Washington—Paying the Wages of Appeasement

BY RON FRASER

The Obama administration’s decision Sunday to shutter nearly two dozen U.S. diplomatic posts has given jihadists something to celebrate. ‘God is great! America is in a condition of terror and fear from al Qaeda,’ wrote one jihadist in an online forum, according to the Times. ‘The mobilization and security precautions are costing them billions of dollars. We hope to hear more of such psychological warfare, even if there are no actual jihadi operations on the ground’” (Newsmax, August 8).

The paradox is that this presidency started out declaring it would “fix” what it maintained was the damaging foreign policy of the previous administration.

Well, the plain truth is that America is now in a far worse “fix” than it ever was under the Bush administration!

Take Egypt—and the whole Muslim world for that matter—for example.

In June 2009, President Obama traveled to the Middle East where he delivered his keynote foreign-policy speech at Cairo University in Egypt to define America’s relationship with the Muslim world.

At the time, our editor in chief commented: “I have no reason to doubt Mr. Obama’s sincerity, but his words will cause deadly problems.

“The president said, ‘No single nation should pick and choose which nations hold nuclear weapons.’ In other words, he believes America by itself should not prevent another nation from getting nuclear bombs—a signal to the world that America the superpower is dead! That means America has no right to forcefully stop Iran’s nuclear program, even though Iran is the number one terrorist-sponsoring nation in the world by far!’

see APPEASEMENT page 12
Death Toll in Egypt Climbs to 525
NEW YORK TIMES | August 16

The death toll surpassed 500 on Thursday from Egypt’s bloodiest crackdown on supporters of its deposed Islamist president, as violent new protests erupted in the country and world condemnation widened, including an angry response by President Obama and calls for a suspension of European economic aid.

In defiance of calls for restraint, Egypt’s Interior Ministry warned protesters that police officers were authorized to use lethal force to protect themselves. The ministry also promised to punish any “terrorist actions and sabotage” after at least two government buildings were burned early Thursday. “The ministry has given instructions to all forces to use live ammunition in the face of any attacks on establishments or forces within the framework of the regulations of using the legitimate right of self-defense,” the ministry said in a statement. “All the forces assigned to securing and protecting these establishments were provided with the weapons and the ammunition necessary to deter any attack that may target them.”

The scorched-earth assault by security forces on Wednesday, which razed two protest camps in Cairo set up by backers of the deposed president, Mohamed Morsi, was far more ferocious and extensive than the gradual pressure promised by the interim government that replaced him.

It was easily the most violent of the three deadly suppressions that have roiled Egypt since Mr. Morsi, Egypt’s first freely elected president, was forcibly removed from power by backers of the deposed president, Mohamed Morsi, Egypt’s first freely elected president, was forcibly removed from power by the armed forces six weeks ago, plunging the country into its worst crisis since the ouster of Mr. Morsi’s authoritarian predecessor, Hosni Mubarak, in the 2011 revolution.

Despite the growing tally of dead, Muslim Brotherhood supporters of Mr. Morsi exhorted followers to take to the streets on Thursday, defying the newly imposed state of emergency and reflecting a backlash against the military-appointed successors to Mr. Morsi’s administration, who appear determined to crush the Islamists as a political force.

Hundreds of Mr. Morsi’s supporters marched through Alexandria, Egypt’s second-largest city, clashing with the police. In Giza, across the Nile from Cairo near the pyramids, Islamists attacked provincial headquarters with Molotov cocktails and set it on fire. Islamists also blocked the main highway encircling Cairo.

In his first response to the Wednesday mass killings, Mr. Obama strongly condemned the Egyptian government’s use of brute force to crush the protests and said the United States had canceled military exercises with Egypt’s armed forces scheduled for next month. … But he said nothing about cutting the $1.3 billion in annual military aid that the United States provides to Egypt and acknowledged that the United States had historically regarded the country as a friend and a “cornerstone for peace in the Middle East.”

In Europe, some officials called for a suspension of aid by the European Union, and at least one member state, Denmark, cut off funds. France’s president summoned the Egyptian ambassador to condemn the violence. Related: “What’s Next for Egypt?”

Does the Middle East Peace Process Matter?
BBC | August 12

Does the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians matter to anyone but themselves?

Is this, as the Quartet representative to the Middle East, Tony Blair, and British government spokesmen would have it, the central problem in the Middle East which, if solved, will help to change the broader climate in the region?

Or, given the turmoil in Egypt, Syria, Iraq and beyond, has Israeli-Palestinian peace become an issue apart; less a barometer for regional tensions and more an intractable struggle that shows no sign of ending?

With U.S.-brokered talks between the two sides due to begin again this week there is an all-encompassing sense of diplomatic déjà-vu.

We have been here many times before.

There are the almost ritual concessions to get talks going—the release of Palestinian prisoners by Israel; a cloudy understanding either to freeze or restrict new construction in Israeli settlements; and the equally public announcement of new building anyway as a conservative Israeli government seeks to placate domestic opponents of the peace talks to its right.

… U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry’s investment in re-booting the peace process might seem to the casual observer to be naive and destined to end in failure.

But two major trends underpin Mr. Kerry’s efforts—and for many analysts they make an Israel-Palestinian peace more important now than ever.

