

World News

China continues to make news. For instance, in California, an illicit Chinese biolab was discovered [1]. Then there are indications China is constructing an airstrip in the South China Sea on Triton Island which is located in the Paracels [2]. Meanwhile China continues to expand its nuclear weapons capabilities. Case in point, the communist giant is on track to have silos to support 320 multi-warhead missiles [3].

Iran continues to threaten maritime commerce passing near its territorial waters [4]. In response, the US is sending more warships to the troubled region [5]. There is also a plan to place American Military on commercial ships [6]. Meanwhile, the US agreed to release \$6 Billion in frozen Iranian assets in exchange for 5 hostages [7].

North Korea continues to make news. The US is concerned Russia is aiding North Korea in developing its missile capabilities [8].

1. Rodriguez, Olga R., ABC News/AP, *An illicit, Chinese-owned lab fueled conspiracy theories. But officials say it posed no danger*, August 9, 2023.
2. Lau, Jack, South China Morning Post, *South China Sea: Beijing appears to be building runway on disputed island claimed by Vietnam*, August 17, 2023.
3. Gertz, Bill, Washington Times, *No let-up in China nuclear weapons expansion, Stratcom general says*, August 16, 2023.

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Ukraine War

The Ukraine counter offensive is slowing down. For instance, some soldiers are describing Russians as tougher than expected [1].

On the other side, at least one Russian warship was seen lipping following a drone strike [2]. The next day, another sea drone struck a Russian tanker [3]. Additionally, all major airports in Moscow were briefly closed during a drone attack [4].

Back in 2022, President Biden asserted that sending fighters to the Ukraine

would result in World War 3 [5]. Now, the President has reversed himself and has allowed F-16 fighters to be sent to the Ukraine [6]. Given the threat of a nuclear world war, the question here is; what has changed since 2022?

1. Reilly, Patrick, New York Post, *Ukrainian troops on front line admit Russians tougher than expected in ongoing counteroffensive*, August 1, 2023.
2. Lister, Tim, et. al., CNN, *Russian warship seen listing in Black Sea after Ukrainian sea drone attack on major base*, August 5, 2023.
3. Sackur, Leila, NBC News, *Ukrainian drones hit sanctioned Russian tanker in second sea attack in a day*, August 5, 2023.
4. Kottasová, Ivana, et. al., CNN, *Moscow briefly shuts all major airports after alleged drone attack*, August 18, 2023.
5. Nelson, Steven, New York Post, *'That's called World War III': Biden*

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Special points of interest:

- CPI Increased to 3.2%
- July Unemployment Rate 3.5%
- Fourth Bank Shuttered this Year

Ukraine War

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defends decision not to send jets to Ukraine, March 11, 2022.

6. BBC News, *Ukraine war: US allows transfer of Danish and Dutch F-16 war planes to Kyiv*, August 18, 2023.

*What we see depends
mainly on what we look
for—John Lubbock*

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4. Gambrell, Jon, AP, *Shippers warned to stay away from Iranian waters over seizure threat as US-Iran tensions high*, August 12, 2023.
5. LaGrone, Sam, USNI News, *U.S. Sending Marines, More Warships to Middle East Over Iranian Threats*, July 20, 2023.
6. Lamothe, Dan, & Ryan, Missy, Washington Post, *U.S. moves to put Marines on commercial ships to stop*

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Iranian seizures, August 3, 2023.

7. Brennan, Margaret, CBS News, *Iran set to free 5 U.S. citizens in exchange for access to billions of dollars in blocked funds*, August 11, 2023.
8. Renshaw, Jarrett, Reuters, *U.S. taking hard look at North Korea-Russia missile cooperation—Sullivan*, August 18, 2023.

Terrorism

In Pakistan, a suicide bomber attacked an Islamic political convention, killing at least 44 people [1]. In Yemen, an Al-Qaeda attack killed four people including a secessionist commander [2]. In Syria, and ISIS attack on soldiers killed at least 20 people [3]. In Niger, 17 soldiers were killed in an ambush by insurgents [4].

Within the US terrorism remains a concern. For example, in Philadelphia, a 17-year-old ISIS inspired man was arrested by the FBI for supporting the terrorist organization [5].

One driver for terrorism appears to be religious beliefs. For example, in Pakistan, two Christian men were arrested for allegedly damaging a Quran book, a crime punishable by death [6]. The allegation spawned riots that result-

ed in churches and homes destroyed [7].

