

# Newsbytes

The First Watch

November 14, 2018

No. 898

Since 2001

Newzbytes is a ministry of Calvary Chapel of Appleton

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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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## Emmanuel Macron unveils European defence coalition

***Ten countries sign up following French president's call for a 'real European army'***



Ludovic Marin/AFP/Getty Images  
Emmanuel Macron inspects the troops

A coalition of ten European militaries ready to defend the continent's borders has been unveiled in Paris, just days after Emmanuel Macron called for a “real European army”.

Finland has joined Germany, Belgium, Britain, Denmark, Estonia, the Netherlands, Spain and Portugal in the French-led initiative, which will see members collaborate on planning, on the analysis of new military and humanitarian crises, and on eventual

military responses to those crises.

Proponents say the coalition would not conflict with the almost 70-year-old, US-dominated Nato alliance, but reflects in part concerns about a more isolationist United States under President Donald Trump.

Reuters reports that the European Intervention Initiative took official shape in Paris “after months of negotiations with Germany, who France wants at the centre of the force”.

The imminent departure from the EU of Britain, long opposed to EU military collaboration outside Nato, has revived talk of defence cooperation - as have concerns that Trump might prove less willing than his predecessors to come to Europe's defence in the face of a newly assertive Russia.

Macron's push to bring together a core 10-nation coalition of the willing “was born out of French impatience with the EU's efforts at defence co-operation”, known as Permanent Structured Co-operation (Pesco) says The Economist.

The magazine says “Germany has been keen on this mechanism, which keeps efforts at joint European defence within existing EU structures. Its critics, though, regard Pesco as a low-ambition pact that ropes in too many countries [25 in total], including those with little interest in sending troops abroad, to be operationally useful.”

Coming just days after Macron called for a “real European army” to reduce dependence on the United States, and with the vocal support of senior figures in Brussels, the coalition agreement will once again raise the spectre of a European Army.

Long the bete noire of conservative Eurosceptics, Politico says part of the reason for the coalition is “to bind Britain into military cooperation as it leaves the EU”.

The news site reports that Theresa May “quietly endorsed the initiative at a Franco-British summit at the Sandhurst Military Academy in January but did not publicise the step to avoid antagonizing hard-line Brexiteers in her Conservative Party, to whom any idea of an 'EU army' is anathema”.

Nevertheless, a senior French source said: “It’s really important to have the British on board, not just because they have the most capable, rapidly deployable armed forces along with our own, but also because we share the same strategic culture and history of projecting force outside Europe”.

Debating whether the UK should continue to defend its Western European allies, as it did throughout the 20th century, or take a more detached position, RT Howard in the Daily Telegraph argues “there is one compelling reason why our strategic ties with Western Europe now deserve to be closer than ever before”.

“The reason is not that Western Europe is today confronted by threats any greater than before” Howard writes, but rather “because of the increasingly fragile, fractious state of the European Union.”

## French President Emmanuel Macron: ‘Nationalism is Treason’

11 Nov 2018 Breitbart.com

French President Emmanuel Macron denounced nationalism during an Armistice Day centennial observance in Paris on Sunday.

**“Patriotism is the exact opposite of nationalism: Nationalism is treason,” Macron said, according to a Euronews translator.**

Macron spoke in front of world leaders including President Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

“If we think our interests may only come first and we don’t care for others, it is a treason of our values, a betrayal of all moral values,” he said. “We must remember this.”

Macron said that the moral values of France helped them fight for the future of their country.

He praised the world leaders that formed the first League of Nations, after World War I.

“They imagined the first international corporation, the dismantling of empires, and redefined borders, and dreamed at the time of a union, a political union of Europe,” Macron said.

He lamented that the spirit of revenge and humiliation after World War I sparked renewed nationalism that led to World War II.

Macron defended organizations like the European Union and the United Nations, hailing their ideals despite their “setbacks” over the years. He called for a new era of science-built progress.

“Together we can rise to the challenges of poverty, global warming, disease, inequality, and ignorance,” he said. “And we can win this together, because victory is possible together, together we can break away from the countertruths and injustices, we can counter the extremes which would drive us to war.”

In an interview with CNN, Macron continued his condemnation of nationalism but was hesitant to claim the “globalist” label.

