



Pope Francis (right) and Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby greet each other at the end of vespers in the Church of San Gregorio al Celio in Rome on October 5.

Archbishop of Canterbury Prays With Pope for First Time in 500 Years

Richard Palmer | October 6

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



THE POPE AND ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY PRAYED TOGETHER publicly for the first time since the churches split nearly 500 years ago. Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin Welby held a combined Anglican Evensong and Catholic Vespers service on October 5 at the church of San Gregorio—the church from which St. Augustine was sent to convert England to Catholicism in A.D. 597.

The archbishop was visiting Rome to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Anglican Center, an embassy of sorts for the Anglican Communion in Rome. Archbishop David Moxon, the director of the center, said that the two churches are “85 percent” in

agreement. He said that seeking unity is “part of our DNA.”

During the weeklong celebration of unity, the churches commissioned 19 pairs of bishops, each comprised of one Anglican and one Catholic, to work on unity around the world. The pairs will look at practical ways to unite the churches, even considering preaching from each other’s pulpits.

The pope and archbishop issued a common declaration stating that differences in the groups “cannot prevent us from recognizing one another as brothers and sisters in Christ by reason of our common baptism. Nor should they ever hold us back from

discovering and rejoicing in the deep Christian faith and holiness we find within each other's traditions."

The meeting comes just two weeks after the Catholic and Orthodox churches reached an important agreement that will pave the way for greater unity between the churches that formerly split in 1054. On September 21, the Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Orthodox Church and Roman Catholic Church agreed on a document titled "Synodality and Primacy During the First Millennium: Towards a Common Understanding in Service to the Unity of the Church."

Catholic World News wrote that the agreement "represented a substantial victory" for the joint commission. "The agreement on the historic function of primacy is significant because the question of papal primacy is one of the key stumbling blocks in Catholic-Orthodox ecumenical discussions," it wrote. "The statement acknowledged that the bishop of Rome enjoyed primacy, while also noting that synods set directions for the church. The document reportedly says that the pope did not exercise canonical authority over the Eastern churches, but acted as 'first among equals.'"

Speaking in Georgia on October 1, Pope Francis told Catholics not to try and convert Orthodox Christians. "There is a very grave sin against ecumenism: proselytism," he said. "We should never proselytize the Orthodox! They are our brothers and sisters, disciples of Jesus Christ."

Accusations that the Catholic Church is trying to poach Orthodox members is another wedge dividing the two. In strongly rejecting this, the pope is attempting to remove another barrier to unity.

During his visit, the pope also told Christians "to avoid putting first disharmony and divisions between the baptized, because what unites us is much more than what divides us."

"The holy tunic, a mystery of unity, exhorts us to feel deep pain over the historical divisions which have arisen among Christians: These are the true and real lacerations that wound the Lord's flesh," he said.

On October 31, the pope will travel to Sweden to mark the beginning of the 500th anniversary year of the Protestant Reformation. That event will begin a yearlong series of trips and scheduled events designed to foster unity between the Catholic Church and Lutherans.

Lutheran leaders have said that they hope to fully heal their divide with Rome during this 500th anniversary year.

Catholic-Lutheran unity has already taken great strides over the past couple of decades. In 1999, the Lutheran World Federation signed a Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification with

the Vatican. The doctrine of justification was at the heart of Martin Luther's disagreement with the Catholic Church, which led to his excommunication. Now that disagreement has been overcome.

In 2007, the Catholic, Lutheran, Orthodox, Methodist, Anglican and Armenian-Apostolic churches in Germany all agreed to recognize each other's baptisms as valid.

"Five hundred years ago, wars were fought over the very issues about which Lutherans and Roman Catholics have now achieved consensus," said Elizabeth A. Eaton, the presiding bishop of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Some points of disagreement remain, and talk of achieving full communion in 2017 has died down in recent years, but so much of the heavy lifting has been done already.

This push for unity with Christians of all different kinds has been one of the biggest themes of Francis's papacy.

In 2013, America's largest Presbyterian church, along with other major Protestant groups, signed an agreement with the Catholic Church recognizing each other's baptisms. The Catholic Church is even making progress with Pentecostals. Pope Francis has held receptions with top American televangelists, including Joel Osteen's visit in 2014.

In 2014, the pope sent a recorded message to Kenneth Copeland Ministries, a large Pentecostal group, seeking unity. "Brothers and sisters, Luther's protest is over. Is yours?" asked a speaker at the event. The pope also beseeched the audience, "I am [yearning] that this separation comes to an end and gives us communion."

In 1963, in the midst of the Second Vatican Council, the *Plain Truth* reported:

Today, the time is ripe—according to official Catholic views—for making the final effort to unite the church bodies of the Christian world. The mighty problem of achieving unity is twofold. First, it involves reconciliation of the Orthodox Schism that officially commenced in 1054 and divided the churches in the East—Greece, Russia, the Balkans and the Near East—from Rome. Second, it involves restoration to the Roman communion all Protestantism, which developed from 1517 onward.

Both these divides are now very close to being healed. For more on what this unity will mean for the world and how it will be achieved, read the article "[Returning to the Fold](#)" from our free booklet *He Was Right*.

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MIDDLE EAST

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The Iranian Threat to the Red Sea

YEMEN'S CIVIL WAR HAS RECENTLY HIGHLIGHTED FRESH CONCERNS about the threat Iran poses to Red Sea shipping.

On October 1, a United Arab Emirates-operated advanced transport vessel at the Yemeni port of Mokha was attacked by an antiship missile. [Iranian-sponsored Houthi rebels](#) claimed responsibility for the attack. Stratfor reported that the attack, "if confirmed, would indicate that the group has acquired new capabilities, raising questions about the security of shipping in the waters off the Yemeni coast and the effectiveness of an arms embargo against the Houthis. If not the sign of a new weapon, the attack could suggest a shift in the group's tactics that may equally threaten ships in the Red Sea."