One trend is the growing belief in many quarters—you hear it explicitly from British Foreign Secretary William Hague—that the opportunity for a “two state” solution, a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip living alongside Israel, is fast running out. …

The other trend is the chaos and uncertainty ushered in by what used to be called the “Arab Spring.” …

It is not so much that an Israel-Palestinian peace will solve any of these problems. It will not. It won’t even contribute to resolving them.
The Democracy Delusion

CALLUM WOOD | August 8

As the world’s most powerful nation, the United States has become involved in dozens of conflicts around the world. Often these conflicts were sold to the public as an effort to not only protect American interests, but to bring freedom to the oppressed. Toward this cause, America has sought to impose democracy throughout the world. But is democracy the solution to the world’s problems?

When America invaded Afghanistan in 2001, millions of dollars were put toward developing the nation, and a democratically elected leader was installed. Then there was the war in Iraq. The U.S., along with several allies, invaded in 2003, toppling the autocratic regime of Saddam Hussein. Afterward, these forces helped Iraq establish a democratic government. Democracy was the victor in Iraq, according to the president.

Time after time, America has worked to install democracy or has supported in a variety of ways those who appear to be pro-democracy. But what has been the outcome of democracy in the Middle East? Has it brought peace and stability as it supposedly did to America and the West? Last month proved to be the deadliest month in Iraq in the past five years, with more than 1,000 Iraqi civilians killed. The violence in Iraq has become so bad that the Interior Ministry announced last week that, once again, Iraq was in “open war.” The same thing is happening in Afghanistan. On Tuesday, the Taliban’s leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, called on Afghans to not participate in next year’s presidential elections, calling them “a waste of time.”

Democracy clearly is not working so well in the Middle East. It has not brought peace and stability to America, why hasn’t it done the same in these other nations as well? Imposing democracy on the world will not solve America’s problems. It will take a far, far superior form of government to do that—the very government of the God America rejects!

But Western diplomats believe that a resolution to one of the world’s most intractable disputes could lance a diplomatic boil that inflames passions and tensions way beyond the Middle East and contributes to making a very bad regional situation even worse.

Bahrain Tightens Security

FINANCIAL TIMES | August 14

Bahrain’s security forces were deployed in force on Wednesday to thwart a planned opposition rally against the ruling Al Khalifa family, as the government vowed to fight what it called “terrorism.”

Activists said the security services had arrested about 10 people and cordoned off Shia villages to prevent protesters from taking to the streets of the capital Manama. …

Inspired by the protest movement in Egypt which led to the removal of Islamist President Mohamed Morsi, a coalition of activists called “Tamarod Bahrain” has used social media and websites to mobilize the August 14 protest, marking the day the country won independence and ceased to be a British Protectorate. …

Bahrain, which hosts the U.S. Fifth Fleet, has been locked in a two-year political stalemate punctuated by Shia opposition protests calling for wider political representation and equal rights.

Two years ago, the government crushed a Shia-led uprising calling for the Sunni ruling family to give up some of its sweeping powers. The opposition is demanding a constitutional monarchy with a government chosen from within a democratically elected parliament.

Smaller, more radicalized groups have demanded the total removal of the royal family. …

Bahraini officials have also accused Iran, a majority Shia country, of fomenting unrest. Concerns about alleged Iranian plotting in Bahrain prompted Saudi Arabia, a rival Sunni power in the region, to lead Gulf troops into Bahrain in 2011 to help crush the uprising. …

Iranian President Rowhani’s extremist ‘path of moderation’

Apparently, the “path of moderation” that the recently inaugurated Iranian president has vowed to tread is not an easy one. Iran’s PR department has been frantically pouring water over the fiery, anti-Zionist statements that the “moderate” Hasan Rowhani made on the last Friday of Ramadan. Rowhani was quoted by Iran’s local media two days before his inauguration as saying, “The Zionist
regime is a wound inflicted for years on the body of the Muslim world that must be cleansed.” Iran’s new president is not the “moderate” that some of the Western media thinks he is. He maintains an Islamist extremist ideology, as his comments imply. Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei declared last year that “the Zionist regime is a real cancerous tumor that should be cut and will be cut.” There’s no mistaking the path that Iran wants to walk. It is extremist, not moderate. Iran will use Rowhani’s “moderate” outlook to buy time, gain legitimacy, and seek to ease the hurting economic sanctions it’s under. The Islamic Republic of Iran remains the dangerous state it has always been, if not worse, under Rowhani’s presidency. Bible prophecy indicates a time soon when Iran will shed its current “moderate” mask.

**Germany—Preparing for Worldwide War**

A recent release from German-Foreign-Policy.com reveals the following: “The German Army has set in operation a new command structure for worldwide war operations. The ‘Multinational Commando Operative Command,’ based in Baden Württemberg’s Ulm, shall guide the organization of the EU Battlegroups. According to their own statement they are prepared for ‘every imaginable mission’ in an intervention area of up to 6,000 kilometers distance—including the use of ‘highly intensive’ force” (August 8; translation ours).

That should send shivers up the spine of old diehards who remember the last time that Germany prepared for the use of “highly-intensive force” in “worldwide war operations.”

The German-Foreign-Policy.com release continues, “The Battlegroups are being trained regularly within the framework of special forces maneuvers. Their agenda includes support of parties involved in civil war…."

To the generations blinded to the historic reality of past German aspirations for imperial power by half a century of miseducation and revisionist history, such a startling revelation of this latest Bundeswehr restructuring will mean nothing. To students of Bible prophecy it has most profound meaning.

