

Trumpet Weekly

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Members of the Oromo, Ogaden and Amhara communities in South Africa demonstrate on August 18 against the ongoing crackdown in the Oromo and Amhara regions of Ethiopia.

Ethiopia on the Brink?

Callum Wood | September 14

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



CIVIL UNREST IS GROWING IN ETHIOPIA, AFRICA'S SECOND-MOST populous nation. Upset by inequality and systemic corruption, members of Ethiopia's two largest districts have taken to the streets. Since November last year, the protesters have faced off against [strong government crackdowns](#).

Eighty percent of the country lives in poverty. Famine threatens 15 million residents. Many are ready to take out their frustrations on the government. But instability fosters its own problems, and opportunists in the region are watching closely.

After Ethiopia's current ruling party—the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF)—came to power in 1991, it segregated the country along ethnic lines, forming nine districts. But rather than maintain equal or proportional say among the various districts, most of the power has been gathered by just

one—the Tigray district.

Though the Tigrans make up just 6 percent of the population, they hold 100 percent of the seats in parliament. As such, the EPRDF enjoys little to no political challenge or discussion, near-total control of the press, and strong sway over the judicial system.

Gaining 100 percent of the vote has led many of the country's larger ethnic groups to claim that the government is illegitimate and corrupt. They are not alone in this view. On Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, where 100 means clean and 0 means totally corrupt, Ethiopia recently scored a meager 33.

When riots first started in November 2015, the government was well prepared. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, sent in troops and the antiterrorism task force. Laws established in 2009 imbued the government with sweeping powers to combat anyone

it deems to be a terrorist. Some analysts claim that the government has used these laws to justify the kidnapping, imprisonment and even torture of political opponents.

Human Rights Watch said the legislation permits “long-term imprisonment and even the death penalty for ‘crimes’ that bear no resemblance, under any credible definition, to terrorism.”

As Stratfor noted on August 31, Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn has authorized the country’s armed forces to take “any and all” measures necessary to restore order. Since the November flare-up of protests, more than 500 protesters have been killed and thousands injured.

There is a reason why these protests and human rights abuses rarely make the news. Ethiopian media is largely government censored. With overarching government control of the media, the full extent of the multi-district rebellion is hard to accurately gauge. But the likelihood is that the information reaching the Western media is just the tip of the iceberg.

Ethiopia has refused entry to special United Nations investigators since 2007, making the UN unable to report on Ethiopia’s domestic issues. The blocked investigations included inquiries into reports of torture and denial of freedom of expression and peaceful assemblies.

News that does escape the country has been downplayed by much of the world. As Human Rights Watch explains, “Donor countries to Ethiopia have been largely silent about the brutal crackdown, presumably in part due to the Ethiopian government’s strategic relationships on security, peacekeeping, migration and development. For years, the U.S., the UK and other influential governments have basically rejected public condemnation of the Ethiopian government’s repressive practices.”

Ethiopia is a key security ally for America in the fight against the Islamist militant group al-Shabaab. The country is also important economically. Guardian Unlimited called Ethiopia “an economic battleground with China.”

In July last year, U.S. President Barack Obama visited Addis Ababa. During his speeches and press conferences, he repeatedly referred to the landslide victory of Desalegn’s EPRDF as “democratic.” Bekele Nega, the general secretary of the Oromo Federalist Congress (representing the country’s largest ethnic group), disagrees with this label. He said, “I don’t know if democracy means robbing people’s vote and robbing their election result. They have killed people, and they have taken the ballot box with them in organized fraud.”

Faced with brutal retaliation and a lack of international support, it is not hard to see why protesters in the Oromia district and elsewhere are beginning to transition from relatively peaceful protests to acts of aggression.

Destabilization brings with it a whole host of problems, including the opportunity for foreigners to exploit the situation. And one nation has gained a reputation as the opportunist of the Middle East: Iran.

Tehran has capitalized on unrest in Libya, Egypt, Lebanon, Yemen, Syria and Iraq. In areas of civil unrest, radicals—and their sponsors—thrive. Could Ethiopia be next?

In Sudan, to Ethiopia’s west, Iran has deployed Quds Force personnel to take advantage of the deteriorating Sudanese-Egyptian relationship. To Ethiopia’s north, Iran has had dealings with the reclusive Eritrea. While the Eritreans deny it, many opponents of the Houthi rebellion in Yemen claim that Iran is using bases

in Eritrea to train and launch aid supplies to support the Houthi. Reports are now circulating that Iran is also training both Houthi and Iraqi militias in Eritrea.

Across the Red Sea, Iran is deeply entrenched in Yemen. Then there is Somalia, where the government recently accused Iran of establishing sects that pose a threat to national security in the Horn of Africa.

As all of the above show, Iran wants to be involved in the region. Even within Ethiopia, Iranian involvement with al-Shabaab shows it is intent on destabilizing the nation.

Most importantly, Bible prophecy says Iran will get involved in Ethiopia. Some might scoff at the idea of a foretold Ethiopian alliance with Iran. But Iran’s goals for the region mirror what is written in the pages of your Bible!

As *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry explains, from Daniel 10:10 to the end of the prophetic book is the longest single prophecy in the Bible. It mainly focuses on “*the time of the end*” (Daniel 11:40). The Moffatt Bible translates that expression, “when the end ARRIVES.” And that time is here now!

In “[Libya and Ethiopia Reveal Iran’s Military Strategy](#),” Mr. Flurry wrote:

All you need to do is get a good map of the Middle East, with the emphasis on the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea. Then you can see why the king of the south, or radical Islam, is so interested in an alliance with or control over these two countries (as well as Egypt and Tunisia). They are on the two seas that comprise the most important trade route in the world!

