

Trumpet Weekly

NOVEMBER 18, 2016

Chinese newspapers feature front page photos of U.S. President-elect Donald Trump at a newsstand in Beijing on November 10.



What Donald Trump Means for Asia

Tyrel Schlote | November 16

THE ELECTION OF DONALD TRUMP AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED States is convulsing America, but it is also sending shock waves overseas, rocking America's allies and enemies abroad.

In Asia, the existing balance of power has already been shaken by two of Trump's campaign promises: his pledge to [scale back America's policing of the world](#), and his threats to reduce support for America's allies and require them to pay for more of their own defense.

The Japanese displayed fanaticism before and during World War II. After the war ended in 1945, the United States introduced Article 9 into the Japanese Constitution. This clause outlawed war as a means for Japan to settle international disputes. Shortly afterward, the U.S. and Japan signed the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, which obliged America to defend Japan by stationing troops near potential conflict zones in the region.

Following the Communist takeover of China in 1949, Japan proved to be a strategic buffer for America. From Japan, America could work to limit Communist expansion.

In the years since, though America has slowly allowed and even encouraged Japan to militarize, it has always recognized Japan's strategic importance in projecting power to the region. With Mr. Trump, that could change.

During the first presidential debate, Mr. Trump singled out Japan as a nation the U.S. may stop defending if it didn't pay up: "Just to go down the list, we defend Japan, we defend Germany, we defend South Korea, we defend Saudi Arabia, we defend countries. They do not pay us. But they should be paying us because we are providing tremendous service, and we're losing a fortune. ... We can't defend Japan, a behemoth, selling us cars by the million."

Without American backing, Tokyo knows it would be unable to

defend itself against China. So comments like these, especially as China's expansionistic behavior near Japanese territory becomes more aggressive, are making some Japanese leaders nervous.

More troubling is Trump's proposed solution to the situation. Rather than leaving Japan high and dry, he suggested that allowing Tokyo to build nuclear weapons will make up for America's withdrawal. In a town hall meeting, he said, "You have so many countries already—China, Pakistan, ... Russia— ... right now that have [nuclear weapons]. Now, wouldn't you rather, in a certain sense, have Japan have nuclear weapons when North Korea has nuclear weapons?"

Though the Japanese government followed up Mr. Trump's remarks by affirming its commitment to never own or build nuclear weapons, these are startling statements. If America does withdraw and Tokyo reverses its position on nuclear weapons, the region could plunge into a nuclear arms race.

South Korea also relies heavily on American power in maintaining its security and independence. Having suffered a Communist-empowered invasion that conquered the northern half of the peninsula, South Korea is all too aware of what can happen if Trump decides it is too expensive to invest America's military there.

In 2014, South Korea paid \$850 million for U.S. base maintenance. But according to Mr. Trump's foreign-policy adviser Pete Hoesktra, this may not be enough: "The threats that they face—if they're not willing to pay for it or if they just go into it saying, 'We don't have to worry about it, the United States is going to pay for it,' that is not a healthy relationship."

Following his election, Mr. Trump called South Korean President Park Geun-hye to affirm his commitment to protect the nation. However, this reassurance did not stop her from calling an emergency meeting with her national security council to plan for what the future may be without American protection.

If America pulls out of South Korea, Seoul would likely feel compelled to secure its own nuclear weapons. Reuters said on November 10 that already "some members of the South Korean parliament have suggested that the country has little choice but to consider nuclear armament if U.S. forces are withdrawn."

Another troubling implication of a U.S. retreat from the nation is the security concern to *America itself*. Currently America and South Korea have an agreement to deploy a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense antimissile system in the nation to counter missile threats from North Korea. When deployed, it would provide an added layer of defense against possible North Korean missile launches against the United States. However, if the U.S. pulls out of South Korea, it could lose the antimissile system.

Since the election of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte earlier this year, relations between the U.S. and the Philippines have suffered. Duterte has repeatedly railed against America, and openly cursed and insulted President Barack Obama.

Duterte has made threats to end dependence on American power, announcing that the joint military exercise between the Philippines and the U.S. in October was the last one under his watch, canceling a small arms deal with the U.S., and saying he wants all U.S. troops out of the Philippines in two years. Though he backtracked on his threat to sever ties with Washington, Duterte's distrust of America remains clear. Duterte has also expressed a desire to strengthen relations with China and Russia.

After Mr. Trump's election victory, Duterte was quick to

congratulate him. Duterte seems to respect the president-elect more than President Obama. But that may not be enough to stop Duterte's shift to China. Bloomberg reported last week that "at an early morning briefing in Davao, Duterte said that while the U.S. would remain a friend and ally, the Philippines' foreign policy was now geared toward China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations."

Trump's election elated Russia's parliament and President Vladimir Putin. When the election results were broadcast, the State Duma broke out into applause, and Putin sent Mr. Trump a congratulatory telegram.

The Kremlin announced shortly after the election victory that Mr. Putin hoped "to work together for removing Russian-American relations from their crisis state." Why is a country that is viewed as a major threat to the United States celebrating the election of Mr. Trump? Simply examine what the president-elect has openly said.

While campaigning for the presidency, Mr. Trump made numerous statements supporting Russian actions in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. On multiple occasions, he expressed his desire to reduce U.S. commitment to NATO. The NATO alliance is a check against Russian power. If Trump decides to reduce U.S. support of the organization, it will represent a major victory for Moscow, apparently requiring little or no political or economic cost. Trump also stated that he will consider lifting sanctions on Russia in connection to its annexation of Crimea and that he will officially recognize it as Russian territory. This would make him the first Western leader to legitimize the Kremlin's conquest of Crimea and Eastern Ukraine.

