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MAY 2005

THE PHILADELPHIA

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# TRUMPET



An anti-Syria protest in Lebanon

# REVOLUTION

Where will **DEMOCRACY** take the Middle East?



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**COVER** Lebanese citizens rally against Syria in Beirut. Reuters photo.

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Gerald Flurry

# America's Achilles Heel—and Germany

**M**OST OF US HAVE HEARD OF THE STORY OF ACHILLES, the warrior who was only vulnerable in his heel. America is the greatest superpower this world has ever known. But we have a very vulnerable point in our military—our own Achilles heel. It is so dangerous that I am amazed it hasn't received more publicity.

Exploiting this vulnerable point could trigger the greatest shock in the history of warfare!

Over a decade ago, Joseph de Courcy of Cheltenham, England, wrote this in his *Intelligence Digest*: "We will be hearing a lot more about computer crime, computer terrorism, and computer warfare. Every moment of the day in modern, technological societies is dominated by computers. These computers are highly vulnerable to criminal, terrorist or enemy sabotage. For the moment, THE PUBLIC IS ONLY DIMLY AWARE OF EXACTLY HOW VULNERABLE A COMPUTER-RUN SOCIETY IS, while criminals, terrorists and would-be aggressors are only just beginning to understand the potential available to them. This will change. ...

"Furthermore, every computer has a 'backdoor key,' bypassing access codes, for the convenience of the technical experts. Backdoor keys can be created by special instruction in order to ensure continued access regardless of changing security codes. NO COMPUTER SYSTEM IS TOTALLY SECURE, OR ANYWHERE NEAR IT. ...

"One growing concern to Western security authorities is the *expanding, semi-underground, NETWORK OF YOUNG COMPUTER HACKERS IN GERMANY*. It is thought that some at least of these highly skilled computer wizards are ideologically motivated—or could become so. With their expertise, a terrorist organization could achieve a far greater impact on everyday life than has ever been achieved by conventional terrorism.

"As to the implications for defense, the Gulf War showed what a critical role technology now plays in warfare. But the course of a battle would be very different IF EFFECTIVE TECHNOLOGY-SABOTAGING MEASURES COULD BE INSTITUTED AGAINST THE SUPERIOR FORCE. ...

"Computer dependence is the Western world's ACHILLES HEEL, and WITHIN A FEW YEARS THIS WEAKNESS COULD

BE TESTED TO THE FULL" (March 20, 1992; emphasis mine throughout).

I believe one key *end-time Bible prophecy* could well be fulfilled through the kind of cyberterrorism Mr. de Courcy described: "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 is to be blown in Israel—mainly America and Britain. (If you would like more information, request our free booklet on Ezekiel. All of our literature is free.) It seems everybody is expecting our people to

go into battle, but the greatest tragedy imaginable occurs! Nobody goes to battle—even though the trumpet is blown! WILL IT BE BECAUSE OF COMPUTER TERRORISM?

As Mr. de Courcy said, "NO COMPUTER SYSTEM IS TOTALLY SECURE, OR ANYWHERE NEAR IT"!

According to Mr. de Courcy, in 1992 one of the growing concerns of Western security authorities was a "network of young computer hackers in Germany." That the computer hackers are from GERMANY should be worrisome—especially if you understand *history* and *Bible prophecy*.

Winston Churchill said Germany had a history of surprise attacks against enemies

and nations who thought they were friends with Germany.

One of the main reasons the Allies won World War II was that the British broke the German *radio code*. They knew about most of Germany's war plans in advance! Quite a gigantic advantage.

German computer hackers might be inspired by Britain's radio code-breaking in World War II. Today they could be working to break America's military computer codes. Then they could know war plans and even stop them by wrecking the U.S.'s computer-run military!

This is not a matter to take lightly.

**A Warning From History** Here are excerpts from a radio broadcast given May 9, 1945, when Herbert W. Armstrong warned of Germany's post-war rise: "THE WAR IS OVER, IN EUROPE—OR IS IT? WE NEED TO WAKE UP AND REALIZE THAT RIGHT NOW IS THE MOST DANGEROUS MOMENT IN UNITED STATES NATIONAL HISTORY, INSTEAD OF ASSUMING WE NOW HAVE PEACE!"



**The U.S. military is very dependent on technology. Could this present an opportunity for sabotage by an enemy through cyberattack?**

“Men plan, here [at the United Nations], to preserve the PEACE of the world. What most do not know is that the Germans have *their* plans for winning the BATTLE of the peace. Yes, I said BATTLE of the peace. That’s a kind of battle we Americans don’t know. We know only *one kind* of war. We have never lost a war—that is, a military war; but we have never WON a conference, where leaders of other nations outfox us in the BATTLE for the peace.

“We don’t understand German *thoroughness*. From the very start of World War II, they have considered the possibility of losing this second round, as they did the first—and they have carefully, methodically *planned*, in such eventuality, the *third* round—World War III! Hitler has lost. This round of war, in Europe, is over. And the Nazis have now gone UNDERGROUND. In France and Norway they learned how effectively an organized UNDERGROUND can hamper occupation and control of a country. Paris was liberated by the French UNDERGROUND—and Allied armies. Now a Nazi underground is methodically planned. They plan to COME BACK and to win on the third try.

“The Bible foretells that third round—and it spells DOOM for us, as God’s punishment, because we, as a nation, have forsaken Him and His ways! The third round is termed, in prophecy, an invasion by ‘BABYLON’—a resurrected Roman Empire—a European Union. I have been proclaiming that since 1927. [Remember, this was spoken in 1945!] ...

“Even at this conference, classes and races are demanding their ‘rights.’ This conference, and the United Nations organization it is forming, must solve three problems to succeed. First, Big Three unity; SECOND, THE SERIOUS PROBLEM OF WHAT TO DO WITH GERMANY TO PREVENT WORLD WAR III; and third, solve the world’s injustices against smaller nations, and the growth and tactics of communism toward world domination. Can it succeed?”

The U.S. declassified a shocking World War II intelligence document in 1996. It confirmed every word of what Herbert W. Armstrong said in his radio broadcast. The document, detailing an August 1944 meeting between top German industrialists, reveals a secret post-war plan to restore the Nazis to power. Several of Germany’s elite industries were represented, including Messerschmitt and Volkswagenwerks. These companies, the document asserts, were to “prepare themselves to finance the Nazi Party which would be forced to go underground.” When the U.S. declassified this document, it received only sparse news coverage. Yet even more disturbing than the deep stupor of the press is the fact that THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DID NOT MAKE IT PUBLIC UNTIL 1996—over 50 years later!

By 1944, the Germans knew they would lose World War II and were already planning for the next round! “Existing financial reserves in foreign countries,” the document says, “must be placed at the disposal of the party so that a strong GERMAN EMPIRE can be created after the defeat.”

Those at the 1944 meeting understood that the most prominent members of the Nazi Party would be condemned as war criminals. “However,” the document maintains, “in cooperation with the industrialists it is arranging to place its less conspicuous but most important members in positions with various German factories as technical experts or members of its research and designing offices.”

How alarming! Why was so little written about this in 1996? Why did it take so long for it to be declassified? America and Britain have fallen asleep—our people don’t understand what is happening behind the scenes!

That is why we at the *Trumpet* feel compelled to return to these issues again and again. Hardly anyone else will!

Historians have long debated whether or not a secret Nazi plan was made for a post-war, international network. Now that it has been confirmed, as Elan Steinberg of the World Jewish Congress said, “the central question is whether it has been



carried out.” (For more detailed information, including a copy of the document, request our booklet *The Rising Beast*.)

These Nazis or Nazi sympathizers know that American power ultimately defeated them in World War II. So their number-one priority in World War III will be to destroy America.

This mindset dominates their thinking, whether we know it or not.

Germany’s opposition of America in the Iraq War revealed that they are not our friends. And that in spite of the fact that no nation since World War II has helped them more than America.

In the London *Times*, Feb. 6, 2000, Melanie Phillips said that Tony Blair’s government “is obsessed with ‘modernity’ and CONTEMPTUOUS OF HISTORY and tradition.” Former U.S. President Bill Clinton had the same CONTEMPT FOR HISTORY. It is a dangerous problem—THE KIND OF THINKING THAT DESTROYS NATIONS!

Bill Clinton, when he was president, totally ignored the 1945 United Nations warning. Many of our own citizens personally lived through that history. Even worse, Mr. Clinton actually *pushed* Germany into dominating Europe—the ultimate contempt for extremely recent history!

How utterly contemptuous Mr. Blair and Mr. Clinton have been of World War II history that cost 50 million lives! Our nations will pay dearly for such dangerous contempt of history.

But the problem gets worse. Our *religious* leaders have forgotten our *spiritual* history. They don't even know that America, Britain and the Jews in the Middle East are all a part of biblical Israel. The Israelites were the only people who ever had a history with God! (If you haven't proved this for yourself, request our free booklet *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

As long as we reject our history, we will never accept Bible prophecy. That means God has to punish us as never before. The instrument God will use is rising quickly in Europe (Isaiah 10:5-7). The plan is about to be implemented, unless we repent.



## Criminal computer hackers are making tremendous progress. But the greatest danger is not in corporate America and Britain. It is in the MILITARY.

### WEAPONS

The U.S. has many enemies. It would be logical for them to try to undercut America's military superiority through hacking their technology.

So what I am saying should not be construed as an attack on Germany. That nation will only be a tool to correct our serious spiritual problems if we don't wake up.

**Hacker Progress** Computer hackers continue to make progress. Let's look at what they are doing now, about 13 years after that first report I quoted. Their efforts are not presently directed at the military, but still, their skills could be used in that area.

BBC News ran this alarming story on March 17: "More than 1 million computers on the Net have been hijacked to attack websites and pump out spam and viruses. The huge number was revealed by security researchers who have spent months tracking more than 100 networks of remotely controlled machines. The largest network of so-called zombie networks spied on by the team was made up of 50,000 hijacked home computers. ...

"The detailed look at zombie or 'bot nets of hijacked computers was done by the Honeynet Project—a group of security researchers .... To gather its information the German arm of the Honeynet Project created software tools to log what happened to the machines they put on the Web. Getting the machines hijacked was worryingly easy. The longest time a Honeynet machine survived without being found by an automatic attack tool was only a few minutes. The shortest compromise time was only a few seconds. ...

"Criminals also seem to be starting to use 'bot nets for mass identity theft, to host websites that look like those of banks so confidential information can be gathered and to peep into online traffic to steal sensitive data.

"Leveraging the power of several thousand bots, it is viable to take down almost any website or network instantly,' said the researchers. 'Even in unskilled hands, it should be obvious that 'bot nets are a loaded and powerful weapon.'"

Another BBC News report of the same date revealed what London police said was one of the biggest attempted bank thefts in Britain: "The plan was to steal £220 million [US\$423 million] from the London offices of the Japanese bank Sumitomo Mitsui. Computer experts are believed to have tried to transfer the money electronically after hacking into the bank's systems. ...

"Richard Starnes, president of the Information Security Services Association, said: 'We have been talking about the doomsday scenario for quite some time, and while this was not actualized it shows the magnitude of the threat to companies.' ...

"Mr. Starnes, who works for Cable & Wireless, said key logging software—which detects every key stroke made by a keyboard and can give away crucial information such as passwords—was easy to obtain and quite simple to insert into a company's computers.

"He said: 'This is the arms race of this era. Police and criminals are constantly trying to stay one step ahead of each other.'"

RiskCenter, a news service devoted to economic, political and financial stories, wrote this in an article titled "Energy Risk—Grid Systems Vulnerable to Cyber Attacks": "When federal energy regulators met with cyberexperts recently, they learned just how vulnerable the nation's grid systems could be to such attacks. Regulators viewed simulations in which hackers were able to penetrate Internet security guards and subsequently cut off the fuels needed to spin turbines.

"Indeed, power grids are susceptible to not just worms and viruses that can disrupt business but also to large-scale onslaughts intent on shutting down systems completely. ...

"It's widely acknowledged that the transmission system has vulnerabilities. And this fact, along with the fear that international terror organizations and even casual hackers are on the prowl, has prompted regulators to require utilities to give the matter far more attention than in the past. Certainly, the transition from proprietary networks to those that can be accessed via the Internet has opened up a whole new realm of possibilities for those with ill intentions. ...

"Terrorism, meanwhile, is on the minds of government officials. A well-heeled group 'could conduct a structured attack on the electric power grid electronically, with a high degree of anonymity, and without having to set foot in the target nation,' the Government Accountability Office wrote" (March 17).

Criminal computer hackers are making tremendous progress. But the greatest danger is not in *corporate* America and Britain. It is in the MILITARY.

When you consider Germany's past and its present ambition, beware. Germany's bullying tactics in Europe have already alarmed many experts. And I personally wonder what kind of progress their computer hackers have made.

Have we forgotten the 1945 United Nations warning? If we do, it could be a mistake we make only once. ■



# The

COVER STORY

# Democr

President Bush equates **DEMOCRACY with PEACE.**

**D**ON'T BREAK out the bubbly just yet. Though events in the Middle East appear to be moving in a positive direction, appearances can deceive.

It was only January, at his Second Inaugural, that George W. Bush stunningly pronounced America's policy to "seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world."

How different the world seems, only a few months on: The winds of revolution fill the air; the Middle East teeters on the brink of a transformation. A number of authoritarian regimes in the region are in upheaval or facing severe pressure to change.

Consider this sequence of head-shaking developments all occurring within the first two months of the year. In Israel, the death of Yasser Arafat prompted the Palestinians to elect a new leader, Mahmoud Abbas, who says he wants to make peace with the Jews. In Iraq, 8 million voters experienced a genuinely democratic moment, for the first time using ballots that had more than one name on them. In Saudi Arabia, the royal family acquiesced and municipal elections saw (male only) Saudi citizens casting the first ballots in their lives. In Egypt, Hosni Mubarak, who has been president since 1981, declared his support for a constitutional amendment to allow opponents to run against him in presidential elections this fall. In Lebanon, a political assassination mobilized tens of thousands of protestors to force the resignation of the pro-Syrian prime minister, creating hope for real Lebanese independence and raising the possibility of the end of Syria's shady regime.

REUTERS



**FREE AT LAST?**

Anti-Syria Lebanese demonstrators crowd the martyrs statue in downtown Beirut on February 28.

# acy Paradox

But in the Middle East, “people power” could create a monster. BY JOEL HILLIKER

These developments are sweet wine to supporters of the Bush doctrine; they certainly have the president’s detractors scrambling to put them in perspective.

Nevertheless, a realistic look at these events shows several deeply troubling trends.

In his inaugural address, the American president predicated his argument on the notion that “The best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom in all the world.” If this were true, then any popular uprising against oppression would be a movement toward peace—and thus in the best interests of America and the rest of the world.

Unfortunately, *it is not true*—not in the world today, that is. By NO MEANS can we assume that more freedom makes for more peace.

First, in this world the word *freedom* can be tricky to define absolutely: One man’s freedom fighter is another man’s terrorist. Multitudes want the *freedom* to live in a culture governed by religious law (*sharia*) that others consider barbaric. Thus, rather than presaging greater peace, the revolutionary spirit being unleashed within the Mideast could easily—and in some cases most certainly *will*—lead the region and the world into a future even darker than the dark present.

This shouldn’t shock us. Certainly Bible prophecy gives us strong clues as to what to expect from this experiment in Mideast governance. But even history alone does as much.

**What Past Revolutions Tell Us** To many Americans, the republic and free society that emerged from the Revolutionary War is the benchmark for democratic revolution. But when revolution has transformed other societies, the results have often been decidedly different.

Take, for example, the French Revolution of 1789 and the Reign of Terror and the Napoleonic Wars that ensued;

Pol Pot’s revolution in Cambodia, which killed 2 million of its people; the democratic process in Germany that brought Hitler to power in 1933; Chile’s violent coup of 1973 which effectively destroyed the nation’s democracy.

In *The Clash of Civilizations*, Samuel Huntington spoke of the “democracy paradox”—that “adoption by non-Western societies of Western democratic institutions encourages and gives access to

policies. In 1963, Kassem himself was overthrown in a coup, bringing to power the secular Baath party. This opened the way for Saddam Hussein to become president in 1979, after which he wasted no time in executing his political rivals and choking off what little remained of his country’s freedoms.

In 1969, King Idris of Libya was overthrown and the Libyan Arab Republic set up with Muammar Qadhafi at its head. The Libyan Revolution had overwhelming public backing, with huge numbers filling the streets for days in demonstrations of support. Qadhafi instituted Koranic law and began bankrolling terrorism; he closed U.S. and British bases in Libya, appropriated foreign banks’ funds and confiscated foreign-owned property. Thirty-six years later his dictatorship continues in a country with limited liberty.

In 1974, Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia was overthrown. Three years later, Col. Mengistu Mariam became head of state as a Marxist dictator. His 14 years of rule were characterized by cruel repression of all opposition: a million died; many were tortured.

In the 1979 Iranian Revolution, the autocratic pro-West monarchy of the shah was replaced by an Islamic theocracy under Ayatollah Khomeini. For two decades the shah had faced opposition from those who wanted a constitutional democracy, culminating in a popular uprising in 1978; the shah’s removal was greeted by widespread public euphoria. When Khomeini came to power, he quickly eliminated the more moderate elements of the revolution and established an Islamic Republic—one that to this day remains the bloodiest terrorist-sponsoring nation in the world.

These examples demonstrate the danger in Middle Eastern *revolutions*—but what about democracy? It has a much shorter history in the region, but one just



power to nativist and anti-Western political movements.”

It is within the Middle East that this paradox is perhaps easiest to see. There, revolution has consistently produced authoritarian, anti-Western regimes. When tyrants have been overthrown, this has generally cleared the way for even more aggressive tyranny.

In 1952, an allegedly corrupt King Farouk of Egypt was ousted in a military coup led by Gamal Abdel Nasser. Four years later, as the only candidate in presidential elections, Nasser became the dictatorial president of Egypt. He proceeded to expand state control, increase his personal power and agitate against the Western world. Encouraging aggressive Arab nationalism, he became known as the leader of the Arab world in confronting the “imperialist” West. A new era of defiant Arab politics emerged.

In 1958, King Faisal II of Iraq was murdered in a military coup and the country declared a republic. Gen. Abd al Kassem assumed leadership and promptly began reversing the monarchy’s pro-Western



as worrisome. Consider the 1991-92 elections in Algeria—the Arab world’s only truly free elections to that point. *Islamic parties won by a landslide*. Feeling threatened, the military annulled the results (with U.S. approval), leading to years of virtual civil war in the country. The military-backed regime has preserved a facade of democracy, all the while locking out the Islamists from the political process.

In 2002 elections in Turkey, the Justice and Development Party, which had recently been formed out of a banned Islamic movement, came to power with a two-thirds majority in parliament. It’s worth noting that it was this Islamic-oriented party that denied the U.S. use of Turkey’s military bases during the Iraq war. Today, anti-Americanism in Turkey is rampant.

Given these past examples, can we really afford to be so euphoric over the chances for peace today? It is utterly naive to expect, as freedom spreads in the bitter desert sands of these Arab and Islamic nations, a sudden blossoming of goodwill toward the West. If anything, the facts point to the opposite—that is, *if* antipathy for America and Israel can get any worse.

