



PROPHETIC TIMES

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ANALYST: U.S. ABANDONING MIDDLE EAST, LEAVING IRAN IN CHARGE

January 16, 2014 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Iran is set to become the 'alpha dog' - the dominant power - in the Middle East, according to Fox News commentator Kathleen Troia 'K.T.' McFarland, the network's National Security Analyst.



As the United States relaxes sanctions against Iran in the wake of the agreement Tehran signed with Western powers, in which it promised to somewhat limit its nuclear development program, Iran's economy has gotten a major boost - without a commitment by the country to stop its production of enriched uranium.

As a result, said McFarland, Iran gets to 'dance at both weddings' - improving its economy with the removal of sanctions, and continuing its nuclear development program. This, in turn, enhances the image of Iran's hardline Islamist leaders among its people, and guarantees that they will be emboldened to demand more special treatment in the future, she said.

'The deal with the Persian nation makes it clear we are leaving the region, and leaving Iran in charge,' McFarland wrote. 'Iran is now poised to become the Alpha Dog of the Middle East - the dominant economic, military and political power in the region that controls the world's exported oil. Thanks to the agreement struck by President Obama's hand-picked Secretary of State John Kerry, it is doing so with America's blessing.' ..."

HAMAS TRAINS 13,000 TEENS TO EMULATE 'SUICIDE MARTYRS'

January 16, 2014 Breitbart.com reported: " Hamas has historically engaged in concerted efforts to brainwash its youth to wage violent jihad. Roughly 13,000 high school students participated in a week-long training camp geared to enable the teenagers 'to follow in the footsteps of the suicide martyrs.'

This is more than twice the enrollment from last year's camp, the Times of Israel reports. The 'Pioneers of Liberation' camp included weapons training, marching exercises, and 'security awareness' classes concerning the identification of Israeli spies.

While addressing the graduation ceremony, Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh warned Israel that 'this is a generation which knows no fear. It is the generation of the missile, the tunnel, and the suicide operations.' Hamas' interior minister said that the training was in preparation for the next war with Israel..."

AMERICA'S DWINDLING ECONOMIC FREEDOM

January 13, 2014 The Wall Street Journal reported: "World economic freedom has reached record levels, according to the 2014 Index of Economic Freedom, released Tuesday by the Heritage Foundation and The Wall Street Journal. But after seven straight years of decline, the U.S. has dropped out of the top 10 most economically free countries.

For 20 years, the index has measured a nation's commitment to free enterprise on a scale of 0 to 100 by evaluating 10 categories, including fiscal soundness, government size and property rights. These commitments have powerful effects: Countries achieving higher levels of economic freedom consistently and measurably outperform others in economic growth, long-term prosperity and social progress. Botswana, for example, has made gains through low tax rates and political stability.

Those losing freedom, on the other hand, risk economic stagnation, high unemployment and deteriorating social conditions. For instance, heavy-handed government intervention in Brazil's economy continues to limit mobility and fuel a sense of injustice.

It's not hard to see why the U.S. is losing ground. Even marginal tax rates exceeding 43% cannot finance runaway government spending, which has caused the national debt to skyrocket. The Obama administration continues to shackle entire sectors of the economy with regulation, including health care, finance and energy. The intervention impedes both personal freedom and national prosperity.

But as the U.S. economy languishes, many countries are leaping ahead, thanks to policies that enhance economic freedom—the same ones that made the U.S. economy the most powerful in the world. Governments in 114 countries have taken steps in the past year to increase the economic freedom of their citizens. Forty-three countries, from every part of the world, have now reached their highest economic freedom ranking in the index's history.



Hong Kong continues to dominate the list, followed by Singapore, Australia, Switzerland, New Zealand and Canada. These are the only countries to earn the index's "economically free" designation. Mauritius earned top honors among African countries and Chile excelled in Latin America. Despite the turmoil in the Middle East, several Gulf states, led by Bahrain, earned designation as "mostly free."

A realignment is under way in Europe, according to the index's findings. Eighteen European nations, including Germany, Sweden, Georgia and Poland, have reached new highs in economic freedom. By contrast, five others—Greece, Italy, France, Cyprus and the United Kingdom—registered scores lower than they received when the index started two decades ago.



The most improved players are in Eastern Europe, including Estonia, Lithuania and the Czech Republic. These countries have gained the most economic freedom over the past two decades. And it's no surprise: Those who have lived under communism have no trouble recognizing the benefits of a free-market system. But countries that have experimented with milder forms of socialism, such as Sweden, Denmark and Canada, also have made impressive moves toward greater economic freedom, with gains near 10 points or higher on the index scale. Sweden, for instance, is now ranked 20th out of 178 countries, up from 34th out of 140 countries in 1996.

