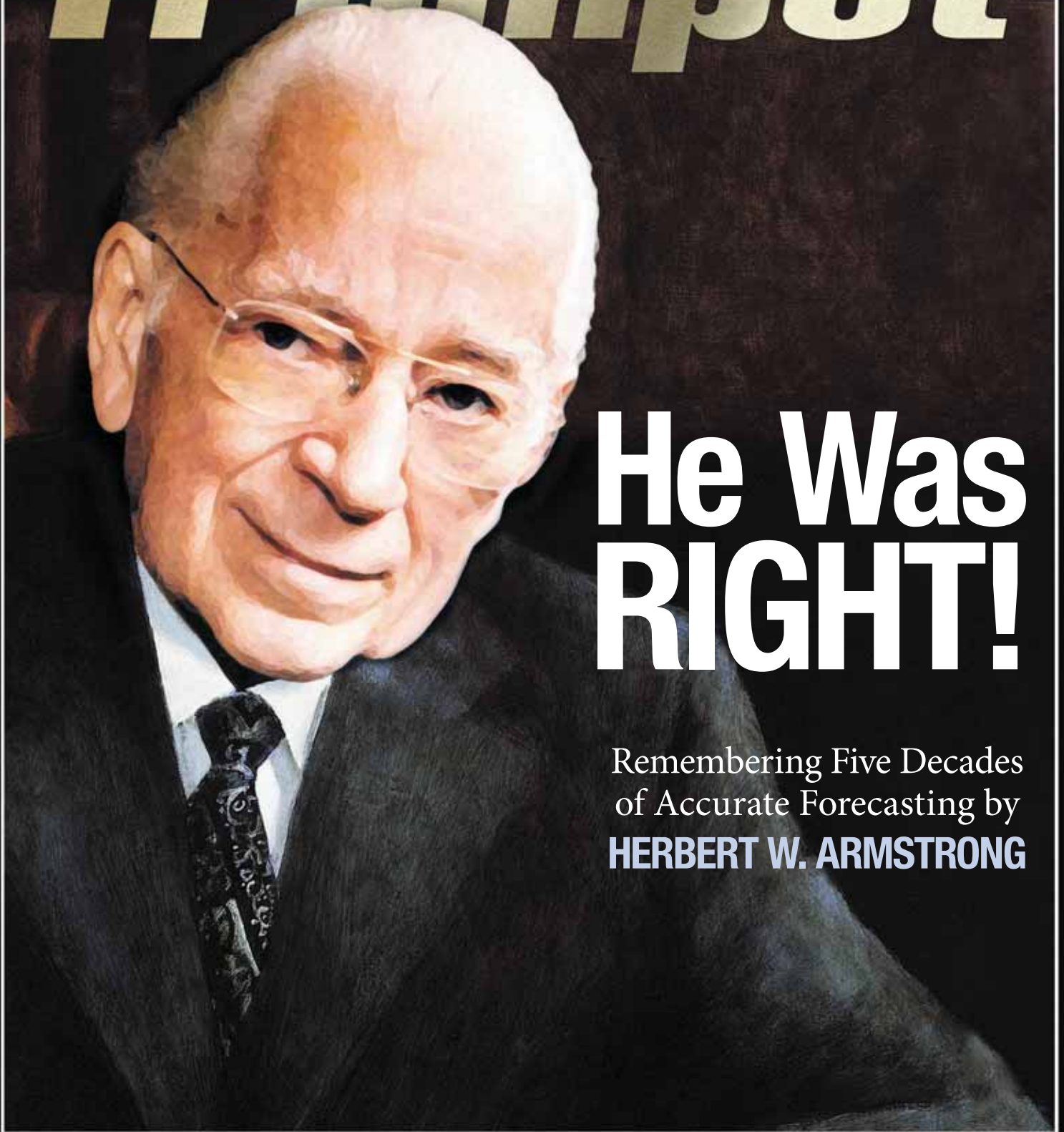


The Philadelphia

Trumpet



He Was RIGHT!

Remembering Five Decades
of Accurate Forecasting by
HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

SPECIAL REPORT

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THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET (ISSN 10706348) is published monthly (except bimonthly August/September and November/December issues) by the Philadelphia Church of God, 14400 S. Bryant Ave, Edmond, OK 73034. Periodicals postage paid at Edmond, OK, and additional mailing offices. © 2001, 2005, 2007 Philadelphia Church of God. All rights reserved. PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

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United States: P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083
 Canada: P.O. Box 315, Milton, ON L9T 4Y9
 Caribbean: P.O. Box 2237, Chaguuanas, Trinidad, W.I.
 Britain, Europe, Middle East, India, Sri Lanka:
 P.O. Box 9000, Daventry, NN11 1AJ, England
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Unless otherwise noted, scriptures quoted in the *Trumpet* are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

U.S. POSTMASTER — send address changes to: The Philadelphia Trumpet, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083

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Did You Forget?

In a radio broadcast on May 9, 1945, from the newly forming United Nations organization, a man named Herbert W. Armstrong made this remarkable statement about 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!"

"Men plan, here, 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. . . .

"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?"

If you understand what is happening in Germany and Europe, you know that statement was an astounding prophecy!

Was there really a Nazi underground planned?

The following information ought to have received screaming headlines in the world's press. The truth is, it hardly made a ripple. That is because this world is in a very deep stupor. Here is what Reuters' Arthur Spiegelman wrote on May 10, 1996: "Realizing they were losing the war in 1944, Nazi leaders met top German industrialists to plan a secret post-war international network to restore them to power, according to a newly declassified U.S. intelligence document.

"The document, which appears to confirm a meeting historians have long argued about, says an SS general and a representative of the German armaments ministry told such companies as Krupp and Röhlings that they must be prepared to finance the Nazi Party after the war when it went underground. [Seven major companies were represented, including Messerschmidt and Volkswagenwerk. There were also officials from the ministries of armaments and the Navy.]

"They were also told 'existing financial reserves in foreign countries must be placed at the disposal of the [Nazi] Party SO THAT A STRONG GERMAN EMPIRE CAN BE CREATED AFTER THE DEFEAT.'

"The document, detailing an August 1944 meeting, was obtained on Friday from the World Jewish Congress, which has been working with the Senate Banking Committee and the Holocaust Museum to determine what happened to looted Jewish money and property in the Second World War.

"A U.S. Treasury Department analysis in 1946 reported that the Germans had transferred \$500 million out of the country before the war's end to countries such as Spain, Switzerland, Lichtenstein, Portugal, Argentina and Turkey where it was used to buy hundreds of companies.

"Now that the Nazi secret plan *has been confirmed*, THE CENTRAL QUESTION IS WHETHER IT HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT," said Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress" (emphasis mine).

Many scoffed at Herbert W. Armstrong's warning message in 1945, which prophesied exactly what this U.S. intelligence

continued on page 48

"Realizing they were losing the war in 1944, Nazi leaders met top German industrialists to plan a secret post-war international network to restore them to power, according to a newly declassified U.S. intelligence document"

—Reuters, May 10, 1996

REMEME

Decades of accuracy



MANY OF OUR READERS, UPON PICKING UP their first copy of the *Trumpet*, exclaim how they recognize the same message the *Plain Truth* carried for 52 years under the direction of its founder, Herbert W. Armstrong. Subscribers even point to similarities between our style of writing and presentation compared to the *Plain Truth* in its heyday.

There is a reason for this—and it will be made plain in this special issue of the *Trumpet*. In this issue, we look back at our roots. Some of our readers are familiar with this history—most are not.

This issue will be a real eye-opener. The sheer number of prophetic statements made by Mr. Armstrong and his editorial team, and their accuracy, WILL ASTOUND YOU.

To begin this project, a team of *Trumpet* staffers divided up all the *Plain Truths* on hand and began scouring every article, looking for bold predictions. When finished, we copied the highlighted pages and sorted them into four main subjects: Europe; the United States and Britain; the Middle East; and Asia. Our News Bureau then helped us match the prophetic statements we found in the *Plain Truth* with what actually happened, or is now happening.

This issue is the fruit of that labor. Originally, we had planned to increase the size of this special edition by 16 pages. But two days before our deadline, we added another four just to fit everything in! This issue is by no means exhaustive. But it does pretty well encapsulate what the *Plain Truth* was about for more than 50 years.

Before we begin, however, let's bring our newer readers up to speed. You might wonder what happened to the *Plain Truth*. One example, in particular, will explain.

For more than five decades under Mr. Armstrong's leadership, year in and year out the *Plain Truth* had powerfully and consistently shouted a warning in print about the revival and unification of Germany. It proclaimed that Germany would be the dominant force behind a powerful union of European nation-states that would surpass the Russian bloc and even Britain and America in power and hegemony. Imagine predicting that when Germany lay in rubble after World War II. That's what the *Plain Truth* did.

Mr. Armstrong did not live to see the Berlin Wall breached on Nov. 9, 1989, or Germany unite on October 3 a year later. By that time, however, an amazing

MEMBER

in global forecasting

thing had occurred—those who took over publishing the *Plain Truth* after Mr. Armstrong's death in 1986 had totally changed its editorial policy!

Here is what the publishers of the “new look” *Plain Truth* said about that Earth-shattering event in 1989: “Following the spectacular news about the opening of the Berlin Wall, we unexpectedly received a call from a news station in Seattle. The news director was well aware of the *World Tomorrow* program and the fact that for more than 40 years the Church had been predicting the reunification of Europe in some form. He asked for on-air comments about whether the Church believed the opening of the wall was the commencement of end-time prophetic events.

“We responded that it was **PREMATURE** to make statements like that

“The news director was **DISAPPOINTED** that we would not proclaim this to be the absolute beginning of end-time events, but it was interesting that he did say that what the Church has predicted from the Bible was remarkably close to what appears to be happening” (*Worldwide Church of God Pastor General's Report*, Nov. 21, 1989).

To long-time readers of the *Plain Truth*, such a weak assessment of the dramatic events surrounding the fall of the Berlin Wall was dumbfounding. The magazine had lost its vision, its reason for being! It was fast beginning to deny its editorial heritage of forecasting events boldly and outspokenly—based on the foundation of “a more sure word of prophecy” (2 Peter 1:19). Readership dropped off quickly. Soon the publishers were facing a financial crisis as subscribers' donations disappeared. Readers and supporters of Mr. Armstrong's flagship magazine decamped in droves.

At one time, those readers had a vision—a vision of reality that gave them a confidence in the future. Millions of *Plain Truth* readers who saw the Berlin Wall tumbling down via television news combed the pages of the *Plain Truth* in vain, searching for a perspective on the next event that would hasten the rise of the Europower Mr. Armstrong had prophesied.

Many of those former *Plain Truth* readers are now among the hundreds of thousands who receive this magazine.

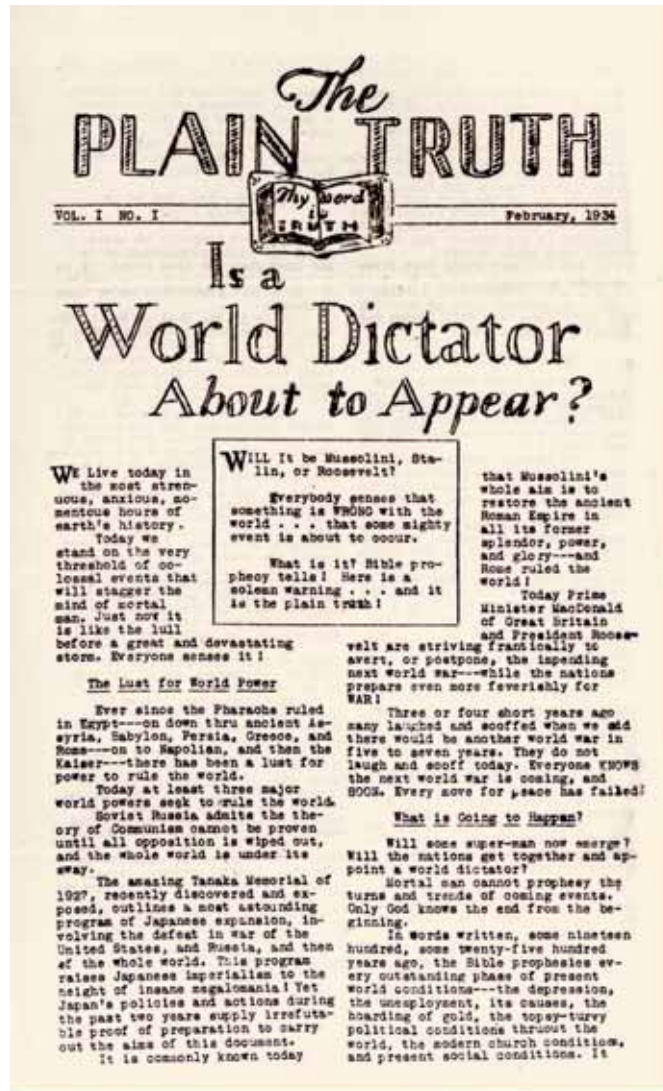
In 1990, we started the *Trumpet* with a shoestring budget, a handful of subscribers and one objective: to pick up where Mr. Armstrong left off.

That's what we have done.

Ron Fraser and Stephen Flurry



IS A WORLD DICTATOR ABOUT TO APPEAR?



This headline gripped the attention of a handful of readers of the first edition of the world's then-newest current affairs magazine, way back in February 1934. Over six decades later, we review many of the predictions made by the *Plain Truth* magazine and its founder, Herbert W. Armstrong, and find unerring accuracy in the forecasting of events leading to the rise to global dominance of the present European Union.

BY RON FRASER

ALTHOUGH THE *TRUMPET* covers many world events and social, economic and religious issues in our monthly editions, there is *one core message* in one key, unfolding world event that the *Trumpet* has continued to monitor from its inception. That is simply the same event headlined in the first issue of the *Plain Truth* in February 1934. In fact, it is a news story that commenced unfolding back in 31 B.C. with the rise of the Roman Empire.

In an allegory associating Rome's seven hills with seven successive governments, or revivals of the Roman Empire, the book of Revelation states, "And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space" (Revelation 17:10).

Up to the early 1930s, when the *Plain Truth* was born, most remained blind as to the meaning of the words of this prophecy. Yet, when Herbert Armstrong began to publish this most extraordinary of newsmagazines, the meaning had become startlingly clear to him.

Mr. Armstrong knew that the biblical book of Revelation was given by its Author not to hide, but rather "to shew ... things which must shortly come to pass" (Revelation 1:1). So it was that this unique man—who in his latter years associated with kings, princes, prime ministers, presidents and leaders of nations all over the world—came to see that the five fallen "kings" mentioned in Revelation 17:10 showed that five revivals of the Roman Empire under the aegis of the Roman papacy had occurred up to that time. These "resurrections" of the Roman Empire were under the successive leadership of Justinian, enthroned as emperor in A.D. 554; Charlemagne (Karl the Great to the Germans), crowned in A.D. 800; Otto the Great in A.D. 962; Charles V (commencing the Habsburg dynasty) in 1530; and Napoleon, who crowned himself emperor in 1804.

But the forecast in Revelation 17:10 referred to one revival of the Roman Empire being extant at the very time that the mysterious vision of the book of Revelation would first come to be understood: "and one is" Thus it was that Herbert Armstrong came to see that the dictator Benito Mussolini was that *one that is*, at that time, in the

1930s, prior to and during the onset of World War II. In one of his final articles which appeared in the *Plain Truth* magazine following his death, he reflected: "In 1929 Mussolini arranged a Concordat with the papacy. Then about 1935 Mussolini, having united Ethiopia, Eritrea and Italian Somaliland to Italy, proclaimed it to be the re-establishment of the Roman Empire. I announced the news of this ninth restoration myself on radio at the time" (*Plain Truth*, March 1986).

Mr. Armstrong also referred to the "one" that "is" at the time of the prophecy as being Mussolini—or the Hitler-Mussolini axis (*Plain Truth*, October 1962).

This weak sixth revival, in the sequence of the seven resurrections of the Roman Empire, within the context of the Apostle John's vision, left one final revival to come: "... the other is not yet come."

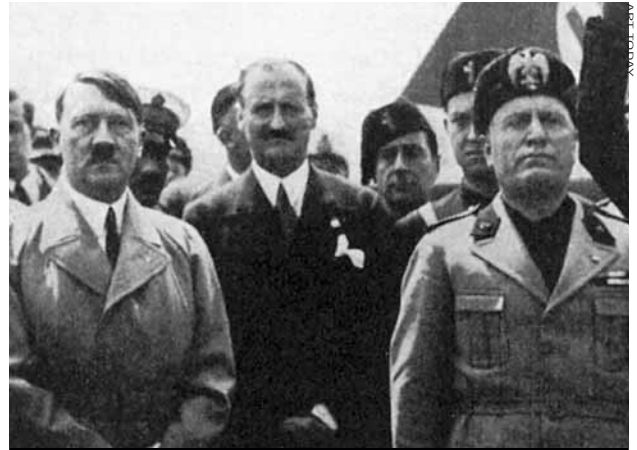
Now, keep in mind that Mr. Armstrong came to this understanding before hostilities commenced between the Axis powers and the Western Allies in 1939.

I quote from a letter that Mr. Armstrong wrote to readers of the *Plain Truth* magazine on July 24, 1983: "The very first issue of the *Plain Truth* magazine appeared February 1934—just 50 years ago lacking about six months. The article starting on the cover page warned of a coming sudden appearance of a resurrected 'Holy Roman Empire' in Europe—a union of 10 nations in Europe under one government, with one united military force. For 50 years I have been crying out to the world the Bible prophecies of this coming 'United States of Europe'—a NEW UNITED SUPERPOWER PERHAPS MORE POWERFUL THAN EITHER THE SOVIET UNION OR THE UNITED STATES!"

Time and time again, Herbert Armstrong and many of the writers that served on the staff of the *Plain Truth* magazine pointed to news events that were leading to the inevitable rise of a *European fascist federation*, under the spiritual influence of the Vatican, which would rival and even overtake the U.S. and Britain commercially, economically and, ultimately, *militarily*. Prior to World War II, Mr. Armstrong predicted this. During the heat of the

Battle of Britain, he continued to forecast it. When Germany lay defeated, crushed to dust under the onslaught of the British Commonwealth and American forces, still he proclaimed the future resurrection of Germany to dominate a European combine that would be the final revival of the Holy Roman Empire.

Read the following extracts, taken verbatim from the *Plain Truth* magazine over its 52 years under the leadership



"AND ONE IS" The Hitler-Mussolini axis was on the scene when Mr. Armstrong began to warn about the resurrected Holy Roman Empire.

of its founder, Herbert W. Armstrong. Read—and wonder. Wonder—and understand! This is *living prophecy*—unbreakable, unchangeable *prophecy* of inevitable events which are *now coming to a sudden climax right before your eyes!*

Out of the Ashes

Less than 10 years following World War II, Mr. Armstrong was able to reinforce his pre-war claims of a German revival to lead to a united Europe. "In February, 1945—just a few months before the end of the war—President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill announced the joint American-British policy on Germany. This was the solemn policy and warning for the future. Listen.

"Quote: 'It is our inflexible purpose to destroy German militarism and Nazism and to insure Germany will never again be *able* to disturb the peace of the world. We are determined to disarm and disband all German armed forces; break up for all time the German General Staff that *has repeatedly* contrived the resurgence of German militarism ...' And now, a short nine years later, behold the spec-

REMEMBER: EUROPE

tacle of Washington and London making every possible diplomatic effort, backed by AMERICAN DOLLARS, to do TWO THINGS: create a UNITED STATES OF EUROPE, and to REARM GERMANY” (*Plain Truth*, November/December 1954).

With Europe almost rebuilt—through the massive aid of the U.S. Marshall Plan—but still *disunited*, Mr. Armstrong forecast in the same edition of the *Plain Truth*, “Germany inevitably would emerge as the *leader* of a united Europe. It will require some *spiritual binding force* to inspire this

confidence—to remove these *fears*—and that spiritual binding force *must* arise from inside Europe!

“*All Europe* is actually *ready*—just waiting for the *confidence-inspiring leader*—an international all-European *Hitler*, and it is on the way. That man is there somewhere” (*ibid.*).

These quotations taken from the *Plain Truth* magazine of 1954 contain the essence of one of the most powerful prophecies in the Bible—a prophecy in which Mr. Armstrong had supreme confidence of its inevitable fulfillment.

When the Berlin blockade was

mounted by the Russians in an attempt to starve the population of that city and stymie their business, the *Plain Truth* continued to declare that Germany would revive to lead a united Europe to power. Mr. Armstrong continued to warn of the rising threat on the *western* side of the Iron Curtain: “It is this European Common Market that is *fast* winning the world TRADE WAR! It is being done in a way America doesn’t realize. The United States seems sound asleep to this danger” (*ibid.*, July 1961).

When Krushchev declared, in 1961, that Russia had the right to seize West



Berlin, the *Plain Truth* continued with the same powerful message. “The United States (and Great Britain) face an irreconcilable situation. They must fight for Berlin or be intimidated and finally conquered by the Soviet system.... Yet if they fight for Berlin they face ultimate ECONOMIC EXTINCTION at the hands of the already powerful ‘Third World Force’: Euromart ... the coming UNITED STATES OF EUROPE!” (October 1961).

The Berlin Wall

Even when the Berlin Wall went up in 1961, splitting Germany in two, Mr. Armstrong continued to declare that Europe would unite under German leadership!

“More than 27 years ago I proclaimed over the air, and wrote in the *Plain Truth*, the Bible PROPHECY that the old Roman Empire was going to come to life—in our time. I said it would come as a UNITED STATES OF EUROPE.... Americans and Britons do not seem to fathom that Germany is once again a POWER TO BE RECKONED WITH! Make no mistake! NUCLEAR WAR WILL NOT COME OVER THE BERLIN CRISIS! But out of it all—in a very short time—a UNITED STATES OF EUROPE WILL!” (ibid., September 1961).

The pages of the *Plain Truth*, under Mr. Armstrong’s inspired leadership, cried out that same message for decades throughout the Cold-War era.

“...I have consistently proclaimed for 28 years that a *politically and militarily* UNITED EUROPE is coming! And today, the *economic* phase of this EEC [European Economic Community] is hardly mentioned. Today most of the newspaper talk is about *political* union—a UNITED POLITICAL EUROPE!

“The coming united *military* Europe is still hush-hush and little heard of. BUT THAT IS THE REAL GOAL!” (October 1962).

As the Western world’s view of Europe was fixated on the Berlin Wall, Mr. Armstrong continued to look beyond it. “West Germans keep looking at that ugly WALL! ... They [Western Europe] would feel a lot safer if *they themselves*, by uniting, can become the STRONGEST POWER—stronger than Russia—with their *own* nuclear deterrent! Fear of Russia, plus distrust of the United States, is driving them to this political-military union! *And today it is coming fast!*” (ibid.).

Continuing to predict, in the face

“[Western Europe] would feel a lot safer if they themselves, by uniting, can become the strongest power—stronger than Russia—with their own nuclear deterrent! Fear of Russia, plus distrust of the United States, is driving them to this political-military union!”

—*Plain Truth*, October 1962

of a Europe divided and separated by the Berlin Wall, the future uniting of Europe into a great union of nation-states, he wrote over nine years prior to the collapse of the wall: “This coming ‘United States of Europe’ is the dream of many leaders—not only within Europe, but in Britain and America. The Common Market is only its beginning.

“Every indication is that this ADVANCE NEWS will be *current* news. And it will completely STUN THE WORLD! Yet the *Plain Truth* has reported this news in advance for the past 46 years!” (ibid., March 1980).

Mr. Armstrong commented on how religions do not understand the true import of Bible prophecy. He stated, “They conclude the prophecy of Ezekiel 38 foretells a military invasion of the North American continent from the Soviet Union. But this is *not* what the prophecy says” (ibid., May 1986).

With vision empowered by God’s Holy Spirit, he looked ahead, far past the rise and fall of the future Euro-superpower, to declare that the peoples of the U.S. and Britain would not face an invasion involving Russia “until after the Second Coming of Christ.”

Within four years of Herbert Armstrong’s death, the Berlin Wall crashed to the ground. Today, only a small remnant remains as a memorial to the 28 years it stood as the dividing line in the most intense years of Cold War between East and West. Germany has united, its capital moved from Bonn to historic Berlin, the hub of Europe. The Soviet Union is shattered. Russia now struggles to limit the northward push of Islam at its southern border in the Caucasus and seeks to draw a line to

limit any further westward moves by its old Soviet satellite countries.

Astoundingly, 55 years after the first edition of the *Plain Truth* forecast the reunion of Western Europe with its old Roman Empire sister countries in the East, the die was cast for that to happen with the fall of the Berlin Wall. Then, in May 2004, eight of those former Eastern bloc countries, along with Cyprus and Malta, were formally recognized by the EU as member countries of the resurrected Roman Empire.

Now, having reviewed and reflected on the *constancy* of the message of the *Plain Truth* magazine, under Mr. Armstrong’s leadership, on this *core prophecy* of a *future United States of Europe*—ruled by one *great dictatorial leader*; influenced by a *great religious body*; surpassing the U.S. and Britain in the sheer power of its *trade, industry, commerce and military force*—let us compare these *predictions* with the current *reality* of world news!

Ten Kings

Let us first take Mr. Armstrong’s prediction from the inaugural edition of the *Plain Truth* and do a quantum leap to measure that forecast against current events in Europe.

“It is commonly known today that Mussolini’s whole aim is to restore the ancient Roman Empire in all its former splendor, power and glory—and Rome ruled the world!” (*Plain Truth*, February 1934).

One year later, Mussolini achieved his aim. Reflecting on this bit of history, Mr. Armstrong wrote, 46 years later, “Then Revelation 17:8 shows the partial revival of this empire under Mussolini—after he took Ethiopia, adding it to Italian Somaliland, Eritrea, Libya and Italy—officially naming it ‘the Roman Empire.’

“These prophecies depict detailed ADVANCE NEWS of one more, last revival of this empire, yet to occur, by a *union of 10 nations in Europe*” (ibid., March 1980).

Referring to a 10-nation combine in Europe, Mr. Armstrong took his reference from verse 12 of the 17th chapter of Revelation, which states, “And the ten horns which thou sawest are *ten kings*, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.”

There are presently 25 nations in the European Union. The Union’s enlargement policy is set to draft numerous

Eastern European and Mediterranean countries into its ambit. So, why specify 10 nations? We know that the Scripture cannot be broken (John 10:35). So what is the explanation? We have thought that this may mean 10 groups of nations, under 10 separate leaders. It is distinctly possible that with the EU considering adding even more countries to the union, a system of administration may be developed grouping certain nation-states, each group coming under a senior European Commissioner. For instance, the Balkans could be administered again under one governor, as in Marshal Tito's day. The EU is presently considering such a system.