Whoever heavily influences or controls Ethiopia will undoubtedly also control the small areas of Eritrea and Djibouti on the Red Sea coastline. These areas only recently became independent of Ethiopia. Also, I believe the Bible view is that these small areas are included as part of Ethiopia.

Who else but Iran is working so aggressively to promote radical Shiite Islam in these nations?

“That could give Iran virtual control of the trade through those seas,” Mr. Flurry continued. “Radical Islam could stop the flow of essential oil to the U.S. and Europe!”

Now read Daniel 11:43 and see Ethiopia specifically mentioned by name as a part of this alliance! Mr. Flurry explains in his booklet *The King of the South*, “So you need to watch Libya and Ethiopia. They are about to fall under the heavy influence or control of Iran, the king of the south. That is why they are subdued in the king of the north victory.”

These prophecies are sure. They are going to happen! There will be a king of the south, and he will control Ethiopia. And as Daniel wrote, there will be a sudden confrontation between this king and the king of the north.

Though God says this battle will usher in terrible times in the short term, there is also good news bound up in this warning. These prophesied events lead up to the return of Jesus Christ! Just as God prophesies the rise and fall of nations, He also prophesies the return of His Son and the establishment of His Kingdom forever! For more information, read our free booklets [Libya and Ethiopia in Prophecy](#) and [The King of the South](#).

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RADIO SHOW

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FIFTEEN YEARS AFTER 9/11, AMERICA SEES NO ENEMIES | SEPTEMBER 12

Is Mahmoud Ahmadinejad Eying a Comeback?

FORMER PRESIDENT MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD IS TRYING harder than ever to make a political comeback,” wrote Saeid Jafari for Al-Monitor on Thursday. The former Iranian president, most notorious for his “wipe Israel off the map” rhetoric, has started to gather momentum before the May 2017 elections. Though he is yet to say he would like to participate in the upcoming election to oust Hassan Rouhani, Ahmadinejad has been seen touring through rural areas of Iran gathering support for a potential run. Jafari continued:

“His path is sure to be filled with many challenges, considering that he faces opposition not only among much of the Iranian public and the Reformists, but even some figures within his own Principlist camp. ...

Thus, it seems that Ahmadinejad has not given up on pursuing his goal of a political comeback—especially since some of his comments point to hopes for the early demise of the Rouhani administration. Speaking recently at a gathering of his student supporters, Ahmadinejad said, “In the coming months, the pressures of public opinion and inefficiency will rise so much that Rouhani will leave the cabinet before the month of May.”

Ahmadinejad’s resurfacing comes amid growing dissatisfaction with Rouhani as the Iranian populace is yet to receive the financial relief promised in light of the nuclear deal. In an [essay](#) published in Middle East Eye (MEE), Jonathan Steel wrote:

Widespread public frustration at the lack of economic

benefits, after sanctions were supposed to be lifted following last year’s nuclear deal, has dented his popularity and boosted the chances of a comeback by conservative and anti-Western former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. A scandal over the high pay awarded to top government officials has also not helped the incumbent president.

“Before the deal was signed, Rouhani said that by solving the nuclear issues we can solve every other problem. He raised expectations too much,” said Amir Mohebbian, director of the Arya News Agency, who describes himself as a pragmatic principlist. (“Principlist” is the term normally used in Iran for conservatives.)

“His second mistake was to say the deal was a win-win game. People now say the U.S. won by closing our reactors. They ask what Iran won,” Mohebbian told MEE. “Maybe Rouhani is the first president who will serve only one term. All his predecessors had eight years.” ...

The most recent [poll], carried out by telephone from Tehran in July, found that 74 percent of Iranians feel their living standards have not improved since the nuclear deal. Although some 63 percent still approve the deal, support for Ahmadinejad is rising. Rouhani leads him by only 8 percent, compared with a gap of 35 percent a year ago.

While much of the power in Iran lies in the hands of the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, a presidential change away from Rouhani could make Iran’s foreign policy even more pushy, something the *Trumpet* fully expects in the future.

Libyan Commander Takes Oil Terminals, Provokes Europe’s Ire

FORCES OPPOSED TO THE UN-BACKED LIBYAN GOVERNMENT IN Tripoli appear to be making a clean sweep through the country’s ‘oil crescent,’ [seizing control of oil terminal headquarters](#) and gaining a stranglehold over the export of Libya’s economic lifeblood,” reported Guardian Unlimited this week.

The capture of the oil terminals through the weekend and Monday changes the balance of political forces inside Libya and makes the survival of the UN-backed, Tripoli-based government of national accord (GNA) less likely.

The oil ports were seized by forces under the control of

Gen. Khalifa Haftar, who opposes the GNA and supports the rival government in the east of the country. The victory for Haftar is likely to increase his prestige and his negotiating power in the event of Libya being carved up.

The seizure resulted in instant rebuke from the international backers of the GNA and calls on General Haftar, who is loyal to the eastern half of the country, to promptly return the terminals. Associated Press [reported](#):

The U.S., France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Britain said the UN-brokered government based in the capital, Tripoli, is the “sole steward of these resources,” adding that “Libya’s oil belongs to the Libyan people.”

“We also call on all forces to avoid any action that could damage Libya’s energy infrastructure or further disrupt its exports,” said the joint statement, issued late Monday. It also warned against “illicit oil exports.” ...

zJedran’s militia seized the oil terminals more than two years ago and has tried to export illegally in the past. It is now allied with the UN-backed government, and UN envoy Martin Kobler brokered a deal with Jedran in July to resume exports.

Writing for the Middle East Eye, Jason Pack and Rhiannon

Smith surmised that this could [spell doom for the Western-backed GNA](#):

By removing the oil crescent ports from Federalist/GNA control, [Haftar] has not only demonstrated the body’s inability to secure key state infrastructure and institutions, but he has cut one of the few vital lifelines which could save the internationally recognized GNA: the ability to restart oil exports and boost Libya’s failing economy. ...

