

Trumpet Weekly

JUNE 17, 2016

FBI agents investigate near the damaged rear wall of the Pulse Nightclub where Omar Mateen killed at least 49 people on June 12 in Orlando, Florida.



Major Terrorist Attack Strikes America

Callum Wood | June 13

AMERICA SUFFERED ITS WORST MASS SHOOTING IN THE NATION'S history and the worst terrorist attack since 9/11 last week-end. In the early hours of June 12, a jihadist killed 49 people and injured at least 53 others at a homosexual nightclub in Orlando, Florida. The gunman, 29-year-old Omar Mateen, entered the club armed with a high-powered AR-15 assault rifle and a handgun. Some sources allege he was also armed with a suicide vest. The ensuing standoff lasted until around 5 a.m., at which time Mateen was killed in a shootout with police.

Before beginning his attack, Mateen had called the 911 emergency service to pledge his allegiance to Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. It wasn't long after the attack that the Islamic State used *Amaq* news agency to claim responsibility for the shooting.

During the 911 call, Mateen referenced the 2013 Boston

Marathon bombing carried out by the Tsarnaev brothers. The Boston bombing claimed the lives of three people, injured more than 260, and put the city on lockdown for more than a day.

Mateen, an American citizen who lived in Port St. Lucie, Florida, held an associates degree in criminal justice and worked as a security guard for a company called G4S. In 2006, he registered as a member of the Florida Democratic Party. But the normal appearance was a facade for his radical Islamic ideology.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation labeled Mateen "a person of interest" in 2013 and 2014. The investigation was canceled after the FBI failed to find evidence that would warrant further investigation. Mateen was also known for domestic violence, having allegedly assaulted his former wife on a number of occasions.

Although born in America, Mateen's parents were both Afghan immigrants. Mateen's father, Seddiq Mir Mateen, issued a

public apology via an NBC interview and claimed that the attack was not religiously motivated. Seddique said his son had been revolted by the sight of homosexual men kissing, which Seddique suggested was the reason behind the attack.

But Seddique's own credibility is being questioned with the emergence of videos of him showing gratitude to the Taliban and denouncing the Pakistani government. He has also posted videos of himself posing as the Afghan president, and has declared his candidacy for the office despite living in Florida.

United States President Barack Obama offered condolences and prayers for the victims, as well as his gratitude to the responders. He gave an overview of the attack to-date, and although he stopped short of mentioning Islam, Mr. Obama said the shooting was "an act of terror and an act of hate." The president also used the opportunity to advocate tougher gun control: "This massacre is ... a further reminder of how easy it is for someone to get their hands on a weapon that lets them shoot people in a school, or in a house of worship, or a movie theater, or in a nightclub. And we have to decide if that's the kind of country we want to be."

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said that Mateen legally purchased two weapons within the last week.

Both presidential candidates released statements. Donald Trump focused on radical Islam, while Hillary Clinton backed

President Obama by not mentioning Islam and instead focused on gun control. Clinton stated that the attack "reminds us once more that weapons of war have no place on our streets."

The attacks also came during the Islamic month of Ramadan, occurring just two weeks shy of the one-year anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling to legalize same-sex "marriage." It also occurred during "Pride Month," on a weekend when a number of U.S. cities were hosting homosexual-pride festivals.

Police arrested another man on his way to a homosexual festival in Santa Monica, California. The man was carrying three assault rifles and chemicals used to make explosives. The event he was heading to usually draws tens of thousands of spectators. It is yet unclear what motivated the suspect.

The first victims of the Orlando shooting have already been named. Among them are drag queens and promoters of a homosexual cruise company. Many more victims are yet to be identified, as investigators continue the grisly task.

The shooting was the deadliest terrorist attack on U.S. soil since Sept. 11, 2001, when hijackers crashed planes into the towers of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania.

Keep watching the *Trumpet* for more news and analysis on this latest bloodshed in an increasingly volatile 2016.

MIDDLE EAST

TrumpetDaily

RADIO SHOW

[RADICAL ISLAM, THE UK REFERENDUM, CANADA'S NEW NATIONAL ANTHEM AND MOZART'S REMARKABLE FATHER | JUNE 16](#)

[TERROR ATTACKS AT AN 'ALL-TIME HIGH' | JUNE 15](#)

[RUSSIA'S RISE STOKES FEAR IN EUROPE | JUNE 14](#)

[ORLANDO: YOU CAN'T CALL IT ISLAMIST TERRORISM | JUNE 13](#)



Retaking Fallujah

Callum Wood | June 14

MORE THAN TWO WEEKS INTO THE OPERATION TO LIBERATE THE Iraqi city of Fallujah from Islamic State terrorists, concerns are growing for the 50,000-plus residents still trapped in the city. Not only do the citizens of Fallujah have to fear their Islamic State captors but also the incoming liberators: government troops alongside Shiite militias.

Often backed and supported by Iran, the Shiite militias have made progress throughout the country—often in places where government troops have turned and fled. In many Shiite circles, the victories have elevated militia leaders like Qassem Suleimani to the status of savior. Some consider him to be the real leader of Iraq. But this view is not supported by Iraq's Sunni populace, and with good reason.

Many Sunnis still bear the scars of their "liberation" from the

Islamic State by Suleimani and his militias.

Tikrit is just one example. Situated on the banks of the Tigris River, Tikrit was captured by the Islamic State in June 2014. When control was finally wrested back from the Islamic State in early 2015, the Iraqi government was barely involved.

