



Is the Global Economic Crisis About to Hit Germany?

Richard Palmer | September 30

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



GERMANY'S BIGGEST BANKS ARE IN BIG TROUBLE. THAT'S NOT exactly news. Before the financial crisis, Deutsche Bank's share price was nearly €100 (US\$135) a share. At the start of this year it was €21.45 (\$24). This week, it hit its lowest value since 1973 and currently stands below €12. Now its situation is so dire that its name is trending on Twitter.

Since the 2008 financial crisis, Germany has been the rock of stability for Europe's economy. It has weathered the storm with low unemployment, while economic crises upended entire political

systems elsewhere in Europe. Now the banks at the heart of Germany's economy seem on the brink of going under. The global economic crisis that began in 2008 could be about to hit Germany.

This is far more than a problem for rich shareholders. It has implications for German Chancellor Angela Merkel personally, German politics as a whole, the euro crisis, the immigration crisis, and all of Europe. As Geopolitical Futures founder George Friedman wrote a week ago: "Germany is the fourth-largest economy in the world, the largest economy in Europe, the lender of last resort,

and the foundation of European stability. If Germany weakens or destabilizes, Europe destabilizes, and it is not too extreme to say that if Europe destabilizes, the world can as well.”

The immediate trigger for the uncertainty came on September 16, when the United States Department of Justice announced that the bank could have to pay fines of up to \$14 billion to settle claims of miss-selling mortgage-backed securities. Normally, \$14 billion would be a trivial sum for a bank. But judging by its share price, Deutsche Bank is only worth \$18 billion. The final number it ends up paying will be less—probably by a few billion dollars. But the company is losing billions of euros each year—it seems only a matter of time before the bank is worth less than nothing.

On September 26, the bank denied rumors that it had asked Chancellor Merkel for help with the fine and had been turned down. The rumors sent the share price falling another 7 percent.

Share price and profitability do not determine bank solvency. A catastrophic drop in share price alone doesn’t mean a bank will go under. But it does show the institution has some huge problems. And it does mean that people are quickly losing confidence in the bank.

This summer, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) declared Deutsche Bank the most dangerous bank in the world. Among globally systemically important banks, “Deutsche Bank appears to be the most important net contributor to systemic risks,” it wrote on June 30.

Deutsche Bank is one of two banks at the core of Germany’s economic system. The other is Commerzbank, and it too is in trouble. It shares Deutsche’s long-term problems. Before the financial crisis, Commerzbank’s share price nearly hit €300 (\$336) a share. Now, it’s less than €6. Its problems are also in the news—it announced it would cut 10,000 jobs and give no dividends this year.

Deutsche Bank is older than Germany itself. Known as the Big Three, Deutsche Bank, Commerzbank and Dresdner Bank bankrolled Germany’s economy for decades. In the mid-1980s, a German government study found that they control the voting authority of three quarters of shares in most big German companies. Dresdner Bank failed in the 2008 financial crisis and had to be bought out by Commerzbank, so the Big Three is now the Big Two. “Disaggregating Deutsche Bank from the German government’s political goals or the structure of German corporations is impossible,” reported Geopolitical Futures. “They are all inextricably linked.” If either of these banks goes under, a huge number of German businesses will take a major hit.

A crisis in Deutsche Bank would also spread far beyond Germany. The bank has deep links to banks around the world, including many in the United States. It would bring about the worst episode of the euro crisis yet seen. And it would put Ms. Merkel in an impossible position.

A bankrupt Deutsche Bank would trigger a political crisis in Germany, at the same time as the eurozone goes into economic meltdown. Therefore it seems almost certain that Deutsche Bank and probably Commerzbank would get some form of state aid if they were about to go bust.

That would be the lesser of the two evils, but it is still dangerous. In the recent Berlin elections, fringe left-wing parties—the Greens and the Left Party—won around 30 percent of the vote. A lot of Germans would not be happy to see their government

bailing out fat cats, as they would see it. The pressure on the Christian Democratic Union to get rid of Merkel would increase.

And Merkel’s whole strategy for the euro crisis would unravel. “[I]f Deutsche does go down, it is looking increasingly likely that it will take Merkel with it—and quite possibly the euro as well,” wrote Matthew Lynn in the *Telegraph*. He wrote:

The politics of a Deutsche rescue are terrible. Germany, with its chancellor taking the lead, has set itself up as the guardian of financial responsibility within the eurozone. ... For Germany to then turn around and say, actually we are bailing out our own bank, while letting everyone else’s fail, looks, to put it mildly, just a little inconsistent. ... In truth, it would become impossible to maintain a hard-line in Italy, and probably in Greece as well.

And yet, if Deutsche Bank went down, and the German government didn’t step in with a rescue, that would be a huge blow to Europe’s largest economy—and the global financial system. No one really knows where the losses would end up, or what the knock-on impact would be. It would almost certainly land a fatal blow to the Italian banking system, and the French and Spanish banks would be next. ...

In fact, Merkel is playing a very dangerous game with Deutsche—and one that could easily go badly wrong. If her refusal to sanction a bailout is responsible for a Deutsche collapse that could easily end her chancellorship. But if she rescues it, the euro might start to unravel. It is hardly surprising that the markets are watching the relentless decline in its share price with mounting horror.

But the most disturbing aspect of this story comes when it is put in context with other worrying signs coming from Germany. The German economy depends on exports. Weak growth in the eurozone means that other European nations can’t afford to buy as many goods from Germany. They have so far made up for this lost business by selling to China and the U.S. However, America is now importing less. This is having a knock-on effect on China, meaning that Germany’s last two growing customers will be cutting back simultaneously.

At the same time, international bodies are warning about the health of the entire global economy. With Germany’s reliance on imports, global problems very quickly become German problems. The Bank of International Settlements warned in its quarterly report on September 18 of growing instability in the financial market, especially in China. The instability that it warns of “does not seem to be cataclysmic,” wrote Friedman, “but given that Germany is at the heart of the earthquake, even a moderate shaking will bring it down.”