All these moves would embolden and empower Russia, tipping the balance of power in Moscow's favor in Europe and the Middle East.

Chinese President Xi Jinping was among the first to congratulate Mr. Trump on his election victory. The Chinese leadership rejoiced at the idea of an America eager to further retreat from its historic role as policeman of Asia and the world.

But the Chinese are also concerned about Mr. Trump's "Seven-Point Plan to Rebuild the American Economy." In this plan, Mr. Trump promised to "use every lawful presidential power to remedy trade disputes if China does not stop its illegal activities, including its theft of American trade secrets." Trump has also said he might impose a 45 percent tariff on Chinese imports in order to bolster the U.S. economy. Some commentators warn that implementing such trade policies toward China could lead to an all-out trade war.

China's state-run *Global Times* said that if Trump imposes tariffs on China, there would be consequences: "When the time comes, large orders for Boeing planes would switch to Europe, U.S. auto sales in China would face setbacks, Apple phones would essentially be crowded out, and U.S. soybeans and corn would be eradicated from China."

While it remains to be seen what Mr. Trump will do when he takes office, a clash between the world's two largest economies would disrupt the entire global economy.

Right now, the world is waiting to see how much of Mr. Trump's campaign rhetoric will become reality. Any number of policies could change the balance of power in Asia and the world.

America's Asian allies face the possibility of abandonment that could put them at China's mercy. The nations that wish to

bring an end to the stability that America has long maintained could be empowered.

While we can't yet know all that Mr. Trump will do, the *Trumpet* has long forecast that a major reshaping of power in Asia is coming. Bible prophecy forecasts the emergence of an enormous Asian power bloc, referred to as the kings of the east. At the head of this alliance will be Russia and China, and many smaller Asian

nations will be compelled to join as well. Could Donald Trump's policies of disengagement from the region hasten the formation of this bloc?

As *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote, "China is intimidating the nations of Southeast Asia into submission to its will. It is forcing these countries to do what it wants. EVERYTHING IS HEADED IN THE DIRECTION OF WAR."

MIDDLE EAST

TrumpetDaily

RADIO SHOW

[SUPERPOWER EUROPE? WHERE HAVE WE HEARD THIS BEFORE? | NOVEMBER 18](#)

[GUESS WHO DOESN'T CARE ABOUT TRADE WARS?
DONALD TRUMP, THAT'S WHO | NOVEMBER 17](#)

[PIRATES, PEASANTS AND DONALD J. TRUMP | NOVEMBER 16](#)

['TRUMP'S OPPONENTS ARE THE BIGOTS AND RACISTS' | NOVEMBER 15](#)

[DONALD TRUMP'S AMERICA AND THE RISE OF
THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE | NOVEMBER 14](#)

Israel's Fleeting Friendships

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE FOR NEAR East Policy Robert Satloff wrote a piece acknowledging the popularity Israel is currently enjoying.

Then he warned about how temporary it can be.

Under the title "[Everyone Loves Israel—Until They Don't](#)," Satloff wrote: "Yes, Israel's popular right now. But most of its new friendships are based on assessments of common interest—and such assessments can change overnight."

He discussed the "false hopes that Israel's current burst of global popularity will necessarily remain the 'new normal' of international politics; that the world will forever agree to relegate the Palestinian issue to the diplomatic back burner; and, perhaps the falsest of all, that one or a collective of Israel's new friends could replace the often irksome, sometimes cranky alliance with the United States."

Satloff warned:

[G]iven the speed of seismic strategic shifts in both the Middle East and broader global politics in recent years, it is foolhardy for any government—especially Israel's—to bank on the idea that "the way things are" are the way things are going to be. In its immediate neighborhood, Israel's good fortune rests on a strengthened partnership with an increasingly authoritarian Egypt, a convergence of interests with the Sunni states of the Gulf, and an energy-based

condominium with Turkey. ...

Next, an important component of Israel's current global success is the fact that countries around the world seem to have lost interest in the Palestinian issue. ...

[I]t would be foolish not to entertain at least the possibility that some of today's worrying signs about the U.S.-Israel relationship could worsen and even congeal politically. These signs include frustration with Israel's policy toward the Palestinians, which has eroded pro-Israel sentiment among substantial elements of the Democratic Party, and frustration with Israel's deference to an Orthodox state rabbinate, which has eroded support for Israel among a substantial part of another key constituency, namely, the American Jewish community. ...

[A]lliances need tending; they don't thrive without care and attention. Should Israel take the American alliance for granted—without devoting care and attention to weak spots in the relationship and without investing in the new areas of opportunity, such as the rising Latino influence in American politics—it runs the risk of awaking one morning with an American alliance in profound disrepair. This doesn't mean that Israel needs to take measures that run counter to its core national interest for the sake of the U.S.-Israel relationship, but it also doesn't mean that indifference to the concerns of large and influential blocs of politically active Americans is a wise policy.

The War Against Houthi Implements of War

ON NOVEMBER 12, SAUDI-LED COALITION AIR STRIKES HIT TWO boats carrying weapons for Houthi rebels in Yemen. The boats had just arrived at Yemen's northern port city of Salif.

On November 15, the coalition intercepted a ballistic missile headed for Saudi Arabia. The kingdom used Patriot missiles for its defense.

Agence France-Presse wrote:

The coalition has been engaged in a bombing campaign against the Iran-backed Shiite Houthi rebels and their allies since March last year, and the insurgents have targeted their air bases. ...

Last month, the rebels launched one of their longest-range strikes against Saudi Arabia, firing a ballistic missile that was brought down near the holy Muslim city of Mecca, an attack that was roundly condemned by Riyadh's Gulf allies.

