

# THE PHILADELPHIA Trumpet

**The Kavanaugh battle  
reveals America's future**

**Lessons from Venezuela**

**Why you must watch  
German-Russian relations**

**Blueprint for a happy home**

**Famine: a modern threat**

**“A nation divided  
against itself  
cannot stand.”**

—President Abraham Lincoln, quoting Jesus Christ



POLITICAL SPECTACLE  
Protesters on Capitol Hill  
rally against Supreme  
Court nominee Brett  
Kavanaugh on October 4.

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# The Kavanaugh Hearings Reveal America's Lawless Spirit

The appalling battle over the United States Supreme Court shows how close this nation is to collapse—and how God will solve the problem.

**I**F YOU ARE LIKE MOST AMERICANS, YOU HAVE STRONG FEELINGS about the confirmation process of Brett Kavanaugh to the United States Supreme Court. The nation was transfixed by those hearings. Emotions ran hot as accusations of sexual misconduct turned the process into a heinous spectacle before the world!

It all unfolded in full public view. The nation's attention became fixed on trivialities like high school yearbook entries and crass teenage slang. Many people became convinced that Kavanaugh was a sexual predator who had no business on the court. Others, looking at the same information, saw a Democratic Party willing to crawl in the gutter to prevent conservatives from gaining a Supreme Court majority. The Senate echoed with nasty denunciations. Public places filled with irate protesters. Angry citizens personally confronted public officials and screamed in their faces.

It was probably the ugliest, most embarrassing spectacle in modern American politics.

Many observers noted that the division and hatred in America reached a new low. But there is a little-understood but critical *spiritual* dimension to what emerged in those hearings. The danger to America is FAR DEADLIER than most people recognize!

## A Lawless Spirit

I exposed this spiritual reality in a booklet I wrote in 2013 titled *America Under Attack*. I urge you to get a copy of this important booklet and study it. (We will gladly send you one at no charge.)

The first chapter, "The Hidden Cause of Society's Deadly Decline," describes an event that happened in 1986 that marked a turning point in America's history. This change first became publicly apparent in 1987—in a blistering battle OVER THE SUPREME COURT.

"On July 1, 1987, President Ronald Regan nominated a highly respected judge, Robert Bork, to become an associate justice on the U.S. Supreme Court," I wrote. "Within 45 minutes, Massachusetts Democrat Edward Kennedy took to the floor of the Senate and demonized him. 'Robert Bork's America,' he said, would produce back-alley abortions, segregation, censorship and midnight police raids.

"It was a shocking, bald-faced vilification of a man who was obviously qualified and greatly respected, even by

many liberals. 'There was not a line in that speech that was accurate,' Bork said. Many people agreed—but *the attack still worked*. Senator Kennedy and others led the way for abortionists, evolutionists, feminists, civil-rights advocates and other liberals to band together and defame Judge Bork's reputation in an enormous smear campaign."

That disgraceful smear campaign kept Robert Bork off the Supreme Court.

Shouldn't we be deeply concerned that RANK LIES could be so effective? Many Americans simply *do not value* TRUTH as they once did, and as they *should*! Those critics of Robert Bork who used LIES to destroy that man should be hanging their heads in shame! But many people viewed "borking" him and having him replaced with a more liberal judge as a great political victory, worth any cost!

Why was Judge Bork attacked so ferociously? *Because he believed in the authority of the Constitution as written*. He rejected the liberal notion that the Constitution is an "evolving" or "living" document, which can be twisted to mean whatever we want. In the eyes of the liberal left, Bork's respect for the *rule of law* made him a threat.

As I prove in *America Under Attack*, that LAWLESS SPIRIT, and the willingness to use deceit and lies to torpedo Judge Bork, was directly inspired by an evil *spirit being*—the most lawless, deceitful, amoral and destructive being in the universe!

Do you believe in the devil? The Bible has a lot to say about him. Believe it or not, the Bible also reveals that he is now working fiercely to DESTROY AMERICA. It shows *why* and *how* he is coming after America so aggressively, particularly in the last three decades.

THE BORK DEFEAT IN 1987 EXPOSED THE DEVIL AT WORK. He uses defamation, smears and lies. He casts truth to the ground. He despises law. He uses any and every means, no matter how unprincipled, hypocritical and vile, to accomplish his aims.

"What happened to Robert Bork marked the beginning of a vicious attack on the law of the land," *America Under Attack* says. "In the ... decades since, we have seen a rapid breakdown of law and an increasing amount of poison spreading through America's political system. ... [Satan] is using individuals that he can to destroy law and government, so everything comes unglued and falls apart."

Why would controlling the Supreme Court be so important to the devil? Just look what Robert Bork's replacement, Justice Anthony Kennedy, did. He was the deciding vote on



GERALD FLURRY

several landmark Supreme Court cases that thrust America into deeper immorality. In 1992, *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* confirmed a woman’s “right” to abortion. In 2003, *Lawrence v. Texas* made homosexuality legal across America. In 2015, *Obergefell v. Hodges* legalized same-sex “marriage.” These were decisions that WOULD NOT have been made law through Congress—the governing body that *should* be making law! In many cases, at least to this point, a majority of Americans have been *against* the liberal agenda. So liberals have used *the courts*, with approval from the HIGHEST COURT IN AMERICA! This is how they have forced most of their agenda on the country. That is why they fight so aggressively for control of the courts, even if it means lying and slandering.

Now, 31 years have passed since the Bork debacle. Over that time, Satan’s evil influence has gotten progressively stronger. America has lurched much further down the path of lawlessness, poisoned politics, crippled government and bitter division.

THE KAVANAUGH CONFIRMATION PROCESS EXPOSED JUST HOW MUCH WORSE THIS TREND HAS GROWN. There is a force in America that is crazed for power, and intolerant of and angered by dissent. There is a force that passionately hates biblical morality, and that considers abortion a right and a virtue rather than a tragedy. There is a force that values political power over truth, license over law. And in the Kavanaugh hearings, we got a good look at just how strong this force has become.

More importantly, that process gave us an astonishing look into the depths of Satan’s mind! In fact, *many* recent developments in America expose Satan.

### Maliciousness

Democrats in the Senate demonized Judge Bork in 1987 because he was a constitutionalist. In 1991, they falsely accused Judge Clarence Thomas of sexual assault for the same reason. Their smears against Brett Kavanaugh are more of the same.

Democrats opposed Kavanaugh and began vilifying him from the moment his name was announced. They tried and failed to fault his judicial record. Then they smeared him personally. Three weeks after President Donald Trump nominated him, a California Democrat named Christine Blasey Ford wrote a letter to Sen. Dianne Feinstein accusing Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct at a high school party 36 years ago. Feinstein, rather than immediately informing the Senate Judiciary Committee and the FBI, waited until hearings with Kavanaugh ended. The day before the confirmation vote was to be held, she unveiled the accusations in a last-minute ambush.

Ford did not claim that Kavanaugh raped her, or even came close. Still, Democrats insisted that incident should disqualify Kavanaugh from ever serving on the Supreme Court. After a public prosecutor determined that Ford’s account was inconsistent, vague and uncorroborated by the people she said were at the party, Democrats looked for other accusers. They found three more women who accused him of sexual misconduct during high school and college, including absurd allegations of his being involved in gang rapes!

In decades of public service, this man’s moral character had *never before been called into question*. With ZERO PROOF that Kavanaugh was involved in any sexual assault, because

of unsubstantiated accusations, Democrats *demand*ed that his name be withdrawn. Senators and citizens insisted that everyone simply “Believe women!” They accepted everything his accusers said at face value and presumed his guilt—even though America’s entire justice system is based on presumption of innocence until *proof* of guilt. Democrats piled on Kavanaugh, universally treating Ford’s uncorroborated account as proof of a career-ending crime, and ripping this man apart! *USA Today* sports reporter Erik Brady wrote that Kavanaugh shouldn’t even *coach basketball*, let alone join the



Supreme Court: “[C]redibly accused sex offenders should not coach youth basketball, girls or boys, without deeper investigation. Can’t we all agree on that?”

It was ASTOUNDING to watch the left act like strict moralists, appalled by any whiff of indecency—WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN DRAGGING AMERICA’S MORALS INTO THE GUTTER FOR GENERATIONS! THEIR HYPOCRISY IS SO MONSTROUS, SHAMELESS AND BOLD, IT IS SHOCKING!

America’s sexual standards are *horrific*—and sexual predators should be arrested and brought to justice. (And I don’t believe for a moment that Brett Kavanaugh is one of them.) *But these politicians don’t really care about justice!* THEY WANT TO TURN SOCIETY UPSIDE-DOWN. They want to empower women over men. They want to exalt feelings over truth. THEY WANT TO MAKE SURE THE SUPREME COURT DOESN’T TAKE AWAY THEIR RIGHT TO ABORTION! THEY WANT TO KEEP USING THAT COURT, AND EVERY OTHER MEANS THEY CAN, TO PROMOTE THEIR LAWLESS AGENDA!

When none of their sewer strategies succeeded in blocking Kavanaugh’s confirmation, the left grew even *more* malicious.

Look how they treated Susan Collins, a Republican senator from Maine. Last year the *New York Times* ranked her the most liberal Republican. Pro-abortion groups have commended her for supporting their cause. She was the first Republican senator to be reelected while publicly supporting same-sex “marriage.” The left *hoped* she would vote against Kavanaugh. But she decided to vote for him, and explained her decision in a logical, reasoned 43-minute speech before the Senate.

*Immediately, the radical left turned fiercely against her.* They condemned, threatened and harassed her. Twitter users said they wanted to punch her in the face. One tweet said, “Never let Collins have a moment of peace in public again.” Another said, “I hope someone kills you.” The Women’s March

called her a “rape apologist.” People launched a *boycott of Maine* to convince Mainers to vote her out.

Radicals unleashed this vile, violent vitriol and hatred against a host of targets. One writer for a popular network comedy program tweeted during the final confirmation vote, “Whatever happens, I’m just glad we ruined Brett Kavanaugh’s life.” That is a sick attitude that Satan can really use. When Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin announced he would vote for Kavanaugh, protesters met him outside his office, shouting, “Shame! Shame! Shame!” Leftists publicly posted names, addresses and phone



SENATOR FEINSTEIN

numbers of senators and their family members so people could harass them. One was Colorado Republican Sen. Cory Gardner, whose wife was texted a graphic video of a beheading. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz was confronted and chased out of a Washington, D.C., restaurant by bullies shouting, “We believe survivors!”

This is pure bullying and intimidation! The truth is trampled to the ground, steamrolled by hatred and rage. This is a calamity! We are witnessing a complete breakdown of law and order in this land. It is a TERRIBLE example to this world.

Look at the absolute hatred! I’ve never seen anything quite like it. The radical left is SICK. They do not accept criticism, and they are not sound-minded.

The power behind them is very dangerous! WHAT THEY ARE DOING HAS THE DEVIL’S FINGERPRINTS ALL OVER IT! *Satan* is “the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2). He loves to stir up nasty, unbridled emotion.

Americans need to wake up! SATAN IS AT WORK—dividing the country, turning us against each other, hollowing away the strength of our republic! Bible prophecy shows this is leading to nation-destroying VIOLENCE!

It seems the radical left has virtually taken over the entire Democratic Party today, with few exceptions. And they are pushing for conflict! They are cheering the groundswell of discontent and resistance. Even the mainstream press will not *denounce* such gross behavior. They eagerly publicize it. They won’t call a rowdy, angry *mob* WHAT IT IS—they consider it lawful, democratic protest. Politicians are *encouraging* provocative, divisive conduct. They view it as justifiable cries for justice, and proof of the president’s unpopularity and illegitimacy. They are *playing* to these mobs and stirring them up!

At a rally in Georgia in October, former Attorney General Eric Holder said, “It is time for us as Democrats to be as tough

as they [Republicans] are ...” He referred to former first lady Michelle Obama saying, “When they go low, we go high.” “No, no. *When they go low, WE KICK ’EM,*” he said to roars and applause. “That’s what this *new* Democratic Party is about. We’re proud as hell to be Democrats. We’re going to *fight* for the ideals of the Democratic Party ...” (emphasis mine throughout).

Hillary Clinton defended this viciousness in an interview with CNN. “YOU CANNOT BE CIVIL with a political party that wants to destroy what you stand for, what you care about,” she said. “That’s why I believe, if we are fortunate enough to

win back the House and/or the Senate, THAT’S WHEN CIVILITY CAN START AGAIN.”

What a revealing statement! She says that *until the left is back in power, THERE SHOULD BE NO CIVILITY IN AMERICA!* The left should protest, agitate, accuse, confront, scream, fight, kick—*whatever it takes* to RECLAIM POWER!

THIS WOMAN ALMOST BECAME AMERICA’S PRES-

IDENT! What would have happened if she had? The radical left doesn’t control some of the biggest levers of power right now, yet it is STILL successfully sabotaging many aspects of American life, morally, culturally, intellectually, educationally and politically! It is *astounding!*

Look what the previous president did during his administration. IMAGINE HOW MUCH FASTER THEY WOULD BE RESHAPING AND DESTROYING THIS NATION IF THEY STILL HELD THE WHITE HOUSE, AND IF THEY CONTROLLED CONGRESS AND THE SUPREME COURT!

### Exposing Satan

Hillary Clinton says the left will start being civil when Democrats take control of Congress. That is a lie.

Sadly, civility in America is on an UNSTOPPABLE DECLINE. That is because Satan has gained a choke hold on this nation that can only be released through *national repentance* and *obedience to God!*

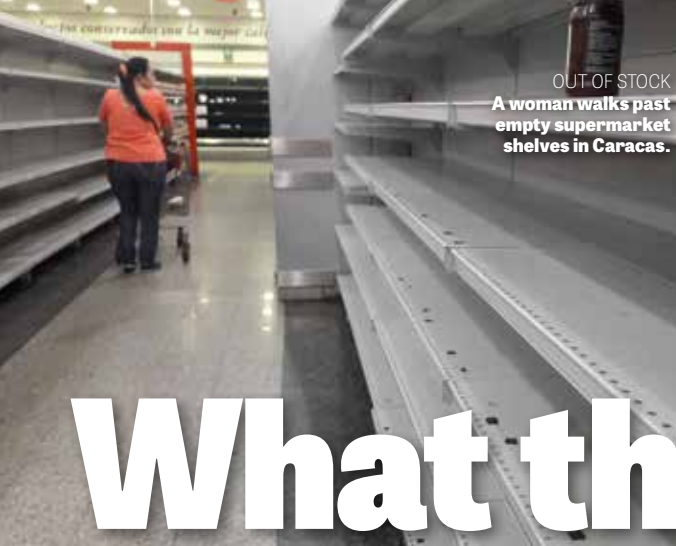
God is TRYING to bring America to repentance. He is allowing curses to intensify in order to chasten and correct us: curses in weather, climatic and geological disasters, plagues in agriculture, crises in leadership, economic troubles, military setbacks, racial and social divisions.

As I wrote in my May-June 2018 cover story, “Saving America From the Radical Left—Temporarily,” God has also stepped in to *strip power away* from the radicals—ENOUGH TO SLOW AMERICA’S FALL AND TO GIVE US A LITTLE MORE TIME. (Please read this important article at [theTrumpet.com/17092](http://theTrumpet.com/17092).) God is allowing and orchestrating circumstances to help us SEE OUR SIN—so we will REPENT of it!

Just as there is a spiritual power behind this destructive force in America today, there is a spiritual reason that this

**It was astounding to watch the left act like strict moralists, appalled by any whiff of indecency—when they have been dragging America’s morals into the gutter for generations.**





**OUT OF STOCK**  
A woman walks past empty supermarket shelves in Caracas.



**MOST WANTED**  
Smugglers haul gasoline from Colombia to Venezuela.



# What the World Needs to Learn From Venezuela



**KEEPING ORDER**  
The National Guard seeks to keep order as people line up for eggs.



**PROTESTS**  
Activists clash with riot police in a march against President Maduro.



Ignoring these lessons would be a grave mistake. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

**H**OW MUCH MONEY DO YOU need to buy a tomato? How much for a roll of toilet paper? If you live in the South American nation of Venezuela right now, you need so many stacks of bundled bills that they won't even fit in your pockets.

Venezuela is suffering one of the worst cases of hyperinflation in history. Prices rise by the day, and the annual inflation percentage has been in the tens of thousands.

Since 2014, 2.3 million people have fled Venezuela: about 7.5 percent of the population. Proportionally, that would equate to 24 million Americans fleeing the country. Those who remain in Venezuela are facing economic conditions usually associated with a civil

war. Some don't have enough water. Food shortages are massive. In some areas, a family needs the equivalent of 22 minimum-wage salaries just to buy a basic basket of food. The average Venezuelan lost 18 pounds in 2016—and 24 more pounds last year. Last year, nearly 400 children starved to death. Caritas Internationalis, a Catholic humanitarian agency, has estimated that number to reach 280,000 by the end of 2018.

The only free market in the country is the black market, so Venezuelans are getting food and other necessities any way they can. Nearly everyone engages with the black market on some level. Family men find themselves smuggling gasoline and other contraband into Brazil and Colombia. Teachers, doctors and petroleum engineers sell their bodies in prostitution. Formerly respectable people are trafficking drugs. Gangs recruit teenagers by just offering them something to eat. Government officials

do business with gangs, drug cartels and terrorist networks. Venezuela is like a nation-size mafia organization.

You have probably seen the images on the news. Stacks of 100-bolivar bills that are almost worthless. Huge lines at supermarkets. Impoverished mothers and children looking into empty refrigerators. Women who prostitute themselves in other countries. Emaciated, abandoned pets. People rummaging through trash for food. Butcheries selling rotten meat at bargain prices to consumers who then treat it in vinegar and lemon juice before consumption. Major power outages. Massive protest marches. Deadly election clashes with police. Venezuelan migrants blocked from leaving the country. Heartbreaking images of malnourished elderly, adults and children.

In 2018, Venezuela is synonymous with government failure, economic disaster and crushing poverty.

JUAN BARRETO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES, JAN SOCHON/LATINCONTINENT/GETTY IMAGES, ALVARO FUENTE/NURPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES, FEDERICO PARRA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES, RONALDO SCHEMIDT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES, FEDERICO PARRA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



# eds zuela

FORAGING  
Venezuelans search  
for food in Caracas  
garbage.

AN ARM AND A LEG  
A man uses a wad of  
bolivar to pay for a  
tank of gas.

Venezuela is a failing state, and there isn't even a war to blame it on.

What happened? Until recently, Venezuela was prosperous. In 1950, its people enjoyed the fourth-largest per-capita income in the world after the United States, Switzerland and New Zealand—\$80,000 per person in today's money. In 1980, Venezuela's was the fastest-growing economy in the world. As late as 2001, it was the wealthiest country in Latin America. In 2012, Venezuelans' per-capita gross domestic product hit a high of \$18,382 per person.

Venezuela has rich natural resources: gold, diamonds and the largest proven oil reserves in the world. So how did Venezuela go from being the richest country in Latin America to an economic and humanitarian disaster zone?

## Socialism

Despite the nation's wealth, due to government corruption and

mismanagement and the falling price of its major export, oil, Venezuela had a poverty rate of an incredible 50 percent in the 1990s. In 1992, one former paratrooper and socialist visionary tried to overthrow the government—and failed. But in 1998, Venezuelans elected that same man, Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías, as president with 56 percent of the vote.

Venezuela's past welfare programs would pale in comparison to what Chávez was about to do. He promised to end government corruption by giving Venezuela's wealth to the impoverished masses. He would give power to the people. "Venezuela is a nation of great wealth," Chávez proclaimed, "but it's being stolen from its citizens by the evil capitalists and the evil corporations."

Chávez was wildly popular. He was charismatic, and he appeared on television, speaking directly to his people, for hours at a time. Most importantly, he lavished benefits on the poor. The price of oil, on which the nation's economy depends, continued to soar. Wealth poured in. Chávez looked like a benevolent genius to his people and to socialists abroad. Over the 14 years of his presidency, he took in an estimated \$1 trillion in oil profits, and spent it on massive social programs.

The Chávez regime also nationalized thousands of private companies and industries. He said the government would run them better than private owners, and it would distribute the profits to the people.

As a result, the poverty rate dropped from 50 percent to about 32 percent by the time Chávez was reelected—with almost two thirds of the vote—in 2006.

