

JULY 15, 2016



Police officers and rescue workers stand near a truck that plowed through a crowd leaving a fireworks display in the French Riviera town of Nice on July 14.

## Nice Attack: ‘We Should Learn to Live With Terrorism’

Richard Palmer | July 15

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN AN IDYLIC EVENING: FAMILIES CELEBRATING France’s national day with fireworks on the beach in the beautiful French Riviera. Instead a terrorist in a truck drove along the coast for over a mile, mowing down as many people as he could.

At least 84 are dead—10 of them young children. Many more are wounded, including around 50 children and adolescents. Witnesses of Thursday night’s attack describe people being knocked

down “like bowling pins” before the driver was killed in a firefight with police.

Now France is struggling to deal with its third major terrorist attack in 18 months. The nation has been on high alert since November. Around 10,000 soldiers have been patrolling the streets. A state of emergency had been declared, giving police extraordinary powers—such as the ability to search homes without a warrant.

None of that helped.

The attack took authorities by surprise. Earlier yesterday, French President François Hollande announced that the nation would soon lift the state of emergency. Now it will be extended for at least another three months.

What more can France do? How do you stop a man from killing people with a truck? Have police patrol every truck or every crowd?

France has just about exhausted its non-radical options.

Hollande announced that the nation would call up its “operational reserves”—all those who once served in the military or as active duty police. But an extra few thousand police would not have prevented this attack. The terrorist was not on any watch list and therefore not under suspicion.

“Times have changed and we should learn to live with terrorism,” said French Prime Minister Manuel Valls.

But France cannot simply just put up with this. No nation will just accept that families and young children will be mowed down every few months.

“We are facing a war that terrorism has started against us,” said Valls.

Many other leaders have made similar statements. “We are at war with terrorists who want to strike us at any cost and who are extremely violent,” said Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve.

Hollande said the same thing back in November. But the nation has not really been on a war footing—not in a way that affects the everyday lives of ordinary people.

France has now reached the end of that road. Its options are now clear: accept continued attacks, or move on to a real war footing.

This means an expansion of a security state. It means armed guards and bag searches as a part of normal life. It also means an expansion of France’s military efforts abroad. France is already overstretched, meaning that the nation will push even harder for European help and a combined European military.

But even this will probably not be enough. Yesterday Geopolitical Futures warned:

Multiple attacks like the Nice attack can terrify a population over time. It is not an irrational fear. The whole point of terrorism is to take the population to the point where fear is the only rational response. When that happens, there are political consequences. First, governments that have spoken of prior tragedies but have not prevented further attacks become delegitimized. Second, there is no

moderate response that could work—only extreme ones like mass deportations or worse. Given enough terror, unthinkable results can be generated.

This is precisely what [the Islamic State] wants to achieve. Its wants a response so overwhelming it will unite Muslims everywhere. The strength of [the Islamic State’s] strategy is that it leaves the defenders an impossible decision. No moderate defense is possible.

This is the kind of fear the Islamic State wants to generate. “The brutal fact is that [the Islamic State] has not hit the tripwire on extreme fear yet, which means the likelihood of more frequent attacks is high,” the article concluded.

France cannot simply “live with terrorism” unchanged—no nation can do that.

France will outline its response over the next few days. Already there is considerable pressure for more action. It’s likely that the response will not be tough enough, and more attacks will follow.

Armed guards and security scanners will not be enough. It would not have stopped this attack—it has not stopped terrorist attacks in Israel. There the nation had to physically wall off the majority of Muslims in the region and set up secure checkpoints before there was a substantial reduction in attacks. These are the only kinds of action that can end this.

Even now, that is anathema to modern Europe. But this is the direction it will be forced in. A couple of hours’ drive from Nice, the city of Marseilles is one-third Muslim. The same is true for many big cities in Europe. Walling off these populations would not be easy, and it would prove much harsher to local Muslims than Israel’s West Bank barrier.

But ultimately this is the choice France faces—accept attacks or take radical action against all Muslims, even the vast majority who are completely innocent. As this attack shows, the France authorities have no way to target just the ones who will kill.

This is a radical change away from the modern, pluralistic, multicultural Europe that we see today. The rise of the far right and the political turmoil show that Europe is already moving in this direction.

These terrorist attacks are changing Europe. Austria came within a hair’s breadth of electing a president from a political party once considered beyond the pale. Progress toward a European military is moving faster than ever before. But the attack in Nice shows Europe must go much further if it is going to stop these terrorist attacks.

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## MIDDLE EAST

# TrumpetDaily

RADIO SHOW

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## United States Withdrawal Threatens Bahrain

Brent Nagtegaal | July 14

JERUSALEM—ALTHOUGH BAHRAIN'S RULING KHALIFA FAMILY takes its orders from Iran's Sunni rival in Riyadh, the majority of its population follows the Shiite religion of Iran. Twice in the past 40 years, Iran has tried to use this societal conundrum to stir revolution against the government. Twice it has failed.

Yet, because of earthshaking changes in the regional dynamic, Iran is about to try again to take over Bahrain.

Following the 2011 attempted overthrow, Bahrain's government ordered an independent inquiry into its forces' handling of the situation, and asked for recommendations to ensure that the underlying causes of Shiite revolt could be overcome. Bahrain has yet to implement the majority of the recommendations, most of which revolved around greater democratic governance over the nation.

Instead, over the past six months, the Kahlifa family's hold on power has only strengthened. Its boldest move so far was the revocation of the citizenship of Sheikh Isa Qassim, the most prominent Shiite religious leader in Bahrain. Qassim was charged by the Interior Ministry of using his position to "serve foreign interests" and encourage "sectarianism and violence." In total, some 250 activists have now, like Qassim, been stripped of their citizenship—many more have been imprisoned.