The annual report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, published on September 22, is more dire. In “UN Fears Third Leg of the Global Financial Crisis—With Prospect of Epic Debt Defaults,” the *Telegraph*’s international business editor Ambrose Evans-Pritchard warned that the coming crisis could “prove to be the definitive crisis of globalized capitalism, the demise of the liberal free-market orthodoxies ...”

A crisis in just Deutsche Bank, or even in Deutsche and Commerzbank, could possibly be fixed with a bailout. Germany’s debt is manageable, and it is taking in more money in tax revenue than

it is spending. But when you view the whole situation, it's clear that the bank crisis is a symptom of a much deeper sickness—one that cannot be cured so easily. Last week, Freidman warned:

In my view, there is a growing sense in Germany that the German system is failing ... the tremors are now being felt by the finest financial analysts in the world: ordinary people who work for a living and need their paychecks to survive. The political base of modern Germany is crumbling

Economic crises in the 1930s drove Germans to vote for the Nazis and Communists. Now they are already voting for fringe parties like Alternative for Deutschland and the Left Party. These parties are not the same as Nazis and Communists, but the trend points to the same rejection of mainstream politics.

At the same time, economic troubles in Germany would open up all the old wounds and questions in the euro crisis. Such a crisis would transform Germany and Europe.

We've seen this already in Greece. The nation is ruled by Syriza, a party that won only 5 percent of the vote before the financial crisis. The party came from nowhere to govern the country. If the same kind of political earthquake hits Germany, its effects would

be felt around the world.

Even if these problems don't come to a head soon—if investors never test the assumption that the German government will always stand behind its main banks, for example—the weaknesses are still there, ready to ensure that any global crisis rocks Germany to its core.

Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in 1984 that a massive banking crisis in America “could suddenly result in triggering European nations to unite as a new world power, larger than either the Soviet Union or the U.S.” (co-worker letter, July 22, 1984). The euro crisis exposed that the eurozone cannot function in its current form—it must either fall apart or come together as a super-state. Europe has taken some important steps toward that super-state. But a fresh outbreak of the banking crisis, this time in Germany, would put the eurozone under far more pressure than even in 2008. It would change German politics, while at the same time forcing at least some eurozone countries to unite—two key trends the *Trumpet* has been forecasting for years.

For more on how an economic crisis could transform Germany and Europe, read *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry's article “[How the Global Financial Crisis Will Produce Europe's Ten Kings.](#)”

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Iran Deepens Infiltration of Latin America

Anthony Chibairwe | September 27

A CERTAIN MAN ONCE ACCUSED IRAN OF SPONSORING TERRORISM and for doing so with the collusion of certain rogue nations. That didn't necessarily make him any different from officials in the United States Intelligence Community or State Department or the multiple millions who understand that terrifying reality.

What differentiates him from most people is that [he was found dead with a bullet in his head](#) the day before he was scheduled to testify before the Argentine legislature about Iran's terror network in Latin America and the state support it received in the region.

On Jan. 14, 2015, special prosecutor Alberto Nisman filed a complaint against then Argentine President Cristina Fernández

de Kirchner and some officials in her administration for covering up Iran's involvement in the worst terrorist attack in Argentine history—the July 18, 1994, bombing of the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA) building, which killed 85 people and wounded more than 300 others. Four days later, Nisman was assassinated.

His investigations had revealed a chilling reality: Iranian diplomacy is synonymous with Iranian terrorism—especially in Central and South America.

On August 21, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif embarked on his first official visit to Latin America. For eight days, he led a delegation of 120 Iranian politicians and economists to Cuba, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Chile, Bolivia and Venezuela.

His stated purpose was to “strengthen political and economic ties.”

What exactly are the political and economic gains from these partnerships?

Before the Iran nuclear deal, some Latin American nations provided Iran with avenues for skirting sanctions. A June report titled “After Nisman: How the Death of a Prosecutor Revealed Iran’s Growing Influence in the Americas” noted that “in Latin America, Iran engaged in a variety of sanctions-busting schemes in collaboration with the governments of Venezuela and Ecuador.”

After the nuclear deal, Iran certainly has more money for strengthening its ties with these nations and less restrictions against its endeavors. While in Cuba, Foreign Minister Zarif acknowledged that the nuclear deal had “removed obstacles” to stronger cooperation between his nation and Latin America. Tehran, he also said, “has always shown that we can win through resistance.”

But from an economic standpoint, the costs do not seem to match the benefits. American Foreign Policy Council Vice President Ilan Berman wrote on September 2, “With the notable exception of Chile, the nations that Iran’s foreign minister is courting are all in dire economic straits, struggling with high levels of inflation, rampant joblessness, and—in the case of Venezuela—a full-blown meltdown of the national economy. These countries thus hardly seem suited to be durable partners for Iran’s economy, which is itself struggling after years of multilateral sanctions.”

“Zarif’s choice of stopping points,” Berman wrote, “suggests that the trip is much more about geopolitics than it is about trade.”

Majid Takht-Ravanchi, Zarif’s deputy, said Iran intends to boost those ties to “a whole new level.” Iranian *geopolitics* in this region is now shifting to “a whole new level.”

The Latin American nations Zarif visited are anti-Western. They are more inclined to befriend “the enemy of their enemies,” even if that support is, in some ways, irrational. Consider Venezuela’s Nicolás Maduro, who, during Zarif’s visit, praised Iran, saying, “Contrary to the U.S. and other Western powers which employ their power for war, conflict, slaughter and plundering resources of other nations, Iran is the power of peace, tranquility and prosperity for other countries.” In Cuba, Zarif’s counterpart praised the “success of [Iran’s] foreign policy” and expressed his support for Iran to “develop nuclear energy for pacific ends.”

Another common denominator these countries share is Iran’s most enterprising terrorist proxy: Hezbollah. “[T]he countries on Zarif’s list were all involved in a way or another in supporting Hezbollah, Iran’s terrorist wing,” noted London-based Arab daily *Asharq Al-Awsat*.

