

IN THE NEWS

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 3

FEBRUARY 7, 2016

World News

Around 45,000 years ago, modern and Neanderthal man coexisted for approximately 5,000 [1]. One study suggests the culture of modern man drove the Neanderthal to extinction [2]. Fast forward; in the United Kingdom, the fertility regulator has approved a scientist's application to edit genetic code in human embryos [3]. In essence this points to the near future where the homo sapient species will become extinct. Consider, parents will want to genetically alter their offspring to become super humans. The new humans will likely have greater strength, enhanced senses, improved minds, and the like. In short order, we will go the way of the Neanderthal man.

The latest indication is that North Korea did test components of a hydrogen bomb [4]. Then North Korea announced plans to launch a satellite into space; thereby requiring commercial airlines to re-route some flights [5]. In turn, Japan planned to shoot down the rocket if it entered Japanese air space [6]. However, the North Koreans launched the missile on February 7 and it was not shot down [7]. Further analysis indicates the missile did make it into space [8]. That is, if a country can place an object into orbit, they can reach any target on Earth. So the rogue country is testing hydrogen bomb technology and ballistic delivery systems. When combined, this becomes a threat to the United States. Finally, China denounced suggestions by a US official to reign in North Korea [9].

In Syria, it appears the Russia deployed Spetsnaz commandos [10]. Additionally, Russia is deploying its top of the line fighter jets to the conflict [11].

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2. Hays, Brooks, UPI, *Study: Neanderthals' extinction blamed on lost cul-*

(Continued on page 2)

Security

Once again, the role of China in cyber spying has resurfaced. For instance, one piece relays U.S. Cyber Command commander Adm. Mike Rogers' description of China's role in compromising 22 million records at the OPM [1]. Another report indicates China will continue cyber theft attacks against US government and private sector organizations [2].

Following the OPM breach, background checks will

now be done by a new organization called the National Background Investigations Bureau [3].

With the large number of privacy breaches, stories that would have been major stories are often lost. Case in point, the University of Central Florida announced 63,000 social security numbers were compromised during a January breach [4]. Then the Tax software preparation company, TaxSlayer, reported a

breach of 8,800 customers [5]. Perhaps the most telling statistic, during 2015 health records for one out of every three Americans was breached [6]. Stated differently, of the health care data breaches known, over 112 million records were compromised [7]. What's more, there is a growing focus on damage control to reduce the risk of lawsuits [8].

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Terrorism	3
Economy	4

Special points of interest:

- North Korea tests
 - Hydrogen Bomb
 - Ballistic Missile
- Gene Splicing of Human Embryos

Security

(Continued from page 1)

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Much learning does not
teach understandin—
Heraclitus

World News

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9. Martina, Michael, Reuters, *China denounces 'irresponsible' U.S. official's remarks on North Korea*, January 26, 2016.
10. Gertz, Bill, and Kredon, Adam, Washington Free Beacon, *U.S. Spots Russian Commandos in Syria*, February 2, 2016.
11. Wood, L. Todd, Washington Times, *Russia deploys frontline fighter jets to Syria amid Turkish tension*, February 1, 2016.
3. Fox News, *UK fertility regulator approves controversial gene editing technique*, February 1, 2016.
4. Wood, L. Todd, Washington Times, *U.S. believes North Korea may have tested portions of a hydrogen bomb*, January 29, 2016.
5. Yu, Elaine, CNN, *North Korea's planned rocket launch: Airlines re-route flights*, February 5, 2016.

Terrorism

More bad news for countries trying to identify Islamic State (IS) terrorists traveling with passports. For instance, one report indicates the IS has established a fake passport factory [1]. Another piece warns the IS has set up a special operations command that includes small training cells within Europe [2].

Moreover, the war in Afghanistan is not going well for the West. By one account, terrorists have made the most gains since 2001 and now controls approximately one third of the country [3].

The War in Afghanistan continues to include Taliban terrorist attacks. For instance, a suicide attack in Kabul left at least 9 dead [4].

In neighboring Pakistan, terrorism continues in the news. For example, a suicide bomber on a motorcycle attacked security forces killing at least 8 [5].

The Middle-East continues to see terrorist attacks. In Saudi Arabia, two gunmen attacked a Shiite Mosque, killing at least two people [6]. In Syria, Islamic State bombings left at least 50 dead [7].

In Libya, the Islamic State continues to expand its power [8]. Elsewhere in Africa, a TNT explosion aboard a Somali airline killed at least one passenger and injured two

others [9].

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5. Saif, Sophia, and Mehsud, Saleem, CNN, *8 dead after explosive-laden motorcycle rams Pakistani security forces vehicle*, February 6, 2016.
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7. Zoroya, Gregg, USA Today, *ISIL bombings kill at least 50 in Syria amid shaky peace talks*, January 31, 2016.
8. Watkins, Thomas, AFP, *US weighs options as IS presence soars in Libya*, February 4, 2016.
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Dana, CNN, *TNT caused explosion on Somali airliner*, February 5, 2016.

*France has lost the battle
but she has not lost the
war—Charles de Gaulle*

Economy

For the 4th quarter, the US economy only grew by 0.7% [1]. According to the Labor Department, for the week ending January 23, the number of first time unemployment claims was 278,000 [2]. For the following week, the number of claims reported was 285,000 [3].

The unfair trade practices employed by other countries continue to hurt American industry. Case in point, Ford announced its plans to close operations in Japan and Indonesia [4].

What's more, Citi strategist issued a warning that the global economy could be headed for another recession [5]. As if this warning were not

enough, one piece indicates Chinese investors will purchase the Chicago Stock Exchange [6]. However, the new unemployment rate is advertised at 4.9% [7].

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4. AP, *Ford Motor Co. ends*

sales in Japan and Indonesia, January 25, 2016.

5. Barnato, Katy, CNBC, *Citi: World economy seems trapped in 'death spiral'*, February 5, 2016.
6. Monks, Matthew, and Massa, Annie, Bloomberg, *Chicago Stock Exchange Says It's Being Sold to Chinese-Led Group*, February 5, 2016.
7. Bartash, Jeffry, Market Watch, *U.S. creates 151,000 jobs in January; unemployment 4.9%*, February 5, 2016.

The misfortune of the wise
is better than the
prosperity of the foo—
Epicurus
