

Trumpet Weekly

AUGUST 5, 2016



Pope Francis

Not All Catholics Agree With the Pope

Richard Palmer | August 7

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY THAT A BISHOP SAYS THE POPE IS WRONG—AT least not in public. “I admire the pope, this is clear, but I disagree with him,” Bishop Andrea Gemma told the Italian religious news site *La Fede Quotidiana* last week.

Pope Francis's comments on Islam in the wake of a brutal attack by Islamic State terrorists on a priest in his mid-80s have disappointed many Catholics. The world is at war, the pope said in the aftermath. But he made clear that “I do not speak of a religious war.”

“Religions, all religions, seek peace,” Pope Francis said. “It's others who want war.”

“It's not right to identify Islam with violence,” he told reporters on the papal plane as he was returning from World Youth Day celebrations in Poland. Instead, he blamed capitalism for these atrocities. “Terrorism grows when there is no other option and as

long as the world economy has at its center the god of money and not the person,” he said on his flight home from Poland.

Rather than shutting Europe's borders to keep its people safe, Pope Francis told Poles that the Continent needs “a merciful heart” that “opens up to welcome refugees and migrants.”

The pope may be the head of the Catholic Church, but this time he's seriously out of step with many of its members. Within hours of the pope's comments, the hashtag #PasMonPape—“not my pope”—became the number one trending phrase on French Twitter.

Bishop Gemma said he was “confused” and “disoriented” by the pope's statements.

“I would expect a more firm defense of Christians,” he said. “I would like a pope more energetic in defense of our principles and our faith.”

There may be an even more high-profile figure who disagrees with the pope's comments; one who lives just down the road from him in the Vatican—former Pope Benedict xvi.

Much of the difference between Benedict and Francis has been overblown in the media. Until now, these differences have been more of style than substance.

Even now, the difference between the two may be more about priorities than belief. In blaming capitalism for terrorism, the pope is advancing his push to give the Catholic Church a much greater role in the world economy. This has constantly been the pope's top priority.

But it is clear that the pope's latest words do not reflect Benedict's beliefs. His Regensburg speech in 2006—the most famous of his papacy—stands in stark contrast to Francis's remarks.

Gemma called that speech “prophetic” and said that it should be “read, reread and studied.”

Benedict's Regensburg speech triggered protests and riots across the Muslim world. Muslims of many different stripes said they were offended. The more extreme ones attacked a church in the West Bank and killed a nun and priest.

“Show me just what Mohammed brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached” is the key phrase many disliked. But here, Benedict was merely quoting Byzantine Emperor Manuel II Paleologus. He later made clear that he did not agree with this emperor.

But the substance of what he said was still remarkable. “Not to act reasonably ... is contrary to the nature of God,” he said. Hence the quote from Manuel. Conversion by the sword is irrational and unreasonable, therefore, any religion that preaches it does not know God. “Violence is incompatible with the nature of God and the nature of the soul,” he said.

In Benedict's view, God is a rational Being. Yet he said that Islam teaches that “God is absolutely transcendent. His will is not bound up with any of our categories, even that of rationality.”

If God is rational, and can be understood through human reason, and Islam teaches the opposite, then the pope emeritus was saying that Muslims do not know God. Connect a few dots and the implication is that Islam is an irrational faith and false religion.

As *Stratfor* wrote at the time, in making this speech, Benedict was moving the Catholic Church into prime position to lead the growing right-wing movement in Europe:

There is an intensifying tension in Europe over the powerful wave of Muslim immigration. Frictions are high on both sides. Europeans fear that the Muslim immigrants will overwhelm their native culture or form an unassimilated and destabilizing mass. Muslims feel unwelcome, and some extreme groups have threatened to work for the conversion of Europe. ... [W]ith his remarks, [Benedict] moved toward closer alignment with those who are uneasy about Europe's Muslim community—without adopting their own, more extreme, sentiments. That move increases his political strength among these groups and could cause them to rally around the church.

However, the tempo of terrorist attacks in Europe slowed. The

break in attacks meant that this fear of Muslim migrants receded somewhat.

Now that the fear is back, Benedict is gaining great respect for his message. “Regensburg was not so much the work of a professor or even a pope,” wrote the priest Raymond de Souza in the *National Catholic Register* as he watched the Islamic State unfold its reign of terror in 2014. “It was the work of a prophet.”

“Benedict xvi grasped the nature of the new age of terrorism,” wrote consulting editor of the *Catholic Herald* Alexander Lucie-Smith. “Why did nobody listen?”

Such a message repeated today would fall on fertile ground. “Whatever the extent of Western reluctance or prudence, the truth is there's no better way to shake Europe out of what many now see as its guilt-ridden paralysis than to assault French Catholicism—the oldest, most ingrained force that transcends nationalism in Europe's most powerful proud nation,” wrote James Poulos in *Foreign Policy*. He continued:

History has long prepared this seemingly revolutionary moment. If in one sense, postwar French Catholics like Robert Schuman—one of the European Union's founding fathers and the architect of the European integration plan—were innovators, in another, they simply recapitulated a vision of continental unity as old as Charlemagne. However vital the force and thrust of political rationalism, mere secularism could never make European civilization as whole as Christian Rome had once made it. Even Napoleon Bonaparte, despite his tyrannical embrace of ancient cruelty and modern statism, recognized the centrality of the church to France's unique claim on European leadership by having the pope coronate him as France's emperor in 1804.

While the current pope preaches for open borders, “France's increasingly devout Catholic insurgents see, and paint, a darker picture,” wrote Poulos.

