

# Trumpet Weekly

SEPTEMBER 2, 2016



Pictures of Bashar Assad burn in the streets.

## Is Assad Finally on the Way Out?

**Brent Nagtegaal | September 2**

**J**ERUSALEM—BEFORE DAWN ON AUGUST 24, TURKEY SENT SPECIAL forces, artillery and tanks across its southern border into Syria. This marked the largest Turkish foray into the Syrian battlefield since the civil war began five years ago. It is the first time a foreign nation has put boots on the ground without the approval of the Syrian regime, and also the first time troops of a NATO member country have seen live action in Syria.

The stated objective of the mission dubbed Operation Euphrates Shield *was* to remove the Islamic State from the border town of Jarabulus. I say “was” because Turkey achieved that goal within the first 12 hours of the operation without a single casualty. And yet Turkey didn’t retreat back over the border but continues to fight in northern Syria a week later.

What, then, is Turkey doing in Syria?

As with all the actors participating in the Syrian war, the stated

goal of “destroying the Islamic State” seems but an excuse to pursue other national interests. Iran and its proxies from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Lebanon are there to preserve the rule of their ally, Syrian dictator Bashar Assad. Russia is there to capitalize on America’s withdrawal from a position of strength in the region, as well as prop up the Syrian regime, which ensures it can project its power into the Middle East. The Kurds, the non-state entity in northern Syria, are endeavoring to take territory from the Islamic State so that it can negotiate its own independent state of Rojava. And the Saudi- and American-backed rebels on the ground are trying to finally rid Syria of Assad, who has caused over 400,000 Syrian deaths and counting.

Adding Turkey into the mix, a NATO member and the nation with the largest Middle Eastern army, *seems* to complicate matters even more.

GETTY IMAGES

Yet there is reason to believe the opposite.

At the beginning of the Syrian war, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry made a bold forecast. In “[How the Syrian Crisis Will End](#),” he explained that by the time this war was over, Syria would no longer be aligned with Iran but, rather, with a German-led Europe also in cahoots with Turkey.

It’s taken a bit of time, but now that Turkey has entered the battle space, we can see that the groundwork for the future fulfillment of that forecast is in the works.

### Turkey’s Real Objectives

At the outset of Euphrates Shield, Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim hinted the operation might have some longer-term goals. “We will continue our operations in Syria until we fully guarantee security of life and property for our citizens and the security of our border. We will continue until Daesh [the Islamic State] and *other terrorist elements are taken out*” (emphasis added). By “other terrorist elements,” no doubt Yildirim was referring to the Kurdish forces considered by Turkey to be terrorists but by the United States and the European Union as allies.

For the past couple of years, these same Kurds have been the most effective ground force in the fight against the Islamic State. As the Islamic State withdrew, however, the Kurds filled the power vacuum and gradually gobbled up most of the territory in northern Syria, just south of the Turkish border.

This gets to the main objective of Euphrates Shield: preventing Syrian Kurds from holding a contiguous landmass along its southern border.

On August 12, a Kurdish offensive routed the Islamic State from Manbij, a town south of Jarabulus. Turkey feared the Kurds would then take Jarabulus, which would have connected two regions in northern Syria already under Kurdish control. Turkey feared that if the Kurds were able to occupy all the land south of its border, they could destabilize their brothers in arms on the Turkish side of the border. To Turkey, this was a red line. The Kurds were so close to accomplishing this, that Turkey had to intervene to stop them.

The other objective for Turkey is to establish a safe zone in northern Syria. Ankara has long desired to create a buffer zone in the territory just south of its border so that refugees fleeing to Turkey would be able to find safe haven inside Syria rather than becoming a burden for the Turks. Turkey already shelters 2.5 million Syrians within its borders.

The creation of such a safe zone three years ago would have largely solved much of the refugee crisis that has since spread to Europe. Realizing the Turkish creation of a safe zone would limit refugees, Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov praised Turkey last week, saying, “The Turkish Armed Forces have probably prevented a probable new migration wave of 2 million people with the Euphrates Shield operation ....”

Those are two of Turkey’s more immediate goals. But what about the longer term?

### Coming Russian-Iranian Split in Syria

Considering how hard Russia has fought alongside the Syrian regime, it would be natural to assume Moscow would be upset by Turkey’s operation. However, that’s not the case. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, Turkey actually “sent a high-level military

delegation to Russia to discuss its planned operation into Syria. The Russians assured Turkish officials that Moscow wouldn’t target Ankara’s forces if Turkey moved across the border, according to senior Turkish officials.”

Russia’s flip-flop from placing economic sanctions on Turkey six months ago to condoning a Turkish invasion into Syria today is perhaps the most significant change in the Syrian civil war in years. It is significant because it highlights the fact that Iranian and Russian interests in Syria are beginning to diverge.

Moscow’s intent from the very beginning has been to eventually sideline Assad, while still maintaining Russia’s influence in Syria. Russia favors a political solution where Assad leads for a transitional period. This is something Turkey has staunchly opposed. For five years, Turkey has said that Assad must step aside immediately, leaving no room for a transition period. However, two weeks ago, when Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan met with the Russians to discuss Euphrates Shield, that long-standing policy changed. Soon after the meeting, Ankara stated it would tolerate an Assad-led transition.

Next came Operation Euphrates Shield, and Russia standing idly by as Turkey entered Syria.

Essentially, by allowing the Turkish Army into northern Syria, Russia has bolstered the Syrian rebels, the very groups Putin has been fighting on Assad’s behalf. The rebels, who looked to be nearing defeat, now have a conventional army in Syria giving them support.

And what’s more, Russia was OK with that! This highlights a massive shift of alliances in the Syrian civil war.

The one nation that isn’t OK with Turkey’s entrance is Iran. Since the early 2000s, Assad has answered heavily to Iran. However, Iran’s feelings toward Assad don’t extend to the population. In layman’s terms, Iran needs Assad in power to maintain its influence in Syria.

