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THE TRUMPET WEEKLY

FEBRUARY 2, 2013

Vatican-Israel accord finally near completion? 3

EU exit would leave London defenseless 5

China just threatened currency war! 6

Powerless to protect teachers 9

We are all Europe now 10

Why Aren't More People Marrying Today?

BY JOEL HILLIKER

FOR YOUNG people, the idea of marriage still holds considerable charm. A 2006 poll showed that more than 80 percent of American high school seniors expect to get married, and 90 percent of those assume they'll remain wed to the same person for life. A survey of college students in England found 95 percent want to marry. Among adults who have never been married, 61 percent want to be, according to a Pew poll from 2010.

But dreams of marriage are failing to materialize for more and more of these people. In 1960, 72 percent of American adults were married; today, that number has dropped to 51 percent. In 1960, 15 percent had never married; today it's 28 percent. In 1970, four in five 25-to-29-year-old men were married; now, two in five are.

What's going on? People want to marry but aren't. Why? The reasons are many. But sociologists have identified one that I find of particular interest. It is that today's men—at least in the eyes of today's women—*aren't qualified*.

Many single men say they would like to be at least equal to if not *better than* their future spouse in terms of education and earning power. The model of the male breadwinner has a long history, and remnants of it remain ingrained in the minds of many people—both men and women.

The problem is, this ideal *is increasingly at odds with reality*. As Hanna Rosin writes in her book *The End of Men: And the Rise of Women*, "The men may cling to traditional ideals about themselves as providers, but *they are further than ever*

see **MARRYING** page 12



Egypt Faces 'State Collapse'

BBC | January 29

EGYPT'S ARMED forces chief has warned the current political crisis "could lead to a collapse of the state."

Gen. Abdul Fattah al-Sisi, in comments posted on the military's Facebook page, said such a collapse could "threaten future generations." He made his statement following a large military deployment in three cities along the Suez Canal where a state of emergency has been declared.

More than 50 people have died in days of protests and violence.

In response, President Mohamed Morsi has cut short a planned European trip.

His spokesman said he would still visit Germany on Wednesday as planned, but the two-day trip has been cut to just a few hours and a visit to France has been cancelled.

On Monday night, thousands of people in Port Said, Ismailia and Suez—where some of the worst unrest has been—ignored a night-time curfew imposed by Morsi to

take to the streets. ...

General Sisi's lengthy statement appears to be a veiled threat to protesters and opposition forces as well as an appeal for calm and an attempt to reassure Egyptians about the role of the military, the BBC's Yolande Knell in Cairo said.

The Egyptian Army appears to be trying to make several statements at once.

General Sisi's remarks—originally made to students at a military academy—are a strong reminder that the armed forces remain an important political and economic player in Egypt.

The general's comments criticized the destabilizing power struggle between the different political forces. He is trying to assert the army's independence and its role as "a strong pillar of the state." ...

He said the economic, political and social challenges facing Egypt represented "a real threat to the security of Egypt and the cohesiveness of the Egyptian state." ...

Related: "Iran-Egypt Alliance Prophesied"

Israel Skips UN Review on Rights

NEW YORK TIMES | January 29

REPRESENTATIVES FROM Israel did not appear at a session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva on Tuesday for a report by the Council as part of what is known as the Universal Periodic Review process, in which all 193 member states had previously participated. ...

"We have encouraged the Israelis to come to the Council and to tell their story and to present their own narrative of their own human rights situation," the United States ambassador to the council, Eileen Chamberlain Donahoe, said last week. ...

The underlying concern expressed by many Council members in Tuesday's session is that Israel's decision to stay away from the review had broken established practice of cooperation observed by all countries, opening the door to noncooperation by others. ...

"If the Israeli government is not careful, it will ruin an important global human rights process for everybody," Peter Splinter, a Geneva representative of Amnesty International,

commented in a blog post. ...

Israel's no-show reflects longstanding frustration with the Council's perceived [anti-Israel bias](#), diplomats say. More than half the resolutions passed by the Council since it started work in 2006 have focused on Israel over the treatment of Palestinians in Israeli-occupied or Israeli-controlled areas. Israel is also the only country that is a standing item on the Council's agenda.

Despite these tensions, Israel, until last year, had preferred to work with the Council and in December 2008 participated in the Council's review of its human rights practices. Last May, however, [Israel informed the Council it had decided to disengage](#) from what it called "a political tool and convenient platform, cynically used to advance certain political aims, to bash and demonize Israel." ...

Suicide Bombing At U.S. Embassy

ASSOCIATED PRESS | February 2

A SUSPECTED suicide bomber detonated an explosive Friday in front

of the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, killing himself and a guard at the entrance gate, officials said.

U.S. Ambassador Francis Ricciardone told reporters that a Turkish citizen was also wounded in the 1:15 p.m. blast in the Turkish capital.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but both Kurdish rebels and Islamic militants are active in Turkey.

The bomb appeared to have exploded inside the security checkpoint at the side entrance to the embassy, but did not damage the inside of the embassy itself. TV footage showed the embassy door blown off its hinges. The windows of nearby businesses were also shattered by the power of the blast, and debris littered the ground and across the road. ...

Hurriyet newspaper said staff at the embassy took shelter in [a] "safe room" inside the compound soon after the explosion. ...

In a statement, the U.S. Embassy thanked Turkey for "its solidarity and outrage over the incident." Turkey is also being deeply affected by the brutal civil war in neighboring Syria, and has become a harsh critic of President Bashar Assad's regime there. The war

Vatican-Israel Accord Finally Near Completion?

CATHOLIC WORLD NEWS | January 30

A LONG-OVERDUE diplomatic accord between the Vatican and Israel is finally near completion, according to a top Israeli negotiator.

Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon—who took part in the latest round of talks—told reporters that at a January 29 meeting in Jerusalem, representatives of the Holy See and the Israeli state were on the brink of concluding an agreement that would establish the juridical rights of the Catholic Church in Israel. Ayalon said that the agreement would be ready for ratification when a new Israeli government takes power.

"All the groundwork is finished," said Ayalon, adding that the accord will be "nothing short of a milestone" in the relationship between Israel and the Holy See.

The Vatican-Israeli accord was promised as part of the "Fundamental Agreement" that was announced in 1993, opening the way for Vatican recognition of Israel. Negotiations proceeded fitfully for several years, and had effectively stopped before U.S. intervention helped prompt renewed talks beginning in 2004. Since that

time, Israeli government spokesmen have often said that an agreement was close, whereas Vatican officials have been more circumspect in their public statements.

A Vatican statement following the January 29 meeting was characteristically muted, saying only that the negotiations had taken place "in a thoughtful and constructive atmosphere," that "significant progress was made," and that participants in the negotiations looked forward to "a speedy conclusion of

the agreement." The Vatican and Israeli negotiators have agreed to meet again in Rome in June 2013.

According to a *Jerusalem Post* report, the current draft of the agreement establishes that church properties will be exempt from taxation, but church-owned business will be taxed at the usual rates. The accord would protect certain Catholic shrines—at Nazareth, Capernaum, and

the Mount of the Beatitudes—from state expropriation. The accord reportedly does not include an agreement on the ownership of the building that houses the site of the Last Supper, which is claimed by both Catholics and Jews.

"The Vatican and Germany are the heart of the Holy Roman Empire. They have conquered that city several times before. And they are destined to do so one last time! ... The Holy Roman Empire will undoubtedly make some kind of a peace pact to protect Jerusalem. But it will become one of the greatest double crosses in the history of man."

—Gerald Flurry,
Trumpet, September/October 2000

has left at least 60,000 people dead so far, according to the U.N., and Turkey is sheltering tens of thousands of Syrian refugees.

The first of six Patriot missile batteries being deployed to Turkey to protect the country against attack from Syria was just declared operational and placed under NATO command. Others are expected to become operational in the coming days.

TW IN BRIEF

■ Israeli election: what happened to the swing to the right?

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's [hopes for a right-wing government were dashed](#) last Thursday as votes were tallied for the Israeli election. The Likud-Yisrael Beitenu alliance headed by Netanyahu won the election with 31 parliamentary seats—far less than the 42 it held previously. The prime minister now has the first chance to form a government, but without enough seats to form a majority, he must form a

coalition government. Chances are, Netanyahu will look to Yesh Atid, the runners-up in the election to support his new government. Yesh Atid works off a primarily centralist platform, with a domestic focus. While a change in domestic policy may have some benefits for Israel, a government that focuses on issues internally may not be in Israel's best interests. There are riots in Jordan, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Syrian civil war in the north, the Muslim Brotherhood-led Egypt in the south, and the looming presence of a nuclear-armed Iran to the east. There is Hamas in Gaza, Fatah in the West Bank, and an increasingly liberalized government in the United States. Israel is surrounded by enemies, and a government largely focused on domestic issues should be a cause for concern for Jews.

■ **Israel prepares for Syria's fall**
[Israel is preparing for the fall of Syria](#), according to reports published last Sunday. The Jewish nation has deployed two Iron Dome air defense batteries to

its north, including one near the city of Haifa. Activity at Israel's air force bases has also increased, according to local reports. Since the Syrian uprisings began in March 2011, dissident forces have clashed with government troops at hotspots throughout the nation. Israel fears that Syrians may soon resort to using chemical weapons near Israel's border. Israel can't afford to lose track of Syria's weapons stockpiles, which is why it is conducting intense surveillance to its north. If the regime of Syrian President Bashar al Assad falls, the weapons could fall into the hands of the rebels, and be very difficult to track down. The Israelis are preparing to defend themselves in case the worst should happen. Israel stepped up its countermeasures on Tuesday night when an Israeli airstrike destroyed a convoy crossing the border from Syria into Lebanon. While reports are vague about what the convoy contained, the strike shows that Israel is watching the border, and is willing to engage its military to prevent weapons being dispersed to Israel's neighbors.

European Union—a Superpower?

THE NATIONAL POST CARRIED an article a few days ago headlined “Europe: The world’s new superpower.”

Written by Anne Applebaum, who features regularly as a *Washington Post* columnist, very often on European affairs, the article observes: “A decade of war is now ending,’ U.S. President Barack Obama declared Monday. Maybe that’s true in America, but it isn’t true anywhere else. Extremists are still plotting acts of terror. Authoritarian and autocratic regimes are still using violence to preserve their power. The United States can step back from international conflicts, but that won’t make them disappear.”

And, as they say, there’s the rub.

Since the implosion of the USSR 23 years ago, the United States has been generally cast in the role of global policeman. Past administrations generally having made a thorough hash of that golden opportunity, the current U.S. administration has read the public mood and is bringing its troops home from the world’s hot spots and signaling entry into a new grand isolationism.

The moment could hardly be worse.

This world is caught up in a general global disorder of huge proportions. Wherever one looks—be it international relations, economics, finance, social dislocation, morality—the globe teeters on a precipice, overlooking a giant collapse of its systems of government and general social order into absolute chaos, under a constant threat of terrorism.



RON FRASER

Anne Applebaum has struck on a solution that is entirely consistent with what we have published for the past seven decades: “[T]here is another power that shares America’s economic and political values, that possesses sophisticated military technology and is also very interested in stopping the progress of fanatical movements, especially in North Africa and the Middle East. That power is Europe” (ibid).

Dare we repeat, nature abhors a vacuum, nowhere more so than in the arena of international relations.

The increasing isolationism of America is disturbing the whole global balance of power. Who will reestablish equilibrium in global affairs?