Europe is both divided and faced with the threat of radical Islam. It's easy to see how a strong pushback from the Catholic Church against radical Islam could help solve both these problems. Only the Catholic Church has an appeal wider, deeper and older than nationalism. Only the church could unite Europe—but Europe's leaders would only let that happen in a crisis.

This is why criticism of the pope is so widespread. After the attack on the church, the attacks in Germany, the attack in Nice, people all across Europe are scared. They want leadership. They want answers. They want someone to rouse them. They turned to the Catholic Church for all this and received only platitudes.

That may not last for long. Sooner or later, the Catholic Church will reject its current platitudes—as the attacks become worse, it may be forced to. Many in Europe are already looking in its direction for leadership. How long until it provides it?

As Poulos points out, this is the way it has been for most of Europe's history: “For [National Front politician Marion Maréchal] Le Pen and Europeans starved for leadership consistent with patterns adhered to for centuries on end, it is Islam's would-be holy warriors who have invited a defensive Crusade, and the time has come to give it to them.”

Europe stands on the brink of repeating the pattern set for centuries—armed confrontation with Islam. This pattern exists

for a reason. Islam has repeatedly tried to expand into Europe. The papacy gains greater power and prestige in Europe when it organizes a crusade. Europe's leaders gain a religious excuse to plunder the riches of the Middle East. And the masses feel protected from the barbarians they fear at their gates.

History alone warns us that Europe and at least some parts of Islam are heading for another clash. To understand this history and what it tells us about the future, read our free book *The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy*.

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MIDDLE EAST

TrumpetDaily

RADIO SHOW

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The 'Deadly Poison' of the Iran Nuclear Deal

IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT SUPREME LEADER AYATOLLAH ALI Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani are not on the same page regarding the [nuclear deal](#),” wrote Kamran Bokhari for Geopolitical Futures. “But for them to publicly contradict one another cannot be considered business as usual.”

On Monday, Khamenei criticized the nuclear agreement for not improving the lives of the average Iranian. He said the following regarding the deal:

I said last year that these nuclear talks will be [a] test for us, to see how the Americans will behave. Well, now we know. They give promises to our face but conspire and prevent any progress in action. This experience showed that [we cannot speak to them](#) on any issue as trustable counterparts. ... This is why I have for years been saying that we will not negotiate with the Americans; this shows that

the problems we have with them in the region, in different issues, cannot be solved with negotiations.

The implications on the other issues are huge, as [Reuters](#) paraphrased Khamenei: “He also said the United States had offered to negotiate with Iran on regional issues—the two countries share an interest in fighting the Islamic State militant group in Iraq and Syria—but that the negative experience on the nuclear deal showed that this would be like taking a ‘deadly poison.’”

What’s poisonous to Ayatollah Khamenei appears medicinal to President Rouhani. On the very same day, reported Geopolitical Futures, Rouhani praised the nuclear deal for allowing Iran to conduct business with more international partners. President Rouhani’s chances for reelection next year are growing slimmer and slimmer.

America: Paying for Iran’s Transgressions—in Cash

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



IMAGINE A BUSINESS TRANSACTION INVOLVING A WIRE TRANSFER of \$400 million. Even though financial institutions would likely assess a high fee to that transaction, this payment method would be better than the alternative: withdrawing hard cash, stacking it on pallets, and airlifting all 3.6 tons of it.

The alternative is precisely what the Obama administration did as part of a deal that’s supposedly good for the United States (according to U.S. liberals) and bad for Iran (according to Iranian

hard-liners).

The *Wall Street Journal* reported on Wednesday:

The Obama administration secretly organized an airlift of \$400 million worth of cash to Iran that coincided with the January release of four Americans detained in Tehran, according to U.S. and European officials and congressional staff briefed on the operation afterward.

Wooden pallets stacked with euros, Swiss francs and other currencies were flown into Iran on an unmarked cargo plane, according to these officials. The U.S. procured the money from the central banks of the Netherlands and Switzerland, they said.

The money represented the first installment of a \$1.7 billion settlement the Obama administration reached with Iran to resolve a decades-old dispute over a failed arms deal signed just before the 1979 fall of Iran's last monarch ...

The settlement, which resolved claims before an international tribunal in The Hague, also coincided with the formal implementation that same weekend of the landmark nuclear agreement reached between Tehran, the U.S. and other global powers the summer before.

"With the nuclear deal done, prisoners released, the time was right to resolve this dispute as well," President Barack Obama said at the White House on January

17—without disclosing the \$400 million cash payment.

Senior U.S. officials denied any link between the payment and the prisoner exchange. They say the way the various strands came together simultaneously was coincidental, not the result of any quid pro quo. ...

U.S. officials ... acknowledge that Iranian negotiators on the prisoner exchange said they wanted the cash to show they had gained something tangible. ...

Since the cash shipment, the intelligence arm of the Revolutionary Guard has arrested two more Iranian-Americans. Tehran has also detained dual-nationals from France, Canada and the UK in recent months. ...

The \$400 million was paid in foreign currency because any transaction with Iran in U.S. dollars is illegal under U.S. law. Sanctions also complicate Tehran's access to global banks.

The cash was reportedly airlifted in an unmarked cargo plane.

Supporting Assad 'Until the End'

THE DEPUTY LEADER OF IRAN'S TERRORIST PROXY HEZBOLLAH vowed that Russia, Iran and Hezbollah would stand by Syrian President Bashar Assad "until the end."

During an interview with Reuters, Sheikh Naim said he foresaw a protracted war in Syria and Iraq—one that could end in a partition of those countries.

Reuters wrote:

The U.S. and its allies say that by waging war against his own people, Assad can have no future in Syria, while Russia and Iran, wholly opposed to regime change, maintain he is the legitimate president, albeit of a state shrunk by rebel gains.