**What Will Democracy Bring?** In our November 2002 issue, we wrote, “The problem is that this effort to spread the gospel of democracy is predicated on one erroneous assumption—that all peoples think and act like Americans. *They don’t!*”

On a few notable occasions, President Bush has acknowledged that the outcome of democracy in the Middle East may be very different than democracy in America. But is he really willing to accept what that outcome may be?

Consider the early returns from the democratic movements already under way.

Among Israel’s Arabs, as democracy blooms so too flowers the phenomenon of *terrorists-turned-politicians*. When the Palestinian people were given a voice in January’s elections, they threw their support behind Hamas, a group committed to Israel’s destruction and the biggest instigator of terrorism against the Jewish state in the past four years. Abbas, the new Palestinian Authority leader, knows he can’t ignore such a potent political force and has offered to share national leadership with Hamas. Thus, already we can see that if “people power” is to prevail in a new Palestinian state, it will surely produce a religious,



## REVOLUTION IN REVERSE

Hezbollah supporters march in Beirut, March 24. The popular group is entrenched in Lebanon.

anti-Western government strongly influenced by a known terrorist group.

A similar move toward religious-oriented politics is happening in Iraq. The Iraqi people rejected the secular, American-installed interim government of Iyad Allawi in favor of a collection of religious politicians—notably including Ibrahim al-Jaafari, a pro-Iranian Islamist. With the support of religious leaders who mobilized their congregations for election day, Shiite candidates won big. The painful process of creating a new constitution and government will take time; the U.S. put checks in the interim constitution in order to prevent the majority Shiites from taking over (which, of course, requires strictly undemocratic measures to ensure). Many Iraqis consider these to be *occupation-era limitations* that will have to go so the Iraqis can truly govern themselves. Ultimately, as the *Trumpet* has long said, Iraq will end up with a Shiite-dominated government that bows to its Shiite-dominated neighbor, Iran—no friend of America, of freedom or of peace.

Municipal elections in Saudi Arabia didn’t classify as a transformative change for the country: They were extremely small-scale; one commentator referred to them as an “empty exercise.” Even so, who do you suppose fared best in them? Islamist candidates. This is bad news for the royal family—after all, Saudi Arabia produced Osama bin Laden

and most of the 9/11 terrorists; al Qaeda’s first goal is to eliminate the royals, which it perceives as being corrupted by Western influence. The ugly truth is, the more democratic Saudi Arabia becomes, the more extremist it will get.

Egypt is an interesting case. For years, the *Trumpet’s* editor in chief has written of a probable reformation within Egyptian politics along the lines of the Iranian Revolution of 1979, possibly sparked by an assassination. Hosni Mubarak’s secular administration has worked to contain Islamist elements in his country, but his popularity has shrunk over the past decade while support for religious groups like the Muslim Brotherhood has grown. Mubarak’s pledge to open up this fall’s election to other candidates is hollow: The government would have to approve the opposing candidates; the first politician to declare his intent to run against Mubarak is now sitting in jail on trumped-up allegations. Still, this does indicate the degree of pressure on the president to free up the process. As in Saudi Arabia, however, if open elections were ever held in Egypt, Islamists like the Muslim Brotherhood would surely be frontrunners.

Thus we see, in all these countries, that the movement toward democracy is either cosmetic or it is pushing to replace isolated autocrats with more popular and overtly religious governments.

Lebanon is another case in point.



**Cedar Revolution and Its Response** The photogenic anti-Syria demonstrations in Lebanon were impressive—and misleading. Though they looked huge, in reality only a minority of the Lebanese were protesting Syria’s presence—mostly the Druze (who practice a form of Islam; roughly estimated to be 7 percent of Lebanese) and Maronites (Christians; 16 percent). Within days, the *real story* materialized as these rallies were trumped by *much larger* PRO-SYRIA demonstrations mounted by Hezbollah.

The “Party of God,” Hezbollah, is bad news. Representing Lebanon’s largest ethnic faction (the Shiites, estimated at 41 percent, more than half of whom are Hezbollah supporters), Hezbollah is so entrenched there that it actually operates an independent government in southern Lebanon. Considered the best-organized and -armed terrorist group in the world, Hezbollah receives most of its estimated \$100 million annual budget—intended largely to fulfill its codified goal of obliterating Israel and defeating America—from Iran. It enjoys considerable popular support within Lebanon, not only for its charitable activities, but for the measurable success of its innovative brand of terrorism: In May 2000, a 15-year terror campaign to force Israel out of southern Lebanon ended in victory; in January 2004, a bloody suicide bombing and a political

free elections. Like Hamas, the organization is already moving into politics; it holds 13 seats in the Lebanese parliament and is quickly becoming the country’s most popular party. According to Joseph de Courcy, “influential people within the Iranian regime do not believe that Hezbollah’s influence in Lebanon is dependent on a continuing Syrian presence” (*Courcy’s Intelligence Review*, March 17). Some analysts believe a Syrian withdrawal would in fact *strengthen* Hezbollah.

The bottom line is, supporting democracy in Lebanon means accepting the probability of Hezbollah’s rise.

Likewise, democracy for the Palestinians will legitimize Hamas. Democracy in Egypt would empower the Muslim Brotherhood. And so on.

“Sadly, Islamists uniquely have what it takes to win elections: the talent to develop a compelling ideology, the energy to found parties, the devotion to win supporters, the money to spend on electoral campaigns, the honesty to appeal to voters, and the will to intimidate rivals” (*New York Sun*, March 8).

Will President Bush—will the rest of the West—be okay with that? Are they really willing to accept whatever emerges from this experiment in “people power”?

After the Hezbollah demonstration, Mr. Bush mentioned that he may recog-

**What You Can Know** This trend may be slowed or stopped. The Middle East is a volatile place; transformation and regression can occur quickly.

Bible prophecy, however, does provide some absolutes that can guide our expectations of what to watch for.

The *Trumpet* has written extensively over a period of 12 years—based on the prophecy of Daniel 11:40 of a coming “king of the south” and a coming alliance discussed in Psalm 83—about the dangerous potential in Iraq falling under the influence of Iran. This is happening as prophesied. This alliance appears critical to the Islamic Republic, the core power of the king of the south. It will supply Iran with oil and other natural and human resources crucial to its waxing strong as a political force in the months and years to come. These prophecies are explained in our free *King of the South* booklet.



**FREE UPON REQUEST**

The *Trumpet* has long forecasted a radicalization within Egyptian politics. Prophecy indicates that Egypt too will fall into the ambit of the Iran-led power. Given the make-up of Egypt’s electorate, should it ever be allowed to express itself, it is possible this scenario could come about by popular demand—even through genuinely democratic means.

The *Trumpet* has also written of the ascension of the Arab population within Israel, to the point that they will conquer half of Jerusalem, having been bankrolled and championed by Iran. This too is a certain outcome of present events.

As for the immediate fate of Syria, Lebanon and other Mideast countries, the prophetic picture is not yet clear. As the Apostle Paul said, “we see through a glass, darkly.” However, reports show that Iran is surreptitiously positioning itself to take over in Lebanon should Syria be forced out—fortifying Hezbollah bases and preparing to supply tanks, rockets and missiles. Iran’s continuing ascendancy within the region is an absolute, and we can certainly expect its influence to grow.

Another absolute is the ultimate failure of American foreign policy. As the evidence proves, the seeds of this fiasco have already been sown.

At the end of days, looking back in hindsight on today’s history, it may prove to be one of the greatest irony of our time that the United States, in striving to rid

**Sadly, Islamists uniquely have what it takes to win elections: the talent to develop a compelling ideology, the energy to found parties, the devotion to win supporters, the money to spend on electoral campaigns, the honesty to appeal to voters, and the will to intimidate rivals.” — *New York Sun***

kidnapping convinced Israel to release 23 Lebanese terrorists and more than 400 Palestinian prisoners—in exchange for the kidnapped Israeli and the remains of three others. These are heady victories.

The anti-Syria rallies in March gave Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah’s leader, an opportunity to show the world just how powerful and how entrenched within Lebanon his organization really is: He gave the word and instantaneously mobilized a mob of close to *half a million* into the streets in counterprotest.

*This in a country of only 3.8 million people. Impressive.*

There is no arguing that Hezbollah would be a major force if Lebanon held

nize the group as a political party if it forsakes terrorism. Many in the media are suggesting as much: that perhaps the best way to pacify the terrorists is by inviting them into the political process. “Reuel Marc Gerecht, an expert on the Islamic world at the American Enterprise Institute, calls this fighting bin Ladenism ‘from the inside out’; by participating in an open political system and competing for support, Islamists could be driven over time to moderation” (*Washington Post*, March 14).

Such reasoning is dead wrong. To whatever degree it is acted upon, it will kindle a fire in the minds of men—not for peace but for religious nationalism.

the world of terrorism by toppling dictators and empowering populations, actually eliminated all the enemies restraining Iran from realizing its imperialistic ambitions (Saddam Hussein is a prime example)—and thus hastened Iran fulfilling its role as one of the primary instigators of World War III.

As Scripture says, “The most High ruleth in the kingdom of men”—He shapes events to suit His purposes and to ensure the fulfillment of His prophecies.

One final certainty is the ultimate failure of DEMOCRACY.

“People power” could never bring this world the peace it cries out for—the *freedom that God’s Word absolutely promises*. The inarguable reality is, even if all nations in the world overthrew their leaders and established democracy, humanity still would not be free! A thousand Americas would not bring peace in our world!


The American president’s goal of ending tyranny in our world is impossible, impossible, IMPOSSIBLE for human beings to achieve—because this world yet suffocates in the stranglehold of the most malevolent tyranny of all: that of the devil, who “deceiveth the whole world” (Revelation 12:9).

Scripture explicitly describes how Satan rules men’s minds. He intoxicates them with perverse religion; he pollutes their thinking with counterfeit ideas of freedom; he drives them to seek to establish world peace through the ways of war. These satanic concepts are going to collide violently with the naive notions of peace and freedom being floated by Western politicians.

The idea that the United States will end tyranny in the world is about to *perish in flames*. TYRANNY WILL WAX STRONG. And the United States—immoral and unteachable, in need of correction by the rod of God’s anger (Isaiah 10:5-6)—will get a powerful dose of it!

GOD ALONE can *give freedom—end tyranny—establish peace*. And, as His Word is sure and cannot be broken, it is an absolute certainty that this is exactly what He WILL DO.

Jesus Christ will smash rebellion and establish conditions whereby the true way of peace can be practiced globally. In the final revolution to be seen on this weary planet, all the kingdoms of this world—its confusion of experiments in mismanagement, man ruling man in a numbing sequence of trials and errors—will become the kingdom of our God, and of His Christ. ■



As John Paul II’s health fails, speculation over his successor grows. Could Joseph Ratzinger be a

# Coming German Pope?

## TRUMPET STAFF

**B**ETWEEN PARKINSON’S DISEASE, flu, and a throat operation, Pope John Paul II’s recent ill health has fueled speculation once again on who will be his successor. Although, officially, the Vatican cannot comment on the matter, insiders and observers are naming the major contenders.

The *Trumpet* has pointed out many times over recent years that the pope to replace John Paul II will be an arch-conservative—and almost certainly the man to bring to fruition some of the most dreadful of end-time biblical prophecies.

Our June 2002 issue stated of the next pope: “Right wing he shall be, doctrinaire will be his mindset.” Relating how the present pope has increased the political power and diplomatic influence of the Vatican on the world scene—as witnessed by the Vatican’s hand in the fall of the Communist USSR and more recently the break-up of Yugoslavia—the *Trumpet* declared, “The next pope will enforce the spiritual power of the church!”

There is one powerful man within the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy who has the perfect credentials. It just so happens that he appears to be one of the primary contenders for the job: the ultra-conservative German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

The *Trumpet* has often referred to the powerful position Ratzinger has held for the past 24 years. As head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, formerly the infamous Inquisition, he holds the most influential position in the Catholic Church under John Paul. The department he controls oversees moral and theological issues and is responsible for enforcing church doctrine—or fighting “heresy,” just like the old Inquisition.

Ratzinger has worked closely with John Paul for over 20 years to actively remove liberal elements from the church and to re-establish Vatican authority. “From the very beginning of his pontificate John Paul II decided to systematically crush dissent by Catholic theologians and to marginalize critics so they would





REUTERS

mity to church doctrine and loyalty to Rome, but also to guarantee the election of a similarly minded pope after John Paul has passed from the scene. Of the 119 cardinals who currently have a vote on who his successor will be, John Paul has personally appointed all but three. By stacking the deck with like-minded cardinals, the pope has ensured that his successor will be a right-winger who shares his conservative theology and morality. The *Australian* reports that, at most, only 30 of the 119 might be considered liberals (ibid.); the number is probably much smaller than this. Regardless, with just a two-thirds majority needed to elect the new pope, he will be a conservative. Not only that, but John Paul instituted a fail-safe plan: He changed the rules so that if there is any disagreement on a candidate, the new pope can be elected by a simple majority.

Eberhard von Gemmingen, director of the German-language arm of Radio Vatican, believes that Ratzinger is one of the most promising candidates. “In the conclave [the electoral body of cardinals who will elect the next pope],” he said, “he could very well receive a majority of

votes during the first round of voting” (*Der Spiegel*, February 14). Ratzinger is popular and highly respected among cardinals from various parts of the world.

“To his detractors, Ratzinger is rigid and doctrinaire; to his admirers his firm hand guides the church along true conservative lines” (United Press International, February 25). Ratzinger’s candidacy for the papacy “is said to have wide support in the church” (ibid.).

In recent years he has toned down his hard-line image by being more reserved in public and has even at times issued liberal statements to soften his persona. “There was a stigma,” said one Vatican insider of Ratzinger. “He rises above that now” (*Time*, January 10).

Some church officials have thought that Ratzinger, 78 this April, is too old to be “pope material.” This however, could actually be one of his biggest advantages, according to *Deutsche Welle* (Febru-

ary 10). With the uncharacteristically long reign of the current pope, some in the church believe a “transitional pope” would be a good thing. Thus Ratzinger has the potential of pleasing both the conservatives, by virtue of his uncompromising commitment to hard and fast Catholic dogma, and those who oppose him, by the consolation that he could not remain as long in the post as his predecessor. It seems Ratzinger himself is using this fact to his advantage, saying if he were to become pontiff, he would be prepared “to give up the job after a few years” (ibid.).

In February, the BBC reported that the “destiny of Europe is preoccupying the Vatican.” Cardinals have complained of an “anti-Catholic inquisition” from a liberal element within the EU (February 11). With a mood like this, high-ranking Catholic clergy may see Ratzinger as just the man to solve the “problem.” Referring to the decline of Catholic practice in Western Europe, the March 5 *Spectator* pointed out that Ratzinger—who has been “forthright and fearless in confronting secularism and defending the orthodox teaching” of the Catholic Church—“sees clearly what is at stake.” As a Vatican official told *Time*, “The Ratzinger solution is definitely on” (op. cit.).

Certainly, the coming pope will be one for whom the “destiny of Europe” will be of prime concern. Seven resurrections of the war-mongering Holy Roman Empire are prophesied to occur in chapters 13 and 17 of Revelation. Six of these resurrections have already occurred. (Read about these in our booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*, which is free upon request.) The reason the identity of the next pope is of particular interest is that this man is likely to be one of the two most powerful leaders of the seventh resurrection of the HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE—an empire that will thrust the world into World War III! As editor in

**The coming pope will be one for whom the “destiny of Europe” will be of prime concern.**

chief Gerald Flurry has stated, “Over the past 1,500 years there have been six resurrections of the ‘Holy’ Roman Empire. Most of the time this empire revolved around Germany and the Vatican, along with Italy” (June 2000). The seventh resurrection, which is now in the making, will once again revolve around Germany and the Vatican. And a German pope may be just the man to bring the two together. Watch Joseph Ratzinger. ■

no longer stir up unwanted discussion within the church. With the appointment of Joseph Ratzinger as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in November 1981, it became clear that this was official policy” (Carl Bernstein and Marco Politi, *His Holiness*).

In support of this policy, many cardinals who demonstrated liberal tendencies on doctrine were removed. The leadership of the Catholic Church in Latin America, for example, was basically replaced with men who toed the Vatican party line. Similarly, Australian bishops “were carpeted in the 1990s for allowing a church culture that was seen as too egalitarian and open to secular influences” (*Australian*, February 28). A cardinal hand-chosen by Rome was sent down under “to pull Sydney into line.” The pope also appointed conservatives to run liberal churches in numerous other countries such as India, Austria, Argentina, the Netherlands, Canada and Brazil (ibid.).

The appointment of right-wing traditionalists was not only to ensure confor-

# Nuclear Non-Proliferation A HOPELESS CAUSE

North Korea's announcement that it has nuclear weapons further proves the impossibility of man's attempts to curb their deadly spread.

BY BRAD MACDONALD

**M**ANKIND HAS LIVED ON death's doorstep for 50 years. Extinction by nuclear warfare has threatened life on Earth since 1955. Tragically, most people have failed to realize the gravity of this problem. Nuclear proliferation is the greatest threat to mankind, yet our attempts to curb it are failing abysmally.

The 1970 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is the most valiant and significant attempt at global nuclear

disarmament. One hundred and eighty-seven parties signed the 1970 treaty, including the five global nuclear powers at the time. That is more countries than have signed any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement, a fact the United Nations calls "a testament to the treaty's significance" ([www.un.org](http://www.un.org)).

What is the objective of the NPT? The UN answers: "to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament" (ibid.). Noble and far-reaching goals for sure. Have they been attained?

In 1955, the combined nuclear arsenal of America and the Soviet Union could kill every human being on Earth. Fifteen years later, as the NPT entered into force, *five nations* possessed nuclear weapons—the U.S., Russia, France, Britain and China—further increasing mankind's ability to wipe itself out.

Thirty-five years on from the NPT, conditions have become significantly worse. There are now *nine* nuclear states, including the highly volatile North Korea.

According to *Foreign Affairs*, the world has more than 30,000 nuclear weapons, and enough highly enriched uranium and plutonium for 240,000 more (January/February 2004). The Washington-based Arms Control Association says

that almost all of the 12,000 strategic nuclear weapons are in the hands of the five officially recognized nuclear powers. An estimated 300, however, are housed in the non-treaty countries of Israel, India, North Korea and Pakistan (the latter responsible for spreading the nuclear know-how to rogue elements all over the world).

It gets worse: Of the 12,000 strategic nuclear weapons owned by the five treaty nations, Russia is known to have about 5,000. But Moscow also has an additional stockpile of an estimated 11,000 non-operational nuclear weapons. On February 20, however, Agence France Presse reported that *HALF* of Russia's nuclear arsenal is *unaccounted for*.

On top of that, even taking into consideration the 3,000 warheads the U.S. is said to have in reserve, if there are 30,000 nuclear weapons worldwide that still leaves perhaps 4,000 totally unaccounted for. Just *one* in irresponsible hands should be enough to cause alarm.