You need to read our booklet *Nahum—An End-Time Prophecy for Germany* to fully understand the impact of this latest imperialist move by German elites. It is a good primer for further study into this subject using our booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.

We will provide more detail on the significance of the Bundeswehr’s new command structure as further details come to light.

In the meantime, as the September German federal elections approach, we continue to declare, “Watch Germany!” That nation is prophesied to soon have a powerful effect on this planet through a third and final effort at gaining global power by “worldwide war operations.” The German-Foreign-Policy.com report indicates the recent restructure of the Bundeswehr brings that prospect one more significant step closer!

Follow Ron Fraser: [Twitter](https://twitter.com/ronfraser)

**Expansion and Collapse**

**GERMAN-ForeIGN-POLICY.COM**

**August 12**

The Deutsche Bahn AG (DB) railroad company is expanding its business activities with the dictatorships of the Arabian Peninsula. As the company has announced, in October it will begin organizing the operation of one of the rail lines in the United Arab Emirates. This is done on the basis of a “strategic partnership,” concluded by the DB with the Emirates’ “Etihad Rail.” The DB will help establish a railroad academy in Qatar, for training personnel needed for rail operations. The DB is also in business in Saudi Arabia, where it is participating in the construction of a high-speed rail line from Mecca to Medina, and was also involved in the construction of an elevated railway line for the Women’s University in Riyadh. The latter must be driven automatically, because of Saudi gender segregation policy. Business with these dictatorships at the Gulf helps the DB to reach its announced objective of becoming “the world’s leading mobility and logistics company.” … Last year, the DB Corporation achieved an operative income of €2.7 billion (US$3.6 billion).

**UK ‘Brixit’**

**CNBC**

**August 8**

The likelihood of the UK exiting the European Union currently stands at 50 percent, with the next flashpoint in May next year, according to new research.

Britain’s future in the EU has been a matter of intense debate over the past 18 months, culminating in the announcement by Prime Minister
David Cameron that there would be a referendum on membership in 2017, if his Conservative Party is in power.

This followed the eruption of the eurozone debt crisis, and pressure from his own party members over the UK’s perceived loss of some powers to Brussels.

Alastair Newton, senior political analyst at Nomura, reiterated his view that the chance of Britain exiting the EU—a so-called “Brixit”—was 50 per-cent in a research note Thursday, but said there were still uncertainties.

“We foresee events in the next 12 months which could cause us either to increase or to decrease this probability but without being decisive,” he wrote.

The European Parliament elections in May 2014 will be one of the key events …. Growing support for the Euroskep-tic UK Independence Party (UKIP), led by Nigel Farage, was one of the key factors which spurred Cameron into announcing a referendum, and Newton believes the party will put in a strong performance next year.

This could put further pressure on the opposition Labour Party to com-mit to holding a referendum if it gets into power. …

Spain Threatens Gibraltar

**TELEGRAPH | August 14**

Spain launched another broadside against Gibraltar on Wednesday, announcing plans to curb the practice of “bunkering” in its waters in the latest escalation of the diplomatic row over the British territory.

Miguel Arias Canete, Spain’s min-ister of agriculture, food and envi-ronment, said his government would consider measures to target Gibraltar-based companies that offer at-sea refueling—one of the mainstays of the Rock’s economy.

Mr. Arias Canete insisted that bunkering was a danger to the marine environment and should be prevented from taking place in waters registered as EU nature-protected sites.

Earlier this year, Spain approved legislation banning permanently-anchored fuel storage tankers from operating in its protected waters and included the disputed waters around the Rock in its framework.

“We are going to modify our environmental legislation to establish means to allow us to sanction companies that carry out bunkering with permanently anchored ships,” Mr. Arias Canete said.

“Bunkering is an activity that is le-gal in certain situations but prohibited under others,” he added.

Gibraltar is one of the largest bunkering ports in the Mediterra-nean, benefiting from its geographical situation on one of the world’s busiest shipping routes and because compa-nies based there benefit from a no-tax regime. …

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**ASIA**

China Emboldens Russia to Defy U.S.

**BLOUIN NEWS | August 10**

Chinese and Russian troops are fighting side by side in a live-fire military exercise in the Ural Mountains called “Peace Mission-2013,” lasting through August 15. As they simulate beating back insurgents and unspecified foreign forces, they are also demonstrating a quietly-strengthening alliance that helps explain Russia’s willingness to ignore American sensitivi-ties over issues ranging from granting Edward Snowden asylum to discrimi-nating against the LGBT community.

In part, this bullishness comes down to Vladimir Putin’s nationalist politics and his desire to play a popu-list hand. However, Moscow is also emboldened by its steadily improving relations [with] Beijing, which it regards as an essential counterweight to Washington. …

In March, just eight days after he became China’s new president, Xi Jinping visited Putin in Moscow as his first foreign visit (the Russians drew a direct contrast with President Obama’s failure to arrange an early summit after his inauguration). The mood was upbeat: joint criticism of U.S. policy in Libya and Syria and a series of energy agreements cul-minated in an unprecedented $270 billion oil deal. Russian oil giant Rosneft will double its supply to China, clinching the deal by cutting its prices, something which must have been cleared or pushed by the Kremlin.

