

Trumpet Weekly

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Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir takes part in a military parade.



Meet Europe's Favorite Genocidal Warlord

Richard Palmer | August 11

SUDANESE PRESIDENT OMAR AL-BASHIR IS ABOUT AS MUCH OF A pariah as it is possible for a head of state to be. The man seems never to have met a terrorist group he did not like. Bashir invited Osama bin Laden to the country in the 1990s, shipped weapons for Hamas, and invited the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to set up camp.

He's also wanted for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide and is the first sitting head of state to be indicted by the International Criminal Court.

And he's also the proud recipient of tens of millions of dollars in cash from the European Union.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is not the only unsavory character Europe has turned to in an effort to solve its migrant crisis. Last October, the EU called for more cooperation with Sudan to combat migrant trafficking. Then in April, it announced a \$110 million aid package for the nation—paid out of the EU's \$2 billion "Emergency Trust Fund for Africa." The money is to be spent on, among other things, "improving security at the borders." The next month, *Der Spiegel* and the *New Statesman* reported that the EU would spend \$45 million to train border police and provide equipment in Sudan and seven other African countries. "Under no circumstances" should the public learn

about this plan, the European Commission warned.

The funds will also help Sudan build “reception centers.” “Sudan is effectively being funded to stanch the flow of migrants and refugees to Europe—and to build open-air prisons to house them,” wrote *Foreign Policy*.

In July, the European Commission released a draft proposal that would allow EU developmental aid to finance foreign militaries. Reporting on this change, *EU Observer* wrote that “Sudan’s military may stand to benefit. The Ministry of Interior has asked the EU to help fund border infrastructure at 17 crossing points.”

The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) will be the main recipient of the EU’s border protection money. “A paramilitary force that supports the beleaguered Sudanese Army, the RSF in particular stands accused of horrific human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture and mass rape,” wrote *Foreign Policy*. “It was formed in 2013 from elements of the *janjaweed*, the notorious militias that carried out the government’s genocide in Darfur, and answers directly to the National Intelligence and Security Service.”

The EU’s hypocrisy here is staggering. It will not deport migrants back to Eritrea or Syria because that would violate their human rights. But it is perfectly willing to pay a pal of Osama bin Laden millions of dollars to use a militia implicated in genocide to deport or incarcerate them. Bashir cannot set foot in the EU without being arrested, but Europe’s leaders are happy to give him bucket loads of cash. And then they lecture other nations on the humane way to treat migrants.

But there may be more at work here than just the migrant crisis. A rapprochement with Sudan could dramatically improve Europe’s position across the region. Sudan used to be Iran’s best friend in North Africa. The Sudanese Army was essentially set up by and patterned after the IRGC. Conflict Armament Research reported in 2013 that besides “large-scale supplies of weapons and ammunition from Iran to Sudan,” there is “growing evidence to suggest that the government of Sudan manufactures weapons of Iranian design, operates weapons production facilities with Iranian assistance, and supplies Iranian-manufactured weapons

to forces allied to it in the region.” In 2011, the *Telegraph* reported that members of Iran’s elite Quds Force were based in Sudan.

Sudan was the vital link between Iran and all kinds of terrorist groups, militias and rogue states across North Africa.

But not anymore. The two best friends have fallen out in recent years. Bashir transferred his allegiance to the Saudi-led bloc of fellow Sunni states. In March 2015, Sudan joined the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen against the Iran-backed Shia Houthi rebels, and in January, Sudan cut off all relations with Iran.

In return for the help in Yemen, Saudi Arabia has reportedly deposited \$1 billion into Sudan’s central bank, boosting the nation’s foreign reserves, and stepped up its investment in the nation.

Europe’s generosity may also be aimed at keeping Sudan in the anti-Iran camp.

“Northern Africa is turning into a battleground with enormously important prophetic implications,” wrote *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry in April 2013.

“Iran has designs on being the strongest power throughout the region and is extending its reach throughout North Africa,” he wrote. “But Iran isn’t the only one interested in Africa. Germany is making strong inroads as well. Both of these powers are racing to get as much control of North Africa as they can. They will inevitably clash with each other.”

The *Trumpet* has long forecast that Europe will seek to contain Iran through a set of alliances in the region. This is exactly what we see in Sudan.

That doesn’t mean Sudan will stick permanently with Europe. Sudan’s move to the Saudi camp is a “relationship of convenience,” as Guardian Unlimited quoted analyst Magdi al-Gizouli saying. “I don’t think there’s a strong ideological commitment,” he said.

“The main driver of foreign relations is the situation of the ‘bank of Sudan,’” he said.

With Iran growing richer in the wake of its nuclear deal, and Saudi Arabia hit by low oil prices, Iran could regain its old friend. But for now, Europe is taking its chance to block Iran in North Africa, despite the character of the leader it has to work with.

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MIDDLE EAST

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Erdoğan Visits Russia

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



TURKISH PRESIDENT RECEP TAYYIP ERDOĞAN VISITED RUSSIA ON Tuesday as part of efforts to rebuild ties shattered by Turkey's downing of a Russian warplane last year. Erdoğan visited St. Petersburg for talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Both Turkey and Russia, which once described themselves as strategic partners, have been hurt by their roughly seven-month rupture in relations. Erdoğan and Putin are interested in mending the rift and reviving economic and trade ties, a process that began in June following Ankara's apology for shooting down the Russian plane, which had been running bombing sorties in neighboring Syria. Erdoğan's visit will be his first foreign trip since the attempted coup on July 15.