Most importantly, to avoid inadvertently creating further chaos, the international community must ensure that this political solution is in place before engaging any further militarily in Libya.

This does not mean giving in to Haftar’s demands, but equally it doesn’t mean clinging to the GNA or the current UN process against all odds. If this happens, the danger is that as the balance of power and popular opinion on the ground shifts away from the GNA, the UN and other Western countries could be left supporting an entity that is a government in name only.

However, as reported in the *Trumpet* earlier this year, the GNA is basically a European creation built to provide a pretext for a [European presence in Libya](#). In light of that, watch for European leaders to become further entrenched in their support of the GNA.

Is Iranian Military Preparing to Go on the Offensive?

“ON SEPTEMBER 1, IRANIAN SUPREME LEADER AYATOLLAH ALI Khamenei said something quite remarkable,” [wrote](#) J. Matthew McInnis in the *National Interest* this week. He continued:

In a speech at an Iranian military expo, the ayatollah stated that the development of Iran’s “defensive and offensive capabilities” is an “inalienable and clear right,” comments subsequently echoed by important clerics and major state media outlets. Iranian leaders almost always describe their military as strictly “defensive” as a point of moral and political pride. The word “offensive” is rarely, if ever, used by Tehran when discussing its armed forces. ...

The arrival of the nuclear deal and the Islamic Republic’s grinding campaigns in the region have set the stage for change, however. The [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action] brings significant new financial resources, relaxation of restrictions on technology and weapons acquisition,

and the much-reduced prospect of U.S. or Israeli military strikes for a decade or more. At same time, the IRGC’s [Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps] struggles in Syria and Iraq have shown that their army of proxies and ballistic missiles forces is simply insufficient for the types of conflicts Tehran is most likely to face in the coming years. If Iran hopes to avoid depending on Russian or U.S. airpower every time a critical national interest is at risk, something needs to give.

Signs of that shift have already emerged. Over the past year, the IRGC began integrating Artesh elements and more conventional weapons into the militia front fighting for Syrian President Bashar Assad. In July, the Armed Forces General Staff, which coordinates and oversees both the IRGC and Artesh, had its most significant personnel overhaul since the Iran-Iraq War, signaling a move to greater professionalism, interoperability and effective power projection.

TW IN BRIEF

Israel-U.S. aid package precursor to peace push: An agreement has been finalized between Israel and the United States for the [biggest military aid package in history](#). The new \$38 billion arms deal for Israel is to carry out over 10 years, in \$3.8 billion annual installments, up from the current arms deal of \$3.1 billion per year. Concessions were required from the Israeli government in accepting the deal, such as that the money would only be used to purchase U.S. military hardware and not to develop Israeli

hardware. Analyzing the deal in the *Times of Israel*, Raphael Ahren wrote that “handing Israel the largest-ever military aid package gives Obama much more potential room to support Palestine-related initiatives, say at the United Nations, right after the presidential elections (when such moves can no longer harm Hillary Clinton, the Democratic candidate). Before the deal was finalized this week, usually well-informed Israeli sources predicted that [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu would

not sign the deal before Inauguration Day. To do so, they argued, would enable the current administration to deflect any criticism of potential moves on the Palestinian front with the argument that it had taken very good care of Israel's security needs."

Meet Iran's newest warship: Iran has a new naval ship capable of transporting helicopters and about 100 men. State

television reported today on the aluminum-built vessel docked in the southwestern port of Bushehr. One side of the vessel had a message from Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The message read: "Americans should go to the Bay of Pigs, the Persian Gulf is our home." An Iranian military official said the "ship increases the deterrent power of Iran and will have an effect on the calculations of the enemy, particularly America."

EUROPE

Trumpet Hour

THE NEXT WORLD WAR?, UNREST IN LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA,
NORTH KOREA'S NUKE TEST, AND MUCH MORE | SEPTEMBER 16

EUROPE'S CATHOLIC IDENTITY, IRAN IN LATIN AMERICA,
GRIT, AND MORE | SEPTEMBER 14

Are Global Crises Converging on World War III?

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



"ALMOST 5 BILLION OF THE 7.4 BILLION PEOPLE ON EARTH LIVE on the Eurasian landmass," began an article titled "[The World Before World War II Reemerges](#)" published by Geopolitical Futures.

It is the heartland of humanity. Eurasia has always been a turbulent place, but over the last few years its turbulence has taken on a new and more ominous form. Various parts of Eurasia have destabilized, and the destabilized areas are beginning to interact. **The last time we saw this happening was prior to World War II.** This isn't to say that we are necessarily heading toward a Eurasian war. **It does mean that we have entered a new historical phase, and that new phase carries with it dramatically increasing risks.** At the very least we are entering a phase where the global system is shifting in fundamental ways. When the human heartland comes under intense pressure, humanity as a whole shifts.

The article summarized the changes in the world that led to World Wars I and II—the rise of new powers, the economic collapse in Europe, and bitter distrust and instability in Europe. This time, it noted:

New powers are rising to challenge the world the United States constructed after World War II. China has emerged as a major economic power and a rising military power. Russia, after its collapse at the end of the Cold War, has also reemerged as a rising power, wanting to redefine the international system. And various strands of the Islamic world are looking to redefine the international system, first by trying to construct a coherent Islamic regime in the Middle East and then by posing a broader challenge.

The financial crisis of 2008 has created systemic instability throughout the world. ... Under this economic pressure, the social and political glue started to disintegrate. In Europe, the nationalism of each country rose under divergent economic interests. ...