Both coalitions fear his sudden departure could destroy what is left of Syria after more than five years of civil war, bequeathing a shell state to the jihadis of Islamic State and al Qaeda.

Qassem said both Syria and neighboring Iraq, where Islamic State has also seized territory, could split. ...

Assad was the best protection against this, Qassem said.

The conflict in Syria has further fueled an old regional

rivalry between the Shiite Islamist government of Iran and the conservative Sunni Muslim kingdom of Saudi Arabia, one of the main sponsors of the insurgency against Assad.

Qassem said the United States, one of the power brokers in finding a solution to the crisis, was distracted by its November presidential elections and not ready to commit to any action until a new president takes over next year. ...

Hezbollah's deputy chief praised his group's efforts in preventing the Islamic State's infiltration of Lebanon. We wrote about how successful Hezbollah will be in "[How the Syrian Crisis Will End](#)."

Reuters concluded:

[Qassem] said Islamic State, which is being targeted by coalition air strikes, will increase its attacks in Europe and beyond, adding that the group has an expansionist strategy and will use any means to achieve its goals.

"European pains are big and will increase more and more," Qassem said, adding that Islamic State "will not leave an opportunity in all the countries of the world without exception to attack when it can and when [it] is able to."

TW IN BRIEF

United States bombs Libya: The United States launched multiple air strikes against Islamic State militants in Libya on Monday, opening a persistent front against the group at the request of the United Nations-backed government. The strikes were carried out by U.S. forces on Islamic State strongholds in the coastal city of Sirte. Libya's pro-government militias have been waging an offensive against the Islamic State in the city since May, but it has recently stalled. They have been advancing on Sirte, the main Islamic State bastion in Libya and the birthplace of former Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, for the past 25 days.

The precision strikes targeting an Islamic State tank and vehicles come amid growing concerns about the group's increased threat to Europe and its ability to inspire attacks across the region. The strikes marked the start of a more intense American role in the fight against the Islamic State in Libya.

Syria accused of dropping more chemical weapons: A Syrian rescue service operating in rebel-held territory said on Tuesday that a helicopter dropped containers of toxic gas overnight on a town close to where a Russian military helicopter had

been shot down hours earlier. Thirty-three people were affected by the containers, which were assumed to have been filled with chlorine gas. No deaths were recorded, but the women and children affected were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment. The opposition Syrian National Coalition accused President Bashar Assad of being behind the attack. Assad has denied previous accusations of using chemical weapons.

‘Listen Putin, we will come to Russia and will kill you’: The Islamic State released a video on Sunday calling for jihad against Russia. In a nine-minute YouTube video, a masked man addressed Russian President Vladimir Putin and threatened that Islamic State terrorists will be coming after Russia. President Putin has been a staunch supporter of President Bashar Assad of Syria. Recently, Russia and the United States have been considering closer cooperation in their fight against the Islamic State and other terrorist groups in Syria.

Iran: Saudi Arabia has stabbed Muslims in the back: Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei criticized Saudi Arabia for increasing its ties with Israel. Khamenei wrote in a post on social media Monday that revelations of the Saudi government’s relations with Israel were a “stab in the back” of Muslims. Israel and Saudi Arabia do not have formal ties; however, the two nations have been drawing closer together recently because of their mutual fear of Iran.

Afghan report: The United States has spent a total of \$17 billion to provide weapons, ammunition and other military equipment to Afghanistan’s defense forces. According to a report by a U.S. oversight body on July 30, the United States has spent about \$13 billion on the Afghan National Army and about \$4.2 billion on the Afghan National Police. However, the number of Afghans serving has been decreasing while the Taliban has been growing stronger and more belligerent.

EUROPE

Trumpet Hour

RISING TERRORISM LEADING TO A CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS, TAX DOLLARS FUND TERRORISM, WELFARE DISCOURAGES MARRIAGE, AND MUCH MORE | AUGUST 5

AMERICA’S POLITICAL EARTHQUAKE, SPACE WARS AND HOW NOT TO STOP A WAR | AUGUST 3

Is Europe on the Brink of a Clash of Civilizations?

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



A GROWING NUMBER IN EUROPE BELIEVES THE WEST NEEDS TO respond to Islamic terror with a crusade of its own, James Poulos wrote in “[How to Start a Clash of Civilizations](#)” for *Foreign Policy* last week. He continued:

Though the internecine conflicts wracking the Arab world ensure the war against the Islamic State is hardly a war on Islam, the jihadis are bent on a clash of civilizations. And by martyring French Catholics who are Old Christendom’s flesh and blood, they’re one step closer to getting one.

Whatever the extent of Western reluctance or prudence, the truth is there’s no better way to shake Europe out of what many now see as its guilt-ridden paralysis than to assault French Catholicism—the oldest, most ingrained force that transcends nationalism in Europe’s most powerful proud nation.

History has long prepared this seemingly revolutionary moment. If in one sense, postwar French Catholics like Robert Schuman—one of the European Union’s founding fathers and the architect of the European integration plan—were innovators, in another, they simply recapitulated a

vision of Continental unity as old as Charlemagne. However vital the force and thrust of political rationalism, mere secularism could never make European civilization as whole as Christian Rome had once made it. Even Napoleon Bonaparte, despite his tyrannical embrace of ancient cruelty and modern statism, recognized the centrality of the church to France’s unique claim on European leadership by having the pope coronate him as France’s emperor in 1804. Having subsequently snuffed the Holy Roman Empire (long lampooned as neither holy, Roman, nor an empire) in 1806, he cemented Europe’s new Catholic imperium by marrying his defeated adversary’s daughter, Marie Louise. His wife’s parents, Emperor Francis and his wife Maria Theresa, continued to rule the Austrian Empire after the Holy Roman Empire’s dissolution.