As Applebaum observes: “But what’s the alternative? If America is to enjoy ‘peace in our time’—an expression now deployed by both Barack Obama and Neville Chamberlain—while the rest of the world remains at war, then someone else will fill the vacuum. A glance at the other candidates—China, Russia, perhaps Qatar or another Gulf nation—ought to make us all stop giggling about cheese-eating surrender monkeys and start offering logistical and moral support. Europe may not be the best superpower. But it’s the only one we’ve got.”

As we have said, watch for the outcome of the elections in Italy in February and in Germany in September for an indication as to the future direction of European politics.

One thing is for sure: The way is already prepared for this leader to take on leadership of the world’s new superpower—the European Union!

Follow Ron Fraser: [Twitter](#)

‘France Is Bankrupt’

INDEPENDENT | January 29

FRANCE’S EMPLOYMENT Minister Michel Sapin has admitted the country is “totally bankrupt.”

The unexpected news came during a radio interview yesterday and is thought to have sent the country’s business leaders into a state of shock.

“There is a state but it is a totally bankrupt state,” Mr. Sapin said. “That is why we had to put a deficit reduction plan in place, and nothing should make us turn away from that objective.”

Mr. Sapin’s “totally bankrupt” statement is likely to cause huge embarrassment for President François Hollande, who will be left to undo the potential damage to his socialist government’s reputation.

It also calls into further question Hollande’s controversial “tax and spend” policies that have seen numerous entrepreneurs and high-profile celebrities leave the country.

The comments came as President Hollande attempts to improve the image of the French economy after pledging to reduce the country’s deficit by cutting spending by €60 billion (\$81.9 billion) over the next five years and increasing taxes by €20 billion (\$27.3 billion). ...

There are even reports that Nicolas Sarkozy, the previous president of France, is preparing to move to London with his wife Carla Bruni for economic reasons.

Prime Minister David Cameron has previously said that Britain will “roll out the red carpet” to attract

wealthy French people.

Pierre Moscovici, France’s finance minister, immediately tried to play down Mr. Sapin’s comments, saying they were “inappropriate.” ...

Related: “France Ready to Give Europe Control Over Budget”

Hitler’s Rise

YAHOO NEWS | January 30

ON THE 80th anniversary of Adolf Hitler’s rise to power, Chancellor Angela Merkel urged Germans to always fight for their principles and not fall into the complacency that enabled the Nazi dictator to seize control.

Speaking Wednesday at the

'Catastrophic' EU Exit Would Leave London Defenseless

Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, TELEGRAPH | January 31

EUROPEAN REGULATORS have the means to shut down key parts of London's financial center at a stroke if Britain left the European Union and would not hesitate to do so, leading central bank experts have warned.

Membership of the EU single market is the UK's only legal defense against an onslaught of regulations aimed at forcing banks and fund managers to decamp to the eurozone, they say.

"It would be catastrophic and suicidal for Britain to leave. The UK would lose the protection it currently enjoys as the eurozone's major financial center," said Athanasios Orphanides, a former member of the European Central Bank's governing council.

Mr. Orphanides said the ECB is already clamping down on payments, clearing and settlement systems conducted in euros outside its jurisdiction, a move deemed necessary to head off future crises. "The only thing stopping regulation that would shift all such activities from London to the eurozone is the legal protection the city enjoys in the EU," he told the *Daily Telegraph*.

While Britain is in a "very strong" position now as an EU member outside the eurozone, this would evaporate the moment the UK tears up its membership card. "The UK would be the big loser. I don't believe it will happen because Britain has the best technocrats in the world, and the British people are rational," he said.

Legal guerrilla warfare is already under way and EU officials say privately that the struggle for control over the financial industry is reaching a critical point, with Britain rapidly losing key allies. ...

Dino Kos, a former head of markets at the New York

Fed, said the city is more vulnerable to a regulatory squeeze than people realize. "Governments have the power to control where clearing happens, and therefore where trading happens. Central banks can say businesses must have an onshore presence," he told a Bloomberg forum. ...

Leaked documents from the Banque de France in 2009 revealed that Paris was pushing behind the scenes for a French clearing house, explicitly to break London's stronghold. France has since tried to push through a directive requiring clearers to have access to ECB liquidity for euro trades. ... "The big danger is that foreign banks and funds quietly locate their new business in Frankfurt and Paris, and after five years we will discover that the center of gravity has moved," he said.

Deutsche Bank bases its global business and trading in London with 8,500 staff in the UK, much to the irritation of German lawmakers. France's top lender BNP Paribas has a big trading center and 8,000 staff in Britain. Both banks are under political pressure to repatriate operations.

The regulatory assault on the city has been an escalating drama since the Lehman crash in 2008. Three EU agencies have been created covering banking, insurance and markets with binding powers that can overrule a British veto on key matters in extremis, effectively stripping Westminster of final control over regulation of the city for the first time in 300 years. ...

Giles Merritt, the head of Friends of Europe in Brussels, warned that EU leaders could become vindictive if Britain's in/out referendum degenerates into a slanging match. "If British euroskeptics turn it into a sneering campaign against Europe, then the Europeans will play hardball," he said.

opening of a new exhibit at the Topography of Terror memorial documenting Hitler's election, Merkel noted that German academics and students at the time happily joined the Nazis only a few months later in burning books deemed subversive.

"The rise of the Nazis was made possible because the elite of German society worked with them, but also, above all else, because most in [Germany at least tolerated this rise](#)," Merkel said. ...

The fact that Hitler was able to destroy German democracy in only six months serves as a warning today of what can happen if the public is apathetic, Merkel said.

"Human rights do not assert themselves on their own; freedom does not emerge on its own; and democracy

does not succeed on its own," Merkel said. "No, a dynamic society ... needs people who have regard and respect for one another, who take responsibility for themselves and others, where people take courageous and open decisions and who are prepared to accept criticism and opposition." ...