“I would say I’m a patriot,” he said, but added: “I’m not a believer in a sort of globalism without any differentiation. I think it doesn’t — it’s very inconsistent, and it’s extremely — it makes our people very nervous. But I’m not a nationalist, which is very different for me from being a patriot.”

## Hungary wants more info on Soros-UN debit cards as they may finance terrorism

By HUNGARY JOURNAL 11 November 2018

The ruling Fidesz and Christian Democrat (KDNP) parties call on the European Commission to answer some questions regarding prepaid debit cards reportedly issued for migrants, the alliance’s spokesman, Istvan Hollik, told a press conference in Budapest on Saturday.

Earlier this week, Fidesz’s Lajos Kosa, head of parliament’s defence and law enforcement committee, cited recent reports about tens of thousands of prepaid debit cards made available to migrants by the European Commission and the United Nations Refugee Agency UNHCR.

The debit cards are reported to have been used by migrants on the “reactivated Balkan migration route”, Hollik said.

The EC should explain the origins of the cards, the amounts deposited on them, and the reasons why the scheme was kept in secret, he said.

The cards are said to be funded by moneys from the EU, the UN and US financier George Soros, Hollik said, raising the question whether the member states have agreed to a scheme like that.

The ruling parties expect information on the bodies financing tens of thousands of migrants on their way to the southern borders of Europe, Hollik said, adding that this way they may also finance terrorism.

## Britain funds research into drones that decide who they kill, says report

Investigation reveals that technology for autonomous lethal weapons with artificial intelligence is being funded by MoD



Jamie Doward Sat 10 Nov 2018

American military aerial drones. Photograph: Northrup Grumman/EPA

Technologies that could unleash a generation of lethal weapons systems requiring little or no human interaction are being funded by the Ministry of Defence, according to a new report.

The development of autonomous military systems – dubbed “killer robots” by campaigners opposed to them – is deeply contentious. Earlier this year, Google withdrew from the Pentagon’s Project Maven, which uses machine learning to analyse video feeds from drones, after ethical objections from the tech giant’s staff.

The government insists it “does not possess fully autonomous weapons and has no intention of developing them”. But, since 2015, the UK has declined to support proposals put forward at the UN to ban them. Now, using government data, Freedom of Information requests and open-source information, a year-long investigation reveals that the MoD and defence contractors are funding dozens of artificial intelligence programmes for use in conflict.

“Despite public statements that the UK has no intention of developing lethal autonomous weapon systems, there is tangible evidence that the MoD, military contractors and universities in the UK are actively engaged in research and the development of the underpinning technology with the aim of using it in military applications,” said Peter Burt, author of the new report *Off the Leash: The Development of Autonomous Military Drones in the UK* – produced by Drone Wars UK which campaigns against the development of unmanned systems.

In one example, the report claims the MoD is trialling a “predictive cognitive control system” that has been deployed in live operations at the Joint Forces Intelligence Centre at RAF Wyton. The system takes huge quantities of highly complex data, beyond the comprehension of analysts, and uses deep learning neural networks to make predictions about future events and outcomes that will be of “direct operational relevance” to the armed forces.

This raises concerns about what happens if a future weapon system is fed erroneous data or its links to human command, which can block the system’s use of lethal force, are disrupted. Such a scenario is not too far off, Drone Wars believes.

“We have already seen the development of drones in Britain which have advanced autonomous capabilities, such as the Taranis stealth drone developed by BAE Systems, and the development of a truly autonomous lethal drone in the foreseeable future is now a real possibility,” Burt said.

The Taranis supersonic stealth aircraft is an experimental drone which, according to BAE, can “hold an adversary at continuous risk of attack ... penetrate deep inside hostile territory, find a target, facilitate either kinetic or non-kinetic influence upon it, assess the effect achieved, and provide intelligence back to commanders”.

It has been described by the MoD as a “fully autonomous” aircraft. Lord Drayson, a former minister for defence procurement, has said it would have “almost no need for operator input”.

The government appears to concede that the development of autonomous weapons systems is inevitable. Gavin Williamson, secretary of state for defence, has spoken of “taking our intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability to the next level” using artificial intelligence.

