

# 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

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## Jean-Claude Juncker Has Made Clear the EU's Anti-Democratic Bent



Nigel Farage  
UK Telegraph

*Blower cartoon: Jean-Claude Juncker has delivered his vision for Europe.*

It was the biggest and boldest speech that we have seen from a European leader since the days of Jacques Delors. As the EU Commission President swept aside the issue of Brexit and the pesky Brits to set out his plans for a centralised EU state, I could

not help feeling relieved that we had left in the nick of time.

Even the most fanatical of European federalists could not believe their ears as Juncker called for a more active foreign policy that removed the veto rights of every nation.

This is to be backed-up by a full EU defence union by 2025. The European army so easily dismissed by Nick Clegg and others as a fantasy is now becoming a worrying reality.

Juncker's claim that all this was supported by Nato is simply a cover for the deep anti-Americanism that is never far from the surface in Brussels.

*Jean Claude Juncker is prez of the EU Commission – MD*

# Who is Jean-Claude Juncker? Top Brussels bureaucrat sets out vision for embattled EU

UK Telegraph

JEAN-CLAUDE Juncker has given a speech on how the EU plans to tackle the migrant crisis, reform the eurozone and overcome other challenges. But who is the top Brussels bureaucrat?

Who is Jean-Claude Juncker?

The controversial European Commission President said very little about Brexit during his State of the Union address in Brussels this morning.

Jean-Claude Juncker said: "We will always regret this and I think you will regret it soon if I must say. Nonetheless if we have to we will move on. We will respect the will of the people, but Brexit isn't everything, it's not the be-all-end-all, it is not the future."

Mr Juncker has previously called for "more Europe" to fix the EU's problems, but this approach has fanned the flames of Euroscepticism across the Continent. This year the EU seems to have a renewed sense of optimism and Mr Juncker painted a brighter than usual vision of its future during the big speech today. After the EU referendum, Mr Juncker defended himself against criticism and rejected accusations that he was an undemocratic "faceless bureaucrat".

"I'm sad after this vote in the UK and I make no secret of it," the EU boss told the European Parliament in late June 2016. "I'm not a robot, I'm not a machine, I'm a human being, I'm a European and I have a right to regret the result of the British vote." Of the EU's future, he added: "The British vote has cut off one of our wings as it were, but we still fly on. Our flight continues."

Mr Juncker, 60, served as Luxembourg's Prime Minister for nearly two decades before resigning over a secret service scandal. He denied any wrongdoing. The eccentric politician, from Luxembourg, has faced accusations of heavy drinking in the past. He took charge of the European Commission - the EU's executive branch - in 2014. At the time, David Cameron tried to block Mr Juncker's appointment saying that he could not deliver EU reform amid "huge disquiet" about the way the EU works.

**Mr Cameron said: "Jean-Claude Juncker has been at the heart of the project to increase the power of Brussels and reduce the power of nation states for his entire working life."**

"He is not the right person to take this organisation forward."

Mr Juncker has taken a tough line on Brexit and was a key player in the renegotiation of Britain's membership, which led to a insubstantial deal in February 2016. His red lines in talks were the integrity of the single market and the EU's 'four freedoms', plus the possibility of bringing more of Europe into the Eurozone.

## Russia Gears Up for Big Syria Offensive

Bridge built across Euphrates to carry 8,000 vehicles a day

By Henry Meyer    September 26, 2017    Bloomberg.com

Russia prepared for a major new offensive by government forces in Syria after building a bridge across the Euphrates river, amid growing tensions with the U.S. as the two powers compete for control of a strategically important slice of territory bordering Iraq.

Russian military engineers erected the bridge in two days under continuous shelling, said a top

Defense Ministry official, Vladimir Burovtsev, the state news service Tass reported Tuesday. "Unmanned aerial vehicles were used, explosive substances and grenades were falling on us from the air during the installation work," Burovtsev said. "But we suffered no losses and we did everything in time."

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov a day before denounced what he called the "two-faced American policy" in Syria after a general died over the weekend in a mortar attack by Islamic State fighters in the contested eastern Deir Ezzor region. U.S. State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert denied any American support for the terrorist group or complicity in the death of General Valery Asapov, a top Russian military adviser in Syria.

Russia and the U.S. are increasingly risking a direct clash as Syrian government troops with Russian support race against America's Kurdish allies to capture territory held by Islamic State in Deir Ezzor. Both sides, which have special forces on the ground, accuse each other of attacks and the general's death escalated tensions.

A limited contingent of Syrian army forces crossed the Euphrates about 10 days ago on temporary Russian-made pontoon bridges after breaking an almost three-year siege of Deir Ezzor. Kurdish-led forces also deployed swiftly to the area, which is rich in oil deposits as well as a key gateway to the country.

