

# Opinion / Editorial

## LIBERAL EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP BLUNDERED BY BETRAYAL OF THE US

By Bill Connor

On February 20, 2026, US attempts to halt Iran's nuclear weapon enrichment and internal slaughter of tens of thousands were failing. At this point, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer upended decades of friendship with the US with a betrayal. Starmer shocked the world by making clear the United Kingdom would not allow the US to use its air bases in UK territory to conduct any strikes on Iran. This restriction included US basing rights on Diego Garcia within range of Iran. Operation Epic Fury began days later. Other European NATO "allies" similarly restricted not only US air basing

of their countries. During Operation Epic Fury, the UK other European NATO countries, most importantly France, Italy, Britain, and Spain, openly denied President Trump's request to help open the Strait of Hormuz. <https://www.defensenews.com/global/mideast-africa/2026/03/17/european-allies-tell-trump-neinon-and-no-on-help-to-force-open-hormuz-straits/> These feckless European leaders have broken trust with America after decades of American support and will pay an enormous price.

First, the US contribution to the defense of European NATO countries cannot be overstated. The United States accounts for 60% of the defense spending for



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NATO (\$980 Billion in 2025). It provides the unique and critical intelligence, communications, logistics, and nuclear backbone. In addition to being the shield for Europe and indispensable partner, the United States has gone above and beyond when other NATO nations have faced adversaries outside Europe. For example, when the United Kingdom went to war with a hemispheric friend of the United States, Argentina during the Falkland Islands War, the US provided substantial assistance to the UK. This included fueling, intelligence, satellite support, missile support, and basing. Reagan directed his Defense Secretary to "give Maggie (UK's Prime Minister) all she needs" and analysis of the operation concluded "the support of the United States was a key element in the British victory. Early in the crisis, the US provided the British with the use of air and naval facilities on Ascension Island - roughly halfway between Britain and the Falklands - as a staging area for operations." <https://www.keymilitary.com/article/give-maggie-everything-she-needs#:~:text=Regardless%2C%20the%20support%20of%20the,a%20staging%20area%20for%20operations.> The difference with Iran is that, unlike Argentina, Iran is a direct threat to the United Kingdom and has attacked its interests for decades. Unlike earlier US support to NATO nations facing non-European foes, for Epic Fury the US didn't ask these NATO "partners" for logistics or intelligence but solely basics like airspace. France and Spain denied all airspace and other NATO partners denied basing.

What makes this unique is that Iran is violating international law by cutting off an international waterway, the Strait of Hormuz, to cause worldwide economic mayhem. The reality is that Europe needs the Strait open far more than the US due to the European energy dependency of oil from the Persian Gulf. The US had no similar national interest incentive to help the UK against Argentina. European intransigence explains why Trump has proposed the US leaving the Strait closed after the end of hostilities. The Europeans would be forced to handle the Strait closure or have no energy.

Unfortunately, European NATO nations have become so accustomed to living under the US umbrella of defense they seem unwilling to protect their own interests. That is Z K \ H Y H is being done by the US. In addition to closing the Strait, Iran showed they were lying to Europeans for many years about having solely "defensive" (2000 kilometer) weapons ranges. Iran's missile attack at Diego Garcia proved Iran actually has Europe within its range with 4000-kilometer range missiles.

Liberal European leaders blundered the most in betting against US success. They likely thought Epic Fury would be a quagmire. Terribly wrong. Within weeks, the US and Israel had destroyed the top military and political leadership of Iran, destroyed the Iranian Air Force and Navy and Air Defenses. The United States earned complete air supremacy over Iran and has destroyed over 15,000 targets. All this has come

# Family & Marriage

## Parental Support

"Rescuing too much can prevent growth, while healthy support builds resilience." - Jeffrey Bernstein, Ph.D.

"For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"; - Bible (Matthew 19:5)

In a 2011 survey conducted by George Mason University (GMU) the number one marriage issue identified by those surveyed was the involvement of in-laws in the couple's married life. Contrast the results of the GMU survey, with the title of a recent article published in March 2026, by Mark Regnerus, professor of sociology at the University of Texas at Austin (UTA), entitled "Twenty-something Marriage Deserves More Parental Support."

What is the significance of these two different opinions? One says less parental involvement in their adult child's decision to marry is best, and the other one says more parental involvement is good. Perhaps one significant difference is that the GMU survey was primarily among the students at GMU. The UTA survey focused on the parents. It is not surprising that parents in general want to hold onto their beloved children as much as possible, "helping" them to make the right choices, and protecting them from wrong choices (at least in their opinion). The children, on the other hand, usually believe they are old enough to make their own decisions. After all, didn't their parents raise them so they could make their own choices?

