

# 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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## Pope urges world leaders to sign 'Global Pact' for 'new humanism'

'Strikingly secular message' made just 1 reference to God September 16

The pope is beginning to quote Hillary Clinton regarding his agendas, and has taken a hard turn to the secular, mentioning God just once in a new educational plan.

The Daily Wire reports on a plan in which the pope is inviting representatives of multiple religions, international groups and others to sign a "Global Pact of Education."

He wants to "Hand on to younger generations a united and fraternal common home."

There, he quotes Clinton in saying "It takes a village" to raise children.

The Vatican said just days ago the pope confirmed, in a video message, "A global educational pact is needed to educate us in universal solidarity and a new humanism."

Lifesite News reported, "Vatican-backed website launched to promote the pact added: 'Educating young people in fraternity, in learning to overcome divisions and conflicts, promote hospitality, justice and peace: Pope Francis has invited everyone who cares about the education of the young generation to sign a Global Pact, to create a global change of mentality through education.'"

The announcement mentioned "one throw-away reference to the Lord," the report said.

He said the world's inhabitants have to be proactive in education goals.

Without regard to the status quo.

"This will result in men and women who are open, responsible, prepared to listen, dialogue and reflect with others, and capable of weaving relationships with families, between generations, and with civil society, and thus to create a new humanism," he said.

Lifesite noted some of the concerns with the announcement: "At a time when the right to homeschool and the right to a free choice of school are threatened, and when countries throughout the world level taxes to provide public schooling to which no Catholic parents could safely send their child, Pope Francis omitted any reference to the prerogatives of parents as the primary educators of their children."

He invited everyone "to work for this alliance and to be committed, individually and within our communities, to nurturing the dream of a humanism rooted in solidarity and responsive both to humanity's aspirations and to God's plan."

He assigned the Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education to run forward with the plan. That church division is charged with overseeing "216 thousand Catholic schools, attended by over 60 million pupils and 1,750 Catholic universities, with over 11 million students."

Plans are for a convention of sorts to happen May 24, 2020.

He said an alliance is required "between the earth's inhabitants and our 'common home,' which we are bound to care for and respect. An alliance that generates peace, justice and hospitality among all peoples of the human family, as well as dialogue between religions."

He said, just weeks ago, that perhaps the world needs to change a lot.

"In the current situation of globalization not only of the economy but also of technological and cultural exchanges, the nation-state is no longer able to procure the common good of its population alone," he told the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences in May. "While, according to the principle of subsidiarity, individual nations must be given the power to operate as far as they can, on the other hand, groups of neighboring nations — as is already the case — can strengthen their cooperation by attributing the exercise of certain functions and services to intergovernmental institutions that manage their common interests."

## France: Macron Sides with Iran's Mullahs

by Guy Millière                      September 19

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/14899/france-macron-iran-mullahs>

- On September 14, just a few days after former National Security Advisor Ambassador John R. Bolton was comfortably disappeared from the administration, Iran inflicted major damage on a massive oil processing facility in Saudi Arabia,

- Macron, in short, has done as much or more than any other European country to favor the Iranian regime, more than Germany, and even more than the European Union itself. He could have chosen to act as a reliable ally of the United States, but the choice he made was a different.

- The French officials act and speak as if the Iranian regime was totally honorable, and as if they did not discern the obvious: that the Iranian regime has destructive goals. The nuclear deal did not divert the regime from its goal of building nuclear weapons. The deal, in fact, floated the regime toward precisely that end. The American strategy of applying maximum pressure through economic sanctions seems the only non-military way to pressure this regime to change course.

- During a visit to Washington in April 2018, French President Emmanuel Macron's main goal seemed to be convincing US President Donald Trump not to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal. He tried seduction, hugging Trump incessantly, before turning to arrogance, saying in a speech before Congress: "France will not leave the Iranian nuclear agreement because we signed it. Your President and your country will have to face their responsibilities." (Photo by Alex Wong/Getty Images)

On August 25, in Biarritz, France, the leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) reunited to discuss world

problems. The situation in the Middle East was not on the agenda. French President Emmanuel Macron, the organizer of the summit this year, was about to force it in.

He had decided to invite to the summit Iran's foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif. Macron did not warn his guests of Zarif's attendance until the last minute. His goal, it seems, was to bring about a meeting between the Iranian minister and US President Donald J. Trump. President Trump declined. Zarif had an informal conversation with Macron and some French ministers, then flew back to Tehran. But Macron did not give up. At a press conference the next day, he publicly asked President Trump to meet Iranian leaders as soon as possible.