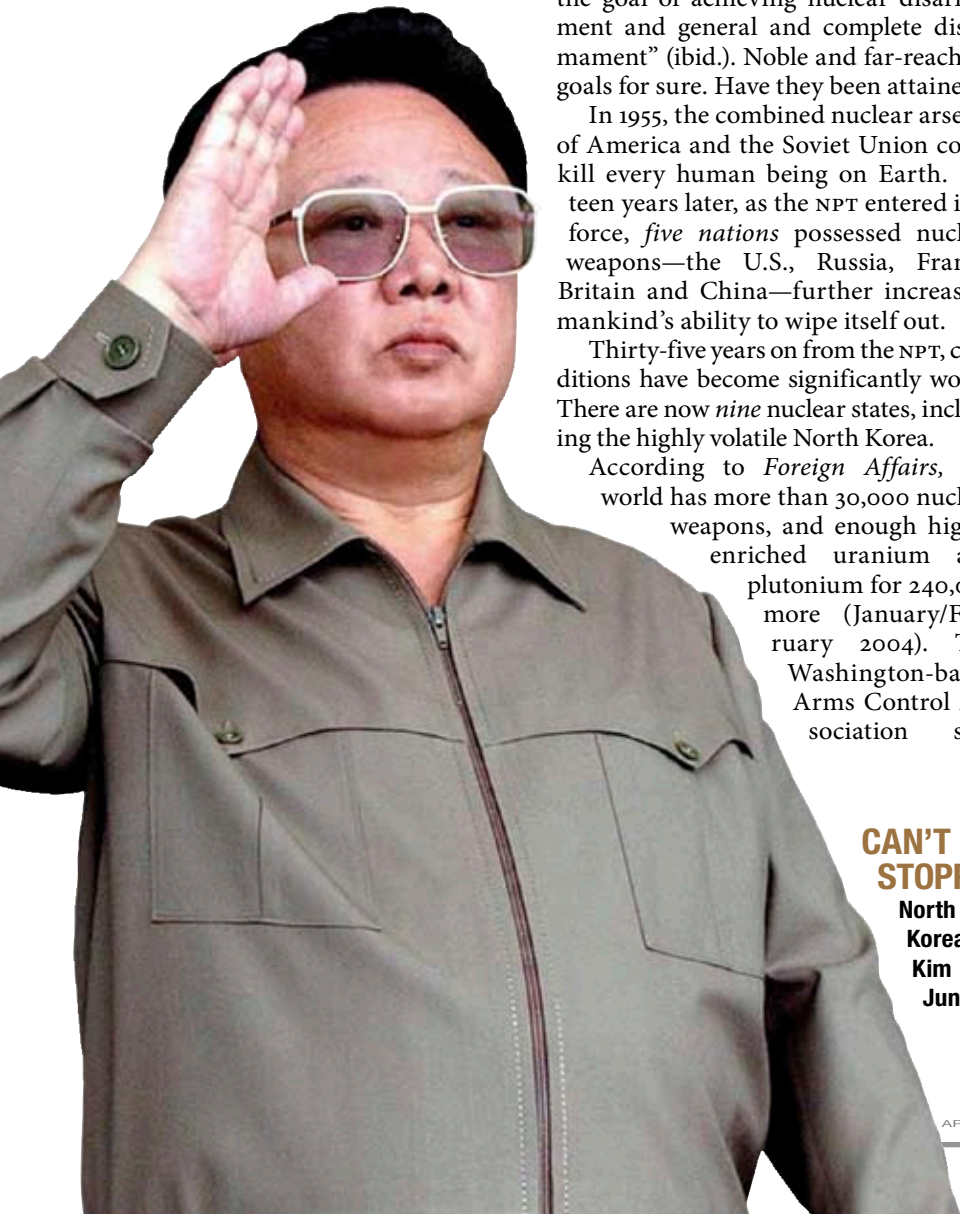
The fact is, *no one* really knows exactly how many nuclear weapons are on this globe—or where they all are.

Every time a nation adds nuclear weapons to its military arsenal, we see further proof of the failure of the NPT and man's attempts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. North Korea's declaration in February that it has successfully constructed nuclear weapons is a particularly frightening blow and further proves the hopelessness of nuclear non-proliferation efforts.

**Nukes 'R' Us** Following the Cold War, the nations possessing nuclear weapons were for the most part relatively stable countries with relatively stable leaders, who were perceived as being unlikely to actually use their weapons. The same cannot be said for North Korea, however. A nuclear-armed North Korea, under its unpredictable leader Kim Jong Il, many liken to a powder keg waiting to blow.

Some believe that North Korea purposefully projects itself as being unstable and unpredictable in order to command attention and respect from other nations. Many reason that it would be suicide for North Korea to detonate nuclear weapons, making it highly unlikely that it would ever do so. Even if this is true, it still does not alleviate the other frightening results of the North Korean nuclear weapons program.

Last year, before North Korea had even declared that it had constructed



**CAN'T BE STOPPED**

North  
Korea's  
Kim  
Jung Il



nuclear weapons, *Foreign Affairs* called it “the most dangerous spot on Earth.” “If it follows its current course, North Korea will soon be able to produce dozens of such weapons annually,” it wrote. “Should it achieve this, South Korea and Japan will likely also go nuclear before the end of the decade. Taiwan could also follow suit ...” (op. cit.).

In response to North Korea’s nuclear weapon, watch for Japan, South Korea, and even Taiwan to work toward developing nuclear weapons. An arms race in Asia is already underway. *Watch for it to turn nuclear!*

BY THE END OF THE DECADE, THERE COULD BE SIX NUCLEAR POWERS IN THIS REGION ALONE.

The same article highlighted an even more frightening scenario: “... Pyongyang [North Korea], already the world’s leading supplier of missiles, could become a sort of NUKES ’R’ US, supplying weapons to whoever could pay—including terrorists.”

This is a real possibility. Former CIA officer Michael Swetnam verbalized the threat: “What we’re afraid of now with places like North Korea is that this crazy guy, Kim Jong Il ... might sell a real working nuclear weapon to some terror group just because he’s a nutcase. That scares us. That scares us badly” (CNSNews.com, February 21). Don’t think it’s implausible for al Qaeda to buy nuclear weapons. The group has previously announced that it aspires “to kill 4 million Americans, including 1 million children” (*Foreign Affairs*, op. cit.). A simple manner for al Qaeda to attain this goal would be to detonate a nuclear suitcase bomb in any reasonably sized American city.

North Korea could become a NUKES ’R’ US for more than just al Qaeda. Consider the well-financed terrorist groups of Hezbollah and Hamas. Pyongyang’s declaration must have been music to their ears as well.

The 1970 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty has clearly failed. This failure will grow increasingly obvious with time. Almost twice as many nations have nuclear weapons today as when the treaty came into force. What’s worse, the unstable and roguish nation of North Korea is now part of that group.

**Matthew 24** Nuclear weapons are a hot topic in the news—yet how many fully

realize their potential? How many believe they WILL actually be used? Many politicians and analysts tend to view nuclear weapons more as geopolitical instruments than catastrophic weapons of mass destruction.

Nuclear weapons have become a primary means by which a country can project power on the global scene—especially smaller nations with few other resources, like North Korea.

As long as nuclear weapons remain a symbol of geopolitical power, mankind’s non-proliferation efforts will continue to fail. In the years ahead, the number of nations with nuclear weapons is likely to grow. We must beware that we don’t take this fact lightly, naively believing that nuclear weapons are par for the course and a simple factor of today’s politics. Bible prophecy powerfully demonstrates that today’s nuclear weapons will not remain dormant political instruments!

World conditions surrounding Jesus Christ’s Second Coming are discussed in the Olivet prophecy, found in Matthew 24. Request our Matthew 24 reprint article to prove that Christ is discussing the times we live in today.

“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved ...” (verses 21-22). These verses talk of a time when there is the potential to destroy ALL LIVING CREATURES—a

time of tribulation EXCEEDINGLY worse than at any other point in history.

Human annihilation has been a REAL THREAT for 50 years!

Note the wording of verse 22: “[E]xcept those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved ...” Without intervention from a higher power to shorten the time, mankind would ultimately destroy itself. The widespread detonation of nuclear weapons is the primary way mankind will get to this point. If not for DIVINE intervention, MANKIND WILL WIPE ITSELF OFF THE FACE OF THIS EARTH!

Even the human-devised doomsday clock is just minutes away from midnight. This is where today’s nuclear proliferation is leading!

To quote from our booklet *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* (free upon request), “The scale of war Christ prophesied in Matthew 24 and Revelation 6 simply could not have been fulfilled at any other time in man’s history! *Humanity has never built or designed weapons that he did not eventually use.* Man will find a use for the deadly nuclear weapons and other destructive devices created since World War I” (emphasis mine). Other accounts in the Bible also tell us a future nuclear holocaust is inevitable. Notice Habakkuk 3, Jeremiah 2:14-15, Amos 5:1-3 and Revelation 6 as a start.

Prophecy shows that mankind’s efforts to curb nuclear proliferation will fail!

We cannot afford to take these events lightly. Ensure you are not making this common mistake. Matthew 24 discusses the end-time events just prior to the Second Coming. The entire chapter is in the context of Christ’s return.

This fact shines a light of hope onto the atrocities mentioned in this chapter. The world events discussed in Matthew 24 are tragic, BUT THEY ARE LEADING TO THE MOST JOYOUS AND EXCITING EVENT EVER—THE RETURN OF CHRIST.

The loving God of this universe is not a HOPELESS God. Nothing He does is hopeless and without CAUSE. The intensifying world events that surround us PROVE that Christ’s Second Coming is imminent. His return will be the dawning of an exciting, happy, industrious, NUCLEAR-FREE age. ■



**FREE UPON REQUEST**

## Nuclear States

Estimated number of operational nuclear weapons in their arsenal

USA 10,640

Russia 8,600

China 400

France 350

UK 200

Israel 100-200

India 30-35

Pakistan 24-48

N. Korea 1

Source: Arms Control Association

## ENCROACHMENT

Chinese businessmen attend an investment and trade meeting in Havana, Cuba. They represent the growing interest among foreign investors in nations very close to the U.S.

REUTERS

# THE UNITED STATES Neglecting Its Back Door

Distracted by the war on terror, America overlooks a threat that is much closer to home. **BY RON FRASER**

■ Grenada, March 3, 2005

**H**AVING JUST LANDED ON THIS lush green island, we witness firsthand the remnants of devastation caused by Hurricane Ivan last October. Many a roofline is still marked out by a blue tarpaulin awaiting reconstruction. Yet the drive from the airport to our hotel reveals a bustling pace in this Caribbean nation of 89,000 people.

Our Grenadian representative detours en route to the hotel to take us to a picturesque bayside setting for a welcome breakfast. Under an open veranda, with the water lazily lapping the shore close by, tropical fruits are served by a cheerful staff. Small birds dart from table to table sampling leftovers. The setting is subtropical, the atmosphere one of ease—an atmosphere that belies the aggression of nations to the north and east which have their eyes on not only this island nation, but the whole Caribbean basin and the continent of South America.

**Up for Grabs** The Caribbean and Latin America are up for grabs. The Ameri-

cans, this region's top trading partners, are finding increasingly that the second stringer in Caribbean-Latino trade, the European Union, is stealing a march on them, with China aggressively biting at their heels and Russia tagging along as a third contender in the competition for increased trade.

In moves reminiscent of old colonial times, these nations are vying for the much-needed raw materials that this region still has in abundance, not the least of which is oil. They offer capital investment in the infrastructure of developing nations in exchange for low-cost manufactured goods, the very products of the developing country's raw materials.

With the U.S. administration distracted by the war on terror, it seems that a vast gap yawns in America's foreign policy toward its closest neighbors. But, more importantly, those nations investing in the development of the Caribbean and Latin America are gaining a strategic toehold at America's back door.

If, as Sir Winston Churchill opined, the Mediterranean is Europe's "soft un-

derbelly," then the Caribbean basin is that of the U.S., South America being the conduit. This being the case, one would think that the U.S. would be doing all in its power to consolidate a defensive profile south of the border. Instead, it is blindly permitting a sworn enemy to get a foot into its very own back door.

**Sino-Latino Trade Diplomacy** In a recent report on China's penetration of the Caribbean, the Associated Press noted that China and the United States "once were mortal enemies." So who blinked? It had to be the U.S., for China still maintains that the U.S. is its primary enemy. But despite revelations of the leaking of vitally strategic information to the Chinese under the previous presidential administration, plus clear evidence that the current arms buildup in China is designed to undermine and eventually challenge American power, it's as though Washington is in denial as to the true long-term intentions of its "former" enemy.

Professor Francis Fukuyama stated, in a *Wall Street Journal* article, "The exigent-



cies of Iraq and the war on terrorism must not blind us to the fact that China's rise will likely be the biggest geopolitical development of this generation" (March 1).

If we are to truly put this, then, into perspective, what does China's dramatic hike in Caribbean and Latin America trade and investment mean? Simply, what appears as a mere foot in America's back door now will inevitably lead to the entrenchment of China's rapidly increasing naval and military strength in America's own backyard in the not-too-distant future!

But the Chinese are supremely long-term thinkers, thus trade and diplomacy precede the weightier matters of the security and defense of their increasing foreign investments.

In the process of recovery from their economic collapse of the late 1990s, Latin American countries struck out in active diplomacy to improve relations in economy and trade with the European Union and Asia, particularly with the rapidly developing market in China, all to the detriment of ties with the U.S. The result was a surge of more than 50 percent in Sino-Latino trade in 2004 compared to 2003.

The Chinese news agency Xinhua reported that, according to Chinese experts, "China and Latin America ties have entered [the] 'best period in history'" (Dec. 27, 2004). This comment followed the November 2004 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders' meeting, convened in Chile, which served to greatly strengthen trade links between Asian and Latino countries. Coupled with Chinese President Hu Jintao's 12-day visit to Latin America which preceded the APEC meeting, this all resulted in substantial contracts being either considered or signed between China and the leading South American nations Chile, Argentina and Brazil in addition to Cuba.

In the process of the Chinese president leading an entourage of 150 Chinese businessmen through these countries, China confirmed a total of more than \$430 billion in investments in addition to sealing a number of long-term supply contracts, guaranteeing China much-needed raw materials to feed its rapid economic expansion. In all, over 400 deals were struck. This builds on China's \$994 million investment in the Latino mining sector during 2004 and contributes to Latin America becoming the most popular destination for Chinese investors last year.

During Mr. Hu's Latin America trade tour, two nations, Brazil and Argentina,

decided to recognize China as a market economy, joining 20 other nations that have already taken this step. (China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001 as a "non-market" economy, leaving it open to the imposition of trade barriers.) This recognition means that China's trade relations with Brazil and Argentina may now be free from the imposition of anti-dumping penalties against

hong urged the representatives gathered at the forum to ensure that the developing countries work hand in hand. Coming hard on the heels of similar rhetoric vented in Latin America, commentators theorized that this hinted at China's desire to form a solid bloc of developing nations in resistance to U.S. dominance.

Trade between China and the Caribbean nations leaped by 42.5 percent in



**One factor overrides all others in China's trade diplomacy with the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean: its huge and increasing thirst for oil.**

#### THIRSTY

**The U.S. is getting drilled as China moves in on Latin oil interests like this Venezuelan off-shore oil rig.**

low-cost Chinese goods. This is quite a concession, considering the fact that the dumping of cheap Chinese goods in Latin America in the 1990s contributed to the collapse of certain industries. Obviously the governments of these countries consider that the benefits of such recognition outweigh the risk. As far as China is concerned, one China watcher at the Washington-based National War College observed, "They are setting the stage for longer-term ties ..." (*Christian Science Monitor*, Nov. 19, 2004).

**Sino-Caribbean Action Plan** Linking with the dynamic push by China into Latin American trade, the Chinese government also proposed in 2004 that a China-Caribbean economic and trade forum be established. In February this year, the first ministerial meeting of the China-Caribbean Economic and Trade Cooperation Forum opened in Jamaica. Trade agreements totaling \$50 million were signed during the two-day forum.

Adding a broader political perspective, Chinese Vice President Zeng Qing-

2004 compared with the previous year. Akin to Latin America, China is intent on importing raw materials and agricultural products of benefit to its burgeoning economy. In return, it exports finished products, chemical goods and pharmaceuticals to the Caribbean.

During the forum, Chinese businessmen inked agreements to the value of us\$50 million. Chinese representatives and those from 11 Caribbean countries also signed an action plan for bilateral economic and trade cooperation. This is designed to consummate friendly relations between China and the Caribbean that have developed via Beijing's dollar diplomacy approach.

With their long-term strategy in mind of working to contain U.S. hegemony and increase their own power, the Chinese have, for decades, worked at building relations with the island nations next to America via numerous small projects—building roads, digging wells, erecting bridges and developing fisheries. This way they gain the trust of the beneficiary nation and create a

climate for both investment in key strategic industries and entrenchment in militarily strategic locations at the appropriate time. That time has now arrived with the launching of the bilateral Caribbean/China action plan.

**Oil and Seaports** One factor overrides all others in China's trade diplomacy with the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean: its huge and increasing thirst for oil.

According to the U.S. Energy Department, China has accounted for 40 percent of global growth in the demand for oil over the past four years. Currently consuming 5.56 million barrels a day, China's oil needs are projected to rise to 20.4 million barrels per day by the year 2025.

The unsettled nature of the Middle Eastern oil-producing region unsettles China's sense of security as to its needed supplies of energy. This has fueled its interest in investment in the oil industry globally in order to diversify its sources of supply. Coupled with this is the need to ensure *regular delivery* from reliable sources. This has motivated China, on the one hand, to increase investment in the oil industry within Latin America

in the Bahamas, from Suez to the Straits of Malacca. This is based on its "string of pearls" strategy of establishing strategic bases around the world through which to channel precious energy supplies. In other strategic locations, where facilities are either non-existent or inadequate, China is building huge port facilities for trade and naval use. A quick look at a global map will soon reveal just how strategic the Caribbean and Latin America are as components of a global string of seaways and sea gates. The fact that Panama and Freeport, which virtually control seaway access to America's back door—its "soft underbelly"—are both now controlled by China, should keep Washington's naval and defense strategists awake at night. Yet, other short-term distractions take precedence. The reports are being prepared by strategic thinkers, but this is all largely after the horse has already bolted.

One demonstration of how important these sea lanes are to China is Beijing's increasing military presence in these areas. This should also have the U.S. concerned. The Kyodo News Service observed, "The commander of U.S. forces in Latin America told Congress ... the United States must carefully watch China's increasing

rial. It is the legacy of the old Roman Empire. This influence is far stronger than the comparatively late, yet not insignificant, economic influence currently being exerted by China within this region.

The EU is the largest investor in Latin America and is second only to the U.S. in volume of trade. With a heritage exceeding 2,000 years, this resurrecting Roman Empire in the guise of the EU is, like China, long-term in its thinking. Unlike its American and British associates, it has both an eye to and a memory for history.

It is a historically repetitive phenomenon that is destined to eventually override the quest by China for dominance at America's back door. Though stalled by disagreements at present, history surely indicates and Bible prophecy certainly confirms that the great trading association envisaged by leaders in Europe and Latin America, cementing the EU and the South American trade bloc Mercosur into one giant market of 680 million people, will soon eventuate. Such an entity would pale China's efforts to sew up trade in this region into something of no great consequence. Yes, China may have possession of the sea gates at America's back door, but it's who she lets through those gates that will be the big worry to the U.S.

