

Trumpet Weekly

AUGUST 26, 2016



A Syrian medic treats a man wounded during reported air raids that targeted rebel-held areas in Aleppo on August 16.

Russia and Iran: The Middle East ‘Axis of Evil’

Callum Wood | August 22

SYRIA'S REBEL-HELD CITY OF ALEPPO AND THE IDLIB AND DEIR al-Zour provinces were hit hard on August 16. Unlike air strikes of the past, the payloads dropped from the Russian Tupolev-22M3 long-range bombers were particularly potent. The *New York Times* quoted a radiologist in Aleppo who said the bombings on that day were “intensive and massive.”

Flanked by Su-34 tactical bombers, the long-range Tu-22M3s dropped larger-than-usual payloads on targets that, according to the Russian Ministry of Defense, included five ammunition dumps, three command posts, training camps and militants from both the Islamic State and Jabat al-Nusra.

The bombings signified [a historic turning point in the Middle East](#), not for their ferocity, but because of where the planes came from. Ordinarily the long-range bombers take off and land in Russia—being too large for Syrian air fields. But on August 16, the bombers flew from Iran.

For the first time since the 1979 Iranian Revolution, Iran allowed a foreign power to operate from one of its air bases. The bombers are now stationed at Hamadan air field in the northwest of the country.

Not even in the days of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi did the United States have the ability to conduct sorties out of Iran. The

shah rebuffed most U.S. efforts to be more involved. Following his overthrow, American influence plummeted even further.

Yet 37 years after the revolution, Russia is making headlines as the first nation to be granted such access.

No doubt the allowance comes at a cost. While details are hazy, many analysts believe that Iran would require some financial kickbacks from Russia, even though the bombers are serving Iran's interests in Syria.

Aside from providing finances, the deal sends a message: It reaffirms Iran's commitment to keeping the Syrian regime afloat. Iran is willing to do away with deep-seated ideals on national freedoms and security in exchange for a unified front against its enemies in the region.

In particular, the move strikes at the Saudi-led Sunni nations that currently oppose Syrian President Bashar Assad. By accommodating Russian bombers, Iran deepens the Sunni-Shiite divide, and exposes who Russia is really fighting for.

By working with Russia, Iran proves the two nations are walking in tandem—at least in Syria.

Iran's goal has always been the preservation of the Assad regime. Russia, however, has thinly veiled its ambitions by saying it is targeting the Islamic State (never mind that this serves Assad's purposes). But working alongside Iran on a historically intimate level shows that the three nations are in cahoots.

The united front is a formidable demonstration of power and influence. By contrast, U.S. reluctance to get involved and the squabbling among rebel groups show the disunity of those opposed to Assad's reign.

Time called the bombing run the crossing of a "threshold." It also said that the U.S. now faces a new "axis of evil in the Middle East: Syria, Iran and Russia."

Russian-Iranian actions were more political than militaristic. True, Russian bombers can now fly more often and carry larger payloads—the trip has been cut from 1,200 miles to 400. But more importantly, the deal clearly emphasizes the reach and influence of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Skies that were once filled with U.S. weaponry are now open to Russian jets crisscrossing from Iran to Syria. The sway of battle in Syria is no longer the prerogative of America, but Russia. Iran, the nation that U.S. President Barack Obama has sought to cozy up to over the course of his presidency, now breaks from multi-decade-long norms to accommodate the wishes of Russia, not America!

For Putin, the ability to operate out of Iran is a major political victory. As the Kremlin attempts to establish itself as a viable alternative to America, this deal speaks volumes.

The partnership builds on preexisting foundations of a military alliance. Russia has sold and delivered the infamous S-300 air defense missile system to Iran. Last year, the two nations signed a military cooperation deal that focused on training and waging war on terrorists. According to various reports, Russia requested and received permission to use Iranian airspace for cruise missiles fired from the Caspian Sea and targeting rebels in Syria. Putin's top Middle East envoy recently visited Iran for discussion on Syrian and other Middle Eastern issues.

Moscow and Tehran have steadily worked toward full military cooperation. Their soldiers have fought and trained in the same theaters of war, but now the cooperation is reaching historic

levels. They have crossed the threshold, presenting an increasingly unified front to their opponents.

Where the U.S. has withdrawn from Middle East conflicts, Russia has been more than willing to step in. In Syria, Russia has committed tanks, artillery and combat aircraft, not to mention a new air base in Latakia. With a broader goal of replacing America as the regional power, Russia doesn't want to see a U.S. reappearance in the Middle East. Military partnerships with Iran help deter such a return.

Joint U.S.-Russo efforts in Syria have been slow to flourish. Russia's support of Assad has been a major stumbling block. America doesn't want to be seen actively supporting the dictator it called upon to step down. Now with Russia working so intimately with Iran, the likelihood of a U.S. partnership dwindles further.

It was only the day before the bombings that Russian officials claimed a deal with Washington over the Syrian civil war was close. Then all of a sudden, the Kremlin was operating out of Iran—all but sinking chances of forming a meaningful coalition with America.

With so many regional enemies now intimately involved in Syria under the guise of "defeating the Islamic State," there is little way America can be more involved without looking like it is supporting Assad, Russia or Iran.

Trumpet writer Richard Palmer wrote in June: "If you were to sum up one of Russia's main foreign-policy strategies in just a few words, it would be: attack America's prestige. In a way, it is astonishing that Russia is winning in this. California alone has a bigger economy than the whole of Russia. Put California and Texas together and you have an economy twice the size of Russia's. If you just look at the numbers, Russia should not be able to dent U.S. prestige.

"But it can, and it is. And in diminishing America's prestige and reputation, it is in reality decreasing America's power."

Palmer's article was penned in response to Russia bombing U.S. allies in Syria despite the presence of U.S. fighter jets. America had two aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean at the time but was unable to prevent Russia's attacks.

