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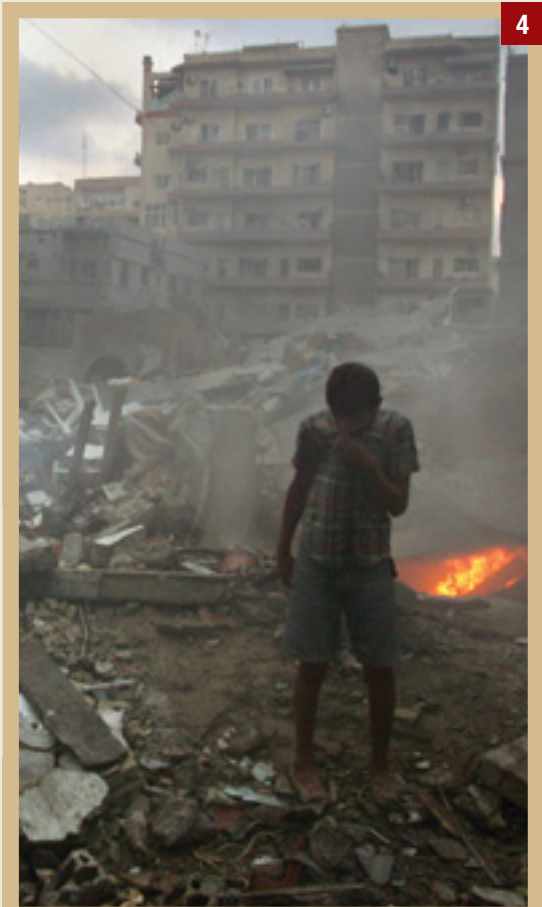
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COVER A Lebanese boy stands amid the destruction moments after Israeli air strikes in Tyre, Lebanon, July 26. Tyler Hicks/New York Times

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FROM THE EDITOR

Gerald Flurry

The Only Solution to the Mideast Crisis



ASSESSING DAMAGES

Men walk through a destroyed neighborhood in Beirut, Lebanon, the result of bombings from Israeli planes. The bombings are a retaliation against Hezbollah rocket attacks.

PRESIDENT BUSH TRIED TO GET THE WORLD'S MOST powerful leaders to sign a document condemning Iran (and its puppet Syria) for causing the current Middle East conflict. The whole world knows that Iran is the primary sponsor of Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza. But Russia, China and other nations said there was *no evidence* to support such a view!

There is years and years of mounting evidence that Iran sponsors these terrorist organizations and that it is the number-one nation sponsoring terrorism today.

The evidence that Iran is *causing* this crisis is overwhelming. To say there is no evidence supporting this view is laughable—if the fate of the world weren't at stake!

"The situation took a sharp turn when Tehran and Damascus made the decision to enter the fray" (Stratfor, July 12). This intelligence organization and most of the other objective ones clearly see who is behind Hamas and Hezbollah.

If we are going to solve the Middle East problem, we must start by facing *reality*.

The people in Israel need to know who their enemies are. The only friends they have at present are their fellow terrorist fighters, America and the British peoples.

We need to understand why this is so.

President Bush has been aggressive but he is also having trouble facing reality in some areas. Stratfor says, "Washington also does not want Israeli actions to jeopardize its negotiations with Tehran over Iraq while the political process is at its breaking point." America doesn't want to "jeopardize its negotiations with Tehran over Iraq." How pathetic. Those *negotiations* are the same kind Prime Minister Chamberlain of Britain had with Hitler in the 1930s just before World War II exploded!

America lacks the *will* to confront Iran, the head of the terrorist-sponsoring snake—just as Chamberlain lacked the will to confront Hitler. It takes more than *negotiations* or words to stop a Hitler or an Ahmadinejad, Iran's leader.

YOU CAN'T NEGOTIATE WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE TRYING TO KILL YOU. You either destroy them or they will eventually destroy you.

Prime Minister Chamberlain thought that his surrendering land and people to Hitler would bring “peace with honor.” It did just the opposite: The world exploded in war, Britain lost its honor, and the West came dangerously close to losing that war.

We never learn the important lessons from history. Mankind refuses to be taught. We keep making the same mistakes over and over. Even the brutal violence and wars of history teach us for only a short span of time.

We are seeing the little nation called Israel show a dangerous lack of will with the Hezbollah terrorists in Lebanon.

July 24, Israel’s public security minister, Avi Dichter, said his country does *not want to destroy Hezbollah*, but just to prevent its attacks. Israel’s air offensive and limited ground assault is aimed only at stopping the rocket attacks in the short term and buying Israel a bit of time.

The Jews have a *broken will*. America and Britain have the same prophesied disease (Leviticus 26:19). The cause is our “immoral and decadent” way of life, as the terrorists keep telling us. And in this area they are right!

So don’t be surprised if the Jews show a lack of will and fail to remove the Hezbollah terrorists. That will mean victory for the terrorists and Iran.

The terrorist-fighting nations lack the will to *win* the war.

Here are two statements that illustrate the difference between the radical Islamists and the Middle East Jews (emphasis mine throughout).

After the PA’s parliament approved the Hamas government on March 28, a Palestinian Authority legislator said, “The Koran is our constitution, Mohammed is our prophet, *jihad* is our path and dying as martyrs for the sake of Allah is our biggest wish!”

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert stated in June 2005, to the Israel Policy Forum in New York, “*We are tired of fighting, we are tired of being courageous, WE ARE TIRED OF WINNING, WE ARE TIRED OF DEFEATING OUR ENEMIES.*”

That translates into “we are too tired and weak to survive as a nation”!

Abundant evidence is stacking up to show Israel’s policy of concessions and retreat has made its enemies that much bolder and more capable. Sadly, that policy is unlikely to change.

Michael Freund, formerly a deputy director in the prime minister’s office under Benjamin Netanyahu, stated plainly: “The audacity of the terrorists, and their willingness to attack Israeli forces head-on, is a *direct result* of the weakness that has characterized Israeli policy in recent years.”

Freund explained: “In May 2000, Israel pulled out of Lebanon like a thief in the night, and in August 2005, Israel fled Gaza in broad daylight. Preferring to buy short-term quiet at the expense of long-term strategic interests, Israel ended up paying a heavy price. These actions effectively put terrorists on notice that violence works, and that they have little to lose,



Unleashing Hezbollah was an Iranian act of war. Tehran has made clear its intentions to eliminate Israel and secure Jerusalem.

and much to gain, by continuing to attack the Jewish state. ...

“[W]HATEVER HAPPENS, LET ONE THING FINALLY BE CLEAR: IN THE LONG RUN, THE WAGES OF WEAKNESS ARE FAR MORE COSTLY THAN THE PRICE OF STANDING FIRM.”

The Jews lack the *will* to win. The radical Arabs see this dangerous weakness and are brimming with the will to win!

Like sharks that smell blood in the water, they are moving in for the kill.

On Sept. 2, 2004, the United Nations issued a resolution to disarm Hezbollah. But the UN is too weak or doesn’t want to enforce it. Instead it consistently attacks the Jewish *victim!* What a hopeless and evil organization.

UNLEASHING HEZBOLLAH WAS AN IRANIAN ACT OF WAR. But Israel and America lack the will to act accordingly.

Tehran has made clear its intentions to eliminate Israel and secure Jerusalem. At some point, one can be sure that the terrorists will open a third front on Jerusalem itself.

Bible prophecy reveals that one half of Jerusalem is about to fall to the Islamists—that half already inhabited by Arabs



(Zechariah 14:2-3). That could easily happen this year. The mind-dazzling solution lies in the last part of that prophecy.

Years ago, the *U.S. News & World Report* said the world needs “a strong hand from someplace” to save us. That strong hand is about to appear, but not before this world has suffered as never before.

Many in this world are losing hope. But there is infinite hope if we only know where to look. Bill O’Reilly of Fox News said, “I don’t see a way out” of the Middle East crisis—a hopeless scenario. He and other commentators like Newt Gingrich believe we are already in World War III. They see Iran *pushing* the Middle East and the world toward a nuclear war.

They are right, but there is much more to the equation than they see. (Request our booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*. All of our literature is free.)

Here is what Newt Gingrich said on *Meet the Press*, July 16: “I’m saying the first step has to be to understand, this is an alliance—Syria, Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas—and you can’t deal with it in isolation.” That is precisely right. But almost none of our authorities see it that way. They see isolated problems and refuse to see this dangerous alliance. And this problem will never be solved until we deal with the alliance!

Mr. Gingrich also said, “[T]his is absolutely A QUESTION OF

THE SURVIVAL OF ISRAEL, but it’s also a question of what is really a world war. Look what you’ve been covering: North Korea firing missiles. We say there’ll be consequences, there are none. The North Koreans fire seven missiles on our Fourth of July; bombs going off in Mumbai, India; a war in Afghanistan with sanctuaries in Pakistan. As I said a minute ago, the Iran-Syria-Hamas-Hezbollah alliance. A war in Iraq funded largely from Saudi Arabia and supplied largely from Syria and Iran. The British home secretary saying that there are 20 terrorist groups with 1,200 terrorists in Britain. Seven people in Miami videotaped pledging allegiance to al Qaeda, and 18 people in Canada being picked up with twice the explosives that were used in Oklahoma City, with an explicit threat to bomb the Canadian parliament, and saying they’d like to behead the Canadian prime minister. And finally, in New York City, reports that in three different countries people were plotting to destroy the tunnels of New York.

“I mean, we are in the early stages of what I would describe as the Third World War, and frankly, our bureaucracies aren’t responding fast enough, we don’t have the right attitude about this, AND THIS IS THE 58TH YEAR OF THE WAR TO DESTROY ISRAEL. And frankly, the Israelis have every right to insist that every single missile leave south Lebanon and that the United States ought to be helping the Lebanese government have the strength to eliminate Hezbollah as a military force, not as a political force in the parliament, but as a military force in south Lebanon.

Tim Russert then asked, “This is World War III?”

Gingrich responded, “I believe if you take all the countries I just listed, that you’ve been covering, put them on a map, look at all the different connectivity, you’d have to say to yourself this is, in fact, World War III.”

Now add to that bad news this alarming reality: Russia and China are very cozy with the terrorist-sponsoring nations. That means they are not friends with those nations fighting terrorism.

However, our leaders in America, Britain and the State of Israel don’t know what this means. We are entering into what the Bible calls the *times of the Gentiles* (Luke 21:20-24).

Christianity doesn’t know that the little nation called *Israel* is really biblical *Judah* (“Jew” is a shortened version of “Judah,” which was only one of the 12 tribes of Israel anciently). These prophecies are also aimed mainly at America and the British peoples, which are also a part of biblical Israel. (Request a copy of our book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

The past few hundred years have been the *times of biblical Israel*. Now we are plunging into the *times of the Gentiles*. That means the Gentiles will be the powerful, conquering nations, and people will suffer more than any time in man’s history.

The *irony* of the Middle East crisis is that Iran—the king of terror—is going to be conquered by a far greater power rising in Europe. We have been prophesying of this event for over 50 years. (You can read about this in our booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.) That European power is going to clash with the “strong hand from someplace”—and lose.

Human warfare is about to end forever. Peace, joy and abundance is going to fill this Earth very soon—probably in less than a decade! ■

The *Trumpet* is keeping a keen eye on the unfolding crisis in the Middle East. For the latest-breaking news and analysis, visit theTrumpet.com

IS THIS WORLD WAR III?

Five reasons the battle between Israel and Hezbollah is more serious than you may realize BY JOEL HILLIKER

WHAT MAKES THIS CONFLICT SO IMPORTANT? ON ONE SIDE is a tiny nation—slightly smaller in size and populace than little El Salvador in Central America. On the other, a small terrorist organization that controls about one fourth of a country only half as big. Considering the wars going on in Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Congo and two dozen other nations worldwide, why is the world's attention so riveted on Israel and Lebanon? Certainly it could seem like exaggeration to speak in terms of “world war.”

But this conflict *is* so important, for many reasons—not least of which is *the soil on which it is being fought*.

The battleground currently soaking up the blood of Israelis, Arabs and Persians was not only the cradle of civilization, the backdrop of the beginning of the age of man—it is also the primary setting and focal point for the unfolding drama of end-time Bible prophecy.

In at least five specific ways, this war has lurched our planet much closer to the fulfillment of those prophecies—*prophecies that will relentlessly escalate into unparalleled WORLD WAR*.

IRAN STARTED A WAR.

The decision to ignite a war on July 12 was calculated. That day, unannounced and unprovoked, Hezbollah began Operation Truthful Promise—raiding Israel, abducting two soldiers and killing others, and shelling Israel from behind the Lebanese border.

In the days that followed—as Israel retaliated and encountered well-fortified Hezbollah bunkers in southern Lebanon, together with vast stashes of advanced weaponry, and continued to suffer unrelenting rocket attacks including those on Haifa, its third-largest city—the fact quickly became apparent that Hezbollah had been preparing for this war for years.

But this terrorist group had plenty of help—most notably from the Islamist nation within which lie its spiritual



GETTY IMAGES

and vowed to ‘use any means’ to ‘resist any pressure and threats’ designed to curb Iran’s nuclear program. The rhetoric was not empty” (*Spectator*, July 22). Just when world powers threatened to send Iran to the UN Security Council for failing to respond to their request for it to resume negotiations over its nuclear program, Hezbollah attacked Israel.

The timing of the war was orchestrated by Iran, with Syria’s assistance, and executed with precision. Together they decided what type of war to fight and when to start it. As a result, Israel is now battling what intelligence firm Stratfor says could be “the most resilient and well-motivated opposition force in its history.”

Clearly, this is more than a battle with just a terrorist group—though Israel has fought as though it is. *This is a war with the Middle East’s most formidable nation.*

For 12 years the *Trumpet* has pointed to Iran fulfilling the role prophesied by the Prophet Daniel of “the king of the south,” which would put it at the forefront of hostilities to emerge from the Middle East—directed first at Israel and, eventually, at other global powers—in these times; the current war flawlessly fits that mold. (We recommend you request a free copy of our booklet *The King of the South* for a scriptural explanation of that prophecy.)

There are reports that the number of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps troops in Lebanon increased after the war began, and that Iranians are involved in firing missiles into Israel.

The missile that hit an Israeli Navy missile boat off the coast of Lebanon on July 14, killing four Israelis, was *directly operated by Iranians* (*New York Sun*, July 19). “This was a direct message to the Israelis that we are fighting the Iranians here,” an Arab diplomatic source said. A report published by an Israel-based research group, the Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, confirmed that Iran’s Revolutionary Guard based in Lebanon “provides military guidance and support for terrorist attacks against Israel.”

There is no doubt that, with Iran’s guidance and support, Hezbollah will aim to make Israel’s offensive into Lebanon as costly as possible—inflicting substantial Israeli casualties, even digging in for a long-term Iraq-style insurgency. This technique has proven to test even the mighty U.S. military to its limits.

roots: *Iran*. The Islamic Republic has nurtured and funded this terrorist group from its beginning. Hezbollah’s foundational document identifies the Ayatollah Khomeini, who led the Iranian Revolution in 1979, as the group’s “commanding jurist,” whose orders it must obey. Along with Syria, Iran has supplied the ideological motivation, the finance, the training, the armaments and the logistical support that make Hezbollah the effective terrorist force it is.

Western intelligence sources say Iran has been readying Hezbollah for some time to start a war with Israel. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, an Iranian military organization, regularly sent teams to southern Lebanon to train Hezbollah, holding exercises on weapons usage and terrorist tactics; it also helped prepare rocket and missile

arsenals in the Bekaa Valley and Syria at least for most of 2006. Evidently as preparation for the current offensive, intelligence sources report that Hezbollah received a major weapons consignment from Iran this March. The shipment, which reportedly contained 12,000 Katyusha rockets as well as other types of missiles, was airlifted to Syria and then transported in a military convoy to Hezbollah’s bases in southern Lebanon. July 11, the day before the war began, a summit in Damascus was attended by a top Hezbollah official, the head of Syrian military intelligence and the Iranian national security adviser, among others.

“At the same time as the missile consignment was heading to Lebanon, an unnamed senior Iranian official said that his country would inflict ‘harm and pain’ on the United States and its allies,

IRAN IS USING THIS WAR TO RALLY THE MUSLIM WORLD.

Iran and Hezbollah have already won a psychological victory simply by taking Israel on. In the Islamic world, stories of killing and kidnapping Israeli soldiers, of launching rockets into Israeli towns, are making heroes of Hezbollah terrorists. The image of Israel's military might has been weakened. Hezbollah has gained credibility. Radical Islam is resurging. Israel's offensive is not intimidating these Islamic peoples. Quite the contrary, it is *galvanizing* them.

Even though the ruling regimes of some Arab countries—like Saudi Arabia and Egypt—are less than thrilled with the growing clout of the Iran-Syria-Hezbollah axis for the threat a dominant Iran poses to them, the *populations* of those countries are largely rallying behind Hezbollah. This presents these Arab states with another problem: The Hamas-Hezbollah assault on Israel has the potential to embolden radical Islamists in these countries—even to the point of ousting their secularist, authoritarian governments.

With protests against Israel breaking out in cities across the Arab world—in Egypt, Jordan, Yemen—the situation for Arab regimes has become more tenuous, and Iran's sway more pronounced. Arab states cannot afford to be seen to defend Israel, and yet allowing the demonstrations to escalate poses a political risk. “Iran is going to aggressively promote these demonstrations in an effort to force the Arab regimes to the edge; those governments will have to struggle with allowing protesters to vent their anger while keeping a check on Iran's rise in the region and keeping the Israelis at bay” (Stratfor, July 21).

Large swathes of the Islamic world *rejoice* in Hezbollah's actions and efforts. Hundreds of thousands of Muslims around the world are growing *excited* and *motivated* by this war. There is a growing sense of empowerment among Muslims. “A new reality is in the air,” wrote Douglas Davis for the *Spectator*. “Hezbollah's attack last week represents the opening salvo in Iran's war against the West—and anyone else who stands in its way” (July 22).

This war is not merely about territory or riches—it is a religious and ideological war that knows no boundaries. The passions fueling the war are finding lodgment in the minds of Muslims across the

globe. That being the case, we are likely to witness spillover effects. When you consider the massive global reach of the billion-strong Muslim community, and the significant percentage who are sympathizing with the cause of the jihadists in southern Lebanon, the idea of this conflict presaging a *world war* becomes more plausible. How long before this radical Islamic mindset explodes into violence in Berlin, Paris, London or Washington?

And remember, their mode of waging war means it would only take a die-hard few to wipe out many hundreds, or thousands, or hundreds of thousands. Even handfuls of devoted Islamic suicide bombers could inflict greater devastation than legions of Western soldiers under orders from weak-willed civilian leaders.

NOBODY IN THE WORLD WILL STAND UP TO IRAN.

The fact that Iran *started* this war is monumental—it marks a historical, watershed moment. But even more shocking is the fact that it is *getting away with it*.