This is also a security partnership. In July, the two powers held a major military exercise, “Joint Sea-2013,” China’s largest-ever with a foreign country. Russian and Chinese war-ships deployed into the Sea of Japan and wargamed defending their fleet against submarines and aircraft clearly meant to represent the United States Navy. …

[When Putin declares that relations between China and Russia are “the best in their history” he is probably telling the truth. The main reason for the friendship may actually be a com-mon mistrust of the United States, but it nonetheless provides a comfort to Moscow in particular that is likely to
Five years ago this month, Vladimir Putin dispatched Russian troops to Georgia in an invasion that killed 300 people, destabilized the region and set off an international crisis. Throughout his career, Putin has participated in and initiated other unpleasant escapades, including the killing and displacement of more than 150,000 Chechens, supporting deadly regimes in Iran and Syria, and violently oppressing opponents in pursuit of personal ambition and power.

In each exploit, Putin has violated human rights and inflicted terrible suffering, even death. Generally the response has been one of restrained reproach and halfhearted condemnation. Never has there been a fiery, genuinely furious reaction from the spectrum of Western leaders and institutions, from governments, the media, intellectuals and businessmen, Hollywood and higher education, and the public.

That is, until now.

Vladimir Putin is currently facing enormous international criticism. Not just from fellow world leaders, including President Obama, but also from the mainstream media, from intellectuals and popular figures, and even from the public.

Around the world, thousands are turning out at organized protests to vent their fury. Bars, nightclubs and restaurants are joining an international boycott of Russian-made vodka and other Russian-made products. Cities in America and elsewhere are severing relations with “sister” cities in Russia. In California, Democratic politicians are trying to ensure state funds are not invested in Russia. Last week, the International Olympic Committee received an international petition with 300,000 signatures demanding the boycott of the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

President Putin is being compared to Adolf Hitler and his actions to that of pre-war Nazi Germany.

After years of tyrannical behavior, it seems Putin has finally incited vast and genuine outrage.

What action was so despicable, so atrocious, so morally reprehensible and offensive, that it roused the normally tolerant and imperturbable West?

He signed a law banning the dissemination of homosexual propaganda to minors.

This is the state of Western morality: Vladimir Putin can tyrannize the world, but the moment he interferes with the right of Russian homosexuals to educate children in their lifestyle, the world screams condemnation!

In Russia it’s illegal to advocate homosexuality to people under 18, to engage in homosexual behavior with a person under 16, and for homosexual couples to adopt children.

But do we seriously believe these laws are the equivalent of Nazi Germany’s pre-war treatment of Jews? As recently as a decade ago you could find similar legislation in Britain and America.

The international brouhaha surrounding Russia’s laws governing homosexuality reveals the rapidly growing power and influence of the global LGBT movement and agenda. More significantly, it testifies to the collapsing moral state of the West.

The violent persecution of any human being is wrong and it’s unfortunate some homosexuals are suffering in Russia. But let’s be honest. The laws Mr. Putin is creating and the moral standard he seeks to preserve aren’t historically anomalous. Truth be told, when it comes to homosexuality, Putin is in moral territory that was until quite recently inhabited by America, Britain and virtually the entire world.

Considered against the long history of Western morality, Putin isn’t the anomaly. We are.

Follow Brad Macdonald: Twitter

Putin Vs. the Global Homosexual Juggernaut

Russian and Chinese air forces conduct first joint drills in history

The air forces of Russia and China completed their first joint training exercise in history on Thursday at a firing range in Russia’s Chelyabinsk region. The two-week-long drill involved 1,500 personnel and more than 250 pieces of military hardware, including 20 helicopters and other aircraft. The exercises came less than a month after the largest-ever Russia-China joint naval drills, and were reportedly designed to test the conduct of combined operations and to strengthen general ties between the two nations’ militaries. The two Asian giants have held joint military drills since 2005 under the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and their cooperation will only strengthen in the years ahead.

India deploys first homegrown aircraft carrier

On Monday, India launched its first home-built aircraft carrier as part of a campaign to bolster its naval presence in Asian waters and to counter China’s increasing aggression. The move brings India into an exclusive
club of nations that have developed the means to build their own carriers, the other four members being the U.S., the UK, France and Russia. The INS Vikrant, meaning “courageous,” was built by India’s state-owned Cochin Shipyard company. It will transport MiG-29 fighter jets and will join a British-made aircraft carrier already in the Indian Army’s fleet, and a Russian-made carrier that is slated to be added to the fleet soon. Meanwhile, earlier this month Japan formally unveiled Tokyo’s first Izumo-class helicopter destroyer, the nation’s largest warship since the Second World War. A region-wide arms race is under way in Asia, prompted largely by increasing Chinese belligerence and military spending.

ANGLO-AMERICA

Finding the Ark of the Covenant
THE KEY OF DAVID | August 18

A fascinating verse in Bible prophecy implies that the ark of the covenant is going to be found in this end time.

Lawlessness: It’s So Cool
Jon N. Hall, AMERICAN THINKER | August 14

When the law no longer commands respect, one can pretty well write off a nation that pretends to be a constitutional republic. But how can the people respect the law when the government doesn’t? President Obama seems to regard the law as a mere inconvenience.

In his … August 5 article “The Front Man” at National Review, Kevin Williamson sums up our Harvard Law School president’s taste for lawlessness: “He has spent the past five years methodically testing the limits of what he can get away with, like one of those crafty velociraptors testing the electric fence in Jurassic Park.”

