

Newsbytes

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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

Pope Francis Sees Putin as 'Only Man' to Defend Christians Around the World

© Sputnik/ Osservatore Romano

The upcoming meeting between Pope Francis and Russian Patriarch Kirill will not only be a historic religious event, but could also have major benefits to Christians around the world, the French newspaper *Le Journal du Dimanche* reported.



In an attempt to defend Christians in the Middle East and other parts of the world where they're being persecuted, Pope Francis wants to ask Russian President Vladimir Putin for help.

According to Pope Francis, Putin is "the only one with whom the Catholic Church can unite to defend Christians in the East."

"It's important to join efforts [with Russia] to save Christianity in all regions [of the world] where it's oppressed," Pope Francis said, as cited by *Le Journal Du Dimanche*.

With the help of Putin, Pope Francis hopes to reach out to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, Iranian leader Hassan Rouhani and even the Chinese government elite and work out a plan to help Christians in these regions.

In regards to China, Francis said he hopes to establish political contact between Beijing and Vatican since the two parties have never had official diplomatic relations, the French newspaper said.

On February 12, Pope Francis will meet Russian Patriarch Kirill. The high-profile meeting will start a rapprochement between the Catholic and the Orthodox Churches after the 1054 Schism.

The two churches split in 1054 — in what is often called the "Great Schism" — following protracted disputes over Rome's supremacy over the whole Christian community, which compounded more strict theological disagreements. The meeting will take place in Cuba, at Havana's airport, where Francis and Kirill will talk and eventually sign a joint statement.

Read more: <http://sputniknews.com/politics/20160209/1034451116/pope-francis-putin-christians.html#ixzz3zgHHwKE2>

North Korea fires missile in protest of UN test ban treaty

by Utopia: the Collapse

February 2016 – NORTH KOREA - North Korea on Sunday defied international warnings and launched a long-range rocket that the United Nations and others call a cover for a banned test of technology for a missile that could strike the U.S. mainland. The rocket was fired from North Korea's west coast and tracked separately by the governments Japan and South Korea, which immediately convened a an emergency national security council

meeting. South Korean media reported that the rocket may have failed, but provided no other details. The South Korean government couldn't immediately confirm the reports.

The launch came about two hours after an eight-day launch window opened Sunday morning. It follows North Korea's widely disputed claim last month to have tested a hydrogen bomb. Washington, Seoul and their allies will consider it a further provocation and will push for more tough sanctions in the United Nations. A South Korean defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of office rules, said the rocket disappeared from South Korean military radars around six minutes after its launch. The official said there were no immediate reports of debris landing on South Korean territory or damaging property. The rocket's first stage fell off South Korea's west coast, the official said.

Japan's NHK broadcaster showed footage of an object visible in the skies from the southern island of Okinawa that was believed to be the rocket. Japanese chief Cabinet spokesman Yoshihide Suga told reporters that no debris fell on Japanese territory. North Korean rocket and nuclear tests are seen as crucial steps toward the North's ultimate goal of a nuclear armed long-range missile arsenal. North Korea under leader Kim Jong Un has pledged to bolster its nuclear arsenal unless Washington scraps what Pyongyang calls a hostile policy meant to collapse Kim's government. The global condemnation began almost immediately.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called the North Korean rocket launch and the recent nuclear test violations of U.N. agreements. "We absolutely cannot allow this," he told reporters at the prime minister's residence. "We will take action to totally protect the safety and well-being of our people." U.S. National Security Adviser Susan Rice said in a statement that "North Korea's missile and nuclear weapons programs represent serious threats to our interests - including the security of some of our closest allies - and undermine peace and security in the broader region." The United States and Japan requested an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council on Sunday morning. Their request said that North Korea has violated a Security Council ban on ballistic missile launches.

