

This Week's Developments

December 5 - 11, 2021

- Putin 'is ready to invade Ukraine in the new year'
- Putin invites separatist leaders into his party
- Biden threatens Putin with gas embargo over Ukraine
- The West's nightmare: a war on three fronts
- Israel 'attacks weapons shipment in Latakia'
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Putin 'is ready to invade Ukraine in the new year'

The Times, December 6, 2021



EVENT

The US warned on Friday that Russia could be planning to invade Ukraine “as soon as early 2022” with an estimated 175,000 troops. Moscow has denied having plans to attack and has called the warnings inflammatory. Speaking on Saturday, Lloyd Austin, US defence secretary, said the Pentagon remained very concerned about the situation on the border. “As we look at the numbers of forces that are in the border region, as we look at some of the things that are occurring in the information space, if you look at what’s going on in the cyber domain, it really raises our concern,” Austin told the Reagan National Defence Forum in California. Concerns about an invasion spiked in April when Russia deployed thousands of troops but did not invade. Asked how concerned he was that Putin was not bluffing this time, Austin said, “They have invaded before”, in a reference to the Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014.

COMMENT

The West is massively concerned about Russia’s build-up of troops and weaponry on Ukraine’s eastern border. A Biden administration official said Moscow’s plans “call for a military offensive against Ukraine as soon as early 2022 with a scale of forces twice what we saw this past spring during Russia’s rapid military build-up near Ukraine’s borders”. 100 battalion groups with an estimated 175,000 personnel, along with armour, artillery and equipment would be used. Reservists are also on standby. As the article says Putin invaded Crimea and captured it so he has done this before. But why is Putin concerned about Ukraine? Putin wants Ukraine in Russia’s sphere of influence. It is a buffer between the East and West. He does not want Ukraine to join NATO. Also Ukraine was once part of Magog. Putin sees this country as part of Russia....

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 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 invites separatist leaders into his party

The Times, December 6, 2021



The leaders of Kremlin-backed **separatist republics in east Ukraine** have been made members of President Putin's ruling United Russia party amid escalating tensions over the Donbas conflict zone. Denis Pushilin, who heads the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DPR), and Leonid Pasechnik, who leads the Lugansk People's Republic (LPR), were handed party tickets by Dmitry Medvedev, United Russia's chairman, at its glittering annual congress in Moscow. Although Putin, 69, stepped down as the head of United Russia in 2012, the Kremlin said last week that **he remained its "informal" leader**. Pushilin, 40, said his invitation to the annual congress and his membership of Putin's party was evidence that United **Russia "considers Donbas a part of greater Russia"**. More than 14,000 people have been killed since fighting erupted in the Russian-speaking, coal-mining Donbas region.

COMMENT

The Donbas region is in eastern Ukraine. The main language is Russian. **Putin sees these people not as Ukrainian but Russian.** Russia says it has handed out half a million passports to residents of this region. It has not yet recognised them as independent states, however. But clearly Putin wants to bring this part of Ukraine into Russia. Putin does not want to take all of Ukraine – he doesn't have to. If he can divide the country and have a Russian foothold in it – this makes it impossible for the country to join NATO. This is exactly what Putin did with Georgia. Georgia also wanted to join NATO. This week **Putin has put the leaders in the Donbas region into his own political party.** Another step (before war) of annexing part of Ukraine. We are told in Daniel 7 and Daniel 11 that Gog (Putin) will be successful in all that he does – until he is destroyed by God...

BIBLE QUOTE

The king [Gog] will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. **He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed,** for what has been determined must take place. **This king is Gog himself – currently Putin. He is successful in whatever he does – but he will come to his end.** (Daniel 11:36 NIV)

Joe Biden threatens Vladimir Putin with gas embargo over Ukraine

The Times, December 8, 2021



EVENT President Biden has warned President Putin that **the West will target Russian gas exports and deploy more troops to eastern Europe** if he orders an invasion of **Ukraine**. Senior US government officials said Biden had told Putin that there would be “clear and decisive” consequences to any Russian aggression. Jake Sullivan, the US national security adviser, said that this was likely to include stopping Russian gas exports through the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which he described as “leverage” for the West. **Germany has resisted cancelling the project but is understood to have agreed to the American plan to keep it closed in the event of an attack** after a call with Biden and other western leaders on Monday. By contrast to the statement from Washington, the Kremlin denied that the prospect of Russian military incursion was even discussed in a two-hour call yesterday between the two leaders.