The article by Regnerus tells the story of Lillian, whose par-

ents didn't like the idea of their daughter falling in love with and wanting to marry her college boyfriend. The article then goes on to say, "Lillian's parents could be blamed for her [Lillian's] interest, since having married parents is a key predictor of finding oneself married in your younger years. In fact, analyses of my 2025 nationally representative Relationships in America survey of over 5,000 American adults reveal that 65% of married adults ages 20-35 report that their parents are still married themselves (or were so until one of them passed away). Among same-age divorcees, only 46% said their parents were still married. In other words, both entering and leaving marriage can be learned behavior."

Simply put, children of parents who have not been divorced are more likely to remain married without divorce than those whose parents have been divorced. What this also says is that these parents (who have not gone through a divorce) have a hard time letting go of their children. These parents forget to consider the world as a young person in their 20's sees it. The parents see all the difficulties and the challenges they themselves faced. They want their child to have a good job, a good income, a place to live, have started to save for retirement, etc, etc. Instead, the parents need to trust that they have done the best they could in raising them. They can't go on protecting them from the evils of the world.

Perhaps one of our biggest challenges today is recognizing the variety of family situations our young people come from. Parents who have been married, and never divorced, need to know how and

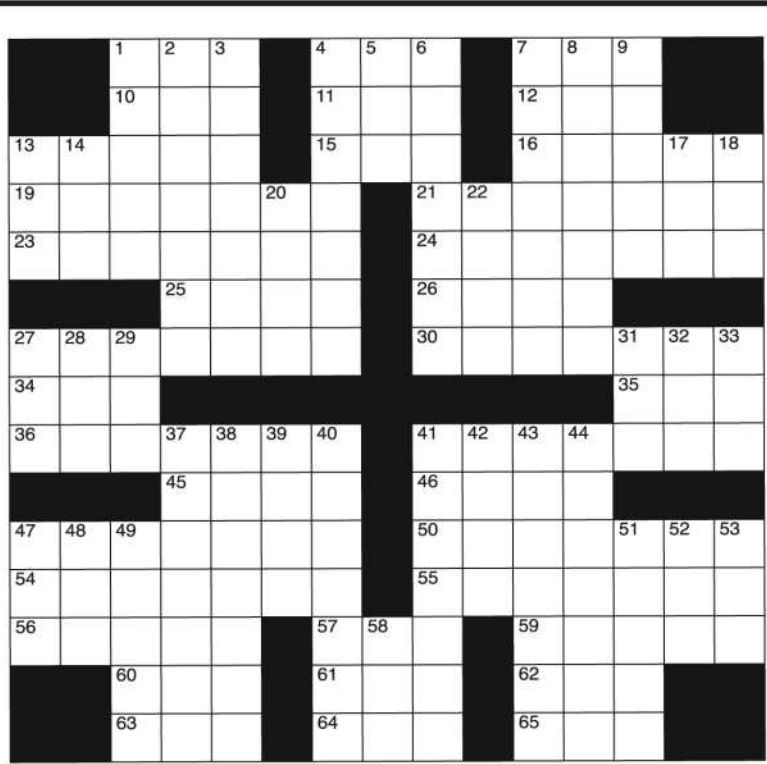


**Roger Rollins,**  
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how long to guide their children, and when to let go. Many couples today who have been through divorce, and have a blended family, may foster a different attitude towards a permanent marriage. Then there are many single parent families, with the father or mother missing. The children may receive very little parental guidance and have a very different, or even a negative, attitude toward marriage.

So how do we as a society, and especially as the church, help? We can continue to promote the fact that God's design is for a man and a woman to come together, and to raise their children. Divorce is discouraged. When needed, others should step in to help with the children. We must raise our children to know God's design for the family and how they should behave and then let go and leave them in God's hands.

Family and Marriage Coalition of Aiken (FAMCO) was created to provide resources for you to succeed in your marriage and families. Roger Rollins, Executive Director, FAMCO, 803-640-4689. Let us know how we can help.

