

Afghanistan

The Taliban claimed victory over the last remaining holdout [1]. In a troubling development, it appears the Taliban is preventing charter flights from leaving the country; claiming the passengers lack adequate documentation [2]. Moreover, by one account, Afghanistan is now swarming with terrorists [3]. This comes as reports indicate Islamic State (IS) roadside bombs have killed at least 8 people in Eastern Afghanistan [4].

With the return of the Taliban comes anticipated acts of terrorism. For example, one report indicates four counterterrorism members were hunted down, tortured, and then executed [5]. One Taliban founder claims hand amputations and public executions will soon return [6]. Another report indicated the Taliban hanged a dead body from a crane for the public to see [7]. Moreover, with Afghanistan as its new safe harbor, there are estimates that Al Qaeda will be prepared for renewed attacks against the US in one to two years [8].

One problem with the US withdrawal is the lack of on the ground intelligence against terrorist targets. Case in point, as the US was departing, two US drone strikes were carried out against ISIS-K targets and the Pentagon reported no known civilian casualties [9]. Unfortunately, it turned out to be a civilian target and at least 10 people were killed in the attack [10]. The failure in identifying the target is blamed on the lack of ground-based intelligence [11]. This incident suggests the hasty withdrawal will have long term consequences in identifying terrorist targets.

Meanwhile, Taliban attacks are spilling over. For instance, in Pakistan, a Taliban suicide bomber killed at least 4 people [12].

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World News

China continues assert its military strength. For instance, 19 Chinese warplanes entered Taiwan's air defense zone [1]. Then in another show of force, China sent 24 fighters towards Taiwan [2]. In response to defense identification zone (ADIZ) incursions, Taiwan accused China of bullying [3]. Some have observed that China does not react well to any criticism [4] Perhaps this is why the Chinese media continues to blame the US for biological warfare against China [5].

Since China has a near monopoly in mining and refining Rare Earth Elements (REEs), with the increase in demand comes an increase in price [6].

After a long pause, North Korea is back testing its missile capabilities. Case in point, the communist North Korean military tested a nuclear capable cruise missile [7]. Then their military fired two ballistic missiles directed at Japan that landed in the East China sea [8]. Separately, South Korea conducted an underwater launch of its first

such ballistic missile [9].

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2. AP, *China sends 24 fighter jets toward Taiwan in show of force*, September 23, 2021.
3. Cheung, Eric, and Lendon, Brad, CNN, *Taiwan says China is a 'bully' after one of the largest PLA warplane incursions yet*, September 24, 2021.

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Special points of interest:

- US Southern Border Wide Open

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5. Gertz, Bill, *Washington Times, Chinese media accuse U.S. of biological warfare*, September 7, 2021.
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7. Shin, Hyonhee, and Smith, Josh, *Reuters, N.Korea tests first 'strategic' cruise missile with possible nuclear capability*, September 13, 2021.
8. CNBC/AP, *North Korea fired 2 ballistic missiles off east coast, South Korean military says*, September 15, 2021.
9. Kim, Hyung-Jin, and Tong-Hyung, Kim, AP,

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3. Williams, Daniel, *Asia Times, Despite Biden hopes, terrorists swarm in Afghanistan*, September 15, 2021.
4. Debre, Isabel, and Faiez, Rahim, *AP, IS bomb attacks on Taliban raise specter of wider conflict*, September 20, 2021.
5. Bostock, Bill, *Business Insider, The Taliban tracked down and killed 4 Afghan counterterrorism agents, in one case pulling out all their fingernails, report says*, September 12, 2021.
6. Francis, Ellen, *Washington Post, A Taliban founder says cutting off hands as punishment will be 'necessary for security'*, September 24, 2021.
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8. Gertz, Bill, *Washington Times, Al Qaeda rebuilding for U.S. attacks in one to two years: CIA, DIA*, September 14, 2021.
9. Kube, Courtney, et. al., *NBC News, 2 high profile ISIS targets killed in U.S. drone strike in Afghanistan, Pentagon says*, August 29, 2021.
10. BBC News, *Afghanistan: US admits Kabul drone strike killed civilians*, September 18, 2021.
11. Bertrand, Natasha, et. al., *CNN, Biden promised ISIS-K will 'pay.' Having no US troops in Afghanistan makes that harder*, September 5, 2021.
12. Yusufzai, Mushtaq, and Talmazan, Yuliya, *NBC News, Suicide attack by Pakistan's Taliban kills at least 4, injures 20*, September 5, 2021.

