

## World News

The Chinese military continues to expand. For instance, China now leads the US nuclear arsenal in some areas [1]. Meanwhile, China's military continues its aggressive behavior. For example, China and Indian forces clashed on the eastern tip of India [2]. This comes as India test fired a nuclear capable missile with a range of 3,300 miles [3]. Additionally, China's air force continues to probe Taiwan air defenses [4]. One consequence is that Japan is now committed to offensive first strike weapons [5]. Concurrently, Japan is reversing its approach and is instead embracing nuclear energy [6,7]. This should provide Japan with additional plutonium should it decide to develop nuclear weapons [8].

China is also experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases. This is because the communist leadership decision to relax COVID quarantine policy [9]. One report indicates some hospitals are full and turning away more patients [10]. Moreover, there are reports that China is not sharing the latest COVID information with the World Health Organization [11].

On December 18, North Korea launched two ballistic missiles capable of hitting Japan [12]. The North also claimed they tested a spy satellite releasing low quality images of South Korea [13]. Then on December 23, the North fired two additional ballistic missiles [14]. The North also launched drones into South Korean airspace [15]. On December 31, North Korea launched three ballistic missiles [16]. During 2022, the North fired over 70 ballistic missiles and is committed to expanding its nuclear arsenal [17].

Once again, the US critical infrastructure came under attack. For example, in Washington State, four electrical substations were damaged resulting in over 10,000 people without power [18].

1. Gertz, Bill, Washington Times, *China nuclear force exceeds U.S. arsenal in some areas, Strategic Command warns*, December 8, 2022.

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## Ukraine War

The Chinese President, Xi, is advising Russia to have talks with the Ukraine [1]. What's more, Russian President Putin said he wants to end the war in the Ukraine [2]. In contrast, the US is preparing to ship more advanced weapons to the Ukraine [3]. Meanwhile, North Korea is believed to be providing Russia with military aid [4]. While Russian forces continue to attack targets in the Ukraine, there are indi-

cations that they are building strength within Belarus [5]. Another report suggests Russian electronic warfare is becoming more effective against Ukrainian drones [6].

There are indications that the war in the Ukraine is closer to expanding. Case in point, a Ukrainian air defense missile was shot down over Russian ally, Belarus [7]. This has caused increased tension between Belarus and the Ukraine

[8].

We can expect the war will continue well into 2023. For example, prior to and flowing the new year's celebrations, Russian attacks hit Ukrainian targets [9].

1. Bloomberg News, *Xi Tells Russia's Medvedev That China Wants Talks on Ukraine*, December 21, 2022. .
2. Trevelyan, Mark, Reuters, *Putin says Russia*

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### Special points of interest:

- 3.7% Unemployment Rate Continues
- Belarus Shoots Down Ukraine Missile

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The New Year is probably  
the biggest celebration in  
Russia.—Alexander  
Ovechkin

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- wants end to war in Ukraine, December 22, 2022.
3. Hagstrom, Anders, Fox News, *Biden to deliver Patriot missiles to Ukraine as Zelenskyy visits Washington*, December 21, 2022.
  4. Liptak, Kevin, CNN, *US believes Wagner mercenary group is expanding influence and took delivery of North Korean arms*, December 22, 2022.
  5. New York Post/Reuters, *Russian missiles rain down on Ukraine towns*, December 26, 2022.
  6. Honrada, Gabriel, Asia Times, *Russia winning the electronic war in Ukraine*, December 28, 2022.
  7. Cordell, Jake, Reuters, *Russia says it is extremely concerned by Ukrainian missile downed over Belarus*, December 30, 2022.
  8. Van Brugen, Isabel, Newsweek, *Tensions Rise*

*as Belarus Blames Ukraine for Downed Missile on Border—Report*, December 30, 2022.

9. Siddique, Haroon, and Fulton, Adam, The Guardian, *Russia-Ukraine war live: Zelenskyy vows to keep up fight amid new wave of Russian missile attacks*, January 1, 2023.

