

# This Week's Developments

March 26 – April 1, 2023 [ > extra Slides]

- Putin's new doctrine calls US 'main source' of threat
- Ukraine: Russia's UN security council role is bad joke
- Putin: Russia to station nuclear weapons in Belarus
- Finland to join Nato within days
- Israel's divisions are distracting it from a perfect storm
- Netanyahu rejects Biden's call to scrap judicial reform
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

*Map 1*

*Map 2*

# Putin's new doctrine calls US 'main source' of threat

Financial Times, March 31, 2023



## EVENT

The Kremlin has adopted a new foreign policy doctrine which identifies the US as the “main source of threats” to Russian security while describing Russia as a “distinctive state-civilisation” with a “unique historical mission”. The document is the first update to the doctrine since 2016 and reflects the “radical changes in the international affairs”, President Vladimir Putin told a meeting of his Security Council on Friday. Presenting the new strategy, foreign minister Sergei Lavrov said **Russia faced an “existential threat”** from “unfriendly countries”. The new doctrine describes the US as the “main source” of security threats to Russia and alludes to an “era of revolutionary changes” towards a “more just multipolar world” — wording intended to reflect the rising power of China. It accuses the US of using its “special military operation” in Ukraine as a pretext to unleash a “hybrid war” aimed at “weakening and disintegrating Russia”.

## COMMENT

Russia's new foreign policy doctrine marks a sharp contrast to the one in 2016. Back then the doctrine expressed a desire to build “working relations with the US”. There is no mention of that now. The US is seen as creating an “existential threat” to Russia. This phrase is very important. Russia's nuclear doctrine states that nuclear weapons can be used when there is an “existential threat” to Russia. Putin is preparing the ground to use nuclear weapons if “push” comes to shove. The Bible says that Putin (Gog) will be “pushed”. Daniel 11:40 speaks of the king of the south “pushing” at him. The king of the south we find from Ezekiel 38 is UK / US. The word “push” means to militarily provoke. So we are reading here of (Gog /Putin) accusing the king of the south of doing exactly this – militarily provoking (pushing) Russia. It leads to Armageddon.

## BIBLE QUOTE

And at the time of the end shall **the king of the south push at him**: 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)*

# Russia's UN security council role is a bad joke, says Ukraine

The Times, March 31, 2023



## EVENT

Russia will assume the rotating presidency of the 15-member UN security council on April 1 despite its invasion of Ukraine — a move the country has denounced as a bad joke. “Frankly speaking, you could not imagine a worse joke for April Fool’s Day,” Dmytro Kuleba, the Ukrainian foreign minister, said. President Putin is wanted by the International Criminal Court to face war crimes charges. Kuleba tweeted that Russia’s presidency of the security council was “a stark reminder that something is wrong with the way international security architecture is functioning”. He added: **“A state that systemically ruins international peace and security will be presiding over the body tasked with maintaining them.”** The council has ten rotating and five permanent members — the UK, Russia, France, China and the US — who all possess the power of veto. The presidency changes every month and its leader has the authority to organise specific sessions. Russia will be taking over from Mozambique.

## COMMENT

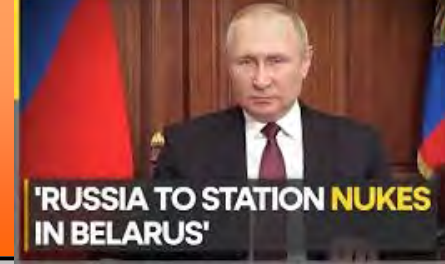
The last time Russia held the presidency of the UN was when it launched the war against Ukraine. As president of the UN Russia can set the agenda, exploiting the Security Council and spreading misinformation. Undoubtedly Russia will do so again and maybe even use this time of its presidency to further its war in Ukraine. Russia has already said it will hold 3 sessions on 1. Risks of not allowing the exporting military equipment 2. Effective multilateralism and 3. The Middle East. That final one shows how interested Russia is in this area – as it looks south to take a spoil. The UN is the closest the world has to one government but how sick and morally bankrupt it is. We long all the more for the righteous rulership and kingship of our Lord Jesus Christ at his return.