The rebels insisted that the missile had been fired at Jeddah, the Red Sea city in the sprawling Mecca region, not at the holy city itself.

Then, on November 16, the Saudi-led coalition intercepted two boats loaded with weapons and communications equipment.

[Al-Arabiya News](#) reported:

According to the media center of the popular resistance in the Hudaydah governorate, the smugglers who were on the two boats were interrogated and confessed that they were on their way from Iranian regional waters to the Yemeni Salif port to deliver the load to the Houthis.

Surveillance and investigative operations revealed that militias are using a number of islands, such as Zagar and Hanish, to smuggle arms and equipment with the help of Iran. After the coalition forces imposed their control on these two islands earlier this year, the militias used the Kamaran island, which is close to the Hudaydah port and which is the only inhabited island.

Iranian smuggling ships either unload their cargo in these islands or in militias' boats in the sea to later be transferred to western shores in Yemen.

In his April 2015 article titled "[Iran Gets a Stranglehold on the Middle East](#)," *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote, "The Houthis' takeover of Yemen was not just a grassroots revolution. It was a part of a deliberate and calculated Iranian strategy to conquer the Red Sea. This strategy is revealed in a powerful prophecy in the biblical book of Daniel."

More Iranian Nuke Deal Violations

THE HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) said Thursday that Iran was endangering support for its nuclear deal. The IAEA reported last week that Iran overstepped limits on the amount of heavy water it is allowed to possess. This is the second time since the implementation of the agreement in January that Iran has overstepped the limits of the deal.

The *Wall Street Journal* wrote November 17:

The International Atomic Energy Agency said last week that Iran had stockpiled slightly [more than the allowable 130 metric tons](#) of heavy water. ...

Iran's permanent representative to the agency, Reza Najafi, said Iran has been in contact with "potential buyers" of the material and that it may reduce the stockpile to below 125 metric tons.

"Iran is making some preparations. It needs some work to be done," he said.

Mr. Najafi argued that the 130-metric-ton target was not a hard limit in the agreement. ...

[IAEA head, Yukiya] Amano, said his decision to air his concerns was not a result of Mr. Trump's election last week.

"The reason why I expressed this concern is the fact that the inventory of heavy water surpassed 130 [metric] tons for the second time," he said. ...

When the second violation surfaced, U.S. officials played it down, stressing Tehran had made no effort to hide the material from the agency and had pledged to correct the situation.

Heavy water is used to cool reactors that can produce substantial amounts of plutonium, which constitutes the fissile core of nuclear warheads. The head of the IAEA said "such [violations and] situations should be avoided" in the future in order to maintain "international confidence" in the Iran nuclear deal.

Morsi Evades Death Row—For Now

ON NOVEMBER 15, EGYPT'S HIGHEST COURT OF APPEAL OVERTURNED a death sentence against former President Mohamed Morsi. The deposed president had been facing execution since

June last year for his role in a mass jailbreak in 2011.

The court ruling ordered a retrial, but Morsi is still serving three lengthy prison sentences.

Morsi was elected president on behalf of the Muslim Brotherhood in 2012. He was deposed in 2013.

The court ruling came five days after Egyptian authorities announced that they had foiled a coordinated terrorist attack by the Muslim Brotherhood. Supporters of the Brotherhood, called Movement of the Poor, had for weeks made calls for mass protests in Egypt on November 11. The calls received a lot of support from many Egyptians facing increasing economic hardship. Authorities said they confiscated a stash of arms and ammunition hidden in a graveyard and in a house in southwest Cairo.

Daniel 11:40-42 show why we watch events in Egypt closely:

And at the time of the end shall the king of the south [a radical Islamic power] push at him: and the king of the north [a European power] shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape.

We could be witnessing events that will lead to a future counterterrorism attack on Egypt.

TW IN BRIEF

Russian air strikes: Russia announced a major air offensive Tuesday in the rebel-held part of the northern city of Aleppo in Syria. Syrian opposition activists reported that the air strikes were the first in three weeks. The offensive began hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin and United States President-elect Donald Trump discussed Syria over the phone. The two agreed on the need to combine efforts in the fight against “international terrorism and extremism.”

Suicide bombing in Karbala: A suicide bombing in Iraq targeted the Shiite sacred city of Karbala on Monday, killing at least six civilians. This was the latest attempt by the Sunni Islamic State group to distract from the government forces’ offensive on the northern city of Mosul. Six suicide bombers tried to sneak into Karbala from its western outskirts earlier in the day, but security forces detected and killed five of them. The sixth attacker broke into a house, where he detonated his suicide vest, killing six people and wounding another six. The attack came as hundreds of

thousands of Shiite Muslims have been walking to Karbala to commemorate the seventh-century death of Imam Hussein, an iconic Shiite martyr. On Sunday, pilgrims are expected to converge on the city for the climax of a 40-day mourning period. In an online statement, the Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack.

Erdoğan trying to extend his term limits: According to a Reuters report released on Wednesday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has plans that could possibly extend his term until 2029 if they are accepted in a referendum next spring. The president has argued that Turkey needs to have a strong executive branch, akin to the system in the United States or France, in order to prevent the weakness of the current coalition governments. Erdoğan’s critics have accused him of trying to use the ruling to extend his own term. If the referendum is passed, the Constitution’s two-term limit would be reset, meaning Erdoğan, if reelected, could rule for another 10 years.

EUROPE

Trumpet Hour

EU MOVES ON MILITARY, PAX GERMANICA, CHINA’S FIRST AIRCRAFT CARRIER, AND MUCH MORE | NOVEMBER 18

DIVISION IN AMERICA, U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS, NEW ZEALAND QUAKE, THE PURPOSE OF EXERCISE, AND MORE | NOVEMBER 16

EU Takes Concrete Steps Toward a Military to Create a ‘Superpower’

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



EUROPEAN UNION DEFENSE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS ON NOVEMBER 14 agreed on a plan to take concrete steps toward an EU military.

