

Trumpet Weekly

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A Ustashi unit marches down a street in Sarajevo in 1942.

Is Croatia Embracing Its Nazi-Era Past?

Richard Palmer | May 24

IMAGINE IF GERMANY APPOINTED AS ITS CULTURE MINISTER A HISTORIAN who called the Nazis “heroes” and “martyrs”; a man who used to wear an SS uniform and belong to a far-right party; a man whose work as a historian revolved around showing that the Nazis weren’t actually so bad and who said that the Holocaust was greatly exaggerated.

That would create an uproar around the world. Yet something similar is happening in Croatia.

During World War II, Croatia was ruled by the Ustashi, an axis-aligned regime that was every bit as bad as the Nazis. According to the *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust* published by the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Israel, the Ustashi killed over

600,000 people, 500,000 of which were Serbs. The Ustashi-ruled Independent State of Croatia had a population of around 6.3 million, meaning the Ustashi killed around one in 10 of its own people. Eighty percent of the nation’s Jews were murdered. Almost one in four of its Serbs were killed, and another quarter exiled or forcibly converted to Catholicism.

The Ustashi were gratuitously cruel. As Brad Macdonald wrote in *The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy*:

Killings were performed in some of the most gruesome ways imaginable. Ustashi soldiers were recorded to have torn victims apart limb by limb, and slit people’s throats

with special knives, and removed organs one by one, and smashed people's heads with sledgehammers. Others were burned alive. No one was spared, and many of these vile acts were performed on children and infants. There are records of Ustashi soldiers cutting open pregnant mothers and ripping out the unborn child.

Now the Ustashi are making a comeback. Today, the Ustashi's "modern sympathizers see them as the country's founding fathers," wrote Agence France-Presse (AFP) last month.

Historian Tvrtko Jakovina told AFP that downplaying the Ustashi's atrocities "has existed for years, but in a different intensity."

"It has now penetrated cabinet ministers and the mainstream media," he said. Ognjen Kraus, the leader of Croatia's Jewish communities, said that the government "is simply not doing anything" and that it "does not want to."

The nation's new right-wing coalition that came to power at the start of the year is responsible for much of this change. As part of that coalition, Zlatko Hasanbegović became Croatia's culture minister in January. He was once a member of a small far-right, pro-Ustashi party. "As a historian, his work focuses on downplaying the crimes of the Ustashi and cautiously rehabilitating its ideas," wrote *Foreign Policy*.

"[S]ince taking office, Hasanbegović has done nothing to blunt his radicalism, cutting funds for progressive groups and independent media and endorsing a revisionist documentary film that denies the scale of the crimes committed by Croatia during its alliance with Nazi Germany in the 1940s," they continued.

Reporters Without Borders, the Simon Wiesenthal Center and Serb and Jewish groups in the region have all condemned the new government.

The government's tolerance of such a man as a minister in government is creating a climate of fear throughout the country. Croatia's remaining Serbian minority is complaining that Serbs are being harassed on the streets. Earlier in the year, a journalist on local television told those living in Croatia's capital—especially "mothers with children"—to be careful when walking past a Serb Orthodox Church, because the priests might try to kill them.

Croatian soccer fans frequently chant Nazi-era slogans during games with only indirect criticism from the government. During one game with Israel, for example, they shouted, "We Croats!

Ustashi! Ustashi!"

"Given the fact that these chants were clearly heard by all those in the stadium, their failure to respond is an indication of tolerance for such outrageous, insulting and clearly anti-Semitic behavior," wrote Efraim Zuroff, the director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's office in Israel and Eastern Europe.

"These incidents, however, are only the tip of the iceberg of a much wider and dangerous phenomenon, whereby fascist slogans have become acceptable parlance in Croatia, and are considered to be expressions of patriotism," he wrote.

He warned that Croatia is "a country where manifestations of fascism and anti-Semitism are very common, especially in the local soccer stadiums, but not easily identifiable by those ignorant of the country's World War II and Holocaust history."

Over the May 13 weekend, Croatia's prime minister, first deputy prime minister and an envoy visited Bleiburg, Austria, where a number (estimates vary hugely, but probably thousands) of Ustashi units had been executed by their vengeful Communist invaders.

In Germany, no one mourns the Nazis who were killed, often brutally, by the invading Soviet forces. It is clear that mourning such men would be inappropriate. Yet Croats regularly mourn the killing of these Ustashi. The Catholic Church even held a mass for the dead.

Croatia is a member of the European Union. It is, supposedly, a fully onboard member of the liberal, tolerant Western world. This kind of support for fascism is supposed to be unthinkable.

As Zuroff wrote, "I don't understand how such a person can become a minister in a country that is a good and respected member of the European Union."

Croatia is succumbing to the same pull toward the fringe right that is sweeping all of Europe. But there, it is mixed with a deep hatred that is accentuated by the wars in the wake of the breakup of Yugoslavia. The Nazi puppet state of Croatia included what is now Bosnia and Herzegovina and parts of Serbia. Zlatko Hasanbegović and others want that territory back.

This is the clearest example yet that the rise of the fringe right in Europe is making the world a more dangerous place. Across Europe, people are turning to national self-love in an increasingly uncertain world. But too often, love of one's own leaders quickly turns to hatred for others.

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MIDDLE EAST

TrumpetDaily

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Israel's 'Most Right-Wing and Extremist' Government

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



IN AN EFFORT TO STABILIZE AND EXPAND ITS COALITION GOVERNMENT, the party of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the Likud Party (meaning the Consolidation), successfully signed a deal with the party of former Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu Party (meaning Israel Our Home).

