

This Week's Developments

March 20 – April 2, 2022

- Russia: Focus shifting from Kyiv, toward east Ukraine
- Putin's war is going nowhere, but neither is he
- Johnson to send deadlier weapons to help Ukraine
- Kremlin labels Johnson 'the most anti-Russian leader'
- Russia: Run on banks, empty shelves, sanctions bite
- Putin's love of luxury, from designer watches to £650 lavatory brushes
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Russia Says Focus Is Shifting Away From Kyiv, Toward Eastern Ukraine

New York Times, April 1, 2022

Ukraine is superimposed on this map of Scythia



EVENT

Russia signaled a possible recalibration of its war aims in Ukraine on Friday as the Kremlin faced spreading global ostracism for the brutal invasion, hardened Western economic punishments and a determined Ukrainian resistance that appeared to be making some gains on the ground. A statement by Russia's Defense Ministry said the goals of the "first stage of the operation" had been "mainly accomplished," with Ukraine's combat capabilities "significantly reduced," and that it would now focus on securing Ukraine's eastern Donbas region, where Russia-backed separatists have been fighting for eight years. The Defense Ministry statement was ambiguous about further possible Russian territorial ambitions in Ukraine, where its ground forces have been mostly stymied by the unexpectedly strong Ukrainian military response. The statement amounted to the most direct acknowledgment yet that Russia may be unable to take full control of Ukraine and would instead target the Donbas region in the east.

COMMENT

Putin's war is not going to plan. By all accounts he believed that his vast military might would be welcomed by many Ukrainian citizens glad to free themselves from a Nazified government. Putin couldn't have been more wrong. The resistance from Ukraine and the unified sanctions from the West were not what he was expecting. His personal mission to take over the whole of Ukraine looks at the moment to be shelved. Instead his Defence Ministry have said that Russia's aim is now to take eastern parts of Ukraine around the Donbas region. With Bible in hand we can see why this is happening. Ancient Magog (also known as Scythia) reached only as far as eastern Ukraine. Putin is "of the land of Magog". Eastern Ukraine completes the Magog picture.

BIBLE QUOTE

The word of the Lord came to me: "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshek and Tubal; prophesy against him 3 and say: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshek and Tubal.

(Ezekiel 38:1-3 NIV)

Putin's war is going nowhere, but neither is he

The Times, March 29, 2022



EVENT

The Ukraine war, bungled and brutal, is being treated in the West as the last gasp of Vladimir Putin, the savage denouement of a flailing regime. My bet though is that **we have reached mid-Putin not end-Putin**. And that even when the war is over, Russia is set to get darker and nastier. The West projects three false assumptions on Kremlin politics. The first is that leaders are held individually and publicly accountable, that the “mistakes” of the Ukraine war will be subject to the Moscow equivalent of the Chilcot Report. Not going to happen. **Nor is there any sign that Putin will lose his appetite for war at home and abroad**. The violence underpinning Putin's system of rule, his geometry of fear, has not been tamed by the invasion. Finally, Putin's command of the secret police, the courts and the media is so comprehensive that it has become remarkably easy to search out scapegoats and dodge blame for his own blunders. **He will not be booed out of power**.

COMMENT

There are some who see the Russian debacle in Ukraine as a sign of the imminent demise of Putin. But as this article says in The Times newspaper of London – Putin's war is going nowhere – but neither is he... On the contrary **Putin will double down and become even more savage and brutal as the days and weeks go by**. We have seen what Putin is capable of in bringing horrific destruction to Grozny, Syria and now in Ukraine. Putin cannot afford to lose power and **will do everything he can to stay in power**. In war the West tries very hard to minimise civilian casualties. Russia cares nothing for this if it means its war aims are achieved. This gives Russia the advantage and as the Russia leadership is not answerable to the public in the same way they can press on regardless. We are told Putin **will cause a shocking amount of destruction**...

BIBLE QUOTE

At the end of their rule, when their sin is at its height, a fierce king, a master of intrigue, will rise to power. He will become very strong, but not by his own power. **He will cause a shocking amount of destruction** and succeed in everything he does.