Khalifa's actions have angered the United Nations and the United States. But the strongest response has come from Iran.

In statements carried by Iran's semiofficial Fars News Agency, Iranian Gen. Qassem Suleimani lashed out at the Bahraini government. He called the revocation a "red line" and said that "passing this red line will create flames of fire in Bahrain and the entire region."

Suleimani also threatened a "bloody intifada" and promised that "the toppling of the regime will only be a small part of the repercussions that will also include armed resistance."

Iran's parliamentary speaker, Ali Larijani, added his own threats by saying that the "repressed people" have been "deprived of their basic right to revolt," and then warned, "Bahrain's rulers should learn from the fate of the shah of Iran."

Even with the international outcry against the government crackdown, Bahrain's leaders have not yielded. The Khalifa family likely feels so threatened by the Shiite surge through the Middle East that it would rather take international flack than risk another Shiite uprising.

By all accounts, the Bahraini regime understands that the Saudis have its back. As for its other traditional backer—the United States—Bahrain isn't counting on it.

Iran has successfully mobilized a Shiite *minority* in Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and Iraq to dominate those nations. Bahrain is one of only a handful of countries with a Shiite majority that remains outside Iran's control. Yet up to this point, Iran has not been able to manipulate events in Bahrain enough to lead to a revolution. This is likely due to the existence of the massive bridge to Saudi Arabia, which allows Saudis to respond as they did in 2011; but Bahrain also has a long-standing alliance with the United States.

While the bridge remains to this day, the support from the U.S. can no longer be relied upon.

It could be argued that both the Iranian rhetoric against the

Khalifa regime as well as the crackdown on dissenters in Bahrain are simply reactions to a much larger trend in the Middle East: the withdrawal of the United States, and, as part of its exit strategy, the empowering of Iran.

By ramming through a nuclear accord with Iran, one that met the firm disapproval of historic allies, particularly those on the Arabian Peninsula, the U.S. caused a dramatic shift in the perception of its long-term future in the region. U.S. President Barack Obama revealed more of his lack of appetite for continued American presence in the Middle East in the famous *Atlantic* interview with Jeffrey Goldberg, saying that the Saudis and Iranians should instead find ways to "share the neighborhood." He went on to elaborate that perhaps the Saudis and Iranians could work out some sort of "cold peace" so that the U.S. would not have to be drawn into the fray militarily.

Comments like this terrify the little nation of Bahrain because much of its security is underpinned by, not just Saudi Arabia, but also the long-term presence of the U.S. 5th Fleet stationed on its shores. Stationed in Bahrain since 1995, the 5th Fleet houses about 1,000 military personnel on land and about 15,000 at sea, and it has historically been a significant barrier to an Iranian takeover of Bahrain. But following the nuclear deal with Iran, and the stated desire to get out of the Middle East by this administration, Bahrainis are wondering just how long the fleet will be there to protect its shores. Even if it stays, can Bahrain count on the U.S. to do anything to counteract Iranian movements against the regime?

Thus, Bahrain is doing all it can right now to squash dissent and remove the Iran-aligned ringleaders from its shores. It's a preemptive move against the Iranian regime, because it can no longer trust it will have U.S. support.

However, Bahrain's moves may prove futile considering how much Iran desires to control the islands.

The current regime in Iran has long coveted control over Bahrain. However, its claim to the land hasn't just been a result of the Shiite majority of the islands. Iran has often stated its claim in terms of history rather than religious affiliation. In 2007, an Iranian newspaper, whose editor was appointed by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, published an article stating that it had seen undeniable documents indicating that "Bahrain was a part of Iran's territory until 46 years ago." Two years after the editorial, the former speaker of Iran's parliament declared that Bahrain had been the "14th province of Iran until the 1970s."

Bible prophecy for the end time indicates that Iran will soon move to control the waterways surrounding the Arabian Peninsula, including the Persian Gulf. Not only would control of Bahrain give Iran a platform to destabilize Saudi Arabia, but it could also severely impact the shipment of Saudi oil from the region.

In early July, the International Energy Agency (IEA) warned that the world risks becoming more dependent on oil from the Middle East. *Financial Times* paraphrased IEA executive director Fatih Birol warning that "policymakers risk becoming complacent as rhetoric surrounding a rise in North American energy supplies has overshadowed the world's growing reliance on Middle Eastern crude." Europe, especially, needs Middle Eastern oil

more than ever.

The fact that Iran is working to control the key access points and trade routes of oil out of the Persian Gulf should make Europe's dependence on the Middle East even more frightening. As *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry brings out in *The King of the South* booklet, this exact scenario is likely to play a critical role in the fulfillment of end-time events as well. In that booklet,

Mr. Flurry examines Daniel 11:40, a powerful scripture with end-time implications. Daniel discussed a specific scenario where a pushy foreign policy by the king of the south provokes a powerful blitzkrieg response from the king of the north. While there are other factors to this push, Iran's control of the oil from the Middle East will likely play a big part. Controlling Bahrain will only enhance Iran's ability to complete that push.

## Tension in Tunisia

### WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



FIVE YEARS AFTER PIONEERING THE ARAB SPRING, TUNISIA IS struggling to form yet another unity government. For some weeks now, President Beji Caid Essebsi has been promoting a plan to form a new unity government. "It is [time for a change](#), and for audacity," the president announced last month. "We need a more courageous alternative that can apply the law and fight unemployment."

President Essebsi's plan would replace current Prime Minister Habib Essid. But the prime minister announced Wednesday that he would not resign; he said he will leave it up to parliament to decide his fate. The president has called for a parliamentary vote of no confidence for the prime minister.