COMMENT The presidents of America and Russia met virtually face to face on Tuesday this week. **In Bible language we are looking at the king of the south meeting the king of the north.** We are looking at a young lion of Tarshish meeting with Gog of the land of Magog. They both seemed relaxed and almost jovial – but behind the smiles there is a huge amount at stake. Biden has threatened to cut Russia out of the international monetary system if Putin does invade. Biden has also threatened (with backing of Germany) to stop the gas supplies starting through the new Russian pipeline into Germany. Biden has also threatened to send more military assistance and equipment to Ukraine. **The Bible says a “push” from the king of the south against Putin will happen.** It could come soon....

BIBLE QUOTE He [Gog] will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price. “At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him [Gog] in battle, and the king of the North [Russian forces] will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. (Daniel 11:39-40 NIV)

The West's nightmare: a war on three fronts

The Telegraph, December 9, 2021



EVENT

The world is at the most dangerous strategic juncture since the Cuban missile crisis in 1962. **The West faces escalating threats of conflict on three fronts**, each separate but linked by unknown levels of collusion: Russia's mobilisation of a strike force on Ukraine's border, China's "dress rehearsal" for an attack on Taiwan, and Iran's nuclear brinkmanship. Each country is emboldening the other two to press their advantage, and together they risk a fundamental convulsion of the global order. The least reported, but perhaps the most immediate, is the rapid nuclear escalation of Iran's Islamist hardliner, Ebra Raisi. American and **Israeli officials think the regime could be as little as two or three weeks away from the threshold required to assemble a nuclear weapon**, at which point the Mid-East balance of power changes instantly. While this bubbles, Russia and China are raising the ante in their parallel bids for imperial reconquest.

COMMENT

This interesting editorial in the Telegraph shows how the world has reached a very dangerous point – with 3 possible areas of conflict. The editor writes **"There has never been a more unsettling strategic landscape in my lifetime – we must turn our attention to the prospect of conflict."** The 3 areas Russia, China and Iran are all connected and could be encouraging each other to press their own advantage. In other words they might all act simultaneously to weaken the West. It is a unique set of circumstances and as such they may decide to strike. It would be almost impossible for the West (mainly the US of course) to counter 3 major conflicts at once. The Iranian deal failing would almost certainly lead to conflict in the Middle East. It could well be the catalyst for the initial inner ring war around Israel.. **The world is on the brink....**

BIBLE QUOTE

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and **there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was** since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.
(Daniel 12:1)

Israel 'attacks weapons shipment in Latakia'

The Times, December 7, 2021



EVENT Israel conducted a rare attack on Syria's main port overnight, hitting shipping containers, according to claims by Damascus. Explosions lit up the sky over the port of Latakia, on the sliver of Mediterranean coast belonging to Syria between Lebanon and Turkey, in the early hours of the morning. Latakia is usually out of bounds for Israeli attacks because it is regarded as firmly within the "Russian sphere of influence" in Syria but Israel's leadership, particularly the former prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu, is widely believed to have won assurances from President Putin that he would not interfere with the bombing campaign so long as Russian interests were not affected. An explosion was reported on board a cargo ship docked off Latakia in August, hinting that Israel might have started to push back into the Russian zone of influence.

COMMENT Iran has been sending military supplies into Syria through the port of Latakia believing they were under the protection of Russia in that area. And until now they have been protected by the Russian military umbrella. However this week Israel bombed the port hitting almost certainly Iranian shipping containers full of arms and military equipment. This is unusual because it is normally out of bounds as Russia controls this area. Israel is gearing up for the collapse of the Iranian nuclear talks. Interestingly the US and Israel have said this week through military sources that the two sides will "discuss joint drills designed to prepare for strikes on Iran if they become necessary." The exercise will take place next year and involve F-35 stealth bombers accompanied by F-16 and F-15 fighters flying 600 miles out over the Mediterranean to replicate the distance required to strike nuclear targets in Iran. We know trouble is coming with Iran. Isaiah 21 talks of a time of great trouble when the treacherous deal comes to an end. Elam=Iran.