But Russia only needs confirmation that the Syrian government, whoever is in charge, will allow Moscow to continue its military operations in Syria, including its Mediterranean Sea naval base.

A year ago, Russia began to intervene in Syria to support the Syrian regime, which looked to be on its last legs. Indeed, Russia had to support Assad to ensure it maintained its own position in Syria.

A year later, it appears that Russia has buttressed the Syrian regime enough so that the only solution going forward is a stalemate that will have to be solved through negotiation. This can allow President Vladimir Putin to continue his presence in Syria and still be the savior of the Syrian people. However, Assad is refusing to submit to Putin’s demands for a negotiated settlement with the rebels.

By allowing Turkey to enter into the Syrian fray, Moscow seems to be increasing the pressure on Assad to come to the negotiating table. Russia is using the Turkish incursion as leverage against Assad. This could leave Iran without its man in Damascus, which could lead to the split between Iran and Syria.


There have been many instances in the past five years when it looked like Assad would fall, but he has proved himself resilient at every turn.

Has his time now come? Is Assad finally on the way out?

As referenced earlier, Gerald Flurry forecast that by the end of this war, Syria would no longer be aligned with Iran.

That wasn’t a predication based on geopolitics or insider

information, but rather on the sure word of the Bible and a prophecy found in Psalm 83 about the times we are living in right now. While Bible prophecy isn't that specific to say that Assad is going to leave office, it does indicate that Iran is going to lose its ally in Syria.

Will Turkey's entrance into the Syrian civil war lead to that fulfillment? Only time will tell. But what is sure is that very soon *Syria will no longer be allied with Iran*. For more details of how this transformation in alliances will take place, read "[How the Syrian Crisis Will End](#)."  Follow Brent Nagtegaal

## MIDDLE EAST

# TrumpetDaily

## RADIO SHOW

A TRUE HOLLYWOOD LOVE STORY—INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE | SEPTEMBER 2

PRESIDENTIAL TRANSPARENCY AND THE SPIRIT OF ANTIOCHUS | SEPTEMBER 1

WHO'S BEHIND THE WORLDWIDE SPIRIT OF HYPOCRISY AND DECEIT? | AUGUST 31

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NYT ON SPREADING FALSE STORIES: IT'S ALARMING WHEN PUTIN DOES IT, NOT SO MUCH WITH OBAMA | AUGUST 29

## Meet Iran's United Shia Liberation Army

Callum Wood | September 4

IRAN HAS LAUNCHED ITS LATEST ARMED FORCE: THE UNITED SHIA Liberation Army (USLA). The move, announced on August 25, has stoked more fear and uncertainty concerning Iran's role in the post-America Middle East.

A hodgepodge of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps crossed with local Shiite militia, the USLA is poised to violently enhance Iran's influence in the region.

Some analysts still insist that the creation of the USLA is nothing new. After all, Iran has worked to export its revolution since 1979. But the USLA could yet prove to be something far more ominous. It includes the Houthis, the Popular Mobilization Force, a vast array of Shiite militias, the IRGC, branches of the Iranian military, Hezbollah and various other terrorist organizations. All have some degree of Iranian aid or oversight. But all are distinct from one another. The USLA aims to bring at least some of these forces under the same umbrella.

The goal, while still in its early days, certainly mirrors what the *Trumpet* has long warned about. As Iran's international army forms, so too does the Shiite kingdom. Iran is working to establish itself as a king over the Middle East. *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has warned about Iran's regional aspirations as far back as 1993.

His recently expanded booklet *The King of the South* has much to say about Iran and its biblical identity:

The king of the north and the king of the south are two powers prophesied to clash in this end time. So God's true Church must know who they are.

"And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him; and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over" (Daniel 11:40). Both powers are rising fast on the world scene right now. This clash will shake the world as never before! And that is the good news.

The bad news is that it will lead to World War III!

This is information that we cannot afford to ignore! Can you name these powers—the king of the north and the king of the south? Do you know the nations they constitute? How shall they fight? What is the whirlwind? For anyone willing to study and understand, the Bible is very specific when it discusses the events and personalities of our day! If you want answers to these questions, read our free booklet *The King of the South*.

## Glick: Hamas to Dominate October Elections

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY (PA) PRESIDENT MAHMOUD ABBAS'S decision to hold municipal elections throughout the

Palestinian territories on October 8 is looking to backfire. Hamas, the rival Palestinian faction that currently controls the

Gaza Strip, also has a broad base of support in the West Bank. Yet Hamas has refused to participate in municipal elections in the past, essentially handing over control of the Palestinian towns in the West Bank to Fatah. Abbas was led to believe that Hamas would boycott the elections again. But Hamas announced in July it will be there in the elections and is looking to dominate. *Jerusalem Post* managing editor Caroline Glick [wrote](#) this week:

Like it or not, the day is fast approaching when the Palestinian Authority we have known for the past 22 years will cease to exist.

PA leader Mahmoud Abbas's U.S.-trained Palestinian security forces have lost control over the Palestinian cities in Judea and Samaria. His EU- and U.S.-funded bureaucracies are about to lose control over the local governments to Hamas. And his Fatah militias have turned against him. ...

In Nablus, Fatah terrorist cells are in open rebellion against PA security forces. Since August 18, Fatah cells have repeatedly engaged PA forces in lethal exchanges, and according to Inbari, the town is now in a state of "total anarchy."

In Hebron, tribal leaders, more or less dormant for the past 20 years, are regenerating a tribal alliance as a means of bypassing the PA, which no longer represents them. Their first major action to date was to send a delegation of tribal leaders to meet with King Abdullah of Jordan.

Even in Ramallah, the seat of Abbas's power, the PA is losing ground to EU-funded [nongovernmental organizations] that seek to limit the PA's economic control over the groups and their operations.

All of this fighting and maneuvering is taking place against the backdrop of the encroaching PA municipal elections, scheduled for October 8.

