

Ukraine War

Both Finland and Sweden officially applied for membership into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) [1]. Meanwhile, the US continues to get more involved with the Ukraine war. For instance, President Biden signed a \$40 billion aid package [2]. This amount is over half what Russia spends annually on its military [3]. Moreover, this comes as the last Ukrainian forces in the city of Mariupol surrendered to Russian forces [4]. Russian forces appear to be using the Mariupol bombardment tactic on the city of Severodonetsk [5]. Overall, Russia is making military progress [6].

Meanwhile, Russia continues to receive help from other countries. For example, China is now importing more Russian coal than ever [7]. Commerce between Russia and India is providing access to equipment otherwise banned under Western sanctions [8]. Germany and Italy are still purchasing Russian gas [9].

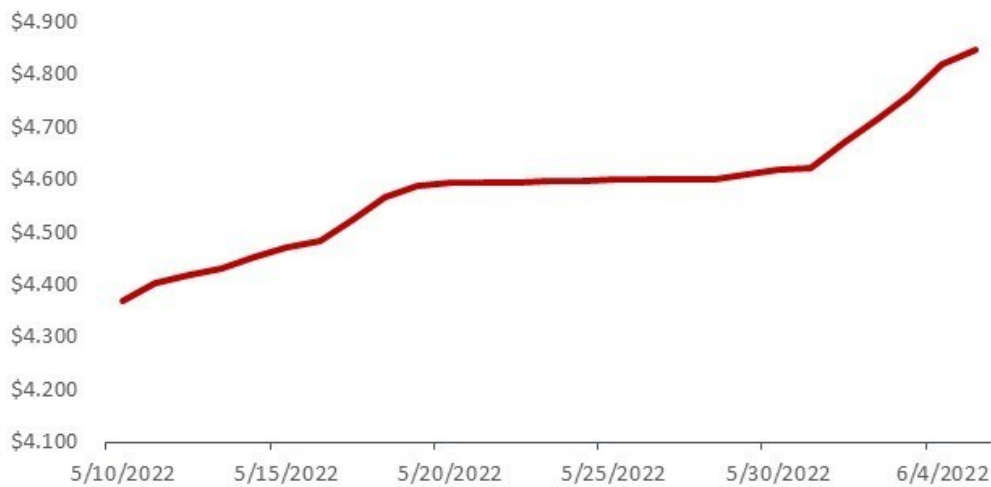
It is difficult to know what the US plans for Ukraine actually are. Case in point, the Administration confirmed it would not provide long range missiles to the Ukraine [10]. In a change of policy, the Administration said it would [11].

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Terrorism | 3 |
| Wuhan Coronavirus | 3 |
| Economy | 4 |

Average Gas Prices per Gallon



Special points of interest:

- Gas Prices Set New Record High
- Russian Ukraine Invasion Continues
- US COVID-19 Deaths Pass 1 Million

World News

China again warned the US not to consider involvement with the defense of Taiwan [1]. Additionally, China warned the US to stop trade talks with Taiwan [2].

Meanwhile, North Korea continues to test new weapons. Case in point, three ballistic missiles were launched including one that had inflight course corrections [3]. Then the

North launched 8 additional ballistic missiles [4].

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(Continued on page 2)

Finland, and all the other European countries, we are too dependent on imported energy. We should be using a broader variety of energy resources.

–Tarja Halonen

(Continued from page 1)

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(Continued from page 1)

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with properties not seen before, May 27, 2022.

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Ukraine War

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Terrorism

The news media has evolved into subjective coverage of violent crime that impacts people's mental state [1]. Moreover, the constant coverage inspires many copycat acts of violence [2]. With that as a backdrop, there was a school mass shooting in Texas [3]. Another shooting in a hospital located in Oklahoma [4]. In Philadelphia, at least three people were killed in a mass shooting [5]. In California, an immigrant from China attacked a church frequented by people borne in Taiwan, killing at least one person [6]. The open Southern border appears to be providing terrorists access to the US. For instance, the FBI stopped an

Islamic State attempt to kill former President George W. Bush that included a plan for bad actors to cross the Mexican border into the US [7].

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the details police have walked back, June 1, 2022.

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Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the spirit of men who follow and of the man who leads that gains the victory.—George S. Patton

During the Trump administration, Title 42 (an existing public health and welfare statute) was executed following a recommendation from the CDC that helped keep some illegal immigrants from entering the Southern border for fear of COVID-19 [1]. However, during the Biden administration, the Southern border has been effectively open [2]. Moreover, the Inspector General overseeing ICE determined illegals were not tested for COVID-19 before transport using domestic flights [3]. Nevertheless, the current administration is determined to remove the Title 42 restriction [4].

Given the ease in spreading COVID-19, we can only guess how many Americans contracted the virus because of the open Southern border

Wuhan Coronavirus

policy. As a presidential candidate, Joe Biden stated anyone responsible for so many COVID-19 deaths should not be president [5]. However, on May 18, the number of deaths in the US tied to COVID-19 reached 1,000,189 [6]. With nearly 600,000 deaths on President Biden's watch, there is no discussion of resigning.

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ICE Did Not Follow Policies, Guidance, or Recommendations to Ensure Migrants Were Tested for COVID-19 before Transport on Domestic Commercial Flights, OIG-22-44, May 18, 2022.

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6. coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/united-states, March 18, 2022.

Economy

During a campaign stop in September, 2019, then candidate Biden promised to end fossil fuel [1]. To see one consequence of this policy, we explore the rising cost of gasoline. To this end, the average price per gallon of gasoline set a new record high. On May 10, the average price per gallon of gas set a new record high of \$4.483 [2]. The upward trend has continued. Case in point.

May 17 \$4.523;
May 18 \$4.567;
May 19 \$4.589;
May 20 \$4.593;
May 21 \$4.593;
May 22 \$4.593;
May 23 \$4.596;
May 24 \$4.598;
May 25 \$4.599;
May 26 \$4.600;
May 27 \$4.599;
May 28 \$4.601;
May 29 \$4.610;
May 30 \$4.619;
May 31 \$4.622;
June 1 \$4.671;
June 2 \$4.715;
June 3 \$4.761;
June 4 \$4.819; and
June 5 \$4.848
[3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21].

In response to rising gas prices, President Biden is looking for other countries to increase production. For example, there are plans to visit Saudi Arabia [22]. However, the Administration cancelled oil

and gas leases in Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico [23].

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The Soviet Union has indeed been our greatest menace, not so much because of what it has done, but because of the excuses it has provided us for our failures.—J. William Fulbright