In the early 2000s, leftists in America and Britain loved to praise Venezuela. Here was a natural paradise where a socialist visionary was enlarging the government, taking over big businesses, nationalizing the oil industry, making the society dependent on the government, and handing out benefits to poor people. This was socialism in action!

After the examples of the Soviet Union, East Germany, China, Cambodia, North Korea and other socialist states, liberals were eager for a current, real-world example they could hail as a victory for "21st-century socialism." Chávez's Venezuela was it.

"[L]ook at the positive changes that have happened economically, that have happened in all of South America because of Chávez [et al.]," said filmmaker Oliver Stone, who made a documentary called *My Friend Hugo*, in a 2010 press conference in Venezuela's capital.

"Venezuela is seriously conquering poverty by emphatically rejecting the neo-liberal policies of the world's financial institutions," said Jeremy Corbyn, the current leader of the British Labour Party, in 2009.

Chávez had led the "historic liberation of Latin America," freeing it from 500 years of Western force, going back to the time of the conquistadors, according to prominent American socialist Noam Chomsky in 2013.

"These days, the American dream is more apt to be realized in South America, in places such as Ecuador, Venezuela and Argentina, where incomes are actually more equal today [than in America]." Thus read a 2011 article posted on the website of Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, who mounted a popular campaign for U.S. president in 2016.

Back then, the message from American and other Western socialists was, *Just look at Venezuela!*

## Authoritarianism

To accomplish his reforms, Chávez took control of *all* branches of power: executive, legislative, judicial—and military. He and his supporters rewrote Venezuela's Constitution, eliminated the nation's Congress and replaced it with a National Assembly, which Chávez controlled. He used this body to extend presidential terms and abolish term limits. He stacked the Supreme Court with those loyal to him. After his government increased state control over the oil industry, Chávez fired company leaders he didn't like and replaced them with people loyal to himself. He effectively destroyed the private sector by confiscating one industry after another and putting it under government control.

These moves were popular, but there was a problem.

People tend to like some of the short-term effects of a socialist government. But giving the government that much control has consequences. "A government big enough to give you everything



you want,” said former U.S. President Gerald Ford, “is a government big enough to take from you everything you have.”

The big government of Venezuela’s “socialist paradise” was indeed strong enough to take things away. Not just businesses and jobs, but freedoms. When journalists criticized the president, he had them jailed. When judges ruled against his decisions, he had them arrested too. When people protested, he had them locked up; some were even shot in the streets. When military officers became uncomfortable with these tactics, Chávez imported agents from Communist Cuba to spy on them.

In 2010, Transparency International labeled Chávez’s Venezuela *the most corrupt country in Latin America*—a region with plenty of candidates for that dubious designation.

Yet the cash kept coming in. Oil was still selling for more than \$100 a barrel, so the government kept receiving money and kept handing it out.

**“A government big enough to give you everything you want is a government big enough to take from you everything you have.”** —FORMER U.S. PRESIDENT GERALD FORD

In 2012, Chávez was reelected. This time around, however, there were no international election observers, and there was evidence that the election was rigged. He became yet another “democratic” socialist to gain power by promising to give it to the people—and then hold onto it himself until the end.

Soon thereafter, Chávez announced that he had contracted cancer. After traveling to Cuba for treatment, he died in March 2013. Conveniently for his legacy, the oil money was still rolling in. He never paid the bill for his policies.

But Venezuela would.

### Bankruptcy

Less than a year after the inauguration of Chávez’s hand-picked successor, Nicolás Maduro, the inevitable happened: *The price of oil dropped*. Suddenly the real costs of socialism became obvious.

“The trouble with socialism,” said the late British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, “is that eventually you run out of other people’s money.”

With the easy oil money dried up, Venezuela had to now stand on the strength of its other industries, its economic resilience and the free enterprise of its people. But Venezuela had none of that. So it fell.

Since Venezuela’s per capita GDP peaked in 2012, it has shrunk 34 percent. The national economy shrank 16 percent in 2016, 14 percent in 2017, and a forecast 15 percent this year. The nation has gone from being the world’s fourth-wealthiest nation per capita to the 131st. Inflation, the general increase in prices, was 112 percent in 2015. It ballooned to 2,800 percent in 2017, and this year is projected to hit *1 million percent*.

Ruling over this wreck of a nation, Maduro is determined to hold on to power. In 2013, he won the presidency with 51 percent of the vote in an election that was likely rigged. At that point, the poverty rate was around 32 percent. Five years of economic catastrophe, social upheaval and malnourished oil

workers later, Maduro won reelection with *68 percent* of the vote. His popularity—somehow—*rose by one third*.

This is puzzling, until you learn that Venezuela again blocked international election observers from participating, and that the British company that provided the voting machines said it found a discrepancy of at least 1 million votes between the vote participation recorded by the machines and the statistic announced by Venezuelan authorities.

Many Venezuelans have rejected the Maduro government’s claims and have protested in the streets en masse. Maduro’s security forces have cracked down on the protesters and journalists. Bolivarian National Guard troops have even arrested people just for recording video of long lines outside supermarkets with food shortages.

Meanwhile, the press reports that, amid the widespread deprivation, Hugo Chávez’s daughter has somehow accumulated an estimated fortune of \$4.2 billion.

It turned out that electing a democratic socialist to end corruption, distribute the nation’s wealth, and give power to the people ended up fostering corruption, crushing the economy, and reducing the power of the people!

It is clear that “democratic socialism” has once again produced classic AUTHORITARIAN socialism. A government big enough to give Venezuelans what they want is a government big enough to tell Venezuelans how they voted.

What a lesson in how socialism can and does go horribly wrong. *Just look at Venezuela!*

### Lessons Unlearned

Yet astoundingly, as this disaster unfolds, what is the hot political trend just north in America?

Democratic socialism.

An August 13 Gallup poll says 51 percent of Americans ages 18 to 29 have a “positive view” of socialism. Only 45 percent have a positive view of free markets. In the Democratic Party, 57 percent have a positive view of socialism, while only 47 percent are positive toward free markets. Democratic National Committee chairman Tom Perez said that one popular self-avowed “democratic socialist” with radical views is “the future of our party.”

This wave of enthusiasm for socialism surged in the last presidential election as young people supported Bernie Sanders. Now, socialists are winning in state primaries. Some could win governor’s offices, and some could join Sanders in Congress.

Already serving alongside Sanders in the Senate is a Harvard Law School professor, a scholar in bankruptcy law, a leading figure in the Democratic Party—one of the finest minds our educational and political system can produce, the way many would view it. Elizabeth Warren is a potential presidential candidate for 2020, and she has a plan. She wants the federal government to control *every major business in America*.

This is not just rhetoric. Warren has introduced the Accountable Capitalism Act, a nice-sounding bill that would establish government control over every major business in America (any business with more than \$1 billion in



**C**AN THE FOOD YOU EAT IMPROVE your mood? Many experts say yes. Your happiness depends the most on your attitude and your choices, of course, but your diet does affect your brain, which affects your mind.

Your brain requires a constant supply of fuel supplied by food. What is in that fuel directly affects the structure and function of your brain. Rather than being filled with nutrients, minerals and healthy fats, many everyday foods are filled with sugar and dangerous fats. Research has linked these ingredients to impatience and even aggression. But a healthy diet will boost your mood and even stave off dark feelings.

For example, mental disorders, particularly depression, are widespread and increasing. The National Institute of Mental Health states that anxiety disorders now affect about 40 million adults, or 18 percent of the U.S. population.

Concurrent with this problem is increased consumption of highly processed foods. While many understand how poor food choices lead to physical weakness and illness, few are aware of the link between nutrition and mood.

More and more research shows how foods change brain structure, chemistry and physiology. For example, a 2012 study in *Public Health Nutrition* revealed that those who eat junk food are 51 percent likelier to show signs of depression. And the more junk food, the likelier the brain function is impaired.

### **Gut-Brain Connection**

Have you felt “butterflies” in your stomach? Then you know the gut and brain are connected. But until recently, scientists had not realized that the trillions of bacteria in our digestive tract are actually driving the relationship.

“Most researchers agree that microbes probably influence the brain via multiple mechanisms,” wrote David Kohn. “[G]ut bacteria produce neurotransmitters such as serotonin, dopamine and GABA [gamma-aminobutyric acid], all of which play a key role in mood .... [They] also generate other neuroactive chemicals, including one called butyrate, that have been linked to reduced anxiety and depression. [S]ome microbes can activate the vagus nerve, the main line of communication between the gut and

# Good Foods Lead to Good Moods

Here's how to eat to improve your happiness. **BY JORG MARDIAN**



the brain. In addition, the microbiome is intertwined with the immune system, which itself influences mood and behavior” (*Atlantic*, June 24, 2015).

Hyper-processed foods can increase anxiety because they suppress good bacteria and influence pathogenic gut infections such as candidiasis.

Even some foods usually thought healthy may not be. Nutrition experts are now questioning whole-wheat products, for example. Regulations on labeling whole grains are extremely lax. U.S. law only requires 51 percent of the original grain in food products labeled “whole grain.” In Canada, food regulations permit up to 5 percent of the wheat kernel and 70 percent of the nutrient-rich wheat germ to be removed from flour labeled “whole wheat.”

This is important to consider in mood regulation, as whole-wheat flour and white flour react similarly in the body. “Whole wheat” products are processed enough to trigger blood sugar spikes, distort mood levels and increase disease risk.

Liquids should also be considered. Caffeine is a stimulant, increasing alertness, vigilance and reflexes, but also may increase anxiety or depression in susceptible individuals. Even insufficient daily water intake may impair concentration or clear thinking, or lead to headache, confusion and tiredness.

The biggest offender may be sugary drinks. The Californian Center for Public Health Advocacy reports that the average American drinks 700 sodas each year, amounting to 39 pounds of sugar. This causes significant mood swings.

Other ingredients that negatively influence mood include genetically modified organisms, chemicals, additives and antibiotics that disrupt complex signaling pathways by attacking healthy microbiota. Conversely, the more good bacteria you have, the harder it is for bad bacteria to colonize and disrupt your mood.

### **Good Mood Good Guys**

Studies show that traditional diets that include more vegetables, fruits, unprocessed grains, meats and seafood, with a good amount of fermented foods (which contain good bacteria), correspond to a 25 to 35 percent lower risk of depression than a diet of processed and refined foods. *Psychiatry Research* also suggests a link between lower social anxiety and probiotic foods, such as pickles, sauerkraut and kefir.

Healthy whole grains include whole-grain quinoa, millet, barley, amaranth, oat groats or steel cut oats and buckwheat. These grains still include most nutrients, bran and high amounts of fiber and natural antioxidants. Fermented or sprouted whole grains are even more beneficial. They are metabolized slowly, ensuring the correct amount of glucose is released into the bloodstream, boosting brain power and concentration and creating a calmer feeling.

Evidence increasingly points to physical and mental health being two sides of the same coin: The same dietary and physical activity that prevents common diseases also inhibits mental disorders. This is why researchers now see depression not just as a brain disorder but rather a whole-body disorder.

Foods have immense impact on both body and brain. Again, this is not the only factor—much of our mental disposition stems from spiritual factors—but it should not be overlooked. Whether you need a quick pick-me-up or have struggled with bad temper, check your pantry or refrigerator for foods to improve. ■



# Blueprint for a Happy Home

Qualities to build within your family **BY WIK HEERMA**

**I**N A WORLD RIFE WITH FAMILY BREAKDOWN, YOU NEED tools. Tools for building a marriage. Tools for making relationships with your children work.

The Bible is an invaluable guide to a family that wants to do things right. It offers a wealth of instruction on how to govern our families—how parents should conduct themselves and how children should respond. It gives you a practical blueprint for *how* to build a *happy home*.

God wants your family to be happy. He wants you to have full joy—the abundant life—right now! (John 10:10). “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for [family] to dwell together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1). He supplies the instructions on how to achieve that within our families. All we need do is follow them.

Building a happy family is a hugely important project, because the rewards extend well beyond the happiness we can experience in the short term. God created family life to teach us about life in His eternal Family! If we point our family and children to God the Father, it leads to life forevermore! (verse 3).

Here are some Bible-based qualities we can build in our families to make them truly happy.

## ONE COMMUNICATION

Out of the 10,080 minutes in a week, the average American couple spends 17 in conversation. What goes on in your household when it comes to communication? Do you only hear fighting, bickering and arguing? Or maybe there is total silence—not a word spoken. Maybe all you can hear is the television blasting in the background.

Communication is *vital* to a happy home. To bring happiness to our household, we need to know what goes on in our family.

Mealtimes are a wonderful opportunity for communication, but it needs to extend beyond that. We need to communicate often and without fear.

Family should be an environment where children will come and talk to us simply because something is on their mind—a concern, an achievement, whatever it may be. Take the time to listen. Communication is a two-way process. We talk, but we need to listen with genuine interest to what each family member has to say.

A special way of communicating with family members is by instructing them. In Genesis, God holds the patriarch Abraham up as an example: “For I know him, *that he will command his children and his household after him*, and they shall keep the way of the Lord to do justice and judgment ...” (Genesis 18:19). God commended Abraham for instructing his household—for communicating His way of life to his family. Proverbs 29:15 shows the need for parental direction and correction.

The Apostle Paul instructed Titus to teach the Church about family relationships (Titus 2:1-5). If this kind of instruction is lacking in an individual family, it will not be a happy home. God instructs us to help our children, to answer their questions and to take time to teach them about the benefits of God’s way of life.

## TWO COMMITMENT

Commitment means you’re in the family for the long haul. It means valuing each other above our own needs and desires. There is tremendous power in commitment. It holds a family together during difficult times, which every family experiences. A happy home needs security, even in times of testing and trial. Those



trials pull strong families together but weak families apart.

When God instituted marriage, He instructed the man to *cleave* to his wife (Genesis 2:24). God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16; Luke 16:18). He intends marriage to be a lifetime commitment.

Proverbs 31 teaches that a happy home starts with a happy marriage. The virtuous woman of that chapter is motivated by a strong outgoing concern for her family.

In Romans 12:9-10, Paul wrote, “Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor” (Revised Standard Version). Be committed to your family. Children need to know they’re not just individuals growing up, being instructed, disciplined and taught, but are part of something bigger—part of a family. A family is greater than the sum of its individuals.

### THREE TIME TOGETHER

Take time to do things together as a family. Families grow close if they are involved in activities. Design your own family projects. Involve the whole family in day-to-day tasks, such as keeping up the yard, raking leaves, maintaining and keeping up the home, washing the cars, and planning family goals.

Plan time to be together, and plan time in both quality and quantity—because these things don’t just happen. You must give thought to ensure it happens.

Having a weekly routine can help. What about a weekly family walk, or a regular, scheduled family game night?

### FOUR INDIVIDUALITY

Someone once defined a weed as *any plant in an unwanted place*. The loveliest rosebush, in a location you don’t want it, is a weed. We mustn’t have any weeds in our families. Make sure each member knows he or she is wanted and has room to grow and develop individually.

See what God did with the family of mankind. After creating Adam, God brought the animals before him to name them (Genesis 2:18-19). God allowed him to administer rule in order to facilitate his growth and creativity. God wants each of us to develop our own personality.

Giving family members room to develop brings out their individual qualities and teaches them decision-making within their areas of responsibility. It teaches accountability. After giving instruction and establishing parameters on how something should be done, give family members space to act. If it doesn’t turn out right, *then* step in and *teach* why things didn’t work out. If you squash every opportunity, they will never develop. As more responsibility can be entrusted, more character can be developed as well.

### FIVE APPRECIATION

All of us need appreciation. We need to learn to *express* and *receive* appreciation. When was the last time you told your wife what a wonderful meal she had cooked? When was the last time you thanked your husband for the hard work he does each day? When was the last time you showed appreciation to your

**Plan time to be together, in both quality and quantity. These things don’t just happen.**

son for putting away his shoes, or to your daughter for giving you a big hug?

Too often we focus on the negative and fail to see things that are praiseworthy. Our homes should not be an environment of negativity. Be aware of the danger of constant, hard criticism, of arguing and belittling. Talk positively about each other, both inside and outside of family settings. Don’t tear each other down.

Be equal in your attention. If you have more than one child, make sure there are no favorites. Give each child the attention he or she needs without having any “respect of persons.”

“Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but

every man also on the things of others” (Philippians 2:2-4). Does this occur in your family? Does everyone notice things other family members do? Does everyone feel wanted?

### SIX SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING

This point is most important. The Bible teaches that the ultimate path to happiness is OBEEDIENCE TO GOD’S LAW. If your family is to be truly happy, it needs to be built around God’s law and truth.

Before ancient Israel inherited the Promised Land, Moses reminded the people of God’s statutes and judgments (Deuteronomy 4:1) and instructed them, “Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments .... Keep therefore and do them .... [T]each them thy sons, and thy sons’ sons” (verses 5-9). God likewise expects us to provide our children (and grandchildren) with religious instruction—because it leads to incredible blessings. God tells us to impart His knowledge to our children because it brings happiness, joy and pleasure to our families!

The Bible is clear on how to be happy: by OBEYING GOD. “If ye know these things, HAPPY are ye if ye DO them” (John 13:17). “HAPPY the straight in their paths, who walk in the Laws of the LORD; Happy those ... who seek with whole heart” (Psalm 119:1-2; Ferrar Fenton translation). To truly have a happy family, obey God!

“[T]he fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance ...” (Galatians 5:22-23). How accurately does that describe your family? If it’s close, your family is on the right track. If not, there’s work to do.

Love is an essential part of any human being’s life. An unloved baby, one who receives no affection, is unlikely to develop into a healthy adult. He or she will suffer psychological, physical and spiritual scars. A child learns to love by being loved. Spiritually it is the same: “We love him [God], because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19). John 3:16 explains this as well: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son ....”

That love must flow into our lives from God, and out through our actions toward God and other people, including our beloved family members. ■



# The Imminent Iran-Syria Divorce

Conditions are being set for the fulfillment of a forecast the *Trumpet* has been making for 20 years. **BY BRENT NAGTEGAAL**

**I**N JULY 2015, IRAN MADE A RISKY decision involving Syria. Up to that point, already four years into the civil war, it had sustained the regime of its ally, Syrian President Bashar Assad, largely by itself. It had ordered thousands of its Hezbollah fighters in southern Lebanon to cross the mountains into Syria. It sent Shiite mercenaries from Afghanistan and Pakistan by the tens of thousands. And the massive conscription of Syrian men was funded, in part, by Iranian cash. Assad seemed to owe his regime, his life and his allegiance to Iran.

Despite Iran's best efforts, however, Assad continued to lose territory and control. The rise of the Islamic State in the southeast, the dominance of the American-backed Kurds in the northeast, and the determination of the Syrian rebels in the populated areas of the north and west, meant that Assad controlled only 25 percent of Syria's territory.

In this dire situation, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force Cmdr. Qassem Suleimani was spotted.

Visiting Syria to assess matters, he concluded that, to preserve Assad's regime, Iran needed more help.

Immediately afterward, Suleimani met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow. He reportedly laid a map of Syria on the table and explained the need for Russian airpower to preserve not only Iran's assets in Syria, but also Russia's. Syria is a longtime ally of Russia, and hosts the only Russian naval base on the Mediterranean Sea.

Putin did not need much convincing. Eager to restore Russia to the glory of its Soviet era, he relished the prospect of returning to the Middle East.

In September 2015, Russian forces were spotted in Syria, and it wasn't long before Russian jets were crisscrossing Syrian airspace.

Inviting Russia into Syria was a risky move for Tehran, and today the reason why is clear. With the rebels confined to parts of Idlib province and the Islamic State largely vanquished, the future of the Assad regime is "safe for now." It is time for Assad to repay

his benefactors for their service. This means paying Iran AND Russia. And doing so in a way satisfactory to both these nations looks increasingly unrealistic, since Russia and Iran have divergent postwar goals.

This situation is illuminating a biblical prophecy the *Trumpet* has pointed to for two decades. More specifically, for six years, we have repeatedly drawn our readers' attention to an article titled "How the Syrian Crisis Will End," in which editor in chief Gerald Flurry prophesied that the Syria-Iran alliance will fracture and that Syria will align with a German-led European force. Today, this prophecy is ripe for fulfillment.

## From Allies to Competitors

After almost eight years of war, Syria lies in rubble. Cities such as Aleppo, Raqqa and Homs, once home to hundreds of thousands or millions of people, are shells of their former selves, with entire neighborhoods flattened by the fighting. National infrastructure



such as bridges, roads and the power grid urgently need repairs.