Netanyahu's coalition of right-wing and religious parties only had a majority of one seat in Israel's 120-seat Knesset. Bringing in Yisrael Beiteinu, the ruling government now has 66 seats. And it also has a new defense minister—Avigdor Lieberman.

Lieberman's appointment wasn't a surprise: Backroom negotiations, which became public on May 18, revealed that Lieberman would only join the coalition if he replaced Moshe Ya'alon as defense minister. Ya'alon would have become the foreign minister as consolation. But Moshe Ya'alon preemptively resigned on May 20.

He wrote: "This morning, I informed the prime minister that following his management in the latest developments, and in light of my lack of faith in him, I am resigning from the government and the Knesset and taking time out from political life." Ya'alon also warned that Israel was being taken over by "dangerous and extreme elements."

The *New York Times* noted:

Avigdor Lieberman, the Israeli hard-liner who was named defense minister on [May 25], recently issued a typically blunt ultimatum to Ismail Haniya, the leader of Hamas, the Islamic militant group that controls Gaza.

"If I were defense minister," Mr. Lieberman told an audience last month in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba, "I would give Mr. Haniya 48 hours."

"Either you return the bodies and the civilians," he warned, referring to two Israeli men and the remains of two soldiers Hamas is holding in the Palestinian coastal enclave, "or you are dead. From my point of view, simply reserve yourself a plot in the nearest cemetery."

During election campaigns last year, Lieberman suggested that disloyal Israeli Arabs should be beheaded. "Those who are with us deserve everything," he said, "but those who are against

us deserve to have their heads chopped off with an ax."

Lieberman has once called for bombing Egypt's Aswan Dam and suggested toppling the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank. He has repeatedly voiced skepticism about pursuing peace with the Palestinians.

Lieberman believes Israel wasn't decisive enough during the 50-day Gaza war in the summer of 2014.

He has also suggested that Israel seek other allies such as Russia, instead of looking only to its traditional allies.

The new defense minister is widely considered ultranationalist, and Israel's new government is, according to Israel's right-wing *Maariv* newspaper, the "most right-wing and extremist" government in all of Israel's history.

According to United States State Department spokesman Mark Toner, Israel's new coalition "raises legitimate questions about the direction it may be heading in and what kind of policies it may adopt."

These developments in Israel are important and significant, as we explained in a 2012 theTrumpet.com article "[Israel's Rightward Shift Continues](#)":

The prospect of a hawkish bloc winning Israel's parliamentary elections is significant because Bible prophecy says that, in the very near future, half of Jerusalem *will fall violently* (Zechariah 14:2). Much of the world says adamantly that the Jews should peacefully surrender East Jerusalem to the Palestinians, including many prominent voices in the U.S., the United Nations, Europe, the Palestinian Authority and even in the Jewish communities.

But the implication of Bible prophecy is that Israel will not surrender the city peacefully. The hawkish coalition now forming is a force that would be unlikely to give East Jerusalem away without a fight. Instead, it will be likely to promote the continued building of Jewish settlements in that part of the city, infuriating Palestinians in the process. This resulting fury would exacerbate the already tense situation, and thereby hasten the fulfillment of this violent wresting of East Jerusalem from Jewish control.

TW IN BRIEF

Nasrallah expects a violent summer: The leader of Lebanese militant group Hezbollah said on Wednesday he expected the region to witness a "hot" political and military summer and fall. Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah predicted that none of the Middle East conflicts would find a resolution before the American presidential elections in November. Nasrallah spoke during a ceremony marking the 16th anniversary of Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon. He said no new date had been set for talks in Syria, where the ceasefire remains fragile. He predicted opposition armed groups to Syrian President Bashar Assad would

continue to head toward a confrontation.

Iran resumes funding to Islamic Jihad: Iran has resumed its financial support of the Islamic Jihad terrorist group after two years of strained relations. Sources close to the Palestinian terrorist group told a London-based daily Arab newspaper that Iran's decision to bring the group back into its fold followed Islamic Jihad's visit to Iran in April. During that visit, the group's leader praised Iran, saying Iran's "defense of [the Palestinians] amounts to a defense of Islam." He said, "Iran is the only state that

supports the [Palestinian] intifada” as well as the families of its “martyrs.” In February, Iran promised to pay \$7,000 to the family of every Palestinian killed in the intifada and \$30,000 for every home of a terrorist demolished by Israel.

Turkey: We'll help if you drop visa requirements: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan warned at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul that the refugee readmission agreement would not be approved by parliament unless the European Union lifted visa requirements for Turkish citizens. The EU has offered Turkey a visa waiver as one of the incentives to get it to stop migrants entering Europe. If the visa requirements are dropped without further conditions, Erdoğan has agreed to readmit those who reach Europe illegally from Turkey.

Gone in eight minutes: A senior adviser to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps boasted that if supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei gives the order, the “Zionist regime” could be wiped out in less than eight minutes. On May 9, a high-ranking Iranian general announced the successful test of a precision-guided ballistic missile with a range of over 1,200 miles—capable of reaching Israel. United Nations Security Council resolutions call on Iran to stop developing and testing missiles capable of harnessing a nuclear payload. Khamenei said in September 2015 that in 25 years the Jewish state would no longer exist. He has repeatedly threatened to wipe the Jewish state off the map.