The Houthis said they hit the Emirati HSV-2 Swift with a Chinese-designed, C-802 antiship missile. Stratfor explained:

With a range of 120 kilometers (about 75 miles), the missiles would put a sizable stretch of the area near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait connecting the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden in the line of fire. More important for the United Arab Emirates, though, the missiles could also reach Assab and the naval base that it has been constructing just north of the port. If such missiles have been delivered to the Houthis, the most likely supplier would be Iran, which has bought C-802 missiles from China and produced its own variant, the Noor.

The exact weapon used in the attack is still up for debate, but one thing remains frighteningly clear, as Stratfor explained:

Regardless of the method used to attack the HSV-2 Swift, the Houthis have demonstrated an ability to strike effectively at costly coalition assets deployed in the waters near Yemen. Whether they did so by obtaining new advanced weaponry, or by deploying their existing weapons in an innovative way, the apparent threat they pose to coalition vessels and civilian shipping in the Red Sea is clear. ...

[T]he Houthi rebellion is still holding its own inside Yemen. Houthis continue to resist Saudi-backed military offensives and the authority of the Yemeni government led by President Abd Rabboh Mansour Hadi. Yemeni forces and their coalition allies are finding it difficult to make gains on the ground, and Houthi forces continue to hold territory inside Saudi Arabia from which they frequently launch artillery attacks on towns in the border region. On October 2, the Houthis also announced the formation of a new governing council and appointed their own prime minister, Abdel-Aziz Ben Habtour. By doing so, the Houthi movement showed its resolve in the face of the coalition's campaign against it.

In April 2015, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote: **"The Houthi takeover in Yemen proves that Iran is implementing a bold strategy to control the vital sea lane from the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea. We need to understand the gravity of this new situation in Yemen!"**

Mr. Flurry explained the seriousness of this development in his article ["Iran Gets a Stranglehold on the Middle East."](#)

More Agitation for Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



EGYPT'S INTERIOR MINISTRY ANNOUNCED ON TUESDAY THAT IT had killed a senior official of the "armed wing" of the Muslim Brotherhood.

The ministry's statement said Mohammed Kamal had been targeted for arrest during a raid on Monday. Kamal was reportedly killed in a subsequent gun battle, together with another Brotherhood member.

The Muslim Brotherhood disputes the government's version of the circumstances leading up to Kamal's death. It said that the group's youth wing leader had disappeared hours before his death was announced. "This could lead to more irresponsible acts of violence by the young people," a senior Brotherhood official exiled in Turkey told Reuters. "The youth are outraged."

This is very similar to a development the *Trumpet* reported on last year in the article ["Is the Muslim Brotherhood Plotting to Retake Egypt?"](#)

In ["The Death of a Leader Could Deepen the Muslim Brotherhood's Divides,"](#) Stratfor wrote:

The Egyptian government has not abandoned its determined pursuit of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, despite the threat that the campaign poses to the country's security and stability. The death of one of the group's leaders could fracture the Muslim Brotherhood even more and drive some of its members into the arms of extremist recruiters. ...

The pressure placed on the Muslim Brotherhood after Morsi's ouster and its branding as a terrorist organization accelerated a splintering process within the group. Many Muslim Brotherhood leaders and prominent members sought refuge in Turkey and Qatar, but many of their younger followers remained in Egypt.

Kamal emerged as a leader of the youth wing of the Muslim Brotherhood, which split from the body of the group comprising older members, led by Mahmoud Ezzat. The younger branch has espoused employing harsher and more violent tactics against the government as a means of reestablishing the Muslim Brotherhood's political control. The older guard

has urged caution, counseling a wait-and-see approach until the time was ripe to reassert control. Kamal, a proponent of the more radical option, had been featured in media interviews encouraging action against the state. It was not surprising that he ended up on a government target list.

The disagreement among the Egyptian branches of the Muslim Brotherhood on the direction that the group should take is helping to drive recruitment by extremist groups. The loss of Kamal as the youth wing leader could accelerate that process. The response of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt over the coming weeks will provide an important bellwether of further unrest for the Egyptian state. Though the government is well equipped to stamp out the threat of extremist violence, fledgling extremist groups have enduring appeal among disaffected Egyptian

youths. For instance, the relatively new Hasam Movement, which claimed involvement in the September 29 attempted assassination of an Egyptian assistant attorney general, shares ideology with the Muslim Brotherhood as well as an intense antigovernment worldview. As the Muslim Brotherhood has been forced further underground, the more extreme members of its youth wing are likely candidates for recruitment by upstarts such as Hasam or more established groups such as Ansar Beit al-Maqdis or the Islamic State's Wilayat Sinai.

Bible prophecy indicates that Egypt will be [allied with Iran](#). The fomenting rage and rise of extremism in Egypt could abruptly lead to such an outcome.

Afghanistan: Europe's Next Syria?

THE HEADLINE FOR A *NEW YORK TIMES* OCTOBER 5 ARTICLE SEEMINGLY said it all: "[Europe Makes Deal to Send Afghans Home, Where War Awaits Them](#)."

Afghanistan's leaders and officials from over 70 nations gathered in Brussels on Wednesday to drum up billions of dollars for the cash-strapped government. In total, they pledged \$15.2 billion. This is in addition to about \$130 billion in financial aid that the United States and other donors have already sent to Afghanistan.

European Union Foreign Policy Chief Federica Mogherini said the international community needed "to commit to a new deal for Afghanistan." The Associated Press reported that U.S.-led intervention after the September 11 terrorist attacks sent billions of dollars into the country, creating a false economy with double-digit growth. The economy tumbled at the troop drawdown in 2014 and as many aid workers and international agencies departed or scaled back operations. Unemployment may be as high as 50 percent. Insecurity throughout much of the country has deterred investment and driven many Afghans to Europe as migrants.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said his government was "ready to provide continued support," but "not without preconditions," which included respecting human rights, fighting corruption and "cooperation in questions of migration."

