

Ukraine War

Just prior to the Russian invasion of the Ukraine, the US closed its embassy in Kyiv, citing fear of a Russian invasion as the reason [1]. As part of the closure, computer equipment and documents were destroyed [2]. Two months following the Russian invasion, the US announced plans to retore a US embassy in the Ukrainian capital [3]. To this end, President Biden indicated he will nominate Bridget Brink as the new ambassador [4]. A question here is why did we close the embassy in the first place?

Meanwhile, The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is poised to expand its membership. Reports indicate Finland wants to join NATO [5]. It appears that Sweden will also try to join NATO [6]. However, Russia has stated that should Finland join NATO, it will respond [7]. One report indicates Russia has already cut some electric power to Finland [8].

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov issued a warning of nuclear war [9]. Others are concerned that the actions taken by the US are pushing Russia toward the use of nuclear weapons [10]. One underlying message from the Ukraine was is that countries need to have a nuclear capability. For instance, North Korea tested its newest submarine launched ballistic missile [11].

1. Hansler, Jennifer, and Atwood, Kylie, CNN, *US closing embassy in Kyiv and moving remaining diplomats to western Ukraine amid fears of Russian invasion*, February 14, 2022.
2. Bowden, John, *The Independent*, *US closes Ukraine embassy and 'destroys*

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World News

On May 7, North Korea launched a ballistic missile from a submarine [1]. Meanwhile, China sent 18 military aircraft into Taiwan's Air Defense Zone [2]. What's more, no matter what China does on the World stage, bad behavior continues to be rewarded. Case in point, the US is planning on lifting tariffs on Chinese goods [3].

Last November, baby formula was becoming hard to find [4]. After six months failing to address the problem, the topic has now become a national issue [5]. To address the problem, the US is looking cut red

tape and allow baby formula imports; including from Asian suppliers [6]. However, China has a history of tainted baby formula that sickened many [7]. Moreover, China shipped qualities of chemically trained doggie treats into the US, that sickened many animals [8]. So, will the imported baby formula be given the same scrutiny as US products or the checking that was done for the tainted doggie treats? Nevertheless, it appears the illegals crossing the border have plenty of baby formula [9].

1. Lee, Joyce, and Komiyama, Kantaro, Reuters,

North Korea fires likely submarine-launched ballistic missile, South Korea says, May 7, 2022.

2. Reuters, *Taiwan jets scramble as China air force enters air defence zone*, May 6, 2022.
3. Nelson, Steven, New York Post, *China's secrecy on COVID's origins won't impact US lifting tariffs*, Psaki says, May 9, 2022.
4. Kavilanz, Parija, CNN Business, *Baby formula is getting harder to find*, November 16, 2021.
5. Cerullo, Megan, CBS

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Special points of interest:

- First Quarter GDP Contracted at 1.4% Rate
- Gas Prices Set New Record High
- Russian Ukraine Invasion
- Record March Trade Deficit

World News

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- News, *Baby formula supplies dwindle amid widening shortage*, May 11, 2022.
6. Nelson, Steven, New York Post, *FDA to finally clear way for formula imports months after major US supplier shut down*, May 12, 2022.
 7. Mooney, Paul, US News, *The Story Behind China's Tainted Milk Scandal*, October 9, 2008.
 8. Galli, Cindy, ABC News, *Toxic Treats from China Killing US Dogs, Say Pet Owners*, March 16, 2012.
 9. Lee, Michael, Fox News, *GOP rep says illegal migrants sent 'pallets' of hard-to-find baby formula*, May 12, 2022.

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- computer equipment' ahead of expected Russian invasion*, February 14, 2022.
3. Kelemen, Michele, and Bowman, Emma, NPR, *The U.S. promises to gradually reopen its embassy in Ukraine*, April 24, 2022.
 4. Quinn, Melissa, CBS News, *Biden selects Bridget Brink as U.S. ambassador to Ukraine*, April 25, 2022.
 5. Tanner, Jari, AP, *Finland's leaders call for NATO membership 'without delay'*, May 12, 2022.
 6. Braw, Elisabeth, Foreign Policy, *The NATO Accession Sweden Never Saw Coming*, April 29, 2022.
 7. Trevelyan, Mark, Yahoo/Reuters, *Russia says Finnish entry to NATO poses threat to which it will respond*, May 12, 2022.
 8. Al-Arshani, Sarah, Business Insider, *Russia cuts off energy to Finland as the country's president tells Putin he plans to proceed with NATO bid: report*, May 14, 2022.
 9. Bloomberg, *Russia Warns of Nuclear War Risk as Ukraine Talks Go On*, April 26, 2022.
 10. Bryen, Stephen, Asia Times, *US on brink of recklessness in Ukraine*, April 28, 2022.
 11. Honrada, Gabriel, Asia Times, *North Korea's new sub missile aims for US mainland*, April 27, 2022.

When Russia is at war, we are, of course, on Russia's side.—Margarita Simonyan

Terrorism

Terrorism continues to be a problem on the world stage. For instance, in Karachi, Pakistan, a burqa-clad female suicide bomber killed three Chinese nationals and their Pakistani driver [1].

In Israel, two attackers killed at least 3 people in a suspected terrorist attack [2]. Meanwhile, militants attacked a water pumping station east of the Suez Canal, killing at least 11 Egyptian troops [3]. The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the Suez Canal attack and a second attack in the restive part of Sinai Peninsula that killed at least 5 Egyptian troops [4]. In Africa, at least 14 people were killed during a rebel attack on a

refugee camp located in the Congo [5]. In northern Nigeria, Gunmen abducted dozens of train passengers and at least 9 people were killed [6].