Regarding the two leaders' stance on Syria, the *New York Times* wrote:

President Vladimir Putin of Russia and President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of Turkey are major players on opposite sides of the Syrian civil war. Mr. Putin has provided the crucial military support that is keeping Syria's president, Bashar [Assad], in power; Mr. Erdoğan has helped arm opposition groups seeking Mr. Assad's overthrow.

So when the two men met in St. Petersburg on Tuesday to patch up their nine-month-long feud over a variety of issues, one question was whether they could make any progress toward ending a conflict that has reportedly killed more than 470,000 Syrians and displaced millions more. Tragically for Syria, the answer was no. ...

After the meeting, the Turkish foreign minister told the state-run news agency the two sides had "common views" on the need for a ceasefire in Syria, deliveries of humanitarian aid, and a political solution to end the crisis. But

there was no suggestion they had narrowed their fundamental differences—which include Russia's bombing of Turkey's rebel allies as well as Mr. Assad's fate—even as the situation in Syria continues to deteriorate.

For now, the focus is on Aleppo, which was Syria's largest city until the civil war erupted five years ago and is now split between rebel- and government-held sectors. ...

On Wednesday, Russia ... said there would be three-hour ceasefires daily to allow aid convoys to enter Aleppo safely, though experts said that amount of time would be too short to be effective. ...

The proposal may have been an attempt to deflect criticism unleashed on Monday when the United Nations Security Council heard testimony from two American doctors who had just returned from treating dying and wounded children in Aleppo. A Russian diplomat immediately attacked the testimony as "propaganda" that would block movement "toward a political settlement in Syria." ...

Although President Obama is gradually ratcheting up the battle against the Islamic State, he has refused to involve the United States in a military fight with Mr. Assad and is expected to maintain that policy until his successor takes office. ...

Meanwhile, Agence France-Presse reported Thursday that Russia has announced plans to set up a [permanent military base in Syria](#), as an appropriate "measure" against the "terrorist threat."

The question of [how the Syrian crisis will end](#) is becoming more and more pertinent.

Facing Defeat in Afghanistan

THE WAR ON TERROR IS NOW THE SECOND MOST EXPENSIVE WAR in American history.

Back in 2008, Barack Obama said that the Iraqi front in that war was a mere distraction. The real war on terror, he said, was in Afghanistan. But as the *Week's* Michael Brendan Dougherty wrote in "[America Is Losing Its Longest War](#)," the Afghanistan campaign is turning out to be a huge disaster:

In the past month, [President Obama] announced a further drawdown of American troops in Afghanistan, from 9,800 to 8,400. ... It seems he wants to keep just enough troops to prevent a disaster on his watch, but just few

enough to look like he's living up to his promise of finishing the job.

But it is becoming clearer by the day that America is losing the longest war in its history. After it removed the Taliban from government 15 years ago, the Taliban is recapturing larger parts of the country, making governance of the nation's far-flung regions from Kabul impossible, and doing the most violence it has in years. Afghanistan's civilian casualty rates this year are near record levels. ...

Obama's strategy in Afghanistan has been confused. He invested in a surge, which made America's operation there an extremely large counterterrorism force. But he never

went all-in for a counterinsurgency strategy or in building up the Afghan government. This meant more American casualties for a time. And it also meant more successes against the Taliban. But almost as soon as these victories started to come in 2012, Obama began withdrawing. ...

And in a way that seems naive now, Obama premised the scheduled drawdown on the idea that it would create pressure on the Afghan state to improve the level of governance it offered and to reform itself. Even now, over a quarter of 407 administrative districts in Afghanistan are controlled by insurgent groups, or at risk of falling into their hands. Opium production in Afghanistan has skyrocketed after a lull during the surge. And American efforts to help the Afghan government build proper infrastructure, electricity, schools and a working military of its own have been only modest successes. ...

The Afghanistan war has been a demoralizing one for America's policy elite and its military. Yes, many al Qaeda operatives were killed and networks disrupted in the past 15 years. But it has become obvious now that complete victory over the Taliban in Afghanistan alone would require more blood and treasure than Americans are willing to invest. Beyond that, it would require a much more difficult confrontation with America's long-term "ally," Pakistan, which has operated as a rear-operating base for the Taliban.

So instead, America's longest war will almost certainly end in defeat.

The "pride" of America's power has indeed been broken, as the Bible prophesied, and Afghanistan is again proving to be the classic [graveyard of empires](#).

Iran's Cyber and Ballistic Missiles

THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN IS DETERMINED TO BOOST ITS military and continue threatening the region. It has advanced both its cyberwarfare and ballistic missile activities, as the [Tower](#) wrote on Thursday:

Iran has "a substantial inventory of missiles capable of reaching targets throughout the region, including U.S. military bases and Israel," the Pentagon stated in its annual report to Congress on Iran's military capabilities, Bloomberg News reported on Tuesday. Furthermore, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which is tasked with exporting the Iranian revolution, has continued to hone its ability to "support and carry out" terrorist attacks.