The cost of repairing Syria is astronomical. In August, the United Nations estimated that it would cost \$400 billion to restore Syria to the point that the millions of displaced Syrians could return. Problem is, Syria lacks the capacity to do the work itself and is going to need outside assistance. Enter Iran and Russia, again. With billions up for grabs, Iran and Russia each want their own companies to receive the reconstruction money the Syrian government will be spending. Whether it's contracts for the exploration of Syria's oil fields, control of the massive phosphate mines, electrical plant construction, or control of the future of Syria's telecom industry, Russia and Iran are petitioning the Assad regime for a share of this economic windfall.

There is also the question of who will give Syria the cash to rebuild. Which nations would be comfortable lining the pockets of the belligerent regime in Tehran or Moscow? Not many.

Today, it appears the Kremlin is realizing that none of that \$400 billion will come its way as long as it is partnering with the Iranians.

### **Why Does Iran Care About Syria?**

For 20 years, the *Trumpet* has followed Iran's rise in the Middle East. Iran's clear ambition is to rule the region. The nation's policy on Syria and its support for the Assad regime should be viewed in this light.

Iran's strategy is to control the Shia Crescent, the vast swath of land that arches from Iran and Iraq in the east, through to Syria and Lebanon on the Mediterranean coast. This area includes substantial populations that practice Shiite Islam, a religious sect that Iran dominates. Strategically, Iran needs to control this territory in order to project power into the Mediterranean and to threaten Israel.

To control this region, Iran needs influence in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon.

It already controls much of Lebanon through its proxy Hezbollah. In Iraq, it holds several advantages: Shiite militias loyal to Iran vanquishing the Islamic State; pro-Iranian elements inside the Iraqi government; and



## **Nestled between Iraq and Lebanon is Syria. To control the Shia Crescent, Iran needs to preserve its influence over the Assad regime.**

numerous western Iraqi border crossings controlled by Shiite elements inside the Iraqi military. Iran can operate relatively freely within Iraq.

However, nestled between Iraq and Lebanon is Syria. To complete the Shia Crescent, Iran needs to preserve its influence over the regime of Assad, whose Alawite faith is an offshoot of Shia Islam.

This is why, when Assad's position was threatened by the majority Sunni population during Syria's civil war, Iran devoted massive resources to protect and preserve him. It sent tens of thousands of Shiite militia fighters to preserve Assad—fully intending to stay there and dictate policy inside Syria once the war ended.

If Iran had been able to accomplish this without help from Russia, the Middle East today would be even more dangerous. Tehran would control virtually the entire stretch of land from Pakistan to the Mediterranean.

Instead, Iran must now give way to Russia, thus complicating its own

plans. Russia might have tolerated Iranian dominance of postwar Syria if both parties had received a generous share of the lucrative reconstruction contracts. However, the Russians see the very prospect of peace in Syria, and hence the chance to profit off the rebuilding, slipping away: Iran has started to use its presence within the nation in its ongoing war against Israel.

### **Israel's Role**

Since the start of 2016, Israel has fired more than 800 missiles and mortar shells into Syria and struck more than 200 military targets. The targets are mostly weapons depots and arms convoys used by Iran to defend the Assad regime and support Shiite militias in the region, including Hezbollah.

Israel has repeatedly said that it will not allow Iran to establish a threatening presence inside Syria, nor transfer advanced missiles to Hezbollah. Its military strikes on Iranian assets show that it is prepared to back words with actions.

If Iran continues to be aggressive against Israel via Syria, Israel will keep counterattacking. This threatens to further destabilize Syria, perpetuating the war. The United States and other countries are refusing to supply reconstruction aid unless Iran withdraws. Russia would likely accept Iran's postwar presence in Syria if the reconstruction money came in, but that is looking less likely by the day. On October 10, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said, "If Syria doesn't ensure the total withdrawal of Iranian-backed troops, it will not receive one single dollar from the United States for reconstruction."

Iranian journalist and Middle East observer Habib Hosseinifard told *Deutsche Welle* earlier this year, "For the U.S. and Israel, the withdrawal of Iran

from Syria is a primary condition for financial assistance, along with the restoration of the country's sovereignty." He continued, "For the West to be ready to support Syria and enable the return of refugees, Syria will first have to change its Iran policy" (September 6).

In recent conversations with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, President Putin stressed that the way to ease the migration crisis in Europe is to fund the reconstruction of Syria. Faisal al-Yafai wrote in the *National* on August 21, "This is the central argument of Mr. Putin's new strategy: that without money to rebuild Syria, millions of refugees cannot go home. It is a message he knows will be heard attentively in the Middle Eastern and European countries that have borne the brunt of the refugee crisis." However, Europe

seems uninterested, at least until there is a political solution in Syria.

With Europe and the U.S. unwilling to fund reconstruction, and with Iran continuing to create instability and conflict in Syria, there are signs that Russia and Syria may try to sideline Iran.

Cracks in the Syrian-Iranian relationship have already formed. In September, local media reported on Syrian forces coming into direct conflict with pro-Iran Shiite militias in eastern Syria. Numerous casualties were reported on both sides as they fought over a key township near the Iraq border—a border crossing necessary for Iran to control land routes to Lebanon. This was the first time these "allies" were seen fighting each other.

Some Iranian legislators are expressing concerns that Assad and Russia

## Who Are the Hagarenes?

**P**SALM 83 PROPHESIES AN END-TIME CONFEDERATION OF Arab nations that aligns with Assur against Israel. Assur is another name for *Assyria* (Ezra 4:2; 2 Kings 19:35-37), the name in biblical prophecy for modern Germany.

Among the other peoples mentioned in this prophecy are the Hagarenes (verse 6). Who are these people? What happened to them? Where are they today?

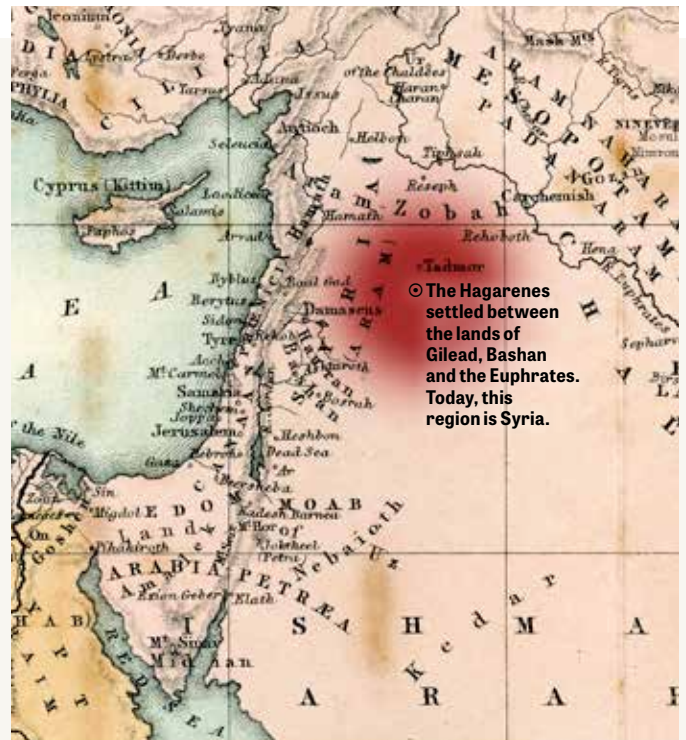
Bible commentaries and ancient history show that the Hagarenes were a semi-nomadic people who lived in the desert region northeast of Ammon and Moab, modern-day Jordan. They are distinct from the Arabs of Saudi Arabia, who are listed in this same verse by the term "Ishmaelites."

*Forester's Geography of Arabia* says that the Hagarenes settled between the lands of Gilead, Bashan and the Euphrates. Today, this region is Syria.

During the reign of King Saul, the Israelite tribes of Reuben, Gad and half the tribe of Manasseh "made war with the Hagarites [Hagarenes], who fell by their hand" (1 Chronicles 5:9-10). Yet biblical history shows that the Israelites often lacked the will to completely drive out or eradicate the peoples they conquered.

Under the subsequent reign of King David, Jaziz the Hagarite was the overseer of David's flock (1 Chronicles 27:31). It is likely that his pastures were located in his ancestral region from a generation before. The fact that this man oversaw David's flock after the war in the days of Saul shows that the Hagarenes remained in the areas close to Israel.

Further evidence of the Hagarenes' continued presence is found in Assyrian King Sennacherib's record of his first campaign against Babylon and Elam. He wrote that on his return he conquered numerous tribes in the region, including a tribe he calls the Hagaranu, which is another name for the Hagarenes.



In 703 B.C., a group of Chaldeans, mixed with numerous other tribes, rebelled against Sennacherib. A later Assyrian king, Tiglath-Pileser III, records that the Hagaranu were among those rebels, so the Hagarenes still inhabited the region between Gilead and the northern Euphrates.

The historical trail after this point runs cold, and little is known about what happened to this people afterward. Clearly though, the Hagarenes inhabited the area known to us today as Syria. So when Psalm 83 mentions the Hagarenes, it is referring to Syria.

**WARREN REINSCH**



might be planning to sideline Iran. “Bashar al-Assad, with full impudence, has cozied up to Putin,” Iranian M.P. Behrouz Bonyadi told Radio Farda in June. “Russia will not be a trustworthy friend for us.”

Assad has a choice. He can be an Iranian stooge and be considered a pariah by other nations. Or he can more or less side with the rest of the world. Unlike many of the other groups under Iran’s religious sway, Syria’s Alawites do not follow in the same fanatical ideas and could be induced to change allegiances.

While it is difficult to see how the Iranians will leave, given how entrenched they are in Syria, it looks likelier now than ever.

One reason that this prospect is so important to watch for is that the Bible indicates it will happen—and soon!

### Bible Prophecy Provides Clarity

The various factors at work in Syria make it a complex issue to understand. However, as astounding as this may sound, Bible prophecies actually reveal what will happen in Syria. We can understand by studying two biblical passages that relate to two critical Middle Eastern end-time alliances.

The first is Daniel 11:40. For more than 25 years, the *Trumpet* has explained that this “king of the south” is radical Islam, led by Iran. This Islamist alliance will include Iraq, as well as nations along the western coastline of the Red Sea and the southern Mediterranean, including Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Libya.

Note, however, that Syria is not listed in this prophesied Iran-led alliance.

Instead, Syria is grouped in the other alliance of Middle Eastern nations, described in Psalm 83: “For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assur also is joined with them ...” (verses 5-8). As any Bible commentary will tell you, an alliance of these countries has never existed in history.

This alliance between certain Middle Eastern nations and Germany (Assur) will develop in the end time.



One of the nations mentioned, the Hagarenes, corresponds to modern Syria. In many ways, the Psalm 83 alliance is an anti-Iranian alliance.

Based on these end-time prophecies, the *Trumpet* has forecast for two decades that Syria’s alliance with Iran is destined to end. But given how critical Syria is to Iran for establishing the Shia Crescent, it also seems that losing it will affect Iran’s ability to maintain control in Lebanon and its access to the eastern Mediterranean.

Lebanon—specifically southern Lebanon, where Iran currently has much support through Hezbollah—is also destined to be part of the Psalm 83 alliance, *not* the Iranian-led king of the south.

Furthermore, with Iran’s access to the eastern Mediterranean cut off, Iran could redirect more attention on its strategy to control the nations along the Red Sea and into Egypt, which will give it Mediterranean access from the south. Based on Daniel 11:40-43, we know those nations will be allied with Iran.

Mr. Flurry alluded to such dramatic geopolitical shifts in “How the Syrian Crisis Will End” at the very outset of the

war. He wrote: “What we are seeing right now in Syria is a MAJOR BIBLICAL PROPHECY in the process of being fulfilled! What happens in Syria will lead to mighty nations changing course and the foundations of this world being shaken!” (September 2012).

Surely we have seen that happen already. Events in Syria have led to the largest mass migration into Europe in human history. In turn, this has reshaped modern Europe. Its long-held ardor for multiculturalism is giving way to rising nationalism; its post-world war stability has been replaced by a climate where strongmen are elected to preserve Europe from outsiders. All this is prophesied elsewhere in the Bible.

And now, the outcome of the Syrian civil war will only further encourage Europe to direct its resources to the southern Mediterranean, which is what Daniel 11:40-43 describe. This is a critical development to watch for, because it is a signpost of where we are in Bible prophecy. As the next few verses in Daniel relate, it leads directly to the Second Coming of the Messiah, when such destructive alliances between worldly nations will end, and be replaced by an era of eternal righteous rule the world over. ■



### Prophecy reveals the future of Syria.

A shift in the Middle East is coming. Learn more about it by requesting your free copy of Gerald Flurry’s *The King of the South*.

# FAMINE: The Black Horseman Is Not Finished Riding

Famine is happening now, and it's about to get worse—  
and not because of environmental disasters or overpopulation.

BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

**W**HAT HAPPENS WHEN THERE'S NO FOOD around? A food-deprived person's body begins breaking down muscle tissue in order to keep the heart and other vital organs functioning. As the stomach atrophies, the feeling of hunger is diminished. By the time 30 percent of normal body weight is lost, deep lethargy sets in. Deteriorated muscles and severely dehydrated skin make movement extremely painful. Once 40 percent of normal weight is gone, the likelihood of recovery is near zero. The starving person becomes highly susceptible to communicable diseases. He generally cannot tell that he is thirsty; dehydration is often the final cause of death. This experience is heartbreaking to even think about. But it is the way hundreds of millions of people throughout history have died.

Over the last three decades, however, the world appeared to have nearly conquered the scourge of famine. It was largely eradicated, remaining in only the most remote and war-torn regions. The risk of dying from starvation had dwindled to its lowest levels since civilization began.

But famine is about to make a dramatic comeback. “[M]ortality in great and calamitous famines has all but disappeared. [B]ut we also have reason to be fearful,” writes humanitarian crisis expert Alex de

Waal in his 2018 book *Mass Starvation: The History and Future of Famine*. Why?

Because mankind's recent solutions are surprisingly frail.

Evidence shows that humanity's food supply system may already be eroding. If and when something goes wrong, the next wave of mass famines could be the worst in history.

## ‘Silent Violence’

Over just the last 150 years, around 100 million people worldwide have died in famines. The famines from this era have something in common with most of the worst famines in all of history, something surprising and chilling: They were caused not by bad weather or overpopulation, but were *intentional acts* by some political authority.

“Starvation wasn't something that just happened; it was something that people did to one another,” de Waal writes. In the majority of cases, “famines were not natural disasters, like earthquakes or hurricanes, but were the product of politics ....”

Since they are intentionally inflicted on people, Michael Watts, professor emeritus of geography and development studies at the University of California-Berkeley, describes famines as “silent violence.”

‘SILENT VIOLENCE’  
An 8-year-old girl  
lies on her bed in  
Damascus.

De Waal's research says 70 percent of the 100 million starvation deaths of the last 150 years happened in famines that were *entirely man-made*. These resulted from government policies intentionally designed to starve certain populations to death, or from authorities who recklessly enforced policies that were known to cause famine.

### The Hungerplan

A tragic example of intentionally inflicted famine is the Nazi *Hungerplan* of 1941. The goal was to starve populations in the western Soviet Union to death, ridding the region of Slavs and Jews, whom Adolf Hitler called "useless eaters." The Nazis wanted to then take the fertile lands formerly worked by Soviets and make them a breadbasket for Germany.

A high-level Nazi document, dated just a few weeks before Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union, stated: "The war can only be continued if the entire [German] Armed Forces are fed from Russia during the third year of the war. As a result, there is no doubt that 'x' millions of people will starve to death if we take out from the country whatever we need."

This was written on May 2, 1941, by Herbert Backe, state secretary of the Reich Ministry for Food and Agriculture. Elsewhere, Backe calculated that for the plan to succeed, all urban populations of the European Soviet Union—30 million men, women and children—must be starved to death.

Elsewhere in the Nazis' occupational guidelines, meticulous plans to starve various "inferior" peoples were stated outright. In his 1944 book *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe*, Rafael Lemkin published excerpts of such guidelines. They stated that while 100 percent of required daily carbohydrates must be given to Germans, only 76 to 77 percent should go to Poles, 58 percent to the French, 38 percent to Greeks, and 27 percent to Jews.

The Nazis were defeated before they could fully execute their vast plan of starvation. But even the most conservative estimates say that 4.7 million Soviet people died as a result of these ambitions, and most likely many more. As a comparison, the Nazis killed a total of 6 million Jews in the Holocaust.

Another notorious example of mass famine committed intentionally to exterminate populations was the Armenian genocide from 1914 to 1923, in which the Ottoman government killed more than 1 million people, a quarter of whom died from starvation and related disease. Still another was the Holodomor of the 1930s, detailed by *Trumpet* writer Andrew Müller in our previous issue ([theTrumpet.com/17677](http://theTrumpet.com/17677)). De Waal estimates that this "man-made famine," inflicted on the people of Ukraine by Soviet leader Joseph Stalin and the Union of German Industrialists, killed about 3.3 million people. Other historians have placed the figure as high as 7.5 million.

### The Most Devastating Famine in History

De Waal's second category of human-inflicted famines is those caused by a government that relentlessly pursues policies known to be famino-genic. The textbook example of such an event was Chinese Communist dictator Mao Zedong's "Great Leap Forward."

A decade after the Chinese Communist party took power in 1949, Mao determined to modernize China. He wanted to skip the typical, slow process of economic maturation and instead transform straight from an agrarian society to an industrial superpower in just a few years.

In 1958, his government began relocating millions of Chinese peasants into mass communes. Most individual communes contained about 5,000 families, and the people were made to surrender ownership of animals and tools to the collective. Everything became property of the commune; individual, private farming was outlawed. By year's end, 700 million people had been relocated into 26,578 communes.

Mao's goal was to boost the nation's agricultural productivity, despite moving many laborers from farming into the manufacturing sector. (Adults who didn't tend to farming were assigned to "backyard" steel production furnaces. Some 600,000 of such furnaces were established throughout the country, but the steel produced in them was of such low quality it was useless.)

With fewer people available for farming, Mao ordered the use of many techniques that he said would boost efficiency to new levels: His infamous "deep plowing" command required workers to plow and plant up to six feet deep. His "close planting" technique called for 12.5 million seedlings per 2.5 acres rather than the customary 1.5 million. And the desire to produce "more, better, faster, cheaper" meant that fields were seldom given any time to remain fallow.

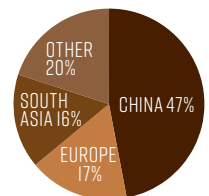
Mao also famously declared war on sparrows, accusing them of eating great quantities of grain seeds. His government said the "birds are public animals of capitalism." He ordered citizens to destroy nests, kill chicks and bang pots and pans to frighten the birds away from landing until they dropped from the sky dead from exhaustion. These efforts dramatically depleted the population of Eurasian tree sparrows, driving them nearly into extinction.

The problem with the Great Sparrow Campaign was clear to many farmers within months: The sparrows ate not just grain but also insects. Without their main natural predator, insect populations, especially locusts, boomed—and then devoured vast swaths of China's crops and countryside.

The flaws of Mao's other policies became equally obvious to those striving to implement them. They were glaring and numerous. But the Great

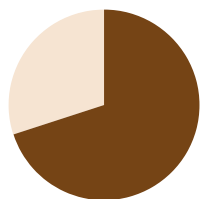
EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT HUMANITY'S FOOD SUPPLY SYSTEM MAY ALREADY BE ERODING. IF AND WHEN SOMETHING GOES WRONG, THE NEXT WAVE OF MASS FAMINES COULD BE THE WORST IN HISTORY.

**4.7 MILLION**  
Soviet people died as a result of the Nazi Hungerplan.



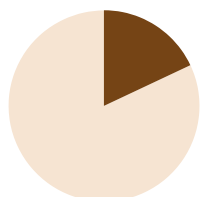
**NEARLY HALF**  
of all famine deaths in the last 150 years have occurred in China.





70%

of famine deaths in the last 150 years were the result of entirely man-made famines.



18%

of famine deaths from natural causes could have been avoided with timely intervention.



The black horse of the “Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse,” described in Revelation 6, represents famine.

