

This Week's Developments

March 20 - 27, 2022

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1) *East vs West: Mixed Information!*

Military Fatalities

Pravda (Russia / The East) – March 25, 2022:

Unfortunately, during the special military operation there are losses among our comrades-in-arms. To date, 1,351 servicemen have been killed, 3,825 have been injured," Colonel General Sergei Rudskoy, First Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, said on March 25.

"There are many requests coming from Russians who want to take part in the operation in Ukraine. More than 23,000 foreigners from 37 countries also expressed their readiness to fight on the side of the people's republics.

"We offered the leadership of the LPR and the DPR to accept this assistance, but they said that they would defend their land themselves. They have enough forces and means for this."

During the time of the special operation, the Armed Forces of Ukraine have lost as many as 30,000 men, Igor Konashenkov, an official representative of the Russian Ministry of Defense, told reporters on March 25.

Business Insider (NATO / The West) - March 24, 2022

NATO released a new estimate that up to 40,000 Russian troops have been injured, captured, or killed in the first month of Russia's war on Ukraine.

An anonymous NATO official spoke to media outlets including NBC and the AP, confirming the number. The official said that per NATO's most recent intelligence assessment, between 7,000 to 15,000 Russian troops have died in the conflict.

The NATO estimate aligns with an estimate released by US intelligence, which pegged the Russian death toll at around 7,000 people. Ukraine also says it has killed at least six Russian generals.

Russian forces have faced many logistical issues, and are suffering from low morale.

The NATO estimate comes the same week that the pro-Kremlin tabloid Komsomolskaya Pravda reported almost 10,000 Russian troops had been killed in the conflict. It cited numbers from the Russian Ministry of Defense saying 9,861 Russian troops had died, and 16,153 soldiers were injured. The story was later taken down.

2) East vs West: Mixed Information!

Russian Activities in Ukraine

Pravda – March 25, 2022: The Russian “spin” (East)

Can the West arrange a large-scale military provocation against Russia and use Ukraine as a Trojan horse? According to confidential sources, the NATO General Staff is considering any scenario to throw Russia into the flames of war, even if it takes to resort to nuclear weapons. It seems that we are witnessing Operation Barbarossa 2 plan unfolding before our very eyes.

It goes about the plan to create permanent hotbeds of tensions on the borders with Russia, organise provocations against local Russian-speaking population and openly prepare for a war with Russia.

American nuclear weapons are stationed in Germany, at Büchel base, where up to 20 B61 hydrogen bombs can be stored.

According to unconfirmed reports, the warhead could have been sent to a NATO base in Estonia. Multinational battalions of the North Atlantic Alliance have been stationed there for almost six years now.

Washington may well consider the following scenario: as soon as the Ukrainian army goes on an offensive in the Donbass, Russia will be advised not to interfere in those events as Kiev may use nuclear weapons against Moscow.

Bloomberg - March 24, 2022 The NATO “spin” (West)

Ukraine and its western allies have portrayed Russia’s military drive as stalled by fierce Ukrainian resistance, as well as poor planning and logistics. They reject the Russian claims of neo-Nazi influence as nonsense. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy is Jewish and the grandson of a World War II veteran.

Western officials said Russia is now recognizing it can’t pursue military operations in multiple directions at once and so may be pausing attacks on Kyiv and other cities to focus its logistics and efforts on Donbas, where Ukraine’s best-trained forces are.

Michael Kofman, a specialist on the Russian military at CNA, a Washington think tank, said Russia appears to be “revising war aims” in an effort “to prioritize where they can actually achieve some military success.”

“That gives Moscow an option to end this war in a way so that they can claim the victory for domestic audiences,” he said. “Politically Russia is losing. Militarily it is less clear. Russian forces have lost momentum and couldn’t achieve most of their objectives. But this is the first chapter of the war. It is hard to say if we’re near the beginning, middle or end of the conflict.”

IF Ukraine War Effort Fails: A Prediction of Putin's Future!

Moscow Times: March 25, 2022 (Opinion)

A leader without support will fall. It is a question of when, not if. Any society is like a pyramid in how close people are to the leadership and how they can influence it. But in democracies the pyramid is flat, with a sharp angle of the base and an obtuse angle of the top, while in personified autocracies (absolute monarchies, tyrannies) there is a very sharp angle at the top and the base angles are only slightly below 90 degrees. Our (Russian) society is a typical example of this kind of elevated autocratic pyramid.