Since the nuclear deal, Iran has "been testing to see what kind of activities it can get away with without jeopardizing

sanctions relief and foreign investment," Michael Eisenstadt, director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy's Military and Security Studies Program, wrote in a report last month. The Islamic Republic has "ramped up cyberspying operations against U.S. officials, journalists and academics engaged in Iran policy, presumably for intelligence purposes, using e-mail and social media contact lists harvested from the computer of detained Iranian-American businessman Siamak Namazi." The Associated Press reported last December that Iranian hackers had been targeting the U.S. electric grid's networks and stealing highly sensitive data since August 2013. Iran is also "increasingly turning the tools of computer espionage against both exiles abroad and potential dissidents at home," Elias Groll wrote on *Foreign Policy* on Tuesday.

Ahmadinejad's Letter to Obama

ON MONDAY, FORMER IRANIAN PRESIDENT MAHMOUD Ahmadinejad sent a letter to United States President Barack Obama, which he said was "by no means of [a] political nature." Nonetheless, in his letter, Ahmadinejad asked Obama to return some \$2 billion in frozen assets to Iran.

[Al-Monitor](#) wrote:

The letter stated that despite Obama's campaign slogans promising change, "the same hostile policies along with the same trend of enmity were pursued" against Iran. One of the many instances of the continued hostility toward Iran, according to Ahmadinejad, was the Supreme Court ruling that blocked \$2 billion of Iran's assets in the United States and awarded it to victims of terrorism [specifically, the victims of the 1983 bombings at U.S. Marine barracks in Lebanon]. Ahmadinejad wrote that this ruling was "counter to

legal principles" and asked Obama that the "seized property [be] released and returned." ...

The timing and focus of Ahmadinejad's letter is perhaps revealing of the former president's future intentions. While Ahmadinejad has been relatively quiet as a former president, he has been speaking at events and rallies across the country in recent months. Whether in Tehran or other provinces, Ahmadinejad still draws a large enough crowd to pack venues. It is no surprise then that some view the timing of the letter to be linked to speculation that Ahmadinejad intends to run for president again, hoping to deny President Hassan Rouhani a second term.

It remains to be seen how strong Ahmadinejad's political prospects are, considering that some Iranian hard-liners oppose his candidacy. During his two-term presidency, he was notorious for

his frightening [apocalyptic ideology](#) and virulent anti-American and anti-Semitic rhetoric.

Ahmadinejad added in his letter: “I passionately advise you not

to let the historical defamation and bitter incident be recorded under your name.”

TW IN BRIEF

Turkey's uncertain future with Europe, NATO: Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu said on Thursday that while his nation will always cooperate with NATO first, it may still “seek other options outside NATO for defense industry cooperation,” Reuters reported. In an interview with the state-run Anadolu Agency, Çavuşoğlu said, regarding the European Union, “Unfortunately, the EU is making some serious mistakes. They have failed the test following the coup attempt. ... Their issue is anti-Turkey and anti-Erdoğan sentiment.” He added, “We have worked very hard towards EU [membership] these past 15 years. We never begged, but we worked very hard Now two out of three people are saying we should stop talks with the EU.”

Saudis confirm cooperation with Germans: Saudi Arabia has publicly confirmed that it is working with German investigators to track Islamist militants behind bomb and ax attacks in July. A Saudi Interior Ministry spokesman said German and Saudi Arabian security experts had met and exchanged information

regarding the attacks. One of the men in the German attack had contacted a member of the Islamic State using a Saudi phone number. Reuters reported that Saudi Arabia's comments were unusual because the kingdom rarely speaks publicly on specific cases of counterterrorism cooperation with foreign countries.

The Islamic State captures more U.S. weapons: The Islamic State released pictures of weapons and military equipment that it said it captured from American soldiers in eastern Afghanistan. The pictures were released August 6, and they showed an American portable rocket launcher, grenades, a radio and other equipment. They also showed identification cards for a United States Army soldier. The U.S. confirmed the loss of the equipment but insisted that no troops were captured. Observers said that U.S. troops underestimated the strength of the Islamic State and that the equipment was captured after the terrorists repelled a joint U.S.-Afghan attack that involved heavy air cover.

EUROPE

Trumpet Hour

[RUSSIA PREPARING ANOTHER INVASION?, CHINA'S 'MARSHALL PLAN,' MIGRANT CRISIS WORSENS | AUGUST 12](#)

[ARAB SPRING AFTER 5 YEARS, THE MOVEMENT FOR BLACK LIVES, NATIONALIZING THE FAMILY | AUGUST 10](#)

Is Russia Preparing for War With Ukraine

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



RUSSIA IS RATCHETING UP THE PRESSURE ON UKRAINE AND COULD be planning another major outbreak in hostilities. In an article for Daily Beast titled “[Is Ukraine Just About to Blow?](#)”, Michael Weiss wrote:

On Wednesday, the FSB, the successor organization to the KGB, declared that it had prevented “terrorist attacks” in Crimea over the weekend.

According to the security service, an FSB agent was killed in a firefight with saboteurs on Saturday night near Russian-occupied Armyansk, a town close to the frontier

with mainland Ukraine. ...

On Sunday night, the FSB claimed that Ukrainian special forces made two attempts to cross the frontier under cover of “massive fire” from Ukrainian troops and armored vehicles. A Russian soldier reportedly was killed. ...

