

Trumpet Weekly

DECEMBER 2, 2016



U.S. President Barack Obama in Havana, Cuba.

The West's Love Affair With Communist Dictator Fidel Castro

Stephen Flurry | December 2

THE MESSAGE BROADCAST BY MAJOR MEDIA OUTLETS THROUGHOUT the American presidential campaign was that *Donald Trump showed utter contempt for the values that make America great. Donald Trump is divisive and dangerous.* United States President Barack Obama said Trump is “uniquely unqualified” to serve as president of the United States. “He is temperamentally unfit to be commander in chief,” Mr. Obama later said.

All of this in contrast to the praise the Communist dictator of Cuba, Fidel Castro, received after his death last week.

When news of Castro's death reached the White House, President Obama released a statement, which began: “At this time of Fidel Castro's passing, we extend a hand of friendship to the Cuban people. We know that this moment fills Cubans—in Cuba and in the United States—with powerful emotions, recalling the countless ways in which Fidel Castro altered the course of individual lives, families and of the Cuban nation. History will record and judge the enormous impact of this singular figure on the people and world around him.”

No comment on the horrors of Castro's tyrannical regime.

The statement from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was even more outrageous. “Fidel Castro was a larger-than-life leader



STEPHEN FLURRY

CHP SOMDEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

who served his people for almost half a century. A legendary revolutionary and orator, Mr. Castro made significant improvements to the education and health care of his island nation,” Trudeau said.

Here is the leader of a great Western nation saying that a Communist tyrant *served his people* and was *legendary*!

It gets worse. Trudeau continued: “While a controversial figure, both Mr. Castro’s supporters and detractors recognized his tremendous dedication and love for the Cuban people who had a deep and lasting affection for ‘el Comandante.’

“I know my father was very proud to call him a friend, and I had the opportunity to meet Fidel when my father passed away. It was also a real honor to meet his three sons and his brother President Raúl Castro during my recent visit to Cuba.

“On behalf of all Canadians, Sophie and I offer our deepest condolences to the family, friends and many, many supporters of Mr. Castro. We join the people of Cuba today in mourning the loss of this remarkable leader.”

The leader of Britain’s Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, said Castro was “a huge figure in our lives” and “will be remembered both as an internationalist and a champion of social justice.”

Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission, said, “With the death of Fidel Castro, the world has lost a man who was a hero for many. He changed the course of his country and his influence reached far beyond. Fidel Castro remains one of the revolutionary figures of the 20th century.”

In the company of these Western leaders were some of the world’s dictators who also greatly admired Fidel Castro.

Russian President Vladimir Putin called Castro an “outstanding statesman.” He went on to say that Castro “embodied the highest ideals of politics.”

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei also admired Castro. “I extensively talked with Fidel Castro in person,” he said, “it is his personality to believe and rely on people.”

The democratic leaders of the West and the world’s dictators are in agreement that Fidel Castro was a wonderful leader. This is a frightening thing for the West to agree on and it exposes the deep infiltration of Communist ideals into Western society.

Condemning the rule of Fidel Castro should be an easy task for the leaders of the free world. Having to make this argument about whether his legacy was good or bad for Cuba in itself shows how much the Communist idea has been sold to the peoples of America, Canada, Britain and Western Europe.

The major media jumped on the Castro bandwagon, too.

BBC brought on a man named Richard Gott to help cover the news of Castro’s death. Gott spoke highly of the dictator and excused the murder of political objectors as “the sort of thing you would expect” from leaders in that area of the world.

As it turns out, Gott was exposed back in 1994 for taking money from the KGB during the Cold War.

Shocked that BBC would bring Gott on television, the *Telegraph* wrote, “Suppose that, covering the death of General Franco, Benito Mussolini or any other right-wing dictator, the BBC had rustled up a comparable person to defend him and broadcast his views without explanation of this.”

BBC didn’t even mention Gott’s history with the Soviet Union. Is that honest, unbiased reporting?

The *Guardian*, BBC and even the *Telegraph* ran headlines that downplayed Castro’s horrific human rights record and relegated

his tyrannical rule to something played up only by his critics.

Why is the West willing to overlook Castro’s blatant horrific acts and revise history to glorify his legacy?

Many cite health care and education as a symbol of Castro’s good works in Cuba. What they ignore is that Cuba’s government exaggerates and often lies about the nation’s statistics and that the average Cuban family makes \$15-20 a month—all thanks to Communist rule.

In a scathing piece written for the *Telegraph*, historian Andrew Roberts wrote, “There is a great sickness at the heart of Western society when its leaders either cannot or will not denounce evil when it sees it. It is an unmistakable sign of decadent, disastrous cultural self-hatred when prominent leaders of democratic countries cannot state openly that evil dictators, such as the late President Fidel Castro of Cuba, were what they undoubtedly were: serial human rights abusers, torturers and tyrants.”

Roberts later referenced a report from Amnesty International stating that Cuba had arrested and detained 8,600 people for political reasons *in the last year alone*! The real legacy of this man is that he executed political opponents without trial, encouraged terrorism, was a proxy of the Soviet Union, and, as Roberts noted, “brought the planet to the brink of annihilation during the Cuban Missile Crisis.”

Fidel Castro’s leadership in Cuba was the antithesis of Western democratic values—yet democratic leaders around the globe adored this man!

Liberal leaders are talking about how great Castro was because they love the idea of communism and are looking for any excuse to make it sound great. And the more conservative-leaning leaders haven’t made a peep to condemn any of Castro’s actions.

America has lost its will and pride in its power. Fidel Castro opposed the West for decades and sided with what Ronald Reagan called the “evil empire.” Now Castro is regaled as a hero and no one is willing to contradict that revisionist legacy.

America has gone soft when faced by communism.