According to the Europe-Afghanistan deal, "The EU and the government of Afghanistan intend to cooperate closely in order to organize the dignified, safe and orderly return of Afghan nationals to Afghanistan who do not fulfill the conditions to stay in the EU."

However, Brad Adams, the Asia director at Human Rights Watch, lamented: "While donors are preoccupied with deterring refugee flight, they should focus instead on security force and Taliban abuses and children's lack of access to education, and address the reasons people are so desperate to leave."

U.S.-Russian Cooperation in Syria Breaks Down

UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN KERRY SAID ON TUESDAY that Russia has rejected diplomacy and chosen instead to help Syrian President Bashar Assad's government achieve a military victory over rebel groups. Russia has turned a blind eye to

The *Times* wrote:

In 2015 alone, 213,000 Afghans arrived in Europe, with 176,900 claiming asylum that year, according to European Union data. Fifty to 60 percent of such Afghan requests have been denied so far, meaning that tens of thousands of people could be returned to Afghanistan under the deal.

European officials denied that the repatriation deal was a condition for aid to Afghanistan. ...

[Yet] a leaked European Union memo dated March 3 discussed openly making pledges of aid at this week's conference conditional on Afghanistan's agreement with the repatriation deal. ...

The [Afghan] government's agreement to the deal was bound to anger many in Afghanistan, particularly because the families of a large number of the government's senior officials live abroad. ...

Timor Sharan, senior analyst for Afghanistan at the International Crisis Group, said the European motivation for sending a large number of Afghan asylum seekers back was not based on the realities in Afghanistan, but rather on anti-immigration sentiment in Europe.

"This is a political response to a humanitarian situation," Mr. Sharan said.

Aside from corruption and economic woes, [Afghanistan](#) is still battling a powerful Taliban. The Taliban nearly took over the northern Afghan city of Kunduz this week—nearly one year after the militant group shocked the world by briefly capturing it. Some 10,000 residents have been forced to flee their homes. The United Nations warned Thursday of a humanitarian crisis in that region.

Assad's deplorable use of chlorine gas and barrel bombs against his people, Kerry said.

The U.S. suspended bilateral contacts with Russia on Monday amid new attacks on the rebel-held districts in the northern

city of Aleppo, saying Russia had not lived up to terms of a recent agreement on a truce and humanitarian aid deliveries. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Tuesday that Russia will continue its efforts to find a political solution to the Syrian crisis, despite the U.S. decision.

In “[Why Russia Is Threatening the US in Syria](#),” Geopolitical Futures founder George Friedman wrote:

The Russians wanted to achieve two things. They wanted to look good for their domestic audience and to challenge the United States in a region where it had a great deal at stake, but without being forced to take existential risks. ...

Putin needed a lever against the United States. ... If

America is bogged down in a conflict in the Middle East, it is unable to act elsewhere. To the extent that Russia could get the U.S. bogged down in the Middle East again, it would retain freedom of action. ...

[The Russians] want to continue to use Syria as a way to bolster Putin’s credibility at home and to give them a lever in negotiations over Ukraine. ... The Russians may want to take a leading role in the Middle East. That would go against everything Putin learned from Afghanistan, and it would take logistical resources Russia doesn’t have. Plus, it significantly hampers Russia’s ability to operate in Europe. Russia has limited military resources, and deploying too much in the Middle East is dangerous. I would have to regard this as unlikely.

TW IN BRIEF

I srael-Gaza violence: The Israeli military announced Wednesday that it is carrying out air strikes on the Gaza Strip. The statement came after a rocket fired from Gaza landed in a street in the southern Israeli town of Sderot. No one was wounded by the rocket, but it marked a rare incident of Gaza militants penetrating Israel’s aerial defense system. Only a handful of projectiles have struck the town since the conclusion of the 50-day war in 2014. Since then, a ceasefire has largely held. But militants in Gaza occasionally launch rockets toward Israel. Israeli authorities hold Gaza’s Hamas rulers responsible for all attacks emanating from the territory.

P rotests in Ethiopia: Several dozen people died in a stampede Sunday morning when a religious celebration in Ethiopia turned into an antigovernment protest that led police to fire tear gas and rubber bullets. Crowds of people held up crossed wrists in a popular gesture of antigovernment protest while rallying before the stampede. An estimated 2 million people were attending the annual event in Bishoftu, a town southeast of the capital, Addis Ababa. The event took place in one of the country’s most sensitive regions, Oromia, which has seen several months of sometimes-deadly protests demanding wider freedoms.

A l-Shabaab strikes again: Al-Shabaab killed six people in an attack on Thursday in northern Kenya near the border with Somalia. The Islamist group is an al Qaeda affiliate based in Somalia. It claimed responsibility for the attack on its radio station. It also claimed that it had targeted Christians. Al-Shabaab has vowed retribution on Kenya for sending troops to Somalia since 2011. Kenya has been helping to fight the extremists who are waging an insurgency against Somalia’s weak, Western-backed government.

I raq-Kurdistan cooperation: Iraq’s prime minister met with the president of the Iraqi Kurdistan region on September 29 to discuss plans to liberate Mosul from the Islamic State group. Iraqi Kurdistan is an autonomous region in Iraq. Its military forces are called the Peshmerga. The Iraqi prime minister said coalition forces would continue to support Peshmerga troops on several levels, including consultation, training, logistic assistance and air support. The Kurdish leader gave assurance to the people of Mosul that their city would be liberated. The Iraqi prime minister, however, asked the Kurdish leader not to exploit the war on Islamic State to expand their territory.