In the US, there was a domestic terrorist attack. An 18-year old white gunman killed at least 10 people in a predominantly black supermarket in Buffalo, NY [7].

1. Farberov, Snejana, New York Post, *Suicide bombing at Karachi university kills 3 Chinese nationals, Pakistani driver*, April 26, 2022.
2. Tal, Amir, et. al., CNN, *At least three killed in suspected terror attack in Israel*, May 6, 2022.
3. Connelly, Eileen AJ, New

York Post, *11 Egyptian troops killed in militant attack near Suez Canal*, May 7, 2022.

4. AP, *Islamic State claims attack that killed 5 troops in Egypt*, May 14, 2022.
5. Reuters, *At least 14 dead in east Congo refugee camp attack*, May 10, 2022.
6. Khalid, Ishaq, BBC News, *Nigeria's Kaduna train attack: Pregnant woman freed*, May 15, 2022.
7. Thompson, Carolyn, et. al., AP, *10 dead in Buffalo supermarket attack police call hate crime*, May 15, 2022.

Nobody should have any illusion about the possibility of gaining military superiority over Russia. We will never allow this to happen.—
Vladimir Putin

Looking at a different virus; the first case of a bird flu variant infecting a human was reported in China [1]. Compare this reporting to that applied to COVID-19 and we immediately see a difference.

As a presidential candidate, Joe Biden promised to shut down the virus (COVID-19) [2]. However, one report indicated at least 58% of Americans were previously infected with COVID-19 [3]. This has led Dr. Anthony Fauci, President Joe Biden's chief medical adviser, to declare we are out of the pandemic phase [4]. In contrast, on May 4, NBC reported the number of US

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deaths tied to COVID-19 reached one million [5]. However, as of May 15, the John's Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center was reporting only 999 thousand deaths [6].

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2. Lahut, Jake, Business Insider, *Biden says he would 'shut down the virus, not the country' during the final presidential debate*, October 22, 2020.
3. Kimball, Spencer, CNBC, *At least 58% of U.S. population has natural antibodies from previous*

Covid infection, CDC says, April 26, 2022.

4. Thomas, Naomi, CNN, *The US is 'out of the pandemic phase,' Fauci says*, April 27, 2022.
5. Chuck, Elizabeth, and Siemaszko, Corky, NBC News, *Covid's toll in the U.S. reaches a once unfathomable number: 1 million deaths*, May 4, 2022.
6. coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/united-states, March 14, 2022.

Economy

On April 26, the Dow fell over 800 points and the Nasdaq fell by nearly 4% [1]. Then on April 28, the Dow dropped another 900 points and the Nasdaq shed nearly 4.2% [2]. Overall, April was a bad month for stocks with the NASDAQ falling the most since October 2008 [3].

On May 4, the Federal Reserve raised its benchmark interest rate by 0.5% [4]. Then, on May 5, the indexes again fell with the NASDAQ dropping by 5% to a close not seen since November 2020 [5]. The indexes continued their downward spiral on May 9 with the Dow shedding 1.9%, the S&P500 3.2%, and the Nasdaq 4.2% [6].

For March, the trade deficit jumped to an all-time high of \$125.3 billion [7]. The next news reported was the first quarter Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell at a 1.4% annual rate [8].

On May 10, the average price per gallon of gas set a new record high of \$4.37 [9]. Then again on May 11, the price hit \$4.404 [10]. May 12 saw the next record of \$4.418 per gallon [11]. Then on May 13, the new high was \$4.432 [12].

The next day, May 14, the price rose to \$4.452 [13]. Finally, on May 15 the price increased to \$4.470 [14]. Meanwhile the Consumer Price Index inflation rate for April was reported at 8.3% [15].

1. Gura, David, NPR, *Shares continue to slump as fears about the economy and earnings grip Wall Street*, April 26, 2022.
2. Miao, Hannah, and Macheel, Tanaya, CNBC, *Dow tumbles more than 900 points and the Nasdaq drops 4% on Friday to close out a brutal month*, April 28, 2022.
3. Schrader, Adam, UPI, *U.S. stock indexes end April with massive losses*, April 29, 2022.
4. Cox, Jeff, CNBC, *Fed raises rates by half a percentage point – the biggest hike in two decades – to fight inflation*, May 4, 2022.
5. Pound, Jesse, and Macheel, Tanaya, CNBC, *Dow tumbles 1,000 points for the worst day since 2020, Nasdaq drops 5%*, May 5, 2022.
6. Subin, Samantha, and
7. Mutikani, Lucia, US News/Reuters, *U.S. Goods Trade Deficit Hits Record High; Q1 GDP Growth Estimates Slashed*, April 27, 2022.
8. Cox, Jeff, CNBC, *U.S. GDP fell at a 1.4% pace to start the year as pandemic recovery takes a hit*, April 28, 2022.
9. Egan, Matt, CNN Business, *Gas prices jump to fresh record highs*, May 10, 2022.
10. AAA Gas Prices, [gasprices.aaa.com](https://www.gasprices.aaa.com), May 11, 2022.
11. AAA Gas Prices, [gasprices.aaa.com](https://www.gasprices.aaa.com), May 12, 2022.
12. AAA Gas Prices, [gasprices.aaa.com](https://www.gasprices.aaa.com), May 13, 2022.
13. AAA Gas Prices, [gasprices.aaa.com](https://www.gasprices.aaa.com), May 14, 2022.
14. AAA Gas Prices, [gasprices.aaa.com](https://www.gasprices.aaa.com), May 15, 2022.
15. Cox, Jeff, CNBC, *Inflation barreled ahead at 8.3% in April from a year ago, remaining near 40-year highs*, May 11, 2022.

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