

# Femtosecond IN THE NEWS

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 6

APRIL 24, 2022

## 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 sanctions [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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2. Seldin, Jeff, VOA, Taliban Victory in Afghanistan Not a Foregone Conclu-

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### Special points of interest:

- Russian Ukraine Invasion
- CPI 8.5% Inflation Rate

## World News

China 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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2. Stojanovic, Dusan, AP,

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## World News

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3. Zhen, Liu, South China Morning Post, *China's navy puts 2 more advanced Type 055 destroyers into*
  4. Shepherd, Christian, MSN/Washington Post, *With coal surge, China puts energy security and growth before climate, April 22, 2022.*
  5. McDonald, Joe, AP, *Chi-*

*na promotes coal in setback for efforts to cut emissions, April 24, 2022.*

## Ukraine War

(Continued from page 1)

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3. Areddy, James T., Wall Street Journal, *Under New Scrutiny: China's Nuclear Pledge to Ukraine, March 11, 2022.*
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  6. Maki, Sydney, Bloomberg/Yahoo News, *Mocked as 'Rubble' by Biden, Russia's Ruble Comes Roaring Back, April*
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  7. Haltiwanger, John, Business Insider, *Zelenskyy says Russia is 'no different' than ISIS as he bashes the UN for allowing Moscow to 'go unpunished' and retain 'privileges', April 5, 2022.*
  8. CBS News, *Ukraine already investigating almost 4,500 alleged Russian war crimes, April 6, 2022..*
  9. Times of Israel, *US military chief opposes terror delisting for Iran's Quds Force, April 7, 2022..*
  10. McDonald, Scott, Newsweek, *Biden's Immigrant Iran Nuclear Deal Savaged by Israel, GOP, March 20, 2022.*
  11. Herb, Jeremy, et. al., CNN, *Pentagon says Polish proposal to transfer jets to*

*US to give to Ukraine isn't 'tenable', March 9, 2022.*

12. Liebermann, Oren, et. al., CNN, *Why the Biden administration is giving new, heavier weapons to Ukraine, April 13, 2022.*
13. Patteson, Callie, New York Post, *Zelensky: If Ukraine had access to more weapons, war would already be over, April 20, 2022.*

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*Russia's leaders, rich with oil wealth and corrupt with power, have rejected democratic ideals and the obligations of a responsible power.—John McCain*

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## Terrorism

In 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. Joffe, Tzvi, Jerusalem

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

2. Tal, Amir, CNN, *Two killed, many injured in Tel Aviv shooting*, April 8, 2022.
3. Popalzai, Ehsan, and Ritchie, Hannah, CNN, *Multiple explosions hit schools in Kabul, police and witnesses say*, April 19, 2022.
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5. Crane, Emily, New York

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

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

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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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2. Times of India, *Chinese doctor alleges Covid-19 cover-up; says Wuhan market*, July 27, 2020.
3. Reuters, *China, scientists dismiss Harvard study suggesting COVID-19 was spreading in Wuhan in August*, June 9, 2020.
4. USA Today, *Debate transcript: Trump, Biden final presidential debate moderated*

ed by Kristen Welker, October 23, 2020.

5. Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, *Numbers reported on April 23, 2021.*

## Economy

The 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 Arctic 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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2. Rugaber, Christopher, ABC News/AP, *US inflation highest in 40 years, with no letup in sight*, April 12, 2022.
3. Peoples, Steve, AP, *In intimate moment, Biden vows to 'end fossil fuel'*, September 6, 2019.
4. Rapier, Robert, Forbes, *How President Biden's Executive Orders Impact The Oil Industry*, January 29, 2021.
5. Lederman, Josh, and Chow, Denise, NBC News, *Biden commits to cutting U.S. emissions in half by 2030 as part of Paris climate pact*, April 22, 2021.
6. Schwartz, Molly, Mother Jones, *President Biden Has the Most Ambitious Climate*

*Change Plan in US History. Will It Be Enough to Save the Planet?*, February 3, 2021.

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9. Tegmark, Max, Huffington Post, *Climate Change for the Impatient: A Nuclear Mini Ice Age*, December 6, 2017.
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*The number one foreign policy goal of Russia is control of the former Soviet space.—James Clapper*

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