## BIBLE QUOTE

**Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?** The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. .... **Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.**  
(Psalm 2:1-6)

# Putin: Russia to station nuclear weapons in Belarus

BBC, March 27, 2023



**EVENT** Russia will station tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, President Vladimir Putin has said. President Putin said the move would not violate nuclear non-proliferation agreements and compared it to the US stationing its weapons in Europe, according to Russian state media. Moscow would not be transferring control of its arms to Minsk, he added. The US said it did not believe Russia was preparing to use the nuclear weapons after the announcement. "We have not seen any reason to adjust our own strategic nuclear posture," the US Defense Department said in a statement. "We remain committed to the collective defence of the Nato alliance." Belarus shares a long border with Ukraine, and with Nato members Poland, Lithuania and Latvia. **This will be the first time since the mid-1990s that Moscow will have based nuclear arms outside the country.**

**COMMENT** Belarus (once part of the USSR) is the Kremlin's most loyal ally and allowed it to launch its full-scale invasion of Ukraine last year from military bases in the south of the country. This week the Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenkov formally accepted the Kremlin's demand to station nuclear missiles in the country. He also warned *"It is impossible to defeat a nuclear power. If the Russian leadership understands that the situation threatens to cause Russia's disintegration, it will use the most awful weapon. This cannot be allowed."* He also called for an immediate ceasefire. Russia rejected that saying that peace talks will not achieve its aims in Ukraine. The Bible is clear that Gog will use shocking destruction. As terrible as the events have been so far in Ukraine there is worse to come. Jesus will return to stop the total destruction of all living things.

**BIBLE QUOTE** For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. And **except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved**: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days. (Mark 13:-19-20)

# Finland to join Nato within days

The Times, March 31, 2023



## EVENT

Finland is poised to become a formal member of Nato within days after Turkey's parliament approved its accession to the western military alliance. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia prompted both Finland and Sweden to give up their long traditions of military non-alignment, and they applied to enter the alliance on the same day in May last year. Turkey's parliament, in a session that went deep into the night, cast the final vote needed for Finland's entry into Nato, making it the 31st member of the alliance. It is a move that could shift the balance of power between the West and Russia. All 276 Turkish lawmakers present voted in favour of Finland's application, days after Hungary's parliament also endorsed it — the last two member states to do so. Nato (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) was created after the Second World War, and its 30 member states include Britain and the US. Its goal is to safeguard its members' freedoms and security. Critically, if one Nato state is attacked by a third party, the alliance has pledged to defend it.

## COMMENT

Finland shares a 1,340 km border with Russia. Apart from Ukraine it is the largest border on Russia's western side. Putin warned about Finland joining NATO in 2016: "*When we look across the border now, we see a Finn on the other side. If Finland joins NATO, we will see an enemy.*" Putin sees Russia's northwestern flank becoming far more vulnerable. Its border with the alliance will extend from the Arctic Ocean to the Baltic Sea, which will become almost entirely ringed by NATO countries. It is possible that Putin's move of nuclear weapons to Belarus is in retaliation to Finland's accession to NATO. The war in Ukraine has upended years for status quo and stability in Europe. We are fast approaching the time of trouble such as never was.. leading to His return..

## 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's divisions are distracting it from a regional perfect storm

Financial Times, March 28, 2023



## EVENT

Preoccupied by judicial restructuring, **Israel's policymakers have little bandwidth to deal with the external crises that threaten to create a perfect storm.** In the West Bank and East Jerusalem, the situation has been deteriorating as friction between Palestinian and Israeli settler militants and the Israel Defense Forces generates a mounting casualty toll. **Several factors are fuelling the potential for an explosion.** The Palestinian Authority is crumbling. Young militants with ready access to weapons are attacking Israelis, not deterred by the memory of the last intifada, when they were infants. Settler vigilantes are responding with "price tag" violence (best illustrated by the burning of Palestinian homes in Huwara). Extremist Israeli government ministers are inciting and indulging the settler youth. **And the onset of Ramadan and Passover, when emotions run high, makes friction at Jerusalem's holy sites seemingly inevitable.**