Time and again, Russia has outmaneuvered America in and around Syria. The historic agreement between Iran and Russia shows that this outfoxing is spreading across the broader Middle East.

How long will it be before the Russo-Iranian axis squeezes America out entirely? Russian weapons are defeating U.S. allies in Syria. Iranian militias are doing a great deal of the fighting in Iraq. Hezbollah still controls southern Lebanon. Tehran is empowered by the disastrous P5+1 nuclear deal and is also armed with Russian weaponry. Now we see Russian bombers stationed in Iran.

On top of this, China—another enemy of the West—has recently become involved in Syria, seeking closer military ties with the Assad regime!

What is happening to American influence in the region? It is shattered.

In Leviticus 26:19, God warns America that disobedience has one outcome: "I will break the pride of your power." America, the most powerful nation on Earth, is currently being broken in the Middle East.

God also promises that America's "strength shall be spent in vain." Isn't U.S. prestige in the Middle East the very epitome of that statement? Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq showed the incredible power of the U.S. military. But what has it achieved? Enemies

of the West now exert their influence over these regions and vie for control of lands where coalition forces once spent trillions of dollars and decades of fighting. Hundreds of lives were sacrificed along the way.

There is coming a time when “[t]hey have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; but none goeth to the battle: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof” (Ezekiel 7:14).

America won’t go to war. It will be defunct, defeated. A terrible end to a once great nation.

But must we experience these terrible times ourselves? Are you and I destined to suffer through the traumatic days prophesied in Ezekiel, Daniel and elsewhere in your Bible?

The hope-filled and inspiring answer is a resounding “No!”

Remember, God is bringing these terrible times on the world

to wake up mankind! Man refuses to listen to his Creator. Nations that once founded their constitutions on God’s law now scoff at His warnings. It is little wonder God must forcibly awaken our nations, even if it means empowering others like Russia and Iran.

But you are reading this article. You are listening today. God does offer safety from these calamities ahead. He promises safety that no Russian or American power can provide. But it takes effort on our part; it takes action.

Be sure to go back through our website. Look through our free literature, articles, television and radio programs. Nowhere else can you find such a library of hope, education and training. The understanding we need to help avoid the dark days ahead is right at our fingertips. We just need to heed it.

 Follow [Callum Wood](#)

MIDDLE EAST

TrumpetDaily

RADIO SHOW

[THE FATHER EFFECT | AUGUST 26](#)

[ENABLING THE KING OF THE SOUTH—WHY BARACK OBAMA NEVER WANTED REGIME CHANGE IN IRAN | AUGUST 25](#)

[THE JANUARY 16 WARNING, PLUS ONE FORGOTTEN CHARACTERISTIC OF A LOVING GOD | AUGUST 24](#)

[THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES AND THE FATHER’S INDISPENSABLE ROLE IN THE HOME | AUGUST 23](#)

[RUSSIA’S RISE, THE AYATOLLAH’S BIG VICTORY AND CHINA’S FIRST MILITARY OUTPOST | AUGUST 22](#)

Israel Strikes Gaza

ISRAEL CONDUCTED DOZENS OF STRIKES ON TARGETS IN THE GAZA Strip on Sunday in response to a rocket fired from Gaza. Israel’s response triggered a war of words with Turkey, which voted the previous day to normalize ties with Israel.

Times of Israel reported on August 22:

The Israel Air Force conducted 50 air strikes against Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip late Sunday night, following a rocket fired into Israel by Palestinian terrorists earlier that day, but was not seeking an escalation in hostilities

Palestinian security sources in Gaza said several targets in the northern Strip were struck by Israeli fire, and that a reservoir in Beit Hanoun was damaged. Israel also hit a base belonging to Hamas’s military wing, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, in nearby Beit Lahiya, witnesses said. Palestinian health and security sources said between two and five people were lightly wounded by Israel’s retaliatory fire.

This was the second Israeli bombardment of the day. Immediately following the rocket attack from the Gaza

Strip on Sunday afternoon, Israeli aircraft and tanks also targeted Hamas installations in the northern Gaza Strip.

After the late-night air strikes, the Islamist Hamas rulers of the Gaza Strip blamed Israel for escalating tensions in the Palestinian enclave.

“The escalation shows Israel’s desire to change the status quo in the Gaza Strip,” Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said Sunday night.

“We hold Israel responsible for the escalation in the Gaza Strip, and we stress that its aggression will not succeed in breaking the will of our people or dictate the terms of resistance,” Zuhri said. The Hamas spokesman was speaking hours after the terror group paraded missiles through the streets and threatened renewed violence against Israel. ...

The response marks the most intense Israeli reprisal attack on Gaza since the sides fought a bloody war in 2014 and could signal a shift in policy by newly installed Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman.

The rocket fire was claimed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and other small Islamic

State-linked Salafist groups, but Israel says it holds Hamas—the Strip's de facto rulers—responsible for any

attacks emanating from Gaza and routinely responds to such launches with strikes against the terror organization.

Iran and Turkey: Befriending Russia with Caution

HOW SUSTAINABLE IS RUSSIA'S FRIENDSHIP WITH TURKEY AND Russia's friendship with Turkey's enemy, Iran? In his Geopolitical Futures article "[Turkey and Iran's Problems with Russia as an Ally](#)," George Friedman attempted to answer that question. He wrote on Thursday:

Iran has kept its independence for centuries, fending off two threats. One was Turkey, in its Ottoman guise. The other was Russia, both the empire and the Soviet phase. ... Iran remained extremely cautious about Soviet designs, particularly in the early phase of the Islamic Republic. It remembered its long history with Russia. As for Turkey, it was weak in this period and didn't present a threat. Iran was hostile to the United States and cautious about Russia. ...