"The powers of Romano Prodi, the European Commission president, should be increased greatly to allow an enlarged European Union to function effectively, says a report ... published in Brussels today. ... Under the new blueprint, each country, however small, would almost certainly retain one commissioner in the larger EU. But the president would be elevated above his expanding team and would be able to create *senior and junior posts* Eurocrats say that ending the system under which all commissioners are technically of equal status and unsackable *will increase greatly the president's power* and is the only way to *make the future executive manageable*" (*Daily Telegraph*, Oct. 18, 1999; emphasis mine throughout). As the *Spectator* observed, the EU's special coordinator for Balkan issues at the time, German Bodo Hombach, was already heading a virtual "supranational government" in the Balkans (Aug. 7, 1999).

Something else to contemplate here is the fact that *European royalty* is becoming more popular. The kings of Spain and Greece returned from exile decades ago, and now Italy is considering the prospect of its regent returning home. The former Yugoslavia's king has raised the prospect of re-uniting Yugoslavia under the crown. The fashion for royalty has also hit Germany.

"The late royals of the House of Hohenzollern that ruled Germany for six centuries and united its fractious fiefdoms in 1871 are now experiencing a resurrection of respect and a more public profile in the freshly minted presentation of history in this newly restored capital [Berlin]" (*Times*, London, Dec. 24, 1999).

We need to keep watching Europe to see just how this very precise proph-

"At present no single European currency is strong enough to replace the dollar in international trade. But an emergency situation might drive Europe to speed up unification and adopt a common currency based on their combined gold reserves."

—*Plain Truth*, October 1967

ecy of 10 kings or governors of groups of nation-states in the federation of Europe, predicted in the *Plain Truth* for decades, comes to pass.

The Euro

The catalyst for political union—the removal of national sovereignty by the imposition of a common European currency—had been predicted in the pages of the *Plain Truth* 30 years prior to its becoming a reality. "At present no single European currency is strong enough to replace the dollar in international trade. But an emergency situation might drive Europe to speed up unification and adopt a common currency based on their combined gold reserves" (October 1967).

When Germany took over the presidency of the European Union for its six-month term in 1999, a British newspaper reported, "Gerhard Schröder, the chancellor, and his team have left their partners in no doubt that Bonn aims to use its turn at the helm to *assert German interests aggressively, especially over EU finances*. ... Joschka Fischer, the foreign minister, said that *the euro had just promoted the EU to the 'world league'* John Redwood, the shadow Trade and Industry secretary, said... *The German minister has clearly stated that this single currency scheme is part of a much bigger package to bring about a federal Europe*" (*Electronic Telegraph*, Jan. 2, 1999).

German Dominance

"Even during World War II, while Allied bombers were busily pounding Germany to a shattered, bleak pile of rubble, Mr. Armstrong was warning his listeners and readers that *Germany was going to rise again!* They didn't believe it.

"LOOK ABOUT YOU NOW!

"Were the warnings sound? Were they true? Have they HAPPENED?" (*Plain Truth*, Feb. 1957). Such were the challenging questions put by a *Plain Truth* writer 12 years after Germany's defeat in World War II.

By the mid '60s, when the most evident initiative of union in Europe was still in trade and commerce, the *Plain Truth* had already noted an increasing urge within the Common Market for *political unity*. "Yet if 300 million Europeans were united and could speak with one voice, this would excel any might in the world today One thing you can count on. In fact it is so sure you can bank on it: The cry of a political union in Europe will get louder and before long we will see the Common Market develop into a *United States of Europe*. You won't have to wait long!" (*ibid.*, September 1967).

One of the senior writers of the *Plain Truth* in the 1970s wrote, "For nearly 30 years the *Plain Truth* magazine and the *World Tomorrow* broadcast have been telling the world that Europe would unite—that a *United States of Europe* was as certain as the rising of tomorrow's sun" (February 1970).

In 1999, using that very same term, the *Weekly Telegraph* reported, "Germans drive toward *United States of Europe*: Germany's new red-green leadership has been unveiling its blueprint for a *federal Europe* built on the back of the newly launched euro. The moves will fuel euro-skeptic fears that monetary merger was merely a step on the road to a *United States of Europe*. As holder of the EU presidency until July, Germany wants to capitalize on the momentum of the euro's birth to set Europe firmly on the road to a federal future" (*Weekly Telegraph*, Jan. 20-26, 1999).

Although Germany is the prime mover in all these efforts, in order to dispel any idea that the country may have expansionist intentions, these initiatives have generally been made under the cloak of being for the common good of the *European Union*.

The *Plain Truth* had summed up this subterfuge years ago in these words: "This realization explains why West Germany has tried so hard for so long to bring about common community positions on one front after another. In addition, *by always espousing the common European cause, she is less suspect of nationalistic motivations.*

After all, World War II is not that far in the past" (October 1976).

But, since Germany's first "baby boomer" chancellor came to power, all that is changing. Germany may have fresher-faced men in their 40s at the helm of government now, but German

via contributions from Germany's corporate and industrial moguls—many of them, no doubt, those same "card-carrying former Nazis." Former Chancellor Kohl was indicted on charges of having received over \$5.5 million to support the CDU. His explanation?

"Perhaps the clue lies in a little phrase the 69-year-old former chancellor used as he quit. He said he had always tried to do his 'duty.' ... 'It's a very old-fashioned excuse,' said Joachim Krauze, a political analyst. 'People in this country have done terrible things and justified them by referring to duty'" (*International Herald Tribune*, Jan. 20, 2000).

No longer is a lone voice crying out a warning on the drastic and inevitable results of the foolishness of Britain and the U.S. in financing and promoting the rise of

a united Europe. Some of the more astute politicians are now crying out that same warning: "Baroness Thatcher last night fiercely attacked plans for a European defense structure, saying it would threaten NATO and could help to create a *European superstate* Taking the unusual step of attacking British government policy from abroad, she put the drive toward a *separate European defense* on the same level as the single European currency. Both were aimed at 'the utopian venture of creating a single *European superstate to rival America on the world stage*'" (*Times*, London, Dec. 8, 1999).

Now, over half a century down the track from disastrous defeat at the hands of the Allied forces, what is Europe's view of Germany? "The publication ... of a taboo-breaking French book, *On the Next War with Germany*, was hardly designed to soothe nerves. Its author, Philippe Delmas, a senior civil servant and former speech-writer for a French foreign minister, Roland Dumas, argues that '*fear of Germany is back*' and is again '*the greatest political force in Europe*. Germany seems *threatening*, despite itself, and nowhere more so than in France!' ... The spectacle of a reunited Germany is discomfiting. And the French now seem to acknowl-

edge that *Germany is politically the most influential, as well as economically the most powerful, country in Europe*" (*Economist*, March 6, 1999).

Lebensraum

The expansionist policies of the Italian and German dictatorships of the 1930s and early '40s were spurred to some degree by a lust for land, resources and cheap (slave) labor. Whereas Italy had seized holdings in Northern Africa, Germany first looked east on the continent of Europe for its expansion. Herbert Armstrong came to understand a pivotal biblical prophecy which forecast a repetition of this recent history.

"We are now looking for the 10th and last resurrection of the Roman Empire—the seventh head of this beast of the 17th chapter of Revelation (Revelation 17:12), which is also pictured by the 10 toes of Nebuchadnezzar's image of Daniel 2:40-44. Since these toes were on the two feet that represented Eastern and Western Europe, there is strong likelihood that this final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire will include Iron Curtain nations of Eastern Europe as well as nations in Western Europe" (*Plain Truth*, March 1986).

A startling news report appeared in a leading international newspaper documenting the beginning fulfillment of this prophecy: "In a sign of Germany's shifting center of gravity, the government of Chancellor Gerhard Schröder has quietly embarked on an ambitious *strategy toward Central and Eastern Europe* that is designed to *expand its influence* and shore up stability on the nation's most troublesome flank. With the seat of government now ensconced here in the heart of Europe [Berlin], *Germany is striving to project its brand of 'soft power' across the continent*. ...

"The new focus of Germany's attention and resources is viewed suspiciously as a discreet *crusade to expand the nation's influence and penetration into new markets emerging as a potential 'Teutonic Bloc' from the remnants of the defunct Soviet empire*. ...

"It's only natural that the EASTERN PART OF THE CONTINENT WILL BECOME OUR PREOCCUPATION FOR YEARS TO COME, BECAUSE GERMANS SEE THIS AS A MATTER OF HISTORICAL DESTINY," said Immo Stabreit, a former German ambassador to Paris. "The most fundamental *priority* we have is trying to INTEGRATE ALL OF EUROPE" (*International Herald Tribune*, Sept. 11-12, 1999).



DOWN IN THE LINE OF DUTY Kohl justified fiscal corruption by saying he had always tried to do his "duty."

institutions have been manned at *senior levels* over the past 50 years of its massive post-war growth by the *old guard* which supported Hitler's Third Reich!

"Where are the geopoliticians, the lawyers, the judges, the teachers, the magistrates, the policemen, the young businessmen, the members of the many branches of the armed forces, the former members of Hitler Youth, the party workers, the industrialists who supported Hitler to the hilt, the propagandists, the fifth column agents—and all the rest?"

"Simple. They're right back where they used to be! Today, for example, 60 PERCENT of the lawyers, judges, civil service workers, Bürgermeisters (mayors) and magistrates in the one state of Bavaria are known former Nazis.

"Nearly ALL the top industrialists in the Ruhr are former Nazis. Members of the present government—including the CDU—are known, card-carrying, former Nazis" (ibid., December 1963).

The Christian Democratic Union (CDU) dominated post-war German politics for 33 years. It is the bastion of German corporatism and German-style conservatism. It is now revealed that the CDU was supported by a sophisticated system of illegal funding

Balkan Powderkeg

Apart from the unification of Germany, the destabilization of the Balkan Peninsula was a key platform in the long-term scenario of those who have striven for *Drang nach Osten*—Germany’s eastward expansion—since the Nazis went underground at the close of World War II.

The Vatican and Germany deliberately moved to supply the spark to this destabilization in 1991, through the recognition of Croatia and Slovenia as nation-states separate from greater Yugoslavia. Yet 20 years earlier, the *Plain Truth* forecast this very event: “There is strong feeling in Yugoslavia today for the need to integrate that country into a strong Europe in order to offset the Soviet threat.

“This is especially true in the northern republics of Croatia and Slovenia, Roman Catholic by religion.... There is certainly the likelihood that Yugoslavia could eventually become part of a powerful, united Europe, whose nucleus today is the European Common Market” (November 1971).

Reinforcing the prospect of an eastern and western division to the European Union, Herbert Armstrong wrote in a coworker letter dated Aug. 27, 1980: “Will Poland free itself from Soviet domination and join with Yugoslavia, Romania and possibly Czechoslovakia—and with Germany, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and Austria—in a resurrected medieval ‘Holy Roman Empire’ to dominate Europe and equal the USSR and the USA in world power?”

Plain Truth News Bureau director Gene Hogberg, referring to this letter, commented, “The original Roman Empire was broken into two ‘legs’—the eastern empire in Byzantium (later Constantinople, today Istanbul) and the empire in the West in Rome. Thus it is very possible that the restored end-time system will be composed of two distinct yet cooperative parts: the first comprising some of the present Common Market nations of Western Europe, the second from Central and Eastern Europe” (*Plain Truth*, February 1981).

We can only now look back in amazement at the *Plain Truth* predicting, as it did, 10 years before the event, the Vatican-inspired dislocation of Yugoslavia by the recognition of Croatia and Slovenia as separate nation states.

“What if Catholics throughout Eastern Europe, responding to the So-

viet dilemma, rose up in a united revolt against Moscow?... The potential is there; witness Pope John Paul II’s electrifying visit to Poland last year.

“The Vatican’s renewed desire to unite the Roman Catholic with the Orthodox churches—even extending overtures to the Muslim world—in a united front against atheistic communism could have a particularly interesting application in Yugoslavia, given its religious makeup.

“Europe—both in its eastern and western halves—could be in for tumultuous change” (ibid., April 1980).

That change has occurred! The total insensitivity in choosing to send the Luftwaffe in to bomb Yugoslav targets during the Kosovo War was summed up by the *New York Times*: “For the first time since the end of World War II, German fighter jets have gone to war, taking part in the attack on Yugoslavia as part of a NATO force and marking this country’s definitive emancipation from the post-war pacifism.... Europe has changed and Germany has changed with it.... German participation in air raids on Yugoslavia is potentially explosive, for it will confirm every dark Serbian suspicion about the West. IF THERE HAS BEEN A SINGLE OBSESSION IN SERBIAN POLICY THIS CENTURY, IT HAS BEEN TO PREVENT WHAT BELGRADE SEES AS GERMAN EXPANSIONISM IN THE BALKANS” (March 26, 1999).

That the chief winner in the recent Balkan wars has been Germany should be unquestioned. With sleight of hand, deft diplomacy and political and financial skullduggery, the German government has wormed its way into a position of leadership and influence in the coveted, strategic Balkan Peninsula.

“If one country has had her political authority strengthened by the conflict [in Kosovo], it is not Britain, but Germany.... The Germans have moved swiftly to cash in on the peace.... Even before the first cruise missile was launched, the German foreign minister was drawing up plans for uniting the entire Balkan area under one government. This plan, which eluded Stalin and Dimitrov in 1947, and which in different ways destroyed both the Austrian and the Ottoman empires, is now safely in the

bag. It is called the European Union’s Stability Pact.... In reality, it imposes supranational government on the whole of southeastern Europe from the Black Sea to the Adriatic. Funnily enough, a German has been appointed to run it. Bodo Hombach... is the most powerful man in Chancellor Schröder’s government and the chief representative of German economic interests.... The Germans, moreover, have won the key posts in the new European Commission. They now control the two crucial policy areas for the next five years: the EU budget and the enlargement process” (*Spectator*, Aug. 7, 1999).

The Vatican-German influence in today’s European Union has almost completely disintegrated the old federation of Yugoslav states, softening it up for “reconstruction” in preparation for wholesale takeover by the EU.

The Scarlet Woman

The *Plain Truth* continually made reference to Europe forming a church-state union, under the auspices of the Vatican. Since the launching of the *Trumpet*, this has also been a subject of further incisive analysis and reporting by this magazine.

Bible prophecy pointed to the necessity of some power to glue the fractious nations of Europe together. After all, Daniel’s prophecy likened the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire to a brittle mix of iron and clay (Daniel 2:41-43). Matching Daniel 7 with Revelation 13 and 17, the *Plain Truth* understood that glue would be RELIGION.

“When Europe is finally united under the leadership of ‘strong men,’ the pope will be able to come forth with his plan for world peace! This world union will, ‘by common consent,’ give its united strength to the hands of the leader approved by the pope! Read Revelation 17:13!” (*Plain Truth*, July 1962).

We heard the recently deceased pope’s cry for Europe to return to its roots. We witnessed, in 2000, the greatest crusade ever in the history of modern Catholicism to win the world over to the Vatican cause. That jubilee year the pope pulled out all stops. Using public relations “spin doctors,” along with pop-rock artists performing at Vatican rock concerts, the buy-up by



BODO HOMBACH
Former advisor to Schröder

wealthy Catholic corporate moguls of radio stations in the U.S. in particular; the pomp and ceremony of papal visits to Israel and to the Palestinians; the “year of forgiveness,” (with the Vatican seeking to be absolved of all its past atrocities)—all of this is destined to promote the image of the papacy in the eyes of the world as heading the chief of religions. The pope as peace-broker has been a favorite theme of the Vatican.

As the *Plain Truth* declared back in 1966, “Just as the Catholic Church once interposed her order on nations and peoples, she again is proposing to establish a ‘Christian order’ which alone is able to guarantee peace. To this goal the resources of the church now are directed. So said the late Pope Pius in a Christmas broadcast on Dec. 24, 1951” (July 1966).

The *Plain Truth* also encouraged its readers to “Look for the Vatican to exert more influence in European affairs. Yugoslavia and the Vatican have resumed full diplomatic relations—a move that could lead to further ties between the Vatican and Eastern Europe. ... The pope, encouraging European political unity, stated, ‘We note with pleasure that the German government contributes actively to the achievement of this aim.’ Vatican influence over European affairs is destined to grow in the months ahead” (August/September 1970).

Then, in June 1971, “Both sides have much to gain. The Vatican is pushing for more freedoms for Catholics behind the Iron Curtain and is hopeful for increased dialogue with the Communist nations generally on the issue of world peace and security.”

Perhaps the most impressive of predictions in relation to the Vatican’s impact on European union were the persistent forecasts of the pope’s influence in drawing the Eastern European nations out of the old Soviet Union and into mother Europe’s lap.

Consider: “[W]e need to understand that the one great, overall, ultimate goal is the reuniting of all Christianity into one cohesive unit under one head—the Roman pontiff—in an attempt to bring to the world the Catholic concept of peace. THIS PLAN ENVISIONS THE FULL USE OF THE NEW EUROPE!” (*Plain Truth*, January 1963).

In respect of Eastern Europe, the *Plain Truth* declared that the papacy had its mind set on leading the diplo-

VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

Headlines like these from 1961 appeared often in the *Plain Truth*.



macy which would create the rapport between East and West Europe: “One of the biggest roles desired by the Vatican is that of mediator between East and West. ... The Vatican, you can be sure, will continue to do its part in courting the Eastern European countries. Its *Ostpolitik* has been to bring them back into the ‘fold’ for a long time. And that is certainly the path it must continue to travel” (February 1972).

Compare that observation with this Associated Press release: “Martial law had crushed the church-backed Solidarity labor movement, and Poland’s Communist rulers expected a chastened Pope John Paul II ready for compromise when he visited his homeland in 1983.

“Instead, his voice rising, the pontiff lectured a surprised party chief, Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, as the nation watched on television. History would be his judge, the pope warned, demanding that union rights be restored for the Soviet bloc’s first free trade union” (Jan. 9, 1998).

Result? Jaruzelski capitulated, the Vatican-funded Catholic Solidarity

movement triumphed, Poland broke the Communist yoke and then sought attachment to the European Union!

The power of this papal diplomacy was recognized in a news release by ABC correspondent Bill Blakemore: “Consider it. Not only had John Paul II ignited a nonviolent revolution when he first returned as pope in 1979, but by 1989 he had guided it with patient force till it won—the Polish Solidarity movement spread until the Berlin Wall came down and the Communists went away.

“Soviet Premier Gorbachev himself wrote later that John Paul’s philosophy and approach had ‘made a new kind of thinking possible for us all’” (June 18, 1999).

Since 1990, the *Trumpet* has well documented the continuing thrust of papal politics gradually cementing together the east and west legs of the rising United States of Europe.

Germany Rearmed

One of the most startling statements made by Mr. Armstrong in the *Plain Truth* in 1952 was, “The United States is determined, now, to let NOTHING stand in the way of building up a re-armed, independent GERMANY. This will be the heart and CORE of the united EUROPE that will revive the ROMAN EMPIRE” (June 1952).

In October 1955, the *Plain Truth* observed Germany’s reactions in the early years of the Cold War and commented, “The concern over being America’s cannon fodder in an anti-Communist war haunts many a German! ... Now we [the U.S.] are applying economic pressure on Germany to FORCE that country to rearm.”

Germany, encouraged by the U.S., did rearm. Forty-five years later, Germany’s post-war pacifist role was broken in Kosovo. “By scrambling just four Luftwaffe Tornado fighter-bombers, Germany has crept further out of the shadow of World War II into a new military era. ... It was the first time German forces had taken part directly in offensive action since the war. Participation in such an attack would have been unthinkable only a few years ago. ... ‘Germany’s special status is over. We have arrived in the European community of nations’ [wrote *Die Welt*]” (Reuters, March 25, 1999). Barely one year following its first post-war air-combat

role, Germany is literally being encouraged by the U.S. to *lead* a new European standing army! Diplomacy has been thrown out the window in this latest effort of the U.S. and Britain to push Germany into a pro-active military role.

The extremes to which the U.S. is prepared to go to see a German-dominated Europe better armed are reflected in the following news clip: *"The primary source of concern is Germany, which ... is considered an indispensable pillar of the proposed EU force. ... 'We are all concerned about ... German defense spending,' said U.S. Ambassador to NATO Alexander Vershbow at a December 17 conference in Berlin on the European defense plan. 'The capabilities of the European Union will be seriously jeopardized if Germany doesn't find a way to contribute more ...'"* (Washington Times, Jan. 9, 2000).

Back in October 1965, the *Plain Truth's* own German-based correspondent warned, "Today's Germany is strong. It has emerged complete with an army that will soon have *atomic fire-power*—and a nature that has not changed."

The *Plain Truth* predicted that Germany would possess *atomic fire-power*. That was in 1965. By 1968 they had revealed that "America has such a large proportion of its atomic arsenal on West German soil, that, reckoning by the amount of nuclear hardware stored on its territory, Germany can be classed as potentially the **SECOND-GREATEST ATOMIC POWER ON EARTH!**"

"The weapons remain, of course, under American supervision. But the big question is, *for how long?*" (*Plain Truth*, August 1968).

Agence France Presse reported on Nov. 29, 1999, that up to *200 nuclear weapons remained stockpiled in European countries*. It is believed that the *bulk of these are sited on German soil*.

In reference to German industry's desire to re-enter the weapons manufacturing and sales market, the *Plain Truth* declared in November 1968, "An ominous note out of West Germany: The House of Krupp, which renounced weapons production after World War II, has voiced a desire for a greater role in its nation's manufacture of military items."

Since then, Krupp has amalgamated with the giant German conglomerate Thyssen and aided Germany in becoming the *second-largest exporter of military hardware next to the U.S!* (See story, page 14). Added to this, the

“And who will [European leaders] blame for their humiliation and their necessity now to have a united Europe, with a united government, a common currency and a common military force as great or greater than either the USSR or the U.S.? ...
The United States!

—*Plain Truth*, April 1980

merger of DaimlerChrysler has thrust this corporate combine to the fore as *Europe's largest manufacturer of mobile military equipment*. Hard on the heels of this merger came the joining of France's giant Aerospatiale Matra and the German company DaimlerChrysler Aerospace, effectively merging the German and French aerospace industries into one huge enterprise and *thrusting the European Union to the forefront in aerospace technology for the development of military applications!*

Space Wars

In January 2000, the whole world saw the failure of a U.S. anti-ballistic missile experiment. A leading U.S. think tank observed, "Last week, the Pentagon's Ballistic Missile Defense Organization launched a missile from California into the Pacific in an attempt to shoot it down and prove that a limited national missile defense is possible. But the ongoing debate ... is *distracting the U.S. military from forging a space strategy that protects satellites, the keys to U.S. conventional military power*" (*Stratfor Global Intelligence Update*, Jan. 24, 2000).

Consider the diversion of the Pentagon in arguing over this matter (in full knowledge of its funding restrictions) in relation to the *German-led* drive in Europe to dominate a global defense and security strategy from outer space! In a series of blitzkrieg corporate mergers, the European Union has put together a massive conglomerate which will *thrust it to the fore in military space strategy, leaving the U.S. far behind*.

"The complex ownership structure proposed for the European Aeronautic

Defense and Space Company (EADS) created by the merger of France's Aero-spatiale-Matra, Germany's DaimlerChrysler Aerospace (DASA) and Spain's CASA ... brings together ... a group with 96,000 employees and a turnover of about 1 billion euros (\$1 billion). ... EADS *"is undoubtedly the driving force in Europe ... and has the inner strength to become a global leader"* (*Jane's Defense Weekly*, Dec. 15, 1999).

Predicting future German-led European political, economic and military expansion, Herbert Armstrong, with visionary, prophetic insight, declared over 20 years ago, "You may be sure the West European leaders are conferring hurriedly and secretly about how and how soon they may UNITE and provide a united EUROPEAN MILITARY FORCE so they can DEFEND THEMSELVES! ... And WHO WILL THEY BLAME for their humiliation and their necessity now to have a UNITED EUROPE, with a united GOVERNMENT, a COMMON CURRENCY and a COMMON MILITARY FORCE AS GREAT OR GREATER THAN EITHER THE USSR OR THE U.S.? They will blame the United States!

"And when they are strong enough to assert themselves, Bible prophecy reveals a man will rise to take the helm in Europe and will first attack Britain for standing firm with the United States, and then they will return a lot of hydrogen bombs the U.S. has stored now in Europe!

"SO SAYS ALMIGHTY GOD IN HIS WORD! They can unite ONLY through the Vatican. It will be a CHURCH-STATE union. It won't last long, but will create HAVOC unprecedented!" (*Plain Truth*, April 1980).

We should not, then, wonder, with the benefit of God-breathed prophecy expounded in the pages of the old *Plain Truth* magazine, when we read that Germany's military intentions *span the globe!*

"Rudolf Scharping, Germany's defense minister, in a significant step toward a common defense capability, has called for Europe to set up a joint air-transport command. The proposed transport command would be important for ensuring *Europe's ability to undertake military action AROUND THE WORLD*, reducing reliance on the U.S. 'I hope it is in the interests of every European country ... to *drive forward European integration ...*' he said in an interview with the *Financial Times*" (*Financial Times*, Nov. 1, 1999).

Current News

In this article we can only highlight some of the most astute predictions made by the *Plain Truth* over the years and match them with but a minute portion of the overwhelming proof that is now available from documented history and news reports regarding their fulfillment.

It is fitting that we close with a statement from that “ambassador for world peace,” Herbert Armstrong, which, though published the year before his death in 1986, remains as up to date now as the day it was written: “These prophecies depict detailed ADVANCE NEWS of one more, last revival of this empire, yet to occur, by a union of 10 nations, or groups of nations, in Europe.

“This coming ‘United States of Europe’ is the dream of many leaders—not only within Europe, but in Britain and America. The Common Market is only its economic beginning.

“Every indication is that this ADVANCE NEWS will be *current news*. And it will completely STUN THE WORLD! Yet the *Plain Truth* has reported this news in advance for the past 51 years!” (*Plain Truth*, June 1985).

Truly, that which was advance news then is today’s *current news*. It remains but for the final two leaders in Europe, the one *political* and the other *spiritual*, to rise to power to reveal the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire in all its future and final infamy. ◆

For further study ...

More vital information about what is happening in Europe today and where it is leading can be found in these booklets:

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The Bible has much to say about this significant nation. This magazine-sized, full-color booklet contains a thorough explanation.

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TRUMPET
NAZI SOLDIERS rally during World War II.

The Secret Nazis

“Even before the end of the war, I revealed to you the Nazi plans for a Nazi underground movement, to go underground as a secret organization the very moment they lost the war”

—Herbert W. Armstrong, 1948

BY GARY RETHFORD

“THE KEYNOTE OF WHAT LIES in the German mind today was voiced in 1950. At that time, according to T.H. Teten’s book *Germany Plots With the Kremlin*, Dr. Konrad Adenauer, then chancellor of Germany, caused much embarrassment by leading a German crowd in singing ‘Deutschland über Alles’—‘GERMANY ABOVE ALL OTHERS’—in the presence of Allied representatives” (*Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course*, Lesson 3, 1955).