EUROPE

Trumpet Hour

POPE PUSHES FOR UNITY, ABRIDGING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, RUSSIA BRACES FOR NUCLEAR WAR AND MUCH MORE | OCTOBER 7

A NEW THREAT TO JERUSALEM, WHY THE RADICAL LEFT AND RADICAL ISLAM AGREE, CHINA’S INVESTMENTS IN EUROPE AND MORE | OCTOBER 5

Will Deutsche Bank’s Troubles Make Germany More Nationalist?

DEUTSCHE BANK’S TROUBLES COULD HAVE MORE THAN AN ECONOMIC consequence, as Therese Raphael reported for

Bloomberg View in an article titled “[Deutsche’s Troubles Touch a Nationalist Nerve](#)”:

The International Monetary Fund warned three months ago that Deutsche Bank posed a potential systemic threat to the global financial system. Today the problems facing Germany's largest lender are fueling a different kind of risk: that of a growing nationalist backlash in Germany.

On Monday, the chairman of the German parliament's economics committee, Peter Ramsauer, gave an interview to *Welt am Sonntag* in which he called the \$14 billion fine over Deutsche's mortgage-backed securities business dating back to the financial crisis "extortionate" and said the fine "has the characteristics of an economic war."

Another German politician, Markus Ferber, suggested that the investigation into the bank's misdoings was "tit-for-tat" revenge for the European Commission's decision to slap Apple with a €13 billion (US\$14.6 billion) tax bill. And executives of some of Germany's biggest DAX-listed companies joined in this weekend to lend their support to Deutsche Bank. "German industry needs a German bank that accompanies us out into the world," BASF Chairman Juer-gen Hambrecht said.

Instead of parceling some of the blame on Deutsche's management, many Germans are circling the nationalist wagons. The idea that Deutsche Bank is in large part a victim feeds into an increasingly popular narrative that Germany's traditions, standards and institutions are under threat from outside. As we saw with opposition to genetically modified foods and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), once entrenched, these views can create powerful policy redlines.

The main target of criticism has been the European financial system Germany helped create. The European Central Bank is blamed for hobbling Deutsche Bank, hurting German savers, and propping up profligate, debt-ridden governments on the eurozone periphery. ...

For only the second time in four years, European Central Bank governor Mario Draghi went before German lawmakers in a closed session last week to defend the ECB's policies in the wake of Deutsche's problems. "If a bank represents a systemic threat to the eurozone, it can't be because of low interest rates. It has to do with other reasons," Draghi has pleaded.

In all the protests about outside meddling, there's an element of posturing in the run-up to next year's national elections. With the populist, anti-euro Alternative for Germany party making striking gains in local elections, Germany's mainstream politicians are eager to lay blame elsewhere for Germany's problems and demonstrate their own nationalist credentials to German voters weary of seeing German interests compromised for EU goals.

But the debate goes beyond election politics and interest rates. After the UK's vote to leave the EU, but also the Greek crisis, the refugee crisis and now bank troubles, Germany is rethinking its stance on European integration. The wider the disparities between eurozone countries, the more vulnerable the entire single-currency project. If Germany is going to shoulder the burden of propping up high-debt eurozone economies, the thinking goes, then Germany ought to get more of a say in how things are run.

It's an odd turn of events. Germany is pretty much the reason there is a European Union at all: The European Coal and Steel Community was formed in 1951 to harness German industrial might to French statecraft. The euro—which Germany accepted as the price for reunification—was fundamentally a political project to further tighten the knot. And export-oriented Germany has reaped the benefits of a currency that is substantially weaker than the deutsche mark would have been, giving it an enormous trade surplus. ...

The German economy is still Europe's largest and the world's fourth-largest; unemployment remains at its lowest level since reunification. But there are some signs of underperformance. Growth is set to slow next year and productivity growth has been low. [Volkswagen]'s humiliation over rigged diesel emissions systems, and now Deutsche Bank's fast-shrinking market value, punctured the ideal of the ultra-efficient, impeccably run German corporate. When the going gets tough, the tough find someone to blame.

Draghi has suggested that the country could do much more on the fiscal front to stimulate growth and investment. But Germans aren't in a mood for lectures. They are tired of being told they have to accept the standards set by others. ... Indeed, the Brexiter's mantra "take back control" is sounding better and better to German ears.

Spain Begins Push for Gibraltar

SPAIN IS ALREADY TRYING TO USE BREXIT TO PUSH FOR CONTROL over Gibraltar, EurActive reported October 5 in an article titled "[Spain Steps Up Efforts to Share Control of Gibraltar After Brexit.](#)"

Spain has submitted a proposal to the UN that would see it share sovereignty over Gibraltar with the UK, as the Iberian nation continues to put its card on the table regarding Brexit. EurActiv Spain reports.

Although negotiations have still not started, as the British government has still not formally triggered Article 50, Spain has emerged as one of the first countries to outline its positions on the main issues that will affect it as a result

of the UK's decision to leave the EU. ...

"Spain believes that cosovereignty would be beneficial for everyone involved," said Spain's permanent representative to the UN, Román Oyarzun, during a session focused on the theme of decolonization. ...

"Spain has formally invited the United Kingdom to open negotiations so that the provisions of the European Union's treaties can continue to apply to Gibraltar," the diplomat continued.

"The non-application of the treaties would lead to a radical change in Gibraltar's relations with Spain, but overall it would create problems for the Rock itself," Oyarzun warned.

The ambassador suggested that Spain would seek a joint-sovereignty agreement with the UK, so that Gibraltar could stay in the EU and would continue to enjoy as much self-government as possible, as well as reaping the economic benefits tied to single-market access.

The proposal would also enable Gibraltarians to maintain their British citizenship and to apply for Spanish nationality, without foregoing the former.

Oyarzun added that Gibraltar would be an “easy fit” in

Spain’s model of autonomous governments.

Other measures would include a separate tax system for Gibraltar that would be compatible with EU law and the dismantling of the fence that divides the rocky outcrop from Spain, which was erected over a hundred years ago by the British.