The [Iranian] government, which negotiated the [nuclear] deal, saw Russia as more dangerous to Iran in the long term, simply because the United States was far away and Russia was very near. To force the situation, someone in the Iranian government gave the Russians permission to use Hamedan Air Base for strikes against Syria. They apparently did not tell a wide range of people in the government that this was going on. ... When the news broke, the flights were stopped cold. Since then, a political battle has raged in Tehran that has multiple dimensions, including a clash over who is actually in charge.

But at the heart of this infighting is a question over how to align Iran's foreign policy. Turkey is rising. Russia is engaged in the region. Both of them are potential threats. ...

In the meantime, Turkey has again flipped its position, leaving Iranian supporters of a trilateral

[Russia-Iran-Turkey] alliance swinging in the breeze. Since the coup, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan appeared to have forged an unbreakable relationship. Two things indicated that it was not as unbreakable as the Russians might have hoped. One was the fact that the Russians were supporting Syrian President Bashar Assad, and the Turks were his enemy. After much tap dancing, it became clear that Turkey was not going to shift to Russia's position on Assad, and therefore a fundamental rift existed between Turkey and Russia. The second indicator was that Turkey continued to allow the United States to use Incirlik Air Base, with only a few hours' interruption during the coup. The Russians, after some discussion, were denied access to the base. That indicated that whatever the rhetoric or gestures, Turkey was not planning a deep break with the United States.

[On August 25,] Turkish troops moved into Syria. About 20 tanks moved a few kilometers into Syria, accompanied by some special forces. There were air strikes and some artillery shelling. In the general scheme of things, it was a minor move, but was a move carried out in coordination with the United States and not with Russia. There followed a news conference with [U.S. Vice President Joe] Biden and Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim, and the special relationship between Russia and Turkey seems to have lasted about a month.

The Turks' problem is the same as the Iranians' problem. ...

For the moment, Russia seems to have lost its leverage in both Turkey and Iran.

TW IN BRIEF

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



Turkey targeting Islamic State: Turkey's military and United States-backed coalition forces launched a large operation to clear a Syrian border town from Islamic State militants on Wednesday. The operation began hours after Turkey indicated it would step up its engagement in Syria. Turkish artillery launched intensive fire on Jarabulus, and Turkish warplanes bombed Islamic State targets in the town. A dozen Turkish tanks have rolled across the Syrian border after heavy shelling of an area held by the Islamic State. Military sources told Turkish media 70 targets in the Jarabulus area had been destroyed by artillery and rocket strikes, and 12 by air strikes. Turkish special forces entered Syria earlier as part of the offensive. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said the operation was aimed against both Islamic State and Kurdish fighters.

Terror at wedding in southeast Turkey: A suicide bomber about 12 to 14 years old attacked a Kurdish wedding party in southeastern Turkey on Saturday. Fifty-one people died from the explosion, and dozens more were injured. Twenty-two of the victims were reportedly under the age of 14. One of the victims was a 3-month-old baby. The attack took place in the city of Gaziantep. The pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party said the wedding party was for one of its members. The groom was among those injured, but the bride was not hurt. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan blamed the Islamic State for the bombing.

Weapons bust in West Bank: Israel uncovered an illegal Palestinian weapons-manufacturing network during an operation in the West Bank. Israel Defense Forces officials made the announcement on Tuesday following an overnight raid in Hebron and Bethlehem. It was the largest raid since Israel began cracking

down on weapon manufacturers and dealers months ago. The raid found seven weapons factories, 22 weapons-making machines and dozens of arms. Since the beginning of the year, Israel has uncovered 29 weapons factories, 49 weapons-making machines and more than 300 firearms. More than 140 alleged arms dealers and manufacturers have been arrested during this time.

Libya makes gains on the Islamic State: A group of Libyan pro-government fighters made progress on Monday in their

fight for Sirte, a coastal city held by the Islamic State, by seizing the city's main mosque and a jail run by the militant's morality police. The fighters have been working to take back Sirte since June. Before the fighting began, estimates of the strength of the Islamic State ranged from three to 6,000 fighters. According to Libyan officials, pro-government forces have taken back 70 percent of the city. At least nine government fighters were killed and 85 wounded since the surge began over the weekend.

EUROPE

Trumpet Hour

FRANCE IN YEMEN, AMERICA'S ASSIST TO THE AYATOLLAH, TURKEY IN SYRIA, SOLOGAMY, AND MUCH MORE | AUGUST 26

DANGERS OF WORLD TRADE SLOWDOWN, THE CAUSE OF INCREASE DRUG OVERDOSES, ARCHAEOLOGY PROVES THE BIBLE, AND MORE | AUGUST 24

French Troops in Yemen?

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



FRANCE MAY BE SUPPORTING SAUDI ARABIA IN ITS WAR AGAINST IRANIAN-BACKED HOUTHIS IN YEMEN. Chris Biggers wrote in his War Is Boring article "[France Is at War in Yemen, Photos Indicate](#)":

Satellite imagery suggests that French war matériel, if not French personnel, is supporting the Saudi-led war in Yemen. If confirmed, it represents a previously unreported escalation of French support.

The satellite imagery, some of which Google Earth published recently, shows two unique hangars deployed on an expanded parking apron at the Eritrean airport of Assab. The hangars match those of other known French deployments.

How they ended up at the airport remains an interesting question. Given recent developments between France and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries, it appears France is deepening its relationship with the region in a substantive way.

In 2015, Saudi Arabia launched a military intervention in Yemen after the Houthi rebels forced Western-backed president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi from the capital of Sanaa.

Despite numerous groups vying for influence—notably al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and ISIS affiliates—the Iranian-backed Shia movement remains the greatest threat to the regional power.