In Russia, economic problems combined with strategic problems to increase the power of the state and the use of military force. In China, a dictatorship was imposed and a massive purge is being carried out to frighten any potential enemy of the regime. ...

In the Middle East, Saudi Arabia's ability to manage potentially destabilizing jihadist groups through financial incentives decreased, and wars intensified throughout the region.

These various regional crises are now beginning to interact. The conflict in the Middle East is generating a huge flow of migrants to Europe. According to the UN high commissioner for refugees, over 2 million refugees and migrants have arrived in Europe since the beginning of 2014. Europe has also seen several jihadist attacks, and European countries like France and Germany have deployed some forces in the Middle East. Russia is engaged in the Middle East as well, while simultaneously maintaining support for anti-West forces in Ukraine. It has conducted maneuvers near the Baltics and its aircraft are patrolling deep into the Atlantic and Mediterranean. The Chinese economic crisis has reverberated throughout Eurasia. Since China's foreign exchange reserves almost hit \$4 trillion in June 2014, they have fallen to \$3.2 trillion, the lowest figure since 2011. Meanwhile, the Chinese have confronted Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia over sovereignty claims in the South and East China seas.

The article took a closer look at the problems in all these

regions, while noting that America is backing off, either unwilling or unable to solve the spiraling crises in the world. It concluded:

Each major Eurasian region is in crisis. Each crisis is different. But all of the regions have destabilized. They have done so in different ways and to different degrees. We are not anywhere near an all-inclusive war, and we may never get there, but the entire landmass is off balance with social and economic problems, dramatic internal political shifts and in some regions, military conflicts. It is clear that we are entering a fundamental shift in how the world works. ...

The widespread instability in Europe, China, Russia and the Middle East—all part of Eurasia—is something we haven't seen since before World War II. The instability takes different forms and has not reached a critical stage. Still, economic and social crises are common and fighting is taking place, to some extent, in the Middle East and on Russia's

borders, and military activities are going on in China's coastal waters. These conflicts have not flowed into a single conflagration, but have begun to interact. Most interesting is that the United States is returning to its pre-World War II posture.

The single-most dangerous factor is that there are no apparent arrestors. There are no clear forces that can stop the fighting in the Middle East, the EU internal crisis, the Russian economic and strategic crisis, or the Chinese political, social and economic crises. Without arrestors, the crises will continue and intensify. There doesn't seem to be a force to contain it.

Therefore, the only reasonable conclusion is that we are seeing a mounting crisis in Eurasia. Should it continue, it will mean a reconfiguration of this region, as it was reconfigured by World War II.

Push for an EU Army Continues

“OUR EUROPEAN UNION IS, AT LEAST IN PART, IN AN EXISTENTIAL crisis,” declared European Commission President Jean Claude Juncker in his State of the Union speech on September 14. The solution? He devoted a major part of his speech to call for EU military cooperation.

“[E]ven though Europe is proud to be a soft power of global importance, we must not be naive,” he said. “Soft power is not enough in our increasingly dangerous neighborhood.” He continued:

Europe needs to toughen up. Nowhere is this truer than in our defense policy.

Europe can no longer afford to piggyback on the military might of others or let France alone defend its honor in Mali.

We have to take responsibility for protecting our interests and the European way of life.

Over the last decade, we have engaged in over 30 civilian and military EU missions from Africa to Afghanistan.

But without a permanent structure we cannot act effectively. Urgent operations are delayed.

We have separate headquarters for parallel missions, even when they happen in the same country or city. It is time we had a single headquarters for these operations.

We should also move towards common military assets, in some cases owned by the EU. And, of course, in full complementarity with NATO. ...

The Lisbon Treaty enables those member states who wish, to pool their defense capabilities in the form of a permanent structured cooperation. I think the time to make use of this possibility is now. And I hope that our meeting at 27 in Bratislava a few days from now will be the first, political step in that direction.

He also called for Europe to cooperate on defense projects. “We are building multinational fleet of air tankers,” he said. “Let’s

replicate this example.”

Juncker praised the progress the EU was making in implementing a new border and coast guard force. This alone is a major step toward an army. It will only be 1,000 strong, but it can deploy in an EU country even against that country's will.

Juncker also called for Europe to unify its foreign policy.

Federica Mogherini, our high representative and my vice president, is doing a fantastic job. But she needs to become our European foreign minister via whom all diplomatic services, of big and small countries alike, pool their forces to achieve leverage in international negotiations.

Juncker's push is supported by France and Germany, whose defense ministers sent a six-page paper to the EU's foreign service on September 11. *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* and *Le Figaro* both saw the paper.

According to these reports, the paper states, “[I]n the context of a deteriorating security environment ... it is high time to reinforce our solidarity and European defense capabilities in order to more effectively protect the citizens and borders of Europe.”

The EU has already conducted military operations, such as Operation Sophia, aimed at migrant smugglers off the coast of Libya and Operation Atalanta against pirates of the coast off Somalia. The paper called for these type of missions to be coordinated out of a joint EU headquarters.

It called for Europe's battle groups to be made ready for action, a joint EU budget for improving airlift capabilities, satellites, cyberwarfare and drones. It also called for a new European military academy, or European military courses at national academies, in order to forge a European spirit within national militaries.

The paper talked about military operations in “key zones ... where our common security is at stake.” The focus of these efforts was the Mediterranean and the North Sea.

Germany Sends Troops on Mediterranean Mission

GERMANY WILL SEND 650 SOLDIERS AS PART OF A NEW NATO mission to fight radical Islam in the Mediterranean Sea. The main aim of Operation Sea Guardian will be surveillance, but it will also have the power to search ships suspected of carrying terrorists. It will also assist the EU's border agency, Frontex, in tackling human trafficking and arms smuggling.