“Spain and the United Kingdom would be jointly responsible for the defense, foreign affairs, border controls, immigration matters and asylum system,” the ambassador explained.

TW IN BRIEF

Murdered priest on fast track to sainthood: Jacques Hamel, the priest murdered by Islamist terrorists on July 26, is on the fast track to sainthood. Usually the church requires a five-year waiting period before beginning the canonization process. However, Pope Francis said on October 2 that in this case the waiting period would be waived. The church will now talk to witnesses to decide if the murdered priest can indeed be made a saint. The pope said if they did not begin right away, witnesses would die or forget.

EU launches border force: The European Union launched its common Border and Coast Guard Agency on October 6. “Today is a milestone in the history of European border management,” said EU Migration Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos. “From now onward, the external EU border of one member state is the external border of all member states—both legally and operationally.” The agency will coordinate military deployments around the border and will have 1,500 personnel who can be quickly deployed in an emergency situation. These forces will be able to deploy even without the host nation’s permission.

Terror attack in Belgium: A knife-wielding man stabbed two police officers in Brussels on Wednesday. The man stabbed one officer in the neck and the other in the stomach. Both are expected to survive. A third officer overpowered the attacker, who was shot in the leg before being arrested. Authorities say they “have reason to believe that the incident was a terrorist attack.” It was the latest attack in a nation that has been on high alert since March, when 35 people were killed in suicide bombings in Brussels.

Germany and France air-force sharing: Germany and France signed an agreement Tuesday to share an air base and planes as part of military changes in the European Union. The two countries will share military transport planes, France’s defense minister said. The deal was signed in Paris, and the plans should be in place by 2021. The two countries are planning to use an air base in central France and keep around six military aircraft there. The aircraft will be used by both German and French air force crews. It is the first time Germany and France have entered into such an arrangement.

ASIA

Russia and Japan to Resolve Island Dispute?

FOR SEVEN DECADES, RELATIONS BETWEEN MOSCOW AND TOKYO have suffered because of a dispute over the status of an island chain off Japan’s north coast, known in Japan as the Northern Territories and in Russia as the Southern Kurils. The dispute has prevented Moscow and Tokyo from signing a postwar peace treaty (though the two sides did sign a Joint Declaration in 1956 that ended the “state of war”).

But now Russian President Vladimir Putin and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe are poised to finally settle the issue.

In a commentary for Reuters on October 4, Nikolas Gvosdev and Matthew Rojansky wrote, “These two nationalist hawks may be in a position to [cut a deal](#) that more moderate predecessors never could.” They continued:

Russia is now struggling under severe U.S.-led international sanctions, imposed in response to Moscow’s 2014 annexation of Crimea and continuing support for armed separatists in eastern Ukraine. With commodity prices,

particularly oil, in a prolonged slump, Moscow is in urgent need of investment from Japan.

Japan, for its part, may be less certain of Washington’s seven-decade-long security guarantee in light of China’s increasing military forays in the South China Sea. Tokyo is also monitoring what looks like widespread American skepticism about far-flung military commitments, now most famously channeled by Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump.

Facing these conditions, Russia and Japan both view enhanced economic and political ties as crucial to a stable balance of power in Northeast Asia, where a rising China is flexing its muscles and North Korea seems increasingly unpredictable.

Last week, Abe told the Japanese Diet that he “will resolve the territorial issue, end the abnormal situation in which no peace treaty has been concluded even 71 years after the war, and

cultivate the major possibility of Japan-Russia cooperation in areas such as the economy and energy.” Gvosdev and Rojansky said Abe wouldn’t make such a bold statement “if he did not have some indication that his diplomatic engagement with Putin is about to bear fruit.”

Back in September, Putin also signaled that a deal could happen: “We’re not talking about some exchange or some sale. We are talking about finding a solution where neither of the parties would feel defeated or a loser.”

In the Cold War era, discussion by a Soviet leader about relinquishing territory would not have been unthinkable. But Putin’s recent actions in Georgia and Ukraine have adequately solidified his standing as a conqueror. This allows him leeway that his predecessors never had to consider a small territorial concession to Japan in exchange for direly needed political and economic cooperation. Likewise, Abe has cemented domestic clout by taking a hard stance toward China and North Korea.

Gvosdev and Rojansky explained how the specifics of the deal might look:

The basic outlines are increasingly clear. Russia could salvage Japanese honor by returning the two smaller islets to Japan with no strings attached. This gesture would give Abe the political breathing room to open a formal dialogue on the remaining two larger islands. There, an arrangement could be reached to share sovereignty. Russia could transfer formal ownership to Japan and receive in exchange a permanent no-cost lease on its military bases. The Kremlin could thus maintain a troop presence, as a guarantee of its national security interests. Alternatively, Japan and Russia could split the difference, each taking one large island.

Japan is still dependent on the United States for its national security, but Tokyo sees that in recent years the American security blanket has become like a moth-eaten coat: robust in appearance but of compromised integrity. Abe appears to be working to knit a Japan-Russia alliance before someone shakes that U.S. blanket, exposing its tattered condition to the world. To understand more, read [“Don’t Worry, Putin, Asia Has Your Back.”](#)

Russia Training Drills Involve 40 Million People—Partly to Prepare for Nuclear War

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



MOSCOW INITIATED A NATIONWIDE CIVIL DEFENSE TRAINING drill on Tuesday to ensure that Russians are ready in the event of a large-scale disaster, including [a nuclear attack from the West](#).

The Independent wrote on October 6:

Amid growing international tensions, particularly over Russia’s conduct in Syria, the Defense Ministry-run Zvezda TV network announced last week: “Schizophrenics from America are sharpening nuclear weapons for Moscow.” Lasting three days, the exercise being run by the Ministry for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM) will involve 200,000 emergency personnel and the cooperation of 40 million civilians.

