

# Trumpet Weekly

JANUARY 27, 2017

British Prime Minister Theresa May is on a two-day visit to the United States and will be the first world leader to meet with President Donald Trump.



## Will America and Britain Lead the World Again?

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



Stephen Flurry | January 27

**B** RITISH PRIME MINISTER THERESA MAY WILL MEET WITH UNITED States President Donald Trump later today for face-to-face talks inside the Oval Office, making Mrs. May the first foreign leader to visit the White House since Mr. Trump's inauguration last week. Both leaders have vowed to make the relationship between their countries *special* again.



STEPHEN FLURRY

Conservative Party M.P. Iain Duncan Smith told *USA Today* that Britain has

the opportunity to “reinstate” what it once had with the U.S. That relationship has taken a beating in recent years. President Barack Obama, Smith explained, spent time forging relationships with everyone else—meaning everyone *except* Britain.

President Obama, after moving into the Oval Office in 2009, replaced a bust of Winston Churchill on loan from Britain with a bust of Martin Luther King, and his aides announced that America's so-called special relationship with Britain was actually more of partnership—not unlike the many partnerships America had with other nations.

In 2010, British M.P.s responded in kind. The Commons Foreign Affairs Committee announced that the term “special relationship” should be avoided. Great Britain should be close to the United States, it concluded, “but there is a need to be less deferential.”

In 2011, President Obama said, “We don’t have a stronger friend and stronger ally than Nicolas Sarkozy and the French people.” And last year, Germany was Mr. Obama’s best pal. Chancellor Angela Merkel, Obama said, had been his “closest international partner.”

During those same years, the once “special relationship” with Britain was repeatedly reassessed and downgraded. As one secret memo, prepared by a congressional think tank in 2015, revealed, “the UK may not be viewed as *centrally relevant* to the United States in all of the issues and relations considered a priority on the U.S. agenda” (emphasis added throughout).

And then, there was Brexit. Prior to the historic vote last June, President Obama told Britain that if it didn’t stay in the European Union, it would end up at the “back of the queue” on any future trade deals with the United States!

Last year, UK Independence Party leader Nigel Farage said President Obama was the most “anti-British American president there has ever been.” Even though George Washington might lay claim to that particular title, there is no doubting that during the Obama years, the “special relationship” between the United States and Britain completely unraveled.

*And that is exactly what the Bible said would happen in these latter days!*

Throughout the Obama presidency, we often noted this. The Prophet Isaiah, for example, said the tribe of Manasseh (America) would devour Ephraim (Britain), and Ephraim would devour Manasseh (Isaiah 9:21; New King James Version).

These two Israelite nations—which have maintained such a strong and durable alliance for so many generations—were prophesied, *in our day*, to forsake their special alliance and to engage in furious strife and contention with one another.

So what are we to make of these recent diplomatic overtures between the United States and Great Britain? President Trump has congratulated Britain for voting to leave the EU. He’s promised to reward Britain with a favorable trade agreement. He invited Theresa May to be the first international leader to visit the Trump White House.

At a Republican congressional retreat yesterday in Philadelphia, Mrs. May said it was time to “renew” the special relationship. “We—our two countries together—have a joint responsibility to lead,” she said.

Is this, then, Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher all over again, as the *USA Today* column suggests? Will the United States and Britain rise together and again lead the world?

Jesus said that in the latter days, there would be great tribulation—“such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.” Without God’s supernatural intervention, mankind would not survive (Matthew 24:21-22). Elsewhere in Scripture, the Great Tribulation is referred to as “Jacob’s trouble” (Jeremiah 30:7).

In Bible prophecy, *Jacob* primarily refers to the UNITED STATES and BRITAIN. This is explained in Herbert W. Armstrong’s widely circulated work *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. What this means is that the Great Tribulation that immediately precedes the return of Jesus Christ to Earth is a time of

trouble coming on our nations! *It is the greatest national trouble the United States and Britain have ever faced.*

Hosea 5:5 says that our nations will fall together (along with Judah). What this means is that while there may be a renewal of the “special relationship” to some extent, it certainly will *not* result in the United States and Britain leading the world again.

In fact, that same prophetic passage in Hosea 5 speaks of Ephraim, or Britain, following after the commandment of Jeroboam (verse 11). In his Nov. 23, 2016, co-worker letter, my father identified Donald Trump as an end-time type of Jeroboam presiding over the United States. And poor Britain, the Bible says—“oppressed and broken in judgment”—will follow right along after the sins of Jeroboam.

“Now that the United Kingdom has decided to break away from Europe, it will be *desperate* to trade with the U.S.,” my father wrote in that letter. One British commentator put it this way in the above-mentioned *USA Today* article: “[Theresa May] has few friends because of her determination to push ahead with Brexit (Britain’s withdrawal from the European Union). And Trump is also, quite deliberately, alienating the world with his ‘America first’ talk.”

These two historic friends desperately need each other right now because the 70-year-strong, post-World War II order has been violently shaken to the core! But it’s not going to work out the way these two nations hope.

“It is possible that Prime Minister Theresa May, *by throwing in her lot with Mr. Trump* could ride out any changes to the international order,” wrote the *New York Times* yesterday. But if that approach does not succeed, *it could have severe consequences* both for her nation and for the world that Britain plays a role in keeping together.”

The rest of the world is coming undone. Only God can fix it. Stitching together what remains of the “special relationship” will not restore order.

This is not the 1980s. We are living in a new age: the Jeroboam end.

“This election was prophetic!” my father wrote in that co-worker letter. “When there is a type of Jeroboam on the scene, then God will send the sword upon His people because of all its sins.”

We are living through earthshaking prophecies that lead right into the time of “*Jacob’s trouble*”—a time of national punishment for our many sins.

As Joel Hilliker wrote on theTrumpet.com five years ago:

Darkness is descending on the long, historically extraordinary [Anglo-American age](#). Britain, once a globe-girding empire, is now being bullied by a growing European super-state. America, once the greatest superpower on Earth, is economically battered and is losing its global influence.