“Zarif’s trip,” said Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, chairwoman of the House Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, “is a clear indication of Iran’s intent to expand its operations in the Americas post-nuclear deal, given that in the past, press reports have stated that Hezbollah maintains a presence in Cuba, Iran helped open a military facility in Bolivia, and Venezuela’s [state-owned oil company] PDVSA was sanctioned for cooperating with Iran.”

Ros-Lehtinen added, “Tehran’s classic playbook is to use cultural centers, new embassies or consulates, or cooperative

agreements on various areas to act as facades aimed at expanding Iran’s radical extremist network.”

Iran has striven to promote Shiite Islam in Latin America. Nearly simultaneously, the Muslim population in the region has reportedly increased 25 percent since 2010.

Zarif’s trip was as innocuous as an Iranian embassy or cultural center. But these political, cultural and economic entities have often been used by Iranians to recruit radical Islamists and coordinate terrorist attacks not only in Latin America but also in the United States. The 2011 attempted assassination of the Saudi Arabian ambassador to the U.S. in Washington, D.C., is one stark example. Another was the 2007 plot to blow up jet fuel supply tanks at the John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City.

The latter example was coordinated by Mohsen Rabbani, an Iranian intelligence official who operated under commercial, cultural and diplomatic covers as a halal meat inspector, a Shiite cleric and a cultural attaché at the Iranian Embassy in Argentina.

Rabbani was also the mastermind of the 1994 AMIA bombing in Argentina. Rabbani and former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani were among eight Iranian officials and a Lebanese militant whom the assassinated prosecutor, Alberto Nisman, had formerly accused for the AMIA bombing.

According to the aforementioned June report, Iran coordinated all of its Latin American activities via its embassy in Spain, and Rabbani kept in close contact with it. “According to European intelligence officials,” the report said, “Rabbani belonged to [Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei’s] special intelligence bureau and worked in Germany prior to arriving in Argentina. ... Once in Argentina, coordinating with Iranian embassies in Spain, Germany, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Chile, Uruguay, Cuba and Mexico, Rabbani immediately began creating a comprehensive cover platform to insert additional Iranian operatives into the Southern Cone region.”

Iranian embassies in Brazil and Colombia, in collaboration with Hezbollah operatives in those countries, provided logistical support for the AMIA attack. These embassies established multiple front companies for their nefarious activities.

Interpol has since issued a Red Notice for Rabbani, but he continues his recruitment activities from the Iranian city of Qom. According to an April 2011 article from the Brazilian *Veja* magazine, Rabbani “frequently slips in and out of Brazil on a false passport and has recruited at least 24 youngsters in three Brazilian states to attend ‘religious formation’ classes in Tehran.”

Congressional testimony by the State Department following the AMIA attack expressed concern over “larger-than-necessary numbers of diplomats” in Iranian embassies in Latin America.

Both the State Department and U.S. Intelligence Committee consider Iran “the foremost state sponsor of terrorism.” If that sounds cliché, consider this: Iran is one of *only three* state sponsors of terrorism. The other states in this exclusive list—Syria and Sudan—are themselves sponsored and inspired primarily by Tehran!

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry explains in his free booklet *The King of the South* that Iran is indeed the king of radical Islam. Thankfully, Iranian-sponsored terrorism is prophesied to soon come to a permanent end!



WITH ONLY SEVEN MONTHS UNTIL THE IRANIAN PRESIDENTIAL elections, speculation about who will inherit the de-sanctioned nation has begun. Aside from current President Hassan Rouhani himself, the frontrunner has been former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. That is, until this week.

On Tuesday, Ahmadinejad announced that he would not be running for office, per Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's recommendation. In a letter addressed to the supreme leader, Ahmadinejad wrote, "You recommended that it was not in my interest to run in the elections, and I stated [my] obedience."

Regardless of perceived support among the nation's ultraconservatives and the radical Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Ahmadinejad was missing one crucial vote: the ayatollah's. Without the endorsement of the supreme leader, Ahmadinejad's cause was all but extinguished.

The dousing from Ahmadinejad's superior provides a reminder for us to keep in mind through the next seven months: The next president will be Khamenei's choice.

Flash back to mid-2013 and the election of Rouhani. At the time, the Western media gushed about the change sweeping Iran. What else could explain the arrival of a "moderate" leader? What most failed to note was the fact that Rouhani was one of just eight candidates. Those eight were handpicked by the Guardian Council from a pool of some 686 potential presidential nominees.

Among those disqualified was a former president looking to run again, considered far more moderate than Rouhani. The murky and subjective criteria of the council means anyone it doesn't want to run, won't run—regardless of how popular he is

with the masses.

The Guardian Council is an unelected body of 12 religious jurists. Half of the Guardian Council is elected by the supreme leader, and the other half is nominated by the head of the Supreme Court and appointed by the parliament. Oh, and the head of the Supreme Court is selected by the supreme leader. Ipso facto, the group that chooses the presidential candidates is *entirely* swayed by the ayatollah.

History proves the ayatollah couldn't care less about what the public wants. Remember 2009, when protesters took to the streets after Ahmadinejad won a second term in office. His first (and second) term was mired in corruption and sanctions-inducing rhetoric.

The protests became known as the Green Movement. Though promising regime change, the movement lacked the support of the U.S. and subsequently failed.

Our recently expanded and updated booklet *The King of the South*, gives an in-depth look at both the historic and, more importantly, prophetic significance of Iran and, subsequently, where its leaders are taking the nation.

Iran is mentioned in the Bible, as are its prophesied plans for the Middle East. Do you want to understand where Iran's leaders both now and after the upcoming election will lead their nation—and *your* world? It is a deadly trajectory, but one that will be short-lived. Rather than achieve the ayatollah's goals, it will precede the greatest future we could ever imagine. Curious? Read *The King of the South*. You truly have nothing to lose, but everything beyond your wildest imagination to gain.

Israeli Leader Shimon Peres Dies

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



JERUSALEM WAS IN LOCKDOWN ON FRIDAY AFTER MANY OF THE world's most prominent leaders attended the funeral of renowned Israeli leader Shimon Peres. While most of the worldwide press chose to praise the former prime minister and president, a few railed against his unbridled push for peace at all costs with Palestinians.

