

## World News

The Ukrainian war received some bad news. The White House warned it will be out of funds for supporting the Ukraine by the end of this year [1]. One report indicates that the Ukraine is already running out of artillery shells [2]. In contrast, Russia continues to launch large scale drone attacks against the Ukrainian capital [3]. Finally, one estimate suggests the number of Ukrainian soldiers killed exceeds 150,000 [4].

In Asia, the increasing threat from China and North Korea are causing more consideration of nuclear weapons. For example, Japan may find it necessary to develop its own nuclear arsenal [5]. Moreover, South Korea favors having its own nuclear weapons [6]. This comes as North Korea's second nuclear reactor, capable of producing plutonium, appears online [7].

Meanwhile, China continues to exert military pressure. For instance, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi says they will maintain military pressure on the Philippines [8]. Perhaps preparing for the worse, the US is reclaiming the airfield on the island of Tinian, located in the Northern Mariana Islands [9].

It appears combat at sea is continuing to expand. Case in point, Iran appears to have used an unmanned aerial vehicle and successfully attacked a ship off the Indian coast [10]. The ship hit was the Chem Pluto, a Liberia-flagged, Japanese-owned, and Netherlands-operated chemical tanker [11]. This comes as Iran is threatening to close the Mediterranean Sea [5].

1. Miller, Zeke, AP, *US is running out of money for Ukraine and that could*

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## Israel War

The war continues to expand. For example, Syria claims to have shot down some missiles launched by Israel that were fired against targets near Damascus [1]. Additionally, three commercial ships were attacked in the Red sea [2]. In another incident, a land launched cruise missile struck a commercial ship causing a fire [3]. Then on December 15, another ballistic missile hit a cargo ship again starting a fire [4]. The Houthis rebels continued to launch attacks that American and British war-

ships shot down [5]. While the Houthi rebels targets ships, including American warships, in the Red Sea, the US is reluctant to strike back [6]. What's more, there are indications that an Iranian spy ship is helping the Houthi's direct their attacks [7]. Perhaps this will change if a US warship is lost.

The Houthi are not the only Iranian proxies attacking Americans. For example, the US Embassy in Iraq was attacked by forces using mortars [8]. This comes as attacks from Hezbollah

continue in the northern part of Israel [9,10]. At least one Israeli soldier was killed in the cross-border attacks [11].

1. Fabian, Emanuel, Times of Israel, *Syria says air defenses hit 'enemy targets' amid alleged IAF strikes near Damascus*, December 11, 2023.
2. Gambrell, Jon, ABC News/AP, *Pentagon: US warship, multiple commercial ships have come under attack in the*

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### Special points of interest:

- Wars
  - Israel
  - Ukraine
- 3.7% Unemployment Rate
- CPI 3.1% annual rate

## Israel War

(Continued from page 1)

- Red Sea, December 3, 2023.
3. Martinez, Luis, ABC News, *Houthi missile strikes merchant ship in Red Sea: US official*, December 11, 2023.
4. Richard, Lawrence, Fox News, *Ballistic missile fired from Yemen strikes cargo ship in Red Sea, setting it ablaze*, December 15, 2023.
5. Mcleary, Paul, Politico, *Houthis launch more attacks in Red Sea as U.S. warships head to region*, December 16, 2023.
6. Seligman, Lara, & Ward, Alexander, Politico, *Biden team wary of retaliating against Houthi attacks at sea*, December 6, 2023.
7. Bertrand, Natasha, CNN, *US intelligence suggests Iran involved in planning attacks in Red Sea*, December 22, 2023.
8. Richard, Lawrence, Fox News, *US embassy in Baghdad struck by mortar fire in early morning attack*, December 8, 2023.
9. Fabian, Emanuel, The Times of Israel, *Two wounded in Hezbollah missile attack, as northern border heats up*, December 21, 2023.
10. Fabian, Emanuel, The Times of Israel, *Hezbollah fires rocket barrage at northern Israel; IDF responds with Lebanon strikes*, December 22, 2023.
11. Fabian, Emanuel, The Times of Israel, *Soldier killed, another seriously wounded in Hezbollah rocket barrage on north*, December 22, 2023.

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*War is a contagion.—*

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

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## World News

(Continued from page 1)

- hinder fight against Russia, White House warns*, December 4, 2023.
2. Spirlet, Thibault, Business Insider, *A Ukrainian soldier says he stopped shelling small Russian units because he is running out of US-made artillery ammo*, December 9, 2023.
3. Karazy, V, et. al., Reuters, *Mass drone attack hits several Kyiv districts*, December 22, 2023.
4. Asia Times, *150,000 Ukraine soldiers killed in action through October*, December 22, 2023.
5. Gewen, Barry, National Interest, *Japan Is Destined to Have Nuclear Weapons*, December 8, 2023.
6. Klug, Foster, ABC News/  
AP, *South Koreans want their own nukes. That could roil one of the world's most dangerous regions*, November 29, 2023.
7. Deutsche Welle, *North Korea's second nuclear reactor seems operational: IAEA*, December 22, 2023.
8. AP, *China vows to keep up military pressure on the Philippines as territorial dispute grows tenser*, December 22, 2023.
9. Lendon, Brad, CNN, *US Air Force to reclaim Pacific airfield that launched atomic bombings as it looks to counter China*, December 21, 2023.
10. Griffin, Jennifer, & Sabes, Adam, Fox News, *Iran appears to have struck ship off Indian coast with UAV: US Official*, December 23, 2023.
11. Levitt, Ross, et. al., CNN, *Pentagon says chemical tanker struck by Iranian drone in Indian Ocean*, December 24, 2023.
12. Reuters, *Iran threatens Mediterranean closure over Gaza, without saying how*, December 23, 2023.