The U.S. and Israel have both issued some fairly stern words toward Iran for its role in the current conflict. But that is as far as they will go. Iran cannily used Hezbollah as a front group to launch this war, which offers the rest of the world the option of pretending it didn't do it. Apparently the world is taking that option.

Why? The biggest reason is the possible escalation into *world war*.

It isn't only those in the Islamic world taking Iran's side lately. Russia and China have both proven themselves loyal allies as well. In addition to using their power in the G-8 and UN Security Council to blunt international criticism toward Iran and Syria, Russia and China also lend practical, material support to these countries, by way of armaments. The missile fired from Lebanon that killed four Israeli seamen, for example, was a radar-guided c-802 missile that Iran had acquired from China. Russia has well-established military and economic ties with both countries. It supplies arms to Syria and is building a nuclear reactor in Iran. Russia also has friendly relations with Hamas and Hezbollah, not recognizing either of them as a terrorist organization.

It matters not that Russia and China are communist countries; they share a common goal with Islam: to knock the United States—along with its Western allies—off its superpower perch. The driving ambition of all these anti-Western countries is to reorder the global balance

of power, and first on the agenda is to bring down America. As both Russia and China grow in clout on the world scene, the significance of their support of these Islamic nations and groups will grow.

Thus, picking a fight with Iran could quickly provoke a major global clash.

There is another reason the U.S. is so careful not to act too tough with Iran: It frankly depends on Iran at this point to help prevent Iraq from blowing up into an even deadlier situation. As the *Trumpet* has repeatedly reported, through the back channels the U.S. has secured Iran's assistance in keeping a lid on the Iraqi Shiites, over whom it has considerable influence through leaders such as Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani and Muqtada al-Sadr.

A sign of just how far the U.S. is from actually punishing Iran came on July 18, when White House spokesman Tony Snow stated Iran and Syria need to be “using their influence to get Hezbollah to stop firing rockets and return the [Israeli] soldiers.” Not only was this an explicit acknowledgment that Iran is a decisive factor in the Middle East crisis, it amounts to a plea for Iran to get more involved. Stratfor wrote that this request fell in line with Iran's strategy—“gaining entry into a dispute involving Israel in order to enhance its credentials as a leader of the Muslims in the Middle East. ... The Hezbollah-generated crisis gives the Iranians the opportunity to do this, and they are hoping they will be able use their influence in Syria and Lebanon to help defuse the situation and thus consolidate their position as a player in the region” (July 18). Hence, the U.S. (and Israel) would actually find itself *indebted to Iran*, creating a situation not unlike that involving Iraq.

Think about this situation! For months, even years, Iran has been calling the world's bluff—openly sponsoring terrorism, inflaming Islamist radicalism, defying international pressure to give up its nuclear program. The world has been completely ineffective at putting a stop to these activities. (See last month's *Trumpet* cover story, “Shrugging at Evil.”) *Now Iran has started a war*—and STILL, *no nation in the whole wide world* is showing itself willing to STOP IT!

Any objective observer must acknowledge that Iran is making admirable progress toward its goal of cementing its position as the most dominant nation in the Middle East. Any observer with understanding of biblical prophecy should wonder at the rapidity of the unchecked rise of this crucial end-time power.

THE UNITED STATES IS BECOMING A FRINGE POWER.

The United States is Israel's strongest and staunchest ally. But with its resources tied up so heavily in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is reluctant to invest too heavily in a third conflict. The Israel situation is simply the latest in a series of serious threats—including, very prominently, those involving Iran and North Korea—where the U.S. is passing its responsibilities on to other parties as much as it possibly can. (See "How to Lose a War," page 8).

This too is a monumental prophetic development. The waning of American influence, and consequent rise in that of other powers, is perhaps the most comprehensively prophesied of all trends for our day.

America is among several Western nations that have asked *Germany* to step in and help with the situation. According to Germany's weekly newsmagazine *Spiegel*, U.S. President George Bush, on a July visit to Germany, asked German Chancellor Angela Merkel to speak with Israel. She and the German foreign minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, accepted the offer and went on to speak not only with the Israeli prime minister, but also with several neighboring Arab countries as well.

The *Trumpet* has forecast that eventually the U.S. will lose its credentials as a mediator in the Middle East and the Jews will feel compelled to request assistance from Germany. That the U.S. is seeking to offload some of the accountability for the situation, and that Germany appears so anxious to beef up its status as a peace broker, are interesting developments—both of which have enormous potential to grow more pronounced as the present crisis grinds on.

ISRAEL IS LOOKING ELSEWHERE FOR HELP.

Though Israel is certainly the strongest military power in the region, this crisis could easily escalate beyond its control. One of the most important things to watch for is clues as to *whom the Jewish state will turn to for help*. It is already demonstrating a certain acknowledgement of Washington's limited helpfulness and of the need to seek other options.

July 23, for the first time in its history, Israel announced it would consider the presence of an international military force in order to shore up its security. After the Israeli prime minister

met with Foreign Minister Steinmeier, he announced that, in the words of the *Jerusalem Post*, "Israel would consider deployment of an *EU-manned international force* in Lebanon ..." (July 23; emphasis mine throughout). The Israeli defense minister, after speaking with Steinmeier, said Israel would welcome NATO—almost all of whose members are from Europe—to do the job. He called for "the deployment in the south [of Lebanon] of a multinational force with broad authority." According to the *Post*, Germany is being considered as a major source of troops for the force.

Michael Oren, an Israeli historian and a senior fellow at a Jerusalem research organization called the Shalem Center, responded: "In a way, we're playing an old Palestine Liberation Organization game, to precipitate regional instability and then try to bring in international intervention. *We fought against it in the past, but Israel now realizes it can't do things alone*. And Israel feels here it has a friend in America and some *greater understanding in Europe*" (*New York Times*, July 23).

Germany is primed to play a central role in peace negotiations between Israel and Lebanon. Reports also show a growing sense of responsibility toward the crisis among Germany's European counterparts. Recently, EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana "called on [EU] member states to be prepared to participate in operations in the Middle East" (EUpolitix.com, July 17).

The United Nations has proven itself an utter failure at solving such crises. Its resolution two years ago demanding that Hezbollah disarm accomplished nothing. There is broad skepticism within Israel and in Europe over any possibility of the long-term success of a UN peacekeeping mission in the area.

Instead, we can expect that—perhaps not immediately, but at some point—it will be the "peacekeeping" forces of a German-led European army that will be called upon to really deal with the crises being precipitated by Iran and its Islamic henchmen. The fact that Germany and the rest of Europe are taking a special interest in the present war reveals the beginning stages of a trend we should expect to intensify.

The *Trumpet* has long forecast that eventually the Jews will feel compelled to request assistance from Germany. This biblically prophesied event is of enormous significance, because it promises to be the undoing of the Jewish state, as it is treach-

erously double-crossed by its old nemesis. It is vital that readers continue to watch this situation for ongoing developments.

Is This World War III?

As we go to press, the short-term outcome of this war lies shrouded in the plumes of smoke rising from Hezbollah rocket attacks and Israeli air strikes. Perhaps the heat of war will once again recede into the more tolerable, grinding daily conflict that region has suffered from for the past six years. Perhaps.

But the underlying realities that sparked this war, and the prophetically significant trends this war has aggravated and laid bare before our scrutiny, will not go away. This world, having lurched measurably closer to the fulfillment of the Bible's prophecies of end-time events, cannot now lurch backward. Iran's power will not wane. Islamist fervor within the Middle East and worldwide will not be tamed. The world will not suddenly find the will to crush Iran's ambitions. The United States will not emerge anew as a strong international peacekeeping or military partner. The Jews will not suddenly decide they no longer need Europe's help.

All of the current trends will only intensify. And as they do, they will thrust the world even closer to World War III.

The Israel-Hezbollah conflict is just one battle in a much larger, global war. It is a broad and building war between two massive, loose alliances. On one side are Israel, America, Britain and other Western states. On the other are Hezbollah, Syria, Iran, Russia, China and other anti-American, anti-Western states. This second group is getting bolder all the time. In the middle is a German-dominated European Union seeking to play mediator—in order to boost its own aspirations for world power status.

God prophesies that the violence in Lebanon today will soon *explode* to engulf many nations! "For the violence of Lebanon shall cover thee, and the spoil of beasts, which made them afraid, because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein" (Habakkuk 2:17). Other prophecies show that this warfare will go beyond rockets and air strikes—and will include *nuclear warfare*. *Everyone on Earth* will become swept up in the conflagration.

Watch these trends as they point toward that future—and put your trust in the true God who GIVES YOU A WARNING through those prophecies, who alone can protect you as they come to pass. ■

HOW TO LOSE A WAR

The mightiest military in history is making itself vulnerable to annihilation. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

ANYONE WHO WOULD criticize the United States for having too much power should be quite pleased with the way world affairs are developing.

If America ever thought it could foster the blossoming of an age of peace-loving democracies worldwide, it must now adjust to a quite different reality. If it ever thought itself strong enough to maintain the status quo, being the world's only superpower, that notion is rapidly fading.

Menacing threats to world peace are gathering like dark, hungry wolves. War in Israel. Hamas and Hezbollah on the attack. Iran gunning for nuclear weapons and threatening world war. Islamic radicalism spreading throughout the Middle East—and Britain, and Western Europe, and Central Europe, and Canada, and Southeast Asia and elsewhere. North Korea launching missiles apparently capable of hitting America. Russia and China defying the West, working aggressively to restore their imperial greatness.

These are towering threats. Yet in every case, although expending significant

sums and infinite energy in working with these problems, U.S. efforts seem doomed to fail.

The United States simply lacks a foreign policy with a bite. Just watch the news and you can see it. Suddenly everything is about *multilateralism*—turning the world's worst problems over to feeble international bodies and ad hoc groups of nations with competing interests—“solutions” that have been proven time and again to NEVER work. The U.S. is hardly acting like the swaggering superpower critics routinely accuse it of being.

Why?

The simple answer comes down to two words: Afghanistan, Iraq.

America has become entangled in impossible projects in both countries. Armed forces are stretched thin trying to serve not only as warriors but also as policemen and social workers. Dollars that in previous generations would have gone toward leveling the enemy's cities and breaking the enemy's will are being funneled into a host of other chores intended to show how nice and unselfish and non-imperialistic the U.S. truly is.



MORE THAN WAR

The mission in Iraq has extended far beyond that of a typical war. Soldiers are being used not only to fight the enemy, but also to give humanitarian aid to Iraqis.

Making these impossible situations even uglier is a relentless media assault aimed at convincing people—both in America and abroad—that the current U.S. administration is not nice, but is, in fact, selfish and imperialistic. Add to this a president with plummeting approval ratings and a legislature heading into elections this fall—always a good time for politicians to loudly criticize pretty much everything.

The upshot is, the road to peace that was meant to go through Baghdad actually goes no place. Afghanistan and Iraq are dead-ends. The U.S. cannot realistically mount an attack of any magnitude anywhere else.

America's enemies know this.

Hence, the gathering threats. Wolves know an opportunity when they smell it.

Not for a *long time* have the limits of America's capabilities been so evident—



AP/WIDEWORLD

nor the confidence of America's enemies so strong.

WE ARE WITNESSING AN EPOCH-MAKING MOMENT: THE CLEAR DECLINE OF THE MIGHTIEST MILITARY IN HISTORY. This convergence of circumstances is developing into one from which *America will not recover*.

Again, staunch critics of America's superpowerdom consider this good news. But it is not. It is painfully shocking and sad news—and not only for Americans.

Time will prove that the era of Pax Americana—the relative stability of the past half-century while America has been a benevolent superpower, a stability that is rapidly eroding as the U.S. becomes overwhelmed—is about to give way to a world of nightmares.

How could this happen? We can point to specific causes that make the tragedy of what is happening—and what is about

to happen—all the more heartbreaking.

A Failed War

The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, drawing the U.S. into a full-throttle war. That war ended three years and eight months later when America dropped atomic bombs on two Japanese cities, instantly breaking Japan's will to fight and forcing its surrender.

By contrast, though 9/11 occurred almost *five years* ago, the war it provoked is far from being over. Actually, by several measures the problems that gave birth to that event are much *worse* today. There are several reasons for this.

Consider, to begin, the very definition of the war America is prosecuting. Entrapped in political correctness and thus uncomfortable with any unfavorable portrayals of Islam, America's leaders have defined it as a "war on terror."

This is confusing. *Terror* is not an enemy, but a tactic. Failing to clearly identify *Islamist extremism* and its *chief sponsor nations* as the enemy is like defining World War II as a "war on blitzkrieg" so as not to directly implicate Germany.

Characterizations of the "terrorist threat" as vague, shadowy, elusive and ubiquitous are also misleading. The threat emanates predominantly from a few nations, one in particular: *Iran*. Just as the collapse of the USSR overnight reduced the communist threat, ending *state support* of Islamist terrorism would all but *end terrorism*.

Trouble is, Iran has allies: most notably, Russia and China. Afghanistan was friendless and powerless—so the U.S. selected it (or, more accurately, the Taliban) as the first target in the "war on terror." In terms of contributing to global terrorism, the Taliban was small

potatoes compared to Iran, but this is the trouble one runs into after failing to properly define the enemy.

America's subsequent attack on Iraq (or, more accurately, Saddam Hussein) was even more problematic, because it eliminated the single greatest check on Iran, virtually guaranteeing the ascendancy of the Islamic Republic.

Perhaps the present U.S. administration viewed Afghanistan and Iraq as tools to frighten Iran into submission, or to provoke a popular uprising against its radical leaders. Obviously, neither of these has happened.

As a result of this confusion in defining the enemy, in five years *the U.S. effectively has done NOTHING to target Iran or degrade its support of terrorism.* Though Iran is a far less fearsome enemy than Japan was in World War II, *five years* of "war on terror" have actually left it stronger. Its president is pushing to build nuclear weapons and threatening to wipe Israel off the map. Iranian agents fuel an insurgency in Iraq that kills American soldiers. Right now, Iran is directing, funding, arming and personally assisting in the Hamas and Hezbollah attacks that have transformed Israel and Lebanon into what looks to be the first battleground of World War III.

But the U.S. has done worse than merely *not attack* Iran: It has actually *pursued dialogue* with Iran, soliciting its help in bringing the bog in Iraq under control by reining in the Shiites. In order to tidy up its business in Iraq—its primary theater in the "war on terror"—the "superpower" United States is **REQUESTING AID** from *the world's top state sponsor of terror!*

This is the unbelievable situation, five years into the "war on terror."

On top of that, democratic elections in the region—encouraged by the U.S.—have strengthened Islamists' political portfolios in Egypt and installed Islamists into the highest offices in the Palestinian territories. Meanwhile, the troubles in Afghanistan refuse to go away (see page 14), and Iraq appears destined to end up with a government that will eventually ally with Iran.

In other words, the "war on terror" is *not* reducing the threat of terror against America.

How could this be? How can the deluge of dollars, steel, sweat, tears and blood America has dedicated to this cause—not to mention the lives of over 2,800 of its soldiers—fall so far short?

A Spiritual Problem

It is important here to state plainly the *Trumpet's* intention in exposing this problem.

After World War II, Gen. Douglas MacArthur bemoaned both the tragic failure of all efforts to create peace through diplomacy as well as the sheer destructiveness of war. There was a fundamental problem with man, he said. *"The problem basically is theological and involves a spiritual recrudescence, an improvement of human character that will synchronize with our almost matchless advances in science, art, literature and all material and cultural developments of the past two thousand years. It must be of the spirit if we are to save the flesh"* (emphasis mine). MacArthur's conclusion rings even truer today.

In speaking of the problems facing

The Western mind has become deeply ambivalent about evil. Even words like evil and enemy are considered simplistic and backward.

the U.S. and other nations, the *Trumpet* bases its analyses on biblical principles and prophecies. Our purpose is not to advocate physical or military solutions, because, as MacArthur said, *the basic problem is spiritual.*

Consider. To the ancient nation of Israel, God promised manifold blessings for obedience to His laws. Among these was the promise of security through supernatural protection: "And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid ... neither shall the sword go through your land. And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword" (Leviticus 26:6-8). Clearly the U.S. is not receiving this blessing today.

The counterpart to the promised blessing of victory over enemies is God's warning about terrifying *curses* for disobedience. The idea of being under a

curse may seem ancient and superstitious in this modern, scientific age. But if you believe the Bible, you know that curses are real—even *today*. To rebellious Israel and its descendants (which include the United States), God warns, "And I WILL BREAK THE PRIDE OF YOUR POWER ... AND YOUR STRENGTH SHALL BE SPENT IN VAIN ..." (Leviticus 26:19-20).

Consider the staggering implications of these scriptures.

They imply that these modern nations would **HAVE POWER**, and **PRIDE** in that power—they would have **MILITARY STRENGTH**. This fact is corroborated by other prophecies about the modern descendants of Israel (e.g. Genesis 24:60; 49:22-26; Micah 5:7-9). But—because of these nations' disobedience—God would **BREAK** that pride, and thus—as a curse—all that power would be *wasted, squandered!*

Is America now under this curse?

Absolutely. There could be no more perfect description of the U.S. today—still far and away the greatest military power on Earth—than to say that *the pride in its power has been broken*, and that it *spends its strength in vain*.

American officials defend hopelessly ineffective policy and call it "moral" use of power, or "just war," intended to show how ethical, decent and principled war should be. In the end, however, this methodology makes America a triple loser: 1) true victory is *impossible* to achieve; 2) liberal elements of Western society are *never* satisfied that the war is altruistic *enough*; and 3) enemies view *all* such efforts as *weakness*—all the more cause to press on toward ultimate victory. The harder the U.S. works to implement a "just war" doctrine, the deeper the hole it digs for itself.

Put in biblical terms, **THE U.S. IS SPENDING ITS STRENGTH IN VAIN.**

We must be able to identify the spiritual reality underpinning current events. We must be able to recognize a *curse* when we see it.

What Is an Enemy?

The United States has many enemies—enemies which, left unchallenged, would quickly cripple its ability to protect itself against them.

The problem is, Americans are loath to call anyone an "enemy." As the generations since World War II have become more privileged and self-absorbed, formerly black-and-white morality has been replaced by a world of grays, of relativism,

where even the most depraved behavior can be explained and excused. *The Western mind has become deeply ambivalent about evil.* Even words like *evil* and *enemy* are considered simplistic and backward.

In our world, a father whose son, Nick Berg, was barbarically beheaded by radical Islamists does not blame the radical Islamists—he blames George W. Bush. *There must be a reason they did this to my son, he thinks, and that reason must be my government.* This has become a pillar liberal doctrine—that the perpetrators of evil acts are not responsible because they are actually victims of a far greater evil: Western ideals (which, it is believed, are fully embodied in the person of the current U.S. president). This ridiculous moral reasoning saturates Western liberals, who see Western guilt in every act of non-Western barbarity. It extends forgiveness without requiring repentance and evident *forsaking* of the sin—a “get out of jail free” card that the Islamists are all too happy to take full advantage of, while they press forward with their war plan.