History teaches that world orders don’t last. They come, and they go. This present one is giving way to something very different—and it truly will be the world’s loss.

However, Britain and America’s brightest days are *not* history. Glowing within their remarkable past is the promise of a far more luminous *future*.

The same prophet who wrote about “*Jacob’s trouble*” to occur during the Great Tribulation also spoke of a time *beyond* the

Great Tribulation when America and Britain would be restored to their former glory and power to become “a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth” (Jeremiah 33:9).

Before that time, Jesus said mankind would suffer unlike any

time in human history. The devastation will be so widespread that, unless God intervened, there would be no hope for humanity.

But God will intervene. There is hope.

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## MIDDLE EAST

# TrumpetDaily

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## Trump Effect: Israel Approves East Jerusalem Building Permits

Callum Wood | January 25

**I**N A DRAMATIC PIVOT IN ISRAELI PROTOCOL, THE JERUSALEM municipal government approved building permits on Sunday for [566 new homes in East Jerusalem](#). On the same day, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told his ministers that he planned on lifting restrictions on settlement construction in the eastern parts of the city.

The move—no doubt expedited by the arrival of the new residents at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C.—has drawn condemnation from the Arab world and members of the United Nations, whose knee-jerk reaction is to oppose any such building plans.

While former President Barack Obama held office, Israel shied away from such bold settlement and housing plans. Approving the permits was delayed in December for fear of retribution from Secretary of State John Kerry.

At a December 23 United Nations Security Council (UNSC) vote, the U.S. abstained while everyone else voted in favor of [Resolution 2334](#), which declares that all Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank are illegal. Most nonmember states also supported the resolution.

Although the resolution passed, now that President Donald Trump is in office, threats of more unfavorable UNSC resolutions being passed are greatly diminished. Israel’s restored position of strength—behind President Trump—must be upsetting to those looking to force Israel to accept the two-state solution.

It seems in Israel’s best interest to “make hay while the sun shines”—but doing so is a calculated risk.

The new U.S. president has already called and planned a face-to-face meeting with Netanyahu in February. He has also pledged to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. He reiterated that promise to *Israel Hayom* on January 19, saying, “You know that I am not a person who breaks promises.”

In his Sunday announcement, Netanyahu declared, “There is no longer a need to coordinate construction in the Jewish neighborhoods in East Jerusalem. We can build where we want and as much as we want.”

These are bold words considering a month ago Israel was staring down the barrel of nation crippling resolutions from the UNSC.

Being a close Trump ally clearly has its advantages. But making friends with one man will cost Israel partnerships elsewhere. While there was little love in the UN before Netanyahu’s announcement, the relationship now will be frostier than ever.

Charging forward with the housing developments—while advantageous at the moment—burns bridges. It also infuriates many Muslims. And therein is the risk.

Israel is betting on President Trump to enhance and maintain the Israel-U.S. alliance for eight years before passing it along to his pro-Israel successor. But what if this opportunity is more fleeting than Israel believes it to be? What if Mr. Trump were suddenly unable or unwilling to lend his support?

Losing U.S. support is *exactly* what happened in late 2016 when many in Israel speculated that Mr. Obama was plotting revenge at the UNSC. *Jerusalem Post* reporter Caroline Glick wrote a piece discussing Israel’s options; she suggested a new friend was needed in the UN. But look around: No such U.S. substitute exists!

The moment highlighted Israel’s dependence on America. Israel’s eggs are all in one basket. Without America’s support, Israel would be at the mercy of the pro-Palestinian UN—not to mention the Arabic nations surrounding Israel that call for its destruction!

Israel, no doubt, wants a back-up friend!

Israel’s contingency plan could come in the form of another Trump-like transformation by a powerful Western nation—one where a passively hostile government and leadership are replaced by a pro-Israel leader.

Bible prophecy indicates that the nation of Germany will be that friend. However, allying with Germany will not end well for the Jews.

*Trumpet* editor in chief [Gerald Flurry](#) writes in his booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*:

Little Judah will then no doubt ask them [Germany] for

protection. “He shall ENTER also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon” [Daniel 11:41]. The powerful European Union army will then ENTER the glorious land, or Israel. The word *enter* in no way indicates the use of force. The Germans will undoubtedly be invited in as a peacekeeping force.

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## Palestinians No Longer Want U.S. to Broker Middle East Peace

WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



**I**N ONE WEEK, THE PALESTINIANS HAD SEEN ENOUGH. THE FAILURE by the new United States administration to push back against Israel's expanded building program in the West Bank and East Jerusalem has led to the Palestinians' rejection of future U.S. sponsorship of [peace talks](#) between the Palestinians and Israelis. According to *Asharq al-Awsat*:

Palestinians will not accept to return to the direct U.S.-sponsored bilateral negotiations after Washington has proven not to be an impartial mediator, according to Member of Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Wasil Abu Yousef.

Abu Yousef told *Asharq al-Awsat* newspaper that they now demand international guarantees within a time frame that ensures Palestinian people receiving all their rights, including a state with Eastern Jerusalem as its capital.

“Other than that, we won't return to the vicious circle of U.S.-brokered bilateral negotiations. We want to end the occupation and protect our people's rights, not return to negotiations for the sake of negotiating,” said Abu Yousef.

The official's statement came after U.S. President Donald Trump had a phone call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Trump expressed his support for the direct talks between Palestinians and Israelis and described it as the only solution for peace.

Palestine is seeking international involvement in the negotiation, similar to those in the “5+1” talks that solved Iran's nuclear case.