Hamas is widely expected to win control over most of the local governments in Judea and Samaria. Hamas's coming takeover of the municipalities is likely playing a role in decisions by Fatah terrorist cells to reject the authority of the PA. Many of those cells can be expected to transfer their allegiance to Hamas once the terrorist group wins the elections.

Given his Fatah party's looming electoral defeat, more

and more PA functionaries are wondering why Abbas doesn't use the growing anarchy in Palestinian cities as a reason to cancel them. Abbas seems to have calculated that Israel will step in and, as it has repeatedly done over the past 20 years, cancel the elections for him.

Media organs Abbas controls are full of conspiracy theories whose bottom line is that Israel is not canceling the elections Abbas declared because it is in cahoots with Hamas and other "collaborators" to undermine the PA.

Although Israel, of course, is in cahoots with no one, it is the case that the government has apparently finally lost its patience with Abbas and is looking past him. ...

Part of Israel's willingness to let Abbas fall also owes to its inevitability. Once Hamas wins the elections and takes control over the local governments, Abbas's already weakened position will become unsustainable. As is already happening in towns and villages throughout the areas, Fatah cells will transfer their allegiance to Hamas. The areas will become Balkanized and radicalized still further.

Confrontation between Israel and the Hamas-controlled Palestinians in Judea and Samaria is inevitable.

Moreover, this process will likely be rapid. Just as Hamas's complete takeover of Gaza from Fatah forces happened seemingly overnight in June 2007, so its seizure of control over Judea and Samaria will happen in the blink of an eye. ...

Now that Abbas's reign is ending, the West is losing their man in Ramallah. Abbas's Hamas successors will not be beholden to Western donors, although to their discredit, the Europeans in all likelihood will shower them with cash and side with them against Israel.

Sixteen years after the failed Camp David summit, the fiction of the two-state solution is about to be shattered once and for all. The only relevant question today, is what does Israel intend to do next?

Since 2006, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has written that he expects Hamas to control the West Bank as it controls the Gaza Strip. That event will likely be a precursor to half of Jerusalem falling as prophesied in Zechariah 14:2.

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## Assad Lonelier by the Day

**W**RITING FOR [WAR ON THE ROCKS](#), TOBIAS SCHNEIDER CLAIMS that Assad's rule over Syria is becoming more tenuous.

Over the past three years, despite foreign military aid and support, the Assad regime has continued to atrophy at an ever increasing pace. If these trends continue, the Syrian president will soon find himself little more than a symbolic common denominator around which a loose coalition of thieves and fiefdoms can rally. The great majority of forces in Syria today fight an increasingly localized war for

the protection of their particular communities. For example, Latakia is being protected not by Assad's largely imaginary "4th Corps" of the Syrian Arab Army, but by Mohammed Jaber and his Desert Hawks.

Syria's president has become not only perfectly expendable as guarantor of the state, but ought to be considered the last remaining obstacle to a peace process based on local ceasefires. The Syrian state is gone for good. At this point, a quick decapitation might be preferable to a drawn-out implosion.



## Iran Sets up Missile Defense at Fordo

THE HALTING OF ALL URANIUM ENRICHMENT AT FORDO WAS meant to be one of the lone victories of the United States in the nuclear deal implemented on January 16 this year. However, if such work has been stopped, “Why did the Islamist state [of Iran] deploy its most sophisticated military weaponry there yesterday?” asked Jonathan Tobin in *Commentary* magazine. [He continued:](#)

On Monday, Iranian television showed the deployment of the country’s new Russian-made S-300 missiles at Fordo. The advanced weapon systems were the source of much contention between the U.S. and Russia during the course of the nuclear negotiations as the West pleaded with Moscow not to deliver missiles that significantly upgraded Iran’s ability to defend its nuclear sites. But the sale eventually went through. Since the Obama administration labors under the delusion that it has definitively ended the nuclear threat—rendering concerns about Iran making places like Fordo impregnable moot—it didn’t make much of a fuss about the delivery of the missiles. ...

But the questions about the S-300s at Fordo go deeper than the obvious suspicions about illicit activities or secret nuclear work in the area. Iran knows that all the talk about “snapping back” sanctions if Iran violated the

deal or the possibility that force might be used if a “break out” to a weapon were detected by the U.S. is just empty posturing. The U.S. and the Europeans couldn’t wait to dismantle the sanctions on Iran, and it’s not clear what, if anything, it is that Iran could do to convince the West to reimpose them.

The brazen deployment of advanced missiles at a supposedly clean site is one more example of Iran behaving as if it knows it can violate the nuclear deal with impunity. Just as likely is an Iranian strategy of pushing the envelope in terms of compliance that will make the transition to a weapon swift and easy once all of the provisions in the weak accord expire within the next 10-15 years. We already know that Iran has been cheating on the deal as it seeks to acquire illegal nuclear technology in Europe and has also violated other agreements on the testing of ballistic missiles that have no purpose but to provide a delivery system for the bomb that they still disingenuously claim they don’t want. ...

Connecting the dots between all of these pieces of evidence about Iran’s current and future plans isn’t that difficult. But doing so requires a determination to look at the facts rather than cling to the administration’s failed hopes about the deal.

## TW IN BRIEF

**New reports of ‘secret’ exemptions in Iran deal:** The United States and its negotiating partners agreed “in secret” to allow Iran to evade some restrictions in last year’s landmark nuclear agreement in order to meet the deadline for it to start getting relief from economic sanctions, according to a report reviewed by Reuters on Thursday. Among the exemptions were two that allowed Iran to exceed the deal’s limits on how much low-enriched uranium it can keep in its nuclear facilities, the report said. Low-enriched uranium can be purified into highly enriched, weapons-grade uranium. One senior “knowledgeable” official was cited by the report as saying that if the joint commission had not acted to create these exemptions, some of Iran’s nuclear facilities would not have been in compliance with the deal by January

16, the deadline for the beginning of the lifting of sanctions.