EMERCOM of Russia wrote on its website:

The drill will rehearse radiation, chemical and biological protection of the personnel and population during emergencies at crucial and potentially dangerous facilities.

Fire safety, civil defense and human protection at social institutions and public buildings are also planned to be checked.

Response units will deploy radiation, chemical and biological monitoring centers and sanitation posts at the emergency areas, while laboratory control networks are going to be put on standby.

The exercise began just a day after Russian President Vladimir Putin withdrew from a milestone nuclear security deal that the Kremlin signed back in 2000. [“Times have changed,”](#)

Putin wrote in a decree signed Monday. “The threat to strategic stability posed by the hostile actions of the U.S. against Russia, and the inability of the U.S. to deliver on the obligation to dispose of excessive weapons plutonium under international treaties” force Russia’s hand. Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook responded to the news, saying, “We’re disappointed with their decision.”

Meanwhile, on September 30, representatives for the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry said the government is beginning a project to build [fallout shelters capable of protecting all of Moscow’s 12 million residents](#) in the event of a nuclear attack on the capital city.

Then on October 5, news emerged that Russia has boosted its number of deployed nuclear warheads as the United States reduces its own. [Washington Free Beacon](#) wrote:

Russia increased its deployed nuclear warheads over the past six months under a strategic arms reduction treaty as U.S. nuclear warhead stocks declined sharply, according to the State Department. During the same period, the United States cut its deployed nuclear warheads by 114, increasing the disparity between the two nuclear powers. Russia’s warhead increases since 2011 suggest Moscow does not intend to cut its nuclear forces and will abandon the New START arms accord as part of a major nuclear buildup. ...

At the same time, the Obama administration is continuing a program of unilateral nuclear disarmament despite promises by President Obama to modernize and maintain U.S. nuclear forces as long as strategic dangers are present. ... Russian forces have deployed 249 warheads above the warhead limit set by the treaty to be reached by February 2018.

Since the treaty went into force in 2011, Moscow increased its total warhead stockpile from 1,537 warheads to 1,796 warheads, an increase of 259 warheads.

By contrast, the Obama administration has cut U.S. nuclear forces by 433 warheads during the same period.

While U.S. nuclear forces are very old and in need of modernization, Russian nuclear forces are being modernized. ...

Other troubling signs of Russian nuclear weapons

advances include intelligence reports that Moscow is expanding underground nuclear command bunkers, violating New START terms, and planning to double its warhead stockpiles for new multiple-warhead missiles.

"In 2011, the United States had a lead of 263 deployed warheads," [former Pentagon nuclear weapons specialist Mark] Schneider said. "We are now 429 deployed warheads below Russia. The Russians will think this is quite important. It could impact Putin's willingness to take risks."

TW IN BRIEF

U.S. generals warn war with China, Russia inevitable:

United States Maj. Gen. William Hix warned that artificial intelligence and smart weapons would speed up the pace of war. His comments came while speaking on a panel on the Future of the Army in Washington. Other military chiefs in the U.S. say that a war with Russia and China is "almost guaranteed" at some point in the future, but that it would be quick. Hix said, "The speed of events are likely to strain our human abilities. The speed at which machines can make decisions in the far future is likely to challenge our ability to cope, demanding a new relationship between man and machine."

Russia comments on U.S. involvement in Syria:

Russia's Defense Ministry refuted a White House spokesperson's comment suggesting that Russia was not making any progress on anti-terrorism in Syria. Russia's Ministry of Defense spokesman said the U.S. had broken the agreement on the September 9 ceasefire in Syria. He also accused the U.S. of being unable to distinguish the opposition from al-Nusra Front militants, allowing terrorists to regroup. The spokesman stressed that Russia's purpose of military actions has always been to fight against any form of international terrorism. He praised Russia for restoring peace in hundreds of residential areas and reclaiming tens of thousands of square kilometers of Syrian land from the terrorists.

Duterte with more zingers for U.S.: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has released more statements condemning the relationship between the United States and the Philippines. His recent remarks have come as the U.S. and Philippines militaries are starting joint military exercises, which Duterte has claimed will be "the last." Angered about U.S. criticism of his war on drug pushers and users, Duterte told U.S. President Barack Obama on Tuesday to "go to hell." He followed up those statements later on by threatening to break ties with the U.S. during his time in office, stating, "I would rather go to Russia and to China."

Russia suspends plutonium deal: Russia refused on Monday to follow its part in a deal aimed to reduce plutonium stores between the United States and Russia. The deal, reconfirmed in 2010, required that each country burn off 34 tons of stored plutonium in reactors—the combined amount reportedly being enough material to create 17,000 nuclear weapons. Russian President Vladimir Putin argued that the U.S. had failed to live up to promises to destroy the plutonium, claiming it used a method allowing the plutonium to be extracted and reused. Russia's suspension of the deal comes at a time of worsening relations with the U.S.

ANGLO-AMERICA



The Former Prophets

Gerald Flurry,

The Key of David | October 9

These books of the Bible contain prophetic history, yet few study them and even fewer understand their significance for today.



Canada's Military—A Shameful Shadow of Its Once Glorious Past

Jerry Ozipko | October 5

CANADA'S MILITARY SERVICES CAN NO LONGER DEFEND THE nation's borders—much less its citizens. According to the new commander of the Royal Canadian Navy, Vice Adm. Ron Lloyd, Canada's last destroyer, HMCS Athabaskan, will be retired

from service in the spring of 2017, leaving the nation to [rely on its allies for defense](#) for at least the next seven years. Over the previous decades, Athabaskan and other similar vessels provided the capabilities of command and control for both the Royal Canadian

Navy and the area air defense. By next spring, the Navy will be left with only 12 frigates, 12 coast defense vessels and 4 submarines. Canada will need to rely on the United States for its area air defense.