Jerusalem Post writer Ben Lynfield wrote:

"Shimon Peres remained committed to Oslo until his last breath," Yair Hirschfeld, whose secret contacts with Palestinian leader Ahmed Qurei (Abu Ala) paved the way for the negotiations that led to the 1993 Oslo I Agreement, told the *Jerusalem Post* on Wednesday.

To be sure, Peres never voiced regret for Oslo even though it became a dirty word for many Israelis, conjuring up images of exploding buses and a second, more violent, intifada. As late as 2011, as president, he engaged in secret contacts in Amman with his Palestinian counterpart, Mahmoud Abbas,

aimed at resolving issues left open by the Oslo Accords.

For those who have forgotten, Oslo I (officially called the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements), which was accompanied by mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO [Palestinian Liberation Organization], established a Palestinian self-governing authority for a transitional period that was not to exceed five years, with final-status negotiations to be conducted beginning no later than the third year (1996) on Jerusalem, refugees settlements and other issues.

Critics of the agreement say it was a mistake of which Peres simply could not let go.

"The most negative part was to recognize the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians and to bring PLO leaders back to the territories," said Zalman Shoval, a former M.K. for several parties, most recently the Likud, who was ambassador to Washington in 1990–1993 and 1998–2000. "Oslo made it impossible for Palestinians to develop

an alternative leadership.”

Shoval said that it became obvious quite early that it had been a mistake. “This was evident soon after it was signed when buses began exploding. Putting an end to terrorism was clearly not achieved. This was quick and clear proof that part of the agreement didn’t work and still doesn’t.”

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in his 2007 article “The Oslo Accord: Israel’s Death Knell,” “**Look at what negotiating with Yasser Arafat has brought upon Israel. Giving the Palestinian Authority self-governing powers in the West Bank led**

to the second intifada, forcing Israel to begin constructing a 465-mile security barrier. The Lebanon withdrawal triggered the Second Lebanon War and Israel’s embarrassing retreat in the summer of 2006. And pulling out of Gaza cleared the way for the violent emergence of ‘Hamastan,’ which rules the Gaza Strip today.

“The Israeli government says it must negotiate now because of the meteoric rise of radical Islam. It wants to make more peace pacts with less-violent terrorists like Fatah. But how important are those peace agreements? THE PALESTINIANS HAVE BROKEN VIRTUALLY EVERY ONE OF THEM!”

Iran Commanding 60,000 Troops in Syria

“IRAN IS SHORING UP THE SYRIAN REGIME FROM A SECRET HQ IN Damascus nicknamed ‘the Glasshouse’—and commanding a huge covert army in support of Assad.” That is according to a leaked intelligence published by MailOnline this week. The report continued:

The National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) claims that the theocratic state’s Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has spent billions in hardware for its ally Bashar Assad in the last five years—and runs operations on the ground from a five-floor monolith near Damascus airport. The Iranian HQ, which plays a pivotal role in supporting Assad’s regime alongside Russia, contains intelligence and counterintelligence operations, and has vaults packed with millions of dollars in cash flown in from Tehran, claims the NCRI.

If the activists’ claims are accurate, this would mean that the fundamentalist Tehran regime and its Shia proxies

are far more powerful than has been estimated. Western analysts have so far placed the total Iranian-led Shia force at just 16,000. The dissidents make the claim that Iran now commands about 60,000 Shia troops in Syria—15,000 more men than Britain took into the 2003 Iraq war—while Assad’s army has been reduced to just 50,000 soldiers.

The intelligence passed to MailOnline claims that Tehran has spent a staggering \$100 billion on the conflict since 2011, including hardware and support for Assad’s regime. The figure claimed by the NCRI has surprised Western analysts, who have so far estimated that Iran has spent just \$15 billion on the war in Syria.

Experts say Tehran is determined to protect and defend its supply lines to its ally Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, and expand outwards from this core territory. One security source told MailOnline: “Iran is getting itself into a position where whether Assad stands or falls, Tehran is in the best position to dominate whatever comes next.”

Hamas Is Still Operating in Turkey

“DESPITE THE UNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND Turkey—which ended the Marmara affair and led to renewed relations between the two countries—Hamas’s military wing is still operating from Istanbul, with the knowledge that it is under the protection of the Turkish security organizations,” reported Israel-based Ynetnews this week.

Israel asked Turkey to close Hamas’s office in Istanbul during negotiations between the two countries. The Turks refused, but clarified that the Hamas office would only deal with political issues.

Indeed, Saleh al-Aroui, Hamas’s senior representative in Istanbul and a member of the military wing, did move to Qatar, but those operating Hamas’s branch in Istanbul instead of him are members of the military wing who were released in the Shalit deal.

The office in Istanbul keeps trying to build Hamas infrastructure in the West Bank, continues to collect money and send it to the West Bank for terror purposes, and is still recruiting volunteers—mostly Palestinian

students studying in Europe—to establish terror cells in the West Bank. The initial screening of volunteers, their security clearance tests, and their basic training all takes place on Turkish soil, in buildings owned by Hamas. The attempted attack outside the Israeli Embassy in Ankara on Wednesday may have been an indication of Hamas’s presence in the area.

Hamas is operating on Turkish soil cautiously and under a veil of secrecy. At the same time, Turkish organizations such as IHH [an Islamic aid group], which was behind the Marmara sail, themselves have offices in Jerusalem. The representatives of these Turkish organizations are not only supporting religious and charity institutions in Jerusalem and dealing with Muslim tourism from Turkey; they are also involved in political Islamic movements in Jerusalem in a bid to increase Turkey’s influence in the Israeli capital.

As the *Trumpet* reported earlier this year, the détente between Israel and Turkey is doomed. “Bible prophecy indicates that any

close relationship with Turkey will backfire. End-time prophecies in the book of Obadiah not only declare that Israel will have

the developing relationship we see now, but also that the relationship will lead to a shocking betrayal.”