Kiev denies all reports of fighting on the frontier or incursions into Russian-occupied Crimea. But Vladimir Putin is furious—or pretending to be. ...

For the better part of a year, the war in Ukraine has been “frozen but oven-ready,” as former NATO press officer Ben Nimmo once put it, with regular upticks in violence and

provocations not quite leading to full-scale meltdowns. ...

That changed over the last week, however, with whispers inside Ukraine and among the foreign press corps that another big clash may be in the final stages of preparation with the locus of unusual activity in, yes, Crimea. Tatar activists on the peninsula noted that Russian military hardware had been moving towards the northern towns of Dzhankoy and Armyansk, near the frontier with Ukrainian-controlled territory.

At the same time, verifiable video evidence emerged of large quantities of Russian military hardware on the move in the south of Crimea.

Columns of armored personnel carriers, military ambulances, fuel tankers, trucks, signals and engineering vehicles have been recorded in the port town of Kerch—which handles ferry arrivals from Russia. They have also been spotted in the Crimean regional capital of Simferopol and outside a military training range near the southern town of Feodosia.

In Sevastopol, [U.S. state-funded broadcasting organization Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's] Crimean Service filmed the *Mirazh*, a Nanuchka-class missile corvette, at anchor in the bay. ...

According to the report, checkpoints have been set up around the peninsula. ... Meanwhile, there are also reports from northern Crimea that Internet services have been out of action and may not be restored until August 10. ...

Oleh Slobodyan, an adviser to the head of the Ukrainian State Border Service, reported last night that border guards had indeed observed a “high level of activity from Russian armed forces near the administrative border. On six occasions, we observed flights of Russian military helicopters and, on one occasion, an unmanned aerial vehicle.” ...

In response, Ukraine has deployed additional troops and military hardware to the Kherson region, adjacent to

the administrative border with Crimea. ...

In Donbas, the provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk in eastern Ukraine, where Russia's other military incursion has been much bloodier than that in Crimea, the situation also has heated up, with July going on record as the deadliest war month in almost a year.

Russia may well be planning something. As *Trumpet* contributing editor Jeremiah Jacques wrote last summer:

Russian President Vladimir Putin is following a blueprint of expansionism that dates back thousands of years.

It's a blueprint that warfare historian Victor Davis Hanson calls “invade, wait—and invade.”

In an article from this March [2015], Hanson explained: “From Philip of Macedon to Napoleon, aggressors did not necessarily have a grand timetable for creating an empire. Instead, they went at it ad hoc. They took as much as they could at any given time; then backed away for a bit, if they sensed strong opposition was building—only to go back on the offensive when vigilance waned.”

Most of the world is ready to move on from the Crimea crisis. Europe is anxious to begin trading with Russia again. Now that the world has accepted his latest conquests, Putin may be getting ready to grab some more.

Or maybe not. As Geopolitical Futures noted: “Nevertheless, the Kremlin is also adept at playing diplomatic chess games with world powers and has been engaged in a complex negotiation with the U.S. over both Syria and Ukraine.” Russia may be raising tensions in Ukraine as part of negotiations over Syria and elsewhere. Europe and Russia's interests overlap in a great many locations—which is why the *Trumpet* has forecasted that they will come to some [kind of grand bargain](#).

German Leaders Want to Get Tougher on Islam

SOME GERMAN LEADERS WANT TO BAN THE BURQA, DEPORT RADICAL preachers, and get rid of dual citizenship. Justin Huggler wrote for the *Daily Telegraph*:

Angela Merkel's government is preparing to unveil increased security measures in the wake of recent terror attacks.

Thomas de Maiziere, the country's interior minister, is to detail a series of new proposals on Thursday, including the deportation of preachers who incite terrorism.

But senior elected officials from Ms. Merkel's Christian Democrat party believe the new measures do not go far enough and have published a series of more far-reaching proposals.

Mr. de Maiziere is believed to support the call for

tougher measures and will add his signature to the proposals next week, according to local press reports.

The document, already known as the Berlin Declaration, has already been signed by state interior ministers across Germany.

It includes 27 measures to increase security, including thousands of new police officers and video camera surveillance in city centers.

But the most controversial proposals are the calls for a ban on the full-face veil in public and an end to dual citizenship. ...

Mr. de Maiziere will also unveil plans for a new [Government Communications Headquarters]-style intelligence agency devoted to monitoring communications, according to the tabloid *Bild*.

Opinion Begins to Shift in Germany

AS WAS WIDELY EXPECTED, ATTITUDES TOWARD MIGRANTS AND Islam are changing within Germany in response to recent terrorist attacks. [Reuters reported](#) last Friday that Germans are becoming increasingly disappointed with their nation's leadership:

Popular support for Chancellor Angela Merkel has plunged according to a poll conducted after attacks in Germany, with almost two thirds of Germans unhappy with her refugee policy.

The survey for public broadcaster ARD showed support for Merkel down 12 points from her July rating to 47 percent. This marked her second-lowest score since she was reelected in 2013. In April last year, before the migrant crisis erupted, she enjoyed backing of 75 percent. ...

Support for one of Merkel's fiercest critics, Bavarian Premier Horst Seehofer, who has called for restrictions on immigration to increase security, jumped 11 points to 44 percent. ...

Merkel repeated her claim that Germany could manage to successfully integrate the influx of refugees last week and vowed not to change her refugee policy.