**Thousands rescued in Mediterranean en route to Europe:** Around 6,500 migrants have been rescued off the coast of Libya in one of the biggest operations to date, according to a statement from the Italian coastguard on Tuesday. Some 40 coordinated rescue missions took place around 12 miles off the Libyan coast, filling boats with men, women and children. On Sunday, another 1,100 migrants were rescued in the same area. Libya has become a hub for human trafficking since the fall of dictator Muammar Qadhafi left the country in a state of civil war. Europe has recently stepped up its efforts to police international waters outside Libya to endeavor to stop the migrant trade.

## EUROPE

# Trumpet Hour

EUROPE ATTACKS APPLE, CHINA’S ‘LITTLE GREEN BOATS,’  
NUCLEAR BACKPACKS, AND MUCH MORE | SEPTEMBER 2

SYRIA—INTERVENTIONS BY TURKEY, RUSSIA AND IRAN;  
THE UNDISCOVERED OCEANS; AND MORE | AUGUST 31

## T Germany's Nuclear Future

Josué Michels | August 30

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY HAS BEEN HOME TO A PORTION of NATO's nuclear weapons since the Cold War. Nuclear sharing gives Germany access to the nuclear arsenal stationed in its homeland.

According to German newsmagazine *Spiegel*, United States President Barack Obama has approved a [modernization of this nuclear weapons arsenal](#). Some of the new B61-12 bombs, which will go into production in 2020, will be stationed on the Büchel Air Base in the Eifel region along with other nuclear bombs. Tentative plans are being considered within the Air Force to modify German Tornado jets so that they would be able to carry these weapons.

Upgrades to the arsenal will make the weapons more "usable." As production details of the new B61-12 bombs were published at the end of last year, Guardian Unlimited wrote:

In nonproliferation terms, however, the only thing worse than a useless bomb is a "usable" bomb ... the most controversial element of the B61 upgrade ... will make the bomb smarter and allow it to be guided more accurately to a target. Furthermore, the yield can be adjusted before launch, according to the target. ...

The great thing about nuclear weapons was that their use was supposed to be unthinkable, and they were therefore a deterrent to contemplation of a new world war. Once

they become "thinkable," we are in a different, and much more dangerous, universe.

President Obama is confident that Germany can be trusted with "usable" bombs. But the U.S. government has not always put so much trust in German leadership. During the Cold War, then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger was highly suspicious of former German Nuclear Minister Franz Josef Strauss. Kissinger demanded that Germany's access to the nuclear arsenal be "physically impossible" without U.S. "consent." He feared Germany would steal the bombs if it served its own interest.

In 2012, *Spiegel* gained access to "top secret" documents of the Federal Prosecutor's Office that proved Kissinger's concerns were legitimate. Strauss planned to use the German-stationed nuclear bombs if an imminent threat from Russia occurred. Germany wanted to be prepared to strike first, even without U.S. permission.

The time is coming when Germany will use these bombs—and it will not be in the United States' favor. Germany's past few years as a so-called "peacekeeper" do not erase its decades of history as an agitator.

To understand the prophetic importance of NATO's nuclear weapons in Europe, read "[Europe's Nuclear Secret](#)" by *Trumpet* editor in chief [Gerald Flurry](#).

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## The EU's Apple Power Grab

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION RULED ON AUGUST 30 THAT Ireland gave illegal tax benefits worth up to \$15 billion to Apple. The ruling is both an attack on American tech companies and a power grab aimed at taking taxing and spending powers from national states and concentrating them at a European Union level.

In an article titled "[Apple Travesty Is a Reminder Why Britain Must Leave the Lawless EU](#)," the *Telegraph's* Ambrose Evans-Pritchard described the power the EU's competition director has at its disposal:

Europe's Competition Directorate commands the shock troops of the EU power structure. Enconced in its fortress at Place Madou, it can dispatch SWAT teams on corporate dawn raids across Europe without a search warrant.

It operates outside the normal judicial control that we take for granted in a developed democracy. The U.S. Justice Department could never dream of acting in such a fashion.

Known as "DG Comp," it acts as judge, jury and executioner and can, in effect, impose fines large enough to constitute criminal sanctions but without the due process protection of criminal law. ...

Apple is just the latest of the great U.S. digital companies

to face this Star Chamber.

Evans-Pritchard agrees with the Commission that Apple has gotten away with paying too little tax; however, he notes, "that does not empower the Commission to act arbitrarily, retroactively and beyond the rule of law. What is really going on—as often in EU affairs—is a complex political attack on multiple fronts."

It is not just Apple under attack, as Evans-Pritchard explained:

Ireland is now in the odd position of being told that it must claw back [\$15 billion] of back taxes from Apple even though it categorically rejects the legal arguments of [EU competition chief Margrethe] Vestager.

"They're overreaching their competence. The European treaties say the individual states are responsible for taxation policy. This is an approach through the back door to try and influence tax policy through competition law," said Ireland's finance minister, Michael Noonan.

The EU authorities are trying to subvert the sovereign prerogative of the elected Dail to determine Irish tax and fiscal policies, and some are clearly hoping to shut down Ireland's special low-tax model and end its role as an off-shore aircraft carrier for U.S. companies.

At the same time, it is an attack on U.S. companies. Evans-Pritchard continued:

Washington is outraged. The U.S. Treasury Jacob Lew warned Brussels earlier this year that it was seeking “to impose penalties retroactively based on a new and expansive interpretation of state aid rules,” and that it appeared to be “targeting U.S. companies disproportionately.”

Last week the U.S. Treasury accused Mrs. Vestager of “chilling” transatlantic ties in a blistering report on the EU’s campaign of state aid probes. ... The report came within a whisker of alleging outright chicanery, deception and lies. ...