One nation in particular has an interest in cementing that giant trade pact between the EU and Mercosur—Germany! This was made clear by a statement from German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer last November during which he stated that his country, as one report put it, "will fight to salvage a deal next year between the European Union and the four-nation South American Mercosur trade bloc aimed at building the world's largest free-trade area. Fischer told Brazilian and German business executives ... Germany and the EU had a 'great interest' in seeing a pact in 2005. '*Mercosur is STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT for Europe just as Europe is also important for the countries of Mercosur*,' Fischer said" (AFX News Limited, Nov. 19, 2004; emphasis mine).

China seeks access to the raw materials and markets of Latin America and the Caribbean in return for the region importing its low-cost finished goods. But so also does an increasingly imperialist Europe, and the cultural heritage of *Europa* runs deep, *very deep*, within this region. Just check the hilltops and count the cathedrals! There's something stron-

See **BACK DOOR** page 31 ▶

## China seeks access to Latin America's and the Caribbean's raw materials and markets for her finished goods, but so also does Europe, and the cultural heritage of Europa runs deep, very deep, within this region.

and the Caribbean to hedge against the possibility of disruption to supply from the volatile Middle East, and on the other, to invest aggressively in port facilities and shipping to gain control over delivery.

Venezuela has been the first country of choice for Chinese investment in oil in this region, much to the chagrin of the U.S., which depends heavily on the same source. Venezuelan preference for Chinese involvement in the exploitation of its oil reserves to the disfavouring of the U.S. is leading to a diplomatic problem between America and Hugo Chavez's regime. In addition, the Caribbean basin nations and other Latin American countries are being considered by China for increasing investment in the development of oil reserves.

Added to this, for years China has been buying up the world's most strategic sea gateways, establishing control over a vast network of seaports from Panama to Rotterdam, from Hong Kong to Freeport

economic and military presence in the region. ... [Southern Command Commander Gen. Bantz] Craddock ... said Chinese national-level defense officials made 20 visits to Latin American and Caribbean nations in 2004, while defense ministers and chiefs from nine countries in the region visited China" (March 9).

**Sleeping Giant** Given China's interest in Latin America and the Caribbean, one might think that this region is facing a takeover bid by the Chinese. But we can confidently predict that will not be the case. There is a sleeping giant already within this region and it hails back to the region's Spanish colonial roots. A European, Roman Catholic heritage within the establishment in Latin America and some of the island nations of the Caribbean awaits a stimulus to awaken it to action. This heritage runs deep. Its current protector is the European Union. The heritage is religious, Roman and impe-



# Canada and America's

## Sibling

## Rivalry



SQUABBLES

Canada's Prime Minister Martin looks askance at President Bush during a meeting at the Summit of the Americas in Monterrey, Mexico.

**In the last year, Canada and the U.S. seemed at constant odds. What's the cause of this rivalry, and where is it leading?**

BY MARK JENKINS

**T**HE *TRUMPET* REGULARLY COVERS the always-volatile Middle East. We often shine light on the rising European combine. Our most popular book focuses on the United States and Britain. We publish material on Russia and China, South Africa, Australia and many other countries.

What about Canada? Sometimes our readership to the north (we're based in the U.S.) might feel a little disgruntled by the lack of coverage, feeling it might be reflective of the way U.S. citizens treat Canada in general: Many Canadians feel "the Americans are out to get us," as the director of the Canada Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars pointed out in early March.

In return, many Canadians don't seem to care for the U.S. in general, and President George W. Bush in particular. The American Assembly recently reported "disturbing and persistent currents of anti-Americanism in Canada"

("Renewing the U.S.-Canada Relationship," February 3-6). There is a certain irony here, because no matter how much Canadians might dislike the United States and its policies, Canada's fate is inextricably tied to that of the U.S. and their common British heritage from a prophetic point of view.

**The Current Climate** Right now, the relationship between Canada and the U.S. is at a historic low. The two countries are squabbling on several fronts; disputes over lumber, beef, missile defense—even wine—have each side viewing the other with disdain and suspicion.

In February, Prime Minister Paul Martin announced that Canada would not be part of the U.S. missile defense program, despite statements in the past that it would participate. U.S. Ambassador Paul Cellucci warned that Canada was effectively handing over some of its sovereignty: "We simply cannot understand why Canada would, in effect, give up its sovereignty—its seat at the table—to decide what to do about a missile that might be coming toward Canada" (*London Free Press*, Ontario, February 25). Lloyd Axworthy, president of the University of Winnipeg and a former Ca-

nadian foreign minister, expressed the views of many Canadians in his acerbic open letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice published in the *Winnipeg Free Press*: "I know it seems improbable to your divinely guided master in the White House that mere mortals might disagree with participating in a missile-defense system that has failed in its last three tests, even though the tests themselves were carefully rigged to show results" (March 3). He also made reference to "control-freak antics" that "may work in the virtual one-party state that now prevails in Washington," and to the current U.S. "days of empire." Of course, that doesn't reflect the views of all Canadians, but a handy majority is firmly against President Bush and his policies, and the government did reject participating in a missile defense program intended to protect the entire continent.

On another front, the well-publicized outbreak—if you consider two infected animals an outbreak—of mad cow disease in Canada last year caused the United States to shut down the import of Canadian beef at a cost of about \$7 billion to Canada. On the softwood lumber front, Canada has applied with the World Trade Organization for permission to im-

pose US\$3.43 billion in sanctions on the United States. In an unusual form of retaliation against the U.S. tariffs on Canadian lumber, the Canadian government has threatened to halt the import of U.S. wine to Canada, costing the Washington State wine industry in excess of \$4 million a year. If we look at it objectively, that isn't too significant in itself, but what it points to is the beginning of a trade war.

This could be rough on both parties, but particularly Canada. Though Canada is slightly larger in land mass than the United States (it is the world's

## If Canada plans to flex its muscle financially, it has only one option: find another customer.

second-largest country after Russia), it has only about 11 percent of the population of the U.S. While Canada may feel it should be politically and economically on equal footing with the U.S., its population is smaller than California's.

Let's be realistic: Canada's need for U.S. business and governmental support is intense. More than 85 percent of Canada's exports flow over its southern border. If Canada plans to flex its muscle financially, it has only one option: find another customer for its products. Enter China.

**Black Gold** It might come as a shock to most that the second-largest single-nation supply of oil in the world is not found in a Middle Eastern country, but in Canada. Most of those oil reserves were officially recognized in 2003, swiftly raising the appraisal of available Canadian crude from 5 billion to 180 billion barrels, second only to Saudi Arabia. For many decades, that oil was considered irretrievable because of the high cost of removing it from the tar sands of northern Alberta (the tar sands contain deposits of bitumen, an extra-heavy oil that must be treated for conversion to crude oil). With current high oil prices, though, the oil is considered extractable. Counting the oil that is too cost-prohibitive to remove, the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board estimates about 1.6 trillion barrels of oil in the tar sands.

But, if Canada has anything to say about it, the U.S. might never see that oil. A Chinese firm is considering a 49 percent stake in a 720-mile, \$2 billion pipeline. On

January 20, the Chinese and Canadian governments issued the following statement: "Canada and China have decided to work together to promote cooperation in the oil and gas sector, including Canada's oil sands, as well as in the uranium resources field." Forbes.com reported that U.S. officials are worried that "they are losing access to a reliable and relatively inexpensive source of crude oil to a rising superpower," the resource-hungry China (February 17). In the overall analysis, it's just another example of Canada looking for a partner other than a U.S. that

has fallen out of favor. Last December, Prime Minister Martin said that it won't be long before the Chinese economy is greater than that of the U.S. and he wants Canadian businesses to operate with that in mind. At the annual meeting of the Canada China Business Council, he said, "We have to understand and engage with this new reality—a new China linked in new ways to an evolving world .... [M]embers of our business community are at the forefront of this effort. Canadian businesses, large and small, should be doing what you have done—developing and implementing strategies for China" (*Canadian Press*, Dec. 6, 2004).

### The United States and Canada in Prophecy

Herbert Armstrong's most-requested book, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, begins this way: "People of the Western world would be stunned—dumbfounded—if they knew! The governments of the United States, Britain, Canada, Australasia, South Africa would set in motion gigantic crash programs—if they knew! They could know! But they don't! Why?"

From the very beginning of this definitive work, Mr. Armstrong identified Canada right along with the United States and Britain. Why?

The "lost 10 tribes" of biblical Israel can be identified today—as revealed in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* (we'll be happy to send you a free copy of this book upon request). Mr. Armstrong identifies the British as the descendants of the tribe of Ephraim and the peoples of the United States as the tribe of Manasseh; he also identifies France as the tribe of Reuben.

Bible students will remember that Jo-

seph (father of Ephraim and Manasseh) was betrayed by his brothers, including Reuben, in Genesis 37. One thing that makes Canada unique is its blending of the tribes of Ephraim and Reuben. As any Canadian can tell you, they do not blend well! Discussion about Quebec seceding from Canada has continued for decades now. I hold in my hands a May 1978 *Plain Truth* magazine with an article titled "Will Quebec Secede? Behind Canada's Unity Crisis." In the December 1995 *Philadelphia Trumpet*, we published "Canada in Crisis" discussing another narrowly averted secession of Quebec. Today, talk of secession has quieted to a whisper, but the tension between Quebec and the rest of the country still exists. The term "melting pot" perhaps should refer not so much to the successful mixing of cultures as to the extreme temperatures created in the attempt to amalgamate cultures that cling to their roots.

As a descendent of Ephraim, Canada faces the prophecies that Mr. Armstrong warned America, Australia and Canada's other "brothers" to prepare for. No matter how Canada struggles against U.S. interests—and more to the point, against U.S. dominance—Bible prophecy tells us one thing without equivocation: All of the Israelitish nations are cursed. Sadly, when the U.S. falls, Canada is going along for the ride.

But they could all be spared. The birthright blessings promised to Abraham could be retained if these nations would only repent. God told Israel: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14). The Eternal God would be thrilled if any nation would demonstrate the character and righteousness to turn to Him in repentance. Only God can stop the prophecies detailed in Matthew 24 from coming to pass in the most devastating way.

In all probability, no nation on Earth will repent before the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords. After He does return though, He will gather the nations of Israel together (Ezekiel 11:17) and use them as a model of how to live for the entire world. Every child of Abraham on Earth—Australian, New Zealander, American, South African, and yes, even Canadian—can know that the future brings a time of family harmony for the house of Israel. ■

theTrumpet.com

For more on U.S. dependence on oil, see our November 2003 article "Over a Barrel" in Issue Archives.



# Britain to Leave EU Next Year?

The British Parliament building in London

DIGITAL STOCK

that could, by the end of 2006, see Britain close to leaving the EU. This would be an extraordinary turning point in British foreign policy and a major weakening of its international influence.”

There you have it—a respected global news source giving about two years until Britain’s exit from the EU becomes a viable outcome.

A referendum on the EU constitution is scheduled to take place sometime in 2006—perhaps in the autumn. Polls indicate that Britons are not in favor of turning national sovereignty over to a continental superstate. This referendum will truly be a defining moment for the British peoples—and it may just rock the foundation of the European Union.

Some EU countries are forming unofficial contingency plans for when Britain votes “no” to ensure that the UK doesn’t derail the charter that Eurocrats have worked long and hard to perfect. The *Telegraph* reported that under a scheme to create a “core” group of countries—as revealed by senior officials from Germany, France and Belgium—“Britain would become increasingly irrelevant” (March 1).

This national referendum could be key in Britain’s eventual secession from the Union—the fulfillment of a prophetically based prediction made over 30 years ago!

As the July 2004 *Trumpet* stated: “In a matter of months, the fate of Britain will largely be decided. Will its people reject the EU constitution? ... Will the British people, or their leaders, walk out of the European Union? Or will Europe be done with Britain’s wavering and wash its hands of the British once and for all? ...

“YOU HAVE BEEN TOLD. Whether Britain is forced out or whether it voluntarily leaves the EU, one thing is certain: ‘Britain will NOT be in that empire’ now building in Europe.

“And when those headlines splash across the pages of newspapers worldwide, proclaiming Britain’s exit from an otherwise united Europe, remember that ONE MAN and where you read it first!” ■

For more on the prophetic fate of the British peoples and how you can escape, request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, by Herbert W. Armstrong.



Headlines confirm what the *Trumpet* has said for years. BY RYAN MALONE

**A** HEADLINE THAT SPLASHED across the *International Herald Tribune* stated what the *Trumpet* has been proclaiming for years, and what its predecessor, the *Plain Truth*, had pronounced even decades before that: “The Skeptics Could Push Britain Out of the EU.”

When Britain joined the European Community in 1973, *Plain Truth* founder Herbert W. Armstrong definitively stated that Britain would not remain in a United States of Europe. Bible prophecy makes this clear. Sadly, Britain—biblical Ephraim—is prophesied to be a victim of aggression by the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. It is clear that this empire has been rising since the mid-20th century as a united Europe (now known

as the European Union). So when Britain joined the Community, Mr. Armstrong knew this would only be temporary.

In the last great work of his life, the 1985 book *Mystery of the Ages*, Mr. Armstrong wrote about a “union of 10 nations to rise up out of or following the Common Market of today.” He proclaimed, “Britain will NOT be in that empire soon to come.”

And now comes the February 9 *International Herald Tribune* article—with a headline that might have seemed ludicrous maybe 5 or 10 years ago.

The article stated, “This week Britain’s Parliament is finally beginning to debate the European Union’s new constitution. This will mark the start of a slow but profoundly important process



AP/WIDEWORLD

**PULL** Iran's oil facilities, like this one off the Caspian Sea, give it plenty of leverage in international affairs.

## IRAN

### Pressure Could Prompt Oil Crisis

**YOU HAVE TO ADMIT:** Iran has a lot of guts. For years, the Islamic Republic has stonewalled and resisted outside pressure to halt its nuclear activity. The *Trumpet* has interpreted the trend as a sure sign that Iran will successfully build its own nuclear weapons (see our January 2005 article "Hate Triangle" at [www.theTrumpet.com](http://www.theTrumpet.com)).

In March, it got even gutsier—virtually admitting to having a secret nuclear weapons program (Stratfor, March 8). About the same time, the Iranians gave the world a good clue as to why they are so confident no one will stop them from their goal: They threatened to send Europe and the United States into an oil crisis if they bring up the issue before the United Nations Security Council.

It is a legitimate and worrisome threat. Iran is the second-largest oil producer in OPEC, and has the ability to halt the oil transported from the Middle East through the Strait of Hormuz (see related story, this page).

In the case of an Iranian oil squeeze, "The first to suffer will be Europe and the United States themselves," said Hassan Rowhani, sec-

retary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council. "[T]his would cause problems for the regional energy market, for the European economy and even more so for the United States" (*Dawn*, March 6).

The EU has tried to convince Iran to halt nuclear

fuel work, offering incentives covering trade, security and technology. Rowhani expressed optimism about reaching an agreement with Europe. But even if such an agreement goes through, Iran has made it absolutely clear that it will not stop uranium enrichment. "We cannot have and we will not have negotiations with the Europeans if what they want is an end [to uranium enrichment]," said Rowhani. "We will not continue the talks for one single minute, we have made it very clear to Paris and Berlin," he said (*Deutsche Welle*, March 5).

Interestingly, also about the same time, the Bush administration emerged with a proposal to move from its publicly hardline approach to a more conciliatory relationship with Iran. In his early March visit to Europe, the president opened the door to ad-

mitting Iran into the World Trade Organization and made other friendly gestures, pending Iran giving up its nuclear program. Some officials said this change in strategy was *intended to FAIL* in order to prove to Europe that such measures don't work. Whether or not that is true, not only does the move buy Iran more time to finish up its weapons, it also is a clear signal of *just how much the great powers of the world have their hands tied in dealing with Iran!*

Iran is thinking big and proving itself unafraid to push its advantage. It's not at all hard to see how events will soon progress to the point where Iran has the gumption to "push" at the king of the north (Daniel 11:40), its competing neighbor in Europe, in such a way as to provoke the prophesied nuclear World War III.

### Key Strait Threatened

**I**RAN IS NOW MILITARILY CAPABLE OF temporarily shutting off shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. Iran purchased missile and torpedo boats as well as small submarines from North Korea last year. These acquisitions show a new boldness in the Islamic Republic.

The strait, a 2-mile-wide channel with Iran on one side and Oman and the United Arab Emirates on the other, is a strategic chokepoint through which an estimated 40 percent of the world's oil supply passes. Even a brief interruption in the shipments made through the strait would pose immediate and detrimental consequences for the world economy.

"We judge Iran can briefly close the Strait of Hormuz relying on a layered strategy using predominately naval, air and some ground forces," stated Vice Adm. Lowell Jacoby, head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, in a Senate hearing (*Wall Street Journal*, February 17).

Tehran has also reportedly threatened Israel that it would mine the strait if Iran were attacked (*Washington Times*, March 20).

The United States does base its Fifth



Fleet near the strait to ensure that it remains open; any move made by Iran to close it would no doubt bring swift retaliatory measures. But with tensions at an all-time high over Iran's nuclear program, Iran is seeking any leverage it can get.

Jacoby also said in the hearing that Iran's long-term goal was to expel the U.S. from the Middle East (*Xinhuanet*, February 16).

It is only a short time before the Iranians will be able to produce nuclear weapons—the ultimate leverage against America. Continue to watch Iran challenge the U.S. as it progresses to consolidate and strengthen its position in the Middle East as the prophesied "king of the south" (Daniel 11:40).

For more on Iran's rise in power, request our free booklet *The King of the South*.



I S R A E L

## Gaza Withdrawal Resistance

“THE DISENGAGEMENT plan is a national mission, the likes of which we have not seen before,” said Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz. On February 20, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Mofaz signed the order to evacuate 21 Israeli communities—about 10,000 Jews—in the Gaza Strip and the northern West Bank commencing in July.

At the time, the process was projected to take two months. Just weeks later, the plan was reassessed (not for the first time) due to the mountain of resistance expected. The time-frame was cut down to three to four weeks, and 3,000 soldiers were added to the 24,000 security personnel already lined up to take part in the forced evacuation.

Defense officials said accelerating the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza would make it harder for “Jewish extremists” to disrupt the pullout (Associated Press, March 11). Indeed, massive resistance from Israeli settlers, who are bitterly opposed to leaving, has been expected. A poll published by the Israeli newspaper *Yediot Ahranot* indicated that 52 percent of the settlers would try to prevent their evacuation from Gaza—10 percent using physical force if necessary; 42 percent vowing not to leave their homes (Gulf News, March 12).

But it’s not just resistance from their own people the Israelis are worried about. Officials said “Mofaz decided that the withdrawal must be implemented as quickly as possible to avoid Palestinian attacks on Israeli soldiers and civilians” (Middle East Newline, March 15; emphasis ours). Middle East Newline

reported that the Israeli military has been training to withdraw from Gaza and expel its Israeli residents “under heavy Palestinian fire” (March 10).

Israeli commanders said that Palestinian insurgency groups “have prepared to launch missile, mortar and rocket strikes on military and police units assigned to remove the Israelis from their homes” (ibid.). It is from Gaza that more than 500 short-range missiles have been fired toward Israeli targets in the past (ibid., March 4).



**GUNNING** Terrorists rally in Gaza City.

To be in a position to cope with the security threat, Israel’s national security adviser said the Israeli Defense Forces would likely reoccupy sections of cities within the Gaza Strip prior to the evacuation (*Jerusalem Post*, March 8). A curfew is expected, and a buffer zone around the settlements may be created to protect against sniper fire

and mortar attack.

