

## World News

The US military withdrew from South Vietnam in 1973. Then in 1975, South Vietnam fell to communist North Vietnam. The war in Vietnam instilled the belief the US can be defeated in a prolonged war. This philosophy was played out in Iraq in 2014. For instance, the Islamic State (IS) filled the military vacuum [1]. This resulted in the US returning to Iraq to fight the IS controlled territory [2]. Fast forward, on August 12, the Taliban in Afghanistan controlled the second largest city, Kandahar [3]. Some have noted the similarity of Kandahar to that of the South Vietnam city of Saigon [4]. In response, the US announced plans to send troops into the Afghan capital to help the US withdraw [5]. However, at the close of this newsletter, Taliban fighters have entered the Afghanistan capital of Kabul [6]. Perhaps the greatest fear is that the Taliban will once again allow the Al Qaeda safe harbor within Afghanistan [7].

In the Persian Gulf, reports indicate that Iran is busy attacking shipping. For example, one report indicates a vessel was hijacked [8]. Additionally, debris recovered indicate Iranian made drones were used in an attack on a merchant tanker near Oman [9].

In China, the communist giant is rapidly expanding its nuclear weapons capabilities. For instance, a third Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) field, hosting 120 missiles was discovered from satellite images [10]. The three fields recently discovered collectively could house 360 missiles. Previously, China had only 20 missile silos [11]. The new silos will likely include the DF-41 ICBM that can carry 10 warheads [12]. Looking at the growth, 3,600 nuclear warheads will shortly be directed at targets such as the US. This should give China the capability to further pressure Governments into complying with their wishes. Perhaps this new nuclear muscle will help divert attention away from the source of COVID-19.

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## Wuhan Coronavirus

With so many illegals entering the Southern border, questions remain over how many are infected. There are many approaches to the COVID problem including ignoring the data. Case in point, one piece suggests the true number of outbreaks among the detained children were not reported [1]. Another article suggests the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol is releasing sick illegals in at least one border town in Texas [2]. This comes as one researcher is warning there will be more COVID-

19 variants [3]. The closed environment of detainees on the Southern border make for excellent Petri dishes for viruses to mutate. In contrast to the US open border, China has a significant lockdown policy when COVID infections are detected [4].

Perhaps the best method for understanding what happened at Wuhan is to look at the events prior to the pandemic. To this end, one report examines deleted lab information, procurement bids, web searches, and the like [5].

One piece suggests the US intelligence community has restored a copy of the Wuhan Institute of Virology database that contains the approximately 22,000 virus samples studied there [6]. If this is correct, it should provide valuable information on COVID-19.

Meanwhile, we are discovering more information about the Wuhan CDC just prior to the outbreak. For example, one World Health Organization (WHO) scientist wants to

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### Special points of interest:

- Taliban enter Kabul
- China expands nuclear arsenal
- 600,000 US COVID-19 Deaths
- Stock indexes record highs

## Wuhan Coronavirus

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look at a lab that was moved in December 2, 2019, days before the first reported virus case [7].

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*Make crime pay. Become a lawyer.—Will Rogers*

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## World News

## Terrorism

One of the consequences of the Taliban advance in Afghanistan is the increase in refugees. For instance, thousands of Afghans are seeking safety in Turkey [1].

Meanwhile, the Taliban continue their advance in Afghanistan. For instance, the center of the western province of Nimroz is now controlled by the Taliban [2]. Then the Taliban secured two more provincial capitals bringing their hold to four [3]. The next day, another provincial capital fell [4]. Then the city of Taloqan in northeastern Afghanistan, flee; making this the fifth provincial capital to fall in less than four days [5]. By August 12, the Taliban had increased their gains to 10 provincial capitals [6]. As of August 14, the Taliban were rapidly approaching the outskirts of Kabul [7].

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*capital in blitz*, August 12, 2021.

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*Information is not*

*knowledge—Albert Einstein*

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## Economy

So how does China ensure its steel industry, the biggest on Earth, has fair and free trade? The answer, reduce taxes on exports while placing tariffs on imported steel products [1]. Perhaps this is one reason China's second quarter growth rate was 7.9% [2]. It is unclear why Western politicians seem to care more for China's workers than their own? Meanwhile, inflation is starting to become a problem. Case in point, producer prices increased by 1% in July for an annual rate of 7.8% [3].

Meanwhile, the stock market continues its upward move. On the first trading day in this newsletter, July 26, the three major stock indexes (Dow, Nasdaq, and S&P 500) close at record highs [4]. Then on August 3, the S&P 500 closed at a new record high [5]. Then on August 5, the S&P 500 and Nasdaq closed at record highs [6]. Then on August 9, the Dow and S&P 500 reached record highs [7]. The Dow and S&P 500 indexes continued into record highs on August 11 [8]. On the final trading day in this newsletter, the Dow and S&P 500 closed at record highs [9].

For the week ending July 24, the number of first time un-

employment claims was 400,000 [10]. For the week ending July 31, the number was 385,000 [11]. Finally, for the week ending August 7, the number reported by the Department of Labor was 375,000 [12].

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*It is, of course, much easier  
to shout, abuse, and howl  
than to attempt to relate,  
to explain.—Vladimir*

*Lenin*

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