## Ukraine War

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(Continued from page 1)

2. BBC News, *India and China troops clash on Arunachal Pradesh mountain border*, December 13, 2022.
3. Fox News/AP, *India successfully test-fires intercontinental, nuclear-capable ballistic missile*, December 15, 2022.
4. Chang, Wayne, and Yeung, Jessie, CNN, *Taiwan reports record incursion by Chinese bomber aircraft*, December 13, 2022.
5. Yamaguchi, Mari, AP, *As regional threats rise, Japan eases defense-only strategy*, December 16, 2022.
6. Financial Post/Reuters, *Japan turns back to nuclear power to tackle energy crisis*, December 16, 2022.
7. Yamaguchi, Mari, AP, *Japan adopts plan to maximize nuclear energy, in major shift*, December 22, 2022.
8. Japan Times, *Japan's plutonium stockpile jumped to 47 tons in 2013*, September 17, 2014.
9. Wu, Wendy, South China Morning Post, *Global Impact: China's zero-Covid policy exit provides another test for its beleaguered economy*, December 28, 2022.
10. Keane, Isabel, New York Post, *China's overwhelmed hospitals turn away ambulances during COVID surge*, December 27, 2022.
11. BBC News, *Covid in China: Officials must share data on its impact, says WHO*, December 30, 2022.
12. Kim, Hyung-Jin, AP, *North Korea fires 2 ballistic missiles capable of reaching Japan*, December 18, 2022.
13. Kim, Hyung-Jin, AP, *North Korea says latest launches tested 1st spy satellite*, December 19, 2022.
14. NBC News, *North Korea fires missiles amid tension over Russia arms aid*, December 23, 2022.
15. New York Post/Reuters, *South Korea scrambles jets, fires warning shots as North Korean drones intrude: report*, December 26, 2022.
16. Lee, Joyce, and Aoyama, Atsuko, Reuters, *North Korea fires 3 ballistic missiles after unprecedented year of tests*, December 31, 2022.
17. New York Post/AP, *North Korea's Kim orders 'exponential' expansion of nuke arsenal*, January 1, 2023.
18. Reilly, Patrick, New York Post, *Fourth electrical substation found vandalized in Washington State on Christmas Day*, December 26, 2022.

## Terrorism

Terrorism continues to be problematic overseas. In Afghanistan, a hotel in Kabul, used by Chinese citizens, was the target of a terrorist attack [1]. Pakistan's Taliban seized a police center taking a number of hostages [2]. A roadside bomb exploded in Turkey injuring 8 police officers [3]. In Egypt, the Islamic State claimed responsibility for an attack that left 4 police officers dead [4].

The impact of the porous Southern border includes the volume of illicit drugs entering the US. For instance, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) in 2022 has seized enough Fentanyl to kill every American [5]. Moreover, the CDC reports over 106 thousand drug overdose deaths during 2021 [6]. Some of the drugs are entering the US by the illegal aliens walking across the border [7]. Meanwhile, the Federal Government is forcing states to back away from border enforce-

ment. Case in Point, in Arizona, the state is now required to dismantle a container wall along the border by January 4 [8]. If drug carrying illegals can enter the US, what prevents terrorists from following the same approach?

1. Mukhtar, Ahmad, CBS News, *Kabul hotel used by China nationals attacked as perceived allies of Afghanistan's Taliban rulers are targeted*, December 13, 2022.
2. New York Post/Reuters, *Car bomb in southeast Turkey wounds 8 police officers: security sources*, December 16, 2022.
3. Khan, Riaz, and Ahmed, Munir, AP, *Pakistani Taliban overpower guards, seize police center*, December 19, 2022.
4. AP, *Islamic State claims attack on Egypt police that killed 4*, January 1, 2023.
5. Farberov, Snejana, New York Post, *DEA seized enough fentanyl doses to kill every American in 2022*, December 21, 2022.
6. Best, Paul, Fox News, *Drug overdose deaths topped 106,000 in 2021, CDC says in final report*, December 23, 2022.
7. Nerozzi, Timothy H.J., and Melugin, Bill, Fox News, *Texas DPS tracks down Honduran drug traffickers on border, one suspect just 14 years old*, December 21, 2022.
8. Land, Olivia, New York Post, *Arizona agrees to dismantle \$80M shipping container wall on Mexican border*, December 22, 2022.

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*The tiger springs in the  
new year. Us he devours.-*

T. S. Eliot

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## Economy

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 7.1% from a year ago [1]. This suggests the trend is moving toward less inflation as shown in the graph below. Nevertheless, the Fed raised the federal funds interest rates by 0.5%, its highest since December 2007 [2].

Another measure of economic growth is the stock market. By this measure, 2022 was a bad year. For example, the three major indexes were down with losses not seen since 2008 [3].

1. Cox, Jeff, CNBC, *Consumer prices rose less than expected in November, up 7.1% from a year ago*, December 13, 2022.
2. Cox, Jeff, CNBC, *Fed raises interest rates half a point to highest level in 15 years*, December 14, 2022.
3. Pound, Jesse, and Subin, Samantha, CNBC, *Stocks fall to end Wall Street's worst year since 2008, S&P 500 finishes 2022 down nearly 20%*, December 30, 2022

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*Our failure to properly deal with Germany and Japan early cost the world dearly later on. We dare not make the same mistake with China.—Steve Forbes*

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