*We can't afford to leave
Afghanistan to the
Taliban and the terrorists—
Condoleezza Rice*

COVID-19

Currently, two thirds of the 700 daily deaths in Columbia are due to the Mu variant [1]. The virus was first detected in Columbia earlier this year and may be able to evade the body's immune system antibodies [2]. Moreover, Columbia appears to be the site where Haitian asylum seekers start their journey to the US [3]. At one point, over 10,000 people were crammed under a bridge in Del Rio, Texas [4]. To reduce the numbers, the US was releasing many of the refugees [5]. Case in point, of the 30,000 people that entered Del Rio, only 2,000 were removed [6]. This open border policy of releasing refugees before they known not to have COVID-19, will likely keep this virus going strong throughout the US.

Meanwhile, one report describing a bat study in China, indicates that since 2020 4,700 bats were samples and of the 40 viruses found, none related to COVID-19 [7]. In a separate research proposal that was rejected by the U.S. government's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), Chinese researchers wanted to genet-

ically alter coronaviruses and then expose them to bats in order to monitor the impact [8]. Had the research been funded, the result would have been a virus that could easily infect humans [9]. A question here is did the Communist Government fund such research?

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3. Reuters, *Over 90 Haitian migrants abandoned in Colombian waters*, September 29, 2020.
4. Garcia, Uriel J., and McCullough, Jolie, The Texas Tribune, *Thousands of Haitian migrants fleeing disaster and unrest seek asylum at Del Rio bridge*, September 18, 2021.
5. NBC News/AP, *Many Haitian migrants camped in Texas border town being released in U.S., officials say*, September 22, 2021.
6. Shaw, Adam, Fox News, *Biden administration has removed just 2K of 30,000 migrants who surged border in Del Rio*, September 25, 2021.
7. McCarthy, Simone, South China Morning Post, *Covid-19 origins: Chinese study uncovers over 140 bat coronaviruses but says none linked to pandemic*, September 21, 2021.
8. Roos, Meghan, Newsweek, *Wuhan Lab Wanted to Genetically Enhance Bat Viruses to Study Human Risks*, Documents Show, September 22, 2021.
9. Crane, Emily, New York Post, *Wuhan scientists wanted to release coronaviruses into bats*, September 22, 2021.

*he war on terror is the war
in Afghanistan—Nancy
Pelosi*

Economy

August was a great month, for China. The balance of trade increased to \$58.3 billion [1]. However, now it looks like China is undergoing some domestic turmoil of its own. Case in point, Chinese property developer Evergrande, has liabilities of \$300 billion [2]. Now the company missed an interest debt payment [3]. When a company cannot pay the interest on debt, the company is in trouble.

On the first trading day following the Labor Day weekend, the Nasdaq managed to close at a new record high [4]. The economy as measured by unemployment remains weak. For the week ending September 4, the number of first-time unemployment claims fell to 310,000 [5]. For the week ending September 11, the number reported was 332,000 [6]. Finally, for the week ending September 18, the number reported was 351,000 [7].

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2. Tan, Weizhen, CNBC, *Evergrande stays silent on its \$83 million dollar bond interest payment, leaving*

investors in limbo, September 23, 2021.

3. Daga, Anshuman, et. al., Reuters, *Evergrande misses payment deadline, EV unit warns of cash crunch*, September 24, 2021.
4. RTT News, *Major U.S. Averages Close Mixed; Nasdaq Climbs To Fresh Record High*, September 7, 2021.
5. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, September 9, 2021.
6. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, September 16, 2021.
7. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, September 23, 2021.

The high probability is if American forces withdraw from Afghanistan and if no alternative international arrangement is made that then the historic contests between the regions and the sects will reappear, the Taliban will re-emerge, and a very complicated and maybe chaotic situation will develop.

—Henry Kissinger
