

# IN THE NEWS

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## Ukraine War

It is difficult to know what the US intelligence agencies thought about a Ukraine-Russia war before President Putin's decision to invade. However, as the war started last February, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley predicted Russia would control Kyiv in just 72 hours; now he is predicting a war that will last years [1]. The same general predicted the ability of the Afghanistan military to withstand the Taliban; even as the militants were advancing toward victory [2].

Another complicating factor is the role of China. Case in point, in 2013, China agreed to provide the Ukraine a nuclear umbrella should any country use nukes against them [3]. Now Russia is threatening to use low yield nuclear weapons in the Ukraine [4]. So what are the chances we will stumble into a nuclear war?

At the start of the war, the Russian Rubel (currency) fell drastically due in part to western scanctions [5]. President Biden said the ruble had been reduced to rubble; now the Rubel's value is back to prior invasion levels [6].

Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Zelensky compared Russia to the Islamic State [7]. This comes as evidence mounts of Russian acts of terrorism against Ukrainian citizens [8]. Perhaps the Taliban lesson from Afghanistan was not lost on Russian President Putin. That is, terrorism is a key to victory over the West. Another example is Iran. Currently, the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, are on the list of terrorist organizations [9]. Yet, President Biden remains committed to an Iranian nuclear deal [10]. The message here is that terrorism is not an inhibitor when dealing with the US. So, why would we expect President Putin not to use terrorism in order to advance his goals?

Early in the War, the US would not allow the transfer of heavy weapons to Ukraine. For instance, Polish MIG fighter jets for the Ukraine were blocked by the US [11]. Now the US is allowing heavy weapons [12]. The question here is what would be the outcome had the US provided heavy weapons before Russia invaded? Case in point, Ukraine President Zelensky believes the war would have been won if the West had provided weapons earlier [13].

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(Continued on page 2)

#### Inside this issue:

Terrorism	3
Wuhan Coronavirus	3
Economy	4

#### Special points of interest:

- Russian Ukraine Invasion
- CPI 8.5% Inflation Rate

# World News

hina is on an accelerated path to expand its nuclear weapons [1]. This comes as China flew into Belgrade's civilian air port and delivered HQ-22 surface-to-air missile systems for the Serbian military [2]. Meanwhile, China added two additional Type 055

destroyers to its growing navy [3].

As most of the world is concerned over fossil fuel burning, China is taking a different approach. That is, the communist giant continues to expand its use of coal as a fuel [4]. Additionally, Chinese coal produc-

tion is increasing by 300 million tons this year [5].

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(Continued on page 2)

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power.–John McCain

Russia's leaders, rich with

oil wealth and corrupt

with power, have rejected

democratic ideals and the

obligations of a responsible

Page 2 Volume 15 Issue 6

n Tel Aviv, Israel, a gunman opened fire wounding six people [1]. The carnage was later revised indicating at least 2 people killed and over a dozen others wounded [2]. In Kabul, Afghanistan, multiple explosions at schools were reported [3]. Elsewhere in Afghanistan, the Islamic State claimed responsibility for twin city attacks on Shia mosques that killed at least 12 people [4].

In the US, a man who opened fire on a New York City subway will be charged with violating terrorism laws [5].

1. Joffre, Tzvi, Jerusalem

### **Terrorism**

Post, Six wounded in shooting on Dizengoff Street in Tel Aviv; manhunt for gunman, April 7, 2022.

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Post, NYC subway shooting suspect Frank James to face court on terror charges, April 14, 2022.

We have politicized the issue of Russia to a point that we can't have a sensible conversation about it.—Fiona Hill

Early in the pandemic, China objected to the use of "Wuhan Coronavirus" to describe COVID-19, claiming it would stigmatize the country [1]. However, there were many indications of a cover-up by China [2]. Perhaps the Harvard Medical study indicating the virus was spreading in August points to problems in how China handled the virus [3].

In the last presidential debate, candidate Biden stated the following: "What I would say is I'm going to shut down the virus, not the country" [4]. Unfortunately, the number of deaths from COVID-19 continue to rise. On April 23, the

## Wuhan Coronavirus

number of US COVID-19 deaths exceeded 990,000 [5].

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Page 3 Volume 15 Issue 6

## **Economy**

he Consumer Price Index (CPI) for March rose to an 8.5% rate [1]. This is the highest inflation rate in 40 years [2]. To understand how we got here, consider; in 2019, Joe Biden vowed to end fossil fuel [3]. Among the first executive orders signed by President Biden were against fossil fuel [4]. Indeed, the President committed to reducing US emissions in half by 2030 [5]. The Biden plans to combat oil were touted as the most ambitious of any President [6]. He also suspended drilling leases in Alaska's Artic refuge [7].

Perhaps the war on oil is best summarized by the International Energy Agency (IEA). Last year the IEA asserted the world needs to stop drilling for oil and gas right now to prevent a climate catastrophe [8]. The President's war now finds us with reduced supply and high energy costs.

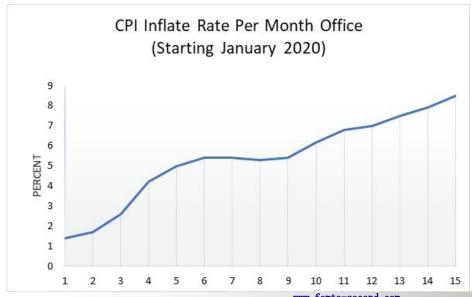
Perhaps the Ukraine war will eliminate the fear of global warming. Case in point, there have been suggestions a nuclear war would place reflective dust high in the atmosphere and result in a mini-ice age [9]. Meanwhile, the Deutsche

Bank warned, efforts by the Fed to contain inflation will lead to a US recession next year [10]. The warning comes as the stock markets continue to fall [11].

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The number one foreign policy goal of Russia is control of the former Soviet space.—James Clapper



In the News www. femto-second. com Page 4