Kim Jong Un has overseen two of the North's four nuclear tests and three long-range rocket tests since taking over after the death of his father, dictator Kim Jong Il, in late 2011. North Korea says its rocket launches are satellite missions, but the U.S., South Korea and others say they are a covert test of ballistic missile technology. The U.N. Security Council prohibits North Korea from nuclear and ballistic missile activity. Experts say that ballistic missiles and rockets in satellite launches share similar bodies, engines and other technology. The Jan. 6 nuclear test has led to another push in the U.N. to tighten sanctions. North Korea in 2013 also did a nuclear test and then unnerved the international community by orchestrating an escalating campaign of bombast, including threats to fire nuclear missiles at the U.S. and Seoul. –News Inc.

A Headache for Evolutionists? Scientists Discover 'Unimaginable Complexity' in DNA

By Garrett Haley

CAMBRIDGE, England – In what appears to be a serious setback for evolutionists, a team of researchers from Cambridge University discovered that DNA and the way it is affected by modifications are much more complex than previously thought.

A group of scientists with the University of Cambridge recently published a report in the journal "Nature Structural and Molecular Biology," in which they describe their findings on epigenetic modifications. Epigenetics is the study of how genes in organisms are switched on and off.

The researchers' journal article, titled "Identification of methylated deoxyadenosines in vertebrates reveals diversity in DNA modifications," explains how different modifications affect DNA. Their research resulted in the discovery of a new form of genetic modifications and also led them to the conclusion that the genome is more complex than they anticipated.

"We found it surprising that so little attention has been given to direct epigenetic modifications," the scientists wrote. "In order to determine if there are in fact no other modifications, we used dA6m as an example and discovered that the higher eukaryotic genome is more diverse than previously thought."

Not only is the genome more complex than previously thought, but the number of modifications that affect it is higher than predicted.

“Direct DNA modifications might be more widespread than previously thought,” the team’s journal article abstract says.

A statement from the University of Cambridge further explained the significance of the scientists’ findings but also noted that these discoveries likely only scratch the surface of epigenetic modifiers.

Debt, defaults, and devaluations: why this market crash is like nothing we’ve seen before

by Utopia: the Collapse

February 2016 – ECONOMY - A global recession is on the way. This truism of economics holds at any point in which the world is not in the grips of a contraction. The real question is always when and how deep the upcoming downturn will be. “The crash will come, but it would be nice if it came two years from now”, Thomas Thygesen, head of economics at SEB told over 200 commodity investors and analysts in London last month. His audience was rapt with unusual attention. They could be forgiven for thinking the slump had not already arrived.

Commodity prices have crashed by two thirds since their peaks in 2014. Oil has borne the brunt of the sell-off, suffering the worst price collapse in modern history. Brent crude has fallen from \$115 a barrel in the summer of 2014, to just \$27.70 in mid-January. Plenty of investors sitting in the blue-lit, cavernous surrounds of Bloomberg’s London HQ would have had their fingers burnt by the price capitulation. “They tell you should start your presentations with a joke, but making jokes at a commodities seminar is hardly appropriate these days,” Thygesen told his nervous audience.

Major oil price falls have a number of historical precedents. Today's glutted oil market is often compared to the crash of 1986, the last major episode over global over-supply. Back in the late 90s, a barrel of Brent crude fell to as low as \$10 in the wake of the Asian financial crisis. But is the current oil price collapse really like anything the world economy has ever experienced?

For many market watchers, a confluence of factors - led by oil, but encompassing China, the emerging world, and financial markets - are all brewing to create a perfect storm in a global economy that has barely come to terms with the Great Recession. “We are in a very unusual situation where market sentiment is of a different nature to anything we’ve seen before,” says Thygesen. Unlike previous pre-recessionary eras, the current sell-off has seen commodity prices, equities and credit conditions all move in dangerous lockstep.

Although a 75% oil price collapse should represent an unmitigated positive for the world’s fuel thirsty consumers, the sheer scale of the price rout is already imperiling the finances of producer nations from Nigeria to Azerbaijan, and is now threatening to unleash a wave of bankruptcies across corporate America. It is the prospect of this vicious feedback loop - where low oil prices create financial tail risks that spill over into the real economy - which could now propel the world into a “full blown crisis” adds Thygesen. So will it materialize?

