

## World News

The conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan continues. For instance, the Pakistan military used jets to target Taliban hideouts in Afghanistan [1].

The Ukraine war is expanding. For example, Russia fired 31 ballistic missiles into the Ukraine capital, Kyiv [2]. This comes as Hungary and Slovakia are opposed to sending weapons to the Ukraine [3]. However, Russian missiles and drones struck the Ukraine power grid, leaving many without electricity [4]. For its part, the Ukraine is becoming more creative. Case in point, the Ukraine used a small commercial aircraft configured as a drone to strike a Russian factory 600 miles away [5].

The US stays involved in the Yemen war. Case in point, US fighter jets bombed Houthi controlled storage facilities [6]. Concurrently, reports indicate the Houthis struck a Chinese oil tanker with an anti-ship missile [7].

In Baltimore, the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapsed after a cargo ship struck a support [8]. This brings back memories of the US 7<sup>th</sup> fleets ship collisions [9].

1. Iddon, Paul, Forbes, *Unlike Iran, Pakistan Uses Fighter Jets To Strike Its Enemies*, March 19, 2024.
2. Russia attacks Ukraine's capital with missiles after Putin's threat to "respond in kind" to strikes in Russia, March 21, 2024.
3. AP, *Hungary, Slovakia remain opposed to sending any arms to Ukraine to fight Russia's invasion*, March 21, 2024.

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## Israel War

The wartime boundaries have expanded. Case in point, for the first time, a Houthi cruise missile fired from Yemen has struck Israel [1].

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) claims to have killed 170 terrorists during a raid on the Al-Shifa Hospital [2].

Meanwhile, the war escalation continues. Case in point, for the first time, Hezbollah fighters used heavy warhead missiles against civilian targets in Israel [3]. The war also includes attacks against the al-

Jama'a al-Islamiyya terrorists in Lebanon [4]. Later, Hezbollah shot down an Israel drone prompting the IDF to strike air defenses in northeast Lebanon [5].

Israel forces struck targets in Syria, including a Iranian consulate, that reportedly killed multiple senior Iranian military officials [6]. Western nations are expecting an Iranian response to the attack [7]. Iran has warned the US not to get involved with the expected response against Israel [8]. This comes as Chinese weapons and munitions

were discovered in the Gaza Strip [9].

1. Cole, Brendan, Newsweek, *Houthi Cruise Missile Hits Israel in Ominous First*, March 20, 2024.
2. Harris, Chris, New York Post, *IDF claims it killed 170 Hamas terrorists, captures 800 in Al-Shifa Hospital raid*, March 23, 2024.
3. Mroue, Bassem, AP, *Hezbollah fires heavy rockets at northern Israel after deadliest day of*

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### Special points of interest:

- DJIA, S&P 500, and NASDAQ indexes close at record highs
- 3.8% March Unemployment Rate
- Wars

## Israel War

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- Israeli strikes on Lebanon, March 28, 2024.*
4. Jerusalem Post, *IDF official: 'We are at war in the North, not just with Hezbollah'*, March 27, 2024.
  5. Fabian, Emanuel, *Times of Israel, IDF hits Hezbollah air defenses in northeast Lebanon after terror group downs drone*, April 7, 2024.
  6. Epstein, Jake, *Business Insider, A deadly Israeli strike in Syria ratchets up a years-long shadow war with Iran that could again put US forces in the crosshairs*, April 5, 2024.
  7. Lee, MJ, & Hansler, Jennifer, *CNN, US preparing for significant Iran attack on US or Israeli assets in the region as soon as next week*, April 5, 2024.
  8. South China Morning Post/Bloomberg, *Iran tells*

*US to 'step aside' as it readies response to Israel over Syria strike*, April 6, 2024.

9. Gertz, Bill, *Washington Times, Chinese weapons found in Gaza, report claims*, April 4, 2024.

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*The secret of politics? Make a good treaty with Russia.—*

*Otto von Bismarck*

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4. Miller, Joshua Rhett, *New York Post, Russia plunges Ukraine city into darkness after onslaught of drone, missile strikes on country's infrastructure*, March 23, 2024.
5. Axe, David, *Forbes, Ukraine Packed A Cessna-Style Plane With Explosives, Added Remote Controls And Kamikaze'd It Into A Russian Drone Factory 600 Miles Away*, April 2, 2024.
6. Baldor, Lolita C., *ABC News/AP, US fighter jets strike storage facilities in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen*, March 22, 2024.
7. Mongilio, Heather, *USNI News, Chinese Tanker Hit with Houthi Missile in the Red Sea*, March 24, 2024.
8. NBC News, *Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse live updates: Recovery mission starts after 6 presumed dead*, March 27, 2024.
9. Arkin, Daniel, & Hurst, Daniel, *NBC News, 7th Fleet collisions raise ques-*

*tions about U.S. military readiness in the Pacific*, June 18, 2018.

## World News

## Terrorism

News, US faces 'inevitable' ISIS attacks at home following Moscow massacre: retired general, April 1, 2024.

**T**errorist hit Russia. At least four terrorists attacked a concert hall in Moscow, killing at least 60 people [1]. The US had warned Russia in advance of such an attack that was later claimed by the Islamic State [2].

The attack on Russia highlights the risk to the US. Case in point, some are warning that the US is vulnerable to ISIS attacks [3].

1. Kirby, Paul, & Rhoden-Paul, Andre, BBC News, *Moscow attack: Gunmen kill dozens at Crocus City Hall in Moscow*, March 23, 2024.
2. Mallonee, Mary Kay, et. al., CNN, *US had warned Russia ISIS was determined to attack*, March 23, 2024.
3. Mion, Landon, Fox

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*I have no doubt that Russia will and should remain a major source of energy supplies for Europe and the world.—Joe Biden*

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## Economy

Great news on the Stock Market. On March 20, the three indexes (DOW, NASDAQ, and S&P 500) all closed at record highs [1]. The three indexes continued record closes on March 21 [2]. The NASDAQ continued to a new record on March 22 [3].

In other good news, the March unemployment rate fell to 3.8% [4]. However, if using the government's old method of calculating inflation (including homebuying costs), the rate remains above 8% [5]. Perhaps the real cost of inflation is the reason some are suggesting the Fed may yet again raise interest rates [6].

1. Chen, Vivien Lou, MarketWatch, *Dow Jones, S&P 500, Nasdaq all close at record highs for first time since November 2021*, March 20, 2024.
2. Subin, Samantha, & Haring, Alex, CNBC, *Dow closes more than 250 points higher as major averages surge to fresh records*, March 21, 2024.
3. Idzelis, Christine, MarketWatch, *Nasdaq notches fresh peak as U.S. stocks score weekly gains*, March 22, 2024.
4. Cox, Jeff, CNBC, *Job growth zoomed in March as payrolls jumped by 303,000 and unemployment dropped to 3.8%*, April 5, 2024.
5. Goldman, David P., Asia Times, *Hidden inflation tanks Biden re-election campaign*, April 6, 2024.
6. Cox, Jeff, CNBC, *Fed Governor Bowman says additional rate hike could be needed if inflation stays high*, April 5, 2024.

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*Russia is Germany's most important neighbor in the East, and it will remain so.—Helmut Kohl*

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