[Deutsche Welle reported](#) on September 13 that Germany is expected to join the mission with up to 650 soldiers. It said that the government would discuss the plan on September 14, and that a plan would probably be presented to parliament for its

approval before the end of the month.

"The deployment is regarded as part of a broader shift in Germany to expand its military role in Europe and NATO," it wrote. "Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen has been hoping to update German military equipment and boost troop levels following years of decline."

Germany had been a part of NATO's Active Endeavor mission, which began after the September 11 attacks. Its mandate for that mission ended on July 15.

Europe Struggles With Terrorism

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS FOILING NEW TERRORIST PLOTS "every day," its prime minister warned. [Sky News reported](#):

Manuel Valls said France faced a threat from an estimated 15,000 homegrown radicals, warning that despite the efforts of security services, there "will be new attacks."

He was speaking to radio station Europe 1 as a 15-year-old boy was arrested in Paris on suspicion of planning an imminent knife attack.

"Today the threat is at a maximum, and we are a target," Valls said on Sunday.

"Every day attacks are foiled ... (including) as we speak."

He warned that among the 15,000 people suspected of being in the process of being radicalized, 1,350 are under investigation.

"There will be new attacks, there will be innocent victims ... this is also my role to tell this truth to the French people," he said.

The teenager detained in eastern Paris on Saturday had been under house arrest since April for suspected links to Islamic extremists following a search of his home.

His arrest comes just days after police dismantled a

"terrorist cell" of female "commandos" in connection with an aborted attack near Paris's Notre Dame Cathedral.

Four women, the 15-year-old daughter of one of the women, and a man were arrested last week after an abandoned car filled with gas canisters and diesel was found close to the landmark.

One of the women was charged with terrorism offenses after telling police she and an accomplice had tried to set the vehicle alight but fled when they saw a man they believed to be a plain-clothes policeman.

Just days earlier, German Interior Minister Thomas de Maizière told *Bild* that there were at least 520 "potential attackers" in the country who could carry out attacks alone or as part of "hit teams."

"The hit teams are secretly smuggled into Europe and prepare their actions without being noticed, as we saw with the attacks in Paris and Brussels," he said. "But it's even more difficult to uncover the fanatical lone wolves. Unfortunately, there is a real and present danger from both threats."

He warned that "authorities are assuming there are undiscovered lone-wolf terrorists out there."

Austrian Cardinal Speaks Out on Islam

CARDINAL CHRISTOPH SCHÖNBORN, THE ARCHBISHOP OF VIENNA, warned of an "Islamic Conquest of Europe" on September 11. He was speaking on the 333rd anniversary of the Battle of Vienna, when the Christian nations of Europe joined forces to prevent the Muslim Ottomans taking Vienna and continuing their expansion in Europe.

"Will there now be a third attempt at an Islamic conquest of Europe?" he asked. "Many Muslims want that and say, 'Europe is at its end.'"

"God have mercy on Europe and on thy people, who are in danger of forfeiting our Christian heritage," he prayed, according to local media reports. He continued:

Lord, remember, it is your people. And if we have strayed and if we have squandered the inheritance, Lord, do not abandon us! Do not abandon this Europe, which has produced so many saints. Do not abandon us, because we have become lukewarm in our faith.

Schönborn is a former pupil of the former Pope Benedict XVI. His comments come as Pope Francis made one of his strongest speeches yet against radical Islam.

"Today there are Christians murdered, tortured, imprisoned, slaughtered because they do not deny Jesus Christ," the pope said

on September 14.

Discussing Jacques Hamel, the French priest murdered by two Islamic State supporting terrorists on July 26, the pope said that “to kill in the name of God is satanic.”

German Police Overwhelmed by Migrant Crisis

“MUSLIM MIGRANTS IN GERMANY ARE CAUSING A SPIKE IN CRIME so significant that one German town has created an entire new crime unit solely to address it,” wrote [Polezette](#), a news site set up by Laura Ingraham last year. The article continued:

The specialist “Multiple Offender Immigrants” task force has been introduced in the town of Bietigheim-Bissingen, south of Stuttgart. The four-man squad exists solely to investigate migrant crime and will reportedly use the

Fear of Russia Drives Return of Conscription

ACROSS EUROPE, NATIONS ARE REVIVING CONSCRIPTION BECAUSE they feel threatened by Russia. In an article titled “[Europe Rediscovered the Military Draft](#),” *National Review* wrote on November 13:

[W]ith Russia looming larger than it has in decades, Sweden is moving to address its manpower shortage. This month, a government-appointed rapporteur is expected to recommend a return to the draft. According to the daily *Svenska Dagbladet*, the rapporteur—Annika Nordgren Christensen, a former Green Party M.P. who served on the parliament’s defense committee—will recommend that starting next year, all 17-year-olds will be registered for the draft, with selection taking place when they are 18. Unlike the previous draft, the new one will—if passed by parliament, as is likely—also include women. That will bring Sweden in line with Norway, which has already expanded its draft to women, and several other European countries that are considering doing so.

Other European countries face the same dilemma as

Christian Today reported: “Pope Francis has signaled that he is preparing to canonize” Hamel. They note that, as a martyr, Hamel could be canonized without the church’s usual requirement of performing two miracles.

help of sources in asylum-seeker homes to track down and arrest criminal Muslim migrants

A recent report released by Germany’s Interior Ministry revealed that crime rates in the country would have remained static since 2014 if migrant crime had not been included in the statistics. The report identified at least 402,741 crimes committed by migrants in Germany in the past two years.

Sweden: How to recruit soldiers when extremely few young people have had any interaction with the military. Teenagers decide they want to become doctors—or even bankers—based on their experience with medicine or banking, but the military? Past generations’ draft served not only to train reserves but to open young men’s eyes to the military as a career choice. In short, Europe is once again focusing on territorial defense.