Fighting for Fallujah: Iraq's prime minister hailed “big successes” on Monday by government troops after launching an

offensive to retake Fallujah from Islamic State militants. The battle for the city, which lies only 40 miles from Baghdad, started in the early hours of Monday morning. Estimates of the number of Islamic State fighters hover around 1,000, and the civilian population has dropped rapidly from 250,000 to below 100,000 since the Islamic State arrived. Fallujah was the first city to fall to the Islamic State more than two years ago, according to United States Col. Steve Warren. The two years the Islamic State has had to establish itself and prepare defenses means it will be a challenging military objective to retake the city.

The Islamic State's call to war: The Islamic State is calling on its supporters to conduct terrorist attacks in the West during Ramadan. A spokesman for the terrorist group said in an audio message released over the weekend that Ramadan was a month of attacks and jihad. The Islamic month of Ramadan begins early June.

Turkey's new prime minister: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has formally asked his trusted ally, Transport and Communications Minister Binali Yıldırım, to form Turkey's next government. On Sunday, Erdoğan tipped Yıldırım to replace Ahmet Davutoğlu, who quit as prime minister amid growing differences with the Turkish leader, including Erdoğan's wish to overhaul the constitution. Yıldırım's appointment came hours after the ruling Justice and Development Party confirmed him as its new party chairman at a convention during which the 60-year-old politician said he intended to work toward introducing a new constitution that would change Turkey's political system into a presidential one.

EUROPE

Trumpet Hour

AMERICA'S NEXT PEARL HARBOR, ISRAEL'S NEW DEFENSE MINISTER, AUSTRIA'S SHIFT RIGHT, SUPERBUGS, AND MUCH MORE | MAY 27

CHINA CONQUERING THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, CROATIA'S NAZI SYMPATHIZERS, WHY BAD FOOD IS SO CHEAP, AND MORE | MAY 25

Germany Gets Its Way in Greece, Again

THE EUROPEAN UNION AVOIDED ANOTHER CRISIS IN GREECE THIS week, by once again kicking the can down the road. Greece has more debt than it can ever hope to repay. At some point, some of that debt will have to be canceled, which will involve some difficult and unpopular decisions. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) insists on some debt forgiveness as a condition for its participation in the deal, but Germany is against forgiving any debt. On Tuesday night, eurozone finance ministers agreed to loan Greece \$11.5 billion. But as part of the deal, there will be no discussion on debt relief until 2018—after German elections scheduled for late

2017. “[Germany Gets Its Way Over Fresh Aid for Greece](#)” was the title of the *Local's* article published on May 25. It wrote:

Hard-line countries led by Germany resisted any talk of a “haircut” for holders of Greek debt.

With the IMF remaining on board with the bailout plans, the Eurogroup statement released at 2 a.m. after long hours of talks looks like a victory for [German Finance Minister Wolfgang] Schäuble and his allies from countries like Finland and the Netherlands.

Eric Maurice made the same point in his article for *EU Observer* titled “[Greek Debt Deal Doesn’t Solve the Problem](#).” The IMF had gone into the negotiations demanding “upfront” and “unconditional” debt relief for Greece. But, as Maurice writes:

In the end, the IMF representative, Poul Thomsen, had to agree that debt relief will be approved at the end of the program, in 2018, and only after an assessment of Greek debt sustainability.

It’s a “major concession,” Thomsen told journalists. It means that for now, debt relief for Greece is only a possibility that will be discussed in 2018.

In short, the IMF had to give in to German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble, the most powerful man in the room.

However, once again Europe has avoided making the hard decisions necessary to solve the crisis. As Maurice wrote:

Sources from different institutions admitted that all sides needed an agreement just before the G-7 summit in Japan this week and to avoid a new Greek crisis at the same time as the British EU referendum and the Spanish election in June.

As a consequence, “the agreement is not credible,” economist Zolt Darvas told *EU Observer*.

Darvas, a senior fellow at the Bruegel think tank in Brussels, said that the Eurogroup’s statement was “not realistic” when it said that debt measures would “facilitate a gradual return to market financing” for Greece.

So, once again, Germany wins. Germany’s power in Europe has declined somewhat because of the migrant crisis. But when it comes to the economy, the latest negotiations prove once again that Germany is still “the most powerful man in the room.” Yet the crisis is not over and will continue to drag on, both in Greece and elsewhere.

Is Germany Heading for Economic Crisis?

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



GERMANY COULD BE HEADING FOR AN ECONOMIC CRISIS THAT could revolutionize Europe, wrote George Friedman this month. In an undated pamphlet titled “Germany’s Invisible Crisis,” he warns that Germany’s export-based economy could take a major hit from the global economic slowdown:

Germany is the world’s fourth-largest economy. It is also Europe’s largest economy, and any European economic recovery depends, in large part, on Germany’s trajectory. Germany is the third-largest exporter in absolute terms in the G-20 and is nearly as dependent on exports as Saudi Arabia and South Korea.

Given the enormous size of the German economy, the country must export vast amounts every year to maintain social and political stability. Prosperity for exporters depends on the appetites of their customers, and since 2008, their ability to rely on exports has been diminishing. While other major exporters have been struggling, Germany has actually increased its export levels.

Germany has thus created a significant vulnerability for itself and will be the next country to face an export crisis. Given the country’s high dependence on exports, this crisis will likely be extreme and destabilizing with negative implications for other European countries. ...

Germany appears, on the surface, to have weathered the crisis well to this point. However, in our view, Germany’s growth model will not help the country avoid a crisis for much longer. The strategies Germany has used to maintain

high export rates are unsustainable. ...

At its root, the EU is a free-trade zone. At the center of this is Germany. The free-trade zone, then, is built around a massive exporting machine—which is great for Germany ... but makes it difficult for less developed countries (particularly in southern Europe) to develop.