1. Saifi, Sophia, & Goodwin, Allegra, CNN, *Blast rips through political gathering in Pakistan, killing at least 44*, July 31, 2023.
2. Al Jazeera/AP, 'Al-Qaeda' attack kills secessionist commander and three fighters in Yemen, August 10, 2023.
3. CBS News, *At least 20 Syrian soldiers killed in ISIS bus ambush, activists say*, August 11, 2023.
4. Aksar, Moussa, Reuters, *Niger says 17 of its soldiers killed in ambush near Burkina Faso border*, August 16, 2023.
5. Reilly, Ryan J., NBC News, *17-year-old alleged supporter of Islamic extremism arrested in Philadelphia*
6. BBC News, *Pakistan: More than 100 arrested after churches burned*, August 17, 2023.
7. Tanveer, Asim, & Ahmed, Munir, AP, *Muslim mobs attack churches in eastern Pakistan after accusing Christians of desecrating the Quran*, August 17, 2023.

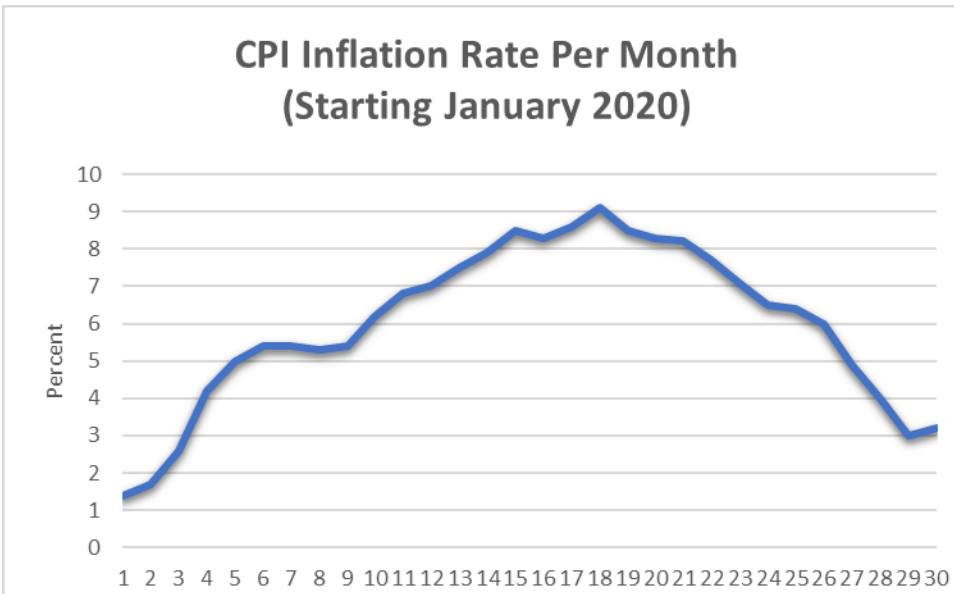
*If we open a quarrel
between past and present,
we shall find that we have
lost the future.—Winston
Churchill*

Economy

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) shuttered the fourth bank this year; the Kansas Heartland Tri-State Bank [1]. Additionally, one of the largest trucking companies, Yellow, has filed for bankruptcy [2]. Mortgage rates reached a 21-year high of 7.09% [3].

On the good news front, the July unemployment rate fell to 3.5% [4]. Additionally, the Consumer Price Index increased slightly to 3.2% [5].

1. Maruf, Ramishah, CNN, Bank failure: Kansas Heartland Tri-State Bank closed by FDIC, July 28, 2023.
2. Napolitano, Elizabeth, CBS News, *Yellow is shutting down after 99 years. Here's what happened*, July 31, 2023.
3. Bahney, Anna, CNN, *Mortgage rates soar to their highest level in 21 years*, August 17, 2023.
4. Bartash, Jeffry, MarketWatch, *U.S. adds 187,000 jobs in July and points to hiring slowdown. Wages still high*, August 4, 2023.
5. Davidson, Paul, & Jones, Charisse, USA Today, *CPI report live updates: Inflation ticks higher in July for first time in 13 months as rent climbs, data shows*, August 10, 2023.



*In politics stupidity is not
a handicap.—Napoleon
Bonaparte*
