

## World News

The Russia-Ukraine war just got more complicated. It appears the pro-Russian, breakaway region of Transnistria in Moldova has asked Russia for protection against Moldova [1]. Transnistria is a long sliver of land that separated the Ukraine (in the South) from Moldova [2]. This comes as Russian forces are continuing to secure a number of battlefield victories [3]. The Russians appear to be advancing along the entire front [4]. Additionally, Russia's leader has warned that if pressed, he would authorize the use of nuclear weapons [5]. This would likely include tactical nuclear weapons, such as those maintained in Belarus [6].

The Houthi fighters continue to be active. For example, a cargo ship was stuck with a missile that killed three people [7]. Another report indicates the Houthi rebels have obtained some hypersonic missiles [8].

India continues to improve its military capabilities. For instance, the Indian Navy recaptured the Maltese-flagged bulk cargo vessel Ruen from Somali pirates [9]. India also tested a 5,000 Kilometer range missile capable of carrying multiple warheads [10]. These capabilities should help check China. For instance, China is developing a new generation of mobile ICBMs [11].

While most of the world is focused on Russia, China continues to expand its military capabilities. Case in point, China plans to increase its military budget by 7.2% [12].

1. Ellyatt, Holly, CNBC, *West watches for Putin's next move after breakaway*

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## Israel War

The conflict between Hezbollah and Israel continues to escalate. For example, on February 26, Hezbollah fighters fired 60 rockets into the Golan Heights [1]. The rocket fire prompted responses from the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) along the border [2].

In Lebanon, Hezbollah fighters fired over 100 rockets into Israel [3]. In response, IDF jets hit targets in the Bekaa Valley [4]. As the war continues, IDF forces continue to strike targets within Lebanon [5].

One of the challenges is

getting aid to the people in the Gaza Strip. For example, reports indicate 20 people may have been killed while waiting for aid [6]. To address the issue, President Biden committed to constructing a Gaza pier that will allow ships to unload supplies [7].

President Biden has warned Israel not to strike Rafah where many Palestinian refugees are gathered [8]. Nevertheless, a report indicates that Israel has started such a campaign [9].

1. Fabian, Emanuel, The Times of Israel, *Hezbollah*

*fires barrage of 60 rockets at Golan; IDF eliminates terror commander*, February 26, 2024.

2. Fabian, Emanuel, The Times of Israel, *Hezbollah fires dozens of rockets at north in fresh barrages after Baalbek strike*, February 27, 2024.

3. Bob, Yonah Jeremy, & Grunblatt, Darcie, Jerusalem Post, *'War, now!': Hezbollah fires over 100 rockets on Israel, IDF hits terror drone*,

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### Special points of interest:

- S&P 500, and NASDAQ indexes close at record highs
- 3.9% Unemployment Rate
- CPI 3.2% Rate of Increase
- Wars

## Israel War

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- March 12, 2024.
4. Reuters, *Israeli jets hit Lebanon's Bekaa Valley for a second day*, March 12, 2024.
  5. The Jerusalem Post, *IDF jets strike Hezbollah infrastructure in Lebanon*, March 16, 2024.
  6. Dress, Brad, The Hill, *Israel, Hamas offer competing stories after at least 20*

*Palestinians die waiting for aid*, March 15, 2024.

7. Gould, Joe, & Seligman, Lara, Politico, *Democrats join Republicans in wanting more answers on Biden's Gaza pier*, March 15, 2024.
8. NBC News, *U.S. warns Israel over Rafah ground offensive; Palestinians say they're preparing for the worst*, February 17, 2024.
9. The Jerusalem Post, *Israel*

*carries out overnight air-strikes in Rafah – report*, March 16, 2024.

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*Judicial abuse occurs when judges substitute their own political views for the law.—*

Lamar S. Smith

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- region asks Moscow to 'protect' it from Moldova
- , February 29, 2024.
2. Edwards, Christian, et. al., CNN, *A breakaway region in Europe is asking Russia for protection. Here's what to know*, February 29, 2024.
  3. D'Agata, Charlie, & Beriman, Steve, CBS News, *Returning to Ukraine's front line, CBS News finds towns falling to Russia, and troops begging for help*, February 28, 2024.
  4. Cole, Brendan, Newsweek, *Battle Maps Reveal Russian Advances Along Whole Front Line*,

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March 16, 2024.