Quite a sentiment, because at that time the German nation lay in rubble. Prior to the D-Day landings at Normandy on June 6, 1944, many in the German high command knew that their defeat was only a matter of time. German destiny, however, would not be thwarted. A PLAN WAS ALREADY IN PLACE that out of defeat would rise a new nation.

Herbert W. Armstrong revealed that plan to the world—BEFORE GERMANY WAS DESTROYED—believe it or not!

Mr. Armstrong wrote, “*Even before the end of this war, I revealed to you the Nazi plans for a NAZI UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT, to go underground as a SECRET organization the very moment they lost the war—to lay low a few years during Allied and Russian military occupation, then to come forth when least expected, RESTORE GERMANY TO*

POWER, and go on to finally accomplish their aims in a WORLD WAR III” (*Plain Truth*, September 1948).

He also wrote, “[A]s certainly as we restore Western Europe to *economic prosperity*, and then to *military power*, a successor to Hitler will emerge, gain control of this power through a ‘United States of Europe,’ which we [the United States] also are encouraging, and we shall then wake up, too late, to REALIZE we shall have restored our fascist enemy to power to destroy us!” (*ibid.*, November 1948).

Notice, he made four specific statements, three of which were: Nazi Germany would go underground; Germany would emerge after Allied and Russian occupation; and it would rise again to military power. These events have now all happened—and in that order.

Did anyone else perceive what future events would bring? No, NOT EVEN THE GERMANS THEMSELVES. Notice a speech given by German General von Stuelpnagel in 1944: “No defeat is final. Defeats are simply lessons to be learned in PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT AND GREATER ATTACK.” He went on to say, “In the NEXT WORLD WAR, which should take place WITHIN 25 YEARS, the same mistake should not be made” (*Correspondence Course*, op. cit.).

“Within 25 years” would have put their hoped-for reappearance in the

year 1969. According to him, the German underground was focused on the time period of 1969-1972. Why could that NOT happen? Because of Mr. Armstrong's statement that this movement would "come forth when *least expected*" after Allied and Russian occupation had ended. When did that end? Not in 1969, or 1972, but in 1989 with the fall of the Berlin Wall and the removal of Russian occupying forces!

Victim Pensions

By August of 1944, Nazi Party officials knew that the war was lost. At that time the provisional plan for the rebirth of Germany, conceived in the early days of the war, began to be put into action. That plan included the well-documented rush to secret destinations by surviv-

ing supporters of the Third Reich. The Nazis went underground, just as Mr. Armstrong said they would.

Following the surrender of Germany, attempts were made to locate escaped Nazis who had now been shuttled to other parts of the world. By the spring of 1946, only 85,000 of 200,000 industrial and Gestapo leaders had been arrested. Further, the search for Nazi looted gold—gold transferred through the Bank of International Settlements—began in earnest.

In his book *Nazi Gold*, Tom Bower wrote, "In early January 1945, as new intercepts revealed that Swiss banks, especially *Crédit Suisse*, were regularly transferring German loot and gold to Argentina, new drafts of the Safehaven program outlined the crusaders' inten-

tion to surround, intimidate and virtually invade neutral countries—especially Switzerland—to root out the [underground] Germans and their loot."

Where did the Nazis go? That secret is known. According to an amazing bit of legislation, many of them can be traced. We can trace them through their "victim" pensions. "Billions of [Deutsche] marks from German taxpayers [have been] paid to Nazi war criminals and are called 'victim' pensions. A spokesman for the German Ministry of Labor confirmed that additional assistance money is being spent on war criminals but claimed that nothing could be changed because of constitutional reasons" (*The Panorama Report*, ARD German television network, Jan. 30, 1997).

The Uncrowned Kings of Essen

The dramatic rebound of Germany's top munitions company

BY WILLIAM GHANNAM

"**T**KS-STEEL WILL LEAVE ITS INDELIBLE MARK ON THE world." Those foreboding words are found on the ThyssenKrupp Stahl AG company's Internet webpage.

The ThyssenKrupp Group is an industrial giant whose history spans nearly 200 years. The Krupps gave invaluable support to Prussia's and Germany's military campaigns of the last 150 years.

Just a few years after the defeat of Germany and the conviction of Alfried Krupp at Nuremberg for war crimes during World War II, the *Plain Truth* warned its readers that the Krupp family had fully intended to continue its drive for an industrial empire, bent on supporting Germany's goal of world domination.

"Alfried Krupp, who once provided Germany with most of her munitions that plunged the world into the holocaust of the last war, can no longer manufacture crude steel or own coal mines in Germany. But Alfried Krupp is not giving up on his plans! No indeed. Latest reports reveal that Krupp has made contracts with foreign governments to build up his vast empire abroad" (*Plain Truth*, November 1953).

After both world wars, Krupp was forbidden to manufacture arms. In both instances, however, he continued the family tradition of arming Germany and the world.

For years, Herbert W. Armstrong warned his readers of "German thoroughness." In a radio broadcast on May 9, 1945, he stated, "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 1996, a top-secret Allied document from 1944 was made public for the first time. It revealed Mr. Armstrong's words to be overwhelmingly true! This document is printed in full in our booklet *The Rising Beast*. It illustrates in detail two meetings on Aug. 10, 1944, between representatives of German industrial companies, including Dr. Kaspar of Krupp. The purpose of these meetings was to convince German industrialists that the war was lost. The time had come "to take steps in preparation for a post-war commercial campaign."

Krupp History

In 1587, Arndt Krupp settled in Essen, Germany, where he became a merchant. His son, Anton Krupp, became a well-known military arms dealer. Around 1650, the Krupps were known as the "uncrowned kings of Essen," according to Norbert Muehlen in his book *Die Krupps*.

In 1811, Friedrich Krupp founded a cast-steel factory in Essen. Even today, Essen remains the headquarters for ThyssenKrupp Stahl AG, the multi-national company once exclusively owned by the Krupp family.

Friedrich's son, Alfred Krupp, was known as the "cannon king." He produced a cast-steel cannon in 1851 and it became the star attraction at London's Great Exhibition. He also manufactured field guns and other armaments for various foreign countries.



The report continued, “The Nazi war criminals receive, in addition to their regular pensions, ‘victim’ pensions, according to the German ‘Social Compensation and Assistance to War Victims’ law (BVG). Last year alone, from Federal and Lander budgets, almost 13 billion marks were currently paid to over 1.1 million ‘victim’ pensioners. To qualify for the ‘victim’ pension, one must have been injured as a result of war service. Because no one is excluded from the BVG, each war criminal who applies is granted a ‘victim’ pension if they can simply prove a war injury.

“Panorama found out that worldwide, numerous Nazi war criminals today receive monthly payments between 100 and several thousand marks from German taxpayers. The

well-respected German military historian Gerhard Schreiber estimates the number of war criminals receiving these extra payments from the German government at 50,000.” News sources claim those 50,000 are former members of Hitler’s elite SS.

Follow the Money

How the underground movement was funded is another story fresh in today’s news. It was funded primarily by the gold stolen during Nazi Germany’s conquests.

Following the surrender of Germany, according to author Charles Higham, “Senior Nazi Party officials ... urged that the new strategy was to survive and win the peace. Large sums of money should be sent abroad in secret in the

care of sympathetic bankers and industrialists. Among the named Swiss banks were the Basler Handelsbank and Credit Suisse. Eventually, according to the plan, *that money would be used to finance the Nazi Party’s attempt to build a new empire...*

“On a bright May morning in 1944, while young Americans were dying on the Italian beachheads, [the] president of the Nazi-controlled Bank for International Settlements in Basle, Switzerland, arrived at his office to preside over the fourth annual meeting in time of war. This polished American gentleman sat down with his *German, Japanese, Italian, British and American executive staff* to discuss such important matters as the \$378 million in gold which had been sent to the bank by the Nazi gov-

With the rise of the German Navy’s demand for armor plate, Alfred’s son, Friedrich Alfred Krupp, enjoyed immense growth and by 1902 had 40,000 employees.

With no son heir apparent, his daughter, Bertha Krupp, and her husband, Gustav von Bohlen und Halbach (Gustav Krupp), took over the firm. Gustav Krupp manufactured the “Big Bertha,” a famous 42-centimeter howitzer which bombarded Paris from 75 miles away during the First World War. Soon after the war, Gustav Krupp began to rearm Germany using his vast international influence.

In the early 1930s Gustav Krupp had enormous influence in the politics of Germany. When the Nazi Party was on the verge of collapse, he donated 100 million German marks to support its candidates in the 1932 elections. Victory was achieved.

Some have asserted that Gustav Krupp—not Adolf Hitler—was the main driving force to rearm Germany after it lost the First World War. In his book *The Arms of Krupp: 1587-1968*, William Manchester states that Krupp did it in preparation for the next world war. The Versailles Treaty greatly hindered Germany’s ability to become a military power. But Gustav Krupp had connections that profoundly eased the process of rearmament.

Gustav Krupp was the sole owner of his vast empire, too extensive to measure its value.

Alfried Krupp became the sole owner of the Krupp industrial empire in 1943. And like his stepfather, Gustav, Alfried had always been an ardent supporter of Hitler.

He controlled a vast business empire that included 87 industrial complexes in Germany and held controlling interest in 110 companies. Abroad, he owned 50 percent stock in 41 foreign companies and held interest in several other companies. This included factories, coal mines, ore pits, cement works, hotels, banks and a bevy of private estates all over the world. And he used this wealth and power to defend the goals of Hitler and the Nazi Party. However, when all was nearly lost, he was prepared to endure Allied victory until the time was right for “round three.”

At the Nuremberg trials, Alfried Krupp was convicted of war crimes. His violations included employing slave

labor and stealing property and factories in all the German-occupied lands. It has been estimated that he used up to 70,000 slave laborers throughout the war. Krupp’s slaves were some of the worst treated in Germany. He had so many slaves that a concentration camp for the children of the workers was established in Buschmannhof, Germany.

He was sentenced to 12 years in prison and ordered to forfeit all his property, but the U.S. high commissioner granted him amnesty and restored his holdings. He was released in the early part of 1951. Alfried Krupp had reestablished the prosperity of his company by the 1960s. He died in Essen in 1968.

Krupp Today

In 1997, Krupp merged its steel operation with Thyssen AG, a rival firm. Today, ThyssenKrupp Stahl AG is the third-largest steel producer in the world. This industrial giant has five divisions and owns around 100 companies. They produce steel, heavy machinery, transportation equipment and industrial plants.

The secret document released in 1996 clearly showed that several industrialists, including Krupp, had a specific plan to support Germany’s—and the Nazi Party’s—inevitable resurgence.

Gustav Krupp fulfilled his objective to rearm Germany immediately after the First World War. That is a historical reality—a fulfillment of destructive intent that should cause us to be greatly concerned.

According to that document, on Aug. 10, 1944, the German industrialists were told they must “through their exports increase the strength of Germany. They must also prepare themselves to finance the Nazi Party which would be forced to go underground.”

In Germany today, the Krupp name is above reproach. But if history is any indicator of the possibilities and motivation of a company, or a nation, we have a clear sign from the past actions of one company—Krupp—and one nation—Germany—that our future may be clouded by the ambitions of several determined individuals to reap revenge, even if it takes over half a century to accomplish it. ♦



ernment after Pearl Harbor for use by its leaders *after* the war” (*Trading With the Enemy*; emphasis mine).

That gold had been looted from the national banks of Austria, Holland, Belgium and Czechoslovakia, or melted down from the Reichsbank holdings of the teeth fillings, spectacle frames, cigarette cases and lighters of murdered Jews.

What areas of the world constitute the “underground”? We only have to follow the money trail to answer that question. “Estimated numbers of former Nazis getting pensions are: 601 in Australia, 1,115 in Austria, 128 in Argentina, 324 in Belgium, 196 in Brazil, 1,882 in Canada, 1,010 in Croatia, 459 in England, 810 in France, 152 in Italy, 1,014 in Romania, 2,380 in Slovenia, 152 in South Africa, 3,377 in the U.S.” (*The Panorama Report*, op. cit.).

That’s just over a third of the estimated 50,000 war criminals receiving payments.

The fact is, a man under the inspiration of God saw those events coming decades ago, and told the world. How could Herbert W. Armstrong reveal events which would come to pass in the future? Did he possess Allied classified information? Was it merely an unusual “grasp” of world affairs? No, it was not. The military and political systems of the world did not possess this knowledge. The truth is, he simply believed that Almighty God meant what He said; that the Bible was His Word. He understood that the prophecies in the Bible were for our peoples today, and that they would come to pass.

The Phoenix

In the opera *Parsifal*, Richard Wagner wrote, “By the power of that stone the phoenix burns to ashes, but the ashes give him life again. Thus does the phoenix molt and change its plumage, which afterward is bright and shining and as lovely as before.” Just as that mythological bird, the Germany once in ashes has reappeared and is heading the powerful consortium of nations called the European Union.

Now only the fourth statement Mr. Armstrong made is still waiting to happen. That statement was, “[A] successor to Hitler will emerge, [and] gain control of this power....” That man is probably somewhere on the political scene right now!

General Stuelpnagel stated, “In the NEXT WORLD WAR... the same mistake

should not be made. The PRINCIPAL ADVERSARY will be THE UNITED STATES, and the entire effort must be concentrated against this country from the beginning.... Our defeat in the present war need not be considered except as an incident in the triumphal march of Germany TOWARD CONQUEST OF THE WORLD”—*Deutschland über alles!* (*Correspondence Course*, op. cit.).

That march has begun. On May 26, 1998, German officer cadets took part in unprecedented training exercises with the Israeli army. Writing about this historic event, BBC Middle East correspondent Lyse Doucet said, “For the German soldiers these exercises are a valuable opportunity for a peace-time army to train with a force engaged in war.”

In the same BBC report, Christian Muth, of the German Army, was reported as saying, “The point of coming here is not to overcome the past, because you can’t overcome something that’s already happened. The point of coming here is to show that we are a new generation—that we are fully aware of the past and will prevent it from happening again.”

The German Army does not fully realize its future role in world affairs at this time. But we will soon learn that when its fighting forces say, “We are fully aware of the past and will prevent it from happening again,” it means they remember the *defeat* of past wars, and why. They will not be defeated next time!

Hitler revealed the carefully laid German military plan to rule the world in his thesis *Mein Kampf*. He said Germany must FIRST DEFEAT THE WEST in order to have a free hand for the *Drang nach Osten*—the march toward the EAST.

As God revealed to Mr. Armstrong, after losing World War II the Nazis went underground. The fall of the Berlin Wall has allowed Germany to reappear even stronger than before. It will continue to grow into the most powerful economic and military machine this world has ever seen—the last revival of the Holy Roman Empire. A successor to Hitler is about to appear. Then, linked with a future false prophet, this power, composed of 10 nations—referred to in Scripture as “the beast”—will plunge this world into the most horrific global genocide ever witnessed by mankind.

Then the world will know that a prophet has been among them. ♦



CITY OF LIGHTS Paris, France

The Mistress of Europe

How France will once again betray Britain and America

BY GARETH FRASER

LIBERTÉ, ÉGALITÉ, FRATERNITÉ! THE French national motto of “Liberty, Equality and Fraternity” underpins a country rich in history and populated by an industrious and artistic people. Past glory saw France stride atop the world, its language and culture spread throughout Africa, the Mideast, the Pacific and the Americas. During France’s imperial days, Paris, the city of lights, bustled with industry and financial prosperity—the jewel of Europe.

Advance Warning

Today we see a very different France emerging. With the nation’s defeat by the British at Waterloo and Trafalgar, France found itself diminished to a second-rate power under dominance by the vast British Empire. Then, since World War II, it has sat very uncomfortably under U.S. hegemony. Even more so, France’s attempt to reassert itself as a major world power has been increasingly frustrated since the death of its greatest post-war leader, Charles de Gaulle. Striving to form

a working partnership with Germany as the two leading nations of Europe, France has too often found itself playing second fiddle to the nation that, throughout history, has been its declared enemy.

Herbert Armstrong foresaw these events in advance of their fulfillment. He warned in print and through radio and television that France would weaken, Germany would rise and Europe would unite. In August 1968 his Paris News Bureau, established to watch events in France and Europe, reported the following in the *Plain Truth*: "After De Gaulle's departure, France will then resume her traditional role of economic and political instability.

Then when France becomes weakened sufficiently, it will be the nationalist Germans who will become dominant in the Common Market—replacing the French as the most influential nation in the EEC. Such a weak, sickly France—bereft of De Gaulle's strong leadership—will then play second fiddle to Germany." And a report from Paris in the June 1969 *Plain Truth* states, "Regardless of whoever is at the helm of France's government from now on you will see more chaos and instability! She will stumble from one crisis to another—playing a subordinate role to Germany! This is absolutely certain."

The French remember that twice over the last century Germany has overrun its borders. Not wanting to rock the boat and antagonize Germany, France is being increasingly bullied into playing a subservient role to the Berlin-based powerhouse of Europe.

Betrayal of a Brother

Reuben (the ancient name for today's French-speaking peoples) was the firstborn son of Jacob, father of the 12 tribes of biblical Israel. Anciently, Jacob's sons conspired to kill their younger brother Joseph, jealous of his close relationship with their father. Reuben permitted the conspiracy and aided and abetted in the plan to remove his youngest brother—suggesting they not kill him but rather cast him into a pit in the wilderness. The

brothers followed Reuben's advice; but, sensing Reuben's weakness, they then sold Joseph to some traders passing by, who subsequently sold him into slavery in Egypt. Reuben returned, realizing what had happened, but it was too late. He was now caught in the trap of his family infighting and forced to fabricate a story for their father about Joseph being torn to pieces by a wild beast (Genesis 37:12-33).

At first glance it may seem as though Reuben acted well. He proposed an alternative to killing Joseph by throwing him in a pit. But is that what was expected of Reuben? Is that all he could do as the firstborn son, the leader of the children?



At the time, within ancient Israel, the firstborn received privileges his brothers and sisters did not. His heritage was larger, and he received a greater portion of blessings. He was next to his father in power and authority. Therefore Reuben was actually responsible for what happened to Joseph. His job was to act the way his father would have if he had been there—

not to compromise with his younger brothers in their actions against Joseph.

Reuben did not act with courage and dignity. Afraid of his enraged brothers—so afraid he didn't even remain with them to see what they finally decided to do with Joseph (verse 29)—all Reuben could think of was compromise. Compromise was not fulfilling his duty and responsibility as the firstborn. Reuben simply failed.

History Repeats Itself

There is a striking parallel between Reuben's behavior in the past and that of France today. The late Herbert W. Armstrong saw in advance that France, like Reuben, would weakly compromise and betray its brother.

He often said, on the air and in print, that there would arise a "United States of Europe" which would enslave the American and British peoples. In August 1966, the *Plain Truth's* Paris Bureau reported, "Reuben's modern descendants will be at the side of the prophesied 'beast' of Revela-

tion when the Anglo-Saxons (the descendants of Joseph) are taken captive. France, like its forefather Reuben, will probably seek a compromise to prevent its former allies—the very sons of Joseph—from being taken captive by the enemy. ...

"During the last two world wars France was at the side of her *natural* allies, the Anglo-Saxons. They are, indeed, her *natural* allies because the French people, in turn, are the modern descendants of ... REUBEN! The situation, however, will be quite different during the next world war. France will no longer fight at the side of her former allies; she will turn against them. The descendants of Reuben will play their part in selling into slavery their brother Joseph—just as Reuben did some 3,700 years ago."

Germany permitted France to lead the way in the implementation of the euro currency. Germany is content to allow France to push through the implementation of the 60,000-strong European Defense Force.

In a stunning article, Ben Fenton of the *Daily Telegraph* reported on Nov. 11, 1999, "The European Union, and France in particular, is progressively breaking up NATO ..." Speaking at the invitation of the House of Representatives committee on international relations, Duncan Smith placed the blame for the undermining of American and British security squarely on Paris, saying, "I believe France has never felt comfortable with the NATO alliance and has for a long time wished for the construction of a common European defense as a top priority" (ibid.).

"The unbridled nature of U.S. power has rankled France more than any other nation. Once a world power, French influence is overshadowed by Hollywood, McDonald's, the U.S. economy and Washington's military muscle. Jospin, President Jacques Chirac and Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine have in the last month repeatedly condemned U.S. 'hyperpower' and stressed the importance of a multipolar world" (Stratfor, Dec. 17, 1999).

Herbert Armstrong predicted that, just as jealous Reuben anciently betrayed his brother, the same will be true in the end time, as France's involvement in the German-dominated EU will cause it to betray its brothers, the U.S. and Britain.

Before his death, Jacob [renamed Israel] told Reuben that he was "unstable as water" (Genesis 49:4). That water-like instability has continued up to this day. For that reason, we will see the current trend grow stronger: France will remain Europe's mistress and not its master. ♦

Planned and executed by the EU and the Vatican:

Europe's Latin Assault

BY GARETH FRASER

AT THE END OF WORLD WAR II, Germany lay smoldering in the ashes of defeat. At the same time, a lone voice warned that Europe's will for global dominance had not been broken, and that it would rise again—one final time. That voice warned that Germany had prepared a blueprint for that rise, long before its crushing defeat by the clenched fist of the Allied powers. After its previous failures, the Teutonic power knew of one sure way Adolf Hitler's dream of an Aryan superstate could become a reality.

But it needed the help of Latin America.

Nazi-Latino Underground

This time, it would not be stony-faced, jack-booted storm troopers taking the world by blitzkrieg, but rather well-spoken, handsome businessmen equipped with the weapons of the new Euroforce—a three-piece suit and briefcase to match. The war now waged by the underground Nazis was to be one fought in corporate boardrooms, restaurants, hotels, at political functions and through international diplomacy.

As early as May 1962, the lone voice of the *Plain Truth* magazine issued this warning: "Germany's plans in South America were temporarily halted by its defeat in World War II. ... 'South America will be conquered by business agents, not by guns!'" (quoting T.H. Teten's *Germany Plots With the Kremlin*; emphasis mine throughout).

After World War II, over 55,000 Germans fled their native land to havens in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the countries of Central and South America. Other Nazi sympathizers from Croatia, Hungary and Yugoslavia found their way to foreign countries through the Vatican-engineered "ratlines," to continue working for the coming European religious-corporate Reich.

In its October 1957 issue, the *Plain Truth* said, "During World War II, Argentina was an outspoken friend of Hitler, sheltering Nazi officers and men, offering safe haven for Nazi ships and submarines. Many Nazis found their

way to Argentina and safety while Hitler's regime was collapsing under the steady rain of Allied bombs."

German influence began to dominate Latin America by the late 1940s. The Germans had high-level military presence in Argentina; Krupp industrial strength established in Brazil; Hitler's Croat Ustashi Chief Ante Pavelic influencing security in Paraguay; Nazi intelligence agents of Farben Bayer in Chile and Venezuela; and Nazi Party organizers of Brueckmann and Co. on the ground in Ecuador.

Since then, German businesses, with the support of the Vatican, have led the European fold to penetrate key industries in Latin America. Many German corporate giants such as Krupp, Siemens, Bayer, Volkswagen, I.G. Farben and Deutsche Bank steadily became household names south of the Rio Grande, across Panama and clear down to southern Argentina. From 1990-1999, with a united Germany and other EU members now "on side," all levels of trade and investment to the Latin region, the world's fourth-largest trading bloc, dramatically increased.

Herbert Armstrong knew far in advance that communism would fail to entice the Latinos and that British and American influence would dwindle. He knew it was EUROPE which stood on the threshold of achieving its long-term goal of economic and religious domination of Latin America. Now *Europe has crossed that threshold!*

EU and Mercosur

On Nov. 25, 1999, after signing a historic free-trade agreement with Mexico, the EU announced that it was working to conclude "formal talks toward a free-trade pact" with the entire Latin American region. Some Latino coun-



tries have already signed a formal document geared toward cementing free-trade relations. The agreement—signed on June 30, 1999, in Rio de Janeiro by the four presidents of the Southern Cone Common Market, the president of Chile and the 15 EU heads of state or their delegates—provides for "the bilateral, progressive and reciprocal liberalization of trade, with no sector excluded."

As the then-president of the European Council, German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder led the Rio talks, voicing his strong support for the integration of European and Latin American markets.

The vast Latin American trade bloc known today as *Mercosur* incorporates Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay with Chile and Bolivia as its associate members. The EU hopes to use an agreement with the \$1 trillion Mercosur market to gain a solid trade footing in the region, and to get a leg up on the U.S. with Latin American trade partners.

The EU-Mercosur free-trade agreement will cover 90 percent of two-way trade.

This "strategic alliance" flies directly in the face of the United States' former hopes of creating a pan-American free-trade area by 2005. Former President Clinton's "fast track" talks toward expanding NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) to become FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas) began in 1994 but were later blocked by the U.S. Congress. Since that time the EU has worked feverishly to establish itself as the *number-one* trading partner and investor in Latin America.

The EU-Mercosur free-trade area could result in additional annual profits of more than €6 billion for the Europeans and nearly €5 billion for Mercosur. In 1998 the two blocs saw a trade surplus of \$49.5 billion. The EU is currently Mercosur's main trading partner, accounting for 33 percent of trade imports in 1998 and 30 percent of its total exports. A report issued by the Madrid-based Institute for European-Latin American Relations (IRELA) noted that, "For Mercosur, perhaps the main advantage of a free-trade agreement would be access to European markets." The establishment of a free-trade area would enable an even greater flow of

EU exports currently subject to high duties and internal taxes.

In the European Commission's 1999 report "European Union and Latin America Advancing Together," it is noted that the driving force in escalated Euro-Latin trade was the mapping of a comprehensive document generated in 1994 "under the impetus of the German presidency." As the *Trumpet* has previously reported, so often where Germany leads, Europe follows. It comes as no real shock that *German exports and imports to and from Latin America far outweigh that of all other EU member states.*

Europe's exports to Latin America grew by 164 percent in the decade of the '90s, while Latin exports to EU countries rose by 29 percent. Over 55 percent of all Latin American financial aid came from EU coffers. The EU is also the largest donor of bilateral development assistance to the region. Prior to 2000, just in loan grants, the EU gifted over €746 billion to Latin America. Not surprisingly, the EU report boldly claimed that the European Investment Bank has become "one of the principal European players on the subcontinent."

The Facts Are In

The May 1962 *Plain Truth* declared that "*the United States is going to be left out in the cold as two GIGANTIC TRADE BLOCS, EUROPE and LATIN AMERICA, mesh together and begin calling the shots in world commerce.*"

In perhaps the most powerful statement in its 1999 report, the European Commission (EC) declared, "*The European alternative can thus represent a viable counterweight to what is sometimes perceived as excessive economic and political dependence*" (op. cit.). The EC is directly referring to Latin America having had an "excessive economic and political dependence" upon the United States. **THE U.S. WAS THE REGION'S LARGEST TRADE PARTNER UNTIL BEING OVERTAKEN BY THE EU!** That is a shocking fact if you understand what we have been proclaiming for over 60 years.

The *Plain Truth* cautioned its readers in its April 1966 issue: "Can you see why we warn readers that the Latin American Common Market and the Central American Common Market are dangerously close to becoming partners with the European Common Market? Can you see these giant combines are dangerously close to turning their backs on America and Britain, once and for

"The United States is going to be left out in the cold as two gigantic trade blocs, Europe and Latin America, mesh together and begin calling the shots in world commerce."

—*Plain Truth*, May 1962

all? Can you see why we warn you that the Nazis—hiding out all over South America—are dangerously close to rising again, this time to be victorious as prophesied in Isaiah 10, Jeremiah 25:15-33?" The facts are in. The passage of time has proved Herbert W. Armstrong and the warning message of the *Plain Truth* absolutely right!

The July 1965 *Plain Truth* told of what was coming: "Flowing across the Atlantic to feed the hungry furnaces of the Ruhr and the other industrial complexes of Europe will come the rich mineral resources of Latin America."

South America, rich in resources, is an attractive smorgasbord for resource-hungry Europeans. Silver from Mexico and Peru, tin from Bolivia and iron ore from Venezuela and Brazil—Europe needs a steady supply of these and other raw materials, which Latin America can provide in abundance.

Do you see the seriousness of the EU-Mercosur combine? An economically unified, politically stable Latino bloc is necessary to ensure constant delivery of goods. That is a major reason Europe, with Vatican assistance, is working hard to bring Latin America stability through economic and religious prosperity.

The Threshold of Hope

In October 1957, the *Plain Truth* trumpeted that "the rest of these Latin American nations will join in with the European revival of the old Roman Empire." For devoutly Catholic Europeans, Latin America is a home away from home. No geographic area is more aligned with the Vatican today than the Mercosur countries. With an office in every Latino country, the Vatican maintains a massive presence in the region. In no other geographic area does the pope have such widespread religious dominance and power of influence. The EU and Latin America are more than just a trade duo—they are "religious,

commercial and political partners."

In September 1999, Pope John Paul II visited Latin America and blessed the soil of Brazil in celebration of five centuries of Catholic influence.

In his book *The Threshold of Hope*, John Paul recognized the centuries-old power and influence that Catholicism had upon the Spanish-Portuguese world. "A great new wave of evangelization began at the end of the 15th century, originating above all in Spain and Portugal," he wrote. "With the *discovery of America*, the evangelization of that entire hemisphere, from north to south, was set in motion."

With religious unity and an EU-Mercosur free-trade agreement already assured, no other area of the world is better prepared to ascend the throne of global trade than the EU.

Trumpet correspondent Ron Fraser echoed Herbert Armstrong's warnings in our February 1998 issue: "Watch for strengthening religious and commercial ties between Latin America and Europe. Watch for careful but overt initiatives from Vatican City to consolidate the church's power..." In August 1999, the *Trumpet* warned, "... Latin America, besides boasting agricultural and other resources, also represents a population of 500 million citizens, the vast majority of which are firmly bound to Catholicism."

In advance of the Nov. 25, 1999, EU-Mercosur announcement, the *Trumpet* reported that "the ecstatic support given to the pope's 1998 Latin America visit, to the point where Communist Cuba kept Christmas last winter, reconfirms where this population ultimately offers its allegiance—to the heart of Europe, the seat of their economic and religious heritage" (ibid.).

"The Vatican is fully cognizant of the fact that more than half of the world's Roman Catholics live in Latin America!" (ibid., September/October 1997). During his tenure, Pope John Paul visited all 24 countries of Central and South America as part of an effort to stabilize the region in preparation for its trade obligations to the EU and its collective religious unity with the Catholic Church. The pope wrote, "*By the year 2000 we need to be more united, more willing to advance along the path toward the unity. It is very important to cross the threshold of hope, not to stop before it, but to let oneself be led.*"

Reporting on the pope's progress toward Latin American stability, the

Trumpet declared, “The Vatican has proven to be a powerfully influential force in stabilizing the socio-political climate in Latin America, leading to this great sub-continent becoming a favored repository for the funds of global investors” (September/October 1997).

Many will let themselves be led into collusion with the rising Eurobeast, the seventh and final revival of the medieval Holy Roman Empire. The EU’s corporate war machine and the powerful religious influence of the Vatican are quickly outsmarting Britain and America.

Where Is It Leading?

Remember, while Germany still lay in the ashes of defeat, Mr. Armstrong warned that it would again unite behind the cloak of a uniting Europe. Looking through the lens of Bible prophecy, he boldly declared that Europe would dominate the Latino common market while the Catholic Church would exercise religious dominance.

The *Trumpet* continues to report prophetic end-time events as they happen. Americans need to know what is happening between Europe and Latin America—and why. Europeans need to know. Latinos need to know. The whole world needs to know. With Mr. Armstrong gone, ONLY the *Trumpet* tells you why!

For now, the European assault on Latin America will continue. Events between these blocs of nations will aid the formation of the greatest double cross of all time. Once great powers, Britain and America have failed to heed the warning of that lone voice and continued in national disobedience to the supreme laws of God. As a result of their failure, their birthright promises are being stripped away; the Eurobeast will soon stride atop the world, ridden by a great false church, and enslave these superpowers of the 20th century.

Their only hope is to heed the warning of the *Trumpet* magazine and the *Key of David* television program, yield themselves to the power of Almighty God, and, on their knees, in national repentance, start obeying their God.

Very soon, in supreme power and glory, ONE will come again to put down ALL opposition, and with the help of those who have yielded themselves to His family government, restore peace and unity, and usher in a time of resplendent, harmonious, abundant living for all. ♦



REUTERS

A PUSH FOR UNITY Pope John Paul II appealed strongly for Protestant churches to return to their roots in the “universal church.”

O Come, All Ye Faithful

“Protestant churches everywhere are gravitating toward union with the Roman Catholic Church. These religious movements are speeding the fulfillment of the prophecies of the resurrected Roman Empire. For 30 years I have been proclaiming this tremendous event over the air and in print.”

—Herbert W. Armstrong, 1963

BY GARY RETHFORD

FROM THE EARLY 1930S, HERBERT Armstrong spoke out about a coming unity between Catholics and Protestants. Notice this excerpt from the *Plain Truth*: “The pope will step in as the supreme UNIFYING authority—the only one that can finally unite the differing nations of Europe. The iron jurisdiction over both schools and religion will be turned over to the

Roman Catholic Church. EUROPE WILL GO ROMAN CATHOLIC! Protestantism will be absorbed into the ‘Mother’ Church—and totally abolished” (October 1961).

Through the pages of the *Plain Truth*, Herbert W. Armstrong was sending a warning to the world of a coming church unity. Notice, again: “The final—albeit *short-lived*—triumph

of Catholicism is recorded in literally dozens of Bible prophecies. Right now—whether we want to believe it or not—the stage is being set for the greatest revolution in religion the world has witnessed. ... The mighty problem of achieving unity is two-fold. First, it involves reconciliation of the Orthodox Schism that officially commenced in 1054 and divided the churches in the East. ... Second, it involves restoration to the Roman Communion all Protestantism which developed from 1517 onward” (November 1963).

The Catholic aim of unity has been stated to be the forefront of their endeavors since as early as 1896. Pope Leo XIII stated it in the opening comment of his encyclical to the church: “It is sufficiently well known unto you that *no small share of our thoughts and of our care is devoted to our endeavor to bring back to the fold, placed under the guardianship of Jesus Christ, the Chief Pastor of souls, sheep that have strayed*. Bent upon this, we have thought it most conducive to this salutary end and purpose to describe the exemplar and, as it were, the lineaments of the church. Amongst these *the most worthy of our chief consideration is unity*. We earnestly pray that He (‘the Father of Lights’) will graciously grant us the power of bringing conviction home to the minds of men” (*Satis Cognitum* [On the Unity of the Church], June 29, 1896; emphasis mine).

In the 1930s, when a future church unity was being prophesied, nothing was farther from the Protestant mind. They would have said, “Unity? NEVER!” But what are we seeing today, OVER 60 YEARS after Mr. Armstrong first broke that news to the world? The hope of church UNITY!

Steps Toward Unity

Many steps toward church unity have occurred. Interfaith ecumenical prayer services had been held in practically every major city of the United States by the end of the 1960s. “Pulpit switches” by priests and ministers were becoming widespread.

Anglicans and Catholics carried on private meetings with Lutherans throughout 1966. The Methodist Church also encouraged holding study groups together with Catholics in order to reach interfaith understanding.

On Jan. 18, 1967, a precedent-shattering Roman Catholic-Anglican service was held in Madrid at the British Embassy’s Church of St. George. As

“The pope will step in as the supreme unifying authority—the only one that can finally unite the differing nations of Europe. ... Europe will go Roman Catholic!”

—*Plain Truth*, October 1961

reported by the *Plain Truth*, the ceremony consisted of hymns and prayers for unity. Spanish Protestants said the service was an indication of growing religious tolerance in Spain.

Again, as reported in the February 1967 *Plain Truth*, leading Protestant theologians began to seriously question any need for a future Protestant movement. Lutheran Bishop of Berlin Otto Dibelius said, “If the Catholic Church of 450 years ago had looked as it does today, there never would have been a Reformation.” Dr. Carl E. Braaten of Chicago’s Lutheran Theological Seminary concluded that it was becoming increasingly difficult to justify “a need for Protestantism as an independent movement.” Dr. Robert Brown of Stanford University, a Presbyterian, said that “the Roman Catholic Reformation” was now a fact, and “Protestants cannot indefinitely justify a situation of continued separation.”

A Traveling Pope

Pope John Paul II made a historic three-day visit to Turkey in November 1979. There he held a religious summit with Greek Orthodox Patriarch Demetrios I, stating a determination to bring to a close what he called the “intolerable scandal” of the divisions within the Christian-professing world.

In 1982, Pope John Paul II made a historic visit to Britain, Scotland and Wales. On the first day of that visit, he declared in London’s Roman Catholic Westminster Cathedral, “Today, for the first time in history, a bishop of Rome sets foot on English soil.” He went on to say, “My deep desire, my ardent hope and my prayer is that my visit may serve the cause of Christian unity.”

On his second day there, the pope visited Canterbury Cathedral, headquarters of the Church of England,

which had rejected Rome 4½ centuries earlier. Joining the pope was his host, Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, and leaders of a dozen Orthodox and Protestant churches. The archbishop, in his opening remarks, vocalized the hope of a “celebration of a common vision.” Then followed what was another first for an Anglican church—a

SERMON BY A POPE!

The pope appealed to his audience, which included millions of people watching on television, to be “praying and working for reconciliation and ecclesiastical unity.”

He told the large congregation in the cathedral that church unity “transcends all political divisions and frontiers.” He later said that this was a day “that centuries and generations have awaited.”

“The most dramatic moment on the pope’s itinerary occurred on Saturday, Oct. 6, 1979. Over 200 years of estrangement between the Vatican and the government of the United States came to an unofficial end. For the first time in history a pope visited the White House, an event unthinkable just two decades ago” (*Plain Truth*, December 1979).

During that visit, the pope embraced the theme which would be the future direction of reconciliation—forgiveness. “As members with the Roman Catholic family in the one body of Christ, we remember the words of St. Paul, ‘If one member is honored, all rejoice together.’ We therefore are asking all Christians—Catholic, Protestant, Anglican, and Orthodox—to transcend our present and past differences on this occasion, and to mark the papal visit as a sign and stimulus for reconciliation ... and to pray for the unity we seek.”

The Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East met in August 1997. Out of that meeting came the “Joint Synodal Decree for Promoting Unity” between the Assyrian Church of the East and the Chaldean Catholic Church.

That decree states, “In the service of our Lord and the people of God, we, the bishops of the two branches of the ancient ‘Church of the East,’ declare that the noble quest for restoring Christian unity remains, for us and for our churches, a profound Christian obligation. ... We, in our respective churches, realize that the actual meaning of Jesus’s prayer ‘that all may be one’ (John 17:21-23) can be fulfilled factually as we strive to restore the unity of the Church of the East, as known by our common forefathers.



A COMMON VOICE A document produced in May 1999 by the Anglican archbishop of Canterbury and Pope John Paul II urged their churches to unify—actually paving the way for Anglican integration into Catholicism.

“The basic theological agreement between the Catholic Church and the Assyrian Church of the East, as articulated in the ‘Common Christological Declaration,’ signed at the Vatican, on Nov. 11, 1994, by Their Holinesses Pope John Paul II and Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV, has cleared the way for the Chaldean and the Assyrian churches to initiate a process of dialogue and collaboration toward the goal of unity.”

Out of the Many—One

Let’s bring this more up to date. Entering quietly onto the world scene of late, the Vatican has continued to offer the olive branch to its daughter churches, the dissident Protestants. In an article in the *New York Times*, Gustav Niebuhr wrote, “In a decision intended to resolve an issue that split the Western Christian world nearly 500 years ago, the Vatican said yesterday that it would sign a declaration with most of the world’s Lutherans affirming that Roman Catholics and Lutherans share a basic understanding” (“Vatican Settles a Historic Issue With Lutherans,” June 26, 1998).

Mr. Niebuhr stressed that the acceptance of issues by the Vatican and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) “represents a triumph for supporters of the ecumenical movement, which has urged closer cooperation among churches.” The federation represents a majority of Lutherans worldwide, some 7.6 million believers.

Meanwhile, church unity has been progressing on other fronts. The Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCU), a Lu-

theran organization separate from the LWF, with a membership of 5.2 million members, has voted overwhelmingly to breach the gaps between the ELCU and the Episcopal Church. Lutheran Presiding Bishop H. George Anderson said in special remarks to episcopal observers, “You have experienced the urgent and heartfelt desire of this assembly to move into full communion with the Episcopal Church.”

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, likewise, entered into “full communion” with three other Protestant denominations in 1999 when they agreed to share ministry with the Presbyterian Church, the United Church of Christ and the Reformed Church in America.

When we add the amazing number of journeys by Pope John Paul to all parts of the globe, we begin to get a glimpse of the enormous effort being made toward unity. This was the most traveled pope in modern history—perhaps all time. From March 1983 to July 1998, he visited no fewer than 116 separate nations—many of which received multiple visits, such as Poland, which was visited five times.

Speaking from a podium in Vienna, he mentioned the construction of Europe “from the Atlantic to the Urals, from the North Sea to the Mediterranean”—a reference to European integration planned in the years ahead. He lauded Austria, a neutral country, as “a mirror and model for a united Europe, which does not marginalize but has room for all.”

Catholics, by the Vatican’s count,

comprise 77 percent of Austria’s 8 million people. Clearly, this pope extended the hand of unity to all who would listen.

In 1999, the *Daily Telegraph* printed the following report concerning a global summit between the Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Church: “A ‘design group’ which has nothing to do with the Millennium Dome is due to meet in Canada next week. The structure they are designing is millennial but metaphysical: a global summit of Roman Catholic and Anglican regional leaders, plus Vatican officials, to be held in Toronto in May 2000. ... It will bring together all the Anglican primates (almost all of them archbishops) from the 40 or so provinces of the Anglican Communion, and the presidents of Catholic Bishops’ Conferences (most of whom are cardinals) from every country where both churches have a significant presence. Nothing like it has ever happened before. They will review ‘the whole range of Anglican-Catholic relations,’ Dr. Carey has said, which includes where the shoe pinches most.

“Some members of the Catholic and Anglican preparatory group in Canada next week will have in their briefcases an extremely hot document—the as-yet-unpublished joint statement on authority which has just been agreed by the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC). It is the third such statement to tackle the authority issue, and it is said to be ‘convergent’—the two sides have moved significantly closer together ...” (*Daily Telegraph*, Feb. 19, 1999).

This coming church unity will not bring the peace mankind desires: JUST THE OPPOSITE! It will bring an enforced way of life upon all mankind—whether they like it or not! It will bring what prophecy calls “the mark of the beast” (Revelation 13:17). It will tell you when to work and when not to work. Mankind will then be in slavery to the beast power which Mr. Armstrong warned about.

Herbert W. Armstrong said it was coming, and it is almost here. Church unity will soon move from being a prophecy to a reality. But just as surely as his warning of a prophesied church unity and the emergence of a beast power are coming to pass, so will his announcement of the wonderful Kingdom of God also come to pass. That kingdom will destroy all others. Then, we will have true UNITY—God’s way! ♦

Atlantic Rift

Why the U.S. and Europe can't be friends forever

BY RON FRASER

"ECONOMIC RECOVERY MASKS deep divisions that must eventually rip asunder the Atlantic alliance." This statement, published in the September 1983 *Plain Truth*, marks a prophecy which has greatly accelerated toward its fulfillment: an inevitable rift between the United States and Europe.

On the surface, America's economic power may appear unstoppable. But its moral fiber, along with its determination to defend the right—with military means if necessary—has deteriorated drastically since the Second World War.

The world has noticed, and America now finds itself in the incongruous position of having great economic power without the corresponding international respect which previously gave its policies political weight.

As was indicated at the beginning, America's wealth today is masking very deep problems. The *Plain Truth* also alluded to this in February 1956: "America seems wedded to the idea that it can buy friends and allies around the world with ready American cash. We intend to hold friendly nations to us by generously supplying money and arms. *But it isn't working!*"

This was written in 1956, but it applies more today than ever! American money is being pumped into numerous causes internationally, but it is not buying support for American policies—it is not buying respect!

This fact becomes clear when looking at how the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has dealt with Russia. The *Washington Times* noted on Dec. 19, 1999, "Russia received an IMF loan in March 1996, shortly before presidential elections, and in July 1998, when Russia's currency devaluation and debt default threatened the global econo-

my. An April 1999 loan, during NATO's military campaign in Kosovo, was also conspicuously timely. In those cases, *Russia's failure to meet economic conditions* certainly wasn't a pressing concern.... In light of genocidal war on Chechnya, the IMF-White House policy of appeasement appears to have been dangerously myopic" (emphasis mine). The U.S.'s attempt to buy Russian cooperation through billions of dollars in IMF loans has not worked. Russian President Vladimir Putin's revision of Russia's national security doctrine, lowering the threshold for the first use of nuclear weapons, flies in the face of America's insipid "economic pressure"!

It is an increasing *disrespect* for American leadership, brought about by repeated foreign policy debacles—for example, through the virtually fruitless NATO action in Kosovo—which has reduced the effectiveness of American foreign policy! *The money is not talking in America's diplomacy!*

Although this has become more obvious in the past decade or so, this loss of respect for America—and its consequences—was prophesied years ago! The *Plain Truth* wrote about the G-7 Summit of Industrialized Nations in September 1983, "Viewing the activities of this annual 'summit of summits' ... one thing was evident: just how important confidence in America is to the stability of the entire Western world. ... The lack of confidence in American leadership must ultimately lead to a *parting of the ways* between the United States and Western Europe. ..."

The fulfillment of this prediction can be easily seen in recent events. The European Union, as it realizes the magnitude of its economic importance (a result of the monetary union of 12 countries), is strengthening its *political* voice, no longer willing to play second fiddle to the American giant.

Trade disputes between the U.S. and the EU have arisen over import regulations for bananas and beef, over EU agricultural policy, and over the "hush-kit ban"—an EU law banning the use of "noise mufflers" on airplanes. Disputes have flared over the (American-led) workings of the World Trade Organization—whose glaringly ineffective meetings have struck further blows to American political leadership—and over future purchases of EU military equipment. These are just a few of the growing number of trade disputes presently straining trans-Atlantic

relations. America's political voice is getting weaker, the EU's voice is getting stronger, and the gulf between them is widening!

Where is this leading? Read what was published in the *Plain Truth* over 25 years ago: "European antagonism toward the United States and its policies is now in the open. The next few years will bring forth more misunderstanding, conflicts of interest and, at times, outright hostility between the United States and Europe. Europe—including [then] West Germany—will have to build its own unified armed forces, including nuclear weapons. Religious as well as political forces will play a key role in the future" (March 1974). This is now happening!

A *Toronto Star* article, Nov. 30, 1999, titled "Europe: One Market, One Currency, One Army" sums it up: "The new reality is that the Europeans have already established their independent European 'identity' in military aerospace and the allied defense industry."

The *International Herald Tribune* reported on Dec. 13, 1999, "By equipping itself with the ability to send as many as 60,000 troops to a crisis zone such as Bosnia or Kosovo, the 15-nation European Union will finally become a strategic player that the United States will have to reckon with, say French defense officials, who have long chafed under U.S. military and strategic dominance. ... 'If Europe takes on more responsibility by building up its military strength, that will contribute to the long-term equilibrium of the alliance,' [French Defense Minister Alain Richard] said. 'Now the European Union is stepping up its responsibilities and over the next few years will become a genuine actor on the world scene, one that didn't exist before.'"

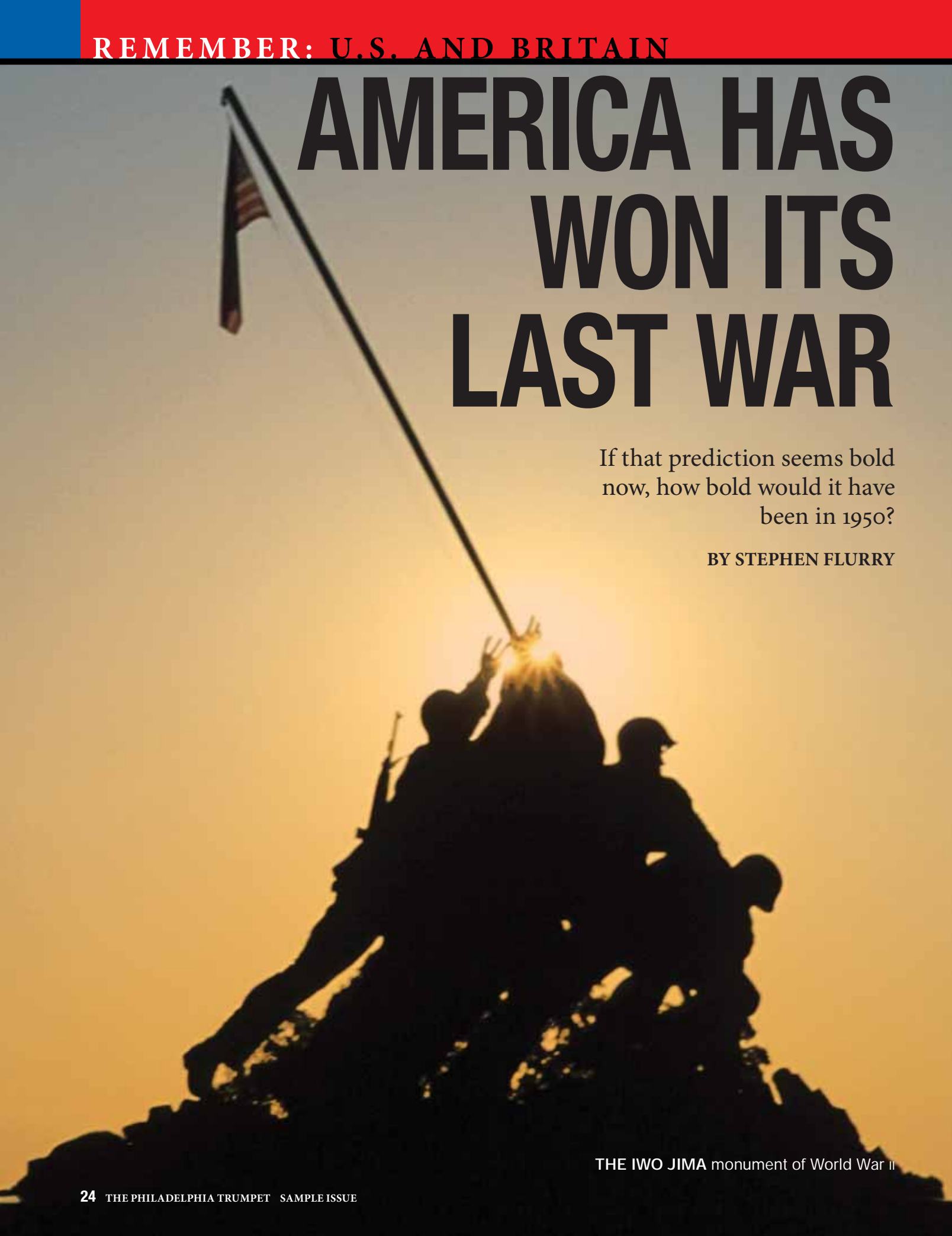
The EU is growing more independent of the U.S. and is strengthening its position as a world power. This was prophesied in the *Plain Truth* years ago. It is only a matter of time before the growing rift between the U.S. and the EU tips the power balance decisively in Europe's favor, allowing the EU bloc to act on the world scene without *any* regard for American opinion. ◆



AMERICA HAS WON ITS LAST WAR

If that prediction seems bold
now, how bold would it have
been in 1950?

BY STEPHEN FLURRY



THE IWO JIMA monument of World War II

“HE KEPT US OUT OF WAR!” cheered the president’s most loyal constituents. President Wilson was campaigning for re-election. True to his campaign slogan, the president had kept America out of war. That is, unless you consider the sinking of American ships by German submarines a warlike act. Mr. Wilson’s defense had been a steady stream of hand-written notes, pleading for the kaiser to stop shooting Americans.

Herbert Armstrong attended that campaign rally in the autumn of 1916. Amid the throngs of Wilson supporters, he found himself not more than six feet away from former President Theodore Roosevelt.

“He kept us out of war,” Mr. Armstrong heard the former president say with contempt. “I was president for seven-and-a-half years,” he continued. “And if I were president now, I would send the kaiser *just one note*—and he would know that I meant it.”

Mr. Armstrong told that story often because it perfectly illustrated what he had been repeating for decades—that the United States had lost the will to use its power. Shortly after World War II, he predicted that the United States had **WON ITS LAST WAR.**

Korea and Cuba

The Korean War was the first in a long line of non-victories for the United States. When hostilities broke out in 1950, President Truman gave command of American forces to Gen. Douglas MacArthur, World War II hero. From the outset, MacArthur was free to cross the 38th parallel and invade North Korea. But once China’s Communist forces joined in on the side of the enemy, the U.S. was sent reeling backward. MacArthur adamantly urged Washington to approve a full-scale attack on China, telling one congressman that “there is no substitute for victory.” But his plea fell upon deaf ears. President Truman fired MacArthur in 1951, and the war eventually settled to a stalemate, both sides suffering huge numbers of casualties.

The Korean War ended the career of America’s last great general. It also marked the beginning of a new era in American battle strategy—*limited warfare*.

The Bay of Pigs incident is a good example of this new strategy. President Kennedy kick-started this political-military disaster. In 1961, more than 1,400 Cuban exiles, trained by the CIA, landed on Cuba’s shores hoping to detonate a popular uprising. But without U.S. naval

and air support, Castro’s troops easily crushed the rebellion. Nearly all of the U.S.-led invaders were killed in battle or died in Castro’s prisons years later.

Several years before the Bay of Pigs, Mr. Armstrong wrote in the January 1953 *Plain Truth* that the U.S. should have driven Castro and communism out of Cuba. Because it did not, he then asked, “Is the United States going to find that, having left Castro and godless communism on the American doorstep, it is going to continue to cause us every kind of trouble and harassment?” Indeed it did—a more recent example being the controversy over 6-year-old Cuban refugee Elian Gonzalez in 2000.

After the Bay of Pigs debacle, Mr. Armstrong pinned the blame *not* on the U.S. military, nor even President Kennedy, but on the **AMERICAN PEOPLE!** He wrote in the October 1961 *Plain Truth* that “unless or until the United States as a whole repents and returns to what has become a hollow slogan on its dollars: ‘**IN GOD WE TRUST, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS WON ITS LAST WAR!**’

“I said that when we failed to win in Korea! ... I say it again now that the United States government endorsed this Cuban fiasco—its president gave the ‘go-ahead’—and God, the God America has deserted, gave it its most humiliating defeat! What does the Cuban debacle mean?

“It means, Mr. and Mrs. United States, that the handwriting is on your wall!”

Strong words those. And yet how profound when you consider what was just around the corner.

The Vietnam Spectacle

As early as November 1961, the *Plain Truth* informed readers that the U.S. would “almost certainly” have to fight a major battle in Vietnam. (The U.S. started sending troops there in 1964.) While several news sources may have realized a war in Vietnam was imminent, none would have blared this headline in *early 1965*: “Why United States Cannot Win Vietnam War!” The *Plain Truth* said that just *months* after hostilities broke out.

The article pointed out, “The United States is committed not to win in Vietnam! ... The late Gen. Douglas MacArthur once stated that unless a nation entered into a battle with victory as its goal, it was defeated before it started. He was right!

“Make no mistake about it—the U.S. and the other nations involved in support of South Vietnam would *like* to

win. But they are afraid to take the action necessary to win.” That was printed in April 1965.

A year and a half later, Mr. Armstrong wrote, “The United States is not winning. Yet the war has been stepped up enormously during 1966. People see no results. People compare the size and power of the United States to that of North Vietnam—a little country hardly the size of one of our states, such as Florida. They can’t understand why the United States—the most powerful military nation in the world—can’t whip little North Vietnam” (*Plain Truth*, January 1967). The war lasted another eight years, ending in the shameful evacuation of American officials from the rooftop of the U.S. embassy in Saigon. It was America’s longest war in history. It was also our most humiliating defeat. Historian Paul Johnson called it a “collapse of American power.”

During those years, the *Plain Truth* often touched on another Vietnam casualty—of American honor worldwide. “No military nation can operate a military force by accepting defeat in an enemy attack,” Mr. Armstrong wrote, “on the excuse we wanted to save the lives of men who had offered those lives to protect our honor and our freedom. ... How many more lives will yet be lost in future battles because enemies will now be emboldened by this display of weakness to anticipate easy victories over a United States that is afraid to fight?” (January 1969).

Indeed, the war in Vietnam gave America’s reputation as a superpower quite a beating. The *Plain Truth* pointed this out in February 1978 and then made this stunning prediction: “The days are over when the military might of the United States is used to accomplish what America perceives as correct and proper. ... America’s influence and prestige is on the rapid decline. The pride of our power has been broken. The time is fast approaching when the United States will be so weak and so fearful of its own shadow that, as the Prophet Ezekiel predicted, the trumpet will sound the call to battle, but none shall answer (Ezekiel 7:14).”

It was a portent of things to come.

Anti-War Era

If the Korean War marked the beginning of the *limited warfare* strategy, America’s ignominious defeat in Vietnam marked the beginning of *anti-warfare* strategy. Nothing illustrates this aversion to danger like the Iran hostage crisis.

In November 1978, a band of Iranian revolutionists stormed the American embassy in Tehran and captured 52 U.S. staff members. President Carter made repeated demands for Tehran to return the captives, but the Ayatollah Khomeini said he was beating an empty drum. “Carter does not have the guts to engage in a military operation,” Khomeini taunted. Carter’s only show of “force” was a bungled rescue attempt in April 1979 that left the bodies of eight U.S. servicemen burning in the Iranian desert. Television cameras captured the images for all to see. It was another humiliating defeat. Iran held the world’s greatest superpower at bay for another eight months after the botched rescue mission. One wonders how Theodore Roosevelt would have handled the situation.

With more conservative leadership during the 1980s, some might argue that America regained some of the pride in its power. President Reagan sent troops to Grenada in 1983 to stamp out communism from the West Indies. In 1986, he bombed Colonel Gaddafi’s military headquarters in Libya in response to a terrorist act. These small skirmishes, however, hardly qualify as decisive military victories for the United States.



U.S. TROOPS in Grenada, 1983

(The population of Grenada, after all, is only slightly bigger than Fargo, North Dakota.) If anything, they revealed an increasingly gun-shy America willing to use its military might *only* in small, relatively risk-free conflicts.

Consider Lebanon. In October 1983, an Islamic terrorist rammed a truck packed with explosives into marine barracks in Beirut, killing 241 Americans. Four months later, President Reagan withdrew all U.S. troops, which all but dissolved the Lebanese Christian power structure.

After another embarrassing U.S. retreat, the *Plain Truth* was quick to re-

mind readers of what it had been saying for decades. The November/December 1983 issue carried an article titled “Why America Has Won Its Last War.” In it, Mr. Armstrong’s booklet *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* was quoted: “The United States, even still possessing unmatched power, is afraid—fears—to use it, just as God said.”

The Gulf War “Victory”

If ever there was a conflict that could have proven Mr. Armstrong’s prediction wrong it would have been the Persian Gulf War. Even Mr. Armstrong’s own church, after he had been dead for several years, had backed away from the “America has won its last war” prediction. “We were wrong,” wrote Mr. Armstrong’s successor, Joseph Tkach, in 1991.

The fledgling *Trumpet* magazine, however, did not agree with the *Plain Truth*’s new watered-down message. “America has won its last war,” we declared on the cover of the May 1991 *Trumpet*, shortly after the Gulf War ended.

It is true that the world had never witnessed, until 1991, such an awesome display of technologically advanced firepower. Yet despite this show of force, the Persian Gulf War was not one “that test-

the Kurdish genocide. Mr. Flurry quoted Mary McGrory of the *Washington Post*: “The sight of those wretched souls streaming into Turkey... as Bush abandons them on the 18th hole of a Florida golf course, makes you wonder if in this case it is peace, rather than war, that is hell.” A.M. Rosenthal of the *New York Times* said of the cease-fire, “That is a lie; the war goes on.” Later, he wrote, “The war is not over for the rebels who believed in the word of America.” He then asked Bush directly: “Why do you sully your name and our country’s, by deliberately allowing Saddam Hussein to massacre the people you urged to rise against him?”

“America still fears getting bogged down in a Vietnam-type civil war in Iraq,” the *Trumpet* continued. “Even after we had them almost defenseless! That is because God has broken the pride of our power—our will to win!... America must come to see they are under a curse from God and repent of their sins.”

The fact that the 1991 Gulf War betrayed the Kurds and Shiites and left Saddam Hussein in power shows that it was, at best, another stalemate for the United States. However, the years that followed demonstrated even more powerfully the extent of the curse on

The small skirmishes in Grenada and Libya hardly qualify as decisive military victories. If anything, they revealed an increasingly gun-shy America willing to use its military might only in small, relatively risk-free conflicts.

display in that conflict.

Throughout the 1990s, it became increasingly clear that the greatest threat within the Middle East was not Saddam Hussein, but Saddam’s biggest enemy: Iran. When George W. Bush, the son of the President Bush who launched the Gulf War, unleashed the Second Gulf War in 2003, swiftly toppling the government and capturing the man who had eluded the U.S. 12 years before, it was a very impressive display of American military might. But the real adversary had become Islamist terrorism, and America’s prioritization of

ed the U.S. will,” we wrote in the *Trumpet*—that is “until it was ‘over’—and the refugee nightmare surfaced.” America may have lost only 147 of its own servicemen in the war, but it was responsible for the deaths of thousands more. The U.S. “victory” left Saddam Hussein in power to massacre tens of thousands of Kurdish and Shiite refugees whom the United States had *urged* to revolt. Hundreds of thousands more crossed Iraq’s borders into Turkey, Jordan and Iran. It was one of the worst refugee crises in history.

America, Gerald Flurry wrote in that *Trumpet* issue, actually helped *create*

Iraq over its much more powerful and dangerous neighbor Iran—rather than coming across as an American victory—has actually empowered the Islamic republic, the world's greatest terrorist-sponsoring nation. Today, the broken pride in America's power is visible in its extremely weak treatment of an increasingly belligerent and ascendant Iran.

The Shameful 1990s

Over the past decade or so, there have been many other American defeats, politically and militarily. In picking up where the *Plain Truth* left off, the *Trumpet* has covered many of these defeats. There was the U.S. "nation building" effort in Somalia in 1993. It only took 29 American casualties to scuttle that mission. The 1996 bombing of Khobar Towers in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, prompted a \$353 million retreat further into the Saudi desert. When terrorists blew up U.S. embassies in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi in 1998, President Clinton responded with a wrist slap—a cruise missile strike on suspected terrorist facilities.

The United States even backed away from a conflict in Haiti, one of the poorest nations in the world. A U.S. naval assault ship was actually held at bay by a small mob of Haitians at Port au Prince in 1993. The U.S. scrapped the mission because it feared casualties.

Europe

Even more shameful than these small incidents is America's dreadful foreign policy in Europe. This has been well documented in both the *Trumpet* and the *Plain Truth*. Just four years after World War II ended, Mr. Armstrong wrote, "But while trusting, gullible Uncle Sam, always unable to see more than one enemy at a time, has been busy worrying about Russia, the real menace has been making diabolical and rapid headway—under cover—in Europe!" (*Plain Truth*, November 1949). In the June 1952 *Plain Truth*, Mr. Armstrong likened America's bungling foreign policy in Europe to creating a Frankenstein monster that would eventually turn on its maker.

Gerald Flurry used that same analogy in the September/October 1995 *Trumpet*. He wrote about how the U.S. strongly opposed the recognition of the breakaway Yugoslav republics of Slovenia and Croatia in 1991. Yet, after German pressure, the United States caved in and offered its tacit approval. Rec-

ognizing those two states, more than anything else, is what sparked a succession of wars within the Balkan region during the 1990s.

Croatia, as the *Trumpet* pointed out, sided with the Nazis during World War II. The Croatian leader Germany insisted on supporting in 1991, Franjo Tudjman, was himself a Nazi sympathizer. When war erupted, Croatia proceeded to rid its territory of Serbian blood. Carl Bildt, former European Community mediator in the Balkans, called it the "most efficient ethnic cleansing we've seen in the Balkans."

America had effectively given its full support to the *wrong side*—and few commentators, besides the *Trumpet*, said anything about it.

The *Trumpet* has been hammering away at this warning for several years now. During the war in Kosovo, we exposed a further breakdown of U.S. willpower: "Given the apparent lack of will to effectively deploy its military might to actually win a victory in its numerous military adventures in recent years, why bother to deploy force at all...?" (*Trumpet*, May 1999). The U.S.-led bombing campaign was yet another low-risk American war that brought little or no result. In the long run, it will end up hurting America far more than it did Serbia. America's inept leadership had European leaders calling for their own force to intervene in future conflicts. Of course, the *Trumpet* is well aware of where this is leading.

So, in weighing "America has won its last war" against the facts, what do we find? That Mr. Armstrong was *right*. From Korea, to Cuba, to Vietnam, to Iran, to Lebanon, to Somalia, to Kosovo—all of these episodes constitute clear American political and military defeats.

Blessings and Curses

There is a reason Mr. Armstrong correctly predicted after World War II that America would lose the will to use its power and never again win a war. He knew that when God said He would "break the pride of your power" in Leviticus 26:19, He was referring primarily to the United States in this end time.

The irony is that the same God who promised to break our pride is the one who gave us this tremendous "power" in the first place. God blessed America with unprecedented material wealth because He promised it, unconditionally, to Abraham. He did so because of Abraham's obedience to God's laws.

That is why, up until World War II, our peoples were richly blessed. (All of this is thoroughly explained in Mr. Armstrong's book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Be sure to request your free copy for further explanation.)

Today, however, God is turning those blessings into curses because of rampant sin and disobedience to His law. God gave us every imaginable good, but what have we done with those blessings? Let Mr. Armstrong explain: "Like Rome, we've grown fat and prosperous and lazy. We Americans are rolling in money. We have more money than any people ever had. Money has come so easily! ... We're the wealthiest, as compared to any other nation, and we are fast growing lazy and soft, seeking luxury and pleasure, and excitement, idleness and ease, labor-saving, step-saving devices and gadgets" (*Plain Truth*, February 1956). That applies today more than it did in 1956!

In all of this material prosperity, we have forgotten God, as William Pfaff notes in an editorial: "In contrast to the 19th century, there no longer is general deference to the Christian God, or serious acknowledgment that such a deity might exist. This is a fundamental change because it means that the West today no longer acknowledges the existence of an external rule-giver or moral authority. It regards mankind as entirely autonomous, existing within a moral framework entirely of its own creation, responsible only to itself. ... The new millennium will be one in which, on present evidence, majority and elite be-

continued on next page

For further study ...

We suggest these free booklets:

The United States and Britain in Prophecy

Herbert W. Armstrong's explanation of the biblical identity of modern nations has given understanding to over 5 millions readers!

Character in Crisis

To the United States' Founding Fathers, character meant everything to the success of the nation and its leadership. What does it mean if we have strayed from that ideal today?

For information on ordering, see inside the front cover of this magazine.

lief in God is all but totally unseated in the West” (*International Herald Tribune*, Dec. 30, 1999).

This is the reason God is now cursing the peoples of Britain and the United States. America’s string of military-political defeats since World War II is proof of those curses! America has indeed won its last war. It was true in 1950—all the more so now.

“Today God warns us through many prophecies... that unless we of this generation repent of our sins, and turn to Him with fastings, and with weeping, and earnest prayer, He will destroy our cities, all our fortresses, by the hand of the foreign sword; that He will punish us at the hand of a cruel one; that we shall be invaded, defeated, reduced to slaves! God help our nations to heed that warning!” (*Plain Truth*, October 1954).

All this wealth—and yet a broken will. That makes for a dangerous combination. As Mr. Armstrong wrote in the June 1954 *Plain Truth*, AGGRESSOR NATIONS COVET THAT WEALTH. That being man’s nature, it’s time for you to listen to God’s prophecies and take note: Aggressor nations will TAKE that wealth as soon as they are strong enough to do so.

That will happen—and much sooner than you might think. That is what Herbert Armstrong foresaw.

Mr. Armstrong concluded an article in the October 1954 *Plain Truth*, “How any American—any English-speaking inheritor of God’s choicest material blessings—can, in face of such stupendous, overwhelming fulfillment of prophecy—such awe-inspiring demonstration of the power and might and faithfulness of Almighty God—accept and partake of these blessings, and then carelessly ignore God’s warning that our sins today are increasing, or fail to get to his knees before the great Almighty, and repent, and intercede in heart-rending prayer for all Israelite nations, and help in every way he can to warn our people now of their impending peril, seems impossible to conceive.

“God warns us through prophecy that our sins are fast increasing. And now the day of reckoning is here! The foreign sword already has attacked us. In this fearful awesome atomic age, World War III will start with atomic bombs dropped on London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, New York, Washington, Philadelphia, Detroit, Chicago, Pittsburgh; without warning!

“God help our nations to wake up before it’s too late!” ♦

Changing of the Guard

The decline of U.S.-British control over the world’s sea gates

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

YOU’RE SITTING INSIDE A FENCED courtyard where all the gates are locked. At each gate stands an armed guard who will not allow you to leave. You are *where*?

The correct answer is *prison*.

Now imagine those burly guards laying down their weapons and handing over their keys to the inmates. That’s essentially what the United States and Britain have done. Prior to World War II, they controlled every major sea gate in the world. These “gates,” as they are called in the Bible, proved indispensable to Allied success during World War II. Since that time, however, the U.S. and Britain have, without a fight, surrendered their control as gatekeepers.

The Birthright Promises

Herbert W. Armstrong listed a few of the most strategic passageways in the October 1954 *Plain Truth*: Gibraltar, Suez, Singapore and the Panama Canal. The United States and Britain gained control of these and many others after about A.D. 1800 because of the unconditional birthright promises God made to Abraham’s seed. One of the blessings promised modern-day Israel (U.S. and Britain primarily) was controlling the “gates” of their enemies (Genesis 22:17; 24:60). The fact that our peoples acquired these geographic gateways itself proves our biblical identity. “We must be modern Israel,” Mr. Armstrong wrote.

Further proof can be found in the fact that our peoples have since lost control of those passageways. This is what God said would happen. Mr. Armstrong wrote in 1980, “As the ‘pride of our power’ continues to be broken, as the British continue to lose their foreign sea gates and possessions around the Earth, as America signs away ownership of the Panama Canal—control over this vital sea gate... this focal prophecy alone represents giant proof as to where the modern ‘remnant’ of the peoples of Israel resides today!” (*The United States and Britain in Prophecy*).

For this reason—the fact that Mr. Armstrong knew the Bible proph-

esied of the latter-day rise and fall of the American and British peoples—his magazine, the *Plain Truth*, was able to predict the loss of several sea gates, well in advance of their actual occurrence.

The Suez Crisis

On July 26, 1956, President Nasser of Egypt seized control of the Suez Canal from the British. Two weeks later, on August 5, Mr. Armstrong wrote an article that was printed in the September 1956 *Plain Truth*. In it, he said the Suez crisis was of “life-and-death concern for Great Britain.” He said the British Empire had attained greatness largely because of its vast shipping by sea. “If Nasser now can take over and retain Suez, Britain’s life-line is severed.” In effect, Mr. Armstrong was saying it would signal the end of the British Empire.

Nearly two months *after* that article was written, on October 31, British and French forces invaded Egypt for the express purpose of gaining control of the Suez sea gate. Egypt retaliated by sinking 40 ships in the canal. The United Nations, led by the U.S., intervened in November to arrange a “truce”—which amounted to little more than a British defeat. British forces withdrew by the end of the year.

Let us return to the article Mr. Armstrong wrote on August 5, months before the conflict was resolved. He said, “The probable outcome of this Suez controversy—not specifically or directly prophesied in the Bible—is that Britain has lost control of Suez for the rest of this age, and will not be able to gain it back.”



Suez

He was right. Britain never regained control of the Suez. He was also correct to say the clash was of “life-and-death” import for Britain’s empire. Ten years after the Suez crisis, on July 31, 1966, the British Colonial Office in London shut down. The British Empire was officially dead.

Singapore

A year before the Colonial Office closure sounded the empire’s death knell, Singapore withdrew from the British-backed Malaysian Federation to declare independence. The *Plain Truth* told its readers in the October 1965 issue that this was yet another British defeat.

Britain had acquired this little island gateway linking the Indian Ocean to the Far East in an 1824 treaty. It had prospered under colonial rule, benefiting the British strategically, and thousands of Chinese and Malay immigrants who flocked there for higher wages. Aside from its vital importance during World War II, the island enclave enabled the British to keep peace on the Malay Peninsula after the war. By 1960, the British had finally crushed repeated Communist attempts to conquer the island.

Just a few years later, however, they surrendered without a fuss. “Maintaining the security of a vast area of the world is tragically no longer deemed important to many,” the *Plain Truth* wrote in March 1969. “The British are voluntarily giving up one of the world’s most strategic ‘gates.’”

The Panama Canal

“Going, Going...” read one newspaper headline on Dec. 3, 1999, in reference to America’s handover of the Panama Canal. Twenty-four years earlier, the *Plain Truth* ran this headline about the canal: “Going ... Going ... Gone?” (April 5, 1975). The article declared, “Mark my word: the canal will go—if not soon, eventually.” That was written two years before Jimmy Carter signed

the controversial treaty with Panama promising U.S. withdrawal by century’s end.

Actually, as early as March 1964, the *Plain Truth* had warned, “America, before this is all over, is going to lose the Panama Canal unless it repents.” Again, in November 1965: “The United States has done nothing but hedge, crawl, dodge, yield, relinquish, back down and give up ever since we began to build [the canal]!”

Knowing God had broken the pride of America’s power, the *Plain Truth* then asked, “Can God keep His word? Has He the power to interfere in the course of nations to break our power? Will God make good on His divine promise of punishment upon our peoples? The answer is a thundering yes!”

It then predicted, with confidence, in 1965, “History proves we will lose the canal.”

It correctly predicted how it would happen: “Panama is destined to go—sooner or later. But not in glorious and heroic defeat after faithful resistance—but in utter ignominy. In useless and helpless sacrifice—in disgrace and shame.”

The *Plain Truth* was also right about who would fill the power void left in the Canal Zone: “And—irony of ironies—we could even see engineers, pilots and technicians from the Communist world manning the canal jobs vacated by Americans!” (July 1977).

That all of these predictions have now happened is astonishing. The U.S. did pull out without a fight—in utter ignominy. Communists did fill many jobs vacated by Americans. As we reported in the *Trumpet* in 2000, a Hong Kong-based port-facilities company, with Communist connections in Beijing, gained control of the canal’s ports of entry and exit.

In our January 2000 issue, we reminded our readers about what we have said all along—about why the United

States lost its most strategic sea gate: “God has ‘broken’ the pride in our power. That is why our people are not stirred by what is happening in Panama. Something is terribly wrong with us! We are afraid to use the power God gave us. ... How long must God curse us before we awaken? That is the big question each one of us must answer.”

Gibraltar

Of the four major sea gates Mr. Armstrong mentioned in the October 1954 *Plain Truth*, only Gibraltar has yet to be handed over. But that will happen sometime before the European Union ascends to world dominance.

Already, Britain has seen its hold on the rocky fortress loosen. “If it were expedient, politically or otherwise, Britain would most probably relinquish Gibraltar,” the *Plain Truth* declared in September 1974.

In August 1982, the *Plain Truth* predicted, “In the long run, the British government fully intends to negotiate away Gibraltar.”

True enough, in June 1985, the *Plain Truth* told readers about an agreement forged between Britain and Spain where the British finally agreed to tackle the question of sovereignty in Gibraltar. “For us, this really opens a process of decolonizing the Rock,” a Spanish Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The *Trumpet* continued to follow this story throughout the 1990s. In December 1997, we told readers the British would “hand over this mighty Mediterranean sea gate without so much as a whimper!”

Concluding the article, the *Trumpet* stated, “The fact is that Britain has no objection in principle to handing



DIGITAL STOCK 03



Cape of Good Hope

Gibraltar over to Spain, providing this is acceptable to the majority of the Rock's inhabitants. In other words—it is just a matter of time."

Other Significant Losses

Besides the four *major* sea gates Mr. Armstrong said we would lose, many others have also been surrendered.

Chief among these is Hong Kong. Without a struggle, the British gifted this South China Sea prize to Com-



Falkland Islands

munist rule in 1997. In Hong Kong, China not only inherited one of the world's richest trade centers, it took over control of the \$380 million naval base built by the British. "Never before has so much, used by so many, gone for so little," declared a member of Britain's Ministry of Defense. "With the end of British rule in Hong Kong," the *Trumpet* wrote, "we see the final act performed in the closure of an empire—a God-given empire—and



Malta

the hastening of the fulfillment of the prophesied curses upon a spoiled and ungrateful nation, the British people" (June 1997).

South Africa was another proud possession of the British Empire, controlling the waterway around the southern tip of Africa. But the surrender of South Africa to the Communist-influenced African National Congress ended much of Britain's control over the Cape of Good Hope. The *Trumpet* informed its

Peacekeeping UNdone

The UN's failures at peace were prophesied since its inception. Here's the "peacekeeping" power that will fill its shoes.

BY RYAN MALONE

HERBERT ARMSTRONG, TERMED BY MANY WORLD LEADERS an "unofficial ambassador for world peace," attended the inaugural session for the United Nations in San Francisco, April 1945. From San Francisco, Mr. Armstrong wrote that day: "Already I see the clouds of World War III gathering at this conference. ... I do not see PEACE being germinated here, but the seeds of the next WAR! ... The United Nations conference is producing nothing but strife and bickering, and is destined from its inception to end in total failure. Yet world leaders are pronouncing it THE WORLD'S LAST HOPE—with the only alternative ANNIHILATION OF HUMANITY!"

In a personal in the August/September *Plain Truth* some 25 years later, he wrote, "World War II was the 'war to END all wars.' The United Nations was the world 'peace effort' to prevent further wars. What are the results after a quarter-century? There have been more than 50 wars. The UN has contributed to the shortening of four wars—*BUT—there is no evidence* to show that the United Nations has PREVENTED any war!"

In the January 1977 *Plain Truth*, Mr. Armstrong prophesied: "For the immediate future—the next five, 10 or 25 years—the sobering revelation of Bible prophecy shows this world will go from bad to worse. World confusion, hatred, strife, warfare and terrible destruction will increase with rapid acceleration. It's the natural course to expect."

And indeed, we see these predictions verified. But notice the next paragraph! "The United Nations won't be able to bring peace. The aggressor nations—and we are so gullible we never recognize them until AFTER they plunge the world into

another war—will go right on with their scheming and diabolical planning for world rule."

I think you get the picture. Mr. Armstrong KNEW that the United Nations would not—*could not*—bring peace to this world. How did he know? By looking into God's Word, which reveals the nature of man. "And the way of peace have they not known" (Romans 3:17). He saw, through the Bible, that peace would never come on the Earth *by* mankind; it could only be possible *by* JESUS CHRIST upon His return with His world-ruling government to usher in a thousand years of utopian peace and harmony (Revelation 20:4-6; Isaiah 2:2-4; 9:6-7; 11:1-9).

So was Mr. Armstrong correct? Was he—as God's messenger of *specific* prophecies concerning our time TODAY—accurate in his predictions?

Let's take a brief look at the UN's track record. The 188-nation organization has been the center of growing cynicism. Sir Anthony Parsons, British Ambassador to the UN from 1979 to 1982, declared it "a disastrous failure." Jeanne Kirkpatrick, American ambassador to the UN in the early '80s, said it was "nothing more than a place for the nations



Cyprus

TRUMPET



readers about this sea gate handover in July 1994.

The island of Malta is yet another strategic outpost surrendered by Britain. It was vital to British success in the Mediterranean during World War II. In 1964, however, Britain granted the Maltese political independence. In 1979, the last remaining British troops withdrew from the island, prompting Malta's prime minister to declare it their "Day of Freedom." Commenting on the loss of Malta

and its Mediterranean island neighbor, Cyprus, the *Plain Truth* said, "British sea power... has now virtually disappeared from the Mediterranean, once called a 'British lake'" (September 1979).

Even the lone sea gate victory over the past 50 years did not come without embarrassment. In April 1982, Argentina temporarily seized control of the Falkland Islands from Britain. Located 250 miles off Argentina's southern coast, this sea gate gives Britain control of the Straits of Magellan. While the British response to the insurrection overwhelmed the Argentinians, it was by no means easy. Argentina downed 34 British aircraft and sank six ships—killing 236. That Argentina would even challenge Britain showed just how much damage had been done to Britain's image in previous sea gate handovers. Like Gibraltar and the Western Cape, the Falklands' days under British rule are numbered.