Inge Deutschkron, a 90-year-old Jewish Berliner and writer, recalled Germans celebrating Hitler's rise to power as she addressed lawmakers.

... She recalled most ordinary Germans' indifference to the fate of Jews, who were forced to wear yellow stars. ... And when she visited West Germany's capital of Bonn after the war, she recalled that most "had simply erased from their memory the crimes for which the German state had set up its own machinery of murder."

Deutschkron remembered West Germany's first postwar chancellor, Konrad Adenauer, saying that most Germans opposed the Nazis' crimes against Jews and that many had helped Jews to escape. "If only that had been the truth," she said. ...

Allowed to Exit EU?

ASSOCIATED PRESS | January 31

THE DUTCH government says European countries should be allowed to exit important European institutions after joining them, including the European Union, the eurozone and the Schengen free travel zone.

In a letter to parliament Thursday, Prime Minister Mark Rutte said achieving that possibility will itself

require treaty changes, because the Maastricht Treaty that established the euro and Schengen Agreement don't allow for exits.

The statement echoes remarks that

Rutte made at the World Economic Forum earlier in January, when he said the EU shouldn't be like the "Hotel California" described in the song by rock band The Eagles as where "you

can check out any time you like—but you can never leave."

Rutte's remarks follow British Prime Minister David Cameron's call for a 2017 referendum on EU membership.

ASIA

China Just Threatened a Currency War

ZEROHEDGE | January 29

THE TENSION between central banks that we noted yesterday continues to worsen. This time it was China and the EU, not just Germany, that **fired warning shots** at the U.S. Fed.

[Reuters reports:] "A senior Chinese official said on Friday that the United States should cut back on printing money to stimulate its economy if the world is to have confidence in the dollar.

"Asked whether he was worried about the dollar, the chairman of China's sovereign wealth fund, the China Investment Corporation, Jin Liqun, told the World Economic Forum in Davos: 'I am a little bit worried.'

"There will be no winners in currency wars. But it is important for a central bank that the money goes to the right place,' Li said.

"Speaking at the same session, French Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici voiced concern that the euro was becoming overvalued as a result of quantitative easing and other stimulus actions taken by other nations' central banks. 'Certainly, the level of the euro is high and creates some problem,' he said, attributing the single currency's recent gains partly to the return of confidence created by the European Central Bank and eurozone governments in starting to overcome Europe's debt crisis."

So first Germany begins pulling its gold reserves from the U.S., and now China and the EU are saying publicly that the Fed's policies are damaging confidence in the U.S. dollar.

This does not bode well for the financial system. The primary role of central banks is to maintain

confidence in the system. If the central banks begin to turn on one another it is only a matter of time before the system breaks down.

Remember, every time the Fed debases the U.S. dollar it forces the euro and other currencies higher, hurting those countries' exports. The Fed has recently announced it will be printing \$85 billion every month until employment reaches 6.5 percent. ...

How long will the other central banks tolerate this before they initiate a currency war? Both Germany and China have fired warning shots at the Fed. And we all know that just beneath the veneer of goodwill, tensions are building between the primary players of the global financial system.

Japan Tones Down China Rhetoric

AUSTRALIAN | January 29

JAPAN'S HAWKISH new prime minister has avoided any mention of China in his first major policy speech, after his coalition partner's peace mission to Beijing at the weekend appeared to make some progress.

Shinzo Abe also avoided mentioning the **Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands dispute** between the two countries by name, but did make a broad reference to a "severe" security situation and the need to protect isolated territories.

Abe came to power banging the nationalist drum against China and even vowing to station government workers on the disputed islands in the South China Sea that have become a dangerous flashpoint for a potential Sino-Japanese conflict.

But in yesterday's speech he continued to tone down the hostility towards

Beijing, an approach he has adopted since assuming office late last month. ...

Relations between Japan and China have slumped to their lowest since ties were normalized. ... The row between the two countries has hurt the Japanese economy, and business leaders are pressuring Abe to resolve it, but China is pressing hard to erode Japan's administrative control of the islands ...

Abe's speech focused heavily on economic issues and he promised to revive Japan's stagnant economy through a "drastic" economic package. ...

The prime minister also spoke of the importance of shoring up the **U.S.-Japan alliance** and boosting ties with ASEAN nations.

Russia's Freedom Crackdown

BBC NEWS | January 31

IN A report, Human Rights Watch said Mr. Putin had signed a raft of laws **quashing freedoms** after his return to the Kremlin for a third term in 2012. ...

[Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich] added that Russia's "human rights situation is not the worst" and its critics were not "perfect" themselves, pointing to alleged human rights abuses in the U.S. and the EU.

The New York-based HRW issued its annual world report on Thursday, analyzing key human rights issues in more than 90 countries—including Russia—in 2011-12.

Referring to the situation in Russia, the watchdog said in a statement: "The Kremlin in 2012 unleashed the worst political crackdown in Russia's post-Soviet history."

Will China Call America's Military Bluff?

Jeremiah Jacques | January 29

As a territorial dispute between China and Japan intensifies, Beijing is behaving toward the United States in a way that initially appears counterintuitive: It is issuing statements designed to provoke *increased* U.S. involvement. Why would China want to draw the U.S.—the world's foremost military power—into the conflict?

There is a clear explanation.

As Japan's longtime ally, the U.S. is obliged to defend Tokyo. Washington recognizes Japanese administrative control of the Senkaku/Diaoyu islands, and has acknowledged that they fall under America's defense agreements with Japan. The U.S. hopes its pledge to militarily back Tokyo will frighten China—preventing Beijing from taking more aggressive action in the dispute.

But does America's pledge intimidate China?

In his second inaugural address on January 21, President Obama mentioned "peace in our time," a phrase made infamous by former British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain as he promised that the world would have peace with Adolf Hitler before World War II. The phrase encapsulates the naive nature of Mr. Obama's foreign affairs.