It is ironic that the very measures Israel is taking in the process of handing territory over to Palestinian control—at the expense of its own security and despite the resistance of thousands of Israeli families—are being used as yet another excuse for Palestinian terrorists to plan attacks. For them, the approach is “all or nothing.” We must face the fact that there is a Palestinian contingent that will be satisfied with nothing less than its end goal: the total destruction of Israel.

For more on where Israeli concessions will lead, see “New Hope in the Peace Process?” in our March-April issue.

T A I W A N

## Beijing’s New Taiwan Law

TAIWANESE INDEPENDENCE is the most contentious issue in Chinese foreign policy. Beijing, however, steadfastly believes Taiwan belongs to sovereign China. While Taiwan has not yet declared formal independence, the nation has more or less informally broken from the yoke of its giant neighbor.

Over the years, Beijing has used a number of ploys to curb these designs for independence. In March, China unveiled details concerning its newest such ploy: an “anti-secession law.”

The key tenets of this new legislation designate that Beijing should firstly pursue all peaceful means of re-integrating Taiwan, but that it may employ “non-peaceful means and other necessary measures to protect China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity” should Taiwan pursue formal independence. This new law, enacted March 14, is obviously creating quite a stir in the Far East.

There is no reason for surprise, however. The history of Sino-Taiwanese relations is peppered with occasions of Taiwan stepping toward formal independence and Beijing responding with saber-rattling. Many fear, however, that this new law will make it “legal” for Beijing to attack Taiwan. This is a moot point though: If the time comes when China wants to attack Taiwan, law or no law, it will attack Taiwan.

One primary stumbling-block that thus far has prevented China from assuming control over Taiwan is *America*. United States law obliges America to defend Taiwan if it were attacked. The U.S. was once Taiwan’s strongest ally. Its support—even supplying some of the most sophisticated weapons available—made it possible for Taiwan to keep its roguish neighbor in check all



**PASSED** Legislators cheer the new law.

these years.

The trouble is, America is now heavily tied up in the Middle East, and the Bible prophesies that its geopolitical and military willpower will wane. At the same time, China’s geopolitical and military power is growing (see our March/April article on the subject).

Thus, we can expect the cards to begin to fall more in favor of Beijing. This is already occurring.

As the *Trumpet* has been saying since 1998, the time is approaching when Taiwan will certainly come under the strong influence of China. It is not immediately clear *how* this will occur, but it is certain that, ultimately, America will lack the will to support the island nation of Taiwan.

WORLD

## Arming Without U.S. Permission

THREE POWER BLOCS ARE forming and working feverishly among themselves to undercut America as the world's "lone superpower." Two recent events give further proof of this.

First, the European Union intends to lift its arms embargo against China by the end of 2005—to America's chagrin. Whether or not the EU actually does so, there is little that America can do to stop it.

Europe and China have too much to gain to be concerned about the American president's "deep concern" over the move: China will gain direct access to sophisticated European military hardware; European nations will grow rich from China's massive military budget.

Not long ago, it would have been impractical—and unwise—for any nation to directly oppose America in this manner. Today, BOTH powers can defy the will of Washington without fear of any ramifications. This trend of defiance to U.S. wishes will continue.

But there's more to it than just money or anti-American bravado. "The Europeans have a number of motives," wrote Stratfor. "First, there is money. Second, there is a chance to irritate the Americans. Third—and this is most important—there is the opportunity to use China to rectify the imbalance in the international system.

"French and German leaders are extremely uncomfortable living in a world in which the United States has unfettered power. They want to create a balance of power that limits U.S. actions. Europe has no opportunity to do this by itself, as



**SIGN** A Russian rep meets with the press after inking a deal at Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant, pictured in the background.

witnessed by the decision to invade Iraq. However, a stronger China will pose substantial problems for the United States, by diverting resources from areas where

the Europeans have important interests and limiting U.S. opportunities for global power projection" (March 21; emphasis ours).

The second event oc-

curred in late February this year when Russia signed an agreement with Iran to assist in the construction of the Bushehr nuclear reactor by 2006. This was *within days* of Russian President Vladimir Putin meeting with President Bush and agreeing that "Iran should not have a nuclear weapon"! (Associated Press, February 24).

Russia's assistance will propel Iran's nuclear program forward and make Tehran an increasingly painful thorn in America's side.

These two examples show that Europe, Russia and China, and Iran have all made significant foreign policy decisions that directly oppose American interests over recent months. Watch these

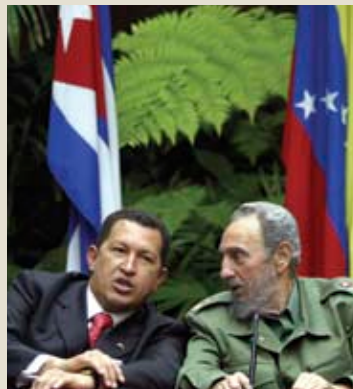
## Trade Bloc Courts Communist Cuba

OVER THE YEARS, America's relationships with other countries have undergone profound metamorphoses. Consider: Russia is no longer thought of as the "Evil Empire"; China, while not the closest ally, has most-favored-nation status. But in the last 50 years, one nation has consistently maintained its status as a sworn enemy of the U.S. One leader, now the longest ruling on Earth, has a perfect record of opposing the U.S. despite military threats, embargoes, sanctions and general opposition around the world. The country: Cuba; the leader: Castro.

Now, with antipathy for the U.S. around the world at a high, Cuba has requested to become an associate member of the \$727 billion Latin American trade group Mercosur.

A few years ago, this request would have been considered beyond ridiculous. The United States of America—one of the world's trade giants—refuses to trade with Cuba. Washington would certainly have a less-than-friendly posture toward a group that boasts Cuba as a member.

The mere fact that Latin American governments are even discussing the idea indicates their specifically trying to alienate the



**LEANING** Castro (R) visits with Venezuela's Chavez in December.

U.S.—and they are not at all shy about making this desire known.

Since January 2003, Cuba's trade with Brazil and Mercosur has doubled. The president of Brazil said that he favors trade with Latin American countries over the U.S. or the European Union. He and the president of Argentina have opposed the U.S. trade embargo of Cuba and want to increase their own trade with President Fidel

Castro. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has made a point of putting his friendship with Castro in the public eye and painting the U.S. in the most wretched colors possible. The state-run oil firms of Brazil and Venezuela plan to begin construction on a \$20 million lubricants factory in Cuba.

Even if Cuba isn't admitted to Mercosur, its candidacy can be used as a powerful bargaining chip in upcoming Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) talks, which are starting, perhaps not so coincidentally, between the U.S. and Mercosur right as Cuban membership in the organization comes up for discussion.

This is another example of the U.S. finding itself less welcome, not just in Latin America, but all over the world.

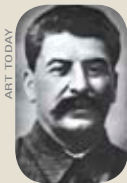


three entities strengthen alliances with other nations in their respective regions.

These three blocs are listed toward the end of Daniel 11 (“king of the north,” “king of the south,” and “tidings out of the east and out of the north”). Watch for the integration of Europe behind Germany. Watch for the integration of the Islamic peoples behind Iran. Watch for the integration of Asia behind Russia and China. At the same time, watch America continue to lack the ability to curb the rise of these three power blocs.

## Wanted: Stalin

MARCH 5 marked the 52nd anniversary of Joseph Stalin's death—the brutal Soviet dictator whose regime killed about 20 million of his own people.



ART TODAY

The All-Russia Center of Public Opinion Study dedicated its recent survey to Stalin's death anniversary. The survey results were startling: 42 percent of those surveyed agreed that modern Russia needed a politician like Stalin. “Most of Stalin's supporters are elderly, with 60 percent of the respondents over 60 thinking Russia needs a ‘new Stalin’” (*MosNews.com*, March 4).

What's more, “50 percent of the respondents view Stalin's role in the life of the Soviet Union positively overall. The quantity of people considering his role very positively has risen since last year's poll from 16 to 20 percent” (*ibid.*).

For more on where Russia is headed, see our January 2005 cover story.



**NEW TECHNOLOGY** German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder observes a model of a Euro Hawk air scout drone.

## EUROPE

### Steps to Military Superiority

IS THE EUROPEAN UNION'S military worth watching? Many wouldn't think so. After all, its rapid reaction force is only a few thousand strong; its international peacekeeping missions usually don't consist of more than about 400 soldiers each.

Many also wrote off German military developments before World War II. Not Winston Churchill. As he kept tallies of how Germany's army was growing under the radar, so does the *Trumpet* document how the EU—a seemingly benign union—has its sights set on becoming a military superpower.

In March, the EU took its “first step in military research and development” (*Times Online*, March 2): The European Defense Agency has plans in the works to develop unmanned drones, new armored vehicles and advanced communications systems. Says the *Times Online* analysis, these initiatives “are aimed at transforming the EU from being solely a political power ... to a military one, capable of sending troops around the world to enforce a foreign policy agreed by its member states” (*ibid.*).

As innocuous as the EU military may seem at present, it's the MOTIVES we should be wary of—“a strategy to become a MILITARY SUPERPOWER and close the defense technology gap with the United

States” (*ibid.*; emphasis ours). The EU is eliminating outdated equipment, upgrading its military technology, and centralizing its resources to avoid duplication among its member states' militaries.

### Ominous Demographic Crisis

IN MARCH, A NEW EUROPEAN Commission report pointed to the “serious consequences of an aging population on Europe's economies” (*EUobserver.com*, March 16). The problem? “No country in the EU currently has a birth rate sufficient to renew its population ...” The article stated the EU must exceed its target employment rate of 70 percent because the increasing number of retirement-ready employees is causing a drop in the labor force.

One possible solution would be to attract more immigrants. But the report ruled this out because “its positive effects will be only temporary.”

Most Europeans would agree. Sentiment across Europe is swaying more and more against immigration. Another report, published around the same time by the European Monitoring Center on Racism and Xenophobia, found that almost half of Europeans had a “critical attitude toward cultural and religious diversity” (*ibid.*).

Even while commentators

To become a military superpower has been an EU goal all along. Its constitution—agreed on by European leaders last October—mentions the Union's aim to have a military force capable of enforcing a single foreign policy. Lately, Germany's chancellor has spoken out about how the EU needs to develop its own military program separate from NATO.

It wasn't until Germany was swallowing up swaths of European territory that people started to pay attention to what Churchill said about its burgeoning forces.

Can we learn from history and wake up to the military colossus rising in Europe before it is too late?

boast about the secularization of Europe, the *Trumpet* has long contended that religion will increasingly dominate the Continent—and intolerance toward non-“Christian” faiths will only increase.

So how will the Continent resolve its labor void? Our September/October 2003 article “Who Will Fill the Labor Void?” poses a particularly startling and unsavory scenario of how Europe will deal with this demographic crisis: *forced labor*.

It is important to understand, as this article describes, how nations like Germany have dealt with similar problems historically, and how the Bible clearly prophesies that a German-led Europe will resort to these same tactics in times just ahead.



**AGED** Europe's retirees are depleting the job force.



# Speeding to Economic ARMAGEDDON

It may not happen this year, or next—but it is coming. It will happen. BY STEPHEN FLURRY

**P**RESIDENT BUSH'S PROPOSED federal budget could be described many different ways. "Lean" isn't one of them. The \$2.57 trillion spending plan submitted to Congress in February is America's biggest yet—even if "only" \$89 billion fatter than last year's. The 3.6 percent increase might seem modest to proponents of the new budget, but only when compared to the ghastly increase in gov-

ernment spending since the president took office in 2001—an unfathomable 33 percent hike.

To cut spending to the level it was at just four years ago, the president would have to lop off ONE FOURTH of his February proposal! "Well, but we're at war," you might be thinking. "We had to increase defense spending." Perhaps. But how do you explain the fact that non-defense spending has increased just as fast over the same period?

America's drug-like addiction to spending money—money we don't

have—is so recklessly out of control that a 3.6 percent increase to an already bloated budget is seen in Washington as "tightening our belts."

**A Proposal Is Just That** While much has been made of Mr. Bush's plan to either scrap or slash the budget for 150 federal programs, those cuts have yet to move through Congress. In last year's budget proposal, for example, the president proposed cutting 65 programs in hopes of saving \$5 billion. In the end, only five were actually laid to rest.

AP (3); CONGRESS; REUTERS



Regarding this year's proposed cuts, according to the *Washington Post*, "[N]early every program targeted for elimination has a patron on Capitol Hill, and the administration has assembled a list that may prove particularly dicey" (February 7). The *Wall Street Journal* said the proposed cuts would be a hard sell even in the president's own party. "[M]any Republicans found something not to like on Mr. Bush's long list of proposed cuts" (February 9). According to columnist Veronique de Rugy, "House and Senate leaders have already told the White House that no more than two dozen of the 150 cuts are likely to be accepted" (*National Review*, February 7).

Congress isn't exactly known for its penny-pinching. It is known for ADDING wasteful "pork" projects on top of spending bills because of members trying to satisfy their constituents back home. Entire books have been written about this. In fiscal year 2004, for example, Congress tacked on an additional \$67 billion in pork to the government's spending, according to de Rugy. "Congress," she wrote, "is addicted to pork and to spending increases ..." (ibid.).

One way to curb this addiction is for the president to veto its spending bills—something he has not yet done. During his first term, when overall spending increased by 33 percent, *President Bush never rejected a congressional spending bill with his power of veto*. Not once!

Critics of the president's new budget have also noted that it doesn't account for additional spending in Iraq and Afghanistan, which some estimate will run upward of \$80 billion. Also, nothing is set aside in the budget for Social Security reform, which has become one of the president's high priorities for his second term.

So we're left with this: a supposedly "leaner" budget that actually plans for a 3.6 percent overall increase in spending—and that's assuming all 150 suggested cuts are made. On top of that, additional costs in Iraq and Afghanistan are inevitable. Social Security reform could cost additional tens of billions. Add to that, congressional pork.

"It is essential that those who spend the money in Washington adhere to this principle," the president said in a speech the day after he submitted his budget to Congress. "A taxpayer dollar ought to be spent wisely or not spent at all."

Words of wisdom for sure—but but words only.

**Shrinking the Deficit** The deficit you hear so much about is simply the term used to describe how much government spending exceeds its yearly revenues. Last year, for example, the government had about \$2.06 trillion to work with. It spent a little more than \$2.47 trillion—\$412 billion too much—amounting to the highest deficit ever. Yet, many in the Bush administration were encouraged by this figure because it was significantly lower than the White House's projected deficit for 2004—\$521 billion—a "savings" of more than \$100 billion!

That's the sort of reasoning that pretty much sums up "fiscal responsibility" these days. *If we don't overspend as much*

**"Fiscal responsibility" these days sounds like this: *If we don't overspend as much as we thought we would, we are being frugal.***

*as we thought we would, we are being frugal. Or, if we can reduce the deficit by such and such, we are on the right track.*

Actually BALANCING the budget (spending only what you take in—nothing more) is out of the question. And setting aside some of our revenues in a savings account is utterly unthinkable and naive! (More on this later when we discuss Social Security.)

President Bush's economic goal for his second term is to cut the deficit in half. (John Kerry's plan, had he been elected, was essentially the same, by the way.) Now, whether or not that actually happens (it probably won't), *think about that goal*. He wants to reduce the deficit from the figure used for last year's projection (\$521 billion) to \$260 billion by 2009. Thus, the benchmark for fiscal responsibility and success in Washington is this: *Overspend? Yes!—but just not as much as we did in the past.*

And remember, even *that* goal won't be reached unless all goes well—the economy grows, no unforeseen bills, etc. For example, next year's budget of \$2.57 trillion (which begins October 1) projects a \$390 billion deficit. That projection is based on the assumption that our growing economy will boost revenues by more than 6 percent, giving the government \$2.18 trillion to work with. And if the economy doesn't grow that fast? *Bigger deficit.*

**Apples and Oranges** One conservative radio commentator defended the president's economic plan, saying the budget

deficit was "no big deal." Even at over \$400 billion, he reasoned, the deficit still only amounts to about 3.5 percent of the nation's gross domestic product. Compared to GDP, the deficit does seem like pocket change.

Problem is, it's an unfair comparison. Last year, America's GDP surpassed \$11 trillion. Of that, the government's "salary" (amount retrieved through the tax system) was a little more than \$2 trillion. *The deficit must be compared to the government's salary* (which usually hovers around 18 percent of the GDP)—NOT TO THE AMOUNT OF MONEY FLOWING THROUGH THE U.S. ECONOMY—for it to be a fair comparison.

When I go to the bank to arrange for a loan, they don't ask me how much money my company generates. They ask me how much money my company pays me! Now, it might be true that if my company does well in the years ahead, it may positively affect my salary. If the U.S. economy keeps growing, there will be more revenues for the federal government. But how will those increased revenues be used, assuming the economy does grow? Based on Washington's atrocious track record, EVERY DOLLAR WILL BE SPENT—and then some.

The federal deficit may only be 3.5 percent of the GDP, but it's running at about 20 percent of the government's salary. That's the figure that ought to frighten every American—especially politicians. For every \$100 they take in, they spend \$120.

How do they do it? The same way you would, if you spent 20 percent more than you made every year: by increasing debt.

**Credit Card Government** Trying to quantify a \$7,800,000,000,000 national debt isn't easy. Perhaps the best way is to divide up that figure per capita—meaning every man, woman and child in the United States would have to pay more than \$25,000 for that debt to be paid off, which isn't something most Americans have lying around.

What makes this astronomical sum all the more insane is the rate at which it continues to move up, as if politicians believe there are no consequences for carrying such a heavy load of debt. At the end of

1989, for example, the federal debt was a little more than \$2.8 trillion. That *doubled* during the 1990s—in just 10 years. Consider this: It took *more than six years* for the national debt to climb from \$5 trillion to \$6 trillion. To go from \$6 trillion to \$7 trillion took *less than two years*. You can analyze all of these trends and figures on the Treasury Department's own website ([www.treas.gov](http://www.treas.gov)). (Upon entering the site, run a search for "national debt.")

How can the government get away

## “As a nation, we may have already made promises to coming generations of retirees that we will be unable to fulfill.”

ALAN GREENSPAN

with piling on more debt—and at such a head-spinning rate? Simple: Whenever it reaches its spending limit, it just bumps up its credit line.

Since 1950, Congress has raised the federal government's debt ceiling more than 90 times! *Must be nice*. It not only uses the “credit card” with reckless abandon—it controls the spending “limit” as well.

The biggest spending hike Congress ever gave itself happened on May 23, 2003. It amounted to \$984 billion, upping the ceiling to \$7.38 trillion. We burned through that in 17 months—*less than a year and a half*.

As it happens, we hit the \$7.38 trillion ceiling just three weeks before last year's presidential elections. But the Republican-controlled Congress put off raising the debt ceiling, fearing voter backlash on November 2. (There actually *are* a few American citizens concerned about the government's spending binge.) That forced the Treasury to make a series of tricky maneuvers to keep the government afloat.

Then, as if on cue, the day after President Bush won a second term, he immediately urged Congress to up the “limit.” It complied two weeks later by adding \$800 billion to the limit, raising the borrowing threshold to \$8.18 trillion.