While small, these are practical, concrete steps, designed to bring Europe toward developing an EU military. They are far more than token gestures. They lay the foundation for later progress and solve some important problems that have held Europe back in the past.

EU High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy Federica Mogherini said that the aim of these steps was to make Europe a “superpower that believes in multilateralism and cooperation.”

Last week she said the EU can only succeed if it works together “with the full potential of a superpower in the field of security and defense.”

“It’s more than just ‘blah, blah, blah,’” an unnamed EU diplomat

said, according to the *EU Observer*. “There’s a new level of political ambition and a document with concrete tasks and a detailed timetable for implementation.”

The EU will now create a limited military headquarters. It will command training missions and logistics, but military missions will still be run by national governments. Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni said that this was “not yet a European general staff”—but it was intended to become one. They will also establish a European military command.

The ministers also agreed that the EU needed its own joint military forces that could be sent to “situations of high security risk in the regions surrounding the EU.” The EU has had joint battle groups for the last decade. These would form the core of the new forces.

The ministers also took some major steps to making these battle groups usable. “EU battle groups have existed for 10 years but have never seen action, in part, because participating states never wanted to foot the bill,” wrote the *EU Observer*.

Under the new plan, these groups will be funded from the EU’s budget. The ministers also agreed that EU nations should not be penalized as firmly if extra defense spending takes them into debt.

The agreement also paves the way for great EU cooperation on developing weapons such as combat drones.

“I was always for an operational Europe of defense, not a declaratory one; we are now an operational Europe of defense,” said French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian.

The ministers also authorized Europe to move forward with “permanent structure cooperation.” This is a provision in EU treaties that allows a smaller group of nations to move forward with a project, without the rest of the union.

“Even London, after years of opposing any plan to strengthen EU defense for fear of weakening NATO, said it did not oppose the plan,” noted *Politico*.

Last weekend, in anticipation of the agreements, Volker Kauder, an important leader in Germany’s parliament, declared that “we should now be on course toward a European army.”

“The decisions taken by the EU defense ministers at their meeting ending yesterday largely meet the demands for the enhanced EU military cooperation that Berlin, for years, has been pushing for, particularly since last summer,” wrote [German-Foreign-Policy.com](#). It concluded the article by noting:

Mogherini and [Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean] Asselborn are picking up the cues that had been openly discussed in German think tanks more than a decade ago. The struggle to implement the concept of a “superpower EU,” until now, has been hampered by the numerous internal contradictions within the alliance. This process could now be entering its decisive phase.

This is one of the top prophecies the *Trumpet* has been watching for decades. In 1978, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote:

The Europeans are far more disturbed about their safety in relying on United States military power to protect them than Americans realize! The United States is not loved in Europe. European confidence in U.S. protection against their next-door Communist neighbor has been lessening and lessening.

EUROPEANS WANT THEIR OWN UNITED MILITARY POWER! They know that a political union of Europe would produce a THIRD MAJOR WORLD POWER, as strong as either the U.S. or the USSR—possibly stronger!

With European headlines today dominated by the fulfillment of Bible prophecy, you need to know what Mr. Armstrong forecast. To learn more, read our free booklet [He Was Right](#).

Pax Germanica: Media Hails Germany as New World Leader

IN THE WAKE OF DONALD TRUMP’S ELECTION, GERMANY IS BEING asked to step up as it is hailed as America’s replacement as leader of the free world. The following are some notable quotes from a range of news sources.

“[Donald Trump’s Election Leaves Angela Merkel as the Liberal West’s Last Defender](#),” *New York Times*, November 13 :

“**Never before has so much ridden on the Germans,**” said Simon Tilford, the deputy director of the Center for European Reform in London. “We’re very fortunate that Germany is led now by [Chancellor Angela] Merkel, because there is a chance she will step up and do what Europe needs her to do.” ...

An increasingly divided Europe is looking to Germany, its richest power, to cope with its many problems, some of them long-standing: low growth, a continuing stream of refugees, and increasingly angry and nationalistic electorates.

Italy and Spain are politically fragile, Austria might elect a hard-right president next month, and Ms. Merkel faces

difficult negotiations with Britain over its so-called Brexit.

And with Mr. Trump advocating “America First” and questioning the value of the NATO alliance, **there is pressure on Germany to take a greater role in European security—always a delicate matter.**

“[Pushing Back Against Populism](#),” the *Globe and Mail*, November 12:

The phrase “leader of the free world” is usually applied to the president of the United States, and rarely without irony. I’m tempted to say that the leader of the free world is now Angela Merkel.

“[The Dawn of Pax Germanica](#),” *Foreign Policy*, November 14:

What does seem likely is that Germany—and thus, Merkel, whether she likes it or not—will now be thrust to

the forefront of international affairs on Europe's behalf, as the main proponent of the norms, values and institutions that comprise an alliance that has been the foundation of world order for the past seven decades. ...

Berlin is suddenly much more important to maintaining any semblance of the current order, for the simple reason that there is no one else to take the wheel. ...

Germany's defense minister, Ursula von der Leyen, said Trump's election could provide an "important stimulus" to upgrading the EU's military capacity and bolstering its structures. "The defense of liberal democracy," she said, "has become our highest priority." This means that "the EU has to take over more responsibility in foreign and military affairs." EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has again brought up the possibility of an "EU army," an idea that has been periodically rolled out and then quickly mothballed in the past but could find more traction under a President Trump. ...