Today, no historically Catholic country maintains the strength and significance of France, even at its relatively low ebb, and none can look forward to mustering anything comparable. In Europe, both politicians and the pope all but deliberately mischaracterize Islamist violence as senselessly absurd. As Pope Francis has focused attention

on the weakest and most vulnerable to arrive on Europe's shores—or perish in their attempt—his plea that refugees “are not dangerous but in danger” has run up against the hard truth that among the hundreds of thousands of newcomers are enough killers to keep horrific bloodshed in the news and in public nightmares. While the willful pontiff labors to prove that charity and solidarity are two sides of the same coin, France's increasingly devout Catholic insurgents see, and paint, a darker picture.

Consider the reaction of France's youngest and most alluring reactionary, the sensational young National Front figure Marion Maréchal-Le Pen. At first, in horror and frustration, came the obvious: “They're killing our children, assassinating our police officers, and slitting our priests' throats,” she tweeted. “Wake up!” You'd expect nothing less from a scion of the Le Pen dynasty, one primed by the grisly, unprecedented truck attack in Nice, which is just a two-hour drive from her political headquarters.

But Marion Le Pen wasn't finished. Hours after her first appeal, she urged Christians worldwide to unite against Islamism. And then the coup de grâce: “Faced with the threat weighing on France, I've decided to join the military reserve. I invite all young patriots to do the same.” The logic may be unnerving, but it is crystal clear. For Le Pen and Europeans starved for leadership consistent with patterns adhered to for centuries on end, it is Islam's would-be holy warriors who have invited a defensive crusade, and the time has come to give it to them.

Meanwhile in Canada's *Globe and Mail*, in an article titled

“[A Darkness Over Europe](#)” Margaret Wentle warned:

It doesn't take much to spread terror. You don't need fancy weapons or a network of coconspirators. All you need is a truck, a homemade bomb, a knife or an ax to inflict maximum fear. ...

Their leaders have few answers for them. “We should learn to live with terrorism,” French Prime Minister Manuel Valls declared after the Nice attack. Meanwhile, German Chancellor Angela Merkel is doubling down on her “welcome culture” asylum policy. “For me it is clear: We will stick to our fundamental principles,” she said last week.

Germans are not reassured. “Islamist terrorism has arrived in Germany,” said Horst Seehofer, the governor of Bavaria. Bavaria, a conservative region in the south, has been hardest hit by the migrant wave. Its government wants immigration policy tightened. ...

Only one thing is certain. The terrorist attacks won't stop. Jihadism is a movement that has metastasized around the world. Jihadis do not depend on Islamic State (IS) for support, and jihadism will probably survive after IS has been defeated and replaced by something else.

The problem of self-radicalizing young people who find self-actualization in destruction will be with us for many years to come. But whether moderate pragmatism will prevail is very much in doubt. An end to immigration, mass deportations, harsh restraints on civil liberties—all are possible. What happens in Europe could make Donald Trump seem like a nice guy.

Why Is the EU Giving Millions of Dollars to a Wanted War Criminal?

EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE EUROPEAN UNION SHOWED IT WAS WILLING to break its own laws, in its desperation to solve the migrant crisis, and do a deal with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Now the EU has found itself an even more odious partner: Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir. Bashir has been a friend to radical Islamists of all types: from Osama bin Laden to Iranian-backed Hezbollah. His war crimes in Darfur, Sudan, led to him becoming the first serving head of state to be indicted by the International Criminal Court. He cannot set foot in Europe for fear of being arrested.

Now the EU wants to give him over \$100 million. Nesrine Malik explains in “[Bashir Comes in From the Cold](#)”:

Now Bashir's government is set to receive a generous chunk of the EU's \$2 billion “Emergency Trust Fund for Africa,” which aims to combat migration at its source by promoting development and strengthening border security. For Sudan, the refugee crisis has been a godsend.

For a combination of reasons—its strategic location next to Libya and Egypt, its largely ungoverned hinterland, and its porous borders—Sudan has become a major transit hub for refugees and migrants from Eritrea, Ethiopia and Syria who are hoping to reach Europe. Historically,

the Sudanese government has been rather relaxed about migration through its territory. But presented with the carrot of EU funds, and the possibility of normalization of relations with European nations, it has suddenly become far more disciplined about policing the movement of people within its borders. ...

This awakening of good global citizenship was no coincidence. In April, Neven Mimica, the EU commissioner for international cooperation and development, formally announced a roughly \$110 million aid package to Sudan through the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, ostensibly earmarked for reducing poverty, creating jobs, and improving the delivery of basic services in marginalized and conflict-affected areas. “Our new support of [\$110 million] will essentially focus on improving the living conditions for those who call Sudan home, helping returnees to the country to reintegrate back into society, and improving security at the borders,” Mimica said in a statement.

Mimica surely hoped the world would take note of the first two items he highlighted, but it is the last one—border security—that prompted the uneasy rapprochement with Brussels in the first place and has absorbed the bulk

of the funds. In May, *Der Spiegel* and the *New Statesman* obtained secret documents revealing that the EU had earmarked funds to train Sudanese border police and planned to provide equipment such as cameras, scanners and servers to the Sudanese government so it can register incoming refugees and build two closed “reception centers” in the eastern towns of Gadaref and Kassala. It’s not clear if these

funds were part of the \$110 million aid package announced in April or part of a separate \$45 million grant, also from the Emergency Trust Fund, that the Sudanese government is set to receive in exchange for managing migration. Either way, Sudan is effectively being funded to stanch the flow of migrants and refugees to Europe—and to build open-air prisons to house them.