Germany’s response to the euro crisis was designed to prevent it from having to pay off the huge debts of southern Europe. But the result was massive unemployment and economic recession. Friedman continues:

The level of unemployment in many countries surged but did so most dramatically in the south where unemployment among the Mediterranean countries soared to over 20 percent ... and in some cases to 25 percent. These were the same levels reached in the United States during the Great Depression. Countries outside the eurozone weathered the crisis better, but southern European members of the eurozone went into a recession, and as their economies suffered, demand for goods—including German exports—declined.

Germany staved off feeling the pain by increasing its exports to China, the United States, and to a lesser extent, the United Kingdom. Demand in China, however, has begun to fall. And there is a limit to how much and how long the U.S. and the UK can fill the gap in demand for Germany’s exports.

Germany poses the central problem in Europe. It was structured to be an exporter. Germany did not simply become an exporter after World War II; it was an exporter from the beginning. Like Japan, it was a latecomer to the

Industrial Revolution. In order to catch up, it had to rely on exports while limiting its domestic consumption. After World War II, Germany merely returned to this model. In 1989, when the Berlin Wall fell and Germany reunified, it faced the problem of massively uneven development between East Germany and West Germany and the need to finance the integration. The solution was, once again, to increase exports, discourage domestic consumption, and increase savings rates.

Germany's economic strategy was part of the German DNA. It was a strategy in which a highly educated and disciplined society would excel. ... Eurasia's interrelated crises—coupled with the ongoing crisis of exporters and Germany's fraught relationship with the European Union—have brought Germany's core economic vulnerability to the fore. There are three indications that the country is heading toward its own crisis. German trade patterns have shifted, return on capital has diminished, and some German companies have begun cutting prices in an attempt to maintain export levels. The tactics Germany has relied on to weather the storm are ineffective in the long term, and there are already signals that Germany's economy is slowing down as a result. ...

Germany is not yet in crisis, and many German companies are still sporting at least steady returns. But this report is as much a forecast as it is an analysis. We are looking for where the needle will just begin to waver, and the earnings reports of some large German companies produced some ... worrying observations

The Germans appear to be attempting to increase exports by decreasing return on capital.

This is something that can work, but only temporarily. The first signs of problems in Japan were in the banking system, where the decrease in margins became apparent in rising nonperforming loans and increasing stress as government policy and banking requirements clashed. It is noteworthy that the German banking system is already under pressure even before the crisis we are predicting in Germany has begun to fully unfold. ... German banks are

still exposed to many of the European countries that have not yet recovered in any meaningful way from 2008. Deutsche Bank currently has about \$41.9 trillion worth of derivatives on its books, and in January 2016, Moody's downgraded Deutsche Bank's long-term debt and assigned a negative outlook to both the bank's debt and deposit ratings. German banks are grappling with serious problems, especially with interest rates remaining low and Eurasia's crises intensifying. Commerzbank's 2016 first quarter net profits fell by 52 percent while Deutsche Bank's profits fell by 58 percent. ...

Germany, one of the world's largest exporters, is facing a global export crisis. The fact that it has not yet experienced an overall annual export decline is not a comforting thought. With Europe barely recovering from its economic stagnation and other markets similarly constrained, German exports should decline. The fact that they haven't, and that German banks are troubled in spite of cash flow, indicates that significant price adjustments are being made that affect the profit margins on these exports.

It appears that the problem of contracting exports is being postponed rather than solved. Germany's high dependence on exports causes the German state, bankers and corporations to want to avoid export decline for as long as possible. Since exports are over 45 percent of Germany's GDP, a 5 percent drop would result in a decline in GDP of more than 2 percent, which would have a staggering impact.

Therefore, the Germans are postponing this decline for as long as possible. However, delaying it compounds the problems in the long run, particularly for already weak German banks that may be forced to deal with delayed or restructured debt repayments. The Germans are facing a profound financial crisis that can be postponed but not avoided. The world's economy is stagnating, and exporters around the world are seeing declines. Germany has not so far. When it does, which is inevitable, the fourth-largest economy in the world will suddenly see massive export contractions, declines in GDP, and a significant financial crisis with global implications.

Far-Right Almost Wins in Austria

MAINSTREAM POLITICIANS AND MEDIA BREATHED A SIGH OF relief on Monday when it was announced that Alexander Van der Bellen, the former Greens party member, won Austria's presidential elections with 50.3 percent. Norbert Hofer of the Freedom Party of Austria is usually referred to as far right. But the vote was close, the fringe-right candidate coming within 0.3 percent of winning half the vote. Soeren Kern wrote for the Gatestone Institute, in an article titled "Austrian Freedom Party: Victory in Defeat":

Hofer can claim victory even in defeat. By winning half the ballots cast, Hofer has exposed Austria's gaping political divide on immigration and relations with the European

Union. Hofer's rise, which has effectively upended Austria's political system, has also inspired antiestablishment parties in other parts of Europe. ...

Conceding the election, Hofer wrote on Facebook: "Of course, it is a sad day. But please do not be discouraged. The effort in this election campaign is not wasted. It is an investment for the future."

Hofer's meteoric rise has focused the minds of the establishment parties. On April 27, just three days after Hofer's initial electoral victory, the Austrian Parliament adopted what may be one of the toughest asylum laws in Europe. ...

Mass migration to Austria has been accompanied by a spike in migrant-related rapes, sexual assaults and other

crimes across the country, and has contributed to the rise of the Freedom Party.

Reflecting on the outcome of the presidential election, Hofer's campaign manager, Herbert Kickl, said: "This is a huge achievement. Hofer managed to convince half of the population in defiance of the system."