We could go on. But the point is this: During the last half of the 20th century, the United States and Britain have been stripped of almost every critical sea gate in the world. Herbert W. Armstrong prophesied of these strategic losses because he used the Bible as his guide to understand world events.

For that reason, we turn to him to see where this is all leading. *The sun has ALREADY set on the British Empire*, he wrote in the *Plain Truth* more than three decades ago. And because the U.S. came to power a little later than Britain, its setting sun is just behind Britain's. But both nations have long since lost the pride they once had in their power. God said this would happen because of their rampant sin and rebellion against His law. For that reason, as Mr. Armstrong concluded in the September 1966 *Plain Truth*, "Midnight is fast approaching." ♦



THE UN at an early meeting, in April 1945, San Francisco.

to let off rhetorical steam." Karl Posche, appointed as an efficiency expert in 1995, said after seven months on the job, "The UN is a good example of waste and inefficiency."

From the inception of the UN in 1945 until the year 2000, there were 187 wars with over 45 million killed—nearly as many as in World War II itself! The UN was involved in 49 peacekeeping missions during that time. In the year 2000 alone, the UN maintained 17 missions, and the number of worldwide conflicts was 33—resulting in over 20 million refugees! Is the UN succeeding in "keeping peace"? Or have God's prophecies, as proclaimed by Mr. Armstrong, come to pass?

Headlines such as these are almost exact replicas of Mr. Armstrong's predictions of over 50 years ago! "UN 'Triumph' Masks Waning of its Power" (*Times*, London, Feb. 25, 1998). "Report Concludes UN Failed Rwanda" (AP Online, Dec. 17, 1999). "UN Apologizes for Not Preventing E. Timor Violence" (Reuters, Dec. 30, 1999).

The stories under those last two headlines showed how top UN officials, according to several reports, are becoming good apologizers. The AP Online report described Secretary-General Kofi Annan's regrets for allowing the 1994 Rwandan genocide in which almost 800,000 minority Tutsis were victims of a Hutu-sponsored genocide. Annan had similar feelings concerning the death of thousands of Bosnian Muslims in the UN-protected enclave of Srebrenica in 1995. To the people of East Timor, another apology was in order for not preventing the violence that engulfed the territory in 1999, according to the head of the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor, Sergio Vieira de Mello. "We

have to acknowledge our mistakes and shortcomings," he said.

The organization experienced some minor successes, however, when it "brokered a Russian withdrawal from Afghanistan, an end to the Iran-Iraq war, independence for Namibia and reconciliation in Cambodia, as well as the collective military response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait" (*Times*). But, according to this report, "since the heady days at the end of the Cold War... the organization has seen its powers whittled away." Yes, the world scene has changed dramatically since then, with the downfall of communism and the rapid rise of the European superstate. Is it coincidental that the UN would begin to be whittled away from that moment? Hardly!

Also, note how the UN was "initially sidestepped in the Kosovo conflict" (Reuters, Dec. 30, 1999). Instead, enter NATO—with Germany pulling the strings!

Yes, Mr. Armstrong's predictions—some 55, some 25 years old—have come to pass. But the *Trumpet* magazine has made predictions on top of those. In our December 1995 issue, we stated—concerning Pope John Paul II's visit to the UN during its jubilee year: "Is it possible that the pope, whose rallying cry to the nation-states of Europe is to 'return to your [Catholic] roots,' sees that the ailing and divided voice of the UN is on the verge of needing replacement from a more vigorous 'peacemaker'? A *peacemaker* of beast-like proportions, mounted by a great whore who has dominated Europe in her previous historic guise as the 'holy' component in the Holy Roman Empire" (write for your free copy of *The History and Prophecy of Germany*).

Understand! The failure of the UN to keep peace in the world will be *replaced*, first by a united Europe under the umbrella of Catholicism, but ultimately by the RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST—the Prince of *peace* (Isaiah 9:6), who will rule the Earth for 1,000 years—making all nations *united* in His way of prosperity!

That is man's only hope for peace. That has been prophesied in the Bible. Mr. Armstrong restated it for many to hear. The *Trumpet* prophesies the same so more can hear it. And very shortly, *that* prophecy WILL thankfully come to pass! ♦

REMEMBER: THE MIDDLE EAST

ONCE AND FUTURE BATTLEFIELD



Remember these bold predictions about the world's most unpredictable hotspot!

BY JOEL HILLIKER



HOW COULD ANYONE PREDICT what will happen in an area as unpredictable as the Middle East? For most of the past century, that region has been chaotic with CHANGE! Empires have crumbled, boundaries been drawn and redrawn, governments been toppled, whole populations been dispossessed. Isn't it crazy to presume to foresee what lies down the road for this region?

Yet, for over 60 years, first the *Plain Truth* and then the *Trumpet* have done just that—with astonishing accuracy. These writers were there to report, analyze, comment, prophesy and warn about what would—and yet will—happen in the volatile Middle East.

How? By using the Bible as their guide.

About the Middle East, the Bible is absolutely clear on certain facts of prophecy. Herbert W. Armstrong was emphatic in pointing these out—some of which have already occurred! On other points, he and the other writers based their assessments and projections on the *principles* laid out in prophecy. Many of these were also quite accurate. Time is bringing such specifics into clearer focus; events that the *Trumpet* has reported on in the last decade have brought even more detail to our understanding of how prophecy will play out in the Middle East.

Let's give you some of these remarkable statements, and couple them with their subsequent fulfillment in current events.

Jews Take Jerusalem

"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*" (Zechariah 12:2). The Jewish translation renders the latter part of that verse, "And upon *Judah* also shall it fall to be *in the siege against Jerusalem*."

In May of 1963, the *Plain Truth* made this interesting statement: "Old Jerusalem is today almost entirely in the hands of the Kingdom of Jordan. But this prophecy unveils a *struggle for the possession of Jerusalem by Judah—the Jews*." Also, Zechariah 14:2 indicates that half of Jerusalem would be conquered just before Christ returns; that means the Jews would

have to control the *whole* city prior to that time. Based on these and other scriptures, the *Plain Truth* staff believed the Jews were prophesied to take over the entire Old City of Jerusalem.

On May 1, 1967, Mr. Armstrong was returning from a trip to Amman and Jerusalem, speaking to an assembly at the Ambassador College campus in England. In that tape-recorded address, he said this: "Any day, now, you may expect the Israelis of the country that calls itself 'Israel' to flood over with a military invasion into the Jordanian half of the divided city of Jerusalem. ..."

"Once the Israelis do take over the Jordan sector of Jerusalem, instantly the United Nations and the major individual powers, the United States, USSR, Britain, France, probably will stop further occupation of Arab countries by the Jews. ... But the Jews will undoubtedly be allowed to hold the Old City of Jerusalem."

Just five weeks later, the Middle East exploded in war, *just as Mr. Armstrong prophesied*. Little Israel went on the attack and for six days pushed back its frontiers in virtually every direction—also taking over Jerusalem. It was a stunning defeat for the neighboring Arab countries, ending in a cease-fire.

However, it was not to be a permanent peace.

The July 1967 *Plain Truth* reported, "Here on the spot in Jerusalem, a few days after the cease-fire, no one worries about another war. Israelis are exuberant, confident, proud." But notice the statement that followed: "The air is filled with tense excitement—the Jews expect GREAT EVENTS to occur soon. AND INDEED THEY WILL ... BUT NOT THE WAY THE WORLD EXPECTS!" While the Jews anticipated a more stable future on the heels of their victory, the *Plain Truth* foretold otherwise.

The Peace Process

Even at that early date, these were the *Plain Truth's* specific predictions about the aftermath of the 1967 war: "FIRST, *Israel will very likely give back some territory*. That is, Israel will use conquered land she does not really desire in order to bargain for benefits she dearly wants" (ibid.). There followed postulations about specific parcels Israel would return: the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, captured Syrian territory except for the Golan Heights. However, the Heights itself, and the West Bank area, they felt, would likely remain in Israel's hands.

The "bargaining" for peace predicted

Misreading Prophecy: The Jewish State



AP/WIDEWORLD

CELEBRATING the Jewish state in 1948

MISREADING BIBLICAL PROPHECY CAN HAVE TERRIBLE CONSEQUENCES.

When large groups of Zionist Jews first immigrated to Palestine around the turn of the 20th century, many felt they were fulfilling the prophecies of Israel being restored to the Promised Land (for example, Isaiah 14:1-3; Jeremiah 23:7-8; Ezekiel 39:25-28).

They were wrong. In fact, the Jews are only one tribe (Judah) of the ancient nation of Israel. The fulfillment of those prophecies will include the other, “lost” tribes of Israel. In addition, they refer to a time after Jesus Christ’s Second Coming. So, many Jews were basing their modern “exodus” on an erroneous interpretation of Scripture.

Herbert Armstrong knew that and predicted, based on *correct* understanding of prophecy, that the mistake would cost the Jews dearly. He wrote this in the June 1948 *Plain Truth*, just days after the official establishment of the modern nation of Jews called “Israel”: “In God’s own due time the Jews are to be released from their persecutions,

and be reestablished within Palestine IN PEACE! But this is not that prophesied regathering of Israel!

“This is merely a blundering human effort to do for themselves, before the time, what they will have to wait for God to do for them.

“AND THIS PRESENT MOVEMENT, SETTING UP A NATION OF JEWS AND CALLING IT ‘ISRAEL,’ CAN ONLY LEAD TO MORE BLOODSHED AND MORE TROUBLES!”

Other prophecies do indicate that Judah would found a nation in this end time, but every one of them associates that little nation with violence—never peace! (see main article).

How poignant are Mr. Armstrong’s words, with half a century of history to look back on. The State of Israel has faced virtually uninterrupted conflict since its inception, flaring up in five full-out wars (1948, 1956, 1967, 1973 and 1982). Finally, this past decade has seen a war-weary people slowly and painfully giving up piece after piece of hard-won land in exchange for promises of security—a security that will never come. That is, until God’s time.

Joel Hilliker

by this article began 11 years later, with the 1978 Camp David Accord. Israel gave the Sinai back to Egypt in exchange for a promise of peace. That was the *first time* Israel tried to *negotiate* for security rather than fighting to secure it. Here is Gerald Flurry’s analysis of that transaction, printed in the November 1996 *Trumpet*: “When the Jews gave the Sinai back to Egypt, that probably included Mt. Sinai, where God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses. This fiery mountain spectacle gave birth to the nation of Israel! ...

“The United States and Britain have both been instrumental in pressuring Judah [modern Israel] to give the Sinai back to Egypt, even though our ancestry was also a part of Israel when God’s law was given on Mt. Sinai.

“The nations of Judah, Ephraim (Britain) and Manasseh (U.S.)—their Bible names—are to be conquered together just before Christ returns. So the Jewish

nation had to be established by God for that prophecy to be fulfilled (Hosea 5:5). A miracle by God had to be performed.

“Why are these three nations in such serious trouble today? GIVING THE SINAI BACK TO EGYPT IS AT THE HEART OF THEIR PROBLEMS! If God were to give me the Sinai, I would never give it back unless God commanded it—which, I’m quite sure, He never would. The whole world could not influence or force me to do so.

“Those three nations are looking to men for peace and not to the great God of Mt. Sinai. Their history with God is virtually meaningless! ... THE NATIONS OF ISRAEL ARE GOING TO FALL BECAUSE OF THAT FAITHLESSNESS.”

Today, the “bargaining” continues, even for those areas no one thought Israel would give up: Gaza, the West Bank, the Golan. The hot wars that flared up several times after Israel declared statehood—the wars in which Israel defended itself to win

land parcels critical to its security—have given way to this painful, protracted “peace” process, punctuated by terrorist violence, in which Israel is making territorial concessions bit by bit.

THIS PROCESS IS ACTUALLY PAVING THE WAY FOR THE “GREAT EVENTS” PREDICTED BY THE *Plain Truth* IN 1967!

Gerald Flurry wrote in the April 1996 *Trumpet* about the terrifying dangers for Israel in following this land-for-peace formula. “Judah is afraid to get tough even in the Arab area which *they* control. They are fearful that the ‘peace’ process will break down. WHAT MOST OF THEM DON’T KNOW IS THAT THE PEACE PROCESS IS A DEADLY DELUSION! It is a wound that is going to cause death, if they don’t repent. It is like terminal cancer!”

Mr. Flurry stated in the same article: “The Israelis are almost begging the Syrians to take back the Golan Heights. ... The Israelis think giving back the Golan will bring peace. ACTUALLY, IT ONLY MAKES THE ARABS MORE AGGRESSIVE. ...

“Through the peace process Judah has become vulnerable to the enemy, with very little freedom to strike back. ... Soon the whole world will see what the Arabs saw all along—that THE PEACE PROCESS WAS A WOUND FROM WHICH JUDAH WOULD NEVER RECOVER!” (That is a reference to the “wound” spoken of in Hosea 5:13.)

Mr. Flurry has predicted that the peace process will conclude with half of Jerusalem being taken away, in fulfillment of Zechariah 14:2. In the November 1996 *Trumpet* he wrote, “When one half of Jerusalem is taken captive, [Israel] will see that it all happened as a part of the Middle East peace process. Their wound, or the peace process, primarily causes them to lose one half of Jerusalem.

“God tells Judah that Germany cannot ‘heal you or cure you of your wound.’ Why does God say that? Because Judah got into this mess by looking to men. Now *they are trying to get out of the quagmire by looking to men.* [THE JEWS] WILL NEVER FIND A CURE OR HEALING UNTIL THEY LOOK TO GOD!” Our readers will do well to remember these statements as the peace process proceeds and Israel puts its trust in the word of its Arab neighbors—not to mention its security in their hands. KEEP YOUR EYES ON THAT PEACE PROCESS AS A PRELUDE TO FURTHER TROUBLES FOR ISRAEL!

However, when these treaties break down, THE “MEN” ISRAEL WILL ULTIMATELY LOOK TO ARE FROM GERMAN-LED EUROPE.

Loss of the Suez

The faithlessness displayed by Israel in the peace process was preceded by weakness on the part of another major world power over a Middle Eastern crisis: Britain, in its struggle over the Suez Canal. Here, too, Mr. Armstrong made an accurate prediction.

Back in July of 1956, President Nasser of Egypt took a calculated gamble and seized the Suez Canal from British control. Before Britain responded, Mr. Armstrong went to press with this analysis of the seriousness of the situation: "To allow the canal to become the complete property of Egypt, with all rights of control, operation and management in Nasser's power, would only give this upstart dictator a weapon by which he could sever the very lifeline of the British Commonwealth of Nations. ... The Suez Canal is one of the major factors in [Britain and America's] growth to economic power and national greatness never before equalled by any nation."

But Mr. Armstrong predicted, based on biblical principles (see page 28 for more on "sea gates" prophecies), that Britain had lost the canal for good. "The probable outcome of this Suez controversy—not specifically or directly prophesied in the Bible—is that *Britain has lost control of Suez for the rest of this age*, and will not be able to gain it back" (*Plain Truth*, September 1956; emphasis mine throughout). He was right. Britain was paralyzed by internal bickering for months only to be pre-empted by an Israeli strike in the Sinai. It finally counter-punched Egypt in November, but then backed down under international and domestic pressure before it could gain a clear victory. The United Nations took over the mess, and subsequently returned the canal to Egypt. Britain had lost Suez for good, causing a major blow to British pride and naval supremacy. Historians say the event signaled the end of Britain as a great power.

It also signaled the beginnings of a new, significant presence on the world scene.

The Rise of Islam

The Bible identifies an end-time Middle Eastern power as "the king of the south" (Daniel 11:40)—likely an international coalition of nations dominated by one in particular. The April 1958 *Plain Truth* warned of Arab countries unifying as an important factor to watch in the Middle East. This was written shortly after a unity pact between Egypt

and Syria. "Neither Egypt nor Syria are powerful nations alone. But if *united* in foreign policy they hope to dictate to others on their own terms. **THEY CAN STRANGLE EUROPE ECONOMICALLY . . .**" (That statement points to others made about Europe's future relationship with the region, which we'll look at later.)

While the Arabs are not generally known for their unity, this article pointed to the fact that their surging pan-Arab nationalism, driven by the **ISLAMIC RELIGION**, was strong enough to draw them together. However, it predicted that their unity would never be strong. "Throughout North Africa we found that the Muslim religion is making rapid progress. . . . A divided Christianity is rapidly losing ground there. . . .

"[Nasser] calls on all Arabs to join with him in 'a common struggle' against Western 'imperialism.' . . . Nasser is working for Muslim unity because he knows it gives him absolute power over the economic destiny of Western Europe. But Nasser will never be able to unify the Arab world. . . . Egypt will make alliances with certain nations, but . . . *will not unite all the Arab world*. . . . Egypt and Syria are destined to be conquered in war, along with several Muslim nations in North Africa which are yet to be associated. . . ."

The October 1963 *Plain Truth* also reported on Nasser's efforts at Arab unity: "The effect of these events on the British and American peoples is destined to be **TREMENDOUS**. For we are being **KICKED OUT** of the Middle East. . . . A rising tide of **HATE** against America and Britain is being fomented by Nasser. . . . These events are causing the great gulf of misunderstanding between our peoples and the Arab nations to grow continually larger.

"This misunderstanding—and the Arabs' hatred of Israel—is a wedge being used to help create a powerful union of Arab nations which is destined to cooperate, not with either the U.S. or Russia, but with the powerful new *Germany* in particular and the soon-coming United Europe. This definitely spells **TROUBLE** ahead for the U.S. and Britain!"

Arab hatred for Israel, Britain and America hasn't dissipated one iota since those words were written! And despite strong U.S. efforts to befriend Arab countries—including overtures on the recognition of an independent Palestinian state—U.S. influence on the region is declining in every way. Increasingly, it is **EUROPE** that is being sought as the major outside arbiter of Mideast troubles, **JUST AS THE PLAIN TRUTH SAID IT WOULD BE!**

The same theme was taken up in this February 1966 *Plain Truth* news briefing: "Even though deep-seated rivalries among themselves still exist, *the Arabs are finally attempting to coordinate their military potential*. . . . The Arabs have lacked unity and leadership in their previous fiascos with the fierce-fighting Jews. This they hope to achieve with their new command set-up. It was prophesied long ago in your Bible."

Finally, an article called "A United States of Arab Nations" in the November 1971 *Plain Truth* made the religious nature of the coalition and its geographical extent even clearer: "Islam can become a powerful political-religious force, binding these Arab nations together into a unit with a common world outlook. But this outlook goes further than the Arab states. The Muslim faith penetrates the Balkans, stretches across the width of North Africa and into the Philippines and Indonesia. The religious influence of the Middle East could be far wider than its geographical center of gravity. . . .

"The Arabs have not forgotten the past glories of Islam, the time when they were the world's superpower. It is no wonder that they desire to revive their glorious past."

Today, Middle Eastern Arab countries continue their efforts to unify, though they often seem like siblings who try to get along but always end up bickering over things no one else understands. Their rhetoric may be different at the bargaining tables of the various current "peace processes," but the common denominator among most Arab nations remains largely their *religious hatred for the Jewish presence in the region*, and their continued, decades-old aim to "throw Israel into the sea."

Continue to watch the news for efforts among these nations to strengthen their presence as a world power—especially through the drive for **UNITY!**

Increasingly at the center of the Arab coalition will be **IRAN**, which is not Arabian but Persian, but all the same is fueled by the furnace of radical Islam. The *Trumpet* believes, based on current trends, that *the king of the south will be RADICAL ISLAM*, drawing on the power of several countries and spearheaded by Iran.

Kingpin of the King of the South

Indications of Iran's eventual supremacy among Arab nations appeared as early as 1972 in the *Plain Truth's* January issue. An article titled "Iran Today:



DEATH TO AMERICA Rioters burn a U.S. flag in Iran.

Nation With a Mission” stated, “There are definite indications that Iran is setting her sights on becoming the most important and influential country in the sweeping arc of nations extending through the Middle East to the western borders of India.”

At the time, that goal was supported by Britain, which pumped Iran with armaments and other resources to make it the stabilizing force in a region Britain wanted out of. But Iran’s leadership changed, and now—AS WITH POST-WORLD WAR II GERMANY—the West is finding itself facing a monster of its own making.

Of Middle Eastern nations today, Iran is of most chilling concern for the West. Iran leads the region in sponsoring terrorist activities, in subverting efforts at peace, and in stockpiling and building new weapons. Gerald Flurry wrote in the February 1995 *Trumpet* about “Iran’s master plan for the destruction of Israel,” which involved surrounding the little Jewish country with enemies. “Iran is flagrantly working to topple unfriendly regimes,” he wrote. “They have the utmost contempt

holding out the carrot of normal relations. In so doing, the U.S. has shown itself naively willing to overlook a great deal so it can pretend that cooperation with Iran is still a possibility. BUT IT ISN’T!

Still common in Iran are demonstrations such as this one reported by Reuters on Nov. 4, 1999: “Tens of thousands of Iranians rallied outside the former U.S. Embassy Thursday ... burning American flags and vowing to renew the struggle against the ‘Great Satan.’”

“Demonstrators also burned Uncle Sam in effigy while chanting ‘Death to America’ and ‘Death to Israel,’ familiar cries in the streets of Tehran over the past two decades. School children, bussed in from various parts of Tehran, issued a declaration condemning U.S. officials for ‘their complicity in international atrocities, especially in prolonging and buttressing the former regime’ of the ousted Shah.”

U.S. leaders want so badly to not have to worry about Iran stirring up a Middle Eastern hornet’s nest that they willingly BURY THEIR HEADS IN THE SAND OVER

for peace treaties.”

Iran is working hard to create a regional security framework, strengthening its relationship with Saudi Arabia, Oman and other Gulf Cooperation Council states. It has led efforts to push the 55-member Organization of the Islamic Conference to a more visible and active role internationally, including hosting in 1997 its best-attended summit since the organization’s inception in 1971.

Yet today, the U.S. is handling Iran gently, trying to curb its hostile behavior by

such provocations! What other nation on Earth would pretend such things weren’t happening, let alone one that is supposed to be a superpower?

Such weakness only provokes Iran even more, and is playing a significant part in its rise as a regional power.

“The Western world—especially America and Israel—is bewitched by seeking formal peace treaties in the Middle East,” Mr. Flurry’s article continued. “This deadly flaw has blinded them to reality....”

“Being spellbound by peace treaties has kept the Western world from seeing Iran’s massive plot to control the Middle East. That will never be stopped by a peace treaty! Only a superior power could ever stop this extreme Islamic movement!” (*Trumpet*, February 1995).

Events are bearing this out. In October 1999, then U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen said that despite two years under moderate President Mohammad Khatami, Iran continued to violate America’s three conditions for normal relations: Stop underwriting terrorism, stop undermining the Mideast peace process and stop acquiring weapons of mass destruction. “We have not seen any evidence of improvement in those three areas,” Cohen said. In December the same year, one U.S. official reluctantly conceded that Iranian support for terrorism was actually intensifying. In January 2000, the U.S. publicly admitted the possibility that Iran is now capable of building its own nuclear weapons. Iran’s nuclear program has been over 15 years in the making, supported to varying degrees by Russia, China and Europe.

Watch for Iran’s power and influence to continue to spread. This situation deserves vigilant monitoring in the time just ahead.

The King of the North

What will happen to this Islamic coalition? Did the *Plain Truth* make any predictions about that? Yes—SURE predictions based on the prophecy of Daniel 11:40-41.

Those verses say this king of the south will PUSH at another power called “the king of the north.” That will precipitate a crushing attack by that northern power, which will overthrow many Middle Eastern countries, including “the glorious land”—Israel, with Jerusalem. That prophecy shows the massive inferiority of the Islamic power to this king of the north, which we should be able to witness in development today.

So who is this king of the north?

As far back as 1955, when communism was spreading its tentacles into the Middle East just as Britain and America were pulling out, Mr. Armstrong wrote in the November/December *Plain Truth*: “The 11th chapter of Daniel shows ... the city of Jerusalem will finally be captured BY A REVIVAL OF THE POWER OF FASCISM IN EUROPE—not by a Communist invasion of Palestine!” Thus, again, while the rest of the world was looking at the dangers of a spreading communism, Mr. Armstrong knew the real area to watch was elsewhere. He continued, “It will be a fascist revival of a church and state union—a UNITED STATES OF EUROPE—that will attempt to establish the palace and capital there....”

It is EUROPE the *Plain Truth* warned about—specifically *Europe’s intervention in the Middle East*, where it will first expose itself as a brutal imperialist power! GERMAN-LED EUROPE WILL BE THE KING OF THE NORTH!

As time went on from 1955, one probable reason for this yet-future conflict began to come into view: OIL. The *Trumpet* still stands behind this statement from the February 1966 *Plain Truth*: “Before the mounting crisis in the Middle East is over, all major nations of the Earth will be embroiled [speaking of the battle of Armageddon, Zechariah 14:1-2]. Why will they be there? One major reason is OIL. Western Europe’s economy is absolutely dependent upon these reserves. So is that of Japan. Any major disruption of this oil supply—such as an all-out Arab-Israel war—would bring intervention.”

By 1998 statistics, the Middle East was Europe’s biggest oil source, accounting for 36.6 percent of its oil imports. Arab countries could try to “push” Europe by choking off that vital oil supply. That would certainly move Europe to swift retaliation. Even in July of 1971, the *Plain Truth* put forth this possibility by reporting that instability in the oil-rich region has sparked “new calls for Europe to assume a greater role in the Middle East, including the peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli confrontation. ... Europe, and particularly the Common Market, is certain to increase its involvement in the area.”

Europe maintains a major interest in Mideast “peacekeeping” today. Examples abound in daily headlines. Former EU envoy Miguel Moratinos was consulted by both the Palestinians and Syria in their peace talks with Israel (the EU officially supports Syria’s bid for the Golan Heights). European Council Secretary-

General Javier Solana traveled to Israel in January 2000 to influence negotiations with Syria. Low-level talks were to begin between the EU and Libya. Before France took over the presidency of the European Union for the last six months of 2000, French President Jacques Chirac made this statement: “Peace is possible in the Middle East.... Europe can bring it by significant aid in helping to create a new spirit through real solidarity and a shared prosperity” (Reuters, Jan. 4, 2000). Chirac said Europe could help a future Palestinian state by solving water supply problems or helping build a port at Gaza. France planned to hold military exercises in the region as part of a “new Gulf security paradigm,” though this makes Iran squeamish, as it doesn’t want to compete for Mideast supremacy.

At the same time as all of these decidedly pro-Arab maneuvers, ISRAEL TOO seems quite willing to go to Europe for support in constructing regional peace. Watch for that alliance to strengthen as U.S. presence wanes. The Bible prophesies that Israel will ultimately call on Europe, the king of the north, to make peace in the Middle East when all other options fail. That will be the biggest mistake it will ever make. You can read more about this in our booklet *The King of the South*.

