

World News

While most of the news focuses on the failed Russian coup, the middle-east continues to simmer. For instance, the fighting between Israel and the West bank continues [1]. During one attack on Jenin in the northern West Bank, Israel forces killed at least five people [2].

The barracks that will house the Wagner Group fighters in Belarus were on display [3]. The fighters are expected to operate out of this location [4]. However, there are reports the group's leader is in Russia [5]. It is unclear why he would be in Russia but suggests there is more to the story than is currently known. In any case, Poland has moved 1,000 troops to the east to reinforce against any Wagner Group threat [6].

Meanwhile, smoke from the Canadian fires has reached Europe [7]. By one estimate, the fires could last for months [8]. What's more, other factors impact the weather. Case in point, a large solar storm produced expectations of communications failures [9]. Such storms also produce Aurora Borealis events seen further south than normal [10].

Iran continues to exert its military power. Case in point, a commercial ship was seized in international waters [11]. Iranian officials claimed they had a court order to seize the ship [12].

1. Fabian, Emanuel, The Times of Israel, *Video shows Palestinians attempting to launch crude rockets in northern West Bank*, June 26, 2023.
2. Khadder, V, et. al., CNN, *Israel forces launch lethal strike on West Bank's* (Continued on page 2)

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Special points of interest:

- France Burns
- 3.6% June Unemployment Rate

Ukraine War

The long expected Ukraine offensive is moving slowly [1]. However, the progress is sluggish and the Russians have mined the areas [2]. Meanwhile, Moscow airport flights were disrupted due to a Ukrainian drone attack on the Russian capital [3].

It appears there was an attempted coup against Putin that ended as quickly as it started [3]. As part of the settlement, the head of the Wagner mercenary

group will move to Belarus [4].

Another consequence of the Ukraine war is that Russian forces are actively challenging the US elsewhere. For instance, Russian SU-35 fighters harassed US operated MQ-9 Reaper drones operating over Syria [5]. In further escalation, the US will provide cluster munitions (banned by over 100 countries) to the Ukraine [6]. Not everyone approves

of the weapons, the UK, Canada, New Zealand and Spain are opposed [7].

1. Hakim, Yalda, BBC News, *Ukraine war: Zelensky admits slow progress but says offensive is not a movie*, June 21, 2023.
2. Armstrong, Kathryn, BBC News, *Ukraine war: Major Moscow airport flights disrupted by drone attack*, July 4,

(Continued on page 2)

Ukraine War

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3. Hakim, Yalda, BBC News, *Ukraine war: Zelensky admits slow progress but says offensive is not a movie*, June 21, 2023.
 4. Yeung, Jessie, CNN, *Moscow has stepped back from civil war with Wagner. But the danger's not over, experts warn*, June 25, 2023.
 5. Betz, Bradford, Fox News, *Wagner chief moving to Belarus after Lukashenko-brokered deal to halt march on Moscow*, June 24, 2023.
 6. Halpert, Madeline, BBC News, *US plans to send controversial cluster munitions to Ukraine*, July 7,

*A good decision is based
on knowledge and not on
numbers—Plato*

2023.

7. Armstrong, Kathryn, and Radford, Antoinette, BBC News, *Cluster bombs: Unease grows over US sending cluster bombs to Ukraine*, July 9, 2023.

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- Jenin, July 3, 2023.
3. Hopkins, Valerie, New York Times, *No Wagner Group Here: Riddles Grow as Belarus Displays an Empty Base*, July 7, 2023.
 4. Reuters, *Wagner fighters preparing to move to Belarus, commander says*, July 8, 2023.
 5. Maynes, Charles, and Wamsley, Laurel, NPR, *Wagner leader Yevgeny Prigozhin is back in Russia, says Belarus' Lukashenko*,

July 6, 2023.

6. Charlish, Alan, Reuters, *Poland moves troops to eastern border amid Wagner fears*, July 8, 2023.
7. Nyce, Caroline Mimbs, The Atlantic, *How Long Will Canada Burn?*, July 1, 2023.
8. Cohen, Li, CBS News, *Smoke plume from Canadian wildfires reaches Europe*, June 27, 2023.
9. Breen, Kerry, CBS News, *Sun unleashes powerful solar flare strong enough to cause radio blackouts on Earth*,

July 5, 2023.