In France, where polls show that the leader of the National Front, Marine Le Pen, is leading polls for presidential elections in 2017, party secretary general Nicolas Bay wrote on Twitter: "Despite the disappointment, a historic score for our ally from the Freedom Party. The future belongs to patriots!"

James Delingpole pointed out some important statistics on the vote in an article for Breitbart titled "[Austria Gets the Extremist President It Didn't Deserve](#)":

Figures from *Der Standard* newspaper show that university-educated voters split 81-19 for Van der Bellen, while lower-skilled workers split 86-14 for Hofer. What does this tell us? That the native working class in Austria—as in the U.S. and across much of Europe—[is] angry about immigration and feels unrepresented by the liberal political elite. That academe is now such a hot bed of left-wing indoctrination and political correctness that the "educated" would rather keep drinking the Kool-Aid than think for themselves. This cannot end happily. Indeed, it was under similar circumstances in the 1930s that another Austrian-born citizen, considerably more "far-right" than Norbert Hofer, began his rise to power.

The anger behind Hofer's startling performance is not going away any time soon. And it is not simply confined to Austria.

ASIA

Outer Space Could Be the Next Military Standoff Between the U.S. and the Sino-Russian Axis

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



EVEN AS CHINA'S MILITARIZATION OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA CONTINUES, geopolitical experts are predicting that the next point of tension between the United States and the Sino-Russian axis will be the militarization of outer space.

According to an article by Debra Killalea published on [news.com.au](#) on May 24:

Experts predict the world's global powers will soon be taking their battles into space.

Not only is the space race becoming more competitive, but global powers are continuing to militarize what has long been considered to be the final frontier.

Writing for global intelligence agency Stratfor, senior military analyst Omar Lamrani warned, while the race for dominance in space began some time ago, the race toward its weaponization is accelerating faster than ever before.

According to him, global powers are working to develop and deploy antisatellite weapons known as ASATs.

"The technology, which began to be developed during the Cold War, has become an area of intense competition for the world's most capable militaries over the past decade," he writes.

However, the more pressing concern is the possibility of U.S. technology being attacked in orbit.

The United States is currently much more reliant on

satellite-based technologies than any other nation. This fact could give rivals the incentive to attack its space infrastructure. Killalea continued:

Mr. Lamrani's warnings over the militarization of space are not new.

Last year, the *Scientific American* reported a war in space may be closer than ever before with China, Russia and the U.S. all developing and testing new technologies to fight such a war outside Earth.

All countries have denied this is the case.

Calling it "an arms race in all but name," the magazine also predicted the next major military flashpoint won't be in the South China Sea, the Middle East or even Ukraine, instead it will take place in orbit.

A nation with space power is in a better position to deliberately target America's space technology. America's space power gives it a great advantage, but also creates dependence. *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has pointed to America's reliance on technology as the nation's Achilles' heel. Its heavy reliance on technology makes it vulnerable not only to a cyberattack, but also to a physical or electronic attack on its satellite systems.

For half a century, America was the world's dominant superpower. But evidence abounds—in the nation's foreign policy, its economy, its military, its scientific establishment and elsewhere—that this period of dominance is ending.



China Harasses U.S. Surveillance Plane

May 22 | Callum Wood

TWO CHINESE JETS BUZZED A UNITED STATES RECONNAISSANCE plane over the South China Sea on March 18, highlighting the rise of provocations against the American superpower. The jets allegedly passed within 50 feet of the U.S. aircraft.

A Pentagon spokesman called the Chinese maneuver “unsafe” and said that the U.S. was “addressing the issue through the appropriate diplomatic and military channels.”

China was quick to dispute the claim, saying that the jets merely followed at a safe distance.

This isn’t the first time that the U.S. has had a run-in with the Chinese, nor likely the last, in the contentious region. In 2001, a Chinese jet collided with a U.S. spy plane, killing the Chinese pilot and forcing the U.S. crew to land in Chinese territory. The crew was released when the U.S. apologized for the incident 11 days later.

In recent months, military activity in the region has drastically increased, simultaneously increasing the likelihood of confrontation between the regional powers.

In January, Beijing deployed civilian aircraft to its man-made islands in the South China Sea. The following month, China deployed jets and surface-to-air missile launchers to Woody Island, the largest island in the Paracel chain.

The U.S. has responded to China’s military buildup with its own naval exercises in the region—citing a right to naval passage. On May 10, the USS William P. Lawrence sailed within 12 nautical

miles of the Fiery Cross Reef. China scrambled jets in response. It was the third pass that the U.S. conducted in the last year. In October 2015, missile destroyer USS Lassen passed by Subi Reef, then in January USS Curtis Wilbur came close to Triton Island in the Paracels. The U.S. vessels have made sure to sail inside of 12 nautical miles—the zone of exclusive territorial waters—to let Beijing know that it doesn’t recognize China’s claims.

There have been naval run-ins as well, with the aggressive Chinese coastguard harassing U.S. allies throughout the region. A Chinese submarine also tracked a U.S. carrier south of Japan in October 2015. It was the closest encounter between a Chinese craft and an American carrier in a decade.

Alone, these provocations could be chalked up as political bluster, but together they constitute a drastic increase in military aggression between two major world powers. Keep a close eye on these events. With tensions so high, the opportunity for an incident to blow up into a full-scale confrontation is growing. As China’s vice minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, “If the Korean War or Vietnam War are replayed, then we will have to defend ourselves.” In other words, China is ready to fight should it come to that.