In fact, only 3,000 Iraqi security forces joined the battle. The small force was bolstered by 1,000 Sunni tribal militias. But the majority of the fighting force—some 20,000 troops—were Shiite militiamen from the Popular Mobilization Force, directed and funded by Iran.

Entering into a predominantly Sunni city, many of the Shiites were looking for payback—be it against the Islamic State or the Sunnis who watched as 1,000 of the city's Shiite fighters were tortured and killed by the terrorists.

Many Shiites blame the Sunnis for inaction against, and even support of, the Islamic State incursion.

The city was liberated from the Islamic State, and the revenge began.

It wasn't long before shops were burned. Militiamen spray-painted their group names on buildings and firebombed any establishments they believed were used by the Islamic State or its supporters. Iraqi officials said the Shiites were "out of control."

Deep-seated hatred and mistrust between Shiites and Sunnis led to widespread attacks on the Sunni populace by the Shiite "liberators." Many residents were kidnapped and tortured.

That was the [liberation of Tikrit](#).

With that in mind, it is easy to see why many analysts and news watchers now fear for the residents of Fallujah.

According to the *Telegraph*, more than 300 Sunnis have

already been executed by Shiite militiamen in the outer suburbs of Fallujah.

The well-known brutality of the Iranian-backed Shiite militias is now descending on the city of Fallujah and its remaining 50,000 residents. The government-sanctioned Popular Mobilization Force that tortured the residents of Tikrit and murdered civilians in mass revenge killings is now on Fallujah's doorstep.

As U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey said, "The activity of the Iranians and their support for the Iraqi security forces is a positive thing in military terms against [the Islamic State]—but we are all concerned about what happens after the drum stops beating."

Bible prophecies in Daniel 11 and elsewhere indicate that [Iran's actions](#) will affect not only its neighbors in the Middle East but the entire planet.

Iran Wants to Use More Afghan Refugees in the Battle for Syria

Kieren Underwood | June 16

IN IRAN'S BATTLE AGAINST THE WEST TO UPHOLD SYRIAN PRESIDENT Bashar Assad's government, Iran is stepping up its recruitment of mercenaries from another ravaged population: Afghanistan.

Afghan recruits join what is called the Fatemiyoun Brigade, named after Mohammed's daughter Fatima. Iranian media claims the brigade numbers up to 20,000 men. They are recruited from a number of places, but many come from the estimated 1 million undocumented Afghan refugees in Iran and the persecuted Shiite Afghans in Damascus, Syria.

Using Afghan fighters to bolster Assad's government forces is not new. As early as October 2012, there has been documented evidence of Afghan Shiites joining the battle. But the details are becoming better known, as they have become increasingly publicized in Iran's media. In March, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei met with families of Afghans killed in Syria to praise their sacrifices, saying, "I am proud of you." On June 7, the Iranian government released a promotional video aimed at recruiting more Afghan nationals. It was dedicated to the "unsung heroes of the Earth, the renowned of

the skies, and the combatants of the Fatemiyoun."

Some Afghans have joined for religious reasons, but others fight for cash, which can be up to \$700 a month—a figure far above even many professional soldiers. Even among the United States-backed rebel groups operating in Syria's south, it is reported that most men make under \$100 per month.

The National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) released a statement on April 8 that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps abuse "the extreme poverty of Afghan nationals and their need to attain legal documents to have them go to Syria. In many cases, Afghan prisoners, or those with death sentences, are pardoned if they volunteer to fight in Syria."

What is becoming clear is Iran's desperation to keep Assad in power. Under Assad, Syria is a major ally of Iran's, but if he falls, the Sunni majority population is likely to flip the tables. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, wrote NCRI, "views an end to Assad's rule as a red line for the survival of the clerical regime."

Iran's Afghan recruits are a crucial part of maintaining Iran's influence in [Syria](#).

Syria and Hezbollah: Drifting Apart?

ONE OF THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT'S BIGGEST HELPERS DURING the country's five-year civil war has been Iranian terrorist proxy Hezbollah. But things might be changing.

The [Jerusalem Post](#) reported:

According to the Syrian news site, Syrian Mirror, heavy clashes broke out between the forces of Syrian President Bashar Assad and Hezbollah fighters early Thursday morning in two villages in Aleppo's southern suburbs.

The fighting between the parties escalated to such an extent that the Syrian Air Force carried out three air strikes against Hezbollah fighters, which resulted in the killing and injuring of

dozens of militants, according to the report.

The skirmishes allegedly broke out because Hezbollah disagreed with the regime's decision to withdraw its forces from strategic positions in Aleppo, where Hezbollah sacrificed many fighters to prevent opposition factions from gaining hold.

Sharif Shehadeh, a lawmaker in the Assad regime, appealed for a peaceful resolution to the conflict, saying, "[W]e are in a period when there is no room for arguments." He concluded: "My sons in Hezbollah, you came to Syria to support us, not to dominate us. I am asking you to rethink your attitude."

Indeed, Syria cannot afford to lose the support of Hezbollah (and Iran, by extension). If it does, or even if that support is

reduced, Assad's demise could be imminent. For more on Syria's fate, read ["How the Syrian Crisis Will End."](#)

Washington: Riyadh Plays Leading Role in Resolving Syrian Crisis

SAUDI DEPUTY CROWN PRINCE AND DEFENSE MINISTER Mohammed bin Salman visited the Pentagon on Thursday and met with his counterpart United States Defense Secretary Ash Carter.