Troops Deployed on German Streets for the First Time Since World War II

TERRORISM IS BEGINNING TO HAVE A VISIBLE IMPACT IN FRANCE and Germany, as David Crossland and Adam Sage [reported in the Times](#) on August 3:

Germany is to deploy troops on the streets for the first time since the Second World War and France has canceled summer festivities as terrorism changes the face of Europe. ...

Ursula von der Leyen, the German defense minister, said that the series of terrorist attacks in neighboring France had forced the government in Berlin to allow soldiers on to the streets, breaking a taboo that followed Nazi militarism. “Paris has opened all our eyes. I’d rather have the skepticism now than the accusation later that we weren’t prepared,” she said.

She announced joint exercises of regional police forces and the Bundeswehr to practice coordinated operations in response to large-scale terrorist attacks—a controversial move, since the constitution sets tight limits on the use of troops on German soil. Soldiers have been deployed only to tackle natural disasters, such as flooding, since the end of the Second World War. ...

In France, the summer is proving less festive than usual amid fears that events likely to draw large crowds could

become terrorism targets. Dozens of events have been canceled as a result.

In Nice, where 84 people died on Bastille Day when an Islamist drove a lorry into a crowd gathered for a fireworks display, the council has scrapped plans for open-air concerts on August 15. Marseilles, also on the French Riviera, has abandoned a show by Patrouille de France—the equivalent of the Red Arrows—scheduled for August 13.

Fireworks displays in holiday towns—such as La Baule on the Atlantic coast, La Seyne-sur-Mer on the French Riviera, Avignon in the south and Chambéry in the Alps—have all been canceled. In Paris, an open-air film festival and a basketball tournament have been called off, as have plans to turn the Champs-Élysées into a pedestrian zone for 24 hours on August 7.

“We are in a situation of war,” said Jean-Yves Le Drian, defense minister. “Sometimes it is necessary to ban events if the security requirements are not respected. Everyone must understand this situation leads to constraints.”

For more information on this, read [“The Danger of Deploying the German Army at Home.”](#)

TW IN BRIEF

France has shuttered 20 mosques since December over radical sermons: French authorities have closed down 20 of the nation’s mosques since December for preaching radical Islamist messages. Reports on Wednesday said that authorities have suspected 120 of the country’s 2,500 mosques of preaching radicalism. And they are taking actions against this perceived danger. The French interior minister said, “There is no place ... in France for those who call for and incite hatred in prayer halls or in mosques.” He added that “20 mosques have been closed, and there will be others.”

Germany protests: Approximately 800 right-wing protesters gathered at Berlin’s main train station on Saturday to protest against German Chancellor Angela Merkel and her immigration policies. It was the third such rally arranged by the protest’s organizers, although the number of participants is falling. The first protest in March was attended by approximately 3,000 people, with around 1,800 taking part in May. Also taking to the streets on Saturday were roughly 700 left-wing counterprotesters, who were vocal in their disagreement with the anti-immigration rally.



Space Warfare: No Longer Just Science Fiction

Callum Wood | August 3

IN RECENT DECADES, THE IDEA OF SPACE WARFARE HAS EVOLVED dramatically. The realm formerly dominated by the United States is under threat. With each satellite launch by foreign powers, gaping holes form in America's defenses. Space is being opened up to a number of powerful nations eager to exploit the heavens for their own military advantage. Invisible battlegrounds are forming in the night sky.

As technology advances, finding satellites has become easier and easier. For instance, the latest U.S. spy satellite was discovered by an Australian observer just three days after its launch. His findings were published in a blog for all to see.

Roughly 1,380 satellites are in orbit today. Of those, 149 are believed to be U.S. military or joint-use; Russia has 75; China 35; Israel 9; France 8; and the United Kingdom and Germany 7. Combined with all the commercial satellites and estimated 500,000 pieces of space junk, it is getting crowded up there.

The overabundance of high-speed debris and military infrastructure risks triggering the Kessler syndrome. Donald Kessler was a NASA scientist who postulated that orbital debris would increase until a chain reaction was sparked. Debris would hit a satellite, creating more debris, which would hit more satellites, causing more debris. The problem would compound similar to a nuclear reaction, where one element is destroyed, causing the

destruction of more elements, which do the same again.

Should a war break out in space, it could quickly lead to such a chain reaction. In that event, warfare as we know it today would go out the window. Events in space would trigger a major change for life on Earth below. The "blind, deaf and dumb" commanders would have to look to conventional warfare as opposed to the satellite-reliant drones and guided missiles.

In space, technology is fielding new and increasingly ominous ways to destroy itself. If space confrontation were sparked, the Space Mission Force would quickly find itself redundant.

U.S. forces argue, however, that they are capable of deterring such a war. According to the U.S. Department of Defense website, during a U.S. Strategic Command meeting panel, acting undersecretary of defense for policy Brian McKeon stated, "We can raise the cost against any potential attacker by a variety of means, including combining our space forces with those of our allies, and increasing military costs by creating space systems that force an adversary up the escalatory ladder—a ladder he may not wish to climb."

But China already risks triggering the Kessler syndrome with its testing, as well as sanctions from an irate U.S. What would happen if war broke out? With weapons capable of leaving the U.S. defenseless and reshaping warfare so dramatically, "climbing the ladder" seems more like a lucrative opportunity than a deterrent.