Back in 1956, Herbert W. Armstrong gave a strong warning about the dangers of Communist ideas (emphasis added):

What we fail to grasp, in the struggle with Russia, is this: We are not fighting a single nation in a military war, but a gigantic worldwide, plain-clothes army, masquerading as a political party, seeking to conquer the world with an entirely *new kind* of warfare! It’s a kind of warfare we don’t understand, or know how to cope with. It uses every diabolical means to weaken us *from within*, sapping our strength, perverting our morals, sabotaging our educational system, wrecking our social structure, destroying our spiritual and religious life, weakening our industrial and economic power, demoralizing our armed forces, and finally, after such infiltration, overthrowing our government by force and violence! All this, cleverly disguised as a harmless political party! Communism is worldwide psychological warfare!

Fidel Castro took over Cuba in 1959. He made it a one-party nation and he ruled as a tyrant—murdering dissidents, imprisoning objectors without trial, and supporting terrorism. The U.S. was threatened by a potential nuclear war that could have been launched from Cuba! The people of Cuba are in poverty and

thousands have fled the island trying to reach America. This is the nation created by a dictator who forced communism on his people.

And what is the response by the West after his death? *He instituted free health care in Cuba and revised the educational system.*

The liberal leaders in the West are infatuated with communism and conservative leaders are too weak to condemn it. Mr. Armstrong used Bible prophecy to warn about a time when America and Britain would become “mixed up” ideologically

“with foreigners” (Hosea 7:8-13; Moffatt).

We write about Mr. Armstrong’s warnings in our free booklet *He Was Right*. Request a copy or read it online if you haven’t already. In this book, we write, “History and current events have since shown that America’s dalliance with Russian-style communism has perverted its morals, weakened its economic power, and eaten away its strength. This is a tragic story, but America was warned!”

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MIDDLE EAST

Trumpet Daily

RADIO SHOW

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THE REACTION TO CASTRO’S DEATH EXPOSES THE COMMUNIST INFILTRATION
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Headline in Lebanon: ‘The Iranian Empire Is Back’

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



FOR 25 YEARS, THE *TRUMPET* HAS CLAIMED THAT IRAN WAS PROPHESED to become the leader of a resurgent Islamist empire, whose influence would reach across the Middle East from Afghanistan to North Africa. Based on events the past week, NOW media based in Lebanon ran an analysis piece titled “[The Iranian Empire Is Back](#),” which overwhelmingly supports our forecast of Iran’s dominance over the region. Hussain Abdul-Hussain wrote,

For the first time since 625 C.E., Iran has restored its control over a contiguous territory that extends from the east of Afghanistan to the Mediterranean coast.

With the complete collapse of the Syrian armed opposition expected before the end of this year, Tehran would have subdued the three Arab countries that are sandwiched between its Western border and the Mediterranean. The dream of the founder of the Islamic Republic and its first Supreme Guide Ruhollah Khomeini will be finally recognized.

The collapse of the Syrian opposition is not the milestone that marks the rise of the Iranian Empire. It is rather Hezbollah’s military parade in Qusayr, and the Syrian regime’s announcement of the integration of Hezbollah in the Syrian Arab Army’s (SAA) elite Fifth Corps. News of Hezbollah’s integration in the SAA came simultaneously with Baghdad’s announcement that it planned to assimilate the Shiite

Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) into the Iraqi military.

Hussain was referring to last Saturday’s vote by the Iraqi government to fully legalize state-sanctioned Shiite militias, making them an official part of the government forces. According to Associated Press, “The legislation, supported by 208 of the chamber’s 327 members, was quickly rejected by Sunni Arab politicians and lawmakers as proof of the ‘dictatorship’ of the country’s Shiite majority and evidence of its failure to honor promises of inclusion.”

In effect, the law now adds over 100,000 Shiite members to Iraq security establishment. However, these Shiite militias are directed not by Iraq, but by Iran, the Shiite powerhouse next door. Hussain continued:

In both Syria and Iraq, the pro-Iranian militias integrated into the regular forces will maintain their independent structure and decision-making process. The purpose of integration, however, is to give these militias a local legal cover and hide them from international accusations of terrorism. With such militia developments from Syria and Iraq, reports of Hezbollah integrating into the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) should be expected in the near future.

The assimilation of militias into state armies in Syria, Iraq and Lebanon does not mean handing over the keys

of local government to these Iranian militias. On the contrary, by being part of the Syrian, Iraqi and Lebanese regular forces, these militias will control—on Tehran's behalf—their respective armies, and by extension the governments behind these armies. ...

The model of local kings, historically known as satraps in ancient Iran, is an old Persian scheme. After invading neighboring territories and forcing their leaders to concede, rulers of ancient Iran would keep the local king in power, on the condition that the king pledges allegiance to the Iranian king (*shah* in Persian). Thus the Iranian ruler became the king of kings (*shahnshah*).

The last Iranian *shahnshah* lost control over the Mediterranean coast to Byzantine Emperor Heraclius, who ruled between 610 and 641 and launched his war against the Persian Empire in 622. Since then, no Iranian sovereign

has ruled any stretch of land west of the Euphrates, until the recent collapse of the three neighboring Arab governments of Iraq, Syria and Lebanon.

Such collapses came under different circumstances, but the end result has been the same. Now Iran is the actual sovereign over these three Arab states.

So, what's next? Hussain noted in his piece that Iran will likely shift its attention to more distant regions. While he believes Iran's expansion will likely be contained to the Arabian peninsula, biblical prophecy indicates that Iran will go even further and impact the governments of North and East Africa, specifically Egypt, Ethiopia and Libya. The Persian Empire is on the march once again—it will continue to grow until a new Christian dominated army confronts it. Read "[Mediterranean Battle Escalating Into World War III!](#)" to see where Iran's march is leading.