## COMMENT

As the article above says - this is the time of year when tensions run high with Muslims celebrating Ramadan and Jews celebrating Passover. These tensions could spill over into violence around the Holy sites in Israel - especially in Jerusalem. Israel has turned in on itself in recent months as battles rage (on the streets) between those who support Netanyahu's reforms and those who don't. All this leaves Israel in a very vulnerable situation. Iran has held off from crossing the nuclear threshold but this calculation might change with the US preoccupied with Ukraine and Israel preoccupied with internal issues. Events in Israel are also undermining relations with neighbouring Jordan and progress with the Abraham Accords. The Bible says there is an initial inner ring war around Israel with her nearby neighbours. This could come very soon...

## BIBLE QUOTE

Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling **unto all the people round about**, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it. *(Zechariah 12:1-2)*

# Netanyahu rejects Biden's call to scrap judicial reform

The Times, March 30, 2023



**EVENT** Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's besieged prime minister, has rebuked President Biden for suggesting he abandon his planned reforms of the judiciary that sparked nationwide protests. Netanyahu is said to have a frostier relationship with President Biden than with past presidents, in part because of Biden's determination to restart the Iran nuclear deal. Biden said the proposals, which were paused by Netanyahu this week in the face of widespread unrest and protests outside his home, should not go ahead. "I hope he walks away from it," Biden said, calling for compromise and saying that Israel "cannot continue down this road". The president opened his second Summit for Democracy yesterday in Washington with contributions delivered remotely by world leaders, including the Israeli prime minister. Netanyahu, 73, said Israel "makes its decisions by the will of its people and not based on pressures from abroad, including from the best of friends".

**COMMENT** Biden warned the Israeli prime minister on Tuesday that his government "cannot continue down this road". Netanyahu hit back in a public statement, saying Israel is a sovereign country that makes its own decisions. Some analysts believe that Biden's "significant statement" against Netanyahu's judicial reform plan will have a "much broader impact" than that issue alone. Public discord between Israel and the US is rare and this might make the Palestinians believe there is an opportunity for them to further their own cause. The Bible indicates Israel is alone in the world when conflict starts. Even though there is an opposing force to Gog in Ezekiel 38 they don't appear to have the will or ability to counteract Russia. Israel will have to turn to Christ when he returns...

**BIBLE QUOTE** And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and **they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him**, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. *(Zechariah 12:10)*

## ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

- DebkaFile Review** (world events through the bi-focals of Israeli military intelligence)      **TV-7 Israel News**      **Watchman Newscast**
- 2023-03-31 **Israel Protests- What's next for Netanyahu- - Will Netanyahu's coalition collapse-** This World - 19.55 min - YouTube
- 2023-03-31 **Inside Israel's NOTORIOUS Site Known as "The Gates of HELL" During Time of Jesus** - Watchman- 11.58 min - YouTube
- 2023-03-28 **Israel-U.S. Relations Heading for CRISIS After Biden Slams Netanyahu-** - Watchman Newscast - 12.44 min - YouTube
- 2023-03-27 **WSJ\_NORC Survey Results \_2023-**
- 2023-03-27 **America Pulls Back From Values That Once Defined It-**
- 2023-03-26 **China's Strategy Toward Russia And The West-**
- 2023-03-19 How 'The Most Catholic Country in the World' Left the Church but is Rediscovering Faith - 4.27 min - YouTube
- 2023-03-24 Arab nations embracing Syria - The West Asia Post - 6.09 min - YouTube
- 2023-03-24 Deadly Iranian strike draws US reprisal; Netanyahu to alleviate internal strife TV7Israel News - 12.00 min - YouTube
- 2023-03-24 Iran Drone & Missiles STRIKE American Bases in Syria; U.S. Retaliates - Watchman Newscast - 11.00 min - YouTube
- 2023-03-25 Democracy is broken'- French public divided on pensions and protests - France - The Guardian
- 2023-03-18 UBS seeks \$6 billion in government guarantees for Credit Suisse takeover - Reuters
- 2023-03-18 If judicial reform doesn't pass, things will be worse than before - Israel News - The Jerusalem Post
- 2023-03-17 Turkey, Hungary put Finland on course to join NATO- What it means - World News - Hindustan Times
- 2023-03-17 China Ships Weapons To Russia - Palki Sharma - 11.21 min - YouTube
- 2023-03-16 Survivors in shock as Cyclone Freddy toll passes 400 in Malawi, Mozambique - Reuters
- 2023-03-16 Iran-Saudi Arabia deal not a setback for US, analysts say - Politics News - Al Jazeera
- 2023-03-16 Assad Tells Putin He Wants MORE Russian Troops & Bases in Syria; - Watchman Newscast - 10.47 min - YouTube
- 2023-03-15 Israel & U.S. Launch Joint Air Force Drill; Simulation for Iran STRIKE- - Watchman Newscast - 10 min - YouTube
- Animated Map - Indo-European migrations - File-Indo-European migrations.gif - Wikipedia