Helmshman was uninterested in hearing about those problems. Dr. Li Zhisui, Mao’s personal doctor from 1955 until the dictator’s death in 1976, told the *New York Times* in 1994 that Mao surrounded himself only with sycophants. “[H]e was a merciless tyrant who crushed anybody who disobeyed him,” Li said. Anyone disobeying or even offering critical feedback would normally be executed. “The mistake of those who got purged was to see themselves as equal to him,” Li said. “He wanted everybody to be subservient.”

During the Great Leap Forward, loyalty to Mao took precedence over common sense. His officials continued ruthlessly enforcing policies, such as the Great Sparrow Campaign, even long after it was clear that they were tragically flawed. But month after month, at every failure, Mao refused to reevaluate, instead doubling down on his same disastrous policies.

The results were catastrophic beyond words. By 1962, at least 36 million people had died of starvation in what has come to be called the Great Famine, the largest mass starvation event in history.

Chinese researcher Yang Jisheng detailed the famine in his book *Tombstone*. “Documents report several thousand cases where people ate other people,” Yang told NPR in a 2012 interview. “Parents ate their own kids. Kids ate their own parents.”

The most tragic aspect of the Great Famine is that, even with Mao’s faulty policies being relentlessly pursued, the bulk of the deaths were still unnecessary. Even as the fields returned paltry harvests year after year, colossal grain warehouses housed enough food to feed the whole nation, but Mao’s government refused to release it. “At the heart of it,” wrote journalist John R. Platt, “the real cause was the Communist government, which—either as policy or by the selfish act of various officials—kept the grain from being delivered to those in need and covered up the problem.”

This history of the Great Famine is disturbing proof of the remarkable power and inhumanity of the Chinese Communist Party. It is chilling that in China today, the official stance is that Mao Zedong was “70 percent right and 30 percent wrong.”

Other notable examples of famine-producing policies being relentlessly enforced include Cambodian leader Pol Pot’s “Super Great Leap Forward” attempt in the 1970s (though some chapters of this tragedy belong firmly in category one) and the North Korean crisis of the 1990s.

### Willful Failure to Help

Another 18 percent of the 100 million starvation deaths from the last 150 years resulted from the failure of governments to react to climate conditions that caused food scarcity but that would have been wholly solvable with aid programs. De Waal

describes this third category as instances when “public authorities are indifferent: Their policies may not be the principle cause of famine, but they do little or nothing to alleviate hunger.”

A notable example in this category was the famine precipitated in Sudan in 1984, when then President Jaafar Nimeiri turned a blind eye to suffering caused by simultaneous drought and economic downturn, and he refused to accept international relief. “Nimeiri of the Sudan had deliberately suppressed information about the developing famine in his country, allowing the situation to develop to crisis proportions,” the *New York Times* wrote on June 12, 1985. Those crisis proportions inflicted famine on 10 million people, and killed 240,000 of them.

Altogether, these kinds of easily preventable famines killed 19 million people in the last 150 years, or 18 percent of the total.

De Waal says that famines in the first category, including the *Hungerplan*, killed 8.3 million people, 8 percent of the total. And those in the second category, such as the Great Leap Forward, killed some 64 million people, or 62 percent of the famine deaths.

That means just 13 percent of the total 100 million famine deaths occurred because of external factors that authorities were genuinely incapable of addressing. In light of this, de Waal says, “the verb ‘to starve’ should be understood primarily in its transitive sense to indicate that some (powerful) people have starved other (powerless) people, leaving them to die—from hunger, disease, exhaustion or violence.”

### The Decline of Ruthless Strongmen

Famine experts often stress that the decline of famine in the last 30 years has been a historical anomaly. De Waal attributes it in small part to an increase in international humanitarian efforts such as those of the World Food Program. But he gives more credit to another, more significant, factor: “the decline of megalomania and of political attitudes that regard people as dispensable.”

The main reason the last 30 years saw so few famines was the diminished number of leaders like Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, Pol Pot and Jaafar Nimeiri.

Charles Kenny, senior fellow at the Center for Global Development, agrees with this assessment and has observed that famines hardly ever happen in societies that are even relatively free. “In fact,” he wrote for *Foreign Policy* on July 27, 2011, “they don’t happen anymore in any country where leaders show the slightest interest in the wellbeing of their citizenry.”

### Famine Is Back?

When de Waal began writing *Mass Starvation* in early 2015, he had a sanguine view of mankind’s

progress in the war against famine. The facts looked promising. During a May 4 conference at Tufts University, he said: “When I started working on this, I thought I could write a history of famine, and say actually this is a problem we have resolved and confined to history.”

But as he worked on the project, a shift began to set in that forced him to reconsider the book’s premise and purpose. “Unfortunately, during the writing,” he said, “famine made something of a comeback.”

The first red flag came in December 2016, when the Famine Early Warning Systems Network announced that a famine was underway in some remote regions of Nigeria. By January 2017, threats of famine had also been identified in Yemen, Somalia and South Sudan. Soon after, alarms were sounded over Syria. It was clear that, after years of progress, global hunger numbers were rising again and poised to rise much more. A United Nations report showed that 11 percent of the global population in 2017 was chronically malnourished—an increase of 40 million over the year before.

“The past year has been unquestionably terrible, notes de Waal, with famine or near-famine conditions putting millions of people at risk of severe malnutrition and even death across Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Nigeria and Yemen,” NPR reported on January 19 of this year.

Instability in these regions sent the number of people needing humanitarian assistance soaring to unprecedented levels. This prompted Kimberly Flowers, director of the Global Food Security Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, to write her landmark article in late 2017: “The Four Famines: The Alarm Bells Are Ringing, But Who Is Listening?”

This is a pressing question. Who is listening to the warnings? Who is watching the gains start to reverse? Who is aware of how suddenly global stability could be shattered?

### Morocco, Phosphorus, Iran and Famine

There is another nation that is increasingly susceptible to instability that could have *far-reaching* effects on the world’s food supply: Morocco.

In the 1960s, the prevalent use of synthetic fertilizer greatly expanded the amount of land usable for agriculture around the globe and quadrupled the productivity of existing agricultural lands. It was enabled by the Haber process, which turns atmospheric nitrogen into a form biologically usable by crops. But when the amount of nitrogen in soils is increased, vegetation requires an equal increase in phosphorus, which is mined in the form of phosphate from geologic deposits.

Modern agricultural practices depend so heavily on phosphorus that experts say virtually no one could eat in today’s world without it. In 2016, the

*Atlantic* said phosphorus-dependent fertilizers have “allowed millions of people who would have otherwise starved to be fed ....”

But phosphorus is not a limitless resource. “We’re on a finite planet with finite reserves of phosphorus,” said investment expert Jeremy Grantham during a January 26 broadcast of *Planet Money*. “[W]e are mining it and running through the supply. That should make the hair on the back of everybody’s neck bristle.”

The limited supply of phosphorus has been well known for decades, but since it was cheap, no one worried.

Then came 2008.

When the global financial crisis struck, the price of phosphorus skyrocketed by 800 percent. As a result, food prices around the world soared. “I would argue that that was a shot across the bows,” Grantham said. “That was the first warning to planet Earth that we are beginning to run out.”

Another warning came the following year when the U.S. Geological Survey published a report saying peak phosphorous production was only 24 years away, meaning production would begin falling, possibly precipitously, after 2033.

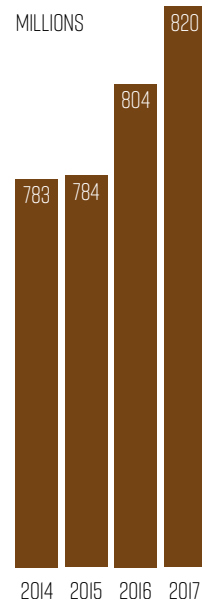
Suddenly the eyes of the world were locked on Morocco. The North African country is home to some 75 percent of the world’s known phosphorus reserves, giving it a near-monopoly on the multi-billion-dollar trade of the mineral. (The next closest producer is China, with just under 6 percent.) The United States—the world’s largest exporter of food—obtains 42 percent of its phosphorus imports from Morocco. Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, Lithuania and Canada are also major importers of Moroccan phosphorus.

Journalist Brendan Borrell recently investigated Morocco’s phosphorus near-monopoly, and he found the nation to be disturbingly secretive about its reserves. “[I]t turns out that they don’t want to tell you a lot,” he told *Planet Money*. “[T]hey’re trying to use this secrecy to their advantage. That way, they can dictate the price” (ibid).

“It’s kind of amazing,” Borrell said, “that our future food supply depends so much on what happens in this one country.”

A better word than “amazing” may be “alarming.” And the alarm becomes far more intense in light of the growing influence in Morocco of an actor that would relish the opportunity to decide who eats and who doesn’t: *Iran*.

On May 1, the Moroccan government announced it had evidence that Iran was using its terrorist proxy Hezbollah to support a separatist group called the Polisario Front. Since the 1970s, Polisario has been fighting for the independence of Western Sahara, a region claimed by the Moroccan



**11 PERCENT**

of the world’s population is considered undernourished.

The last four years have seen a steady increase in the number of undernourished people.

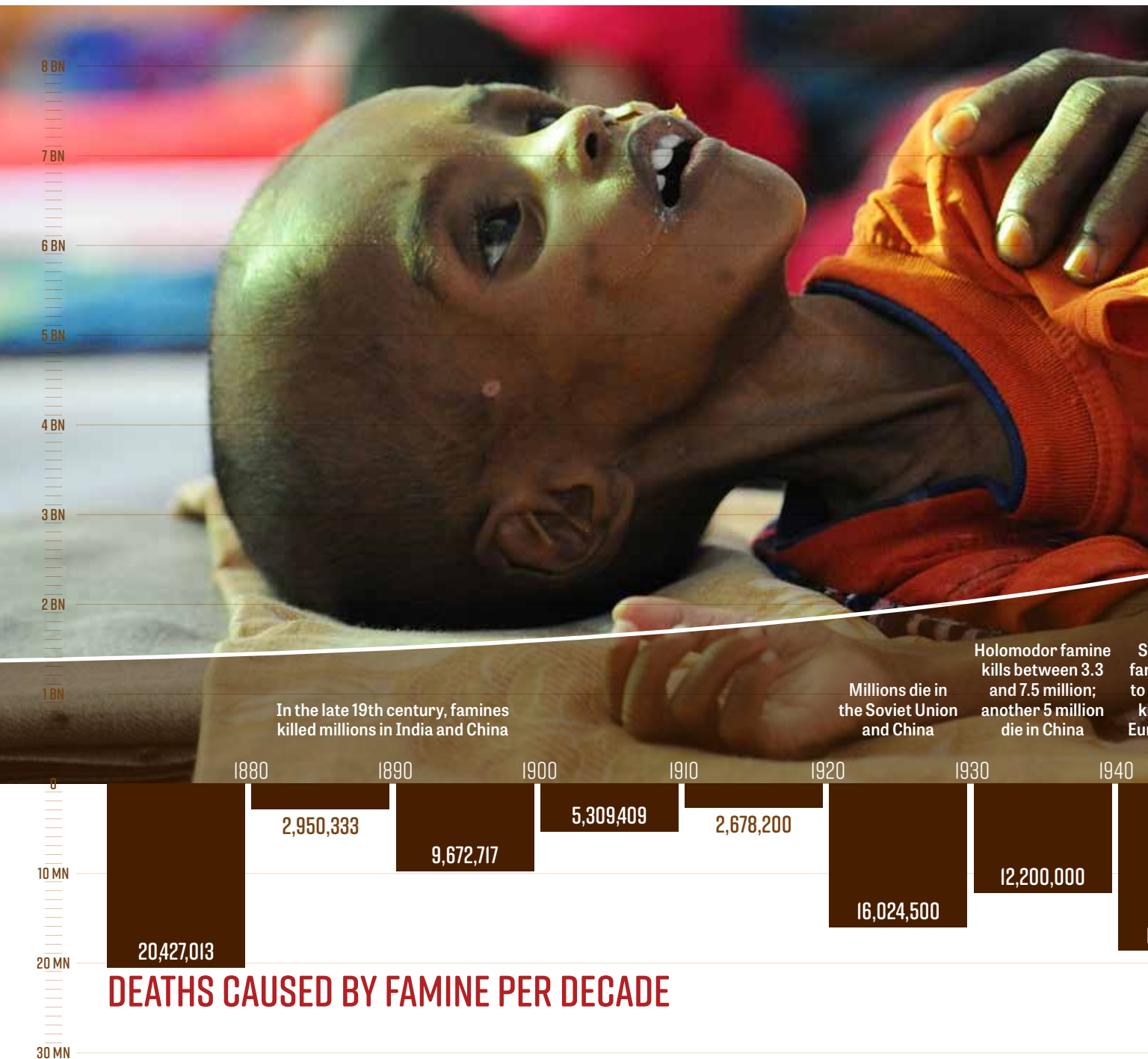
“[I]N SO FAR AS WE SEE A RESURGENCE OF IDEOLOGIES AND PRACTICES THAT REDUCE PEOPLE TO INSTRUMENTS OR IMPEDIMENTS TO OTHER POLITICAL ENDS ... WE NEED TO BE DEEPLY WORRIED THAT MASS STARVATION WILL RETURN.”  
—ALEX DE WAAL

# FAMINE IS A WEAPON

Most major famines of history have something startling and chilling in common: They were caused not by bad weather or overpopulation, but were intentional acts by some political authority. Thus, Michael Watts, professor emeritus of geography and development studies at the University of California–Berkeley, describes famines as “silent violence.”

## FAMINE DEATHS DO NOT INCREASE WITH POPULATION

In 1798, British economist Thomas Malthus published his landmark prediction that as human populations grew, they would outstrip food production, making famines inevitable. But he was wrong. Over the last 150 years, the global population has sextupled, multiplying from 1.3 billion in 1870 to 7.7 billion today. During this period, deaths by famine fell from 10 million per decade to around 500,000 each decade. “Malthus’s fallacy ... has been disproved many times,” writes Alex de Waal in *Mass Starvation*. “Let me repeat this simple, easily verified and common-sense fact because it is, for strange reasons, the exact opposite of what is often claimed. The correlation between population and famine is inverse: More people are associated with lower mass starvation.”



## DEATHS CAUSED BY FAMINE PER DECADE



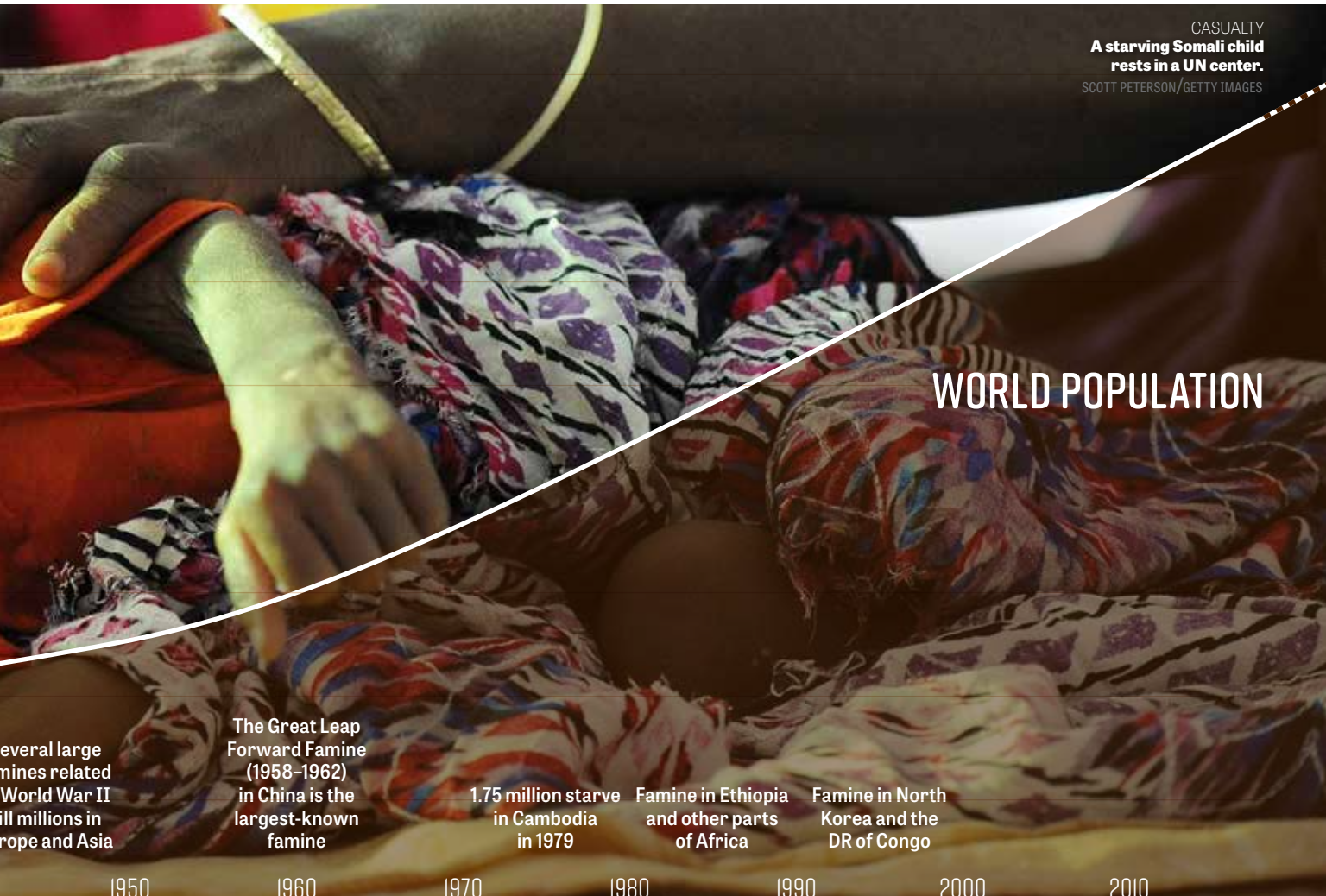
## THE WORST FAMINES HAVE MAN-MADE CAUSES

De Waal's research says 70 percent of the 100 million starvation deaths that happened in the last 150 years were the result of famines that were entirely man-made. These resulted either from government policies intentionally designed to starve certain populations to death (8 percent), or from authorities recklessly enforcing policies known to cause famine (62 percent). Another 18 percent were due to the failure of governments to react to conditions that caused scarcity and that would have been wholly solvable with aid programs. That leaves only 13 percent that occurred because of external factors that authorities were genuinely incapable of addressing.

## MORE AID, FEWER FAMINES

The decline of famine in the last 30 years has been a historical anomaly. It has been partly because of an increase in international humanitarian efforts, such as those of the World Food Bank, but far more because of the reduction in the number of megalomaniacal authoritarian rulers. Despite appearances, the world actually has no permanent solution to famine.

CASUALTY  
**A starving Somali child rests in a UN center.**  
 SCOTT PETERSON/GETTY IMAGES



## WORLD POPULATION



\$28 billion humanitarian assistance budget by all donors (2015)

## FAMINE RELIEF CONTRIBUTIONS



# THE VICIOUS CYCLE GERMA

Understand the past of these powerful friendly enemies, and you will better see their future.

BY RICHARD PALMER

**T**HEY ARE THE BEST OF FRIENDS. They are the worst of enemies. No relationship between two countries is more fascinating than that of Germany and Russia. And no relationship is more important to the future of the world.

A German-Russian alliance would dominate Europe and Asia. Its combined resources could challenge any power on



Battle Between the Georgians and the Mountain Tribes, 1826

## 1 LEGACY OF THE MONGOLS

Perhaps the most contentious subject between Russia and Germany is the land between them. Understanding this issue takes us back to the 12th century. So much of Russia's destiny, including its relationship with Germany, originates with one man. Temüjin Borjigin was born in 1162, the second son of a tribal chief. Exiled and impoverished as a child, he seemed destined for poverty. Instead he became a sharp military and political leader, united the Mongol tribes, and took the name Genghis Khan. Then he pushed outward.

The Mongols crushed empires from China to Eastern Europe. The empire of the Rus, centered around Kiev, fell. For centuries, the Mongols dominated Russia. The Russians blamed the Mongols for cutting them off from Europe, leaving them isolated and scientifically behind.

But the Mongols—and others like them—also left their mark on Germany. Nomadic tribes pouring across the vast, empty Eurasia steppe had been a threat to Europe long before the Mongols. The

Earth, including the United States. This is why ensuring no country or alliance controls all of Europe and West Asia has been America's top foreign-policy goal for the last century. No country has succeeded in ruling that territory. But a German-Russian alliance has come close. Perhaps no other relationship has been so influential on European history.

