

World News

With the new year came terror withing the US Asian community. In Monterey Park, California, a gunman opened fire near a site of a Chinese Lunar New Year celebration, killing at least 10 people [1].

Perhaps the future of the electric grid can be seen in Pakistan. There, 220 million people were without power as the country faces an energy shortage [2]. It seems, power is routinely cut during off hours in order save money and the technicians were unable to restore power after shutdowns [3].

In North America, there were incursions by high-altitude balloons. In the first case, a Chinese spy balloon was detected over Montana [4]. Days later its was shot down off the coast of South Carolina [5]. It was later learned that the balloon included a signals intelligence capability to collect communications [6]. Then a second object was shot down by the US military over Alaskan airspace near Purdue Bay [7]. Finally, a third balloon was shot down over Canada the next day [8].

Meanwhile, China now has more Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) launchers than does the US [9]. What's more, North Korea showed off 12 of their Hwasong-17 ICBM launchers [10].

1. Park, Jeong, et. al., Los Angeles Times, *10 people killed, 10 injured in mass shooting at Monterey Park dance studio*, January 22, 2023.
2. Saifi, Sophia, et. al., CNN Business, *Nearly 220 million people in Pakistan without power after country-wide outage*, January 23, 2023.

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Terrorism | 3 |
| Economy | 4 |

Special points of interest:

- 3.4% Unemployment Rate
- Chinese Spy Balloon Shot Down

Ukraine War

The speaker of Russia's parliament warned Western countries, planning to send powerful weapons to the Ukraine, they risk their own destruction [1]. This comes as a s one piece suggests the war is not going well for the Ukraine [2]. This was collaborated by reports Ukrainian army retreated from the salt-mining town of Soledar [3]. Prior to the start of the Ukraine war, President Biden promised to shut

down the Nord Stream pipeline if Russia invaded [4]. Months after the Russian assault, some country blew up a section of the Nord Stream pipeline [5]. There is now a report that pipeline explosion was the work of the US [6]. If this is true, then the US has gotten closer to a shooting war against Russia.

February 24 will mark the first anniversary of the war in the Ukraine. The indications are the war will con-

tinue at an expanding rate. For instance, 500,000 troops and 1,800 tanks are massing [7].

1. AP, *Russia official warns countries supplying Ukraine with more powerful weapons risk their own destruction*, January 22, 2023.
2. Bryen, Stephen, Asia Times, *All is not well for Ukraine*, January 24, 2023.

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Ukraine War

(Continued from page 1)

3. Meldrum, Andrew, AP, *Ukraine forces pull back from Donbas town after onslaught*, January 25, 2023.
4. Carvajal, Nikki, CNN, *Biden vows to shut down Nord Stream 2 if Russia invades: "I promise you we will be able to do it"*, February 7, 2022.
5. El-Bawab, Nadine, and Gretskey, Will, ABC News, *Nord Stream pipeline leaks caused by 'powerful explosions,' Danish police say*, October 18, 2022.
6. Agence France-Presse, *White House rejects Seymour Hersh report that US was behind Nord Stream sabotage*, February 9, 2023.

World News

(Continued from page 1)

3. Usman, Maria, CBS News, *Pakistan blackout: Cash-strapped nation cuts power to save money, then can't turn it back on*, January 23, 2023.
4. NPR/AP, *China says it is looking into the report of a spy balloon over U.S. airspace*, February 2, 2023.
5. Chen, Heather, and Chang, Wayne, CNN, *China says it 'reserves the right' to deal with 'similar situations' after US jets shoot down suspected spy balloon*, February 5, 2023.
6. Mitchell, Ellen, and Dress, Brad, The Hill, *Chinese spy balloon revelations raise stakes for US response*, February 10, 2023.
7. Samuels, V, The Hill, *US shoots down another 'high-altitude object' over Alaskan airspace*, February 10, 2023.
8. Linge, Mary Kay, and Sedacca, Matthew, New York Post, *US shoots down 'unidentified object' that violated airspace over Canada*, February 11, 2023.
9. Gordon, Michael R., Wall Street Journal, *China Has More ICBM Launchers Than U.S., American Military Reports*, February 7, 2023.
10. Hagstrom, Anders, Fox News, *North Korea displays enough missiles to defeat US nuclear defenses: report*, February 9, 2023.

*The loudest voices we hear
are those who advocate
conflict, divisiveness.—John
C. Danforth*

Terrorism

In southern Spain, a man wielding a machete attacked at two churches, killing at least one person [1]. Elsewhere, the US announced a raid in Somalia that killed Bilal al-Sudani, a top leader and organizer with the Islamic State [2]. In Germany, two people were killed by a knife wielding Palestinian man [3]. In Israel, near a synagogue in Jerusalem, a gunman killed at least 7 people [4]. At the Azerbaijan embassy in Tehran, Iran, a gunman opened fire killing at least one person [5].

One technique used by terrorists is to disguise as first responders, police, or the military. For example, a suicide attack on a Suni Mosque located in north western Pakistan resulted in at least 90 deaths [6]. The Mosque bomber was disguised as a police

officer [7].

1. New York Post/Reuters, *At least one dead, several injured in machete attack at southern Spain churches*, January 26, 2023.
2. Martinez, Luis, ABC News, *Top Islamic State leader killed in U.S. raid in Somalia, officials say*, January 26, 2023.
3. Bimmer, Fabian, Reuters, *Two killed in knife attack on train in northern Germany*, January 25, 2023.
4. Greene, Richard Allen, et. al., CNN, *At least seven dead in Jerusalem synagogue attack, Israeli police say*, January 27, 2023.
5. Salem, Mostafa, and Goodwin, Allegra, CNN, *Gun attack on Azerbaijan embassy in Tehran kills security chief*, January 27, 2023.
6. New York Post/AP, *Death toll from Pakistan mosque suicide bombing rises to more than 90*, January 31, 2023.
7. Saifi, Sophia, et. al., CNN, *Pakistan mosque bomber was disguised as a policeman, official says*, February 2, 2023

*Conflict grows out of
ignorance and suspicion.—
Gordon B. Hinckley*

Economy

Good news on the economy. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the fourth quarter grew at 2.9% [1]. This news was followed with the January unemployment rate falling to a 54-year low of 3.4% [2].

On February 1, the Fed raised interest rates by one quarter percent [3]. This will put pressure on slowing the economy in the fight against inflation.

1. Cox, Jeff, CNBC, U.S. GDP rose 2.9% in the fourth quarter, more than expected even as recession fears loom, January 26, 2023.
2. Bartash, Jeffrey, MarketWatch, U.S. jobs report

shows blowout 517,000 gain in employment in January, February 3, 2023.

3. Robb, Greg, MarketWatch, Fed lifts interest rates again but sees only a 'couple more hikes' in fight against inflation, February 1, 2023.

*Nowhere is it written that
there must be conflict
between the United States
and China.—Joe Biden*