While America’s present administration has not gone so far as to blame itself for Islamist beheadings, it has a proven tendency to become infected with the moral haziness of that perverted thinking.

As foreign as the concept of “enemy” has become to Americans, however, it is crystal clear to radical Islamists. They view every non-Muslim—even every *insufficiently radical* Muslim—as an enemy. Their entire worldview is built around separating *believers* from *infidels*, and doing whatever is necessary, including shedding blood, to ensure the ascendancy of the former group over the latter.

This slice of humanity—which is much larger than America allows itself to believe—has repeatedly declared, through words and deeds, its intention to fight to the death. It cannot be dissuaded by international censure, persuasion, negotiation, nice words, handshakes or material incentives; in fact, it views all such efforts with contempt. It cannot be appeased by treating its prisoners with respect, honoring its traditions, or paying deference to its mosques or holy days. *No Western political policy* would alter the attitudes of radical Islamists the slightest bit.

Thus we see a bright line dividing the two sides in this conflict. As Lee Harris wrote in *Civilization and Its Enemies*, “This is the major fact of our time. We are caught in the midst of a conflict be-

tween those for whom the category of the enemy is essential to their way of organizing all human experience and those who have banished even the idea of the enemy from both public discourse and even their innermost thoughts.”

The fact that America has essentially “banished even the idea of the enemy” completely ambushes the success of its military endeavors.

Just War Theory

In America’s military academies, a major textbook used in ethics classes is *Just and Unjust Wars* by Michael Walzer. *Objective Standard* writers Yaron Brook and Alex Epstein call the “just war theory” this book advocates “the sole moral theory of war taught today.” It is intended to help determine whether it is morally appropriate to enter a particular war, and

Most support the “just war theory” because it looks like principled self-defense. In reality, however, it makes self-defense impossible.

how to wage it justly once you’re in it.

The criteria that “just war theory” uses to make these evaluations spell out an entirely *altruistic* morality with respect to war. That means it rigorously demands valuing the needs of one’s enemy (who is trying to kill you) above one’s own needs—branding as *immoral* any effort to seek the interests of one’s own nation. To simply defend America is not a good enough motive: War must make the world safer, spread democracy (not in any imperialistic way, you understand, but for the benefit of others), and supply hope to foreigners who have suffered at the hands of dictators, for example.

Virtually all Americans believe the U.S. has the right to defend itself. Most support “just war theory” because it looks like principled self-defense. In reality, however, it makes self-defense *impossible*. It essentially dictates that if an enemy threatens your security, you must quash the threat not by destroying the enemy, but by *helping him*. As Brook and

Epstein describe it, “An injunction to go to war with altruistic intentions, seeking an altruistic outcome, is in direct contradiction to the requirements of self-defense; it forbids the very essence of self-defense in the context of war: identifying and defeating enemy nations” (*Objective Standard*, Spring 2006).

One can quickly see how the battlefield shared by a mammoth-sized military juggernaut and a feisty force many times smaller suddenly becomes rather level: One side has a complicated and contradictory set of objectives aimed at ultimately serving the enemy—the other only wants to destroy.

The U.S. has meticulously framed every action it has taken in its “war on terror” in altruistic terms. It has shown how the threats are global—an affront to the authority of the United Nations, for example. It has doggedly pursued diplomatic and multilateral solutions. In the Afghanistan war (tellingly named “Operation Enduring Freedom”), it drove out the Taliban and dropped food packages for the people. In Iraq (“Operation Iraqi Freedom”), it has spent hundreds of billions of dollars repairing damaged infrastructure, improving living conditions and working to create an atmosphere conducive to democracy. Even so, critics blast U.S. leaders for not being altruistic *enough*—firing off ridiculous accusations of imperialism, of “rushing to war” (despite issuing months of warnings), of waging war just to lower U.S. gas prices, of trying to impose American values (in areas where the U.S. has actually *applauded* the democratic election of Islamist radicals).

But consider how radically different a “just war” is from an effective war—how many aspects of war-making it affects—and *how utterly vain the effort ultimately becomes*.

Social Work Vs. War

Social work and war are two completely opposite endeavors. Social work can be wonderful, but where national survival is concerned, it is a completely inappropriate response to an enemy that is trying to destroy you.

Just war doctrine requires that, in every case, humanitarian goals trump self-defense. This idea facilitated America’s decision to begin its “war on terror” by *blatantly ignoring the world’s most serious terrorist threat*, and to instead target Afghanistan and Iraq—both of which, while posing milder dangers, had greater humanitarian needs. (This was only part of

what motivated the decision, of course—the greater reason was that the U.S. didn't have the *will* to fight Iran. The State of Israel is demonstrating precisely the same problem today, sacrificing its long-term security by limiting its war aim to merely pushing Hezbollah out of a little “buffer zone” in southern Lebanon.)

But humanitarian considerations did more than merely pervert America's target selection: In both Afghanistan and Iraq, they torpedoed America's success at strengthening its own security. (See “Protecting the Enemy,” below.)

President Bush has argued that the best way to protect America is to facilitate the spread of freedom and democracy. This is patently false. First, protecting America means eliminating threats. Undertaking the impossibly complicated and expensive rigmarole of trying to replace a tyranny with a stable, functional democracy—let alone attempting this *before even breaking the enemy's resis-*

tance, a goal that, in Iraq, continues to slip away—can hardly be viewed as the “best way” to eliminate whatever threat a state may pose. Moreover, in many cases, as Muslim nations become democratic, more those who come to power are *more radical* and *more hostile to the U.S.*

Consider further. The oxymoronic “humanitarian war” approach demands that, instead of the winning nation benefiting from its victory, it is *morally obligated* to go broke trying to rebuild and rehabilitate those nations it defeats. Thus, rather than measuring a war's success in terms of increased homeland security or other national benefits, Americans now consider war a failure as long as there are continued problems in the target nation.

Look at the degree to which America is trying to wage war in a way that, it believes, should place it above reproach in the eyes of other nations—the degree to which it is actually putting those nations' opinions and interests ahead of its own.

Read the headlines in your newspaper today. You will see that *NONE* of the effort to protect enemy civilians, *NONE* of the humanitarian aid, *NONE* of the care in ensuring that enemy nations keep their own wealth, *NONE* of the endeavors to put government back into the hands of the enemy peoples—*NOTHING* that America has done to conduct its “war against terror” in a “just” manner—is earning the U.S. even one iota of respect among other nations, nor among its own liberals.

What it *is* doing is *guaranteeing war failure*, and *hastening America's demise*.

Two Sides

Victory in war comes when the enemy's will to fight is broken. There is a point where a nation decides it has suffered enough—its wind is gone. Witness Japan after it saw two of its cities wiped out and didn't want to learn through experience how many more atomic bombs the U.S. had in its arsenal.

Victory in “just war,” as the U.S. is currently fighting, is impossible to achieve,

PROTECTING THE ENEMY

IN traditional war, an enemy nation includes everyone in the nation, including the population of civilians that largely support the enemy war machine. In America's “just war,” there is no such thing as an enemy *nation*. The “enemy” has been reduced to the smallest possible collection of corrupt leaders, as well as anyone who is visibly fighting.

“Just war” requires “discrimination” between combatants and non-combatants. This means

buildings for military purposes, build bunkers under civilian apartment buildings, and so on. These tactics—in addition to proving that the enemy combatants are less concerned about casualties among their own people than Americans are—force U.S. soldiers into incredibly awkward ethical conundrums while their own lives and those of their fellow soldiers are at high risk. And although these combatants defy all international war law by endangering civilians in these ways, Americans are still expected to extend to them all the rights and protections afforded legitimate soldiers.

Second, assuming civilian innocence ignores what is sometimes a high degree of sympathy, as well as moral and tactical support, that civilians supply to those combatants.

Yaron Brook and Alex Epstein comment: “Observe the inversion of justice here. Benevolent, individualistic, life-loving Americans, and death-worshiping, collectivist, nihilistic

Arabs—such as the dancing Arabs who celebrated 9/11—are regarded as equally worthy of protection by the American military. The exception is if the American is a soldier and the Arab is a civilian, in which case the Arab's life is of *greater value*” (*Objective Standard*, Spring 2006).

The U.S. has tried fastidiously to obey this doctrine over the last five years—to the point of investigating every known instance of civilian deaths and subjecting its soldiers to the withering court of global opinion, at the enormously high price of trashing their reputation.

And yet, in spite of all this effort at “just war,” criticism over civilian casualties has never been louder. Muslims (with the full support of Western liberals) have taken full advantage, stridently and indignantly *demanding* this policy be followed, to the point where, as one soldier expressed it, one is afraid to go out onto the battlefield without bringing a lawyer.

Liberals may be unaware how much these rules cripple force effectiveness—but the Islamists surely are not.

As one soldier expressed it, one is afraid to go out onto the battlefield without bringing **A LAWYER.**

esteeming non-combatants more highly than combatants by assuming them “innocent” and excepting them from the conflict. Soldiers are to make every effort to spare enemy civilians—even if doing so puts one's own people at greater risk.

This approach effectively handcuffs a fighting force.

First, it creates enormous opportunities for enemy combatants to exploit. Fully aware of this policy, they routinely dress as civilians, use civilian shields, start battles in areas with high civilian populations, occupy civilian



because breaking the enemy's will is not the objective. Liberal commentators who say that attacking terrorist groups only swells the ranks of the radicals are correct—but *only because the attacks are not decisive enough*. They are too measured, surgical, precise and restrained—not to mention conspicuously avoiding the state *fountainhead* of those groups—to BREAK THE ENEMY'S WILL.

Elan Journo made a comment about America's decades-long policy of pressuring Israel to appease Islamist aggression: "We are teaching the Islamic totalitarians in Gaza, Lebanon and Iran that their goal of destroying us is legitimate; that aggression is practical; that the more aggressive they are, the more we will surrender. U.S.-Israeli policy has demonstrated that we lack the intellectual self-confidence to name, let alone condemn, our enemies—and that we lack the will to deal with threats mercilessly. It vindicates the Islamists' premise that their religious worldview can bring a scientific, technologically advanced West to its knees" (aynrand.org, July 19).

The longer America fights such a war, the more its strength is spent, and the stronger its enemies grow in both pride and power.

It is hard to disagree with these stinging words to America recently spoken by Iran's Ayatollah Khamenei: "In Iraq, you failed. You say you have spent \$300 billion to bring a government in office that obeys you. But it did not happen. In Palestine, you made all attempts to prevent Hamas from coming to power and again you failed. Why don't you admit that you are weak and your razor is blunt?"

Contrast the two sides in this "war on terror."

America imposes rules on itself that tie its own hands behind its back as it tries to fight. Islamists deliberately ignore rules in order to maximize shock value, convey an image of arbitrary ruthlessness and instill terror.

America takes pains to minimize risk for its soldiers. Islamists actively recruit suicide bombers.

America's volunteer armed forces and technology-dependant style of warfare cost hundreds of billions. Islamists level the field with far simpler, far less expensive weapons by using crude tactics intended to put the U.S. at maximum disadvantage.

America can never declare victory, because its war aims are simply too grandiose and unattainable. Islamists

can declare victory just by fighting another day—proving themselves unconquerable by what is supposed to be the world's mightiest nation.

America's opinion-shapers and decision-makers argue that the U.S. is morally bound to take this approach, no matter the costs. Islamists couldn't be happier.

"It seems that the more advanced we become, the more at a disadvantage we are in the 21st-century battlefield," wrote Robert D. Kaplan (*Wall Street Journal*, July 19).

See the reality for what it is, and the truth comes into focus: *This formerly mighty superpower has had the PRIDE IN ITS POWER BROKEN, and it is SPENDING ITS STRENGTH IN VAIN.*

America is suffering from the curse God prophesied in Leviticus 26:19-20. Because of this curse, the outcome of the

Islamists can declare victory just by fighting another day—proving themselves unconquerable by what is supposed to be the world's mightiest nation.

present conflict is assured: *The mightiest military power in history is about to be defeated.*

This too is prophesied.

Downfall

In 1961, Herbert W. Armstrong proclaimed, "America has won its last war." Many scoffed. But time has proven his biblically based prophecy correct. Though the U.S. has won a couple of minor skirmishes, its military outings have stained its reputation and bloodied its nose. Its enemies can smell the blood.

Today, while the U.S. ineffectively spends its strength in Afghanistan and Iraq, those enemies watch. And pace. And encroach.

The Bible prophesies of those enemies (some even still being viewed by the U.S. as allies), in the near future, bringing America down. You can read about this by requesting *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. No

tweaking of American foreign policy can prevent this catastrophe from happening—*only turning in heartfelt repentance and looking to God for protection and deliverance*. After all, it is GOD'S WRATH bringing this fate upon America! (Ezekiel 7:14).

But who is this power that will attack the U.S. and other nations of Israel? Biblical prophecy reveals that these nations have failed to recognize the most significant threat. It will not be Iraq, Iran, or any Muslim country. It will not be North Korea, China or Russia. The Bible shows it is actually those with whom Israel has formed a close alliance—its "lovers" (Lamentations 1:1-2; Hosea 2:13; this prophetic event is explained in our booklet *Ezekiel—The End-Time Prophet*).

The devastation prophesied to befall the U.S. presages a period of *unparalleled global suffering* described in the Bible as the "great tribulation." It is then that the true tragedy of America's demise will become clear—when a new superpower, great and terrible, will arise to claim global supremacy.

A Truly "Just War"

But the Bible's prophecies don't stop there. Within a few short years, this nightmarish scenario will abruptly end, when the bright light of a new day breaks upon the land at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ!

When Christ establishes His Kingdom, He will implement a TRULY JUST WAR POLICY: "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war" (Revelation 19:11). He will not begin His humanitarian projects before forcefully BREAKING HIS ENEMIES' WILL TO FIGHT—smiting them and then ruling them with a rod of iron (verse 15), bringing them under His loving authority.

Jesus Christ will not negotiate for peace. He will enforce a policy of peace on His own terms. As prophesied in Isaiah 2:4: "And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people ..." Once people submit to His authority, He will teach them the ways that bring abundant happiness and well-being for all humankind: "... and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." ■



FREE UPON REQUEST

America's Forgotten War

With the U.S. administration and the media focusing on Israel and on the war in Iraq, attention has been diverted from another theater of action where U.S. political will is being tested. BY RON FRASER

REMEMBER AFGHANISTAN? That's the country the British and the Russians were never able to subdue. It's the place where the U.S. war on al Qaeda started following 9/11. It is where the United States fought the rebel Taliban but never defeated it. It's the place where, each year since the U.S.-led coalition initiated operations, the Taliban has carefully rebuilt its forces, its political and religious influence, and, in particular, its opium trade, the source of so much of its funding. A record bumper harvest is expected this year.

With Americans so focused on Iraq, as well as a new crop of global crises that command our attention, Afghanistan can be easy to overlook. But it is proving

to be a massive problem that just won't go away.

Rise of the Taliban

Aryans, Persians, Greeks, Arabs, Turks and the Mongols sought control of this crucial Eurasian crossroads over time. Afghanistan gained complete independence from foreign occupation in 1919 following the Anglo-Afghan wars of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Apart from a period of reasonable stability during the reign of King Zahir Shah (1933-73), Afghanistan has since been riven by factional fighting.

A bloodless coup in 1973 headed by Sardar Mohammed Daoud, the king's brother-in-law, led to a Communist-inspired counter-coup that consummated

with the overthrow and assassination of the royal dynasty. This in turn led to Soviet occupation. Russia withdrew in 1989 after significant troop losses suffered at the hands of the U.S.-backed anti-government mujahideen guerrilla forces. This led to the rise of factional warlords, with various interest groups weighing in with guns and money. This was the seedbed of the Taliban movement.

The Taliban—with backing from Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the U.S.—developed into an influential politico-religious force, obtaining almost total power in Afghanistan in 1996. With most of the country under its direct governance, the Taliban controlled a huge center of the world's illegal poppy and heroin trade. Of great concern to the U.S. after 9/11

STILL IN TERROR

An 8-year-old Afghan girl stands in her classroom, which was burned by the Taliban—one of many signs the radical Islamic group has yet to be vanquished.

GETTY IMAGES

sive in the middle of May, Stratfor commented: “It is essential to understand that the Taliban were not destroyed in the 2001 invasion. ... [T]hey systematically returned—each year, increasing their tempo of operations and, each year, extending their reach. As the combat season begins every spring, Taliban activities increase. So it follows that, in the fifth spring since Kabul’s fall, the intensity of fighting should be the greatest yet” (May 19).

And so it has proven to be.

If only it had a mind to history, the U.S. could have avoided this whole mess. But, as a nation, it doesn’t. Hence, as one who *does* acknowledge the importance of history comments, “The Soviets, with hundreds of thousands of troops, were unable to subdue insurgents in Afghanistan; the United States—with perhaps a tenth of the number of forces that the Soviets had there—doesn’t have a chance” (ibid.).

No one, certainly not the United States, wants to be caught on the wrong side of a war in Afghanistan. For a start, the U.S. simply lacks the ability to mobilize sufficient military strength to wage such a war at the same time as it continues the fight in Iraq and is diverted to any number of other emergencies, not the least currently being the security of its own borders.

That America is losing its collective will to

continue in Iraq is obvious. The question right now is, from which theater will the U.S. first withdraw? It is a question predicated not on if, but when!

“If the United States is perceived to have been defeated in Iraq, and if it appears the United States is losing its will to fight in Afghanistan—which will be measured by its willingness to increase forces to match the Taliban’s operational tempo—then the strategy of coalition-building collapses. While everyone is focused on Iraq, *a crisis is ... emerging in Afghanistan*. It will play itself out politically, as warlords shift their alliances. It will then emerge militarily, with increasing pressure on forces in Afghanistan. In fact, that is what is happening now, except for the fact that most of the

world has not yet noticed it” (ibid.; emphasis mine).

Slowly, the truth is dawning. The Taliban is now emerging militarily! Gradually more space is being devoted in the newsmedia to the Afghanistan theater as the body count has escalated since spring.

In May, the Taliban incited sporadic rioting in the capital, Kabul, resulting in 17 dead. On June 4, a suicide bomber killed four civilians and just missed the governor of Kandahar province and a Canadian military convoy. Concerned at their intelligence indicating deterioration in the Afghan security effort, defense ministers announced on June 8 plans to expand NATO’s control of southern Afghanistan. Seven days later, a bomb exploded on a bus that was transporting workers to the Kandahar U.S. military air base in southern Afghanistan, killing eight Afghani workers. The very next day, two U.S. soldiers were on

patrol in the provincial capital when a remote-controlled bomb in a road exploded, killing both. Two days later, June 18, the U.S.-led coalition commenced a major offensive, its largest since 2001, against insurgents linked to the Taliban, killing dozens of suspected militants.