Behind the shadowboxing is a strong suspicion that powerful forces in the EU are trying to use state aid probes to break the global dominance of America’s technology giants, vainly hoping to nurture its own “Silicon Valley” behind a digital wall. Amazon, Facebook, Google, as well as Apple, are all under fire, and Microsoft has fought an epic battle.

The view in Washington is that Mrs. Vestager’s probe of the Russian gas giant Gazprom is being conducted with kid gloves, and that she is strangely accommodating over the Nord Stream pipeline so favored by Germany. It is almost as if some in Brussels view America as the real enemy.

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## Europe’s 1,000-Year War of Islam

EUROPE IS ENGAGED IN A MAJOR WITH ISLAM, GEORGE FRIEDMAN wrote in article titled “[Europe’s Long War With Islam](#).” The article is well worth reading in full, giving a grand sweep of 2,000 years of history. After describing the ebb and flow of Europe and Islam’s conflict, he concluded:

We are seeing a massive population movement triggered by the chaos in the Muslim world. The unrest comes from the collapse of European power in the region. It also stems from the conflict inherent in reconstructing regional political structures and dealing with internal battles.

The current turmoil is no different than the chaos in the Balkans that continued long after the Ottomans left. Such matters can take many decades or even centuries to sort out.

The terrorist attacks in Europe are also part of this process. Various strands of Islam are battling, and the battle will spill over into Europe, as it has for over a thousand years. Just as European quarrels have spilled over into North Africa.

European unity was perhaps greatest when the Turks were at the gates of Vienna and southeastern Europe was under their heel. North Africa was most stable when the Europeans dominated it.

But the Europeans lack the strength and will to dominate North Africa, and the Muslims are capable of only pinprick attacks, called terrorism. The Ottoman occupation of Europe lasted four centuries, as did the Christian Crusades. The Mediterranean basin is not a place where things are settled quickly.

There is talk of a long war, lasting decades. This is a long war that has lasted 1,300 years. But it has not been simply war. There’s been economic cooperation, cross-religious political alliances and enough complex corruption to fill many books. ...

It is important to bear in mind the similarities between the two sides of the Mediterranean. Both Christianity and Islam are political religions, combining internal conflict

with foreign adventures. Both are committed to their own beliefs and the falsehood of others. ...

Obviously, what I’ve laid out is an oversimplification of history, but it’s intended to show the interconnections. I am not making the case that understanding the other side will lead to peace.

On the contrary, I am reminding readers of the constancy of the conflict between Christianity and Islam. And in any conflict, understanding both yourself and the other is the key to survival.

This is one of the oldest wars still active in the world—the war between the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean. It was old when Hannibal left Carthage to go north and overthrow the Romans, and the Romans came back to destroy Carthage.

Nothing about this is new, and both sides have given as good as they got. But we are in a period when the initiative is shifting—this time away from Europe to the Muslim world. Europe has lost its grip on North Africa and the Levant, and the first population movements and small attacks are occurring. It will not stay this way.

**Today, Muslims are emboldened and possess more influence than ever. Now there are hundreds of Muslim clerics ... many in Western states such as Britain, preaching war-mongering messages of revenge for what the Catholics did during the Crusades. ...**

**The Crusades created a profound and lasting depth of hatred among Muslims for the Catholic Church.**

**Today, a newly emboldened and radical brand of Islam is seeking revenge against the Vatican and the Catholic Church. ...**

**Radical Islam—led by Iran and driven by a crusading spirit—is pushing and prodding Catholic Europe and the Vatican.**

**That pushing and prodding is now resurrecting the spirit of the Crusades in ... the Vatican and Europe.**

“Resurrecting the Spirit of the Crusades,” theTrumpet.com, April 17, 2008

## Germany Continues on Road to Military Power

GERMANY WILL CONTINUE TO PUSH TOWARD BECOMING A MILITARY power, according to an article titled “[Confronting New Wars](#)” published August 31 by German-Foreign-Policy.com:

The German Bundeswehr’s new white paper is conceived as just a milestone in the ongoing development of German global policy and its instruments, according to an article published by Germany’s leading foreign-policy periodical. ... While the German government is initiating new projects for upgrading military and “civil defense” measures, the EU is boosting its militarization: A growing number of government leaders of EU member states are supporting the creation of an EU army under openly proclaimed German leadership. ...

The German Bundeswehr’s new white paper that was presented to the public on July 13 has already formulated more far-reaching objectives for German global policy than any of the preceding white papers. ...

The leading German foreign-policy periodical *Internationale Politik* just published an article written by Brig. Gen. Carsten Breuer and Christoph Schwarz, respectively former director and former consultant of the “Project Group White Paper” in the political department of the German Ministry of Defense. ... [T]he two authors note “there has hardly ever been more consensus on key issues of German security policy.” However, the white paper is by no means an “endpoint” of this development, but at best, “a road mark,” “a milestone along the road to strategically contemplate Germany’s growing international responsibility” ....

Berlin is therefore impelling these preparations not only

at home—with new plans to boost its military and its new “Civil Defense Conception”—but at the EU level as well. During last week’s tour of the EU, in preparation of the September 16 informal summit in Bratislava, Chancellor Angela Merkel received broad support for the expansion of the EU’s military policy. We want a “new impetus for the future,” declared Italy’s Prime Minister Matteo Renzi August 22, during a joint press conference held aboard a helicopter carrier with Chancellor Merkel and France’s President François Hollande. ... Then August 26, Hungary’s Prime Minister Viktor Orbán declared, “We need to make security our first priority and begin with the creation of a common European army.” Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka had already declared, “I am convinced that in the long term we won’t be able to do without a common European army.” As Italy’s former Chief of the Defense General Staff Vincenzo Camporini concluded, now that Great Britain—which had constantly blocked steps toward an EU army—will be leaving the EU, the road is now clear for it to be founded.