# NATO PRESENCE IN EASTERN EUROPE



SOURCE: NATO

- Frankish Territory in 481
- Conquests of Clovis 481-511
- Conquests 531-614
- Conquests 714-768
- Conquests of Charlemagne 768-814
- Dependent territories
- Peoples tributary to Charlemagne
- Kingdom of Siagrius in 486
- Visigothic kingdom of Toulouse in 507
- Boundaries of the empire in 814



- Carolingian Empire 481-814



1. LITHUANIA
2. LUXEMBOURG
3. LIECHTENSTEIN
4. CZECH REPUBLIC
5. BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
6. YUGOSLAVIA

# 2) Gog (Russia) advances on Turkey, Egypt \*



RUSSIA ("CHIEF PRINCE" = "PRINCE OF ROSH")

○ TOBOLSK (Tubal)

○ MOSCOW (Meshech)

"LION" TARSHISH UK

"YOUNG LIONS" (USA, CANADA, ETC)

GERMANY (LAND OF MAGOG)

GOMER European Economic Community

Gibraltar

TURKEY (Togarmah)

IRAQ/IRAN (Persia)

INDIA

LIBYA

DEDAN SHEBA

ETHIOPIA

AUSTRALIA

*Legend HandOut*

# Percentage who say these values are 'very important' to them

**Patriotism**



**Religion**



**Having children**



**Community involvement**



**Money**



Source: WSJ/NORC poll of 1,019 adults conducted March 1-13, 2023; margin of error +/-4.1 pct. pts. Prior data from WSJ/NBC News telephone polls, most recently of 1,000 adults conducted Aug. 10-14, 2019; margin of error +/-3.1 pct. pts.

HAPPY. Taken all together, how would you say things are these days--would you say that you are very happy, pretty happy, or not too happy?

	WSJ/NORC 03/01-13/2023
Very happy	12
Pretty happy	56
Not too happy	30
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	1

*N=*

*1,019*

# This Week's Developments

March 26 – April 1, 2023 [ > Original Slides ]

- China's Strategy Toward Russia And The West
- America Pulls Back From Values That Once Defined It

• *Additional & Supporting Articles*

*Map 1*

*Map 2*

# China's Strategy Toward Russia And The West

CNN - Fareed Zakaria GPS (Transcript) Mar 26, 2023



## EVENT

The most interesting outcome of the Putin / Xi Jinping summit which got limited media attention [was] described by Putin, "We are in favor of using the Chinese yuan for settlements between Russia and the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America." The war against Ukraine, combined with Washington's increasingly confrontational approach to China, have created a perfect storm in which both Russia and China are accelerating efforts to diversify away from the dollar. The Biden administration has handled the economic war against Russia effectively by building a coalition of almost all the world's advanced economies. Dollar dominance is firmly entrenched for many good reasons. A globalized economy needs a single currency. The dollar is stable, you can buy and sell it anytime, and it's governed largely by the market and not the whims of a government. That's why China's efforts to expand the yuan's role internationally have not worked. All that said, Washington's weaponizing of the dollar over the last decade has led many important countries to search for ways... not become the next Russia. The share of US dollars in global central bank reserves has dropped from roughly 70% 20 years ago to less than 60% today and falling steadily. The Europeans, Chinese, Saudi Arabia & India are trying to build international payment systems outside the dollar dominated Swift system, searching for the single replacement for the dollar and there will not be one. But could the currency suffer weakness by 1,000 cuts? That seems a more likely scenario. [Internationally] the dollar has been weakening rather than strengthening; if a sign of things to come, America should worry. Washington has developed bad geopolitical habits because of its unrivaled unipolar status. If that continues, America will face a reckoning like none before.