Trump, in answering a journalist's question on the possibility of such a meeting, politely answered that such a meeting was possible, but only "if the circumstances were correct." The Iranian regime answered that first, the United States would have to remove all sanctions. The Trump administration did not bother to reply.

Macron then invited to Paris an Iranian delegation led by the deputy foreign minister of Iran, Abbas Araghchi "to try to define a common position to France and Iran." On September 3, the day after the delegation's departure, France reportedly proposed offering Iran a \$15 billion line of credit. In response, Brian Hook, the United States Special Representative for Iran said on September 4, "We can't make it any more clear that we are committed to this campaign of maximum pressure and we are not looking to grant any exceptions or waivers." This statement meant that the French proposal to the United States was rejected.

The same day, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani announced that Iran would speed up its uranium enrichment. He did not mention Macron's gambit.

This announcement apparently did not discourage Macron.

The Iran nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), reached between Iran and China, France, Russia, the UK, the US and Germany on July 14, 2015, but never signed by Iran - allowed the Islamic Republic to dispose of \$150 billion that had been frozen in foreign banks. French leaders, evidently recognizing an economic opportunity, invited Rouhani to Paris.

When Macron's predecessor, President François Hollande, welcomed Rouhani in January 2016, he expansively announced that old disputes had to be discarded and that it was time to open a "new chapter in relations between the two countries." Agreements were signed; Rouhani said that Iran "fights terrorism", and Hollande meekly bowed his head.

One of the reasons the French government Donald Trump's election as bad news is that Trump indicated in 2015 that he considered the Iran nuclear deal to be a bad agreement from which he wished to withdraw.

When Trump was later elected president, it appears that saving the deal became Macron's highest priority.

During a visit to Washington in April 2018, Macron's main goal seemed to be convincing Trump to change his mind. He tried seduction, hugging Trump incessantly. He tried arrogance, announcing in a speech before Congress:

"France will not leave the Iranian nuclear agreement because we signed it. Your President and your country will have to face their responsibilities."

After Trump announced on May 8, 2018 that the US would be abandoning the nuclear deal, Macron apparently panicked and asked for an emergency meeting of European leaders. The European Union

asked French and European companies to defy Trump, but ultimately, fearing American sanctions, some European companies stopped doing business in Iran.

France and Germany then tried to set up a mechanism to help companies bypass America's decision and continue doing business with Iran. A system of evading US sanctions on Iran, Instex (Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges), was formally introduced in early 2019, but is still not operational. No major European decision-maker, it seems, wants to take the risk of using it and having a problem with the United States.

On September 8, days after Rouhani's statement on speeding up Iran's uranium enrichment, French Foreign Minister Jean Yves Le Drian summarized the French position. He said that Iran was making "bad decisions," but that France would try to help and "keep the dialogue going." He added, incorrectly but unflappably, that Iran had scrupulously respected the nuclear agreement until the moment the United States "sat on the deal." He further added, bewilderingly, that Iran had been "deprived of the benefits" it could expect from the deal -- referring, it seems, to the opportunity soon to engage in legitimate unlimited nuclear weapons development -- and how it was now necessary "to avoid the risk of regional destabilization." He did not specify which region. He threw in the criticism that "America prevents non-American companies from taking their decisions freely."

Macron and the French government know perfectly well that the nuclear deal was flawed, that it did not prevent the Iranian regime from pursuing its bellicose activities. Macron and the French government also know that Iran repeatedly violated the deal. They also know that Israel's Mossad intelligence services seized thousands of damning documents in Tehran. They were public information, disclosed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on April 30, 2018. French officials, however, continued to speak as if they knew nothing. They lied.

Sadly, they still persist in claiming that President Trump arbitrarily withdrew from the unsigned deal, and they pretend not to know what Trump said when he announced his decision:

"The Iranian regime is the leading state sponsor of terror. It exports dangerous missiles, fuels conflicts across the Middle East and supports terrorists, proxies and militias such as Hezbollah, Hamas, the Taliban and Al Qaeda.

"Over the years, Iran and its proxies have bombed American embassies and military installations, murdered hundreds of American service members and kidnapped, imprisoned and tortured American citizens. The Iranian regime has funded its long reign of chaos and terror by plundering the wealth of its own people...

"the deal allowed Iran to continue enriching uranium and over time reach the brink of a nuclear breakout. The deal lifted crippling economic sanctions on Iran, in exchange for very weak limits on the regime's nuclear activity and no limits at all on its other malign behavior..."

French officials also falsely claimed that Iran had not "benefited" from the deal. Iran, however, instead of making investments with foreign companies, Iran simply used the bulk of the \$150 billion of unfrozen funds and credits to provide Islamic terrorist organizations with up billions to sow mayhem and death throughout the Middle East, attack the assets of the US and the UK, and knock out half of Saudi Arabia's oil production -- representing 5% of the daily global oil supply.