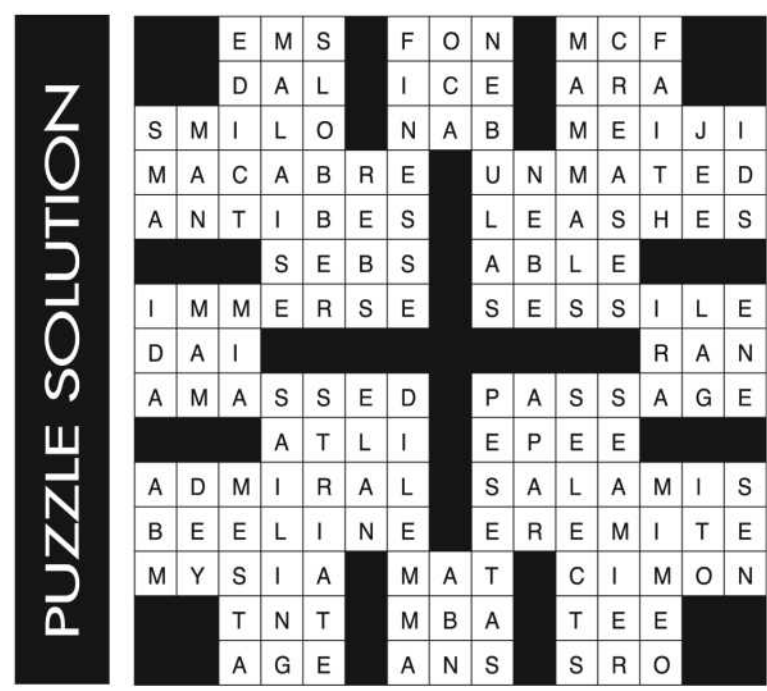


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Health care pros
- 4. A person inhabiting Benin
- 7. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- 10. Split pulses
- 11. Frozen water
- 12. Small constellation
- 13. Perennial mountain rice
- 15. Pick up
- 16. Japanese historical period
- 19. Suggesting the horror of death and decay
- 21. Unattached
- 23. Fishing port in SE France
- 24. Products for dogs
- 25. One point south of southeast
- 26. Having the skill or resources to do something
- 27. Involve oneself deeply
- 30. Immobile
- 34. \_\_\_ pai dong: Hong Kong food stall
- 35. Move quickly on foot
- 36. Gathered
- 41. A way through
- 45. Another name for Thor
- 46. Sharp dueling sword
- 47. The supreme commander of a fleet
- 50. Seasoned sausages
- 54. Path
- 55. Christian hermit
- 56. Ancient region of Asia Minor
- 57. Where wrestlers go to work
- 59. Roman statesman
- 60. Explosive
- 61. Licensed for Wall Street
- 62. Where golfers start
- 63. Grow old
- 64. Autonomic nervous system
- 65. No seats available

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. A legally binding command
- 2. General feeling of discomfort
- 3. Dribble
- 4. Soft touch
- 5. South American plant
- 6. Clouds of gas and dust in space
- 7. Warm-blooded vertebrates
- 8. Lines created by folding
- 9. Strong belief
- 13. Senior officer
- 14. Adult
- 17. Joint entrance examination in India
- 18. Passports and drivers' licenses are two
- 20. Those who go against an accepted authority
- 22. One point east of northeast
- 27. Journalist Tarbell
- 28. One's mother (British)
- 29. Nowhere to be found
- 31. A way to save for old age
- 32. Fall behind
- 33. Midway between northeast and east
- 37. The work of a sailor
- 38. Mark with striae
- 39. Energy, style and enthusiasm
- 40. Sticky situation
- 41. Monetary units of Spain
- 42. Three-banded armadillo
- 43. Chooses
- 44. More disreputable
- 47. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 48. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
- 49. Livestock owners assn. in Spain
- 51. Duplicating machine (abbr.)
- 52. OJ trial judge
- 53. Politician
- 58. Airborne (abbr.)



at a cost in US fatalities of just 7 K H

by Iran came over a month into the campaign. Iran's nuclear and missile production infrastructure has been demolished. Trump can assure the American people this operation will last only another couple of weeks. The Strait of Hormuz remains closed as of this writing, but likely will be opened soon. If not open at the time of a cessation of hostilities, the European nations will feel the pain most, since the United States is in our interest to prevent this violation of international law, but more of an interest to Europe.

These European leaders cannot undo their betrayal of the United States with their cowardly decision for neutrality during Epic Fury. The only way back from this shocking breach of trust is by a change of governments to conservative leadership. Leaders who believe in our shared Western, Christian history. At the start of World War II, FDR's personal envoy to Britain, Harry Hopkins, rose during a dinner with Churchill and quoted from the Book of Ruth: "Whither thou goest I will go, and whither thou lodgest I will lodge. Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God," he declared, dramatically adding, "even to the end." Churchill wept openly. We need that kind of alliance again.

## SUDOKU

		2	7		9	3	
	3			4	6		
8	7			9			4
						4	2
	1	5		8			
2			6	1			
	8	3					
					7	5	
			7				3

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

3	2	8	2	3	5	9	1	4
8	2	6	9	7	6	8	3	7
1	5	2	4	9	6	7	8	3
2	7	4	3	1	5	6	8	9
9	1	5	2	4	8	3	6	7
3	6	8	9	7	1	4	2	5
8	5	7	6	3	9	2	1	4
1	3	9	8	2	4	6	7	5
6	4	2	7	1	5	9	3	8

ANSWER: