

# Trumpet Weekly

DECEMBER 16, 2016



## When the Debt Storm Bursts It Will Be Too Late

Robert Morley | December 14

THERE IS A STORM BUILDING. NOT OF WINDS OR WAVES, BUT OF money and debt. The United States is the cumulonimbus of debt. Or maybe the stratocumulus. Debt clouds darken the horizon. Federal debt is nearly \$20 trillion. If the sheer enormity does not alarm you, its projected surge should.

A lot of people are going to drown.

As to the storm's size, the federal debt is now more than \$61,000 per citizen. That is \$61,000 for each mother, father, baby, grandmother, unemployed uncle, credit-card-happy Aunt Thelma and welfare cousin in America. When the storm's swell washes in, that's a lot of weight around the economy's ankles. Most Americans simply

cannot contribute much of anything to pay down this debt. Fifty-six percent of working-age Americans can't even come up with a thousand dollars of cash in an emergency, according to Bankrate.com.

*But don't be worried about such things, you worrywart.* America's most powerful leaders assure us that debt isn't something to fear. As *Forbes* explained: In today's modern economy, debt is the same as cash. "The correct conclusion to draw is that these people are indeed middle class in a country with a well-functioning financial system. Because of this *they don't need savings* because *they have access to credit*" (emphasis added throughout).

You can be part of the middle class without a thousand dollars to your name!

"[I]f we're honest about it, credit and savings are economically the same thing," wrote *Forbes*. "That most Americans don't have \$500



ROBERT MORLEY

ISTOCK.COM/HERANUS

or so of 'savings' as conventionally defined simply doesn't matter."

*Credit is really the same as savings*, according to the experts. "[A]s ever in the study of things economic, it is consumption which is the important point of it all" (ibid).

There you have it! Why bother scrimping and sacrificing to build an emergency fund, or to buy that first car, or to pay for college when functionally speaking, the result is supposedly the same as using an American Express? *It doesn't really matter how you pay for it—all that really counts is the ability to consume.*

Sounds a lot like Vice President Dick Cheney's 2004 remark that budget "deficits don't matter." He said that just four years before the 2008 economic storm hit.

Back in the real world where credit is not the same as saving, and debts cannot be perpetually paid for by swapping credit cards, analyst Wolf Richter is very worried. "So now we're burdened with such an enormous amount of debt that I think it is very hard to even breathe for the economy. A lot of people out there are worried about this," he says (PeakProsperity, October 16).

According to Richter, America's leaders are still trying to solve the too-much-debt-problem with more debt. "I mean, the Fed is still saying *We will make money for free and you just need to borrow more money*, and that's its solution to having too much debt. It's insane when you look at it."

America's federal debt works out to more than \$166,000 per income-tax paying citizen.

There is another \$3 trillion in state and local debt that must eventually be paid too. That's an additional \$25,000 owed per taxpayer. But Americans have no savings. They do however have a lot of something else—debt! Vortex in personal and corporate debt, and the U.S. debt rotation is \$67 trillion in magnitude. And none of this includes the promised benefits to future generations of Medicare and Medicaid recipients.

Depending on how you calculate it, America has liabilities of greater than \$100 trillion. Boston University's Laurence Kotlikoff says it is closer to \$200 trillion.

That's a potential debt storm so big it is virtually impossible to fathom. Forget those promises made because they won't be paid. Not in full. That in itself is going to hurt a lot of people who are relying on the government for shelter during retirement.

But even the part of the debt that analysts think the government could pay is quickly blowing out of proportion to America's ability to sustain. The total size of the U.S. economy is under \$18 trillion, which equates to a government debt-to-GDP ratio of over 110 percent. That is up from *only* 100 percent of gross domestic product in 2011.

Just eight years ago, the federal debt was only about \$10 trillion. It has almost doubled during the tenure of America's current president. And it doubled during the previous administration too. Is that rate of growth sustainable?

No.

Does that mean politicians will come to their senses? That the debt storm will abate?

No.

In fact, the debt storm will probably intensify before making landfall. Total U.S. household debt hit a whopping \$12.25 trillion in March, but that is still 3.3 percent below the peak preceding the 2008 subprime mortgage crisis. It has room to run. Student loan, auto and recently credit card debt are growing. Call them the three trillion-dollar-triple-threat.

America's leaders think debt is good. Today, December 14, the Federal Reserve is considering raising interest rates a quarter of a point from 0.5 to 0.75 percent. The minuscule increase would be only the second one in 10 years. The Fed's unstated purpose is to support consumer spending. Do you really think the Fed is serious about raising rates and reducing borrowing?

President-elect Donald Trump thinks you can't lose with debt. He said on CNBC May 5:

Yeah, I think—look. I have borrowed, knowing that you can pay back with discounts. And I have done very well with debt. Now, of course, I was swashbuckling, and it did well for me and it was good for me and all that. And you know, debt was sort of always interesting to me. Now we're in a different situation with the country. But I would borrow, knowing that if the economy crashed, you could make a deal. And if the economy was good, it was good. So, therefore, you can't lose. It's like, you know, you make a deal before you go into a poker game, and your odds are so much better.

On August 11, he said on CNBC, "[T]his is a time to borrow, and to borrow long term, so that we can have money to rebuild our infrastructure." According to Mr. Trump, nobody knows how to use debt like him. "I'm the king of debt. I love debt," he said (CNN, May 4).

He told *CBS This Morning* in an interview on June 22:

I'm the king of debt. I'm great with debt; nobody knows debt better than me. I've made a fortune by using debt. ... And if things don't work out, I renegotiate the debt. I mean, that's a smart thing, not a stupid thing.

And what if America borrows more than it can handle? The president-elect has that inevitability covered too (CBS, June 22):

You go back and you say, "Hey, guess what? The economy just crashed. I'm gonna give you back half."

