



UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

Israel, the UN and Man's Last Best Hope

Christopher Eames | November 21

“OUR LAST BEST HOPE”—THAT’S HOW PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY described the United Nations. That idea has been the calling cry of the organization from the outset of its founding. As the dust of World War II was settling, the UN formed as a new force for good in the world. It was established to bring peace to a dangerous world.

It sounded impossibly good. It was.

One of the attendees at the opening ceremony called its failure from the beginning. He was a man later regarded as an “unofficial ambassador for world peace”—Herbert W. Armstrong. Amid the hype of the UN’s opening ceremonies, he wrote:

Already I see the clouds of World War III gathering at this conference. ... I do not see peace being germinated here,

but the seeds of the next war! ... The United Nations conference is producing nothing but strife and bickering and is destined, from its inception, to end in total failure. Yet world leaders are pronouncing it the world’s last hope—with the only alternative annihilation of humanity!

The project that has been the UN has matured into just what Mr. Armstrong described: a failure, and a place of “strife and bickering.”

Consider the Jews, whose survival has been in jeopardy perhaps more times throughout history than any other peoples. If any collective group needed a “last best hope,” it ought to be the Jewish people. Surely they would be high on the UN’s priority list. But the opposite is true. The UN has actually become *renowned*

as a host for a broad display of anti-Semitism, especially concentrated on the nation of Israel.

alf you've been keeping up with news from Jerusalem, you will have seen a wash of articles regarding a recent resolution approved by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) about "Occupied Palestine." This resolution attempts to remove Israel's historical attachment to holy sites in the nation, particularly the Temple Mount.

The report started out by "[a]ffirming the importance of the Old City of Jerusalem and its walls for the three monotheistic religions." It then proceeded to refer to Jerusalem and its walls exclusively by their Arabic names and criticize Israel for atrocities around them. Israel is referred to 15 times as "the occupying power."

The report "deplores" that the "occupying power" is failing to [stop excavations in East Jerusalem and the Old City](#). Why would UNESCO—a *cultural* organization—want archaeological excavations to stop? Is it because they *are* exposing an indisputable, *long-held Israelite connection* to the land that the UN would rather remain hidden? Finds that perhaps run counter to a political agenda? The Arab artifacts aren't doubted—those *have* been found and well documented. But so too have the older Israelite remains. To ignore them would turn science and culture into a mere tool of politicking. The earth doesn't have an agenda; it reveals what it reveals.

The report decries Israel's "aggressions" and "storming" of the "Al-Aqsa Mosque/al-Haram Al-Sharif." This claim that Israel is apparently "changing" the status quo on the Temple Mount became widespread in late 2015, leading to a wash of terror attacks. It was a lie.

The report says UNESCO "[d]eeply deplores the new cycle of violence, going on since October 2015, in the context of the constant aggressions by the Israeli settlers and other extremist groups against Palestinian residents including schoolchildren, also asks the Israeli authorities to prevent such aggressions."

Let's consider the aggressions since October 2015 that UNESCO lambasts Israel for. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has labeled this period as a "popular peaceful uprising" against the false claim that Israel was changing the "status quo" on the Temple Mount.

Here are the statistics of this "peaceful" uprising: October 2015 saw 11 people killed and 80 injured, in 620 *Palestinian* terrorist attacks (including 483 firebombings); November 2015: 10 killed, 58 injured, in 326 *Palestinian* terrorist attacks (including 249 firebombings). Picture a place about the size of New Jersey witnessing over 900 terrorist attacks in just two months. I'd hate to see a non-peaceful uprising. Attacks have continued since, but fortunately on a much smaller scale. For a broader overview, in just over a year since September 2015, Palestinian terrorists have targeted Israelis in 167 stabbings, 116 shootings, 48 vehicle attacks and 1 vehicle bombing. So for UNESCO to accuse Israel of unspecified "aggressions" without lifting a finger toward these Palestinian attacks is disdainful, biased and unabashedly anti-Semitic.

UNESCO's article concludes with a point about making the article itself part of a larger item for UNESCO's next session. It's clear what the theme of that session will be.

While 26 countries abstained from voting on the resolution, and only *six* voted *against* it (including the United States, Britain

and Germany), the fact that 24 backed it means it is to be put into effect by the body. Of course, the countries voting in favor of the resolution included Iran, Lebanon and Russia.

No wonder the resolution caused such a stir in Israel. But it is only a small manifestation of the festering anti-Semitism throughout the United Nations and its daughter organizations, including UNESCO, the Human Rights Council (UNHRC), the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and World Health Organization (WHO).

Resolutions like these passed by the UN have a long history. In 1975, it passed a resolution that branded Zionism as a form of racism (it was eventually repealed 16 years later). In 1977, the committee recommended (and accepted) that November 29—the anniversary of the UN's vote to create the state of Israel in 1947—be labeled "International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People." In 1991, the UN General Assembly voted 152-1 for Israel to renounce Jerusalem as its capital, and withdraw from "occupied" territories such as Jerusalem. Nov. 29, 2007—the 60th anniversary of the vote to create the Jewish state—saw UN leaders speak in a room decorated with only two flags: the UN flag and the Palestinian flag. On March 20, 2015, the CSW finished its annual meeting by condemning *only one country* on women's rights—*Israel*. (This is a country where women can fly fighter jets and become prime minister. A country, unlike some in the UN, that doesn't stone a woman for being a victim of rape or forbid them from driving.) Also in 2015, WHO singled out *only one nation*—Israel—as a violator of health rights. Never mind the fact that Israel provides hospital treatment regularly for Syrians and Palestinians. Never mind the health crises in Syria, Yemen, North Korea; *Israel* is the problem.