If all goes well with the government's new focus on a “leaner” budget, we should bump into the new ceiling by the end of this year.

**Robbing Social Security** In looking at the Treasury's debt as it is broken down on its website, you will notice that the \$7.8 trillion is split into two categories: \$4.6 trillion in “debt held by the public” and \$3.2 trillion in “intragovernmental holdings.”

That first category is fairly straightforward. To finance its debt, the Treasury must sell off U.S. government securities. And since we are adding over \$2 billion to our national debt every day, selling off securities and attracting investors—both at home and abroad—is critical for the U.S. to be able to continue living beyond its means. Approximately 40 percent of our publicly held debt is controlled by foreign investors. (More on the significance of this a little later.)



The other debt category, “intragovernmental holdings,” is money the government receives from taxpayers to be “held” for distribution *later* through federal programs like Social Security, Medicare, Civil Service Retirement and Disability, etc. Of these, Social Security makes up the biggest chunk—a little more than half of the \$3.2 trillion.

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt established Social Security in 1935, an account for the program was set up in the Treasury. Any money not used for benefits would be “invested” in government bonds. “Running against FDR in 1936, Republican Alfred Landon likened this to a father taking money from his children's wages to invest for their old age, but instead spending it and leaving the kids with his 100s” (*Wall Street Journal*,

February 10). Roosevelt won the election, but to help settle the debate over Social Security surplus, he helped establish a separate “trust fund” account for any unused monies. For the next several decades, most of the money coming in was paid out in benefits. So there never was much left over in the fund.

During the 1960s, Lyndon Johnson's administration merged the account, along with several other trust funds, into the federal government's overall budget.

Still, the impact of these changes on the federal budget wasn't really felt until 1983, when President Reagan increased Social Security taxes while simultaneously reducing

benefits for retirees. From that point forward, billions of dollars of Social Security surpluses flooded into the Treasury. And instead of saving the surplus, the government uses it to pay other bills.

There are now *\$1.6 trillion* in government 100s sitting in the trust fund. Right now, at least as far as paying out benefits, that debt is of little concern—because more is still being paid into the system than is being doled out in benefits to retirees. But once the baby boomers begin retiring in 2008, the tax-paying demographic will begin a dramatic shift—one where fewer workers will be paying into the system and more retirees will be claiming benefits. Some analysts point to 2016 as the crossroads: Not only will the yearly “surplus” be gone by then, but there won't be enough coming in to pay out benefits. At that point, assuming the government doesn't reduce benefits further or raise the retirement age, it will either raise taxes on the next generation or borrow more money to pay its promised benefits.

In either case, it works like a double-tax. Since the government is incapable of saving *today's* Social Security surpluses for the future, it will have to charge Americans *again* to pay out benefits later.

Politicians in Washington are well aware of the tsunami-like magnitude of this soon-coming sea change, which is why there is much debate in political circles over how to “save” Social Security—or keep the program from going “bankrupt.” But the problem is not with Social Security—there's plenty of money going into the system. The problem is with politicians who can't keep their hands off that money. As former Georgia congressman



Newt Gingrich said in a televised address on April 7, 1995, "Social Security would be fine if the federal government would stop borrowing the money." He was right, although the term "borrowing" sugarcoats what is actually happening.

If executives at Enron, Tyco or Worldcom resort to such financial mismanagement, cheating shareholders out of their future retirement, they end up in jail.

When politicians do it, they get re-elected.

**Hidden Debt** We are just now beginning to scratch below the surface to see HOW BIG our financial burden really is. It's not just the yearly deficits and the mounting national debt that should concern us—even with such insane levels of debt, there will always be optimists who, because of how huge the U.S. economy is, consider the debts manageable. But when you combine those massive debts with the changing demographic and with the financial promises politicians have made to future generations, leaders in Washington should be quaking in their Bruno Maglis!

As Alan Greenspan told the House Budget Committee last year on September 8, "As a nation, we may have already made promises to coming generations of retirees THAT WE WILL BE UNABLE TO FULFILL." That's how the *Federal Reserve chairman* sees it! Politicians have become quite good at parceling out promise after promise, but where are the leaders who are willing to tell it like it is—to take dramatic action to try to at least slow down this runaway train? Few are willing to do anything about it for fear of getting voted out of office.

But more than politicians, average Americans are the ones who should be worried. *They are the ones scheduled to pay for all this.* Too many Americans, when they hear the subjects of government spending or national debt, hit the snooze button. Most Americans, like their national government, live far beyond their means. Consumer debt in America (the amount Americans owe on cars, credit cards and other miscellaneous loans) has surpassed the \$2 trillion mark. Mortgage debt (the amount owed on homes) is now more than \$7 trillion. All totaled, the \$9.5 trillion personal debt amounts to about \$85,000 owed by each household.

Combine personal debt with the tax burden politicians have obligated Americans to and it makes for a frightening scenario. And it's *real*—not some Holly-

wood fantasy. With so many Americans already up to their eyeballs in personal debt, how in the world will its citizenry ever be able to pay off the debt piling up in Washington?

According to *USA Today*, "\$53 trillion is what federal, state and local governments need immediately—stashed away, earning interest, beyond the \$3 trillion in taxes collected last year—to repay debts and honor future benefits promised under Medicare, Social Security and government pensions. And like an unpaid credit card balance accumulating interest, the problem GROWS BY MORE THAN \$1 TRILLION EVERY YEAR THAT ACTION TO PAY DOWN THE DEBT IS DELAYED" (Oct. 4, 2004; emphasis mine throughout). Added to personal debt, the article estimates the hidden debt weighing on each household's obligation as taxpayers to be about \$473,000! That's what each family owes *right now* to pay for what its government has obligated them to.

Furthermore, that \$53 trillion figure is not unlike a mortgage on a home, the article explained. \$53 trillion is what the U.S. would need to pay off the debt right now. But if it stretches out those payments over the course of decades, like a homeowner would to pay off a mortgage, the actual money paid for the house would be much higher because of interest. A \$100,000 home, for example, would cost \$193,000 over the course of a 30-year loan, assuming the interest was locked in at 5 percent.

One day, every American will wake up to the dire consequences of those empty promises, the wild spending, the irresponsible budgeting.

"If action isn't taken soon—when baby boomers are still working and contributing payroll taxes—THE CONSEQUENCES MAY BE CATASTROPHIC," the article continued. Look—it's not like this warning is coming from some wild-eyed fanatic out in the blogosphere. It's a *USA Today* article, quoting the likes of Alan Greenspan! According to its authors, the article's conclusions are similar to ones made "by government watchdog agencies such as the Congressional Budget Office and the Government Accountability Office and respected think tanks such as the conservative American Enterprise Institute, the liberal Brookings Institution and the non-partisan Urban Institute."

The article quotes Glenn Hubbard, who used to serve as chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors for President Bush. "Political leaders know this

is a big problem. I know the president is keenly aware. But in an election year, it's not easy to talk about. The solutions may be very painful. If he is re-elected, I think he will make this a top priority next year." Since that time, of course, President Bush was re-elected. And in the first budget submitted during his second term, he increased spending—*something the U.S. government has done every single year for the past half century!*

**Doomsayers in the Majority** In November, Morgan Stanley's chief economist, Stephen Roach, made headlines with comments delivered at a private gathering in Boston. According to the *Boston Herald*, Roach suggested the United States has less than a 10 percent chance of avoiding ECONOMIC ARMAGEDDON! "Roach sees a 30 percent chance of a slump soon and a 60 percent chance that 'we'll muddle through for awhile and delay the even-

## Escalating U.S. Debt

America's national debt is rapidly growing. Now nearly \$7.8 trillion, every man, woman and child in the U.S. would have to pay more than \$25,000 for the debt to be paid.

**NOW \$7,788,000,000,000 ...**

2004	\$7,379,052,696,330
2003	\$6,783,231,062,743
2002	\$6,228,235,965,597
2001	\$5,807,463,412,200
2000	\$5,674,178,209,886
1999	\$5,656,270,901,615
1998	\$5,526,193,008,897
1997	\$5,413,146,011,397
1996	\$5,224,810,939,135
1995	\$4,973,982,900,709
1994	\$4,692,749,910,013
1993	\$4,411,488,883,139
1992	\$4,064,620,655,521
1991	\$3,665,303,351,697
1990	\$3,233,313,451,777
1989	\$2,857,430,960,187
1988	\$2,602,337,712,041
1987	\$2,350,276,890,953
1986	\$2,125,302,616,658
1985	\$1,945,941,616,459
1984	\$1,662,966,000,000
1983	\$1,410,702,000,000
1982	\$1,197,073,000,000
1981	\$1,028,728,000,000
1980	\$930,210,000,000
1979	\$845,116,000,000
1978	\$789,207,000,000
1977	\$718,943,000,000
1976	\$653,544,000,000
1975	\$576,649,000,000



tual Armageddon” (Nov. 23, 2004).

To Roach, it's not a matter of if—but *when*. “It struck me how *extreme* he was—much more, it seemed to me, than in public,” one source who attended the meeting was quoted as saying.

According to Roach, America has to import \$2.6 billion in cash *every working day* to finance its spending addiction—an amount he rightly believes is unsustainable.

According to the *Herald*, “Roach’s analysis isn’t entirely new. But recent events give it extra force.” In other words, a majority of economists are predicting catastrophic economic events ahead for America unless something is done soon to address the problem. “Smart people downtown agree with much of the analysis. It is undeniable that America is living in a ‘debt bubble’ of record proportions,” the article concluded.

Here is the way author Gerald Swanson sees it: “That the United States of America can literally go broke is no longer a fantasy but a likelihood—unless we can stop the train now speeding us to Armageddon. If we do not get our financial house in order, and soon, I am convinced

Armageddon? These are the not the predictions of extremists. It’s what *honest* commentators, economists, politicians and presidential advisers are saying.

**Danger of Debt** But enough of what men say. *What about God?* What does He have to say about out-of-control spending and sky-high debt?

Men have come up with every possible explanation to excuse debt-laden living. But as far as God is concerned, the underlying cause of this curse—and *it is a curse*—is that we are LIVING THE WAY OF GET! As Joe Scarborough editorialized in the *Wall Street Journal*, “These days, if you want a tax cut you get it. If you want a trillion-dollar drug entitlement program, you get it. If corporate welfare and farm subsidies are your thing, you’re in luck. Want to push defense spending over \$400 billion? Don’t worry, be happy. Want to push through the biggest expansion of federal education spending ever? Consider it done” (Sept. 23, 2004).

Everybody has to get something, right? Washington GETS an unlimited supply of credit so it can spend, spend, spend! American citizens GET generous

Earth, as regards extent of territory, fertility of soil, and salubrity of climate. ... We find ourselves ... the legal inheritors of these fundamental blessings. We toiled not in the acquirement or establishment of them.”

But instead of being in awe of God and humbled by His unwavering devotion to the faith of one man, Abraham (Genesis 22:16-18), we have forgotten our great God. We’ve taken credit for these many blessings ourselves. We have become a self-indulgent and altogether ungrateful and unthankful people.

“Ye have sown much, and bring in little,” the Prophet Haggai continued, “ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your ways” (Haggai 1:6-7).

Seemingly never satisfied with what we have—with all God has given us—we continue mortgaging our future in order to satiate the lustful desires we have now.

The party might go on for a bit longer, but economic Armageddon is unavoidable. We make that conclusion, not because of the present economic course America is on, but because that is what the Bible prophesies.

## “We can borrow and borrow, but eventually there will be a day of reckoning.”

JOSEPH STIGLITZ

our great nation will collapse in a very short time under the weight of its financial obligations” (*America the Broke*).

President Clinton’s chief economic adviser from 1995 to 1997, Joseph Stiglitz, said it this way: “Economists agree this cannot go on. We can borrow and borrow, but eventually there will be a DAY OF RECKONING” (*USA Today*, op. cit.).

Former Florida congressman Joe Scarborough wrote, “It is not unimaginable to foresee a day when interest rates are at 20 percent, Social Security and Medicare are slashed in half, children are left untreated to die in hospital parking lots because of Medicaid’s collapse, while taxes are raised by 100 percent” (*Rome Wasn’t Burnt in a Day*).

The government’s chief accountant, Comptroller General David Walker, says, “I am desperately trying to get people to understand the significance of this for our country, our children, our grandchildren. How this is resolved could affect not only our economic security but our national security” (*USA Today*, op. cit.).

A threat to our national security? Catastrophic consequences? Speeding to

handouts from entitlement programs. Politicians promise to increase benefits so they can GET more votes. Lobbyists pay off politicians and finance their campaigns to GET favorable legislation for their companies.

And all the while, we mortgage away our future by tacking on an extra trillion dollars in debt every single year! God says, “The wicked borrows, and cannot pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives” (Psalms 37:21, Revised Standard Version). We have dug ourselves into a pit that we will not get out of—and all because of selfishness and greed.

To presidential administrations and politicians; to federal, state and county governments; to large corporations, small businesses and entrepreneurs; to chief economists and financiers; to welfare recipients and retirees; to families and individuals; God THUNDERS: “Consider *your ways*”! (Haggai 1:5).

God has blessed the United States of America like no other nation in the history of man. As Abraham Lincoln once said, “We find ourselves in the peaceful possession of the fairest portion of the

**The Sure Word of Prophecy** Like any family that has lots and lots of *things*—an eight-bedroom house, three SUVs in the garage, exotic vacations every summer—the American economy still appears to be quite prosperous. But if those “things” are being financed by someone else, you don’t have to be a chief economist to figure out who is in the best position financially. God says, “The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender” (Proverbs 22:7). *In just one generation*, THE UNITED STATES HAS GONE FROM BEING THE WORLD’S GREATEST CREDITOR TO ITS BIGGEST DEBTOR.

To this point, foreign investors are willing to finance our debt because of how dependent their economies are on Americans consuming foreign goods. As long as there is something in it for them, they will continue financing our debt.

But what will happen when they no longer benefit from the trade-off? *The Trumpet* knows what will happen. We’ve been telling our readers about it for years. It’s just that now you can read about it in your local newspaper. ■





# What's Behind Corporate Corruption?

**The competitive, high-stakes corporate world seems bedeviled by crookedness. Do you know why?**

**There is a cause! BY FRED DATTOLO**

**I**N 1999, 51 OF THE TOP 100 ECONOMIES in the world were *corporations*. Comparing corporate sales to country GDP (gross domestic product), only 49 of the biggest economies were countries, according to a report by the Institute for Policy Studies.

To put this in perspective, today Sony's sales are bigger than Syria's GDP; IBM is bigger than New Zealand; General Electric is bigger than Venezuela; General Motors is bigger than Portu-

gal; and Wal-Mart is now bigger than Saudi Arabia! The study also showed that sales revenue of the world's top 200 conglomerates was growing faster than worldwide GDP and by 1999 equaled 27.5 percent of total world GDP.

These facts illustrate the sheer wealth associated with modern business. Throughout most of human history, wealth has proceeded from political power. In the last two centuries, however, with the development and growth of democracy and free-market economies, a new dynamic has emerged. The fortunes amassed by business barons like Rockefeller, Rothschild and Vanderbilt proved that great affluence was no longer conditioned upon political heritage or first ac-

quiring political power. The new road to fame and fortune, at least in those countries with developed market economies, was paved by business.

Today, the really big incomes are derived not from the political arena, but from the *corporate* sector. Some of the richest people on Earth are Bill Gates (Microsoft founder), Warren Buffett (world-renowned investor) and the descendants of Sam Walton (Wal-Mart founder). Indeed, the salaries of politicians and public officials pale into insignificance when compared to today's corporate executives.

The executives who run these corporate behemoths routinely wrestle with a mountainous pile of challenges. At the

ISTOCKPHOTO

same time, they are expected to outwit and outmaneuver their fiercest competitors.

Many of the “winners” in this high-stakes competition are unscrupulous and ruthless—dishonest at best. Do you know WHY? In this article, we will expose the root *cause* of corporate corruption.

**Corporate Power and Influence** As human nature would have it, the colossal economic clout of today’s corporations has manifested itself in the political process: Corporations now wield an enormous amount of influence in the political sphere. In the United States, campaign contributions from big business, designed to influence political agendas, are legendary. In the 2000 elections, 94 percent of

## In essence, our democracy “for the people” has been transformed into a government for the highest bidder.

successful contenders for the House of Representatives outspent their opponents. It’s a plain and simple fact that one cannot expect to be elected to government office without a huge wad of money to spend. Those who control the corporate coffers are all too eager to oblige the needy candidate—as long as there’s a good chance the company will benefit from it.

Of course, corporations also spend an enormous amount of cash to lobby elected politicians in the corridors of power in Washington, D.C. Most of the big companies have “government relations” offices on or near K street—the most active lobbying center in the world. Professional lobbyists are paid to advocate the interests of the company they work for. It’s estimated, for example, that the pharmaceutical industry has more lobbyists than Capitol Hill has legislators!

In a letter to George Washington, Thomas Jefferson said, “Of all the mischiefs ... none is so afflicting, and fatal to every honest hope, as the corruption of the legislature.” Human nature hasn’t changed. Over 200 years later, the captains of industry dish out tens of millions of dollars to American legislators, which they readily accept. Some have called this legalized bribery.

For example, legislation often gives big companies enough tax loopholes, rebates and credits that they pay *no income taxes*. Under President Bush, these tax breaks have been greatly expanded according to Citizens for Tax Justice and the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. In a report they jointly published in September 2004, they point out that

46 of America’s 275 largest corporations paid no federal income taxes in 2003—none. Furthermore, for the years 2001 through 2003, 82 of those companies (30 percent) paid no federal income taxes in at least *one* of those years. All 275 companies were profitable in each of the three years. Overall, corporate federal income tax payments from *all* U.S. corporations fell by 21 percent during the same time period, while pretax corporate profits *grew* by 26 percent,

When corporate funds grease the wheels of politics, corporate exploits go largely unchecked. Take the more than 11,000 toxic Superfund sites in the U.S. (A Superfund site is land that has been contaminated by hazardous waste and

declared by the Environmental Protection Agency to pose a risk to human health and/or the environment.) The law that required industrial polluters to pay for the cleanup costs expired in 1995 and was not renewed. Now the taxpayers are expected to pay. Some of the worst sites are from mining operations. The General Mining Act of 1872—still in force—allows mining companies to buy government land for a paltry \$5 an acre (1872 prices), extract whatever minerals they find, and pay no royalties to the government—not even to help offset the costs of cleaning up the abandoned sites.

In this age of environmental consciousness, is there any doubt that the mining lobby is deeply entrenched in Washington?

Some politicians admit to the influence of mammon in government. In America’s lawmaking bodies, “People who contribute get the ear of the member and the ear of the staff. They have the access, and access is it. Access is power. Access is clout. That’s how this thing works”—former Rep. Romano Mazzoli (Associated Press, April 25, 1995). The *New York Times* quoted Sen. Robert C. Byrd, who said: “Money! It is money! Money! Money! Not ideas, not principles, but money that reigns supreme in American politics!” (March 20, 1997).

In essence, our democracy “for the people” has been transformed into a government for the highest bidder.

**Corporate Corruption** One of the lessons of human history is that unchecked power tends to become a corrupting

force. It’s the road human nature travels. Corporations, after all, are run by people. So as corporate power grows, corporate corruption often follows in its path.