Not surprisingly, other countries are rediscovering the draft too. In France, the draft is now being discussed as a response to terrorism, with Socialist Party presidential contender Arnaud Montebourg proposing a six-month general draft. In Germany, politicians such as the Christian Democrats’ parliamentary leader in Lower Saxony, Björn Thümler, argue that Germany should think about a return to the draft....

Last year Lithuania, which suspended conscription in 2008, reintroduced it, initially for a period of five years. This year, parliament made the draft permanent. At the same time parliament voted to establish a second brigade.

TW IN BRIEF

German clashes evoke Crusades: Around 100 German police officers had to get in between German citizens and refugees from the Middle East who were fighting in the eastern town of Bautzen. The clash happened Wednesday night, when some 80 Germans and 20 migrants attacked each other in a market square. Video footage emerged showing the two groups shoving each other, with some chanting “go away.” Police had to separate the two sides, and some refugees reportedly threw bottles at them. The Germans reportedly shouted nationalist slogans and followed the refugees back to their shelter. Later in the evening, some of the Germans threw stones at an ambulance, preventing it from approaching the shelter to help an injured refugee.

Hungary to stem migrant flow: Hungary plans to build a new fence, install surveillance equipment, and deploy “border hunters” as part of its efforts to stop the flow of migrants at its southern border. The government announced the plans on Thursday, saying more has to be done to restore order in the nation. A government spokesman said, “It was most unbearable in 2015, when thousands of migrants a day were marching through” parts of the country. Nearly 400,000 people passed through Hungary last year, in hopes of entering Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and other wealthier EU destinations.



America's Empty Threat to North Korea

Keiren Underwood | September 16

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



DID YOU NOTICE THE UNITED STATES' STRONG RESPONSE TO North Korea's fifth underground nuclear test? If you didn't, you're not the only one. We haven't seen it either.

Under the leadership of Kim Jong-un, North Korea carried out its fifth underground nuclear test on September 9, just in time for the 68th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. South Korea felt the magnitude 5.3 earthquake caused by the explosion, which was reported to have a blast yield of up to 20 kilotons. In comparison, the bomb dropped on Hiroshima was around 15 kilotons.

Kim didn't seem fazed by the "strong" consequences the U.S. had previously threatened. Back in April, while meeting Japanese officials, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken told Reuters that Pyongyang would be making its situation worse if it conducted another test. "There will be additional strong response in case of another [North Korean] nuclear test," Blinken said.

So what was the strong response?

After the blast was confirmed, U.S. President Barack Obama warned, again, that North Korea would face "consequences to its unlawful and dangerous actions." Speaking to the leaders of South Korea and Japan by phone, he discussed taking "additional significant steps, including new sanctions."

A quick look into the [history of how North Korea gained nuclear weapons](#), which is startlingly similar to the track Iran is on now, doesn't lend much credibility to the power of such sanctions. The path the United States paved for North Korea to reach nuclear capability was strewn with faulty intelligence, ignored violations, back-and-forth sanctions, and naively optimistic negotiators.

"Not only did diplomacy fail to fulfill American goals, but it actually sabotaged them," observed Michael Rubin in his book on rogue regimes, *Dancing With the Devil*. "Pyongyang never engaged sincerely; rather successive North Korean leaders used diplomacy to distract the West while pursuing their nuclear aims unimpeded."

With such a history of failure in North Korea, the idea that new sanctions will be effective is incongruous. Naturally, Pyongyang

responded by calling the threats of "meaningless sanctions ... highly laughable."

Jae H. Ku, the director of the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, said in an interview with *Foreign Policy*, "No amount of sanctions will stop North Korea. Nuclear weapons are their sole survival strategy." According to Ku, sanctions are unlikely to have a meaningful impact on North Korea so long as Kim Jong-un continues to think that his nuclear arsenal is all that protects him from Western attempts at regime change.

China is the key for America's "strong response." Without China's support, the U.S. can't pass a United Nations Security Council resolution. Without China, a failing North Korean economy can be propped up. The fact is, China doesn't want a regime change in North Korea if it means influence in the region would be taken over by the U.S.

So what can America do? Talk big to a little country; fly jets over South Korea, close to the northern border; mull heavier sanctions, possibly without the UN. That seems to be the extent of the options the U.S. will consider.

At this point, it looks just as likely that the United States will *fund* North Korea as it will sanction it. The UN has already assigned North Korea \$8 million (of which America pays a large percentage) in humanitarian aid for North Korea. On September 13, the UN estimated 140,000 North Koreans were "in urgent need of assistance" because of recent floods.

From 1992 to 1994, U.S. companies exported \$120 million worth of corn, wheat and medicine to North Korea to aid citizens suffering from a famine. As Rubin pointed out, "[President Bill] Clinton tried to spin the food aid as a necessary price for diplomacy." Meanwhile, North Korean leaders spent the country's money on military hardware and its nuclear program.

It might seem strange that a powerhouse nation like the U.S. is so ineffective that it resorts to mere threats to a second-world country. But it is all part of [America's broken will](#). America's "strong response" is a promise it won't and can't fulfill.



The Philippines and China: An Alliance in the Making?

Callum Wood | September 18

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT RODRIGO DUTERTE HAS BEEN CALLED THE "Donald Trump of Southeast Asia." Some consider him a necessary strongman, while others call him a violator of human rights.

The United States is anxious because Duterte is rewriting the Philippine-U.S. playbook. This week, he indicated that he might

pivot Manila away from America and toward China.

Duterte has called on the United States to withdraw from the southern island of Mindanao, a Muslim-majority region and the home of a number of terrorist groups. "For as long as we stay with America, we will never have peace in that land," he said.

The decision to oust U.S. troops jeopardizes a strategic deal signed earlier this year by then-President Benigno Aquino to allow America to operate out of five bases. One of these was Lumbia Air Base in Mindanao. If American troops are removed from the base, it will cast doubt on the longevity of the March deal.

Duterte is also proving to be an unreliable ally to America in the fight to prevent Chinese aggression in the South China Sea. At the ASEAN summit, he promised not to mention the South China Sea—leaning more toward China’s stance that any negotiations should be conducted without Washington present.

Duterte has also promised to halt all maritime patrols with foreign nations in an effort to deescalate tensions. This too is in Beijing’s favor, as China would prefer not to see cooperation between the U.S. and its allies in the region.

When it comes to confronting China, Duterte’s language lacks the usual brash tone. While comfortable calling President Obama the “son of a whore” as he reportedly did last week, Duterte is often pleasant to China: “I hope the Chinese may find a place in their hearts for the Filipinos. I hope you treat us [as] your brothers and not enemies and take note of our plight.” Bear in mind, he addressed these words to China—the nation illegally (per the recent ruling at The Hague) occupying Philippine territory and denying Philippine fishermen access to fishing waters.

This soft approach shows that Duterte is looking to reset relations with China, even if it means giving up the major political

victory he inherited from The Hague when he took office.

Most recently, Duterte hinted that the Philippines will no longer be so reliant on America for weaponry, announcing that Russia and China agreed to a 25-year soft loan that will allow the Philippines to purchase their weapons.

After decades of America saturating the Philippines arms market, Russia and China will now have a deep foothold in it. Meanwhile, the Philippines defense procurement budget leaped to \$526 million—a 25 percent increase over last year. The country clearly has plans on buying more, but not from America.

Russia and China have worked feverishly to replace America as the go-to world power: Russia in the Middle East; China in Southeast Asia. Now both have the chance to elbow out America in the Philippines.

The *Trumpet* has written extensively on this shift by America’s traditional Asian alliances away from Washington, even before much evidence of it existed. In 2011, we wrote: “As America’s influence in the Philippines and all of Asia wanes, China’s twin forces of soft-power diplomacy and hard-power buildup will fill the void and steadily congeal the Asian nations into a colossal global power.”

Many in the world see the demise of the U.S. and the ascendance of Russia and China, but so few see the reason and the hope that is coming quickly afterward. Request our free booklet [Russia and China in Prophecy](#). It will show you where current events in Asia are leading, as explained in your Bible.

TW IN BRIEF

China opposes sanctions on nuclear North Korea: The Chinese foreign minister told his Japanese counterpart late Wednesday that although China is opposed to North Korea’s most recent nuclear test, the country opposes administering unilateral sanctions that are “unhelpful” to resolving the issue. Japan’s foreign minister has called North Korea’s nuclear test a grave threat to Japan’s national security. While China has signed off on United Nations sanctions and insists it is complying with them, the nation is still North Korea’s biggest trading partner and diplomatic supporter.

North Korea set for more nukes: Weapons experts believe North Korea will accumulate enough nuclear material for 20 nuclear bombs by the end of this year. The North has increased its uranium enrichment program and has stockpiled plutonium. The experts said North Korea has a self-sufficient nuclear program that may be able to generate six nuclear bombs a year. An exact measure of the country’s nuclear capabilities is not known; however, the country was able to conduct its most powerful nuclear test last week and is reportedly planning another. This reveals the North has no shortage of nuclear material. Experts say North Korea has been working on building nuclear weapons for over 10 years.

Taiwan typhoon: Typhoon Meranti hit Taiwan on Wednesday causing major flooding and damage. The rainstorm, carrying strong winds, hit most parts of Taiwan after the typhoon made landfall. The waves on the costal line peaked above one-story high. Meranti is now a super typhoon, with gusts of up to 75 miles

per hour. Over 100,000 homes are without power. Taiwan’s Central Weather Bureau said it was the strongest typhoon to make landfall on Taiwan in 21 years.

China launches second space station: China launched its second “Heavenly Palace” space station on September 15, which will soon be occupied by two astronauts. A Long March 7 rocket lifted the station into orbit from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center. The successful launch of the Tiangong 2 station marks a step forward in China’s goal to send a mission to Mars.

China and Russia hold naval drills: The Chinese and Russian navies launched eight days of war games in the South China Sea on Monday in a sign of growing cooperation between their armed forces. A Russian fleet arrived at a naval port in southern China for the naval drill called Joint Sea-2016. Tasks include defensive and rescue drills, antisubmarine exercises and the simulated seizure of enemy islands.

NORTH KOREA FLOODING: AID AGENCIES WARNED OF A MASSIVE humanitarian disaster in North Korea on Tuesday as the result of massive flooding triggered by Typhoon Lionrock. The worst hit area was along the Tumen River, bordering China. Estimates are that tens of thousands are displaced and 140,000 people are “in urgent need of assistance,” according to the United Nation’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The North Korean government has reported 133 deaths and around 400 missing. So far this year, the UN has assigned \$8 million in humanitarian aid for North Korea.



Who Was the End-Time Elijah?

Gerald Flurry,

The Key of David | September 18

Jesus Christ said that He would send a man who would come in the end time to prepare the way for His Second Coming. This man has already come, just as Christ said he would.



Federal Agency Trashes 'Religious Liberty' as Code Word for 'Homophobia'

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS (USCCR) declared on September 8 that the phrase "religious liberty" was a code word for "racism," "sexism," "homophobia" and Christian supremacy.

According to a [Washington Times](#) article by Mark A. Kellner:

The chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights said that "religious freedom" and "religious liberty" have become merely "code words" for intolerance, "Christian supremacy" and committing every form of identity-politics sin, and thus they must yield before antidiscrimination laws.

