

World News

In Yemen, US forces struck Houthi targets [1]. Reports indicate China is supplying the Houthi rebels with advanced weapons [2].

Elsewhere, Pakistan bombed targets within Afghanistan [3]. In response, Afghanistan forces are targeting Pakistan [4].

The war between Russia and the Ukraine continues. For example, Ukrainian drones struck targets hundreds of miles inside Russia [5]. What is interesting, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky predicts the war will be peacefully concluded once President Elect Trump assumes power [6]. What then was the purpose for the war?

One consequence of exporting U.S. industry to China is the dependence it creates. Case in point, after securing a near monopoly, China is now banning the elements Germanium and Gallium to the U.S. [7]. Meanwhile, reports indicate China now has a sixth-generation stealth fighter aircraft [8]. China also unveiled a 40,000-ton amphibious assault ship that can also launch fighter jets [9].

1. The Times of Israel, *US strikes Houthi targets in Yemen, takes down drones over Red Sea*, December 22, 2024.
2. Thomas, Jim, Newsmax, *US Intel: China Arming Houthis in Secret Red Sea Agreement*, January 4, 2025.
3. Politico/AP, *Taliban say Pakistani airstrikes killed 46 people in eastern Af*

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Terrorism	3
Economy	4

Israel War

On December 16, Israeli forces struck a Syria munitions depot with their heaviest bombardment yet, setting off secondary explosions [1]. Additionally, news emerged that last September, Israeli elite forces struck, an Iranian underground missile factory located in Syria [2].

The Houthis in Yemen launched a ballistic missile into Israel airspace [3]. In response, dozens of Israeli Air Force (IAF) aircraft struck targets within Yemen [4]. Then another missile was fired from Yemen

that impacted in Tel Aviv [5]. On December 26, Israeli forces struck the Yemen capital Sanaa and the western city of Hodeidah [6]. This comes as the US struck Houthi targets in Yemen [7].

1. The Times of Israel, *Arms depots said hit in heaviest Israeli strikes on Syria's Tartus region in years*, December 16, 2024.
2. Weinthal, Benjamin, Fox News, *Inside Israel's daring raid that destroyed Iran-funded underground*

missile factory in Syria, January 4, 2025.

3. The Jerusalem Post, *Houthis fire ballistic missile at Tel Aviv, fragments crash into Jerusalem apartment*, December 16, 2024.
4. Fabian, Emanuel, The Times of Israel, *IDF pounds Yemen, believes it paralyzed all 3 Houthi ports; missile fired at Israel*, December 19, 2024.
5. The Times of Israel, *Missile fired from Yemen*

(Continued on page 2)

Special points of interest:

- Fed Cuts Interest Rate By 0.25%
- New Orleans Terrorism

Israel War

(Continued from page 1)

- explodes in south Tel Aviv, lightly injuring 16, December 21, 2024.*
6. Tawfeeq, Mohammed, et. al., CNN, *WHO chief and UN team caught up in Israeli strikes that killed six in Yemen*, December 27, 2024.
 7. Reyes, Ronny, New York Post, *US launches multiple strikes on Houthi targets in Yemen*, December 31, 2024.

World News

ber 27, 2024.

9. Wu, Huizhong, Defense News/AP, *China unveils amphibious assault ship that can launch fighter jets*, December 27, 2024.

(Continued from page 1)

- ghanistan, mostly women and children*, December 25, 2024.
4. AP, *Afghan forces target Pakistan in retaliation for deadly airstrikes*, December 28, 2024.
 5. Politico/AP, *Ukrainian drones strike deep into Russian territory, hundreds of miles from the front line*, December 21, 2024.
 6. Mehrara, Maya, Newsweek, *Zelensky Says Ukraine War Will End Once Trump Takes Power*, January 2, 2025.
 7. Valverde, Jorge, Asia Times, *China's gallium and germanium bans hit their trade war mark*, December 24, 2024.
 8. Zhuang, Sylvie, & Choi, Seong Hyeon, South China Morning Post, *China surpasses rivals with 'world-class' sixth-gen stealth fighter jet: experts*, Decem-

If the highest aim of a captain were to preserve his ship, he would keep it in port forever—Thomas Aquinas

Terrorism

In Moscow, a bomb blast killed the head of Russia's nuclear and chemical forces [1]. The bomb used was hidden on an electric scooter [2].

In Magdeburg, Germany, a 50-year-old Saudi doctor plowed his car into a busy outdoor Christmas market, killing at least two people [3]. The suspect in the attack appeared in seven investigative proceedings during the two prior years [4].

In New Orleans, a driver drove a truck into a crowd killing over 10 people [5]. The attacker was identified as, Shamsud-Din Jabbar of Texas, and he had posted ISIS inspired video to social media [6]. Just prior to the vehicle-based attack, the terrorist set fire to a rented Airbnb property [7]. Then there was a Cybertruck car bomb explosion outside the Trump hotel locat-

ed in Las Vegas [8].

1. AP, *A bomb kills the head of Russia's nuclear defense forces and his assistant in Moscow*, December 17, 2024.
2. AP, *What's known about the brazen bombing that killed a top Russian general in Moscow*, December 18, 2024.
3. Noroozi, Ebrahim, et. al., AP, *At least 2 dead and 60 hurt after a car drives into a German Christmas market in a suspected attack*, December 20, 2024.
4. DPA, *Magdeburg Christmas market suspect involved in 7 cases before attack*, January 4, 2025.
5. Tucker, Eric, & Mustian, Jim, AP, *Driver rams New Year's revelers in New Orleans, killing 10. FBI investi-*
6. Ray, Siladitya, Forbes, *New Orleans Truck Attack: Biden Says Suspect Posted Videos 'Inspired By ISIS'*, January 1, 2025.
7. Rumpf-Whitten, Sarah, Fox News, *New Orleans terrorist suspect set fire at rental property prior to attack: FBI*, January 3, 2025.
8. O'neil, Ty, & Snow, Anita, AP, *Firework mortars, gas cannisters stuffed inside Tesla that exploded outside Trump's Las Vegas hotel*, January 1, 2025.

*Innovation distinguishes
between a leader and a
follower.—Steve Jobs*

Economy

The stock market indexes remained strong. On December 16, the NASDAQ closed at another record high [1]. Overall, for the 2024 year, the markets advanced 20% [2].

Indicates are holding that inflation is under control. For instance, on December 18, the Federal Reserve cut the interest rate by 0.25% [3].

1. Evans, Brian, & Pound, Jesse, CNBC, Dow falls for an eighth day ahead of Fed, but Nasdaq notches another record: Live updates, December 16, 2024.
2. De Mott, Filip, Markets Insider, *Stocks slip but cap off 2024 with a 2nd straight year of 20% gains*, December 31, 2024.
3. Wile, Rob, NBC News, *Fed cuts key interest rate but*

signals elevated inflation is likely to persist, December 18, 2024.

A leader is best when people barely know he exists, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves.—Lao Tzu