The *Age* newspaper reported, “Five years after the West promised to rebuild Afghanistan, the country is facing its worst crisis since the

“Five years after the West promised to rebuild Afghanistan, the country is facing its worst crisis since the Taliban was overthrown.” THE AGE

Taliban was overthrown. President Hamid Karzai and his Western backers are disillusioned with each other, while the Islamist militia is resurgent. People are being killed at a rate not seen since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion” (June 28).

With Taliban militants sighted only 40 kilometers from Kandahar, “Every day in Afghanistan a girls’ school is burnt down or a female teacher killed by the militants, according to the United Nations” (ibid.).

Though Canada declined to participate in the Iraq wars, the Canadian government has been a major contributor to the ongoing Afghan campaign. In fact, Canada is upping its deployment of troops and military hardware to support the effort to stabilize Afghanistan.

was the fact that the Taliban provided safe haven to extremist Muslim groups, in particular al Qaeda—hence the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan by coalition forces in 2001.

The trouble is, America’s invasion forced the Taliban’s retreat, not its defeat. Taliban leaders and supporters melted into the rugged, impenetrable hills, licked their wounds, and planned their return.

In 2002, Hamid Karzai was elected president of Afghanistan. Ever since, each spring, the Taliban has emerged from its hilly dugouts to descend on opposition forces to wage a seasonal insurgency designed to break the will of the occupying forces and of Karzai’s government. After a major Taliban offen-

In reaction to this, during June and July the regrouping Taliban hit the Kandahar airfield, where the Canadian forces are based, with multiple rocket attacks. As if to make a mockery of the liberal's theme that Islam is a "religion of peace," Taliban fired upon foreign troops on more than one occasion from an Islamic mosque. In July, the battle for control of Afghan's southern provinces see-sawed as the Taliban seized a number of southern cities, only to be, in turn, ousted by coalition forces following fierce fighting.

Associated Press reports that the annual costs of U.S. equipment devoted to the Afghan and Iraq campaigns are set to triple to more than \$17 billion. There is a limit to just how much the straining U.S. budget can cope with such cost escalations. There is a limit to just how

many body bags, returned from each of these theaters of action, the U.S. public is prepared to stomach before people withdraw majority support for continuing U.S. troop deployment in these seemingly unwinnable wars.

The reality is that, in keeping with its consistent, misguided policy practiced since the Korean War, the U.S. simply refused to vanquish the enemy in Afghanistan, a policy that America still plays out in Iraq to this very day.

Of a truth, as Herbert W. Armstrong long ago declared, following World War II, "[T]he United States has won its last war!"

The Taliban is back in Afghanistan. It is there to stay and, with the arrival of each fighting season, gradually wear down the resistance of the U.S.-led coalition forces and American public

opinion. This deliberate strategy will, no doubt, be aided by the fifth-column journalists and commentators of our so-often-treasonous media. In the meantime, the Taliban simply "believe that the Americans—like the British and Soviets—will not be staying long. They can afford to be patient" (Stratfor, op. cit.).

It is time to remember that ancient prophecy God declared against a rebellious nation caught up in deepening moral and spiritual decline: "And I will break the pride of your power ... And your strength shall be spent in vain ... if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me" (Leviticus 26:19-21). ■

For the most up-to-date information, visit theTrumpet.com/Afghanistan

THE POPPY AND THE TALIBAN

AFGHANISTAN is devolving into one of America's worst geopolitical nightmares. Part of the reason is visible in the thriving opium poppy fields that pepper its landscape.

Illegal drugs presently account for more than half of Afghanistan's gross domestic product. Afghanistan is the world's number-one heroin producer and trafficker; more than 90 percent of the world's opium comes from this *one* nation.

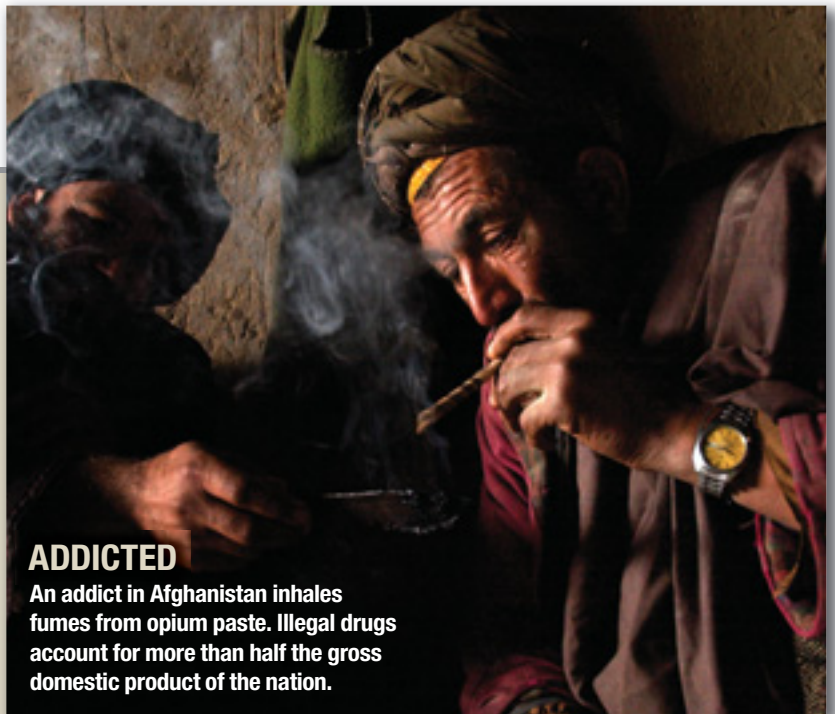
These facts are especially troubling when you consider the massive amounts of time, money and military manpower that the United States, Britain and NATO have invested into solving this problem. Western officials have allotted more than \$1 billion to eradicating Afghanistan's hills of opium—and still, 2006 is expected to see the *largest-ever* opium crop.

If Afghanistan's poppy producers can be so successful in spite of the more than 20,000 NATO troops, the sky is the limit should these soldiers ever leave. How is it that, despite such a strong military presence, opium production is at its highest level ever? Just ask the Taliban.

Across the country, Taliban fighters and the nation's poppy growers and drug smugglers are striking up mutually beneficial relationships. Facing pressure from the government and American forces to eradicate their poppy crops—their livelihood—drug smugglers and poppy farmers are increasingly relying on Taliban militants for protection. In return for services rendered, Taliban militants receive money to finance their operations (which include supporting al Qaeda and killing American, British and NATO forces).

The rise in opium production is a clear sign of the resurgence of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Organized Taliban fighters are cropping up across the nation, especially in the south and the east. Other than Kabul, the capital, and a few other major cities where Western forces primarily dwell,



ADDICTED

An addict in Afghanistan inhales fumes from opium paste. Illegal drugs account for more than half the gross domestic product of the nation.

the government of Hamid Karzai has tenuous control at best. Dealing decisively with the Taliban is critical in this situation. Karzai is being called the "mayor of Kabul" because of his lack of control over territory outside of the capital.

By seeking to eradicate Afghanistan's opium production without dealing decisively with the Taliban, American and NATO forces will never solve the drug problem posed by this nation. Dealing with the Taliban is central to regaining stability in Afghanistan. "Even supporters of the war on drugs need to wake up and smell the coffee. ... The anti-drug effort needs to be put on the back burner at least until we can fight off the Taliban and al Qaeda forces" (*Asia Times*, July 11).

With the U.S. gaining little traction against the Taliban, we can expect the rugged Afghan hills to be filled with opium poppies—the dangerous crop that puts dollars in Taliban pockets—for some time to come.

BRAD MACDONALD

One Problem Too Many

Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan ... oh yes! We almost forgot about North Korea.



DICTATOR

Throughout his 12 years as the leader of North Korea, Kim Jong Il has sought weapons of mass destruction, while his people face starvation.

BY BRAD MACDONALD

A WATERSHED EVENT OCCURRED on July 4, America's Independence Day. Other big headlines quickly buried it, but think back. That day, North Korea's Kim Jong Il got in on the fireworks action and launched seven missiles of his own, including one long-range Taepodong-2 rocket.

Though Kim's rockets didn't match the beauty of America's nighttime pyrotechnics, his skyline display made a much bigger impression. Beyond alarming U.S. officials on a national holiday, North Korea's strategically timed missile launch will have a defining impact on America's global image.

There's little doubt that U.S. officials were relieved when North Korea's 9,300-mile-range Taepodong-2 missile fell from the sky only 42 seconds after it was launched. But that doesn't change this unsavory fact: Kim launching these missiles, even while facing massive pressure from America over his nuclear program, reveals a clear *lack of fear and respect* for U.S. power.

North Korea's fireworks display tested not only the quality of the nation's rockets, but also the *willpower* of America. And you can be sure the rest of the world—including the likes of Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas and the Taliban—was measuring America's response carefully.

A History of Concessions

America's history of dealing with North Korea's nuclear ambition includes much fruitless negotiation and concession. Over the years, this cycle has only helped Pyongyang's nuclear interests.

In July, as the *Wall Street Journal* put it, "Kim [was] at it again because his previous provocations have typically been rewarded" (July 6). North Korea has a track record of muttering nuclear threats and launching missiles, then being *rewarded with concessions and aid by the United States*.

This trend can be traced back to 1994, when the Clinton administration responded to Kim's nuclear threats through an Agreed Framework that offered Pyongyang aid and the promise of nuclear energy plants. It became evident in 2002 that this deal had failed when Kim gave UN inspectors the boot and announced he had a secret nuclear program.

In 1998, when Kim launched a Taepodong-1 missile over Japan, America tried to negotiate a deal similar to the 1994 nuclear agreement. "As part of the

REUTERS

deal ... the U.S. would launch North Korean satellites in return for North Korea's pledge to stop developing long-range missiles" (ibid.). Washington's track record of negotiation and compromise with North Korea is embarrassing!

America has spent over a decade sitting at the North Korean negotiating table, and what does it have to show for the effort? A rogue country bold enough to test almost its whole missile arsenal in total defiance of the U.S.!

So how did America respond this time? After the missile tests in July, the U.S. chose to "[pass] the baton to Japan, letting Tokyo take the initial lead in the international arena" (Stratfor, July 7). Tokyo drafted a resolution and took the matter to the UN Security Council. Fellow UN Security Council members Russia and China opposed it for being too harsh. Thus, on July 15, the Council passed a compromised resolution condemning North Korea's missile tests and demanding it suspend its ballistic missile program. The resolution includes no mention of sanctions (though it forbids the exchange of missile and nuclear material and technology) and contains no allowance for the use of force.

Despite all the hoopla surrounding its preparation, this resolution amounts to little more than ink on a page. North Korea strongly rejected it within an hour! The sheer ineptitude of the UN was yet again underscored. A pipsqueak nation, governed by a petty dictator, suffers no real consequences for posing an overt military threat.

The best this resolution could do was call for the resumption of the three-year six-party talks (between North Korea and China, South Korea, Japan, Russia and the U.S.) concerning Pyongyang's nuclear program—talks that North Korea has boycotted since last November to protest U.S. sanctions.

"The United States still wants to resolve the impasse through dialogue," reported a South Korean official after meeting with U.S. officials in Washington (Japan Economic Newswire, July 19).

In essence, *there has been no meaningful response to North Korea's July rocket launch*. Efforts simply have been renewed to keep treading the same course that has already been taken—the very course that led to North Korea launching its missiles.

With Pyongyang steadfastly refusing to come to the table for six-party talks, America's next big move has been to threaten to have five-party talks, leaving North Korea out. South Korea and the U.S. agreed July 18 that "five-way talks without North Korea would be the best alternative to the six-way talks, boycotted by the

North ..." (*Korea Herald*, July 19). This situation would be humorous if it wasn't so condemning of the lack of effective American and UN leadership.

Five big powers, including the world's most powerful nation, are now sitting around trying to agree on the best way to entice little old North Korea back to the negotiating table.

Stratfor comments that North Ko-

The ineptitude of the UN was again underscored. A pipsqueak nation suffers no real consequences for posing an overt military threat.

RESHAPING ASIA

THE fact that Kim Jong Il has a long-range ballistic missile that can apparently reach American soil has many people on edge—largely because he is believed to be manufacturing nuclear weapons. North Korea's July 4 missile testing could not have come at a worse time, with another, apocalyptically motivated leader—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad—playing similar mind games with Western leaders. It's actually quite perfect timing for Kim and his spin doctors.

The issue is how East Asian politics will be reshaped and already *are* being reshaped by this development. There are four countries to watch in relation to North Korea: the U.S., Japan, China and South Korea.

Until a few years ago, one could not consider how East Asia worked without factoring in U.S. involvement in the region. Much of America's presence in Asia had to do with the need to check communism's southern advances during the Cold War (this was the reason for U.S. presence in Japan in particular). With Korea, the U.S. and the USSR divided the peninsula along the 38th parallel after the Second World War. When the North invaded the South in 1950, the U.S. came to the South's aid—not decisively winning the war, but helping to bring about a truce and then guarding the border to thwart the spread of communism.

But the Cold War is over, and the fears of communism's spread long gone. The two Koreas have been increasingly friendly to each other since South Korean President Kim Dae Jung launched his Sunshine Policy toward the North in 1998. Yet 37,000 U.S. soldiers still stand guard on the South's side of the border.

Many Asians wonder about the ongoing necessity of a U.S. military presence in Asia. With America's armed forces stretched so thin and

foreign policy priorities shifting away from Asia, they need not wonder too much longer.

North Korea's military antics have kept the U.S. involved in the region, but this involvement is nearing its end. Buried in its own troubles—political division at home, wearying occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan—the U.S. will find itself delegating the North Korea situation to more capable powers already in the region. Since World War II and the Korean War, America has had a strong alliance with Japan and South Korea.

The U.S.—once avowed to extinguishing Japanese militarism—has, over the years, allowed Japan to sport an army for "self-defense." What was the impetus for such a force? The Korean War. Japan began to resurrect its military as early as 1950, when it established a National Police Reserve to replace American troops who were sent into the Korean War. This police force was transformed into the Self-Defense Force by the Japanese government in 1954, with the full support of the U.S. So it was the Korean Peninsula that reignited the military fuse in Japan.

Likewise today, Korean politics play a huge part in rearming Asia's once-most-dangerous nation. Tokyo and Washington are now cooperating on a ballistic missile defense shield. Both countries plan to jointly produce interceptor missiles. A high-resolution radar designed to detect incoming missiles has been deployed at a base in northern Japan (Associated Press, June 23).

Whatever the status of relations between North Korea and Japan, we can be sure Japan will use every opportunity it can to shed its post-war pacifism in favor of having a self-sufficient and formidable military. Will Japan use Pyongyang's nuclear brinkmanship to pursue nuclear weapons itself? That would be a great historical irony: the only victim

rea is unlikely to want to deal with the present U.S. administration, but is rather quite willing to wait until a change of presidency to resume talks. “In the meantime, North Korea has apparently gained Chinese assurances of security, and Russian, Chinese and South Korean assurances of financial assistance. And regardless of whether these talks resume, North Korea has gained international attention and opened the path to diplomatic initiatives from around the globe. Ultimately, the more belligerent North Korea’s rhetoric, *the more other nations seek to placate the restless rogue*” (July 18, emphasis mine).

A victory for North Korea indeed. And that’s not counting the success of the actual missile tests. “For North Korea,” says Stratfor, “the July 5 [which was July 4 in the U.S.] tests may very well have been the most important day in its missile program The tests will allow Pyongyang to gauge the effectiveness of improvements in its missile design and technology. ... Pyongyang has now tested the bulk of its most modern short- and medium-range ballistic missiles. As far as we know, all of them worked (the long-range Taepodong aside), and North Korea’s military is now scrutinizing telemetry data tests and making further refinements” (July 7).

Now North Korea has the opportunity to forsake (temporarily) its “right” to test missiles in order to gain political or economic concessions. And so the cycle of appeasing diplomacy continues.

Both the UN and the U.S. are simply confirming growing world opinion that they lack the fortitude and willpower to stand up to belligerent countries—even North Korea.

Exposing American Weakness

Consider the situation. Geographically, North Korea is smaller than the state of Mississippi; its economic destitution is on par with Zimbabwe. It would thus logically follow that such a seeming non-entity on the global scene would carry about as much geopolitical influence as the Chukotskiy Avtonomnyy Okrug province in Russia. The only reason North Korea garners more international recognition than Comoros or Senegal is that it is governed by a madman (or so he would have us believe) with aspirations for nuclear weapons.

In terms of power, there is no comparison between North Korea and America. It just doesn’t make sense that this seemingly irrelevant nuisance should be causing the world’s greatest military power so much trouble. The fact that the U.S. cannot solve this dilemma highlights the nation’s broken *willpower* and subsequent inability to harness its awesome offensive power to solve serious crises.

The U.S. possesses the physical components needed to resolve this crisis by a sheer demonstration of its defensive power. It simply fails to demonstrate the political will to use it. America’s stalemate on the North Korea issue is a direct result of weak leadership.

The crisis in North Korea is a flashing billboard advertising the weakness of American foreign policy!

It would be easy to underestimate the significance of the geopolitical melee raging between America and North Korea. Compared to what’s unraveling in Lebanon, Iraq or Iran, North Korea

The U.S. possesses the physical power needed to resolve this crisis—but it fails to demonstrate the political will to use it.

of the atomic bomb coming to possess this particular weapon of mass destruction in reaction to a perceived threat to its own security.

While we can expect the U.S. to leave *military* deterrence to Tokyo, in order to shore up the *diplomatic* effort, long-time ally South Korea comes into play.

Yet it is unlikely that South Korea’s president will simply march in step with Washington’s wishes on the peninsula. He was, after all, elected on an anti-American platform that included further rapprochement with the North. If not an ally of the North, at the very least Seoul sees itself as a *mediator* between the U.S. and North Korea—certainly not a pawn of Washington.

If anything, Seoul is more *Beijing’s* ally than Washington’s. China is South Korea’s most important economic partner. South Korean officials are talking with their Chinese counterparts over this latest drama in North Korea. They want to meet with U.S. officials, but the only thing in the works right now is a summit between presidents this September.

Giving the situation over to South Korea and Japan, the U.S. knows full well that this means China—North Korea’s only remaining

ally—will be involved. Ultimately, the power void left by the U.S. in Asia will be filled by the most politically dominant nation in the region: China.

How the situation in North Korea unfolds will reshape the geopolitical landscape of Asia. Watch for Japan to use the situation as an excuse to rearm. Watch for South Korea to draw much closer to China. Watch for Seoul to make further strides toward reunifying the peninsula—regardless of, perhaps even because of, the North’s nuclear capability. The presence of a weakened U.S.—unable to use its diplomatic or military might to quell nuclear fears in Asia—will soon be drastically reduced or even eliminated in the East.

All this gels with the “sure word” of Bible prophecy. God’s Word identifies the Chinese, Korean and Japanese people in a massive military *alliance* in this end time—a reaction to unprecedented instability in the Middle East and Europe. For more on this, request a free copy of our booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*.