In response, the kingdom enlisted a coalition of states including GCC members, particularly the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar. Other states including Egypt, Jordan and Sudan also sent military support while the United States provided aerial refueling tankers and intelligence for targeting. ...

Since Yemen operations began, France announced political support for the Saudi coalition as early as April 2015

when Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius met with his Saudi counterpart.

The following month, French President François Hollande attended the GCC-France summit and launched a strategic partnership with the group. During his speech, Hollande made several statements that reinforced France's political commitments to the coalition, while others suggested the French head of state was prepared to extend military support.

"France was and will always be your friend," Hollande said. "It is determined to remain a strong, credible and reliable ally and partner. We are faithful to our friends and to our commitments. France never hesitates to do the right thing, even if it is military action."

Despite the speech, no reports mention French troops supporting the conflict. Nevertheless, there are telltale signs that the two may be working more closely than previously believed. For example, in March 2016, Hollande extended the country's highest honor, the Legion of Honor, to the Saudi crown prince in a low-key event at the Palais de l'Élysée.

While downplayed in the French press, the Saudi Press Agency reported that parties "reviewed bilateral relations ... and ways of enhancing and developing them in all fields, particularly joint cooperation for combating extremism and terrorism."

While the statement remains vague, it hints at a deepening relationship and a growing strategic relevance for the Western European country, one moving beyond the mere supply of arms.

If France is helping the Saudi coalition, it would not be the first time French troops deployed in secret. During Operation Serval, the French military intervention in Mali,

French troops were on the ground prepping the battlefield from neighboring Niger well before operations publicly commenced. ...

More recently, the death of three French soldiers in the downing of their helicopter by local militants in Libya put a spotlight on France's role in that country. Prior to the event, observers of the conflict noted signs of a French presence

at Benina airport.

The *Trumpet* has long forecast an alliance between European nations and anti-Iran Sunni Arab states. French involvement in Yemen alongside a Sunni Arab confederation is further proof that this alliance is taking shape. For more detail, read our article "[Do Not Ignore Saudi Arabia's Islamic Military Alliance](#)."

Yet More Calls for European Army

CZECH PRIME MINISTER BOHUSLAV SOBOTKA SAID AT A GATHERING of Czech diplomats on Monday that the European Union needs to form a joint military force. "I'm convinced that we can't do without a common European army in the long term," he said. "I hope that the autumn European summit will bring concrete proposals and pledges." The *Times* of London wrote:

Britain's impending exit from the EU has prompted fresh calls to begin the march towards a common EU army.

Also fueling the revival of the long-held federalist dream is the aggressive stance adopted by Russia in recent years, the threat of Islamist terrorist infiltration and pressure on the EU's external borders from an unprecedented number of migrants.

A push to put the concept of a common army on the agenda of the EU summit in October has come from the normally euroskeptic Czech Republic. Bohuslav Sobotka, the prime minister, issued the appeal at an annual gathering of Czech diplomats in Prague—shortly after Angela Merkel, the chancellor of Germany, President [François] Hollande of France and Matteo Renzi, the prime minister of Italy, had met on an Italian aircraft carrier off Naples in a display of unity.

Mr. Sobotka said: "In the face of uncontrolled mass migration, even states in the center of Europe have realized that internal borders must be better controlled. Aside from better coordinated foreign and security policy, I also believe that in the long term we will be unable to do without a joint European army. I hope that the autumn European summit will bring concrete proposals and pledges." ...

The call comes at a moment of transition for the EU, with the departure of Britain and the search for projects that can show that the organization can respond to the challenges of the 21st century. Security and defense are at the top of the agenda as the EU prepares to relaunch itself at the 70th anniversary celebrations in Rome next March.

Britain has long been a brake on federalist ambitions to combine Europe's armed forces, partly because of fears

that this would undermine NATO.

Chancellor Merkel also discussed Europe's need for an army when she met with her French and Italian allies on the aircraft carrier. In "[EU Summit: Europe 'Must Work Closer on Defense' After Brexit](#)," the *Telegraph* wrote:

The German chancellor, who is known to back deeper EU defense plans, called for more sharing of information between European intelligence services to thwart the kind of attacks that have hit her country, France and Belgium.

"We feel that faced with Islamist terrorism and in light of the civil war in Syria, that we need to do more for our internal and external security," Ms. Merkel said. EU countries needed to continue to cooperate in their fight against the smuggling of migrants across the Mediterranean and to protect Europe's external borders.

President Hollande also called for greater cooperation on defense, as France comes to terms with a string of terrorist attacks in recent months. "Europe must ensure its own defense, and France is certainly playing its role," the French leader said.

"I also insisted on defense, because we want to ensure that there is greater coordination there, extra means and forces." Plans to press ahead with a so-called "EU army" will be easier now that the UK has decided to leave the bloc, a former head of the Italian military said.

Gen. Vincenzo Camporini, former chief of the general staff, said the British thwarted a common defense policy for Europe [for] years. "Every step forward was blocked [by the British].

"The British position was crucial—everyone knew that without London, you couldn't even begin to talk about a common European defense policy," he told *La Repubblica* newspaper.

Mr. Renzi echoed the call for deeper defenses, while adding that Europe would not suffer from Britain's departure as many had predicted after the June 23 vote to leave.

Germany Could Revive Conscription

GERMANY MAY BE PREPARING TO BRING BACK CONSCRIPTION IN the case of an emergency. The German government is discussing ways to quickly bring it back, according to a report in

Spiegel published August 22 titled "[Federal Government: Civil Protection Concept Makes Activation of Conscription](#)." The report states (*Trumpet* translation):

Conscription in Germany is only suspended, but it can quickly be reactivated. The practical consequences that would follow in the case of a disaster or an attack are now being discussed in a new civil-defense concept.

