

# Femtosecond IN THE NEWS

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## Wuhan Coronavirus

As a presidential candidate, Joe Biden promised that if elected, he would shut down the virus (COVID-19) [1]. However, as of January 10, the US set a new record high for people hospitalized with COVID-19 (132,646 surpassing the old record of 132,051) [2]. On January 10, a new one-day record of 1,481,375 new COVID-19 infections was recorded [3]. Then on January 16, the number of Americans who died from COVID-19 complications reached 850,060 [4]. While the record deaths for one day remains at 4,442 set on January 20, 2021; the number reported on January 27, 2022 was 4,040 [5].

This comes as the US government continues to release illegal immigrants apprehended along the southern border [6]. The number of people apprehended along the southern border during 2021 was a record 2 million people [7]. A report from last August indicated that 18% of the illegal immigrants released tested positive for COVID [8]. So, where are these illegal immigrants being released? Reports suggest they are flown to small airports and bussed to other locations [9]. In effect, ensuring COVID is transmitted throughout the US. What's more, the state and local officials are not advised of the released immigrants [10]. Another report indicates illegal immigrant criminal men are also knowingly released [11]. This in effect negates the possibility of meaningful contact tracing. The release goes against the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 guidelines for quarantine and isolation. Contrast this with perhaps the most famous infected immigrant Typhoid Mary, who was committed to sanatorium [12]. Given the ease in spreading COVID-19, it would be interesting to know how many US deaths are the result of the open border catch and release policy.

So, instead of following the science, one of the Administration's approaches is to distribute a number of free tests, many made in China [13]. Since the illegal immigrants need not quarantine, how effective is the testing approach?

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## World News

After to collapse of the Soviet Union, the Ukraine had an estimated 1,900 nuclear warheads making the country the third-largest nuclear power in the world [1]. However, in 1994, then President Clinton announced a deal that led to the elimination of Ukraine's nuclear arsenal with the promise of border security [2]. Unfortunately, during President Obama's watch, the Russia annexed the Crimea from the Ukraine while the US did little [3]. Had the Ukraine

kept its nuclear weapons, would Russia even attempt such an operation? Now Russia is again posturing for another land grab as talks continue to resolve the situation [4]. With NATO and Russian forces amassing near the Ukraine, there are concerns of a wider war [5]. The take aways are promises will be broken and nuclear weapons are a necessity.

The US Government announced it will provide \$308 million in aid to Afghan people [6]. This comes

as the Taliban indicated they seek to distribute the aid [7]. With the Taliban controlling the aid, it is unclear how US aid will do more than prop up the Taliban.

1. Burns, Robert, ABC News/AP, *Where Ukraine's sunflowers once sprouted, fears now grow*, January 22, 2022.
2. Nelson, Jack, *Loa Angeles Times*, *Ukraine Agrees to Give Up Its Nuclear Arsenal*, Clinton Says : Summit: President

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### Special points of interest:

- US COVID-19 Deaths over 850,000
- New US COVID-19 Records:
  - One Day Hospitalizations
  - One Day New Infections
- 7.0% CPI Inflation for 2021

## World News

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*hails the accord as a breakthrough, but it faces parliamentary opposition. NATO endorses the U.S. 'Partnership for Peace' plan to broaden alliance., January 11, 1994.*

3. CBS News, *Russia officially annexes Crimea away from Ukraine with signature from Vladimir Putin*, March 21, 2014.
4. Reuters, *Ukraine crisis: what next after a week of talks and tension?*, January 14, 2022.
5. CBS News, *Russia's reaction to U.S. and NATO leaves Ukraine crisis to fester on the brink of war*, January 27, 2022.
6. VOA, *US Announces \$308 Million in Aid to Afghan People*, January 11, 2022.
7. Greenfield, Charlotte, Reuters, *Taliban seeking greater role in distribution of foreign aid*, January 12, 2022.

## Wuhan Coronavirus

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*A man should be upright,  
not be kept upright.—  
Marcus Aurelius*