Biblical Gate Unearthed in Judean City

A RARE GATE SHRINE FROM THE FIRST TEMPLE PERIOD (EIGHTH century BCE), unearthed in Tel Lachish National Park, near Mount Hebron, may prove King Hezekiah’s biblically recorded efforts to abolish worship in the region, the Israel Antiquities Authority announced on Wednesday,” reported the *Jerusalem Post*.

“The size of the gate is consistent with the historical and archaeological knowledge we possess, whereby Lachish was a major city, and the most important one after Jerusalem,” said dig director Sa’ar Ganor.

“According to the biblical narrative, the city’s gates were the place where ‘everything took place’: the city elders, judges, governors, kings and officials—everyone would sit on benches [by] the city gate. These benches were found in our excavation.”

Now completely exposed, the Lachish city gate, (measuring 24.5 meters by 24.5 meters [80.4 feet by 80.4 feet] and preserved to a height of 4 meters [13.1 feet]), consists of six chambers, three on both sides, and the city’s main street that passed between them, he said.

“Artifacts discovered in its rooms indicate how they were used in the eighth century BCE,” said Ganor.

The continuation of the building is constituted by the gate shrine, its walls treated with white plaster. Steps away, a staircase once ascended to a large room where there was a bench upon which offerings were placed.

“An opening was exposed in the corner of the room that led to the holy of holies,” said Ganor. “To our great

excitement, we found two four-horned altars and scores of ceramic finds consisting of lamps, bowls and stands in this room. It is most interesting that the horns on the altar were intentionally truncated! “That is probably evidence of the religious reform attributed to King Hezekiah, whereby religious worship was centralized in Jerusalem, and the cultic high places that were built outside the capital were destroyed: ‘He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones, and cut down the Asherah poles ... (2 Kings 18:4).’” Moreover, besides cutting the horns on the altar, in an effort to further intensify the abolition of worship in the gate shrine, Ganor said a toilet was installed in the holy of holies as “the ultimate desecration of that place.”

“A stone fashioned in the shape of a chair with a hole in its center was found in the corner of the room,” he said. “Stones of this type have been identified in archaeological research as toilets. Evidence of abolishing cultic locations by installing a toilet in them is known in the Bible, as illustrated in the case of Jehu destroying the cult of Ba’al in Samaria: ‘And they demolished the pillar of Ba’al, and demolished the house of Ba’al, and made it a latrine to this day (2 Kings 10:27).’” Ganor claimed this is the first time an archaeological find confirms this phenomenon.

“Laboratory tests we conducted in the spot where the stone toilet was placed suggest it was never used,” he said. “Hence, we can conclude that the placement of the toilet had been symbolic, after which the holy of holies was sealed until the site was destroyed.”

EUROPE

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Guttenberg: Back in the News

FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER KARL-THEODOR ZU GUTTENBERG IS reappearing in German politics increasingly often. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* (FAZ) invited Guttenberg to give a talk on the immigration crisis from an American perspective.

“Guttenberg continues seamlessly where he left off before the plagiarism scandal,” it wrote (*Trumpet* translation throughout).

“[A]fter just a few minutes, he drew his audience into his spell,” it wrote. “Hardly anyone else could be more inspiring

than the fallen new hope who has kept his distance for so long.” It continued:

Yes, his fall has been “abysmally self-inflicted” and was caused “by his own hubris,” says the 44-year-old. And yes, it took a long time to overcome his vanity after his fall, Guttenberg says. “I saw a land of unbridled critics and self-righteousness, but I was also ashamed and was suddenly afraid, even of myself. Today I know: The criticism was more than

justified.” These are strong words of one [who was] always so self-confident. ...

Since October 2015, Guttenberg has been a member of the “competence team” of the Bavarian Premier Horst Seehofer (Christian Socialist Union), who would be more than happy to attract him back to Bavaria—to bask in his revived gleaming brilliance, but even more so to prevent Markus Söder’s rise as new strongman of the CSU. But at the moment this is not up for debate, says Guttenberg. ...

Guttenberg restrains from specific objections or even attacks on German politicians. Instead, he gives a lecture about the “international power shift in American foreign policy,” speaks of the “transatlantic force field” that has shifted to the east, and criticized the Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, who has “devalued” the political scandal by celebrating it. ...

Shortly after his appearance, Guttenberg had to give autographs just like in the days when he was seen by many as the next chancellor. When he later ate in a nearby restaurant for lunch, some stood in line to shake his hand and congratulate him—whether for his mere presence or his appearance, perhaps both.

As Guttenberg stood on the podium, a few minutes prior to this, an elderly gentleman urgently wanted to get rid of something. “Let us take your doctorate and stamp it into

the garbage,” he says. “And you can just come back to German politics.” Guttenberg smiles; the compliment flatters him. “I like being a guest in Germany,” he says and smiles. Then he adds afterward: “At some point I’ll be back.”

However, another writer at the same magazine is less than pleased to see Guttenberg’s return. In “Guttenberg: A Dangerous Man,” one of the *FAZ*’s journalists writes, “The untold story goes like this: Guttenberg managed to build, with tremendous charm, reliable relations with almost all the important editors of this country. This caused reporters in some establishments to not write the way they thought.”

The author implies that editors go easy on Guttenberg, because they want a good relationship with this possible future chancellor.

Guttenberg is a “juggler,” he says. “They charm those who are close: You feel important and comfortable in their presence. Or even with distance, as they give the masses what they long for. Few can manage both. Guttenberg is one of these great masters. Meanwhile, he denounces the entire political class as a failure in the euro crisis and as indifferent towards ordinary people ... He is a truly dangerous man.”

As these articles bring out, many hope Guttenberg will return to politics, while some fear it. For more on why the *Trumpet* is watching this man, read our article [“A Strong German Leader Is Imminent.”](#)

ASIA

India Conducts Surgical Strikes on Terror Targets in Pakistan

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THURSDAY, THE INDIAN MILITARY CARRIED out surgical strikes on “terror launch pads,” across the Line of Control, inside Pakistan. The attacks were in retaliation for an attack on an Indian base two weeks ago that left 18 soldiers dead. Since India and Pakistan are both full-fledged nuclear powers, the rising tension between the two sides carries sobering implications.