Jerusalem: Catholic Capital

Based on other prophecies, particularly those involving “the abomination of desolation” (look at Matthew 24:15 in conjunction with Luke 21:20), there is another likely reason for the final clash between the kings of the south and north. The May 1963 *Plain Truth* reported, “Meanwhile, the Roman Catholic Church has entered the picture. During the first sessions of the Second Vatican Council THE QUESTION OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST CAME UNDER DISCUSSION. A tentative suggestion was the re-establishment, UNDER PAPAL JURISDICTION, OF THE KINGDOM OF JERUSALEM.

“In the Middle Ages the Crusaders established in Palestine a Catholic Kingdom of Jerusalem. Then it was to recover Palestine from the Mohammedan ‘infidel.’ Today it would be established—so goes the suggestion—to keep the peace in the Middle East.”

Mr. Flurry took up this theme in the November 1996 *Trumpet*: “Even though Germany cannot help the Jews, the Germans do get involved in Jerusalem. The Catholic Church is going to unite and then guide the European Union, or the king of the north—with Germany as the

real power behind it. The Catholic Church also has a great interest in Jerusalem.

“Christianity, Judaism and the Muslim religion all have an intense interest in Jerusalem. The city is the second-most holy site to the Arabs. ... It is the most holy city for the Jews. Christians consider it their first or second holiest city. In the end, it is going to bring disaster to all three religions....”

“Many leaders today are asking for Jerusalem to be made into an international city. ... Are the Jews about to invite a peace-keeping force in? ... Is [the ‘push’ of Daniel 11:40] going to be over Jerusalem? It is probably going to involve oil. But THE CLASH APPEARS TO BE OVER JERUSALEM.”

Jerusalem is about to make headlines again as it comes up on the table for discussion in Middle East peacemaking. When it does, WATCH FOR EUROPE AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TO TAKE AN INTENSE INTEREST IN THE SITUATION!

Future events in the Middle East can be foretold. In fact, all those who do not understand *in advance* what is to happen there will be dismayed as it explodes in a conflagration that will envelop the whole world! NOT ONE PERSON ON EARTH WILL BE ABLE TO IGNORE THE SITUATION FOR MUCH LONGER.

You are witnessing in embryonic stages the dramatic fulfillment of these events prophesied for thousands of years in your Bible! For six decades the *Plain Truth* and *Trumpet* have showcased and broadcast the absolute CURRENCY of these prophecies. Are those prophecies the world has already seen fulfilled ENOUGH to convince you to *take those yet to occur seriously*? How much more do you need to see before you will BELIEVE—AND ACT UPON—God’s clear prophetic vision? ◆

For further study ...

We suggest these free booklets:

History and Prophecy in the Middle East

Read about 400 years of Middle East history—written before it occurred! This booklet documents a dramatic example of fulfilled Bible prophecy.

The King of the South

More on the struggle prophesied by Daniel between the king of the north and king of the south.

For information on ordering, see inside the front cover of this magazine.

THE KINGS OF THE EAST

COLD WAR IS THE TERM GIVEN to the conflict—conducted by means just short of direct military engagement—between the United States and the Soviet Union from 1945 until the fall of the Berlin Wall and the demise of the Soviet economy in 1989-1991. To most Westerners living during this time, the Cold War meant more than merely competition over ideological differences—it spelled FEAR.

For more than four decades, the world remained transfixed by the American-Soviet standoff. As both sides built up elaborate space and missile programs, more Americans began to jump on the “bomb shelter in every backyard” bandwagon. There were

More *Plain Truth* predictions in early stages of fulfillment: Russia will soon join forces with East Asia, forming a gargantuan superpower such as the world has never seen.

BY ERIC ANDERSON



rumors of “Commiss in every closet and under every bed.” School children across the nation took time out of class regularly to practice emergency evacuation drills. No one was exempt from the threat of all-out hot war involving atomic weapons.

The arms race increased at a frightful rate to the point where, in the 1980s, there was talk of satellite laser-guided missile technology (the Star Wars program), nuclear winter and “global overkill.”

No one seemed to have an answer for the perplexing Cold War problems. No one, that is, besides one exceptional news forecaster. Amid the cacophony of confusing news reports that emerged throughout that era, that lone voice

cried out: “Russia will not attack America!”

One man, Herbert W. Armstrong, repeatedly dared to declare—years ahead of the Soviet Union’s fall—that the USSR was not the power to fear. The real power to watch, according to him, would be another force: a 10-nation “United States of Europe” that would form in the years ahead. He said that Russia would remain a threat to the world—just not in the way most Westerners thought. Russia would combine economically and militarily with China, he predicted, to eventually create a gargantuan new Asian superpower such as the world has never seen.

Even before World War II broke out, Mr. Armstrong could foresee the emergence of these two superpowers in the end time. In the June/July 1934 issue of the *Plain Truth*, he proclaimed, “Scripture prophesies two great military powers to arise in the last days—one the revival of the Roman Empire by a federation of 10 nations in the territory of the ancient Roman Empire; the other ... *Russia, with her allies ... possibly China or Japan.*”

Not many, however, listened to his predictions. Many chortled at statements such as this one, which appeared in the December 1956 *Plain Truth*: “We have been warning that it is not Russia which will conquer us—it is *not* Russia which will master Europe ... it is a union of 10 fascist nations in Europe which will become a **THIRD POWER** in the world and rise up to conquer the democracies of Northwest Europe and America!”

Remember: That statement was printed at the height of the Cold War!

No wonder people scoffed. Especially when—one month later—he wrote the following statement. “The idea that has been sold to the Western world that Russia is a powerful industrial and military nation threatening to surpass the United States, capable of waging full-scale world war against us, is the most colossal *hoax* of our time! Stalin always believed, like Hitler, that if you tell the world a lie that is big enough, the world



COLD WAR CULTURE Fear of Russia sparked this 1950s bomb shelter advertisement.

will believe it! The world does not like to believe the *truth*. The Communists are the most chronic, experienced, consistent and dastardly liars on Earth!” (*Plain Truth*, January 1957).

During the public uncertainty over the Berlin Crisis of 1961 and the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, the *Plain Truth* categorically declared that the U.S. **NEED NOT FEAR** the Soviet Union. “The Russians would back down, or give in on almost any point that has arisen, rather

than go to war with America” (October 1962).

Mr. Armstrong continued to speak out on these and other specific issues, providing clear projections regarding major world events, until his death on Jan. 16, 1986. Still, not many believed him.

Yet, a few short years after Mr. Armstrong was gone from the scene, the USSR collapsed and the Iron Curtain rusted into oblivion. Suddenly, the Evil Empire lost its foothold in Eastern Europe and the Communist threat to America indeed seemed to diminish. The Cold War was over. In addition, a re-united Germany appeared—just as Mr. Armstrong had declared!

How could Mr. Armstrong have known, more than 65 years ago, that these world events would pan out this way? Simple: He used the world’s best seller as his guide!

We’ve already discussed the validity of his predictions involving the German-led European superpower (see story on page 4). In this article, we will zero in on what Mr. Armstrong and the staff writers of the *Plain Truth* said about Russia and the coming Asian superpower.

History of Russia and China

In the next few years, there will be a staggering turn in world events! A giant Asian superpower, with a modernized Russia and China at the helm, will dramatically affect the course of history. Indeed, this emerging power bloc—a conglomerate of peoples which comprise one fourth of the world’s popula-



tion—will be deeply involved in the tumultuous tide of events that will lead to the conclusion of mankind's 6,000 years of self-rule!

"From time to time, news commentators—in describing the coming catastrophic military struggle for world control—use the biblical expression *Armageddon* found in Revelation 16:16. But what they do not mention is a striking prophecy about 'Armageddon' found in Revelation 16:12. In this verse we read that 'the way of the **KINGS OF THE EAST**' is to be prepared!" (*Plain Truth*, December 1962).

Who are these "kings of the east"? Their identities are critical for us to understand if we are to know where modern nations fit in biblical prophecy.

Your Bible, mainly in the books of Genesis, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Revelation, identifies these leaders or nations as *Meshech*, *Tubal*, *Gog* and *Magog*.

Mr. Armstrong pointed out that "There is general agreement among students of prophecy that 'Gog' in the land of 'Magog' is the vast regions of northern Eurasia extending from the Baltic to the Pacific. 'Meshech' is Moscow, 'Tubal' is Tobolsk. The Bible margin says 'Prince of Rosh,' which is Russia" (*Plain Truth*, April 1981).

Historically, relations between these countries have been rocky—especially between Russia and China. For centuries, these two nations have vacillated between conflict and cooperation. In recent years, these two Communist neighbors have been forging a closer bond—for several reasons. (For further explanation, please request our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*.)

Eastern Europe's Breakaway

One of the significant occurrences that Mr. Armstrong predicted would aid in the building of this new Asian superpower is the slipping of Eastern Europe from the USSR's grip—an event that has happened since 1989.

As early as April 1952, even while West Germany was rebuilding after being bombed to ashes in World War II, the *Plain Truth* wrote, "Russia may give East Germany back to the Germans and will be forced to relinquish her control over Hungary, Czechoslovakia and parts of Austria to complete the 10-nation union."

Notice what Mr. Armstrong wrote in a booklet first published in 1955—over 4½ decades before Eastern Europe split from the USSR: "Some of the Balkan

nations are going to tear away from behind the Iron Curtain. Russia has lost already, to all appearances, Tito's Yugoslavia. Russia probably will lose still more of her Eastern European satellites."

Not many would have believed that statement then, or this report which appeared in the *Plain Truth* the following year: "Communist oppression in Eastern Europe is being overthrown.... We have shown years in advance what would happen to Russia's ill-fated empire in Eastern Europe. These prophecies have been in your Bible for the past 1,900 years. But the world, and the churches of this world, have refused to believe them" (December 1956).

Mr. Armstrong once suspected that Eastern Europe's breakaway would happen sooner than it did. These events, though, were forestalled a little longer than he (and everyone else) expected. As wise Solomon said millennia ago, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). Conditions weren't quite ripe during the mid-1950s.

In January 1957, Mr. Armstrong wrote, "When the right psychological moment arrives, a number of these nations will break away from Moscow, and the world will then be stunned to learn that they had previously entered into a secret pact allying themselves with Germany, Italy, Spain and other European nations in a fascist united Europe! Another most significant evidence of this trend, showing that these satellite nations are in actual fact breaking away from Moscow and turning more toward the West, is the fact that Roman Catholics in these countries are again being allowed their liberties."

That "right psychological moment" finally arrived following the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989! That prophecy has unfolded right before our very eyes!

Yes, the Russians believed, for years, that the West would try every means within its power to attract the satellite nations of East Europe into its orbit. The Russians feared that West Germany, above all, would use these very means to attract some of the Balkan nations away from the Soviet sphere of influence.

Now we can see that many of the Eastern European nations *did* in fact escape the clutches of Soviet Russia! These countries include the Czech Republic, East Germany, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slove-

nia and the nations that once comprised Yugoslavia. Each of these is either already a part of the European Union or is clamoring for EU membership.

Throughout the Cold War, *Mr. Armstrong's insights were correct!*

Why is the loss of these Eastern European nations significant? Because it drastically weakens the western border defenses of Russia. Russia has learned, having thrice suffered European invasion through Poland in two centuries, that it cannot fight a war on two fronts. That is why, today, Russia and Belarus are reasserting influence in the states of the former Soviet south economically and diplomatically—even *militarily* in the case of Chechnya. They would like nothing better than to bring the former-USSR Commonwealth of Independent States (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan) back into the Communist fold.

It is also why, concurrently, Russia is working to come to peaceful terms with its oriental Communist relative.

Middle and Southeast Asia

Throughout the Cold War period, Russia and China continually played a game of cat and mouse. For the most part, Russia had the upper hand. China, however, began making huge gains after the Cold War. Both countries have their eyes fixed on conquering Middle Asia, Indochina and Southeast Asia. Their ultimate goal, said Mr. Armstrong, is not just frontier expansion, but world control!

The *Plain Truth* of December 1959 revealed some of these Communist plans—including Russia and China's plans to form a coalition! "Russia's program is not to take Europe and to attack the United States, first. *The Communist program, which our leaders should know, calls first for the seizure of Asia*. Lenin wrote that the way to Paris, London and New York is via [Beijing] and Delhi....

"[P]art of the Communist plan [is] to place India and Pakistan in a giant vice between Russia and China.... Red China insists it has a legal right not only to Tibet but [also] to many parts of India and Southeast Asia.... Their constant dream for centuries has been ultimate world conquest!... *China knows, however, that in this highly industrialized age she can accomplish this dream only as an ally of Russia*....



“China is now ready to begin devouring the rest of Asia with Russia’s secret military backing. The plans were laid bare in [the Korean War]. China, not Russia, intervened in Korea. Korea became divided. China, not Russia, launched attacks in Indochina and seized control of North Vietnam. Vietnam became divided. Next, the Chinese Communists took over all Tibet. From Tibet the Chinese plan conquest of India by dividing her and devouring her a piece at a time! ... *The Communist Party will ultimately control not only the Russian states, but China ... and India as well!*”

Remember, that was written in 1959!

The *Plain Truth* did forecast some geopolitical changes that remain to be seen. Howbeit, even while the United States stood at the pinnacle of world power, it warned of America’s impending international setbacks in Vietnam.

Notice this from the November 1961 issue: “Having advanced virtually to the brink of another ‘Korea-type’ war over Laos, the United States would almost certainly have to fight a major battle in either Thailand or SOUTH VIETNAM ...”

In May, 1968—seven years before the unconditional surrender of South Vietnam to communism—the *Plain Truth* stated, “Bible prophecy reveals that not even America, with all of her nuclear muscle, can prevent Southeast Asia from eventually being overrun by communism.”

China, along with the USSR’s help, continued to push into Middle and Southeast Asia throughout the 1960s. In December 1962, the *Plain Truth* reported on the Chinese-Indian border conflict. “[The Soviets are] supplying the Chinese with technical know-how and letting China’s 600 million people gobble up the rest of Asia! ... It is part of their propaganda that these areas once

were under Chinese control.

“A cunning two-point Red thrust has again caught the West off guard. While Soviet Russia was secretly establishing a missile beachhead in Cuba, the Red Chinese were assembling immense supplies, 100,000 men and heavy armor for an attack on India. Red Chinese have already captured more than 50,000 square miles of Indian territory Almost no one, it seems, is aware that India is far more important to Communist leaders than is Cuba. Cuba is an extra prize, which the Communists chanced upon. But the next big goal in Communist thinking is India *The petty jealousies between Moscow and [Beijing] are not deterring either from their joint goal: world conquest. This is all part of the great Communist plan enunciated by Lenin 30 years ago.*”

The *Plain Truth* continued to follow Sino-Russian affinity throughout the next several years. In July 1966, this startling prediction was made: “India knows Red China is completing massive troop buildups on the Indian border. India knows Red China has the atomic bomb, and possibly the hydrogen bomb. That means, in the most urgent considerations of national security, *India must have the bomb!* Purely as a defensive measure against Red China, of course. But then there’s Pakistan [Pakistan is] one nation, born of violent hatreds between Hindu and Muslim. *Should India build the bombs, Pakistanis would turn in desperation to the big powers—they would be forced to obtain nuclear weapons!*”

By 1998, BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN TESTED NUCLEAR BOMBS, abruptly pronouncing themselves members of the exclusive nuclear club!

In addition to pushing into Middle Asia, Red China would attempt to pull some of its island neighbors into its

“Having advanced virtually to the brink of another ‘Korea-type’ war over Laos, the United States would almost certainly have to fight a major battle in either Thailand or South Vietnam.”

—*Plain Truth*, April 1961

grasp. On this issue, it has been the practice of Western leaders to try to “appease” China through various “peace talks”—often to no avail. The very non-“politically correct” *Plain Truth* of the 1960s didn’t mince words regarding this problem.

“The Asiatic mind is totally different from the occidental [Western] mind. It doesn’t reason in the same manner. Try though we may to delude ourselves into believing our dollars, trade missions, military advisors and arms shipments, our hospital ships, our missions, our food supplies are helping stem the tide of the advancing threat of communism in these Eastern nations—we are failing! These simple peoples are impressed with strength, not talk. They feel a much closer kinship with other peoples of the Asian sphere than they do with the far-away ‘Yankees’ with customs, languages and religions so totally different from their own” (November 1961).

Russia and China Today

Despite Russia and China’s love-hate relationship in the past, there has been resurgent collaboration between the two nations since the end of the Cold War.

In 1989, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev visited China to restore ties and give new impetus to settling demarcation lines that had been disputed for centuries. Further steps were taken in 1991 when Russia and China signed an official border agreement.

By April 1997, China, Russia, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan met to sign an accord in Moscow on troop reduction and security-building measures along the 4,700-mile border between the former Soviet Union and China. Several months later, in November, a clear signal of their intent for mutual cooperation appeared: Russian

President Yeltsin and Chinese President Zemin signed a formal declaration, putting an end to variances over the implementation of the 1991 border agreement.

This act seemed to confirm that Russia and China, long vacillating between a historic relationship as friends and foes, were entering a new era of cooperation in strategic partnership to counter U.S. dominance. As an example, between 1991 and 1997, China spent \$6 billion on Russian armaments. In June 1999, the two countries signed a contract to train Chinese servicemen in Russia's military schools. Further inroads between the two countries have been made since then.

On Jan. 6, 2000, U.S. National Security Adviser Sandy Berger said in remarks at the National Press Club that Russia and China could seriously threaten America if their political ties are strengthened. Concerning Russia's failure to complete its transformation into a democracy and free-market economy, Mr. Berger said, "If [Russia] fails and it reverts back to a more nationalistic direction or a more threatening posture or a more hard-line posture, it could under those circumstances reemerge as a threat...." Mr. Berger also gave a frank assessment of China. "A sense of realism cautions us to be prepared for the possibility that this emerging power emerges as a threat."

It is evident that both Russian and Chinese officials are eager to form a new alliance and counter perceived American dominance of world affairs. Russian diplomats want to create a "multi-polar world," and they know that the most expedient way to do that is to cement relations with their closest neighbor to the south.

Chinese Defense Minister Chi Haotian arrived in Moscow on Jan. 16, 2000, for three days of talks concerning the solidification of a Chinese-Russian military alliance. On the first day of the meetings, Mr. Chi expressed the hope that the two countries would strengthen cooperation, especially in the military sphere. He said, "We are strongly convinced that under acting Russian President and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's help and support, our good-neighbor relations will become stronger."

During the meeting, Russian Defense Minister Igor Sergeev agreed that military relations between the two nations were "intensively expanding." He also said, "We welcome each meeting with our Chinese friends. Our mutual understanding on all issues grows deeper and broader as we meet more frequently."

The ministers signed a memorandum on mutual understanding at the end of their talks addressing military and technical cooperation between Russia and China. The sides also discussed the current state and prospects of bilateral teamwork in defense, arms trade and related services, and exchanged opinions on pressing international affairs of common interest, particularly the strengthening of security in Central Asia, East Asia and the Pacific.

The Future

The *Plain Truth* of October 1973 predicted that democratic headway into Communist Asia would eventually fail. It also stated that an alliance of socialist-communist nations was in the thinking of Russian and Chinese leaders: "The communists haven't sudden-

ly changed ideologically. They haven't come to believe that their system is unworkable. Neither have the communists given up their hopes of leading the world to socialism. *But they do profess that their goals can be reached by means of peaceful coexistence.*"

Vladimir Putin and Jiang Zemin are both feeling international pressure over internal territorial disputes. By their actions and currently growing partnership, they are telling the West to mind its own business and not to seek domination in the post-Cold War world. They see the urgent need to revive their imperialist roots.

God has prophesied the final outcome of the emerging Asian alliance. Using those prophecies, Herbert Armstrong and the staff writers of the *Plain Truth*, as well as the editorial staff of the *Trumpet*, have accurately forewarned of these situations for many years. Mr. Armstrong died in 1986, but the *Trumpet* continues to declare that a nuclear World War III is coming! We are also positive that Mr. Armstrong's assertion that "the kings of the east" will forge an even deeper relationship in the years ahead—and eventually play a major part in the coming battle of Armageddon—is correct!

Although America and Britain are destined to fall, we still say that it is not Russia (nor a Russian-Asian conglomerate) that we need to fear. It is Germany and the revived "Holy" Roman Empire! Some will still scoff—even today. They say the Cold War is over and we need not fear a "hot" war anytime soon. But the *Trumpet* says our world is about to be rocked!

Our message isn't all about "gloom and doom," despite what our critics might think. Just beyond the perilous times that lie ahead is unbelievably *good news!* That is the biggest news of all! No major newsmagazine is announcing that good news. They simply do not believe it!

That good news involves the gospel of the Kingdom of God. (The word *gospel* means "good news.") The worldwide work of this magazine is actively announcing the crisis at the close of this age—the crisis of which the greatest news forecaster of all times, Jesus Christ, warned in Matthew 24. We are announcing a crisis that will usher in a new and better age, when all peoples everywhere will begin to enjoy peace and prosperity under the direction of God's divine rulership. ♦

IMPROVING RELATIONS



ZEMIN AND PUTIN China and Russia are finding themselves concerned over the same issues.



DEFENSE MINISTERS of Russia and China met in January 2000 to discuss military cooperation.

The Coming Alliance

Look at East Asia. Few in the West are; but it is a budding area—ready for change, ripe for unification.

BY RYAN MALONE

EAST ASIA IS BURSTING WITH growth! Consider these facts:

- In 1998, India and Pakistan demonstrated nuclear capability.
- In 1999, trans-Pacific air travel surpassed that of the Atlantic.
- Beijing launched its first unmanned orbiting space vehicle in 1999, with aims to be the third nation in history to successfully launch a manned space vehicle.

- Asia's powerfully emerging middle class has forced military-led regimes out and democracy in: Such was the case in the Philippines in 1986, South Korea and Taiwan in 1988, Thailand in 1990 and Indonesia in 1999. (It has not done so in China, although China has brought more than 200 million people out of absolute poverty.)

- South Korea's economic boom pushed its \$100 per capita gross domestic product in 1960 to over \$10,000 before the 1997 Asian financial meltdown.

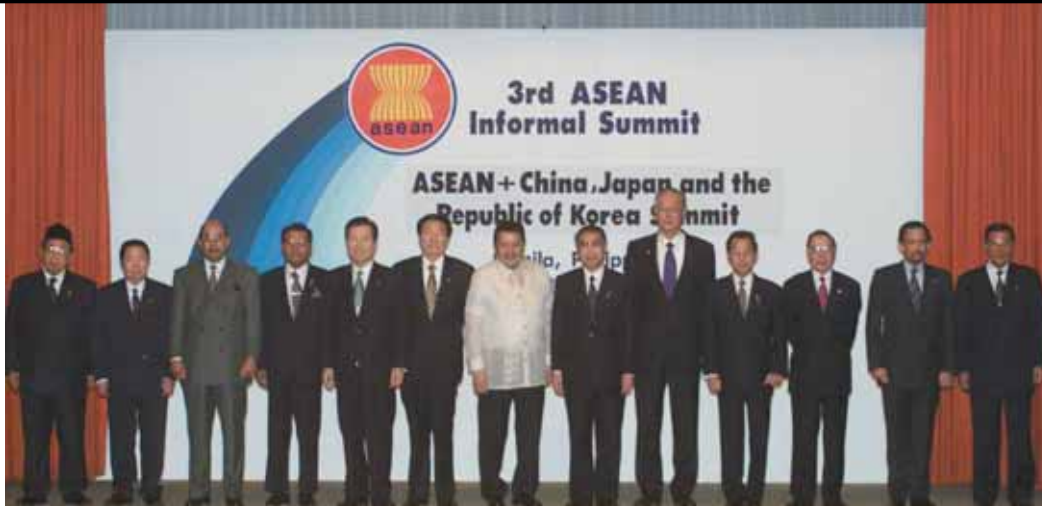
Commentator Robert A. Manning, in the *Washington Times*, summed up the phenomenon: "Much of East Asia has accomplished in little more than a generation economic development that took 180 years in the West" (Dec. 29, 1999).

Many saw the Asian economic crisis of 1997, which began in Thailand that July, as a major threat to the West's economy—not to mention the East. But the West actually became seemingly stronger economically, and, paradoxically, the crisis played a significant role in bringing Asian countries closer to unification than ever. Why? Because the nations of East Asia saw how interdependent their economies were.

East Asians began thinking anew: Japan proposed an Asian Monetary Fund; Joseph Yam, head of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority—inspired by the euro—proposed his vision for an East Asian common currency.

Then consider the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in Malaysia in 1997, Vietnam in 1998 and the Philippines in 1999. ASEAN consists of 10 nations—Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. (China, Japan and South Korea





EAST ASIAN LEADERS at the ASEAN conference in Manila November 1999.

have attended the Malaysia summit as well—known as the ASEAN Plus Three meeting.) “No Anglo-Saxons invited,” said Manning.

Through ASEAN, “much of Asia is attempting an unprecedented level of regional coordination” (*Stratfor Global Intelligence Update*, Nov. 30, 1999). The purpose of the organization, according to former Philippine President Joseph Estrada, “is to rival the European Union as a trading bloc” (*ibid.*, Nov. 29, 1999).

Trade agreements between Japan and South Korea, and Japan and Singapore—among others—serve “as stepping stones leading eventually to the goal of an East Asia Free Trade Area which would complement the single market of the European Union, the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum,” said executive director of the Asia-Europe Foundation in Singapore, Tommy Koh. The goal of the Manila summit was to eliminate tariffs among the six founding nations of ASEAN by 2010, and eliminate the same from the other four by the year 2018.

Stratfor also reported, “In the wake of the Manila meetings, China has also made a significant gesture toward the region. At the summit, the Chinese delegation refused to sign a code of conduct that would have halted any new occupations of the contested Spratly Islands. But shortly afterward, Beijing made a surprise announcement on November 29 saying that it would agree to joint development of the islands. Beijing has not laid aside its claim of sovereignty, but the Chinese are attempting to drive regional cooperation forward, even in the face of an important security dispute.”

Although regional security issues were avoided at ASEAN’s parallel

summit of the Plus Three nations, other members of ASEAN are seeing the need for Asia to develop its own united military. “Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has called for a *pan-Asian security force*” (*ibid.*, Dec. 3, 1999; emphasis mine throughout). Although Asia, Stratfor says, is unready at present for such an alliance, “it realizes the need for a regional approach to security” (*ibid.*). Again, this is following Europe’s example: To be able to support *economic* unity, the next logical step is **MILITARY** unity!

Yet, what keeps East Asia from acting as a concerted bloc is the lack of a catalyst—a compelling reason to unite. “Blocs form in reaction to threats,” stated Stratfor. Two possible catalysts, according to the report, are a currency crisis or a possible eruption in the Indonesian province of Aceh similar to the violence in East Timor in late 1999.