Meanwhile, "members of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs committee have stated that Tunisia's transitional period needs support and stronger cooperation with the European Union," reported *North Africa Post* on Wednesday. This comes as NATO is working to establish an intelligence "Fusion Center" in Tunisia, which will provide assistance and support to Tunisia's special operation forces.

Amid Tunisia's political instability, the Islamic State has found

it to be a major recruiting ground for jihadists. Lately, though, the Islamic State has faced significant defeats in Iraq, Syria and Libya. Little wonder Al-Monitor asked on June 23: "[Is Tunisia Prepared for Return of Thousands of Islamic State Fighters?](#)" Al-Monitor explained:

Large numbers of fighters of Tunisian nationality have joined [Islamic State] ranks in Syria, Libya and Iraq, and estimates indicate that the number of Tunisian fighters in Syria and Iraq amounts to over 3,000 fighters, while in Libya, Tunisians represent the largest percentage of [Islamic State] members, reaching more than 500 fighters. Hence, the Tunisian authorities face the dilemma of how to deal with potentially thousands of returning [Islamic State] fighters, while it has been witnessing the presence of jihadi groups that became active in the western mountainous region four years ago.

Political instability in Tunisia does not help matters. Europe appears wary about these developments.

## Israel's NGO Transparency Law

THE KNESSET PASSED LEGISLATION ON MONDAY THAT REQUIRES nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) receiving more than half of their funding from foreign state entities to publicly report that support. The special reporting mandated by the law also requires the organizations to state that the website of Israel's registrar of nonprofit associations has a list of the NGO's donor nations.

According to the Justice Ministry, 27 organizations receive most of their funding from foreign countries. Of those NGOs, 25 are left-wing advocacy groups.

Critics of the legislation say it targets human rights groups critical of the Israeli government's domestic policies. Anat Ben Nun of the Israeli human rights group Peace Now told Al Jazeera: "The idea behind the bill is not transparency, which already exists, but rather, public shaming of left-wing NGOs and the attempt to present them as foreign agents."

Contrarily, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the legislation will "prevent an absurd situation in which foreign countries meddle in the internal affairs of Israel by funding NGOs and without the Israeli public's knowledge."

Incidentally, "the law was passed a day before a bipartisan [United States] Senate report found that the V15 campaign to oust Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in 2015 was indirectly funded by U.S. State Department dollars," wrote *Times of Israel*. "Likud minister Zeev Elkin said Tuesday that the Senate's findings were proof 'of how correct the laws of transparency in foreign state funding of NGOs is.'" (The Senate report also revealed that a State Department official deleted e-mails relating to the campaign despite requirements to archive them.)

The U.S. expressed its concern about this legislation. State Department spokesman John Kirby said that his department is "deeply concerned that this law can have a chilling effect on the activities that these worthwhile organizations are trying to do."

Europe too has expressed its concerns. Most of the NGO funding in Israel comes from European nations such as Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

A statement from the European Union said, "The reporting requirements imposed by the new law go beyond the legitimate need for transparency and seem aimed at constraining the activities of these civil society organizations working in Israel."



The German government commented that it was “concerned about the legislation’s one-sided focus on financial support from governmental donations,” and it was “also concerned about the domestic political climate in Israel in which this law came to being, and about the increasingly polarized debate about the work of nongovernmental organizations in Israel.”

In “[The Real Threat to Israeli Democracy](#),” *Commentary*’s Jonathan Tobin wrote:

[T]he effort expended on debating the bill seems like a tremendous waste of time for both sides. But it would be wrong to merely dismiss the topic as much ado about nothing. The issue isn’t a meaningless bill but how one feels about foreign-funded left-wing groups that work to oppose Israel’s presence in Jerusalem and the West Bank as well as to buttress Palestinian claims of ill treatment at the hand of the Jewish state. The issue here is democracy but

not the right-wing conspiracy to suppress dissent alleged by the left. Rather, it is an understandable backlash from the center-right majority about the efforts of the Israeli left to leverage foreign backing in order to make up for the fact that it has been marginalized at home.

The main takeaway from this controversy is this: Israel’s NGO bill, whatever the opinions about its legality or fairness, reveals an administration in dire straits—an administration willing to defy global opinions in order to expose its enemies, both local and foreign, in order to safeguard its security.

It shows the amount of clout foreign nations have built, and could continue to build, in Israel, either directly or indirectly.

The bill, and the outcry over it, is also indicative of the [political pressures](#) Israel will face in the future. It also hints at the identity of the foreign brokers who will want to present solutions to [Israel’s troubles](#).



## German Report: Iran Still After Nuclear Technology Callum Wood | July 15

IN ITS ANNUAL REPORT ON JULY 7, GERMANY’S DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE agency, the German Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV), noted that Iran has increased efforts to obtain nuclear technology since the signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Throughout 2015, the report said, Tehran’s illegal efforts to purchase nuclear technology “continued on a quantitatively high level by international standards.”

The report is starkly contrasted by comments made by the United Nations and the P5+1 nations, which previously indicated that Iran had been fulfilling its obligations under the nuclear deal.

Another more detailed regional BfV report released on July 11 alleged that counterintelligence agents had recorded 141 attempts to acquire technology for “proliferation” purposes in 2015. The number was *double* that of 2014. Iran accounted for nearly 100 of those attempts.

The report exposed Iran’s procurement procedure. In most instances Iran would forge false documentation, stating that the technology was needed for peaceful industrial use. Usually this would be in the oil, gas and steel industry. But such “dual-use” technology would then be diverted to Iran’s nuclear program.

