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OPINION

Take A Good Look At Russia

There are more dark, lurid corners in the nightmare landscape of war than a mind can possibly imagine. And we stumbled into one of those cruel corners late last week. The downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 in the eastern Ukraine delivered a new dose of modern horror to our imaginations. It now appears 298 people were killed when this commercial airliner was shot down over war-torn territory. Numerous accusations say that separatist rebels backed by Russia may well have shot down the plane using a sophisticated SA-11 surface-to-air missile, also called a Buk, which can strike aircraft flying as high as 70,000 feet.

This is an unspeakable tragedy, but what has transpired since has fueled the outrage. Rebels have been in control of the crash site and left many bodies to decompose and bloat in the devastated fields. Meanwhile, there are reports that vital evidence has been tampered with, and even an accusation that the missile system used in the incident has been discreetly removed to Russia.

Accusations are flying everywhere, as so often is the case in warring situations. But Russia's own defense and rationalizations have been awkward, weak and infuriating. President Vladimir Putin lays the blame for the incident on the Ukraine because it is igniting hostilities against rebels within its own boundaries. Russia's own complicity with stirring up this unrest has made it a chief suspect in this terrible crime, whether it directly authorized it (which seems unlikely) or not. The belief that Russia almost surely supplied the rebels with the missile system and may well have trained personnel to operate it to at least some extent makes Moscow an accomplice to wholesale murder.

Whether this finally motivates the European Union to take a harder line against Russia for the Ukrainian unrest is unclear. British Prime Minister David Cameron attempted to create some focus in a front-page commentary in the *Sunday Times* of London. "For too long there has been a reluctance on the part of too many European countries to face up to the implications of what is happening in eastern Ukraine," he wrote. "... It is time to make our power, influence and resources count. Our economies are strong and growing in strength."

Europe, as well as Washington, cannot let this incident go away, even though Putin will likely try to stall this matter out while the evidence of what really occurred decays or disappears. This is what happened in 1983 when a Russian fighter jet shot down a South Korean airliner with 269 souls aboard; it was years before the truth was finally brought to light.

That incident occurred in the old days of the totalitarian Soviet Union against a Cold War backdrop. This incident now may well reveal just little distance the current Russian government has moved from those despotic days.

Now, with its separatist minions apparently drenched in the blood of victims who had absolutely nothing to do with the Ukraine conflict, Russia has shown itself to be a nation that cannot be trusted to behave like the responsible world power it still pretends to be.

kmh

THE VIEWS PAGE

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** Views page provides a forum for open discussion of issues and interests affecting our readers. Initialed editorials represent the opinion of the writer, but not necessarily that of the **PRESS & DAKOTAN**. Bylined columns represent the view of the author. We welcome letters to the editor on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at views@yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press
Today is Tuesday, July 22, the 203rd day of 2014. There are 162 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On July 22, 1934, bank robber John Dillinger was shot to death by federal agents outside Chicago's Biograph Theater, where he had just seen the Clark Gable movie "Manhattan Melodrama."

On this date: In 1587, an English colony fated to vanish under mysterious circumstances was established on Roanoke Island off North Carolina. In 1796, Cleveland, Ohio, was founded by General Moses Cleaveland (correct).

In 1893, Wellesley College professor Katharine Lee Bates visited the summit of Pikes Peak, where she was inspired to write the original version of her poem "America the Beautiful."

In 1916, a bomb went off during a Preparedness Day parade in San Francisco, killing 10 people.

In 1933, American aviator Wiley Post completed the first solo flight around the world as he returned to New York's Floyd Bennett Field after traveling for 7 days, 18 and 3/4 hours.

In 1943, American forces led by Gen. George S. Patton captured Palermo, Sicily, during World War II.

In 1944, the Bretton Woods Monetary Conference concluded in New Hampshire with an agreement to establish the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

In 1946, Jewish extremists blew up a wing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, killing 90 people.

In 1963, Sonny Liston knocked out Floyd Patterson in the first round of their rematch in Las Vegas to retain the world heavyweight title.

In 1975, the House of Representatives joined the Senate in voting to restore the American citizenship of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

In 1983, Samantha Smith and her parents returned home to Manchester, Maine, after completing a whirlwind tour of the Soviet Union.

In 2011, Anders Breivik massacred 69 people at a Norwegian island youth retreat after detonating a bomb in nearby Oslo that killed eight others in the nation's worst violence since World War II.