According to the Brookings Institution, the national debt may grow by almost as much under President Trump, as under President Obama. Brookings estimates \$9.5 trillion in additional debt over the next 10 years.

Those estimates will rise. If there is one thing America has proved during recent history, it is that it knows how to underestimate spending.

And while America embarks on its greatest debt binge ever, a storm of epic proportions will be developing offshore. On land, all may appear sunny and tranquil. Debt will buoy the stock market; consumption will give the appearance of prosperity; temporary jobs will be created.

And then one day the storm will roll in. Suddenly the skies will darken. The wind will blow. The rain will fall. And a tidal surge of epic proportions will wipe America's debt-based economic system right off the map.

Until then, you have a choice. Join the majority of Americans who build their financial houses on sand. Or build upon a sure Rock foundation. Begin by reading our free booklet: [How to Solve Your Money Troubles](#).

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# Trumpet Daily

## RADIO SHOW

ARE YOU READY FOR WHEN THE 'TEN KINGS' COME TOGETHER? | DECEMBER 16

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## T German Minister Transfers Weapons to Jordan

Brent Nagtegaal, Watch Jerusalem | December 12

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



JERUSALEM—GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTER URSULA VON DER LEYEN met with King Abdullah of Jordan in Amman on Sunday as part of a Middle East tour, shoring up allies in the fight against terrorism.

For its part, Jordan received 16 “Marder” armored vehicles with an additional 34 vehicles to be delivered by the end of next year. Attending the official handover ceremony, von der Leyen described the defense deal as part of a multinational Reinforcement Initiative whereby Germany supports responsible nations in areas of instability.

“Jordan is a bulwark against terror. That is why it is permanently important to support Jordan as well,” von der Leyen said at the ceremony. She continued, “If we are not ready to bring security to these countries ... they will quickly be overrun with terrorists.”

Germany has earmarked €100 million (US\$104.3 million) this

year and €130 million for next as part of the Reinforcement Initiative. Other nations to receive aid are Iraq, Tunisia, Mali and Nigeria.

According to Spiegel Online, [Germany is considering establishing a base in Jordan](#) as part of the anti-Islamic State mission. This is motivated in part by Berlin's deteriorating relationship with Ankara, which holds some of Germany's Tornado fighter jets at its Incirlik Air Base, though the base is off limits to visiting German officials. A base in Jordan is seen as a suitable replacement.

The *Trumpet* expects Germany's involvement in the Middle East theater to increase in order to form a bulwark against rising Islamic extremism. However, while Germany maintains its rationale for foreign deployment and support in the fight against terrorist entities, biblical prophecy indicates it is the growing power of Iran that gives Berlin the most concern.

## T Can Air Strikes Prevent War With Hezbollah?

Callum Wood | December 14

TWICE IN AS MANY WEEKS, ARABIC MEDIA HAS [ACCUSED ISRAEL OF carrying out air strikes in Syria](#). Israel has neither confirmed nor denied the attacks—though Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu openly admitted in April that there have been dozens of such Israeli air strikes over the course of the Syrian civil war.

According to a November 30 report in the *Times of Israel*, the first attack was dual, targeting the al-Sabboura region—though Syria has not confirmed the alleged target—and a Hezbollah convoy on the Damascus-Beirut highway.

Then on December 7, Syria's SANA state media reported on another attack in which “the Israeli enemy launched at 3:00 a.m. Wednesday a number of surface-to-surface missiles from inside the occupied territories to the west of Tall Abu al-Nada that landed in the surroundings of al-Mezzeh Airport west of Damascus.” Hezbollah claimed the attack was another air strike.

Adding weight to the reports, Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor

Lieberman also “came clean” about Israeli attacks to keep weaponry out of Hezbollah's hands.

Regardless of the validity of these or previous claims, Israel clearly has a goal in mind. It is not—as the Syrian government proclaims—to overthrow Bashar Assad. Israel is focusing on the possibility of a *future* conflict directly involving the Jewish state.

As Netanyahu said in February, “We will not agree to the supply of advanced weaponry to Hezbollah from Syria and Lebanon. We will not agree to the creation of a second terror front on the Golan Heights. These are the red lines that we have set, and they remain the red lines of the State of Israel.”

But red lines or not, can Israel prevent Hezbollah's rise? There are a number of factors to consider.

First, recruits. *Haaretz* released a report in July with updated figures on the size and scope of Hezbollah. The terror group, while lacking tanks and planes, is a medium-sized army. It has

some 45,000 fighters with 21,000 in regular service. Comprised primarily of Shiites in southern Lebanon, Hezbollah has an ample fighting force.

Then there is training. Aside from experience gleaned in the 2006 war with Israel, Hezbollah fighters are gaining experience in the Syrian arena. Unable to prevent Hezbollah's involvement, Israel has no choice but to watch as Hezbollah's fighters are trained and battle-hardened for a future conflict with the Jewish state.

One of the few aspects Israel can influence is weapon shipments. Hezbollah has long sought missiles and arms from Syria and further abroad. Israeli air strikes have waylaid many such convoys, but the convoys that run the gauntlet successfully are unknown.

While Netanyahu and the military do all they can to contain Hezbollah, there is little doubt that Israel's efforts are not

stopping Hezbollah's rise, only slowing it.

According to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), Hezbollah now has the ability to fire up to 1,500 missiles *per day* in the next war. In 2006, the number was just 200.

These rockets are also more sophisticated. Hezbollah has acquired rockets capable of hitting the Red Sea area to Israel's south. It is also equipped with a plentiful stock of antiship, anti-tank and antiaircraft systems.

Going off these facts, Israel appears near powerless to keep advanced technology such as the SA-22 Russian missile system or the Kornet antitank missile out of Hezbollah's hands.