With a compliant Congress in his first two years, and a divided, gridlocked Congress thereafter, Mr. Obama has been able to “get away with” an awful lot. One of the ways the president flouts the law is by not enforcing it, such as in his recent “decision” to delay enforcing the employer mandate of ObamaCare. Where does the president get off thinking he has the authority to refuse to enforce a law? The president doesn’t seem to understand his job.

Also, under Obama the executive branch just makes up law, a task generally reserved for the legislative branch. Williamson reports that “although the IRS has no statutory power to collect Affordable Care Act—related fines in states that have not voluntarily set up health-care exchanges, Obama’s managers there have announced that they will do so anyway.” …

Along with his extra-constitutional decisions to ignore or vacate the law, Obama also unilaterally exempts his friends from the law. Williamson: “Neither does the law empower him arbitrarily to exempt millions of his donors and allies in organized labor from the law, but he has done that too.” Obama has been granting waivers from the ACA mandates since 2011. The latest is his exemption of Congress and its staff from the mandate. Obama is buying off Congress. …

Obama is turning the law upside down in order to bail out Congress. So the taxpayer will continue to pay for the Cadillac health insurance plans of Congress. “Illegal dispensations for the ruling class, different rules for the hoi polloi.”

The law is not the law if it doesn’t apply to everyone. Obama’s arbitrary exceptions from the ACA for his friends are utterly corrosive; they breed contempt for all law. We cannot have contempt for law if we are to remain a constitutional republic. If laws are foisted upon the citizenry against their wishes, as was the case with ObamaCare, the government invites massive noncompliance at the very least. …

President Obama continues to test the perimeter, nudging, poking and shoving to see how much he can get away with and how far he can go. And with an in-the-tank media, an unmoored Court, and an irrelevant Congress, what’s to stop him?
Obama Ignores History

Betsy McCaughey, INVESTOR’S BUSINESS DAILY | August 13

At his press conference last Friday, President Obama said that when Congress won’t agree to what he wants, he will act alone. That statement, which he has made before, should send shivers through freedom-loving Americans.

The president was asked where he gets the authority to delay the Affordable Care Act’s employer mandate, even though the law states that the mandate “shall” go into effect January 1, 2014. The Obama administration announced the delay on July 3, without seeking Congress’s help in changing the law.

In response, Obama said that “in a normal political environment, it would have been easier for me to simply call up the speaker and say, ‘You know what, this is a tweak that doesn’t go to the essence of the law... so let’s make a technical change to the law.’ That would be the normal thing that I would prefer to do.”

But Obama explained that he took a different route because Republicans control the House of Representatives and ardently oppose ObamaCare.

Obama’s statement reveals how disconnected this president is from this nation’s history and constitutional principles. Divided government is the norm in the United States. Most modern presidents have had to govern with an uncooperative Congress or at least one house of Congress controlled by the other major party.

With the exception of Richard Nixon, these presidents—from Eisenhower to Reagan to Clinton and both Bushes—have not tried to exempt themselves from the Constitution. Article 11, Section 3 of the Constitution commands the president to faithfully execute the law. Courts have consistently ruled that presidents have little discretion about it. Obama can’t pick and choose what parts of the Affordable Care Act he enforces and when.

The framers duplicated the safeguards their English ancestors fought hard to win against tyrannical monarchs. Most important, the English Bill of Rights of 1689 barred an executive from suspending the law.

The tug and pull between the president and an uncooperative Congress is what the framers intended. It’s checks and balances in action. Obama has no patience for this constitutional system.

In June 2012, he announced that he would stop enforcing parts of the nation’s immigration laws, because “we can’t wait” for Congress to offer relief to young illegal immigrants brought into the country by their parents.

Now the president is rewriting the Affordable Care Act. Delaying the employer mandate is not a mere “tweak.” ... Sadly, most members of Congress are too busy looking out for themselves to stop the president from chipping away at the Constitution.

Last week, Republicans and Democrats conspired with the president to weasel out of Section 1312 of ObamaCare, which requires members of Congress to get health coverage on the newly created exchanges. Members were happy to let the president unconstitutionally give them a special taxpayer-funded subsidy that no one else in America earning $174,000 would get.

Such self-dealing brings to mind what Benjamin Franklin warned about, as he and his fellow framers finished writing the Constitution. It’s a republic, he said, “if you can keep it.”

Mexican Drug Cartels Invade America

Tyrel Schlote | August 13

As many as 1,286 cities in America are reported to have some kind of cartel presence. In the past, Mexican cartels were content to make deals with American drug runners, saving them the danger of having to traffic the drugs themselves. But a study by the Associated Press found that cartels are starting to send their own agents into America to oversee drug operations because they’ve become so massive.

The drug market in America continues to be lucrative, drawing more drug cartels across the border. Last year, drug cartels made $64 billion from their sales in the United States. Even states that don’t typically see much drug activity are seeing an uptick. In May, law enforcement officials in Oregon foiled a drug operation run by a Mexican cartel. Twenty-three homes were raided and 38 people were arrested in what was the largest drug bust in Oregon.

The U.S. has tried desperately to stem the flow of drugs into the country through tougher laws and tighter security. But nothing has worked. Why? While America looks to limit the flow of drugs through tighter border control, it fails to realize that this is not the real issue. The reality America refuses to admit is that it is hooked. America loves its drugs. Society idolizes them. Time and time again you hear about a movie star or a politician being involved with some kind of drug. High schools and colleges are rife with them. Today it’s normal to use illegal drugs “socially.” As long as this problem persists, so will the cartels.

