

## World News

### Inside this issue:

Terrorism	3
Economy	4

In Asia, North Korea launched two more ballistic missiles claiming they were tests for delivering nuclear weapons against South Korea [1]. One report suggests North Korea is prepared to conduct a nuclear weapons test at any time [2]. This comes as Washington warned North Korea that any new nuclear weapons tests would be met with a significant response [3]. Concurrently, some are suggesting that it is time to recognize North Korea as a nuclear weapons power [4]. With China backing North Korea, it's unclear what effective response Washington could implement.

Meanwhile, China is on the fast track to take Taiwan [5]. By one estimate, the invasion of Taiwan could take place at any time [6].

In the last newsletter, we discussed how Russia could move assets into the US through the open US Southern border. Now Russia is warning that all energy infrastructures are fair targets because of the attack on the Nord Stream pipelines [7].

1. New York Post/Reuters, *North Korea says missile tests simulate striking South with nuclear weapons*, October 9, 2022.
2. Schick, Camilla, and Brennan, Margaret, CBS News, *North Korea set to conduct tactical nuclear test anytime, U.S. and South Korean officials say*, October 27, 2022.
3. McFall, Caitlin, Fox News, *North Korea warned of 'unparalleled' response*

(Continued on page 2)

## Ukraine War

A truck bomb explosion damaged the bridge connecting Russia to the Crimea [1]. Russia called the attack an act of terrorism [2]. In response, Russia launched a missile attack hitting targets throughout the Ukraine [3]. Additionally, Russia is blaming the United Kingdom for sabotaging the Nord Stream gas pipelines [4].

Meanwhile, Russia is using Kamikaze drones supplied by Iran to attack targets within the Ukraine [5]. This comes as Russia President Putin claims he has no

plans to use nuclear weapons in the Ukraine [6].

In the US, 30 members of President Biden's political party are calling for the president to move away from the current Ukrainian policy and instead seek a negotiated peace [7]. However, the request was pulled less than 24-hours later following concerns over support to the Ukraine [8].

There was a significant attack by Ukrainian forces against Russia's Black Sea fleet [9]. In response, Russia announced it will stop a previous deal that allowed grain shipments out of the

Ukraine by sea [10].

1. Ritchie, Hannah, et. al., CNN, *Massive blast cripples parts of Crimea-Russia bridge, in blow to Putin's war effort*, October 8, 2022.
2. NBC/AP, *Putin says Ukraine planned Crimea bridge explosion, calls it terrorism*, October 8, 2022.
3. Adams, Paul, et. al., BBC News, *Ukraine war: US condemns 'brutal' Russian strikes on Ukraine*, October 11, 2022.

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### Special points of interest:

- End of Recession?  
- Third Quarter 2.6% GDP Rate

## Ukraine War

(Continued from page 1)

4. Faulconbridge, Guy, and Ravikumar, Sachin, *International Business Times*, *Russia Says UK Navy Blew Up Nord Stream, London Denies Involvement*, October 29, 2022.
5. Kottasová, Ivana, CNN, *'Kamikaze' drones are the latest threat for Ukraine. Here's what we know*, October 17, 2022.
6. AP, *Russia's Putin says he*

*won't use nuclear weapons in Ukraine*, October 27, 2022.

7. Zengerle, Patricia, Reuters, *U.S. liberal Democrats urge Biden to seek negotiated Ukraine settlement*, October 24, 2022.
8. Amiri, Farnoush, and Kim, Seung Min, ABC News/AP, *Progressives retract Ukraine letter to Biden after uproar*, October 25, 2022.
9. Bachega, Hugo, and

Gregory, James, BBC News, *'Massive' drone attack on Black Sea Fleet – Russia*, October 29, 2022.

10. Bachega, Hugo, and Kola, Paulin, BBC News, *Ukraine war: Russia halts grain deal after 'massive' Black Sea Fleet attack*, October 29, 2022.

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*There is no hunting like the hunting of man, and those who have hunted armed men long enough and liked it, never care for anything else thereafter.—*

*Ernest Hemingway*

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## World News

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*from US, Japan, South Korea if it launches a 7th nuclear test*, October 26, 2022.

