

World News

After three years of COVID isolation, China has finally opened its borders [1]. However, the true scope of the virus damage remains unclear. For instance, on January 10, the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus database indicated only 17,661 deaths [2]. In Contrast, the number of COVID deaths in the United States was 1,096,751 [3]. So, has China been successful in containing the virus or is the scope of China's problem not correct? One piece suggests that in China's third most populous province, Henan, 90% of the population is infected with the virus [4]. Then there are reports that many hospitals are full, crematories are operating at capacity, and China has changed how it reports COVID deaths [5]. Next, on January 14, China announced nearly 60,000 people died of COVID between December 8 and January 12 [6]. Even with the higher number, reports indicates doctors are discouraged from reporting COVID [7]. Finally, January 22 marks the Chinese New Year and there are fears this holiday will be a COVID super spreader [8].

Meanwhile, Reports indicate China is using Mexico to flood the US with deadly Fentanyl [9]. This comes as China is expanding its source of Plutonium. Case in point, China is brining fast breeder reactors online that each can produce 200 Kg of Plutonium per year, enough for 50 nuclear warheads [10].

Elsewhere in Asia, North Korea is estimated to have a nuclear stockpile numbering 80 weapons [11]. In response, South Korea is considering developing its own nuclear weapons [12].

1. McCarthy, Simone, et. al., CNN, 'Everything starts to become better': After three years of Covid isolation, China opens its gates, January 9, 2023.
2. John Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/china, January 10, 2023.
3. John Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, coronavirus.jhu.edu/

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Terrorism	3
Economy	4

Special points of interest:

- 3.5% Unemployment Rate

Ukraine War

The war continues to be costly for Russia. Case in point, between 63 and 400 soldiers were killed in a Ukraine missile attack [1]. In response to losses in the Ukraine, one report indicates Russia will mobilize 500,000 more troops [2]. The war in the Ukraine is causing the US to depleted its stockpile of weapons and munitions. This has resulted in a dangerously low stockpile of US weapons [3]. What's more, the deple-

tions are expanding to locations overseas. For example, weapons from South Korea were diverted [3]. Then US munition stockpiles in Israel were sent to the Ukraine [4]. This can negatively impact military operational readiness at a time when China is expanding its military capabilities.

1. Wallace, Danielle, Fox News, *Russia admits heavy casualties in Ukrainian strike on occupied Donetsk region*; 63

Russian soldiers killed, January 2, 2023.

2. Dawson, Bethany, Business Insider, *Russia plans to mobilize 500,000 soldiers in days. If they don't deliver victory, then 'Putin will collapse,' says Ukrainian spy chief.*, January 7, 2023.
3. Wong, Kristina, Breitbart, *Analysts: U.S. Weapons Stockpiles at 'Dangerously Low Levels'*

(Continued on page 2)

Ukraine War

(Continued from page 1)

as DOD Sends Weapons to Ukraine, September 30, 2023.

4. McFall, Caitlin, and Friden, Liz, Fox News, *US diverts weapons from South Korea to Ukraine, January 19, 2023.*
5. Dawson, Bethany, Business Insider, *US taps its munitions stockpile in Israel to send 300,000 artillery shells to Ukraine, says report, as Russia an-*

nounces new offensive, January 21, 2023.

A world without nuclear weapons would be less stable and more dangerous for all of us.—Margaret Thatcher

(Continued from page 1)

- region/united-states, January 10, 2023.*
4. Yong, Nicholas, BBC News, *China Covid: More than 88 million people in Henan infected, official says, January 9, 2023.*
5. Wang, Selina, and Gan, Nectar, CNN, *As crematoriums fill up, China shifts how it counts Covid deaths, December 22, 2023.*
6. Ng, Teddy, South China Morning Post, *China records almost 60,000 Covid-related deaths after abrupt shift in policy, January 14, 2023.*
7. Pollard, Martin Quin, and Tham, Engen, Reuters, *In China, doctors say they are discouraged from citing COVID on death certificates, January 17, 2023.*
8. Diviggiano, Alessandro, Reuters, *Chinese pray for health in Lunar New Year as COVID death toll rises,*

World News

January 22, 2023.

9. Williams, Daniel, Asia Times, *Not just Mexico: China's fentanyl fuels US drug crisis, January 11, 2023.*
10. Patel, Prachi, IEEE Spectrum, *China's New Breeder Reactors May Produce More Than Just Watts, January 2023.*
11. Glosserman, Brad, Japan Times, *Warning lights flash faster and brighter on the Korean Peninsula, January 18, 2023.*
12. McFall, Caitlin, Fox News, *South Korea considers nuclear development for first time in face of growing North Korea security threat, January 13, 2023.*

Terrorism

In Kabul, Afghanistan, a bomb exploded killing and wounding several people [1]. In the contested Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district north of India, at least 4 people were killed by gunmen during a terrorist attack [2]. In Somalia, the al-Qaeda linked group al-Shabab claimed responsibility for bombing attacks that killed at least 35 people [3]. In Kabul the Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for an attack that killed at least 5 people [4]. In Paris, a man with a knife wounded six people at a busy train station [5]. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a bomb attack at a Pentecostal church in Kasindi killed at least 17 people [6].

Terrorism is not limited to overseas. Case in point, on New Year's Eve, an alleged pro-Jihadist terrorist with a

machete wounded three police officers [7].

1. Fox News/AP, Taliban: *Kabul checkpoint bomb blast kills, wounds several*, January 1, 2022.
2. Khajuri, Ravi Krishnan, *Hindustan Times*, *4 civilians killed in suspected terror attack in J&K's Rajouri*, January 2, 2023.
3. BBC News, *Somalia car bombs: Family of nine killed in Hiraan attack*, January 4, 2023.
4. New York Post/AP, *IS claims responsibility for Kabul attack that killed 5*, January 12, 2023.
5. New York Post/Reuters, *Man with knife wounds six people at Paris train station*, January 11, 2023.
6. BBC News, *DR Congo government blames rebels for*

Kasindi church bombing, January 16, 2023.

7. Dienst, Jonathan, et. al., NBC (New York), *Relative Alerted to Machete Man's Alleged Jihadist Views Before NYE Cop Attack: Sources*, January 1, 2023.

The lesson of the Cold

War is that against

nuclear weapons, only

nuclear weapons can hold

the peace.—Chung Mong-

joon

Economy

The economy remains strong. The unemployment rate for December fell to 3.5% [1]. What's more, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) fell to 6.5% [2].

Meanwhile, large tech company layoffs are making the news. During the last year, and estimated 70,000 were laid off [3].

The US debt reached its \$31 trillion ceiling [4]. As a consequence, Speaker of the House, McCarthy and President Biden will meet to discuss approaches to the debt ceiling [5].

1. Wallace, Alicia, CNN, *The US economy added 223,000 jobs in December,*

January 6, 2023.

2. Bartash, Jeffrey, MarketWatch, *Inflation slows again and clears path for slower Fed rate hikes,* January 12, 2023.

3. Capoot, Ashley, and Pitt, Sofia, CNBC, *Google, Microsoft, Amazon and other tech companies have laid off more than 70,000 employees in the last year,* January 18, 2023.

4. Kika, Thomas, Newsweek, *Yellen Warns Default Would Cause 'Widespread Damage' to U.S. Economy,* January 21, 2023.

5. Stimson, Brie, FOX Business, *Kevin McCarthy*

agrees to Biden meeting, January 21, 2023.

No one gives a damn what Iran thinks on any significant issue. The only reason Iran is at the big boys' table is because of their nuclear weapons program.—Jim Mattis