While the EU is facing its next boost in militarization, German dominance of the EU, which for German and other EU member states’ political establishments is already a foregone conclusion, is even being openly proclaimed. “Thomas Mann once said that we want a European Germany not a German Europe,” remarked Estonia’s Prime Minister Taavi Rõivas last Wednesday during the German chancellor’s visit in Tallinn.” ... In a period when Europe is suffering from crises and must make weighty decisions, **I believe we need a Europe that looks more like Germany.**”

## Germany Gets Friendly With Russia

GERMANY COULD SOON THAW RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA, THE *Local* reported in an article titled “[Merkel Offers Russia a Lifting of Sanctions—If It Behaves](#)”:

Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Monday that she has “the very greatest interest in stopping sanctions” against Russia, Reuters [Deutschland] reports.

In further evidence that Germany is seeking to follow a path of rapprochement with Moscow, Merkel made clear she was prepared to push through a relaxation of EU

sanctions against Russia almost immediately.

“As soon as we see progress in the Minsk agreement, we will loosen the sanctions,” Merkel told party colleagues at an event in northeastern Germany on Monday evening.

Her foreign minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, also signaled that he favored a rapprochement with Russia, calling for the two nations to undergo “a phase of confrontation and growing tensions, back to a reliable understanding of common security.”

## ASIA

## First ‘Little Green Men’ in Crimea, Now ‘Little Green Boats’ Near Japan

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



MORE THAN 300 CHINESE VESSELS HAVE MADE INCURSIONS INTO Japanese waters around the Senkaku Islands. Complicating the matter for Japan is that China is not deploying official military craft to do its expansionistic bidding, but instead sending irregular militias.

Bloomberg wrote about the development on August 31:

In early August, Japan’s coast guard witnessed an unconventional Chinese assault on its territorial waters. ... [A]t least 300 Chinese “fishing vessels” began incursions into



the exclusive economic zone around the uninhabited Senkaku Islands, disputed territory administered by Japan but claimed by China and Taiwan as well.

Japan has seen similar probing activities for years. But in August, the Chinese escalated. ... This may sound fairly benign compared to the shooting wars in Ukraine and Syria. But for Japan, the matter could not be more serious. Its military assesses that many of these sailors are really Chinese irregular militias, similar to the non-uniformed “little green men” that Russia has sent to eastern Ukraine to stir up separatist sentiment. Call them “little green boats.”

This is one more example of an increase in ambiguous warfare, in which a nation uses irregular forces or nonmilitary methods to advance its territorial goals. Bloomberg reported, “This development ought to worry the current and next administrations. When Russia’s little green men swiftly took control of Crimea in 2014, it caught many in the Obama administration off guard. The Japanese are warning the U.S. not to make the same mistake with China’s little green boats.”

So far, Japan has refrained from any military response. Instead, it complained to Chinese officials through diplomatic channels, and deployed its own coast guard vessels to escort the boats and inform them of their illegal activity.

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## Japanese Military Contractor May Start Building Equipment for Foreign Buyers

**A**FTER ABIDING BY A POST-WORLD WAR II BAN ON FOREIGN ARMS sales for decades, Japan may soon begin selling weapons abroad. Reuters reported on the development on August 31:

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries is in talks with an unidentified U.S. company over a possible partnership to develop an armored vehicle that for the first time could see a Japanese firm build arms for a foreign customer. ...

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s administration had hoped that the contract would be Japan’s first major export deal after ending a decades-old ban on foreign arms sales in April 2014. ...

Japan’s lifting of its ban on foreign arms sales represents a step in its return to militarization. In the *Trumpet’s* August 2015 issue, we explained why we watch this Japanese trend:

In light of Japan’s wartime history, all of these steps toward nationalism and militarism are worthy of attention and concern. ... Journalists sometimes mention the biblical word *Armageddon* found in Revelation 16:16, but it is rare to hear talk of “the kings of the east” discussed a few verses earlier in that chapter. The Bible shows that these “kings of the east” will be a massive bloc of Asian nations that pool their militaries together in the end time. ... Revelation 9:16 says that the Asian army will be comprised of a jaw-dropping 200 million soldiers. Some specific details of how this Eastern superpower will form in the end time are still unknown, but prophecy is unmistakably clear about the fact that it will happen. And, though it will be led by Russia and China, [it will almost certainly include Japan](#).

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## North Korean Troops to Carry ‘Nuclear Bombs in Backpacks’

**T**HE NORTH KOREAN MILITARY HAS APPARENTLY DEVELOPED A unit of infantry whose troops will each carry a nuclear device in a backpack. If war breaks out, these soldiers will infiltrate South Korea and detonate the weapons.

The *Telegraph* wrote on August 31:

Quoting sources within North Korea, Radio Free Asia said the military was calling on each of the nation’s soldiers to become a “nuclear arsenal” in the event of war breaking out in the region.

It is not clear whether the units are suicide squads, similar to the kamikaze units sent to attack Allied warships in the closing days of World War II.

The sources reported that North Korean troops are being told that an aircraft carrier “will capsize, even if a nuclear backpack is detonated at a distance.” ...

In 1994, the Clinton administration made a nuclear deal with North Korea very similar to the one the Obama administration made with Iran last year. Not long after the North promised it would not develop nuclear weapons, its military detonated a nuclear bomb. We are told everything will be different with the Iranian deal. But North Korea’s increasingly defiant nuclear program, along with the news of these “nuclear backpacks,” does not bode well for the Obama administration’s agreement with Iran.

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## Chinese Dissidents Implore U.S. to Press Xi on Human Rights

**C**HINESE DISSIDENTS ARE ASKING UNITED STATES PRESIDENT Barack Obama to press Chinese President Xi Jinping about what they say is the worst human rights crisis since the

Tiananmen Square massacre. Mr. Obama will be traveling to Hangzhou for the G-20 summit this weekend, and Xi’s critics hope he will use the occasion to confront the Chinese president.

The *Guardian* wrote on August 30:

During a meeting at the White House ... prominent Chinese activists told Susan Rice, Obama's national security adviser, that China's president had presided over a dramatic offensive against opponents of the Communist party since taking power in late 2012.