Japan's New Nationalist Defense Minister Gets Tested on Her First Day

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



JAPAN'S LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (LDP) HAS DOMINATED ITS nation's politicians since 1955, only giving up leadership two times in the past 61 years. Its name may seem an enigma to some international viewers, given it sits in the center-right camp and appeals greatest to Japan's older generation. Nevertheless, it has been highly competent in rebuilding a pacifist Japan from destruction in World War II.

Well, pacifist for now. Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has pushed strongly for a fundamental change, proposing the pacifist clause in Japan's Constitution—Article 9—be amended for its modern-day role. Then, in Wednesday's cabinet shuffle, Prime Minister Abe named a new defense minister, Tomomi Inada, known for her nationalist views. The surrounding nations were not impressed.

Inada wasn't even given a day to settle in, as [Reuters reported](#):

Hours before the hawkish lawyer was appointed to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's cabinet in a limited reshuffle, a North Korean missile landed in or near Japanese-controlled waters for the first time.

The show of force, part of Pyongyang's increasingly provocative arms testing, is a reminder of how strained

relations between countries in northeast Asia have become, from North Korea's nuclear program to China's assertiveness in the disputed waters of the South and East China Seas.

Into the mix steps Inada, a conservative ally of Abe whose support for his goal of revising Japan's postwar, pacifist Constitution risks exacerbating tensions.

The 57-year-old, previously policy chief for Abe's Liberal Democratic Party, will be watched closely in Beijing and Seoul, where Japan's legacy of military aggression before and during World War II remains an open wound.

Some analysts believe there may be a common cause between Japan and China, whose relationship is tense because of past atrocities, in the issue of North Korea. Reuters continued:

Japan, and Inada, may in turn reach out to China and others as they seek to neutralize the threat to security posed by North Korea.

Japan has already said it is upgrading its missile defenses in time for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games to counter more advanced North Korean weapons, part of increased military

spending in the region that reflects worsening ties.

China is North Korea's main ally, although Beijing disapproves of Pyongyang's nuclear program.

Abe is expected to travel to China in September for a [G-20] summit, where he wants to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"We will steadily strengthen ties with neighboring countries such as China and South Korea and proceed with talks with Russia for a peace treaty," Abe told a news conference announcing his new cabinet.

Sino-Japanese relations aside, appointing Defense Minister

Inada is another step toward normalizing attitudes toward a constitutional amendment. While her appointment doesn't change the logistics behind making a change—amending the constitution requires a two-thirds vote in both houses of parliament and majority support in a national referendum—Ms. Inada has indicated she will not be apologetic in advancing the effectiveness of Japan's Self-Defense Force (SDF).

Currently, around 70 percent of Japan's constitutional scholars believe the SDF's behavior is in violation of the constitution. The solution is to reign in the SDF or amend its right to act. With Shinzo Abe's new defense minister appointee, it is clear the fight to make Japan a previously-pacifist nation is still raging.

China, Not Silicon Valley, Is Cutting Edge in Mobile Tech

THE PREVALENT IDEA OF THE CHINESE AS TECHNOLOGY-STEALERS may soon be coming to a crossroads. Last month, China completed building the world's fastest supercomputer—without U.S. chip technology—and this month the *New York Times*' Paul Mozur reported that it has the edge in mobile tech as well:

Snapchat and Kik, the messaging services, use bar codes that look like drunken checkerboards to connect people and share information with a snap of their smartphone cameras. Facebook is working on adding the ability to hail rides and make payments within its Messenger app. Facebook and Twitter have begun live-streaming video.

All of these developments have something in common: The technology was first popularized in China.

Silicon Valley has long been the world's tech capital: It birthed social networking and iPhones and spread those tech products across the globe. The rap on China has been that it always followed in the Valley's footsteps as government censorship abetted the rise of local versions of Google, YouTube and Twitter.

But China's tech industry—particularly its mobile businesses—has in some ways pulled ahead of the United States. Some Western tech companies, even the behemoths, are turning to Chinese firms for ideas.

"We just see China as further ahead," said Ted Livingston, the founder of Kik, which is headquartered in Waterloo, Ontario.

The shift suggests that China could have a greater say in the global tech industry's direction. Already in China, more people use their mobile devices to pay their bills, order services, watch videos and find dates than anywhere else in the world. Mobile payments in the country last year surpassed those in the United States. By some estimates, loans from a new breed of informal online banks called peer-to-peer lenders did too.

China's largest Internet companies are the only ones in the world that rival America's in scale. The purchase this week of Uber China by Didi Chuxing after a protracted competition shows that, at least domestically, Chinese players can take on the most sophisticated and largest start-ups coming out of America.

While China has proved it can poach technology, there's no doubt its developing economy is able to produce its own. "Quite frankly," said Ben Thompson, the founder of the tech research firm Stratechery, "the trope that China copies the U.S. hasn't been true for years, and in mobile, it's the opposite: The U.S. often copies China."

TW IN BRIEF

Russia plays International Army Games: Over 3,000 troops from 20 countries are participating in the International Army Games, hosted by Russia and Kazakhstan this month. The Olympic-style military drills began July 30 and will run until August 13. Russia reportedly invited the United States and 46 other countries to partake in the games; however, Greece is the only NATO country taking part. The games' 23 events include air, field and marine training. China and Russia have the largest presence, partaking in the most competitions. A Russian military expert for the Royal United Services Institute in London said that it's necessary to keep in mind that these Olympic-style military games "were happening in the Soviet Union dating back to the 1980s."

