

World News

There are some indications that Russia may be willing to discuss peace [1]. Additionally, Russia may now be using North Korean short range ballistic missiles against the Ukraine [2]. Another piece indicates North Korea will provide Russia with new types of tactical guided missiles [3]. This comes as Russia and India discuss increased trade and mutual development of weapons [4]. Meanwhile, Russian forces continue to escalate attacks. For instance, 122 missiles were fired killing at least 18 people [5]. In a January 7 attack, Ukraine was only able to shoot down on 18 out of the 59 missiles launched [6].

After three US service members were wounded, President Biden order retaliatory strikes against select Iranian-backed militia groups [7]. Meanwhile the US Navy sank three small boats belonging to Houthi rebels that were attacking a commercial ship in the Red Sea [8]. Off the Gulf of Oman, Iran seized an oil tanker [9]. The U.S. and UK struck multiple Houthi targets in Yemen [10]. Additional allied strikes were launched against another site during the second day [11].

1. Sedacca, Matthew, New York Post, *Putin may be open to cease-fire with Ukraine after nearly 2 years of war: report*, December 23, 2023.
2. NBC News/Reuters, *Russia fires North Korean missiles at Ukraine for first time, Kyiv official says*, January 6, 2024.
3. Kim, Seyoon, and Herskovitz, Jon, American Military News/

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Israel War

The war continues to expand. Israel Defense Force (IDF) warplanes conducted airstrikes against Hezbollah targets in Lebanon [1]. In the Red Sea a cargo ship was attacked by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels [2]. The ship hit was later identified as the Swiss-based Mediterranean Shipping Co. (MSC) container ship, the MSC United VIII [3]. On December 30, a missile fired from Houthi-controlled Yemen hit the Dutch-owner container ship, Maersk Hangzhou [4]. As a consequence,

the Maersk shipping company has paused shipping through the Red Sea [5].

The expanded war has also spilled over into northern regions. For example, the IDF struck targets in Lebanon [6]. Then, Israel was accused of using a drone strike for the assassination of senior Hamas leader Saleh Arouri in Lebanon [7].

1. Fabian, Emanuel, Times of Israel, *IDF carries out 'wide-scale' airstrikes on Hezbollah as rockets from Lebanon hit north*, December 24,

2023.

2. Times of Israel/AFP, *Yemen's Houthis say they launched drones at Israel, attacked ship in Red Sea*, December 26, 2023.
3. Casiano, Louis, & Griffin, Jennifer, Fox News, *Navy shoots down ballistic missiles launched by Iran-backed Houthis in Red Sea*, December 26, 2023.
4. Tanyos, Faris, CBS News, *Missile fired from Houthi-controlled Yemen strikes merchant vessel in*

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Special points of interest:

- Wars
 - Israel
 - Ukraine
- CPI 3.4% Rate

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- Red Sea, Pentagon says, December 30, 2023.*
5. Kimball, Spencer, CNBC, *Maersk halts Red Sea shipping until further notice after Houthi militant attack*, January 3, 2024
 6. Fabian, Emanuel, Times of Israel, *IDF launches 'widespread' strikes in south Lebanon after barrages of Hezbollah rockets*, Decem-

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ber 29, 2023.

7. Washington Post, *Hezbollah warns of retaliation after killing of senior Hamas leader in Lebanon*, January 4, 2024.

*The Cold War is over but
Cold War thinking
survives.—Joseph Rotblat*

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- Bloomberg News, *North Korea set to send new class of missiles to Russia*, Seoul says, January 12, 2024
4. AP, *In Moscow to meet Putin and Lavrov, India's foreign minister praises growing trade*, December 28, 2023.
 5. Richard, Lawrence, Fox News, *Russia fires 122 missiles in largest aerial barrage of the Ukraine war, killing at least 18 people*, December 29, 2023.
 6. Kostenko, Maria, CNN, *Russia unleashes fresh barrage of missiles and drones against Ukraine*, January 13, 2024.

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7. Madhani, Aamer, AP, *Biden orders strikes on an Iranian-aligned group after 3 US troops wounded in drone attack in Iraq*, December 26, 2023.
8. Gronholt-pedersen, Jacob, and Elimam, Ahmed, Reuters, *US sinks 3 ships, kills 10 after Houthi Red Sea attack*, December 31, 2023.
9. Iordach2, Ruxandra, CNBC, *Iran seizes oil tanker involved in U.S. dispute off coast of Oman*, January 11, 2024.
10. Liebermann, Oren, et al., CNN, *US and UK carry out strikes against Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen*, January 12, 2024.
11. Gambrell, Jon, et. al., AP, *US military strikes another Houthi-controlled site after warning ships to avoid parts of Red Sea*, January 12, 2024.

Terrorism

It seems that Iran is claiming credit for some of the October 7 terror attack launched by Hamas against Israel [1]. Meanwhile, at least 73 people were killed as a result of twin bomb explosions near the tomb of Iranian general Qasem Soleimani [2]. Later, the Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack [3].

Elsewhere, religious based terrorism continues. For example, in Africa, approximately 200 Christians were murdered for sport [4]. In Pakistan, a roadside bomb detonated killing at least 6 police

officers assigned to anti-polio immunization protection [5]

1. Aitken, Peter, Fox News, *Iran and Hamas argue over credit for Oct. 7 terror attacks: 'Looking to wash blood away with blood'*, December 27, 2023.
2. BBC News, *Twin bomb blasts near Iran general Qasem Soleimani's tomb kill 73 - state TV*, January 3, 2024.
3. Hafezi, Parisa, et. al., Reuters, *Islamic State claims responsibility for deadly Iran attack, Tehran vows revenge*, January 4, 2024.
4. Tilsley, V, Fox News, *World looks other way as Christians 'killed for sport' by jihadists in Nigeria*, December 31, 2023.
5. Khan, Anwarullah, AP, *Pakistani Taliban claims responsibility for bomb that killed 6 police guarding anti-polio campaign*, January 8, 2024.

*War is peace. Freedom is
slavery. Ignorance is
strength.—George Orwell*

Economy

There is good news on the economy. The US unemployment rate closed the year at 3.7% [1]. The Consumer Price Index remained low but increased to a 3.4% rate [2].

The US trade deficit for November was \$63.2 Billion [3].

1. Schafer, Josh, Yahoo Finance, *The US labor market just had one of its best years of the decade. 5 charts tell the story*, January 5, 2024.
2. Cox, Jeff, CNBC, *Consumer prices rose 0.3% in December, higher than expected, pushing the annual rate to 3.4%*, January 11, 2024.
3. Bartash, Jeffrey, MarketWatch, *U.S. trade deficit narrows 2% to \$63.2 billion. GDP may get a lift*, January 9, 2024.

*In time of war, truth is
always replaced by
propaganda.—Charles
Lindbergh*