10. New York Post/AP, *Solar storm on Thursday expected to make Northern Lights visible in 17 states*, July 9, 2023.
11. Reuters, *Iran's Revolutionary Guards seize commercial ship in Gulf - U.S. Navy*, July 6, 2023.
12. LaGrone, Sam, USNI News, *Iranian Navy Says They Had Court Order to Seize Tanker Richmond Voyager*, July 6, 2023.

Terrorism

In France riots broke out throughout France [1]. The violence started with the shooting death of Nahel Merzouk, reportedly of Algerian descent [2]. Business damage due to the riots has exceeded \$1 billion [3].

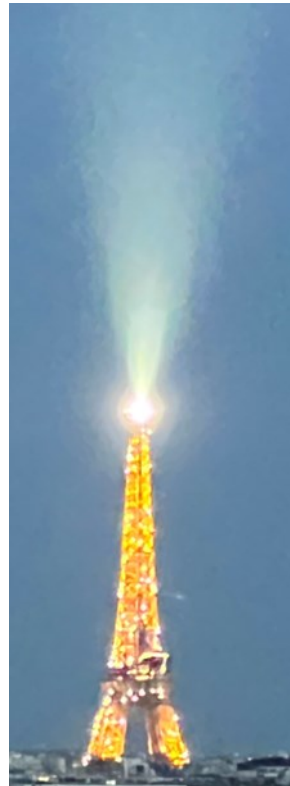
Meanwhile, acts of terrorism are continuing within the US. For example, in Washington DC, three explosives detonated damaging three businesses [4]. In Baltimore, 2 people were shot dead and 28 others wounded at a block party [5]. In Philadelphia, five people were killed by a lone gunman [6].

Elsewhere, terror in the middle-east continues. For instance, in Tel Aviv, Israel, a 23-year-old Palestinian man drove his car into a group of people, injuring nine [7]. This comes as the Hamas organiza-

tion claimed responsibility for a number of terrorist attacks directed against Israel [8].

1. Corbet, Sylvie, et. al., The Times of Israel, *French youths clash with officers in 4th day of riots over fatal police shooting*, July 1, 2023.
2. Neild, Barry, and Xu, Xiaofei, CNN, *France violence: Is it safe to visit Paris and other cities right now?*, June 30, 2023.
3. Ataman, Joseph, et. al., CNN, *Riots in France have already cost businesses more than \$1 billion*. July 4, 2023.
4. Brown, Jon, FOX Business, *Explosions rock DC businesses as suspects remain on the loose: police*, July 2, 2023.
5. Wolfe, Elizabeth, et. al., CNN, *Baltimore investigators searching for suspects in block party mass shooting that killed 2 and injured 28 others*, July 3, 2023.
6. Dougherty, Tom, CBS, *Kenney slams gun dealers after Philadelphia mass shooting: "sued until they're out of business"*. July 4, 2023.
7. Nerozzi, Timothy H.J., Fox News, *Suspected car ramming 'terror attack' wounds 9, Israeli police say*, July 4, 2023.
8. Fabian, Emanuel, Times of Israel, *In rare statement, Hamas claims responsibility for string of recent deadly attacks*, July 5, 2023.

*Neither a wise man nor a
brave man lies down on
the tracks of history to
wait for the train of the
future to run over him.—
Dwight D. Eisenhower*



Economy

Withing the US, there are some stocks that continue to grow. Case in point, Apple reached a \$3 Trillion valuation (an amount greater than the economy of France) [1].

In other good news, the unemployment rate for June fell to 3.6% [2].

1. Fox, Matthew, Business Insider, *Apple just eclipsed a \$3 trillion valuation. Here are 8 things the iPhone maker is now bigger than,*

including France's economy and India's entire stock market., July 1, 2023.

2. Horsley, Scott, NPR, *The U.S. added 209,000 jobs in June, showing that hiring is slowing but still solid,* July 7, 2023.

*History is Philosophy
teaching by example.–
Thucydides*