"I am today in a country that is an ally to the kingdom, in a very sensitive time, in a kind of region with many threats surrounding us ... either when it comes to the instability of some countries or the interference in the internal affairs of countries, or terrorism," said Prince Mohammed. "The U.S. and its allies in the region have the responsibility to meet and deal with these challenges that might pose as a threat to the entire world, and today we are working hard and seriously to face these challenges."

A day prior, the prince met with Secretary of State John Kerry. *Asharq al-Awsat* reported on Thursday:

[State Department spokesperson John Kirby] said: "If it were not for Saudi leadership, we wouldn't have that first meeting of the Syrian opposition groups back in December in Riyadh."

He said the Saudis share the U.S. concerns about trying to implement a political agreement in Syria that could lead to a transitional operation and the creation of a new government not headed by Bashar Assad.

He added that the U.S. is concerned to follow [the Islamic State] in Syria and stop the organization's attacks. "The Saudis are the leading figures capable to help us stop [the Islamic State's] aggressive activities," Kirby said. ...

[T]he U.S. Department of State ... clearly denied the presence of any dispute with Riyadh, and on the contrary, ... praised the Saudi role in dealing with the crisis in Syria.

Iran Threatens to 'Set Fire' to Nuclear Deal

IRAN'S SUPREME LEADER SAID HE WOULD "SET FIRE" TO THE IRAN nuclear deal if a new United States president broke the agreement.

According to state media, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei assured that "the Islamic Republic [will not] be the first to violate the nuclear deal. Staying faithful to a promise is a Koranic order." But Khamenei warned that "if the threat from the American presidential candidates to tear up the deal becomes operational then the Islamic Republic will set fire to the deal."

Last year, presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump said it would be difficult to tear up the deal. Instead, he said he would "police that contract so tough" that Iran would not have a chance to break it. Khamenei did not say which candidates made those threats; he did say that he didn't differentiate between Republicans and Democrats.

Khamenei added, "Some think that we can get along with the Americans and solve our problems. This is an incorrect idea and a delusion."

TW IN BRIEF

Israel's **United Nations post:** Israel won an election to chair the United Nations' legal committee on Monday. This is the first time that Israel will head one of the UN's permanent committees since joining the world body in 1949. The role Israel will play will largely be symbolic and procedural, but it's also expected to boost

Israel's profile at the UN. Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon said he was "very proud to be the first Israeli to serve as the chairman of a committee." He said, "Israel is a world leader in international law and in fighting terrorism."

EUROPE

Trumpet Hour

FATHERLESSNESS AND THE FATE OF NATIONS: NEWS FROM THE U.S, UK, CHINA, GERMANY AND EVEN ERITREA | JUNE 17

THE ORLANDO KILLER'S SECURITY JOB, SHIITE MILITIAS IN IRAQ, AND SECRET SUPERMARKET STRATEGIES | JUNE 15



The EU-Turkey Deal Is Bad but Worse Is Yet to Come

Josué Michels | June 15

ON MARCH 18, THE EUROPEAN UNION STRUCK A DEAL WITH Turkey that was designed to [decrease the influx of refugees into Europe](#). The deal said that anyone who arrives in Greece illegally would be sent to Turkey. And for every migrant sent back, the EU would resettle one Syrian refugee stuck in Turkish camps—with priority given to those who had not tried to enter the EU illegally.

As part of the agreement, Europe also promised Ankara \$3 billion in aid, a boost to its EU membership proposal, and an easing of the visa restrictions for Turkish citizens by the end of June.

Many analysts saw this deal as problematic and even illegal, since Turkey does not meet the “safe third country” requirements of the Geneva Convention. The agreement did significantly reduce the number of refugees coming into Greece, but three months in, it is on the verge of collapsing. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and the Turkish government have demanded visa-free travel into Europe as payment for their cooperation. The trouble is Turkey does not fulfill the EU requirements for such travel.

The German government was the chief driving force in the EU-Turkey deal, but it lost the support of the German people in doing so. According to a ZDF survey conducted in May, only 34 percent of Germans believed the deal would be successful. Many believe that Chancellor Angela Merkel puts too much stock in the deal. Her party has lost popularity despite the decrease in migrant arrivals.

The Bundestag’s decision to recognize the Armenian genocide (referring to the Armenian persecution by Turkish-Ottoman forces over 100 years ago) further worsened the Germany-Turkey relationship. President Erdoğan urged the German parliament to vote against the recognition of a “genocide,” or else there would be consequences. The vote’s results enraged Erdoğan, who said that the German members of parliament with Turkish descent should have a blood test to see if they were really Turks.

Other European leaders want a different solution. In an interview with *Spiegel*, Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz said:

The Turkey deal can only be Plan B. Plan A needs to be a strong Europe that is prepared to defend its external borders on its own. If we do not do that, then we are living in

a Europe that is dependent—on other countries, and possibly even on personalities like President Erdoğan. And dependency is dangerous.

His plan would seal off the Mediterranean, have joint protection of the EU’s external borders, and provide more humanitarian aid to the countries of origin. Added to that, Kurz says European countries need to be able to decide who and who not to take in. To accomplish this, he proposed to establish a reception center for migrants on an island in the Mediterranean.

Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble has recently mentioned part of his solution. N-tv, a German television news channel, reported online: “[H]e called for a fundamental change in dealing with the Arab world and Africa. ... Given the many refugees from the crisis regions in the Middle East and Africa, Schäuble concluded that ‘we need to invest more in Iraq, Syria and Libya’” (*Trumpet* translation throughout).