The U.S. and the U.K, historically champions of free enterprise, have suffered the most pronounced declines. Both countries now fall in the "mostly free" category.”...”

ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER: KERRY IS 'OBSESSIVE,' 'MESSIANIC'

January 14, 2014 Breitbart.com reported: “Israel's Defense Minister, Moshe "Boogy" Ya'alon, is facing criticism from the opposition after slamming U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. The Israeli daily Yediot Ahronot reported earlier on Tuesday that the outspoken Ya'alon had said that Kerry, who recently completed his tenth trip to the region in less than a year on the job, "turned up here determined and acting out of misplaced obsession and messianic fervor" for a peace deal.

Ya'alon added: "In reality, there have been no negotiations between us and the Palestinians for all these months --but rather between us and the Americans. The only thing that can 'save us' is for John Kerry to win a Nobel Prize and leave us in peace." Breitbart News offered a similar analysis last week, noting: "The real negotiations are not those between Israel and the Palestinians, but between Israel and the Obama administration."

In addition, Ya'alon was candid in his views of Kerry's plan for Israel's security in a peace agreement, saying that it was "not worth the paper it's written on....It contains no peace and no security." Israel's chief negotiator, Tzipi Livni, accused Ya'alon of harming relations with the U.S., but other politicians came to his defense. "The State of Israel can't sacrifice its security and it can't outsource the state's security to censors," one said.”

ROUHANI BOASTS OF WEST'S SURRENDER' TO IRAN IN NUCLEAR TALKS

January 14, 2014 The Jerusalem Post reported: “Iranian President Hassan Rouhani took to social media on Tuesday to boast that the interim nuclear agreement reached between Tehran and the P5+1 nations was the result of the ‘world powers surrender[ing] to the Iranian nation’s will.’

The UN nuclear watchdog said on Tuesday a planned meeting with Iran next week to discuss steps meant to ease concerns over its nuclear program has been pushed back to Feb. 8 at Tehran's request...The International Atomic Energy Agency did not say why Tehran asked for a delay. But the original date, Jan. 21, is just a day after Iran and big powers are to start implementing an interim deal on curbing Iranian nuclear activity, suggesting a busy agenda in coming days may have led to the postponement.

The IAEA has been tasked with checking that Iran carries out its end of the six-month preliminary accord, so the UN agency is also facing an extra workload...”

HAMAS: 'ISRAEL HAS EIGHT YEARS LEFT'

January 13, 2014 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “Israel will be gone in eight years, according to one Hamas official. Fathi Hamad, Hamas's Interior Minister, claimed in a speech honoring the anniversary of Operation Cast Lead that ‘Palestine’ would replace the Jewish State by 2022. Hamad noted in his speech that the Palestinian Arabs, according to Islamic prophecies, will enter the Al Aqsa Mosque ‘in jubilation and victory like they entered it the first time’. He said that Israel has failed in previous wars waged against the Palestinians, while the Palestinians are progressing nationally towards the stage where they are capable of conquering Jerusalem.

After the ‘liberation’ of Al-Aqsa Mosque, said Hamad, the ‘Hittin’ system will prevail. That statement refers to the means by which Saladin conquered the Land of Israel against the Crusaders, in particular during the Battle of Hittin/Hattin; namely, by slaughtering or enslaving the non-Muslim forces arrayed against him.

‘We'll destroy the enemy,’ Hamad assured his audience, noting that achieving that goal would take ‘eight years.’...”

37 MUSLIM NATIONS PERSECUTING CHRISTIANS

January 12, 2014 WND.com reported: “The number of Christian martyrs was twice as high in 2013 as the year before, and radical Islamist governments and groups are responsible for the vast majority of deaths and persecution around the world, according to the 2014 World Watch List. As WND reported, Open Doors USA, which assists the persecuted church around the world, compiled the World Watch list and reports 2,123 Christians were killed for their faith last year, compared to 1,201 in 2012. In fact, the killings in Syria alone (1,213) trumped the total from a year earlier.

‘The target of violence is mainly taking place mainly from rebel groups who are Islamic extremists, so these are jihadists practicing extreme Islam and are targeting Christian areas,’ said Emily Fuentes, communications director at Open Doors USA.”...While Syria is the most deadly spot on earth for Christians, Fuentes said it fits a pattern in the Islamic world. She noted, of the 50 worst nations for persecution, 37 of them are Muslim. Fuentes said another disturbing twist is the melding of radical Islam with communist and other totalitarian ideologies...”