in the Philippines and elsewhere argue that such an approach would give Beijing an unfair advantage over the smaller countries.

As Chinese influence in the South China Sea increases, American power in Asia stands challenged. Since World War II, the U.S. has relied on Asian allies like the Philippines and Japan to stabilize the balance of power in Asia and the Pacific. But these

partnerships are getting less reliable every month.

Distracted by pressures in the Middle East and elsewhere, Washington is neglecting relations with Asian nations like the Philippines—and Beijing is there to fill the void. Manila, long dependent on the U.S. for military and trade, is proceeding carefully in its interactions with Beijing and Washington. Tension between these two powers could force Manila into a decision it dreads: choosing a single suitor.

Expect anti-American grumbling among the Philippine populace and politicians to grow louder, rather than quieter, in the coming months and years. As China's soft-power diplomacy and hard-power buildup continue to solidify the Asian nations into a global power, America's influence in the region will steadily wane.

TW IN BRIEF

Queen Elizabeth says Chinese officials were 'very rude' during Xi Jinping's UK trip: Queen Elizabeth II of Britain was caught on camera making an unguarded comment about the Chinese government during a garden party at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday. The Queen commiserated with Metropolitan Police Commander Lucy D'Orsi that it was "bad luck" to be the senior commander during the Chinese state visit last October. She was overheard telling D'Orsi that the Chinese delegation were "very rude" to the British ambassador to China, Barbara Woodward. D'Orsi agreed and said the Chinese delegation walked out on her and Woodward, which she described as "undiplomatic." Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife visited the United Kingdom in October 2015.

Japanese prime minister breaks ranks with Obama by visiting Putin: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met with Russian President Vladimir Putin last Friday at a resort in Sochi, on the shores of the Black Sea. This meeting represents a major milestone in the Kremlin's efforts to end Russia's political isolation after Putin invaded and annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014. The Japanese prime minister has argued for engagement with Russia to further Japan's goal of ending a World War II territorial dispute over the Kirill Islands. The fact that Abe is trying to improve relations with Russia despite pressure from the Obama administration to do otherwise could be a harbinger of some major changes in Japan's foreign policy.

AFRICA/LATIN AMERICA

TW IN BRIEF

Brazilian president suspended: Brazil's Senate voted on Thursday to start impeachment trials against President Dilma Rousseff on charges of manipulating the budget. The vote automatically suspends her from office for up to six months. During her suspension, Vice President Michel Temer will assume power. While Rousseff, a former Marxist guerrilla is from the

left-wing Brazilian Worker's Party, Temer is considered a business-friendly politician from the center-right Brazilian Democratic Movement. The fact that Temer will be in power for the next several months could be significant considering that the European Union is looking to revive stalled trade talks with Brazil later this month, despite the current political crisis.

ANGLO-AMERICA



What Christ Is Doing Now

Gerald Flurry,
The Key of David | May 13

Traditional Christianity pictures Jesus Christ as a weak, marred figure dying on a cross. But Jesus Christ is not only risen, He has a role that can affect your life today.





Transatlantic Trade Agreement Threatens U.S. Sovereignty

Andrew Müller | May 12

REMEMBER THE REFERENDUM IN AMERICA ABOUT WHETHER OR not European corporations should be able to strike down our laws, subvert our rights, and circumvent our national sovereignty? No? That's understandable. In fact, we never had such a referendum. All current negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) are being conducted by unelected Washington technocrats—away from the eyes and ears of the general public.

The TTIP is a plan to create a single economic market encompassing the United States and the European Union. Some have described it as an economic counterpart to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization military alliance.

The agreement isn't just another free-trade pact. In addition to establishing a transatlantic free-trade area, it would harmonize U.S. and EU regulations governing industrial standards, labor laws and intellectual property rights. To enforce these harmonized regulations, the European Commission is insisting on an Investor-State Dispute Settlement Mechanism. As reported by George Monbiot at Guardian Unlimited, these mechanisms would allow megacorporations "to sue governments before secretive arbitration panels composed of corporate lawyers."

Such arbitration panels would bypass domestic courts and override the will of national legislatures. They would subject the United States to the same type of antidemocratic, technocratic regulation that member states of the European Union already have to endure. If Congress passed a law in violation of the new transatlantic regulations, the U.S. government would have to use taxpayer funds to compensate foreign corporations for their loss.

Whether the Regulatory Cooperation Council is established or not, this much is sure: The implementation of the TTIP agreement would transfer some level of U.S. sovereignty to regulatory bodies outside the United States!

U.S. President Barack Obama met German Chancellor Angela

Merkel last month to encourage the passage of this controversial trade union. While some 70 percent of the German people oppose the TTIP, both Mr. Obama and Ms. Merkel announced that they hope for a deal by the end of this year.

