



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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OKLAHOMA SEES DRIEST 4 MONTHS SINCE DUST BOWL

April 6, 2011 Coyle, Okla (AP) reported: "In most years, the dark clouds over western Oklahoma in the spring would be bringing rain. This year, they're more likely to be smoke from wildfires that have burned thousands of acres in the past month as the state and its farmers struggle with a severe drought.

Oklahoma was drier in the four months following Thanksgiving than it has been in any similar period since 1921. That's saying a lot in the state known for the 1930s Dust Bowl, when drought and high winds generated severe dust storms that stripped the land of its topsoil.

Neighboring states are in similar shape as the drought stretches from the Louisiana Gulf coast to Colorado, and conditions are getting worse, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The area in Texas covered by an extreme drought has tripled in the past month to 40 percent, and in Oklahoma it nearly doubled in one week to 16 percent, according to the monitor's March 29 update."....

While dozens of people in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas have lost homes to the hundreds of grassfires that have torn through the parched landscape in the past month, Oklahoma officials said more fires caused more damage as recently as 2009. This year, the biggest losses are likely to come from the drought's effect on the wheat farmers planted last fall and hoped to harvest in June, they said. Almost all of Oklahoma is covered in some degree of drought. Only the far northeastern corner has escaped, thanks to a few big winter snowstorms.

On Jim Freudenberger's 1,500-acre farm in Coyle, only puny tufts of green poke through much of the topsoil. Freudenberger, 73, said he's weathered several droughts and floods in his decades of farming, and he's still hoping for enough rain in the next two months to save his crop. But even if it comes, he said, the result's likely to be a crapshoot:"...

Associate state climatologist Gary McManus said conditions have actually gotten worse since crops began emerging. The plants have rapidly sucked up the limited moisture in the soil.

"Some places have already lost their wheat crop farther south and in the Panhandle," he said. "In the driest parts of the state, the rainfall they have gotten, it's not enough to make them rest easy with their crops. It's just a bad situation."

Paul Fruendt said he's been farming for 25 years and he's never seen such bad growing conditions. His farm in Guthrie in central Oklahoma got a little rain, but he said his crops will still probably run out of water within a few weeks."..."



EX-SAUDI MINISTER: OIL COULD HIT \$300 ON SAUDI UNREST

April 6, 2010 Haaretz reported: "Oil prices could rocket to \$200- \$300 a barrel if the world's top crude exporter Saudi Arabia is hit by serious political unrest, former Saudi oil minister Sheikh Zaki Yamani told Reuters on Tuesday. Yamani said he saw no immediate sign of further trouble following protests last month calling for political reforms but said that underlying discontent remained unresolved.

'If something happens in Saudi Arabia it will go to \$200 to \$300. I don't expect this for the time being, but who would have expected Tunisia?' Yamani told Reuters on the sidelines of a conference of the Centre for Global Energy Studies (CGES) which he chairs.

'The political events that took place are there and we don't expect them to finish. I think there are some surprises on the horizon,' he said in a speech. Saudi King Abdullah offered \$93 billion in handouts in March in an effort to stave off unrest rocking the Arab world.

So far, demonstrations in the Kingdom have been small in scale and police were able to easily disperse a Shi'ite protest in the oil-producing eastern province last month. But Yamani said that the reluctance of people to participate in popular protests was merely concealing underlying discontent.

"Some people relax about the situation in Saudi Arabia because the Saudi Islamic brand prohibits people to go to the street and to talk," he said. Yamani, responsible for Saudi oil policy from 1962-1986, famously predicted in 1990 that crude, \$20 at the time, could rise to \$100 a barrel if Iraq's invasion of Kuwait led to war."

TOP DEFENSE OFFICIAL: ISRAEL FACES ISOLATION 'NO LESS SEVERE THAN WAR'

April 6, 2011 Haaretz.com reported: "The chief of Israel's diplomatic-security bureau warned this week that Israel faced an isolation 'no less severe than war' should the United Nations recognize Palestine as an independent state this September.

In remarks carried by Channel 10, General (res.) Amos Gilad said behind doors that the Palestinian Authority leadership was organizing an 'international assault against Israel'.

The Palestinians have warned that if peace talks with Israel do not resume by the deadline set for December, they will ask the UN general

assembly to recognize their sovereign state.

'Israel's isolation in September, the beginning of the isolation, will be no less severe than war,' Gilad told participants in a private session.

