

World News

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine continues to expand. For instance, one report indicates a Russian nuclear power plant was attacked [1]. Then, Russia launched an attack that destroyed a Ukrainian power plant [2]. Reports indicate the Ukraine hit Russian oil depots setting off a large fire [3]. Meanwhile, the US has approved a \$61 Billion Ukraine aid package that expected to help keep Russia from securing a victory [4]. In response, Russia has warned the US chose the path of war [5]. Additionally, since February, the US has been secretly supplying the Ukraine with the longer range (190 mile) ATACMS missiles [6]. Finally, in a victory for Russia, the US was ordered to leave by the government of Niger [7].

This comes as a report suggests the Russian war machine is being supported by China [7]. Reports also indicate that China is behind the illegal Fentanyl trade by offering tax rebates and other incentives to manufacturers [9].

The Middle-East remains a risk to US forces station in the region. Case in point, five rockets were fired from Iraq at a US base located in Syria [10]. Meanwhile, the Houthis continue firing missiles at ships [11].

1. Aikman, Ian, BBC News, *Ukraine war: UN body urges restraint after Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant hit*, April 8, 2024.
2. Arhistrova, Hanna, AP, *Massive attack destroys one of Ukraine's largest power*

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Israel War

On Saturday, April 13, Iran launched a drone and ballistic missile attack against Israel with the US shooting down many [1]. The attack included 170 drones, more than 30 cruise missiles and more than 120 ballistic missiles [2]. By one estimate, the Middle East war now includes 16 nations [3]. Just before attacking Israel; Iran seized a ship passing through the Strait of Hormuz [4].

In response, Israel launched a limited attack inside of Iran [5]. Early reports indi-

cated, on April 19, Israeli aircraft fired missiles at Iranian air force assets located at Isfahan in central Iran [6]. Satellite imagery showed two air defense systems damaged at an airfield in Isfahan [7]. One report indicates the Israeli attack included the use of hypersonic half-ton Rampage missiles [8].

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) struck Hezbollah air defense targets in Lebanon, following a drone attack that wounded 18 people in Israel [9]. In response, during one series of attacks, the

IDF hit 40 Hezbollah sites [10]. Then, the IDF struck the "Popular Mobilization Forces", an Iranian backed group located in Iraq [11].

1. ABC News, *Israel-Gaza live updates: Biden calling for G7 meeting after Iran's 'brazen' attack*, April 14, 2024.
2. Lendon, Brad, CNN, *How Israel and allied defenses intercepted more than 300 Iranian missiles and drones*, April 14, 2024.
3. Klippenstein, Ken, &

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Special points of interest:

- Iran Attacks Israel
- Israel Strikes Back

Israel War

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 - Rommen, Rebecca, *Business Insider*, *Israel hit Iran with a half-ton supersonic 'Rampage' missile, report says*, April 21, 2024.
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I greatly fear some of America's greatest and most dangerous enemies are such as think themselves her best friends.—Nathan Hale

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- CBS News, *Huge fire seen as Ukraine hits Russian oil depots with drone strike*, April 24, 2024.
 - Lawless, Jill, & Kullab, Samya, AP, *More US aid will help Ukraine avoid defeat in its war with Russia. Winning is another matter*, April 24, 2024.
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 - Holland, Steve, & Heavey, Susan, Reuters, *US says China is boosting Russia's war machine in Ukraine*, April 12, 2024.
 - Gertz, Bill, *Washington Times*, *Chinese government linked to illicit fentanyl trade*. April 16, 2024.
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 - Newsweek*, *Houthis Claim Responsibility in US Cargo, Naval Ship Attack*, April 24, 2024.

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Terrorism

In Sydney, Australia, stabbings during a church service was investigated as a terrorist attack [1]. A priest and Bishop were injured during the attack [2]. In summary, police arrested 7 teens that were part of the extremist network [3].

In the US, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) opened a criminal investigation into the container ship collision that resulted in the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore [4]. Meanwhile, Baltimore officials are blaming the ship's owner for negligence [5].

1. Baker, Mark, & Mcguirk, Rod, AP, *A knife attack in Australia against a bishop and a priest is being treated as terrorism, police say*, April 16, 2024.
2. Atkinson, Simon, BBC News, *Sydney church stabbing treated as 'terrorist act'*, April 17, 2024.
3. Baker, Mark, & Mcguirk, Rod, AP, *Australian police arrest 7 alleged teen extremists linked to stabbing of a bishop in a Sydney church*, April 24, 2024.
4. Wallace, Danielle, et. al., Fox News, *FBI opens criminal probe into Baltimore bridge collapse: source*, April 15, 2024.
5. Skene, Lea, AP, *Baltimore leaders accuse ship's owner and manager of negligence in Key Bridge collapse*, April 22, 2024.

*Print is the sharpest and
the strongest weapon of
our party.—Joseph Stalin*

Economy

Bad news on the inflation front. The Consumer Price Index rose to 3.5% year-to-year [1]. The inflation rates are causing bond interest rates to rise [2].

The medical firm Change Healthcare had to pay to resolve a ransomware attack [3]. Reports indicate a \$22 million in bitcoin was paid to Russian hackers [4].

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Stock market today: Stocks sink, yields jump after inflation data torpedoed rate-cut hopes, April 10, 2024.

2. Nazareth, Rita, Bloomberg News, *Stock market news: tech giants hit in late hours after Meta's outlook*, April 24, 2024.
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22, 2024.

4. Brooks, Khristopher J., CBS News, *United Health paid ransom after massive Change Healthcare cyberattack*, April 23, 2024.

*Opinion is the medium
between knowledge and
ignorance.—Plato*