The internationalization of the peace process is something

numerous Israeli governments have rejected, saying that peace terms cannot be imposed by outside parties. Nevertheless, the international community, outside the U.S., is becoming more vocal against Israel for actions that they consider to be hindering the chance for peace. One nation that voiced its concern against Israel's actions this week was Germany, [Israel's closest European ally](#). According to the *Times of Israel*:

Germany on Wednesday issued a harsh condemnation of Israel's approval of thousands of new settlement homes in the West Bank, saying Jerusalem's actions cast doubt on Israel's commitment to a two-state solution.

German Foreign Ministry spokesman Martin Schaefer said Tuesday's announcement of new construction went “beyond what we have seen ... in the last few months both in terms of its scale and its political significance,” Reuters reported.

He said Berlin now doubted whether Israeli leadership remained committed to the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside the Jewish state. Without such a commitment, he warned, there would be little basis for Mideast peace.

It was an unusually strong response from one of Israel's closest allies, and it joined a chorus of international condemnations since it announced the move a day earlier.

Now that the Palestinians are rejecting America as the broker for Middle East peace, they may look to Europe to take up the mediating role. Germany is likely to be seen by the Palestinians and Israelis as the most acceptable and seemingly unbiased future broker.

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## Putin to Maintain Permanent Presence in Syria

**I**N LATE SEPTEMBER 2015, RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN entered the Syrian civil war when he announced Russia's return to the Middle East. Late last week, a year and a half later, Putin made his presence permanent with the signing of a [major long-term basing deal](#) with the Syrian government. *Foreign Policy*

reported on January 21:

While the world warily eyed Donald Trump's inauguration on Friday, Russia and Syria signed a long-term basing agreement giving Russian ships and planes access there for

50 years, a major commitment that underscores Russian President Vladimir Putin's years-long effort to restore Russia's once-powerful role in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The pact calls for expanding and making permanent Russia's temporary air base in Latakia and expanding the Russian naval facility in Tartus that would allow it to permanently harbor 11 ships. The expansion would enable Tartus to host larger ships than it currently can accommodate—for instance, the aircraft carrier Kuznetsov couldn't dock there last fall—as well as nuclear submarines, according to Russian state-controlled press reports. Moscow will also send engineers and specialists to Damascus to help refurbish Syrian warships and defend the port area.

Russia has used the port to pour troops and weapons into Syria to bolster the regime of Bashar Assad, and dozens of Russian warplanes have used the air base to attack any rebel group battling the regime, though Moscow has insisted that

it is targeting the Islamic State. American defense officials have long complained that the Russian strikes rarely targeted ISIS, however, even as they at times bombed U.S.-backed rebels. The expanded base will mean less reliance for Moscow on supply and maintenance ships from its Black Sea Fleet.

State Duma member Sergei Zheleznyak said on Friday that the deal “will help protect the Syrian people from the terrorist threat and, on top of that, will make it possible to consolidate stability across the Middle Eastern region.”

Before the Syrian civil war, the United States was the undisputed stabilizer of the Middle East. However, the United States' failure to contain and end the civil war, as well as its détente with Iran, has shot down its credibility with many Middle East nations. Russia is looking to fill that void, and a permanent enlarged presence on the Mediterranean coast is a perfect launching pad to project its power.

## TW IN BRIEF

**Syrian peace talks make limited progress:** Peace talks between the Syrian government and rebel factions concluded on Tuesday in Kazakhstan. After two days of talks, Russia, Turkey and Iran struck a deal on a three-way mechanism to consolidate the country's nearly month-old ceasefire. Kazakhstan's foreign minister read a statement saying the three countries would work toward strengthening the truce. He did not specify how that would work. The statement said the three nations would continue joint efforts to fight the Islamic State and an al Qaeda affiliate in Syria. The statement added that the agreement in Kazakhstan paved the way for political talks to be held in Geneva on February 8.

**President Trump to establish “safe zones” in Syria:** American President Donald Trump said Wednesday that he “will absolutely do safe zones in Syria” for refugees fleeing violence in the war-torn country, something that Turkey has long called for as over 2 million refugees have crossed into its country. According to a document seen by Reuters on Wednesday, Mr. Trump is expected to order the Pentagon and the State Department in the coming days to craft a plan for setting up the “safe zones,” a move that could risk escalation of U.S. military involvement in Syria's civil war. Iran and the Syrian regime have long rejected the idea of safe zones as they feared it would shelter rebel fighters instead of refugees. The Obama administration had also refused to endorse the idea.

## EUROPE

# Trumpet Hour

TRUMP HOSTS BRITAIN, PEACE PROCESS SHAKEUP, AUSTRALIA COURTS CHINA, RUSSIA BUNKERS DOWN IN SYRIA, AND MORE | JANUARY 27

GERMANY IN THE AGE OF TRUMP, ISRAEL IN CONSTRUCTION MODE, MUSIC FOR LIFE, AND MORE | JANUARY 25

## T Trump, Germany and KT zu Guttenberg Brad Macdonald | January 27

**W**HO IS DONALD J. TRUMP, AND HOW WILL HIS PRESIDENCY AFFECT my nation? This question dominates the minds of world leaders and statesmen right now. And no country is thinking about this more than Germany.

Perhaps the most valuable asset in Berlin these days, and in every capital city the world over, is an informed understanding of United States President Donald Trump and his true intentions. Germany's leaders are deeply concerned and wondering:

Is Trump serious about imposing tariffs on German imports into America? Does he *really* dislike the European Union and seek its disintegration? How deep is his affection for Russian President Vladimir Putin, and how much will he empower the Kremlin? Does Mr. Trump really consider NATO “obsolete” and plan to initiate a United States retreat from Europe?

For Germany and Europe, these are existential issues. Each issue underpins the post-World War II international system.



This world order isn't exactly perfect, and there's nothing wrong with reconsidering these pillar issues. But overhauling 70 years of international relations must be done cautiously, thoughtfully and in partnership with allies. One misstep and the international order crumbles.