"The Brexit decision and the election in the United States have set a new course" for Europe, said von der Leyen, the German defense minister. Merkel and her fellow Europeans are now scrambling to determine exactly what that will be.

"Germany Daunted by Great Expectations as Obama Passes Baton to Merkel," *Guardian*, November 17:

In the wake of Donald Trump's election victory, the Obama visit has been declared a symbolic passing of the baton. ...

At the start of the year, Germany's defense minister, Ursula von der Leyen, vowed to reverse years of declining military spending, and observers believe the country is now seriously committed to meeting the target of 2 percent of GDP spending recommended for NATO members. Germany has trained Kurdish Peshmerga fighters in the fight against ISIS, assisted France's anti-terror efforts in Mali, and sent soldiers to Lithuania and fighter planes to Estonia. ...

"The expectations of Germany are astronomical, but we don't have the instruments to live up to them," said Niels Annen, a foreign-policy spokesperson for Merkel's coalition partners, the Social Democratic Party. "Germany will work hard to hold Europe together, but our strength lies in mediation, not in military might."

"Obama Arrives in Berlin Ready to Pass Torch to Merkel," *Local*, November 17:

Analysts said the meeting Thursday could be seen as a kind of passing of the torch from Obama to Merkel, whom he's called "probably ... my closest international partner" for stewardship of the free world. ...

As he exits the stage, many observers say Merkel's importance as a defender of Western values will only continue to grow, assuming she—as expected—runs for a fourth term next year.

"A lot about Europe's future will be determined by whether Germany has a strong leader who wishes to push things forward," said Daniela Schwarzer, director of the German Council on Foreign Relations.

All of these statements point to the much more powerful role that Germany is now playing in the world. That Germany could even be considered America's replacement shows a huge shift. However, as the *Washington Post* points out in an article titled **"Is Angela Merkel the Leader of the Free World Now? Not Quite,"** Angela Merkel personally might not be capable of living up to these high expectations:

For those looking to Germany, hopefully now there are encouraging signs. After decades of free riding on U.S. power, it is making a genuine effort to live up to its responsibilities as the de facto leader of Europe. ...

But now we are faced with the prospect of an elected U.S. president who questions the value of NATO and wants to be friends with Vladimir Putin. His victory was greeted with a roar of encouragement from populists, identitarians and culture warriors all over Europe—including Frauke Petry, the leader of the right-wing Alternative for Germany.

So Merkel's job has just become infinitely harder. She hasn't declared whether she will seek a fourth term in the fall 2017 elections in Germany. Yet the time has passed for her to declare she will not run; it would throw her party into disarray. ...

Whether the United States remains her partner in this endeavor is now uncertain. **So is whether she can succeed against odds that are piling up against her.** This much is sure: Should she lose, the loss would not just be Germany's.

But don't replace the Statue of Liberty with one of Angela Merkel just yet.

The *Washington Post* is right. The eyes of the world are on Germany. The chancellor is under huge pressure. Watch for Germany to grow in stature as Europe's leader and even a world leader. But also watch for a *strongman* to, at some point, become chancellor.

TW IN BRIEF

Russia wins key elections: Leaders closer to Russia than to the West have won key elections in Moldova and Bulgaria, while the pro-Western leader of Estonia has also fallen. Socialist Igor Dodon won 52.3 percent of the vote in Moldova. His opponent Maia Sandu claimed the elections were rigged and said she would challenge them in the constitutional court. Meanwhile socialist Rumen Radev, a former MiG-29 pilot, won the presidential elections in Bulgaria. The government, which is run by

an opposing party, has resigned and the country will probably hold new general elections next year. On November 9, the Estonian government passed a no-confidence vote that could lead to the pro-Russian Center Party taking power. These elections could lead to much greater Russian influences in countries that the West has been trying to reach out to. However any movement toward Russia will probably be moderated by economic considerations.

More raids in Germany: A German news agency said hundreds of police officers are searching more than 200 offices, mosques and apartments of Islamic extremists. Specifically, the German police are searching the premises of members and supporters of the Islamist group called The True Religion. The group is reportedly best known for distributing free copies of the Koran across the country. The raids were conducted in western Germany and Berlin. German officials warned that the organization glorifies jihad. It also said that the group helps recruit people to send them to Syria and Iraq to fight with the Islamic State. Germany's interior minister was expected to announce the banning

of the organization on November 15.

Steinmeier for president: Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats have said they will back Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier as the candidate to replace Joachim Gauck as president next year. The Christian Democratic Union's sister party, the Christian Social Union, has also said it will back Steinmeier. It is not yet evident who will replace Steinmeier as foreign minister if he becomes president of the ruling coalition party. Steinmeier has been more critical of U.S. President-elect Donald Trump than just about any major German leader—labeling Mr. Trump a “hate preacher.”

ASIA

China ‘Likely’ to Build More Overseas Military Bases

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



A NEW REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES-CHINA ECONOMIC AND Security Review says Beijing's expansionistic behavior is expected to increase in the years ahead. “China is likely to continue to seek opportunities to secure [military facilities abroad](#), such as the one it has begun constructing in Djibouti, to facilitate a range of operations,” the report's executive summary says.

The facility in Djibouti is China's first overseas military hub, and its construction represents Beijing's expansionistic ambitions.

The report continues:

China's increasing overseas military presence reflects its interest and willingness to use military force to defend its growing overseas assets. China's global security activities likely will continue to increase as the population of Chinese nationals overseas grows along with Chinese overseas economic activity and national interests. ...