The West ignores all these points. Manning reported, in his *Washington Times* commentary, “Yet this emergence of the world’s first successful non-Western civilizations tends to be either taken for granted or ignored in a United States that even after the Cold War remains remarkably Eurocentric. . . . Asia still appears strategically discounted by the United States and Europe. . . . Clearly, we ignore Asia only at our peril.”

Let us not ignore these nations. Let us, instead, take a brief look at a few of them, showing the significance of certain events in Asia—predicted years ago by the *Plain Truth* magazine—and where these events are headed, as the dangerous world of the 21st century moves ever closer to **GLOBAL** conflict.

Rise of the “Rising Sun”

The united power bloc of Asia was predicted by the *Plain Truth* back in

April 1968: “Despite its many national, religious and political differences, Asia will ultimately be welded together into a *common power bloc*. It will ultimately send its military muscle into the Middle East at the return of Jesus Christ. This prophecy is recorded in Revelation 16:12 and 16. Japan will play a vital role in this battle.”

So we focus first on Japan!

At the end of the Second World War and the beginning of the Cold War, the U.S. quelled the world’s bitter memories of Japanese aggression with this agreement: America would defend Japan if America could station troops close to potential conflict zones. America, in fact, wrote Japan’s post-war “peace constitution.” Japan really had *no need* to build up armed forces (which was what the rest of the world then wanted), and it prided itself on being a “civilian” power, “using its trade and aid to encourage stability in the region” (*Economist*, March 1, 1999). Thus Japan was able to pour all its resources into becoming an **ECONOMIC SUPERPOWER**.

But the Cold War didn’t last forever. Once the Soviet threat to the U.S. evaporated, America “justifiably lost interest in bearing Asia’s many military burdens alone to the benefit of others, including Japan. Hence the need for Japan to be seen to be doing more” (*ibid.*). Japan could now take care of itself more—“assisting” in regional conflicts beyond its own waters, but not yet directly.

Notice what Herbert Armstrong wrote in the *Plain Truth*, March 1971: “Japan today has no military establishment. Some United States forces are still there. But we should not lose sight of the fact that Japan has become so **POWERFUL ECONOMICALLY** that it *could* build a military force of very great power very rapidly.”

How? Don’t forget that Japan, according to most reports, is the **SECOND-LARGEST** national economy in the world! In fact, Malaysia’s prime minister envisions the ASEAN economy being *based upon* the Japanese yen.

The July 1966 *Plain Truth* stated: “With *China* possessing the bomb, does Japan **DARE** not build one of her own? Japan is the super-giant of the Orient,

rising to dizzying heights of economic prosperity. As we have reported in past issues of this magazine, the world is YET to hear of alarming trends in Japan!... Japan could join the 'nuclear club' any time!"

And they are! Shingo Nishimura, former vice director-general for political affairs of the Japan Defence Agency, "sparked public furor when he asserted at an interview with a monthly magazine last October [1999] while he was in office that it is advisable for 'Japan to have nuclear arms,' and Japan should expand the 'Greater East Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere' worldwide," according to a BBC report dated Jan. 6, 2000.

Now notice this report from BBC Worldwide Monitoring, Dec. 4, 1999: "The Japanese reactionaries are accelerating their move to become a military power and arming themselves with nuclear weapons because they intend to realize the old dream of the *Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere*. Japan is creating danger of a new war and the wave of an arms race in Asia."

The "Greater East Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere"? Why, that was the hot topic in a *Plain Truth* article over 30 years ago! "Most people have totally forgotten about Japan's so-called 'Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere' of the 1930s. It was Japan's attempt to MASK its military conquests under the guise of ECONOMIC UNITY" (April 1968). Notice almost the *exact same wording* in the Jan. 6, 2000, BBC report: "Japan, camouflaged as a pigeon, has THROWN OFF THE MASK and is about to emerge as a NUCLEAR EAGLE. ... Japan, regarding nuclear weapons as almighty for revival of the old empire that controlled colonies, is fully ready to become a nuclear power any time and restored the right of belligerency and the right to participate in a war, both of which HAD BEEN BANNED BY THE CONSTITUTION after its defeat, thus legally paving the way for a war of overseas aggression."

Japan has ignored the "peace constitution" in order to develop a "collective self-defense," it says. In reality, that means becoming a member of the NUCLEAR WEAPONS CLUB! Also

widely ignored is the paradoxical fact that Japan was the first and only victim of nuclear warfare, yet it "has participated actively in the legitimization of nuclear weapons..." (*Times*, India, Nov. 23, 1999). It proposed, in 1955, to the world court that "the use of nuclear weapons was not illegal under all circumstances" (*ibid.*).

Why this military buildup now?



SHINGO NISHIMURA said it was advisable for Japan to have nukes.

"The experiences of the 1990-1991 Gulf War, the 1996-1997 hostage crisis at the Japanese embassy in Peru, followed by North Korea's launch last August of a two-stage Taepo-dong missile over Japan's Honshu Island, all have worked to heighten a new sense of urgency in the Japanese leadership re considering the constitutional limitations on their military forces. ...

"Japan's ongoing dispute with Russia on sovereignty over the Kurile Islands, its current political debate on Japanese military forces, perceived North Korean and Chinese aggression, AND THE CALL FROM SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES FOR JAPAN TO TAKE A MORE ASSERTIVE ROLE IN ASIA will all inevitably combine to push Japan back onto the world stage as a military power of note" (*Trumpet*, June 1999).

A "call from Southeast Asian countries for Japan to take a more assertive role in Asia" is exactly what was prophesied back in the February 1963 *Plain Truth*. Quoting Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, "a famed World War I ace and modern aviator businessman," it stated, "This means that Korea, Southeast Asia, Malaysia and Indonesia—the whole area that once fell to the guns of Imperial Japan—will one day be dancing again to tunes called from Tokyo.' Fantastic, perhaps, but TRUE! Japan is now well on the road toward becoming a superpower in the world, and only the thriving, throbbing, reindustrialized nation of Japan will be calling the shots in Asia!"

Also feeding the remilitarization of Japan is its increasing rise in nationalism. "In a bid to revive some of its past heritage, the Japanese government overwhelmingly confirmed adoption of Japan's rising sun flag and national hymn to the emperor as the

country's official national symbols. This move is as hugely symbolic as the German parliament's move back to the old Reichstag building in Berlin ..." (*Trumpet*, September/October 1999).

The *Trumpet* was not the first to liken Japan's rise to that of Germany. The February 1963 *Plain Truth* stated, "Japan is doing, in effect, EXACTLY what Germany is doing in the Common Market! Just as Germany... is leading the Common Market in her industrial boom, and is the ONLY nation which is destined to lead such a tremendous collection of powerful countries, so is Japan surging ahead to capture the leadership in all the Orient. Japan is the ONLY Asiatic nation equipped to provide the industrial know-how and leadership to harness the almost unlimited resources of this neglected, sprawling, unbelievably rich part of the world. Even if communism will dilute its ideology with capitalism, one thing is certain! Before much longer, JAPAN WILL BE AN INDUSTRIAL GIANT IN ASIA THAT WILL BE NEGOTIATING FROM A POSITION OF GREAT STRENGTH WITH THE OTHER GIANTS OF THE WORLD—THE UNITED STATES, RUSSIA AND UNITED EUROPE!"

The March 1, 1999, *Economist* noted the same parallel: "Meanwhile, precisely because of Japan's military past, its government needs to explain to opponents at home, as *Germany's did*, that defending democratic values, regrettably, requires military means. Most Japanese would rather put off such difficult issues until a mind-clearing crisis comes along. But, as *Germany has found*, doing more dangerous military duties takes CAREFUL PEACETIME PREPARATION and practice."

Notice this article, "Tokyo Assumes Region's Global Mantle," from the *South China Morning Post* (Jan. 17, 2000): "Japan intends to wield a political influence it has not attempted to use for half a century. ... [Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi] said that as the only Asian country in the Group of Eight developed countries, it was Japan's responsibility to promote the interests of Asian ... countries. ... The Asian economic crisis, North Korea's bizarre behavior and the lengthening shadow of China have helped persuade the Japanese government to emerge from its shell. Tokyo's confidence has been boosted by calls at last November's meeting of the 10-nation [ASEAN], also attended by Japan, China and South Korea, for Asian

states to band together or face more domination by the West. “There is some pressure, some demand for us to play a more prominent role in the region. We cannot ignore that,” said Akitaka Saiki, a spokesman for the premier.”

The *Trumpet* stated, in its September/October 1999 issue, “Watch Japan, as it climbs out of its economic slough, rebound with a renewed sense of nationalism driving a return to a new militarism in the guise of ‘self defense,’ with the full support and backing of the U.S.”

Yes, the U.S. is fully backing Japan’s military resurgence. Notice this Agence France Presse headline of Jan. 6, 2000: “U.S., Japanese Defense Chiefs Discuss Security, Military Cooperation”—mainly to deal with a suspected arms buildup in the pariah state of North Korea. The *Economist* reported how “China is angry that America might call on Japan for such help in a future tiff over Taiwan...” (Feb. 27, 1999).

Notice what the *Plain Truth* published in April 1968: “Washington officials frankly admit that they expect Japan to develop a big military establishment to assist the U.S. in Asian power politics. One Tokyo observer stated that the United States has no other alternative but to push Japan toward eventually becoming a THERMONUCLEAR POWER.”

China is watching Japan. But the reverse is also true. In August 1999 there was some tension between China and Japan when Japanese lawmakers wanted to raise their flag over islands in the East China Sea claimed by both Tokyo and Beijing. Also, according to a South Korean newspaper, China sold North Korea “massive” amounts of military equipment in November 1999, thus harming any substantial ties between China and Japan.

Japan is watching the rest of Asia very closely. “Japan will pay ‘close attention’ to such issues as Beijing’s actions regarding Taiwan, Jakarta’s measures on growing separatist activities, and [North Korea’s] signs toward engagement [or war]” (*Asian Economic News*, Dec. 27, 1999).

This leads us into two other parts of Asia—the hot issues concerning Taiwan and the separatist activities threatening Indonesia. We will first go to Taiwan.

Taiwan—and China

The *Trumpet* has reported extensively on the Taiwan situation over the past

The time will come, nevertheless, when the U.S. will abandon Taiwan and the island will go back to mother China, by military or other means. This has been China’s goal—to reunite its nation—and Taiwan has yet to join.

several years. But it was also discussed back in the 1970s *Plain Truths*. The June 1975, issue, concerning then U.S. President Ford’s visit to China, stated that Taiwan feared “further steps toward eventual recognition of Communist China. ... Washington, however, continues to formally recognize [Taiwan] despite this *de facto* [non-official] recognition of Peking [the Chinese capital now known as Beijing].”

When Taiwan lost its UN seat in favor of China in 1971 after a secret visit by Henry Kissinger, dozens of nations withdrew recognition of the island. In 1975, 30 nations recognized Taiwan—contrasted with 90 nations which recognized Beijing.

Three years later (February 1978), in an article headlined “Taiwan Faces Grim Future,” the *Plain Truth* predicted that if America cut ties with faithful Taiwan, “a political whirlwind may sweep Asia.” By this time, only 23 countries had diplomatic relations with Taiwan, and the U.S. was known as its “only real protector” against its Communist neighbors.

“We then asked Dr. Tsai [Wei-ping] what we felt to be the crucial question of the entire discussion: If the United States decides to push ahead with the recognition of [China] and abrogate its defense pact with Taiwan, did he feel [China] would actually try to take Taiwan by force? ‘Of course,’ he replied without hesitation. ‘And they will move quicker than you might think!’ Why? A swift takeover of Taiwan, he believed, would greatly enhance [China’s] role as a world power. ... ‘The Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and [Taiwan] has served to preserve peace in the West Pacific area during the last 20 years. ... Without it, war across the

Formosa Strait is a virtual certainty.”

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter severed diplomatic relations with Taiwan to establish relations with China—although retaining substantial economic and cultural ties. That was the result of the Taiwan Relations Act overwhelmingly passed by Congress that year, which “served all sides well until President Clinton imprudently departed from it in June 1998” (*Washington Times*, Jan. 11, 2000).

Ever since, China has been much more bold in its threats against the island republic. Nonetheless, the U.S. views these threats as bluffs, since the Chinese military (although it could pose a formidable threat in the future) could not succeed at an invasion presently. Neither is China sure, because of America’s ambiguous relations with both countries, what the U.S. would do in case of an attack.

The time will come, nevertheless, when the U.S. will abandon Taiwan and the island will go back to mother China, by military or other means. This has been China’s goal—to reunite its nation—and Taiwan has yet to join. As we stated in the January 2000 issue of the *Trumpet*, “[T]he impending takeover of Taiwan is deeply symbolic of mending [China’s] final rift.”

Indonesia and the Strait of Malacca

Another Asian trouble spot has Japan—and, in fact, all of ASEAN—watching with great interest: Indonesia.

ASEAN, at its November 1999 summit, agreed to support Indonesia’s sovereignty. The summit was actually the first for former Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid. Remember, a crisis in this highly strategic sea lane was listed by Stratfor as one of the two possible catalysts that could unite Asia! ASEAN is watching the trouble brewing in the oil-rich province of Aceh.

The stability of Asia rests heavily on the stability of Indonesia—the guardian of the region’s major shipping route (the Strait of Malacca) and ASEAN’s largest member. “A healthy Indonesia is extremely important to the region” (*Stratfor Global Intelligence Update*, Dec. 3, 1999). Yet Asia initially did nothing after violence began in East Timor—due to its collective non-interventionist policy.

Separatists in Aceh, inspired by East Timor, continue to stir up trouble. Indonesia expert at Northwestern University, Jeffrey Winters, said,



DEMONSTRATORS in Jakarta hold up their flag at a pro- independence rally.

committed to protecting Indonesia's sovereignty AND STABILITY" (ibid.).

When Britain lost the vital sea gate of Singapore, which is also on the Strait of Malacca, in the '60s, the October 1965 *Plain Truth* announced, "It is only a matter of a few years before Singapore and the whole of Southeast Asia will be in the hands of the Asians. *Western influence will come to an end.*" (Years later, two crucial ports—Britain's Hong Kong and Portugal's Macao—would go back to China, thus further cutting the West out of the East.)

These conflicts in this strategic trade area will not solicit notable intervention from the West at all! An ineffective UN mission would not be

the answer—as was seen on the other side of the Indonesian island bridge, in East Timor. Even Australia's weak and nearly expended army, just to the south, would not be much help.

It would be up to mother Asia to save its troubled child, Indonesia.

Watch East Asia

This work has been showing, since the 1960s, the dire importance of events in Asia and where they have been leading. Some of these events have clearly happened or are beginning to happen. Keep watching Asia, though, as all that we have prophesied comes to fruition. Here are some events upon which to cast your eye:

- Watch for Japan to develop more strength militarily, not needing the U.S. alliance as much as it used to. The April 1968 *Plain Truth* warned: "Despite popular belief, Japan is not *permanently* committed to a pro-Western position. America has foolishly followed the policy of assuming that ... Germany and Japan can be converted to the virtues of democracy in less than a generation Both Japanese and Germans are willing, for the present, to *put up with* their so-called democratic form of government—

until some serious internal crisis is precipitated. ... Japan *tolerates* her present form of government as long as it is *economically* expedient. If the time were ever to come—and it *will come*—that the Japanese could not *feed off* of American aid, we would witness a remarkable change in attitude toward the United States. Friendship would quickly evaporate." Any U.S. financial crisis would change this alliance, thus thrusting Japan into further cohesion with its Asian neighbors, economically leading them to further dominance.

- Watch the ever growing sore between Taiwan and Beijing.

- Watch Indonesia and its independence-seeking provinces as they continue to threaten the stability of the populous island bridge and the entire regional bloc of Asian nations!

- Watch ASEAN. No matter how logistically difficult complete economic and military integration is at this point, it has nevertheless "crossed the threshold and is moving faster than ever toward acting like a regional bloc" (Stratfor, op. cit.).

- And watch for the economically crippled Russian bear to snuggle ever closer to an economically powerful Asian combine—developing a military alliance that will outnumber any army ever amassed; your Bible prophesies it to be 200 million men. For more information on Asia in Bible prophecy—and its relations with Russia, write for our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*. ♦

"Politically, the loss of Aceh could ruin Indonesia's fragile democracy Indonesia needs Aceh more than Aceh needs Indonesia. Aceh has the potential to become a viable country whose GDP per capita would be higher than the rest of Indonesia and would probably grow faster" (*Los Angeles Times*, Jan. 9, 2000). There are natural gas fields in northern Aceh which generate \$4 million *a day*—all of which goes to Indonesia's capital, Jakarta!

If Aceh, located on the strategic Strait of Malacca, were to follow East Timor's example and break away from Indonesia, it would then most likely inspire movements in Irian Jaya, Riau and other parts of Indonesia, leading to the breakup of the world's fourth-most populous country. Indonesia cannot afford this! Neither can ASEAN. All of its nations—including the Plus Three nations—rely heavily on that trade route. They would not—could not—let this happen! If Aceh caused problems, whether it emboldened other provinces or not, Indonesia would be in serious trouble—and so would the entire ASEAN-Plus-Three union! "All 10 countries of ASEAN, plus Japan, China and South Korea, have agreed that they are

For further study ...

For an understanding of why Asia is ultimately bound to unite, we suggest ordering these free booklets:

Russia and China in Prophecy

A complete explanation of how the Bible says today's events will play out—to the time of Jesus Christ's Second Coming and beyond!

Nahum: An End-Time Prophecy for Germany

How does this relate to Russia and China? Those nations will play a major role in Germany's future!

For information on ordering, see inside the front cover of this magazine.

Personal from page 1

document stated. NOW THE TREACHEROUS PLOT OF OUR OWN GOVERNMENT TO CONCEAL THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN EXPOSED!

Did the Nazis make plans to come back as Mr. Armstrong prophesied? Precisely.

But he also proclaimed that the Nazis would conquer Britain and America unless we repent. As Steinberg said, "the central question is whether it has been carried out"! And it HAS been, just as Mr. Armstrong prophesied, and so will the final phase be implemented!

Still, our leaders and the press remain almost totally silent. Unbelievable!

If our people don't heed and remember, we are going to be victims of those Bible prophecies! We don't understand "German thoroughness." And we don't remember what Herbert W. Armstrong prophesied from the Bible. The truth about Germany was only one of his many prophecies.

This issue of the *Trumpet* is crammed with such prophecies that have been and are being fulfilled exactly as Herbert W. Armstrong said they would be.

Sooner or later you and I must face this matter! EVERY PERSON ON EARTH must accept these prophecies. It's only a matter of *when*.

How could he envision the future? There is only one answer: Mr. Armstrong was God's messenger. And you can easily prove that if you are willing.

The prophecies discussed in this *Trumpet* issue came through Mr. Armstrong. But they came from God and the Bible. There is no other answer.

We cannot separate our life from prophecy, which is about us. It's about your future and mine!

Study this issue of the *Trumpet*, and see how important it is to remember.

How did Mr. Armstrong know in 1945 that there would be a European Union led by Germany? God revealed it to him from the Bible.

Only God could have such vision!

There is good news though: What you see happening in Europe is the prelude to Christ's return. The "Holy Roman Empire" you see rising in Europe right now, to be led by Germany, is going to fight Jesus Christ at His return. That will be the end of Nazism forever!

Let's make certain that we remember that wonderful prophecy.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR SENDING me the *Trumpet* magazine. My mother has been a follower of Herbert Armstrong's teachings since the early 1960s and I grew up with the *Plain Truth* and other literature of his around the house. However, when Mr. Armstrong passed away, the magazine didn't seem the same anymore. By chance, while sitting in the waiting room in my dentist's office, I found a copy of the *Trumpet*, and as I read through it I realized how much it reminded me of the old Herbert Armstrong style. Both of us are extremely pleased to see that someone is carrying on with Mr. Armstrong's work in the true Church. Your literature is so insightful and true to the Word of God.

Houston, Tex.

I HAVE READ MUCH OF MR. ARMSTRONG'S writings, and for about a year now I have read everything I have asked for from your church. From what I have read, I know you have not changed anything Mr. Armstrong taught.

Kitchener, Ont.

AS A FORMER MEMBER OF THE WORLD-wide Church, it is such a pleasure to hear the truth again as heard on your television program. I have missed the format and prophecies in the old *Plain Truth* magazines. I see your magazine the *Trumpet* is so similar to the old *Plain Truth* that I want to subscribe to it. I am so glad to see this work goes on.

Dallas, Tex.

I RECEIVED THE *PLAIN TRUTH* FOR many years and after a long break started receiving the *Trumpet* 10 years ago. This magazine is a great blessing in a world going mad. It casts a light into the darkness, and many strange political events are explained (Kosovo, South Africa, etc.). More people need to read this magazine.

Durban, South Africa

THANKS FOR THE HARD-HITTING articles and telecasts you are producing now. It is amazing to see what Mr. Herbert Armstrong predicted (with God's guidance) would happen, and see that these predictions are coming to pass before our own eyes. He was right. He was a man of vision and principle.

Delta, B.C.

THANK YOU FOR REMAINING FAITHFUL and true to the teachings of your founder, Herbert W. Armstrong. I used to receive

the *Plain Truth* for many years, and I was blessed and edified by Mr. Armstrong's insight into world conditions. I remember many of Mr. Armstrong's teachings on current world events, and I marvel at how everything has fallen into place, just as he predicted according to the Bible. We know that God's Word is true.

Palm Coast, Fla.

THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL MAGAZINE. I am always so pleased to read and study it. I had always felt so sad about what had befallen the *Plain Truth* magazine, and the Worldwide Church of God, because of Mr. J. Tkach Sr.'s and Jr.'s (and others') management. I know that the late Herbert Armstrong (a wonderful pastor and prophet, author and educator) would be very proud and happy to know you are carrying on the old traditions of everything he had held so dear and precious. Keep up the good work, Mr. Flurry (and your helpers and coworkers also). I wish great success to your new college of learning. May your work prosper, to make this world a better and honest world for the generations of the future.

Vic., Australia

I AM IN THE U.S. ARMY AND RECEIVE the *Trumpet*. I also received the *Plain Truth* magazine while Mr. Armstrong was its chief editor. I read articles on many subjects, but pay close attention to those relating to the new Euro-army. I realize I am seeing the rebirth of the Holy Roman Empire as prophesied by Mr. Armstrong and now Mr. Flurry. I cannot thank you enough for enlightening me on this and other prophecies. I only hope the rest of the world will open its eyes to the evil that will soon engulf this world. Although I am not a member of your church, I know in my heart you are the true Church of God and are proclaiming the true gospel.

Annandale, Va.

The Philadelphia
Trumpet

Letters to the Editor must include the writer's name and address and should be sent to The Trumpet, P.O. Box 1099, Edmond, OK 73083, or faxed to 405-359-6280 or e-mailed to letters@theTrumpet.com. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

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BY GARY RETHFORD

What's Next?

The *Plain Truth's* most important prophecies were of the wonderful World Tomorrow

AS THIS ISSUE OF THE *TRUMPET* HAS CLEARLY SHOWN, Herbert W. Armstrong was able to see and speak many prophecies because he was willing to submit to the authority of the Bible. We have highlighted only a few of those which concern major events now shaping the future of our existence.

One of the earliest prophecies of which he spoke, however—possibly the first and certainly the *most important*—has only been touched on in these articles. It is a coming event which will bring the final, PEACEFUL end of all the prophecies spoken of. It is a prophecy which he began teaching back in the 1930s. It is the prophecy of the soon-coming government of God in the wonderful World Tomorrow.

Mr. Armstrong first determined to broadcast “the wonderful news of the World Tomorrow” in 1933. Later he wrote, “All I had in mind, as the *World Tomorrow* program was being planned late in 1933, was to serve God faithfully wherever He should lead” (*Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong*, Volume 1).

Of that prophecy, he wrote, “YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE IT! It will happen, regardless. It is sure—the world's only sure hope. This advance good news of tomorrow is as certain as the rising of tomorrow's sun. Humanity won't bring it about—it is going to be done to us. Humanity is going to be forced to be happy—to enjoy world peace—to see universal abundance and joy fill the Earth” (*The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What it Will be Like*, 1966). This advance good news was PROPHETIC!

The familiar saying that “hindsight is 20/20” shows that it's easy to see the truth AFTER the fact. That kind of vision, however, is of limited value. What we really need is the ability to know what's coming BEFORE it happens. This issue of the *Trumpet* has acquainted you with how you can have “20/20” vision of the FUTURE.

What we have done for you here is provided a look back at the prophetic knowledge of Herbert W. Armstrong and shown the fulfillment as it is happening, so you—the reader—can plan your future.

Mr. Armstrong wrote, “Winston Churchill declared before the United States Congress: ‘He must indeed have a blind soul who cannot see that some great purpose and design is being worked out here below of which we have the honor to be the faithful servants.’... It is true, though almost totally unrealized: Mankind was put on this Earth for a PURPOSE! And the Maker of mankind sent along with the human product of His making an Instruction Book to reveal that purpose and to guide man in happily, enjoyably fulfilling it” (*The United*

States and Britain in Prophecy).

Gen. Douglas MacArthur spoke the truth when he said, “Men since the beginning of time have sought peace... military alliances, balances of powers, leagues of nations, all in turn failed, leaving the only path to be by way of the crucible of war. The utter destructiveness of war now blots out this alternative. We have had our last chance. If we will not devise some greater and equitable system, our Armageddon will be at our door. The problem basically is theological and involves a spiritual recrudescence, an improvement of human character that will synchronize with our almost matchless advances in science, art, literature, and all material and cultural developments of the past 2,000 years. It must be of the spirit if we are to save the flesh.”

It's all about vision. Dutch philosopher Erasmus said, “In the country of the blind, the one-eyed man is king.” He was talking about *vision*—one man with vision in a land filled

with those who refuse to see. Today, very few see the world as a “boiling pot” just about ready to boil over! (Jeremiah 1:13). Yet anyone with “half an eye” should have that discernment.

Herbert W. Armstrong warned of what is just ahead: “In this folly of educated ignorance, it has become fashionable today and intellectually titillating to ignore the great basic cause of all things; the fact of the purpose being worked out here below, and the master plan for its working out; the invisible but Supreme Power now soon to intervene and drastically alter the course of history—before mankind blasts itself out of existence” (*The United States and Britain in Prophecy*). We have covered some of that news, in prophetic form, in this issue. Only the *Trumpet* magazine faithfully holds to the course set by God through Herbert W. Armstrong.

As Mr. Armstrong said, the greatest prophecy beyond it all is that MANKIND WILL NOT SELF-DESTRUCT! God is about to intervene to save humanity. THAT'S THE GOOD NEWS! Herbert W. Armstrong saw it well before 1945.

Today, God's *warning message* of the coming events, as well as the good news of the wonderful World Tomorrow—the work started through Herbert W. Armstrong—continues to be TRUMPETED AROUND THE WORLD by this magazine as a witness!

You can escape the horror of the next few years by heeding that witness.

What choice will you make—blindness or vision? Hopefully, we will have the vision to look ahead—accept the revelation and guidance provided in the Bible, and reap the blessings that come with that decision.



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