The obvious anti-Israel bias in the UN hasn't been a secret. Current UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has admitted the bias exists. Yet he is powerless to do anything about it. The secretary general has no real tangible power. How is it possible to change the outlook of *countries*?

Herein lies the problem of the United Nations. This is why it was a nice idea doomed from the beginning. Nothing can be done to *change* the inherent nature of the participating countries. While they may have representatives gathered together somewhat peaceably in one place, nothing about the UN prompts *change* in the minds or policies of belligerent countries. Essentially, the UN has turned into a classic school playground situation, where groups of similar ideologies gather together to gang up and bully others. And in a place where Togo's vote is equal to that of a country the size of the U.S. or Russia, it is easy to see how even the smallest of nations could league together to create powerful ideological factions. Such has been the case with largely Arab and Muslim nations against Israel.

The UN—the "last best hope" of humanity's survival—gave *Iran* vice chairmanship of the Disarmament Commission and a seat on the Woman's Rights Commission. It appointed *Zimbabwe* as the chair of the Commission on Sustainable Development, made *Libya* chair of Disarmament and International Security. Is this some kind of a joke? If the UN is really our world's last hope, then we are *finished*.

Some experts have started to admit that we need a "strong hand from someplace" to fix the main problem facing not only Israel, but the *entire globe*. Human governments haven't been able to stop the mad careening of civilization toward the precipice of self-annihilation. And in fact, that "strong hand from someplace"

did warn us a long time ago, in words that evoke a vision of our modern UN. Isaiah 59:8-11:

The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace. Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us We grope for the wall like the blind [W]e look for judgment, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far off from us.

The need is desperate for that strong hand, but it is “far off

from us.” But not for long.

“And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore *his arm brought salvation* unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him” (verse 16).

That arm of salvation is on its way very soon. Given the worsening world conditions, for those who believe the Bible, it *has* to be (Matthew 24:21-22). For more information, read the booklets offered with this article. Our “last, best hope” has already failed us. We can’t honestly expect to survive through another world war that would inevitably be nuclear.

It’s about time we reach out to that strong hand from someplace.

MIDDLE EAST

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Trump Effect: Europe to Pursue Its Own Policy Toward Israeli-Palestinian Peace

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



SINCE THE NOVEMBER 9 ELECTION OF MR. DONALD TRUMP TO the United States’ highest office, Israelis are now hopeful there might be some easing of the pressure from America to give more concessions to the Palestinians in the pursuit of peace. However, while America may lighten the pressure, Uri Savir writing for [Al-Monitor](#) suggests that European leaders might pick up the slack, and no longer take a backseat to the United States.

Given the serious questions concerning U.S. President-elect Donald Trump’s future policies on the Israeli-Palestinian issue, the European Union is now exploring a more independent regional policy as a basis for international consensus. ...

A senior official close to Federica Mogherini, the EU’s high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, told Al-Monitor on condition of anonymity that Brussels is concerned about the intentions of the Trump administration

... The assessment in Brussels is that the issue that demands the most independent EU position is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict resolution, given Trump’s evident desire to disengage from a two-state solution process.

Therefore, EU policy planners have been requested to focus on developing independent EU policy engagements

on a two-state solution. Such engagements will express EU goals in this context.

An essential goal would be, for instance, preventing the outbreak of greater violence and an armed intifada given Palestine’s growing frustration on the lack of advancement for Palestinian statehood. Another evident goal would be curbing Israeli settlement expansion, which would make the current status quo irreversible. Also, the EU wants to strengthen the pragmatic Mahmoud Abbas regime, currently weakened by growing criticism of the political stalemate, even within the Fatah movement. And a last, comprehensive goal would be the renewal of a two-state solution process with the engagement of pragmatic Arab countries, primarily Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

With these goals in mind, EU officials are working on four main concrete measures.

For the first measure, Brussels would like to implement the July 2016 Quartet (EU, United States, United Nations and Russia) report’s recommendation on the settlements, demanding an Israeli settlement freeze, as well as an end to Palestinian official incitement to violence.

A second measure would be the emphasis on coordinating a UN Security Council resolution declaring all Israeli

settlements east of the Green Line as illegal and demanding an immediate freeze of settlement construction. France, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority (PA) should spearhead these efforts.

In order to coerce Israel into accepting these measures, Israel and the new Palestinian state will be offered membership into the European Economic Area. However, the financial incentives won't be the only thing offered by Europe. According to Savir:

The EU will also use its economic clout to encourage the parties to advance toward a two-state solution, both by economic and scientific incentives and, possibly, by punitive measures.

The EU official told Al-Monitor that the main emphasis of EU policies on the issue, given the change in Washington,

will be a more forceful attempt to curb Israeli settlement expansion. Brussels is very concerned that with the apparent nature of the next U.S. administration, Israel will sense that it has a green light to expand settlement construction, especially in the Jerusalem area and in the Jordan Valley. The EU will attempt to prevent this through economic measures against Israeli companies active east of the Green Line and by labeling Israeli products manufactured in West Bank settlements.

The *Trumpet* has long expected Europe to break from the American-led negotiations in the Middle East between Israel and the Palestinians. This is based off a prophecy in Hosea 5:13, where Israel is seen to welcome a German-led Europe to help it solve the Palestinian issue. For more details about this prophecy, please read "[The Counterfeit Peacemaker](#)."

Iran Using Commercial Airliners to Send Weapons to Hezbollah

ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS DANNY DANON penned a letter to the Security Council this week informing it of Iran's blatant defiance of UNSC resolutions by sending weapons to Hezbollah via Mahan Air flights. According to the letter, "The Iranian Al-Quds Force packs weapons, ammunition and missile technology to Hezbollah in suitcases and puts them on Mahan Air flights." *Jerusalem Post* reported:

Danon added that "these planes fly directly to the airport in Lebanon or Damascus and from there the weapons are transferred on the ground to Hezbollah."