The central issue facing Netanyahu come September was whether Israel should enter 'a partnership for peace [with the Palestinians] and spare itself international pressure or go head to head with them,' said Gilad, hinting that the ongoing freeze in the peace process was likely to bring about a third Intifada.

"If you don't enter negotiations, you gain stability, but also international isolation," said Gilad. "The isolation will legitimize the clashes that could erupt from a coincidental event or incident that with Twitter and Facebook could spark an entire fire."..."

EUROPE 'LOSING' SUPERBUGS BATTLE

April 7, 2011 BBC News reported: "Antibiotic-resistant infections have reached unprecedented levels and now outstrip our ability to fight them with existing drugs, European health experts are warning. Each year in the EU over 25,000 people die of bacterial infections that are able to outsmart even the newest antibiotics. The World Health Organization says the situation has reached a critical point.

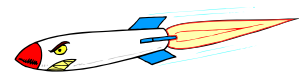
A united push to make new drugs is urgently needed, it says. Without a concerted effort, people could be dealing with the 'nightmare scenario' of a worldwide spread of untreatable infections, says the WHO. One example is the New Delhi or NDM-1 superbug recently found in UK patients. They brought the infection back with them from countries like India and Pakistan, which they had visited for medical treatment and cosmetic surgery.

These superbugs are resistant to carbapenem antibiotics, which is concerning for experts because they are some of our most powerful weapons and are used for hard-to-treat infections that evade other drugs..."

DM: IRAN TO INAUGURATE NEW PRODUCTION LINE OF CRUISE MISSILES SOON

April 7, 2011 The Fars New Agency reported: ""Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi announced on Thursday that the country is scheduled to inaugurate a new production line of its home-made cruise missiles in the near future. Iran's Defense Ministry will unveil important arms, marine, aerospace and electro-optic achievements in the new Iranian calendar year (started on March 21),' General Vahidi said in the Western Iranian city of Kermanshah on Thursday.

In recent years, Iran has made great achievements in the defense sector and attained self-sufficiency in producing essential military equipment and systems. In January, Iran successfully test-fired surface-to-air mid-range Hawk missile and the Iranian Defense Ministry delivered new naval cruise missile systems to the Navy. The systems, designed and manufactured by Iranian experts, are capable of spotting and destroying different targets at sea.



The Navy has successfully test-fired a range of powerful missiles mounted with laser technology, which display high precision and have a range of 45 km (28 miles) to 300 km (186 miles). Iran has been pushing an arms development program in recent years in a bid to reach self-sufficiency..."

WE'VE BECOME A NATION OF TAKERS, NOT MAKERS

April 01, 2011 The Wall Street Journal reported: "If you want to understand better why so many states—from New York to Wisconsin to California—are teetering on the brink of bankruptcy, consider this depressing statistic: Today in America there are nearly twice as many people working for the government (22.5 million) than in all of manufacturing (11.5 million). This is an almost exact reversal of the situation in 1960, when there were 15 million workers in manufacturing and 8.7 million collecting a paycheck from the government.

It gets worse. More Americans work for the government than work in construction, farming, fishing, forestry, manufacturing, mining and utilities combined. We have moved decisively from a nation of makers to a nation of takers. Nearly half of the \$2.2 trillion cost of state and local governments is the \$1 trillion-a-year tab for pay and benefits of state and local employees. Is it any wonder that so many states and cities cannot pay their bills?

Every state in America today except for two—Indiana and Wisconsin—has more government workers on the payroll than people manufacturing industrial goods. Consider California, which has the highest budget deficit in the history of the states. The not-so Golden State now has an incredible 2.4 million government employees—twice as many as people at work in manufacturing. New Jersey has just under two-and-a-half as many government employees as manufacturers. Florida's ratio is more than 3 to 1. So is New York's.

Even Michigan, at one time the auto capital of the world, and Pennsylvania, once the steel capital, have more government bureaucrats than people making things. The leaders in government hiring are Wyoming and New Mexico, which have hired more than six government workers for every manufacturing worker.

Now it is certainly true that many states have not typically been home to traditional manufacturing operations. Iowa and Nebraska are farm states, for example. But in those states, there are at least five times more government workers than farmers."..."

Don't expect a reversal of this trend anytime soon. Surveys of college graduates are finding that more and more of our top minds want to work for the government. Why? Because in recent years only government agencies have been hiring, and because the offer of near lifetime security is highly valued in these times of economic turbulence."..."

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