RYAN MALONE



seems less pressing. But this problem has everything to do with America's interests in the Middle East and elsewhere.

The North Korea nuclear crisis is being carefully observed around the world. Russia, China, Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas, al Qaeda, the Taliban—all such who are hostile to U.S. intentions—are watching to see if the American government is prepared to add real meaning to its rhetoric by supporting it with *decisive action*. Each is witness to American impotence in dealing with North Korea.

By massaging North Korea with diplomacy and a meaningless UN resolution, both the UN and Washington are advertising their dearth of willpower and abject lack of motivation to deal

Korea. All the while—as is the case with Iran—North Korea will take advantage of U.S. inaction, gain further concessions and continue building weapons and manufacturing nuclear material.

As the *Trumpet* has forecast, it is also highly likely that America will increasingly turn the problem over to Pyongyang's neighbors in Japan, China and South Korea. These nations are also concerned (to various extents) with North Korea's weapons and nuclear program and are likely to welcome Washington's reliance on them to manage their roguish neighbor.

Thus, America will not only grow more distant from Asian politics, but it will also dress Beijing and Tokyo with

God's abundant blessings. Instead, our personal and national sins are causing us to be cursed by the living God!

Our broken will is one of those curses!

What a curse to have a broken will in a world increasingly impacted by dangerous, dictatorial leaders. We simply will not survive unless the problem is corrected.

Read, in the preceding verses of Leviticus 26, about the national sins of America. Then you will see why God has broken the pride of our power, or our national will. The U.S. is a major part of end-time Israel (a truth you can prove scripturally by reading our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

The U.S. gained its freedom and greatness through the bloodshed and courage of its forefathers. When this nation was established it was grounded on many biblical laws and principles and was thus much blessed. The gradual loss of the influence of those biblical laws and principles within American society has led to that nation doubting its once significant moral authority. Freedom cannot be sustained by sinful cowards. America's enemies are at the door, and they are seeing the national pride and willpower of this once great nation deteriorate.

In the case of North Korea, they are already putting us to the test!

The further we get from God, the more cowardly we become. The closer we are to God, the more we manifest the courage to face our enemies and rely on God to fight our battles for us. The only way America can avoid catastrophe is

if it restores its relations with God and His laws.

The sobering fact is that our increasing rebellion against the authority of our God has led to a dramatic *breaking* of America's national will to resist those who seek to destroy it and all it has stood for throughout its brief history. Only God can heal this deep national wound.

Read our free booklet *Character in Crisis* to learn how this traditionally freedom-loving nation will finally have its faith in God restored so it will again reap, in even greater amount than before, the massive blessings that come from obeying the one true God. ■



TALK, TALK, TALK
U.S., Japanese, and South Korean negotiators meet in July to talk about how to coax North Korea into ending its nuclear arms program.

forcefully and decisively with an enemy.

By relying on Japan and allowing itself to be shoved around by Russia, China and South Korea in its negotiations with North Korea, the U.S. is showing that it is totally unprepared, unwilling and incapable of standing up to Kim Jong Il and his arsenal of rockets.

America's history of concessions to North Korea is not only emboldening Kim Jong Il, it is empowering the leaders of anti-American and terrorist states and organizations around the world.

This crisis is about more than developing weapons that can deliver a nuclear payload. Over the years, Kim Jong Il has systematically helped in the progressive weakening of America's reputation as a respectable and feared superpower.

Expect the U.S. to continue to deal indecisively and inconclusively with North

more power and influence in the region and internationally. Bible prophecy tells us that in the coming months and years, the entirety of Asia will pull together behind the leadership of the region's most influential states.

To many, America's inability to harness its unmatched power and remove the threat that Kim Jong Il poses is unexplainable. The U.S. certainly doesn't lack the military strength to defend itself against a well-armed and well-equipped Kim Jong Il. It's illogical. How is this happening?

The explanation is found in a Bible prophecy that tells us that America's will to use its power is being destroyed. The prophecy in Leviticus 26:19 reads, "And I will break the pride of your power" Read this entire chapter, which is often called the blessings and cursings chapter. We should be living in the midst of

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Will Britain Lose the Falklands?

The 25th anniversary of the Falklands War has called forth a renewed effort by Argentina to force Britain to yield control of a historically crucial sea gate.



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

ILL-FATED INVASION

Argentine soldiers in 1982 head toward Stanley, the Falkland Islands capital they captured from Britain, igniting a war.

BY RON FRASER

TWENTY-FOUR YEARS AGO, ON April 2, 1982, Britain went to war with Argentina over a small yet strategically crucial group of islands lying off the southeastern tip of South America: the Falkland Islands. At 4 a.m. that day, the Argentines swung Operation Rosario into action, positioning a naval task force around the islands. Ten hours later, an invasion force had taken Government House in the capital, Port Stanley. The Union Jack was struck, the Argentine flag hoisted. Argentines rejoiced in the streets upon hearing the news of the “liberation” of the islands which they called the Malvinas.

Fortunately for the tradition of freedom in the West, Britain at the time had at its helm the indomitable Margaret Thatcher as prime minister.

In her time, Mrs. Thatcher was a lady possessed of, in the words of Gen. Alexander Haig, “a level of military knowledge that was both remarkable in scope, and the match for [referring to himself] a professional with years of European security background” (*Margaret Thatch-*

er—A Tribute in Words and Pictures).

By the end of the first day of the Falklands invasion, Mrs. Thatcher had convened two emergency sessions of her cabinet, subsequently securing agreement to immediately assemble a naval task force endorsed by an emergency session of the British House of Commons. Within hours of that decision, the first nine ships of the British force were steaming their way southward on the three-week voyage to the Falklands. By June 14, Argentina had surrendered. About 1,000 were killed in that brief yet crucial battle of the Falklands.

The British, not the least Mrs. Thatcher, exulted in their victory. Who could fail but to remember the

grand lady standing tall in the turret of a speeding tank, scarf streaming behind her in a victory lap that had the cameras whirring? The image added to the sense that this British prime minister was not only indomitable, but invincible.

Mrs. Thatcher later wrote the following in her memoirs: “Nothing remains more vividly in my mind, looking back on my years in 10 Downing Street, than the 11 weeks in the spring of 1982 when Britain fought and won the Falklands War. Much was at stake: What we were fighting for 8,000 miles away in the South Atlantic was not only the territory and the people of the Falklands, important though they were. We were defending our honor as a nation, and principles of



fundamental importance to the whole world—above all, that aggressors should never succeed and that international law should prevail over the use of force” (*The Downing Street Years*).

Renewed Tensions

Perhaps the present Labor (socialist) government in Britain, looking like an institution rapidly losing touch with the governed, thinks the British public need a shot in the arm. Nothing like a bit of flag waving and a few brass bands to wake up those Brits! In any case, on June 26, the government announced plans for a major shindig to celebrate the 25th anniversary of British victory in the Falklands.

The reaction from Buenos Aires was instantaneously belligerent. Warning Britain of a “drastic change” in its efforts to gain sovereignty over the Falklands, Argentine President Nestor Kirchner immediately launched a parliamentary commission to press Argentina’s claims for possession of the islands. Times Online reported, “Diplomats have been instructed to make the Falklands a priority, helping to keep the claim prominent on international agendas” (June 27).

Britain responded by declaring that its position (similar to the situation with Gibraltar) is to respect the wishes of the

Falklands population, who, as Governor Howard Pearce declared, were “united in their wish to remain British” (*ibid.*).

So what is it that is so important about this small group of islands that it has brought Argentina to blows with Britain in the past and now threatens to blow out into a major diplomatic confrontation?

Strategic Sea Gate

We have to check the map to observe that the Falklands control the northern end of the sea gate that lies off the southern tip of South America known as Drake Passage, the southern end of this crucial gateway being the South Shetland Islands. This sea gate guards passage of marine vessels between the South Pacific and Southern Atlantic oceans and the Antarctic. It has high strategic value in terms of control of the flow of trade, controlled access to the rich resources of Antarctica, in addition to its obvious advantages in the defense of the southern oceans. It offers the shortest route from Antarctica to the rest of the world’s land mass. This is a crucial factor in considering the prospects of tapping oil and gas reserves in Antarctica.

The Falklands were claimed on behalf of Britain by Captain John Strong, who landed there in 1690, planting the British flag and naming the island group

after Lord Falkland. After being invaded by Argentina and Uruguay in 1820, the British retook the islands in 1833 to enforce British sovereignty.

Discovered in 1819 by British mariner William Smith, the South Shetlands are claimed by Britain, Chile and Argentina. Thus Britain, as has historically been its habit, plays an important part in balancing the power of control over the crucial southern sea gate of Drake’s Passage. Should Argentina be granted sovereignty over the Falklands, the removal of Britain’s traditionally peaceful and orderly influence could create tension in this region with the prospect of future disruption to shipping. Of real concern would be the likelihood of a foreign power, such as China or the European Union, seeking control of this sea gate to the detriment of the U.S., Australasia and Antarctica in particular.

Thus, the game being played out currently between Argentina and Britain over the Falklands is not at all dissimilar to that being played out between Spain and Britain over the vital Mediterranean sea gate of Gibraltar. Here we have two remaining, crucially strategic sea gates, still possessed by the nation that once “ruled the waves,” Great Britain, the last vestiges of its former globe-girdling empire. Will the Brits give way? Will these last pieces of Britain’s vast but long-gone empire be simply handed over to these two Hispanic nations, each quite sympathetic to the other’s cause?

Nestor Kirchner, German ethnic, son of an émigré Nazi, populist president of volatile Argentina, has certainly shown himself to be unfriendly to the U.S. Now he is laying down the gauntlet to Britain. Do not be surprised in the least if he joins cause with Spain to mount a successful effort to lobby the United Nations to force Britain’s hand to yield up its remaining sovereignty over these last strands of empire, the God-given sea gates of Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands.

We are yet again reminded of that great prophecy in Deuteronomy 28:52, directed primarily to the English-speaking peoples: “And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the Lord thy God hath given thee.”

The Anti-Colonialists

The growing fervor among Argentines to take control of the Falklands stretches across the full spectrum of society. Facing re-election next year, Argentinian President Nestor Kirchner leads the pack and is exploiting the issue to rouse his country’s nationalistic spirit and garner more votes.

So personal to Kirchner is the issue that he has gone so far as to enlist the support of other left-leaning leaders in South America such as Cuba’s Fidel Castro and Venezuela’s Hugo Chavez. Kirchner’s quest for sovereignty over the Falklands, according to Buenos Aires-based political analyst Rosendo Fraga, has evolved from being an issue of mere sovereignty for Argentina to one that is “provid[ing] a rallying point to gather left-leaning Latin American governments into an anti-colonial bloc” (*Guardian*, June 30).

Kirchner’s more hard-line approach on the Falklands will inevitably strain his government’s relations with Britain. Concurrent with this trend, Kirchner will likely continue to align with other left-wing governments in South and Central America as they seek to marginalize U.S. and British influence in the region. With anti-Western sentiment spreading throughout Central and South America, Kirchner’s quest for the Falklands is just as much about curbing British and American influence in the region as anything.

The real impact of such a course of action will be felt primarily by Britain. A transfer of sovereignty over the Falklands would boost Argentina’s regional and international image, but more importantly, it would further deflate Britain’s tattered global image. Britain’s reputation is at stake here.

Five years ago, the *Trumpet* said that the days of Britain owning the Falklands are numbered. We stand by this prediction.



NESTOR KIRCHNER

When Germans Are Unhappy ...

Just what is the German mood today? It has not taken long for the jovial demeanor projected by Germany during the recent World Cup to sour. Why the change? And what does this portend for Europe? BY RON FRASER



GETTY IMAGES

UNGLÜCKLICH

Chancellor Angela Merkel isn't the only unhappy German. And the general mood of dissatisfaction among Germans will have an impact far beyond the nation itself.

ONLY A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO, the world was treated to smiling, seemingly relaxed joviality from the host nation during the soccer World Cup. Germans' initial reaction to losing the tournament on their home turf seemed one of relaxed acceptance that, despite the loss, everyone had experienced a good time. They had come so close, but in the end, even the raucous chanting of "Deutschland über alles" from the stands could not rally their team to overcome defeat by Italy, which went on to win the prestigious and coveted icon of the soccer world.

But then the crowds went home. The mood changed. Once again, Germany seems to be unhappy.

Domestic Woes

The German government is not happy right now. Chancellor Angela Merkel's early attempts at cobbling together a consensus on certain domestic issues have split her coalition government's votes along party lines on matters crucial to the country's future economic stability.

The German *electorate* is not happy either. Merkel's attempts at reforming the nation's doomed national health-care scheme met with an overwhelming rejection by the German public, according to polls. This follows the great public outcry over the Merkel government's earlier proposal to impose the largest tax hike on Germans since World War II.

The honeymoon is over. Things aren't working too well on the home front for Chancellor Merkel's grand coalition government. Germany may once again be moving into crisis mode within less than a year of Angela Merkel gaining the chancellorship by the slimmest of margins.

Immediately following the German elections, Merkel shone out as the darling of the United States, Britain and Western Europe, due to the confident manner in which she handled a rash of foreign-policy decisions during her first months in office. But that image, which served her well at home to begin with, is now tarnishing.

Domestic politics, in particular attempts to force economic changes on the German population, was always destined to be Merkel's Achilles heel. It was Merkel's offer of the poisoned chalice of the economics portfolio that caused Bavarian Prime Minister Edmund Stoiber to pull out of the coalition leadership. Stoiber knew only too well that a major reason for the fall of the Schröder

government was its failure to deal with deeply entrenched resistance by the German public to the long overdue systemic changes drastically needed to revive the national economy. Now it is Merkel's time to face the music, and the tune from the public is increasingly discordant. The mood is darkening within Germany.

Southward Expansion

But intriguingly, away from the home turf it is a different story. Overseas, Germany is moving ahead, gung-ho, on its grand process of re-colonizing parts once ruled by *Deutschland* in a previous era when the nation was cloaked in more overtly imperialistic garb.

Since unifying in 1990, the German nation has rapidly spread its military forces around many theaters of conflict in all hemispheres. These initiatives have always occurred under the umbrellas of the European Union, NATO or the United Nations, thus avoiding any charge that they are purely German initiatives designed to further German desires for a return to empire.

Track back to Germany's first "out-of-area operation." In 1992, the Kohl government sent troops to support the NATO naval blockade of Yugoslavia. Later, following the deployment of troops to the UN Somalia mission in 1994, the German Federal Constitutional Court ruled that German troops could participate in UN peacekeeping operations outside NATO territory.

What is significant about the Balkans blockade was that it was a direct result of Germany triggering the Balkan wars by recognizing Croatia and Slovenia as breakaway nations from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1991. By 1999, German troops were in combat in support of NATO, engaged in furthering the Balkans conflict. Today, the entire Balkan Peninsula is in process of being turned into a collection of vassal states subservient to a German-dominated EU.

With the destruction of greater Yugoslavia as a political entity, the way was clear for the European Union to impose its will on the Balkan crossroads of Europe, a most strategic piece of territory. The scene was then set for the expansion of German influence, under the EU umbrella, to extend southward via the Adriatic and the Mediterranean seas. Malta

(the island that Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi has called a "stepping stone to Africa") and Cyprus fell quickly into the EU maw.

Today we find the German Navy patrolling the Mediterranean and the waters off the Horn of Africa. We also see the German military involved in a mock invasion off Africa's west coast, on the ground in the Congo guarding German mining interests there, and preparing for involvement in the Darfur conflict in Sudan. Added to all this is Germany's continuing troop presence in Afghani-

what may emerge as hidden German motives, but step back and view the whole picture: With a wider lens, we may see a Germany in a stunningly expansionary mood, particularly in Africa.

On to Africa

Once again, akin to the scramble for African resources in the 19th century, the rush is on in Africa.

Increasing German interest there is beginning to highlight the prospect of confrontation between Germany and China, especially in Nigeria, Angola and Sudan.

At issue is access to exploitable oil reserves and Africa's vast mineral wealth. Watch for tensions to rise between China and a German-led EU on these issues.

But of particular note is Germany's renewed interest in the southwestern African nation of Namibia.

Previously colonized by Germany in the great rush for the rich resources of Africa that took place in the 1800s, Germany's freshly overt interest in Namibia centers on access to its rich deposits of copper and chrome ore, and, very strategically, on control of the deep-water port of Walvis Bay. This time, unlike most other major port facilities where China has taken the initiative, it seems Germany has the jump on China. Just as the Balkans are the literal crossroads of Europe, Walvis Bay has "developed into the commercial turnstile for all of Southern Africa" (*German Foreign Policy*, July 3). Walvis Bay offers a faster turnaround for European/African shipping than routing via the Cape to South Africa's ports. It is the preferred African port of call for German shipping companies.

But there is another issue that raises concern in southwest Africa. Some in Namibia still grumble about the way Imperial Germany treated an earlier generation during their colonial days.

This piece of history was publicized as recently as 1985 in a UN report on the subject. Termed the "Whitaker Report," this was a summary of a UN investigation that proved Germany was responsible for one of the earliest acts of genocide in the 20th century. It was perpetrated in Africa.

To quote details of the specific event noted in part one of that report, "Gen-



stan, Uzbekistan, Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia and off the coast of Australia in East Timor, not to mention (post-9/11), the Luftwaffe having flown security missions for the U.S. covering America's East Coast! All that increasing global involvement is quite a leap for a united Germany that had its first post-war "out of area" military operations only 14 years ago.

Perhaps if these widespread missions were billed in the media as *German* initiatives, it might stir some unpleasant memories of previous combat undertaken by Germany some 60 years ago. However, the Germans have been very clever to publicize them as being much-appreciated support to both UN and NATO missions. This bit of PR places a nice gloss on

eral von Trotha issued an extermination order; water holes were poisoned, and the African peace emissaries were shot. In all, three quarters of the Herero Africans were killed by the Germans then colonizing present-day Namibia, and the Hereros were reduced from 80,000 to some 15,000 starving refugees.”

The question being raised in southwest Africa is, if the Germans succeed in regaining influence in that region, will history repeat itself?

Your Bible prophecies of an imperial power rising within the north (Europe) that will wield tremendous political and economic influence in the very near future, to the extent that its merchants will trade in “slaves, and souls of men” (Revelation 18:13). This power is prophesied to increase its power toward the south (Africa) and the east (Palestine). You may read of that in Daniel 8:9.

Is there a risk of the experience of slavery and genocide endured by the peoples of southwest Africa under their former Teutonic masters about to be repeated? Fearing this prospect, some concern is already being voiced at the future consequences of Germany’s increasing military presence in Africa.

Watch Africa as the competition for its resources and cheap labor heats up. Watch for Germany’s influence in Africa to be aided, abetted and encouraged by a U.S. and Britain seemingly oblivious to the stern lessons of history.

Then there’s the Middle East.