The world economy is throwing up reasons to worry, as the globe's largest emerging markets have shown signs of deterioration over the last six months, says Olivier Blanchard, the former long-serving chief economist of the International Monetary Fund. But a tipping point may well be approaching. According to Blanchard’s calculations, a 20% decline in stock markets that persists for more than six months, will translate into a decline in consumption of between 0.5% to 1.0%. “This would be a serious shock. My biggest fear is precisely that the dramatic shift in mood becomes self-fulfilling.”

As a result, 2016 is set to see the first wave of corporate bankruptcies in the oil and gas sector. Highly leveraged US shale companies will be the first be picked off. Should escalating defaults have a further depressant effect on oil prices, it could unleash a tidal wave of corporate bankruptcies in the world’s largest economy. Indebtedness is not just the scourge of the US. Globally, the oil and gas industry has issued \$1.4 trillion of bonds and taken out a

further \$1.6 trillion in syndicated loans, driving the sector's combined debt to \$3 trillion, according to the Bank of International Settlements. They warn of an "illusion of sustainability" that could quickly turn toxic as the credit cycle unravels. The question exercising the minds of economists and investors is the extent to which this contagion could metastasize beyond the energy sector, as banks cut off credit access, loans turn bad, and financial conditions enter a critical tightening phase. –Telegraph

A Vile Man Named George Soros And How He is Affecting Your Children

ON FEBRUARY 8, 2016 BY GERI UNGUREAN

There are some in this world whom I believe are demon possessed. One such person is George Soros. Oh, you've heard of him? Rich man, yes? Perhaps there are some things about him that have been hidden. Let's take a look at some the history of Soros before I show the reader how this man is manipulating the minds of your children on college campuses. It's time you know about the life of this diabolical global tyrant:

From the *Blogmocracy*:

"György Schwartz, better known to the world as George Soros, was born August 12, 1930 in Hungary. Soros's father, Tivadar, was a fervent practitioner of the Esperanto language invented in 1887, and designed to be the first global language, free of any national identity. The Schwartz's, who were non-practicing Jews, changed the family name to Soros, in order to facilitate assimilation into the Gentile population, as the Nazis spread into Hungary during the 1930's." – source

Turned on his own Jewish people during the Holocaust:

During the Holocaust, George Soros (a Jew) collaborated with the Nazis to confiscate all material wealth from the Jews in Hungary, before he led them to the trains which took them to the death camps.

George Soros and Barack Obama

Hosted fund raisers for Barack Obama in 2004 for his bid for State senator.

From Freedom Outpost:

"In December of 2006, Soros, who had previously hosted a fundraiser for Obama during the latter's 2004 Senate campaign, met with Obama in Soros's New York office. Just a few weeks later—on January 16, 2007—Obama announced that he would form a presidential exploratory committee and was contemplating a run for the White House. Within hours, Soros sent the senator a contribution of \$2,100, the maximum amount allowable under campaign-finance laws. Later that week, the New York Daily News reported that Soros would support Obama rather than Hillary Clinton for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination, though Soros pledged to back the New York senator were she to emerge as the nominee. But it was clear that Soros considered Obama to be the more electable candidate of the two. Most importantly, Obama's economic and political prescriptions for America were wholly accordant with those of Soros." – source

Soros, Obama and the Shadow Party (from Freedom Outpost):

"We left off our last article about Obama's Puppet Master, George Soros showing how he may well be connected to what many had once believed to be just a fictional idea of what is called the "Shadow Party." Just the name of such an idea alone gives just cause for concern since it implies that our nation has a party running this nation behind the shadows! However, it is not such a "Shadow Party," since many people associated with it have direct, or indirect, links back to none other than George Soros. Let us begin by showing just where the very idea of a "Shadow Party" has developed." Party," since many people associated with it have direct, or indirect, links back to none other than George Soros. Let us begin by showing just where the very idea of a "Shadow Party" has developed." – source (read rest of story)

Who runs the radical left in America? (Western Journalism)

How Soros is creating rabid modern day Jew haters on college campuses across America:

Brethren, there are so many events in our modern history that have been facilitated by George Soros and his

billions of dollars. It would be impossible for me to expose every one of these heinous events funded by the hateful George Soros. But let me show the reader how your kids on secular campuses are being manipulated and brainwashed by this truly evil man.