The UN envoy wrote that "Iran continues to violate Security Council resolutions, including Resolutions 1701 and 2231." Iran arms terrorist organizations in the Middle East and works to undermine stability in the entire region, he added.

Security Council Resolution 2231 adopted the nuclear deal with Iran and placed further restrictions on the Islamic Republic, and Resolution 1701 brought the ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah after the Second Lebanon War in 2006.

The UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA), reported some two weeks ago that Iran had violated the conditions placed upon it by the nuclear deal with the P5+1 group of world powers.

In July, Danon told the Security Council that Hezbollah possessed 17 times the number of missiles it did 10 years ago when UN Security Council Resolution 1701 was adopted.

Iranian proxy Hezbollah has "more missiles below ground in Lebanon than the European NATO allies have above ground," Danon said as he presented recently-released IDF intelligence about the terrorist organization to the Security Council, including aerial photographs revealing Hezbollah positions and statistics about the organization's weapons stockpiles.

Danon's letter to the UNSC came the same week that the Obama administration approved the sale of more than [100 Airbus planes](#)

to Iran. Bradley Clapper of the Associated Press wrote:

The Obama administration has green-lighted the sale of more than 100 Airbus planes to Iran, officials said Tuesday. It is the latest U.S. license for commercial activity with the Islamic republic following last year's nuclear deal.

Airbus in September received a license to sell 17 planes to Tehran. Two U.S. officials with knowledge of the matter said the European manufacturer got permission Monday to export 106 more. The officials weren't authorized to speak publicly on the matter and demanded anonymity.

Airbus needs Treasury Department approval because at least 10 percent of the plane's components are American-made. Hoping to replace its aging fleet of 1970s U.S. aircraft, Iran has agreed to purchase tens of billions of dollars' worth of planes from Airbus and its American competitor, the Boeing Co.

But both deals rest on precarious ground. President-elect Donald Trump has threatened to renegotiate President Barack Obama's signature foreign-policy achievement, the seven-nation deal that imposed strict limits on Iran's nuclear activity in exchange for the end of wide-ranging oil, trade and financial sanctions.

And last week, the Republican-led House moved decisively to bar the sale of commercial aircraft to Iran. The bill must now clear the Senate, where the measure will likely face stiff opposition from Democrats. Obama would veto the bill if it reaches his desk, according to the White House, but Trump could view things differently once he is inaugurated on January 20.

In the aftermath of the [nuclear deal](#), *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote:

Iran changed nothing in its policies of aggression, subversion and sponsoring terrorism. It didn't even say it

would reform in any of these areas! Without giving in on anything, Iran was given all it needed in order to greatly accelerate its race toward getting the nuclear bomb. This

deal does not make the world safer—it is a disaster for the world! And the fact that many people say it's a cause for celebration is a sure sign of tragically broken leadership.

Assad in Need of More Recruits to Keep Fighting

ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT RELEASED THIS WEEK, SYRIAN President Bashar Assad announced the formation of a new legion, which is to eliminate terrorism and return security to the country. According to the *Washington Post*, the [announcement](#) “underscored the extent to which its once-sprawling armed forces have crumbled.” The *Post* continued:

As Syria's war grinds on, President Bashar Assad's army is increasingly reliant on conscripts and even prisoners. It also receives heavy support from Russian and Iranian forces and Iran-backed Shiite militias, as well as powerful Syrian paramilitary groups.

In a rare speech last year, Assad described the problem as a “shortfall in human capacity” but insisted that his military remained ready and able to fight.

“Defeat does not exist in the dictionary of the Syrian Arab Army,” he said.

Although the numerical strength of Syria's remaining military force is unknown, experts say it is less than half of its 300,000-strong prewar high. That sharp reduction has hurt its ability to hold land without the help of its allies.

“We know the Syrian Arab Army is facing a serious manpower shortage due to defections, desertions, draft evasion and casualties,” said Faysal Itani, a resident senior fellow with the Atlantic Council's Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East, a Washington-based think tank.

Syria already conscripts men 18 and older into the army. Before the war, that service would last for two years. Now, many conscripts say they have served much longer, with no sign of discharge on the horizon.

Men of fighting age are routinely picked up from checkpoints if their names are on a list of wanted conscripts. But others are unable to avoid the draft.

Men fleeing military service are dotted throughout the Syrian diaspora. Many have been able to defer military service with a payment of \$300, but not all have been as lucky.

The announcement coincides with Iran releasing the number of its casualties in the war effort to bolster its ally Assad. According to Reuters:

More than 1,000 soldiers deployed by Iran to Syria to back the government side in its civil war have been killed, an Iranian official said, underlining Tehran's increasing presence on front lines of the conflict.

It was a major increase in the reported death toll from just four months ago, when the Islamic Republic announced that 400 of its soldiers had died on Syria's battlefield.

In light of the number of fallen, Iran is resorting to recruiting [Shiite militiamen](#) from across the region. The *Washington Post* reports:

Syria's government hopes a brutal siege will vanquish rebel holdouts in the city of Aleppo, a key battleground. But Syrian President Bashar Assad's troops aren't leading the charge.

That task has been taken up by [thousands of Shiite militiamen](#) from Lebanon, Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan who are loyal to Iran, a Shiite country and perhaps Assad's most important ally. ...

In Aleppo, Hezbollah and Iranian Revolutionary Guards play prominent leadership roles, directing the foreign Shiite militiamen, many of whom are recruited by, and trained in, Iran.