Middle East “Peacemaker”

Ever since Germany unified in 1990, the German Foreign Office has sought to become directly involved in the so-called peace process in the Middle East. Joschka Fischer, foreign minister under the former Schröder government, was particularly aggressive in promoting Germany as a “peacemaker” between the Palestinians and the Israelis. With Fischer now gone from the scene, Germany remains a deeply entrenched entity in the peace process. In the most recent conflict, German intelligence officers have been involved in Lebanon, negotiating for the release of captured Israeli soldiers. In addition, Germany has carved out for itself a role in negotiations with Iran over its development of nuclear weapons.

In respect of the war in Iraq, the former Schröder government made itself

unpopular with the White House as it refused outright to aid the U.S. alliance on terror in that initiative. This, despite the same government readily acquiescing to the Bundeswehr’s involvement in Afghanistan. Yet a closer look at Germany’s traditional role in covertly supporting terrorist-sponsoring regimes in the Middle East might explain the reason for this reluctance.

Mark Aarons and John Loftus’s masterful exposé of Vatican-German intrigue, *The Unholy Trinity*, reveals the following: “Among the dubious achievements of Nazi science was the invention of Sarin, Tabun and Soman. These nerve gases ... were so effective that the same formulae are still in use today During the 1970s, U.S. codebreakers found dramatic evidence that West German

Since unifying in 1990, the German nation has rapidly spread its military forces around many theaters of conflict in all hemispheres.

companies were selling the Sarin secret to several Arab nations” Aarons and Loftus allude to the probable involvement of the West German intelligence service (BND) as “a merchant of death for [nations] such as Libya and Iraq.”

It is an intriguing study in itself to consider which nation supplied the technical expertise for Saddam Hussein’s sophisticated web of deep underground bunkers. Why, when the cameras zoomed in on the operating instruction templates affixed to much of the underground equipment, did those instructions display very clearly in the German language? German merchants, bankers and the German secret service have yet much to answer for in their contributions to terror regimes in the Middle East, let alone Albania, Croatia and nations within Africa. German and Austrian armaments are continually turning up in caches of terrorist arms in these countries.

The drug- and gun-running corridor that stretches from Germany via the Balkans across Eurasia and clear on down to Latin America is a well-documented reality. It would be intriguing to investigate connections between current German entrenchment in Afghanistan, presently reaping a bumper drug crop in that country, and the whole web of banking and business houses involved in the clearance of the billions of dollars reaped by the purveyors of addiction via the global drug corridors of the world.

Nuclear Aspirations

But of perhaps even deeper concern is the present German government’s tendency to reverse the anti-nuclear power policies of the former Schröder government. At the recent G-8 summit in Russia, Angela Merkel removed Germany’s resistance to endorsing the development of nuclear power as an alternative to more conventional power generation methods. The effect was that all 15 national representatives present were able to reach a unanimous vote on the question.

This may appear innocuous to the casual, non-Green observer. However, the endorsement by Merkel carries with it possibilities that bode ill for the future.

Everyone knows that Iran’s development of nuclear power is, notwithstanding the Iranians’ protestations to the contrary, destined for military use. Yet, why would we not apply the same logic to Germany? Would not the endorsement of the development of nuclear power, ostensibly for “peaceful” purposes, by a German leader be of

real concern, especially given the warlike nature of the German peoples dating back to the times of ancient Assyria?

What should motivate us to an even deeper concern at this development in German policy is the probability that Germany has been clandestinely involved in the proliferation of nuclear weapons, while at the same time maintaining a pacifist public face on the subject. Loftus and Aarons comment on “reports that Western Germany is behind secret proliferation of nuclear weapons.” The authors make the point that the rationale used by the former West Germany to conclude a secret nuclear protocol attached to a trade treaty with Argentina in the 1960s was that the U.S. would at some future date pull out of NATO or withdraw its nuclear shield from Western Europe. During the Cold War, “it was decided to develop the nuclear weapons secretly by utilizing the large émigré communities of German scientists in Argentina and South Africa” (ibid.).

There is, however, a clear difference between Iran’s pursuit of nuclear power and that of Germany. Every sensible observer of the world scene knows that Iran is bent on leading a global crusade to Islamicize the world. Sufficient reliable intelligence exists to confirm that Iran is well advanced along the path toward developing nuclear military capability. The strident diatribes of Iranian

leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad strongly indicate Iran will use every weapon at its disposal to pursue its ends.

With Germany, it is a very different situation in one glaring respect. Germany has been at pains to emphasize its role as a nation that has paid its dues for the millions of victims of two world wars it instigated. Germany has portrayed an image to the world of having become a respectable, even model, peace-loving, Western democracy.

The Bigger Picture

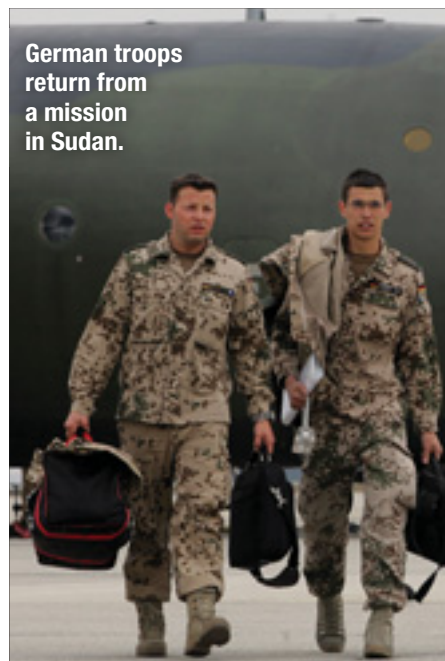
Grasp the bigger picture here! Germany has learned its lesson. If you want to rule the world, overt warfare in the name of your country or its dominant ideology is clearly not the way to go about it. Diplomacy, trade, “peacekeeping” and the employment of your traditional enemy’s principal ideology (democracy), plus the aggressive use of major internationally recognized bodies in pursuit of your national goals—the EU, UN, NATO—this strategy will yield the results you seek!

As Germany showed the whole world recently, it can be a wonderful host: a jovial, oompah-ing, lusty, merrily singing nation, intent on sharing its largesse—good food, beer and wine, with plenty of dancing in the streets. Surely this is a nation that has come to terms with its past, a real force for peace in the world, a model nation.

But, that was the mood in Germany yesterday. Today it’s already different. Many Germans have returned to lives of introspection, facing the prospects of higher taxes, decimated social benefits and a shaky coalition government that now appears, despite the confident image portrayed by its chancellor, to be at risk of fragmentation. What is it about these people that their mood can change so quickly?

One long-time observer of the German scene, Luigi Barzini, posed the question that has perplexed students of German history since the days of Rome. “Which is the shape of the German Proteus this morning? Which will be its shape tomorrow?” (*The Europeans*). One of Germany’s modern philosophers, Johannes Gross, said of his fellow countrymen, “[T]he day may come when someone lifts the mask. ... The face that appears may be less full-cheeked and rosy than today’s. ... So long as we wear the mask, we remain hidden and continue to conceal the situation from ourselves” (ibid.).

And therein lies the supreme danger. Wonderfully talented, organized, energetic and cultured the German people certainly are. Major contributors to the progress of modern society they certainly have been. But as long as Germany refuses to face the singular great flaw in its national character, its people risk becoming willing pawns yet again



German troops return from a mission in Sudan.

Grave Risk

There is grave risk in Germany’s present status. It has, by far, the largest economy in Europe. It is Europe’s most strident voice in foreign policy. It deploys Europe’s most organized military forces today over an ever widening arena. It houses the world’s singular greatest national banking enterprise, as well as the European Central Bank and many globalist corporations. It increasingly controls the internal waterways, road transit systems, power generation and distribution systems, water reticulation systems, mail and courier services and major publishing houses in Europe. And it has just succeeded in having a German public relations firm retained as propaganda merchants for that grand vehicle of German ambition, the European Union.

Germany’s current great political weakness, its fragmentary coalition government, is Europe and the world’s temporary protection from an immediate repetition of the grave errors of its past—errors that cost millions of lives in the carnage of two great global wars.

But what if this was all to change? What if, in a time of crisis—rising taxes, drastic social disruption from forced changes in economy and social benefits, the threat to its security posed by a rising Islamic empire—another demagogue arose? What then? Would history repeat itself?

As a member of global society in one of the most volatile and disruptive times in the history of man, you have a responsibility—a responsibility to *watch* and *pray!* (Mark 13:33). Watch Europe! Watch Germany! Barzini posed the question of the mutable German nation as he watched Germany gradually emerge from its hidebound postwar cocoon to assert itself, yet again, on the world scene, “What is the German mood? Are they happy, as happy as human beings can reasonably be? (It is when they are disconcerted and fretful that they can be most dangerous)” (op. cit.).

Will the German nation take this world once more down the hidden path to chaos? Write now for your copy, gratis, of our informative booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*, and learn the answer to that very question which is shortly to become the major foreign-policy consideration of our age! ■



Germany has learned its lesson. If you want to rule the world, overt warfare in the name of your country or its dominant ideology is clearly not the way to go about it.

in the hands of any future demagogue who would seek to captivate their fancy. Yet again, Germany could emerge with a sense of superiority over the rest of the world—with *disastrous* results for all!

Friedrich Nietzsche wrote of his people, “[T]he German is acquainted with the hidden paths to chaos ...” (*Beyond Good and Evil*). Populist leaders have taken advantage of this proclivity of the German people.

British political commentator Rodney Atkinson, a student of German history, once commented to me, “The German is expert in creating a crisis, then posing the solution, with an outcome designed to further his own ends.” We have seen that in the Balkans. We see it beginning to occur in Africa. Are we destined to see it play out yet once more, on a grand, global scale, as it has twice in recent history, since 1914?

“We Can’t Go It Alone on Defense”

As global threats gather, Europe sees the need to unify. The signing of a new code of conduct for arms contracting provides a peek at this significant trend.

BY BRAD MACDONALD

EVERYONE SEES THAT EUROPEAN unity has been obstructed by several divisive issues. What many do not see, however, is that despite these problems, the European Union continues to take steps, albeit small, toward becoming a unified and streamlined federation of nations.

In early July, the EU took another step toward this goal when 22 out of the 25 member nations signed a new code of conduct that will thrust the Conti-

ment toward a common arms market.

This one move could do much to enhance the EU’s military capability.

Under the code, which will apply to all member states except Denmark, Spain and Hungary, national defense ministries are required to place new arms and defense tenders on a European Defense Agency notice board where European arms companies may compete for the contracts. Such a code of conduct is revolutionary in Europe, where there has traditionally been little cross-border competition for defense and arms contracts.

The new code, according to Nick Whitney, head

Fear is an energizing emotion. In Europe, fears are going to motivate nations to scale the hurdles currently preventing their unification into a singular power.

of the European Defense Agency, will “create new opportunities for companies across Europe, strengthen our defense, technological and industrial base and offer better value for money to the armed forces and to taxpayers” (*Washington Times*, July 2). European arms companies, facing competition for contracts from other arms companies, will be driven to invest more time and money into developing new technologies, and to become more efficient and affordable.

As competition increases,

we could also see more mergers and buy-outs among European arms companies. In time, this new code of conduct could facilitate the formation of some giant arms conglomerates in Europe.

Time will prove that this new code of conduct is a small but significant step toward a unified European defense system.

Regarding the overwhelming acceptance of the new code, EU foreign affairs and security chief Javier Solana said that it shows “THERE IS A COMMON REALIZATION THAT NONE OF US CAN ANY LONGER AFFORD TO GO IT ALONE IN THE BUSINESS OF DEFENSE” (EUobserver.com, July 3; emphasis mine).

Why do European nations feel they can no longer “afford to go it alone” with defense? Solana’s comment provides a window into Europe’s anxiety over the rapidly changing reality of today’s geopolitics. Russia is growing bold to the east; Islamic fervor is mounting to the south; the U.S. is rapidly losing interest in Europe—and *European leaders are concerned*. In order to manage developing threats, they perceive a need to pool their resources and act as one.

Watch, then, for the EU to pursue more ardently the formation of a Con-

tinental-wide, streamlined defense system in coming months and years.

Fear Motivates

The *Trumpet* is not ignorant of the large hurdles this European Union project must jump if it is to amount to anything. We simply believe that as European nations increasingly face huge internal and external pressures, they will become more motivated to jump the hurdles preventing their unification.

Fear is an energizing emotion. Ask a man to hurdle a 7-foot fence, and he would probably refuse. Release an enraged, frothing-at-the-mouth attack dog, and the man would suddenly summon the energy to clear the fence in order to escape the angry canine. In Europe, fears are going to motivate nations to scale the hurdles currently preventing their unification into a singular power.

See **DEFENSE** page 37 ▶

EU SECURITY CHIEF
JAVIER SOLANA

EUROPE

France Enforces Sunday Rest

IN MAY, FRENCH COURTS ruled that the Louis Vuitton flagship store must remain closed on Sundays in accordance with law. The suit was brought against the famous Paris fashion house by the French Confederation of Christian Workers. Three facts are revealing:

- 1) The union that sued has no employees at the store.
- 2) All 300 employees of the store voted in favor of opening on Sundays.
- 3) An Ipsos telephone survey in April showed that 75 percent of French citizens polled approve of stores opening on Sunday.

Those three facts—along with every fact associated with this case—changed nothing though. Even if every American citizen approved of it, a community that began driving 50 miles an hour over the speed limit in school zones would still be violating law. In this case, French law was clearly violated: Thou SHALT rest on Sunday.

But where does a law like that come from, especially when the citizens of the nation don't want it? How can the French government defend that law's existence?

The popular defense of the law is that small merchants can't compete with larger retailers that have the resources to remain open on Sundays and therefore need government protection. That is poppycock. The law itself is 100 years old—a time when said large retailers simply didn't have that ability. The National Clothing Federation might be able to make that argument today, but it has nothing to do with the origins of enforced rest on Sunday.

Enforced Sunday worship began with the Roman Empire—specifically Emperor Constantine.

In a letter written after the Nicene Council of A.D. 325, Constantine specifically addressed Sabbath worship: “[F]rom this day forward none of your unlawful assemblies may presume to appear in any public or private place. Let this edict be made public.”

Worship on any day except Sunday was illegal, as confirmed at the Council of Laodicea almost 40 years later, in A.D. 363. At that conference, it was determined, “Christians *must not Judaize by resting on the Sabbath* [that is, Saturday], but must work on that day, rather honoring the Lord’s Day. ... But if any shall be found to be Judaizers, let them be anathema [cursed and excommunicated] from Christ” (empha-

GETTY IMAGES



UNFASHIONABLE French law says this store must be closed on Sundays.

sis ours throughout).

At the Council of Tours in A.D. 1163, Pope Alexander III was even more specific: “Whereas a damnable heresy [Sabbath worship] has for some time lifted its head in the parts about Toulouse, and already spread infection through Gascony and other provinces, concealing itself like a serpent in its folds; as soon as its followers shall have been discovered, let no man afford them refuge on his estates; *neither let there be any communication with them in buying and selling*; so that, being deprived of the

solace of human conversation, they may be compelled to return from error to wisdom.” In other words, if you worshiped on some day other than Sunday, you couldn't do business.

That is where Sunday labor laws have their origin. Working on Sunday marks those who

do so as pernicious in the eyes of the Roman Catholic Church, a stance many European governments have supported throughout the last 1,700 years.

Today, Louis Vuitton is unable to sell its handbags on the Catholic day of rest. In the future, as Europe becomes more integrated and the Vatican takes on a greater leadership role, we know that Sunday observance will be enforced as an identifying sign of the next incarnation of the Holy Roman Empire. For more information, please write for your free copy of *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?*

UK Leaning Away From EU

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 12 years, Prime Minister Tony Blair is less popular than his conservative opposition. According to a YouGov poll conducted in late June, 30 percent of Britons name Conservative Party leader David Cameron as the best



CAMERON

potential prime minister, compared to 28 percent for the incumbent Labor leader. The dominance of the Conservative Party itself is slightly more pronounced: Thirty-nine percent said they would vote

Conservative if there were a general election tomorrow; only 33 percent would vote for Labor. Some have called for Blair to step down, naming Finance Minister Gordon Brown as his replacement.

The transfer of the prime ministership from Blair to either David Cameron or Gordon Brown has several implications, but perhaps none is more important than how it would change the relationship between Britain and Europe. Whereas Blair is somewhat of an EU toady, Brown dislikes the federal Europe project, and Cameron hates it.

Gordon Brown is one of the most Euroskeptic politicians in the Labor Party. EU Commission chief Jose Manuel Barroso has warned that Brown will “have no influence” if he doesn't become more supportive. As finance minister, Brown successfully opposed Britain's adoption of the euro. Barroso observed that “until now Mr. Brown has not been one of the EU's big players—even at finance minister level—because of Britain's refusal to join the euro.” EUobserver.com says Brown has “rankled EU colleagues by his preachy style” (July 6). By contrast, the Times Online says Brown has “never hidden his admiration for America” and has “im-

Far Right Rises in Central Europe

FAR-RIGHT PARTIES ARE gaining popularity in Central Europe. Slovakia provides a recent example, where its new government coalition includes an extreme-right party that has rabidly xenophobic views and speaks fondly of that country's pro-Nazi wartime administration.

Though the leftist Smer (Social Democratic) party won the June 17 Slovak elections, it needed coalition partners to form a government. A key party chosen in early July was the Slovak National Party, which not only sympathizes with Jozef Tiso's fascist World War II government (infamous for having paid the Nazis to send 70,000 Jews to death camps) but is also extremely hostile to the large gypsy and Hungarian minorities within Slovakia. It has even proposed interning the gypsies in camps.

Slovakia's embrace of extremism follows on the heels of a similar situation in Poland, where a coalition government was formed in early May in which the far-

right, ultra-Catholic League of Polish Families joined with a populist party and conservatives.

The popularity of extremists is increasing in Europe because of widespread dissatisfaction with the way more mainstream governments are handling unemployment and immigration.

When Jan Slota, leader of the Slovak National Party, was asked by the *Slovak Spectator* a month before the elections about the threats his party intends to protect the Slovaks from, he referred to "Muslim fundamentalism" as "very dangerous. Slovakia is an overwhelmingly Catholic country and is disturbed by the flow of Muslims to France, Germany and England, where a great many now live" (May 20).

This type of thinking resonates increasingly with Europeans across the Continent.

The *Financial Times* of July 7 warned of the dangers: "Set in the context of recent events in Poland and the rise of Jorg

bibed everything American for years." He even employed former U.S. Reserve Bank Chairman Alan Greenspan as a consultant.

But Barroso may find himself pining for Brown's comparatively Europe-friendly approach if the Conservative Party takes power and David Cameron becomes prime minister. In June, Cameron refused to attend talks with EU party leaders—including German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Barroso himself. Cameron has pledged to withdraw Tory members of the European Parliament from the European People's Party—a grouping of Europe's main right-wing national political parties—because it is too fed-

eralist. Merkel has made clear that she is not happy about his intention. According to the Times Online, Cameron "has instructed William Hague, the shadow foreign secretary, to form a new right-wing group to push for far-reaching reforms of the EU and modernize its trading relationship with the United States." These are not the views EU leaders would like to see in a British prime minister.