The risk of escalation in tensions between China and Japan in the East China Sea and miscalculation or an accidental collision between Chinese and Japanese ships and aircraft has grown with the first instances of the Chinese Navy sailing within 24 nautical miles of the disputed Senkaku Islands, the increased size of Chinese Coast Guard ships patrolling there, and the growing frequency of scrambles of Japanese fighter aircraft against Chinese aircraft.

The report also calls attention to the Chinese military's ongoing activity in various overseas deployments.

In 2016, China launched its 24th anti-piracy deployment to the Gulf of Aden, announced it would increase its contributions to UN peacekeeping operations, and conducted humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations in Nepal and in search of Malaysia Airlines flight MH370. ... In

addition to its own increasingly sophisticated training and exercises at home, China has increased the number and type of military exercises it conducts with other countries. Since late 2015, China has participated in 11 major bilateral or multilateral exercises with countries around the world. Military sales are another growing component of China's global security engagement: China was the world's third-largest arms exporter between 2011 and 2015 (behind the United States and Russia).

The increase in China's belligerence and expansionistic behavior could accelerate under the administration of U.S. President-elect Donald Trump if he pursues policies he discussed during his campaign to reduce the U.S. role as global policeman.

“China is being aggressive and provocative. These militarized islands now function as forward bases for Beijing to challenge seven decades of American naval dominance in the Pacific Rim. This should alarm the world! ... China is intimidating the nations of Southeast Asia into submission to its will. It is forcing these countries to do what it wants. EVERYTHING IS HEADED IN THE DIRECTION OF WAR. ... To really understand the significance of what is happening, you must understand the prophecies of the Bible. ... The Bible contains many prophecies of that European power attacking America. This is where China and the other giants of Asia enter the picture. Considering that China now possesses most of the world's strategic sea gates (at one time held by Britain and America), the German-led Holy Roman Empire will need to form a brief alliance with the Asian powers identified in Isaiah 23 (Russia, China, Japan—the ‘kings of the east’).”
Gerald Flurry, “China Is Steering the World Toward War,” *Trumpet*, July 2016

Russia Scores Victory in Moldovan Election

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWO DECADES, ON NOVEMBER 13, THE European nation of Moldova held a runoff presidential

election. The winner, Igor Dodon, pushes a pro-Russian agenda, so the vote is viewed as a symbolic victory for Moscow.

On Monday, Jamestown.org wrote about [what the election of Dodon means for Russia](#):

Dodon toed the Russian line by openly acknowledging the illegally annexed Crimea as Russian territory, leading some Ukrainian politicians to call for him to be declared *persona non grata* and even introduce an economic blockade on Moldova should Dodon maintain his stance once elected. Russian backing was also manifest in Dodon's highly publicized blessing by Patriarch Kirill, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church (Actualitati.md, September 22). Furthermore, the head of Moldovan Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Vladimir, publicly endorsed Dodon

... Moscow does not need Moldova in the [Russia-led] Eurasian Economic Union, per se, as long as it can successfully preclude the country from joining the European Union and, even more so, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

(NATO). That is why Russia was quick to celebrate Dodon's victory. The head of the Foreign Relations Committee in the State Duma, Alexei Pushkov, applauded "the downfall of the pro-Western liberals in Moldova," adding that "association with the EU offered Moldova nothing and will give nothing to Ukraine" (Agora.md, November 14).

Ahead of the election, [Stratfor](#) noted that a Dodon victory would mean he could "make strides to reverse the country's integration with the European Union" and could instead "seek accession to the Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union." In light of this possibility, Dodon's win was a victory for Russia. But since Moldova's constitution stipulates that the president has less power than the prime minister, and that the president does not have a mandate to steer the nation's short-term direction, the victory for Moscow remains a largely symbolic one.

China's Aircraft Carrier Now Ready for Combat

REPORTS ON NOVEMBER 15 SAID THAT THE CHINESE MILITARY'S first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, is now prepared for combat, marking advancement from its previously stated status as a vessel for training and testing.

The Associated Press said the development marked "a milestone for a navy that has invested heavily in its ability to project power far from China's shores."

AP continued:

The Liaoning's political commissar said in an interview with Tuesday's *Global Times* newspaper that his ship is "[constantly prepared to fight against enemies](#)"

Senior Capt. Li Dongyou's comments appear to indicate that the ship has taken on its full aviation complement. ... China hasn't described specifically how it intends to use the Liaoning, but it is seen as helping reinforce China's increasingly assertive claims in the South China Sea in the face of challenges from the U.S. Navy and others.

As it seeks to expand its influence and territory, Beijing is also in the process of constructing a second, entirely "homegrown" aircraft carrier. The operational status of the Liaoning and the construction of the second carrier indicate that the tensions in the South and East China Seas will continue to rise.

Russia Pulls Out of ICC, Philippines May Follow

RUSSIA SAID WEDNESDAY THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE wishes of President Vladimir Putin, it is quitting the International Criminal Court (ICC). The decision was made because the organization has "failed to meet the expectations to become a truly independent, authoritative international tribunal," an official statement said.

CNN wrote about [the decision on November 17](#):

[Russia] described the ICC as "ineffective," adding that "during the 14 years of the court's work it passed only four sentences having spent over a billion dollars." Russia also criticized the court's handling of the country's five-day conflict with neighboring Georgia in 2008, saying, "[W]e can hardly trust the ICC in such a situation." Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte offered Putin his support before he left for APEC in Peru, also threatening to pull out of the court. "They withdrew their membership. I might follow,"

he said in a statement to the media. "Why? It's us small countries that get beaten up."

Under Wednesday's directive, President Putin instructed his Ministry of Foreign Affairs to inform the UN secretary general that Russia no longer intends to become a state party to the Rome Statute, the treaty that established the ICC.