The German report also indicated that Iran used “front companies” to try and gain access to technology. Iran wanted to have technology shipped to bogus companies in the United Arab Emirates,

Turkey and China. From there the goods would be shipped to Iran.

While the BfV report showed how many times Iran had been caught in the act, it could not give indication of how many times Iran got away with it.

The reports explained that many of Iran’s attempts were not for the nuclear program but for its ballistic missile program. But these two programs are interwoven. The report also said, “[I]t is safe to expect that Iran will continue its intensive procurement activities in Germany using clandestine methods to achieve its objectives.” A spokesman for the German Foreign Ministry said there are “forces within Iran” that want to torpedo the Iran nuclear deal.

Regardless of the United States’ deal with Iran, it is still illegal under U.S. and United Nations law for Iran to acquire and develop ballistic missile technologies. The German report shows Iran’s contempt for such rulings. Yet there is little response from the Obama administration.

The BfV report is nothing new. It shows the Iranian regime to be no less radical, its goals no less extreme, than before the JCPOA came into effect. The *Trumpet* has warned extensively about Iran’s trust deficit.

As *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry writes in his free booklet [The King of the South](#), Iran’s radical thinking is leading to “state-sponsored terrorism—which is going to trigger a nuclear World War III!”

## TW IN BRIEF

**Kerry in Russia:** United States Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in Moscow on Thursday to hold talks with Russian officials on the situation in Syria, Ukraine and the peace process in Nagorno-Karabakh. The *Wall Street Journal* wrote that “the U.S. is proposing closer military coordination involving air strikes against militant groups Nusra Front and Islamic State in Syria and wants Moscow in turn to use its influence to ground Syria’s Air Force, which has defied a ceasefire agreement to

continue pounding civilian population centers. Mr. Kerry hopes the deal will reduce violence in Syria after more than five years of war.”

**U.S. signs first military deal with Kurds to battle the Islamic State:** The United States signed a deal on Wednesday with the Kurdish government in northern Iraq to cooperate in the fight against the Islamic State. Though the Kurds and Americans have

a long history of good relations, this agreement is the first of its kind between the U.S. and the Kurdish Peshmerga forces. It stipulates that America will give the Kurdish forces both military and financial support. A spokesman for the U.S. State Department said the U.S. “recognizes the service, the sacrifice, the courage, the bravery, the skill on the battlefield that the Peshmerga have demonstrated every single day.”

**H**undreds of Egyptians vanished in brutal repression: The Egyptian government is routinely abducting, torturing and

disappearing the nation’s citizens in an ongoing wave of brutal repression. On Wednesday, Amnesty International published a report highlighting the unprecedented surge in disappearances and repression since early 2015. The trend has seen hundreds of activists and students vanish, at a rate of three or four per day. It generally happens at the hands of heavily armed security forces led by Egypt’s National Security Agency, storming people’s homes. Amnesty International said the report reveals “the shocking and ruthless tactics that the Egyptian authorities are prepared to employ” in order to silence dissent.

## EUROPE

# Trumpet Hour

NICE TERROR ATTACK, UK’S NEW PRIME MINISTER, GERMANY’S NEW DEFENSE PAPER, AND MUCH MORE | JULY 15

THE BATTLE OVER BAHRAIN, CHINA IN NEW ZEALAND, HOW TO AGE WELL AND MORE | JULY 13

## Germany’s New Vision of Global Military Leadership

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



**G**ERMANY SET OUT A NEW VISION FOR ITS MILITARY IN A KEY POLICY document published on July 13 and approved by Germany’s cabinet. The Last defense White Paper was published 10 years ago, and it aims to set out the long-term plans of the military. “The 2016 White Paper marks a major shift for the country,” noted *Deutsche Welle*, calling it a “paradigm shift.” The German Army wants more money, more equipment and more missions. The paper calls on Germany to be a major leader in the world and to help create a united Europe military.

“Germany’s economic and political weight means that it is our duty to take on responsibility for Europe’s security in association with our European and transatlantic partners,” writes German Chancellor Angela Merkel at the start of the paper. “Germany has shown that it is willing to take responsibility in security policy,” writes Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen. “We have also shown that we are prepared to take the lead.”

“Germany’s role in Europe and the world changed when Germany regained full national sovereignty,” the paper states. “It became clear that Germany now had the same rights, obligations and responsibilities as every other state in the international arena.”

Germany “has a responsibility to actively participate in shaping the global order,” it says.

The paper paints a sober picture of the state of the world. “Germany is facing challenges that are unprecedented in their nature and scope,” it states.

“The international order, which was established after World War II and whose organizations and institutions still provide a

framework for international politics, is undergoing profound changes,” it warns.

“The renaissance of traditional power politics, which involves the use of military means to pursue national interests and entails considerable armaments efforts, elevates the risk of violent interstate conflict—even in Europe and its neighborhood,” it warns

As a result, Germany needs to spend more on its military. The paper called on Germany to increase its annual defense spending from \$40 billion to \$67 billion. The paper calls for a removal of the cap on the number of soldiers, arguing that the nation needs more soldiers, noting that “the Bundeswehr must have the personnel it needs to perform national and collective defense as well as international crisis management missions in an agile, robust and sustainable manner.”

The paper also says that the Army will be more active in the future. It says the military will help the United Nations by “increasing our contributions of equipment and personnel to and assuming leadership responsibility in UN missions (civilian, police and military).” It also states that the German military is prepared to deploy overseas “from observer missions and humanitarian operations to robust peace enforcement.”

The paper lists “countering security threats to ... free and safe world trade and supply routes,” as one of the missions of the German Army. Just six years ago, a German president lost his job for making similar comments. Now it’s official government policy.