Although Mr. Trump's views on Russia, the EU, NATO and Germany are *radically* different from America's traditional views on these issues, it's impossible to say for certain that his views lack sufficient consideration. Still, there's a problem: President Trump is talking about fundamentally transforming Europe, the German-U.S. relationship, NATO and the Russian-European relationship—in more dramatic terms, MR. TRUMP IS TALKING ABOUT BLOWING UP THE POSTWAR WORLD ORDER—without explanation, without discussion and without reservation.

EUROPE, ESPECIALLY GERMANY, IS TERRIFIED.

On January 20, as millions of Americans reveled in Donald Trump's "America first" inaugural speech, here's what the Germans and Europeans were thinking.

*Handelsblatt* reported in "Trump Team Leaves Germany Out in the Cold":

[T]he German government is still struggling to establish contacts with the new administration and distinguish campaign bluster from actual policy. The current changing of the guard in the United States ... has left the German government uncertain about the future course of transatlantic relations.

Spiegel Online's article "Donald Trump and the New World Order" said:

The inauguration of Donald Trump heralds the arrival of a new world order. The West is weaker than ever before, and rising American nationalism poses a threat both to Germany's economy and the European Union.

Spiegel Online made the point that Mr. Trump plans to upend America's entire postwar foreign policy toward Europe (emphasis added throughout):

For more than 60 years, the U.S. has promoted European unity. The country introduced the Marshall Plan, it supported the single European market, and backed Europe's eastward expansion following the collapse of the Iron Curtain. BUT NOW, A MAN IS ENTERING THE WHITE HOUSE WHO IS COUNTING ON THE DISINTEGRATION OF THE EU.

Spiegel Online lamented President Trump's flagrant disregard of history, strategic thinking, America's postwar role in the world, and the relationships and alliances that have defined international relations for seven decades.

The new president feels absolutely no sentimentality when it comes to the alliances that arose out of the rubble of World War II. Like no other president before him, he is prepared to call them into question and even, apparently, to bring them to an end. Plus, Trump ... loves to provoke.

The result is that EUROPE FINDS ITSELF ON THE EVE OF AN EPOCHAL SHIFT of the kind it hasn't seen since the fall of the

Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Eastern bloc.

The Spiegel Online article also revealed that Germany, and especially Chancellor Angela Merkel, feel threatened by President Trump and his policies.

The situation could hardly be worse for German Chancellor Angela Merkel. ... [N]ow Trump is at the helm in the U.S., a man who said in his interview this week that the German chancellor had "made a catastrophic mistake." IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FORMULATE A CHALLENGE MORE DIRECTLY THAN THAT.

Can Merkel's Europe now hold together? Can she become a WORTHY ADVERSARY to Trump in the approaching conflicts over trade regulations, international agreements and the liberal legal and economic order that has been so important to the United States for the last six decades?

That's a breathtaking remark. The website for Germany's most influential newsmagazine referred to Donald Trump as an "ADVERSARY" of Chancellor Merkel and Germany. IS GERMANY BEGINNING TO CONSIDER ITSELF TO BE AT WAR WITH DONALD TRUMP AND AMERICA? Think about the ramifications of such a belief.

That which had seemed inconceivable just a short time ago now appears to be a foregone conclusion: A new era is beginning, one in which the certainties that have held true for decades are suddenly no longer valued. They are suddenly vulnerable. For the most part, that is because the 45th president of the United States of America is simply not interested in the world order that has developed since 1945. He is just as disinterested in the transatlantic partnership and the long-cultivated alliances with Western allies.

It's entirely possible this view is distorted and that America's president isn't nearly as hostile to Germany as this article implies. But the truth doesn't prevail in this instance, perception does. And the very real perception in Germany is that America is becoming a competitor and enemy. Germany and Europe are feeling increasingly anxious and threatened.

Germany and Europe are watching Donald Trump, and they are uncertain, anxious and threatened. They believe if Mr. Trump keeps *half* his promises, then their world is going to be upended. Germany and Europe are *already* grappling with the EU crisis, a resurgent Russia, various financial crises and the migrant crisis, among others.

NOW THEY APPARENTLY HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT A HOSTILE AMERICA!

Europe's most pressing problem is its leadership crisis. European leaders, including Angela Merkel, are proving to be absolutely incapable of solving these issues. Germany and Europe need someone who understands President Trump. Someone who understands what motivates Mr. Trump and his team. Someone who understands 21st-century America and the populist, nationalist spirit coursing through its veins. Someone capable of piloting Germany through the historic transformation already underway. Someone, ideally, with an established relationship with German leaders, and perhaps even Mr. Trump's team. Someone bold enough—but also wise and pragmatic enough—to confront President Trump.

Does such an individual exist? Perhaps.

Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, *as we have reported for more*

than six years, has an impressive résumé, and one that looks more impressive over time. Guttenberg, a former German defense minister, was once the most popular politician in Germany. There was a time many believed he would replace Merkel as chancellor. This man has the political heritage and education, the character and spirit, and the diplomatic experience and connections to manage the Trump presidency. Guttenberg understands German and European politics and has established relations with some of the highest figures in Germany, Europe and Russia.

Guttenberg's political career seemed to end in 2011, when it was revealed he had plagiarized his doctoral thesis (a peccadillo, it seems, that isn't exactly rare in Germany). As penance, Guttenberg retired from politics and banished himself to America. In Connecticut, he established a boutique financial consultancy and became a commentator, providing insightful, refreshingly candid, analysis on serious world issues. Guttenberg belongs to the realist school of international relations. He sees the world and human nature as it is, not as utopianists want it to be. He understands power and the struggle for power. Perhaps you've seen him on CNN, Fox, CBS or read his articles in *Time* or the *Wall Street Journal*.

Consider his stance on Vladimir Putin. Unlike Mr. Trump, Guttenberg sees Russia's president as sinister, evil and dangerous. He is undoubtedly alarmed by Donald Trump's affection for Putin and probably has some clear ideas about how Germany and Europe should handle a potential U.S.-Russia rapprochement. Such thinking looks good on his résumé.