Japan releases annual defense report: The Japanese government approved its annual defense report Tuesday, criticizing China's increasingly assertive military activities and calling North Korea's nuclear and missile development a "grave and imminent threat." Japan's Defense Minister said in a news conference that the nation's security situation "is becoming increasingly severe compared to before." The report says North Korea might have achieved the capability to miniaturize atomic weapons and develop warheads. It also criticizes China's reclamation moves in the South China Sea as a provocation. South Korea strongly protested the paper because it includes Japanese territorial claims to the Dok-do or Takeshima islets. South Korea also claims the islets,

and the nation's foreign minister called on Japan to withdraw the claims. If it did not, he said that Japanese-Korean relations would suffer. The report comes as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government pushes for Japan to take on greater military roles abroad.

China's precision navy drills in the East China Sea: The Chinese Navy has fired dozens of missiles and torpedoes during exercises in the East China Sea that come amid heightened

maritime tensions in the region, underscoring Beijing's determination to back up its sovereignty claims with force if needed. The Defense Ministry on Tuesday said the East China Sea exercises were aimed at improving the "intensity, precision, stability and speed" of its forces in the face of modern electronic warfare. The live-fire drills that began Monday follow China's strident rejection of The Hague's ruling last month that invalidated Beijing's claims to a vast swath of the South China Sea.

AFRICA /LATIN AMERICA

Venezuela: Out of Money, Out of Time

AS THE CRISIS IN VENEZUELA WORSENS, ECONOMISTS WORRY THAT the nation could run out of money within a year. The country's focus on paying its debts has been suicidal, said one expert.

CNN Money wrote on Wednesday:

The country's central bank only has \$11.9 billion in reserves, down sharply from \$30 billion in 2011. A few large debt payments are coming due soon. Starting in October, Venezuela owes a total of \$4.7 billion in a series of payments.

Venezuela is in the midst of a deep economic, political and humanitarian crisis. Its citizens are suffering from

massive food shortages, and hospitals lack basic medicine and equipment. Experts say Venezuela has prioritized paying the debt over dealing with the shortages. ...

Experts' guesses vary over exactly how much time Venezuela has before it runs out of cash. But all agree that, at this rate, Venezuela does not have enough reserves to make all its payments for the next two years. ...

"It doesn't seem that Venezuela is going to be able to make all payments for next year," says Mauro Roca, a Latin American economist at Goldman Sachs. "The probability for default is much higher for next year than this year."

ANGLO-AMERICA



The Day of the Lord

Gerald Flurry,

The Key of David | August 7

What is the Day of the Lord, and how will it affect you? The books of Revelation, Joel and Zephaniah explain this prophecy—one of the most misunderstood in the Bible.



Black Lives Matter Tells America What It Wants

Kieran Underwood | August 4

THE MOVEMENT FOR BLACK LIVES, THE NAME FOR THE 50 ORGANIZATIONS representing the ideology of the Black Lives Matter movement, released its first written statement on August 1, detailing the demands and policy recommendations for the United States.

"A Vision for Black Lives: Policy Demands for Black Power, Freedom and Justice" contained six major demands along with procedures for their implementation:

1. We demand an end to the war against black people.
2. We demand reparations for past and continuing harms.
3. We demand investments in the education, health and safety of black people, instead of investments in the criminalizing, caging and harming of black people.

4. We demand economic justice for all and a reconstruction of the economy to ensure black communities have collective ownership, not merely access.

5. We demand a world where those most impacted in our communities control the laws, institutions and policies that are meant to serve us while recognizing that the rights and histories of our Indigenous family must also be respected.

6. We demand independent black political power and black self-determination in all areas of society.

The platform's preamble described how "constant exploitation and perpetual oppression" could no longer be ignored by America's elected officials and how the government should repair the damages

with long-term investments. The organizations also “stand with descendants of African people all over the world in an ongoing call and struggle for reparations for the historic and continuing harms of colonialism and slavery.” Whether or not the movement stands with the millions of enslaved Europeans, Asians, Indians or Slavs (whose name became the root word of “slave” in English, Arabic and other languages) throughout history was not addressed.

Among the more absurd demands were new constitutional rights to free public education at all levels (with free day care and health services), and the elimination of all debts and halting of foreclosures for black farmers. Rights to “restored land,” an “end to the exploitative privatization of natural resources,” and reparations for oppression by “ensuring our access and control of food sources, housing and land” all sound like attacks on citizens’ fundamental property rights.

Of course, the paper wouldn’t be complete without dealing with the police; the collected activists proposed a number of ways to inhibit police effectiveness. Demands included:

- ending the use of past criminal history to determine eligibility for housing, education, licenses, voting, loans, employment, etc.;
- reallocation of funds from policing and incarceration to education and employment programs;
- a retroactive decriminalization, immediate release and record expungement of all drug-related offenses and prostitution;
- direct democratic community control of local, state and federal law-enforcement agencies.

The platform said it is building “on some of the best thinking in our history of struggle.” But while Martin Luther King Jr. looked to the Declaration of Independence for the promissory note of “the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of

happiness,” the new movement has displayed less admiration for America’s founders. It’s hard to see the link when a leader of the movement declared that “a constitution written by only white men will never serve the interests of black people.”

If outrage and protests are the movement’s desired outcome, then it seems it has achieved its goal in many American cities. If it is progress the movement wants, as historian Victor Davis Hanson stated, their calls for less bias and more unity are “leaving the public confused as to whether having an African-American president, attorneys general, national security adviser, Environmental Protection Agency administrator, and secretaries of education, transportation and homeland security was proof of a new fairness and inclusion or more proof that our country has a long way to go.”

Race is a highly charged subject in the United States today, and in many other nations. Past wrongs and present inequalities create fertile ground for hurt, frustration and anger. There are, though, many leaders of the black community who see where Black Lives Matter is taking their youth—and they are speaking out against it.