International Investors Dump Treasuries

Mike Larson, MONEY AND MARKETS | August 15

Did you hear the news out of the Treasury Department this morning? It was an absolute disaster for the bond market—and for good reason: Foreign holders dumped a whopping $40.8 billion in long-term treasuries, the biggest exodus from bonds in the history of the U.S.

Worse, June was actually the third month of mass dumping in the past four, for a total of $49 billion. … It wasn’t just government bonds, either. Foreigners dumped $116 million of bonds made up of packaged U.S. mortgages. …

All told, more international capital flowed out of U.S. markets than at any time in history, worse even than at the
400 Missiles ‘Stolen’ During Benghazi

DAILY MAIL  | August 12

As the Benghazi compound went up in flames, says Joe DiGenova, 400 missiles capable of bringing down jetliners were “stolen” from U.S. control, possibly at the nearby CIA annex.

Four hundred American surface-to-air missiles were “taken from Libya” during the terror attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, a former U.S. attorney who represents whistleblowers claimed on Monday.

He added that the U.S. intelligence community is worried they might be used to shoot down airliners.

Joe DiGenova, whose wife Victoria Toensing—a former deputy assistant attorney general—who also represents Benghazi witnesses and others with knowledge of the terror attack, told WMAL radio that the loss of those missiles is also one of the reasons the U.S. State Department shut down 19 embassies across the Middle East last week.

“A lot of people have come forward to share information with us,” he said during the radio station’s Mornings in the Mall program Monday morning.

“We have learned that one of the reasons the administration is so deeply concerned” is that “there were 400 surface-to-air missiles stolen, and that they are…in the hands of many people, and that the biggest fear in the U.S. intelligence community is that one of these missiles will be used to shoot down an airliner.”

Asked if the missiles are now “in the hands of al Qaeda operatives,” DiGenova replied, “That is what these people are telling us.”

DiGenova said his sources are “former intelligence officials who stay in constant contact with people in the Special Ops and intelligence community.”

“And it’s pretty clear that the biggest concern right now are 400 missiles which have been diverted in Libya and have gotten in the hands of some very ugly people.” DiGenova said that while he was uncertain whether the stolen weapons were being kept at the U.S. consulate’s CIA annex, “it is clear that the annex was somehow involved in the process of the distribution of those missiles.” …

Benefits for Same-Sex Couples

REUTERS  | August 14

The Defense Department will make spousal and family benefits available by September 3 to same-sex spouses as long as a valid marriage certificate is presented, the Pentagon said in a statement.

The Pentagon said benefits such as TRICARE medical coverage, basic housing allowances and family separation allowances will be extended retroactive to June 26. … The benefits will be granted to service members married after June 26 from the date of their marriage, it said.

Same-sex military couples who are not stationed in one of the 13 states and Washington, D.C., which permit same-sex marriage, will have to travel to one of those jurisdictions to marry, the Pentagon said.

To expedite same-sex spouses’ access to full benefits, the Pentagon said it will give military personnel leave, not to be charged against annual days off, to let people travel to get married.

Law Benefits Transgender Students

BBC  | August 13

California has become the first U.S. state to enshrine rights for transgender schoolchildren.

A new law requires public schools to allow pupils from kindergarten to the 12th grade to access male or female toilets according to their preference.

The legislation also allows transgender schoolchildren to choose whether to play boys’ or girls’ sports.

State Assembly Speaker John Perez said it put “California at the forefront of leadership on transgender rights.” …

Opponents of the legislation said allowing pupils of one gender to use facilities intended for the other could violate the others’ privacy or violate their rights. …

Boys Want to Be Dancers Not Firemen

TELEGRAPH  | August 14

More boys are dreaming of becoming dancers than firefighters or policeman as reality shows such as Britain’s Got Talent and Strictly Come Dancing trigger a cultural shift.

A survey found dancing was the third most popular career choice of boys aged between 2 and 12—just behind doctor in first place and footballers in second. More
Cyberattacks: Coming Soon to a City Near You

Tyrel Schlote | August 12

While the warning about the potential for cyberattacks against America may sound like a broken record, security officials are saying it’s time people sat up and paid attention. Security experts are admitting how easily cyber terrorists could decimate infrastructure in the U.S.

Despite continued encouragement and even an executive order from the federal government for companies to upgrade their existing security systems, many of America’s key infrastructure controls are still easily accessible.

Alan Roberson, director of federal relations at the American Water Works Association, says most American utility companies “are aware that they need to separate their control systems from the Internet … but we still don’t know how many have done that, and how many vulnerabilities are left.”

No matter what the system, experts say it can be hacked. Tim Simonite of MIT Tech Review warned that one of the sensors “used to monitor oil, water, nuclear and natural gas infrastructure” can be hacked into with “a relatively cheap 40-mile-range radio transmitter.”

America’s port systems are also at risk of being hacked. Oklahoma Rep. James Lankford said at an Edmond Chamber of Commerce luncheon on April 4, “We are at war.”

He went on to say that much of America’s infrastructure has already been compromised and that sleeper codes are already in place, just waiting until they needed to be turned on.