To find out the alarming truth about where these provocations are leading, read editor in chief Gerald Flurry’s article in the latest *Trumpet* “[China Is Steering the World Toward War.](#)”

Did President Obama Just Apologize for Winning World War II?

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA ON FRIDAY BECAME the first sitting U.S. president to visit Hiroshima, Japan. He used the occasion to deliver a 20-minute address at the city’s Peace Memorial Park. During this address, he called for a “moral awakening.”

“Why do we come to this place, to Hiroshima?” he asked. “We come to ponder the terrible forces unleashed in the not so distant past. We come to mourn the dead ... their souls speak to us and ask us to look inward. To take stock of who we are and what we might become.”

Before his speech, President Obama wrote in the Hiroshima museum’s guestbook that he hoped the world would “find the courage, together, to spread peace and pursue a world without nuclear weapons.”

While the president stopped short of actually apologizing for America’s decision to drop two nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, his entire speech painted this decision in terms of moral equivalence.

“We may not be able to eliminate man’s capacity to do evil, so nations and the alliances that we form must possess the means to defend ourselves,” he said. “But among those nations, like my own, that hold nuclear stockpiles, we must have the courage to escape the logic of fear and pursue a world without them.”

American lawyer and diplomat John Bolton wrote a piece for the *New York Post* yesterday, titled “[Obama’s Shameful Apology Tour Lands in Hiroshima.](#)” In regards to President Obama, he wrote:

His penchant for apologizing is central to his legacy. He may not often say “I apologize” explicitly, but his meaning is always clear, especially since he often bends his knee overseas, where he knows the foreign audiences will get his meaning. It is, in fact, Obama’s subtlety that makes his effort to reduce America’s influence in the world so dangerous. ...

Obama’s apologies and gestures prove yet again, in his words, that he isn’t like those other presidents on our currency. And Friday, in Hiroshima, Obama may prove conclusively that, on national security, he’s no Franklin Roosevelt or Harry Truman.

Obama’s narcissism, his zeal for photo opportunities with him at the center, whether in Havana or Hiroshima, too often overcomes lesser concerns—like the best interests of the country. He puts his vanity before our nation’s pride.

Even without an express apology, there will likely be moral equivalence like: Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, and we bombed Hiroshima. We’re all guilty, but let’s put it

behind us.

On the Japanese side, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has refused to visit Pearl Harbor and has gone on record stating that future generations should not be “predestined” to apologize to the actions of World War II era leaders. In 2015, he expressed “deepest remorse” and “sincere condolences” to Japan’s wartime victims but stopped short of issuing an apology for the Rape of Nanjing or the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

While 70,000 Japanese were killed in the bombing of

Hiroshima, historians estimate that the bomb saved up to 4 million lives by ending World War II and rendering a full-scale invasion of Japan unnecessary.

Human nature itself will have to change before a world without nuclear weapons is possible. President Obama is using a philosophy of moral equivalence to disarm America, while at the same time opening the door for rogue nations like Iran to obtain their own nuclear weapons. Despite his high-sounding words, the end results of his actions can only result in another nuclear war—one that America will no longer have the power to cut short!

China to Send Nuclear-Armed Submarines Into Pacific

THE CHINESE MILITARY IS PREPARING TO SEND SUBMARINES armed with nuclear missiles into the Pacific Ocean for the first time. Beijing is arguing that new United States weapons systems have undermined China’s existing deterrent force and left the government with no alternative.

According to a May 26 Guardian Unlimited article by Julian Borger:

Chinese military officials are not commenting on the timing of a maiden patrol but insist the move is inevitable.

They point to plans unveiled in March to station the U.S. Thaad antiballistic system in South Korea and the development of hypersonic glide missiles potentially capable of hitting China less than an hour after launch, as huge threats to the effectiveness of its land-based deterrent force.

A recent Pentagon report to Congress predicted that “China will probably conduct its first nuclear deterrence patrol sometime in 2016,” though top U.S. officers have made such predictions before.

China has been working on ballistic missile submarine technology for more than three decades, but actual

deployment has been put off by technical failures, institutional rivalry and policy decisions.

Until now, Beijing has pursued a cautious deterrence policy, declaring it would never be the first to use nuclear weapons in a conflict and storing its warheads and its missiles separately, both strictly under the control of the top leadership.

Deploying nuclear-armed submarines would have far-reaching implications.

Warheads and missiles would be put together and handed over to the Navy, allowing a nuclear weapon to be launched much faster if such a decision was taken. The start of Chinese missile patrols could further destabilize the already tense strategic standoff with the U.S. in the South China Sea.

Ever since Xi Jinping took over as general secretary of the Communist Party of China, his administration has been militarizing the South China Sea and working to push the United States out of East Asia. The presence of Chinese submarines armed with nuclear weapons will be a major milestone toward that goal!

TW IN BRIEF

Are Taiwan’s days of autonomy numbered?: Days after Taiwan’s new president took office, tensions between China and Taiwan are already intensifying. In her inaugural address last Friday, President Tsai Ing-wen infuriated Beijing by refraining from making any mention of the one-China principle. Tsai said she respects the “joint acknowledgements and understandings” previously reached between the two sides, but made no mention of Taiwan being part of China. Beijing has repeatedly said that a

failure by Taiwan to endorse the one-China concept would destabilize relations. On Tuesday, China’s state-run newspaper published a scathing diatribe against Tsai, calling her “unfit” for the presidency, in part because she is a single and childless woman. “Her political style and tactics are often emotional, personalized and extreme,” the article said. If Tsai stays tough against China, it could eventually prompt Beijing to react with force and swallow Taiwan.