Today America is retreating from the world, and Europe is beginning to stand on its own. Consequently, the world's future will once again be determined by the German-Russian relationship. Which makes its history essential to everyone.

This history shows why a Russian-German alliance is alarmingly plausible.

slaughter left the lands to the east of Germany depopulated. The local rulers were eager to attract industrious and courageous subjects.

The Germans filled that need. Booming in their homeland, thousands of Germans pushed east. Known as the *Ostsiedlung* ("eastern expansion"), the push settled huge German communities across the east in what are now the Baltic states, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria.

The *Ostsiedlung* bred an obsession for the east and for Germany's destiny in that region. This obsession continued to the time of Adolf Hitler and *Mein Kampf*.

The German-Russian relationship was born in these dying embers of the Mongol Empire. But the Germans weren't the only people expanding into the vacuum. With Russian power broken, the kingdom of Poland and later the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, along with Sweden, pushed east. These empires geographically separated Germany and Russia.

The Duchy of Moscow fully shook off the overlordship of the Mongols in 1480. It spent many years consolidating and rebuilding. By the time of Peter the Great, in 1672, the Russians were once again becoming a major power, and their relations with Germany became important.

For centuries, the relationship between Russia and Germany has been consistently inconsistent. Few nations have had a closer relationship. Time and again, the two have schemed together against their neighbors. Russia, in one of its periods of greatness, was even ruled by a German. Yet time and again, Germany has transformed into Russia's nemesis, coming closer than any other power since the Mongols to wiping it out. And Russia has been the nemesis of European empires—the juggernaut pressing against the whole of Europe's 3,400-mile border, and often spilling over it and crushing everything in its path. The viciousness of these conflicts has been appalling.

## 2 PETER THE GREAT

Peter brought Russia closer to Europe—literally. He pushed back the Swedish empire and defeated the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Then he moved Russia's capital into this newly conquered territory, establishing St. Petersburg on the Baltic Coast.

Peter traveled Europe in disguise in 1697 and 1698. He wanted to witness Western society and personally recruit experts to help modernize Russia. Thanks to the *Ostsiedlung*, Moscow's population was about 10 percent German by this point. So the Germanic states of the Holy Roman Empire were the obvious place to recruit skilled workers. Peter rounded up experts from across Europe and Germany. He built alliances with the German principalities. His children were all married into princely German families.

German expertise helped make the czar "Peter the Great." And, just as it would in the future, the Russo-German alliance took the form of a secret military pact. In 1732, seven years after Peter's death, Austria, Prussia and Russia formed the Alliance of the Three Black Eagles, referring to the national symbols of the nations involved. All three agreed to interfere



# N-RUSSIAN RELATIONS

The historical forces that have caused these patterns of attraction and repulsion still exist. Russia wants access to European experts. Germany wants Russian raw materials. Both want peace with the other in order to expand their power and influence in other regions. Yet at the same time, each is a major threat to the other. There is no easily defensible geographical barrier between Germany and Russia—no mountain ranges or vast rivers. Therefore, a quick strike from one threatens to cripple the other.

Hence the history of fear alongside friendship—a pattern that continues today. Note this pattern in six short vignettes of history:



in Polish politics and to prevent Poland from strengthening itself. However, the treaty soon became moot as civil war broke out in Poland and the powers of Europe took sides.

But soon the instability in Russia's relationship with Germany also emerged. Many in Russia feared Germany—particularly the German state of Prussia, a major rising power. German advisers had had huge influence in the Russian government. Many Russians resented this. So in 1741, the anti-German faction launched a coup against Peter's 1-year-old grandson, who was then on the throne. They replaced him with Elizabeth, one of Peter's daughters.

Relations with Germany changed overnight. German advisers were kicked out. As war loomed in Europe, Elizabeth aligned Russia with Austria and France—against Prussia.

The Seven-Year War broke out in 1756. Winston Churchill later called this the first truly world war, pitting Britain and Prussia against France, Austria and Russia. Britain did well, but in Europe, Prussia was pummeled. By 1762, Prussia's king was ready to give up. He wrote, "We ought now to think of preserving for my nephew, by way of negotiation, whatever fragments of my territory we can save from the avidity of my enemies."

## 3 THE CATHERINE WHIPLASH

Then came what Prussians called a "miracle": In 1762, Empress Elizabeth died. She had no children, and so her nephew was her heir.

Peter III was the son of Elizabeth's sister, who had moved to Germany and married a German prince. As a result, Peter was born in Germany and spoke German better than Russian.

Suddenly Russia switched sides again. The Russian soldiers stopped invading Prussia and started helping them. Prussia recaptured lost territory. Austria was forced to make peace.

Six months later, Germany gained even more influence in Russia. Peter III was not a popular ruler. His wife, Catherine, helped organize a coup against him. Peter was arrested and later killed, and Catherine become empress in her own right.

Now the ruler of Russia was not a blood descendant of Russia's ruling family. Nor was she even an ethnic Russian. She was German.

Within months, Russia and Prussia had transformed from mortal enemies to closest allies.

Russia still needed skilled laborers. So Catherine invited Europeans to live



Catherine the Great

in Russia, while preserving their culture. These migrants would be immune from conscription and free from many taxes. They were even allowed relative religious freedom. The offer was aimed at Germany, and Germans responded in droves. By the time Russia took its first census in the late 1800s, around 2 million people living in Russia listed their first language as German.

Russia and Prussia also cooperated in a way that will sound familiar to modern readers: They divided up Poland. Russia, Austria and Prussia split Poland into three, in a series of partitions, until Poland was removed from the map.

This wasn't just Catherine being nice to Prussia because she was German. She too became known as "the Great." With a secure treaty with Germany, Russia expanded elsewhere. Catherine pushed back the Ottoman Turks. She conquered territory in the Caucasus. By the end of her reign in 1796, Russia had expanded by more than 200,000 square miles.



## 4 NAPOLEON'S PACT

But Germany wasn't the only European power that Russia worked with. Before Catherine died, a political earthquake had begun that would shake the foundations of Europe. Since 1789, France had been convulsed by revolution. Then its armies pushed outward with new zeal. Once Napoleon Bonaparte took control in 1799, they seemed unstoppable. In 1807, Napoleon was master of Europe and much of Germany. If Russia wanted to deal with Europe, Napoleon was the obvious partner.

In 1807, Czar Alexander I and Napoleon signed the Treaty of Tilsit. It contained a secret clause that split Europe between Russia and France. Russia secretly agreed to help France against Britain in the West, while France secretly agreed to help Russia against the Ottomans in the East. Napoleon and Alexander even discussed a joint attack on Britain in India. But the alliance fell apart in 1812, when Napoleon decided the Russians were not doing enough against Britain and attacked them. Once again, Europe and Russia whiplashed from friends back into enemies.

At the same time, Russia still maintained close relations with the Germans. Many of Russia's top generals were German. When Prussia made peace with France, several Prussian officers went to Russia—including the now famous Karl von Clausewitz—so they could keep fighting.

Napoleon's 1812 campaign against Russia failed abysmally. He and his allies lost hundreds of thousands of men. In response, huge Russian armies marched all the way to Paris. Their memory intimidated Europe for years to come.



## 5 'THE SECRET OF POLITICS'

The aftershocks of the Napoleonic wars shook Europe for decades. Britain became the greatest power in the world, contributing to a period of relative peace that lasted into the second half of the 19th century. In Germany, Otto von Bismarck, as Prussia's minister president in 1862, allowed the familiar pattern of relations between Germany and Russia to again begin to develop. Bismarck famously said, "The secret of politics? Make a good treaty with Russia."

To this end, Germany, Austria and Russia formed the League of the Three Emperors in 1873. Austria later quit the

alliance, so Russia and Germany signed the Reinsurance Treaty in 1887. In this secret treaty, each nation promised to remain neutral if the other got involved in a war with another major power (with some exceptions.) Germany also gave Russia a free hand to expand around the Black Sea. With its east secure, the newly unified, Prussian-led German nation was able to establish itself and become the dominant power in Europe.

But in 1890, Bismarck was forced out of office by the new kaiser, Wilhelm II, who quickly reversed the policy on Russia. He feared Russia and envied its control of Eastern Europe. In 1914, Germany attacked Russia.

## 6 'TYPHOID BACILLUS'

German Gen. Erich Ludendorff sent an invitation to Communist revolutionary Vladimir Lenin, who was then living in Switzerland. Germany would guarantee Lenin safe passage through Germany and help him reach Russia.

The Germans used Lenin "like a typhoid bacillus," Winston Churchill later said. Russia's new government was continuing the war against Germany, and the Germans hoped Lenin would undermine it.

It worked beyond their wildest dreams. Lenin arrived in early April 1917. On November 6, he launched the "October" Revolution. The Communists seized power. Quickly Lenin signed a peace treaty that gave the Germans almost everything they wanted.

Germany continued to support Lenin, helping him stay in office. As German Foreign Minister Adm. Paul von Hintze said in July 1918, "The Bolsheviks are the best weapon for keeping Russia in a state of chaos, thus allowing Germany to tear off as many provinces from the former Russian empire as she wishes ...."

Thus began a relationship that would continue for decades.

After World War I, Germany and Russia were officially on bad terms. Many Russian Communists wanted to bring the revolution to Germany. After one attempt in November 1918, Germany kicked out the staff of the Soviet Embassy.

Unofficially, contact continued. "The links of self-interest established between [Lenin] and the German military in November 1917 seem to have been maintained, albeit sometimes in tenuous form, even after the Armistice," writes historian Paul Johnson in *Modern Times*. Their relationship followed the same pattern it had for centuries. Germany helped Lenin's Bolshevik faction, sending them military advisers, weapons and, "in due course, industrial experts in building new war factories" (ibid).

On April 16, 1922, Germany and Russia signed the Treaty of Rapallo. On the face of it, this was a standard diplomatic rapprochement between two former enemies. But it opened the door for much closer cooperation between Germany and Russia—cooperation that was not fully uncovered until much later. Germany would carry out military research, development and training—which had been outlawed by the Treaty of Versailles at the end of World War I—in Russia. In exchange, Russia would train with the German Army and share in the military advances. Germany set up secret bases, factories and airfields in Russia.

This was 20 years before Germany would fight the United States. Thirty-three-year-old Adolf Hitler hadn't even begun his rise to power. Yet Russia and Germany were already conspiring against the West. This secret alliance was one of the main reasons Germany was able to explode into power once Hitler became chancellor in 1933.

Inspired by the legacy of *Ostsiedlung*, the German government wanted to carve out a colonial empire in Central and Eastern Europe. Both the kaiser and his chief of general staff, Helmuth von Moltke, envisioned a race war that Moltke described as “a struggle between Teuton and Slav.” This would allow Germany to take its “natural” position as leader of the Slavs in Eastern Europe. It nearly worked.

In 1917, Germany got everything it wanted. On March 8, the “February” Revolution in St. Petersburg overthrew Russia’s Romanov dynasty. And Germany sensed an opportunity.

When German and Soviet ministers met on Aug. 23, 1939, to divide Eastern Europe between them, it was hardly the start of a new relationship. “For two decades this evil stream of exchanges had flowed underground,” writes Johnson. “Now at last it broke the surface.”

Known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, or the Hitler-Stalin pact, the deal was announced as a “nonaggression pact.” It was the opposite; it defined which parts of Eastern Europe that Russia could aggress with German approval, and vice versa. It was exactly the way that Fredrick and Catherine, and Napoleon and Alexander, had split up Europe before.

It also paved the way for worldwide Communist support for Nazi Germany. Stalin sent Germany 1 million tons of grain, 900,000 tons of oil, iron ore and other minerals—allowing the vast natural wealth of Russia to fuel the German war machine.

But once again, the alliance changed suddenly. On June 22, 1941, Hitler launched Operation Barbarossa: He invaded Russia. Stalin had received at least 80 warnings that Hitler was about to stab him in the back, but he didn’t believe it. When the attack came, it appears Stalin had some sort of mental breakdown. As German forces came rushing against them, one Russian unit radioed its command post to report that it was under attack from the German Army, and to ask for instructions. The reply: “You must be insane.”

## A MODERN PATTERN

Viewing current events in light of this history illuminates their significance. The same pattern is developing once again: German expertise traded for Russia’s raw materials and some sort of agreement not to oppose each other.

Russia already has one undersea pipeline for natural gas that leads to Germany; now it is constructing another.

The pipeline is the epitome of the old German-Russian relationship. Russia uses its gas as a weapon. Russia has repeatedly cut off gas to Ukraine to force political concessions. However, this has been a blunt weapon. If Russia cut off gas to Ukraine, it also meant cutting off gas to all the other countries that received Russian gas via Ukraine. It provokes many nations beyond Ukraine and loses Russia a lot of money.

The new pipeline turns the gas supply into a more precise weapon. Russia can cut off whichever East European nation it wants while still supplying other countries via Germany. *Germany is helping Russia gain power in Eastern Europe.* For this reason, statesmen in Poland and Eastern Europe have taken



LAYING PIPE  
The Nord Stream 2 pipeline is laid across the Baltic Sea.

to calling this Nord Stream 2 pipeline the “Molotov-Ribbentrop 2” pipeline.

In exchange, Germany gets cheap gas and tacit leverage over the countries that will now get their gas from Germany. The transport cost for the new pipeline is estimated to be 40 percent cheaper than previous overland pipelines.

Germany is benefiting even before the new pipeline is completed. “Are Berlin’s close energy ties with Moscow paying off?” Bloomberg asked in April. “Data from Russia’s Federal Customs Service shows they might be after Germany paid less for natural gas from the world’s largest exporter than most other buyers”



COMRADES  
Putin hugs Schröder.

(April 25). It noted that if Germany’s rate had risen at the same pace as gas rates in Italy and France, it would have spent \$1 billion more on gas last year.

Germany’s economic surge is once again being powered by cheap Russian resources.

The deal was masterminded by former German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, who walked out of the chancellor’s office and straight into a job with Gazprom, the Russian government-controlled energy giant. His focus was to lead the Nord Stream 2 project. He is now chairman of Rosneft, Russia’s largest oil firm—and heir to a long tradition of German leaders with a career in Russia.

Russia’s conventional oil and gas resources are being depleted. So to make its gas supply as effectively weaponized as possible, Russia needs Western expertise. Germany, along with other European countries, is providing it.

Firms like Germany’s Wintershall and France’s Total were initially involved in Russian offshore Arctic drilling. But U.S. sanctions pushed them out. These sanctions have cut Russia off from some Western expertise and slowed its oil drilling in the Arctic and other hard-to-reach areas, but other contacts continue. BP still owns a 20 percent stake in Rosneft. Italy’s Eni S.p.A. partnership with Rosneft has also continued. And with some of the giants gone, smaller companies are filling the gap. Germany’s FMC Technologies and France’s Linde are helping Russia’s liquefied natural gas project in the Yamal Peninsula. Shell began talks to get involved there in September. The Yamal project is relatively small, but it will provide Russian companies with invaluable experience on extracting



fossil fuels from hard-to-reach spots.

Outside of oil and gas, German technology is still essential.

Eighty percent of Russian power stations use advanced turbines manufactured by Siemens. The German company has been instrumental in upgrading Russia's transport infrastructure. And this isn't its only connection. BNE IntelliNews, a site focused on business news in emerging markets, wrote: "Siemens probably has one of the best and closest relations to the Kremlin of any foreign company working in Russia. The relationship was brokered by Gerhard Schröder, the former German chancellor and subsequent buddy of [Russian] President Vladimir Putin, who would personally attend meetings between Siemens' CEO and Putin when they were discussing business" (April 17).

Time and again, Schröder has taken the lead in forging links between Germany and Russia.

This was the subject of *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry's cover article in the September issue. "We need to carefully watch what is happening right now between Germany and Russia," he wrote. The history between the two nations confirms this warning.

Mr. Flurry pointed to the role Schröder has played in orchestrating this energy alliance with Russia, which fundamentally undermines NATO. "The fact that [Putin and Schröder] are working so closely together strongly indicates that THEY AGREE ON A PLAN TO DESTROY NATO," he wrote.

"Germany is head-and-shoulders above any other nation in Europe, and it is bullying many of these nations and peoples," he wrote. "For Germany, with all its power, to be forming this kind of relationship with Russia is deeply troubling! ... You need to closely watch how this situation develops."

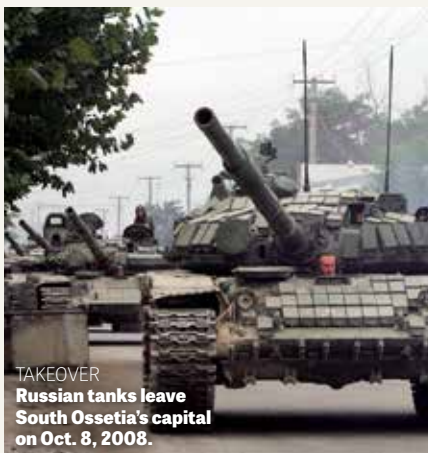


Germany and Russia's relationship has one more turn left in its cycle—and the Bible says it will be the most destructive ever. To find out what prophecy foretells about Germany and Russia, request our free booklet ***Russia and China in Prophecy.***

## A WARNING FOR TODAY

In 2008, Mr. Flurry asked, "[D]id you know that Germany and Russia have probably already dealt with their most urgent differences? ... I believe that Germany's leaders may have already agreed to a deal with Russia, a modern Hitler-Stalin pact where Germany and Russia divide countries and assets between themselves. This agreement would allow each to turn its sights on other targets. Any such deal that may have been struck between Germany and Russia is a precursor to war!" (*Trumpet*, November-December 2008).

Germany looked the other way while Russia invaded Georgia and then



Ukraine. Secret treaties and agreements to divide countries may sound alien in modern America. But history shows they are a regular feature of Russo-German relations. Another secret agreement would simply be a return to the norm.

Their history gives powerful reasons to watch the relationship between these two. But the Bible also gives us warning. Jeremiah 1 refers to the coming German-led European superpower as a boiling pot (verses 13-15).

"Beneath the surface, that nation is full of simmering dissatisfaction with the current world order," wrote Mr. Flurry. "Germans are angry at the U.S., and especially furious with President Trump. The imperialistic ambition that prompted Germany to start both world wars is alive and well. It is 'seething'!" (ibid).

Prophecy warns that a German-led Europe is about to boil over, spreading its power across the world. It also warns of a "prince of Rosh," or Russia

(Ezekiel 38:1-2), whose aggression will likewise around the world.

Our booklets contain a detailed explanation of these prophecies—and many more—revealing an overview of what is to come. But with both these powers rising, and both opposing the United States, we have long forecast that the same familiar patterns from history will emerge again.

The Germans and Russians do sign secret deals that remain underground for decades. Modern observers like to think that everyone wants peace and that all nations just want to get along. History reveals otherwise. Nations want power, and they will conspire and go to war to get it.

In May 1962, the *Plain Truth*—predecessor of the *Trumpet* and led by editor in chief Herbert W. Armstrong—wrote: "Once a German-dominated Europe is fully established, Germany will be ready to negotiate and bargain with Russia—and behind the backs of the Western allies if necessary."

History gives ominous warnings about the results of such bargains. The German-Russian relationship has been at the heart of the most destructive conflicts in man's history.

The Bible gives the same warning, but it also contains a wonderful hope. Mr. Flurry concluded his article: "Men are going to continue in their futile attempts at forging peace. They will have to suffer until Jesus Christ returns. ... But His return is tied to this German rising power and this Russian rising power. He says He will return before war has ended all human life! (Matthew 24:22). The rising military powers in Russia and Europe are a big part of what will make it *necessary* for Christ to return.

"God wants us to respond to Him. He says He will help us in any way we need if we will just obey Him. '[W]hy will you die, O Israel?' God asks in Ezekiel 18:31. He doesn't want any of us to have to suffer! He is eager to spare us from the coming cataclysmic violence and to bless us.

"We need to understand these Bible prophecies. They are preparing the way for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to this Earth. That means all the bad news is about to end. He is going to bring peace, joy and happiness to this world forever."



force is being so dramatically EXPOSED right now. It is because GOD WANTS IT EXPOSED, and HE IS EXPOSING IT.