Ten years ago: The September 11 commission issued a report saying America's leaders failed to grasp the gravity of terrorist threats before the devastating attacks of 9/11, but stopped short of blaming President George W. Bush and former President Bill Clinton. The Army Inspector General's office released a report on abuses by U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan which found 94 cases of confirmed or alleged abuse and 39 deaths. A new high-speed passenger train derailed in northwestern Turkey, killing 37 people.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama told a prime-time press con-

ference that Cambridge, Massachusetts, police had acted "stupidly" in the arrest of prominent black scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr., and that despite racial progress, blacks and Hispanics were still singled out unfairly for arrest. Earlier, the president met at the White House with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. Millions of Asians witnessed the longest solar eclipse of this century; in some areas, totality lasted as long as six minutes and 39 seconds.

One year ago: Frenzied crowds of Roman Catholics in Rio de Janeiro mobbed the car carrying Pope Francis as he returned to his home continent for the first time as pontiff, embarking on a seven-day visit. The Duchess of Cambridge, the former Kate Middleton, gave birth to a son, Prince George, who became third in line to the British throne after Prince Charles and Prince William. 2011 National League MVP Ryan Braun was suspended without pay for the rest of the season and the postseason, the start of sanctions involving players reportedly tied to a Florida clinic accused of distributing performance-enhancing drugs. Onetime Chicago cop-turned-actor Dennis Farina, 69, died in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Today's Birthdays: Opera singer Licia Albanese is 101. Former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., is 91. Actor-comedian Orson Bean is 86. Fashion designer Oscar de la Renta is 82. Actress Louise Fletcher is 80. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chuck Jackson is 77. Actor Terence Stamp is 76. Game show host Alex Trebek is 74. Singer George Clinton is 73. Actor-singer Bobby Sherman is 71. Former Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, is 71. Movie writer-director Paul Schrader is 68. Actor Danny Glover is 68. Singer Mireille Mathieu is 68. Actor-comedian-director Albert Brooks is 67. Rook singer Don Henley is 67. Movie composer Alan Menken is 65. Singer-actress Lonette McKee is 61. Jazz musician Al Di Meola is 60. Actor Willem Dafoe is 59. Rhythm-and-blues singer Keith Sweat is 53. Actress Joanna Going is 51. Actor Rob Estes is 51. Folk singer Emily Saliers (Indigo Girls) is 51. Actor John Leguizamo is 50. Actor-comedian David Spade is 50. Actor Patrick Labyorteaux is 49. Rock musician Pat Badger is 47. Actress Irene Bedard is 47. Actor Rhys Ifans is 47. Actor Colin Ferguson is 42. Rock musician Daniel Jones is 41. Singer Rufus Wainwright is 41. Actress Franka Potente is 40. Actress A.J. Cook is 36. Actor Keegan Allen (TV: "Pretty Little Liars") is 27. Actress Camila Banus (TV: "Days of Our Lives") is 24. Actress Selena Gomez is 22.

Thought for Today: "I hold that man is in the right who is most closely in league with the future." — Henrik Ibsen, Norwegian dramatist (1828-1906).

FROM THE BIBLE

You do not know what tomorrow will bring. James 4:14. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



The Rez Of The Story

Marijuana's Future

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives). The extremely lucid line from Simon and Garfunkel's "The Boxer" goes like this: "All lies and jest, still a man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest."

No truer words have ever been written or sung. We all do it — we cherry pick and use that which makes sense to us from this world and will defend what we perceive to be the absolute truth even when it is clearly not — or turns out to be untrue.

Something to think about: Of late, there has been more conversation throughout Indian Country and beyond about legalizing pot for both medicinal and recreational use. This discourse is aimed at decriminalizing the possession, use, selling or growing of this drug. There are those who support the position that pot is dangerous citing various scientific data that serves to back up their claims. In fact, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse:

"Marijuana causes altered perceptions and mood, impaired coordination, difficulty with thinking and problem solving and disrupted learning and memory.

"Marijuana also affects brain development, and when it is used heavily by young people, its effects on thinking and memory may last a long time or even be permanent. A recent study of marijuana users who began using in adolescence revealed substantially reduced connectivity among brain areas responsible for learning and memory. And a large, long-term study in New Zealand showed that people who began smoking marijuana heavily in their teens lost an average 8 points in IQ between age 13 and age 38. Importantly, the lost cognitive abilities were not fully restored in those who quit smoking marijuana as adults. Those who started smoking marijuana in adulthood did not show significant IQ declines."

However, "Drugs are here to stay," says Andrew Weil, M.D. and Winifred Rosen, co-authors of "Chocolate to Morphine":

"History teaches us that it is in vain to hope that drugs will ever disappear and that any effort to eliminate them from society is doomed to failure."