Teng Biao, an exiled human rights lawyer ... told the *Guardian* he had called on the U.S. president to publicly speak out on what is likely to be his final presidential visit to Asia.

"China is experiencing its worst human rights crack-down since the Tiananmen massacre in 1989," Teng said. "Especially since Xi Jinping came to power, many human rights lawyers and activists were detained and disappeared;

many, many [nongovernmental organizations] were shut down; and other civil society organizations, universities, media, Internet, Christian churches and other religious groups were also targeted," he added. ...

Chris Smith, a Republican congressman who chairs the congressional-executive commission on China, said: "[Mr. Obama] should consider doing something radically different on his last trip to China, something that will give hope to China's dissidents and freedom advocates. Mildly raising human rights issues is important, but not enough anymore."

Even if President Obama chooses to confront Xi about the increasingly authoritarian direction of the Chinese government, it is unlikely to veer Beijing off of its dictatorial trajectory.

## ANGLO-AMERICA



### The Holy Roman Empire Is Here Now

Gerald Flurry,

The Key of David | September 4

A British newspaper has exposed a secret plot to consolidate European power under a political dictator. Is this the reemergence of the Holy Roman Empire?



### False Alarms, True Terror

Jeremiah Jacques | August 31

**T**HOUSANDS OF PASSENGERS AT LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL Airport fell into panic on Sunday evening, prompting evacuations, chaos and [gridlock at one of America's busiest airports](#).

"It sounded like a stampede of cattle. Everyone is yelling, 'Shooter, shooter, shooter,' and they start diving under the seats to hide," Donna Melanson said to the *New York Times*.

But there was no shooter. The mayhem turned out to have been triggered by harmless "loud noises."

The LAX panic over a false alarm was not an isolated incident.

On August 13, at a mall in Raleigh, North Carolina, eight people were injured because of a noise mistakenly thought to be gunfire. The next day, thousands of travelers at JFK Airport in New York began stampeding, and two terminals were evacuated, after travelers mistook celebratory applause for gunfire. A week later, a mall in Michigan erupted into hysteria after onlookers mistook the sound of breaking glass or a slamming door for gunfire. Then on August 25, nine people at a Florida mall were injured after the sound of balloons popping sent shoppers stampeding.

This trend shows that Americans are on edge.

Memories of recent attacks at airports in Istanbul and Brussels are fresh. Images of the aftermath of shootings in Orlando, San Bernardino, Paris and elsewhere are burned into our minds. Grim pictures of the mass murder in Nice, France, still haunt us.

The result: We are terrified.

When we hear balloons popping, we are often quick to assume it's an AK-47 in the hands of an Islamic State jihadist.

And this means the terrorists are succeeding. After all, the

goal of terrorism isn't necessarily to kill target populations. A big part of the goal is to terrify them.

Terrorism has not killed a large percentage of Americans. But it has terrified a great many of us.

Long before the United States was established, God foretold many details of the nation's prosperity through Moses (Genesis 48:13-22; 49:22-26; Leviticus 26:3-10). God also explained how He would punish America if this powerful nation forgot and disobeyed Him: "... I will even appoint over you terror....[A]nd ye shall flee when none pursueth you" (verses 16-17).

Verse 36 offers more detail: "... the sound of a shaken leaf shall chase them; and they shall flee, as fleeing from a sword; and they shall fall when none pursueth."

Does this sound like people stampeding and injuring each other because of harmless sounds of applause or balloons popping?

Through the Prophet Isaiah, God foretold how painfully effective terrorist attacks would be if America didn't obey Him. He foretold the disproportionate degree of destruction a small number of terrorists would be able to inflict: "One thousand shall flee at the rebuke of one; at the rebuke of five shall ye flee ..." (Isaiah 30:17).

Take a look at America's systems of education, politics, religion, military, industry and entertainment. It's plain that the nation has rebelled against the God who blessed it with such unprecedented prosperity. As this slide into lawlessness continues, we will increasingly "flee when none pursueth" and descend into mass hysteria at the "sound of a shaken leaf."

But there is also hope on the horizon. Bible prophecy makes

plain that on the other side of the terrorism, fear and curses lies the most radiant future imaginable. Fear and terrorism will be forever vanquished and replaced by a planet of peace, prosperity

and a single world religion under the righteous, merciful rulership of the King of kings, Jesus Christ.

 Follow [Jeremiah Jacques](#)

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## U.S. Manufacturing Jobs Go Unfilled Due to Lack of Skilled Labor

**A**FTER DECADES OF DECLINE, THE NUMBER OF OPEN MANUFACTURING jobs in the United States has been rising since 2009. According to U.S. Labor Department data, the number of open manufacturing positions now stands at a 15-year high. The problem is there aren't enough skilled laborers applying for these positions.

According to a September 1 article in the [Wall Street Journal](#):

Factory work has evolved over the past 15 years or so as companies have invested in advanced machinery requiring new sets of skills. Many workers who were laid off in recent decades—as technology, globalization and recession wiped out lower-skilled roles—don't have the skills to do today's jobs. The mismatch poses a growing problem for the economy, stymieing the ability of businesses to increase production and weighing on growth, executives say. ...

Openings for manufacturing jobs this year have averaged 353,000 a month, up from 311,000 in 2015 and 122,000 in 2009.

As manufacturing has become more technology-driven, its share of managers and professionals has risen, according to the Labor Department. In 2000, 53 percent of

manufacturing workers had no education past high school. By 2015, that share had fallen 9 percentage points, while the share with college or graduate degrees increased 8 points. ...

Eight in 10 manufacturing executives said the growing skills gap will affect their ability to keep up with customer demand, according to a 2015 survey by Deloitte and the Manufacturing Institute, an industry-backed nonprofit. It takes an average of 94 days to recruit for highly skilled roles such as scientist or engineer, and 70 days for skilled production workers, they found.