In hindsight, Guttenberg's benching from German politics seems more a blessing than a curse. He escaped the minefield that is German and European politics and spent four years equipping himself with the knowledge and experience to lead Germany through a Trump presidency. He also cultivated connections and relationships with some powerful and influential figures in America. One of his colleagues was Rex Tillerson, America's new secretary of state; they worked together at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Guttenberg also knows James Mattis, America's new secretary of defense. Guttenberg has spent the last four years studying America's politics and culture. He doesn't just understand Washington, *he understands America*.

It's a unique and pretty incredible résumé: KT zu Guttenberg understands the historic and strategic underpinnings of both American and European foreign policy. He understands and knows how to navigate German, European and American politics. He has access to the most influential thinkers and leaders in Germany, Europe and America. He speaks flawless German and English. And he has the personality and leadership necessary for the uncertain, tense times ahead.

If Germany really is beginning to see America as the "adversary," then it needs a leader who understands the enemy. WHO BETTER THAN A FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER WHO SPENT THE LAST FOUR YEARS LIVING WITH THE ENEMY?

IS KARL-THEODOR ZU GUTTENBERG UNIQUELY PREPARED TO LEAD GERMANY THROUGH THE DONALD TRUMP ERA?

Finally, Guttenberg appears to have a "handle" on Donald Trump. He's been dissecting Trump speeches and appearances for months, and he hasn't held back his criticism. But it's not just blustery character assassination. Guttenberg understands President Trump's worldview and intentions and how they stand to impact Germany and Europe. He also has a vision of how Germany and Europe must react. In one recent article, he explained that Berlin must respond to the Trump presidency by ending its "passive, wait-and-see" approach to foreign relations, and develop a "culture of responsibility." He also stated that Berlin must respond with "language that Trump understands," language and gestures that are "clear, constructive and, IF NECESSARY, HARD."

Such rhetoric will be music to the ears for many Germans and Europeans.

Considering all this, it's no surprise that Germany today is buzzing with rumors of an imminent Guttenberg comeback. Earlier this week, he enjoyed a two-hour meal at one of Munich's most posh restaurants with Andreas Scheuer, a key leader of the Christian Social Union (CSU), Guttenberg's political party. He's also been seen repeatedly in recent months in Berlin and Munich. Germany's media has been anticipating a comeback for almost two years. His CSU colleagues, and even some from other parties, are virtually begging him to return to German politics.

KT's response to all the speculation and anticipation is brilliant. He usually smiles, delivers a self-deprecating remark, and says it's not going to happen. "It's as unlikely as me breeding giraffes in my cellar," he stated in one interview. Such a coy response, of course, only intensifies his supporters' longing for a Guttenberg comeback.

In my view, Guttenberg might simply be waiting for the right moment. He wants to arrive on the scene just as Germany and Europe's woes and anxieties become acute, almost unbearable. Guttenberg knows that if he appears at the apex of a massive crisis, with his impressive résumé—which is nearly perfect for this moment—then his past will be forgotten and Germany (and Europe) will be his. Of course, it could happen differently.

Whatever happens, though, this man seems to be uniquely prepared to lead Germany and Europe through the tumultuous Donald Trump era. We've said it before—we began saying it six years ago—but it's worth repeating: Watch Guttenberg closely.

 Follow [Brad Macdonald](#)

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## Why Does the AfD Have Nazi Sympathies

GERMANY'S ALTERNATIVE FÜR DEUTSCHLAND (AfD) PARTY IS showing an increasing amount of sympathy for the Nazis. Caroline Glick examined why such a party is rising in Germany in her January 24 article for the *Jerusalem Post*. She drew attention to two worrying causes:

First there is Angela Merkel and the political establishment she represents. The AfD's rise is a direct consequence of the German political establishment's refusal to consider the wishes of German voters along a whole spectrum of issues. On immigration specifically, rather than listen to her critics Merkel and her allies denounce them as racists

and treat them as criminals.

For instance, as Judith Bergman reported last week on the Gatestone Institution website, in July 2016, 30 people had their homes raided by German police for publishing anti-immigration posts online.

When thousands of German women were raped by Muslim immigrants during the public celebration of New Year's Eve in Cologne last year, German authorities went to great lengths to cover up and deny what had happened. ...

In September 2015, Merkel was caught on a hot microphone excoriating Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg for not erasing anti-immigration posts from Facebook fast enough.

If Merkel spent more time listening to her constituents and less time rejecting their right to their entirely rational opinions, the AfD would probably not be so powerful today. In all likelihood, AfD politicians wouldn't be embarrassed when their colleague mouthed off about Holocaust materials because their constituents wouldn't include anyone who had a problem with people like Hocke.

Even if Merkel was willing to listen though, she would still have to worry about Germans that yearn for the glory days of Hitler and the Third Reich.

This then leads us to the second reason for the resonance of Nazi messaging in Germany and beyond.

In 1945, the Nazis were defeated and Nazism was outlawed in Germany and throughout Europe. But whereas the peoples of Europe were prohibited from denying the fact of the Holocaust, they were never required to conduct a true moral reckoning with what happened. Criminalizing Holocaust denial and outlawing Nazi parties, while reasonable on their own terms, mistook the symptoms of Nazism with the cause of Nazism.

Europeans have been schooled to view the Nazi period as a unique phenomenon unrelated to anything that happened either before 1933 or after 1945.

But the opposite is true.

Adolf Hitler and his Nazis and their collaborators throughout Europe didn't spring from nothing. They were the natural outcome of centuries of European anti-Semitism. Their genocidal obsession with the Jewish people was a natural progression of a hatred that predated Christianity, and was an integral part of Europe's development through the ages.

The way to block the Nazis from rising on the right is to correct both Merkel's mistake and the larger mistake of the leaders of Europe since 1945.