It’s been over three years since the poster child for corporate fraud—Enron—filed for bankruptcy. On paper, it was the seventh-biggest company in the U.S. When massive fraud was revealed and Enron collapsed, thousands were thrown out of work. The price tag for employees, investors and pensioners was estimated to be a staggering \$100 billion.

WorldCom perpetrated an \$11 billion fraud by hiding expenses and inflating profits. Adelphia executives were charged with squandering company assets for personal pleasure. Prosecutors seek penalties of \$2.5 billion. Rite Aid inflated its net income by \$1.6 billion, then destroyed documents and fabricated oth-

ers to cover up the fraud. These are just a few examples of egregious conduct where not millions, but billions of dollars were misappropriated!

What role do the big brokerage firms play? They’re supposed to give investors sound advice about a company’s health. In 2002, the independent firm of Weiss Ratings released a study that revealed, “Even when there was abundant evidence that companies were on the verge of bankruptcy, over 90 percent of the latest ratings issued by brokerage firms continued to tell investors to hold their shares or buy more.” They looked the other way if money could be made from commissions.

Merrill Lynch was caught recommending stocks of failing companies to mainstream investors while forewarning some very wealthy investment bankers that those same stocks were “junk.” It appears it was willing to make money off the little guys but refrained from giving bad advice to its wealthiest clients for fear of losing their business.

The world’s largest insurance broker, Marsh and McLennan, was sued late last year by New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer. Rather than get the best insurance policy prices for their clients, as they are required to do, Marsh brokers allegedly received kickbacks from select insurance companies to steer corporate clients their way. Marsh has also been accused of rigging bids. When Spitzer first announced the probe last October, he said, “The damages are vast; the corruption is remarkable.”

One might hope that corporate boards could do something to stem the scandals.



In reality, to most sensible people, board directors seem very lax toward the executives they oversee. For example, the CEO of PeopleSoft admitted he lied to Wall Street analysts and misled investors with his comments about Oracle's attempted takeover at the time. Result? Although he was fired, the board approved about \$50 million in severance pay and benefits!

After immense pressure, Fannie Mae's board recently let its CEO go under a cloud of very serious allegations dating back to 1998, including sales of mortgages known to be bogus, earnings misstatements of at least \$9 billion and manipulation of accounting entries affecting millions of dollars in bonuses for himself and several other executives. Now the board says he is due a bonus and more than \$19 million in deferred compensation and stock. Plus, they want to give him retirement money of \$1.4 million per year and pay the premiums on his multi-million-dollar life insurance policy!

Another example is the giant drug company Merck. An estimated 139,000 people have either died or had serious side effects after using Merck's popular painkiller Vioxx, which in 2003 raked in sales of \$2.5 billion. There is evidence that Merck knew as early as 1999 that Vioxx could cause heart attacks and strokes. Last November, just two months after Merck, under intense pressure, pulled Vioxx off the market, the board approved golden parachutes for 230 of its executives. In case their jobs are jeopardized in the future, the severance plan

(even if they quit voluntarily) would give executives bonuses and one-time payments of up to three years' salary!

The bottom-line message to wayward corporate executives seems to be that as long as the company is profitable, they will be taken care of with fat retirement and severance pay even if practices are not quite legal.

Pfizer has had similar problems to Merck with its painkiller Celebrex. Over the last seven years or so, many drugs have been pulled off the market after initial approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). So why do these drugs get approved by the FDA in the first place? Are they tested as rigorously as they should be? It appears the drug companies have a good deal of influence at the FDA.

In 1992, the drug industry negotiated a deal with the FDA. In exchange for a faster review process of new drugs, the drug companies pay user fees to the FDA. These fees now pay more than half the salaries of the review staff! Also, most FDA employees either used to work for drug companies or plan to in the future. This is known as "revolving door" access. Moreover, many of the FDA employees have financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

On top of that, FDA advisory committees, according to a *USA Today* study published Sept. 25, 2000, are not truly independent. The experts on these committees advise the FDA on whether to approve a drug, what warning labels are

appropriate, and how evaluations should be designed. The study found that 54 percent of the time, the experts either owned stock in the company that produced the drug under evaluation, or they had received consulting fees or research grants from it. No wonder the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee recently complained that the FDA has a much too cozy relationship with the drug companies.

In a similar vein, some have highlighted the undue influence of the giant agribusiness firms at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Big agribusiness has been accused of infiltrating the USDA and promoting policies that serve the interests of the very large producers and major food processing corporations, at the expense of the public health. One astute commentator laments that the unhealthy foods provided by the food industry help cause disease, followed up by the drug industry that peddles questionable and expensive drugs as the cure!

Almost daily, the *Wall Street Journal* has stories about corporate corruption nowadays. But what can be done about it? Nothing—unless and until we deal with the root *cause*.

**A Spirit of Competition** We have already alluded to the heart of the problem: human nature. It is a *competitive* nature—always taking sides *against* the other side—that promotes a spirit of *rivalry*. While human nature naturally and appropriately loves the self and extended self (your own possessions, your group, your team, your political party), it becomes antagonistic toward others not included in its domain.

The Bible identifies this evil propensity of human nature as "rivalry, factions [and] *party-spirit*" (Galatians 5:20, Moffatt translation). This competitive spirit permeates our whole society!

Take politics, for example. In the U.S., the Democratic Party is full of party-spirit—and so is the Republican Party. Instead of high-caliber speeches full of wisdom, proper judgment and noble statesmanship, what do we hear? Mostly mud-slinging attacks against the opposition. Our society has become so politicized by party affiliation that it is virtually impossible to witness or engage in an honest and unprejudiced discussion of political issues.

Another place we find this competitive spirit is in sports. For example, most American universities participate in intercollegiate athletics. College A has a basketball team. So College A and its

## Corrupting the Truth

Corporate influence stretches far beyond the borders of Washington. Big business has learned it can effectively spin the truth with the help of public relations (PR) companies that know how to delicately and subtly manipulate information to the best advantage of the company—sometimes with little regard for the complete, honest truth.

Studies have found the media receive 40 to 50 percent of their news content from PR-generated sources; lazy journalists use this information without checking its veracity. Some 60,000 journalists around the world are registered to receive PR newswire feeds.

When a company has to deal with an activist movement or a pressure group, PR specialists spring into action to isolate, "cultivate" or "educate" the opposition. A classic technique is the use of third parties that are perceived to have more credibility than the company. For example, instead of Monsanto proclaiming that genetically altered food is good for you, a more pleasant-sounding group will proffer that advice to the unsuspecting public.

Even the Internet is being used as a PR tool. Monsanto has gone so far as to invent virtual (fake) people to direct important Internet discussion groups.

Corporate advocacy through PR protocols is a pervasive, often hidden power that exerts a lot of influence on a largely unwary public—and in some cases reflects a willingness to corrupt the truth in pursuit of the "almighty dollar."



team become part of the extended self of that college's students. College B is considered the *enemy* that must be defeated. It's not enough to regard the benefits of rigorous exercise, teamwork, sportsmanship and other character-building opportunities that sports afford. Human nature dictates that it's more important for the empirical self to *prevail against* the other side.

Likewise, business and industry is founded on the same principle. The business world has been compared to a jungle of cut-throat, dog-eat-dog *competition*. According to the *Wall Street Journal* (March 3), a group of 293 chief financial officers in the U.S. were asked to disclose their top four concerns. The survey revealed that 53 percent cited high health-care costs, but a very close second was *intense competition*, at 52 percent. A common saying among businessmen is, "Nice guys finish last." Consequently, the self-seeking competitive spirit, coupled with greed, fuels all kinds of corporate malfeasance.

In an effort to increase market share and stay ahead of the competition, advertising campaigns, for instance, are routinely deceptive and dishonest and all too often appeal to vanity and wrong desires. Big business generally will do whatever it can get away with to promote its brand name above the competition.

For example, when tobacco companies quit targeting U.S. children, it was not because of a moral conscientiousness. Now they target the youth of South America, Africa and Asia, because the laws there allow it. About a fourth of these youngsters are projected to *die* from tobacco-related disease!

Not satisfied with U.S. sales, perhaps because of a renewed appreciation for the benefits of mother's milk, the baby-formula giants promote anxiety about mother's milk in less-educated, Third World countries. As a result, highly sugared baby-formula, sometimes contaminated with polluted village water, sells. A baby who is fed formula is 10 times more likely to be hospitalized in the first year of life for serious illness than one who is breast-fed. Moreover, UNICEF (in 1991) and the World Health Organization (in 1998) estimate that about 1.5 million babies a year die from bottle-feeding-related illness!



**SICK**

**Merck withdraws its popular painkiller Vioxx, which caused sickness or death to nearly 140,000 of its users. Evidence indicates the company knew of the drug's dangerous effects five years before taking action.**

These examples illustrate that the spirit of competition, party-spirit and plain greed know no boundaries. Man is enslaved by his own nature!

**The Origin of Human Nature** Why, one could ask, would God create such a vile side of human nature? The answer is: He didn't. God's creation was "very good" (Genesis 1:31). Where did human nature come from then? It goes back to the time that sin first entered the universe—when the spirit of competition replaced the spirit of total cooperation.

Herbert W. Armstrong, in his book *Mystery of the Ages*, explained: Lucifer, a mighty archangel, "was created gloriously beautiful—perfect in beauty, but he allowed vanity to seize him. Then he turned to erroneous reasoning. ... He reasoned that COMPETITION [emphasis mine] would be better than cooperation. It would be an incentive to excel, to try harder, to accomplish. There would be more pleasure in serving SELF and more enjoyment.

"He turned *against* God's law of LOVE. He became jealous of God, envious, and resentful against God. He allowed lust and greed to fill him, and he became bitter. This inspired a spirit of *violence!* He deliberately became his Maker's adversary and enemy. ...

"God changed the adversary's NAME to what he became, SATAN the DEVIL—Satan means adversary, COMPETITOR [emphasis mine], enemy."

Some time after this rebellion, God created Adam—with the potential to become a *son* of God. Yet Adam succumbed to Satan's way of choosing to "do his own

thing," violating a direct command of God. From that point forward, for a period of 6,000 years, God has allowed Adam and his progeny to be swayed by the devil. That's where the evil side of human nature comes from—the mind of the devil! Babies are not born with it but are soon subjected to Satan's influence. He broadcasts (much like television and radio signals) to the spirit in man, injecting attitudes, moods and impulses of self-centeredness and selfishness, including the spirit of competition and greed. Human beings are automatically

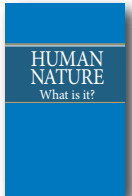
tuned in to Satan's wavelength. To learn more about human nature, you may request our free booklet *Human Nature: What Is It?*

CORPORATE CORRUPTION STEMS FROM THE EXPRESSION OF THIS EVIL HUMAN NATURE that, under the influence of Satan, is *impossible to overcome* without God's help.

**Two Choices** Man is not equipped to solve this problem; though he tries, his best efforts to do so are doomed to fail.

After a series of high-profile corporate scandals led by Enron, the U.S. Congress passed the Sarbanes-Oxley Corporate Reform Act in July 2002. It has been criticized as an *over-reaction*—far too costly and burdensome. The big companies are spending tens of millions of dollars per year to comply with its mandates. In total, the money spent by business to conform to the new law is over \$5.5 *billion* per year. Some have complained that this has hampered the economic recovery and the creation of new jobs. Concerned business groups are lobbying for changes to the law and an easing of the enforcement climate.

There have been other unintended side effects as well. Many international companies required to report to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) are considering whether to withdraw from the U.S. stock exchange, and some have already initiated the process to do so. Others fear that new companies from the developing markets will forego the U.S. and list with European stock ex-



**FREE UPON REQUEST**



changes instead.

Meanwhile, chief financial officers (CFOs) and their staffs are under enormous pressure, reports the editor in chief of *CFO* magazine, and many CFOs are throwing in the towel. In the last three years, about 225 CFOs of Fortune 500 companies have quit!

The backlash is resonating in Washington's ears. Treasury Secretary John Snow has urged regulators and prosecutors to be "balanced" when enforcing the statute. Furthermore, the SEC has agreed to extend the compliance deadline for small companies and those outside the U.S. to July 2006.

Man's best efforts at solving problems *often* have unintended side effects because he is cut off from God and spiritual knowledge. Consequently, man typically treats the *effect* of a problem rather than the *cause*. Result? In our attempt to fix one thing, something else goes wrong.

Corporate corruption will not go away with more legislation. That solution ignores the *cause*. If new burdensome laws do mitigate it somewhat, *other* problems will surface in its place—they already have.

Yet there *is* another choice: God's way. He treats the *CAUSE*. That means *human nature* must change. For that, we need God's help—but man will not *yet* YIELD to God! The only permanent and workable solution can't be implemented until man comes to deeply realize that he *needs* GOD! That time is almost here.

When Jesus Christ returns, Satan will be bound and prevented from broadcasting his spirit of competition. Party-spirit and rivalry will be rooted out of society. Then everyone's human nature will finally be changed! God promises, at that time, "I will give you a new nature, and I will put a new spirit into you, I will take away your hard nature ..." (Ezekiel 36:26, Moffatt translation). What a fantastic prophecy! **THAT** is the solution to *all* of man's problems. ■

If you crave more understanding about human nature and other mysteries of life that science can't discover and that religion can't adequately explain, you will be excited to read our free book ***Mystery of the Ages***. No other book on the planet will *truthfully* and *forthrightly* answer the "eternal" questions that have puzzled mankind for millennia! We want you to have it. It's free. Request it today. You can't imagine what you'll learn.



ger, *far* stronger than even the promise of investment by the most rapidly developing nation in the world, China, that will carry the day in this heavily resourced region now up for grabs.

That strong pull is *religion*, traditionally depicted in prophecy as a fallen woman. It is the very thing that alone can bind a historically fractious group of nations together (as the nations of Europe and Latin America have been) when all else has failed. Inerrant Bible prophecy indicates that it is religion that binds this future great imperial power, the soon-to-be-resurrected "Holy" Roman Empire, to its colonies of old in Latin America and the Caribbean. Read it in Revelation 18. When the chips are down and the strategists roll the dice for the spoils in Latin America and the Caribbean, the power of European religious and cultural heritage will win out!

**Perilous Disengagement** U.S. detachment from the nations at its back door resulted from the distraction initiated by the 9/11 terrorist attack. "Since security became a top priority after the September 11 terrorist attacks, the United States has been widely criticized for growing distant and disengaged, and anti-Americanism has resurfaced in Latin America" (*Foreign Affairs*, January-February 2004). A report in the *National Interest* went even further, claiming that since 9/11 America was "essentially turning its back on its closest neighbors" (Fall 2003). The same article declared that "The war in Iraq widened the divide in relations between the United States and its southern neighbors, and the fallout since the end of the war has only made matters worse."

America's disengagement from the region of Latin America and the Caribbean is leaving its back door increasingly exposed. With its forces stretched to the breaking point, its involvement in Iraq continuing, increasing pressure to bring troops home, and the prospect of engagement in the South China Sea if China plays hardball with Taiwan, the last thing the U.S. needs is to be distracted by problems at its southern borders. Nevertheless, David Jessop, current director of the Caribbean Council, reports that China's involvement in Latin America and the Caribbean suggests "'the emergence of a global order in which the countries of the South begin to forge new alliances based on a very different perception of the world.' As China deliberately engages in Latin America,

this North-South tension involving the U.S. is becoming palpable" (Council on Hemispheric Affairs, February 24).

Though the strategists who advised the government at the time claimed the Panama Canal had little strategic value and had reached its "use by" date, it is becoming increasingly clear that, with the U.S. yielding up its legal sovereignty over this crucial waterway it gave up a *powerful strategic advantage*. "Shutting down the canal and re-routing even a portion of its traffic would virtually shut down American harbors, highways and railroads" (*New American*, January 24). That's the way to shut down a whole nation: **BY BLOCKADING ITS CRUCIAL BACK DOOR**. And do you know what? That's *exactly* what your Bible predicts will happen to America, unless it *repents* of its rank ungodliness!

Read it for yourself: "They shall besiege you at all your gates until your high and fortified walls, in which you trust, come down throughout all your land; and they shall besiege you at all your gates throughout all your land which the Lord your God has given you" (Deuteronomy 28:52; New King James Version). Believe it or not, that prophecy relates very directly to the Anglo-American peoples!

Back here on the little island of Grenada, bruised and battered, its infrastructure 90 percent destroyed last year by Hurricane Ivan, life is returning to normal; the people are adapting to their lot as they engage in ongoing reconstruction. Grenada is recovering. Though property damage was great, mercifully the loss of life was minimal. But imagine the United States, a nation of over 290 million, or the United Kingdom, with over 60 million, not only with its infrastructure destroyed by *nuclear war*, but its *population decimated*—only 10 percent remaining! That's what your Bible declares will happen to these nations if they refuse to repent of their national sins! And it will all start with a *great siege*! Someone will simply *shut the gate* and permit no trade with the English-speaking peoples! These nations will be literally *starved* into submission, **BESIEGED** by this final resurrection of the "Holy" Roman Empire!

But there is a way for *you, personally*, to *avoid* being besieged! Write now for our free booklet *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. It's a real eye-opener. It will show you not only *why* this siege is inevitable, it will show you how to *escape* it and how to really begin living to your *full potential* in guaranteed *peace and safety*! ■

**NEW HOME BASE**

The Philadelphia Church of God's administration building (right, a computer rendering; below, under construction) will house headquarters operations including the *Trumpet* offices, church administration and more.



TRUMPET (2)

**BEHIND THE WORK** looks at the news of the Philadelphia Church of God, the organization that publishes this magazine.

■ **Hall of Admin Construction**

SPRING 2005 IS BUDDING WITH NEW DEVELOPMENT for the Philadelphia Church of God. The most prominent sign of growth is the Church's new Hall of Administration, currently under construction at the Church's headquarters on the Imperial College campus in north Edmond, Oklahoma. The two-story building will serve as the main facility for PCG editorial, news bureau, accounting and other departments. Its 45 rooms will house conference, map, server and

file rooms, along with executive, secretarial and other offices. The building's design includes an earth-tone exterior, a seven-pillar two-story entrance and a grand staircase overlooked by the curved glass wall of the main conference room. Above the staircase, a glass clerestory will admit natural light to the atrium below. The design includes an in-house library, which will also receive natural light, as will most of the building's offices.

Earthwork, foundation work and steel framework for the 24,000-square-foot structure are complete, as well as concrete work for the floor of the second story. Construction on the hall began in late 2004 and is scheduled to finish in the latter part of 2005.

■ **Big Jumps in Requests, TV Stations**

Across campus, at the PCG's Mail Processing Center—which opened its doors last May—about 30,000 pieces of literature per month are flowing out the door as requests in response to the *Key of David* program soar. Call volume for the year (not including written or e-mail requests) is up nearly 70 percent from 2004 levels. In addition, first-quarter 2005 requests for ministerial visits are six times greater than visit requests for the same period last year. With the recent addition of 58 PAX network stations and its nationwide cable outlets that reach 88 percent of all television households in the United States, there appears to be no end in sight for the work at the Mail Processing Center. ■





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AP/WIDEWORLD

**MOURNING** A student grieves after the Red Lake High murders.

TEENS

## Raising Killers

THE MARCH 21 RED LAKE High School shooting in Minnesota was America's worst since Columbine in 1999. Jeff Weise, a 16-year-old Native American, murdered nine people and wounded seven others before taking his own life.