During a recent address at a German-American Cultural Foundation luncheon, former German Defense Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg also touted the TTIP as vital to transatlantic security.

In a *New York Times* op-ed written three years ago by Guttenberg and Pierpaolo Barbieri, the authors likened the TTIP to the 1957 Treaty of Rome—the agreement that established the European Economic Community and laid the foundation for the current European superstate.

It's significant that most of the press coverage about the dangers of the TTIP seem to be generated in Britain. While Americans seem to regard the TTIP as just another trade deal, the British know from experience where such trade deals lead. In the 43 years since Britain joined the European Economic Community in 1973, London's sovereignty has been eroded to the point where Britain isn't much more than a province in an emerging European superstate.

The bureaucratic cabal that runs the EU now wants to engulf the United States into its corporatist empire!

Neither America nor Britain will join this empire willingly. Instead, both nations will be forcibly annexed into this German-led empire via a blitzkrieg-style invasion. Building up the European Union and Germany is one of the most foolish decisions America has made. America and Britain have forsaken God and have instead put their trust in foreign allies. They will soon find out the hard way that these foreign allies do not have their best interests at heart.

To read more about the dangers of America's naive alliance with Germany, read editor in chief Gerald Flurry's article "[Alamogordo: A Mistake You Only Make Once.](#)"

Warning: San Andreas About to Crack

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



THE BIG ONE. IT IS THE STUFF OF MOVIES AND NIGHTMARES. A massive quake along the San Andreas Fault in California. But could it happen sooner than anyone thinks? According to the director of the Southern California Earthquake Center, Thomas Jordan, the San Andreas appears to be primed and ready to go. UPI reported on May 11, "[San Andreas Fault Is About to Crack.](#)"

Thomas Jordan made an announcement recently that would have sent a chill down the spine of every Californian: that the San Andreas Fault appears to be in a critical state and, as such, could generate a large earthquake imminently.

Of course, the reiteration of the seismic hazard to Californians will be nothing surprising, but what is new is the warning that the southern portion of the fault "looks like it's locked, loaded and ready to go."

According to Jordan, there hasn't been a major seismological event on the southern portion of the system since 1857—which means stress is building up—a lot of it. Jordan explains:

In 1906, some of these stresses were catastrophically released in the San Francisco Bay area in a 7.8 magnitude

event and again, in northern California, during the 6.9 magnitude 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. Events of these magnitudes, however, have not occurred along the San Andreas fault in the south of the state—the 1994 Northridge event was associated with a nearby, but separate, fault system—leading to the suggestion that one is imminent and, given the amount of stress that might actually have accumulated, when it arrives it will be the “Big One.”

The good news, if you can call it that, is that the odds of it happening tomorrow are pretty low.

[R]ecent predictions limit the possible maximum earthquake magnitude along the San Andreas Fault system to 8.0, although with a 7 percent probability estimate that such an event could occur in Southern California in the next 30 years; over the same period, there is a 75 percent chance of a magnitude 7.0 event. While magnitudes of 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0 might sound negligibly different, the energy that such events would unleash varies significantly, with a magnitude 9.0 event releasing 32 times more energy than a magnitude 8.0 and 1,000 times more energy than a magnitude 7.0.

Additional good news is that since the San Andreas Fault is a transverse fault, the plates are sliding past each other—and they are doing so on land, which means no tsunami. So much for one recent blockbuster movie by said title. But there will be blood.

British Steel Industry Sacrificed to China

THE LATEST NEWS OUT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM CONFIRMS THE domestic steel industry's dire straits. Cheap Chinese imports are decimating Britain's local production. Thousands of jobs are being lost and with it potentially the technology that allows Britain to produce and manufacture the single most important metal of warfare. The *Telegraph* reports in “[Steel Industry Suffers New Blow With More Job Cuts in Sheffield](#)”:

The steel crisis is continuing to claim jobs in UK industry, with a round of redundancies at Sheffield-based Outokumpu and a warning from its parent company that the UK operations could be closed down. ...

Steelmakers in Britain have been particularly hard hit by the crisis, as a flood of imports of cheap Chinese steel arrives in the UK attracted by the pound's relative strength. Domestic steelmakers also face high energy bills. ...

“Outokumpu's financial performance continues on a very unsatisfactory level,” [company chairman Kari Tutti] said. “The company has made losses for the past eight years and the outlook for 2016 remains challenging.”

Tutti said that staff pay had been frozen and that the companies pension scheme would be closed to save money.

The most worrying news from the report, however, is that it isn't just low-grade steel that is under threat. Britain's high-end, technically difficult stainless steel is also facing the ax.

What is realistic, however, is that a great amount of destruction is likely. ...

In an attempt to understand the effects of a large, southern San Andreas earthquake, the United States Geological Survey modeled a 7.8 magnitude event, with slippage of 2-7 meters, to represent the stresses that have built up in the area since the last large event.