French officials speak of "regional destabilization" as if they did not see that Iran has already profoundly destabilized Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and the Gaza Strip.

French officials also disingenuously claim the need to defend free trade and free enterprise -- an excuse that is a transparent subterfuge to help a criminal regime.

They also never mention the innumerable human rights violations committed by the regime, and the despair and misery of the Iranian people. Nor do they ever speak of the harsh anti-Semitic rhetoric disseminated by most regime leaders and the incessant calls for the genocidal destruction of Israel by Iran's leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The French officials act and speak as if the Iranian regime was totally honorable, and as if they did not discern the obvious: that the Iranian regime has destructive goals. The nuclear deal did not divert the regime from its goal of building nuclear weapons. The deal, in fact, floated the regime toward precisely that end. The American strategy of applying maximum pressure through economic sanctions seems the only non-military way to pressure this regime to change course.

In light of France's history of appeasing hostile regimes, France's attitude toward the Iranian regime is not really surprising.

## Edward Snowden brands advancing AI 'greatest danger' for future

By Leonardo Blair, Christian Post Reporter    September 17

Former NSA contractor and whistleblower Edward Snowden warned that continued advancement of artificial intelligence could lead to more pernicious policing of people around the world through the creation of a "permanent record" of their life.

The warning comes ahead of the release of Snowden's book, *Permanent Record*, set for release on Tuesday.

"The greatest danger still lies ahead, with the refinement of artificial intelligence capabilities, such as facial and pattern recognition. An AI-equipped surveillance camera would be not a mere recording device, but could be made into something closer to an automated police officer," Snowden, 36, said in a two-hour interview with *The Guardian* in Moscow, where he currently lives in exile.

In June 2013, Snowden revealed himself as the former undercover CIA employee who publicly shared information on how the NSA was secretly pursuing a way to build a mass surveillance system that would record every single phone call, text message, and email. The system could, the book description claims, give the government a window into the "private lives of every person on earth."

Snowden could face up to 30 years in prison if convicted, but Russia refuses to extradite him.

"I was very much a person the most powerful government in the world wanted to go away. They did not care whether I went away to prison. They did not care whether I went away into the ground. They just wanted me gone," he told *The Guardian*.

Six years later, Snowden, who is still pushing for France to grant him asylum, has settled into a new life in Russia where he is no longer in fear of being recognized in public.

Snowden is not the only one who has been raising concerns about the dangers of AI for the future.

Laura Nolan, a former top Google software engineer, who resigned from the company last year in protest at being sent to work on a project to dramatically enhance US military drone technology, is now calling for all autonomous AI killing machines to be banned because of their potential to cause mass atrocities or even start a war, according to another report in *The Guardian*.

“The likelihood of a disaster is in proportion to how many of these machines will be in a particular area at once. What you are looking at are possible atrocities and unlawful killings even under laws of warfare, especially if hundreds or thousands of these machines are deployed,” she said. “There could be large-scale accidents because these things will start to behave in unexpected ways. Which is why any advanced weapons systems should be subject to meaningful human control, otherwise they have to be banned because they are far too unpredictable and dangerous.”

Technology trackers like Daily Star writer Michael Moran also recently raised concern about the impact brain-to-computer interfaces can have on society.

“Certainly there are uses to neural-computer links that will see the super-rich getting even richer and the poor being not only left behind, but left behind with no clear way to catch up. We will see the beginning to two separate strains of humanity – computer-enhanced beings who can buy any skills they need in seconds, and basic humans who need to spend half a lifetime learning the hard way,” he said. “Wars have been fought over less.”

In his 2018 book *The War on Normal People*, 2020 Democrat presidential candidate Andrew Yang also warned that America is careening toward a dystopian future without jobs due to increased automation and technological advances.

To prevent the inevitable “widespread squalor, despair, and violence” that will result from millions of workers being permanently displaced by technology, Yang, 44, wants to start giving every adult citizen \$1,000 a month in universal basic income.

“Self-driving vehicles are one of the most obvious job-destroying technologies, but there are similar innovations ahead that will displace cashiers, fast food workers, customer service representatives, administrative assistants, and even well-paid white-collar jobs like wealth managers, lawyers, and insurance agents,” Yang warns. “Our economic engine is stalling out in many places, and automation is eliminating livelihoods for hundreds of thousands of the most vulnerable Americans in regions across the country. New jobs are less numerous, are most often created in towns located far from those most hard hit, and require far different skills than the ones that are being lost.”