## Terrorism

In Pakistan, a suicide bomber attacked a police station killing at least 23 people [1].

In South-East Iran, gunmen attacked a police station, killing at least 11 people [2].

Meanwhile, India is still confronted with religious rebels. For instance, in the Kashmir, at least 4 Indian soldiers died in a rebel ambush [3].

In Africa, the Red-Tabara rebel group killed over 20 people in western Burundi [4]. This comes as France completes withdrawing from Niger [5].

*ed in an ambush by rebels in disputed Kashmir, December 21, 2023.*

1. Khan, Riaz, & Ahmed, Munir, AP, *Suicide bomber attacks police station in northwest Pakistan, killing 23 officers and wounding 32*, December 12, 2023.
2. ABC News/AP, *Gunmen kill 11 people in an attack on a police station in Iran, state TV says*, December 15, 2023.
3. ABC News/AP, *4 Indian soldiers killed and 3 wound-*
4. The Guardian, *Attack by rebels in western Burundi leaves 20 dead*, December 23, 2023.
5. US News/AP, *France Completes Military Withdrawal From Niger, Leaving a Gap in the Terror Fight in the Sahel*, December 22, 2023.

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*In time of war the laws  
are silent.—Marcus Tullius  
Cicero*

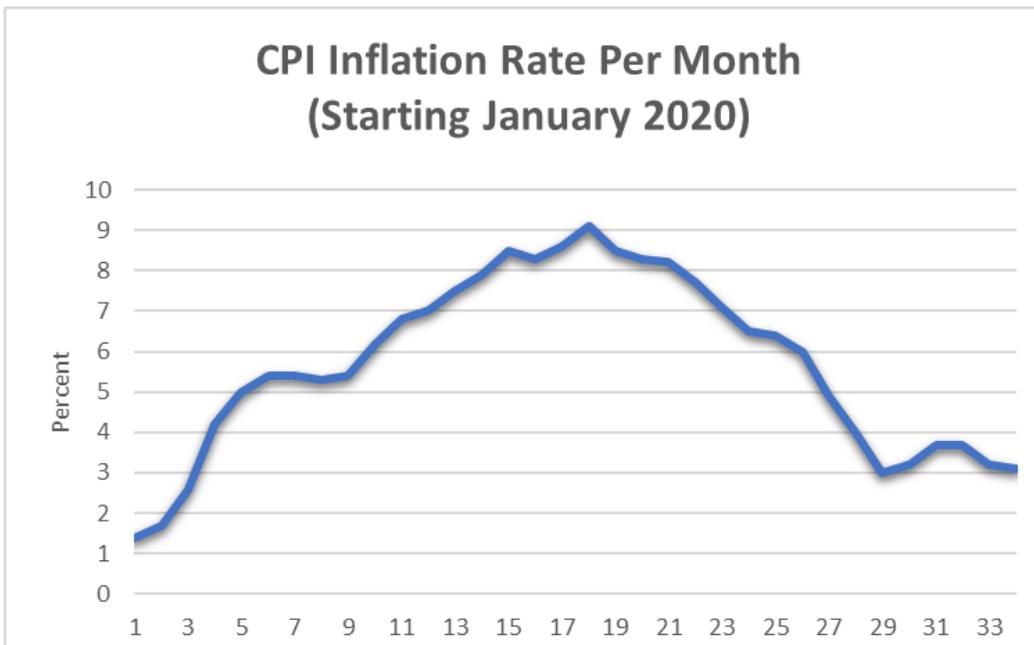
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## Economy

There is good news on the economy. The US unemployment rate fell to 3.7% [1]. Meanwhile the Consumer Price Index fell to a 3.1% annual rate [2].

On December 13, the Federal Reserve decided to hold interest rates steady [3]. As a consequence, the DJIA stock index closed at a record high [4]. The record setting continued to December 14 [5].

1. Henney, Megan, FOX Business, *US economy adds 199,000 jobs in November, unemployment rate unexpectedly falls*, December 8, 2023.
2. Davidson, Paul, & de Visé, Daniel, USA Today, *Inflation eased again in November. What it means for interest rates and your money*, December 12, 2023.
3. Cox, Jeff, CNBC, *Fed holds rates steady, indicates three cuts coming in 2024*, December 13, 2023.
4. Yue, Frances, & Wiltermuth, Joy, *MarketWatch*, *Dow scores its highest close in history. Here's what that means*, December 13, 2023.
5. Shapero, Julia, *The Hill*, *Dow closes at record high for second straight day*, December 14, 2023.



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*He belonged to that army  
known as invincible in  
peace, invisible in war.—  
William Tecumseh  
Sherman*

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