Merkel empowers Nazi forces by preventing liberal democracy, predicated on limited government, individual freedom and equal protection under the law, from developing in Germany. By demonizing and criminalizing her critics, she forces lawful citizens into the open arms of the political fringe, which resonates their concerns.

More generally, Europe itself facilitates the rise of anti-Semitism as a political force on the right and left by conflating European rejection of Jews with a more general, and less meaningful, problem of racism. You do not fight hatred of Jews by pretending away its significance and its roots that go back as far as European civilization itself. You do not block the resurgence of Nazism by pretending that European anti-Semitism was born the day Adolf Hitler came to power.

There is a tendency to believe that all nationalist movements are alike. But this is not true. Each nationalist movement is a reflection of the specific nation it represents. For European nationalists and globalists alike to avoid the fascism that captivated their grandparents, they need to embrace liberal values and meaningfully reject Jew hatred in all its forms.

Glick excellently articulated the reasons to fear the rise of the far right in Germany. Meanwhile, other concerning statistics were published this week. Deutsche Welle reported on January 25:

Quoting security sources on Wednesday, German daily *Tagespiegel* reported ... that almost 50 percent of all known right-wing extremists are prone to violence, according to statistics for 2016. It's an increase of 300 people compared to the report for 2015.

In all, some 23,000 right-wing extremists are currently known to authorities, 400 more than in 2015. Of them, 12,100 were classified as violence-prone in 2016, compared to 11,800 in 2015.

"Aggressiveness is still increasing," security experts told the paper, adding that refugees and Islam are being portrayed as the enemy. There is a "fomenting mass," which sees itself as an accomplice of the popular will.

Among the right-wing extremists, the report also found an increasing number of people who were previously unknown to intelligence services or police as extremists.

These extremists are a worrying, though small, minority. For more on where this rise in extremism is leading, read Brad MacDonald's article "[Germany, Political Crisis and Superman](#)."

## ASIA

### Tokyo Assumes Leadership Role in Countering China

#### WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



ON JANUARY 24, *GEOSTRATEGY-DIRECT* SAID IT IS INCREASINGLY evident that Japan is taking up the "leadership role" in "allies' defense buildup against China." It wrote:

Of the multiple nations with which China has had border and maritime disputes, [Japan is China's only neighbor that has never bowed to China's intimidation of military actions](#). Instead, under [Prime Minister Shinzō] Abe, Japan has miraculously transformed its decades-old



pacifist straightjacket into a nation calling for arms against sovereign threats from China and its strategic ally North Korea.

The constitutional amendment to remove the Peace Clause is underway; a sweeping new security law has been passed to allow Japan to take part in “collective self-defense” meaning involvement in actual war fighting along with its allies, especially the United States in a real-war scenario.

But Japan has also been actively building up a regional alliance against China, a feat made conspicuous due to the anemic U.S. defense and military leadership under a passive Obama administration.

In the past couple of years, Japan and India have formed a substantive military pact, conducting frequent joint naval drills at each other’s coastal waters, with China as the unannounced common enemy. ...

Japan and South Korea do not get along all the time, but Japan has taken the lead in forging an intelligence-sharing mechanism in wartime scenarios, a significant step that delights the Pentagon.

Japan has also reached out to Russia, a nation that can hold a geopolitical balance in Northeast Asia, for beefing up bilateral military exchanges. At present, Japan is planning to send its helicopter carriers to drill with Russian war ships in the Sea of Japan.

More significantly, Japan has taken the initiative to beef up the ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations]

countries that have been bullied by China. Abe has offered generous military assistance to the Philippines and Vietnam. Maritime patrols ships have been given to the two nations at the forefront of confrontations with China’s aggressions in the South China Sea.

In Asia Pacific, the formerly pacifist Japan is looking more and more like a regional leader in building up a big alliance against the increasingly aggressive China, not only testing China’s military hubris, but also challenging America’s long-held defense alliance leadership that was weakened under recent American administrations.

As China’s rise continues, Asian nations are working themselves into one of three categories. In the first are countries sharing Japan’s view that the Chinese aggression can be countered and resisted; Japan and these other nations, such as South Korea and Taiwan, are building up their own defense forces to counter the threat. In the second category are countries preparing themselves to be allied with or dominated by China; among the countries in or edging toward this camp are Russia, North Korea and Mongolia. In the third group are nations such as the Philippines and Vietnam, which are attempting to walk the tightrope between the two sides. Bible prophecy indicates that, regardless of which category a given nation currently falls into, almost all will eventually be in the second group—joined together as a gargantuan power bloc with Russia and China at the helm. To understand more, read our free booklet [Russia and China in Prophecy](#).

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## Is Regime Change Nigh in North Korea?

A PROMINENT NORTH KOREAN DEFECTOR SAID WEDNESDAY that as more outside information ekes its way into the country, elites are growing increasingly dissatisfied with supreme leader Kim Jong-un. Thae Yong-ho worked as North Korea’s deputy ambassador to London until he defected to South Korea with his family in August. He is the most senior official to have fled North Korea and enter public life in South Korea in 20 years. On Wednesday, he held his first news conference with foreign media.

Reuters wrote about Thae’s assessment of the North:

“When Kim Jong-un first came to power, I was hopeful that he would make reasonable and rational decisions to save North Korea from poverty, but I soon fell into despair watching him [purging officials](#) for no proper reasons,” Thae said .... “Low-level dissent or criticism of the regime, until recently unthinkable, is becoming more frequent,” said Thae, who spoke in fluent, British-accented English.

“We have to spray gasoline on North Korea, and let the North Korean people set fire to it.”

Thae, 54, has said publicly that dissatisfaction with Kim Jong-un prompted him to flee his post. Prior to his defection, Thae had worked at the embassy for 10 years—an unusually lengthy period of time in such a high-profile

posting. Thae has said that more North Korean diplomats are waiting in Europe to defect to South Korea.