The *Financial Times* reported:

The raid ... took place across the Line of Control that divides Kashmir between the two nuclear-armed neighbors, who have fought four wars over the disputed territory.

It came as Prime Minister Narendra Modi came under pressure to punish Pakistan, blamed by New Delhi for the attack on the base two weeks ago—and for a similar attack on a military base in January.

... Lt. Gen. Ranbir Singh, India’s director general of military operations, described the raid as a “surgical strike” and said Indian forces had inflicted “significant casualties” on “terrorists and those who are trying to support them.” ...

Indian media, citing military sources, said the attack involved “ground and heli-borne troops” that struck between 500 meters [a third of a mile] and 2,000 meters [1.2 miles] into Pakistan-held territory. ...

General Singh said the targets were six to eight “launch pads,” where “terrorist teams” had positioned themselves

to cross the Line of Control so they could carry out attacks in Kashmir and Indian cities. ...

Pakistan’s military confirmed that two of its soldiers had been killed along the Line of Control early on Thursday, but denied India’s claims of a surgical strike

In the past, India’s military has conducted raids across the Line of Control, but on a smaller scale than these, and the government has typically downplayed or denied them. Thursday’s strike is different not only because the raids were larger and deeper into Pakistani territory, but also because it was publicly announced. The *Times* said this reflects Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s “desire to prove that he can live up to his image as a strongman and take a tough stand against Pakistan, in the face of provocation.”

Shashank Joshi, of the Royal United Services Institute, said, “This is a dramatic change. It’s a way of mollifying public audiences within India, and sending a powerful international signal about India’s intent to ensure these attacks do not go unpunished.”

Walter Ladwig III, of King’s College London, said India’s announcement probably will provoke a response from Pakistan. “The more India trumpets or triumphs in some sort of cross-border operation, the more pressure there is on the Pakistani military to retaliate to save face,” he said.

National Interest called the attack a “[landmark development](#)” because it “changes the norm to one where India will use military

force across its frontiers to respond to aggression by Pakistan's proxies."

If Pakistan decides that it will not let this attack go unpunished, the resulting escalation could be catastrophic.

Philippines' Duterte: 'I'm About "to Cross the Rubicon" With the United States' and Forge Ties With Russia and China

PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT RODRIGO DUTERTE SAID ON SEPTEMBER 26 that he will "cross the Rubicon" in his ties with America and open alliances on "the other side of the ideological barrier" with China and Russia.

The *Washington Post* wrote:

Duterte told reporters he was "not really" breaking ties with the U.S., his country's long-time treaty ally, but will open all areas of trade and commerce to China and Russia. It would not include military alliances, he said. He said the two countries' companies would be able to lease land in the Philippines for up to 120 years. Duterte said he will travel to China soon to talk to President Xi Jinping, and then to Japan and Russia.

Duterte has had an uneasy relationship with the U.S., which has criticized his crackdown on illegal drugs in which more than 3,000 people have died. ...

Asked by a reporter what he meant by crossing the Rubicon, Duterte said it was "a point of no return." He said the problem was that the Philippines' mutual defense treaty with the U.S. does not guarantee that Washington will come to the Philippines' defense if it is attacked because the U.S. president would need the approval of Congress. ...

Duterte lashed out Monday against the U.S., European Union, United Nations and Australia for criticizing the deaths in his campaign against illegal drugs.

"They should not scare me about the extrajudicial killings, or else I will also demand that the United States of America and EU be investigated alongside with me because they have committed far more injustice and have done horrific things," he added, calling them "hypocrites."

Duterte's presidency is becoming a boon to China and Russia, and a bane to the United States and its so-called "pivot to Asia."

Dutch Investigation: MH17 Was Shot by Russian Missile Brought Over From Russia

A DUTCH-LED TEAM OF PROSECUTORS INVESTIGATING THE 2014 downing of Flight MH17 over Ukraine said Wednesday that the missile that struck the plane was from Russia. The team says the Buk missile had been moved from Russia into a rebel-held region in eastern Ukraine on the morning of July 17. Shortly after the passenger plane was downed, the launcher was brought back into Russia.

The report does not suggest anything new, but provides detailed confirmation of previous analyses about the tragedy that killed all 298 people on the civilian airliner.

BBC wrote on Wednesday:

The Dutch-led Joint Investigation Team (JIT) consists

of prosecutors from the Netherlands, Australia, Belgium, Malaysia and Ukraine. They have narrowed the missile launch site down to a specific field near the village of Per-vomaiskyi. ... An inquiry by the Dutch Safety Board last year found that a Russian-made Buk missile hit the plane but did not say where it was fired from. The JIT investigation's findings are meant to prepare the ground for a criminal trial, but suspects will not be named.

Russia says it does not accept the conclusions of the report, and maintains that Ukrainian rebels were responsible for downing the plane and that Russia was not involved.

WSJ Warns of the 'Gathering Nuclear Storm'

THE POSSIBILITY OF A NUCLEAR WAR IS NOW FAR GREATER THAN most people think, in large part because of America's naive quest for a nuclear-free world. Writing for the *Wall Street Journal* on September 23, Mark Helprin said, "Lulled to believe nuclear catastrophe died with the Cold War, [America is blind to rising dragons](#)."

Helprin said the Obama administration's drive for a nuclear-free world will soon put the United States in a position—for the first time—at which it is unable to deter a single first strike by Russia and/or China. He wrote:

Nuclear stability depends ... upon deep reserves that

make a successful first strike impossible to assure. The fewer warheads and the higher the ratio of warheads to delivery vehicles, the more dangerous and unstable. [B]y placing up to two thirds of our [American] strategic warheads in just 14 submarines; consolidating bomber bases; and entertaining [a] recommendation to do away with the 450 missiles in the land-based leg of the nuclear triad, we are moving that way.

