

Selected Articles: How Would Jesus Fare in the American Police State?

By [Global Research News](#)

Global Research, December 17, 2019

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[Cruising Pamir Highway, the Heart of the Heartland. The New Silk Roads and Greater Eurasia](#)

By [Pepe Escobar](#), December 17, 2019

Traveling the Pamir Highway, we're not only facing a geological marvel and a magic trip into ancient history and customs. It's also a privileged window on a trade revival that will be at the heart of the expansion of the New Silk Roads.

Khorog is the only town in the Pamirs – its cultural, economic and educational center, the site of the multi-campus University of Central Asia, financed by the Agha Khan foundation. Ismailis place tremendous importance on education.



[The Child that Christmas Forgot: How Would Jesus Fare in the American Police State?](#)

By [John W. Whitehead](#), December 17, 2019

The Roman Empire, a police state in its own right, had ordered that a census be conducted. Joseph and his pregnant wife Mary traveled to the little town of Bethlehem so that they could be counted. There being no room for the couple at any of the inns, they stayed in a stable (a barn), where Mary gave birth to a baby boy, Jesus. Warned that the government planned to kill the baby, Jesus' family fled with him to Egypt until it was safe to return to their native land.

Yet what if Jesus had been born 2,000 years later?



[Our Vanishing World: Birds](#)

By [Robert J. Burrowes](#), December 17, 2019

Birds evolved from small carnivorous dinosaurs of the Late Jurassic and in the 65 million years since the extinction of the rest of the dinosaurs, this ancestral lineage diversified into the major groups of birds alive today. See [‘The origin of birds’](#).

Because they did not exist during the first five mass extinction events on Earth, birds have been spared the widespread extinctions suffered by those species that did exist in earlier eras.



[Bulgaria's Willingness to Host NATO Naval Center Is Aimed at Containing Russia in the Black Sea](#)

By [Paul Antonopoulos](#), December 17, 2019

In [a joint statement](#) between NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borissov, the latter announced last Thursday that the Bulgarian Black Sea city of Varna is a willing new home of NATO's Naval Force Coordination Center. NATO's Maritime Headquarters is currently located in the United Kingdom, but Stoltenberg thanked his Bulgarian counterpart for its "strong commitment" and "strong focus" on so-called "Black Sea security." By Black Sea security, it was of course meant that they want to contain Russia.



[Video: President Assad Discusses Syria's Reconstruction, China's "Belt and Road" and US Aggression](#)

By [Bashar al Assad](#), [Phoenix Television](#), and [Miri Wood](#), December 17, 2019

In the third of recent international interviews, Syria's President Bashar al Assad met with Phoenix Television, to discuss Belt and Road development projects with

China's Phoenix Television.

Given that Syria and China are both part of the original Silk Road that created a beautiful explosion of the development and trade that uplifted humanity, this interview has greater importance than the recent one with France's [Paris Match](#) and that with [Rai News 24](#), subsequently banned in Italy. Transcript courtesy of SANA.



[Video: Douma 'Chemical Attack' Narrative Collapses, Russia Trains New Militia in Hasakah](#)

By [South Front](#), December 17, 2019

Russia has started creating a local force that will operate in northeastern Syria areas abandoned by the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, several Syrian media outlets claim.

According to reports, the Russian military will train and equip a new pro-government militia in the province of al-Hasakah. This militia will be deployed at former positions of the SDF, which have not been taken by the Syrian Army.



[The Real Interest of the U.S. in Latin America and the Caribbean. Preserve Imperialism](#)

By [Enrique Moreno Gimeranez](#), December 17, 2019

Our America is again suffering escalating aggression by U.S. imperialism and local oligarchies. The region is experiencing a sad reality involving dangerous turmoil and socio-political instability, promoted by Washington. The hemisphere's most reactionary forces are attacking sovereign governments with coups, methods of unconventional war, brutal police repression, militarization, unilateral coercive measures, rigged judicial persecution of progressive leaders, while proclaiming the validity of the Monroe Doctrine and McCarthyism.

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