How will Germany change in case of a catastrophe? What happens in the case of an attack? How can people be protected, equip themselves? And what steps will the government take? The new civil-defense concept, which the Cabinet intends to adopt on Wednesday, answers those questions.

The draft of the new civil-defense concept also briefly discusses what would happen should the military service, which was suspended five years ago, be reactivated. The

statement, found in a sub-point ..., discusses civilian “support of the troops” in the event that Germany must defend, in NATO missions, the alliance’s external borders.

The suspension of conscription by former Defense Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg helped speed the transition of the German Army from a force designed to put as many men as possible in the way of Soviet tanks, to a skilled, professional army adept at intervening overseas. But these discussions show that Germany’s leaders are worried about a crisis and are considering ways to rapidly increase the size of their army in an emergency.

EU Tax Imperialism

THE UNITED STATES TREASURY ACCUSED THE EUROPEAN UNION of trying to establish a “supranational tax authority” in a paper published August 24, noting the EU’s continual attacks on American companies. [Open Europe](#) summarized the news writing:

The U.S. Treasury yesterday issued a sharp attack on the EU suggesting that its recent “shift in approach” on cracking down on multinationals’ tax was aimed at turning the EU’s competition authority into a “supranational tax authority.” Specifically, it said EU tax rulings “should not be applied retroactively” and that doing so is “inconsistent

with EU legal principles.” It also argued that by not using standard [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development] approaches the EU “undermine the international consensus on transfer pricing standards.” The paper does not elaborate on previous concerns expressed that the EU is specifically targeting U.S. firms but says it “remains concerned about this possibility..

The EU’s aggressive approach here is part of its growing attempts to write the rules for global commerce. For more what the EU is doing, read *Trumpet* writer Brad Macdonald’s article [“Bending the World to Its Rules.”](#)

TW IN BRIEF

EU signs deal to train Libyan Coast Guard: European Union officials signed an agreement on August 23 to train Libya’s Coast Guard. Training will begin on a European ship in international waters. It will then move on land—either in Libya or in a EU member state. The final phase will see European trainers aboard Libyan ships. The agreement was signed with Libya’s Tripoli-based Government of National Accord—just one faction of many trying to take over the country. It is backed by French special forces and benefits from an arms embargo against its rivals.

German public to be warned to stock food: For the first time since the end of the Cold War, the German government plans to tell citizens to stockpile food and water in case of an attack or catastrophe, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung* newspaper reported on Sunday. Germany is currently on high alert after a number of attacks last month. Berlin announced measures earlier this month to spend considerably more on its police and security forces and to create a special unit to counter cybercrime and terrorism. The newspaper, quoting the government’s Concept for Civil Defense prepared by the Interior Ministry, stated that “the population will be obliged to hold an individual supply of food for 10 days.”

ASIA

Evidence That North Korea’s Internal Propaganda Is Faltering

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



MANY OF NORTH KOREA’S ADOLESCENTS ARE NO LONGER BRIMMING with the patriotic zeal their leaders indoctrinate them with from the earliest ages. And, despite the propaganda they are bombarded with, many understand that their repressive country is less affluent than its neighbors and the Western world.

On August 26, Chosun.com explained:

Young North Korean defectors say the tendency is particularly conspicuous in the border towns with China, where people can easily get their hands on South Korean and Chinese TV shows and watch them clandestinely. ...

Negative perceptions of their own country are even more marked among the children of party officials and other wealthy people, who have a little more information about the

outside world, according to one government official here.

Increasingly, the children of North Korean officials who are sent abroad refuse to come back, and their parents have to try and convince them that if they study hard they too may land a job in the Foreign Ministry and go abroad again. But it is a long shot, and the recent defection of the London embassy's No. 2 man shows that concerns for their children can outweigh loyalty to the regime. ...

Parents not only have to train their kids to keep their mouths shut, but also save up money to bribe teachers to ensure that their children get into the top universities. ...

Again and again, elite defectors tell South Korean interviewers that they decided to leave when they realized that their children have no future in the North. The regime is alarmed and has increased crackdowns on morale-sapping foreign media and bolstered ideological training, but to little effect.

"The disillusionment and discontent felt by North Korean

teens is by now too strong to suppress," one source says.

A crackdown in Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province in February of this year led to the arrests of around a dozen teens for watching foreign media. They were sent to reeducation camps, and their parents were sent into internal exile.

The regime is meeting this disillusionment with an increased push of the same old message: *North Korea is paradise. It's better than any country on Earth. Outside of North Korea, there is nothing of any real value. People in other countries are savages, backward, evil and far poorer than you. Your leader is a god, and, in fact, he is the only god in the universe. You should worship him and bow to him. He has only your well being in mind.*

On Friday, the government is commanding North Korean youth to hold a massive pro-regime rally. It marks the first such event in 23 years, and 50,000 young people were told last month that they are expected to participate. But for those who are disillusioned, Chosun.com says, "the event is just making things worse"

Russia, China, Iran, Turkey and the 'New Dictators' Club'

THE EMERGING PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN RUSSIA, CHINA, IRAN and Turkey should be a source of concern for Western powers. In the budding alliance, there are eerie echoes of the 1930s.

Writing for the *Wall Street Journal* on August 22, Bret Stephens explains:

In the fall of 1940, the governments of Japan, Italy and Germany—bitter enemies in World War I—signed the Tripartite Pact, pledging mutual support to "establish and maintain a new order of things" in Europe and Asia. Within five years, 70 million people would be killed in the effort to build, and then destroy, that new order.

The Pact was the culminating act in a series of nonaggression, friendship and neutrality treaties signed by the dictatorships of the day, sometimes to deceive anxious democracies but more often to divvy up the anticipated spoils of conquest. So it's worth noting our new era of cooperation between dictatorships—and to think about where it could lead.

