



Lesson 99

The Sunday Law in 2014 part 2

- **Authoritarians**
 - The rise of Erdogan (Turkey)
 - The rise of Modi (India)
- **ISIS**
 - The ISIS caliphate
 - The United States begins airstrikes
- **Russia and China**
 - The Internet Research Agency
 - Invasion of Ukraine
 - Russia and China strengthen their partnership
 - China's persecution of minorities
 - Hong Kong Umbrella Revolution
- **The Papacy**
 - Pope Francis' REPAM

In part two of the 2014 series, we are going to be looking at more events that happened at the Sunday Law for the Priests.

Authoritarians

The rise of Erdogan (Turkey)

One of the things that happened in 2014 was the rise of the authoritarian leader Erdogan (Recep Tayyip Erdogan). In 2014, he became the president of Turkey. Long before that he was active in political Islamic parties (although they were banned in Turkey). In 1994, he became the mayor of Istanbul- the first Muslim mayor in Turkey. In 1998, Erdogan was convicted for inciting religious hatred because he recited a poem that compared faithful Muslims to an army; he was supposed to go to jail for ten months but he ended up only serving four months. Erdogan went back into politics after he was released and helped start a new Islamic political party AKP (Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi [Justice and Development Party]). This party won the elections for parliament in 2002, but Erdogan could not join the parliament because he had been convicted of a crime. But in December of 2002 a Constitutional amendment was ratified which removed that barrier. On May 14, 2003 he became prime minister of Turkey. Erdogan then served three terms (because that is the most he could do). As prime minister he tried to act more friendly to the West to try to get Turkey to be allowed to become a full member of the European Union, but he also made Turkey more religious- and his opponents saw this; he also pushed for a new Constitution. Then on August 28, 2014 Erdogan was elected to the presidency directly by the people (this was the first election where the president was selected that way). His party (AKP) gained back the majority in the parliament shortly thereafter. Right after Erdogan was elected president he started to push even harder for his idea of a new Constitution. He also tightened his control over everything from banks to universities. In 2016, there was a failed coup against him, almost 300 people were killed and tens of thousands were fired during and following it. On July 9, 2018, Erdogan's new Constitution went into effect- one of the biggest changes in it is the abolishment of the position of prime minister- essentially giving the president all of that power. Since 2014, Erdogan has been the president of Turkey and he has been working to give himself the authority over everything.

The rise of Modi (India)

An important aspect of the Sunday Law is the fall of democracy. We saw this reflected in the rise of Erdogan in Turkey and we can also see this reflected in the rise of Modi in India. India is the world's largest democracy; it has a Constitution, a main government, state governments, and an election system. But in the 2010s an anti-democracy leader began to rise. Narendra Modi is a political leader in India. At the age of 8 he joined the RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh), which is a Hindu nationalist group. Since then, Modi has been a strong Hindu nationalist. Hindu nationalism is a conservative movement that sees itself as superior to non-Hindus, such as Muslims who make up 20% of India's population. From 2007 to 2012, Modi ran election campaigns in which he supported Hindu nationalism; he allied with Hindu leaders and refused to wear Muslim clothing. In 2014, Modi was nominated by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to run in the 2014 elections. From April to May of 2014 the Indian elections were held in which Modi was elected prime minister and his party won the majority in parliament. Modi's rise shows the effects of Hindu nationalism in India. Modi has pushed Hindu-Muslim tensions, and back in the 1940s such religious nationalism led to violence, resulting in the death

of over a million people. However, for some Indians, Modi is a good leader. He has presented himself as “India's national CEO” and many see him as a chance to fix India’s economy. Modi is basically India’s version of Trump (or, technically Trump is the United States’ Modi). When Trump was running for president he claimed he’d run the United States like his businesses, and Modi has crafted himself as a CEO as well. Trump is a conservative and nationalist, and so is Modi. And what do we know about Trump? He’s a dictator. Modi is too, we can see that reflected in his actions. Modi has attacked Muslim’s civil liberties, broken promises he campaigned on, and harnessed the power and reputation of independent organizations. He has politicized the army, and the judiciary system is in the worse threat of losing independence since the 1970s. Under Modi, India has gone from 27th place in the Economist Intelligence Unit’s Democracy Index in 2014, to 53rd place in 2021, all because Modi is trying to remake India into a Hindu nation. So, the fall of democracy is an important aspect of the Sunday Law.

