

## World News

The war between Russia and the Ukraine continues. For example, Russia launched 39 Shahed drones and 4 ballistic missiles into the Ukrainian capital [1]. On the other side, Ukrainian forces launched an attack involving 121 drones against an oil refinery located in the Ryazan region, south-east of Moscow [2]. On January 20, Donald Trump became the 47<sup>th</sup> President of the United States [3]. In the meantime, President Trump is pushing for peace between Russia and Ukraine [4]. One report indicates the Russian leader, Putin, is ready to negotiate with President Trump on ending the war with Ukraine [5].

During his first day, President Trump signed Executive Orders on illegal aliens, drug cartels, and automatic birth-citizenship [6]. Another policy change was exiting the World Health Organization [7]. The President also signed an order to withdraw from the Paris Agreement that imposed limits on US greenhouse gas emissions [8]. Additionally, he fired 17 Inspectors Generals [9]. Other actions taken included a 90-day hiring freeze and requiring Federal employees to return to work in person [10].

1. ABC News/AP, Russian attack kills 4 people in Ukraine's capital, January 18, 2025.
2. Baker, Graeme, BBC, *Ukraine claims drone strike on Russian oil refinery*, January 24, 2025.
3. NBC News, *Trump Inauguration Day live updates: Trump vows a new 'golden age' and a flurry of executive orders on Day 1*, January 20, 2025.
4. Rainsford, Sarah, & Greenall, Robert, BBC, *Trump tells Putin to end*

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## Israel War

US forces struck two underground Houthi weapons hubs in Yemen [1]. Following the US raid, 20 Israeli fighter jets struck two ports and a power plant located in Yemen [2]. Meanwhile, Israeli forces struck Hezbollah targets throughout Lebanon [3]. On January 7, President elect Trump warned Hamas to cut a peace agreement before his inauguration [4]. Sure enough, on January 15, Israel and Hamas reached a peace agreement [5].

Following the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, Yemen's Houthi announced they would no longer target non-Israeli affiliated ships in the Red Sea [6]. So far, the peace appears to be holding. For instance, four female Israeli soldiers were exchanged for 200 Palestinian prisoners [7].

Finally, one report indicates President Trump is calling for Egypt and Jordan to take more Palestinians from Gaza [8]. This would clear out all Palestinians from the Gaza with the expecta-

tion of solving the problem once and for all [9].

1. Korte, Lara, Stars and Stripes, *US forces take out more Houthi weapons hubs, CENTCOM says*, January 8, 2025.
2. The Times of Israel, *20 Israeli jets attack two ports and a power plant used by Houthis in Yemen*. January 10, 2025.
3. The Jerusalem Post, *IAF strikes Hezbollah targets throughout Lebanon*, January 12, 2025.
4. Lee, MJ, & Ham-

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### Special points of interest:

- Consumer Price Index 2.9%
- Unemployment Rate 4.1%
- Israel and Hamas peace agreement

## Israel War

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- mond, Elise, CNN, *Trump warns 'all hell will break out' if Gaza hostages aren't released before his inauguration*, January 7, 2025.
5. Simmons, Keir, et. al., NBC News, *Israel and Hamas reach deal on Gaza ceasefire and hostage release*, January 15, 2025.
  6. Gambrell, Jon, AP, *Yemen's Houthis signal they'll now limit their attacks in the Red Sea corridor to Israeli ships*, January 20, 2025.
  7. Shurafa, Wafaa, et. al., AP, *Hamas frees 4 female Israeli soldiers in exchange for 200 Palestinian prisoners as ceasefire holds*, January 25, 2025.
  8. Bose, Nandita, & Singh, Kanishka, Reuters, *Trump says Jordan, Egypt should take more Palestinians from Gaza*, January 26, 2025.
  9. Klein, Betsy, & Harvey, Lex, CNN, *Trump suggests*

*his plan for Gaza Strip is to 'clean out the whole thing'*, January 26, 2025.

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- 'ridiculous war' in Ukraine or face new sanctions*, January 23, 2025.
5. Sauer, Pjotr, The Guardian, *Putin 'ready for negotiations' with Trump on Ukraine war*, January 24, 2025.
  6. Reuters, *Trump signs executive orders targeting illegal immigration, cartels, 'birthright citizenship'*, January 20, 2025.
  7. Wingrove, Patrick, & Rigby, Jennifer, Reuters, *Trump orders US exit from the World Health Organization*, January 21, 2025.
  8. Fritz, Angela, CNN, *What is the Paris Agreement? Trump pulled the US out – again*, January 20, 2025.
  9. Miller, Zeke, et. al., AP, *Trump uses mass firing to remove independent inspectors general at a series of agencies*, January 25, 2025.
  10. Hoffman, Carrie, et. al., The National Law Review, *Trump Orders Hiring Freeze and Return to Work for Federal Employees*, January 21, 2025.

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*The finest steel has to go through the hottest fire.—*

*Richard M. Nixon*

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## Terrorism

In the West Bank village of al-Funduq, at least three people were killed in a terrorist attack [1]. A Moroccan with a U.S. Green Card, went on a knife terror attack in Tel Aviv, wounding four people [2].

In the US, one person was arrested for arson linked to the Kenneth Fire in Los Angeles [3]. Overall, there have been multiple reports of arson [4].

1. Fabian, Emanuel, The Times of Israel, *Two women killed in West Bank terror shooting named as Rachel Cohen and Aliza Raiz*, January 6, 2025.
2. Fabian, Emanuel, The Times of Israel, *US green card holder, a Moroccan national, wounds 4 in Tel Aviv terror stabbing spree*, January 22, 2025.

3. Fields, Ashleigh, The Hill, *LAPD: Arson suspect in custody linked to Kenneth Fire*, January 10, 2025.
4. Sottile, Zoe, CNN, *As if LA officials don't have enough on their plates, they have another problem: Arsonists*, January 21, 2025.

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*A man who carries a cat  
by the tail learns  
something he can learn in  
no other way.—Mark  
Twain*

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## Economy

The Unemployment rate fell to 4.1% [1]. Then, the Consumer Price Index came in at 2.9% annual rate [2].

Meanwhile, the stock market indexes remained high. For example, on January 24, the S&P 500 index closed at a record high [3].

On January 20, Donald Trump became the 47<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. One of his economic policies is to further advance fossil fuels [4]. The initial reaction was oil prices fell due to over-supply concerns [5]. Reports indicate the President is pressuring the Fed to lower interest rates [6]. During this week, the President has secured over \$1 trillion foreign investments to the US [7,8].

1. Cox, Jeff, CNBC, *U.S. payrolls grew by 256,000 in*

*December, much more than expected; unemployment rate falls to 4.1%*, January 10, 2025.

2. Cox, Jeff, CNBC, *Core inflation rate slows to 3.2% in December, less than expected*, January 15, 2025.

3. Investor's Business Daily, *S&P 500 Hits High As Trump 2.0 Starts; Stargate, Netflix, GE Spinoffs In Focus: Weekly Review*, January 24, 2025.

4. Geoff, About, et. al., PBS, *Trump pushes for more oil and gas production and a roll-back of climate initiatives*, January 22, 2025.

5. Tunagur, Enes, Reuters, *Oil falls as Trump's energy emergency order stokes over-supply concerns*, January 22, 2025.

6. Cox, Jeff, CNBC, *Trump says he'll 'demand that interest rates drop immediately'*, January 23, 2025.

7. Gambrell, Jon, AP, *Saudi crown prince says kingdom intends to invest \$600 billion in US during call with Trump*, January 24, 2025.

8. Jacobs, Jennifer, CBS, *Trump announces up to \$500 billion in private sector AI infrastructure investment*, January 22, 2025.

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*In preparing for battle I  
have always found that  
plans are useless, but  
planning is indispensable.—  
Dwight D. Eisenhower*

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