Iran Considers Establishing Foreign Naval Bases

Callum Wood | December 2

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN IRAN'S HISTORY, THE SUBJECT OF IRANIAN naval bases in foreign countries has been broached publicly by the nation's top brass.

Iran's semiofficial Tasnim news agency quoted Iranian Armed Forces Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Mohammed Hossein Bagheri as saying, "One day, we may need [naval] bases on the coasts of Yemen and Syria."

The suggestion comes after a year of heightened Iranian naval activity. Combined with its aggressive policies across the Middle East, the proposal to broaden Iranian naval presence is bound to disturb countries that utilize the critical sea-lanes of the Middle East.

That is to say, almost everyone.

In 2013, 3.8 million barrels of oil and an average of 55 ships passed through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait per day, accounting for 8 percent of global trade! At 18 miles across at its narrowest point, Business Insider called this one of the "most precarious oil choke points in the world right now."

Following a belligerent trend or not, establishing naval bases would be unprecedented—not only for Iran but for any country in the Middle East.

Houthi rebels responded to Iran's suggestion for a naval base in Yemen. Houthi Political Council Chief Saleh al-Samad stated in a Facebook post, "Not one inch of Yemen's land or waters will be forfeited to any foreign party ... whether a friend or an enemy."

Bagheri himself noted that the creation of such bases would first require significant infrastructural commitments.

Considering these hurdles, his statements about possible naval bases abroad might not seem to be of much concern. But taken in context, they most certainly are.

The Iranian Navy has made bold moves this year. On January 12, it captured 10 United States sailors. That humiliating incident was just the start. Four small vessels harassed U.S. guided missile destroyer USS Nitze in late August; the boats came within 300 yards of the destroyer. On August 25, the Pentagon noted another incident where an Iranian ship played chicken with the USS

Tempest, coming within 200 yards before warning shots were fired and the vessel turned away. On October 9, Iranian-backed Houthi rebels fired two missiles at a U.S. destroyer off the coast of Yemen. Neither missile hit its intended target, but the move brings into screaming clarity the rise of Iran at this vital trade route.

These incidents show that Iran *already* has the will to establish itself as the gatekeeper of the Bab el-Mandeb and the Strait of Hormuz; it is just lacking in ability. That is why the naval bases comment is so concerning. It shows where Iran is headed.

Iran has naval bases throughout the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz. Bases such as Bandar Abbas are ideally located at critical oil choke points. Iran also patrols the Gulf of Aden and Somali coastline under the guise of fighting pirates. The threat of pirates allows Iran a greater military presence and more threatening posture in the region. It uses the pirate threat to justify sending warships up and down the Red Sea. Rear Adm. Habibollah Sayyari told state-run media that Iranian warships would now escort its tankers through the sea-lane.

Imagine a scenario where Iranian naval forces in the Persian Gulf stop patrolling and start attacking. Consider what would happen if the ships guarding against pirates in the Gulf of Aden became the aggressors.

When discussing the plans for international naval bases, Bagheri also said, "Having naval bases in remote distances is not less than nuclear power. It is 10 times more important and creates deterrence."

Of course, Iran's definition of deterrence is far different from other nations, who are trying to prevent, rather than stoke, war.

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei stated last year that the sea is the realm of "powerful confrontation with enemies." These aren't the words of a man looking to merely deter foreign forces.

As *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in "[Iran Gets a Stranglehold on the Middle East](#)":

As astounding as it may sound, the Prophet Daniel foretold what just happened in Yemen! He even mentions names of individual nations along the Red Sea corridor that will be aligned with Iran.

Notice it: “And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north 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” (Daniel 11:40). This is an end-time prophecy. It concerns the time we are living in right now, and it directly concerns these Middle Eastern nations.

This prophecy reveals that the Iranian-led power will *push* at Europe. It may be that this push could take place in the very area of Yemen or the Gulf of Aden.

TW IN BRIEF

Rival Libyan leader in Moscow for talks: Khalifa Haftar, the military commander of Libya’s eastern government, was in Moscow this week to meet with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. In his second visit to Moscow, Haftar requested military help in the fight against Islamists. However, in supplying weapons to Haftar, the Kremlin would contravene a 2011 United Nations weapons embargo that forbids foreign governments from supplying any weapons to Libya. The embargo was partially lifted earlier this year, but only for weapons going to the UN-backed Western government based out of Tripoli. At the time, Moscow cautioned Europe for its meddling in Libyan affairs. Haftar represents the rival eastern government, which is based on a two-year military campaign against Islamic extremists and other opponents in Benghazi and elsewhere in the east. Haftar has also received public backing from Egypt and the United Arab Emirates. If Moscow were to give Haftar arms, it would be just one more arena where

Russia and Europe are locking horns around the globe.

OPEC cuts oil output: The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed on Wednesday to its first oil output cuts since 2008 after Saudi Arabia accepted “a big hit” on its production and dropped its demand on archrival Iran to slash output. The decision pushed up crude prices by about 10 percent. Fast-growing producer Iraq also agreed to curtail its booming output, while non-OPEC Russia will join output cuts for the first time in 15 years to help OPEC prop up oil prices. Some analysts viewed the move as being largely inconsequential considering the cap is only on production levels not export levels. According to Reuters, OPEC produces a third of global oil, or around 33.6 million barrels per day, and under the Wednesday deal it would reduce output by around 1.2 million barrels per day from January 2017, with about half of that hit being felt by Saudi Arabia.