From there, Stephens traces the recent history of partnership between several notable modern authoritarian nations:

The era began in July 2015, when Iran's Quds Force Cmdr. Qassem Suleimani paid a visit to Moscow to propose a plan to save Bashar Assad's regime in Syria from collapse. Iran and Russia are not natural allies, even if they have a common client in Damascus. ... But what tipped the scales in favor of a joint operation was a shared desire to humiliate the U.S. and kick it out of the Middle East. ...

The two countries have also conducted joint naval exercises in the Caspian Sea. Just last week Russia used Iranian air bases (a little too publicly for Tehran's taste) to conduct bombing raids on Syria.

All this is happening as the nuclear deal was supposed to

be nudging Iran in a more pro-American direction. It's also happening as Moscow and Ankara are moving toward rapprochement and even a possible alliance

... Would Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan forfeit a U.S. alliance for the sake of a condominium with Russia, his country's historic enemy? The real marvel is that it hasn't happened already. Washington first proved useless to Ankara by failing to depose Mr. Assad. It's again proving useless by failing to destroy Islamic State.

China also factors heavily in the equation because of its shared desire to reduce the power of the United States. Stephens continues:

On Monday, a Russian military spokesman announced that his country's Pacific fleet would conduct joint operations with the Chinese Navy in the South China Sea. ... Mr. Putin's relations with Beijing haven't always been smooth—China is as adept at stealing Russian military technology as it is at hacking U.S. secrets But the drills ... are another reminder that the Kremlin's overriding foreign-policy goal is to hobble and diminish the U.S. It's a goal Beijing appears to share. ...

Perhaps it's in every strongman's nature to seek and admire his political reflection wherever he finds it, whether it's in a czar, an ayatollah, a sultan or a general secretary. Then again, what mainly unites the leaders of the new dictators' club is the shared perception that they stand to lose very little in working against a country they detest and a president they condemn.

That's a perception that is unlikely to change with the next U.S. administration. Readers searching for historical analogies with the present would be wrong to reach for the Tripartite Pact. But the ingredients from which that foul soup was made have now been laid on the table.

China's Theft of U.S. Weapons Revealed in Florida

THROUGH A FLORIDA-BASED SPY, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT tried to secretly procure a Reaper drone and United States fighter jet engines for purposes of reverse engineering. An August 24 report in the *Washington Free Beacon* states:

A Chinese-born woman, Wenxia Man, was sentenced to 50 months in prison on Friday following her conviction for conspiracy to export restricted American defense articles, namely engines for F-35, F-22 and F-16 jets, and the Reaper, a front-line unmanned aerial vehicle used by the military and intelligence agencies.

Court papers in the case stated that Man, a naturalized U.S. citizen residing in California who is also known as Wency Man, worked with a Chinese government procurement agent, Xincheng Zhang, in trying to purchase the military items. The Chinese planned to reverse-engineer the U.S. military goods to avoid the costs and time required for indigenous development. Zhang operated from China and remains out of reach of prosecutors.

Michael Walleisa, assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, asked the judge to impose the maximum sentence of 78 months for the weapons conspiracy conviction.

"There is hardly a more serious case than a case such as this that involves some of our most sophisticated fighter jet engines and unmanned weaponized aerial drones," Walleisa said in a sentencing memorandum.

"The potential for harm to the safety of our fighter pilots, military personnel, and national security which would occur had the defendant been successful is immeasurable, particularly where, as here the clear intent of the co-conspirators was to enable the People's Republic of China to reverse engineer the defense articles and manufacture fighter jets and [unarmed aerial vehicles]."

The conspiracy revealed that China was seeking to "increase its military capabilities and might to the potential detriment of the United States," Walleisa said.

In May 2013, after what was probably the largest breach of American military secrets in history, the *Trumpet* wrote:

China's involvement in attacking and stealing from American corporations came to light in February The U.S. is afraid to respond forcefully. The thefts are not even big news anymore because China has been stealing from America for years. ... America's defense systems are becoming more and more compromised. ... However, China likely will *not* deliver the knockout punch. Such a crippling attack will most likely come from Germany and the soon-coming United States of Europe. ... Bible prophecy reveals this will lead to another world war. But it does mean that we are one step closer to Jesus Christ's return. For more information, read [Russia and China in Prophecy](#).

TW IN BRIEF

North Korea's 'great success' submarine nuke launch: North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said Thursday that his country had achieved the "greatest success" in launching a missile from a submarine, saying it effectively gave the country a fully equipped nuclear attack capability and put the United States mainland within striking distance. Kim's comments came a day after South Korean officials said a ballistic missile fired from a North Korean submarine was tracked flying about 500 kilometers, or 310 miles, the longest distance achieved by the North for such a weapon.

The Philippines reveals nearly 2,000 dead in drug crackdown: The Philippines national police chief presented a report to a Senate hearing late Tuesday, detailing the results of President Rodrigo Duterte's crackdown on drug crime. He said a total of 756 people were killed by police during a seven-week operation beginning July 1 that has been dubbed "Double Barrel." An additional 1,160 people were killed by what police suggested are vigilantes. One American expert said that tolerance for such a large body count was inconceivable in the West, where all police killings are intensely scrutinized. Despite the killings, the operation has the backing of the public, which has suffered under high crime rates for years.

AFRICA /LATIN AMERICA

Javad Zarif's Whirlwind Tour of Latin America

UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES SAID THERE ARE CONCERNS that Iran is solidifying its foothold in Latin America. This follows Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif's Latin American tour, which began on Sunday. Zarif began his

tour in Cuba where he said that the two countries are united by the common goal of resisting the U.S. Zarif said Iran "has always shown that we can win through resistance."

Washington Free Beacon warned that Iran was "expanding [its]

terror network in Latin America.” It wrote:

One senior congressional source ... said to the *Washington Free Beacon* that Iran is seeking to recruit “potential terrorists who want to cause the U.S. harm.”