He pulled the U.S. out of Iraq in his first term, and has mapped out a plan to follow suit in Afghanistan during his second. His decision to nominate Chuck Hagel as defense secretary screams "anti-interventionist" as loudly as anything could.

The president wants to be known as the president who brought the boys home, so the idea of being drawn into a conflict with China is nearly too unbearable for him to contemplate. Understanding of this reality has fueled China's provocative rhetoric toward Washington.

Beijing views the outcome of any potential confrontation a question of *will* more than of military might. On this front, the U.S. is at an overwhelming disadvantage, so Beijing could use the conflict as an opportunity to expose America as an unreliable ally to Japan, *which would show the world that the U.S. military is a force that can be countered.*

Leviticus 26:19 spells out what God would do with America's will to use its tremendous power if it rejected God's law: "I will break the pride of your power." *Trumpet* editor in chief [Gerald Flurry](#) said Washington's appeasing response to the Sept. 11, 2012, attack on its embassy in Libya

means that prophecy *has been fully fulfilled*: "It's no longer God saying, 'I will break the pride of your power.' It's now God *has broken it!* I've never seen America in such a low as this!" (Oct. 1, 2012).

The Chinese recognize the U.S.'s shattered will to use its power. They may be preparing to put those tatters on display for the world. If the U.S.'s Asian

allies see that alliances with America are not reliable, their survival instinct will compel them to instead rally behind China.

Follow Jeremiah Jacques: [Twitter](#)



The disputed islands, known as Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China, in the East China Sea

The report highlighted further curbs and fines for staging public demonstrations, a wider definition of treason and restrictions on Internet content—measures seen by critics as attempts by the Kremlin to quash public dissent.

It also said that [Mr. Putin's return to power](#) last May "oversaw the swift reversal of former President Dmitry Medvedev's few, timid advances on political freedoms."

Russia has seen big anti-government protests in Moscow and other major cities following the December 2011 parliamentary elections, which saw the pro-government United Russia's party retain power—although with a much reduced majority. ...

A number of opposition leaders are now facing jail on charges that

the opposition says are politically motivated.

Japan's Defense Spending to Jump

BUSINESSWEEK | January 29

JAPAN IS set to increase its defense budget for the first time in 11 years and boost Coast Guard spending as it copes with rising tensions with China over islands claimed by both countries.

The defense budget will rise by 0.8 percent to ¥4.68 trillion (\$51.7 billion), the Defense Ministry said yesterday in Tokyo. The Coast Guard budget will increase 1.9 percent to ¥176.5 billion (\$1.92 billion), its first increase in six years. Prime Minister Shinzo

Abe's cabinet yesterday approved a ¥92.6 trillion (\$1 trillion) budget for the fiscal year starting April that must be approved by parliament.

Abe took office last month vowing to [beef up Japan's ability to monitor and protect](#) the uninhabited East China Sea islands called Diaoyu in China and Senkaku in Japan. His plans are limited by a shortage of funds as Japan struggles to service record debt, as well as a decades-old informal military spending limit of 1 percent of gross domestic product.

"They should spend more, but it's significant that they've managed to stop the shrinkage," said Ikuo Kayahara, a former general and a visiting professor at Takushoku University in Tokyo. "The events around the Senkakus made the Japanese realize they

might not be safe.” ...

Japan's defense spending in 2011 was the world's sixth largest at \$59.3 billion, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. China was second behind the U.S. at \$143 billion, spending 2 percent of GDP, compared with Japan's 1 percent. ...

TW IN BRIEF

■ China pushes America via North Korea

North Korea is testing rockets designed to hit American soil, Pyongyang announced on January 24. The statement confirms that North Korea is not just developing rocket technology to launch satellites, as it had claimed in the past. Why the suddenly overt aggressiveness? China and Japan are locked into a territorial dispute over some islands in the East China Sea. American treaties with Japan require Washington to support Tokyo in the event of a conflict. America's Pacific strategy also entails rallying other Asian nations against the growing power of China. China is well aware of the push by the U.S. to gain more influence and simultaneously slow the rate at which the Chinese

economy and military are domineering the East. One of the tools [China uses to push back at America is North Korea](#). Since Beijing supplies more than two thirds of North Korea's food, and more than half of its energy, it has great sway over the rogue hermit nation. Pyongyang's recent defiant statements toward the U.S. are likely a result of this Chinese influence. The Bible says that, despite America's strategy of uniting various Asian powers against China, many of these nations will ultimately rally behind Beijing for strength. Continue to watch as China pushes at the West though North Korea and by other methods, in order to expand its influence in the Asia-Pacific region.

■ Can Asia woo Turkey away from the West?

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan surprised analysts on January 25 when he suggested that, rather than join the European Union, Turkey should try to become a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The SCO was established in 1996 to settle border disputes between its two key members, China and Russia, and also includes Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan,

and Uzbekistan. In the years since it was formed, the SCO has attempted to posture itself as an anti-West barricade in Central Asia, and Erdoğan's statements show that these attempts are working. Erdoğan said that he has told Russian President Vladimir Putin that he would willingly stop knocking on the EU's door in exchange for membership in the SCO. The SCO, he said, is "better and more powerful" than the EU. Though it is likely that the prime minister is bluffing in an effort to push Europe into serious negotiations, the news illustrates the growing sway of the Asian group. Whatever his motive for the statements, Turkey is too dependent on NATO to be able to turn its back on the West. At present, German soldiers are installing Patriot missiles on the Turkey-Syria border to guard Turkey and Europe against possible chemical attacks. Bible prophecy makes plain that Asia will not woo Turkey into the SCO, but that Ankara will ultimately rally behind the nation represented by those German troops. Erdoğan's statements show that [Asia's collective power is growing](#), and that this growth will serve as a catalyst to European unification.