AFRICA/LATIN AMERICA

The Trouble in Venezuela

AS MORE AND MORE VENEZUELANES EXPRESS FRUSTRATION AT the administration of President Nicolás Maduro, the nation’s military may be forced to pick a side. But whatever side it chooses,

Venezuela’s troubles will likely worsen.

Over the weekend, President Maduro presided over Venezuela’s largest military exercises in its history—just a week after

he declared a 60-day state of emergency for what he considers a looming invasion by the United States. The state has heightened alarm by specifically mentioning that U.S. spy planes had illegally entered Venezuela's airspace. "We're as ready for an invasion as we've ever been," Maduro said on May 21.

On May 19, Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez had a similar message when he announced on state television that "Venezuela is threatened." He added, "This is the first time we are carrying out an exercise of this nature in the country. In terms of national reach, it's going to be in every strategic region."

Half a million personnel participated in the exercises.

The [New York Times](#) explained May 24:

The show of force is not meant to keep the Pentagon at bay. It goes without saying that the Obama administration has absolutely no interest in going to war with Venezuela. Rather, it's a diversion tactic intended to deflate the effort to oust Mr. Maduro from office this year through a popular referendum.

Put differently, "the government is looking to victimize itself to both the international community and its own followers," Rocio San Miguel, the director of the Citizens' Control security firm, said in an interview. "They're looking for a distraction to buy time, and there's no better distraction than the military one."

So which side will the military pick, especially when you

consider some of the nightmares of Maduro's socialist rule: violent crime, acute shortages of basic commodities, rampant corruption, a collapsing health-care system, a free-falling economy and sky-rocketing prices?

The leader of Venezuela's opposition party and governor of the state of Miranda, Henrique Capriles, announced on May 18: "I tell the armed forces: The hour of truth is coming, to decide whether you are with the Constitution or with Maduro." Observers like Cynthia Arnson, the director of the Wilson Center's Latin American Program, believe Capriles never would have made such statement "if there wasn't a section of the military willing to stand up for the Constitution and oppose the slide into authoritarianism."

If Maduro's regime collapses, we can expect people like Henrique Capriles to fill the leadership void. Capriles is an avowed staunch Catholic, educated at the Catholic University in Caracas. In November 2013, he had a private audience with Pope Francis, in which he pleaded for the Vatican's intervention in Venezuela's political crisis.

As the trouble in Venezuela worsens, expect the pope to strengthen the Catholic Church's influence in his homeland of Latin America. [Bible prophecy](#) discusses a soon-coming, Catholic Church-led European empire whose tentacles will reach Latin America, the continent with the greatest number of Catholics. The masses of disenfranchised Venezuelans, the Venezuelan military, Henrique Capriles and [Pope Francis](#) may play significant roles in that outcome.

ANGLO-AMERICA



Why You Must Watch Jerusalem

Gerald Flurry, [The Key of David](#) | May 29

Not all cities are equal in importance. The most important city on Earth is Jerusalem.



Dreaded Superbug Found in U.S. for First Time

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



THE WASHINGTON POST REPORTS THAT "[THE SUPERBUG THAT Doctors Have Been Dreading Just Reached the U.S.](#)" For the first time, a person in the United States was found to be infected with a bacteria strain that is resistant to the most powerful of antibiotics. Some officials fear that its spread could send us back to a pre-penicillin nightmare age.

The antibiotic-resistant strain was found last month in the urine of a 49-year-old Pennsylvania woman. Defense Department researchers determined that she carried a

strain of *E. coli* resistant to the antibiotic colistin, according to a study published Thursday The authors wrote that the discovery "heralds the emergence of a truly pan-drug resistant bacteria."

Colistin is the antibiotic of last resort for particularly dangerous types of superbugs, including a family of bacteria known as CRE, which health officials have dubbed "nightmare bacteria." In some instances, these superbugs kill up to 50 percent of patients who become infected. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has called CRE

among the country's most urgent public health threats.

Apparently the strain found in the woman, although resistant to colistin, is treatable by other antibiotics. But the fear is that the colistin resistance could spread to bacteria that are immune to the more common antibiotics, as researchers have seen happen with other resistant bacteria.

"It basically shows us that the end of the road isn't very far away for antibiotics—that we may be in a situation where we have patients in our intensive-care units, or patients getting urinary tract infections for which we do not have antibiotics," CDC director Tom Frieden said in an interview Thursday.

Researchers think that the colistin-resistant bacteria was transferred from pigs to humans.

In November, public health officials worldwide reacted with alarm when Chinese and British researchers reported finding the colistin-resistant strain in pigs, raw pork meat and in a small number of people in China. The deadly strain was later discovered in Europe, Africa, South America and Canada.

Separately, researchers at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Health and Human Services Department reported that testing of hundreds of livestock and retail meats turned up the same colistin-resistant bacteria in a sample from a pig intestine in the United States. The USDA said it is working to determine the pig's farm of origin.

Some experts blame modern agricultural practices for the

rise of many superbugs. Industrialized livestock-raising methods increase the density of animals, often resulting in conditions ideal for the spread of diseases. To combat this, farmers often feed their animals a cocktail of antibiotics—even if they are not sick—as a preventative measure.

Experts are finding that this indiscriminant use of antibiotics results in the elimination of both healthy and harmful bacteria in animals. If a resistant bacteria is present, the elimination of all other bacteria actually helps it multiply and spread to other organisms.