They go on to say: "During most of this century, Western society has attempted to deal with its drug problems through negative actions: by various wars on drug abuse implemented by repressive laws, outrageous propaganda and attacks on users, suppliers and



Vince TWO EAGLES

sources of disapproved substances. These wars have been consistently lost. More people are taking more drugs than ever before. Drug use has invaded all classes and ethnic groups and has spread to younger and younger children. Also, more people abuse drugs now than ever before, and the drug laws have directly created ugly and ever-enlarging criminal networks that corrupt society and cause far worse damage than the substances they distribute."

So what is a drug then? Dr. Weil and Winifred Rosen define it like this: "Most people would agree that heroin is a drug. It is a white powder that produces striking changes in the body and mind in tiny doses. But is sugar a drug? Sugar is also a white powder that strongly affects the body, and some experts say it affects mental

function and mood as well. Like heroin, it can be addicting. How about chocolate? Most people think of it as food or flavor, but it contains a chemical related to caffeine, is a stimulant, and can also be addicting. Is salt a drug? Many people think they cannot live without it, and it has dramatic effects on the body.

"A common definition of the word drug is any substance that in small amounts produces significant changes in the body, mind or both. This definition does not clearly distinguish drugs from some foods. The difference between a drug and a poison is also unclear. All drugs become poisons in high enough doses, and many poisons are useful drugs in low enough doses. Is alcohol a food, a drug or a poison? The body can burn it as a fuel, just like sugar or starch, but it causes intoxication and can kill in overdose. Many people who drink alcohol crusade against drug abuse, never acknowledging that they themselves are involved with a powerful drug. In the same way, many cigarette addicts have no idea that tobacco is a very strong drug, and few people who drink coffee realize the true nature of that beverage."

Legalize marijuana for recreational use? (Remember that it is illegal under federal law, which supersedes state law.) What about the law on the reservation? If the only reason to use any drug is to feel good, remember also, that we build tolerance to a drug so we will need more and more of it to feel good. A slippery slope, to say the least, don't you think?

We best think this through and be very careful before we indulge in something that could very well end up biting us in the backside down the road.

And now you know the rez of the story. Doksha (later) ...

YOUR LETTERS

The Politics Of Bickering

John Magnuson, Yankton

Thank you for the letter from Carol Williams (*Press & Dakotan*, July 7), who reminded us that the Democratic Party is the party of change, of inclusiveness and the party equipped with a progressive mentality needed to make the changes demanded in this astonishingly changing nation.

Of course, not everyone agrees with Ms. Williams' letter. "Who manages the economy better and who tells the biggest lies," *P&D* write-ins demand to know. Isn't this just the usual muckety muck bickering we get to hear in partisan politics?

In the first place, don't we overestimate the national leadership's ability to solve a series of complex problems that neither party seems to adequately analyze or react to before it's too late? Its all about political point scoring. One party constantly tries to block any movement by the other, and vice versa. One party can't even agree that the president was born in the U.S. Could you imagine a corporate board room working like this? A company run like our government wouldn't have a chance. Our candidates should recognize this and change their modus operandi. Enough of accusations and finger pointing!

Of course, the people will decide when we enter the voting booths. Maybe we should keep voting out all incumbents until something changes. Maybe a change would be good on all levels.

But if there is any reason to prefer one party over another, it may be an issue of compassion. In a world of Big Brother watching us, who will more respect our personal rights? Who will do more to watch our backs and help out when we are down? That's an easy answer for me; is it so for you?

We all see issues differently. Maybe our politicians should re-learn to compromise and

Online Opinion

The results of the most recent Internet poll on the *Press & Dakotan's* Web site are as follows:

LATEST RESULTS:
Should the immigrant children moving across the southern border into the U.S. be deported?
Yes70%
No15%
Perhaps some of them9%
Not sure6%
TOTAL VOTES CAST369

The *Press & Dakotan Internet* poll is not a scientific survey and reflects the opinions only of those who choose to participate. The results should not be construed as an accurate representation or scientific measurement of public opinion.

CURRENT QUESTION:

Do you think Russia should be held accountable for the shooting down of Malaysian Airlines Flight 17?

To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

work together, because if they don't, it's just not going to work anymore. We are tired of government as usual. Why not vote out all the incumbents and make something new happen? Would that be such a bad thing?

Scout Support

Noah Anderson, Yankton

First Class Scout, Troop 102

I am a member of Boy Scout Troop 102. On behalf of my troop, I would like to thank all the people at the Fourth of July fireworks who bought concession stand items from us. This was a fundraiser for my troop to help pay for tents, equipment and other Boy Scout items. We appreciate your support!

WRITE US

Letters, Yankton Press & Dakotan, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078