AFRICA/LATIN AMERICA

Venezuela Spying on Jewish Community

ARUTZ SHEVA | January 31

REPORTS THAT the Venezuelan intelligence agency is targeting and spying on the Venezuelan Jewish community as well as on Venezuelan companies and organizations with ties to Israel is deeply troubling, asserted the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).

"We are deeply troubled by a recent news report alleging that the Venezuelan Intelligence Service (SEBIN) is spying on the Venezuelan Jewish community," said ADL National Director Abraham H. Foxman. ...

"Venezuela under the regime of Hugo Chavez has a history of harassing the Jewish community in that country," he said. "It is chilling to read reports that the SEBIN received instructions to carry out clandestine surveillance operations against members of the Jewish community, as described in detail in documents leaked by the Argentinian website, *Analisis24*."

"In a country where the government and some of its

followers have publicly accused the Jewish community of disloyalty and where the community's institutions and houses of worship have been attacked, reports of this kind of surveillance add fuel to an already incendiary atmosphere inciting prejudice and hate," said Foxman. "For more than a decade, elements of the Venezuelan government-run media and the so-called 'alternative' media operated by Chavez government supporters have regularly engaged in spreading anti-Jewish conspiracy theories and promoting anti-Semitic stereotypes." ...

The League has monitored and issued reports on anti-Semitism in Venezuela in the past several years and criticized the government of President Hugo Chavez for promoting anti-Semitism in Venezuela for political purposes.

Related: ["The Unholy Union of ALBA and Hezbollah"](#)

■ EU officials meet with Latin American counterparts

Around 40 heads of state and 60 diplomatic delegations from across the European Union (EU) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) met in Chile last Saturday to discuss economic integration. Though few concrete decisions were made at this summit, the fact that EU officials are eager to establish a comprehensive free-trade agreement with the nations of Latin America in the near future was clearly established. In particular, German Chancellor

Angela Merkel made clear the fact that Berlin wants a [close trade relationship with Brazil](#)—widely considered the dominant economy in Latin America. Watch for developing ties between Germany and Brazil to lead the way into a [new era of trade cooperation](#).

■ Cash-strapped Zimbabwe down to \$217

After paying civil servant salaries last week, the cash-strapped government of Zimbabwe is [down to its last \\$217](#). Finance Minister Tendai Biti told reporters on Tuesday that the government's finances were in a "paralysis

state" and that the state was failing to meet its targets. The Zimbabwean economy took a nose-dive in 2000 when President Robert Mugabe embarked on his controversial "land grab" in which thousands of white-owned farms were seized by the government and its black supporters. After a decade of relentless money-printing, almost unfathomable hyperinflation ensued until the currency collapsed. Bible prophecy indicates [a global resource war is coming](#) among the world's major powers. Watch for Zimbabwe to turn increasingly to China as its economy further deteriorates.

ANGLO-AMERICA

Immigration: Getting It Right

Charles Krauthammer,
WASHINGTON POST | January 31

IMMIGRATION REFORM is coming. Let's get it right. What counts as getting it wrong? The 1986 Simpson-Mazzoli Act, signed by Ronald Reagan. It granted amnesty to the then 3 million illegal immigrants and promised border enforcement.

Amnesty came. Enforcement never did. Reagan was swindled.

Americans are a generous people. They don't want 11 million souls living in fear among them. They would willingly, indeed overwhelmingly, support amnesty—as long as it is the last. They don't want another Simpson-Mazzoli, another bait-and-switch that lets in another 11 million illegal immigrants—and brings us back where we began.

There is an obvious solution: enforcement first. Hence the attraction of the bipartisan Senate deal reached by the Gang of Eight, led by Democrat Chuck Schumer and Republicans John McCain and Marco Rubio. It is said to feature border enforcement first, then legalization.

Not quite.

It is true that only after some commission deems the border under control do illegal immigrants become

eligible for green cards and, ultimately, citizenship. But this is misleading because on the day the president signs the reform—long before enforcement even begins—the 11 million are immediately subject to instant legalization.

It is cleverly called "probationary" legal status. But the adjective is meaningless. It grants the right to live and work here openly. Once granted, it will never be revoked. Consider:

Imagine that the border-control commission reports at some point that the border is not yet secure. Do you think for a moment that the 11 million will have their "probationary" legalization revoked? These are people who, in good faith, would have come out of the shadows, registered with the feds and disclosed their domicile and place of work. Do you think the authorities will have them fired, arrested and deported?

Inconceivable. "Probationary" in this context means, in reality, "forever." (Unless, of course, you commit some crime.) It means they can stay and work here freely for the rest of their lives.

True, they must await the "enforcement trigger" before they can apply for a green card. But they already have the functional equivalent of a green card. They got that on Day One. That matters more than anything to those living here illegally: the right to continue

living here without fear. Forever. That's the very essence of amnesty.

And all this happens before the first scintilla of extra enforcement takes place.

Related: "[Nation: A Place With Borders](#)"

'Powerless to Protect Teachers'

TELEGRAPH | January 25

MICHAEL GOVE fears that the government could be powerless to stop primary school teachers being sacked for refusing to teach gay marriage, it emerged last night.

The Education Secretary issued formal reassurances that teachers and other staff who hold traditional views on marriage should not be punished for refusing to promote same-sex marriage at work.

But a senior source in Mr. Gove's department said the UK was not "in control" and that the ultimate decision might "inevitably" be taken at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

It comes as the coalition prepares to publish a bill to allow same-sex couples to marry.

David Cameron believes that gay marriage is a fundamental issue of

Australian House Prices: The Slow Bleed

IT SHOULD not surprise people that Australian house prices dropped last year. What is surprising is how little they fell.

The latest numbers from RP Data show that house prices across Australia's capital cities fell 0.4 percent in 2012. In general, it's a slow bleed. Nationwide house prices peaked in Australia in 2010 and have slowly shed value since.