"It's hard to imagine worse news for public health in the United States," Lance Price, director of the Antibiotic Resistance Action Center and a George Washington University professor, said in a statement Thursday about the Pennsylvania case. "We may soon be facing a world where CRE infections are untreatable." ...

"Now we find that this gene has made its way into pigs and people in the U.S.," Price said. "If our leaders were waiting to act until they could see the cliff's edge, I hope this opens their eyes to the abyss that lies before us."

The medical industry is being pushed to the edge of its ability to treat infectious diseases.

Already, doctors had been forced to rely on colistin as a last-line defense against antibiotic-resistant bacteria. The drug is hardly ideal. It is more than half a century old and can seriously damage a patient's kidneys. And yet, because doctors have run out of weapons to fight a growing number of infections that evade more modern antibiotics, it has become a critical tool in fighting off some of the most tenacious infections.

Young Adults More Likely to Live With Parents Than Romantic Partner

A MERICAN CULTURE HAS REACHED A NEW MILESTONE—OR IS IT a millstone? Pew Research Center says that for the first time in modern history young adults are more likely to live in their parents' home than with a spouse or partner. The *Wall Street Journal* wrote on May 24:

The year 2014 "appears to be a milestone," according to the report, because dwelling with parents eclipsed residing with a romantic partner as the dominant living arrangement for young adults, for the first time since 1880.

The share of young adults [18-to-34-year-olds] living with their parents hit 32.1 percent in 2014, passing the 31.6 percent who lived with a spouse or partner in a separate household. The rest lived alone, with roommates or other family members, or as single parents.

In 1960, meanwhile, a peak 62 percent of 18-to-34-year-olds lived as part of a romantic couple in their own households, while only 20 percent lived in their parents' home, Pew said.

According to Pew, there are differences depending on race, sex

and education.

Record-high shares of black and Hispanic young adults (36 percent) lived with their parents in 2014, compared with 30 percent of white 18-to-34-year-olds. Young people with less education were more likely to have remained in the family nest.

Overall, young men have been more likely to live with parents than with a romantic partner since 2009, while young women are "on the cusp of crossing over this threshold," the Pew report said.

Pew researchers blame a worsening job market, a poor economic outlook among young people, and a "dramatic drop" in the share of young people who want to start a family.

"Forming a new family is not nearly as important as it was for young adults," said Richard Fry, a senior researcher with Pew.

According to the report, some of the blame can also be put on a

society that pressures women to put career before family.

Clara Scheinmann, who is 25, is intent on building her career and having her own family. "It's hard to be able to do all those things at once," she said.

She left her family to attend college and work in Washington, D.C., but she recently moved home to Boston and back in with her parents. She plans to move out, but has put apartment hunting on the back burner while she adjusts to her new routine and job, at an organization that nurtures

start-up companies.

Student debt is another big factor pushing young people back home. Many students graduate with tens of thousands worth of debt, and with degrees that do little to enhance employment prospects.

One other reason for this trend is society's changing view on sex. Sex is no longer something that only occurs in marriage. Little emphasis is placed on chastity, so it is easier for young people to satisfy sex drives without the commitment.

TW IN BRIEF:

States fight transgender directive: Eleven American states filed suit Wednesday against the Obama administration in response to a controversial directive on transgender bathroom use earlier this month. Texas, Alabama, Wisconsin, West Virginia, Tennessee, Arizona, Maine, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Utah and Georgia supported the sharply worded lawsuit. "Defendants have conspired to turn workplaces and educational settings across the country into laboratories for a massive social experiment, flouting the democratic process, and running roughshod over commonsense policies protecting children and basic privacy rights," the lawsuit says. By taking a stand, the states are likely forfeiting billions of dollars in federal funding. Supporters of transgenders choosing which bathroom to use believe the threat of sexual assault is nearly nonexistent. Opponents say such a change would be a blatant violation of privacy.

Federal transgender detainment center in Texas: Federal immigration officials will soon open a new detention facility southwest of Dallas that includes a special unit for transgender detainees. The facility under construction in Alvarado, Texas, will include 36 beds for transgender people. The facility is expected to open in November. It would be the second federal unit dedicated to housing transgender illegals. The other, in Santa Ana, California, houses about 30 transgenders. Advocates say transgender immigrants often face challenges in detention facilities such as higher rates of sexual assault, an inability

to get hormone replacement treatments, and guards unfamiliar with gender-identity issues. Federal guidelines instruct detention staff to ask incoming detainees about their chosen gender identity and to make accommodations based on their preference.

Former McDonald's CEO warns against minimum wage: Thousands of protesters marched to the Chicago headquarters of McDonald's Corp. in heavy rain and thunderstorms on Wednesday. They are demanding higher wages and a union ahead of the fast-food giant's annual shareholder meeting on Thursday. The push for a \$15 minimum wage began in 2012. Since then, the growing demonstrations have helped make hourly pay a political issue. Former McDonald's U.S.A. CEO Ed Rensi warned against proposed hikes to the federal minimum wage in an interview with Fox Business on Wednesday morning. "I was at the National Restaurant Show yesterday, and if you look at the robotic devices that are coming into the restaurant industry, it's cheaper to buy a \$35,000 robotic arm than it is to hire an employee who is inefficient making \$15 an hour bagging french fries," Rensi said. "It's nonsense, and it's very destructive, and it's inflationary, and it's going to cause a job loss across this country like you're not going to believe." He also recommended allowing states to decide separate minimum wages for students and entry-level employees. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1.3 million people earned the current minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.



How Christ's Gospel Was Suppressed

Stephen Flurry, Trumpet Daily | May 27

Here is why the world is deceived about God's awesome purpose for man.

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