And Israel is almost out of time. With the rebels almost driven from Aleppo, Hezbollah's role in Syria **will likely diminish and its attention will again turn to Israel.**

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## Assad Gains Aleppo but Loses Palmyra

**I**NJURED RESIDENTS OF REBEL-HELD EASTERN ALEPPO, SYRIA, began evacuating the city Thursday as part of a ceasefire deal that will see pro-government forces retain full control of the population center after four years of fierce fighting. In a true showing of the power behind the Syrian regime's Aleppo success, Iranian leaders instantly [hailed the victory](#) praising their own contributions to the fight. The *Guardian* reported:

"Aleppo was liberated thanks to a coalition between Iran, Syria, Russia and Lebanon's Hezbollah," said Seyed Yahya Rahim-Safavi. "Iran is on one side of this coalition which is approaching victory, and this has shown our strength. The new American president should take heed of the powers of Iran."

Iran's defense minister called his Syrian counterpart to congratulate him, and Mohsen Rezaie, a former commander of Iran's [Islamic] Revolutionary Guard [Corps], wrote on Instagram that Iran's aim was to cleanse "terrorists and *takfiris* [a term used in Iran for Sunni jihadists]" from Syria and Iraq.

The parliamentary speaker, Ali Larijani, also congratulated Assad's government, saying that U.S. and British policies had hit a dead end in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen.

Earlier this week, the ceasefire brokered by Turkey and Russia looked to be in serious jeopardy as the Iranian-backed forces committed numerous atrocities against retreating rebel forces, highlighting a growing rift between Iran and Russia. Of late, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Hezbollah and other Shiite militias directed by Iran have spearheaded the final offensive in Aleppo as Russian air strikes gave way to the ground forces. The *Guardian* continued:

Iran and the Syrian government do not want to compromise on the battlefield or at the negotiating table, believing that total domination will give them a better hand to shape the aftermath. Russia, on the other hand, sees a benefit in transitioning from bludgeoning superpower to peace-broker.

The clash is the first serious divergence between Tehran and Moscow, whose heavyweight interventions have saved Assad but greatly diminished Syria's sovereignty. But with the endgame in sight, the "win first, settle up later" approach has reached a nadir.

However, as *Wall Street Journal* writer Yaroslav Trofimov pointed out, the fall of Aleppo does not mean that Assad's forces can claim victory over Syria just yet. As Aleppo was being conquered, the Islamic State was [retaking the southern Syrian city of Palmyra](#) from government forces. Trofimov wrote:

The rapid loss of Palmyra also highlighted another key feature of the conflict: the continuing vulnerability of Syrian President Bashar Assad and his backers. With their resources overstretched after more than five years of war, the fate of Palmyra showed again that the regime's battlefield victories can prove hard to sustain and can unravel virtually overnight.

All of this means that, despite the regime's celebrations of victory in Aleppo—where civilians and rebels were awaiting evacuation Thursday from the last opposition-held pocket—Mr. Assad still isn't anywhere close to restoring his writ over Syria. An outright military triumph for the regime in the war that has already displaced more than half of the country's population and killed about 400,000 people remains just as impossible as before, Arab officials warn.

"It is not the endgame at all. He won't come out victorious. His regime will have to compromise," Ahmed Aboul-Gheit, the secretary general of the Arab League and a former Egyptian foreign minister, said in an interview in Abu Dhabi. ...

The loss of Palmyra was above all an issue of allocating resources. Aleppo, the country's biggest city before the war began, is a far more valuable prize for the Assad regime, which is concentrating its efforts on reclaiming the major population centers in central and western Syria. Still, Palmyra was until now one of the most important symbols of the military prowess of the government and the Russian military.

As Trofimov relates, so proud was Russia of the victory in Palmyra six months ago that it flew the whole St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Symphony Orchestra to Palmyra to stage a televised concert in the Roman-era amphitheater.

Certainly Moscow will be looking to retake Palmyra from the Islamic State to regain its credibility; however, the Syrian regime, as backed by Iran, has shown time and again its willingness to

lose territory to the Islamic State if it can defeat the rebels first.

Continue to watch the aftermath of Aleppo falling back into government hands. We will likely witness the hardest push from Russia, as well as the Europeans, for a peace deal that ensures displaced Syrians can begin to return to Syria. However, as that happens, watch for Iran to continue to undermine those efforts in hopes to garner more power for Assad.

## Iran Stokes Tensions With War Drills

**T**EHHRAN FLEXED ITS MILITARY MUSCLE THIS WEEK, SHOWING OFF its ground and air forces as well as the public release of a new unmanned drone. According to Adam Kredo writing for the *Washington Free Beacon*, Iran's military leaders "warned the United States against taking any provocative action in the region and promised a swift military response, according to comments over the weekend as the war drills began." He continued:

"The Islamic Republic of Iran's military forces enjoy supremacy over the Persian Gulf region more than any other time," Brig. Gen. Massoud Jazayeri, the deputy chief of staff of Iran's Armed Forces, was quoted as saying over the weekend. "The military and security conditions of the Persian Gulf are in a way that the enemy's forces and equipment are fully within the range of the Iranian military men."

The war drills, which are expected to carry on into Wednesday, also included the introduction of a new jamming system that Iran claims is capable of bringing down enemy drones. Iran also displayed several precision missiles and helicopters armed with heavy ammunition.

Iranian forces fired "several rockets" at two targets stationed in the Sea of Oman, according to the country's state-controlled press.

The *Trumpet* has long pointed to Iran as the biblical king of the south mentioned in Daniel 11:40, which specifically states it will be marked by a pushy foreign policy. As we noted, Iran's belligerent activities and rhetoric have only increased after it implemented the nuclear deal with Western powers earlier this year.