The small road bridge is 210 meters (about 690 feet) long and can transport 8,000 vehicles a day, including tanks, armored personnel carriers and multiple-launch rocket systems, the Russian military official said. That should make it possible for a large contingent of the Syrian army to get across, Tass said.

Syria's official SANA news agency reported Tuesday the army was fighting east of Deir Ezzor, using aircraft, missiles and ground troops.

The Russian Defense Ministry on Sunday published photographs which it said showed American military Humvees in zones controlled by Islamic State, claiming that the U.S. forces were coordinating with the jihadists to allow their Kurdish allies to transit the area. The State Department denied that.

## Russia said to reject Israeli plea to keep Iranians from Golan frontier

By Times of Israel staff September 14, 2017

Russia has reportedly rebuffed an Israeli demand to ensure that Iranian forces and Iran-backed Shiite militants not be allowed to operate within 60-80 kilometers of the Syrian frontier with Israel in the Golan Heights.

The demand was initially raised by Israel in July, when negotiations were under way for a ceasefire deal in southern Syria between President Bashar Assad and Syrian rebels, under the auspices of the Washington and Moscow.

Russia has rejected the plea, according to reports Thursday on Israel's Channel 2 TV and in the Haaretz newspaper. Instead, it has committed only to keeping Iranian forces five kilometers from the Golan Heights frontier.

Israel had wanted a buffer zone of between 60 and 80 kilometers from the border on the Golan Heights, and has been repeatedly warning against Iran's military ambitions in the area, Tehran's bid to

establish a territorial “corridor” all the way to the Mediterranean, and an increased Iranian presence on Israel’s northern border.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu opposed the ceasefire deal, putting him publicly at odds with US President Donald Trump, since it did not sufficiently address Israel’s security needs.

Israeli intelligence expects the Iranians to try to establish a military and intelligence presence closer to the border to allow for the opening of a second front against Israel in the event of another conflagration between the Jewish state and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah organization in Lebanon, Haaretz said.

It said Iran plows around \$800 million per year into Hezbollah and additional hundreds of millions into the Assad regime in Syria, Shi’ite militias fighting in Syria and Iraq, and Shi’ite Houthi insurgents in Yemen. (It also supports the Hamas and Islamic Jihad terror organizations in the Gaza Strip to the tune of \$70 million annually.)

Israel sees attempts by Iran, Syria and Hezbollah to improve the latter’s missile accuracy as a major threat.

A week ago, Israeli warplanes allegedly struck the Syrian military’s Scientific Studies and Research Center (CERS) facility near Masyaf, in the northwestern Hama province, damaging several buildings and killing two Syrian soldiers. Western officials have long associated the CERS facility with the production of precision missiles, as well as chemical weapons.

Over the past five years, Israel has carried out dozens of airstrikes within Syria, hitting convoys of weapons bound for Hezbollah, as well as weapons storage facilities.

It rarely acknowledges specific attacks. Last Thursday’s operation was reported by foreign media.

On his current trip to Latin America, Netanyahu has stressed the dangers posed by Iran, through its quest for nuclear weapons, its involvement in conflicts across the region, and via terrorism.

The Iranians “have a terror machine that encompasses the entire world, operating terror cells in many continents,” he said in Argentina on Tuesday. “In the case of Iran, it’s not only merely terror but the quest for nuclear weapons that concerns us and should concern the entire international community. We understand the danger of a rogue nation having atomic bombs.”

## The Quiet Islamic Conquest of Spain

by Giulio Meotti

September 30, 2017 at 5:00 am

[gatestoneinstitute.org](http://gatestoneinstitute.org)

- "Evicted five centuries ago by crusading Christians, the Arabs are back in Spain, using their oil dollars to buy land that was seized from their ancestors by the sword". — James M. Markham, The New York Times, 1981.
- The Madrid daily ABC wrote that 800 mosques in Spain are out of control. The Spanish daily La Razon charged that Gulf donors, such as Qatar, were a source of Spain’s Islamization. The Saudis also launched a new Spanish television channel, Córdoba TV, as did Iran.
- They dream of, and work to, regain the "lost Caliphate" of Spain. Some Islamists do it with bombs and car-ramming attacks. Others, more surreptitiously, do it with money and dawa, Islamic

propaganda. The second way may be even more effective than the first.

The ceremony in 2003 was announced with bombastic headlines: "After a wait of more than 500 years, Spanish Muslims, have finally succeeded in building a mosque of their own in the shadow of the Alhambra, once the symbol of Islamic power in Europe". A troupe from al Jazeera was sent to follow the event: a muezzin climbed to the minaret of the Great Mosque of Granada to call the faithful to prayer for the first time in five centuries.