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry [identified Iran](#) as the chief cause of trouble in the Middle East. It supports the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, aids Syria in its suppression of its citizens, and sponsors the terrorist organization al Qaeda, supporting the violence in Libya. Thus, Iran is the real origin of the refugee crises—the Islamic State is just a minor player. Whenever Europe speaks about tackling the roots of the refugee crisis, it is actually speaking directly or indirectly about tackling Iran.

The Turkey deal cannot bring lasting solutions because it does not solve the problem. Schäuble correctly recognized that the problem lies within the countries of origin. But what is their problem? What is the problem with Syria, Libya, Iraq, Egypt and other Middle Eastern and African countries? Radical Islam.

Mr. Flurry has explained that Germany will deal with the root cause of radical Islam. To do so, it will form an alliance with other countries in the Middle East and Africa. Since Turkey is the bridge from Europe to the Middle East, it will have its part to play, but not in the way it is now. Iran will be surrounded and the root of terrorism taken out. To find out more about Europe’s plan to solve the refugee crises and what comes afterward, read [“The Whirlwind Prophecy.”](#)

Could Britain Suffer After Brexit?

BRITAIN HEADS FOR ITS MOST IMPORTANT VOTE IN A GENERATION next week. On Thursday, the United Kingdom will decide if it wants to remain in the EU. The *Telegraph*’s international business editor Ambrose Evans-Pritchard is firmly in favor of leaving.

“Stripped of distractions, it comes down to an elemental choice: whether to restore the full self-government of this nation, or to continue living under a higher supranational regime, ruled by a European Council that we do not elect in any meaningful sense, and that the British people can never remove, even when it

persists in error,” he writes. However, Evans-Pritchard also foresees grave dangers from Brexit:

We are trapped in a “bad equilibrium,” leaving us in permanent friction with Brussels. It is like walking forever with a stone in your shoe.

But if we opt to leave, let us not delude ourselves. Personally, I think the economics of Brexit are neutral and possibly a net plus over 20 years if executed with skill. But it

is nothing more than an anthropological guess, just as the Treasury is guessing with its cherry-picked variables.

We are compelled to make our choice at a treacherous moment, when our current account deficit has reached 7 percent of GDP, the worst in peacetime since records began in 1772 under George III.

We require constant inflows of foreign capital to keep the game going, and are therefore vulnerable to a sterling crisis if foreigners lose confidence. ...

However unfair it may seem, the whole Western world deems Brexit to be an act of strategic vandalism at a time when pax-Americana is cracking and the liberal democracies are under civilizational threat.

Without rehearsing well-known risks, we have a Jihadi cauldron across much of the Levant and North Africa;

Vladimir Putin's Russia has ripped up the postwar rulebook and is testing NATO every day in the Baltics; China's construction of airfields along international shipping routes off the Philippines is leading to a superpower showdown with the U.S.

The Leave campaign was caught off guard when Barack Obama swept into London to make the U.S. view brutally clear, followed by Japan's Shinzo Abe and a troop of world leaders. You do not unpick the web of interlocking global ties lightly.

There are plenty of good reasons to be in favor of Brexit. However, Britain has done a huge amount of damage to its own economy—making Brexit more dangerous and uncertain than it needs to be.

Germany Strengthens Economic Relations With China

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL FINISHED HER NINTH state visit to China this week. During the visit, she made some significant steps forward in her country's economic relations with China. China has long been famous for making economic inroads into developing nations—building infrastructure and mining resources across Asia, Africa and Latin America. During this drip, Germany pushed to become a partner in these efforts.

"Germany's idea is to include China, use its economic power—and make money," wrote Dagmar Engel for *Deutsche Welle*. She continued:

Just one example: If the China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation (CRRC) and Siemens join forces on high-speed trains in third countries, flanked by the China Railways Group and Deutsche Bahn in the fields of Chinese-European freight train transport and the service and maintenance of high-speed trains, that means a market power of entirely new dimensions.

During this trip they agreed on a joint coal-mining project in Afghanistan. "That may seem like a small step, but for China, a country that normally follows strict noninterference policies, it's

a new direction," wrote Engel.

German investment in China rocketed up from \$54 billion in 2013 to \$68 billion in 2014. Outside of the European Union and the United States, China is the top destination for German investment. German-Foreign-Policy.com also reported on the trip: "According to German government circles, it is a 'particular gesture of esteem' that Premier Li Keqiang received Chancellor Merkel in the Summer Palace on Sunday, rather than—as is usual—in the Great Hall of the People."

The article describes China's "New Silk Road" initiative—a project designed to improve both the land and sea infrastructure connecting Europe with China. German-Foreign-Policy.com wrote that "the 'New Silk Road' has awakened great interest in Germany's business community as well as among its policymakers. Individual projects have already been completed."

The rise of China is both a challenge and an opportunity for Germany—a situation the New Silk Road nicely symbolizes. The nation is a potential rival—hence France's recent calls for the EU to organize patrols in the South China Sea. However, a relationship with China could also allow Germany to break away from the U.S.-centric economic and strategic system it currently finds itself in.

Germans Increasingly Suspicious of Islam

GERMANY IS GROWING MORE SUSPICIOUS OF ISLAM, AND A SMALL minority hold far-right opinions, such as the desire for a führer, according to a study published this week by the University of Leipzig, as the Local reported:

One in every 10 Germans wants their country to be led by a "führer" (dictator) who applies a firm hand for the common good.

Eleven percent of respondents say that Jews have too

much influence in society. Twelve percent think Germans are by nature superior to other people.

Four in 10 people think Muslims should be prohibited from immigrating to the country.