ISIS

The ISIS caliphate

ISIS formed a caliphate in 2014. On April 11, 2012, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi (the leader of ISI) went from Iraq to Syria, and renamed ISI (Islamic State in Iraq) to ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq and Syria). From July 2012 to July 2013, ISIS performed its “Breaking the Walls” campaign, where it conducted bombings and prison breaks. On July 21, 2013, ISIS launched its “Soldier’s Harvest” campaign to capture territory and decline Iraqi security forces. From August to December, ISIS began to attack rival groups, and take control of land in Iraq. In January of 2014, ISIS took control of Raqqa in Syria and declared it the capital of the ISIS emirate. ISIS continued to capture more land. On June 29, 2014, ISIS established a caliphate on the land it controlled in Iraq and Syria and changed its name to the Islamic State. They proclaimed their leader, al-Baghdadi, as the caliph. A caliphate is an Islamic institution that controls a certain territory. The leader is called the caliph and is considered the religious successor of Muhammad and the ruler of all Muslims. At its peak, the caliphate controlled between 39,000 and 42,000 square miles (101,000 and 108,000 square kilometers), which is about 33% of Syria and 40% of Iraq.

The United States begins airstrikes

The Syrian Civil War had been going on since March of 2011, but in 2014 a change took place in regards to the intervention of the United States. In 2014, the United States began to try to bring countries together to fight the ISIS caliphate that was being built during the Syrian Civil War. Also, in 2014 the United States began airstrikes on ISIS in Syria. On September 10, 2014, Obama said that the United States would start bombing ISIS and he asked Congress to approve a plan to train opposition fighters (which they did). Later in September (around the 22nd) the United States conducted its first airstrikes. They did not coordinate with or tell the Syrian government when or where they would strike, but the United States sometimes worked with other Middle Eastern nations. More than 20 ISIS controlled places were targeted along with areas controlled by groups connected to al-Qaeda. Dozens of Muslim terrorist fighters were killed. Training camps, oil facilities, towns, and vehicles controlled by ISIS were all among the things targeted. This operation in Syria was named Inherent Resolve in October of 2014. By December 31, 2014, the 69th airstrike in Syria against ISIS was conducted. After that the United States continued to attack ISIS and even began sending in soldiers, but all of this began in 2014.

Russia and China

The Internet Research Agency

In 2014, the Internet Research Agency began to work. The Internet Research Agency (IRA) is based in St. Petersburg, and it is a Russian troll company. Its job is to deploy hundreds of people on the internet to spread disinformation and to manipulate the population. The IRA is funded by a Russian oligarch, and backed by the Kremlin. The IRA began to operate in 2011 when Putin began to take control of the internet to combat protests in Russia among other things. In 2014, The organization began to target the United States to influence the 2016 election. It began to manipulate people by spreading disinformation to invoke fear. Its work was similar to the work of Cambridge Analytica in 2014 (see Lesson 98). As the elections approached, the IRA's attacks grew. Facebook reported that 126 million people saw content posted by the IRA from 2015 to 2017, and Twitter reported that Russians retweeted 500,000 of Trump's tweets weeks before the 2016 election. It was partly thanks to the work of the IRA that began in 2014 that Trump was elected president.

Invasion of Ukraine

In 2014, Russia invaded Crimea (a part of Ukraine). They did this because the people had elected Viktor Yanukovich, who acted pro-western, to become president in 2010. When he got in office he started to ally closer with Russia instead and in February of 2014 many of the Ukrainians began to protest. He was removed from office, then he fled to Russia, and the temporary government of Ukraine charged him with crimes. Yanukovich asked Putin to restore peace in Ukraine. Russia invaded Ukraine and on February 27, 2014, Russian soldiers, who didn't have the Russian insignia on their uniforms, took control of Crimea and established a pro-Russian government. On March 16, 2014, Crimea declared its independence and two days later, Crimea became a part of Russia.

Russia and China strengthen their partnership

Russia and China have worked together for years, but since 2014 their partnership has strengthened. This happened, mainly in response to the sanctions that were imposed on Russia by many European nations, the United States, and other countries because of its invasion of Ukraine in that year. In May, Russia and China signed a 30-year \$400 billion deal (although it didn't take effect until 2019). The deal is that Russia will send 38 billion cubic meters of natural gas to China (which at the time predominantly used coal) each year, over the 30-year time frame. Putin said this was the biggest gas deal Russia had ever made. The gas Russia is selling to China through this deal is actually cheaper than average, but Russia still gets money- which is useful since they were, and are, under sanctions. Also in 2014 Russia and China agreed on other financial plans. One was a (extendable) 3-year period where they would trade and use each other's currency directly. Since 2010 they have been trading between themselves with only their currencies, and in 2014 they started a "swap" which basically means they could buy some of each other's currency and then sell it back. They did these things to try to counteract the sanctions Russia was facing and support its currency. Because of the problems that Russia faced from the West in 2014, it decided to strengthen its partnership with China.