North Korea still outwardly professes to maintain a Soviet-style command economy, but for years a thriving network of informal markets and person-to-person trading has become the main source of food and money for ordinary people.

Fully embracing these reforms would end Kim Jong-un’s rule, Thae said.

Thae has previously said the Kim regime’s goal is to have its nuclear weapons completed by 2017’s end. He told BBC’s *Victoria Derbyshire Show* that he believes Kim “will press the button on these dangerous [nuclear] weapons” to destroy Los Angeles “when he thinks that his rule and his dynasty is threatened.” When asked if Kim would wage such an attack on America even knowing that the United States would retaliate with force that could decimate his nation, Thae replied, “Yes.”

North Korea is subject to United Nations sanctions due to its nuclear and missile programs. Under Kim Jong-un, the nation regularly promises to obliterate South Korea and its primary ally, America. But China has preserved the status quo of the North for more than two decades, supporting the Kim regime and hindering international efforts to end the leadership’s abuse and

suppression of the population. However, it is not certain that Chinese influence would be able to prevent an internal power struggle, such as the one Thae expects, from erupting in the North.

Were the North to collapse and be assimilated into China or South Korea, decades of heavy investment would be required to lift it to parity with its environs.

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## China Now 'Weaponizing' Space

WRITING FOR THE *DIPLOMAT* ON JANUARY 19, HARSH VASANI noted, "Many of China's space capabilities are designed to counter U.S. military advantages," which is alarming because "outer space will play a dominant role" in the "highly 'informatized' and technologically advanced battles that characterize the 21st century."

Vasani, a research scholar at the Department of Geopolitics and International Relations at Manipal University, wrote:

... China has been making impressive headway in its ICBM [intercontinental ballistic missile] program and, in theory, these ICBMs can target **U.S. intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) satellites**. ... A brief survey of recent tests by Beijing confirms that China is rapidly improving its counter space program and making advances in its antisatellite (ASAT) systems. ...

Beijing's recent space activities indicate that it is developing co-orbital antisatellite systems to target U.S. space assets. Co-orbital antisatellite systems consist of a satellite "armed with a weapon such as an explosive charge, fragmentation device, kinetic energy weapon, laser, radio frequency weapon, jammer or robotic arm." Besides the "hard-kill" methods, Beijing is also testing soft-kill methods to incapacitate enemy satellites. ...

The Chinese believe that the greatest threat to them comes from the United States. To counter the United States' conventional strength and gain strategic parity, Chinese strategists believe, Beijing will need to strike at the U.S. Achilles' heel—Washington's over-reliance on satellites for C4ISR [Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance]. Beijing plans to exploit the vulnerable space infrastructure of the United States in the case of a war. ...

The transformational war-fighting capabilities that U.S. military forces have developed since the end of the Cold War are largely enabled by "satellite support, and space-based ISR and communication connectivity would be especially important in the broad expanses of the Western Pacific theater." ...

According to some Chinese analysts, "the U.S. military relies upon space for 70-80 percent of its intelligence and 80 percent of its communication." Some Chinese writings also attribute an almost omnipotent quality to U.S. space-based ... ISR and conclude that the U.S. receives exquisite intelligence from these platforms.

According to Martin France and Richard Adams, however, "The [People's Liberation Army] PLA's development of ASAT weapons is ... driven ... by very practical considerations of regional security and influence, and the desire to conduct asymmetric warfare against a superior foe if conflict arises."

France and Adams believe that Beijing seeks to offset the dominance of U.S. conventional forces by exploiting their dependence on spaceborne information assets. China also hopes to guarantee the viability of its nuclear deterrent by holding the critical space-segment of American missile defense systems at risk. Finally, the Chinese space program also contributes to the PLA's anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) capabilities by providing critical C4ISR support to long-range precision strike weapons and providing the ability to threaten U.S. space-based assets.

In 2015, the U.S. announced that it would launch a Space War Center to counter Chinese and Russian threats in space. But 18 months on, those plans have apparently not materialized. Vasani says America "needs to do a lot more to ensure that space remains a sanctuary instead of turning into a battleground."

Back in 1999, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry referenced an Intelligence Digest report that said, "[T]he Gulf War showed what a critical role technology now plays in warfare. But the course of a battle would be very different if effective technology-sabotaging measures could be instituted against the superior force. ... Computer dependence is the Western world's Achilles' heel, and within a few years this weakness could be tested to the full." Though this 1999 article was mainly about the perils of a cyberattack on the U.S., much of its content could easily be applied to the U.S. military's reliance on satellite technology. The *Diplomat* makes clear that this is a glaring vulnerability that China and Russia are eager to target.

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## TW IN BRIEF

**Russia-U.S. détente not so near after all:** Russia's foreign minister said Wednesday that Moscow had "no illusions" that strained relations between Russia and the United States will rapidly improve under President Donald Trump. Russian officials previously celebrated Mr. Trump's election and voiced hopes of warmer ties between the two nations. But the foreign minister stressed that Russia does "not have any naive expectations." He said Moscow welcomes Mr. Trump's assurances that he wishes

to mend the tattered ties, but Russia believes it will not happen easily.

**Philippines and China economic cooperation:** China and the Philippines agreed to cooperate on projects worth an estimated \$3.7 billion dollars. Chinese state media reported on Tuesday that the projects were intended to improve "living standards" for citizens in both nations.



## The Mystery of the Two Trees

Gerald Flurry,

The Key of David | January 29

Immediately after creating the first man, God taught him about the two trees.



## Australia, New Zealand Look to China

### WE TALKED ABOUT THIS



THE FOURTH OF 12 EXECUTIVE ORDERS THAT UNITED STATES President Donald Trump signed this week put an end to America's involvement in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

This proposed trade pact between Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam would have undermined the sovereignty of its member states by allowing megacorporations to sue governments before arbitration panels composed of corporate lawyers.

Despite this fact, however, senior officials in Australia and New Zealand said on Tuesday that they hope to salvage the TPP by encouraging China to take America's place as a member state.

