

World News

Iran announced its Natanz site nuclear facility was subjected to a nuclear terrorism and sabotage cyber-attack [1]. The first indication of the attack was a blackout at the facility [2]. Then a missile was fired from Syria deep into Israel, near a nuclear reactor [3]. In response Israel hit sites in Syria [4]. Meanwhile, President Biden is trying to renegotiate a nuclear deal with Iran [5]. As a reminder, an Israel official pointed out its warplanes were within range of Iran [6]. What's more, three Iranian vessels were given a warning shot after closing in on a US patrol boat [7].

In Asia, China continues to use its military to pressure other countries. China issued a landform survey report on the Senkaku Islands and claims to be exercising military restraint [8]. Meanwhile, China commissioned three warships on one day; a 10,000-ton Type 055 cruiser, a 35,000-ton type 075 amphibious helicopter carrier, and a Type 094 nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine [9]. China is also suspected in cyber-attacks directed at a number of Japanese aerospace companies [10].

1. BBC News, *Iran nuclear: 'Terrorist act' at underground Natanz facility*, April 11, 2021.
2. Fox News/AP, *Iran calls Natanz atomic site blackout 'nuclear terrorism'*, April 11, 2021.
3. Federman, Josef, AP, *Israel says Syrian missile was not aimed at nuclear reactor*, April 22, 2021.
4. Fox News/AP, *Israel says it strikes targets in Syria after missile attack*, April 22, 2021.
5. NBC News/AP, *Biden administration eyes major rollback in Iran sanctions to revive nuke deal*, April 11, 2021
6. Williams, Dan, Reuters, *Our warplanes can reach Iran, Israeli minister warns amid nuclear talks*, April 29, 2021.

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Wuhan Coronavirus

World-wide, the number of dead tied to COVID-19 passed the 3 million mark [1]. One of the leaders in manufacturing COVID-19 vaccines is China [2]. However, it appears that the Chinese vaccine is not very effective [3]. Following news of the poor performance, China is now involved in damage control [4].

Meanwhile, one report indicates that China has been involved with a disinformation campaign regarding the origin of the virus

[5]. For instance, Chinese media continues to blame a US military lab for the virus [6]. What we can infer is that China believes it will be shown that COVID-19 was an engineered pathogen. The disinformation campaign appears to be designed to shift the blame elsewhere.

The virus has a way to go before world-wide containment. For instance, India is now being ravaged by the virus [7]. For instance, during the last 24 hours of this newsletter reporting period,

India had 3,689 deaths and over 400,000 new reported cases of COVID-19 [8]. Similarly, in Brazil, the number of dead tied to COVID-19 has passed 400,000 [9].

1. Goillandeau, Martin, CNN, *Global Covid-19 death toll passes 3 million as cases surge*, April 17, 2021.
2. McCarthy, Simone, South China Morning Post, *How China took an unlikely lead in the*

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Special points of interest:

- World COVID-19 Deaths Passed 3 million

Wuhan Coronavirus

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- global supply of Covid-19 vaccines, April 9, 2021.*
3. McDonald, Joe, and Wu, Huizhong, ABC News/AP, *Chinese COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness 'not high,' government exploring options: officials, April 12, 2021.*
 4. Aitken, Peter, Fox News, *Chinese COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness 'not high,' government exploring options: officials, April 11, 2021.*
 5. Gertz, Bill, Washington Times, *Information war: For the first time Biden admin. accuses China of*
 6. Li, Jane, MSN News/Quartz, *China renews its push on a conspiracy theory about Covid-19, January 20, 2021.*
 7. Saaliq, Sheikh, and Hussain, Aijaz, AP, *Virus 'swallowing' people in India; crematoriums overwhelmed, April 26, 2021.*
 8. BBC News, *India coronavirus: New record deaths as virus engulfs India, May 2, 2021.*
 9. Bowman, Emma, and Reeves, Philip, NPR, *Brazil COVID-19 Deaths Top 400,000 Amid Fears*

Of Worsening Crisis, April 29, 2021.