(Daniel 8:23-24 NLT)

UK Sends 6,000 More Missiles To Ukraine In Johnson Push To 'Keep Flame Of Freedom Alive'

Huffpost, March 24, 2022



EVENT

The UK is to send 6,000 more missiles to Ukraine to bolster Kyiv's fight against Russia's invasion as Boris Johnson urged Western allies to help "keep the flame of freedom alive". The British prime minister will use as summit of Nato and G7 leaders to detail a new support package for the Ukrainian military, including thousands of missiles comprising anti-tank and high-explosive weaponry. In addition, the UK is providing £25 million from the Foreign Office's conflict security and stabilisation fund to help pay the salaries of Ukrainian soldiers and pilots battling the Russians. Ahead of his visit to Brussels on Thursday for talks, a month on from the Russian invasion, Johnson called on other Western leaders to step up the supply of military hardware to Kyiv as well as doubling down on sanctions against Russia. "But we cannot and will not stand by while Russia grinds Ukraine's towns and cities into dust. The United Kingdom will work with our allies to step up military and economic support to Ukraine, strengthening their defences as they turn the tide in this fight," he said.

COMMENT

One of the key reasons Russia has stalled in Ukraine is down to the weapons that Britain and the US especially have poured into the country. The UK has led the way in providing Ukrainian soldiers lethal weapons and training. Only yesterday Britain's most advanced portable missile system is thought to have shot down a Russian helicopter in its first use on the Ukrainian battlefield. Starstreak, a high-velocity projectile that destroys targets with three kinetic darts, was filmed cutting the aircraft in two. The Bible says that the king of the south (US/UK) will "push" (Hebrew word "gore") or as we have said in the WWI, "militarily provoke" – Gog (Putin). We are surely seeing a military push from the UK/US against Putin causing him pain. He will react...

BIBLE QUOTE

And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him [Gog]: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. (Daniel 11:40)

Kremlin labels Boris Johnson 'the most anti-Russian leader'

The Times, March 24, 2022



EVENT

Boris Johnson has been described as the “most active anti-Russian leader” by the Kremlin after he urged the West to sanction President Putin’s gold reserves. Dmitry Peskov, the Kremlin spokesman, singled out Johnson as Nato leaders gathered in Brussels. “We see him as the most active participant in the race to be anti-Russian,” Peskov said. “It will lead to a foreign policy dead end.” Joe Biden appeared to call for regime change in Russia, as he said that Vladimir Putin “cannot remain in power” in a highly charged speech in Warsaw. “For God’s sake, this man cannot remain in power,” the US president said, as he urged democracies around the world to unite against the Russian president in a speech in Poland’s capital littered with historical references to war in Europe. The Kremlin issued a furious response, as critics accused Mr Biden of playing into Putin’s hands.

COMMENT

Britain’s response to Russia’s Ukraine invasion is particularly riling Putin. Not only are Britain’s weapons causing many Russian casualties but Boris Johnson is the most vocal out of all Western leaders in urging them to do more from a military perspective to counter Putin’s advances. Johnson says he is not anti Russian but 'deeply hostile' towards leader Vladimir Putin. President Biden said that Putin “cannot remain in power”. This statement caused fury in the Kremlin as regime change is the one thing they fear above all things. The Bible says there will be a “king of the north” v “king of the south” confrontation at the “time of the end”. The king of the north is Russia. The king of the south is US/UK/ Saudi Arabia. We are back to a Cold War and close to a Hot War.

BIBLE QUOTE

Then at the time of the end, the king of the south will attack [gore] the king of the north. The king of the north will storm out with chariots, charioteers, and a vast navy. He will invade various lands and sweep through them like a flood. He will enter the glorious land of Israel

(Daniel 11:40 NLT)

Run on banks and empty shelves as sanctions bite in Russia

The Times, March 22, 2022



EVENT

Russians have **withdrawn a record sum of money from banks** since the start of President Putin's war in Ukraine amid soaring inflation and shortages of everything from medicines to food. The central bank said today that the total kept in personal savings accounts by Russians fell by 1.2 trillion roubles (£8.7 billion), or 3.5 per cent, last month. The sum is thought to be **the largest monthly withdrawal in rouble terms since the collapse of the Soviet Union**. Large queues at cash machines have become a common sight across Russia amid fears of economic collapse. The rouble has plunged to an all-time low and weekly inflation recently hit 2.2 per cent, the highest for 24-year high, according to government statistics. The Russian economy is also on course to **shrink by an unprecedented 10 per cent**, analysts at Goldman Sachs said. They had predicted a rise of 2 per cent in GDP before the invasion. Shelves in many stores have been swept clean of personal hygiene products such as sanitary items amid panic buying, rekindling unwelcome **memories of shortages in the late Soviet era**.

COMMENT

There is military pressure on Russia but back at home **there is huge economic pressure building as well**. The sanctions are biting and more could be on the way. Around **50% of Russia's reserves** have been locked down and **cannot be used due to sanctions**. What is even more concerning to Russia is how the West is now looking for ways to stop using Russian gas. This conflict has driven a permanent wedge between Russia and the EU. The **West is looking to Israel to supply some of its gas** directly through a new proposed pipeline from Israel to Greece. We know that Putin will come down to Israel to take a spoil. It is not hard to see **how these events could lead to that**.