Helprin said the dangerous myth of nuclear "sufficiency" is among the driving forces behind America's nuclear reductions.

Nuclear sufficiency says, “[I]f X number of weapons is sufficient to inflict unacceptable costs upon an enemy, [then] no more than X are needed,” he said. And basing nuclear reductions on this myth is perilous because “we don’t define sufficiency, the adversary does.”

He explained:

[T]he definition varies according to culture; history; the temperament, sanity or miscalculation of leadership; domestic politics; forms of government; and other factors, some unknown. For this reason, the much-maligned concept of overkill is a major contributor to stability, in that, if we have it, an enemy is less likely to calculate that we lack sufficiency. If our forces are calibrated to sufficiency, then presumably the most minor degradation will render them insufficient. ...

In a nuclear world, unsentimental and often counterintuitive analysis is necessary. ... As the genie will not be forced back into the lamp, the heart of the matter is balance and deterrence. But this successful dynamic of 70 years is about to be destroyed. ... Given the degradation of U.S. and allied conventional forces previously able to hold such ambitions in check, critical confrontations are bound to occur. When they do occur, and if without American reaction, China or Russia have continued to augment their strategic forces to the point of vast superiority where one or both consider a first strike feasible, we may see nuclear brinkmanship (or worse) in which the United States—startled from sleep and

suddenly disabused of the myth of sufficiency—might have to capitulate, allowing totalitarian dictatorships to dominate the world. Current trajectories point in exactly this direction

In the January 2004 *Trumpet* issue, editor in chief [Gerald Flurry](#) wrote:

In 2000, Russia publicly stated that its nuclear stockpiles were for defensive purposes. Now Vladimir Putin is talking about “preemptive strikes.” That means Russia could strike first with that vast nuclear arsenal! At the same time, experts tell us that once a nuclear war starts, it cannot be stopped. Such a monstrous, Russian nuclear power is going to impact this world. The nuclear genie is out of the bottle. Have we already reached the point of no return? How can these words and events not strike fear in all of us? Do we realize this Earth is like a ticking nuclear bomb, waiting to explode? This world is in a kind of madness! It is precisely the way Christ prophesied that it would be almost 2,000 years ago. “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved [alive]; but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened” (Matthew 24:21-22). These words should cause us to tremble—and repent!

ANGLO-AMERICA



The Only Way to Win Our Terrorist War

Gerald Flurry,
The Key of David | October 2

America has never been so cursed. But there is one way to reverse the curse and make America great again.



Imposing Nationwide Standards on Local Police

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



DURING THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE ON MONDAY, a rare point of consensus emerged between Republican candidate Donald Trump and Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton. Both candidates seemingly contended that the federal government should impose nationwide standards on local police forces, even if they differ on what these nationwide standards should be.

When debate moderator Lester Holt asked Trump whether or not he believed “stop-and-frisk practices” were a form of racial profiling, Trump responded:

No, the argument is that we had to take the guns away

from these people that have them and that are bad people that shouldn’t have them. These are felons and these are people that are bad people that shouldn’t be When you have 3,000 shootings in Chicago from January 1, when you have 4,000 people killed in Chicago by guns from the beginning of the presidency of Barack Obama, his hometown, you have to have stop and frisk.

“Stop-and-frisk” is a controversial policing practice where an officer stops and questions a pedestrian, then frisks him for weapons and other contraband without a warrant. On the Wednesday

before the presidential debate, Trump said in a taped town hall session on Fox News that one of the things he would do as president would be to implement “stop-and-frisk” practices in a bid to reduce crime in America. While many media outlets have condemned such practices as an unconstitutional means of racial profiling, few of these outlets have raised any concern over the prospect of a U.S. president dictating policy to local police departments.

Perhaps the reason few media outlets have expressed concern about the federalization of local police forces is that Hillary Clinton also desires to impose her own nationwide standards on local police. When the moderator asked her what she would do about police bias against black people, she responded:

[W]hen it comes to policing, since it can have literally fatal consequences, I have said in my first budget we would

put money into that budget to help us deal with implicit bias by retraining a lot of our police officers.

Such a policy would seem to be an escalation of the current administration’s efforts to impose federal standards on local police forces. The U.S. Constitution does not grant the federal government the power to dictate policy to local police departments.

There is a reason for the approximately 18,000 state and local law enforcement agencies in the United States. When law enforcement responsibilities are divided among 18,000 agencies accountable to directly elected local officials, it becomes extremely difficult for anyone to set himself or herself up as a tyrant. If a county sheriff abuses his or her office, it is much easier for the local community to elect a better sheriff than it is for that community to change the policies of bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.

Silencing Christian Chaplains **Andrew Müller | September 23**

THE ARMY CHAPLAIN CORPS IS ONE OF THE OLDEST BRANCHES OF the United States military. Gen. George Washington established it almost a full year before the 13 colonies declared independence from Great Britain.

As General Washington battled the British redcoats, he knew that he needed divine providence on his side. He petitioned the Continental Congress to authorize a monthly salary for religious chaplains. These chaplains were to be men of good character who could minister to the troops, helping maintain both their morale and morality.

To ensure religious freedom within the ranks, General Washington put great emphasis on establishing a pluralistic chaplaincy that could minister to the spiritual needs of different religious denominations.

Though some have challenged the constitutionality of the Chaplain Corps over the years, the U.S. judicial system has consistently ruled that the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment obliges Congress to make religious accommodations for soldiers in situations where religious services for their chosen denomination are unavailable.

As the Corps nears its 250th anniversary, however, President Barack Obama’s administration is beginning to threaten Christian chaplains for performing the job they were hired to do.

The military under Commander in Chief Obama has made it known that Christian chaplains are expected to enthusiastically endorse homosexual activity in the ranks, regardless of their religious beliefs.

In 2010, Adm. Michael Mullen told a chaplain who opposed the repeal of the military’s ban on openly homosexual service members, “If you cannot get in line, resign your commission.”