From this model, it was found that damage would be most severe to constructions straddling the fault. ... What would be affected by this slippage, however, are the 966 roads, 90 fiber-optic cables, 39 gas pipes and 141 powerlines that cross the fault zone.

The total cost of damage to buildings was estimated at \$33 billion, with modern buildings faring well but older buildings being particularly susceptible. Fires would rage—as they did following the Northridge earthquake—as gas mains, and water pipes, become severed; in fact, the damage from resulting fires is estimated as more costly than that resulting from the initial shaking.

The overall death toll is estimated at 1,800. And just when things don't look like they can get any worse, the main event will have destabilized the tectonics of the region to such an extent that a series of potentially powerful after-shocks will begin.

So, once again, another reminder that the Big One is overdue.

Much of Outokumpu's work in the UK is on higher value and complex steel products, such as stainless steel. This sort of product had, until now, been seen as less affected by imports as Chinese plants do not have the technical skills to make such advanced steel.

However, it was revealed in January that Sheffield Forgemasters, which specializes in customized steel parts for energy and defense companies, including components for Britain's nuclear submarines, was shedding 100 of its 750 staff, raising fears that the crisis was spreading across the industry. ...

More than 5,000 jobs have been lost in the UK steel sector in the past year. More than 2,000 posts went in September when SSI's plant in Redcar collapsed into administration and Tata has announced a similar amount of redundancies at plants across the UK.

As reported in the *Trumpet Weekly* previously, Britain appears to be sacrificing its steel industry in order to maintain positive trade relations with China. The *Telegraph's* Ambrose Evans-Pritchard reported earlier this year that Britain appears to have struck a Faustian pact with China in the hopes that China will help Britain maintain its nuclear power generating capacity in return for letting China cannibalize its steel industry. It is kind of like feeding an alligator: When you run out of food, you're in trouble.

Obama Administration Directs Schools to Accommodate Transgender Students

Washington Post | May 13

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ON FRIDAY DIRECTED SCHOOLS across the nation to provide transgender students with access to suitable facilities—including bathrooms and locker rooms—that match their chosen gender identity.

The move, which affects all public schools and most colleges and universities that receive federal funds, plunges the administration even further into the country's ongoing contentious debate over transgender rights. ... It put state and local officials and higher-education institutions on notice that they risk losing federal education aid if they limit students to areas or teams based on their gender assigned at birth.

The action was taken just days after the Justice Department and the state of North Carolina filed dueling lawsuits over a new

law requiring individuals in that state to use bathrooms based on their birth gender. ...

For the most part, state and local officials have reversed course when threatened with the loss of federal funds over their treatment of transgender students. In 2013, the Education Department reached a settlement with the school district of Arcadia in California, on a dispute over whether the district violated Title IX by requiring a student who transitioned to being male to change clothes and use the bathroom in the nurse's office.

In December, the school district in Palatine, Illinois, agreed to allow a transgender girl to use the girls' locker room after the Education Department threatened to withhold \$6 million in federal funds. ...

TW IN BRIEF

The most famous transgender fella isn't happy: Bruce Jenner, who now goes by the first name Caitlyn, is experiencing regret over taking hormones in an effort to become a woman. A Kardashian family biographer claims that Jenner is now considering transforming back into a male "in the next couple years." "She's still into women and wants to meet the right one," the biographer stated about Jenner, 66. Sources close to Jenner say he is unhappy masquerading as a woman. He admitted that he experienced a panic attack immediately after the transition. "She's thrilled she has raised awareness about how transgender people have long been discriminated against, but I think there's a chance she'll de-transition in the next couple years," the biographer said. "I don't think it would surprise anybody in her inner circle. It has been much harder than she anticipated."

The Feds take and then borrow even more: The United States Treasury raked in a record \$1.91 trillion in tax revenues in the

first seven months of this fiscal year, according to the Monthly Treasury Statement released Wednesday. That is up about \$14 billion over last year. The record tax collection works out to more than \$12,500 for every person who held a job in America. Yet despite the record haul, the Federal government still ran a deficit of over \$350 billion during the period.

Largest collection of planets ever discovered: NASA added more than 1,200 new planets to the known galaxy on Tuesday, more than doubling the number of confirmed planets orbiting alien stars. Analysis was performed on the Kepler space telescope's July 2015 planet candidate catalog, which identified 4,302 potential planets. For 1,284 of the candidates, the probability of being a planet is greater than 99 percent—the minimum required to earn the status of "planet." NASA's chief scientist Ellen Stofan said that the data "gives us hope that somewhere out there, around a star much like ours, we can eventually discover another Earth."



America and Britain in Prophecy

Stephen Flurry,
Trumpet Daily | May 13

Could the Bible ignore the world's greatest superpower—or the most dominant empire in history?