BIBLE QUOTE

I will go to those formerly desolate cities that are now filled with people who have returned from exile in many nations. I will capture vast amounts of plunder, for the people are rich with livestock and other possessions now. They think the whole world revolves around them!

(Ezekiel 38:12 NLT)

Putin's love of luxury, from designer watches to £650 lavatory brushes

The Times, April 1, 2022



EVENT

Putin's love of luxury has been meticulously catalogued by Kremlin foes such as Boris Nemtsov, who was shot dead near Red Square in 2015, and Alexei Navalny, the imprisoned opposition leader. Nemtsov, who served as **deputy prime minister under President Yeltsin in the late 1990s**, was the author of a hard-hitting report on Putin's **villas, dozens of private jets, luxury watches and fleet of expensive cars**. Putin has at least **20 luxury residences** across Russia, including nine that have been built since the ex-KGB officer came to power in 2000. His primary presidential jet, a customised Ilyushin Il-96, is said to have an on-board gym and a £50,000 gold-plated lavatory. In 2018 Navalny calculated that the luxury watches that Putin had been seen wearing in public had an overall value of at least £335,000, a sum that was equivalent to his official annual salary for the previous six years.

COMMENT

Putin loves luxury. Palaces, yachts, white gold watches and a £47,000 toilet on his plane are just a few of the presidential perks Vladimir Putin enjoys, according to a damning report a few years ago. **The report estimated that the maintenance of Putin's residences, jets and cars alone costs £1.6 billion a year**. There are many who claim Putin is the world's richest man – who has **syphoned off billions through corruption**. This is extremely interesting from a Bible perspective as it is one of the key attributes that God says we should look for in Gog himself. In Daniel 11:38 we are told that he doesn't worship the god his father's worshipped (communism) – but **he worships gold, silver, precious stones, and expensive gifts. God says Gog will love luxury!**

BIBLE QUOTE

He will show no regard for the gods of his ancestors or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all. Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his ancestors he will honor with **gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts**

(Daniel 11:37-38 NIV)

ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

DebkaFile Review (world events through the bi-focals of Israeli military intelligence) **TV-7 Israel News** **Watchman Newscast**

2022-04-01 **Russian Ambassador CONDEMNS Israel Airstrikes in Syria** - Watchman Newscast - 12.57 min - YouTube

2022-03-31 **Hamas THREATENS Israel with Escalation of DEADLY Terror Wave** - Watchman Newscast - 9.02 min - YouTube

2022-03-30 **Why global investors are dumping Chinese stocks** - Gravitas- 3.59 min - YouTube

2022-03-30 **What if Putin Didn't Miscalculate** - NEW YORK TIMES

2022-03-29 **Could Israel's Natural Gas Spark a FUTURE Middle East War** - Watchman Newscast - 12.57 min - YouTube

2022-03-28 **Israel-Turkey gas pipeline discussed as European alternative to Russian energy** - Reuters

2022-03-19 Naftali Bennett Mediates In Russia-Ukraine War- Can Israel Balance ties Between Putin & Biden - 9.41 min - YouTube

2022-03-18 Russia, Israel & Bible Prophecy- Ezekiel's War of Gog & Magog Taking Shape - Watchman News - 10.46 min - YouTube

2022-03-17 Russia: Help Iran Build NUCLEAR Plants & Use New Iran Deal to Evade Sanctions - Watchman News - 9.27 min - YouTube

2022-03-17 Covid variant - China locks down 50 million people - Gravitas - 6.24 min - YouTube

2022-03-16 Ukraine war triggers global food crisis - Gravitas - 4.44 min - YouTube

2022-03-16 U.S. General WARNS Israel - Iran Has Over 3,000 MISSILES; Tel Aviv in Range - Watchman News - 9.17 min - YouTube

2022-03-15 Israel DESTROYS Iran Drone Fleet - Israel Targeted by Iran Cyberattack - Watchman Newscast -11.42 min - YouTube

2022-03-12 Russia's latest warning to the West- Russia to target Western arms supply - World English News - 4.51 min - YouTube

2022-03-11 EU leaders announce intention to collectively rearm in face of Putin threat - European Union - The Guardian

2022-03-11 Russia's Air Force 'missing in action' - Gravitas - 4.49 - YouTube

2022-03-11 Putin Calls Middle East Fighters to JOIN Russia; Iran TARGETS Fmr Trump Official - Watchman - 11.09 min - YouTube

2022-03-09 Xi Jinping delivers his strongest statement on Russia-Ukraine conflict - International News - WION - 2.54 - YouTube