The general consensus is that America’s increasing reliance on technology is putting it at greater and greater risk of attack. While many over the past few years have begun to realize the dangers of such reliance, the Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry has warned that reliance on technology was America’s “Achilles’ heel.” In the January 1995 issue, he wrote: “Now let’s look at an alarming scripture: ‘They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; but none goeth to the battle: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof’ (Ezekiel 7:14). The trumpet of war was blown in Israel—mainly America and Britain. It seems everybody was expecting our people to go into battle. But the greatest tragedy imaginable occurred! Nobody went to battle—even though the trumpet was blown! Will it be because of a computer terrorist?”

This is something that involves you personally. Will America be attacked? Be sure to read “America’s Achilles’ Heel” to understand what’s coming and who will be responsible for these kinds of attacks.

boys—8 percent—want to be dancers than girls—5 percent.

Some 7 percent of girls would rather be a footballer than pursue a more traditional female career, such as nursing.

The research by Mothercare and Save the Children shows the impression left on the kids of today by the success of dance troupes such as Diversity, which sprang to fame on Britain’s Got Talent.

Diversity leader, choreographer Ashley Banjo, has since launched his own series on Sky and street dance schools are popping up in towns across the UK. …

Fort Hood Gunman Wanted Martyrdom

REUTERS | August 13

The soldier who admitted killing 13 fellow soldiers in a 2009 shooting rampage at a Texas Army base told a mental health panel he wished to die while carrying out “jihad” because it would signal he was designated as a religious martyr. …

Hasan told the court last week that he switched sides in what he called a U.S. war on Islam, telling the jury, “I am the shooter.” He has not contested the testimony of more than 60 witnesses who described the November 5, 2009, shootings, the worst non-combat attack on a U.S. military base. …

Hasan attends court in a wheelchair after being paralyzed from the waist down in a shootout with military police who ended his rampage. …

He could face the death penalty by lethal injection if he is convicted. “I’m paraplegic and could be in jail for the rest of my life,” Hasan told the panel of military mental health experts.

“However, if I died by lethal injection I would still be a martyr,” Hasan said.

He attempted to justify the shootings by saying the soldiers he killed were “going against the Islamic empire.”

Declaring himself on a mission, Hasan told the panel … “I got the job done, but I knew I was going to be stopped because I had a lot of ammunition. I wanted to take out as many as I could before I got stopped” ….

TW IN BRIEF

Muhammad is London’s most popular boys’ name

Muhammad is the most popular name for newborn boys in London, according to figures released by Britain’s Office for National Statistics, August 12. It is the second most popular boys’ name in England and Wales, once variations in spelling are taken into account. The latest data is another piece of anecdotal evidence that shows how immigration is changing Britain. For more information, see our article “Is Britain Being Conquered From the Inside?”

Stay-at-home mums hit record low

The number of women “looking after family or home” has hit a record low in Britain, according to figures released by the Office for National Statistics on August 14. Just 2.04 million women stay at home, compared to 2.91 million when records began

Related: “Fort Hood Attack: Accept the Truth”
in 1993. The British government has worked hard to discourage women from staying at home. The UK tax system is one of the only systems in the world that taxes personal income instead of household income, which means that single-earning households pay a lot more tax than households with two incomes. In addition, the government is offering £1,200 (US$1,874.35) a year to two-income families to help with child-care costs. “It is at home where we learn the fundamentals of life, and it is the family that provides the bedrock upon which we rest secure when the vicissitudes of life rage around us,” wrote UKIP Leader Nigel Farage in the Telegraph on August 11. “So why on Earth does it appear that in the taxation system the Conservative-led administration is deliberately undermining the institution?” He wrote that the government sees “the concept of the traditional family” as “the real economic enemy.” Mr. Farage is right to warn Britain about the state of its families. Family breakdown is the cause of so many of Britain’s problems—including its economic ones. For more information on this, see our article “Missing Marriages: Evaporated Empire.”

200 Years of Books Prove That City-Living Changes Our Psychology

UCLA researcher Patricia Greenfield has long suspected that the environment around us influences our psychology—not in the classic sense that our family life or peer groups sway our behavior, but in a much broader way. Human psychology adapts differently, she theorized, to rural settings than to urban ones.

Rural living, with its subsistence economies, simpler technologies and close-knit communities, demands of people a greater sense of deference to authority and duty to each other. Urbanization, on the other hand, generally comes with greater wealth and education, and complex technology and commerce. Adapt to life in a city, and a different set of values becomes more important: for starters, personal choice, property accumulation and materialism.

…But Greenfield hasn’t been able to prove that until now. In her latest research, published in the journal Psychological Science, she leverages an enormous quantifiable dataset on American culture over the last two centuries that never existed before: the Google Books Ngram Viewer.

Greenfield’s evidence mostly comes from literature, a collection of 1,160,000 English-language popular and academic books published between 1800 and 2000. If American culture and psychology grew more individualistic as the country urbanized, wouldn’t that transformation be clear in the words from American books (and the concepts that lie behind them)?

Over these two centuries, America dramatically shifted from a rural country to an urban one…. In this next graph, the words “give” and “get” reflect the contrast between contributing to the larger collective (in a more rural society) and obtaining things for one’s self in a more urban one.…

Greenfield [also] graphs … the decline of words reflecting obedience, authority and religion.