## COMMENT

[Why is all this talk about the dollar, currencies etc., important when discussing Bible predictions about current events? Because it has very much to do with the frog-like spirit prophecy of Revelations 16. One of the 3 frog-like spirits came from the mouth of the Roman beast \(the Holy Roman Empire\), which, at that time, was the world financial capital - Vienna in Austria. The point is, 1 of the 3 socialistic/democratic influences was predicted to operate on world finances. Democratic influences emanate from the West \(or nations = K of S\), Socialistic influences are emanating from the East \(or nations = K of N\). The contest between East/West \(N/S\) is lining up in preparation for Armageddon.](#)

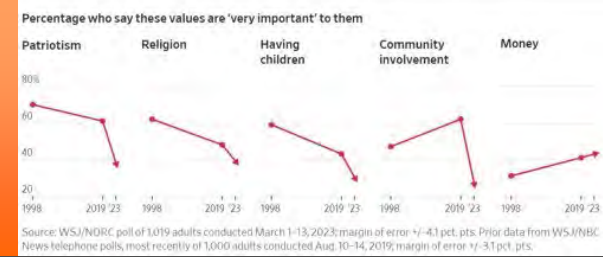
## BIBLE QUOTE

And I saw **three unclean spirits like frogs** come out of the mouth of the dragon, **and out of the mouth of the beast**, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Rev 16:12-13

# America Pulls Back From Values That Once Defined It

WSJ, March 27, 2023



## EVENT

Patriotism, religious faith, having children and other priorities that helped define the national character for generations are receding in importance to Americans, a new Wall Street Journal-NORC poll finds. Some 38% of respondents said patriotism was very important to them, and 39% said religion was very important. That was down sharply from when the Journal first asked the question in 1998, when 70% deemed patriotism to be very important, and 62% said so of religion. The share of Americans who say that having children, involvement in their community and hard work are very important values has also fallen. Tolerance for others, deemed very important by 80% of Americans as recently as four years ago, has fallen to 58% since then. Bill McInturff, a pollster who worked on a previous Journal survey, said that "these differences are so dramatic, it paints a new and surprising portrait of a changing America." A number of events have shaken and in some ways fractured the nation since the Journal first asked about unifying values, among them the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the financial crisis of 2008 and subsequent economic downturn and the rise of former President Donald Trump. The only priority the Journal tested that has grown in importance in the past quarter-century is money, which was cited as very important by 43% in the new survey, up from 31% in 1998.

## COMMENT

This is a poll about the US and US citizens, but other surveys about the feelings and attitudes of the peoples of other western 1st-world nations are not that much different. This could as easily have been a survey of any 1st world nation in the world, with some variations but very few major exceptions. What is unique about this survey is the comparison of the 2023 responses with the responses to a similar survey 25 years ago. All areas of character and values showed a marked decline over 25 years; the only area of increase being the importance placed on money. The responses to questions about happiness are very telling: The question was simply "Are you happy?" (3 choices) Very happy (12%); Pretty happy: (56%) Not too happy (30%). When asked how many were confident of improved life for next generation 64% Yes in 1998 but only 21% Yes in 2023. The pessimism, negativity and fear in western society is pervasive - and foretold.

## BIBLE QUOTE

"In the last days there will be **very difficult times**. For people will **love only themselves and their money**. They will be boastful and proud, **scoffing at God**... and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will ... love pleasure **rather than God**. They will **act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly.**"  
2Ti 3:1-5 NLT