About 80% of the population is its base. These are usually people who live modestly or are simply poor. They get their view of the world from television rather than the Internet; they either have never traveled abroad or are happy on the private beaches of Egypt, Turkey, Tunisia, and Hainan. They are naturally anti-American, even though they have never been to America. In the present circumstance, for the most part, the pyramid base — about 70% — support Putin's war in the Ukraine. They believe in the bloodthirsty anti-Russian "Bandera-ites" and the evil West that Russia opposes. But they aren't fanatic about it. They would prefer not to send their children to war, and they'd like to avoid the hardships of war. There are very few people who are enthusiastic. The ones who volunteer to fight do it out of poverty and despair because their lives are unfulfilled.

The second level of the pyramid is 18-19% of the population. These are well-educated and cultured people who widely use the Internet, go abroad and know the world well. Among this group, about 70% disapprove of the current war, which they state publicly in one way or another. Quite a few people in this group are shocked by the latest events and are changing their loyalty to the authorities to moral opposition to them.

Finally, the tip of the pyramid — 1-2% of the population — is the spot for the main beneficiaries of the current Russian system. These people are fully devoted to the authorities. Now terror and frustration reigns in this "elite" group. The main words you hear in the offices of the Kremlin are "they deceived us."

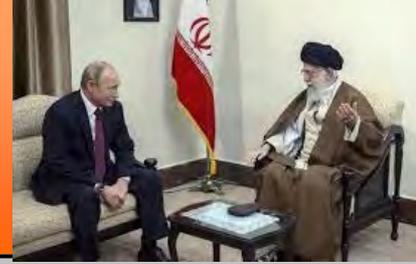
These people stopped being loyal to Putin at one point. Why would they want to lose everything they've gained, and even their very lives? Without them, Putin is no longer a great tyrant, but just an old man hiding in a bunker. Putin cannot appeal to the next stratum — it is either against him or loyal to him for the same reason as the elite and will abandon him along with the elite.

Putin cannot appeal to the people — he is anything but a people's leader. The people, even if they sympathize with him, will not follow him. They are passive and get along with their television sets, not a revolution.

Therefore, we (Russia) are not threatened by a new Stalinism, or the Iranian path, or the North Korean path. The masses of Russia are silent and there will be no revolution. But there will be — and very, very soon — a coup at the very top. And we can expect this in the coming days, and much of it in the coming weeks.

Iranian nuclear talks clouded by Russian demands

Reuters, March 7, 2022



EVENT

Talks to revive Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers were mired in uncertainty on Sunday following Russia's demands for a U.S. guarantee that the sanctions it faces over the Ukraine conflict will not hurt its trade with Tehran. Moscow threw the potential spanner in the works on Saturday, just as months of indirect talks between Tehran and Washington in Vienna appeared to be headed for an agreement, with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov saying the Western sanctions over Ukraine had become a stumbling block for the nuclear deal. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken sought to dispel talk of such obstacles on Sunday when he said that the sanctions imposed on Russia over Ukraine had nothing to do with a potential nuclear deal with Iran. Henry Rome, Iran analyst at consultancy Eurasia group, said reviving the nuclear pact without Russia was "tricky but probably doable, at least in the near term". "If Russia continues to obstruct the talks, I think the other parties and Iran will have no choice but to think creatively about ways to get the deal done without Moscow's involvement," Rome told Reuters.

COMMENT

The consequences of Putin's war over Ukraine has wider ramifications for "peace" around the world. One impact is over the delicate negotiations vis-à-vis the Iran nuclear deal that Russia is a key part of. Russia has changed its own demands when it comes to these negotiations – insisting that it must be able to trade with Iran despite sanctions it might have imposed on it by the West over Ukraine. We see here Russia acting in its own interests but also in the interests of Iran – acting as a protector of Iran. Isaiah 21 says that there will be a treacherous deal. Iran is specifically mentioned as rising up and besieging.. But we also read the the "spoiler will spoil". A reference to Russia...