The remarks, released Thursday in a report on "Peaceful Coexistence: Reconciling Nondiscrimination Principles With Civil Liberties," is the latest example of an increasingly hostile reception in liberal circles to one of the six specified rights at the core of the First Amendment—the "free exercise" of religion.

"The phrases 'religious liberty' and 'religious freedom' will stand for nothing except hypocrisy so long as they remain code words for discrimination, intolerance, racism, sexism, homophobia, Islamophobia, Christian supremacy or any form of intolerance," said Martin R. Castro, a Chicago Democrat named USCCR chairman by President Obama in 2011. ...

At the heart of the "Peaceful Coexistence" report is a USCCR assertion that granting religious exemptions to non-discrimination laws "significantly infringe" on the civil rights of those claiming civil rights protections on the basis of "race, color, national origin, sex, disability status, sexual orientation and gender identity." ...

It's the area of sexual orientation and gender identity where the greatest conflicts lie, and the report offered little

support to those who see their work or artistic expressions—creative photography, cake decorating or flower arranging, for example—as also expressions of their religious belief about marriage being the union of one man and one woman.

The debate between social justice warriors and advocates of religious freedom is heating up. Officials at the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights are now claiming in their most recent report that statutory antidiscrimination laws supersede First Amendment protections of religious freedom.

According to an [Atlantic](#) article by Emma Green:

The report is worth reading, if only because it shows how deeply divided the legal community is about religious liberty and civil rights. A majority of commissioners ultimately found that "religious exemptions to the protections of civil rights based upon classifications such as race, color, national origin, sex, disability status, sexual orientation and gender identity, when they are permissible, significantly infringe upon these civil rights."

This is a broad finding, more of an orientation than a guiding legal principle. But it's easy enough to guess what the commissioners may have had in mind: tax-exempt status for religious colleges and universities that don't admit LGBT students. Laws that let bakers and other wedding vendors refuse to provide services for same-sex wedding ceremonies. Court decisions about religious pharmacists who decline to stock certain kinds of birth control in their stores.

From the time the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom was enacted on Jan. 16, 1786, until recently, religious freedom was a founding principle in America. This may be coming to an end.

Weekly Wages Fall Over Past Year

AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES IN THE UNITED STATES DECREASED half a percent to \$1,043 during the year ending in the first quarter of 2016. According to an article in [Investor's Business Daily](#) by Jed Graham:

The average weekly U.S. wage fell 0.5 percent from a year ago in the first quarter, the Labor Department said on Wednesday. The \$5 drop to \$1,043 was just the seventh annual decline in quarterly records dating back to 1978.

The reported drop in weekly wages, which reflects both

stagnant wages and a shorter workweek, confirms that the economy was much weaker than widely understood in early 2016. That weakness, which was evident in the sharp slowdown in federal income and employment tax withholdings, was likely exacerbated by a sharp stock-market sell-off triggered by concerns over China's slowing economy and the Federal Reserve's plans for a series of rate hikes.

The new data come from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, which provides the only detailed quarterly and annual universe count of establishments, employment and wages at the county, state and national levels by detailed industry.

Among the 344 largest counties, 167 had over-the-year decreases in average weekly wages, with three seeing double-digit declines: McClean, Ill., 13.3 percent; Washington, Pa., 12 percent; and Lafayette, La., 10.3 percent.

Such general and localized wage stagnation and declines help explain the appeal of political populism from the likes of Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders.

Despite some preemptive comments by politicians that the U.S. economy is doing fine, the statistics show that economic recovery is a receding mirage on the horizon.

TW IN BRIEF

Americans don't trust media: Americans' trust in the media is at an all-time low. A Gallup poll released Wednesday reveals American skepticism toward the media's ability "to reflect the news fully, accurately and fairly." Only 32 percent of 1,020 respondents said that they possess at least a moderate amount of trust in the media. That plummets to just 14 percent among Republicans, the lowest percentage for them in 20 years. A Gallup analyst said: "While it is clear Americans' trust in the media has been eroding over time, the election campaign may be the reason that it has fallen so sharply this year."

David Cameron will leave the House of Commons: Former British Prime Minister David Cameron decided to leave the House of Commons. He told RTV News on Monday, "In my view, in modern politics, with the circumstances of my resignation, it isn't really possible to be a proper backbench M.P. as a former prime minister. Everything you do will become a big distraction and a big diversion from what the government wants to do for our country." Previously, Cameron had said he would remain a member of parliament under the new government. However, the new prime minister opposes his legacy and has fired some of his key allies.

Aussie politician says Australia being 'swamped' by Muslims: Australian politician Pauline Hanson warned on Wednesday that her country is in danger of being "swamped" by Muslims. She was delivering her maiden speech to parliament after returning to federal politics in this year's elections. On Thursday, Hanson was criticized for her comments, but she refused to apologize, saying that there are many Australian politicians who share her views but "fear" speaking out. Another One Nation senator, Malcolm Roberts, who delivered his first speech to parliament on Tuesday, called for Australia to leave the United Nations, just as Britain voted to leave the European Union.

A different kind of nuke deal: Britain has approved a \$24 billion nuclear power plant backed by China. France is building the plant, and China is paying \$8 billion for it. Reuters reported that the deal ended "weeks of uncertainty that had strained [Britain's] ties with China." British Prime Minister Theresa May had put the project on hold when she was inaugurated in July. Although she will proceed with the project, she said she will be more cautious in the future about foreign investment.



The Father Focus

Stephen Flurry,

Trumpet Daily | September 16

Who is the central figure of the gospel?

[Follow Stephen Flurry](#)