The Ministry of Defence has claimed that unmanned aircraft “will eventually have the ability to independently locate and attack mobile targets, with appropriate proportionality and discrimination, but probably not much before 2030.”

In testimony to the all-party parliamentary group on drones, Professor Stuart Russell, professor of electrical engineering and computer sciences at the University of California, claimed that an improvised small-armed autonomous drone was something that a competent group could develop and build in large numbers within 18 months to two years.

Researchers at Arizona State University have catalogued 273 weapon systems around the world which already have some autonomous functions. Nineteen of the systems are described as unmanned aerial vehicles.

A spokesman for the MoD said: "There is no intent within the MOD to develop weapon systems that operate entirely without human input. Our weapons will always be under human control as an absolute guarantee of oversight, authority and accountability."

## US envoy: Neither side will like everything in peace plan

Jason Greenblatt reportedly says plan will be announced 'soon' and urges people not to believe rumors about the plan before they've read it.

Arutz Sheva Staff, 10/11/18

US envoy Jason Greenblatt said at a closed-door event in London on Wednesday that the US will "soon" announce President Trump's peace plan, Channel 10 reported, citing officials attending the event, organized by the UK Association for the Wellbeing of Israel's Soldiers.

Greenblatt was in London after meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu in Jerusalem on Sunday. He tweeted that he had "discussed important topics including the situation in Gaza and regional developments" during the meeting with the prime minister.

President Trump said during his meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu at the end of September that the administration would present his peace plan within two to four months. This means that the peace plan may be presented as early as the beginning of December. According to Channel 10, senior US officials declined to give details of the expected date of the program's publication and only emphasized that the White House peace team was continuing to work on how to launch the plan.

"Neither side will like all that is written in the peace plan and there will be a need to compromise," Greenblatt reportedly said at the closed event. "But we are certain that if both sides agree to enter into negotiations, they will understand why we reached the conclusions that will be presented in the peace plan."

Greenblatt also reportedly emphasized, "Before you form an opinion about Trump's peace plan, read it from beginning to end."

"Don't listen to rumors about the plan."

## SWIFT Announces Financial Messaging Service Will Disconnect Some Iranian Banks this Weekend

by TheTower.org Staff | 11.09.18 2:03 pm

SWIFT, the financial messaging service that moves money around the global banking system, will disconnect some Iranian banks this weekend, the institution's Chief Executive Gottfried Leibbrandt said on Friday, The New York Times reported.

"This weekend we are going to disconnect a certain number of Iranian banks. It's really regrettable, we're not being allowed to be neutral," Leibbrandt told a Franco-German business conference in Paris. He added

that the list of banks would be published this weekend, after the financial institutions affected by the decision had been notified.

The United States government told SWIFT that it expects the institution to comply with the sanctions regime and that it could face them itself if it fails to do so. The Trump administration on Monday reimposed all sanctions against Iran that had been lifted as part of the 2015 nuclear agreement.

SWIFT said earlier this week that it would suspend the access of some Iranian banks “in the interest of the stability and integrity of the global financial system.” Leibbrandt declined to confirm whether the Central Bank of Iran was on the banned list.

However, United States Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Thursday that SWIFT would be cutting off several Iranian financial institutions, including the central bank. In May, The U.S. Treasury Department sanctioned the Central Bank of Iran and its head for their support of terrorist groups, including Hezbollah.

“I understand that SWIFT will be discontinuing service to the Central Bank of Iran and designated Iranian financial institutions,” Mnuchin said in a tweet. “SWIFT is making the right decision to protect the integrity of the international financial system.”

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told BBC Persian on Wednesday that Iran’s “leadership has to make a decision that they want their people to eat. They have to make a decision that they want to use their wealth to import medicine, and not use their wealth to fund destabilizing activities in the region.”

Reuters reported earlier this week that ordinary Iranians on social media are increasingly expressing their frustration with the nation’s privileged political class, as new sanctions take hold.

## Why Should We Live Like Jesus Could Return Today?

lamawatchman.com

Could Jesus really come for His people today? Christianity has traditionally taught this view, yet many people have expressed doubts about this teaching. What does the Bible teach concerning this issue?

### **Jesus Commanded It**

First, Jesus commanded He would return at any moment. In John 14:3 Open in Logos Bible Software (if available), He shared, “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am.” Jesus will return, taking His followers to be with Him in heaven with the Father.