The factions are learning to overcome issues such as linguistic differences, helping them become more adept at coordinating ground assaults, said [expert on Shiite militias at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy Phillip] Smyth

“History proves that whenever Iranians craft groups like these, such as Lebanese Hezbollah, they don't give up arms, they don't stand down and they don't leave territory that they've taken,” he said. “They will be in Syria for years and years, and that will have consequences for everyone.”

While it seems the future of Syria is still in the balance, Iran and its allies are expending far more energy than they thought in order to bolster Assad's leadership. Based on a prophecy in [Psalm 83](#), the *Trumpet* expects Iran to lose sway in Damascus, and in so doing, lose its vital land bridge to its other proxy Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

EUROPE

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Angela Merkel to Run for Fourth Term

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED that she would stand as the candidate for her Christian Democratic Union in elections in autumn next year.

Her announcement was expected. She has a lot of support, but little enthusiasm. “Did anyone understand why Angela Merkel wants to run again and what she wants to do in the next four years in office?” asked *Der Spiegel*’s Dirk Kurbjuweit. “I didn’t.”

“[W]e can expect Merkel to simply plod on, and that can’t be the solution,” he wrote, describing Ms. Merkel’s announcement on Sunday. “The woman of whom so much is expected in these Donaldist times disappointed.”

Horst Seehofer, the leader of Ms. Merkel’s sister party, the Christian Social Union, offered no support, simply saying that it is “good that we now have clarity.” Markus Soeder, another CSU leader said, “We should note Merkel’s announcement with respect, if not exactly with euphoria.”

The mood in the media was similar. The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* said she is “past her zenith at home and abroad.”

“Merkel Will Do It, Who Else?” was the *Die Welt*’s headline. “[H]er most important task is to groom a successor,” it wrote. *Bild* predicted that the campaign would be “her hardest yet.”

Meanwhile, both Geopolitical Futures and Stratfor noted the tough position she is in. Stratfor noted that the “the challenges that the European Union will face in the coming months could be too big for a single person, or even a single country, to handle alone.” It wrote:

In 2017, the European Union will confront political, financial and security threats. France will hold presidential elections in April and May. A victory by the National Front, a party that wants France to leave the European Union and the eurozone, could lead to the dismantling of the currency area and even to the dissolution of the continental bloc. In addition, if constitutional reforms in Italy fail in a December 4 referendum, early elections could be held there in 2017. That could open the door to a win by the Five Star Movement, a party that also wants to leave the eurozone.

A victory by either of these parties could “force Merkel to shift her electoral strategy from a campaign focused on the virtues of

EU integration to one centered on emergency plans to protect Germany’s position in a disintegrating European Union,” it wrote.

Meanwhile, Donald Trump’s election will mean “those closer to the Russian border, such as Poland and Estonia, will look to Germany for reassurances against potential Russian aggression while developing their own regional security ties” (ibid).

In an article titled “Merkel Battles History,” Jacob Shapiro pointed to a more fundamental problem:

This really isn’t about Merkel. Whether Merkel is reelected or someone else takes her place, the real issue here is what the next leader of Germany will do in the face of German nationalism, and whether that leader will be able to control it or will be controlled by it. In turn, it goes back to the fundamental geopolitical questions of Germany’s national interest and Merkel’s place in German political history.

The media was wrong to label Merkel as the defender of the free world, but, he wrote:

The media is right about one thing: Merkel is alone. She didn’t see what German immoderation on austerity and refugees would mean for the rest of Europe, and she is now in the unenviable position of being an incumbent and a representative of the status quo.

Aside from the fundamental geopolitical questions that have always defined Germany’s foreign policy and with which she must now struggle, Merkel faces the added challenge of an electorate that is far more divided and aware of its German-ness than during her previous campaigns. Germany’s second president, Paul von Hindenburg, is Merkel’s best analogue, an example of another widely respected German leader who tried to hold the line against such forces between the first and second world wars, and his example is instructive. The forces of global illiberalism are not what Merkel can or will hold at bay—it is the repetition of Germany’s history she is dueling.

Watch for this rising German nationalism to have an effect on the election. For more on where it is eventually leading, read our free booklet *A Strong German Leader Is Imminent*.

EU Parliament Vote for Joint EU Military

THE EU PARLIAMENT CALLED EUROPE TO CREATE A DEFENSE union, in a 369-to-255 vote. In practical terms the resolution isn’t worth the paper it’s written on—the EU Parliament is weak at the best of times. This resolution was nonbinding. However, as Reuters noted, “it represents a sign of cross-party political support for the European Union to pursue its most ambitious defense plan in decades after years of spending cuts.” It also wrote

that support for the resolution was boosted by “the U.S. election and broader concerns about Europe’s ability to maintain its citizens’ security at a time of growing instability in North Africa and a more assertive Russia.”

Meanwhile, Britain is signaling that it may be willing to offer military support to Europe in exchange for a smoother EU exit. The *Guardian* noted that top officials are arguing that “if the UK

makes a clear offer to cooperate” in defense, security and foreign policy, “it could oil the wheels in the more difficult negotiations over access to the EU single market.”

Last Thursday, German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen warned Britain to stop blocking military cooperation: “The biggest resistance is coming from the British, and there we ask for fairness: Whoever is leaving the EU should not in their last days block the caravan.”

Britain seems to be taking the warning. Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said that: “If our friends want to go ahead with a

new security architecture I don’t think, post-Brexit, we can reasonably stand in their way. What we might suggest is that given that we are the biggest military player in the area, the only other nuclear power, it wouldn’t be a bad idea, if they do genuinely go ahead with such things, [to consider] a way in which Britain could be supportive, involved in the enterprise.”

Thus Europe is continuing on the path to a military union. Britain, on the way out of the union, would be limited in the amount it could slow that down. Instead, it seems willing to support it.

Could Guttenberg Be Germany’s Next Foreign Minister?