From Osama bin Laden to the self-proclaimed Caliph, Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi, all the leaders of the global jihad -- including the terror cell that killed 17 people in Barcelona -- have mentioned Spain among the lands to be conquered by Islam. There is, however, not only jihad. There is also "the quiet conquest", as it has been dubbed by the French magazine, Valeurs Actuelles. The quiet conquest is a sinuous attempt to re-Islamize Spain through cultural centers, mega-mosques, proselytizing, conversions and financial investments. This pacific attempt to elicit submission has been underway for some time and has been backed by a flow of money from countries such as Qatar and Saudi Arabia. According to a former commander of British forces in Iraq, General Jonathan Shaw, these two countries in particular have ignited a "time bomb" by funding the global spread of radical Islam.

The New York Times first detailed in 1981 that, "evicted five centuries ago by crusading Christians, the Arabs are back in Spain, using their oil dollars to buy land that was seized from their ancestors by the sword". Spain back then did not even recognize the State of Israel, and the Spanish monarchy regularly visited Saudi Prince Fahd while he was relaxing in the south of Spain. After that, it was Kuwait's turn: "During the late 1980's, when Spain was booming, Kuwait came shopping for corporations and investments".

Since then, the Arab monarchies have targeted Spain with huge investments. Some emblematic buildings in Madrid and Barcelona, not to mention the Costa del Sol, are now owned by Arab investment groups, from the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid to the W Hotel in Barcelona. In Marbella, just a few meters away from the King Fahd Mosque, there is the Alanda Hotel, which offers halal food and services to meet the demands of the Muslim clients. In 2011, the International Petroleum Investment Company, controlled by the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, purchased Cepsa, the second-largest Spanish company in the oil sector.

Last January, Spain's King Felipe VI visited Saudi Arabia and announced that Spain would boost economic, trade and investment relations with the Islamic kingdom. Before that, in 2012, Saudi Aramco awarded Spanish companies projects worth \$700 million. Spain and Qatar are now discussing the formation a \$1 billion joint investment fund that would help the Gulf state invest in Latin America. The Arab Emirates' media called Spain "a hotspot for investment from the Arab world". After Qatar, it was the Oman's turn to invest in the Spanish market: Oman just agreed to invest up to \$120 million in a uranium mine in Spain, to be used for Omani nuclear energy plants.

Demographically, Muslims are witnessing a shocking population increase in Spain. In 1990, Muslims in the country numbered 100,000. By 2010, the number had increased to 1.5 million. In 2017, the number was nearly two million. It is a growth of 1,900% in 27 years.

Today there are 1,400 mosques in Spain. According to the Observatory of Religious Pluralism in Spain (an initiative of the Ministry of Justice), "this figure represents 21% of all places of worship for all religions present in Spain".

The most prolific funder of mosques in Spain is Saudi Arabia. In 1985, using only its own money, the Saudi kingdom opened the Islamic Cultural Center in Madrid, Europe's largest mosque, followed by the Islamic Center of Malaga, which the Saudis financed with 22 million euros (today the Madrid area

has 112 mosques and Islamic cultural centers). As Gatestone's Soeren Kern detailed, the Saudis have built mosques everywhere, from Marbella to Fuengirola.

Islamic rogue regimes, such as Iran, have also been able to infiltrate Spanish political parties. According to an investigation, Tehran gave money to Podemos, the leftist party which emerged as a new contender in the Spanish political arena.

The Madrid daily ABC wrote that 800 mosques in Spain are out of control. The Spanish daily La Razon charged that Gulf donors, such as Qatar, were a source of Spain's Islamization. The Saudis also launched a new Spanish television channel, Córdoba TV, as did Iran.

The details of this religious proliferation are detailed The Spain of Allah, a book by Ignacio Cembrero. While the number of Catholic churches in Spain has not undergone much variation for many years, Muslim mosques have been growing at a rate of 20% percent annually. Qatar's Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani has also offered to buy La Monumental Arena in Barcelona to turn it into Europe's biggest mosque. The United Arab Emirates funded the construction of the Great Mosque of Granada.

## Where Was God Sunday Night?

Mary Danielsen

People will inevitably ask why God didn't "show up" in Vegas Sunday night, as if He was unaware of the event, that it caught Him off guard.

That sounds odd up front because don't forget it's also known as "Sin City", for good reason. A holy God cannot dwell with sin so He sent His Son to take our judgment so that He becomes our righteousness and it is not of our own works. And as we see the age of grace closing rapidly, sinners must call on His Name in holy fear because to continue to flaunt a sinful lifestyle and expect God to protect us if we ignore His hatred of sin is pure folly. It's odd how people can ignore God day in and out throughout a lifetime but then when something goes foul He needs to be there on command.

And yet: don't you think God's unmerited favor was profoundly displayed in that out of 22,000+ attendees only 59 went into eternity?

Therefore: "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" (Hebr 2:3)  
God doesn't "owe" us humans anything - he already sent a way out of judgment in Christ Jesus - but He was there nonetheless. His gift of salvation is still free, there is still time to repent.