Since Donald Trump became president, the depth of lawlessness and corruption permeating America's leadership, aided by America's media, is being uncovered. As I wrote in that article, "This is corruption on a deep level—so deep that most people won't even *believe* it!" If Hillary Clinton had won the last election, "NONE OF THIS CORRUPTION WOULD HAVE COME TO LIGHT!" But GOD WANTS IT EXPOSED! He is *saving America temporarily*—and one reason is to EXPOSE THIS EVIL.

"We are getting a hard look at just what the radical left is willing to do in order to seize power and stay in power," I wrote. "They have no respect for the rule of law! They believe they are *above* the law. It is no exaggeration to say that such contempt for the nation's founding principles is a THREAT TO THE REPUBLIC!"

President Trump made a very perceptive remark in an interview with the *Hill*, published September 18. Talking about the corruption in the FBI that has come to light, he said, "I hope to be able to put this up as one of my crowning achievements, that I was able to, through the help of a lot of good people ... expose something that is truly a cancer in our country."

God wanted that cancer exposed. We all need to think seriously about WHY—and the responsibility that puts on us individually!

### Fulfilling Prophecy

God is far more involved in the affairs of the nations than most people realize. That is because He loves humanity, and He has a long-term plan for how to *reach* ALL of humanity.

The devil has deceived "the whole world" (Revelation 12:9)—and is extremely active in his deceit and hatred and violence today, "BECAUSE HE KNOWETH THAT HE HATH BUT A SHORT TIME" (verse 12). HIS RULE ON EARTH IS ALMOST OVER! And God has a master plan in motion to save deceived humanity from ourselves, because He is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

God is seeing to it that world events fulfill prophecies He recorded in the Bible millennia ago. He has recorded *many* prophecies of America's decline and fall—terrifying prophecies! You need to prove this to yourself, and you can do so by reading *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, by Herbert W. Armstrong (free upon request). When you see the way that Satan's influence is growing right now, and how the devil is getting Americans to attack the foundations of this nation and tear society apart, it becomes far easier to see how vulnerable we are, and how close we are to seeing those prophecies fulfilled.

God is watching over and guiding events in America. IF HE WERE NOT, THIS NATION WOULD ALREADY BE DESTROYED! That is how serious and precarious America's situation is!

That May-June article shows the parallels between what President Trump is doing and the reign of King Jeroboam II in ancient Israel, just before Israel was conquered. This history is recorded in 2 Kings, which is part of the "former prophets"—and it is *prophetic*.

Anciently, though Jeroboam was unrighteous, God did use him to save the nation temporarily (2 Kings 14:23-27). "God granted mercy when Israel really didn't deserve it," I wrote in

that article. "Rather than sending Israel into captivity at that time, God used this king to SAVE ISRAEL and give them one more age of prosperity before Assyrian conquest."

THIS IS WHAT IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW IN AMERICA. God is saving Israel temporarily. If the 2016 election had gone the other way, I am convinced the nation would already be finished! And in this latest battle, if Republicans had not confirmed Kavanaugh, to me that would have indicated that we had already seen the last vestige of resistance to the left extinguished. Surely it would have meant an ideological tie on the Supreme Court—four justices on one side and four on the other—for years to come, which means the lower court decisions stand. That plays into the left's hands, at least until they can put more activist judges on the court. That was their plan. But God upset their plan.

Look at the lunacy of the left, and you can see why God had to save Israel! But again—IT IS ONLY TEMPORARY. We cannot allow this temporary resurgence to make us feel comfortable. Far more serious correction is coming.

Republicans rejoiced that Brett Kavanaugh was confirmed to the Supreme Court. But anyone who thinks the war is won is naive. In many ways, Satan won by losing—his grip on the left got tighter! And victory against the devil is always only temporary. He is relentless. After a loss, he regroupes for his next assault. He may lose a battle, but he never quits the war.

You cannot understand what is happening in America today, and where these events are leading, without the spiritual understanding that God has made available through my booklets *America Under Attack* and *Great Again*, along with that article "Saving America From the Radical Left—Temporarily" (all freely available at theTrumpet.com). These are bright searchlights exposing what is happening in the shadows of this country. And they also point to a marvelous *hope*!

God wants us to recognize Satan's involvement and activity—so we can see the real danger, understand where it is leading the nation, and individually seek God's protection against it.

Think about God going to such lengths to help us, to save us, and to teach us! Even the bad news becomes stirring when you view it with this perspective. God is allowing these events to help us see our own sins, to turn to Him and to come to know Him! Ultimately, when His plan is complete, God will save America—not just physically but also spiritually—not temporarily, but FOR ETERNITY. ■



#### FURTHER READING

**America Under Attack** Read the booklet that exposed the devil's offensive against the United States. [theTrumpet.com/go/aua](http://theTrumpet.com/go/aua)

**Great Again** Prove the identity of the "modern-day Jeroboam" and see how America has incredible hope in its future. [theTrumpet.com/go/ga](http://theTrumpet.com/go/ga)

**"Saving America From the Radical Left—Temporarily"** See how America's current leadership is fulfilling an end-time prophecy. [theTrumpet.com/17092](http://theTrumpet.com/17092)

SHOW OF DISFAVOR  
Newly elected CDU  
leader Brinkhaus  
addresses the  
Bundestag.

# Revolt against Merkel

**G**erman Chancellor Angela Merkel faced an open revolt on September 25 in an election for the head of the parliamentary group of her

Christian Democratic Union party. The vote was considered a mere formality, since incumbent Volker Kauder has been a Merkel confidant for 13 years and received a strong

endorsement from her.

Yet Kauder lost against newcomer Ralph Brinkhaus. Many consider the 125 votes for Brinkhaus as less of a demand for new leadership in the parliamentary group and more of a way to express dissent against Merkel.

Merkel plainly admitted that Kauder's failure to win reelection was a personal "defeat," and the *Financial Times* commented that it "was described in Berlin ... as

a mini-revolution that exposed the depth of hostility toward the chancellor in her own parliamentary party" (September 25).

Merkel's 13-year chancellorship is about to give way to a leadership vacuum. This is the exact situation theTrumpet.com has predicted will lead to the rise of a German strongman. History has shown that in times of crises, democracies fail and people demand an authoritarian to establish security and strength. This is specifically prophesied for German-led Europe in Bible passages such as Daniel 8. This man will take over Germany's government and exercise tremendous authority. The stage is being set for this man to rise before our eyes. ■

## Sweden struggles to form government

**S**weden is struggling to form a government after inconclusive elections. The populist Sweden Democrats achieved record results in the September 9 vote—5 percent more than in 2014. The Social Democrats, Sweden's established center-left party, experienced their worst result since 1911.

Results placed the Sweden Democrats third at 17.5 percent, behind the center-right and center-left blocs, which were nearly tied. The center-right alliance of the Moderate Party, Liberal Party, Center Party and Christian Democrats received 40.4 percent of the vote. The center-left, composed of the Social Democrats, the Green Party and the Left Party, received 40.7 percent.

With more than 60 seats in parliament, "the Sweden Democrats have reshaped the country's politics," wrote *Politico* (September 10). Some fear that this will cause political paralysis, since both the center-left and center-right blocs

refuse to work with the Sweden Democrats. Yet neither the right nor the left bloc can form a coalition without bringing other parties on board.

The mood of Swedish voters has changed, and even the main parties had to address issues they have avoided in the past, such as mass migration and crime. *Politico* stated that "established parties took a new, hard-line approach on immigration—effectively stealing the Sweden Democrats' thunder—while still focusing on the traditional welfare issues that appeal to their core voters" (ibid).

Populist parties and populist policies are gaining traction across Europe, even in liberal Sweden. This is the beginning of a political revolution, a revolution that was prophesied in the Bible. Revelation 17 describes modern Europe as being led by "kings," rather than democracies. The growing support for anti-establishment parties shows major dissatisfaction with the current political system and an openness to something different. ■

## EU president calls for boosting border forces

**E**uropean Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said during his September 12 State of the Union speech that Europe must dramatically expand its European Border and Coast Guard. He aims to spend \$1.5 billion to add another 10,000 border guards by 2020.

The European Border and Coast Guard was established in 2016 with 1,500 members. Original proposals estimated that the force would increase to 10,000, but not until 2027.

The scope of powers for this proposed force is notable. It will operate with executive powers and its own equipment, including "vessels, planes and vehicles, available to be deployed at all times and for all necessary operations," Juncker said. The force will operate "wherever and whenever" along the EU's external borders as well as in non-EU countries.

The border force will also have the authority to conduct identity



checks, to allow or deny border entry, to stamp travel documents, and to patrol and intercept illegal border crossings. The force will also have authority to implement the involuntary return of certain individuals.

The EU claims this force will operate under the command of whichever member state it is located in. Yet at the same time, it has said that when the EU's interests require it, the force can intervene even without the approval of the member state in which it is operating.

This expanding force is establishing some powerful precedents that will be necessary for transforming Europe into a unified superpower, as prophesied in the Bible. ■



## Germany resets relations with Turkey

**S**eptember 27–29, Germany hosted a state visit by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who said the trip was “extremely successful.” This was a stark change from last year, when Germans were protesting

Erdoğan in the streets, and he called German officials “Nazis.” Many Germans still resent Erdoğan, and many protested the state visit. But the fact that the German government greeted Erdoğan with full military honors shows that

## Iran stations more missiles in Iraq

**R**eports say that Iran is supplying its proxies in Iraq with ballistic missiles to deter attacks on its interests in the region and to threaten regional foes.

“According to three Iranian officials, two Iraqi intelligence sources and two Western intelligence sources, Iran has transferred short-range ballistic missiles to allies in Iraq over the last few months,” Reuters reported on August 31. “Five of the officials said it was helping those groups to start making their own.”

Iranian plans for arming Iraqi militia with ballistic missiles and for helping them produce their own reportedly began in early 2017, nearly a year before the Islamic State was officially defeated. And after the defeat, Reuters reported, “activity had ramped up.”

An Iraqi intelligence official said, “It was clear to Iraqi intelligence that such a missile arsenal sent by Iran was not meant to fight [Islamic State] militants but as a pressure card Iran can use

once involved in regional conflict. ... We can't restrain militias from firing Iranian rockets because, simply, the firing button is not in our hands, it's with Iranians who control the push button. ... Iran will definitely use the missiles it handed over to Iraqi militia



it supports to send a strong message to its foes in the region and the United States that it has the ability to use Iraqi territories as a launch pad for its missiles to strike anywhere and anytime it decides.”

One of the Iranian officials who spoke to Reuters said, “We have [missile launch bases] in many places, and Iraq is one of them. If America attacks us, our friends will attack America's

German politicians value the relationship between the two countries. Even at the height of recent tensions, the two never broke off relations completely. Now, Erdoğan said, the two countries “need to focus on joint interests, leaving aside some recent differences of opinion.”

This renewed friendship between Turkey and Germany is especially remarkable in light of Turkey's recent break with the United States. The U.S. has placed economic sanctions on Turkey, but Germany is openly working to help Turkey survive those sanctions and to thwart U.S. policy on Turkey.

The Bible prophecies in Psalm 83 that Germany will ally with Turkey. ■

interests and its allies in the region.” If short-range ballistic missiles are launched from southern or western Iraq, Saudi Arabia's capital, Riyadh, and the Israeli city of Tel Aviv would fall well within the missiles' 430-mile range.

“It seems Iran has been turning Iraq into its forward missile base” and is now using the transfer of these missiles to send a warning message to the United States and its allies, the Western source said.

In 1994, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry predicted that Iraq would fall to Iran. It seemed unlikely then, but the Iranians now control Iraq to the degree that they can deploy ballistic missiles and set up missile factories on Iraqi soil, and the Iraqi government will not or cannot stop them. Mr. Flurry based his prediction on Bible prophecy, which indicates that radical Islam, led by Iran, will “push” at its enemies and dominate many nations in the Middle East as the “king of the south” (Daniel 11:40–43). His free booklet *The King of the South* explains these prophecies in greater detail. ■

## Germany to train Iraqi military

**T**he German military officially began its own mission to train the Iraqi Army on August 11. The mission does not have the support of the United Nations, and it overlaps with a similar NATO-led mission.

“NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg [was] surprised about Germany's decision,” wrote *Der Spiegel* on July 6. “At a confidential meeting with German defense politicians, he said that nobody in the alliance understands why Germany wanted to get involved in Iraq, but not in cooperation with the alliance” (*Trumpet* translation).

The major difference is that NATO's training mission includes pro-Iranian militias that have integrated with the Iraqi Army, but Germany's mission excludes them. Germany's aim is to make the Iraqi military stronger, and more independent from Iran.

In addition to training the Iraqi Army, Germany will continue training Kurdish forces in northern Iraq. Germans have been training the Kurds to fight the Islamic State since 2014. The Islamic State is largely defeated, yet they continue to train the largely anti-Iranian Kurds and connect them closer to Iraq's central government.

The Bible prophecies that Germany will lead a European power that will confront Iranian aggression and terrorism. The Bible also indicates that Germany has a military strategy to contain Iran through various troop deployments encircling Iranian interests. Germany's new, independent mission in Iraq is thus prophetically significant. To read more about Germany's strategy to encircle Iran, please read *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry's booklet *Germany's Secret Strategy to Destroy Iran*. ■





FORMIDABLE  
Russian and Chinese  
forces parade during  
the Vostok 2018  
military exercises.

## Russia, China hold largest war games ever

**T**he militaries of Russia and China held a large-scale military exercise from September 11 to 17 throughout Siberia and parts of Russia's Far East. With more than 300,000 soldiers, 36,000 military vehicles, 1,000 aircraft and 80 naval vessels taking part, the Vostok 2018 drill is believed to be the largest military exercise ever held.

The involvement of China's People's Liberation Army included 3,200 troops, 900 combat vehicles and 30 aircraft, making it China's largest-ever

dispatch of forces abroad for military games.

Vasily Kashin, senior research fellow at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow, told the *Trumpet* on September 14 that the drills show how closely the militaries of Russia and China have become, especially as both nations' ties to the United States are increasingly strained. "[I]f the current trend of deterioration of the Russian-U.S. and Sino-U.S. relations persists," Kashin said, a "formal military alliance" between Russia and China could emerge.

## India, Pakistan join SCO military drill

**I**ndia and Pakistan participated in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's biannual anti-terrorism military drill from August 22 to 29 in Chebarkul, Russia, marking the two countries' first time taking part in an SCO military drill since they became full members of the organization last year.

The SCO is a political, economic and security alliance led by Russia and China that also includes Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The Peace Mission 2018 military drill was conducted by Russia's Central Military Commission, with more than 3,000 soldiers from seven SCO member states participating.

The entrance of India and

Pakistan into the Russia- and China-led SCO is significant because *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has identified Russia as the nation that will lead an end-time Asian military bloc referred to in Bible prophecy as "the kings of the east" (Revelation 16:12). Mr. Flurry's forecast is based on prophecies in Ezekiel 38, Daniel 11 and other chapters showing that a union of Asian nations led by Russia will emerge in the end time. Based on Ezekiel 38:6, Mr. Flurry has also said that India, and perhaps Pakistan, will be part of this Asian alliance.

In *The Prophesied 'Prince of Russia,'* he writes: "Ezekiel's prophecy says the Russian-led army will include 'Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya ... Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people

Herbert W. Armstrong, editor in chief of the *Trumpet's* fore-runner magazine, the *Plain Truth*, forecast for decades that Russia and China would form a close military partnership in the end time—just before the Second Coming. The December 1962 *Plain Truth* listed some specific Bible scriptures that informed Mr. Armstrong's forecast: "From time to time, news commentators—in describing the coming catastrophic military struggle for world control—use the biblical expression *Armageddon* found in Revelation 16:16. But what they do not mention is a striking prophecy about 'Armageddon' found in Revelation 16:12. In this verse we read that 'the way of the kings of the east' is to be prepared!"

To understand how this "kings of the east" refers to Russia, China and other Asian nations, and to see where the rapidly warming relations between Moscow and Beijing are leading, order our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy.* ■

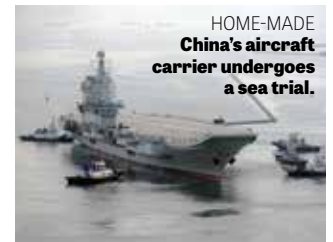
... (Ezekiel 38:5-6). *Gomer* refers to Japan .... *Ethiopia* and *Libya* should be translated 'Cush' and 'Phut.' Some of Cush and Phut migrated to African nations, but the rest settled in parts of India. The context of this passage shows that it refers to modern-day Indians (and perhaps Pakistanis) rather than Africans."

Russia and China are the main powers driving the biblically prophesied cooperation of "the kings of the east," and the SCO appears to be a major tool they are using to do so. The latest SCO military drills help to set the stage for the leaders, economies and militaries of "the kings of the east" to unite. To understand more about this subject, request a copy of our free booklet *The Prophesied 'Prince of Russia.'* ■

## China's navy makes advances

**T**he capabilities of China's People's Liberation Army Navy are continuing to catch up with the United States Navy. The country's first indigenously built aircraft carrier—the Shandong—set sail for its second set of sea trials on August 27 and is scheduled to enter service sometime next year. Construction has also accelerated on China's third aircraft carrier.

China's navy also launched the Nanchang, a Type 055 guided missile destroyer, for its first



HOME-MADE  
China's aircraft  
carrier undergoes  
a sea trial.

sea trials on August 24. The Type 055 is Asia's largest and most formidable noncarrier warship.

These developments are significant because unlike most of the vessels currently in service with China's navy, these aircraft carriers and Type 055s are capable of operating in the open ocean, well beyond China's coast.

Meanwhile, China is also tightening its grip on the South China Sea, further developing its first overseas base in the East African country of Djibouti and working toward establishing a naval base in Gwadar, Pakistan. With its aircraft carriers and Type 055s soon entering service, China will be able to defend and increase its number of bases.

*Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has said that China's expansion of its naval capacity—in the South China Sea and beyond—should alarm the world because it means "China is steering the world toward war." ■

# U.S. and China escalate trade war

**T**he trade war between the United States and China escalated on August 23, when the U.S. government levied 25 percent tariffs on \$16 billion in Chinese goods, up from the previous rate of 10 percent. China responded by implementing 25 percent tariffs on \$16 billion worth of American products. Currently, the dispute

affects roughly 17 percent of trade between China and the U.S.

Members of China's ruling party are already facing significant criticism from those within their own circle, but even if the United States wins this trade battle, it will not win the trade war. The Bible forecasts exactly the kind of trade war we see building now, and states that

the resultant economic siege against the U.S. will ultimately put it in mortal danger.

In *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Herbert W. Armstrong explained that Deuteronomy 28:52 prophesies that U.S. rivals will use their economic power and control of the world's maritime choke points to besiege America. ■

## America's merchant marine fleet nearly gone

**T**he United States has the most powerful navy in the world, but a dangerously weak merchant marine fleet. According to an August 14 report in *Defense News*, the U.S. government, private businesses and private individuals owned just 2,021 deepwater vessels at the start of 2017. But 96 percent of these were registered to nations like Liberia, Panama and the Marshall Islands. They fly foreign flags and are manned by multinational crews.

Ships in the actual U.S. merchant marine fleet fly the American flag and are crewed by sailors who have taken an oath of allegiance to the U.S. In 1951, the total number of ships that fit this description was 1,288. Today, the number is just 81.

During peacetime, the merchant marine carries commercial cargo, but during war, it becomes an auxiliary of the Defense Department, since the Navy cannot sustain enough cargo ships to deliver

the vast quantities of troops and supplies needed in combat zones and beyond.

During the 1991 Gulf War mobilization, the U.S. military had to rely on foreign-flagged ships to transport military supplies to the Middle East. The crews of 13 foreign-flagged vessels rebelled against the U.S. and forced their



ships away from the war zone. An Air Force general recently warned Congress that the Pentagon could again face a similar situation.

"[The] reduction in actively trading U.S.-flagged vessels correlates to a decline in the numbers of qualified merchant mariners, the workforce required to deliver U.S. Forces

to war," Air Force Gen. Darren McDew told a Senate panel on April 10. "If the fleet continues to lose ships, a lengthy, mass deployment on the scale of Desert Shield-Desert Storm could eventually require U.S. forces to rely on foreign-flagged ships for sustainment."

If a foreign naval power creates a naval blockade at sea, any vessel flying a foreign flag may refuse to carry American cargo through disputed territory. China understands the strategic implications of America's dwindling merchant fleet. That is why it has 4,973 Chinese deepwater vessels flying the Chinese flag.