Increased ties between Iran and these Latin American nations are setting the stage for terrorists to penetrate close to U.S. soil with little detection.

These individuals “can travel easily to Venezuela, and once there, they can get to Nicaragua or Cuba without passports or visas, which poses a national security risk for our nation,” the source explained.

Iran has also reopened its embassy in Chile, a move that has only added fuel to speculation among U.S. officials that the Islamic Republic is making moves to position its global terror network on America’s doorstep.

“The threat to U.S. national security interests and our allies should be setting off alarm bells,” Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R., Fla.), chair of the House Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, said in a statement about Zarif’s Latin American tour. ...

“The timing of Zarif’s trip is significant as Iran could use many of these rogue regimes to circumvent remaining sanctions, undermine U.S. interests, and expand the drug trafficking network that helps finance its illicit activities,” [Ros-Lehtinen] said. “Tehran’s classic playbook is to use cultural centers, new embassies or consulates, or cooperative agreements on various areas to act as façades aimed at expanding Iran’s radical extremist network.”

The renewed concerns about Iran’s footprint in Latin America comes nearly two years after the State Department said Tehran’s influence in the region was “waning.” ...

Behnam Ben Taleblu, senior Iran analyst at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, told the *Free Beacon* that Iran has boosted efforts to engage Latin America in the wake of last summer’s nuclear agreement.

Zarif will also visit Nicaragua, Ecuador, Chile, Bolivia and Venezuela. Some of these nations have sheltered Iranian terrorist proxies such as Hezbollah. For more information, read “[Iran’s Past and Future Presence in Latin America](#).”

ANGLO-AMERICA



The Mystery That Would Be Finished (Revelation 10:7)

Gerald Flurry,

The Key of David | August 28

Revelation 10 discusses two end-time messages. The first is the most important book since the Bible. The second describes how God’s people rejected that book.



Chinese Investment: A Threat to Australian Security?

Callum Wood | August 24

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



BEIJING IS UPSET. AFTER LENGTHY NEGOTIATIONS, AUSTRALIA has once again rejected China’s offer to invest in Australian assets. In mid-August, Australian Federal Treasurer Scott Morrison rejected two \$7.6 billion-plus deals from China and Hong Kong, aimed at leasing electrical company Ausgrid.

His reasoning was simple: Approving such a deal would undermine national security.

The Chinese Embassy reacted to the decision with this statement: “The Chinese government is highly concerned about the statement by the Australian treasurer on his preliminary decision to block the sale of the 50.4 percent of Ausgrid in a 99-year lease to foreign bidders on national security grounds.”

But China’s statement highlights Morrison’s concerns. Leasing a *controlling* percentage in a company that powers the state of New South Wales for a century would leave Australia vulnerable.

The security concerns invoked by such a prospect might seem obvious, but China seems somewhat baffled by the decision. There is reason for that, too.

Similar sales have *already* been approved.

State Grid Corp., the Chinese government-owned company that set its sites on Ausgrid, has already had success in other areas of Australia. It has closed a \$2.3 billion-plus deal to service parts of Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. This is on top of a \$380 million deal for a 41 percent stake in South Australia’s high-voltage power transmission network owner ElectraNet. Its total percentage now sits at 46.5.

State Grid paid Singapore Power \$824 million for a 20 percent stake in Ausnet, cutting Singapore Power’s stake in the company from 51 percent to just 31 percent.

State Grid also bought a 60 percent stake in SPI Australia,

which trades under the name Jemena. The *Sydney Morning Herald* wrote:

Among other things, Jemena distributes electricity in Victoria to more than 300,000 homes in northwest Melbourne, delivers gas to more than a million homes and businesses in N.S.W. [New South Wales], owns and operates pipelines that connect Queensland with the Cooper and Surat basins and N.S.W. with Victoria's Bass Strait, and has a half share of the Australian Capital Territory's gas and electricity distribution networks.

In yet another instance last year, TransGrid—another New South Wales power company—was sold for \$7.8 billion. Hastings Funds Management—an international consortium—narrowly outbid China's State Grid for the sale.

Combined, these sales show that blocking Beijing's investments is actually against the norm. In most cases, Australia has

been more than happy to sell control of corporations to China.

Earlier this year, Australia denied the sale of its largest cattle empire, the Kidman Group, to China for the second time. It was to be sold to Dakang Australia Holdings in April but was refused because of the threat the sale posed to the "national interest," according to Morrison.

"Given the size and significance of the Kidman portfolio, I am concerned that the acquisition of an 80 percent interest in S. Kidman and Co. Ltd. by Dakang Australia Holdings may be contrary to the national interest," Morrison said.

However, hundreds of thousands of acres of prime farmland across the nation have already been sold. The largest dairy business in the nation, Van Diemen's Land Co., was sold to Chinese buyers earlier this year. But it is not alone. Vineyards, forests, mines, beef, dairy and cotton farms, ports and more have all been sold to Beijing.

It is little wonder then that the Chinese might be confused by the Australian government's decision to reject recent sale proposals. It goes against the ongoing trend of sell, sell, sell.

The Rise of Same-Self 'Marriage'

NOW THAT A MAJORITY OF AMERICANS SUPPORT SAME-SEX "MARRIAGE," a minority is embracing a different lifestyle choice: same-self "marriage." Back in 2014, Timothy George highlighted the rise of a relationship type dubbed *sologamy*. "Sologamy," George wrote in *First Things* magazine, "is the marriage of someone to one's own self."

The first person to actually marry herself in an official wedding ceremony was Linda Baker in December 1993. Many others have followed Baker's example since then. In January 2015, the *Houston Chronicle* reported that Yasmin Eleby "married herself at the Houston Museum of African American Culture ... in a lavish ceremony with 10 bridesmaids in attendance, plus family and other guests on hand to celebrate the event."

