

This Week's Developments

March 19 - 25, 2023 [go to extra Original Slides]

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Israel turmoil dogs Netanyahu's UK trip

BBC, March 24, 2023



EVENT

As Benjamin Netanyahu walked the length of Downing Street towards a warm welcome from Rishi Sunak, the sounds of anguished protest will have been ringing in his ears. It's nothing he hasn't seen and heard, on a vastly bigger scale, on the streets of his own country in recent weeks. **But it will have served as a reminder that Israel's domestic woes are now following the embattled prime minister wherever he goes. There is no obvious sign that it's causing difficulties in relations with the UK, though.** In a joint document signed by the British and Israeli foreign ministers on Tuesday, the two sides said their bilateral relationship "has never been stronger". "As freedom-loving, innovative and thriving democracies," the document known as the 2030 Roadmap went on, "Israel and the UK are proud of our deep and historic partnership. We are firm friends and natural allies."

COMMENT

For months now, hundreds of thousands of Israelis have taken to the streets to protest the overhaul of the judicial system. Part of the new laws are the rolling back of 2005 legislation that ordered the evacuation of four Israeli settlements on the West Bank. Netanyahu's office said the parliament's "decision to repeal parts of the secession law brings an end to a discriminatory and humiliating law that prohibited Jews from living in the areas of northern Samaria, part of our historical homeland," using the biblical name for part of the West Bank. The world sees the West Bank as occupied territory and really home of a future Palestinian state. God says otherwise. The West Bank is part of the land he has given to Israel. We can see under this government how Israel could become even more hated and lead to all nations being gathered to Jerusalem to battle.

BIBLE QUOTE

They will besiege you in all your cities until your high and fortified walls in which you trusted come down throughout your land; and **they will besiege you in all your cities throughout your land which the Lord your God has given you.**

(Deuteronomy 28:52 Amplified Version)

Israel and Judicial Reform

BBC, March 24, 2023



EVENT

Prof. Moshe Koppel established "Kihalel", an influential think-tank in Israel responsible for initiating many of the judicial reforms in the Israeli political and judicial system. This conservative professor feels is that this is a fight with what he sees as the left elite of the country which isn't happy with any changes to its amount of power and influence. On the left-hand side of the entrance to his house is a yellow sign from a Gush Katif bus stop that was taken down during the 2005 Disengagement from Gaza. The sign mentions names of settlements that no longer exist, and an orange ribbon, the symbol of the dramatic right-wing demonstrations against the pullout, is tied onto it, blowing in the winter wind. "Let's face it, [says Koppel] there are different communities in Israel: There's a community that's secular, left-wing. They're what's called *vatikim* [veterans]; they came to the country a long time [ago], and they sit in positions of power. And for them, this system is working just fine. "All of a sudden, this coalition of ragtag outsiders won the election. So you've got settlers, Mizrahim [Jews from the Middle East and North Africa], and this whole ragtag band of outsiders who don't sit in the real sectors of power in the country – they won, and they actually want to make that win real. They're talking about how they're going to change the system. And this secular Left, feels like, okay, this is our country; you guys are only here at our sufferance." Regarding the selection committee of judges, Koppel said that it is "a catastrophe the way it is now. They [the judges] already have a majority, five out of nine, but they don't even need that majority, because the fact is that you need seven out of nine to pass as a Supreme Court justice. They have a bloc of three already that can prevent it. So they have a veto. The fact of the matter is that when you have a system in which the people who are already there have a veto over who joins them, it's always going to pull in the direction of homogeneity (sameness); they're always going to look the same. The people, the elite, who feel that this country belongs to them and they don't in any way like the riffraff that's presuming to take control – [they] are going to be protesting for a long time, because it's going to take them a while to adjust to the fact that they don't get to run everything."