The paper also pushed heavily toward a European military union. “Germany is striving to achieve the long-term goal of a common European Security and Defense Union,” it states. “We are

aiming to establish a permanent civil-military operational headquarters in the medium term.”

While presenting the paper, von der Leyen described how Britain had “paralyzed” this kind of effort in the past.

The paper says that Germany will allow European citizens to join the German Army for the first time ever. It notes that “opening up the Bundeswehr to citizens of the EU would not only offer

potential for wide-ranging integration and regeneration and thus strengthen the personnel base of the Bundeswehr, it would also send out a strong signal for a European approach.”

Another concrete measure announced by the report is that the German government, for the first time, directly finance foreign militaries. It aims to provide funds, training and equipment to help stabilize unstable regions.

## **NATO to Work More Closely With EU**

**N**ATO WILL DEPLOY MORE TROOPS IN EASTERN EUROPE AND work more closely with Russia after the alliance held an important meeting in Warsaw, beginning last Friday. Judy Dempsey described the agreement in an article titled [“NATO and the EU Agree to End Their Rivalry”](#) for Carnegie Europe:

It has taken five major crises to convince the EU and NATO that it was time to set aside their differences and cooperate. This is what they announced just before NATO leaders began their summit on July 8–9 in the Polish capital of Warsaw.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said the EU and NATO had agreed on a timetable for coordinating exercises, including hybrid operations, that should begin in 2017. The two organizations will also try to promote stronger defense industries and greater defense research and industrial cooperation in Europe and across the Atlantic. ...

It was clear from the joint declaration that the leaders of the EU institutions and of NATO do not have the luxury of time. “Speedy implementation is essential,” it stated.

NATO announced that it would be sending two warships to help the EU stop migrants from crossing the Mediterranean, as *EU Observer* reported in an article titled [“NATO to Join EU Warships in Libya Migrant Operation”](#):

NATO warships and, potentially, drones are to help the EU control migrant flows across the Mediterranean in what critics have

called the “militarization of a humanitarian crisis.”

NATO head Jens Stoltenberg unveiled the new project, to be called Operation Sea Guardian, on the last day of a summit in Warsaw on Saturday (July 9).

“We have decided to transform Operation Active Endeavour into a broader security mission called Sea Guardian,” he said.

“We intend to work closely with the European Union’s Operation Sophia in the central Mediterranean, building on our swift and effective cooperation with the EU to cut lines of international human trafficking in the Aegean,” he said. ...

The Warsaw summit declaration said NATO was ready to help Sophia on “intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance” as well as “capacity building of the Libyan coast-guard and navy.”

With the Islamic State jihadist group active in Libya, a separate NATO press statement said that Sea Guardian would “have a broad scope, including providing situational awareness, countering trafficking and terrorism, upholding freedom of navigation, and contributing to regional capacity building.”

If such cooperation continues, it could give EU control over NATO muscle.

## **German Navy Joins Pacific Military Exercises**

**T**HE GERMANY MILITARY WILL TAKE PART IN THE RIMPAC MILITARY exercises for the first time ever. A total of 25,000 soldiers from 26 nations will take part in the drills, usually involving nations on the Pacific Rim. German-Foreign-Policy.com wrote:

Over the next few days, German naval forces will participate, for the first time in history, in a major maneuver in the Pacific Ocean. From June 30 to August 4, the world’s largest naval combat maneuver, RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific) is taking place, organized—initially annually, and since 1974, biannually—by the U.S. Navy since 1971. The main theater is the maritime region near Hawaii. ... The German Navy is participating with 20 mine clearance divers and support personnel from the naval infantry unit based in

Eckernförde. ... “The overall objective” is to “demonstrate military flexibility,” which “serves the security of global maritime routes.”

Traditionally, the United States ... has integrated close allies into its RIMPAC maneuvers. These series of combat maneuvers were launched together with the naval forces of Great Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand in 1971. The number of participating nations has since been greatly expanded. Important NATO members (France, the Netherlands, Norway) have repeatedly been involved. Over the past few days, for the first time, units from Germany, Italy, and Denmark are taking part—proof of the systematic expansion of the RIMPAC fleet. ...

**Islamophobia surges in Europe:** According to a poll released Monday by the Pew Research Center, unfavorable views of Muslims among Europeans have surged in 2016. More than 60 percent of the populations in Hungary, Italy, Poland and Greece had unfavorable opinions of the Muslims in their country. In Greece, this percentage represented an increase of 12 percentage points over

2014. A summary of the poll said, “In eight of the 10 European nations surveyed, half or more believe incoming refugees increase the likelihood of terrorism in their country. ... Half or more in five nations say refugees will take away jobs and social benefits.” The poll said that “perceptions of refugees are influenced in part by negative attitudes toward Muslims already living in Europe.”

## ASIA

### International Court: China Doesn't Own South China Sea

#### WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



**A**S EXPECTED, THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE IN THE Hague ruled against China's claims of ownership over nearly all of the vast South China Sea, including waters well inside the exclusive economic zone of the Philippines and other nations.

The BBC reported on July 12 about [the ruling and China's response to it](#):

The Permanent Court of Arbitration said there was no evidence that China had historically exercised exclusive control over the waters or resources. China called the ruling “ill-founded” and says it will not be bound by it. China claims almost all of the South China Sea, including reefs and islands also claimed by others.

The tribunal in The Hague said China had violated the Philippines' sovereign rights. ... The ruling came from an arbitration tribunal under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which both countries have signed.

Although the ruling is binding, the court has no powers of enforcement. As such, it is unlikely that the ruling will have any effect on China's provocative behaviors in the region. In fact, the ruling may be helping to turn the South China Sea into the most explosive fault-line on the planet.