China's persecution of minorities

In 2014, the Uyghur genocide began in China. On March 1, 2014, eight terrorists armed with knives attacked passengers in the Kunming railway station in Kunming, Yunnan. The terrorists killed 31 people and injured 140. Four of the attackers were killed by police and one was injured and captured. The Kunming government said the attack was connected to Sunni extremists in China's Xinjiang region. China's ruling communist party has had a history of trying to make China a monocultural society- a single "state-race", so the Chinese government took this terrorist attack as an excuse to start the Strike Hard Campaign against Violent Terrorism. This campaign began what is called the Uyghur genocide. The Uyghur genocide began in 2014, and it is an ongoing abuse of human rights against minorities in Xinjiang, mainly Uyghurs. The Chinese Communist Party has done several injustices against Uyghurs. They have destroyed their mosques and separated children from their families. Most significantly, China detained between 1 and 3 million Uyghurs (and continues to detain more) in concentration camps without legal process- camps that are the biggest detention of minorities since World War II. In the camps, the government suppresses Uyghur religious practices, forces Uyghurs to undergo psychological indoctrination, and requires them to work. The Uyghurs are forced to manufacture clothes and other products, some of which are even sold in the United States (and other countries). The Chinese government claims the camps are just centers to help assimilate the Uyghurs and teach them skills- but they aren't- they're China's attempt to suppress minorities. China claims they're fighting against terrorism, and while there has been violence and at least one Uyghur extremist group in Xinjiang, experts say the genocide China is committing against Uyghurs is very disproportionate.

Hong Kong Umbrella Revolution

The Hong Kong Umbrella Revolution began on September 26, 2014. The protests began when the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China decided on changing the Hong Kong electoral system, which would basically allow China to control who ran in the first place. *The Hong Kong Federation of Students* and *Scholarism*, two student activist groups, began protesting in front of the government headquarters on September 26th. Two days later, on September 28th, the *Occupy Central with Love and Peace* organization announced the beginning of its civil disobedience campaign. Along with occupying the government buildings, protesters began blocking major intersections. When police began using tear gas on the crowds, they grew larger. At any given time, there would be at least 100,000 people protesting in the streets. The protesting lasted until December 15, 2014. It was called the umbrella revolution because the protesters used umbrellas to block the police's tear gas.

The Papacy

REPAM

In 2014, we can see the activities of the counterfeit: the Papacy. In that year Pope Francis helped set up REPAM: which means "Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network" in English; this happened in September. A few groups from Latin America and Brazil merged together to form the network. It is an organization that was set up to help Catholic people in nine countries connected to the Amazon rainforest. But, REPAM especially deals with the issues and needs of the indigenous people (who are Catholic) that live there. Some of those issues were that they wanted to allow men that were married to be priests and they also wanted to give women more significant job roles in the church (when these issues were finally dealt with in 2019 both ideas were rejected). REPAM connects the Catholic churches and organizations in the Amazon region to promote communication between the various areas; it also uses the radio to spread information. REPAM coordinates the activities of priests, missionaries, and aid workers, and also helps defend indigenous people's rights. This organization still exists today and has been active since its founding in 2014.

In summary:

Sunday Law Events

Authoritarians

In 2014, Erdogan
began to rise in Turkey



In 2014, Modi began
to rise in India.



ISIS

In 2014, the ISIS
caliphate was formed.



In 2014, the US began
strikes in Syria



Russia and China

In 2014, the IRA became active.



In 2014, Russia invaded Ukraine.



In 2014, Russia and China formed an alliance.



In 2014, China began persecuting minorities.



In 2014, the Hong Kong Umbrella Revolution took place.



The Papacy

In 2014, the Catholic Church began REPAM.



New official Youth Prophecy Group website!

youthprophecygroup.org

If you have any questions or comments on any of the material contact us (YPG) at:

youthprophecygroup@gmail.com

Find all our YPG lesson videos at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeltzVajTXgSQRL-o2XOq_g

Link to YPG Zoom meetings which are at 10:00am Pacific Time on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87170293849>