BIBLE QUOTE The traitor betrays, the looter takes loot. Elam, attack! Media, lay siege! I will bring to an end all the groaning she caused. At this my body is racked with pain, pangs seize me, like those of a woman in labor; I am staggered by what I hear, I am bewildered by what I see. (Isaiah 21:2-4 NIV)

Olaf Scholz voted in as German chancellor

The Times, December 8, 2021



EVENT

Olaf Scholz was voted in as Germany's new chancellor this morning and faces an immediate test of his leadership as the US pressures him to cancel a controversial gas pipeline from Russia if the Kremlin invades Ukraine. Scholz, 63, and his centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) won the Bundestag election in September and swiftly assembled a three-party ruling coalition with the Greens and the libertarian Free Democrats (FDP). However, Scholz's first days in office will be consumed with crisis management. The fourth wave of the pandemic is pushing hospitals in many parts of the country to their limit, with a further 527 deaths over the past 24 hours, the highest daily total since the dark days of the second wave in February. Biden's administration is also lobbying Berlin to draw up plans for the cancellation of the Nord Stream 2 gas project as part of a package of sanctions to deter President Putin from sending Russian troops into Ukraine.

COMMENT

Angela Merkel became Germany's first woman chancellor and led the country for 16 years. This week her reign came to an end. She has been credited with being a very stable force holding the factious EU together. She became viewed as an indispensable crisis manager. When negotiations were blocked, she "mostly found something that unites us to move things along." the Luxemburg prime minister said. But Merkel has exited at the very point in history when war could be fought once again in eastern Europe. And Germany is at the very epicentre of the punishment that could be used against Russia – the new oil pipeline. God's hand controls every appointment of worldly leaders. It is the time for a new leader in Germany...this is all in God's plan....

BIBLE QUOTE

Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished.

(Romans 13:1 NLT)

ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

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

2021-12-11 [What can the West do if Russia attacks Ukraine](#) - DW News - 10.0 min - YouTube

2021-12-09 [Can Iran really make a nuclear bomb](#) - Gravitas - 4 min - YouTube

2021-12-08 [Biden threatens Putin with severe economic sanctions over Ukraine](#) - DW News - 6.0 min - YouTube

2021-12-07 [Will Russia invade Ukraine in January 2022](#) - Gravitas - 6.0 min - YouTube

2021-12-07 [Israel Launches Airstrikes on Iran Proxies in Syria; Blocks Hamas Terror Tunnels](#) – Watchman - 11.29 min - YouTube

2021-12-06 [Iran, China & Russia Threats Grow; U.S. Unwilling to Respond](#) - Watchman - 10.31 min - YouTube

2021-12-03 Israel TARGETED by UN Resolutions; Jerusalem's Temple Mount a Muslim Site? – YouTube 9:38 min

2021-11-21 United Arab Emirates - Middle East Battle Lines – Interactive Map

2021-11-14 Has the Arab world abandoned Palestine - Gravitas - YouTube 5:29 min

2021-11-14 The Shia-Sunni Divide - Understanding the split - Gravitas – YouTube 8:50 min

2021-10-28 Turkey Claims Israeli Mossad Agents Arrested; Accuses West of Meddling – YouTube 9:15 min

2021-10-25 Gravitas- Israel preparing to strike Iranian nuclear sites - YouTube 5:08 min

2021-10-21 Israel & Iran Hold Major Air Force Drills; U.S. Base in Syria TARGETED by Drones – YouTube 8.33 min

2021-09-25 [Understand German Politics and the election system -how it will affect the world](#) - 6.0 min - YouTube

2017-09-14 [How do German elections work - CNBC Explains](#) - 5.33 min - YouTube 2021-12-08 [Olaf Schultz](#) – 4.05 min - YouTube



Potential for 175,000 Russian Forces Near Ukraine: Evidence of Recent Artillery, Equipment, Personnel Movements and Planning



- ▶ 50 BTGs currently (+/- 70,000 personnel)
- ▶ Up to 100 BTGs expected (+/- 175,000 personnel)
- ▶ Up to 50 Regiments of Reservists Expected (100,000 personnel)
- ▶ Battalion Tactical Group (BTG)

- ▶ Russian plans involve extensive movement of BTGs to / from the border to obfuscate intentions and to create uncertainty.
- ▶ Equipment may be left behind at different training ranges to enable a rapid, final buildup.

Recently arrived equipment

Location of the 50+ Russian BTGs along the border and in Crimea

*Ukraine's Avtonomna Respublika Krym (Autonomous Republic of Crimea) is occupied by Russia
Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
Boundary representation is not necessarily authoritative.