The cumulative results suggest that there’s something more deep-rooted underway here than the simple life cycle of words that happened to go in and out of style for reasons entirely unrelated to society’s changing values. …

Related: “Childhood Troubles: The Root Cause”

“There are two main ways of life—two basic principles—two fundamental philosophies. One is the way of giving, the other of getting. One is love, the other lust. One believes it is more blessed to give than to receive. The other insists that acquiring, taking, accumulating, in the way of competition, leads to progress and happiness. What are the consequences of living the ‘get’ way of life? It has produced every wail of human woe. It is the way that now threatens the extinction of humanity”

—Plain Truth, February 1983

Give vs. Get: Word Use Over Time
APEESEMENT from page 1

This was an obvious reference to Iran’s pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Having noted that Iran, the most significant sponsor of terror in the world, “is the king of terror and makes the Middle East tremble,” Mr. Flurry then continued: “President Obama thinks that through his words, he will have peace with Iran. But after the terrorists heard that speech, they had to be rejoicing! When America’s president gives a speech like that, the terrorists have contempt for such weakness and are stirred to fight even harder. They can smell the victory. So we can expect violent terrorism to intensify and shake the nations!” (emphasis added throughout).

How prescient were those words. We did not have to wait long to see their effect. In December 2010, the so-called Arab Spring began rippling across northern Africa and throughout the Middle East, toppling leaders and more deeply entrenching Islamist terrorism. The governments in Tunisia, Libya and Yemen were overthrown, as was that of the very nation where President Obama delivered his keynote Middle Eastern speech—Egypt—twice!

The turmoil unleashed continued to spread across Algeria, Morocco, Sudan, Djibouti, Mauritania, Western Sahara and Mali in Northern Africa. In the Middle East, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Oman all felt the wave of protest that morphed from the initial reactions in Tunisia on December 2010. The Arab Spring protests even reached as far east as Khuzestan, a province in southwest Iran.

It is hard not to connect this unprecedented wave of protests and insurgencies with the impact of President Obama’s appeasing keynote speech to the Muslim world delivered in Cairo, June 4, 2009.

“Eliot Cohen, former adviser to George W. Bush’s administration, pungently observed of the White House’s fecklessness, ‘Nobody’s saying there are any real consequences that would come from crossing [Obama]—and that’s an awful position for the president of the United States to be in’” (“Foreign Policy, August 8).

FP pointed out the remarkable diplomatic deficit that the current U.S. administration has racked up since America’s current president gained office: “Obama’s past hollow threats and ‘red lines’ on Syria have eroded American credibility and now regrettably make a diplomatic solution to that war all but impossible. The administration’s confused and contradictory policies on Iran have likewise emboldened Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei to resist a diplomatic settlement. On Egypt, the White House has somehow pulled off the trifecta of diplomatic debacles by alienating the liberals, the Islamists, and the military (in other words, almost everyone). In Iraq, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki more and more sides against U.S. interests, even while terrorism and instability begin to afflict his country again. The administration’s poisoned relationship with Afghan President Hamid Karzai mirrors the overall deterioration in Afghanistan.”

Facing the facts, even if the U.S. had strong decisive Roosevelt/Regan-style leadership waiting in the wings for the next election—which it doesn’t—it would be an impossible task for such a leader to revive respect for the power that was once America’s.

America’s current administration will have the dubious reputation of being documented in history as the presidency that ultimately oversaw the prophesied breaking of the pride of American power (Leviticus 26:19).

One of the most blunt and direct assessments of the current administration in Washington came recently from Lawrence Sellin, a retired colonel who served for 29 years in the U.S. Army Reserve. Sellin is a veteran of both Afghanistan and Iraq. His terse summation of the current presidency is summed up in the following item published on Family Security Matters on August 5: “The anti-American political philosophies underlying the policies of Barack Hussein Obama can be defined as the juncture of three ideologies: socialism, Islam and opportunistic racism to foster resentment among minority groups and promote race and class conflict as a lubricant for his radical transformation of the United States.”

Voicing the concerns that a substantial number of Americans increasingly feel, yet have no real and effective forum from which to have them addressed—least of all the mass media nor even a seemingly supine Congress—Colonel Sellin states: “Many Obama policies seem inexplicable to patriotic Americans because they often run counter to the interests of the country. They include unsustainable federal spending, lax border security, a weakened military and the undermining of individual rights guaranteed by the Constitution.”

Yet the greatest concern that the colonel airs is in respect of doubts as to the degree of loyalty the present U.S. administration has toward its own home nation. Of this Sellin declares: “There are also persistent questions by a growing number of Americans regarding the extent of Obama’s allegiance to the United States.”

It is this atmosphere surrounding America’s current foreign policy which is being taken substantial advantage of by Islamist extremism, and, most especially, terrorism’s chief sponsor, Iran. To repeat that prescient—in fact prophetic—statement made by our editor in chief following President Obama’s Cairo speech, “[T]he terrorists have contempt for such weakness and are stirred to fight even harder. They can smell the victory.”

Notice that Gerald Flurry then directly connects the effect of that speech to a profound, earthshaking prophecy for our times: “So we can expect violent terrorism to intensify and shake the nations!”

Never in modern times have we seen such a shaking of the nations as that which has occurred from the Arab Spring to this date!

You need to understand this powerful prophecy for our day. Read our booklets The King of the South and America Under Attack. They will open your eyes to the real effect of Washington’s policy of appeasement, and the most dangerous events that, as a direct consequence, will follow.

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