We will never allow anyone, any organization, or any political party, at any time or in any form, to separate any part of Chinese territory from China.—Xi Jinping

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7. Ali, Idrees, Reuters, U.S. Navy ship fires warning shots after close encounter with Iranian vessels, April 27, 2021.
8. Suresh, Meera, International Business Times, *As South China Sea Boils, Beijing Turns Up Heat On Japanese Islands In East China Sea, April 27, 2021.*
9. Yeo, Mike, Defense News, *China simultaneously commissions three warships on Navy anniversary, April 27, 2021.*
10. Yamaguchi, Mari, AP, *Japan says Chinese military likely behind cyberattacks, April 20, 2021.*

World News

Terrorism

It is not just guns and bombs that are used by terrorists. For instance, in France, a police officer was killed during a terrorist knife attack [1].

In the US, there is an ongoing discussion for ways to make prosecution easier under domestic terrorism law [2]. This may lead the Justice Department to ask Congress to address law enforcement needs via new law [3]. Should such action make it through Congress, it will likely involve addressing the numerous riots currently seen throughout the US.

For instance, one American city plagued with riots is Portland, Oregon. With the rioting comes vandalism, arson, and looting. This includes looting of museums [4]. Additionally, the riots are becoming more violent [5]. Case in point, for nearly a year, the

Portland mayor has appeased the Antifa rioters only to have them turn on him [6]. This comes as the FBI looks into a death threat by Antifa against the mayor of Portland [7]. As a final note, on the last night of this newsletter reporting period, police declared yet another riot in downtown Portland [8].

1. Wojazer, Barbara, and Mackintosh, Eliza, CNN, *Anti-terrorism probe launched after French police officer killed in knife attack*, April 23, 2021.
2. US News & World Report/Reuters, *U.S. Justice Department Considers Law to Address Domestic Terrorism, Official Says*, April 29, 2021.
3. Mordock, Jeff, The Washington Times, *Justice Department 'actively considering' asking Congress to expand domestic terrorism*
4. Burch, Liz, CBS/KOIN, *Oregon Historical Society to rioters: 'Why vandalize museums?'*, April 19, 2021.
5. NBC/KATU, *Indiana man charged with attempted murder during Portland protests back in Oregon*, April 30, 2021.
6. Gutfeld, Greg, Fox News, *Portland mayor learns bitter lesson of appeasing Antifa*, May 1, 2021.
7. Brown, Lee, New York Post, *Portland cops, FBI reportedly probe veiled Antifa death threat against mayor*, April 30, 2021.
8. The Oregonian, *Portland Police declare riot after nighttime May Day demonstrators break downtown windows*, May 1, 2021.

Passivity is fatal to us.

*Our goal is to make the
enemy passive.—Mao*

Zedong

Economy

The stock markets continued to advance into record territory. On April 15, the DJIA closed above 34,000 for the first time and the S&P 500 closed at a new record high [1]. The two indexes continued into record highs again on April 16 [2]. Then, April 29 saw the S&P 500 close at a new record high [3].

However, the economy as measured by the number of first time unemployment claims remains weak. For the week ending April 10, the number of first time unemployment claims was 576,000 [4]. For the week ending April 17, the number reported was 547,000 [5]. Finally, for the week ending April 24, the number reported was 553,000 [6].

While the US continues to recover from the COVID economic impact, China is rapidly expanding. Case in

point, for the first quarter Gross Domestic Product (GDP), China grew at a 19% rate [7]. In contrast, the US grew at a 6.4% GDP growth rate [8].

1. DeCambre, Mark, MarketWatch, *Dow's close above 34,000 marks most 1,000-point milestones since 2017*, April 15, 2021.
2. McCormick, Emily, Yahoo Finance, *Stock market news live updates: S&P 500, Dow set fresh record highs amid strong earnings, economic data*, April 16, 2021.
3. Kumaresan, Shivani, and Randewich, Noel, Reuters, *Facebook fuels S&P 500 to record high close*, April 29, 2021.
4. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims, April 15, 2021.
5. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims, April 22, 2021.
6. Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims, April 29, 2021.
7. Reuters, *China's Q1 GDP to hit record growth as recovery speeds up*, April 15, 2021.
8. Tappe, Anneken, CNN Business, *US economy soared in the first quarter, growing at a 6.4% rate*, April 29, 2021.

*A man's greatest joy is
crushing his enemies.—*

Genghis Khan