## TW IN BRIEF

**I**ran warms to Palestinian cause: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani met in Iran on Tuesday with the head of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement (PIJ). Palestinian leader Ramadan Abdullah Mohammed Shallah also met with senior officials, including Iran's foreign minister who reportedly said that his nation's solidarity with Palestinians would continue and that it would make efforts to unite Palestinian resistance groups. Then on Wednesday, the

Palestinian leader met with Iran's real leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Mehr News Agency quoted Khamenei as saying, if "all Palestinians unite and all contribute to the fight, the Zionist regime will not be in existence in 25 years." Khamenei then told the PIJ leader that "all efforts by the Zionist regime to overshadow Palestinian issue will fail and the occupied lands will be liberated by the very perseverance in the battle of all Palestinian groups."

## EUROPE

# TrumpetHour

IS WAR IN SYRIA OVER?, GALILEO GOES LIVE, CHINA THREATENS TAIWAN, GERMANY IN MIDEAST, AND MUCH MORE | DECEMBER 9

WILL U.S. DEBT GROW UNDER PRESIDENT TRUMP?, WHAT IS FAKE NEWS?, THE WAR ON HISTORY AND MORE | DECEMBER 14

## Europe's Satellite Navigation System Goes Live

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



**E**UROPE'S GALILEO SATELLITE NAVIGATION SYSTEM OFFICIALLY went live December 15 after 17 years of work.

The project is a result of the European Union's refusal to become reliant on the United States, and it shows the EU's



determination to join the “big leagues.” Until now, only the two Cold War superpowers—the U.S. and Russia—have had their own satellite navigation system.

Satellite navigation has been growing in importance, far beyond a simple convenience for travelers with a poor sense of direction. Automated vehicles of all kinds rely on it. It is heavily used in mining and has even led to the advent of “precision agriculture.” From construction to archaeology, more and more people are finding uses for the technology.

But it is modern militaries that really *rely* on satellite navigation. And this is why Europe has been so determined to build its own.

Tracking your own forces and enemy forces with pinpoint accuracy is a huge bonus on the battlefield. So are smart munitions—bombs, missiles and even individual artillery projectiles guided exactly to their target.

The world only really needs one navigation system. But no nation wants their military to be dependent on another’s—so half a dozen powers are working on their own version of GPS.

America’s GPS or Navstar is the most well known. Russia developed its GLONASS system during the Cold War. It fell into major disrepair, but Russian President Vladimir Putin invested heavily in it, and it now covers the whole world.

The Chinese are working on their BeiDou, or compass, system. It currently operates only in the Asia-Pacific region, but they plan to have global coverage by 2020. India and Japan are both working on their own regional systems.

Just about every major power wants its own.

This independence from America has been at the heart of Europe’s efforts right from the start. In 2001, former French President Jacques Chirac said that without Galileo, EU nations would become “vassals” to America. In 2002, the EU directorate general for transport and energy (the department overseeing Galileo) noted that “Galileo will underpin the common European defense policy that the member states have decided to establish.” The report continued:

There is no question here of coming into conflict with the United States which is and will remain our ally, but simply a question of putting an end to a situation of dependence. If the EU finds it necessary to undertake a security

mission that the U.S. does not consider to be in its interest, it will be impotent unless it has the satellite navigation technology that is now indispensable. Although designed primarily for civilian applications, Galileo will also give the EU a military capability.

At first, many of those behind Galileo were relatively hostile to the U.S. America worried that a nation it was at war with could benefit from Galileo. EU officials didn’t relieve matters, stating that they would not prevent American enemies from accessing Galileo in times of war. In fact, they planned to have Galileo operate on the same frequency as GPS—meaning that America could not jam an enemy’s access to Galileo without jamming its own access to GPS.

U.S. Air Force officials threatened to shoot down European satellites if such a situation ever arose. So Europe backed down, and the frosty relationship between the two systems has thawed.

The EU likes to emphasize that Galileo is a civilian project—unlike the Russian and American systems. But for all practical purposes, they’re the same. Galileo is also set up so that, in times of crisis, it can be restricted to only European military personnel and emergency services.

German Member of the European Parliament Reinhard Bütikofer claimed the European Commission had deliberately hidden how widespread the military uses for the project were. Until March 2011, documents “did not even hint at the extent of the military uses of the project,” he said.

Had he been paying better attention, he would have seen it from the start.

The system now has 18 operational satellites. It needs 24 to be fully operational. Another eight will be launched in 2017 and 2018. Europe aims to have a total of 30 satellites, so that it has some spares. Until it reaches full operational capacity in 2018, the system will not be available all the time.

The system also aims to be more accurate than America’s GPS system, providing freely around 1-meter accuracy—paying customers receive accuracy within centimeters.

For more on the progress nations around the world are making to become space powers, read our article [“The Quiet Space Race.”](#)

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## Now It’s Greece Back in Crisis

**E**UROZONE FINANCE MINISTERS HAVE SUSPENDED THEIR DEBT relief program for Greece after the government made a move they did not like.

The row demonstrates the degree of control Europe now has in Greece.

Last week Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras announced that the government would give a one-time bonus worth in total \$643 million to 1.6 million pensioners who live on under \$834 a month. Germany objected, leading to the impasse.

The fracas comes as the EU and Greece are already in a stand-off over the completion of the second review of the latest bailout program. When this review is completed, Greece will have greater

access to credit. Geopolitical Futures [described the impasse last Friday:](#)

And so the epic tug-of-war between Greece and the EU (led by Germany) continues as distrust of the EU mounts in Greece. Last May, Greece passed austerity measures worth €5.4 billion (US\$5.7 billion) that greatly impacted taxes, health services, public utilities and pension funds. The government has stated that no more reforms will be accepted. Meanwhile, Germany flexed its EU muscles on December 8 and convinced the Union to propose that EU countries in March 2017 should start sending migrants back to Greece as part of

a larger effort to prevent asylum seekers from moving north. Such a move would exacerbate the political, social and economic pressures already facing the Greek government.

