



This Week: Five Events You Need to Know (December 15)

Terror in France, uncertainty in Germany, portentous cooperation in Asia, and more

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- [19-12-2018](#)

Here are five of the most important news stories this week, as well as relevant links to the full articles and videos here on theTrumpet.com.

[Islamist Gunman Revives Terror in France](#)

An Islamist terrorist killed three people and wounded 13 others in the French border city of Strasbourg on Tuesday.

The attack came amid growing anger in France and across Europe. The protests in France over the last month were triggered primarily by environmental taxes and secondarily by grievances such as lax immigration laws that have allowed terrorists to come into the country.

The Bible reveals that some major changes are coming to [European politics](#). Revelation 17 describes “ten kings” who submit to one overall king. Many of the French protesters who have been marching in the streets, burning cars and smashing windows are angry not just over a fuel tax but with *all* politicians and with France’s *entire political system*. They want a new system—and the Bible says that a new system is coming.

[As France Burns, Germany Chooses ‘Mini-Merkel’](#)

Faced with Continent-wide anger, Germany’s ruling party, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), met December 7 to choose its course for the future and its new leader. It chose Chancellor Angela Merkel’s handpicked successor, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer. While not identical to Merkel, she has a similar vision for Germany and has been nicknamed by some “mini-Merkel.”

Merkel will continue in her job as chancellor for now, with Kramp-Karrenbauer taking over if the CDU wins the [next national election](#), scheduled for 2021.

Had an anti-Merkel candidate won the CDU vote, “the pundits would now be asking how long he would need to topple Merkel,” wrote the *Guardian*. “Now they are asking how long [Kramp-Karrenbauer] will be able to keep Merkel in power.”

What happens after Merkel is the most critical question.

[Schönborn-Kurz: A Holy Roman Empire Alliance](#)

Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz and Minister of Culture Gernot Blümel recently held an Advent reception, celebrating “good togetherness” between government and religious communities.

Vienna Archbishop Christoph Schönborn, as the top religious representative, along with Episcopal Conference secretary general Peter Schipka, Nuncio Archbishop Zurbruggen, Nunciature councilor Msgr. George Panamthundil, Metropolitan

Arsenios Kardamakis from the Greek Orthodox Church, the bishops Anba Gabriel from the Coptic Orthodox Church and Michael Bünker from the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as well as Pastor Reinhold Eichinger from the Free Churches in Austria, were present at the meeting.

Schönborn and Kurz are two of the most prominent and influential leaders who are cementing a union between [church and state](#) in Europe. When fully established, such a union will be akin to the Holy Roman Empire of old. And it will be a dramatic fulfillment of end-time Bible prophecy!

India, Japan Conduct First Joint Air Force Drills

Japan's Air Self-Defense Force and the Indian Air Force recently combined for humanitarian and disaster relief exercises. According to Japanese Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya, the exercise in India's state of Uttar Pradesh focused on improving air transport and "mutual understanding between Japan and India, and bolstering our relationship of trust."

These exercises cap a year of many firsts in [Japan-India bilateral relations](#). They followed soon after Japan and India held a maritime exercise in October and their first-ever land-based military exercise in November. They also followed an acquisition and cross-servicing agreement that would allow the Indian Navy to access Japan's Djibouti base and Japan to access various Indian naval posts.

As the balance of power throughout the world continues to shift, as the world's superpower declines and other nations rise, India and Japan's relationship will only strengthen according to end-time Bible prophecy.

China Intensifies Efforts Against U.S. Dollar

The Chinese Communist Party has long desired to see the United States dollar sidelined and the Chinese currency, the yuan, take on a more central role in global finance. The latest major push toward that goal came on March 26 when China launched a new oil futures contract on the Shanghai International Energy Exchange denominated in yuan. Now the contract is finding increasing acceptance among multinational commodity traders, which could threaten the dollar's position.

If China's new oil futures contract continues to lure more oil-exporting nations away from the dollar and toward the yuan, the dollar could quickly weaken. This could accelerate the conditions for a [prophesied siege](#) on the United States.

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