The good old days of buying a home and simply watching its price increase year after year are over, says RP Data senior research analyst Cameron Kusher: "We've never seen these situations before, and you'd really have to go back to the early 1990s to see similar housing market conditions to what we've seen over the last few years."

The big question now is whether or not the slow drip will turn into a gusher.

This is a hugely important question for Australians.

Houses are no longer just places to live. For many Australians, it is the single most important investment they have. House prices are the biggest factor influencing household wealth. And for the past two years, home ownership has generally caused families to lose money.

If house prices don't start rising again, it could destroy the wealth of a whole generation.

The latest housing market data showed another weak



ROBERT MORLEY

month in December. Housing market activity fell for the 31st month in a row.

Meanwhile, Australia's builders are doing everything they can to hide falling new house prices and keep people buying. *Property Observer* reports that builders and developers are now offering a range of financial incentives and discounts to get people in houses. In recent years builders gave away new cars, offered large cash-backs, free landscaping, or to even pay a buyer's energy bills for three years.

Now developers are offering even bigger perks like: \$10,000 visa gift cards, land rebates of up to \$30,000, and a full year's worth of paid mortgage payments.

These incentives are a sign that Australians have reached max house price carrying capacity—and that builders are getting desperate.

Like in the United States, surging home prices were fueled by debt. Since 1995, total mortgage loans have risen from A\$154 billion to A\$1.2 trillion. Total household debt rose from 68 percent of disposable income to a peak of 153

percent today. At the same time, to afford ever escalating house prices, most families have adopted the two-income strategy. There is no third income available to push family borrowing capacity—and thus house prices—higher.

The housing market in Australia is cut. All that remains to be seen is how bad the wound is and whether

the slow bleed will turn into a hemorrhage.

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A for sale sign is seen outside a property in Sydney, Australia

equality and is determined to make it law.

But he is facing a backlash from within his own party and churches who believe it would undermine the institution of marriage by redefining it.

Government lawyers have devised a so-called "quadruple lock" of legal protections which they believe will prevent religious groups which do not wish to carry out such weddings being forced to do so.

But opponents claim that individual workers—such as teachers, hospital chaplains or other officials—could be dismissed legally from their jobs if they take what they consider to be a stand on grounds of conscience over the issue.

In a formal legal opinion commissioned by the Coalition for Marriage campaign group, the human rights barrister Aidan O'Neill QC concluded

schools could be within their rights to dismiss staff who willfully fail to use stories or textbooks promoting same-sex weddings.

He added that parents who object to it being taught would also have no right to withdraw their children from lessons. ...

"These are all under the control of nine guys in Strasbourg, it is just fundamentally uncertain because Britain isn't in control of this."

GDP Report: 'We Are Now Europe'

NEWS BUSTERS | January 30

RICK SANTELLI made a stunning observation Wednesday about the shocking report that the economy

actually shrunk in the fourth quarter last year.

"We are now Europe," he declared on CNBC's *Squawk Box*.

"Hey Joe," Santelli said, "when you act like Europe, you get growth rates like Europe, and our discussions with economists sounds like we're in Europe. They have the same discussions constantly."

"They're always doing the right thing," he continued. "They're always thinking they know better. And this is the kind of growth. We have become Europe. We are now Europe."

Steve Liesman pushed back, "We reduced federal spending, government spending by 15 percent." ...

"And why do we need to reduce government spending?" asked Santelli. "Because we run trillion-dollar deficits"

Australia Battles Floods

BBC | January 28

AUSTRALIA IS battling flooding in two states, as rescue teams worked to evacuate people from inundated areas. In Queensland, more than 1,000 people were plucked to safety in the city of Bundaberg as the Burnett River burst its banks, flooding 2,000 homes. In New South Wales there are concerns that the Clarence River, at a record high, could flood the city of Grafton. ...

Four people are now known to have died in the severe weather, after a toddler who was hit by a falling tree in Brisbane died on Monday.

It comes two years after severe flooding in southern Queensland, including in the state capital Brisbane, that left 35 people dead and tens of thousands of homes flooded.

“Those flood levels will be one of the highest levels recorded for the whole

of the Bundaberg and Burnett region,” said Queensland Police Minister Jack Dempsey. ...

Related: “Australia: Fires, Floods and Fulfilled Prophecy!”

TW IN BRIEF

■ CIA adviser warns of financial weapons of mass destruction

James Rickards, a top adviser for the Pentagon and CIA, is currently sounding the alarm that the world is [on the verge of financial war](#). “Rival nations and terrorist organizations are developing capabilities in unconventional warfare—things like cyber warfare, biological or chemical warfare, and now, financial weapons of mass destruction,” Rickards commented in a Newsmax interview. He then went on to say that America is not prepared for such a financial war. If the U.S. gets caught up in a global race toward currency devaluation, national inflation rates could spike

past 10 percent—prompting America’s foreign creditors to [drastically raise interest rates](#).

■ U.S. Marine Corps shrinks under budgetary constraints

The U.S. Marine Corps is set to shed 4,000 jobs per year up until at least 2017, according to a [major scale-down order](#) issued last year. Experts warn that this reduction will leave the elite fighting force underprepared to battle multiple international threats. Nevertheless, this scale-down order was issued as a means to comply with new budgetary constraints. As an increasing portion of the American government’s budget is consumed by debt interest payments, military spending is going to have to decrease. In the past, Harvard historian Niall Ferguson has highlighted the [historical trend for empires to collapse](#) once the amount of money they spend on debt financing exceeds the amount of money they spend on defense. The United States is [swiftly reaching this point](#).

OTHER NEWS AND NOTES

Destruction of Jerusalem

BIBLICAL ARCHEOLOGY | January 28

ANCIENT ROME was the superpower of its day. Yet, when the Romans conquered the tiny province of Judea and quashed the First Jewish Revolt in A.D. 70, it was actually a pretty big deal. ...