From Media Research Center:
\$5.6 Million from Soros Aids Universities That Boycott Israel

The American Studies Association is asking its member universities to join the growing academic boycott of Israel. Eight out of the 14 member universities of the ASA's National Council that approved the boycott have received more than \$5.6 million from George Soros' Open Society Foundations since 2000. The ASA has also been working closely with anti-Israeli organizations to promote this movement.

Promoting anti-Israeli and liberal propaganda, Soros has poured more than \$400 million into colleges and universities around the world, including money to most prominent institutions in the United States. According to a May 2012 article in The New York Times, Soros gave \$500,000 a year to J Street, a "two-state solution" organization whose co-founder, Daniel Levy, called the creation of Israel in 1948 "an act that was wrong." Some of the \$23.8 million that Soros has given to Bard College in New York has gone to a Palestinian youth group, and Bard also offers joint degree programs at a Palestinian school in Jerusalem, and partners closely with Al-Quds University.

According to the ASA, this boycott is part of the larger BDS, or "Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions" movement. BDS promotes the work of Hamas and Hezbollah, as well as arguing for a "one-state solution" to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, which would involve Palestinians having equal right of return status in Israel with Israelis. BDS's "eight years in context" overview referred to Israel as a "colonial Zionist apartheid regime." The boycott is so extreme that even the typically liberal schools Brandeis University and Penn State Harrisburg have pulled out of the ASA because of it.

BDS hosted a "One State Solution" conference at Harvard University in March, 2012. This conference was connected with the international "Israel Apartheid Weeks" and "Palestinian Awareness Weeks" on campuses nationwide, which "have regularly sought to intimidate Jewish students, occasionally through acts of physical violence," according to a report by the conservative David Horowitz Freedom Center.

BDS recently made the news for speaking out against Scarlet Johansson, when the Hollywood star endorsed SodaStream, an Israeli company with a factory in the West Bank.

Both ASA and the BDS movement work closely with the pro-Hamas Electronic Intifada. According to the Electronic Intifada, the terrorist group Hamas is "a radical resistance movement," which defends Palestinian rights. The U.S. government recognizes both Hamas and Hezbollah as terrorist organizations.

According to The Blaze, the Hamas-run Al-Aqsa TV network encouraged its viewers to "harvest the skulls of the Jews." Hamas has also used a soccer stadium in Gaza as a base for launching rockets at civilians in Israel. Hamas has also staunchly defended the Muslim Brotherhood.

The ASA, which boasts a membership of about 5,000 scholars from top universities throughout the U.S., has called for the boycott, claiming that Israel's policies violate Palestinians' human rights. The boycott would prevent member universities from collaborating with Israeli universities.

Brandeis and Penn State Harrisburg both withdrew their memberships from ASA as of Dec. 19, and Brandeis president Fred Lawrence issued a statement on Dec. 24 condemning the ASA boycott.

In November, Brandeis University cut ties with the Palestinian Al Quds University in response to Al-Quds reaction to pro-terrorist, pro-Nazi demonstrations at the school. After being confronted by the president of Boston-based Brandeis University, the president of Al-Quds advised students not to participate in such demonstrations because of "vilification campaigns by Jewish extremists."

According to USASpending.gov, Al-Quds University has received \$779,318 from the US State Department, since 2008.