BIBLE QUOTE

A grievous vision is declared unto me; the treacherous dealer dealeth treacherously, and the spoiler spoileth. Go up, O Elam: besiege, O Media; all the sighing thereof have I made to cease. Elam/Media = Iran The spoiler could be reference to Russia. Before Russia descends to Israel there is an inner ring war around Israel that Iran is behind...

(Isaiah 21:2)

'Serious escalation': US believes North Korea testing intercontinental missile

The Guardian, March 10, 2022



EVENT The US believes North Korea is testing a new intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) in what the Biden administration called a “serious escalation” that would trigger more sanctions. Pyongyang conducted two recent missile launches which it said were ultimately intended for putting satellites into space. After scrutinizing them, however, US intelligence has assessed that the real intention was to test parts of the new ICBM. “Based on analysis of these launches, the United States government has concluded that these launches involved a new ICBM system that the DPRK is developing,” John Kirby, the Pentagon spokesman, said. “This is a serious escalation by the DPRK.” US forces have stepped up their monitoring and intelligence collection in the region, and new sanctions are to be introduced on Friday aimed at further restricting North Korea’s access to advanced technology that it could use in its weapons programmes.

COMMENT Putin standing up to the West is encouraging other autocratic dictators in the East. It is no coincidence that Pyongyang has decided to start testing missiles again. China is also watching events in Ukraine as they decide whether to invade Taiwan. China has been surprised at the level of sanctions against Russia and is waiting to see if cracks appear in the alliance. Bill Burns, director of the CIA, said “I would not underestimate President Xi and the Chinese leadership’s determination with regard to Taiwan.” It is possible to see conflict developing around the world. Ukraine could be the spark that ignites and leads to the “time of trouble such as never was.” Nations have long prepared for war and we may see different conflicts - but all will one day be centred on Jerusalem.

BIBLE QUOTE For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

(Zechariah 14:2)

Rich Russians seek safe haven for their fortunes in Israel

The Times, March 12, 2022



EVENT Wealthy Russians are following Roman Abramovich's lead and investing in Israeli property as sanctions in Europe and the US bite. Estate agents and tax lawyers report an influx of interest from Russians buying beachfront homes and building plots in Tel Aviv. A key incentive is that citizens do not have to declare or pay tax on foreign income for the first ten years. Another is the discreet agreement between Russian and Israeli intelligence services that neither carries out assassinations in each other's territory. Russians with Jewish ancestors, such as Abramovich, can automatically apply for Israeli citizenship through the Law of Return. Harel Perlmutter, head of tax for Barnea, an Israeli law firm, said he had had inquiries from "millionaires and billionaires, and yes, oligarchs, looking to move to Israel". Although it was "almost impossible" to wire money to Israel from Russia it could be done via London or New York "quite easily", he added.

COMMENT Russian and Ukrainian Jews are looking immigrate to Israel. More than 5,000 Ukrainian Jews have already put in calls to the special Jewish Agency hotline and about half of the callers expressed interest in immigrating to Israel immediately. "We call on the Jews of Ukraine to immigrate to Israel – your home," Israel's Ministry of Immigration said in a statement on February 26. Wealthy Russian Jews are buying up property and viewing Israel as a safe haven in a world that has turned against them. This in turn pumps huge wealth into Israel. This could be one of the catalysts to bring Gog/Putin down into Israel because he comes to take a spoil. Putin will not tolerate Israel becoming rich on the back of the Ukraine war whilst Russia suffers economic collapse and isolation....

BIBLE QUOTE I will go up to the land of unwall'd villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates, To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, (Ezekiel 38:11-12)

ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

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

2022-03-25 **Russia Suffers MASSIVE Casualties in Ukraine; Iran NEW Missile Threat to Israel** - Watchman - 7.36 min - YouTube

2022-03-24 (updated from Feb 7, 2021) - **The future of Oil** - Gravitas Plus - 7.42 min YouTube

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

2022-03-09 Saudi Arabia, UAE ignore phone calls from Biden - Gravitas - 5.16 - YouTube

2022-03-09 Iran Targets Israel for REVENGE Over Syria Strike; UAE & Saudis REFUSE Biden Call - Watchman - 12.58 - YouTube

2022-03-05 Israeli PM meets Putin in Moscow, then speaks with Zelensky by phone - Reuters

2022-03-04 Ukraine War - Are we heading towards World War III - Gravitas - 9.23 min - YouTube