In a poll of 1,003 people conducted August 1–2, just 34 percent of people said they were satisfied or very satisfied with Merkel's refugee policy. This was the lowest level since the question was first asked last October.

Commenting on these figures, [Stephen Green wrote in the Telegraph](#) about the possible consequences:

All this just a year from the German general election. Can the German Chancellor respond? Even for a figure as

skillful and experienced as she is, the politics of national identity remain an all-but taboo topic in Germany, a country still hypersensitive to its Nazi past. The problem is that if establishment politicians do not tackle this issue, other less-palatable forces will. In Germany, as elsewhere, virulent resentment is growing among those who feel left behind and ignored by "elites," stirring uncomfortable memories of the Weimar years.

There is a dangerous disconnect. What seems rational to Germany's leaders—the "open-door" policy—threatens the identity of many of the country's voters. ...

Germany is not unique in this. France knows it well. Terror attacks there have also been a more direct assault on a country which sees itself above all as a secular democracy, where the right of free speech is as sacred as the right to peaceful religious observance. This is why the French establishment—not just the far right—has reached for the vocabulary of war.

What is to be done? For Germany, honest confrontation with the cultural and social challenges of integration is clearly going to be more important than ever. But this is not just a matter of the right policies of economic, education and care for the marginalized—important though these things unquestionably are.

Something else is called for throughout Europe, including Britain: open debate about identity.

None of us can go back to simpler times when we could take the answers for granted. None of us can duck this debate, uncomfortable though it undoubtedly is. With a general election coming, this is Ms. Merkel's greatest challenge yet.

Europeans Migrant Crisis Get Worse

EUROPE'S MIGRANT CRISIS NO LONGER DOMINATES THE HEADLINES, but it's still getting worse, according to statistics published this week. [France 24 reports](#):

A year after hundreds of thousands of refugees snaked their way across southeastern Europe and on to global television screens, the roads through the Balkans are now clear, depriving an arguably worsening tragedy of poignant visibility.

Europe's migrant crisis is at the very least numerically worse than it was last year. More people are arriving and more are dying. But the twist is that, compared with last year, a lot of it is out of sight. ...

Many have since reached their destination in northern Europe, but with the borders closed and the European Union now attempting to contain the numbers, thousands are stuck at holding centers in Greece and Italy.

They are not so nearly visible there—nor are the ones

still coming.

According to data from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), arrivals are up 17 percent on last year, stoked mainly by a spike at the start of the year through Greece.

Deaths among those trying to get to Europe, mainly due to drowning, are up more than 15 percent. ...

Some of the mantle of accepting huge migrant flows that was carried by Greece last year and the beginning of this one has been taken up by Italy.

This follows a resurgence of migrant flows from northern Africa. More than 140,000 asylum seekers are now housed in Italian shelters, a sevenfold increase on 2013, with the migrant crisis in its third year. ...

"By outsourcing the responsibility to Turkey and to Greece, European governments are basically saying 'we have solved the crisis because we don't see it, and we can't smell it, and we can't hear it,'" said Gauri van Gulik, deputy

Europe director at Amnesty International.

“The crisis is as big as ever, and as yet unsolved by governments,” she told Reuters.

IOM data says that 258,186 people arrived in Europe by the end of July, compared with 219,854 over the same period in 2015. ...

“It’s absolutely incredible because if you think about the panic this caused last year and the incentive there was to really get some policy changes in place, nothing has happened,” Van Gulik said.

Meanwhile, Damian Linker in the *Week* analyzed some more figures:

That’s why a new Pew Center study of the migrants streaming into Europe is so important, because it transports us beyond the daily drumbeat of sensational headlines to gaze upon the alarming demographic reality confronting the Continent and to extrapolate its likely political end point.

The study is filled with illuminating data—on the national origin of the migrants (the number of asylum seekers coming from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq more than quadrupled between 2013 and 2015); on the leading destinations of asylum seekers (Germany ranks first); on public attitudes toward the EU’s asylum policies (overwhelmingly negative).

But the most ominous numbers can be found in a chart titled “Young Men Make Up 42 Percent of All of Europe’s Asylum Seekers in 2015.” That’s right: 42 percent of first-time asylum seekers in 2015 were men age 18 to 34. And the percentage of asylum seekers who were women in that age cohort? Eleven percent.

That imbalance—much larger in some countries—points to a future in which considerable numbers of young men will find it extremely difficult to find spouses. And that’s a serious problem. As a leading expert on the topic put it a few months ago in an important article for *Politico*:

[S]ocieties with extremely skewed sex ratios are more unstable even without jihadi ideologues in their midst. Numerous empirical studies have shown that sex ratios correlate significantly with violence and property crime—the higher the sex ratio, the worse the crime rate.

When such ideologues *are* around, offering those unmarried, sexually frustrated, economically and culturally alienated young men the prospect of lashing out in vengeance at the world around them in acts of spectacular violence that supposedly contribute to a noble cause—well, let’s just say it’s unlikely to end well.

TW IN BRIEF

German raids against Islamic State supporters: German prosecutors carried out searches on Wednesday linked to three suspected supporters of the Islamic State. A spokeswoman for the Federal Prosecutor General’s office said the three were suspected of having recruited Islamic State group members in Germany. The searches were conducted at five locations, including Duisburg, Dortmund and Duesseldorf. They were said to have been part of a long-running investigation.