There is no shortage of challenges looming in the EU's future. The unfolding of Greece's economic tragedy will occur alongside Italy's banking crisis, the Brexit fallout and slumping trade from the exporter crisis. Athens runs the strong risk of not having the funds to pay bills by June 2017. This does not take into consideration large debt payments that are also due in July. A fourth bailout is not on the [European Central Bank]'s radar, and after seven years, Greece is running out of capital—both literally and politically—to enact further austerity reforms. If the IMF [International Monetary Fund] and Germany can't agree on acceptable terms for IMF participation in supporting Greece, the eurozone will be forced to bear the full burden of propping up the Greek economy. The latter option is undesirable for members of the eurozone, as it will clash sharply with the rising nationalist sentiments in countries both funding and receiving economic support.

The problem is worsened by looming elections in Germany and elsewhere. As the *Telegraph's* international business editor Ambrose Evans-Pritchard [noted this week](#):

Chancellor Angela Merkel has sworn to the Bundestag that EMU [European Economic and Monetary Union] bailouts will never cost German taxpayers a single cent, and similar sagas are playing out in Holland and Finland.

A debt write-off would be an admission that it costs real money to hold the eurozone together. It would require parliamentary votes heading into the coming electoral Annus Horibilis of 2017.

The IMF's chief economist Maurice Obstfeld and its Europe director Paul Thomsen said that "Greece's debt is highly unsustainable and no amount of structural reforms will make it sustainable without significant debt relief." With debt relief almost a political impossibility, especially this year, Greece seems set to cause plenty of drama in 2017.

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## Migrant Murderer Heats Up Immigration Crisis

MARIA L. WAS RAPED AND MURDERED IN FREIBURG, GERMANY, on October 16. Seventeen-year-old Afghan migrant Hussein K. has been arrested by the police. The crime "has shaken a city that welcomed refugees with open arms," wrote *Spiegel*. "As it emerges that a young Afghan man may have been the killer, a national debate on migrants is unfolding."

Maria volunteered to work at a migrant center. Her alleged killer arrived in Germany on November 15 with no identification papers. He had been living with a foster family since the spring. *Spiegel* wrote:

The reactions to the murder have spread far beyond Freiburg. Rainer Wendt, the head of the German police officer's union, spoke of the danger of "mass immigration," and representatives of the German parliament warned of populism and "sedition." Right-wing politicians within the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) have also used the incident as an opportunity to renew old calls for criminals to be deported more quickly and for prosecutors to be given more leeway. ...

"This has really touched us all," says one woman who likes to take walks in the area. She's pregnant and is expecting her child at any time. She says she lives in the area and hasn't gone outside after dark since the killing, adding that she also avoids the forest. "Freiburg was like the 'Truman Show'—a perfect world," the woman says, speaking with a light French accent. She teaches at a nearby German-French bilingual school. Now she says she's having to adjust to the kind of attitude toward life that you are more likely to find in a large French city. "Women have to look out for themselves there."

But it's Mayor Dieter Salomon who points out that this

idyllic place, famous across Germany for enjoying more sunshine each year than any other German city, is anything but perfect. The Green Party politician has spent years trying to persuade the state to hire more police to patrol the city. ... He says people in the city no longer feel as safe as they once did. For some time now, Freiburg has carried a title of which no municipal politicians are proud: It's the city with the highest per capita crime rate in the entire state.

Unaccompanied foreign minors—known in official German jargon as UMAS, many of whom wind up in Freiburg because of its proximity to nearby France and Switzerland—have contributed to that dubious state of affairs. Even as the number of refugee arrivals has sunk in most other parts of Germany, by the end of November, 577 under-18s had arrived in Freiburg, close to the 30 percent more than in all of 2015. ...

Problems arose with some UMAS as early as 2014: Young men, mostly from North Africa, began dealing drugs behind the city's central station, stole things from passengers, and harassed women. The city sent the young men to school and tried to place them with families that had some knowledge of educational psychology.

The next event to rile locals happened in early 2016. Following repeated incidents of harassment of women, the White Rabbit, a local music club that draws an alternative crowd, warned that it would only allow refugees to enter if they agreed to listen to instructions about the appropriate behavior in the club and obtained membership cards. In July, an attempted rape reportedly occurred in the women's restroom at the club, and a refugee was accused in the incident.

**More German soldiers in Mali:** Germany will increase its presence in Mali by up to a 1,000 soldiers. A spokesman of the Defense Ministry said on Monday that the ministry plans to send an additional 350 soldiers into the mission because of the withdrawal of Dutch helicopters. The ministry also is considering sending up to four additional rescue and support helicopters. The United Nations mission in northwest Africa is considered to be one of the most dangerous UN operations worldwide.

**U-Cuba first-ever agreement:** The European Union and Cuba signed a first-ever agreement on closer ties on Monday. The accord is aimed at supporting economic development and promoting democracy and human rights on the island. It will form the legal platform for future ties between Brussels and Havana. Cuba's foreign minister said he was thankful that "relations between Cuba and the European Union do not go by Washington."

ASIA

## T China Says It Should Be Ready to Invade Taiwan After Trump Says U.S. Isn't Bound by One-China Policy

Jeremiah Jacques | December 16

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



**B**EIJING IS FURIOUS THAT UNITED STATES PRESIDENT-ELECT Donald Trump said that the U.S. would not necessarily be bound by the one-China policy. In response, China is saying it should be prepared to take Taiwan by military force.

The one-China policy is a diplomatic acknowledgement of China's view that Taiwan is not an independent, sovereign, democratic nation, but is instead a breakaway province of Communist China that will eventually be reincorporated under mainland rule. Since 1979, the policy has underpinned ties between Washington and Beijing, and has allowed the U.S. only a nonofficial relationship with Taiwan.

Mr. Trump suggested on December 11 that he might wish to use the policy as a bargaining chip in the U.S.-China relationship. "I don't know why we have to be bound by a one-China policy unless we make a deal with China having to do with other things," Mr. Trump said in an interview with Fox News. He mentioned China's currency manipulation, trade tariffs, military buildup in the South China Sea, and relationship with North Korea as areas where Beijing may need to make concessions.