5. AP, *Putin warns again that Russia is ready to use nuclear weapons if its sovereignty is threatened*, March 13, 2024.
6. Detsch, Jack, & Gramer, Robbie, Foreign Policy, *Russia's Nuclear Weapons Are Now in Belarus*, March 14, 2024.
7. Spender, Tom, et. al., BBC, *Three killed in Houthi missile attack on cargo ship - US military*, March 6, 2024.
8. Greyman-Kennard, Danielle, Jerusalem Post, *Yemen's Houthis obtain hypersonic missile, upgrade weapons arsenal – report*, March 15, 2024.
9. Reuters, *Indian Navy seizes ship from Somali pirates and rescues 17 crew*, March 16, 2024.
10. AP, *India conducts first test flight of domestically developed missile that can carry multiple warheads*, March 11, 2024.
11. Gertz, Bill, Washington Times, *China building new generation of mobile ICBMs*, March 6, 2024.
12. Gertz, Bill, Washington Times, *China to boost defense spending by 7.2% this year despite economic woes*, March 5, 2024.

## Terrorism

Religious terrorism continues to be a problem. Case in point, in Burkina Faso (located in western Africa), at least 15 people were killed by Islamic militants during an attack on a Catholic church [1]. On the same day, Muslim terrorists were believed to be behind an attack on a mosque that left dozens dead [2].

In Mexico, drug cartels have started using land mines [3]. How long will it be before such devices are found within the US?

In Haiti, criminal gangs forced the prime minister to resign [4]. In Nigeria, gunmen captured at least 287 school children and are demanding a \$622,000 ransom [5].

Terrorists conducted a suicide attack on a Pakistan army base

located near the Afghanistan border killing at least 7 people [6]. The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan terrorists used a truck bomb and rifles during the attack [7].

1. Ewoker, Chris, BBC, *Burkina Faso: At least 15 dead in Catholic church attack*, February 25, 2024.
2. Booty, Natasha, BBC, *Burkina Faso mosque attack: Dozens killed during prayers*, February 26, 2024.
3. CBS News, *3 farmers killed by roadside bomb in Mexico days after 4 soldiers die in explosive "trap" likely set by cartel*, March 6, 2024.
4. Hu, Caitlin Stephen, & Hansler, Jennifer, CNN, *Haiti's prime minister is resigning. Will that bring calm to the gang-ravaged country?*, March 12, 2024.
5. Princewill, Nimi, CNN, *Gunmen who kidnapped 287 school children in Nigeria say they will kill them all if \$622,000 ransom not paid*, March 13, 2024.
6. The Times of India, *At least 7 soldiers killed as suicide bombing blow up Pakistan military base*, March 17, 2024.
7. VOA, *Suicide Bombers Raid Pakistan Army Base Near Afghan Border, Kill 7*, March 16, 2024.

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*Nothing is more  
destructive of respect for  
the government and the  
law of the land than  
passing laws which cannot  
be enforced.—Albert  
Einstein*

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## Economy

The stock indexes continued to set records. For example, on February 29, both the Nasdaq and the S&P 500 closed at record highs [1]. On March 1, the Nasdaq and S&P 500 closed at record highs with the S&P 500 closing above 5100 for the first time [2]. The S&P 500 continued at a new record close on March 7 [3]. Finally, the S&P 500 continued to a new record high on March 12 [4].

The U.S. unemployment Rate for February increased to 3.9% [5]. The year-to-year CPI increased from 3.1% in January to 3.2% in February with a monthly increase of 0.4% [6].

1. Ferré, Ines, et. al., Yahoo Finance, *Stock market today: S&P 500, Nasdaq hit fresh records to cap best February in nearly a decade*, February 29, 2024.
2. Kim, Hakyung, & Li, Yun, CNBC, *Nasdaq surges more than 1% to take out 2021 record, S&P 500 closes above 5100 for the first time: Live updates*, March 1, 2024.
3. Friar, Karen, et. al/, Yahoo Finance, *Stock market today: S&P 500 hits fresh record, Nasdaq pops ahead of jobs day*, March 7, 2024.
4. Canal, Alexandra, & Friar, Karen, Yahoo Finance, *Stock market today: S&P 500 hits new record high as investors shrug off sticky inflation data*, March 12, 2024.
5. Cox, Jeff, CNBC, *U.S. job growth totaled 275,000 in February but unemployment rate rose to 3.9%*, March 8, 2024.
6. Davidson, Paul, USA Today, *Inflation data from*

*CPI report shows sharper price gains: What it means for Fed rate cuts., March 12, 2024.*

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*That old law about 'an eye for an eye' leaves everybody blind. The time is always right to do the right thing.*  
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

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