Fifty years ago, almost 17 percent of merchant vessels worldwide flew under an American flag. Today, it is less than half a percent. Americans take for granted the U.S. Navy's ability to handle any conflict. But Navy ships need supply lines. A 2015 report by Capt. Carl Schuster and Dr. Patrick Bratton claims that America's weakness in commercial shipping is the nation's Achilles' heel. ■

## U.S. State Dept. promotes homosexuality around the world

**T**he U.S. State Department has continued the Obama administration's policy of pressuring foreign governments and international organizations into supporting homosexuality and transgenderism. On October 1, the State Department implemented a policy that partners of staff members of U.S.-based international organizations must be married to obtain diplo-



matic family visas, including homosexual partners. Critics of the Trump administration call it discrimination against unmarried homosexuals, but the policy supports homosexual "marriage."

Last May, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo issued a statement to mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. Under Pompeo's leadership, the State Department has also continued funding Obama-era programs that support lesbian, homosexual, bisexual and transgender initiatives around the world. Despite the fact that the Bible condemns homosexuality as sin, American society has embraced it and worked to pressure other nations into embracing it as well. Like ancient Israel, modern-day America has become more sinful and turbulent than the nations that are round about it (Ezekiel 5:7). ■

government. The dispute has raged for more than 25 years, and now Iran—the world’s number one state sponsor of terrorism—is reportedly giving Polisario military training and weapons.

Morocco’s cache of phosphorus is split between Western Sahara and the rest of the country. The Moroccan government won’t say how much of it lies in Western Sahara.

Geopolitical Futures wrote on August 23 that Iran’s effort to destabilize Morocco happens at a time when “anti-West sentiment and religious zeal are both on the rise, which is raising concerns in [Morocco’s capital] Rabat and elsewhere about the potential for religious extremism to take hold.” The most recent sign of this came in July when 30,000 individuals protested in the streets, including at least 6,000 members of the banned al-Adl wal-Ihsan Islamist group and tens of thousands of youths. Geopolitical Futures wrote that these “recent developments in Morocco have put that country’s stability in doubt” (*ibid*).

In any other nation, these developments would be worrisome. But since the world’s food supplies depend so heavily on Morocco’s phosphorus, they are nothing short of alarming. They show that global food supply chains are highly susceptible to disruption.

### ‘We Need to Be Deeply Worried’

When the situation in Morocco and the new crises in Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Nigeria and Yemen are placed alongside the recent return of authoritarian governments in several other nations, it shows that severe famines could soon be prevalent once again. De Waal wrote, “[I]n so far as we see a resurgence of ideologies and practices that reduce people to instruments or impediments to other political ends, or exclude them from our political communities, we need to be deeply worried that mass starvation will return.”



A survey of the world today—Russia, China, Turkey, Iran and several other nations—shows that the resurgence of such “ideologies and practices” is well underway. This indicates that mass famines could soon return in full force.

And when that resurgence is placed alongside the world’s most authoritative forecasting source—the sure word of Bible prophecy—the indication becomes a certainty.

### The Black Horse Will Ride

The biblical book of Revelation is about “things which shall be hereafter,” or occurrences that would take place after the era of the Apostle John (Revelation 1:19). In Revelation 6, John discusses “the seven seals” that lead up to the return of Jesus Christ. The first four are often called the “four horsemen of the apocalypse.” They represent religious deception, war, famine and pestilence (verses 1-8).

Regarding the third horse and its rider, John writes: “And when he had opened the *third* seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine” (verses 5-6).

This is a personification of mass famine, cruel and unyielding. The passage describes a time when scarcity of food is so great that staple grains are carefully weighed and prohibitively expensive.

*Ellicott’s Commentary* says “measure” in verse 6 means “the amount of food sufficient to support a man for a day.” And “penny” refers to “the usual daily pay of the laborer, and of the soldier.” An entire day’s wage would allow a man to buy only enough wheat to feed himself for that same day! Or he could buy enough of the less nutritious barley to feed three, making the feeding of a family nearly impossible.

Meanwhile, supplies of luxury items such as oil and wine are mostly unaffected but well out of reach of the

ordinary laborer. Such selective scarcity, sparing the powerful elite while afflicting the common people, is in line with de Waal’s description of famines as often being intentional “weapons of war” in the hands of corrupt authorities.

Revelation is not the only biblical book to mention an end-time return of famine. Jesus Christ Himself said that mass famines will occur prior to His return: “For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines ...” (Matthew 24:7; Mark 13:8; see also Luke 21:11).

*Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry and coauthor Wayne Turgeon wrote about the impending return of famine in their booklet *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*, stressing that these prophecies are for the present age. “We are not discussing some dusty old prophecies,” they write. “These are dramatic, dire prophecies that lie directly in front of us! ... This great famine will eventually spread to every corner of the Earth before mankind repents in unconditional surrender to God.”

They continue: “[T]his third horseman of famine will have a specific fulfillment. It is ready to gallop into our immediate future with an impact far beyond the historic and present-day occurrences of localized famines.”

Mr. Flurry and Mr. Turgeon explain that although this points to a dark future, the Bible makes clear that God will provide a method of escape for those who will turn to Him. “The future appears very bleak,” they write. “But there is a way of escape (Revelation 12:13-17). God will hear and forgive anyone who will repent. The only ones promised divine protection are those few who have yielded to God and His way of life.”

The Scriptures reveal that the gains against famine that mankind has made in recent years will soon wither away. Evidence shows that scarcity is already returning to some regions and that mass famine is terribly imminent. The black horseman is not finished riding. But each individual could have some say as to whether he or she will be in his path—or not. ■

To understand these dire prophecies that lie directly in front of us, and the method of escape from this bleak future that is available to those who turn to God, please order your free copy of **The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse**.



# A Key to Doing God's Will in Your Life

You'll never grow without it.

I AM TEACHING MY SON TO PLAY PIANO. WHEN WE HAVE A lesson, I give him instructions on how to spend his time practicing that week. *Play this scale at four 16th-notes to the click at 104 clicks per minute, making sure not to allow your left index finger to collapse. If you make a mistake, put a check on your paper, then play the scale perfectly two times before moving on. If you can't finish the scale in two minutes, then put an X on your paper and move to next scale. At your next practice, focus on the scales you had trouble with, decreasing the tempo until you can play them perfectly. Then increase one metronome click at a time until it is at tempo.*



JOEL HILLIKER

When my son sits down alone to practice, he has a decision to make. He can follow my instructions in detail—or he can do something that just approximates those instructions. What happens if he chooses the second option? He has an easier time, yes, but his growth as a piano player is hindered.

There is a *key ingredient* he needs in order to take the first course. It's an ingredient we all need.

God instructs us through the Holy Bible. There are times when knowing what God wants in a given situation is difficult to know for certain. But many times, what He wants is clear and unmistakable, if we are paying attention and listening intently. The challenge is following through. *Doing it.*

This is why God exhorts us in James 1:22, “[B]e **DOERS OF THE WORD**, and not *hearers only*, deceiving your own selves.” Knowing or agreeing with God's word does not count. What counts is the *doing*.

How can we be doers of the word? In a real sense, it often comes down to one key ingredient: **SELF-DISCIPLINE**.

The Bible shows that God's purpose for mankind is to develop His own character in us. As educator Herbert W. Armstrong wrote: “This creation of right spiritual character in us demanded *free moral agency*—that man must intelligently **CHOOSE** the right as opposed to the wrong—that he exercise free choice, develop *self-discipline*.”

Here is how he defined righteous spiritual character: “It is that controlled ability, in a separate independent entity, to come to a *right knowledge* of the true from the false—the right from the wrong—and, by *free choice*, to **CHOOSE** the right and the true, and, further, to *use the self-discipline* to **WILL** and to actually **DO** the right.”

Following God's instruction so often comes down to **SELF-DISCIPLINE**. This does not mean you can build God's

character by exerting your own willpower. *God* builds that character in us—it is a spiritual process. But He cannot do that if you don't cooperate.

When God gives you instructions or shows you His will through Bible study or godly counsel, what determines whether you will be a *doer*? Like my son at the piano, you must have *self-discipline*. You have to turn that instruction into specific action steps, give yourself reminders, put them into your schedule, tell your friend or spouse so he or she will hold you accountable—whatever it takes. And above all, when you don't feel like doing it, you must *do it anyway!*

Mr. Armstrong wrote, “I have defined character—that is, true, righteous, holy character—as 1) coming to the *knowledge* of the true, as opposed to the false values—the right, in stead of the wrong way; 2) making, of one's own free will and volition, the **CHOICE** to do the right instead of the wrong; 3) **THE EXERCISE OF THE WILL** in actually doing the right instead of the wrong.

“Character, then, once the true knowledge is acquired and the right decision made, involves **SELF-DISCIPLINE**. The truly educated person is a *self-disciplined person*” (*Plain Truth*, January 1984).

“What, then, does this **SELF-DISCIPLINE** involve?” he continued. “Two things: 1) self-restraint to resist the lower impulses and pulls in human nature—to restrain the self from desires, impulses, habits or customs which are contrary to the **RIGHT WAY**; and 2) self-propulsion or determined initiative to drive the self to do those things which ought to be done.”

**FAILING TO DO** is a lack of self-discipline. Doing the easy thing instead of the right thing is a lack of self-discipline. Giving in to whims and distractions is a lack of self-discipline. Being honest about this is an important step toward growth.



It leads you to buckle down, turning to God even more earnestly for help, and exerting even more effort, never giving up until you actually **DO** the right instead of the wrong.

God wants to help you. But He can do this only as you exert the self-discipline to do as He directs. He gives you His Word, and will even show you how to implement it in your life. Ask God for the strength and *even the will* to **DO** as He instructs (Philippians 2:13). Then do your part. Be tough on yourself! Discipline yourself! Bring yourself into subjection to God's instructions (e.g. 1 Corinthians 9:27). And no matter what challenge or excuse or weakness stands in the way, use God's power and strength and exert yourself to *do His will*.

To learn more, request Gerald Flurry's powerful booklet *How to Be an Overcomer*. Chapter 5, “The War of the Wills,” provides important biblical perspective. The whole booklet is filled with practical wisdom on doing the will of God! ■

sales). She is literally calling for the federal government to take control of more than a thousand of the largest companies in America: The government would directly control 87 percent of American businesses by sales and 97 percent of the entire U.S. economy. It would be the largest takeover of private wealth in human history.

Meanwhile in Britain, roughly 40 percent of the electorate supports Jeremy Corbyn's Labor Party, which unabashedly endorses socialist policies. Five years after praising Venezuela's wealth redistribution, Corbyn is still calling for similar programs in Britain. And British youth are lining up behind him. Four in ten British Millennials think favorably of socialism, while only

### What History Teaches

Socialists want "equality" at all costs. In Venezuela, as in the Soviet Union, as in other socialist countries, they are getting it: Everyone—except for the very few connected to the government—is *equally oppressed* and *equally poor*.

The irrefutable truth is this: Everyone *is* equal in terms of their value as a human being and their potential. But in almost every other way, we are unequal. We have different abilities, different interests, different opportunities, different strengths, and different levels of achievement. There are exceptions to the rule, but in a free society people who produce more generally end up having more. Hence, "income inequality." Wealth *always* tends to be concentrated in a minority.

Will and Ariel Durant wrote in *The Lessons of History*: "The experience of the past leaves little doubt that every economic system must sooner or later rely upon some form of the profit motive to stir individuals and groups to productivity. Substitutes like slavery, police supervision or ideological enthusiasm prove too unproductive, too expensive or too transient. Normally and generally men are judged by their ability to produce ...."

Socialists fail to understand or they reject this fundamental truth of human nature, taught by thousands of years of human experience.

But the Creator of human beings understands it perfectly. This is why His Word says that if anyone does not *work*, neither should he *eat* (2 Thessalonians 3:10). This means everyone works, because even the laziest person will work once he gets hungry.

God's Word promotes the economic system encapsulated by every man under his own vine and his own fig tree. It states that we all eat the fruit of our doings, that we all receive our own reward according to our own labor, that we each must give an account of ourselves, that He rewards each man according to his works and renders to every man according to his deeds. This is why His Word says that the responsibility of feeding each family rests on the head of that family providing for his own, especially for those of his own house (1 Timothy 5:8). It does not say to rely on government social programs that pay you diminishing amounts of benefits in return for you relinquishing your vote, your power and your responsibility over and accountability for your own life.

When a government simply *takes* from the producers and the wealthy, and *gives* to the poor in exchange for votes, it is ignoring these basic biblical truths and commands.

Every time we do what seems right in our own eyes, we create problems rather than solving them. Our ideas might seem to produce good results for a short time, as they did under Chávez, but the reckoning always comes. It's a law, like physics. And the place to learn the fundamental laws of human life is not in the mind of Chávez, Lenin or Marx.



NAIVE SUPPORT  
Socialist Bernie Sanders greets enthusiastic youth.

three in ten think well of capitalism. Liberals are endorsing the very socialist principles that have Venezuelans literally starving to death.

Somehow, Warren, Corbyn and fellow liberals can *look at Venezuela* and still say, *That is what we want for our nations. We need to look at nations like Venezuela as a model for having universal health care, for universal education, for free college tuition, for massive minimum-wage increases, for redistributing wealth, for certain price controls.*

You can make these ideas sound noble. That's why socialism is such a powerful force. But human beings have been trying these ideas throughout history, and they have led to disasters like the Soviet Union and Venezuela—*every time*.

In this case, we have a spectacular failure occurring in the news, *right now*. You don't have to read a history book to see this. All you have to do is *pay attention* and learn the obvious lesson.

History shows that this often leads to the majority becoming resentful and restless and, in some cases, rising up in revolt. Leaders can gain a following if they promise the masses to redistribute the wealth.

The problem is, *moving* wealth doesn't *create more wealth*. PRODUCTION creates more wealth. And handing people money doesn't make them more productive. Generally, it makes them *less* productive. And taking money from producers makes *them* less productive as well.

On top of that, the more violent the revolution, the more wealth is destroyed in the process.

So the *result* of such revolutions tends to be a general *loss of wealth*, and a *loss of productivity*. And once that redistributed wealth is *spent*, then poverty comes roaring back with a vengeance.

This is not just a recent phenomenon: This has happened *throughout* history. As Pulitzer Prize-winning historians

How flawed is the human mind? Americans live in an economic system that has done more to eliminate poverty and generate wealth than any other system in history—it has lifted millions upon millions of people to a standard of living higher than any other people have enjoyed in history. Yet we are turning toward socialism.

We should be turning in the opposite direction, toward a system based *more* on biblical principles, not less.

Why can we not just believe God? Certainly the free market and capitalism are not the perfect systems of God, but they are far more consistent with biblical principles than socialism, communism, feudalism, corporatism or any other economic system besides the actual economic system outlined in the Bible itself.

### The Socialists' Power Grab

The Venezuela case study in socialism teaches us more than just this economic lesson. It teaches us that “democratic socialist” governments transform into AUTHORITARIAN socialist governments.

Behold the evils of human nature. When you give a leader or a government an enormous amount of power—to control the *economy* as well as the military, policy, international relations and everything else—the power to *take from these people and give to those people*—THIS is what it so often leads to!

Over and again, leaders use “democratic socialism” to come to power, and then they consolidate that power and *never let it go*. MOST democratic socialist revolutions in history end up becoming authoritarian. Many turn into full-blown dictatorships.

Once the people of a nation concede their individual rights to give their government overwhelming power over their lives, it's easy for that government to be controlled by a small group or even a single person. And what is raging inside those people or that person? Human nature.

These leaders *always SAY* they live to help the *people*. But what they really want is power to remake the nation as they want it. Some of them just want the power and wealth for its own sake.

And whether people want to admit it or not, THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT IS MOTIVATING THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT IN

THE UNITED STATES. Avowed socialists are openly talking about nationalizing health care, nationalizing 97 percent of the economy, raising taxes, and taking money so that *politicians* can distribute it the way *they* believe is just—for example, to provide “free” education in institutions that teach new generations about the glories of Marxism!

This isn't about equality at all. This is a massive power grab!

Like Hugo Chávez, these politicians believe that the problems in the free market can be solved simply by stripping power from private individuals and giving it to the government. As if only private individuals have selfish, evil human nature—whereas socialist leaders have pure, altruistic nature and can be trusted implicitly to always act in the public interest. Their bottom line is, *The more power we have, the better off everyone will be!*

You can read about the vision God gives about His system of economy and His system of government. You can get a glimpse of how wonderful Venezuela, the United States and the entire world will be when the Creator of human beings implements His system. You can read it in *Trumpet* executive editor Stephen Flurry's article “A New World Economy” ([theTrumpet.com/3612](http://theTrumpet.com/3612)).

For more than a century, this anti-Bible ideology has been progressively infecting America's government, transforming it from a limited federal government to an increasingly massive central government.

Yet people like Elizabeth Warren think the government *doesn't yet have ENOUGH power!*

This is exactly the opposite to the thinking of America's founders. More importantly, it is opposite to the principles of the Bible.

### Whom to Trust?

America's founders understood many biblical principles. They understood that God was not leading America in the same way that He led ancient Israel through Moses—but they formed a system of

government that at least accounted for the truth about human nature revealed in the Bible. They put the opportunity, the responsibility and the accountability for a man's life where it belonged: on the shoulders of that man himself.

The biblical model of government places responsibility for an individual's life on *that individual*. The governmental system of the Bible is very lean. It gives individuals and families tremendous economic and personal freedom—and accountability—before God.

Socialist governments tax 60, 70, 80 or even 90 percent of people's incomes and assume the responsibility of doling out the money and benefits that they think people should have. God's system operates on an exceedingly spare 10 percent flat tax—known as the tithe. That alone shows you the difference in scope of God's government versus human socialist government.

The big-government socialist model *ignores* the principles of human nature contained in the Bible, *ignores* the limitations of human beings revealed in the Bible, *ignores* the system of government established in the Bible. It boldly, blindly insists that human nature—at least the human nature of government leaders—is fundamentally good and that the more power you give a socialist government, the better it will be for everyone. It promises that *socialism* will supply your needs. It *insists* that corruption will not flourish. It insists that the only problem is people who don't trust the ever growing government.

The Bible says, *Cursed is the man who trusts in man!* (Jeremiah 17:5).

God wants to help all people to learn responsibility, to work and to grow, and to learn to *look to Him* for our help, and to trust *Him!* *Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord—and whose hope the Lord is* (verse 7).

### Learn the Lesson

We MUST learn the powerful, dire, costly lessons of what is happening in Venezuela right now.

Something is *very wrong* with the thinking of Americans and Britons who indulge in God-rejecting socialist fantasy while a nearby nation implodes after a 20-year experiment in socialism.



Re: The Holy Roman Empire Goes Public—Big Time!

**Austria is an agent state for Germany, which lets Austria garner headlines while it quietly maintains the key relationship with the Vatican for Holy Roman Empire, as the largest footprint in the EU. Virtually all the EU framework supports Germany and defers to it. Austria having headlines is a head fake. Germany also has enjoyed a large standing military and has sent one-off troops into the Middle East, a Vatican-created mess ... which it has inspired and spurred to advantage itself.**

**Andrea Psoras** NEW YORK

Thank you for all the news. It is so informative and very educational. Please keep them coming.

**Everbest Yane** PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Even though I have a dreadful pain condition as the result of a hemorrhagic stroke almost 19 years ago, I have enjoyed reading your magazine and articles for many more years. You're the only one that writes biblically and explains how today's events are leading up to Christ's return.

**Sandy Miller** ILLINOIS

I just wanted to send in my appreciation for the *Trumpet* magazine. My 13-year-old has been reading the hard copy a lot

lately. He's been digging out old issues and spending quite a bit of time with it. I'm so grateful to have it available for him. Thank you for also including the visual helps and infographics within the magazine.

**Michelle Dell** CANADA

I am a Filipino by birth, presently residing in Kuwait for 13 years now and am a nurse by profession. I knew your *Trumpet* magazines since 1991 and had an on-off subscription that time. Now in my 40s, I have this intense craving for spiritual truth and thus started to look back on those old subscriptions and eventually started to read the Bible. I have proved that

God really exists and the Bible is the Word of God in writing. My question now is, how to belong to the one true Church of God?

**Kenneth Calayo Apuada**

You have made my day today. Just received my June 2018 *Trumpet*. Inside I found a booklet that I have been longing for: *How to Pray*. I have always wanted to talk with God, but never sure how. I think this booklet will answer me. Please send me this booklet. I thank you.