EUROPE

Trumpet Hour

THE IRANIAN EMPIRE IS BACK, EUROPE’S MILITARY, CENSORING ‘FAKE NEWS,’ AND MUCH MORE | DECEMBER 2

IRAN’S NAVAL ACTIVITY, THE FRACTURING EGYPT-SAUDI ALLIANCE, FIDEL CASTRO’S REAL LEGACY, AND MORE | NOVEMBER 30

EU Unveils Plans for Big Defense Spending Boost

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ANNOUNCED PLANS ON NOVEMBER 30 to spend \$5.8 billion to jointly develop and acquire new equipment.

“If Europe does not take care of its own security, nobody else will do it for us,” said European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. “A strong, competitive and innovative defense industrial base is what will give us strategic autonomy.”

“To guarantee our collective security, we must invest in the common development of technologies and equipment of strategic

importance—from land, air, sea and space capabilities to cyber-security,” he said.

The plan would see EU leaders spending around \$100 million on research, increasing to half a billion dollars after 2020. EU institutions, including the Parliament would have a say on how this money is spent.

The EU would also spend \$5.3 billion on buying new equipment jointly. This money would be put up by individual nations, rather than coming from the EU’s budget. It is important to note

that EU rules on national debt won't apply to money eurozone members borrow to put toward this joint venture.

[EU Observer](#) reported, "The fund is designed to stand alongside a new military headquarters in the EU Foreign Service and alongside battle groups—forces of about 1,000 men each—that could be parachuted into African or Middle Eastern countries."

The [New York Times](#) reported that "Obama administration officials welcomed the increased spending."

"It is no secret that we've been asking them to do this for years," an anonymous "senior administration official" was quoted as saying.

The Commission argues that EU nations waste from \$27 billion to \$107 billion through not working together. [Reuters](#) noted:

An earlier Commission plan in 2003 failed to win over governments; Britain, especially, has argued that deeper EU defense integration could undermine NATO. This time around, France, Germany and Italy are hoping that Britain's decision to quit the bloc will remove a barrier to deeper cooperation.

Britain's pending departure removes one of the biggest contributors to the EU budget, but a British diplomat said that London may seek to collaborate on defense research from outside the bloc because it sees the need for European capabilities.

"We have made clear that we are likely to want a close relationship on foreign and security policy, so it is possible," the diplomat said.

Jyrki Katainen, one the EU commissioners, made a similar point, saying that those "who were quite critical of EU defense

cooperation have, to some extent, changed their minds."

EU leaders will discuss the proposal this month.

All of this discussion is taking place under the shadow of President-elect Donald Trump's promise to withdraw American influence from the world.

Chairman of the Munich Security Conference [Wolfgang Ischinger](#) was asked by the German government to meet with Mr. Trump's team. Upon his return from America, he told *Die Welt* that he hoped that the "Trump shock" would have caused Europe's willingness to arm itself to have "dramatically grown."

"Germany must insist on the EU becoming a global player in an insecure world," he said. This would mean the procurement consolidation the Commission proposed this week, but Ischinger also called for a "European defense union with tightly enmeshed armed forces."

German leaders are also thinking about the future of Europe's nuclear arsenal. Foreign-policy spokesman for Germany's ruling Christian Democratic Union and its sister party, the Christian Social Union, Roderich Kiesewetter called for the United Kingdom and France to provide a "[nuclear umbrella](#)" for Europe. This umbrella could be paid for "through a joint European military budget due to begin in 2019." *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* also discussed the issue, noting that "the French and British arsenals ... would be insufficient" for a "nuclear deterrence capacity"—implying that Europe needs more nukes.

The newly proposed procurement initiative is, then, just one plan among many that EU leaders are perusing right now. There is a new seriousness behind Europe's push for a military that is seeing it take concrete steps toward military cooperation. For more on this, see our article "[EU Takes Concrete Steps Toward a Military](#)."

Netherlands Nears Approval of Ban on Veils and Other Face Coverings

POLICYMAKERS IN THE NETHERLANDS VOTED ON NOVEMBER 29 IN favor of a ban on face-covering Islamic veils and other coverings in certain public areas, such as schools, public transport facilities, medical centers and government buildings. The legislation still needs to clear more hurdles before it is official.

The [Independent](#) reported:

The rule—which will outlaw all face coverings including ski masks and helmets—was approved by 132 members of the 150-seat house. It will now go before the Senate, where it must be approved before becoming law.

Few women in the Netherlands wear Islamic veils—such as the niqab and burqa—but the issue has been hotly debated for years.

Under the law, the burqa could still be worn on the streets. But an outright ban is one of the central demands of the anti-Islam opposition Freedom Party, which is leading in polls ahead of parliamentary elections in March.

Freedom Party founder Geert Wilders called the limited ban "a step in the right direction," adding that he will push for a complete ban if his party is elected next year, the Associated Press reported.

"Face-covering clothing will in future not be accepted in education and health-care institutions, government buildings and on public transport," the government said in a statement last year after the cabinet backed Interior Minister Ronald Plasterk's bill.

It said it had "tried to find a balance between people's freedom to wear the clothes they want and the importance of mutual and recognizable communication."

The ban only applies "in specific situations where it is essential for people to be seen" or for security reasons, Prime Minister Mark Rutte told journalists at the time.

"The bill does not have any religious background," he added.

Those caught flouting the ban can be fined up to €405 (US\$430).

If this legislation passes, it would mean the Netherlands could be joining such nations as France, Belgium, Switzerland and Bulgaria that have a national or partial ban on face coverings. Bans are also being considered in Germany. The trend reflects the growing unease many Europeans feel toward the rising tide of Islam within their borders.

Europe—Cuba's New Best Friend

“THE WORLD HAS LOST A MAN WHO WAS A HERO FOR MANY,” declared European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker after Cuban dictator Fidel Castro died, November 26. “He changed the course of his country and his influence reached far beyond,” he said. It was one of the most lavish praises from a Western leader.