Just four years later, another Navy chaplain, Lt. Cmdr. Wesley J. Modder, was relieved of his duties for using the Bible to counsel students against homosexual activity and premarital sex.

When Chaplain Modder was assigned a new assistant, the new officer started asking him questions about his religious views. Chaplain Modder later learned that his new assistant was in a same-sex relationship and had somehow discovered the names of people in his personal counseling register. Since the assistant

was offended by Chaplain Modder’s beliefs, he filed a complaint that resulted in Chaplain Modder being relieved of his duties.

In particular, Chaplain Modder was accused of telling a female that she was “shaming herself in the eyes of God” for having premarital sex and of telling another student that homosexuality was biblically wrong. Even though these students had come to Modder for religious counseling of their own volition, naval authorities felt that Modder offered inappropriate counseling to sailors that warranted his dismissal.

After a yearlong legal battle, supported by members of Congress and First Liberty Institute, Chaplain Modder was reinstated to his position and allowed to retire with full benefits.

Despite his reinstatement, however, military policies haven’t changed. Christian chaplains can still be disciplined for quoting the Bible. Army Chaplain Joseph Lawhorn was reprimanded in 2014 for quoting poetry from the book of Psalms during a lecture on depression and suicide prevention at Fort Benning in Georgia.

While the United States has always emphasized maintaining religious freedom by allowing chaplains of many different religions into the military, these recent moves by the Obama administration aren’t about religious freedom. They are about repressing the right of Christian chaplains to practice their own religion.

Answering questions about the Bible and quoting poetry from Psalms doesn’t constitute discrimination. Telling chaplains they can’t quote certain scriptures in counseling sessions constitutes religious discrimination.

The U.S. military is currently in the midst of a moral crisis. Suicide rates are rising; pornography addiction is widespread; and reports of sexual assaults are on the rise. Military personnel need sound counsel more than ever, but the Obama administration is making it illegal for Christian chaplains to give Bible-based advice.

You can bet that this isn’t what George Washington intended when he established the Chaplain Corps. Washington put great emphasis on allowing chaplains to advise all who came to them according to the tenets of their religion. By muzzling chaplains, the Obama administration is setting up secular humanism as America’s established religion.

President Obama to Admit 110,000 Refugees

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA SIGNED AN EXECUTIVE order on Wednesday authorizing the State Department to admit up to 110,000 refugees into the country for humanitarian reasons during 2017.

According to the text of [Executive Order](#) No. 2016-13:

The admission of up to 110,000 refugees to the United States during fiscal year (FY) 2017 is justified by humanitarian concerns or is otherwise in the national interest; provided that this number shall be understood as including persons admitted to the United States during FY 2017 with Federal refugee resettlement assistance under the Amerasian immigrant admissions program, as provided below.

This executive order goes on to authorize up to 35,000 refugees from Africa, 12,000 from East Asia, 4,000 from Europe

and Central Asia, 5,000 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 40,000 from the Middle East and South Asia, and 14,000 from unallocated regions. The unusually high number of 40,000 refugees from the Middle East and South Asia is undoubtedly made with the Syrian civil war in mind.

The Obama administration has been criticized for favoring Muslim refugees from Syria, while turning Christian refugees away. Between 2010 and 2015, the United States only admitted 53 Syrian Christian refugees, compared to 2,098 Muslim refugees. Despite the fact that Christians made up 10 percent of Syria's pre-war population, less than 3 percent of Syrian refugees allowed into the U.S. have been Christian. According to *National Review* author Nina Shea, the reason why "so few of the Syrian refugees coming here are non-Muslim minorities is due to American reliance on a United Nations refugee-resettlement program that disproportionately excludes them."

TW IN BRIEF

Presidential candidates meet Netanyahu: Both United States presidential candidates met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday. Donald Trump's campaign originally called for the meeting, but Netanyahu's office invited Hillary Clinton's team to attend so there would be no favoritism. During discussions, Trump said as president he would recognize Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel. The two also discussed the Iran nuclear deal, the Islamic State, and other regional concerns. Clinton met with Netanyahu later in the day for about an hour. Clinton stated that as president she would oppose any outside solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, counter any one-sided motions by the United Nations, and fight anti-Israel boycotts. The meetings are seen as a harbinger of the future relationship between Israel and the next U.S. president.

Shooting at Washington State mall: A gunman opened fire in a department store at a Washington State mall on the evening of September 23, killing five people. Police arrested a 20-year-old Turkish-born man the next day. He has been accused of killing four women and one man in a Macy's department store at Cascade Mall. Surveillance videos show the suspect was not carrying a weapon when he entered the mall. Footage from later on showed him holding a rifle. He was captured 30 miles southwest of where the incident took place. Police said his demeanor was "zombie-like" when they took him into custody. He did not have a weapon on him and

didn't run from police. The FBI hasn't found evidence the attack was an act of terrorism, but it has not ruled out the possibility. Investigators are still trying to determine the motive behind the incident.

Houston lawyer shoots nine: At least nine people were wounded Monday after a Houston lawyer began firing on commuters. The lawyer reportedly shot at people in their vehicles from inside his Porsche. One victim is in critical condition and another serious, but all are expected to survive. The attacker was shot and killed by police. Police did not release his name, but he is believed to be Nathan DeSai, to whom the Porsche was registered and whose business had been struggling. The shooter was found wearing a military-style uniform; Nazi paraphernalia was also found.

Baby born with DNA from three parents: The first baby with dna from three people has been born, according to the journal *Fertility and Sterility*. Scientists performed a new technique in which some of the mother's DNA was removed from her egg and replaced with a donor's DNA. The egg was then fertilized. The procedure was done to stop the child inheriting a fatal genetic disease from its mother. The technique, not yet approved in the United States, was performed in Mexico, but it was led by New Hope Fertility Center in New York. The baby boy was born five months ago to Jordanian parents. Scientists will produce a full presentation of the procedure next month.



The Holy Roman Empire in Prophecy

Stephen Flurry,

Trumpet Daily | October 1

One of the great lessons of this empire is that it always comes back.

[Follow Stephen Flurry](#)