These statements came just nine days after Mr. Trump had angered China by accepting a phone call from Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, marking the first contact between an American president or president-elect and a Taiwanese leader since 1979.

The day after Trump's interview with Fox, China's state-run Global Times, which is a mouthpiece for the Communist Party, said Trump's statements give China no reason to "put peace above using force to take back Taiwan."

On December 14, the paper ramped up the rhetoric further, writing: "The Chinese mainland should display its resolution to recover Taiwan by force." It said:

It might be time for the Chinese mainland to reformulate its Taiwan policy, make the use of force as a main option, and carefully prepare for it. Once Taiwan independence forces violate the Anti-Secession Law, the Chinese mainland can in no time punish them militarily. Moreover, getting ready

to achieve reunification through the use of force can pose a serious deterrence to Taiwan independence.

The military status quo across the Taiwan Straits needs to be reshaped as a response and punishment to the current administration of the Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) destruction of the political status quo in cross-Straits ties. ...

The future of Taiwan must not be shaped by the DPP and Washington, but by the Chinese mainland. It is hoped that peace in the Taiwan Straits won't be disrupted. But the Chinese mainland should display its resolution to recover Taiwan by force. Peace does not belong to cowards.

The *Times* further said that "time will tell" whether the Trump administration will "willfully utilize the one-China policy as leverage to blackmail Beijing or restrain itself in actual practice."

"In any case, the current farce has made China vigilant," it wrote. "It is possible for Washington to activate the Taiwan card in a crude manner at any moment."

In 1998, Bill Clinton became the first American president to publicly oppose Taiwanese independence. *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry said Clinton's stance meant it was only a matter of time before Taiwan would come under China's rule. In "Taiwan Betrayal" from the August 1998 *Trumpet*, Mr. Flurry wrote:

The Chinese leaders pressured the president and America to speak against our freedom-loving friends [in Taiwan]. The people of Taiwan fear for their future. They feel betrayed. ... Once again, America has showcased its broken will to the whole world. ... How could anyone fail to see that Taiwan is destined to become a part of mainland China? These 21 million people are going to be forced into the Chinese mold; and it is going to happen for one reason: because of a pitifully weak-willed America. Does freedom really mean so little to us?

At the time that was written, the idea of Taiwan becoming assimilated into China may have seemed likely only in the distant



future. But now, with Mr. Trump saying Taiwan could be a bargaining chip, and with China talking seriously about the need

to use military force to settle the issue, that forecast could soon come to pass.

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## **T Japan Increases Its Military Spending Again**

**Tyrel Schote | December 15**

**S**EVENTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER THE BOMBING OF PEARL HARBOR, Japan—a nation that was to “forever renounce war as a sovereign right”—now boasts a military that “might be even stronger” than it was in World War II. And it is set to grow bigger still.

Japan’s defense budget for 2017 is expected to hit a record high of \$44.6 billion. This will mark the fifth year in a row that Japan’s defense spending has increased. Japan is currently in the top-10 list of the most powerful militaries in the world. While its pacifist Constitution—imposed after the Second World War—forbids Japan to wage war offensively, it has been free to build up a self-defense force. Within this allowance, Japan has been able to establish one of the most sophisticated militaries in the world.

As time goes on, the stigma of waging war is fading from Japan’s memory. Numerous attempts in the past few years have sought to reinterpret Japan’s pacifist Constitution. Its leaders seem eager to use Japanese forces abroad. In late November, the nation took an unprecedented step in expanding the use of the Japan Self-Defense Force: It assigned 350 soldiers to South Sudan as part of a United Nations peacekeeping taskforce with permission to use force. This is the first time since World War II that Japanese soldiers are being allowed to fight on foreign soil.

All this comes at a time when Japan feels increasingly threatened by a nuclear-armed North Korea and a belligerent China. To help counter that threat, Japan signed an intelligence-sharing deal with South Korea on November 23.

Although the U.S. praised the deal, China condemned it. To China, which is currently locked in territorial disputes with Japan, the agreement has the makings of a military alliance that could counter its regional goals. Both Japan and South Korea are allied with the United States, and China views the deal as a step toward a new, unified power bloc that would prevent it from taking an even more aggressive posture.

However, this deal, together with the increased military spending, could be signs of a splintering relationship between Japan and the United States. President-elect Donald Trump singled out Japan as a nation that needed to pay more for America’s defense aid or prepare to lose America’s military backing. A burying of the hatchet between Japan and South Korea could be an indication that Japan is looking to form its own alliances because it feels that it cannot rely on the United States as it has been in the past.

The *Trumpet* has long forecast that Japan would rise from its World War II defeat to become part of a military power bloc now forming in Asia. This increase in military spending is leading to an arms race, and arms races often lead to war. Today, Japan is seen as America’s ally; 75 years ago, it was a mortal enemy. That may seem like a long time, but can America be sure that Japan has exorcised its militaristic demons? To understand where this trend of militarization is leading Japan, be sure to read [“Why We Watch Japan’s March Toward Militarism.”](#)

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## **India Outguns Saudi Arabia and Russia, Becomes World’s Fourth-Largest Defense Spender**

**I**NDIA HAS SURPASSED RUSSIA AND SAUDI ARABIA IN DEFENSE spending. In 2016, the nation spent \$50.6 billion, up from \$46.6 billion the year before. The 2016 “Jane’s Defense Budgets” report, released on December 12, says this means India has busted into the world’s top five club and is now the fourth largest defense spender on the planet.