But it was not always this way. The Battle of the Atlantic during World War II proved that Canada was a naval force to be reckoned with. The Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) played a critical role in the eventual victory by the allies over the European Axis powers. A historical information sheet from Veteran Affairs Canada reported, "The growth of Canada's Navy was remarkable. At the beginning of the Second World War, the RCN had only six ocean-going ships and 3,500 personnel. By the end of the war, Canada had one of the largest navies in the world with 434 commissioned vessels and 95,000 men and women in uniform." For a few months, it was even the fourth-largest navy in the world in terms of number of commissioned vessels.

To counter the drawback of naval resources, Canada's Navy purchased four Victoria-class submarines from the United Kingdom in 1998. It turns out that not only were those subs second-hand, but they had been obtained at a ridiculously low price. Since the conclusion of that "deal," Michael Byers and Stewart Webb reported that the vessels have been plagued with a variety of major problems.

Canada has a massive territory to serve and protect. Geopolitically, the Arctic is proving to be a strategic resource area with large, untapped oil and gas reserves as well as many metals and minerals under the ocean bed. And Russia, which periodically conducts military exercises in the far north that sometimes intrude into Canadian airspace, would like to have access to those resources.

And so the Canadian military and government's dance with destiny continues.

We have seen this same scenario play out in other English-speaking nations. Both Britain and the United States have experienced similar serious decommissioning and reductions in their respective military arsenals, personnel and material from their once former greatness. In the late 1930s, despite repeated and blatant warnings by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill of the rising threat of Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany, when Germany invaded Poland in 1939, Britain was vulnerable to invasion and conquest by the Nazis. At the conclusion of World War II, Britain, whose empire once spanned the globe, was left exhausted and broke.

Trumpet managing editor Joel Hilliker described the demise of the once "Great" Britain as a formidable military and economic power in "[Want to Know What a Former Superpower Looks Like?](#)" "[T]he Royal Navy—almost 900 warships strong at its peak—currently has 22 warships, only a third of which can operate at any one time," he wrote. Sounds similar to today's drawdown of the Royal Canadian Navy.

In "[The History and Future of the U.S. Navy](#)," Abraham Blondeau wrote that the American naval force is currently "the most dominant maritime force in world history." But in accordance with God's prophecy in Leviticus 26:19, America no longer has the will to utilize that power.

As a nation originally colonized by Great Britain and a member of the British Commonwealth, Canada is a "child" of the biblical nation of Ephraim. For more information, read [The United States and Britain in Prophecy](#). The Bible prophesies that "Ephraim also is like a silly dove" (Hosea 7:11). It is naive in how it responds to critical world events, which are rapidly building toward war. While the rest of the nations build their military arsenals and personnel, both Britain and Canada are foolishly diminishing theirs. Canada's vulnerability is there for all to see.

Irish Nationalist Challenge Brexit

B RITISH PRIME MINISTER THERESA MAY ANNOUNCED SUNDAY that she would invoke Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty by the end of March, a move which will officially begin the two-year countdown to the United Kingdom leaving the European Union. Not everyone is happy with this decision, however, as nationalist parties in Northern Ireland have challenged the decision in Northern Ireland's High Court.

According to an article by Amanda Ferguson and Conor Humphries in the [Independent](#):

Northern Ireland's High Court is to begin hearing a legal challenge on Tuesday against British plans to leave the European Union without a vote in the Westminster Parliament.

The case is being brought by a cross-party group of politicians, including members of the province's two largest Irish nationalist parties, who argue a vote in the Northern Ireland regional assembly should also be required.

The British government has said its legal advice is that triggering Article 50 of the EU Lisbon Treaty, the formal

process to start a two-year countdown to an exit, can be invoked under the royal prerogative, which does not require parliamentary approval. ...

Similar legal challenges have been launched in England and London's High Court is due to hear them later this month. It is expected their outcome will be appealed to the Supreme Court, the United Kingdom's highest judicial body, to deliver the final verdict on the constitutional question in December.

While overall 52 percent of the United Kingdom voted in favor of leaving the EU in June's referendum, a majority—56 percent—of those living in Northern Ireland backed remaining in the bloc.

As legal challenges against Brexit mount, there is a great danger that the regions with the United Kingdom—England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland—could become even further divided. It is as *Trumpet* columnist Brad Macdonald wrote in regard to the 2014 Scotland Independence Referendum:

We are here today because the very quality—the defining sense of identity—the clear and indomitable sense of what it means to be British ... is gone. This sense of identity [has] been diminished for decades, chiseled away by

revisionist historians abolishing the British Empire, by multiculturalists embracing other cultures and religions, and by politically correct politics undermining patriotism and loyalty to Britain.

Pastors Could Soon Be Jailed for Using Wrong Pronouns

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE LEGISLATURE PASSED A LAW LAST June banning sex-segregated bathrooms in public places. Now the organization tasked with enforcing this law, the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, has released a guidebook explaining the nuances of the new rules. Among these nuances is a section explaining how the government plans to force churches to comply.

According to an article in the *Federalist* by Bre Payton:

The law will soon extend to churches that host “secular” events that are open to the public. As the *Washington Post*’s Eugene Volokh explains, this means churches will be held liable for things pastors and even church members say if someone attending considers it “harassment.” ...

The potential infringements upon religious freedom are vast, as this new law basically provides the state and trans activists with a legal tool to force pastors into using terms that violate their beliefs (and basic biological facts).

It also raises some serious constitutional questions. The

Bible states that humans were created as man and woman in part so they would procreate, a blessed event. So if a pastor faces legal consequences for preaching the Bible, these new rules threaten their First Amendment right to the free exercise of religion.

Massachusetts lawmakers are throwing away the Bill of Rights as they rule that the “right” of an LGBTQ person to not be offended is more important than a religious right to Free Speech. As *Trumpet* managing editor Joel Hilliker wrote last year:

Outspoken devotees of homosexuality want to penalize anyone who isn’t openly supportive. They would love a society where everyone wholeheartedly embraced homosexuality—but barring that, they want a Disneyland where everyone at least is forced to pretend to embrace it.