Others leaders issued more guarded statements. But regardless of what they say, European leaders are already investing heavily in Cuba—a trend that could accelerate as the Castro brothers leave the stage, to be replaced by less controversial figures.

The European Union and Cuba signed a deal to normalize relations last March, and it is expected to be fully ratified this month. Even before that deal, the EU was Cuba's second-largest trading partner and the island's biggest source of foreign investment. One third of all tourists visiting Cuba each year comes from the EU. Now trade is accelerating. [Voice of America](#) noted:

French companies are set to revamp Cuba's international airport. Germany is opening a trade office in Havana. Dutch giant Unilever began construction this year on a new \$34 million soap and toothpaste factory in Cuba's special development zone. And Spain has edged out Venezuela to become the island nation's second-largest trading partner, after China. ...

Delegations have been flocking to Cuba for months. Earlier this month, Cuba signed a trade agreement with Spain's Catalonia region, which saw a 50 percent boost in its exports to the island in 2015. Overall, Spain's trade with Cuba has been growing 15 percent annually, news agency EFE reported. ...

And earlier this year, industrial heavyweight Bouygues

Construction and Aeroports de Paris SA were selected to renovate Havana's Jose Marti International Airport and an aerodrome outside the capital. Bouygues is also involved in a port project and in constructing several luxury hotels.

“The number of tourists has soared, so great prospects for the Cuban hotel industry,” Bouygues spokesman Mathieu Carre said in an e-mail.

That includes French tourists, whose numbers have risen 41 percent since the start of the year, *L'Express* magazine reported.

In May, French President François Hollande became the first European leader to visit Cuba since 1980. Castro, he said then, was “a man who made history.”

The pope has also proved keen to see Europe draw closer to Cuba and its 85 percent Catholic population.

Some experts are saying that as U.S. President-elect Donald Trump dials back America's new relations with Cuba, it allows European companies to move in without any competition from American firms.

They may be right, but if America's relations with Cuba continue to thaw, the island's reintegration into the global trading system could also open it up to greater European influence.

Despite the pope's mediation between the U.S. and Cuba, and Fidel Castro's death, the island is still under an anti-America regime. There is great danger for America in allowing what is really an enemy nation to build strong ties with a foreign power. For more on America's vulnerability to Cuba, read *Trumpet* editor in chief [Gerald Flurry](#)'s cover story in the March 2015 *Trumpet*, “[The Deadly Dangerous U.S.-Cuba Deal](#).”

EU Bishops Call for Sunday Law

THE COMMISSION OF THE BISHOP'S CONFERENCES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (COMECE) called for the [European Union to enforce Sunday observance](#), as part of a new initiative launched by the European Commission.

The European Commission announced that it planned to draft a European Pillar of Social Rights over the course of the year. In its response to the public consultation on these rights, one of the bishops' five recommendations was to “[p]rotect Sunday as a weekly day of rest.”

“COMECE proposes to incorporate decent working hours and

the right to a common weekly day of rest,” it wrote. “This day should be in principal the Sunday, which is recognized by tradition and custom in most of the member states or regions.” It called for a Sunday rest to be made mandatory through the EU's Working Time Directive.

The Catholic Church has continually tried to persuade Europe to enforce Sunday rest through its labor laws. It has been unsuccessful so far because there's little appetite for this restriction from the general population. But for more information on why the *Trumpet* is watching this trend, read our article “[The Battle for Sunday](#).”

TW IN BRIEF

So long, Hollande: French President François Hollande stunned his country on Thursday, saying he will not seek reelection next year. Hollande is the most unpopular president of France's modern history. He has often said he would seek reelection only if he successfully reduced France's unemployment

rate, which has hovered around 10 percent for many years. His term has also seen the nation suffer some of the bloodiest terrorist attacks in its history. Meanwhile, on Sunday, François Fillon won the Republican Party's nomination for president. Fillon has called for a broad crackdown on immigration and Islam.

Military Gear Given to Pakistani Army by U.S. Found in Possession of Kashmir Terrorists

EVEN BEFORE OSAMA BIN LADEN WAS FOUND IN A HOUSE NEXT TO a major Pakistani military base, much evidence indicated that the Pakistani Army supports terrorists. Islamabad generally denies it, but the evidence continues to mount. And more of this evidence emerged this week when night-vision devices given by the United States to the Pakistani Army for use in combating terrorists were found in the possession of Kashmir terrorists.

NDTV called this discovery a “clear indicator” of the participation of the Pakistani Army in a November 22 incident, when Indian Army soldier Prabhhu Singh was beheaded and two other Indian troops were ambushed and killed.

The publication wrote:

Senior Indian Army officers have told NDTV that the night vision monocular was likely transferred by the United States to the Pakistani Army for use in combating terrorists on the Afghanistan front. Some of these devices, it is believed, were transferred to Pakistani Border Action Team

or BAT members who carried out the November 22 attack.

This is not the first time that devices with the marking “U.S. government property” have been recovered in antiterrorism operations in Kashmir. An officer who was deployed near Machil last year has told NDTV that his unit, which eliminated four terrorists in an encounter at the time, had recovered an identical device.

Other than the night vision device, there are other clear indicators of a Pakistani hand in the attacks. A medical gauze recovered in Machil is marked “Pakistan Defense Forces” while medicines have markings of Lahore, Karachi and Multan on them. Other equipment recovered includes a tactical radio set, several ammunition cartridges, wire cutters, food items, binoculars and sleeping bags.

Tensions between India and Pakistan remain high, and since both are nuclear-armed nations, the prospect of escalation carries sobering implications.



Philippines' Duterte Says He'll Kill Human Rights Activists. Who's Next?

Jeremiah Jacques | November 30

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT RODRIGO DUTERTE THREATENED ON Monday to kill human rights activists who criticize his murderous and illegal war on drug dealers and users.