Restoration work was set to begin in December on the iconic Coliseum, Rome’s first all-stone amphitheater, which could seat upwards of 50,000 spectators for its gladiatorial bouts, animal hunts and mock naval battles. ...

The Coliseum has been so called since at least the eighth century A.D., in reference to a colossal statue of the notorious Emperor Nero that stood nearby. In fact, the original name of the structure was the Flavian Amphitheater, after the emperors of the Flavian dynasty who built it in the late first century A.D.—Vespasian, Titus and Domitian. ...

As demonstrated in a BAR article by Louis H. Feldman, a hidden inscription on the Coliseum itself suggests that the construction of the amphitheater was financed by the plundered booty from the Jewish Revolt. Vespasian faced a serious deficit when he became emperor, but the spoils of war from Judea—the riches of the temple treasury, the golden vessels from the temple, the seized personal treasures of

Jewish citizens and the sale of the Jewish captives themselves—provided enormous wealth for the emperor and the plundering army commanded by his son Titus. Thus did the conquest of Judea fund the most recognizable structure of imperial Rome.

These same plundered spoils of Judea are depicted prominently on another monument that still stands in Rome, which is the focus of exciting new research. The marble Arch of Titus was built in A.D. 81, by the Emperor Domitian to commemorate the victory and triumphal parade of his brother Titus, the conquering army general, and Emperor Vespasian’s son and successor. A recent project of the Yeshiva University Center for Israel Studies ... undertook a new study of the main relief panels on the arch, which show the triumphal parade of A.D. 71, and the deification of Titus.

In the most famous of the panels, Roman soldiers carry the Jerusalem temple spoils on parade, including the menorah, the showbread table and trumpets, which were then deposited in Rome’s Temple of Peace. ... The menorah was also tested for trace paint colors. The resulting discovery of yellow ochre on its arms and base is consistent with biblical and first-century descriptions of the temple’s golden menorah. In the next phase of the project, the team will test for paint traces on the rest of the arch. ...

MARRYING from page 1

from being able to embody those ideals” (emphasis added throughout).

Every year in America, 170,000 more women than men get bachelor’s degrees. And while the average man still earns 10 percent more than the average woman, guess what? Among 20-somethings, *women* now have the edge in the wage gap. Men who hold the advantage in education and earning power are a dying breed.

The numbers of well-educated, financially self-sufficient women are mushrooming beyond the numbers of men who could be so described. In fact, men are trending in the opposite direction. Today, for example, we see the highest percentage ever recorded of men of prime working age who are *not even working*: about ONE IN FIVE. *One fifth of men*. Compare that to 1950, when it was one in 20.

“Recent years have seen an explosion of male joblessness and a steep decline in men’s life prospects that have disrupted the ‘romantic market’ in ways that narrow a marriage-minded woman’s options,” wrote Kate Bolick in the *Atlantic*. “[I]ncreasingly, her choice is between deadbeats (whose numbers are rising) and playboys (whose power is growing)” (November 2011).

Who will these women marry? The bar for what they want out of marriage is climbing, while the field is regressing.

Unsurprisingly, more and more of them, rather than “marry down,” are resigning themselves to the idea that their best option is just to skip it.

Sure, they’d love to marry if the right man showed up. Yet, in their view—frustrating as it may be that Mr. Right isn’t around—marriage is, ultimately, unnecessary. *I can take care of myself—I don’t need a man to support me*, the thinking goes. *He’d just be another person to take care of—another mouth to feed*.

“[A]s women have climbed ever higher, men have been falling behind,” laments Bolick. “We’ve arrived at the top of the staircase, finally ready to start our lives, only to discover a cavernous room at the tail end of a party, most of the men gone already, some having never shown up—and those who remain are leering by the cheese table, or are, you know, the ones you don’t want to go out with.”

The question is on the lips of women everywhere: *What’s wrong with all these guys?*

Most people can agree there is a problem, but far fewer recognize its full scope. When you talk to the women and meet the men, when you read the stories and look at the data, you begin to realize: Bolick is not describing a minor irritant, or a disappointment that a few women share. She is chronicling the *collapse of a social order*.

Social historian Stephanie Coontz says we’re experiencing nothing less than “a historical revolution every bit as wrenching, far-reaching, and irreversible as the Industrial Revolution.” As she told the *Atlantic*, “When it comes to what people actually want and expect from marriage and relationships, and how they organize their sexual and romantic lives, *all the old ways have broken down*.”



JOEL HILLIKER

If you examine it, this breakdown in “all the old ways” virtually all traces back to the trashing of the traditional roles of men and of women, particularly that of *breadwinner* and *homemaker*. Historically, what largely drove men’s march through the milestones to adulthood was the expectation that they would fulfill the role of provider. For generations, this commonly recognized duty propelled men into the workforce; it often served as a prod to men’s ambition and did much to shape society. Even today, it remains a strong motivation to any young man who accepts it. And women recognized their responsibility to make the home an inviting, nurturing environment for children to be reared toward adulthood.

For two generations now, esteem for these roles has been fading—to the point where today they are ignored, if not treated with contempt.

In dismantling the traditional ways of relating to one another as men and women, society lost more than just human traditions: We arrogantly, foolishly trashed *God’s design* in creating men and women.

The failings that have resulted vividly illustrate the wisdom in God’s original design—for anyone willing to cast aside the blinders of political correctness and look at the situation honestly.

For the sake of order and harmony, God created men to fulfill one role within the family and within society, and He created women to fill a different and beautifully complementary role. This is the reality that God created and revealed to humankind. It is a vital key to individual, family and societal success.

The reason for marriage is far greater than most people realize. Marriage has an awesome purpose. Doesn’t it make sense to understand its purpose if you plan to marry someday? To learn this purpose, request our free booklet *Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?* Not only will it help you understand marriage’s purpose—it will show you why “the old ways” will never die.

For more on this issue, read the cover story of the March *Philadelphia Trumpet*.

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