In the world they are creating, if you don’t love homosexuality, you had better pretend you do, or the government will come after you.

Could Communism Be Making a Comeback?

MANY TODAY RIDICULE PRIOR GENERATIONS’ CONCERN OVER Communist ideals. But current trends are bringing that concern back into focus. The famed 1960s Communist agitator Angela Davis is a hero to the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement and many of the 13 guiding principles of the movement have collectivist roots. With this in mind, it shouldn’t come as a surprise that Black Lives Matter is a Marxist organization. The only surprising thing is the type of communism this movement is starting to advocate.

According to an article in the *Federalist* by Thurston Powers:

BLM has turned its back on intersectional theory, the modern conflict theory that birthed safe spaces, trigger warnings and the Oppression Olympics. Instead, BLM is rebirthing the traditional class struggle, reframing it in terms of black and white.

The policy platform proposed by BLM in August did nothing to hide this traditionalism. Its calls for collective ownership of resources, banks and businesses, a highly progressive income tax, a guaranteed minimum income, and government jobs are lifted straight from the pages of Karl Marx’s *Communist Manifesto*. ...

BLM has simply substituted Marx’s class conflict

between the proletariat and bourgeoisie for class conflict between blackness and whiteness. But unlike income and wealth, blackness and whiteness are not temporary states: While 56 percent of American households occupy the top 10 percent of the income bracket at some point during their lives, such transience does not occur with an immutable characteristic like race.

The black vs. white dichotomy creates a permanent enemy class, to which defection is always incomplete. And unlike the proletariat class consciousness, race consciousness already exists, making mobilization easier. This can be seen in the comments of a Milwaukee protester from August: “We do not want justice or peace anymore. We done with that [expletive]. We want blood. We want blood. We want the same [expletive] y’all want. Eye for an eye. No more peace. [Expletive] all that. Ain’t no more peace. Ain’t no more peace. We done. We cannot cohabitate with white people, one of us have to go, black or white. All y’all have to go!”

Marxist ideologues first corrupt, pollute and agitate from within. But their final phase is a violent overthrow of the government. They aim to destroy the system, because they can’t build another one until that happens. The Black Lives Matter

movement, despite its leaders harboring such radical ideas, is rapidly moving from the fringes into *mainstream America*. To

whatever degree this kind of dangerous thinking moves along with it, this nation will suffer for it!

Where Are the Men in America's Workforce?

AT 4.9 PERCENT, THE OFFICIAL UNITED STATES UNEMPLOYMENT rate is half of what it was at the height of the Great Recession in 2010. Yet this statistic obscures the fact that 10 million working-age men have simply disappeared from the workforce. They aren't counted as unemployed because they aren't working and aren't looking for a job.

According to an article in the *News Herald* by Dr. Mike Walden:

After World War II in the late 1940s, 6 percent of prime, working-age men (those between the ages of 25 and 54) were not employed and were not looking for work. Today that rate is 14 percent. Translated to numbers, 1 million prime, working-age men in the late 1940s were out of the labor force—today the number is 7 million.

The trend has been exactly the opposite for women. Prime, working-age females with jobs in the paid-labor market steadily rose from the end of World War II to 2000, before modestly declining since then. Still, the proportion of 25-to-54-year-old females working today is twice as high as 70 years ago.

A big reason for these changes has been a shift in the economics of work. Prior to World War II, much of paid work

was hard physical labor—on the farm, at the construction site or in the factory—and this is where the majority of men put in their hours. You didn't need a college degree—or maybe even a high school degree—to do these jobs. ...

Modern technology and machinery have reduced the need for physical labor. Employment in agriculture has been dropping for almost a century, and less than 2 percent of all jobs are on the farm today. Manufacturing jobs peaked in the 1970s and is down one third since then. And construction jobs have never recovered from their peak during the housing boom of the early 2000s.

A shift from “brawn power” jobs to “brain power” jobs has transformed the economy over the last century. Yet millions of young men have not put in the time and effort to develop skills that would make them employable. According to a study based on U.S. Census Bureau's time-use surveys, young men without college degrees have replaced 75 percent of the time they used to spend working with time on the computer, mostly playing video games. Before the 2008 recession, unemployed men without college degrees spent an average of 3.4 hours per week playing video games. By 2014, this demographic was spending up to 8.6 hours per week playing video games.

TW IN BRIEF

President Obama says Paris agreement will be ‘turning point’ in history: United States President Barack Obama said on Wednesday that history might judge the Paris climate agreement as a turning point for the planet. “Today is a historic day in the fight to protect our planet for future generations,” Mr. Obama said. “Make no mistake: This agreement will help delay and avoid some of the worst consequences of climate change.” Nations representing more than 55 percent of world carbon emissions have signed on to the agreement, which goes into effect in 30 days. The agreement requires countries to come up with nation-specific carbon-reduction plans in an effort to keep global temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius. On Tuesday, a Pew survey revealed only one third of Americans trust the expertise of climate scientists.

UK pound drops again: The pound has dropped to a 31-year low as investors fret over the British government's suggestion it will focus on controlling immigration in its talks to leave the European Union. Sterling dropped to below \$1.28 on Tuesday, days after British Prime Minister Theresa May clarified the timeframe for Britain's exit from the bloc, saying she will trigger two years of formal exit talks before April. But members of her governing Conservative Party are wrestling over control of the steering wheel that will take Britain toward either a looser but still intertwined relationship with the bloc, or a dramatic “hard Brexit” with unknown consequences. Market analyst Michael Hewson said the tone of May's remarks suggested Britain could be veering toward a “hard Brexit,” and markets reacted over the “perception that could cause a significant amount of disruption.”



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Stephen Flurry,

Trumpet Daily | October 7

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