Quartz wrote about the development on December 12:

The U.S., China and the UK remain the top three, IHS Jane’s data shows. The report says that [by 2018 India will become the third-largest in the group, surpassing the UK.](#)

“Procurement spending has been constrained in India over the last three years as personnel costs have increased,”

Craig Caffrey, principal analyst, IHS Jane’s, said in a statement. “However, what we expect to see from 2017 onwards is a military focused on modernization. India needs new equipment to fulfill its modernization drive. Over the next three years, India will reemerge as a key growth market for defense suppliers.” ...

Since coming to power in May 2014, the Narendra Modi government has laid tremendous stress on ramping up the country’s defense facilities.

Jane’s said that total global defense spending rose in 2016 to \$1.57 trillion.

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## **Will the Philippines Edge Toward China and Russia Since Washington Deferred a Major Aid Package to Manila?**

**T**HE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SAID THURSDAY THAT IT WILL defer a multimillion-dollar aid package to the Philippines

because of concerns over human rights abuses by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte.

The *Independent* wrote:

The U.S. embassy to the Philippines said there were “significant concerns” about civil liberties infringements in the country and confirmed a board of experts had deferred its renewal of the Millennium Challenge Grant for a further five years.

The grant, said to be worth over \$430 million, is open to nations that “demonstrate a commitment to just and democratic governance, investments in its people, and economic

freedom.” It is aimed at reducing poverty in deprived areas. “This decision reflects the board’s significant concerns around rule of law and civil liberties in the Philippines,” the embassy said in a statement.

Mr. Duterte has previously threatened to separate from the U.S., and to instead move the Philippines closer to China and Russia. The U.S.’s decision to defer this major aid package could prompt Duterte to hasten this shift.

## TW IN BRIEF

**China militarizing artificial islands:** China has deployed advanced weapons systems, including antimissile configurations, on all seven of the islands it has built in the South China Sea. On Wednesday, a U.S. think tank reported on the development, citing newly published satellite imagery. In addition to

antimissile systems, the satellite imagery also reveals that anti-aircraft weapons have been installed on some of the islands. China’s leaders had previously insisted that they would not militarize the islands, which are located in disputed territory in a vital trade route.

## ANGLO-AMERICA



### Hidden Danger in Keeping Christmas?

Gerald Flurry,

The Key of David | December 18

Family time together and the life of Jesus Christ are both wonderful. But does God want us to celebrate these things by keeping Christmas?



### Are Millennials Giving Up on Democracy?

Abraham Blondeau | December 13

#### WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



**A** GROWING NUMBER OF TODAY’S YOUTH APPEAR TO BE GIVING UP on democracy as a viable form of government.

In a July report titled “[The Danger of Deconsolidation](#),” Harvard University researcher Yascha Mounk and University of Melbourne political scientist Roberto Stefan Foa explored some dangerous trends among American millennials. The researchers drew their data from World Values Surveys of Europe and America between 1995 and 2014. The data showed that many millennials (those born in the 1980s and 1990s) are increasingly supportive of political radicalism and autocratic alternatives to democracy.

The study showed that while 43 percent of older Americans object to the idea of a military coup, only 19 percent of millennials do. In Europe, 36 percent of millennials object to coups, as opposed to 53 percent of older citizens. Mounk and Foa wrote in their report:

In the past three decades, the share of U.S. citizens who think that it would be a “good” or “very good” thing

for the “army to rule”—a patently undemocratic stance—has steadily risen. In 1995, just 1 in 16 respondents agreed with that position; today, 1 in 6 agree. While those who hold this view remain in the minority, they can no longer be dismissed as a small fringe, especially since there have been similar increases in the number of those who favor a “strong leader who doesn’t have to bother with parliament and elections” and those who want experts rather than the government to “take decisions” for the country. Nor is the United States the only country to exhibit this trend. The proportion agreeing that it would be better to have the army rule has risen in most mature democracies, including Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

A disturbingly high number of millennials in America and in Western Europe look more and more favorably upon undemocratic governments. It appears a high minority would rather have

Julius Caesar or Benito Mussolini reign in the land of the free.

The study also points out that only around 30 percent of millennials see the civil rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution as “absolutely essential” in democracy (compared to 41 percent of older Americans). Around a quarter of U.S. millennials believe that free elections are not important to a democracy.

Nearly 25 percent of young Americans, millennials and teenagers believe that democracy is a “bad” or “very bad” way to run the United States. That is significantly higher than most other age demographics. In 1995, 16 to 17 percent of young Americans thought democracy was a poor way to run the country.

Having rejected some of America’s fundamental political values, more and more millennials are becoming susceptible to being swayed into radicalism. Politicians and corporations are looking to empower the youth—yet they may do so at our own peril.

The statistics reported by Mounk and Foa show a disturbing trend among a growing minority of millennials. Democracies die at the hands of those they govern. While there are many causes for this discontent, ignorance of the alternatives may very well be a major explanation. Unless the deficit in historical education is fixed, these statistics will only become worse.

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## Buy a Boy a Barbie

**A** LEADING EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING GROUP IN AUSTRALIA IS urging parents to “buy a boy a Barbie” this Christmas in a show of support for “No Gender December.” Yet the Good Education Group is only the latest organization to join the growing movement against gender-stereotyped toys and gifts.

According to an article by Susie O’Brien in the [Herald Sun](#):

Chief executive officer Chris Lester [of the Good Education Group] said the grassroots campaign to fight gender division was designed to “[e]ncourage parents to try and de-gender their presents.” ...

The No Gender December campaign started in 2014 by advocacy group Play Unlimited, and has since been supported by Greens Sen. Larissa Waters and a range of social and educational experts.

The concept of No Gender December was criticized by former Liberal Prime Minister Tony Abbott, who said he wanted “boys to be boys and girls to be girls.” ...

In Australia, Target stores do not categorize toys by gender, and [target.com.au](#) segregates toys by age group and brand. At Big W online, toys are categorized by price and category, not gender. The same is true at [Kmart.com.au](#),

although a search for “boys’ toys” brings up red and blue bikes, a boy doll, army construction kits and Star Wars Lego. A search for “girls’ toys” brings up pink bikes, shopping and runway construction kits, a baby doll and girls’ action figures.