LAST WEEK, GERMANY’S RULING COALITION AGREED THAT Frank-Walter Steinmeier would be its candidate for Germany’s next president. Assuming this is approved, it would leave a vacancy at Steinmeier’s current, and very important, job: foreign minister. German news website Merkur.de asked if former Defense Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg could get the job. It wrote (*Trumpet* translation):

Observers of the political Berlin are entertaining thoughts. It is possible that the office of the foreign minister might move to the [Christian Social] Union. One man in particular comes to mind; he has largely disappeared from the political picture, but he is most familiar with foreign policy: the former CSU minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg. ...

Guttenberg has a great amount of experience with federal policy. The 44-year-old is at the same time well known on the international stage. ...

The citizens have now largely forgiven him for the wrongdoing: Many Germans appreciate Guttenberg again. In March, Forsa said 48 percent of respondents would

welcome a Guttenberg comeback to politics. That was quite different from 2012. ...

Guttenberg now resides as a corporate consultant and investor in New York. At a lecture in Berlin in early autumn, however, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* also overheard Guttenberg promise a fan that he would return “at some point.” He would not be the first politician with an unexpected comeback.

In a recent interview with Handelsblatt, the foreign-policy expert, Guttenberg, also pointed to a completely different dimension. In the end, a German foreign minister would also have to deal with Donald Trump. And for that, Guttenberg has no desire.

Asked if he had any advice for Trump, Guttenberg said, “Surround yourself with your sharpest critics!” At the same time, he emphasized, “But I do not want to meet him.”

The *Trumpet* has been watching Guttenberg for several years. For more on why, read our free booklet [A Strong German Leader Is Imminent](#).

Is Europe’s Migrant Deal With Turkey About to Collapse?

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WILL PROBABLY HAVE VOTED THIS week to end Turkey’s EU membership bid. Once again the vote is nonbinding. But it is a broad indication of the animosity between the two.

As the BBC noted, “All this leaves one serious question for Turkey’s future relationship with the EU. What will happen to the migrant deal?” It continued:

“There is a risk that the whole migrant deal could collapse by the end of the year,” says Murat Seyrek, a senior policy adviser at the Brussels-based think tank European

Foundation for Democracy.

And, if the migrant deal fails, he warns there could be a security risk too as the jihadist group Islamic State continues to lose territory and power.

“Foreign fighters in Syria and Iraq might come back to Europe through Turkey. Turkey and the EU need to cooperate,” he says.

A collapse in relations between the EU and Turkey could see migration level into Europe rise once again to destabilizing levels.

Chancellor Merkel Already Condemning Trump

GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL TOLD GERMANY’S PARLIAMENT on November 23 that she was not happy about President-elect Donald Trump’s plans to pull out of the Trans-Pacific

Partnership. Though not mentioning Mr. Trump by name, she said, “I will tell you honestly: I am not happy that the trans-Pacific agreement now will probably not become reality.”

The partnership does not directly affect Germany, but Ms. Merkel is concerned this will have a negative impact on other trade deals. Germany is one of the winners from globalization. Its economy relies on exports. Mr. Trump's attack on free trade attacks a core interest of Germany's. It also indicates that Ms.

Merkel is not going to shy away from confronting America's next president. For more information on relations between Europe and Donald Trump, read our January 2017 article "[America's Election and Europe's New Order](#)."

ASIA



Japan Deploys Soldiers Authorized to Use Force for First Time Since World War II

Jeremiah Jacques | November 26

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



BACK IN SEPTEMBER 2015, THE JAPANESE PARLIAMENT ERUPTED into a rowdy fracas, with some members piling on top of the committee chairman and yanking the microphone away from him. These members were fiercely opposed to new legislation that would let Japan take a major step toward becoming a full-fledged military power once again. Specifically, it would let Japan's Self-Defense Force (SDF) fight on foreign soil for the first time since World War II.

After a few minutes, those in favor of voting on the measure prevailed over those in favor of keeping Japan pacifistic. They returned the mic to the chairman, the committee voted on the measure, and it passed.

That signaled the end, at least in nominal terms, of decades of Japanese pacifism.

On Monday of this week—14 months after that rowdy and historic parliamentary session—Japan's first gun-carrying soldiers since the end of World War II were actually deployed overseas.

One hundred and thirty Japanese troops, authorized to use guns, landed in Juba, the capital of South Sudan. By mid-December, their numbers will reach 350.

The soldiers have joined United Nations peacekeepers, and their main task is to construct infrastructure in the nation that has suffered a raging civil war since December 2013. But due to the results of that September 2015 vote, these Japanese troops will also have a mandate that none of their countrymen has had for 70 years: They are permitted to use force to protect UN staff, civilians or themselves.

Julian Ryall wrote that "SDF personnel are now permitted to fire warning shots to make an armed group back off and have approval to fire directly at assailants if they determine themselves

to be in life-threatening danger."

Plans are also in the works to allow the SDF troops to secure UN facilities, which have come under fire several times during South Sudan's civil war, and are likely to be attacked again.

At first glance, this may appear to be just a routine peacekeeping deployment.

But Tim Kelly, Reuters's Tokyo defense and security correspondent, said, "For Japan it actually represents a very, very big step and a very major stride away from those seven decades of pacifism."

Ever since Shinzō Abe became Japan's prime minister in 2012, he has pushed for the nation's military to take on a greater role. The September 2015 vote represented a major victory toward that end, and this week's deployment of troops—with a mandate to use force—is another. Abe's government also recently requested another increase in Japan's military spending to boost missile defenses. If approved, it will mark the country's fifth consecutive yearly increase in military spending, and yet another victory in Abe's battle for remilitarization.

Jeff Kingston, director of Asian Studies at Temple University, says Mr. Abe is "changing the post-war norms and expanding what the Japanese military can do. ... So now Japanese troops have rules of engagement that are similar to those of other countries, and that is good because the government says it wants to 'normalize' the military here."

To understand the significance of Japan's shift toward "normalizing" its military, and to gain some insight into where it will lead, read "[Why We Watch Japan's March Toward Militarism](#)."

Follow Jeremiah Jacques

China Would Benefit From Trump's TPP Exit

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD TRUMP HAS SAID that on his first day in the White House, America will quit the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a trade pact that the Obama administration had drawn up in secret, revealing it to the public only after it was "too late" to be stopped.

On November 22, BBC said Trump's comments marked a "great news day for China." It wrote:

For years, Beijing has listened to the Obama administration say the [12-nation regional trade deal](#) was a way of

bolstering American leadership in Asia.

China was not included in the deal, and President Barack Obama went out of his way to remind the region that this was no accident. TPP allows America—and not countries like China—to write the rules of the road in the 21st century, which is especially important in a region as dynamic as the Asia-Pacific.

Nor was this ever just about the rules on trade. TPP was a core part of the Obama administration's strategic "pivot to Asia." U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said that alongside boosting U.S. exports, it would strengthen Washington's key relationships in the Asia-Pacific, signal U.S. commitment to the region, and promote American values. ...

No wonder then that Beijing saw the U.S. pivot to Asia, and the TPP within that, as a thinly disguised plan to contain China's growing might. Just this weekend, the official Chinese news agency described TPP as "the economic arm of the Obama administration's geopolitical strategy to make sure that Washington rules supreme in the region."

It is true that one main goal of the TPP is to counter China's increasing influence in the Asia-Pacific. The calculus was that if Asian member nations were more economically linked with the U.S., they would do less trade with Beijing, feel less pressure from China, and be more welcoming toward U.S. foreign policy.

But critics of the deal say it would benefit corporations, investors, lobbyists and CEOs of the participating nations, without improving the lives of the average working family—at least in the short term. They say the deal would also be detrimental to workers because it would allow companies to pressure their

governments, in confidential tribunals, into sidestepping safety, labor and environmental laws.

An analysis from [Tufts University's Global Development](#) said the wealthy signatory nations would lose hundreds of thousands of jobs, while gains for less affluent nations would be trifling:

TPP would generate net losses of GDP in the United States and Japan. ... Economic gains would be negligible for other participating countries—less than 1 percent over 10 years for developed countries and less than 3 percent for developing ones. ... TPP would lead to employment losses in all countries, with a total of 771,000 lost jobs. The United States would be the hardest hit, with a loss of 448,000 jobs. Developing economies participating in the agreement would also suffer employment losses, as higher competitive pressures force them to curtail labor incomes and increase production for export.

Whether the TPP is or is not a beneficial deal, Mr. Trump's plans to pull out of it mean the U.S.'s Asian partners will consider America unreliable and subject to dramatic changes every four or eight years. Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong likened the TPP to a wedding with Mr. Trump's America playing the part of a no-show bride: "If at the end, waiting at the altar, the bride doesn't arrive, I think that people are going to be very hurt."

Since the smaller Asian nations were told that the TPP was a means of boosting U.S. leadership in Asia, they will conclude that any move to reverse it undermines American leadership. And China will eagerly fill any real or perceived leadership vacuum. This will exacerbate concerns about the general uncertainty of what Mr. Trump's foreign policy will mean for Asia and the world.

Russia Deploys Nuclear-Capable Missiles to Kaliningrad

RUSSIA WILL DEPLOY NUCLEAR-CAPABLE MISSILES TO THE enclave of Kaliningrad, which borders Lithuania and Poland, in a measure that U.S. State Department spokesman John Kirby said is "destabilizing to European security."

The *Independent* wrote about the deployment on November 22:

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said his country will move missiles closer to Europe over "concern" about NATO expansion.

Moscow will deploy S-400 surface-to-air missiles and nuclear-capable Iskander missiles in the exclave of Kaliningrad, a pro-Kremlin lawmaker told the state-owned RIA news agency.

"Why are we reacting to NATO expansion so emotionally? We are concerned by NATO's decision making," Mr. Putin said in an interview due to be broadcast later on Monday.

"What should we do? We have, therefore, to take countermeasures, which means to target with our missile systems the facilities, that, in our opinion, start posing a threat to us," he added. ...

Russia has previously said it periodically sends Iskander missiles to Kaliningrad, but until now it has said these were

routine drills.

Moscow has not linked the moves explicitly with what it says is a NATO military buildup on Russia's western borders.

Up to 300,000 NATO troops were put on alert earlier this month, amid rising tensions between Russia and the Baltic states.

In October, NATO was preparing to station 4,000 troops on the Russian border with the Baltic states in its biggest military buildup since the Cold War.

Russia's increasingly assertive posturing is frightening Europe, and contributing to EU unification and militarization.

"The Russian election is triggering a fear that will hasten the uniting of the European Union. The Russian election will cause Germany and other European nations to want a stronger leader. Throughout history, Germany has often sought a strong leader. Bible prophecy says it will do so again—for the last time! ... Mr. Putin has just changed the course of world history. And Bible prophecy reveals exactly where it is leading. ... NEVER IN THE HISTORY OF MAN HAS SO MUCH PROPHECY BEEN FULFILLED IN SUCH A SHORT SPAN OF TIME!"
—Gerald Flurry, "Russia Frightens Europe—And Fulfills Bible Prophecy!", *Trumpet*, January 2004

Russia's new nuclear 'nightmare' train: The Russian military announced Wednesday that it has successfully tested intercontinental ballistic missiles for use in its "nuclear trains" program. The Interfax news agency said tests on the "railway-based combat rocket system" were carried out two weeks ago, adding that they were "fully successful." A military source told Interfax that the successful test is "paving the way for further flight tests." The mobile weapons platform is made up of multiple train cars. It is engineered to hide nuclear missile launchers. The trains are expected to enter service between 2018 and 2020.

Kashmir violence: Indian artillery fire and shelling hit several Pakistani villages in the disputed region of Kashmir on Wednesday. Pakistani officials said 12 civilians were killed and dozens more were wounded. Hours after the initial report, Pakistan said three of its soldiers, including a captain, were slain while responding to the Indian attack. Pakistani officials claimed that seven Indian soldiers were also "killed in retaliatory fire." But Indian officials have not confirmed these casualties. The bloody violence is the latest in Kashmir, which is claimed by both nuclear-armed neighbors. Tensions in the region have escalated since September when Pakistan-backed militants attacked an Indian Army base there.

Refugee clashes in Myanmar: Some 3,000 people fleeing from Myanmar have entered China, according to a statement from a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman on Tuesday. On Sunday morning, ethnic militant groups opened fire on each other in Burma, located in the north. The exchange happened near the Chinese border. Beijing issued calls for a ceasefire on Monday, saying China will take steps to bolster the integrity of its border in order to safeguard the personnel and property of Chinese citizens. But China has accepted the 3,000 refugees. "For humanitarian considerations, the Chinese government decided to properly settle them and send the injured ones to Chinese hospitals," the spokesman said. "We hope the Myanmar people can return to their hometown as soon as possible after the clashes die down and the situation calms down."

South Korea and Japan military secret sharing: South Korea's Foreign Ministry announced on Tuesday that Seoul's controversial military intelligence sharing agreement with Japan would see the two sides protect and share key military secrets. A government spokesman said it is a "technical" agreement, and cautioned critics against stretching "the meaning of the pact." Several civic groups and university student groups demonstrated against the approval of the agreement.

ANGLO-AMERICA



The Sign of Christ's Coming

Gerald Flurry,

The Key of David | November 27

Christ gave His disciples a clear sign of His return. As the world hurtles toward destruction, this sign provides hope for a better future.



A 'Disturbing Development' in Teenage Depression

Kieren Underwood | November 22

HALF A MILLION MORE AMERICAN TEENAGERS EXPERIENCED A major depressive episode (MDE) in the past year compared to 2005, according to [the latest national study on depression](#) published in *Pediatrics*.

In a follow-up article in the same journal, pediatricians Anne L. Glowinski and Giuseppe D'Amelio wrote that the study "sound[ed] an alarm" about a "disturbing development" in adolescent depression and anxiety.

The study evaluated over 350,000 Americans from 2005 to 2014, and determined how many suffered from an MDE each year. Psychologists define an MDE as "a depressed mood or a loss of interest or pleasure in daily activities consistently for at least a two-week period." The prevalence of reported MDE cases in teens rose from 8.7 percent in 2005 to 11.3 percent in 2014—signifying

a 37 percent increase in a teenager's chance of experiencing an MDE.

From these numbers, Glowinski and D'Amelio calculated that roughly 2.8 million adolescents self-report having an MDE each year. In 2015, the Department of Health and Human Services estimated this number to be up to 3 million. But as *Time* described in its recent cover story, "Teen Depression and Anxiety: Why the Kids Are Not Alright," experts "suspect that these statistics are on the low end of what's really happening," since with issues like depression and anxiety, people are "deliberately secretive."

Those same experts also worry about the lack of treatment for depression. Currently, only around 10 percent of young people with depression are seen by primary-care providers. Many, however, are seeking out other outlets. Researchers studying

self-harm among teenagers with depression and anxiety found 1.7 million search results in 2014 for #selfharmmm on social media platform Instagram. In 2015, this number rose to 2.4 million. Many familiar with social media have likely come across the countless pages describing depression and self-harm, which are exhibited primarily by young adults.

Cell phones are the prime vehicle for these social networks, and many school counselors believe these play a major part of the increase in depression. A 2015 CNN special report studied the social media use of more than 200 young teens and found that “there is no firm line between their real and online worlds.” With a cell phone, school problems follow you home, you can be bullied without any physical interaction, and days can go by without a real conversation. As one of our columnists wrote: “These days,

if we carry a cell phone or iPod, we are not alone.”

Though psychologists and therapists with hands-on experience point to immediate physical causes of depression, the *Trumpet* looks at it from a spiritual perspective (read “[Defeat Depression—Master Your Mind](#)”). Phone addiction and self-harm are merely the symptoms of a deep void. We wrote in “[Finding the Path Out of Depression](#)”:

The best cure for depression—and its companions, stress and anxiety—is to never fall prey to it in the first place. However, if you are already depressed, believe us: There is a way to get out and stay out. Let us help you find the path out of mental gloom, even in this world rushing toward the brink.

Return of Tony Blair

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



AFTER NEARLY A DECADE OUT OF THE LIMELIGHT, FORMER British Prime Minister Tony Blair seems to be jumping back into politics. While Mr. Blair is currently ruling out a campaign for public office, he told *New Statesman* magazine this week that he is planning a new think tank organization to generate policy initiatives. Specifically, these initiatives would be designed to counter the so-called populist policies of interim United Kingdom Independence Party leader Nigel Farage and far-left Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn.

According to an article in the *South China Morning Post* titled “[In a World of Trump and Brexit, Tony Blair Wants to be the Voice of the Global Center](#)”:

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair has given himself a new mission in the era of Donald Trump, Jeremy Corbyn and Brexit: the voice of centrism in an increasingly populist global political arena.