“The human rights [activists] said I ordered the killings,” he said in a speech in Malacañang. “I told them ‘OK. Let’s stop. We’ll let them [drug users] multiply so that when it’s harvest time, more people will die.”

Then he added: “I will include you [in the killing] because you are the reason why their numbers swell.”

Some 5,000 people have been killed since Duterte’s drug war started in July. Two thousand were killed in police encounters and 3,000 in vigilante-style slayings.

No one wants drug trafficking, abuse or the crime and misery that accompany these issues to continue in the Philippines. But Duterte’s willingness to circumvent law to tackle such problems creates a slippery slope. Once a leader decides to bypass law for one issue, what is to stop him from doing the same for another issue? If he would kill human rights activists who criticize his extrajudicial murder of drug dealers and users, what comes next? Killing those who obstruct the murder of human rights activists?

And after them, who might the next target group be? Alcoholics? Bad drivers? Maybe Sabbath keepers?

These questions call to mind a poem by Martin Niemöller, a German anti-Nazi Lutheran leader. Niemöller’s criticism of Adolf

Hitler eventually landed him in concentration camps, where he spent the last seven years of Nazi rule. His poem is critical of the German intellectuals who refused to stand up against Hitler’s purging of group after group from German society—including drug addicts, beggars, Jehovah’s Witnesses, pacifists, mentally ill, Gypsies and, of course, Jews:

*First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Socialist.*

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.*

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

Maybe Duterte is joking with his threat to kill human rights activists, and maybe after the narcos are killed, his purge will be over. But Duterte has recently compared himself to Hitler. If the comparison holds, and if history is a reliable guide, his purge could expand to include other societal groups. We should do what the German intellectuals in Niemöller’s day failed to do: Speak out.



Follow Jeremiah Jacques

South Korea Soon to Have a Strongman Leader?

AS SOUTH KOREANS' ANGER OVER PRESIDENT PARK GEUN-HYE'S scandal increases, a man sometimes called "South Korea's Donald Trump" is gaining popularity. If support for him continues to rise, South Korea could soon be led by this strongman.

The Nikkei Asian Review wrote on December 1:

South Korean President Park Geun-hye's offer to resign before the end of her term is boosting the influence of a man some are calling [the country's answer to U.S. President-elect Donald Trump](#). ... [T]he next presidential election is likely to be held before December 2017, when it is currently scheduled. ...

... Lee Jae-myung, the mayor of Seongnam in Gyeonggi Province, south of Seoul, is gaining popularity as a candidate against the backdrop of widespread antigovernment sentiment.

Lee has been referred to as "South Korea's Donald Trump" due to his unorthodox political positions and strident remarks such as "expel Park Geun-hye" and "demolish vested interests." ... Lee denounces his enemies with abusive words and arouses cheers from people discontent with the usual politics. In addition to appearing at protests and on radio and TV shows, he aggressively spreads his views via social media.

His support is rising, especially among young people. ...

[Lee's] lack of experience as a national lawmaker may be benefiting him, because he is seen as being different from other politicians.

In criticizing the government, Lee often appeals to anti-Japanese sentiment in South Korea. ... Discontent among South Koreans over economic stagnation and

growing disparities has boiled over, fueling the demands for Park's resignation amid the current corruption scandal. While it may be premature to say whether Lee's tailwinds will prevail, South Koreans are increasingly seen as welcoming of a populist candidate similar to Trump or Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who tapped into feelings of inequality and dissatisfaction.

On November 24, Bloomberg wrote:

... Lee is tapping into anger in South Korea over corruption and a lack of jobs. In recent weeks, Seoul has seen some of the biggest protests since the 1980s as ordinary Koreans decry the links between politicians and big business that have stifled competition in Asia's fourth-biggest economy. Park's approval dropped to a record low of 4 percent this week, Gallup Korea said Friday.

"Lee's fast rise does seem to suggest that his supporters are sick of business as usual in the Blue House," said Steven Ward, who teaches political science at South Korea's Chosun University. "Voter discontent with the establishment very well might be high enough to propel a populist into office on the protest vote, and Lee could be that person."

Across the world, populism is gaining momentum, and citizens are throwing their support behind populist leaders. In Asia alone, there is Japan's Shinzo Abe, China's Xi Jinping, the Philippines' Rodrigo Duterte and Russia's Vladimir Putin. If Lee is elected, it could nudge the world's 11th-most powerful military toward this trend.

Russia to Spend Nearly a Third of its Budget on Security in 2017

THE PROJECTIONS FOR RUSSIA'S 2017 BUDGET SAY THAT THE nation will spend 17.5 percent of the total budget on national defense and another 11.9 percent on national security and law enforcement. And a look below the surface shows that even more of Russia's funds will go toward security-related avenues.

Intellinews wrote about the projections and their implications on November 25:

Just in and of itself, this means 29.4 percent will be allocated to the security sector as a whole. However, even this does not tell the full story, as some of the funds earmarked for education, economic development and "cross-government issues" are actually funding defense-related programs, from the revived GTO ("Ready for Health and Defense") pre-draft classes in schools to scientific research with an explicit military aim. Overall, more than 30 percent will be devoted to defense and security.

This represents a decline in dollar terms, from around \$50 billion, although that is not an especially useful indicator, as the defense budget generally is spent within the

ruble sector.

It is also the case that the U.S. typically spends just over half its federal budget discretionary spending on the military: In 2016 this was a titanic \$585 billion. However, this is based on a far larger and healthier economy and, more to the point, much of U.S. spending on other purposes happens at the state and local level.

For Russia, where federal spending on health will be just \$5.9 billion (2.3 percent) and education \$8.9 billion (3.5 percent), the central government budget is both much more restricted and also important in driving national progress. Or the lack thereof.