Brussels slashing: Belgian authorities are still investigating an attack by a machete-wielding man on two policewomen but are treating the incident as a “terrorist” act, Prime Minister Charles Michel said on Sunday. Speaking at an emergency meeting, he said the attacker’s shouts of “Allahu Akbar”—“Allah is great” in Arabic—as he slashed at the officers outside a police station on Saturday afternoon was a factor in the authorities’ decision. The assailant was fatally shot as he attacked the officers. One of the women was badly wounded in the face.

ASIA

China’s ‘Marshall Plan’ Economic Project

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



A NEW ANALYSIS PREDICTS THAT BEIJING’S EFFORTS TO RESURRECT an ancient trading route spanning from Asia to Europe could leave an economic legacy larger than the Marshall Plan.

Writing for Bloomberg News, Enda Curran explained:

Dubbed ‘*One Belt, One Road*,’ the plan to build rail, highways and ports will embolden China’s soft-power status by

spreading economic prosperity during a time of heightened political uncertainty in both the U.S. and EU, according to Stephen L. Jen, the chief executive officer at Eurizon SLJ Capital Ltd., who estimates a value of \$1.4 trillion for the project.

It will also boost trading links and help internationalize the yuan as banks open branches along the route, according to Jen.

“This is a quintessential example of a geopolitical event that will likely be consequential for the global economy and the balance of political power in the long run,” said Jen, a former International Monetary Fund economist.

Reaching from east to west, the Silk Road Economic Belt will extend to Europe through Central Asia and the Maritime Silk Road will link sea-lanes to Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

While China’s authorities aren’t calling their Silk Road a new Marshall Plan, that’s not stopping comparisons with the U.S. effort to rebuild Western Europe after World War II.

With the potential to touch on 64 countries, 4.4 billion people and around 40 percent of the global economy, Jen estimates that the One Belt, One Road project will be 12 times bigger in absolute dollar terms than the Marshall Plan. China may spend as much as 9 percent of gross domestic product—about double the U.S.’s boost to post-war Europe in those terms.

“The One Belt, One Road project, in terms of its size, could be multiple times larger and more ambitious than the Marshall Plan or the European enlargement,” said Jen.

It’s not all upside. Undertaking an expansive plan like this one will inevitably run the risk of corruption, project delays and local opposition. Chinese-backed projects have frequently run into trouble before, especially in Africa, and there’s no guarantee that potential recipient nations will put their hand up for the aid.

In addition, resurrecting the trading route will need funding during a time of slowing growth and rising bad loans in the nation’s banks. Sending money abroad when it’s needed at home may not have an enduring appeal.

Still, at least China has a plan.

Despite the obstacles and hurdles that would have to be surmounted, the plan remains noteworthy. Jen said, for a nation eager to boost its soft power, it is a win-win: “The fact that this is a 30–40 year plan is remarkable, as China is the only country with any long-term development plan, and this underscores the policy long-termism in China, in contrast to the dominance of policy short-termism in much of the West. ... The One Belt, One Road project could be a huge PR exercise that could win over government and public support in these countries.”

China’s Illegal Militarization of Fake Islands Continues Despite Hague Ruling

SATELLITE IMAGERY PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 11 SHOWS THAT CHINA has been constructing military aircraft hangars on artificial islands in the South China Sea. The finding shows that despite The Hague’s ruling against China’s claims in these disputed islands, Beijing is forging ahead with its militarization of them.

Reuters reported on August 11:

Satellite photographs taken in late July show [China appears to have built reinforced aircraft hangars on its holdings in disputed South China Sea islands](#), a Washington-based research group said.

The hangars on Fiery Cross, Subi and Mischief Reefs in the Spratly Islands have room for any fighter jet in the Chinese Air Force, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) said in a report on the photographs. ...

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which \$5 trillion in shipborne trade passes every year. The

Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have overlapping claims.

The United States has urged China and other claimants not to militarize their holdings in the South China Sea.

CSIS said that apart from a brief visit to Fiery Cross Reef by a military transport plane earlier in the year, “there is no evidence that Beijing has deployed military aircraft to these outposts.”

The rapid construction of the hangars, however, “indicates that this is likely to change.”

One American defense official told Reuters, on the condition of anonymity, that it was not likely that the hangars would be used for civilian aircraft. “It’s not like the hangars are for mail planes; they are likely for jets,” he said. Other structures on the islands include unidentified towers, runways and unidentified hexagonal structures.

TW IN BRIEF

Duterte tells army to destroy Islamist group: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the army to destroy the small but violent Abu Sayyaf Islamist militant group on August 10, saying the Philippines risked being “contaminated” by the Islamic State. The Philippines is a majority Christian state and has been battling rebels from the Muslim minority for decades. Duterte told soldiers at an army base to “destroy them, that’s an order.” He described Abu Sayyaf as terrorists and bandits who kill civilians for no apparent reason and ruled out negotiations. Abu Sayyaf militants, notorious

for extortion, kidnappings and bombings, beheaded two Canadians kidnapped this year from a tourist resort. They recently freed 18 Indonesians and Malaysian tugboat crew members after getting a ransom. Meanwhile, on August 8, Urdaneta City Mayor Amadeo Gregorio Perez IV ordered the clearing of the city of all Muslim residents, giving them three weeks to leave the city as part of his intensified campaign against illegal drugs.

Fifty government officials turn themselves in to Philippine police: Nearly 50 government officials in the Philippines have

surrendered to police after President Rodrigo Duterte gave a speech on Sunday accusing 150 judges, mayors, lawmakers and military personnel of involvement with illegal drug trading. Duterte told the accused they had 24 hours to surrender for investigation or be “hunted” down. Within the 24-hour deadline, ending on Monday, 18 mayors and 31 police officials turned themselves in, among others. Duterte said all those he named would receive due process if they were charged in court. All officials named in the speech were subsequently removed from their positions.

Japanese abdication?: Japan’s emperor expressed concern about fulfilling his duties as he ages in an address to the public Sunday that was remarkable for its rarity. In a 10-minute speech broadcast on national television, the emperor hinted that he may want to step down in a few years. He said, “When I consider my age of over 80, as well as my gradually deteriorating physical condition despite being luckily healthy at this moment, I am concerned about being able to fulfill my duties as a symbol with the utmost efforts, as I have done so far.” That was probably the closest he could come to saying he wants to step down, given restrictions on what he can say as a symbolic monarch with no political power.

Thailand referendum: Thailand woke up Thursday to a new political reality: a new constitution, one that shifts significant authority away from elected representatives and toward unelected officials and bodies. It follows victory for the “Yes” camp in Sunday’s national referendum on the draft charter that was drafted by a commission handpicked by the ruling military junta. Turnout in the referendum was low—just 55 percent. Of those who voted, about 61 percent affirmed the draft constitution. Its authors say the new constitution will cleanse public life of corrupt lawmakers. Critics have warned that it entrenches military power, whilst masking it beneath a thin veneer of democracy. The military placed

heavy restrictions on those campaigning for a no vote.

Hong Kong’s first independence rally: The first pro-independence rally in Hong Kong’s history occurred Friday when at least a thousand people gathered to protest the banning of six pro-independence activists from standing as candidates in the city’s next election. Police security was heavy but remained discreet, as the Hong Kong National Party declared it intended to govern independent of China. A poll taken 12 days earlier revealed that one in six Hong Kongese supported independence from China, although many more believe the Chinese government has been encroaching on the territory’s freedoms. Elections to the city’s legislature will be held in September.

Thailand bombing: Two small bombs exploded on Thursday at a seaside resort in Thailand, leaving at least one person dead and 20 others injured. Thai media said the bombs were hidden in planters on a busy street with open-front bars. The victims include Thais and foreign tourists whose nationalities were not immediately known. The reported fatality was a female street-food vendor. It was not clear who was behind the attack, but the timing suggests it might be an effort to embarrass the military government that took power two years ago.

Russia to build full-fledged Hmeymim military base in Syria: Russian authorities announced Thursday that they would significantly expand a base in Syria into a full-fledged military hub. The Defense Ministry said it would assign extra space for large transport aircraft, and also build barracks, a hospital and extra airfield aprons. The plans also call for artificial hills to be constructed in order to protect warplanes in the event of shelling. Analysts say the announcement indicates that Russia’s commitment to its military campaigns in Syria remains formidable.

ANGLO-AMERICA



The Key That Unlocks the Bible

Gerald Flurry,

The Key of David | August 14

Jesus warned that just before His Second COMING MOST WOULD be deceived. To avoid this fate, you must have the key that unlocks the entire Bible.



Did Decriminalizing Marijuana Cause a Heroin Epidemic?

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



AT THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION LAST MONTH, THE Democratic Party became the first major political party in

United States history to back a path to legalize marijuana in its official party platform. Many Americans believe that providing

drug consumers with a legal option will undermine the profits of criminal drug cartels.

Now that Alaska, Colorado, Oregon, Washington and the District of Columbia have fully legalized recreational marijuana, people are beginning to see the actual effects this policy has on Mexican cartels. Don Winslow at Esquire made an interesting case in [“El Chapo and the Secret History of the Heroin Crisis”](#):

If you wonder why America is in the grips of a heroin epidemic that kills 200 people a week, take a hard look at the legalization of pot, which destroyed the profits of the Mexican cartels. How did they respond to a major loss in revenue? Like any company, they created an irresistible new product and flooded the market.

The Sinaloa Cartel in Mexico has suffered about a 40 percent drop in marijuana sales now that many U.S. consumers have an option to purchase an American product with dramatically lower transport and security costs. Instead of abandoning their life of crime and taking up gainful employment as locksmiths or insurance adjusters, however, Sinaloa drug operatives analyzed the

U.S. market and came up with a new business plan.

Don Winslow continued:

They increased the production of Mexican heroin by almost 70 percent, and also raised the purity level, bringing in Colombian cooks to create “cinnamon” heroin as strong as the East Asian product. They had been selling a product that was about 46 percent pure, now they improved it to 90 percent.

The casualties from this heroin epidemic amount to 200 overdose deaths a week. America’s ravenous appetite for deadly drugs—cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and others—is fueling what the United Nations estimates is a *\$142 billion-a-year business*. Destigmatizing drug use by legalization measures only makes this problem worse. Americans may be able to cut into a cartel’s marijuana profits by providing marijuana to people legally, but such measures don’t stop cartels from selling even more dangerous drugs. Until U.S. consumers conquer their addiction and stop buying drugs, violence and overdose deaths will only get worse.

One in Seven U.S. Households Has a Negative Net Worth

AMERICA’S DEBT PROBLEMS ARE FAR BIGGER THAN MOST PEOPLE realize. Not only is the federal government’s debt swiftly approaching \$20 trillion, but also U.S. households collectively have about \$12 trillion in consumer debt. Shockingly, about 14 percent of Americans have less than a dollar to their name.

Ben Steverman lays out these facts in an August 10 Bloomberg News article titled [“You May Be Broke and Not Know It”](#):

There are really two ways to be poor. Some people just don’t earn much money. Almost 15 percent of Americans, or 47 million people, live below the poverty line, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Then there are the people loaded up with debt. Even people with good jobs can owe so much on credit cards, student loans or mortgages that, on paper, they’re worth less than zero.

About 14 percent of U.S. households fall into this category, with a negative net worth, according to an analysis

this month by the New York Federal Reserve. Add up all their possessions—cash, property, retirement accounts—and subtract all their debts, and one in seven Americans ends up in the red.

Overall, U.S. households have \$12.3 trillion in debt, according to another New York Fed report

It is becoming increasingly common to hear of cases in America where a person drives a new car, lives in a 3,000-square-foot home, owns a large-screen TV, and keeps missing their cable bill because they have no savings. Tens of millions of Americans have borrowed and spent money they do not have. Debt is the biggest reason there are so many poor people. Time after time, studies have shown that it is not how much money you make, but how much money you *spend* that determines your sustainable standard of living. People with bigger salaries tend to finance bigger cars, bigger homes and bigger vacations—with bigger credit cards—and end up in bigger bankruptcies.

TW IN BRIEF

U.S. wildfires: Smoke plumes rising from flaming ridges of the San Bernardino Mountains blew all the way across the Mojave Desert to Las Vegas, as California’s latest big wildfire forced the evacuation of hundreds of homes and threatened thousands more. Hundreds of firefighters, aided by 16 aircraft, battled flames that spread across nearly 10 square miles on the northern side of the rugged mountain range east of Los Angeles. People in some 375 homes were ordered to evacuate. About 5,000 more

homes were advised that they might want to evacuate, authorities said. The fire, which erupted for an unknown reason Sunday, was just 6 percent contained.

Chicago gangs plot to kill police: Three Chicago gangs reportedly met last Thursday to plot attacks against police in response to the July 28 shooting death of a black teenager. According to the *Chicago Sun Times*, the Four Corner Hustlers

gang has provided guns to the Vice Lords and the Black Disciples and also planted a sniper somewhere in the city. The looming threat of gang violence against police follows the death of James O'Neal, an 18-year-old who rammed a police car head-on in a stolen vehicle. O'Neal then fled the vehicle and entered the backyard of a nearby house, where he was shot and killed. The officers who shot at O'Neal were stripped of their police powers because department policy mostly prohibits shooting at a vehicle if it is the only threat to officers.

Canada attack foiled: A Canadian man previously banned from associating with Islamic State extremists has been killed, as Canada's national police force thwarted what they believed was a suicide bomb plot. The suspect allegedly planned to carry out a suicide bombing in a public area, a senior Canadian police official said late Wednesday. The official identified the suspect as Aaron Driver, a man in his mid-20s originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba. Driver had been under the spotlight for at least a year, as authorities believed he wanted to help terror groups. The police operation involving Driver took place Wednesday night in the southern Ontario town of Strathroy, 140 miles southwest of Toronto.

NASA study—Venus could have once been habitable: The planet Venus may once have had a shallow liquid-water ocean and habitable surface temperatures, according to a NASA study published this week in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*. That's very different from present-day Venus, where the surface temperature is 864 degrees Fahrenheit—literally hot enough to melt lead. Measurements by NASA's Pioneer mission to Venus in

the 1980s first suggested the possibility that Venus once had an ocean. The NASA study published this week relied on a computer model to simulate how the planet's early ocean evaporated into water vapor molecules, which were broken apart by ultraviolet radiation to create carbon dioxide clouds that choked the Venusian atmosphere today. This study was part of NASA's **Planetary Science Astrobiology program**.

100 people shot in Chicago this week: Ninety-nine people were shot in Chicago between last Friday afternoon and Thursday morning. This pushes the total number of shooting victims in Chicago up to 2,500 so far this year—about 800 more than this time last year. At least nine people were killed on Monday alone, the deadliest day in Chicago in 13 years, according to data kept by the *Chicago Tribune*. The city has not seen this level of violence since the 1990s. While the U.S. murder rate last year hit the lowest level since 1966 nationwide, the murder rate in many major U.S. cities is rising.

Canadians can grow their own marijuana: On Thursday, Health Canada announced registered patients will be allowed to grow their own cannabis for medical purposes. The new rules, which go into effect August 24, will allow patients to grow a limited amount of cannabis themselves, or ask someone to do it for them. Individuals must first submit an application to register, and then go through a background check ensuring they've had no drug offenses in the last 10 years. The amount of cannabis a patient can grow will be determined by how much they have been prescribed.



Make God Real!

Stephen Flurry,
Trumpet Daily | August 12

Prayerfully study Mystery of the Ages along with your Bible—and get to know your heavenly Father.

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