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1. Lahut, Jake, Business Insider, *Biden says he would 'shut down the virus, not the country' during the final presidential debate*, October 22, 2020.
2. Caspani, Maria, and Shumaker, Lisa, Reuters, *U.S. breaks COVID-19 hospitalization record at over 132,000 as Omicron surges*, January 10, 2022.
3. Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, *Numbers reported on January 11, 2021*.
4. Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, *Numbers reported on January 16, 2021*.
5. Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, *Numbers reported on January 27, 2021*.
6. Dinan, Stephen, Washington Times, *Viral video shows illegal immigrants released at the border*, January 26, 2022.
7. Dinan, Stephen, Washington Times, *DHS encountered a record 2 million illegal immigrants on southern border in 2021*, January 24, 2022.
8. Ainsley, Julia, NBC News, *18 percent of migrant families leaving Border Patrol custody tested positive for Covid, document says*, August 7, 2022.
9. Devine, Miranda, et. al., New York Post, *Biden secretly flying underage migrants into NY in dead of night*, October `8, 2021.
10. O'Neill, Jesse, New York Post, *Border officials secretly sent 70 planes of migrants to Florida: DeSantis office*, November 6, 2021.
11. Hogan, Bernadette, et. al., New York Post, *Republicans outraged over 'unacceptable' release of criminal migrants into US*, January 27, 2022.
12. Britannica, Typhoid Mary
13. George, Liz, American Military News, *Many of Biden admin's 'free' COVID-19 tests were made in China*, January 26, 2022.
- 14.

## Terrorism

Terrorism continues to exact a toll across the world. For instance, in Nigeria, an estimated 200 villagers were killed in attacks [1]. In Abu Dhabi, at least 3 people were killed during a drone attack, believed to be by Yemen's Houthi rebels that targeted a key oil facility [2]. In Iraq, Islamic State (IS) gunmen attacked an army barracks killing at least 11 soldiers [3]. In Pakistan, separatist insurgents claimed responsibility for an attack on an army post that killed at least 10 [4].

One of the trademarks for terrorists is the suicide bomber. Case in point, the Taliban in Afghanistan are establishing a national suicide brigade [5]. Meanwhile, the Taliban reported a vehicle bomb planted by suspected IS fighters

exploded killing at least 7 people [6].

A US terrorist attack ended with just the terrorist killed. In Texas, a terrorist held three hostages in a Synagogue, demanding the release of a convicted terrorist [7].

1. New York Post/Reuters, *About 200 dead in attacks in northwest Nigeria, residents say*, January 9, 2022.
2. Batrawy, Aya, AP/ABC News, *Suspected drone attack in Abu Dhabi kills 3, wounds 6*, January 18, 2022.
3. New York Post/AP, *Islamic State gunmen in Iraq kill 11 soldiers in brazen barracks attack*, January 21, 2022.
4. Yusufzai, Gul, Reuters, *Ten Pakistani soldiers killed*

*in insurgent attack, army says*, January 28, 2022.

5. Hamourtziadou, Lily, Asia Times, *Taliban announces a national suicide brigade*, January 14, 2022.
6. Akhgar, Tameem, ABC News/AP, *Taliban say bombers target minivan in Afghanistan, 7 dead*, January 22, 2022.
7. Harkay, Jessica, et. al., Fort Worth Star-Telegram, *Texas officials say all hostages safe, out of Colleyville synagogue; hostage-taker dead*, January 16, 2022.

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*Where ignorance is our  
master, there is no  
possibility of real peace.—  
Dalai Lama*

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## Economy

Bad news on the inflation front. For 2021, the consumer price index inflation grew at 7.0%; a rate not seen since 1982 [1]. What's more, the price of oil has reached a seven-year high [2]. However, on the good news front, the US economy grew 5.7% for 2021 [3].

For the week ending January 8, the number of first-time unemployment claims reported by the Department of Labor was 230,000 [4]. For the week ending January 15, the number reported was 286,000 [5]. Finally, for the week ending January 22, the number reported was 260,000 [6]

One opinion piece points out the current energy policies moved the US from a 4% energy surplus to a 4% energy deficit [7]. The role of inflation due to dependent foreign oil were seen in 1974 and again in 1979 [8].

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2. Wallace, Joe, Wall Street Journal, *Oil Prices Hit Seven-Year High on Rising Geopolitical Tensions*, January 18, 2022.
3. Siegel, Rachel, and Van Dam, Andrew, Washington Post, *U.S. economy grew 5.7 percent in 2021, fastest full-year clip since 1984, despite ongoing pandemic*, January 27, 2022.
4. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, January 13, 2022.
5. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, January 20, 2022.
6. Department of Labor, *Unemployment Insurance Weekly Claims*, January 207 2022.
7. Moore, Stephen, Fox Business, *Biden's war on American energy made us dependent, again*, January 25, 2022.
8. Eberhart, Dan, Forbes, *Energy Crisis Threatens Return Of 1970s Inflation*, October 19, 2021.

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*I am not afraid of an army  
of lions led by a sheep; I  
am afraid of an army of  
sheep led by a lion.—  
Alexander the Great*

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