These are just some of the more hair-raising findings of the study, which the University of Leipzig has been carrying out at regular intervals since 2002. ...

Hostility to Islam has shown a particularly marked increase since the last report in 2014, when 36.6 percent of people didn't want more Muslims migrating to Germany.

Half of respondents in the most recent survey of 2,240 people also said they feel like "foreigners in their own country" because there are too many Muslims. That result marked a 7 percentage point rise from the 2014 poll. ...

"There has been no increase in extreme-right attitudes, but in comparison with our study from two years ago, people who have far-right attitudes are more prepared to use violence to achieve their aims," Dr. Oliver Decker, one of the report's authors, notes on the university website.

The report also claims to have found "a clear polarization and radicalization" in German society, with more respondents also likely to completely reject violence this time around. ...

"Most AfD voters have a hostile attitude to the world," report coauthor Dr. Elmar Brähler said. ...

"The potential for extreme right or populist right-wing parties is still higher than what electoral results have yet shown," Brähler stated.

TW IN BRIEF

Germany not allowing polygamy: Germany's justice minister has said that Germany will not recognize polygamy or marriage involving minors, as the nation continues to take in record numbers of Muslim migrants. The justice minister said that "no one who comes here has the right to put his cultural values or religious beliefs above our law." Law in Germany bans polygamy, but in some Islamic countries men are allowed up to four wives and can marry minors. Germany is not yet sure how it will handle those who arrive married, though the marriage is illegal by German law. Courts will likely have to make case-by-case judgments.

NATO plans to increase defense against Russia: The NATO secretary general said the alliance is strengthening its defenses to the east, close to Russia. Jens Stoltenberg made the announcement on Tuesday in Brussels. He called it "the biggest reinforcement of our collective defense since the end of the Cold War." Britain, Germany and the United States began plans for a new NATO force on Russia's border next year.

German, French troops in Syria: The Syrian government said on Wednesday that German special forces were present, alongside French and American military personnel, in northern Syria, an accusation denied by Germany. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said German, French and

American military advisers and French and American special forces were assisting the Syrian democratic forces in its fight against the Islamic State but had so far remained in a support role and not fought on front lines.

Islamic State attack in France: A senior French police officer and his partner were killed in a nighttime attack by a knife-wielding man in a distant suburb of Paris on Monday night. Within hours of the attack, the Islamic State claimed responsibility for the murders. The police commander was stabbed to death outside his home. The attacker then retreated into the house where he took a woman and young boy hostage. Elite police commandos stormed the residence and fatally shot the attacker. The woman was found dead and the young boy was unharmed. This is the second attack the Islamic State has claimed since the start of the Islamic sacred month of Ramadan.

Teenage girl stabbed by Muslim in France: A teenage girl was stabbed in Rennes, France, by a Muslim man on Tuesday. The man said he heard voices telling him to sacrifice for the Muslim month of Ramadan. The attacker was known to have psychiatric problems and missed his Schizophrenia treatment on Tuesday. The jihadist said he had been inspired by the Islamic State and encouraged people to follow his example on a live Facebook video after the killing.

ASIA

China's Soft Power Push Intensifies

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



CHINA HAS LONG MAINTAINED A SOFT POWER STRATEGY OF SPENDING billions in order to fund Chinese-language lessons and promote Chinese culture abroad. Now, however, China is using these well-established channels to promote its brazen territorial claims.

The *Financial Times* reported on June 9:

When Liu Qibao, China's propaganda minister, visited Sydney last month and signed a raft of deals with Australia's top media companies, few paid much attention.

But the fruits of that trip—a supplement produced by *China Daily*, the Communist party's English-language

mouthpiece, appearing in such bastions of free speech as the *Sydney Morning Herald*—lay bare the growing reach of China’s multibillion-dollar propaganda machine as it seeks to win hearts and minds across the globe.

China’s “soft power” strategy has for years funded Chinese-language lessons in schools and supported local think tanks. But now, as Beijing is raising hackles over territorial claims at sea, it is extending its propaganda tentacles into independent media.

The Australian deals—which follow similar pacts with *Washington Post*, the UK’s *Daily Telegraph* and *Le Figaro* in France—illustrate that reach. *China Watch*, the new monthly pullout in Fairfax Media newspapers, marked its inaugural issue with favorable coverage of China, including an article backing Beijing in its standoff over contested waters in the South China Sea.

Beijing’s bid to burnish its image as a global power is finding a receptive audience among cash-strapped Western media—even if they do not always realize the nature of the deal being struck.

“The Australians had no idea they were making big news in China’s official media—that’s how we learned

about it back in Australia—or that the party would trumpet the deal as a victory for its overseas propaganda,” says John Fitzgerald, professor at Swinburne University of Technology.

All big powers engage in public relations but, says David Shambaugh, professor at George Washington University, the scale of Beijing’s push is unprecedented. He estimates that China spends \$10 billion a year on external propaganda—vastly more than the U.S., which he says spent just \$666 million on public diplomacy in 2014.

That money funds Chinese-language and culture lessons in school and university classrooms worldwide through Confucius Centers. Beijing is also investing tens of billions of dollars in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank to provide soft loans to developing countries, stepping up regional aid programs and building a global radio and television news network.

China’s long-term perspective in its public relations and goals of hegemony can be summarized by the words of the country’s most famous philosopher, Confucius: “It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop.”

New Russian Gliders Can ‘Guarantee Penetration’ of Any U.S. Missile Defense Systems

RUSSIA’S HYPERSONIC YU-74 GLIDE VEHICLES WILL BE ABLE TO PENETRATE and survive a wide range of missile defense systems, including the most advanced American systems, military experts say.

ZeroHedge wrote about the [potentially game-changing developments](#) on June 12:

Russia’s new Yu-74 ultra-maneuverable hypersonic glide vehicles may be the next response that will be unveiled. Russia has been developing hypersonic weapons during the past few years, and ... those weapons would have a speed between 3,840 mph (Mach 5) and 7,680 mph (Mach 10). The system uses sophisticated technologies for maneuvering against a wide range of missile defense systems and allows precise and rapid delivery of warheads.

Although the system specifications are top secret, reports say that the gliders are developed to be loaded onto Russia’s RS-28 Sarmat, the state of the art, heavy liquid-propelled [intercontinental ballistic missile], which

is currently being developed for the Russian Army. The RS-28, which has been given the codename “Satan” by NATO, has been in development since 2009 and is alleged to render all current missile defense systems obsolete.

Designed to carry up to 24 nuclear-loaded Yu-74 gliders, each Sarmat ballistic missile will be able to hit any target located within a 6,200-mile radius in one hour. Each glider can be equipped with a nuclear warhead, electronic warfare applications (disruption of communication systems), or false target simulators.

“These features guarantee penetration of any existing and prospective missile defense system of a potential adversary. By adopting such systems, Russia’s Strategic Missile Forces will significantly increase their efficiency,” said one analyst.

If Russia can deliver nuclear warheads through American missile defenses, it would represent a significant game changer in the global balance of power.

Obama Risks China’s Wrath by Meeting the Dalai Lama, Warns Beijing

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA MET WITH THE exiled Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, at the White House on Wednesday. The meeting was held despite warnings from China that it would damage U.S.-China relations.

The [Chinese Foreign Ministry](#) spoke about its displeasure over the meeting in a routine press briefing on June 14:

“[T]he U.S. government ... made solemn commitments. It acknowledges that there is only one China, that Tibet is an inseparable part of China and will never recognize the so-called Tibetan government in exile. Under the cloak of religion, the 14th Dalai Lama peddles his political ambitions of dividing China all around the world. We ask all

countries and governments not to give him any room to carry out such campaigns, even less risking arousing the firm opposition from the 1.3 billion Chinese people.”

Reuters reported on [China's anger over the meeting](#) on June 15:

The meeting came at a time of heightened tensions between the United States and China over Beijing's assertive pursuit of territorial claims in East Asia. ... China considers the Dalai Lama a dangerous separatist, and ministry spokesman Lu Kang said the meeting would encourage “separatist forces.” He urged Washington to abide by its promises to recognize that Tibet is part of China and cease any support for Tibet independence.

A commentary on China's official news agency, Xinhua, accused Washington of breaking its promise not to support

Tibet's independence by going ahead with the meeting. It said that had “seriously jeopardized China-U.S. relations, and deeply hurt the Chinese people's feelings.”

“Supporting Tibet's independence is a clear interference in China's internal affairs and is in gross violation of the norms of international relations. Playing the ‘Tibet card’ shows the U.S. government is overdrawing its political credit and international prestige.”

This marks the fourth official meeting between President Obama and the Dalai Lama. Before each, Beijing has made its opposition known but with little apparent consequence. The White House had emphasized the personal nature of the meetings but has also said that its position of considering Tibet part of China remains unchanged.

TW IN BRIEF

India to set record by launching 22 satellites from one rocket: India's space agency hopes to set a record next week by launching 22 satellites on a single rocket. The satellites belong to the United States, Canada, Germany and India. They are scheduled to launch from Sriharikota barrier islands on June 20, and they will add to the 2,271 man-made satellites already in orbit around Earth. This feat will show the world that India's space program is rapidly becoming a formidable one.

Estimates of North Korea's nuclear weapons increase: North Korea may be significantly expanding its nuclear weapons production and could have added six or more weapons to its

stockpile in the last 18 months, a United States research institute said on Tuesday. The Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security estimated last year that North Korea had 10 to 16 nuclear weapons at the end of 2014. It based that conclusion on an analysis of the country's production of weapons-grade uranium and plutonium recovered from spent nuclear fuel. In revised estimates contained in a report provided to Reuters, the institute said North Korea may have added another four to six weapons since then, for a total of 13 to 21 or even more today. The report said the 13-to-21 estimate did not take into account the possible production of additional highly enriched uranium at a second centrifuge plant thought to exist in North Korea.

AFRICA/LATIN AMERICA

T Ethiopia and Eritrea Fighting Again Callum Wood | June 17

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



TENSIONS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA INFLAMED ONCE again due to cross-border skirmishes. Agence France-Presse said the border battle was one of the “worst clashes since the end of a 1998–2000 border war.”

The *New York Times* reported that troops rushed to the Tsona, Eritrea, border area from both sides following the initial confrontation. The forces exchanged heavy artillery fire.

The flare-up has some analysts speculating that the gradually increasing tensions have reached the breaking point. What may come next is a return to the border war.

Eritrea won its independence from Ethiopia in 1991 after a 30-year war. Peace was short lived. From 1998–2000, the two nations waged a major border war; the casualties were estimated to be around 70,000.

Both nations signed the Algiers Peace Agreement in 2000, but their relations have been no more peaceful than the pre-war days.

Ethiopia attacked [Eritrean military posts in early 2012](#). Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, claimed Eritrea was training unnamed “subversive groups” intending to carry out attacks on Ethiopians. The attack could have been an attempt by Ethiopia to further destabilize its neighboring nemesis.