The Palestinian-run BDS movement focuses on calling for academic, personal and national boycotts against the nation of Israel. As an academic institution, ASA is only focusing on the academic boycott. According to the BDS official website, Israel is “still persistently and grossly breaching international law and infringing fundamental human rights with impunity afforded to it through munificent U.S. and European economic, diplomatic and political support.”

ASA has also pressured its members to stop supporting organizations with strong ties to Israel, including Boeing, General Dynamics Corporation and Hewlett Packard. The current ASA president is Curtis Marez, associate professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of California, San Diego. UC San Diego, UC Irvine and UC Riverside have been at the forefront of this “divestment” movement.

Some schools have pushed back, including Yale, whose president issued a statement pointing out that an academic boycott is “antithetical to the fundamental values of scholarship and academic freedom. Matthew Frye Jacobson, a Professor of American Studies and History at Yale, was on the ASA National Council which voted unanimously to approve the boycott. He was also president of the ASA from 2012 to 2013. The typically-liberal leaning Washington Post called the boycott “misguided” in an opinion piece written by the Editorial Board, pointing out the hypocrisy in boycotting Israel and not nations like Cuba, China or Russia with long records of human rights abuses.

The Association of American Universities issued a counter-statement opposing the Boycott on Dec. 20. Far-left media outlets Salon and AlterNet have posted stories in support of the boycott.

Below is a list of ASA National Council members who were part of the unanimous vote to boycott Israel, according to the ASA website:

Jennifer Devere Brody, Stanford University
Ann Cvetkovich, University of Texas, Austin
Jeremy Dean, University of Texas, Austin
Lisa Duggan, New York University
Avery Gordon, University of California, Santa Barbara
Matthew Frye Jacobson, Yale University
E. Patrick Johnson, Northwestern University
J. Kehaulani Kauanui, Wesleyan University
Marisol LeBrón, New York University
Karen Leong, Arizona State University
Sunaina Maira, University of California, Davis
Martin F. Manalansan IV, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Curtis Marez, University of California, San Diego

Roya Rastegar, Bryn Mawr College
Chandan Reddy, University of Washington, Seattle
Juana María Rodríguez, University of California, Berkeley
María Josefina Saldaña-Portillo, New York University
Nikhil Pal Singh, New York University

The following eight out of the 14 National Council member universities have received funding from liberal billionaire George Soros. All funding numbers are since 2000. Here in the United States, Soros money provides the foundation for liberal organizations promoting everything from gay marriage and drug legalization to anti-death penalty strategies. While his charitable giving goes to liberal organizations with close ties to the Democratic Party, his political giving goes almost entirely to Democrats.

New York University: \$3,180,345
University of California, Berkeley: \$824,500
Yale University: \$512,027
Northwestern University: \$453,115
Wesleyan University: \$300,900
University of Texas, Austin: \$170,000
University of Washington, Seattle: \$82,611