Russia signed the treaty in 2000, but did not ratify it, according to the Russian Legal Information Agency. The Rome Statute has been ratified by 123 countries.

The decision was a significant one, showing that Russia views itself on the same global level as the United States. Under the Bush administration, the U.S. said it had "no intention" of ratifying the Rome Statute. America's role as "global policeman" was the justification for its declining to be bound by the ICC. Russia's withdrawal from the organization signals that Moscow does not accept America's global hegemony, and would instead like to fill such a role itself.



What Is Human Nature?

Gerald Flurry,
The Key of David | November 20

Our world is on the edge of collapse—and the cause IS HUMAN nature. Learn where human nature came from, how to conquer it, and the reward for doing so.



New Zealand Hit by Severe Earthquake

Christopher Eames | November 15

A MASSIVE EARTHQUAKE BELTED NEW ZEALAND AT 12:02 MONDAY morning, near the town of Kaikoura on the east coast of the South Island. New Zealand's Geonet originally measured it at magnitude 7.5; it has now been confirmed to be 7.8, making it one of New Zealand's four biggest in the past 150 years.

The extraordinarily powerful quake was felt as far away as New Zealand's largest city, Auckland, which is around 500 miles away on the North Island. Residents along the South Island's east coast were immediately advised to seek refuge on higher ground in the event of a tsunami. Swells up to 8 feet high were reported along the coast. However, the extent of the damage from the quake only really began to be realized as the morning dawned.

Since the initial earthquake, around 2,100 aftershocks have occurred, with over 360 greater than magnitude 4 (the most powerful one reaching magnitude 6.3). Four faults have ruptured, according to Geonet, with one along the coast having reportedly slipped over 30 feet.

While the center of the quake hit a less densely populated area (two fatalities have thus far been reported), the extent of the devastation throughout surrounding areas has been immense. According to the *New Zealand Herald*, the quake triggered approximately 100,000 landslides around the country. Roads and railway lines have been either damaged by the earthquake or entirely blocked off by the landslides. Kaikoura, the town closest to the

epicenter, has been cut off from ground transportation, and was left with only three days of water supplies. Approximately 600 residents and 1,200 tourists have been trapped there. Warships from the United States, Canada, Japan and Australia are en route to assist New Zealand warships in providing aid to those stranded in the coastal town. Some roads leading into the town could be closed for weeks according to estimates.

Survival stories are beginning to emerge, including that of a 100-year-old woman rescued from her homestead—tragically, her son was killed in the quake.

New Zealand lies directly over the boundary of what is known as the Ring of Fire, a highly geologically active ring encircling most of the Pacific Ocean. Approximately 90 percent of the world's earthquake activity happens in the area of this ring. We New Zealanders are well familiar with regular tremors, but these recent massive earthquakes have been shocking and unusually destructive.

It is heartbreaking to see your country experience such disasters. At times like this, it is natural for people to question, "Where was God?" Natural disasters are a constant reminder of how powerless we humans are. To be rendered powerless is scary. People caught in the middle of disasters need hope; they need answers. And despite what you may have previously heard from religions, these answers are available. Read them in our booklet *Why 'Natural' Disasters?* Inside, you will discover where real hope can be found.

More Churches Affirming Same-Sex 'Marriage'

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



DESPITE THE FACT THAT 58 PERCENT OF PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN votes cast a ballot for Donald Trump during the 2016 U.S. presidential election, the Republican president-elect affirmed that he was fine with same-sex "marriages" during an interview with *60 Minutes* this week. His stance is undoubtedly influenced by the fact that many evangelical Christian denominations also embrace same-sex unions, in spite of what the Bible says on the subject.

According to an article by Jim Denison in *Charisma News*:

Popular Christian author Glennon Doyle Melton

recently announced that she is dating Olympic gold medalist Abby Wambach. This news comes after inspirational author Elizabeth Gilbert of *Eat, Pray, Love* fame announced her romantic relationship with her female best friend. Two weeks ago, Christian author Jen Hatmaker and her pastor husband, Brandon, announced that they support same-sex "marriage" as well.

Unsurprisingly, the move to affirm same-sex "marriage" is affecting churches. For instance, First Baptist Church of Austin has adopted a "diversity statement" that welcomes

members regardless of sexual orientation into “the full life of our community.”

Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas announced last Monday that a majority of its members voted to open weddings, baby dedications, ordination and leadership positions to people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

With more and more Christian churches and public figures endorsing same-sex “marriage,” it might seem that those who do not go along will be left behind. But popularity must never be a test for truth. Conventional wisdom is often less than wise.

Many professing Christians in this world talk about loving God, but they ignore what He says and they excuse homosexual behavior condemned as sin in the Bible. In some cases, these professing Christians *are* homosexuals. These people know *nothing* about God and His plan for man. They think they can live however they want. But that is opposite from the good news that Christ came and died to deliver to us!

Editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in the October-November

2010 issue of the *Trumpet*:

Repentant homosexuals are going to be forgiven, like everybody else. But we should be deeply alarmed by these dysfunctional, upside-down families producing dysfunctional, upside-down people, and twisting family and sex. We should be very troubled by them trampling so many of God’s laws, and trying to destroy the beautiful vision of the Family of God.

Homosexuals call themselves *gays*. That is only a pitiful attempt to cover their profound misery. Homosexual lifestyles can never produce happiness! That is because they are trampling all over God’s law of happiness (Proverbs 29:18; John 13:17).

Developing close relationships between parents and children may be the most important job we have yet to do before Christ comes. It is a beautiful thing for parents and children to have a close relationship. What an inspiring, sacred institution! And it leads to something really special: the Family of God!