Judging by the popularity of these leaders, Britain appears ready to lurch nearer toward withdrawing from the European Union, an event the *Trumpet* has predicted for years. Future leaders of both majority parties are Euroskeptics. The



IN THE RIGHT Slovakia's Prime Minister Robert Fico has formed a coalition with an extreme-right party.

Haider's Freedom Party in Austria in 2000, the concern now is that we are seeing the start of a trend in which each success for an extremist party in one country emboldens and helps legitimize extremist parties in others. ... So far, these groups have been junior partners to more mainstream parties who say they can prevent extremist rhetoric from translating into government policy. But if this trend continues, it may only be a matter of time before such a party becomes the leading force in government. If that happens,

modern European history will have entered a new period."

A "new period" in European history is indeed about to begin. The political success of hard-line nationalist leaders reflects a mood of dissatisfaction among many Europeans. There is a desire for strong leaders who promise solutions. We can expect such trends to continue in Europe, making conditions ripe for the rise of a powerful leader prophesied to lead a united Europe and have an unprecedented impact on the world scene.

EU wouldn't fare better with the minority parties: In a recent election for the seat in Bromley, Labor didn't just lose the election, it placed fourth—after the anti-Europe UK Independence Party. Britain didn't even hold a referendum on the EU constitution, knowing full well that France and the Netherlands had already rejected it and that the citizens of Britain would surely do the same. Most importantly, Britain has consistently refused to adopt the euro currency.

It is clear that Europe does not, and will not, have total support in Britain; the British people won't accept the EU's currency nor its constitution. *The final formation of*

that European empire will emerge without Britain as a member. Of that you can be certain.

When Britain joined the European Community in 1973, *Plain Truth* founder Herbert W. Armstrong definitively stated that Britain would not remain in a United States of Europe. Bible prophecy makes this clear. Sadly, Britain—biblical Ephraim—is prophesied to be a victim of aggression by the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire in Europe.

Today, Britain's withdrawal—the fulfillment of that prophecy delivered over 30 years ago—is just over the horizon.

“Silk Road” Trade Opens

THE WORLD’S TWO most populous countries—once at war, and even at odds over where the borders between them lay—are drawing closer. In the ongoing improvement of relations between China and India, a new development has arisen: A new trade route has been opened between the two countries which had been closed for nearly half a century.

“The Himalayan pass of Nathu La ... was once part of the ancient Silk Road and saw clashes between the sides in the 1960s. The opening ceremony took place at the



LOOK AHEAD An Indian and a Chinese soldier stand at a ceremony for the re-opening of the Nathu La Pass.

windswept border between the Indian state of Sikkim and Tibet. Nathu La opened just a few days after the first train service was launched from eastern China to Tibet. The pass was given a festive look with Chinese and Indian flags fluttering and military bands playing” (BBC, July 6).

This will not only improve the regional economy but also will help a more substantial relationship to blossom between the two giants of the Orient: “This ...

operation between the two countries despite alleged differences between Shiites and Sunnis” (ibid.).

“The visit by al-Mashhadani indicates that the two countries have a strategic and friendly cooperation based on their love for Islam,” Larijani said.

Trouble is, Iran’s brand of Islam features hatred for the West and the use of terrorism to support its cause. *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has consistently pointed to the fact that radical Islam would be the binding force that will unite a Middle Eastern bloc of nations behind Iran.

As we stated following the Shiites’ success in January 2005 elections, “Watch for a new Shiite-dominated Iraqi government to draw closer to Iran in ideology and politics.”

Concerns Mount Over a Mubarak Dynasty

CRITICS OF EGYPT’S PRESIDENT HOSNI Mubarak are expressing concerns that he appears to be positioning his son, Gamal, to take over as president. Such a move, were it to occur, would surely provoke a massive backlash among Egypt’s populace, which is already deeply disenchanted with Mubarak’s overlong and overbearing reign.

Ayman Nour, an Egyptian politician imprisoned by Mubarak last year, published an article in April criticizing Mubarak for steps he is taking to secure his son’s presidential succession, and forecasting additional steps he expects to be taken in the coming year. That article prompted Egyptian authorities to ban Nour from writing anything more.

Though Nour has been silenced, other critics are spreading his message. Mohammed Habib, deputy secretary-general of the Muslim Brotherhood—the hard-core Islamic group that managed to secure a six-fold increase in its number of parliamentary seats in Egypt’s last election despite the government’s strong-arm tactics to squash it—says the same thing: that Gamal will likely take over for his ailing father within a year.

The public protests that swept Egypt last year, with multitudes storming the streets chanting the slogan “Enough!” to

the Mubarak regime—as well as the clear public support for the radical policies of the Muslim Brotherhood, which contrast starkly with those of the secularist Mubarak—suggest that, if the trend toward democracy sweeping the Middle East is to prevail, the days of a Mubarak presidency are numbered. Any move by the elder Mubarak to shoehorn his son into office would surely turn up the volume on the public’s cry of “Enough!” and could even turn to violence.

Egypt is clearly trending toward radicalism. As discontent with present politics increases, we can expect to see Islamists continue to grow in popularity. The *Trumpet* views their eventual assumption of power in Cairo as an inevitability. That political change, followed by a cementing of ties between Egypt and the dominant Islamic power in the region, Iran, is strongly implied in biblical prophecy. As editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote a decade ago in *The King of the South*: “Daniel 11:42 implies that Egypt will be allied with the king of the south, or Iran. This prophecy indicates that there would be a far-reaching change in Egyptian politics!” A Gamal Mubarak presidency wouldn’t represent a far-reaching change—to the contrary, it could very well provoke it.



G. MUBARAK



TIGHT Al-Mashhadani met with Iranian reps in July.

MIDDLE EAST

Iraq Seeks Iran’s Help

WITH THE INSURGENCY in Iraq continuing unabated, Baghdad is increasingly looking to Iran. On July 3, during a visit to Iran, Iraqi Parliament Speaker Mahmoud al-Mashhadani requested Tehran’s help in restoring security to his country. In a meeting with Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani, he said that Iraq is looking to Iran because of the two countries’ geographical, economic and political commonalities.

But it is more than that. “Today,” al-Mashhadani said, “an Islamic and free Iraq is treading the path mandated by Islam.” The purpose of his visit, said al-Mashhadani, was to become familiar with Iran’s parliamentary system. He “praised Iran’s efforts to revive Islam as well as approve and implement laws and regulations based on Islam in the past 25 years. The Iraqi speaker expressed his view that consolidation of parliamentary relations between the two countries can provide a solid basis for expansion of mutual ties in all fields” (ArabicNews.com, July 4; emphasis ours throughout).

Al-Mashhadani all but stated that he wants Iraq to become an Islamic republic just like Iran.

Larijani responded in kind, saying al-Mashhadani’s visit “shows the close co-

Bloc Swinging Away From U.S.

is more significant for Indian diplomacy, not for trade,' says Jayantanuja Bandopadhyay, professor of international relations in Calcutta's Jadavpur University. Sikkim is a former Buddhist kingdom that merged with India in 1975, a move that was opposed by China, which lay claim to the state. 'By allowing trade through Nathu La, China has accepted Sikkim as part of India that it refused to do earlier' ..."

The *Trumpet* has long forecast that relations between China and its neighbors will improve. Bible prophecy reveals that Asia will align both politically and militarily, forming the most numerous army in history—an astounding 200 million soldiers (Revelation 9:16). With over a billion residents each, India and China could contribute heartily to this largest army ever.

To learn about this scriptural forecast and to study where Asia is headed, please request our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*.

China Oil Imports Skyrocket

THE RATE AT WHICH THE WORLD'S MOST POPULOUS country is guzzling oil is rising at a dizzying pace. This fact has serious global ramifications. China imported 12.4 million tons of crude oil in May—an incredible 20.5 percent jump from May 2005.

China's ballooning need for imported oil is the single greatest cause of increasing strain on global oil supplies. A mere decade ago, China was a net exporter of oil; but it has since become the world's second-largest oil importer (behind the United States)—accounting for fully 40 percent of global growth in oil demand over the four years between 2001 and 2004. These latest statistics suggest this demand will become significantly steeper in the years ahead.

Unfortunately, though demand is ballooning, supplies aren't: In fact, many experts say global oil production appears to be approaching its peak. Existing oil fields are already working at or close to full capacity—and, in many cases, have already started to decline in output—and new discoveries aren't expected to make up the difference.

This means that global competition for what oil *does* exist is about to get vicious. To understand where these events will lead, see our special March 2006 *Trumpet* issue on "The Coming Global Resource War."

ON JULY 3, ONE OF THE most virulently anti-American governments in Latin America was officially inducted into the South American trade bloc Mercosur. Adding Venezuela—the world's fifth-largest oil exporter—to Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay will boost the bloc's gross regional product to more than \$1 trillion. With the trade bloc now accounting for 75 percent of the region's total economic activity and comprising 65 percent of South America's population, Mercosur's economic weight will certainly increase.

Of more significance is the fact that this expansion in Mercosur membership characterizes *Latin America's swing away from the U.S.*

For years, the United States has been trying to establish a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) encompassing both American continents. In response,

the nations of Latin America have closed ranks and progressively worked to form their own trade agreements. Mercosur's acceptance of Venezuela as a full member—hailed by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez as a victory over America's FTAA push—is a bold move in this direction.

Venezuela's addition, says Masaaki Kotabe at Temple University's Fox School of Business, "points toward a failing U.S. policy" (Associated Press, July 3).

This is certainly the way Chavez sees it. In many ways, Venezuela has taken the lead in fostering an anti-American spirit in Latin America. Chavez rails against the U.S. at every opportunity and has made a point to cultivate relationships with other countries hostile to America such as Cuba and Iran. Chavez now claims the acceptance of Venezuela into Mercosur as "a victory against Washington's 'imperialistic' economic plans for the hemisphere" (ibid., July 5).

In accepting Venezuela as a member with full voting rights, Mercosur is bound to adopt a stance even more at odds with the U.S. The way Chavez sees it, the alliance "should be a common front against U.S. free-trade deals" (ibid.).

The other Mercosur members are aware that Venezuela recently withdrew from the Andean trade bloc—consisting of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru—in protest of those countries having trade agreements with the U.S. Accepting Venezuela—which has the third-largest economy on the continent—signals that Mercosur doesn't intend



LATINO BLOC Chavez (left) beams as his country joins Mercosur—forming into an anti-U.S. bloc.

to get cozy with the U.S. anytime soon. Chavez's passionate anti-Americanism evidently does not bother Mercosur.

Providing further evidence of Mercosur's cross purposes with the U.S., on July 21 a trade agreement was signed between the bloc and *Cuba*, a sworn enemy of the U.S.

So, if the massive trade bloc is alienating the U.S., with whom is it seeking to develop trade relations? The *European Union*.

The EU is currently the leading donor, top investor and second-most-important trade partner for Latin America. Negotiations have been underway since 1999 to forge a massive free-trade area joining together the EU and the Mercosur trade bloc. Such a trading partnership would hold enormous influence on world trade and have the ability to isolate the U.S.

Just such a scenario is prophesied for these times. Over 40 years ago, based on biblical prophecy, the *Plain Truth*, founded by Herbert W. Armstrong, predicted that the U.S. would "be left out in the cold as two gigantic trade blocs, Europe and Latin America, mesh together and begin calling the shots in world commerce" (May 1962).

As the Latin American trade bloc of Mercosur expands to include dangerously anti-American members, we can expect to see it head further in a direction *away* from America and *toward* cooperation with Europe.

5 Ways to Help Your Child Succeed in Public School

BY WAYNE TURGEON

IN SOME CIRCLES, THE REPUTATION of public schools has been trashed. Critics cite low academic standards, pervasive underachievement and a gutter teen culture among the problems hurting the lives of our school-aged children. Private school and home schooling are becoming increasingly popular choices among many families.

There are those who seem to think that there is simply no hope for a child who goes to a public school. *This is far from true.* While private school and home schooling can be excellent options for those to whom they are available, one need not view public school as a choice of last resort.

At the same time, however, it is irresponsible for parents to simply ship their children off to public school and expect everything to work out. If you as the parent are not getting involved with the education process, the chances of your child's success in public school drastically diminish.

Education begins in the home, and your child's success will have a lot to do with the groundwork laid before the child even walks into kindergarten that first day. Moreover, education must continue to be reinforced in the home throughout your child's schooling. It should, in fact, be a *joint effort* between parents and teachers—home and school.

Here are five things that you, as a parent, can do to help your child excel in the public school system (though they also apply to those attending many private schools). These are based on the assumption that the teachers are truly interested in your child's education. But even if teachers are not meeting this standard, that is all the more reason for you to be active in your child's public school experience.

1 Be involved with the school

Most schools have many annual activities that parents are invited to: parent-teacher conferences, open houses and music concerts. Parents should place a high priority on these events—even through, and *especially* in, high school. Not only will you be able to see where your children are succeeding and struggling, but all of these are great opportunities to show your children that you are interested in their lives.

Whatever limitations a public school may have, they are made far worse by parents neglecting their children—leaving them feeling unbridled and unloved. Being involved in your child's education will help your relationship at home.

Teachers notice if you take an active interest in your child's education. Not showing up at some of these events gives the teacher the impression you do not care about your child's education. Forging a positive relationship with the teacher is vital.

Open houses give children the opportunity to show you what they have been working on throughout the year.

At parent-teacher conferences, *both* parents should attend if possible. In a family with a stay-at-home mom, once all the children are in school the mother can volunteer on a regular basis—helping the teacher with certain class projects or chaperoning field trips.

Being involved helps you get to know the teachers and administrators who work with your child each day. That knowledge enables you to maintain a dominant influence in your child's life.

2 Help with homework

Parents have a responsibility to know what their children are learning.

Ask daily if your child has any papers you are to look at or sign, or any homework. Review your child's scores and grades. Notice where there is difficulty—and *help*. Spend time ensuring your child knows what is being taught. Repeat examples or problems; drill spelling words or facts he or she needs to memorize—whatever your child needs so that when he returns to class, he will be on top of the situation.

Not enough time for that, you say? This is some of the most *valuable* time you can spend with your child! Several minutes here and there will help *bond* you to your children or teens, and it will show them that education is a valuable and lifelong pursuit.

However, don't *overdo* the help to where your children rely heavily on your involvement. Be available, but also stress their individual responsibility and the need for them to pay attention. Instilling the *habit of listening* is one of the most constructive ways to help with

homework. If they pay attention in class, the homework will be much easier. And in a world where young people are glutted on television and video games, filled with junk food and deprived of sleep, your child will likely soar to the top of the class if *listening* is habitual.

Establish a homework routine for your

child. Ensure that the environment is conducive to learning. Every person learns differently, so be sensitive to the fact that he or she may thrive in a different type of environment. Discover what works best for your children. Really get to know their educational needs.

Whatever limitations a public school may have, they are made far worse by parents neglecting their children—leaving them feeling unbridled and unloved.



3 Be positive

As much as we may find wrong with the public schools in our society, we should never let our children perceive this as a negative attitude toward education. We must encourage our children to *love learning*.

Thomas Jefferson wrote, “Now a government is like everything else: *to preserve it we must love it*. . . . Everything, therefore, depends on establishing this love in a republic; and to inspire it ought to be the principal business of education; but the surest way of instilling it into children is for parents to *set them an*

Regularly taking your children out of school will be communicating to them and their teachers that you simply don’t place a high priority on education.

example.” Education is the same: We must love it in order to preserve it—and this sets an example for our children.

Are you excited for your child when she brings home a hard-earned “A” or when he gets really creative on a science project? Don’t overpraise or flatter, but be genuinely interested in their work and thrilled at their accomplishments. Young, impressionable people—even teenagers—*need* that from you.

4 Emphasize *daily attendance*

Parents should do everything possible to ensure their children do not miss school unnecessarily.

Make sure your children stay healthy. Ensure they get enough sleep. If they are too tired to get up and go to school, cut back on the extracurricular activities.

Regularly taking your children out of school will be communicating to them and their teachers that you simply don’t place a high priority on education.

The Worldwide Church of God, under Herbert W. Armstrong, gave this advice: “Do not let your child get away with feigned sickness or provide excuses for him. Each day is important. Getting behind is discouraging and frustrating to a child, and disrupts the progress of the

rest of the class. . . . Also, have you ever wondered what happens at school when children are instructed by their parents, ‘Tell your teacher to send you home if you don’t feel

well’? In numerous cases, from minute one the child asks, every few minutes, to go home. If your child is ill, keep him home. If he is not, do not put the idea in his mind. After all, he reasons, it is easier at home than working here, and Mother doesn’t mind if I come home” (*Good News*, January 1984).

Be aware that your child will suffer academically if you don’t place a high priority on daily attendance. It may not show up immediately, but this lackadaisical attitude will inevitably translate itself into his or her attendance on the job and in other aspects of life.

5 Support the teacher

At one time or another, your child will come home with a complaint about the teacher. How you react in this situation is vital. Avoid sympathizing with your child right away. You are, after all, only getting one side of the story.

Too many parents today believe everything their children tell them about how bad their teachers are. By agreeing with the child, they end up hindering the child’s education—and even his or her respect of authority in general.

You should be able to weed out the typical complaints, however, from a genuine problem with a teacher.

Years ago, parents would say, “If you get in trouble with the teacher, then you are in trouble with me when you get home.” Public schools would have far fewer problems if all parents took this approach.

Your talk with your complaining child may go something like this. Student: “Mrs. Smith was really cranky today. I hate that! She shouldn’t be that way.” Parent: “Well, maybe she was having a bad day. You have times where you are cranky. Something may have happened at home that you didn’t know about. Give her the benefit of the doubt. And make sure you didn’t do anything to put her in a bad mood. Overall, she’s a good teacher who wants you to get the best education possible.”

When you talk to the teacher, for example at a parent-teacher conference, avoid becoming defensive if he or she points out areas your child needs to improve in. That’s a gift to help you help your child to overcome and grow. We must fight the impulse to make excuses for our children.

“Remember that teachers desire success for your child and want him to gain a solid foundation in school. Instructing is a tremendous responsibility. Show your child that you and the teacher are unified in your concern for him. Any questions or misunderstandings you have should be handled directly with the teacher, not through your child. Uphold the teacher in your child’s eyes” (*ibid.*, May 1983).

Parental Involvement Produces Blessings

Children of parents who take a hands-off approach to a public school education will most likely end up with subpar academic achievements, compromised morals, and a distant relationship with their parents. But if you stay involved, public schooling can actually be an opportunity to draw closer to your child and your community. It can also be an opportunity to build in your child a love for education and a respect for right authority.

If you apply these principles, your child’s life *and yours* can be richly blessed! ■

Women in Military?