The emergence of Black Lives Matter is a symptom of years of racial propaganda that flows out of the higher-learning institutions in the United States. Pew Research Center’s latest poll on black discrimination showed that those more likely to say they had experienced discrimination were not the poor, uneducated black youth, rather it was the college-educated blacks who are suddenly more aware of discrimination after being told to believe it was occurring.

Fifty years on from the civil rights movement, pockets of America are still fixated on race and oppression. It’s not a simple topic, and it won’t simply go away. If you want to delve deeper into this subject, read [“The Real Agenda Behind Black Lives Matter.”](#) You’ll see it’s not merely a call to protest, but an attack on the U.S. Constitution, the document that civil rights movements relied on for over a hundred years of progress.

Welfare Discourages Middle-class Marriages

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



EVERY HUMAN SOCIETY HAS PEOPLE WHO CAN’T SUPPORT THEMSELVES: babies, children, elderly, sick and disabled. Traditionally, the natural institution of the family provided the care and protection these “dependent” people needed. Over the last half century, however, more Americans have been giving up on traditional family life as they rely on the U.S. government to provide for them.

Bradford Richardson wrote in an August 3 *Washington Times* article titled [“Welfare Discourages Middle-class Marriages, Study Finds”](#):

A study released last week by scholars from the American Enterprise Institute and the Institute for Family Studies shows that some unmarried couples are less likely to wed if their welfare benefits will be cut for doing so.

The “Marriage, Penalized” study notes that welfare recipients no longer are relegated to the lowest class of

society. More than four in 10 American families at some point draw on means-tested government benefits, such as Medicaid and food stamps.

“The expanding reach of the welfare state means that a substantial share of lower-middle-class couples with children receive such aid—and many of these couples receive more generous support if they are unmarried,” the study says.

Unwed couples whose oldest child is 2 years old or younger, and who earn \$24,000 to \$79,000 in family income, are more likely than their poorer counterparts to see their welfare benefits reduced after marrying. Among such couples, 82 percent would face a “marriage penalty” in getting married, compared to 66 percent of unwed couples earning less than \$24,000.

Lower-middle-class couples, where each individual’s income is already close to the welfare cutoff point, are 2 percent to 4 percent less likely to marry if they would face a

welfare penalty by doing so, the study found. Drawing on welfare did not have an effect on the marital decisions of poorer couples who would face a lower or no penalty by marrying.

The moral transformation kicked off by the 1960s sexual revolution and the economic transformation kicked off by the 1960s

War on Poverty has led to the breakdown of the American family. Until a few generations ago, the concept of marriage and family was taken for granted—generally accepted as desirable, a means of rearing responsible children and producing a stable society. Today, however, many no longer regard the family unit as the basic building block of society.

Why the U.S. Government Underreports Inflation

THE LATEST INFLATION REPORT PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED States government revealed that the official inflation rate for the U.S. dollar is 1 percent. Anyone who has walked into a grocery store recently, however, probably finds this figure shockingly lower than expected. That's because the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics uses a variety of statistical calculations to keep the officially reported inflation rate as low as possible.

According to an article at [ZeroHedge](#) by [Charles Hugh-Smith](#):

Unbiased private-sector efforts to calculate the real rate of inflation have yielded a rate of around 7 percent to 13 percent per year, depending on the locale—many multiples of the official rate of around 1 percent per year.

So what happens if the status quo accepted the reality of 7-plus percent inflation? Here are a few of the consequences:

1. Social Security beneficiaries would demand annual increases of 7-plus percent instead of zero or near-zero annual increases. The Social Security system, which is already distributing more benefit payments [than] it is receiving in payroll tax revenues, would immediately go deep in the red. ...

2. Global investors might start demanding yields on Treasury bonds that are above the real rate of inflation. If inflation is running at 7 percent, then bond buyers would need to earn 8 percent per year just to earn a real return of 1 percent. ...

3. Private-sector interest rates would also rise, crushing private borrowing. How many autos, trucks and homes would sell if buyers had to pay 8 percent interest on new loans? A lot less than are being sold at 1 percent interest auto loans or 3.5 percent mortgages.

4. Any serious decline in private and state borrowing would implode the entire system. Recall that a very modest drop in new borrowing very nearly collapsed the global financial system in 2008–09, as the whole system depends on a permanently monstrous expansion of new borrowing to fund consumption, student loans, taxes, etc.

The reality is that real inflation is far higher than official reports suggest. Since the U.S. dollar is a currency based on consumer confidence, revealing the true state of the economy could crash the entire system.

TW IN BRIEF

UK stabbing: A 19-year-old killed one woman and injured five others in a knife attack in London late Wednesday evening. Six people were treated at the scene, and a woman in her 60s later died. The condition of the others was not immediately known. Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley said the arrested man was in police custody in a hospital, with early indications suggesting mental health to be a factor in the case. He said the investigation was at an early stage and that “terrorism as a motivation” was also a line of inquiry for police to explore.

CDC warns southern Florida about zika: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Monday gave the United States its first area specific travel warning to a section of Florida after 14 cases of the Zika virus were confirmed in the area. Pregnant women are advised not to travel to Wynwood, a neighborhood in southern Florida. Those who are pregnant or are planning to be, who have traveled in the area, are advised to be tested for the virus. CDC director Tom Frieden said that since the Aedes mosquito, which spreads Zika, rarely flies beyond 150 meters in its lifetime, health officials did not feel the need to expand the area included in the travel advisory.



The Flame of Fire

Stephen Flurry,

Trumpet Daily | August 5

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