This “buy a boy a Barbie” campaign, along with No Gender December, is just another step in society’s push to radically change social expectations. As *Trumpet* managing editor Joel Hilliker wrote on [July 25, 2013](#):

These social engineers want you to think their cause is all about inclusion and tolerance. But if you disagree with them, they have *no tolerance for you*. The push for transgender rights is a religious mission, aimed at *converting the hearts of men*. Its missionaries want the nation to repent of its archaic attachment to the traditional family, and to become devotees to the cross-dressing, bisexual and homosexual cause. The only victory is complete victory. Until transgender crusaders achieve this utterly impossible goal—*every individual a true believer*—they will continue their battle, using every tool of coercion they can summon.

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## One in Six Americans on Psychiatric Drugs

**A** NEW STUDY PUBLISHED BY *JAMA INTERNAL MEDICINE* ON Monday shows that one in six American adults is taking at least one psychiatric drug. This finding reveals the shocking extent to which U.S. citizens have become dependent on pharmaceuticals and other legal drugs.

According to an article by Raven Clabough in the [New American](#):

The researchers found that 16.7 percent of adults reported filling one or more prescriptions for psychiatric drugs in 2013, of which 12 percent of adults reported antidepressant use; 8.3 percent reported taking anti-anxiety meds, sedatives and hypnotics; and 1.6 percent used

antipsychotics.

The authors found that women were more likely to report taking a psychiatric drug than men. In 2013, one in five women had filled at least one psychiatric drug prescription that year.

According to the study, the numbers vary dramatically depending on race: 20.8 percent of white adults reported use of psychiatric drugs, compared with 8.7 percent of Hispanic adults, 9.7 percent of black adults and 4.8 percent of Asian adults. ...

The study also found that age plays a role, as adults between the ages of 60 and 85 are now the highest users

of psychiatric medicines, with over a quarter of that population reporting use, as compared to 9 percent amongst those between the ages of 18 and 39, and 18 percent amongst those between the ages of 40 and 59.

For some in the science community, it is particularly surprising and disconcerting that so many elderly people are taking these types of medications because of the side effects these drugs can cause, including falls and cognitive impairment. "It used to be middle-aged adults were the highest users of these drugs; now it's older adults," said Dr. Eric Lenze, a professor of psychiatry at the Washington University School of Medicine, not affiliated with the study. He said this finding is "new and fairly eye-opening."

The United States is the most medicated nation on the planet. Two out of three Americans take some sort of prescription (whether psychiatric drugs, painkillers or some other form). Americans account for 5 percent of Earth's population and 75

percent of its prescription-drug use. In 2014, Americans spent \$374 billion to purchase 4.3 billion drug prescriptions. This means the average prescription-drug user takes 19 different prescriptions.

The reason Americans consume the majority of the world's prescription drugs isn't because they are less healthy than other people. Rather, Americans consume prescription pills at an abnormally high rate due to a cultural belief that they can use drugs to escape the effects of their problems without having to address root causes. Instead of addressing the underpinning causes of chronic pain, doctors just write a prescription for painkillers. Instead of counseling people on how to overcome depression, they hand out the latest psychiatric drug.

Our culture prescribes pills as a solution to almost every problem imaginable. But the long-term solution to this epidemic isn't drug legalization or more spending to stop drug trafficking. The solution is dismantling America's culture of escapism and turning to God's pure, wholesome, happy way of life!

## TW IN BRIEF

**Britain approves making three-person babies:** Britain's fertility regulator has approved a controversial technique allowing doctors to create babies using DNA from three people. In a statement made on Thursday, the regulator's chair, Sally Chesire, described this decision as a "life-changing" moment for families who might benefit from the treatment. The new procedure is supposed to help prevent children from inheriting potentially fatal diseases from their mother's mitochondrial DNA. To do this, scientists remove the nucleus DNA from the egg of a prospective mother and insert it into a donor egg from which the donor DNA has been removed. The resulting embryo ends up with nucleus DNA from its two natural parents, but with mitochondrial DNA from a third person. Critics allege that this controversial technique will open the floodgates to a world of genetically modified designer babies.

**U.S. secretary of state pick:** United States President-elect Donald Trump on Tuesday praised his pick for secretary of state, Rex Tillerson, as "a fierce advocate for America's interests around the world." Trump was speaking at a rally in Wisconsin. He had just announced his choice of the ExxonMobil CEO to be his top diplomat. Tillerson has close ties to Russia, and his selection sets up a potential confirmation fight in the Senate. A former diplomat said

it was not the first time in recent history that a corporate executive had ascended to the position of secretary of state.

**Trump tweets about F-35s:** President-elect Donald Trump posted a tweet on Monday that said that "the F-35 [fighter jet] program and cost [are] out of control." Trump tweeted that "billions of dollars can and will be saved on military (and other) purchases after January 20th." While the tweet did not specifically refer to a certain company, shares in the jet's manufacturer, Lockheed Martin, dropped by \$2.8 billion. Other defense contractors also took a hit. Lockheed-Martin stated on Monday that it had worked to lower the cost of the F-35 aircraft by around 60 percent.

**Forbes most powerful list:** *Forbes* magazine released its "Most Powerful People" list for 2016 this Wednesday. According to its rankings, Russian President Vladimir Putin retains the top spot for the fourth year in a row, with United States President-elect Donald Trump ranking second. German Chancellor Angela Merkel made it to third place, while outgoing U.S. President Barack Obama dropped from second place last year to 48th place. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pope Francis were ranked as the world's fourth and fifth most powerful people respectively.



### Superpower Europe

Stephen Flurry,

Trumpet Daily | December 16

What to expect when Europe assumes the role of a global superpower

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