I JUST FINISHED READING YOUR COLUMN “The Vanishing ‘Man of War’” (June-July). To say the least, I am impressed. You said exactly what I have been saying ever since someone came up with this unreal idea. I am a veteran of the old army when it was just men training with men and protecting men and men protecting you. I know men like me would lose their lives and probably the life of other men protecting one woman if they saw that she was in harm’s way. For this reason alone, I am thankful that I will never have to serve alongside females. I am too old to serve anywhere now, but I still don’t like the military putting the young in that awful position. ...

Eddie Sauls—MOUNT VERNON, N.Y.

I WRITE FIRSTLY TO COMMEND YOU on the article “The Vanishing ‘Man of War.’” I believe the Australian military forces are being confronted and negatively affected in the same manner by the same issues. The outcome will be sad and potentially horrific. This is another instance of political correctness being put before logic and reason. Keep up the good work, as the truth desperately needs a voice in today’s society. ...

R.W. Howells—N.S.W., AUSTRALIA

I PARTICULARLY ENJOYED THE ARTICLE on the U.S. military being gender integrated. I could not help but think of Deuteronomy 22:5. ... I generally point out that the word *man* in Deuteronomy 22:5 is actually referring to a warrior. Thank you so much for your efforts to give contemporary application and relevance to principles of God’s original message.

Steven B. Daley—ELKINS PARK, PENN.

YOUR *TRUMPET* NEVER HAS A GENUINE good word to say about anything. In spite of Bush, the Iraqi War, high gas prices, and a lousy economy, America is still a great country. The *Trumpet*’s ideas on leadership—a George Washington or Teddy Roosevelt type, mounted on a white charger, sword in hand, with a peaked cap and cape, leading cavalry into battle with trumpets blaring, headstrong into the valley of death—that was okay hundreds of years ago, but it doesn’t work in 2006.

“Walt”—CALIFORNIA

Terrorists in Canada

THE ANALYSES IN YOUR POLITICAL commentaries are extremely well written, especially as they pertain to our pathetic [Canadian] immigration policies (“Where Terrorists and Deportees Walk Free?” August). Who can blame the Americans for their new get-tough-with-Canada regime? We are notorious for harboring the worst kinds of criminals, thugs and terrorists. After being so nice to would-be jihadists, we are suddenly confronted with Muslims who are now ready to blow up our parliament buildings and assassinate our prime minister. In spite of this not-so-gentle reminder from Canada’s rapidly growing Muslim minority, our lackadaisical, inane politicians are still preaching sermons to us from the Gospel According to Multiculturalism and Political Correctness. We are being told that all cultures are equal, all religions are equal, and that our strength lies not in God but in diversity.

Ray Fulford—B.C., CANADA

Israel’s “Bad Rap”

“FROM HERO TO OUTCAST” (MAY) IS very heartfelt and endearing. This is the first magazine I’ve read that [emphasized] the bad rap the State of Israel has been taking. Moreover, I feel such stories as this should be published on major news stations and popular secular magazines such as *Time* and *Life* magazines. As the Bible verse in Hosea 4:6 says, “my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge,” because they rejected knowledge.

Brandon Mitchell—DELANO, CALIF.

FOR MANY YEARS I RECEIVED THE *Plain Truth* and listened to Mr. Herbert Armstrong on the television. I read the *Plain Truth* from cover to cover when I was with the Alaska Native Service. After Mr. Armstrong’s death, the *Plain Truth* disappointed a lot of people, including me. I retired in Florida in 1990 and discovered the *Trumpet* on a restaurant magazine rack. It so impressed me I subscribed to it. And for about 10 years, I’ve been an ardent reader and believer in Bible study and prophecy. The *Trumpet* is fantastic. Mr. Flurry has done, and continues to do, a wonderful world service.

Janet Buckland—VENICE, FLA.

A New Germany

THE FULL THRUST OF THIS NEVER TIME-lieR piece (“The Dawning of a New Germany,” August) hit me between the eyes ... If tens of millions of Americans, Canadians or Britons read it, or were really aware of the message of a newly reinvigorated nationalistic Germany, poised to declare themselves “über alles” and back it up with the most horrific military assault in history on our Anglo-birthright nations, most everyone would be in full denial. It should also not be lost on and pounded home to our arrogant, insolent, hypocritical peoples (beyond the biblical proofs of your assertions) the Stratfor collaborating quotes that Almighty God is using Assyria as His appointed instrument employed to rid modern Israel of its great and heinous evils. So I rejoice in this message, realizing that this Fourth Reich’s mission now, at the end of the end, is coming into total fulfillment. And when accomplished, it will lead to, as you have said, the fifth kingdom ... God’s Kingdom that will bring real peace, joy and prosperity forever!

Howard Vern Fleisher—TENNESSEE

Feminism Provides Choice

I AGREED WITH YOUR POSITION IN “How Feminism Harms Families” (June-July), that women today are wrongfully made ashamed for wanting to be a stay-at-home mother. These women have every right to choose to care for their families in a way that they see fit and should be praised. But I think this is where your article missed the mark: Feminism is about giving women *choices*. The purpose of the movement is to give women equal options to men. Alongside that ideal, it is not solely the woman’s role to care for and raise the children, it is the equal obligation of the “parents,” as you mentioned. You also mention how mothers with careers are overburdened. Why aren’t fathers also overburdened? True male leadership takes half the responsibilities of the family. Both parents can have careers and healthy families if they truly share parenting.

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Hezbollah's Propagandists

Why CNN looks like Al Jazeera BY RON FRASER

LAST NIGHT I WATCHED THE NEWS ON AN AUSTRALIAN public broadcasting channel, SBS. I may as well have watched Al Jazeera. This is a news channel funded by Australian taxpayers' dollars, airing to an English-speaking nation that has, from the outset, given willing support to the war on terror. Yet so brazenly imbalanced was its reporting of the current war between Israel and Hezbollah, I was taken aback.

The problem is, too many will believe the report that I viewed and form opinions and react accordingly. In the process, they will become the unwitting PR minions of the great anti-Israel spin machine that daily and nightly grinds out its message of its hatred for global Jewry and its most obvious geographic icon, the tiny, embattled nation of Israel.

In Britain, the BBC suffers from the same shameful bias. A July 24 Times Online article titled "The BBC, Marred by Hezbollah" comments rather tongue-in-cheek, "If you watched yesterday's Andrew Marr program on BBC1, you would have seen a British TV landmark. To judge from its contents, the program was the first to have been edited by the leader of Hezbollah, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah. ...

"[O]f the four guests interviewed, not one had anything but bile to pour over Israel. ... All were treated with deference by Andrew Marr, as he invited them to honor us with their sagacity. ... [I]t is entirely improper that not one second should be allowed on what the BBC's website calls its 'flagship political program' for the view of anyone who thinks there just might be some justification for the Israeli action. Not that we should be surprised. The BBC's coverage has been overwhelmingly one-sided, with presenters and reporters editorializing against what they universally refer to as 'Israeli attacks on Lebanon.'"

The most deeply worrying thing about the SBS piece I saw is that it was delivered by a reporter who was given ready access to bomb sites (the result of Israel's response to the thousands of rockets being fired by the terror group Hezbollah into its cities) by that same terrorist organization. In the process, the reporter virtually became the tool of Hezbollah propaganda.

Such a phenomenon is becoming *de rigueur* for even higher profile, internationally aired news channels. For instance, CNN's senior international correspondent Nic Robertson freely admitted that during a piece aired on Anderson Cooper 360° July 18, he had been used as an all-too-willing tool in the Hezbollah propaganda drive in constructing a report on the current Mideast war.

Robertson explained how a Hezbollah propagandist had given him a guided tour of a bombed-out area in south Beirut.

According to Newsbusters.org, "Hezbollah claimed to show that Israeli bombs had struck civilian areas of the city, not the terrorist group's headquarters. The Hezbollah 'press officer,' Hussein Nabulsi, even directed CNN's camera: 'Just look. Shoot. Look at this building. Is it a military base? Is it a military base, or just civilians living in this building?'" (July 19). In his initial report, Robertson went along, voicing comments like, "As we run past the rubble, we see much that points to civilian life, no evidence apparent of military equipment."

The following week, the mask came off. CNN's *Reliable Sources* ran a live interview with Robertson, during which he said, "[T]here's no doubt about it: *Hezbollah has a very, very sophisticated and slick media operations.* ... [T]here were Hezbollah security officials around us at the time with walkie-talkie radios ...

They had control of the situation. They designated the places that we went to, and we certainly didn't have time to go into the houses or lift up the rubble to see what was underneath" (emphasis mine). Robertson said Hezbollah was routinely taking journalists on these tours. "They realize that this is a good way for them to get their message out, taking journalists on a regular basis."

Which side are such journalists on? As the old saying goes, a picture says a thousand words. By putting the precise pictures to the world that Hezbollah wants it to see (would we expect them to show journalists anything to verify that Israel is hitting the right

targets?), these media outlets are actually placing themselves at the disposal of the Hezbollah spin machine. Whatever their motivation (most likely to do whatever it takes to get an "exclusive" or breaking story), these personalities and the networks are *actually aiding in fighting Hezbollah's war!*

The power that this propaganda offers in swaying public opinion against Israel is potent. In fact, Hezbollah is already way in front in winning the PR war in the current conflict. Notice what Stratfor reported July 25: "There is ... a public relations shift taking place. In the early days of the air campaign, there was a surprising amount of international support for Israel. As the air campaign wears on and the pictures of civilian casualties beam around the world, that support is deteriorating. Israel is coming under greater political pressure."

The media can be equally powerfully used for good or evil. Their effect in swaying—even *determining*—public opinion, and the effect that has on vote-dependant administrations, should not be underestimated. Right now, it is Hezbollah that is using it with the most expertise, and the result will not contribute to the good of society generally, let alone in the Middle East—least of all to the embattled nation of Israel. ■



LESS THAN HALF THE STORY A picture taken from a window in Beirut at the prompting of a Hezbollah "press officer." Though such pictures were intended to depict indiscriminate destruction, Israel has carefully limited its attacks to Hezbollah strongholds.

THE KEY OF DAVID

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UNITED STATES

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun

Direct TV DBS WGN Chan. 307 8:00 am ET, Sun

Dish Network Ch. 181 6:00 am ET, Fri

Dish Network DBS WGN Chan. 239 8:00 am ET, Sun;

Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00 am, Fri

Alabama, Dothan WBDO 8:30, Sun

Alabama, Montgomery WBMY 8:30, Sun

Alaska, Anchorage KWBX 8:30 am, Sun

Alaska, Fairbanks KWFA 8:30 am, Sun

Alaska, Juneau KWJA 8:30 am, Sun

Arizona, El Centro-Yuma KWUB 9:30 am, Sun

Arizona, Phoenix KPPX 5:00 am, Fri

Arkansas, Fayetteville-Rogers-Springdale KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Fort Smith KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Jonesboro KFOS 8:30 am, Sun

California, Bakersfield KWFB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Chico-Redding KIWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Eureka KWBT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Los Angeles KPXN 6:00 am, Fri

California, Monterey-Salinas KMWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Palm Springs KCWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Sacramento KSPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, San Francisco KKPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Santa Barbara KWCA 9:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00 am, Fri

Colorado, Grand Junction-Montrose KWGJ 10:30 am, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00 am, Fri

Delaware, Salisbury WBD 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Gainesville WBFL 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Jacksonville WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Miami WPXM 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Orlando WOPX 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Panama City WBPC 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tallahassee-Thomasville 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tampa WXPX 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Augusta WBAU 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Brunswick WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Columbus WBG 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Macon WBMN 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Savannah WBVH 9:30 am, Sun

Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30 am, Sun; 8:30 am, Wed

Hawaii, Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau Akaku Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30 am, Mon

Hawaii, Kauai Ho' Ike Chan. 52 9:30 am, Tue

Idaho, Boise KWOB 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Idaho Falls-Pocatello KWIB 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Twin Falls KWTE 10:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Bloomington-Peoria WBPE 8:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Chicago WCIU 9:30 am, Sun; WCPX 5:00 am, Fri

Illinois, Rockford WBR 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Fort Wayne WBFW 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Indianapolis WIPX 6:00 am, Fri

Indiana, Lafayette WBFY 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Terra Haute WBI 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Des Moines KFPX 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Kirksville-Ottumwa KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Mason City-Austin-Rochester KWBR 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Sioux City KXWB 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Joplin-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Lincoln KWBL 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Topeka WBKS 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBWG 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Lexington WUPX 6:00 am, Fri

Louisiana, Alexandria KAXN 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, El Dorado-Monroe KWMB 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, Lafayette KLWB 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, Lake Charles WBLC 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, New Orleans WPXL 5:00 am, Fri

Maine, Bangor WBAN 9:30 am, Sun

Maine, Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Boston WBXP 6:00 am, Fri

Massachusetts, Holyoke-Springfield WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Cadillac-Traverse City WBVC 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Detroit WPXD 6:00 am, Fri

Michigan, Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00 am, Fri

Michigan, Lansing WBL 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Marquette WBMM 9:30 am, Sun

Minnesota, Duluth-Superior KWBD 8:30 am, Sun

Minnesota, Mankato KWYE 8:30 am, Sun

Minnesota, Minneapolis KPXM 5:00 am, Fri

Mississippi, Biloxi-Gulfport WBGP 8:30 am, Sun

Mississippi, Columbus-Tupelo-West Point WBSP 8:30 am, Sun

Mississippi, Greenwood-Greenville WBWD 8:30 am, Sun

Mississippi, Hattiesburg-Laurel WBHA 8:30 am, Sun

Mississippi, Meridian WBMM 8:30 am, Sun

Missouri, Columbia-Jefferson City KJWB 8:30 am, Sun

Missouri, Hannibal-Keokuk-Quincy WEWB 8:30 am, Sun

Missouri, Kansas City KPXE 5:00 am, Fri

Missouri, St. Joseph WBJO 8:30 am, Sun

Montana, Billings KWBM 10:30 am, Sun

Montana, Bozeman-Butte KWXB 10:30 am, Sun

Montana, Glendive KWZB 10:30 am, Sun

Montana, Great Falls KWGF 10:30 am, Sun

Montana, Helena KWH 10:30 am, Sun

Montana, Missoula KIDW 10:30 am, Sun

Nebraska, Hastings-Kearney KWBL 8:30 am, Sun

Nebraska, North Platte KWPL 8:30 am, Sun

Nevada, Reno KWBV 9:30 am, Sun

New York, Albany WYPX 6:00 am, Fri

New York, Binghamton WBXI 9:30 am, Sun

New York, Buffalo WPXJ 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Elmira WBE 9:30 am, Sun
New York, New York City WPXN 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Syracuse WSPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Utica WBU 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Watertown WBWT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Durham-Raleigh WRPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Fayetteville-Lumber Bridge WPFX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greensboro WGFX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greenville WEPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greenville-New Bern-Washington WGWB 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Wilmington WBW 9:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Bismarck-Dickinson-Minot KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Fargo-Valley City WBFG 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00 am, Fri
Ohio, Lima WBOH 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Steubenville-Wheeling WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Zanesville WBZV 9:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Lawton KWB 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oklahoma, Tulsa KTPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oregon, Bend KWBO 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Eugene KZWB 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Medford-Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Portland KPXG 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEF 9:30 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPPX 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Wilkes-Barre WQPX 6:00 am, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WBLN 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Florence-Myrtle Beach WFWB 9:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KWBH 10:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Sioux Falls-Mitchell KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Knoxville WPXX 6:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Memphis WPXX 5:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Nashville WNPX 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Abilene-Sweetwater KWAW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Amarillo KDBA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Beaumont-Port Arthur KWBB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Corpus Christi KWDB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Harlingen-Weslaco-Brownsville KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Houston KPXB 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Laredo KTXW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Lubbock KWBZ 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Odessa-Midland KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Angelo KWSA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Antonio KPXL 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Sherman KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Longview-Tyler KWTL 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Victoria KWVB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Wichita Falls KWB 8:30 am, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Charlottesville WBC 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Harrisonburg WBHA 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Norfolk WPXV 6:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Roanoke WPXR 6:00 am, Fri
Washington D.C. WBDC 8:00 am, Sun; WPXW 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Kennewick-Pasco-Richland-Yakima KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Seattle KWFX 6:00 am, Fri

Washington, Spokane KGPX 6:00 am, Fri
West Virginia, Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill WBB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Charleston WLPX 6:00 am, Fri
West Virginia, Clarksburg-Weston WVWB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Parkersburg WBPB 9:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire-La Crosse WBCZ 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Milwaukee WPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Wisconsin, Rhinelander-Wausau WBWA 8:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Casper-Riverton KWWY 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Cheyenne-Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30 am, Sun

CANADA

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun; Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu
Colombia WGN 7:00 am, Sun
El Salvador WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Guatemala WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Honduras WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Mexico WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Panama WGN 7:00 am, Sun

CARIBBEAN

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Aruba WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Bahamas WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Belize WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Cuba WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Dominican Republic WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Grenada CCN 7:30 am, Sun
Haiti WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Jamaica WGN 9:00 am, Sun
Puerto Rico WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Tobago CCN 7:30 am, Sun
Trinidad CCN 7:30 am, Sun

EUROPE

Malta Smash TV 4:30 pm, Sat; 10:00 pm, Tue

AFRICA/ASIA

South Africa CSN 6:30 am, Sun
Philippines nationwide Studio 23 8:30 am, Sun

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

Australia nationwide Network Ten 4:30 am, Sun
Adelaide, South Australia Chan. 31 11:30, Sun
Perth, Western Australia Chan. 31 11:30 am, Sun
Tasmania Southern Cross TV 6:00 am, Sun
New Zealand nationwide TV3 6:00 am, Fri

The fact that 22 out of the 25 EU member states are prepared to set aside a history of awarding defense contracts to companies within their own borders and sign this new code of conduct proves this point—and provides an inkling of a growing trend in Europe.

As Solana said, among European states “there is a common realization that none of us can any longer afford to go it alone in the business of defense.” Over time, they will realize they can no longer “afford to go it alone” in *any area*—be it economy, communications, trade, and the list goes on. The more these nations set aside their differences and embrace the European project, the more they will realize the benefits that come from having a focused and unified government.

History provides the blueprint of how this will occur. Time and again, European greatness has hinged predominantly on two factors: Germany and the Vatican. Watch, then, for both to play a more central role in European affairs in the time ahead. As the Catholic Church seeks to restore Europe to its spiritual and “Christian” heritage, Germany will work to unite the Continent politically and secure all the elements required for a global superpower—including a highly organized and advanced, strictly European military.

Viewed from this perspective, it is not unlikely the American-designed North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) could be facing its demise. As Europe’s various militaries gradually streamline into a singular military under singular leadership, these national militaries may steadily shun their commitment to NATO in order to throw their weight behind their own European military.

It is important, in the coming months, to sift through the stories bemoaning the failure of European unification—and to see plainly the frightening force that is steadily coalescing out of this chaotic environment. The formation of this European superpower is one of the most important developments you could be watching. ■

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