**Sifrin John Khumalo** SOUTH AFRICA

I just want to say a big thank you for all the little magazines, booklets and pamphlets you've been sending me after



requesting them. I can't quite believe how they have restructured my biblical thinking and helped me comprehend the Bible better than ever before. Those little books and literature are full of H-U-G-E-L-Y valuable information for today. I am so grateful for receiving them. I take it all to heart. Thank you for clearing up so many concerns I had and for helping me understand the Bible better. I have been rereading these wonderful articles so I can better understand our world and what is going to happen now and in the near future. Thank you for your website that keeps me informed of the daily news and what has been happening to our world.

**Bernice Barnes** CANADA

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# The Consequences of Dehumanizing Your Neighbor

History shows that seeing your opponent as less than human leads to disaster. **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

**T**HE OXFORD DICTIONARY DEFINES *DEHUMANIZATION* AS “THE process of depriving a person or group of positive human qualities.” It means ignoring people’s natural rights, thoughts, emotions, family and social relationships to the point of considering them animals or even less.

Adolf Hitler dehumanized Jews, whom he referred to as rats and parasites. Jews didn’t live in homes, he said, but in “nests.” Like dogs, the Jews traveled in “packs.” During the war, he herded Jews into camps, branded them with numbers and exterminated them as if they were animals.

Deprive a foe of his status as a human, and it becomes much easier to persecute, torture and kill him. History shows that dehumanization is often a step toward unimaginable suffering, violence, torture and mass murder.

In America today, there is a growing tendency to *dehumanize the enemy*. This is evident within U.S. politics, culture and society. For many, politics today is no longer about challenging your opponent’s arguments, but about *destroying* your opponent, politically, financially, socially and in any other way.

“There is a strong current of dehumanization running in our politics,” columnist and former presidential speechwriter Michael Gerson recently wrote. “The rival crew, it turns out, is not only wrong *but evil*. And how can mortal enemies embrace the give and take of a shared political project? Only the raw exercise of power can decide between them. The goal is no longer to win arguments *but to crush opposition*” (emphasis added throughout).

In a recent Vanderbilt University study, people were asked to rank members of their own political party and the opposing party on an evolutionary scale represented by modern humans on one side and apelike creatures on the other. The study’s authors wrote in a May *Washington Post* article: “Seventy-seven percent of our respondents rated their political opponents as less evolved than members of their own party. Respondents who considered themselves strong partisans

were more likely to dehumanize opposing partisans, and Republicans and Democrats were equally likely to dehumanize their opponents.”

Some of America’s politicians, commentators and other leaders, especially on the left, now genuinely believe their opponents to be inherently evil. Some now openly encourage the verbal and physical abuse of opponents.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters, for example, routinely urges supporters to confront President Donald Trump’s supporters. “If you see anybody from that cabinet in a restaurant, in a department store, at a gasoline station, you get out and you create a crowd. You push back on them. Tell them they’re not welcome anymore, anywhere!” screamed Waters earlier this year.

America’s most influential actors and artists also routinely deploy the language of hatred and violence toward Mr. Trump and his followers. Turn on the TV on any given night and there’s a good chance you’ll see Bill Maher, Jimmy Kimmel and others demonizing America’s president and his followers. These men don’t merely despise their opponent’s policies or ideologies, or even his appearance or mannerisms—very often it’s evident that they openly despise his existence.

If such a spirit of hatred remains unchecked, is it hard to imagine it being manifested in action? If you believe your

enemy is an animal, it’s easier to treat him like an animal. The forces behind the tendency to dehumanize the enemy are now overpowering; the spirit of competition and hatred too strong. To learn more about the forces behind this growing tendency to dehumanize the enemy, request *America Under Attack*, by *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry.

Consider this end-time prophecy in 2 Timothy 3:1-3: “This know also, that in the *last days perilous times shall come*. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, *Without natural affection*, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good.” In the end time, many will be “without natural affection”—cold,

heartless, without compassion or empathy.

This lack of natural affection for fellow human beings will make them capable of committing extreme acts of violence. Prophecies in Isaiah 1-3 and Ezekiel 7 describe America being plagued by civil turmoil and race wars. Ezekiel warned, “[T]he land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence.”

You can see this terrifying future even now: in the demonization of Brett Kavanaugh and his supporters, in the vitriolic accusations America’s leaders routinely levy on one another and on segments of American society, and in the sadistic, violence-inducing, nation-destroying remarks regularly made by media personalities, music moguls and Hollywood stars.

You can see this grim future in the growing proclivity among Americans to dehumanize the enemy. ■



IF SUCH A SPIRIT OF HATRED REMAINS UNCHECKED, IS IT HARD TO IMAGINE IT BEING MANIFESTED IN ACTION?

The U.S. and British people are proving to be *unteachable*. We won't learn the lessons of the Bible. We won't learn the lessons of history. We won't even learn the lessons unfolding on the news before our eyes. Socialists say that the Soviets got this detail wrong, or the Chinese got that detail wrong, and that America could succeed if it tried "real" socialism. We are bold enough to say this even though we cannot name a single example of successful, sustainable socialism—and all evidence points to the fact that **THE PREMISE OF THE SYSTEM ITSELF IS FATALLY FLAWED!**

We reject the obvious lessons because we are too convinced of our *own wisdom*. We trust our human reasoning against all challengers—and we will pay a terrible price for that ignorance and arrogance.

What will it take to make us teachable?

The Bible tells us the grave answer. Our rejection of God and our unteachability will lead directly to terrifying consequences *worse* than what is happening in Venezuela. Biblical prophecy shows that America and Britain will be at the center of the worst suffering in human history. That is what it will take for us to recognize the *flaws* of human nature, including our own, and the foolishness of trusting in men, including ourselves.

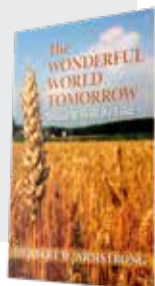
God will allow and even apply much of this punishment and suffering. Not because He hates us: If He hated us, He would destroy us. But He loves all of the human beings He has created, and He knows that to achieve our potential, to make our lives worthwhile, we must *learn*. When we reject Him at every turn and in every way, we leave Him no choice but to punish us for our sins until we learn the error of our "*we are right, no matter what*" attitudes.

Beyond this period of terrible punishment and suffering, our loving Creator has revealed that another revolution is coming. It's a revolution in government. It's a revolution in economics. It's a revolution in human happiness and fulfillment. And it can come about *only* by the leadership of Jesus Christ.

The good news for suffering Venezuelans and for this whole world is that the King of kings, Jesus Christ, will soon return to literally and directly rule all nations. Only He and God the Father understand human nature. Only they have the ability and capacity to rule human beings the way they should be ruled. Only He and God the Father can guide human beings to fulfill not just their income potential or their happiness potential, but the eternal, incredible human potential for which they were born. ■

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# THE KEY OF DAVID



**Philadelphia Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry appears each week on *The Key of David* explaining the meaning behind world events and teaching the inspiring truths of the Bible. The program is also available at [keyofdavid.com](http://keyofdavid.com).**

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- Alaska, Anchorage** KYUR-DT 8:30, Sun
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- Fayetteville** KFTA 9:30, Sun; KHBS-DT/  
KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun
- Fort Smith** KFTA 9:30, Sun; KHBS-DT/  
KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun
- Jonesboro** KJOS 8:30, Sun
- Rogers** KFTA 9:30, Sun; KHBS-DT/KHOG-  
DT 8:30, Sun
- Springdale** KFTA 9:30, Sun; KHBS-DT/  
KHOG-DT 8:30, Sun
- California, Bakersfield** KGET-DT 9:30, Sun
- Chico** KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun; KRCR 9:00, Sun
- El Centro** KECY-DT 8:30, Sun
- Eureka** KEGA-LD/KVIQ-DT 9:30, Sun
- Los Angeles** KCAL 6:30, Sun; KPXN 6:00, Fri
- Monterey** KION 9:30, Sun
- Palm Springs** KCWQ/KESQ-DT 9:30, Sun
- Redding** KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun;  
KRCR 9:00, Sun
- Sacramento** KSPX 6:00, Fri;
- Salinas** KION 9:30, Sun
- San Francisco** KKPX 6:00, Fri
- Santa Barbara-Santa Maria** KSBY-DT 9:30, Sun
- Colorado, Denver** KPXC 5:00, Fri
- Grand Junction** KJCT-DT 8:30, Sun
- Montrose** KJCT-DT 8:30, Sun
- Connecticut, Hartford** WHPX 6:00, Fri
- Florida, Gainesville** WCJB-DT 9:30, Sun
- Jacksonville** WPXC/WPJ-LP 6:00, Fri
- Miami** WPXM 6:00, Fri
- Orlando** WOPX 6:00, Fri
- Panama City** WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun
- Tallahassee** WTXL 7:30, Sun; WTLF/  
WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun
- Tampa** WXPX 6:00, Fri
- West Palm Beach** WPXP 6:00, Fri
- Georgia, Albany** WSWG-DT 9:30, Sun
- Atlanta** WPXA 6:00, Fri
- Augusta-Aiken** WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun
- Brunswick** WPXC 6:00, Fri
- Columbus** WLTZ-DT 9:30, Sun
- Macon** WMAZ-DT 9:30, Sun
- Savannah** WSAV-DT 9:30, Sun
- Thomasville** WTLF/WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun
- Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo** Chan. 54 6:30, Sun;  
8:30, Wed
- Honolulu** KPXO 5:00, Fri
- Kauai Ho'Ike** Chan. 52 9:30, Tue
- Maui/Lanaii/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku**  
Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30, Mon
- Oahu Focus** Chan. 49 7:00, Sat
- Idaho, Boise** KYUU-LP/KBOI-DT 8:30, Sun
- Idaho Falls** KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun
- Pocatello** KIFI-DT 8:30, Sun
- Twin Falls** KMVT-DT 8:30, Sun
- Illinois, Bloomington** WEEK-DT 8:30, Sun
- Chicago** WCUU 7:00, Mon-Fri; WCIU 9:30,  
Sun; WCPX 5:00, Fri
- Peoria** WEEK-DT 8:30, Sun
- Rockford** WREX 10:00, Sun; WREX-DT 8:30, Sun
- Quincy** WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
- Indiana, Fort Wayne** WISE-DT 9:30, Sun
- Indianapolis** WIPX 6:00, Fri
- Lafayette** WLFI-DT 9:30, Sun



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**Iowa, Cedar Rapids** KPXR 5:00, Fri  
**Des Moines** KFSD 5:00, Fri  
**Keokuk** WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Mason City** KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Ottumwa** KWOT 8:30, Sun  
**Sioux City** KTIV-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Kansas, Pittsburg** KSXF 8:30, Sun  
**Topeka** KTKA-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Kentucky, Bowling Green** WBKO-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Lexington** WUPX 6:00, Fri  
**Louisiana, Alexandria** KALB-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Lafayette** KATC-DT 8:30, Sun;  
KLAF 6:30, Sun  
**Lake Charles** KPLC-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Monroe** KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun  
**New Orleans** WPXL 5:00, Fri  
**Maine, Bangor** WABI-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Portland** WIPL 6:00, Fri  
**Presque Isle** WBPQ 9:30, Sun  
**Maryland, Baltimore** WBFF/WUTB 7:30, Sun  
**Salisbury** WMDT-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Massachusetts, Holyoke**  
WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Springfield** WWLP-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Michigan, Alpena** WBAE 9:30, Sun  
**Cadillac** WFOX-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Detroit** WPXD 6:00, Fri; WADL 10:00, Sun  
**Grand Rapids** WZPX 5:00, Fri  
**Lansing** WLAJ-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Marquette** WBKP-DT/WBUP-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Traverse City** WFQX-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Minnesota, Duluth** KDHL-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Mankato** KWYE 8:30, Sun  
**Minneapolis** KPXM 5:00, Fri  
**Rochester** KTTC-DC 8:30, Sun  
**Mississippi, Biloxi** WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Columbus** WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Greenville** WBWD 8:30, Sun  
**Greenwood** WBWD 8:30, Sun  
**Gulfport** WXXV-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Hattiesburg** WHLT-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Laurel** WHLT-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Meridian** WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Tupelo** WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Missouri, Columbia** KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Hannibal** WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Jefferson City** KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Joplin** KSXF 8:30, Sun  
**Kansas City** KPXE 5:00, Fri  
**Kirksville** KWOT 8:30, Sun  
**St. Joseph** KNPG-LD 8:30, Sun  
**Montana, Billings** KTVQ-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Bozeman** KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Butte** KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Glendive** KWZB 8:30, Sun  
**Great Falls** KRTV-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Helena** KTVH-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Missoula** KPAX-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Nebraska, Hastings** KWBL 8:30, Sun  
**Kearney** KWBL 8:30, Sun  
**Lincoln** KWBL 8:30, Sun  
**North Platte** KWPL 8:30, Sun  
**Scottsbluff** KGWN-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Nevada, Reno** KRNS-CA/KREN-DT 9:30, Sun  
**New Mexico, Albuquerque** KWQB 7:30, Sun  
**New York, Albany** WYPX 6:00, Fri  
**Binghamton** WBNG-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Buffalo** WPXJ 6:00, Fri; WUTV 10:30, Sun  
**Elmira (Corning)** WENY-DT 9:30, Sun  
**New York City** WPXN 6:00, Fri; WWOR,  
8:00, Sun  
**Plattsburgh** WPTZ-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Syracuse** WSPX 6:00, Fri  
**Utica** WKTV-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Watertown** WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun  
**North Carolina, Asheville** WYCW 9:00, Sun  
**Charlotte** WAXN 10:00, Sun  
**Durham** WRPX 6:00, Fri  
**Fayetteville** WFPX 6:00, Fri  
**Greensboro** WGPX 6:00, Fri  
**Greenville** WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT  
9:30, Sun  
**Lumber Bridge** WFPX 6:00, Fri  
**New Bern** WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Raleigh** WRPX 6:00, Fri

**Washington** WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Wilmington** WWAY-DT 9:30, Sun  
**North Dakota**  
**Bismarck** KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Dickinson** KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Fargo** KXJB 8:30, Sun  
**Minot** KXMC-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Valley City** KXJB 8:30, Sun  
**Ohio, Cincinnati** WSTR 8:30, Sun  
**Cleveland** WVPX 6:00, Fri  
**Lima** WBOH 9:30, Sun  
**Steubenville** WBWO 9:30, Sun  
**Youngstown** WYTV 11:30, Sun  
**Zanesville** WBZV 9:30, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Ada** KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Lawton** KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Oklahoma City** KOPX 5:00, Fri  
**Tulsa** KTPX 5:00, Fri; KOCW 9:30, Sun  
**Oregon, Bend** KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Eugene** KMTR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Medford-Klamath Falls**  
KTVL-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Portland** KPXG 6:00, Fri  
**Pennsylvania, Erie** WSEE-DT/WICU-DT  
9:30, Sun  
**Philadelphia** WACP 9:00, Sun  
WPPX 6:00, Fri  
**Wilkes Barre** WQPX 6:00, Fri  
**Rhode Island, Providence**  
WPXQ 6:00, Fri  
**South Carolina, Anderson** WYCW 9:00, Sun  
**Charleston** WCBD-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Florence** WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Greenville** WYCW 9:00, Sun  
**Myrtle Beach** WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Spartanburg** WYCW 9:00, Sun  
**South Dakota, Rapid City** KLCO-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Sioux Falls (Mitchell)** KSFY-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Tennessee, Chattanooga** WFLI 10:30, Sun  
**Jackson** WBJK 8:30, Sun  
**Knoxville** WPXK 6:00, Fri  
**Memphis** WPXX 5:00, Fri  
**Nashville** WNPX 5:00, Fri; WZTV 6:30  
**Texas, Abilene** KTXS-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Amarillo** KVII-DT/KVIH-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Beaumont** KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Brownsville** KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Corpus Christi** KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Dallas** KDAF 7:00, Sun  
**Harlingen** KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Houston** KPXB 5:00, Fri  
**Laredo** KYLX 8:30, Sun  
**Longview** KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Lubbock** KJTV 8:00, Sun  
KLCW-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Midland** KWAB-DT/KWES-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Odessa** KWAB-DT/KWES-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Port Arthur** KFDM 8:30, Sun  
**San Angelo** KTXE 8:30, Sun  
**San Antonio** KPXL 5:00, Fri  
**Sherman** KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Sweetwater** KTXS-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Tyler** KYTX-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Victoria** KWVB 8:30, Sun  
**Weslaco** KCWT/KNVO-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Wichita Falls** KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Utah, Salt Lake City** KUPX 5:00, Fri  
**Vermont, Burlington** WVMY 10:30, Sun;  
WPTZ-DT 9:30  
**Virginia, Charlottesville** WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Harrisonburg** WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Norfolk** WPXV 6:00, Fri  
**Richmond** WUPV 8:00, Sun  
**Roanoke** WPXR 6:00, Fri  
**Washington D.C.** WPXW 6:00, Fri

**Washington, Pasco** KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT  
9:30, Sun  
**Richland** KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Seattle-Tacoma** KWPX 6:00, Fri  
**Seattle** KCPQ 7:00, Sun  
**Spokane** KGPX 6:00, Fri; KAYU 7:30, Sun  
**Yakima** KIMA-DT/KEPR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**West Virginia, Beckley** WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Bluefield** WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Charleston** WLPX 6:00, Fri  
**Clarksburg** WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Oak Hill** WVVA-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Parkersburg** WCWP 9:30, Sun  
**Weston** WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Wheeling** WBWO 9:30, Sun  
**Wisconsin, Eau Claire** WXOW-DT/WQOW-  
DT 8:30, Sun  
**La Crosse** WXOW-DT/WQOW-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Milwaukee** WPXE 5:00, Fri  
**Rhineland** WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun  
**Superior** KDHL-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Wausau** WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Wyoming, Casper** KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Cheyenne** KGWN-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Riverton** KCWY-DT 8:30, Sun

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**Nationwide satellite**  
Galaxy 3 Trans. 17, 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu  
**Nationwide cable**  
Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun  
CHCH 11:30 ET, Sun  
**Atlantic Provinces**  
CTV Atlantic 11:00 AT, Sun  
**Alberta, Red Deer** KAYU 8:30, Sun  
**Calgary** KAYU 8:30, Sun  
**Edmonton** KAYU 8:30, Sun  
**Medicine Hat** KAYU 8:30, Sun  
**Lethbridge** KAYU 8:30, Sun  
**British Columbia,**  
**Vancouver** CHEK 9:00, Sun;  
CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun; KCPQ 7:00, Sun  
**Victoria** CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun  
**Manitoba, Winnipeg** CTV Winnipeg 9:30,  
Sun; CIIT Joy TV 11:00, Sun  
**New Brunswick, Moncton** CKCW-DT 11, Sun  
**Saint John** CKLT-DT 11, Sun  
**Nova Scotia, Halifax** CJCH-DT 11, Sun  
**Sydney** CJCB-TV 11, Sun  
**Ontario, Ottawa** CJOH 5:30, Sun  
**Toronto** WADL 10:00 Sun;  
WUTV 10:30, Sun;  
CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun  
**P.E.I., Charlottetown** CKCW-DT 11, Sun  
**Quebec, Montreal** WVMY 10:30, Sun  
**Saskatchewan, Saskatoon** CFQC 5:30, Sun;

**CARIBBEAN**

**Regional satellite**  
Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu  
**Bahamas** FOXW Chan. 216, 10:30, Sun  
**Puerto Rico** WSJX 8:00, Sun

**LATIN AMERICA**

**Regional satellite**  
Galaxy 3 Trans. 17 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu

**AUSTRALASIA**

**Australia**  
**Nationwide** 9GEM 8:00, Sun  
**Adelaide** TV44 11:30, Sun; 5:00, Wed  
**Melbourne** C31 11:30, Fri  
**Perth** WTV 11:30, Sun/Sat  
**New Zealand** TVNZ 1, 5:30, Sun  
**Philippines** TV4 7:30 PHT, Sun

**CBS United Kingdom**

Station	Day	Time	sky	Freeview	freesat	
CBS Action	Saturday	8:30 am	Ch. 148	Ch. 192	Ch. 39	Ch. 137
CBS Drama	Sunday	7:30 am	Ch. 147	Ch. 197	Ch. 71	Ch. 134
CBS Reality	Sunday	8:00 am	Ch. 146	Ch. 148	Ch. 66	Ch. 135

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