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Almost 300 airlines barred from European airspace



THOMAS COEX/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Queen Elizabeth watches Wimbledon. REUTERS/TOBY MELVILLE

## Pity the Brits

# July reveals the painful decline of the Empire

By SIMON VEAZEY  
Epoch Times Staff

LONDON—Britain's ongoing neurosis about its lost standing in the world is always felt around July 4. But not because of American Independence Day, or Canada Day a few days earlier. Not even because of a whole collection of national days celebrating a break from the Empire that cluster strangely around the beginning of the summer.

No. The spur for the early July collective naval gazing is the Wimbledon tennis tournament, capped by the inevitable triumph of a non-British champion.

Brits seldom think of a lost empire, or give a second thought to the real origins of American Independence Day—a phrase more likely to summon up images of Stars and Stripes, fireworks, and Will Smith seeing off an alien attack than of a nation shaking off the shackles of its colonial masters.

And yet Britain's past prowess—and its ongoing uncomfortable slide from global power—gently perfume much of British culture and attitude, including sport.

This summer was a double whammy. Together with the Wimbledon wipeout was the dismal performance in the World Cup football—a national disaster flanked as usual by soaring expectations and utter deflation.

Of course, every single nation gets obsessive about certain sports. But with Britain the expectations and buildups are that bit more unrealistic, and the sporting failures taken that much harder. Unrealistic sporting expectations are hardwired into the nation because these national sports are precisely those the country once excelled at because they started here.

The soul-searching that follows the failures in football, rugby, cricket, and tennis is so painful because we feel that we are always losing at our own game.

PLEASE SEE BRITAIN ON P4

# Why aren't MPs worried about influence, asks security expert

## CSIS boss faces committee but foreign influence barely on agenda

By MATTHEW LITTLE  
Epoch Times Staff

OTTAWA—Canadians should be wondering why their elected officials are not asking the nation's spy boss about the dangers of foreign regimes controlling their politicians.

That's the opinion of David Harris, a former chief of strategic planning at Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), following the parliamentary committee hearing at which CSIS Director Richard Fadden was grilled over comments he made in a controversial interview that some Canadian elected officials are under foreign influence.

Harris, one of the country's leading experts on terrorism and Director of International and Terrorist Intelligence Programs at Insignis Strategic Research, attended the hearing on Monday and left with concerns over why politicians barely touched the substance of Fadden's remarks, instead focusing almost exclusively on the political implications of what he said.

He said the lack of interest in whether foreign regimes were infiltrating Canada's basic democratic institutions was a sad commentary on the state of some parliamentarians.

"Are we finding our basic public policy, political, foreign policy, trade, [and] economics subject to manipulation by foreign agents? That should be the big question. It wasn't especially addressed at this meeting and Canadians should be concerned about the reasons for that."

"I think the Canadian government needs very



FOREIGN INFLUENCE: Canadian spy boss Richard Fadden faces the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security on Monday over comments he made in a televised interview that some Canadian politicians are under foreign influence. MATTHEW LITTLE/THE EPOCH TIMES

much to bear down and continue to take very seriously the nature and extent of this threat."

Harris said the Chinese regime often threatened Chinese Canadians, the most direct victims of the regime's efforts to influence Canadian officials.

"That's unfair and unacceptable in a liberal and democratic country like Canada."

Questions to several MPs following the hearing, including Don Davies, who chaired in the absence of Conservative Garry Breitkreuz, did not clear up whether the committee would do more than investigate Fadden's remarks, although Davies

did say it should be looked at.

Fadden's comments to CBC on the eve of Chinese leader Hu Jintao's visit to Canada included the bombshell allegation that two provincial cabinet members were suspected of being under the influence of a foreign regime.

He singled out China as the country most aggressive in recruiting political prospects at the university level and said some politicians and public servants with long-standing relationships with Chinese operatives have no idea they are being used to advance Beijing's interests.

PLEASE SEE CSIS ON P2

## Poland to hand over suspected Israeli spy

By STEPHEN JONES  
Epoch Times Staff

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—A Polish court ruled that a man alleged to have been a Mossad agent should be extradited to Germany over his connections to the killing of a Hamas leader in Dubai.

The man, who has been named as Uri Brodsky, is suspected of forging a German passport that was later used by one of the suspected killers of Mahmoud al-Mabhouh.

The Mossad is an Israeli agency, similar in nature to the CIA with duties that include collecting intelligence and covert operations.

"The court has decided to hand over Uri Brodsky to German authorities for judicial procedures there," Warsaw regional court judge Tomasz Talkiewicz said following a closed hearing.

PLEASE SEE SPY ON P5

## Former Ukraine leaders warn IMF not to issue \$16 billion loan

### Money could be used to pay gas debt, not reform the economy

By ANDREY VOLKOV  
Epoch Times Staff

KYIV, Ukraine—Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko has requested that the International Monetary Fund not provide Ukraine with a \$15.89 billion loan, citing concerns that the government will use one-third of it to pay the country's outstanding gas bill.

Tymoshenko said the loan should only be provided if the money is used for economic reforms, not to pay the debt to gas company RosUkrEnerg.

RosUkrEnerg transports gas from Russia and Asia to Ukraine and other Eastern and Central European nations. The company's owner, Dmitry Firtash, is an ally of Russian-leaning Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich.

PLEASE SEE IMF ON P5

## French Parliament debates controversial burqa ban

By YI YANG  
Epoch Times Staff

The debate on the controversial ban of the burqa and all other Islamic veils covering women's faces and bodies began on Tuesday in the French Parliament.

President Nicolas Sarkozy ordered Parliament to pass a bill in April banning Islamic veils that hide women's faces.

"The all-enveloping veil represents, in an extraordinary way, everything that France instinctively rejects. This is the symbol of the enslavement of women," he said before the lower house.

France's conservative government is encouraging a "moderate, state-sanctioned" Islam that respects French values, reported Associated Press.

In 2009, Sarkozy stated that "France is a country that has no place for the burqa," but backed off from a complete ban when officials advised deputies that a ban could be anti-constitutional, counterproductive, and impossible to enforce.

Officials say that even if the bill becomes a law, it will be difficult to enforce.

"We can't impose a state of permanent control on citizens," legal expert Remi Schwartz told the panel. "That would mean everyone should be identifiable at all times, which would make public space into a vast zone of video surveillance."

France, whose five million Muslims make up Europe's largest Islamic minority, has been criticized in the Muslim world for considering a burqa ban. French Islamic community leaders have warned against passing a law that would stigmatize Muslims.

PLEASE SEE BURQA ON P4

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