Russia's rising defense and security spending is significant because it is worrying European nations, and contributing to EU moves toward 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!"

—Mr Gerald Flurry, "Russia Frightens Europe—And Fulfills Bible Prophecy!," *Trumpet*, January 2004

TW IN BRIEF

Putin jokes: Russia's border 'doesn't end anywhere': Russian President Vladimir Putin said on November 24 that the border of Russia "doesn't end anywhere." He made the remark at a televised awards ceremony for students of geography. A 9-year-old boy asked where Russia's eastern border lies, said, "At the Bering Strait." At that point, Putin said it actually "doesn't end anywhere," but added that it was only a joke. Previously, Putin has vowed to defend and protect ethnic Russians wherever they may live.

India—world's fastest growing economy: India is the fastest growing economy in the world, with a growth rate of 7.3 percent, according to data released on Wednesday. India's economy has slowed slightly from 7.6 percent in the July-September quarter of 2015 but is still above the nearest competitor, which

is China. Many economists are predicting the growth rate to fall as the government recently announced the removal of 500 and 1,000 rupee banknotes from the cash circulation. In India, most people's income and spending comes and goes in cash form.

Math and science results ... Asians win again: The Trends in International Maths and Science Study published international results Tuesday showing that Asian nations continue to dominate the international scene in maths and science. More than 600,000 students participated in the study, with Singapore, Hong Kong, Korea, Chinese Taipei and Japan ranking the highest. Eighth-grade students across the United States showed some improvement in math and science, but continued to trail many of their peers in Asia.

ANGLO-AMERICA



Man Is to Become Greater Than the Angels **Gerald Flurry, *The Key of David* | December 4**

God created the angels with fiery, dazzling brilliance. As bright and stunning as these magnificent beings are, God says that your potential is far greater.



Is The Royal Navy Obsolete?

Richard Palmer | December 5

THE NAVY THAT BROUGHT US THE AIRCRAFT CARRIERS WITH NO planes is about to reach a new level of ridiculousness. The Royal Navy is about to become the navy with no missiles—meaning it could soon be beaten by every significant navy on the planet, and perhaps even by ships 100 years old.

The Ministry of Defense recently admitted that the British Navy would be withdrawing its harpoon antiship missile in 2018—and it has no replacement lined up.

A navy with no missiles is every bit as useless as it sounds. The navy's other antiship missile, the helicopter launched Sea Skua missiles, will be leaving service next year. Without these, the British Navy will be left with only 4.5-inch guns to attack other ships.

The harpoon missiles have a range of 80 miles; the guns have a range of only 17. Warships would still have modern defense capabilities, such as air defense missiles, but other ships would be able to attack Britain's warships long before the Royal Navy's guns

could get in range.

The *Register* noted that in the late 19th century, Royal Navy (RN) ships had bigger guns than those in use now: "After 2018, the RN's front-line warships would be hopelessly outgunned by century-old designs."

"British naval credibility will vanish down the toilet—and in the modern world where actually firing at another state's ship could provoke a full-blown war, it is credibility and implied threat that matters most," it wrote.

"Not only does the Royal Navy find itself with a historic low of 17 usable frigates and destroyers," said Douglas Chapman, an M.P. for the Scottish National Party, "We now find that these warships will be left defenseless in a way that surely no other major modern navy would consider acceptable."

"Until the antiship missile issue is fixed, one of the finest navies in the world will be at a critical disadvantage," wrote *Popular*

Mechanics. “Against any competent navy in a ship vs. ship fight, the Royal Navy is in for a humiliating defeat.” Naval sources told the *Telegraph* that the decision was “like Nelson deciding to get rid of his cannons and go back to muskets.”

Of course, if a war did break out in 2018, British ships would probably be able to sail back to port and be refitted with the harpoon missiles. But that’s still a huge decrease in the prestige and readiness of the Navy—rendering Britain’s front line of national defense horribly vulnerable.

The cuts this island nation is making to its Navy—the force it has relied on for its defense for centuries—are all but unbelievable. But the Bible describes modern Britain following exactly this path. Hosea 7:11 says that Britain (biblical “Ephraim”—for proof of this read our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*) is “a silly dove, without sense.”

“Silly means simple, easily fooled,” wrote *Trumpet* managing

editor Joel Hilliker. “And the dove perfectly symbolizes the senseless, toothless and naive nation Britain has become.” Is there a better way of describing what Britain has done to its military?

Hosea 7:11 says that these “silly dove” decisions leave Britain looking to Assyria, modern Germany, for its defense. It’s easy to see how these types of cuts could result in Britain looking to Europe, led by Germany, for its safety.

The United States and Britain in Prophecy was Herbert W. Armstrong’s most requested book, sent to more than 6 million people. What he wrote in this book is being proved more right by the day. The Bible explains Britain’s almost unexplainable decisions—like disarming its own Navy—better than any other source. For more on what this reliable forecast says is ahead for Britain, read our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

 Follow [Richard Palmer](#)

How to Deal With ‘Fake News’

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



DONALD TRUMP’S VICTORY IN THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION has sparked a controversial debate on the role of “fake news” on the final vote tally. This debate intensified when it was revealed that the website [denvergurdian.com](#) intentionally published a fake headline: “FBI Agent Suspected in Hillary E-mail Leaks Found Dead in Apparent Murder-Suicide.” This headline was shared on Facebook over 500,000 times. The question of how to deal with such “fake news” raises some major concerns about free speech.

Kalev Leetaru stated in his *Forbes* article “[Why Stopping ‘Fake’ News Is So Hard](#)”:

In the emotional aftermath of this month’s U.S. presidential election, attention has turned to the role that “fake” news may or may not have played in skewing the American public’s understanding of the two candidates and developments regarding key issues in the race. This has led to statements by Google, Facebook and others that they will launch new programs aimed at culling fake news from their systems using both automated and manual curation processes. This raises the question of why online platforms haven’t fought fake news before and whether fighting fake news is as easy as many commentators have made it out to be.

While it is convenient to use a simplified label like “fake news,” it is not a very helpful one. If we think of false and misleading news as a continuum, on one side of the scale you have satirical websites like *The Onion*. These “news” sites typically self-identify as satirical sites (though sometimes this may be buried deeper in the site on its “about” page) and their purpose is to entertain, not deceive. However, the sheer quantity of satirical websites and newspaper columns out there makes it difficult at times to positively ascertain that a specific site is satirical without additional research.

To filter out “fake news” from the Internet would either require a human operator with the power to decide what is real and what is fake, or an algorithm that could perform this task automatically. In either case, it would be hard to conclusively determine which sites contain satire and which sites contain malicious misinformation. Even beyond this problem, it would also be almost impossible to determine with absolute certainty that a headline is fake.

The *Forbes* article continued:

More troubling, sometimes what we dismiss as “fake” news at the time ends up later being determined to be true. As one example, the U.S. government has made repeated denials over the years regarding the degree to which it was surveilling Americans and the limitations and oversight of its surveillance powers. Certain outlets had repeatedly questioned these denials and alleged that government surveillance was much more intrusive than accepted—allegations which while dismissed at the time were later substantiated in the Snowden disclosures. More recently, during the presidential campaign, Donald Trump had repeatedly claimed that public opinion polls were dramatically unrepresenting his support in key states. Many fact-checking sites debunked these claims as false at the time, yet in the aftermath of the election, a number have revisited their assessments.

Data is not always the same as “truth” as there is sometimes numerous ways data can be interpreted. While some websites like [denvergurdian.com](#) are indeed run by charlatans, attempts to crack down on “fake news” by Google, Facebook and other Internet service providers will undoubtedly end with some sort of de facto censorship of unpopular opinions.

Black Lives Matter Mourns Fidel Castro

THE BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES HAS rejected conservative rhetoric against recently deceased Cuban dictator Fidel Castro and issued a statement of lessons to be learned from Castro's struggle against America.

An article by TeleSUR, titled "[Black Lives Matter Mourns Fidel by Adopting His Vision](#)," stated:

Black Lives Matter, the U.S. anti-police brutality group, mourned the death of former Cuban president and revolutionary leader Fidel Castro as it issued a statement reflecting on his life and how the movement could learn from his life and struggle against imperialism.

"We are feeling many things as we awaken to a world without Fidel Castro. There is an overwhelming sense of loss, complicated by fear and anxiety," the group said Sunday as the world reacts to the death of the larger-than-life leader.

The group further pushed back against the anti-Fidel

rhetoric in the West and the mainstream media coming "to the defense of el Comandante."

The group stressed that in their own struggle for freedom and justice, they will be using "the lessons that we take from Fidel" to realize their own goals.

Alicia Garza, one of the three founding members of Black Lives Matter, candidly cites Assata Shakur as a key influence. Shakur is an African-American activist who was a member of both the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army. After killing a New Jersey state trooper, she fled to Cuba and received political asylum from Fidel Castro. Despite the fact that Shakur is on the FBI's Most Wanted List, she still receives asylum in Communist Cuba.

So, while Black Lives Matter uses phrases like "police brutality" and "black power" to further its agenda, statements like this reveal that the movement's real agenda is to resurrect the revolutionary Marxism of the Black Panther Party.

TW IN BRIEF

Assaults on U.S. border agents soar: United States Border Patrol Chief Mark Morgan testified before Congress on Wednesday about the increasing danger that his agents face. "Men and women of the United States Border Patrol have one of the toughest jobs in federal law enforcement," Morgan said. "They are the most assaulted federal law enforcement in the United States." He went on to give a number of statistics, including: More than 7,400 border patrol agents have been assaulted since 2006, and the amount of assaults in 2016 so far has skyrocketed to 200 percent above the previous year.

Ohio State University attack: A Somali-born student injured nearly a dozen people in a car-and-knife attack at Ohio State University on Monday. After intentionally ramming a car into pedestrians on a busy campus sidewalk, Abdul Razak Ali Artan took a butcher knife and began slashing people. The attacker was likely inspired by slain al Qaeda operative Anwar al-Awlaki and anti-U.S. rhetoric from the Islamic State, according to federal authorities. A university police officer fatally shot Artan after he refused to drop his knife.

Presidential election recount begins in Wisconsin: The first candidate-driven statewide recount of a presidential election in 16 years began Friday in Wisconsin, a state that Donald Trump won by less than a percentage point over Hillary Clinton. The recount requested by Green Party candidate Jill Stein carries none of the drama of the Florida presidential recount of 2000, when the outcome of the election between Al Gore and George W. Bush hung in the balance. Almost no one expects Stein's push for recounts in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania to result in a Clinton victory over Trump.

Scotland on Brexit: Scotland's first minister said on Tuesday that Britain's vote to leave the European Union had created a challenge for Scotland and Ireland. Nicola Sturgeon is on a two-day visit to strengthen ties between the two countries. She described the Brexit result as "deeply unwelcome," and said that the challenge it presents is "not of our making, or of our choosing." Sturgeon also said that her country could consider independence again if Britain withdraws from the European Union single market as part of its expected EU exit. The Scottish leader made the comments as she addressed lawmakers in Ireland's upper house.



What You Should Know About Christmas

Stephen Flurry,
Trumpet Daily | December 2

Have you ever wondered what God thinks about Christmas?

[Follow Stephen Flurry](#)