Why should you be concerned by the border disputes of these two African nations? Despite its poverty-stricken state, Eritrea holds something so valuable it can affect *global* trade: a coastline.

It isn't just any coastline. Eritrea has over 672 miles of prime Red Sea coast. The little nation has immediate access to the Gulf of Aden and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, one of the world's busiest searoutes. Roughly 15 percent of all maritime trade travels through the Red Sea each year. Approximately 55 ships sail by Eritrea every day.

For now, Eritrea poses little to no threat to those ships, but if it were controlled by a somewhat more dominant power—say Ethiopia or Iran—then Eritrea's coastline becomes much more geopolitically significant.

I mention Iran for a reason. Tehran has been building relations with Eritrea for years. When the [Eritreans publicly supported Iran's nuclear program](#) in 2009, Tehran wired them \$35 million.

Tehran has worked closely with Eritrea to smuggle weapons to Somalia. In 2008, an Eritrean opposition site reported that Iran had offloaded troops and weapons at Eritrea's port of Assab. The troops were there to train Somalian militants. The report led to the UN Security Council imposing sanctions against Eritrea in hopes to blunt its radical tendencies.

Yemen's exiled government also accused Eritrea of aiding Iran in its efforts to support the Houthi rebels.

Iran wants Eritrea in its back pocket. Just looking at a map of the region shows why: Yemen is less than 40 miles from the Port of Assab. Iran is exerting greater influence in Yemen than it has ever wielded in the past. If Iran were able to control both Yemen

and Eritrea, it would have Bab el-Mandeb in its grip. Add to that the Strait of Hormuz—already under Iran's control—and you have a major chokehold on the entire region. At that point, Iran could hold world trade for ransom!

Eritrea is also a great stepping-stone toward Ethiopia. Iran has already used Eritrea to spread Ethiopian terror in North Africa. In November 2011, the Ethiopian government discovered a plot by Wahhabi Muslims within Ethiopia to transform the country into an Islamic nation governed by sharia law. The same month, Kenyan media reported that Eritrea had delivered a shipment of arms to Somalia's Islamist al-Shabaab movement. Eritrea has also been accused of supporting Islamist groups in Djibouti, Uganda and Sudan, and of providing safe haven for Ethiopian Islamists.

Iran's desire to spread sharia Islam and exert control in the Middle East and North Africa works perfectly with the hard-line Eritrean government.

The *Trumpet* has long forecast that Iran would become more heavily involved in Eritrea. A prophecy in Daniel 11 indicates *Ethiopia* will eventually be in some form of [alliance with Iran](#) as well.

ANGLO-AMERICA



Mystery of the Ages

Gerald Flurry,

The Key of David | June 19

The Bible is a mystery to most people—even religion doesn't truly understand it! Here is how to remove the mystery from the Bible.



The Orlando Killer's Security Job

Andrew Müller | June 13

A MAN AFFILIATED WITH THE ISLAMIC STATE MURDERED 49 PEOPLE at a homosexual nightclub in Orlando, Florida, during the early hours of June 12. Omar Mir Seddique Mateen entered the club carrying a high-powered AR-15 rifle and a pistol and started shooting. Over the next three hours, the jihadist murdered dozens and injured 53. The attack is the worst mass shooting in American history and the worst terrorist attack since 9/11.

Before beginning his attack, Mateen called the 911 emergency service and pledged his allegiance to the Islamic State.

The killer held an associates degree in criminal justice and worked as a security guard for G4S, a British multinational security service company with U.S. operations based in Jupiter, Florida. The company is a major contractor for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which has raised serious concerns that sympathizers and agents of the Islamic State have infiltrated a federal agency that was established after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks for the purpose of combatting terrorism.

It's still unclear whether Mateen worked on federal contracts for his employer. He was assigned to guard the PGA Village Golf Club in

Port St. Lucie, Florida, according to local newspaper *TC Palm*.

Despite the fact that Mateen was interviewed by agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation twice on suspicions that he supported jihadist groups, he held two firearms licenses, a security officer license and purchased the weapons he used in the massacre legally.

Federal officials have downplayed Mateen's connection to the Islamic State and his employment as a subcontractor of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Instead, President Barack Obama is using this mass shooting to push his agenda for gun control.

Gun-control advocates say that killings like this would be more rare if the federal government could expand its power to ban more people from owning guns, or if it could ban the existence of entire classes of guns. Americans concerned about their civil liberties say that the gun-control agenda destroys the Second Amendment's restraint on federal power, allowing an already massive and oppressive federal government to become even more massive and even more oppressive.

While liberal gun control advocates focus on the lethal nature of the gun used in this massacre, they noticeably refrain from focusing on the lethal nature of Mateen's ideology: radical Islam. They did much the same thing with John Allen Mohammed and Lee Boyd Malvo, Nidal Hassan, Syed Rizwan Farook and

Tashfeen Malik, Mohammed Yousseff Abudalzeez, who cumulatively killed 44 people in the Washington, D.C., area; Fort Hood, Texas; San Bernadino, California; and Chattanooga, Tennessee. They focused on the murder weapon, but not on the murderous ideology.

Celebrating Father's Day 2016

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



EVERY YEAR ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF JUNE IN AMERICA, DAD gets special attention and reward recognizing his sacrifice and hard work for his family. And with Americans spending over \$8 billion on their dads for the event, it is little wonder that advertisers invest so much into Father's Day.

But statistics show that a diminishing number of Americans have reason to celebrate on this day. In an article for the *Examiner*, Carol Josel explains:

In those good old days, 87.7 percent of the Baby Boomer generation grew up with two biological parents who were married to each other. Today that number has dwindled to just 68.1 percent and is trending downward. And so, no matter how you address him, be it father, dad, pops, or such, count yourself among the fortunate.

That's because fatherlessness is now said to be the biggest family and social problem we face today. Indeed, fathers.com goes so far as to say that, "If it were classified as a disease, fatherlessness would be an epidemic worthy of attention as a national emergency."

Don't doubt it for a minute.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, some 24.7 million of our children don't live with their biological father. That translates to 57.6 percent of black children, 31.2 percent of Hispanic children, and 20.7 percent of white children. And whereas, back in 1960, only 8 percent of kids were raised by a single mom, as of 2012, that figure stood at 24.5 percent.

In other words, about one fourth of our kids don't live

with a dad.

And so says *New York Times* bestselling author [Michael Gurian](#), "Without fathers you would have no civilization. Father's Day is hopefully a time when the culture says, 'This is our moment to look at who our men and boys are. If we don't protect fathering, we are going to be really messed up.'"

Fatherlessness is reaching crisis proportions in states across the nation. Families without fathers can experience devastating consequences. Columnist Phyllis Schlafly wrote June 15, 2005: "Most of our social problems are caused by kids who grow up in homes without their own fathers: drug abuse, illicit sexual activity, unwed pregnancies, youth suicide, high school dropouts, runaways and crime." Yet, so often, society's most prominent leaders overlook this connection between fatherlessness and teen pathologies.

According to data from Mother Jones, 426 people have been murdered in 33 mass shootings since the time President Obama took office (a mass shooting was defined as three or more fatalities). Islamic extremists perpetrated four of these, mass murdering a cumulative 72 people. Mentally deranged individuals who grew up without a father killed the vast majority of the other 354 victims.

A strong movement is afoot to portray fathers as unimportant and unnecessary. The institution of marriage itself is more commonly considered merely temporary, if not entirely antiquated. Yet the fruits of stable families headed by a dedicated father are obvious. Study after study shows that good fathers not only have a positive and powerful impact on their families, but on society as a whole.

15 Underreported Facts About the Imploding U.S. Economy

EVERYBODY HAS HIS OR HER IDEA ON WHERE THE ECONOMY IS headed. And there are many economic indicators that claim to predict America's economic future. Some work better than others.

With a United States presidential election on the horizon, most mainstream media outlets are working hard to spin economic data in a way that will favor their preferred candidate. Amidst this confusion, however, [ZeroHedge](#) has highlighted 15 underreported facts about the imploding U.S. economy:

1. Industrial production has now declined for nine

months in a row. We have never seen this happen outside of a recession in all of U.S. history.

2. U.S. commercial bankruptcies have risen on a year over year basis for seven months in a row and are now up 51 percent since September.

3. The delinquency rate on commercial and industrial loans has been rising since January 2015.

4. Total business sales in the United States have been steadily dropping since the middle of 2014. ... Total business sales have been in decline for nearly two years now,

and we just found out that they dropped again

5. U.S. factory orders have been dropping for 18 months in a row.

6. The Cass Shipping Index has been falling on a year over year basis for 14 consecutive months.

7. U.S. coal production has dropped to the lowest level in 35 years.

8. Goldman Sachs has its own internal tracker of the U.S. economy, and it has fallen to the lowest level since the last recession.

9. JPMorgan's "recession indicators" have risen to the highest level that we have seen since the last recession.

10. Federal tax receipts and state tax receipts usually both start to fall as we enter a new recession, and that is precisely what is taking place right now.

11. The Federal Reserve's Labor Market Conditions Index has been falling for five months in a row.

12. The employment numbers that the government released for last month were the worst that we have seen in six years.

13. According to Challenger, Gray & Christmas, layoff announcements at major firms are running 24 percent higher this year than they were at this time last year.

14. Online job postings on the business-networking site LinkedIn have been declining steadily since February after 73 months in a row of growth.

15. The number of temporary workers in the United States peaked and started falling precipitously before the recession of 2001 even started. The exact same thing happened just prior to the beginning of the 2008 recession.

TW IN BRIEF

The Farage flotilla: A flotilla of boats sailed up the River Thames to the United Kingdom's Houses of Parliament in London on Wednesday as part of a campaign backing Britain's exit from the European Union. However, they were soon joined by a flotilla from the rival campaign advocating for the UK to stay in the EU. UK Independence Party leader Nigel Farage joined one of some 30 vessels protesting EU fishing policies. Farage's vessel was greeted by boats carrying "remain" supporters, including rock star Bob Geldof. Geldof launched a verbal barrage against Farage, shouting into a megaphone that he was a "fraud" and accusing him of skipping out of most of the European Parliament's fisheries committee meetings when he was a member. "You are no fisherman's friend," Geldof said. Farage later described Geldof's

protest as "disgusting" and said that EU membership had adversely affected the UK's fishing industry.

Islamic refugee in possession of U.S. pipeline plans: Police in a United States town near the border of Mexico said Wednesday that they had arrested an undocumented Islamic refugee who was in possession of pipeline plans. The woman was arrested during a traffic stop in Luna Country, New Mexico, located 35 miles north of Mexico. The pipeline plans in her possession prompted suspicions that the woman may have been part of a plan to target vital American infrastructure. This is only the latest of many instances of Mexican drug traffickers smuggling illegal Islamists across the porous border into the United States.



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Stephen Flurry,

Trumpet Daily | June 17

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