4. Hancocks, Paula, CNN, *Is it time to accept North Korea is a nuclear power?*, October 29, 2022.
5. Tan, Yvette, BBC News, *China-Taiwan: Beijing speeding up plans for unification*, Blinken says, October 18, 2022.
6. Sevastopulo, Demetri, *Financial Times*, *US Navy chief warns China could invade Taiwan before 2024*, October 20, 2022.
7. Lodge, Matthew, *Daily Mail*, *'All world infrastructure is at risk of terror attacks': Vladimir Putin makes veiled threat after Nord Stream gas pipeline blasts as Britain vows to give Ukraine rockets to defend its cities*, October 13, 2022.

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## Terrorism

In Iran, three people attacked the Shahcheragh Shrine in the city of Shiraz, killing at least 15 people [1]. The Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for the attack [2]. In Mogadishu, Somalia, two car bomb explosions killed at least 30 people [3]. When it comes to weapons that terrorist could use, we should not discount bioweapons. To this end, it is worth looking at how lax university research remains a risk. Case in point, at Boston University, there were concerns that gain of function research was ongoing and that a new version of COVID-19 was developed [4]. The university claims the reports were wrong [5]. In explanation, they claimed the new virus was less dangerous than the original [6]. Nevertheless, the NIH is looking into the matter to see if the experiments should have triggered a review [7]. To summarize, what the researchers did was to combined the omicron variant spike protein with the original virus [8]. That the university is combining parts of different COVID-19 viruses suggests lax university over-

sight.

1. Pourahmadi, Adam, and Alkhshali, Hamdi, CNN, *15 killed, 40 injured in 'terrorist attack' in Iran - state news*, October 26, 2022.
2. Hafezi, Parisa, Reuters, *Islamic State claims Iran shrine attack, Iran vows response*, October 26, 2022.
3. Faruk, Omar, ABC News/AP, *Two explosions rock Somalia's capital, killing at least 30*, October 29, 2022.
4. Salzberg, Steven, Forbes, *Gain-Of-Function Experiments At Boston University Create A Deadly New Covid-19 Virus. Who Thought This Was A Good Idea?*, October 24, 2022.
5. Rex, Kristina, CBS (Boston), *Boston University lab did not create deadly new COVID strain, experts say*, October 19, 2022.
6. Tran, Susan, NBC 10 (Boston), *Boston University Pushes Back on Claims of New 'Deadly' COVID Strain*, October 18, 2022.
7. Tin, Alexander, CBS News, *NIH probes whether Boston University COVID experiments should have triggered review*, October 19, 2022.
8. Sobey, Rick, Boston Herald, *Boston University COVID researchers combine omicron spike protein with original virus, test strain on mice*, October 17, 2022.

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*To be prepared for war is  
one of the most effective  
means of preserving peace.*

—George Washington

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## Economy

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) came in at 8.2% over this time last year [1]. Meanwhile, the average interest rate on home mortgages rose to 7.16%, the highest since 2001 [2].

On the plus side, the third quarter Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at a 2.6% rate [3]. This implies we are not in a recession. Additionally, the draw down from the Strategic Oil Reserve on fear of recession has moved gasoline prices lower [4]. To his credit, President Biden's drawing from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) is keeping energy prices lower [5].

1. Davidson, Paul, USA Today, *Inflation eased to 8.2% but remained high in September, CPI report shows*, October 13, 2022.
2. Reuters, *U.S. mortgage interest rates jump to 7.16%, highest since 2001*,

October 26, 2022.

3. Cox, Jeff, CNBC, U.S. *GDP accelerated at 2.6% pace in Q3, better than expected as growth turns positive*, October 27, 2022.
4. Colomer, Nora, Fox Business, *Gas prices decline amid recession fears: AAA*, October 28, 2022.
5. Eberhart, Dan, Forbes, *Biden Sacrifices National Security For Midterm Votes With SPR Drawdown*, October 27, 2022.

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*The military don't start wars. Politicians start wars.—William Westmoreland*

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