In 2012, a 36-year-old North Dakota woman married herself in front of 40 close friends with the following vow: "I, Nadine, promise to enjoy inhabiting my own life and to relish a lifelong love affair with my beautiful self."

While only a handful of people across America and Europe have actually gone through with a self-marriage wedding ceremony, the trend has picked up faster in Japan. There a travel agency in Kyoto offers a two-day "solo wedding" trip for the comparatively low price of \$3,300.

An August 27 article in *Spectator* titled "[The Rise of Marriage for One](#)" reports:

Marriage has been on the wane for some time. But what's new is the decline in the number of women who are looking for a partner, let alone a husband. This is not

a Bridget Jones-like tragic story. If we can't find a knight in shining armor, we make alternative arrangements: The act of self-marrying is merely an extreme way of declaring that there is no hole in our lives. ...

Now, societal expectations are evolving fast. Single women are not only challenging the prejudices against us: We are also creating our own support networks to replace traditional marriage, making fulfilling and self-sustaining arrangements with siblings, friends and flatmates, with whom we can share the intimate details of our lives. ...

Only a handful of women are holding these eccentric ceremonies. But they are representative of a much wider group of women who have found fulfillment and stopped looking for a man. Sologamists are everywhere, even if that's not how they describe themselves—you probably know a few.

In 1950, less than a quarter of American adults were single, and only about 4 million lived alone. Today, over half of adults are single, and some 33 million live alone. More shocking than these statistics is the fact that 55 percent of American singles aren't even looking for a relationship, according to a 2006 Pew Research poll. About half of American singles have not been on a date in the previous three months, the same poll found.

So while the number of self-declared sologamists throwing a wedding feast for themselves is few, approximately one in four American singles have more or less given up on the concept of traditional marriage.

Poll: Americans Giving up on God

AMERICA'S RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE HAS RAPIDLY CHANGED IN recent years. One fifth of the United States public and one third of adults under 30 no longer claim a religious affiliation. Of those who have left their church, almost half say they no longer believe in God at all. According to an article in the *Washington*

Examiner by Paul Bedard:

Pew Research Center said Wednesday that 49 percent of what they term "nones" left their church and religion because they "don't believe." Another 20 percent said they

don't like organized religion. Other reasons included "common sense" and a lack of belief in miracles.

The survey is the latest from Pew that demonstrates a growing trend in America: More and more people are junking religion and many are giving up on God.

Robert D. Putnam, in his book *American Grace*, states, "Virtually all experts agree ... that the period from the late 1940s to the early 1960s was one of exceptional religious observance in America." He goes on to show that this upsurge was "heavily concentrated among 20-somethings." It was basically the young GIs who had experienced the horrors of World War II that led America back to the pews.

In the 1960s, however, nearly all American institutions were

brought into question and shaken to their foundations. The sons and daughters of the pious GIs came of age and turned the world upside down. Exploding on the scene was the youth-inspired counterculture that embraced liberal views on premarital sex and the use of drugs. Rock 'n' roll music advanced the movement that soon engulfed the entire globe.

Surveys show that the majority of "nones" comes from the center to left of the political spectrum. They tend to be liberal in their views on gender roles, homosexuality and marijuana.

"For many, their aversion to religion is rooted in unease with the association between religion and conservative politics," Putnam postulates. "If religion equals Republican, then they have decided that religion is not for them."

TW IN BRIEF

Heroin epidemic intensifies: Authorities in Indiana and Ohio are on high alert after more than 75 people died from heroin overdoses since last Friday. The Hamilton County Heroin Coalition reported more than 30 overdoses over the course of last weekend. Since Tuesday, 33 more people have overdosed in Cincinnati, including one fatal overdose. Law enforcement officials suspect the heroin was laced with fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid painkiller used to treat patients recovering after surgery. Other reports indicate that Ohio heroin is being laced with carfentanyl, a commercial sedative used to tranquilize elephants. Nationwide, deaths from heroin overdoses have quadrupled since 1999.

White Lives Matter protests in Texas: A small group of protesters calling themselves White Lives Matter rallied outside the NAACP headquarters in Houston, Texas, over the weekend, attracting attention and counterprotests from the Black Lives Matter movement. "We're out here just to show White Lives Matter has the right to support our rights and our heritage and culture, just as they do," a spokesperson told media outlets. "But they do not have the right to kill; they do not have the right to assault; they do not have the right to threat[en]; and they do not have the right to damage personal property."

Nigel Farage says, "Crush the establishment," at Trump rally: Former leader of the United Kingdom Independence Party, Nigel Farage, was invited to speak at a Donald Trump rally in Jackson, Mississippi, on Wednesday night. Farage was credited with leading the charge for Britain to leave the European Union. He told the cheering crowd they could beat the pollsters, the commentators and the Washington establishment if they got their "walking boots on." Anything is possible if enough decent people want to fight the establishment," Farage said. He drew on parallels between Trump's bid for the White House and that of the Brexit campaign's "people's army of ordinary citizens," which he said engaged successfully with the public prior to the UK's referendum vote on whether to leave the EU.

Australia stabbing: A Frenchman shouting the "Allahu Akbar" stabbed a British woman to death and wounded two men in northeast Australia. The attack took place on Tuesday night at a hostel in the town of Home Hill in northern Queensland. The 29-year-old attacker does not have any known links to the Islamic State and appeared to have acted alone, a Queensland Police Service Deputy Commissioner said. Police say a 21-year-old British woman was found dead at the scene and a 30-year-old British man was in critical condition. Police are still investigating the attack.



The Wonderful World Tomorrow—Here Today!

Stephen Flurry,

Trumpet Daily | August 26

A small taste of the peace and happiness the whole world will soon experience

Follow [Stephen Flurry](#)