The former prime minister has set up a new organization due to be launched in the new year. It is not intended to act as an anti-Brexit campaign and will not focus solely on Britain. Instead, it will look at the global forces that have led to Brexit and how the center left has weakened as a political force, as well as coming up with policy responses to the

arguments of anti-globalists.

Details have yet to be finalized, but the main focus will be hard policy answers to issues such as stagnating wages, immigration, anti-elitism and attitudes to globalization.

Critics claim that Blair personifies the global elite and a political class that has lost the trust of the electorate, and would therefore be a gift to the Brexit cause.

The United States and the United Kingdom are swiftly becoming the Disunited States and the Disunited Kingdom, as the political landscape fragments into warring camps. Left-wing populists like Bernie Sanders and Jeremy Corbyn are opposing right-wing populists like Donald Trump and Nigel Farage. Meanwhile, populists of all types are opposing the internationalist policies of globalist politicians like Hillary Clinton and Tony Blair.

President Abraham Lincoln famously quoted Jesus Christ when he said, “A house divided against itself cannot stand.” History shows that when a nation falls into division and infighting, it quickly becomes consumed by internal crises that leave it vulnerable to attack by foreign enemies. This is exactly what God prophesies will happen to America and Britain in the near future, if they do not wake up and turn to God.

U.S. Military Power Trending Toward ‘Weak’

THE UNITED STATES MILITARY WAS RANKED AS “MARGINAL,” trending toward “weak,” in a newly released report by the Heritage Foundation. In particular, the U.S. Army ranked as the weakest branch of the armed services.

According to an article published by Townhall.com:

The 2017 Index of U.S. Military Power scores are based on the military’s “capability or modernity, capacity for operations, and readiness to handle assigned missions successfully.”

The assessment of the U.S. Army is the same from last year, yet only a third of its units are prepared for war, according to the document.

“Even for units deployed abroad, the Army has had to increase its reliance on contracted support to meet maintenance requirements,” the report states. “In summary, the Army is smaller, older and weaker, a condition that is unlikely to change in the near future.”

President-elect Donald Trump has called for increasing the size of the Army to about 540,000 active-duty soldiers,

the Marine Corps to 36 battalions, the Navy to 350 surface ships and submarines, and the Air Force to at least 1,200 fighter aircraft.

While Mr. Trump's call to strengthen the American military seems to be a vital national security priority, many budget analysts are expressing grave concerns that the amount of spending required to put his proposals into action would drive up federal budget deficits.

According to an article by David Williams, president of the Taxpayers Protection Alliance:

Even though Trump has talked about excessive spending and draining the swamp, his national security platform includes spending more on the military. Some estimate his increase will surpass \$500 billion over the next 10 years, which is reckless considering the amount of waste at the Pentagon. Spending restraint at the Pentagon will not only be a challenge for Trump, it will be a challenge for Republicans reluctant to cut military spending.

The biggest problem the Pentagon faces is that the agency has never been audited. Despite it being mandated by law since 1995, the Pentagon has never submitted to a complete financial audit. The Defense Department cannot

provide a full accounting of how it's spending the taxpayer dollars it currently receives. It is common sense that a \$600 billion agency be audited.

The Pentagon has thrown away trillions of dollars on wasteful projects that do not help defend the United States. As *Trumpet* writer Richard Palmer pointed out last July in an article titled "[Not Much Bang for the Buck](#)":

Defense wastage exposes a rot at the heart of the military. Who knows the exact reason each military official signed off on billions of useless projects in Afghanistan or bought equipment that is not needed. But the same factors that lead to these decisions—lack of thought, lack of interest, bureaucratic red tape, the inability of different departments to talk to each other—are undoubtedly behind other bad decisions. Misspending is a quantifiable symptom that points to a much deeper sickness. ...

America used to produce cutting-edge military technology at good prices. God blessed America, but no longer. In fact, the curse described in Leviticus 26:20—directed to the ungodly and disobedient modern-day descendants of ancient Israel, of whom America is chief—well applies: "And your strength shall be spent in vain."

TW IN BRIEF

President-elect Trump won't prosecute Hillary Clinton:

United States President-elect Donald Trump will not pursue charges against Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton. Speaking to MSNBC's "Morning Joe" on Tuesday, Mr. Trump's campaign manager, Kellyanne Conway, said: "I think Hillary Clinton still has to face the fact that a majority of Americans don't find her to be honest or trustworthy, but if Donald Trump can help her heal, then perhaps that's a good thing." Conway's words contradict Mr. Trump's promise on the campaign trail and during the presidential debates that he would "lock up" his bitter rival if elected president.

President Obama commutes another 79 prisoners:

The White House announced Tuesday that President Obama granted commutation to 79 more prisoners. With the total number now at 1,023, President Obama has commuted more sentences than the previous 11 presidents combined. The White

House website says the prisoners were incarcerated "under outdated and unduly harsh sentencing laws." Three hundred forty-two of the 1,023 commuted sentences were life sentences. And though the White House stresses the crimes were non-violent, many of the offenders were carrying firearms.

U.S. police officer shot: A San Antonio police officer writing out a traffic ticket was shot to death in his squad car on Sunday. He was shot outside police headquarters by another driver who pulled up from behind, authorities said. The policeman was identified as 50-year-old Detective Benjamin Marconi, a veteran of the force for 20 years. The gunman pulled up behind the police car, got out and shot the policeman through his car window. Marconi was pronounced dead at a hospital. No motive has yet been identified for the shooting. Investigators are looking into all leads and motives, including whether it could be related to an officer-involved shooting that happened earlier that day in the city.



The U.S. Election and Europe's New Geopolitical Order

Stephen Flurry,
Trumpet Daily | November 25

Consider the impact of the recent elections in the United States from God's perspective.

Follow [Stephen Flurry](#)