According to a [Newsweek](#) article published on Tuesday:

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said he had held discussions with [Japanese Prime Minister Shinzō] Abe, New Zealand Prime Minister Bill English and Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong overnight about the possibility of proceeding with the TPP without the United States.

"Losing the United States from the TPP is a big loss, there is no question about that," Turnbull told reporters in Canberra on Tuesday. "But we are not about to walk away ... certainly there is potential for China to join the TPP."

Obama had framed TPP without China in an effort to write

Asia's trade rules before Beijing could, establishing U.S. economic leadership in the region as part of his "pivot to Asia."

China has proposed a counter pact, the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP), and has championed the Southeast Asian-backed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

New Zealand's English said the United States was ceding influence to China and the region's focus could switch to alternative trade deals.

"We've got this RCEP agreement with Southeast Asia, which up until now has been on a bit of a slow burn, but we might find the political will for that to pick up if TPP isn't going to proceed," English said.

While President Trump is moving to protect American sovereignty from power blocs like China and the European Union, these power blocs are gearing up to fight back.

Basing his analysis on Bible prophecies concerning a great "mart of nations" in the end time, editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in the July 2016 issue of the *Trumpet*: "The United States and Britain are going to be left out in the cold as two gigantic trade blocs, Europe and Asia, mesh together and begin calling the shots in world commerce. These nations of Israel are going to be literally besieged—economically frozen out of world trade!"

## U.S. Cities Experience Rise in Murder

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP TOOK TO TWITTER on Tuesday evening to write, "If Chicago doesn't fix the horrible 'carnage' going on, 228 shootings in 2017 with 42 killings (up 24 percent from 2016), I will send in the Feds!"

On January 2, before his inauguration, he sent out a similar tweet: "Chicago murder rate is record setting—4,331 shooting victims with 762 murders in 2016. If mayor can't do it he must ask for federal help!"

It's still unclear exactly what President Trump is suggesting.

The ability of federal law enforcement to intervene in local affairs was deliberately limited by the framers of the U.S. Constitution. Yet some have suggested that the Trump administration could embed FBI agents with local police departments to help overburdened officers or even federalize the state National Guard until order is restored.

While the government hasn't yet released official 2016 crime statistics, data from individual police departments indicate that murder rates rose in most of the country's biggest cities in 2016.

According to a [FiveThirtyEight](#) report by Jeff Asher:

Using a combination of official police data and local media reports, I was able to collect murder counts through at least November 2016 for 73 of the 83 U.S. cities with populations above 250,000, and partial data for all but one of the rest. The counts are preliminary and could be subject to change before they are submitted to the FBI for inclusion in the Uniform Crime Report that will be published in September.

This year's rise appears slightly smaller than last year's dramatic increase. The big cities experienced roughly an 11.3 percent increase in murder in 2016, which is down from the same group's 14.8 percent increase from 2014 to 2015. Still, the figures suggest that big cities have seen murder rise by more than a quarter in just two years, likely the biggest two-year increase since 1989 to 1991. The issue has drawn national attention, with Donald Trump repeatedly

pointing to violence in cities as evidence of a breakdown in law and order under President Obama.

While crime rates nationwide have been trending downward overall since the early 1990s, at least part of this decline is due to the fact incarceration rates have more than quadrupled since the 1970s.

Over 2 million Americans are incarcerated in federal and state prisons and county jails, but that didn't stop 1,197,704 violent crimes from being committed in 2015. Sending federal police into America's cities may allow President Trump to put more criminals in prison, but it won't stop the production of those criminals.

The foundational bulwark of any stable society—the family, especially with a father at the helm—is under attack. As has been correctly observed, there is a direct correlation between the millions of crimes being committed and the quality of our nation's family life and child rearing. Until America's families turn to God's law, the crime wave will continue.

## TW IN BRIEF

**Supreme Court Brexit decision:** The United Kingdom's Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that the UK Parliament should be consulted before the government triggers Article 50 to leave the European Union. In what was seen as the most significant constitutional case in decades, the 11 justices decided that the prime minister couldn't use inherited prerogative powers to trigger Article 50 without consulting Parliament. Britain's Brexit secretary said that the government would introduce a straightforward bill to invoke Article 50 to Parliament within days. He said the government would ensure the bill could be passed in time for Article 50 to be triggered before the end of March.

**President Trump enacts immigration reform:** President Donald Trump issued two executive orders related to illegal immigration this week. The first was a directive for the secretary of homeland security to begin the process of building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. The second was a directive for the secretary of homeland security to begin deporting illegal immigrants with criminal convictions. The order also bans federal money from going to "sanctuary cities" that refuse to deport illegal immigrants. President Trump intends to hire 10,000 more immigration and customs enforcement officers.

**Australia Day protests:** Thousands of demonstrators took to the streets of Sydney on Wednesday to protest Australia Day. The protesters, calling the national holiday "Invasion Day," claim that Australians are celebrating genocide and that people should instead be mourning. The deputy prime minister told the protesters that they are "miserable" and should "crawl under a rock." A tightly packed crowd of thousands listened to a speech by Ken Canning, from the Indigenous Social Justice Association. The speaker told a cheering audience that "Australians have woken up" and now realize that Australia Day is a day of mourning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

**Doomsday Clock inches toward midnight:** The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists moved the Doomsday Clock 30 seconds forward on Thursday. This is the closest it has been to midnight since 1953, the year the United States decided to add the hydrogen bomb to its nuclear arsenal. Scientists cited the recent nuclear test by North Korea and heightened tensions between the U.S. and Russia as reasons for their decision to move the minute hand forward. The clock is currently at 11:57 p.m. The symbolic countdown clock was established in 1947 to calculate the danger to humanity posed by nuclear war.



### The Search for Truth

Stephen Flurry,  
Trumpet Daily | January 27

Why do people believe the things they do?

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