

World News

There are indications that a direct energy weapon was used against the White House and it sickened several people [1]. However, others argue directed energy weapons are not the cause of the sickness [2].

Aside from energy weapons, one thing that is certain, the number of Chinese nuclear warheads is not readily available to the West. One estimate placed the number at 1,000 warheads [3]. This comes as China appears to be resisting nuclear weapons talks [4].

Within the US, a major pipeline company was hit by a cyber-attack. The Colonial Pipeline company was hit with Ransom-ware attack and shut down operations to address the matter [5]. FBI personnel announced the attack used ransomware from a hacker group known as "Darkside" [6]. Unfortunately, the pipeline was shut down for days resulting in long gas lines along many East coast states [7]. To restore operations, reports indicate the company paid between \$4 to \$5 million dollars in ransom [8].

Nevertheless, a consequence of the outages included many areas without gas. For instance, on Sunday night (May 16) 88% of gas stations within D.C. were out of gas [9]. This has caused many to consider electric cars as a viable alternative to gas [10]. However, what happens when the next cyber-attack is directed against the electric grid? [11]. Case in point, back in 2017, hackers gained access to the power grid and were in a position to cause blackouts [12]. At last check, battery operated cars still require electricity to charge. Readers may recall, during the California rolling blackouts, charging electric cars became a serious problem [13].

1. Waller, Tommy, Center for Security Policy, *Situation Report: Directed energy attacks on White House highlight importance of electromagnetic defense*, April 30, 2021.

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Wuhan Coronavirus

The COVID-19 virus is expanding in other countries. India continues to suffer great loss from COVID-19. This includes over 4,000 deaths on a single day [1,2]. To make matters worse, thousands in India, recovering from COVID-19, have contracted the deadly black fungus [3]. This could indicate that the virus sets up the infected host for more deadly consequences in the future. On the plus side, investigative reports indicate the risk of COVID-19 infections

outdoors was only 1% [4]. Meanwhile, China continues to accuse the US of conducting biological warfare and bioterrorism using genetic engineering technology [5]. This could indicate China's leaders believe studies will show the virus was engineered inside a laboratory.

Concurrently, there are calls for a detailed investigation into the origins of COVID-19. For instance, House Intelligence Republicans are citing circumstantial evidence and Chinese

government obstruction as reasons necessitating an investigation [6]. This comes as researchers are calling for an investigation into the origin of COVID-19 [7]. Without Chinese government approval, how could an investigation be conducted?

1. CBS News, *India's COVID-19 deaths hit record high amid calls for nationwide lockdown*, May 8, 2021.
2. Jamkhandikar, Shilpa,

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Special points of interest:

- Inflation on the rise
- Israel Gaza conflict

Wuhan Coronavirus

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- Yeung, Jessie, CNN, *They recovered from Covid, only to die of 'black fungus.' What we know about the disease sweeping India*, May 21, 2021.
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Whoever refuses to remember the inhumanity is prone to new risks of infection.—Richard von Weizsaecker

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World News

Terrorism

Terrorism often strikes at the more vulnerable soft targets. For instance, in Afghanistan, a terrorist bombing at a girls school resulted in the death of at least 50 people [1].

Hamas militants on the Gaza are believed responsible for launching hundreds of rockets on Israel [2]. By the time of a ceasefire agreement, over 4,000 rockets were fired from Gaza toward Israel [3]. In response, Israel launched airstrikes on the Gaza Strip, killing at least one Hamas leader [4].

The Gaza conflict is also highlighting the relationship between terrorist organizations and the main stream media. Case in point, Israel's warplanes destroyed a building that included offices for Hamas and separately for the Associated Press (the AP claimed no knowledge that Hamas used the building) [5].

The question is here the Associate Press reporters that bad, is there a bias in news reporting, or both? To understand the dynamics of the conflict. Iran should be considered. For example, the Gaza Hamas leader thanked Iran for the weapons they used against Israel [6]. Additionally, the violence is not limited to Israel and Gaza. For instance, a improvised explosive device was used to kill at least six people at a pro-Palestine rally held in Pakistan [7].

1. Fox News/AP, *Afghanistan girls school bombing death toll soars to 50*, May 8, 2021.
2. Fox News/AP, *Gaza militants, children among 24 dead as Israel hits Hamas*, May 10, 2021.
3. Debre, Isabel, Los Angeles Times/AP, *How Hamas amassed thousands of rockets to strike at Israel*,

May 20, 2021.

4. Norman, Greg, Fox News, *Israeli airstrike kills top Hamas commander as Netanyahu vows 'iron fist if needed'*, May 12, 2021.
5. Halon, Yael, Fox News, *AP torched for claiming they were unaware of Hamas intel operation in their building: 'Difficult to believe'*, May 17, 2021.
6. McFall, Caitlin, Fox News, *Hamas leader thanks Iran for supplying weapons to Gaza*, May 21, 2021.
7. Reuters, *Pakistan blast kills six, wounds 13 at pro-Palestinian rally*, May 21, 2021.

Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws.—Plato

Economy

The economic indicators remain mixed. For example, the trade deficit for March reached a new record high of \$74.4 billion [1]. However, inflation rose 4.2% from April of last year through April this year [2].

Meanwhile, the number of first time unemployment claims fell below 500,000. For the week ending May 1, the number reported by the Department of Labor was 498,000 [3]. For the week ending May 8, the number reported was 473,000 [4]. Finally, for the week ending May 15, the number reported was 444,000 [5]. However, the unemployment rate for April increased to 6.1% [6].

In contrast, the economy as measured by the stock market indexes continued its upward trend. On May 6, the DJIA closed at a new record high [7]. Then on May 7, the DJIA

and the S&P 500 closed at new record highs [8].

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3. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, May 6, 2021.
4. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, May 13, 2021.
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6. Ivanova, Irina, CBS News, *Disappointing April jobs growth keeps unemployment rate above 6%*, May 7, 2021.
7. Li, Yun, and Stevens, Pippa, CNBC, *Dow jumps 300 points to hit another record close ahead of key April jobs report*, May 6, 2021.
8. Choe, Stan, et. al., AP, *Stocks rally to records after grim jobs data undercuts rates*, May 7, 2021.

*No science is immune to
the infection of politics and
the corruption of power.—
Jacob Bronowski*