Writing for the *Telegraph* on July 12, Ambrose Evans-Pritchard explained:

Beijing and Washington are on a collision course over these contested waters, the shipping lane for 60 percent of global trade. ... Beijing has dismissed the verdict with scorn, accusing the tribunal of “shamelessly abusing its authority.” The state media said the country “must be prepared for any military confrontation” with the U.S., and must not flinch from war if provoked. ...

It is the latest in a series [of] ominous developments in Asia and Europe that are rapidly subverting the Western international system and setting off a global rearmament race with strong echoes of the late-1930s.

Tensions are flaring up across so many spots in East Asia that global investment funds are actively betting on defense

stocks and technology companies linked to military expansion. ...

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute says China spent \$215 billion on defense last year, a fivefold increase since 2000, and more than the whole of the European Union combined. ...

The ruling in The Hague is harsh rebuke for Beijing. It concludes that China is muscling into the “exclusive economic zone” of the Philippines, and that its drive to create a forward chain of heavily armed posts on artificial islands breaches the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. ...

The Pentagon has made it clear that any move by Beijing to weaponize the Scarborough Shoal off the Philippines would be a step too far, leading to military response. The great worry is that parallel dramas in East Asia and in Europe could feed on each other. Washington's “Asian Pivot” is diverting U.S. focus and power from NATO to the Far East, creating an opening for Russia's Vladimir Putin.

Mr. Putin's arms buildup has equipped him with a formidable military machine just at the moment when the EU has been slashing spending on modern weaponry. He has a window of opportunity to press his advantage, perhaps by testing NATO solidarity in the Baltics with his hallmark form of hybrid warfare.

Evans-Pritchard then quotes Julian Lindley-French, vice president of the Atlantic Treaty Association, as saying: “I am convinced that Europe stands on the edge of several strategic and political precipices and could well see more change in the next five years than in the preceding 50. What if a conflict breaks out in Asia-Pacific in parallel? Would an overstretched America be able to continue to fill the gaps in Europe's defenses?” Evans-Pritchard concluded his article by addressing Lindley-French's question: “Nobody knows the answer. The world has not been in such peril since the Cuban Missile Crisis.”

Also noteworthy is that the Philippines has not responded to its victory in The Hague with the kind of jubilation one would expect. The BBC's Jonah Fisher says Manila's subdued response may be a result of the recent change of government. It is likely, Fisher says, that the newly elected President Rodrigo Duterte



sought promises of Chinese investment, in exchange for a quiet and dignified response to the ruling. If this is the case, it may

mean that Duterte's rule signals a sea change in Philippine posturing toward China.

### Body Count Increases as New Philippine President Says Drug Addicts Should be Killed

SINCE MAY 9, WHEN RODRIGO DUTERTE WON THE ELECTION TO become the president of the Philippines, more than 110 of the nation's people have been killed in extrajudicial killings.

Duterte, nicknamed "the Punisher," ran on a campaign to end violence and crime by killing criminals. On July 1, the day after he took office, he reiterated his stance on crime by encouraging the public to take it into their own hands, and to kill not only drug dealers but also drug addicts.

Speaking to a crowd in the capital city, Duterte said: "If you know of any addicts, go ahead and kill them yourself, as getting their parents to do it would be too painful. ... These sons of whores are destroying our children. I warn you, don't go into that, even if you're a policeman, because I will really kill you."

The [International Business Times](#) wrote on July 13:

While police have confirmed over 110 people killed, the number is likely higher with other bodies not related to police killings found in the streets with placards on them declaring that the person was involved in dealing drugs. Human rights groups have expressed concern that violence is quickly getting out of control and people are ignoring laws. ... Officials have defended the 110 crime-related deaths. ...

Meanwhile, the [Manila Bulletin](#) said that in just the first 12 days of Duterte's rule, 1,545 people confessed to being drug users or dealers and, fearing for their safety, surrendered themselves

to authorities.

This complicated situation is polarizing many onlookers in the Philippines and beyond.

On one hand, Duterte is calling for lawlessness. He is calling for his people to ignore the Constitution of the Philippines, the supreme law of the country. He is saying that individuals should ignore the nation's judicial process and, instead, take it upon themselves to decide who is or is not guilty of criminal behavior, and then act as judge, jury and executioner: *Whatever you feel is just, is just.*

What happens if one person has a grievance against another and decides to accuse him of being involved with drugs? What prevents such accusations from becoming another Salem witch hunt? And what happens after the vigilante death squads get rid of drug addicts, drug dealers and corrupt police officers? Would peace then prevail, or could they decide next to set their sites on religious minorities or other small groups?

No one wants the Philippines' egregious crime and drug problems to remain unresolved, but some are concerned about resolving such problems in a manner that circumvents the Constitution and legal system.

On the other hand, the Philippine legal system has failed a great number of its citizens. Duterte's supporters—and he was elected in a landslide victory—say his calls for vigilante justice are justified because of the institutional corruption in police forces and other branches of the government.

### Japanese Election Could Let Abe Resurrect Military

THE PARTY OF JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE WON A landslide victory on July 10, which could allow Abe to accomplish his goal of changing the Constitution to make Japan a full-fledged military power once again.

The [New York Times](#) reported on July 11:

Mr. Abe's landslide victory in national elections on Sunday was stunning. For the first time, voters gave the Liberal Democrats and their allies more than two thirds of the seats in Parliament—a supermajority that could allow Mr. Abe to realize his long-held ambition of revising the clause in the Constitution that renounces war and make Japan a military power capable of global leadership. ...

Abe's governing coalition will not be able to push through constitutional revisions immediately, given that some of the partners have differing opinions on what needs to be amended and how. ...

The [Times](#) pointed out that this vote was likely to upset other Asian nations who suffered under Imperial Japan in the World War II era and fear that a more assertive Tokyo could destabilize the region:

Outside Japan, Mr. Abe's new supermajority is likely to further unsettle an increasingly tense region. South Korea defied China last week by announcing that it would deploy an advanced American missile defense system to protect itself against North Korea. And many in Asia are waiting to see how China and the United States respond to a ruling expected on Tuesday in a complaint brought by the Philippines challenging Beijing's territorial claims in the South China Sea.

"The Chinese will fear that Abe will find a way to work the system to his advantage," said Bonnie S. Glaser, a senior adviser for Asia and a China expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. At a regular news briefing on Monday, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, Lu Kang, said that China and other Asian countries were "concerned about political moves in Japan" because of its past military action in the region.

In South Korea, an editorial in [Munhwa Ilbo](#), a right-leaning newspaper, said the election results "opened the door for a Japan that can go to war," though it added that a rearmed country "will also help deter North Korea's nuclear threat and check the rising military power of China."

## TW IN BRIEF

**Japanese emperor to abdicate?:** Japan's Emperor Akihito has expressed his intention to retire and relinquish his title in the next few years, rather than reduce his duties as he ages, the country's public television station reported. The 82-year-old Akihito has referred to his old age in recent years and admitted to

making small mistakes at ceremonies, and the Imperial Household Agency has suggested reducing his duties, while giving more responsibility to Crown Prince Naruhito. The tv channel said Akihito has told palace officials that he doesn't wish to cling to his title by drastically reducing responsibility or by arranging a substitute.

## AFRICA/LATIN AMERICA

## TW IN BRIEF

**Venezuela woes:** Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro said Citibank is planning to close his government's foreign currency accounts within 30 days. Venezuela heavily relies on Citibank for foreign currency transactions due to the country's strict currency controls. Maduro said the move by Citibank amounts to a blockade on the South American nation. The financial

institution has not yet commented on the closures. Venezuela is facing a crippling political and economic crisis, and various multinational companies have been pulling out or scaling back their operations. One example is the Kimberly-Clark Corporation. The Venezuelan government said it would respond by seizing its factory.

## ANGLO-AMERICA



### Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?

Gerald Flurry, *The Key of David* | July 17

What connection does the 'beast' of the book of Revelation have to world events now leading to Armageddon and the end of this age?



## The Ignorant American Voter

### WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



**A**S THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FACES ENORMOUS financial and political crises, it is becoming more evident that the average American citizen knows very little about finances or politics.

An article in *Time* magazine by Madeline Farber revealed Tuesday that nearly two out of three Americans couldn't pass a basic financial literacy test.

All told, a new study, which was released today, estimated that nearly two thirds of Americans couldn't pass a basic financial literacy test, meaning they got fewer than four answers correct on a five-question quiz. Worse, the percentage of those who can pass the test has fallen consistently since the financial crisis to 37 percent last year, from 42 percent in 2009.

These findings come from the National Capability Study

by the FINRA Foundation, which surveyed 27,564 Americans, from June through October of last year. FINRA is a quasi-government organization that regulates brokers and Wall Street.

Jared Meyer at *Forbes* magazine published an interview with George Mason University law professor Ilya Somin on June 27. In this interview, Professor Somin cites that only one third of Americans can name the three branches of our federal government: executive, legislative and judicial.

Former U.S. President Thomas Jefferson said, "If a nation expects to be *ignorant and free* in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be."

America's influence is declining abroad, even as America's freedom is declining at home. This hasn't happened because of a coup or a secret plot. It has happened because American citizens have changed. After two centuries of luxury and abundance, they have

largely forgotten God and His laws. As a nation, they have trashed traditional values and fallen into a state of apathy. Great numbers

of people have become hostile to biblical principles like personal sacrifice, individual responsibility and good stewardship.

### President Obama's Double Standard

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA SPOKE TUESDAY AT A memorial service in Dallas for the five police officers killed in last week's sniper attack. He didn't dwell on the racist ideology of the shooter who perpetrated the attack against the police, but instead used the occasion to talk about systematic racism within America's police forces. A Newsmax article titled "[Obama's Double Standard Divides America](#)," by David Limbaugh, makes a strong case that President Obama is increasing racial and religious division within America by employing a double standard when he delivers speeches such as this one:

President Obama's knee-jerk reaction to the Dallas shootings brings into clear relief his biases and double standards on racially or religiously motivated violence. ...

If blacks or Muslims commit acts of violence, Obama calls for unity and demands we not rush to judgment. He bends over backward to deny the racial or religious motives of the actors. ...

If, on the other hand, blacks or Muslims are even arguably the victims of racial or religious violence, he immediately rushes to judgment and attributes racial or religious motives to the actors.

In Warsaw, Poland, during a news conference, one journalist asked Obama to address the motives of Micah Johnson, the shooter who massacred police officers in Dallas. ...

Obama replied, "First of all, I think it's very hard to untangle the motives of this shooter."

No, it's not hard to untangle the motives of the killer, because they weren't tangled. He made them quite clear both on Facebook and in his exchanges with cops during the standoff. Troubled or not, he appeared to hate white people and was livid at cops.

Indeed, Dallas Police Chief David Brown said Micah Johnson "wanted to kill white people, especially white officers."

Obama simply ignored the question of whether the Dallas shootings were a hate crime, yet he had no difficulty in so characterizing the recent police shootings of black men in Louisiana and Minnesota.

Nor in these cases did he call for unity and restraint. Instead, he reflexively detailed the evidence that allegedly demonstrates law enforcement discrimination against minorities, though the evidence of such bias is hotly disputed, as shown by Heather MacDonald's thorough examination of the data in her new book, *The War on Cops*.

Obama's flagrant double standard has been on display throughout his tenure in office. ...

If Obama were to apply a consistent standard to these incidents and not reveal his own biases, he might have some credibility in those cases where he calls for unity. Instead, he has been a catalyst for racial and religious division in his words, actions and policies.

Racism—no matter the goal—is never a solution to any problem. President Obama is pretending that Islamic extremism and black supremacy don't exist. He is cherry-picking statistics in an attempt to prove his preconceived notion that American society is plagued by systematic bigotry against blacks and Muslims. By employing this double standard, the president is exacerbating problems and driving people apart.

The riots and police killings that have been inspired by the deplorable falsehood that black Americans are being hunted in the streets are a tragedy. Perpetuating the lie that police officers are systematically hunting minority youth will only lead to more violence. Understand: God does not take sides in the race issue. He condemns the hatred of *any* person because of their color. The truth of the Bible is that God's plan includes *all* people. God "will have *all men* [and women] to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4).

### U.S. Military Told to Avoid 37 American Cities

AMERICA COULD BE HEADED INTO A SUMMER OF RIOTING AND violence, if warnings from the United States military are to be believed. According to a [Washington Times](#) article by Bill Gertz:

The Army last week warned all military personnel in the United States to avoid 37 American cities this week over concerns that anti-police protests, dubbed "Days of Rage," are planned and could turn violent.

The July 8 notice from the U.S. Army North said there is a potential for violence or criminal activities in the aftermath of the shootings of five Dallas police officers. ...

A U.S. Army North spokesman, Lt. Col. Jason Shropshire, said the safety of soldiers and their families is a high priority. "For security reasons, we don't discuss force-protection

measures that we put into place at our Army installations or the specifics of cautionary advice we provide to our soldiers," he said.

"However, the advisory was to provide situational awareness for all Army personnel within the U.S. Northern Command area of responsibility who may find themselves in the vicinity of any protests (planned or spontaneous)," he added in a statement. "At this time, we do not have information regarding any specific threats to [Department of Defense] personnel."

The notice says that "being anywhere near these protests greatly increases the chance that you could become a victim of violence. When the mob mentality takes over, normally decent people can commit heinous acts." ...

“Use this as a list of places NOT to be on Friday the 15,” the notice says.

Renowned educator Herbert W. Armstrong proclaimed for decades, based on Bible prophecies, that civil unrest and race

war are coming to America. This war, however, would not be the result of any inherent superiority of one race over another. Instead, it would be deliberately stirred up by the organized planning of political leaders.

## Women Get Key Jobs in UK

**B** RITAIN'S CONSERVATIVE PARTY ON MONDAY CONFIRMED THAT Theresa May had been elected party leader “with immediate effect” and would become the country's next prime minister. Outgoing Prime Minister David Cameron stepped down Wednesday and May immediately replaced him.

May, who has been Britain's home secretary for six years, is now the country's second female prime minister. In the days since her appointment, May has been swift in restructuring her cabinet.

An article in the *Guardian* titled “[Women Get Key Jobs as Theresa May Sacks Four Senior Ministers](#)” by Peter Walker reports:

Theresa May is undertaking a swift and sweeping reconstruction of her cabinet, removing four senior ministers, including Michael Gove, the justice secretary, and Nicky Morgan, the education secretary, and promoting ministers

including Justine Greening, Liz Truss and her leadership rival Andrea Leadsom.

The departure of Gove was among May's first moves on Thursday, after she made six key appointments the evening before. Among the other casualties were John Whittingdale, the culture secretary, and Oliver Letwin, the Cabinet Office minister.

Britain's first female prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, only promoted one woman to her cabinet. This fact caused some to label her as the woman who smashed the glass ceiling and pulled the ladder up after her.

By removing three key men from cabinet positions and appointing three women, it seems Theresa May is putting a bigger emphasis on creating a gender-equal cabinet than past administrations.

## TW IN BRIEF

**D** HS contract employee arrested in gun incident: A contract employee for the United States Department of Homeland Security was arrested Monday for attempting to take a concealed firearm through security at the department's headquarters. According to DHS spokeswoman Marsh Catron, this employee was a contract intelligence analyst who was found in possession of an unauthorized 9mm pistol as he went through security screening at the DHS Nebraska Avenue Complex. Another Homeland Security employee, Jonathan Wienke, was arrested at the same facility last month for carrying a gun onto DHS property without a license. Investigators are still working to determine the motive behind both these cases.

**P** orn is a public health crisis: Republican delegates have labeled pornography “a public health crisis” and a “public menace.” The delegates unanimously adopted an amendment to their draft platform on Monday during the Republican National

Convention subcommittee meeting on health care, education and crime. The amendment stated that “pornography, with its harmful effects, especially on children, has become a public health crisis that is destroying the life of millions.”

**L** ouis Farrakhan and Micah Johnson: Just hours before the shooting in Dallas last week, Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan posted a video inciting racial violence. In the video, which was posted on Twitter, Farrakhan said, “When you are willing and not afraid anymore to pay the price for freedom—don't let this white man tell you that violence is wrong.” During a standoff with the police, the Dallas shooter said he “wanted to kill white people—especially white police officers.” The shooter's Facebook profile revealed loose ties to Farrakhan's Nation of Islam organization. Farrakhan is an influential black leader with close ties to another influential black leader, Jeremiah Wright.



## America and Britain in Prophecy

Stephen Flurry, Trumpet Daily | July 15

Could the Bible ignore the world's greatest superpower—or the most dominant empire in history? [Follow Stephen Flurry](#)