While the causes behind this skill shortage are complex, overall it is a telling sign of the times we live in. In the book of Isaiah, God prophesied that He would take away the “cunning artificer,” or educated engineer, from among His people. “For, behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water, the mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, the prudent, and the ancient, the captain of fifty, and the honourable man, the counsellor, and *the cunning artificer*, and the eloquent orator” (Isaiah 3:1-3).

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## UK Polygamy on the Rise

**A**GROWING NUMBER OF BRITISH MUSLIMS ARE TAKING SECOND or third wives, prompting some politicians to mull the prospect of legalizing “marriages” between three or more people. While there is no official tally of the number of polygamous Muslims in the United Kingdom, estimates range between 20,000 and 100,000.

According to an August 25 article in the [Washington Times](#):

The founder of a polygamy website for British Muslims has released a press release touting its quick rise to 100,000 members.

Azad Chaiwala of SecondWife.com and its sister website Polygamy.com claims the two have reached the milestone in less than three months. He says the venture will officially be considered a success once 1 million members join.

“The tabloids ... ignore the undeniable successes of these websites and instead prefer to gorge themselves on controversial news stories, notwithstanding that polygamy is now becoming increasingly accepted outside of Islam, and is gaining validity as an alternative lifestyle for men and women dissatisfied with more conventional marital arrangements,” a press release for Polygamy.com read on Wednesday. “Gay marriage is one instance of an unconventional marital arrangement becoming common currently

within Canada, the U.S., and the UK, etc. Leading polygamy commentators, including Azad, call for the same rights for polygamists.”

Mr. Chaiwala countered critics earlier this summer when he asked the *Daily Mail* why anyone should protest “a man [who] wants to get married to multiple partners in an honorable manner.”

“Why do you have an issue with that?” he asked June 19.

What remains unclear at the moment, however, is how high the ceiling is for the businessman's websites. A *Times* of London report issued last summer said 100,000 ... sharia marriages have already formed within the UK.

Aina Khan, a leading Islamic lawyer, told the newspaper on July 3, 2015, that “secret polygamy” was on the rise.

“There has been a huge rise in recent years because people can have a secret nikah [Islamic marriage] and no one will know about it,” he said.

UK Green Party leader Natalie Bennett stated last year that she would be open to legalizing “marriages” between three or more people. Her comments were in response to a question posed by a homosexual inquiring about whether he could “marry” both of his boyfriends sometime in the future.

While the Islamic religion is adamantly opposed to homosexual

“marriage,” there has been a convergence of interest recently between the British Muslims and homosexual activists to legally

redefine marriage as something other than the union between one man and one woman.

## Canada Woos China

### WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



**P**RIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU AND FINANCE MINISTER BILL Morneau traveled to Beijing Monday for their first official visit. The goal of the visit was to boost economic ties with Canada's second-largest trading partner and further encourage Chinese investment in the Canadian oil-sands infrastructure.

According to a September 1 article in the *Toronto Star*:

More than four decades after his father first began paving the way in the 1970s, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau arrived in China early Tuesday to begin his first official visit there, with both countries keen to forge ever stronger economic ties.

Trudeau, traveling with wife Sophie Gregoire Trudeau and 7-year-old daughter Ella-Grace, said last week that he hopes the visit provides the opportunity to “reset” the relationship between the two countries.

China, the world's new economic superpower, sees the dawn of a new Trudeau era in Canada as a “new opportunity” to strengthen ties between the two countries, Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhaohui said in an interview last week.

Canada's relationship with China under the Stephen Harper government was at times inconsistent, many experts say. Historically, Luo acknowledged China has had warmer connections with Canada's Liberal-led governments.

Indeed, the Chinese consider the Jean Chretien era of the 1990s as the “golden years” in their business dealings with Canada, he added.

Nor has the country forgotten how Trudeau's father,

Pierre Trudeau, was among the first Western leaders to recognize “new China” when he established diplomatic ties in 1970, later becoming the first Canadian prime minister to travel there in 1973.

Former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper tried to rein in Chinese investment in oil-sands infrastructure due to national security concerns. Trudeau has indicated that he would like to loosen these restrictions on Chinese investment. In addition to the national security concerns hovering over the prospect of Chinese investment in critical Canadian infrastructure, however, there is also some concern about the Trudeau family's connections with Communist China. Trudeau's father, Pierre, coauthored a book that *praised Mao Zedong's revolution* for realizing that it had to depend on the poor for success.

Two years ago, Justin Trudeau was asked which nation's type of government he most admired besides the Canadian government—he answered, China. “You know, there's a level of admiration I actually have for China because their basic dictatorship is allowing them to actually turn their economy around on a dime,” he said. “In this world we're competing with countries that have the capacity to react to big issues quickly and completely. We need to make sure that even though we have to compete with them, we can get things done completely.”

According to Trudeau, democracy is frustrating because it doesn't allow prime ministers to do what they want. Now he is in China asking for help in turning Canada's economy around.

## TW IN BRIEF

**M**ore Americans getting high: Marijuana use is becoming more accepted among American adults as states loosen drug laws, new national survey data shows. More people are using marijuana and using it more often, and far fewer think it's risky, the government survey found. That's to be expected, experts say, since dozens of states now allow medical marijuana and four states recently legalized pot for recreational use. More than a half

million American adults participated in the survey over a dozen years, and the responses show a shift in attitude. Only a third of adults in 2014 said they thought weekly marijuana use was dangerous, down from half of adults in 2002. Other research has increasingly linked marijuana use to mental impairment, and early, heavy use by people with certain genes has been linked to increased risk of developing psychosis.



### The Seventh and Final Era of God's Church—Happening Now!

Stephen Flurry, Trumpet Daily | September 2

Today we are living in the seventh and final era of God's Church—Laodicea. This era is characterized by spiritual blindness and lukewarmness. On today's program, we examine this final era of God's Church, which precedes the Second Coming of Jesus Christ!

Follow [Stephen Flurry](#)