Jesus has already fulfilled His promises to die and resurrect from the dead. His yet future promise to return for His people will certainly be fulfilled as well.

### **The Apostles Expected It**

Second, the apostles lived like Jesus could return any moment. Paul wrote, “Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality” (1 Corinthians 15:51-53)

In 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 Paul added, “For the Lord, Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

This moment, known as the Rapture (based on the Latin word *rapturos* meaning “caught up”) is taught as something that will take place at any moment, bringing God’s people to Him in heaven. We are called to be prepared for this moment and to expect it, just like the early believers.

### **The Times Anticipate It**

Some people question why Jesus has waited so long to fulfill His promise to return for His people. 2 Peter 3:8-9 explains, “But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord, a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” The Lord’s patience is for those who have yet to believe.

However, our world continues to point toward Jesus coming for his people at any moment. For example, many Bible prophecies speak of the Jewish people residing in their homeland of Israel. The modern nation of Israel has now existed for 70 years, offering a moment that fits the Bible’s prophetic timeline.

In addition, increased technologies and changes in governments point toward a time when the predictions of a global leader controlling commerce could soon take place. As Ezekiel 38 reveals, nations that will oppose Israel in the future closely resemble nations that stand against Israel today.

We don’t know when Jesus will return, but we know He will. We also know He can come at any moment. This should impact how we live today, following His ways and sharing Him with others.

## **I Never Thought I Would See the Day (Part 3) :: By Jan Markell**

A year ago I began writing a couple commentaries reflecting on things I never thought I would live to see. Pastor David Jeremiah started this line of thinking several years ago. Today, I introduce part 3 of my thoughts, because I never thought I would see the day when . . . .

The slaughter of eleven Jews in a Pittsburgh synagogue would be blamed on the most pro-Israel President ever.

This ordeal would be made even worse when “The Atlantic” urged Trump-supporting Jews to not be welcome in synagogues.

Almost half of Americans — both Republicans and Democrats — state they feel like a stranger in their own country.

Churches across America of all denominations would celebrate Halloween featuring zombies, dancing skeletons, and haunted hay rides glorifying demons and all things dark. What part of Ephesians 5:11 don’t they get? “Have nothing to do with the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead, expose them.”

“Kill all Jews” would become a popular trend on social media. Twitter actually apologized for their role in this.

Christians and Trump supporters would be depicted as “trash” in a fake New York City sanitation ad. To add insult to injury, Christians and conservatives would also be called “scum” and the “dregs of society” by Joe Biden and others. They moved beyond racist, sexist, homophobic, and Islamophobic. A new term was coined called “Blexit” representing the departure of African-Americans from the Democrat Party.

Strong delusion would soar and blatant witchcraft would be in headlines. Witches would curse Judge Brett Kavanaugh and a professing Christian would promote “Christian witchcraft.”

Many Catholics would become disillusioned with a Pope, who, they are taught, can do no wrong. Some Catholics feel Pope Francis has a “crisis of credibility.”

Social media would keep promoting evil but Facebook would censor and block prayer. An American President — Donald J. Trump — would declare to the world of globalists that he is not one of them! He wants nothing to do with their one-world scheme.

Theaters would actually turn away a money-making film titled “Gosnell” because it didn’t fit the liberal agenda. To them, abortion is a sacrament.

A Democrat Party leader in Pittsburgh was fired because on social media he said he would stand for the flag and kneel for the cross.

Drag queens would be welcomed into grade school and middle school with no warnings to parents.

With shades of Daniel 9:27, a European leader, unable to patiently wait for a U.S. peace plan in the Middle East between Palestinians and Israelis, said he would come up with such a plan. France’s Emmanuel Macron cannot wait to be such a peace broker. One periodical calls Macron “Europe’s Saviour.”

Most evangelicals would believe that God accepts the worship of all religions. Only one church in my home town of Minneapolis — the land of 10,000 churches — would preach on the Rapture.

So that’s enough of my list for today. Clearly, we’re not in Kansas anymore. It’s a new day. The Bible said such aberrations would be characteristic of a last days’ generation so that’s the good news.

I can almost hear the hoof beats of the four horsemen. But the King comes first! It could be today.