The *New York Times* quoted one prominent Indian, Vernon Bellecourt, as saying, "No one would ever think that that type of violence would visit itself in our communities, it's not part of our culture and our traditions, so we're kind of puzzled by it all. But our young people are not exempt from the same problems young people have across the country," he said, "so our communities are now being victimized by this same kind of violence" (March 22).

Once again, we are left to assume that the cause of such bloody massacres is *violence* in general, or society—or perhaps guns, or poverty, or lack of psychological counseling—maybe even faulty security systems.

But what was Weise's family like? That should have been the question journalists demanded an answer to. As it turns out, his father committed suicide four years ago.

What were the circumstances surrounding that? His mother had been confined to an institution after suffering brain damage in a car ac-

cident. We are left to assume that Jeff lived with his grandfather—the one he murdered before driving to school to shoot his classmates.

All signs point to one inescapable fact: This young boy had a ROTTEN home life. And his dysfunctional home—*surprise, surprise*—ended up producing a terribly troubled child. Like the Columbine killers of 1999, Weise was a Nazi sympathizer who admired Adolf Hitler. He had posted 34 messages on an anti-Semitic website. He was fascinated with Goth culture and often wore a black trenchcoat. Fellow students said he was withdrawn and depressed,

even suicidal. Once he even made a comment about how "cool" it would be to shoot up his school. Last October, he posted on a website a 30-second animation called "Target Practice," where an armed assailant shoots and kills four innocents, blows up a police car, and then commits suicide.

Five months later, that cartoon turned into a live-action reality show, starring Jeff Weise, America's latest adolescent suicidal murderer.

The *Trumpet* addressed the subject of school shootings after the Columbine tragedy. Please see our May 1999 issue for more on this subject.

## Denying the Right to Learn

IN ISAIAH 3:4, GOD STATES, "I WILL GIVE children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them." Apart from referring to the childish leadership evident in many nations today, this verse has a very literal application in the increasing power that children wield over their teachers in today's education system.

A recent *Spectator* article drew attention to the detrimental effects the policy of allowing children to "rule" in the classroom is having on Britain's young. The widespread disciplinary problems and the declining standard of education—in fact, most of the problems in schools, the *Spectator* stated—come directly from the "terrible misapprehension that children are capable of deciding for themselves what constitutes correct behavior" (March 5).

Throughout Western society, laws are enforced that preclude teachers from using most forms of disciplinary action; children are taught only to "interpret data" (i.e. form their own opinion) without being taught the knowledge in the first place; absolutes are removed and answers increasingly cannot be said to be "wrong." Thus, the absurd notion that right be-

havior and habits can be acquired with no teaching is becoming entrenched. "[I]t simply does not do to tell children things anymore: It is the wrong approach" (ibid.).

This approach does not work. Take one typical example: In Scotland, in just five years, violent assaults by children upon teachers rose over 900 percent, to 6,899 in 2002-2003.

Right behavior is a *learned habit*. As the great educator Herbert W. Armstrong often pointed out, animals are born with instinct; humans must be taught! Ironically, the approach of education today—in its great attempt to treat children as responsible adults who know how to make wise choices—is in fact treating

them more like animals, assuming they have an instinct that will tell them the right thing to do. Children need to be *instructed* in the knowledge, behavior and self-discipline they need to live a happy and productive life.

The belief that children can figure out for themselves how to act, and that adults have no right to impose any sort of behavioral standard, is in fact *impeding their ability to learn in every area*. In protecting the so-called rights of children to behave as they will, the educational system is destroying the very "right" that it is designed to protect: the children's right to learn.



ARTVILLE



## “Evolving Standards of Decency”

MARCH 1, THE SUPREME Court, in a 5-4 decision, declared it unconstitutional to put to death minors who murder. The opinion, written by Justice Anthony Kennedy, described such executions as being “cruel and unusual,” a violation of the Eighth Amendment. Why reverse its opposite decision from 16 years ago? Kennedy cited America’s “evolving standards of decency.”

Thus, constitutionality is now determined by a judge’s perception of public opinion. It’s worth noting that Kennedy’s decision was also grounded on the “overwhelming weight of international opinion against the juvenile death penalty.” In other words, the judgment as to whether this practice complies with America’s 200-year-old Constitution was based not only on public opinion, but *global* public opinion.

George Will, in his March 6 *Washington Post* column, ridiculed the decision, calling it “an intellectual train wreck.” He remarked that Kennedy made the ruling based on the fact that “two international conventions forbid executions of persons who committed their crimes as juveniles. That, he thinks, somehow illuminates the meaning of the Eighth Amendment.” America didn’t even sign one of those conventions, and within the other it specifically wrote a clause to retain its right to execute minors. These facts are apparently inconsequential to a majority of the Supreme Court’s justices.

Mr. Will later wrote, “Justice Antonin Scalia, joined in dissent by Justices William Rehnquist and Clarence Thomas (Justice Sandra Day O’Connor dis-

sent separately), deploras ‘the new reality that, to the extent that our Eighth Amendment decisions constitute something more than a show of hands on the current Justices’ current personal views about penology, they purport to be nothing more than a snapshot of American public opinion at a particular point in time (with the time-

frames now shortened to a mere 15 years).” Truly, in addition to being plagued by moral relativism, the decision is yet another example of increasing judicial overreach, treading on territory that should be reserved for state legislatures.

God’s law is an absolute standard that does not shift with public opinion (Romans 7:12; Hebrews 13:8). For more, see *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry’s

REUTERS



explanation in the January 2001 issue of why the decidedly modern notion of an “evolving constitution” is so dangerous.

## H E A L T H

## Obesity Drops Life Expectancy

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN American history, children will not live as long or be as healthy as their parents, according to a report in the *New England Journal of Medicine* published in March.

In 1900, the U.S. life expectancy was 47.3, and a century of medical “progress” added 30 years to that figure. But according to the report, the trend is reversing, and we can expect the current generation to die two to five years earlier than today’s adults.

Why? Because a third of American kids are fat. In the last 25 years, the rate of childhood obesity more than doubled, and now obesity impacts life expectancy more than cancer or heart disease.

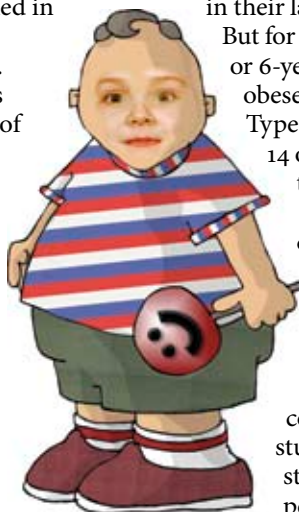
The report stated that the severity of the problem is so great that the diseases and complications associated with obesity are likely to appear at younger ages. Childhood diabetes, for example, has increased tenfold in the last

20 years. “It’s one thing for an adult of 45 or 55 to develop Type 2 diabetes and then experience the life-threatening complications of that—kidney failure, heart attack, stroke—

in their late 50s or 60s. But for a 4-year-old or 6-year-old who’s obese to develop Type 2 diabetes at 14 or 16” raises the possibility of devastating complications before reaching age 30, said Dr. David Ludwig, who co-authored the study. “It’s really a staggering prospect” (Associated Press, March 16).

Dr. S. Jay Olshansky, the report’s lead author, considers the projections of reduced life expectancy to be “very conservative, and I think the negative effect is probably greater than we have shown” (*ibid.*).

The report also says obesity has already shortened the life expectancy of today’s adults by at least four to nine months, which is more than fatal accidents, homicides



and suicides combined. Two thirds of American adults are overweight or obese.

Ludwig admitted it would take a “fundamental change” in society to reduce obesity. His suggestions included setting aside time for healthy meals at home, encouraging physical activity, limiting TV viewing and renovating school lunch programs.

Our strategy must involve uncovering the *cause* and dealing with it. Another study, published in the January issue of the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, found that infants born to overweight mothers are 15 times more likely to be obese by age 6 than children of lean mothers. There’s our clue. Genetics are certainly a factor. But we can’t discount the fact that children are also mimickers—and many parents have not demonstrated the way to fitness.

**SOCIETYWATCH** is compiled and edited by Stephen Flurry, with assistance from the *Trumpet*’s editorial team. If you run across items that could be used here, send them to us at **SOCIETYWATCH, P.O. Box 1099, Edmond, OK 73083**, or e-mail [societywatch@theTrumpet.com](mailto:societywatch@theTrumpet.com). If you e-mail a story from a website, be sure to include the URL address.



## Tsunami

IT'S STRANGE FOR the head of the Anglican Church to have so little faith as to blame God for the recent tsunami. How about the great floods

and so many other disasters right down through the ages at various places on Earth at various times? ... Instead of asking ourselves whether we have kept God's Commandments and His law, we blame Him when punishment is meted out as we so often break His law.

L. Alexander Nicol—EKALA, SRI LANKA



THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR article "Did the Tsunami Shake Your Faith?" I do believe that such things are going to happen as our Lord told us, and He never speaks a lie. This is the beginning of the end time. Through your article my faith was strengthened. ...

Shantukumar Khankar—BELLFLOWER, CALIF.



I READ WITH INTEREST YOUR ARTICLE on the tsunami and was very impressed by the way you explained things. I would like to communicate with your church more to learn about the Bible. In my church, mostly what is taught leaves a lot of questions about God. If possible please send copies of your magazine.

Matthew Muchere—KENYA



I JUST RECEIVED THE FEBRUARY EDITION of my favorite magazine, the *Trumpet*. I am so impressed by the articles therein, especially the cover story. I am glad that someone somewhere knows and is convicted to tell others who God is. I am on the side of your opinion that those who are putting God on trial because He allowed the disaster don't know who God is. ...

Philip Ime—NIGERIA



REGARDING THE PRINTED LEGEND ON your February issue, I certainly must ask you why Asia's tsunami puts God

on trial. The movement of tectonic plates causing earthquakes, volcanic eruption and tsunamis are simply part of God's natural law underlying Earth science. *Homo sapiens* are merely today's dominant species on this tiny orb of God's universe as were the dinosaurs 200 million years ago. Does the extinction of the dinosaurs under the operation of another of God's natural laws governing Earth science also "put God on trial?" I think not.

M.L. Armijo Jr.—LAS VEGAS, N. MEX. In the eyes of many, the tsunami did put God on trial, as they rushed to either blame Him or demand why He allowed it. However, a reading of the articles in our February issue will reveal that rather than putting God on trial, the tsunami actually puts *mankind* on trial. All the suffering on this Earth is because mankind has made the wrong choices; because man does not love God—not the other way around.



## Correspondence Course

I WANT TO BEGIN THIS LETTER BY thanking you and all of your ministry for the opportunity to take your new Bible correspondence course. I have been blessed by it and believe it to be an inspired work of God. There are so many answers to questions I've had about commonly accepted doctrines. It's as though, after all my searching, the veil was finally pulled aside so that I could see the truth. I must admit when I first contacted the Philadelphia Church of God and began receiving your free literature I thought it interesting yet disagreed vehemently with large portions of it. However, all along I've studied God's Word, your works and that of other ministries all the while praying that God grant me wisdom and guidance in discovering the truth. That path led me straight back to your ministry and now I fully embrace your teachings as much as I've learned. ... I eagerly look forward to the day when I am able to become a productive and tithing member of the Church as I realize that is my duty to God. ...

Stephen Plumlee, Jr.—BEEVILLE, TEX.



## Magazine of Understanding

I USED TO BE A SUBSCRIBER TO THE *Plain Truth* (in the days before it became full-color) for a few years when I lived in England. I found it difficult

to understand however, and years later, when I read somewhere that the church had "apologized" for Herbert W. Armstrong's writings, I figured I had been right. Since those early days in the early 1960s when I read the *Plain Truth*, I have been an Anglican, a Methodist, a Christian Scientist and a member of the United Church of Canada. I have also listened to many sermons at many other churches, and I have read book after book about religion. Since I started receiving the *Trumpet* last year, my wife and I are earnestly trying to understand the message you are teaching. So many world events seem to confirm what you and Herbert W. Armstrong have said, yet there are still many other preachers, in particular televangelists, who try to explain world events. I, sir, despite being in my mid-60s, am in kindergarten, struggling to regain my understanding. Can I please have something suitable for a newcomer so that I can progress with my study of the *Philadelphia Trumpet*, which is, as the *Plain Truth* used to be, "a magazine of understanding"?

Stephen J. Beecroft—ELLIOT LAKE, ONT.



## You Shall Not Covet

I WANT TO THANK MR. DENNIS LEAP for the February 2005 article, "You Shall Not Covet." What a reality check for us all. Mr. Leap couldn't have made it any simpler. We are all in serious trouble. The *Trumpet* has been a blessing to me. Thank God for all you who make it possible and to Mr. Armstrong, a very dignified man. What an ambassador.

Larry Pagan—ADELANTO, CALIF.

## Born Again

I HAVE JUST FINISHED READING YOUR February issue and want to thank you for sending me the *Trumpet*. So many of your topics are so very interesting and informative. I especially enjoyed the article that makes the good comparison of normal, physical birth and growth with that of the true spiritual birth, growth and coming spiritual "born again" experience ("Is Abortion Really Murder?"). Wonderful truth!

FOWLER, COLO.

## Comments?

[letters@theTrumpet.com](mailto:letters@theTrumpet.com)  
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# Why Even Democracy Fails

Here is the root cause of governmental breakdown—and the solution BY HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

Excerpts from his *World Tomorrow* program of Nov. 4, 1945.

**T**HE AMERICAN PEOPLE CAME TO BELIEVE, WITH Woodrow Wilson, that we fought World War I to END all war. To a slightly lesser extent this same belief was carried into World War II.

Well, my friends, the war is over—we won it, and NOW, where are we? We stand now at the MOST DANGEROUS HOUR of American history!

Let's look once again, then, to the REAL CAUSES OF WAR.

When the Eternal God first created man and placed him on this Earth, all was perfect harmony and beauty. All things in the universe operate according to fixed law. There are the laws that keep the planets, suns, stars traveling in their prescribed courses through the heavens. On Earth is the law of gravity, the law of inertia, the laws of physics and chemistry. There are laws that regulate the physical body, and your physical health depends on not violating them.

And then, of necessity, there is a great fundamental, inexorable *spiritual* law, to regulate man's relations with man, and man's relation to his Creator. This spiritual law might be called the law of LOVE. It is a *principle*—a way of life. It is an *attitude of mind and heart*—the *correct* way to think and to live. This is the way of living that puts the premium upon giving, not getting. This spiritual law was designed to protect man's welfare and happiness. And just as breaking the physical laws of the body results in suffering, sickness or death, so it is that when this *spiritual* law is broken, unhappiness, suffering both physical and spiritual, and all kinds of anguish come as the penalty.

This world chaos is merely the *penalty* of the broken LAW.

Take a quick glance, now, at how it developed. Nimrod built the first CITY, Babylon, then Uruk, Akkad and Kalneh. At first the world was organized only into city-states. Each city had its own king. Soon one king cast greedy, lustful eyes over a neighboring city or two. So he organized a large number of his men into an ARMY—a FIGHTING force to march over to the neighboring city and TAKE IT BY FORCE. Soon the stronger, more cunning kings were ruling over two, three, then SEVERAL cities. And NATIONS were born. And, as *nations* organized armies and fought wars, EMPIRES came into being.

Businessmen in each city, or nation, fought methods of competition against their rival businessmen. All *society* came to be organized on this selfish, GETTING basis. God was ignored. Man exalted himself—and other *men!* As time went on, and the system developed, some men specialized in *politics*, seeking to rule over the people through government. Others specialized

in *business*, seeking to amass great fortunes and to rule, behind cover, over the politicians. But even in the phases of religion and social activity, the competitive principle was dominant.

There have been the various forms of government. But remember this: EVERY SINGLE GOVERNMENT IN THIS WORLD, of whatever form—whether *communism*, *fascism*, *autocracy*, or yes, even DEMOCRACY—is merely a different method of administering this same overall Babylonish system. And it's the SYSTEM which is the root CAUSE of this world's ills and of wars!

This system is a WAY OF LIFE. It is the way CONTRARY TO THE LAWS OF GOD—contrary to His revealed social, economic and civil laws as well as the great SPIRITUAL law! In religious language, it's the way of SIN, because the Bible defines *sin* as “the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4)—and as a spiritual principle, as you'll read in Romans 7:14, that law is a *spiritual* law. That law still operates, just as the law of gravity still operates, or the law of inertia, or the laws of physics or chemistry, and the more that law is transgressed, the more *unhappiness*, *anguish*, *suffering* and *death* this world brings upon itself as a penalty. And every phase of our present civilization—our political organizations—our economic system—our social customs—even *religious* organization—is diametrically CONTRARY to God's law as a revealed *way of life*.

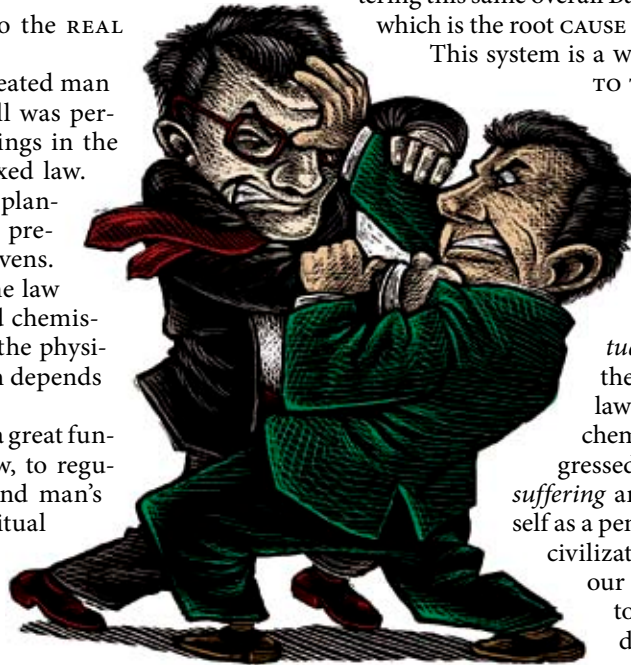
The REAL CAUSE of wars is this whole competitive system, organized with certain selfish-motivated, scheming men always in control.

WHAT, then, is the solution?

Wars can be prevented only by one strong enough to be a WORLD RULER, clear-sighted and wise enough to completely change the existing system, to abolish all *competition*, to put the premium on *giving* instead of getting, to do away, entirely, with all regimentation, with the present economic system, the present social system—in fact with the whole of the present SOCIETY. He would have to be good enough, and honest enough, to rule this whole world for the good of the governed, not for the greed and pride of the ruler. And, finally, that man would have to CHANGE HUMAN NATURE, because as long as man remains selfish he will continue on this *competitive* and BABYLONISH SYSTEM!

Yes, it will take a world ruler—a ruler who is the PERFECT MAN—one who will rule with *fairness* and *justice*—one who has POWER to abolish this entire world-system and start the whole world going on the basis of LOVE—one who will not take any selfish advantage of his great power, but will rule only for the good of his subjects—one who has the power to change men's minds and hearts—to change the very nature of man!

Only one such man ever lived—JESUS CHRIST. ■



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