Marijuana Wins Big on Election Night **Andrew Müller | November 15**

ON NOVEMBER 8, VOTERS IN CALIFORNIA, MAINE, MASSACHUSETTS and Nevada legalized recreational marijuana. These states joined Colorado, Washington, Oregon and Alaska in approving the [psychotropic drug for recreational use](#).

Voters in Florida, North Dakota, Montana and Arkansas cast a ballot to legalize marijuana for medical use only. Taken together, these ballot measures mean that marijuana is now legal in some

form in 28 states. Opponents of these legalization measures point out that such legalization is creating a popular perception that cannabis is good for your health. A Gallup poll from October shows that 60 percent of Americans now favor legalizing marijuana, despite evidence the plant contains more than 400 chemicals, many of which are toxic to the human body.

National Debt Expected to Increase

WHILE THERE WASN’T MUCH DONALD TRUMP AND HILLARY CLINTON agreed on during their presidential campaigns, one point of consensus was that America needs a massive government stimulus program to improve its infrastructure. During his campaign, Mr. Trump pledged to spend nearly \$1 trillion on infrastructure projects designed to fix America’s inner cities and rebuild its highways, bridges, tunnels, airports, schools and hospitals.

While this promise was probably a key factor in Mr. Trump’s victory, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen recently warned Congress that such a big government initiative would increase the national debt.

According to an article by Paul Davidson in [USA Today](#):

Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen warned Congress Thursday that a big government-spending plan—similar to what President-elect Donald Trump is proposing—would fuel inflation and swell the national debt. ...

Yellen added, “The long-run deficit probably needs to be

kept in mind.” The national debt, she noted, is about 77 percent of gross domestic product, adding, “There’s not a lot of fiscal space should a shock to the economy occur.”

Yellen said she was not passing judgment on Trump’s plan to spend \$550 billion to upgrade the nation’s crumbling infrastructure, boost defense spending and cut taxes sharply. That, she said, is Congress’s role. In the past, Yellen has urged Congress to pass fiscal stimulus to take the burden of goosing a sluggish economy off the Fed alone.

The nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget estimated Mr. Trump’s campaign proposals would increase the national debt by \$5.3 trillion over the next decade. While that amount is only about half as much as the debt increase over the past decade, it would still see debt as a share of the economy rise from nearly 77 percent to 105 percent.

America’s economy is built on a foundation of debt. That foundation is simply not stable. Until the economy is anchored upon

something else, it is doomed to fail. These facts well illustrate what King Solomon wrote in Proverbs 22:7—"The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender." A nation

with a reckless spending problem will soon find itself destitute and unable to defend itself, while a nation with sound fiscal discipline will find itself in a position to dominate others.

British Military Scraps Key Ship Missiles

THE WARSHIPS IN BRITAIN'S ROYAL NAVY WILL BE STRIPPED OF key weaponry, according to a statement by the Ministry of Defense on November 15. The move would effectively neuter the vessels to all but minor threats.

The *Telegraph* wrote:

Royal Navy warships will be left without antiship missiles and be forced to rely on naval guns because of cost cutting, the Ministry of Defense has admitted.

The Navy's Harpoon missiles will retire from the fleet's frigates and destroyers in 2018 without a replacement, while there will also be a two-year gap without helicopter-launched anti-shiping missiles.

Naval sources said the decision was "like Nelson deciding to get rid of his cannons and go back to muskets" and one senior former officer said warships would "no longer be able to go toe-to-toe with the Chinese or Russians."

Harpoon missiles are unlikely to be replaced for up to a decade, naval sources said, leaving warships armed only with their 4.5-inch MK 8 guns for antiship warfare. Helicopter-launched Sea Skua missiles are also going out of service

next year and the replacement Sea Venom missile to be carried by Wildcat helicopters will not arrive until late 2020.

One naval source said: "We will be losing our missile capability in total for two years. We will still have the gun, but the range of that is about 17 miles, compared to Harpoon, which is about 80 miles."

This development reflects an egregious naïveté in Britain's military calculus and its general worldview. In biblical prophecy, Britain is referred to as Ephraim, the Israelite tribe that the modern nation descended from. A thorough explanation of this can be found in Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

God inspired the Prophet Hosea to say: "Ephraim [Britain] also is like a silly dove, without sense" (Hosea 7:11; New King James Version). *Silly* means simple and easily fooled. The dove is an apt symbol of the naive nation Britain has become. As *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has written, a "silly dove" nation is not able to survive in a world full of hawks, dragons and tigers.

TW IN BRIEF

Anti-electoral college bill: Retiring California Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer introduced legislation on Tuesday to scrap the U.S. electoral college. The move is a reaction to last week's presidential election, in which Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton won the popular vote but lost the electoral vote to Republican Donald Trump. If the popular vote results hold up, Mr. Trump will be the fifth president in American history to have lost that vote while winning the electoral college. Boxer's bill, however, is unlikely to pass in a Republican-dominated Congress. Even if it does, the measure would still require ratification by three fourths of the states within seven years of passage, as such a bill would amend the Constitution.

Cuba-Canada relations: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau arrived in Cuba on Tuesday for his first official state visit to the island nation. Trudeau met President Raúl Castro and other Cuban officials during the first hours of his two-day visit. The Canadian leader will try to boost economic ties and open up trade opportunities for Canadian companies. The move comes as United States President-elect Donald Trump said he would reverse the thaw in relations between the countries started by President Barack Obama. Prime Minister Trudeau will later travel to Argentina and Peru, where he will take part in the 2016 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' Meeting.



Remember the Sabbath Day To Keep it Holy

Stephen Flurry,

Trumpet Daily | November 18

Why did God set apart the Sabbath as 'holy'?

Follow [Stephen Flurry](#)