Stanford University: \$78,911

From Breitbart.com

Top Ten Reasons Why Soros is Dangerous

1. Gives billions to left-wing causes: Soros started the Open Society Institute in 1993 as a way to spread his wealth to progressive causes. Using Open Society as a conduit, Soros has given more than \$7 billion to a who's who of left-wing groups. This partial list of recipients of Soros' money says it all: ACORN, Apollo Alliance, National Council of La Raza, Tides Foundation, Huffington Post, Southern Poverty Law Center, Soujourners, People for the American Way, Planned Parenthood, and the National Organization for Women.
2. Influence on U.S. elections: Soros once said that removing President George W. Bush from office in 2004 was the "central focus of my life." He put his money where his mouth is, giving \$23.58 million to various 527 groups dedicated to defeating Bush. His early financial support helped jump-start Barack Obama's political career. Soros hosted a 2004 fund-raiser for Obama when he was running for the Illinois Senate and gave the maximum-allowed contribution within hours of Obama's announcement that he was running for President.
3. Wants to curtail American sovereignty: Soros would like nothing better than for America to become subservient to international bodies. He wants more power for groups such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, even while saying the U.S. role in the IMF should be "downsized." In 1998, he wrote: "Insofar as there are collective interests that transcend state boundaries, the sovereignty of states must be subordinated to international law and international institutions."
4. Media Matters: Soros is a financial backer of Media Matters for America, a progressive media watchdog group that hyperventilates over any conservative view that makes it into the mainstream media. Now its founder, David Brock, has openly declared war on Fox News, telling Politico that the group was mounting "guerrilla warfare and sabotage" against the cable news channel, and would try to disrupt the commercial interests of owner Rupert Murdoch—an odd mission for a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt educational foundation that is barred from participating in partisan political activity.
5. MoveOn.org: Soros has been a major funder of MoveOn.org, a progressive advocacy group and political action committee that raises millions for liberal candidates. This is the group that had on its website an ad comparing President George W. Bush to Adolf Hitler and ran the infamous "General Betray Us" ad in the New York Times, disparaging the integrity of Gen. David Petraeus.
6. Center for American Progress: Headed by John Podesta, White House chief of staff under President Clinton, the Center for American Progress has been instrumental in providing progressive talking points and policy positions for the Obama administration. There has also been a revolving door between the White House and the Soros-funded think tank, with Obama staffing his administration with many CAP officials.
7. Environmental extremism: Former Obama green jobs czar Van Jones and his leftist environmental ideas have been funded by Soros' money at these groups: the Ella Baker Center, Green For All, the Center for American Progress, and the Apollo Alliance, which was instrumental in getting \$110 billion in green initiatives included in Obama's stimulus package. Soros also funds the Climate Policy Initiative to address global warming and gave Friends of the Earth money to "integrate a climate equity perspective in the presidential transition."
8. America Coming Together: Soros gave nearly \$20 million to this 527 group with the express purpose of defeating President Bush. A massive get-out-the-vote effort, ACT's door-to-door canvassing teams included numerous felons, its voter registration drives were riddled with fraud, and it handed out incendiary fliers and made misleading taped phone calls to voters. ACT was fined \$775,000 by the Federal Election Commission for violations of various federal campaign finance laws.
9. Currency manipulation: A large part of Soros' multibillion-dollar fortune has come from manipulating currencies. During the 1997 Asian financial crisis, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad accused him of bringing down the nation's currency through his trading activities, and in Thailand he was called an "economic war criminal." Known as "The Man who Broke the Bank of England," Soros initiated a British financial crisis by dumping 10 billion sterling, forcing the devaluation of the currency and gaining a billion-dollar profit.

10. Delusions: Soros has repeatedly said that he sees himself as a messianic figure. Who but a megalomaniac would make these comments? “I admit that I have always harbored an exaggerated view of my self-importance—to put it bluntly, I fancied myself as some kind of god” or “I carried some rather potent messianic fantasies with me from childhood, which I felt I had to control, otherwise I might end up in the loony bin.” If only the loony bin were an option. As it is, one of the wealthiest men in the world is using his billions to impose a radical agenda on America. -source

So brethren, can you now see the impact that this multi-billionaire has upon this world? He is doing the bidding of his father, the devil.

If you can send your children to Christian colleges – do it! That doesn't mean that there will not be some liberal-leaning professors. But the chances of that happening pale in comparison to what happens on secular campuses today.

As a Jew, this is more than a bit unnerving. It's world wide and it is the hatred of the Nazis once again, but this time it is being indoctrinated into your children. Jewish college students are being emotionally harassed, and sometimes violently. The devil is working harder than ever to marginalize Israel as the “Apartheid” state and the so-called Palestinians as the victims of the “Occupiers” as Israel is called.

We know that God gave the land of Israel to the Jewish people. We also know that it was His plan to bring them back after centuries of being scattered throughout the world.

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth” (Isaiah 11: 11-12).

We are in the end of the End Times.

“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it” (Zechariah 12:2-3).

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!