Israel and Judicial Reform

Jerusalem Post, March 17, 2023



COMMENT

Back in 2005, the Israeli gov't (majority Ashkenazi or left-wing establishment elite) passed and enforced the "disengagement plan" which evicted over 9,000 Israeli citizens (settlers) from their homes in Gaza and northern Samaria. This has been a festering thorn in the side of many of the new-comers to the land - the settlers, i.e., those regarded as "outsiders" by the "Ashkenazi" elite (those European Jews who established the State of Israel in 1948, and their posterity). The "outsiders" are mainly right-wing religious Zionists - and they have now formed the government! They have also become the majority of the Israeli population, outnumbering the elite class. What has increased their numbers are the Jews from north Africa - i.e., Ethiopia, Sudan, others from Azerbaijan, Iraq, India, and from Russia. THEY NOW THE GOV'T & the elite left don't like it! Their policies are very right-wing & hawkish against any external threats to their nation & religion, very anti-Palestinian state and thus fly in the face of the current US gov't, of Europe and the UN. Hence the resistance, not only from the hundreds of thousands of Ashkenazi (establishment) Jews protesting in the streets, but from many nations who typically had supported Israel and had their back. They are resisting any change in the social democratic political establishment. So, the frog-spirits are hard at work in Israel. We don't know how this will turn out but it is good to have a bit of a handle on what it is all about, what is at stake, and how this may fit with God's purpose as prophetically laid out. This is part of the curse of the diaspora, being scattered into many countries & cultures has resulted in political thorns among them & they don't have the answers. But Christ does.

BIBLE QUOTE

Though I have **scattered them like seeds among the nations**, they will still remember me in distant lands. They and their children will survive and return again to Israel. I will bring them back from Egypt and gather them from Assyria. I will resettle them in Gilead and Lebanon until there is no more room for them all. They will pass safely **through the sea of distress**, for the waves of the sea will be held back, and the waters of the Nile will dry up. The pride of Assyria **will be crushed**, and the rule of Egypt **will end**.

Zec 10:9-11 (NLT)

On the Front Line of French Pension Protests

The Guardian March 25, 2023



EVENT

Macron's centrist government insists the pensions overhaul is necessary to keep the system financially afloat as the population ages and lives longer. As well as the equality issue, the government's use of the constitutional tool known as the 49:3 to push the legislation through without a final vote in the Assemblée nationale, where it has no majority since last year's general election, has broadened and deepened public anger, bringing many young people on to the streets. Macron and the unions appear to have backed themselves into an impasse with no evident way out for either side. Protests are continuing and another day of action is planned for Tuesday, forcing the cancellation of King Charles's three-day visit. Political scientist Dorian Dreuil from the Jean-Jaurès Foundation said that what started as a social and political crisis had now become a democratic one. "We have a blockage that has revealed something about our democracy and the limits of the republic's institutions that are not working as they should.

COMMENT

The pension reforms in France may have a significant impact on the results of the next election. The reforms proposed by Macron have sparked opposition from labor unions, who see the changes as a threat to workers' rights and pensions. If the reforms are pushed through in spite of the resistance, it could lead to potentially damaging Macron's popularity and his party's chances of being re-elected. The opposition parties, such as the National Front, will use it as a political weapon to gain support from disgruntled voters. Overall, the pension reforms could have a significant impact on the outcome of the next election. The National Front has a history of sympathizing with Russia, denying the holocaust, reorganizing NATO, etc. France is the Gomer of Ezekiel, the watershed of the "frog-spirits" & the "street of the great city" of Revelation. Not part of the "West".

BIBLE QUOTE

...the dead bodies [of God's witnesses] shall lie in the street of the great city ... And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, of the beast, and of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils [adverse influences] which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle...Gomer and all its armies will also join you [Gog, K of N]; Behold, I come as a thief. Rev 11:8; 16:13-15; Eze 38:6

US bombs Syria targets after deadly drone attack

BBC, March 24, 2023



US attacks on 'Iran-backed' militias in Syria

EVENT

The US has carried out air strikes against Iran-linked groups in eastern Syria after a drone attack killed a US contractor, the US defence chief said. Fourteen pro-Iran fighters were killed, according to a monitoring group. US officials said the air strikes happened on Thursday night, hours after the drone attack, which US intelligence said was "of Iranian origin". US bases in north-east Syria have come under attack before, with the US responding with air strikes. Last August, the US bombed sites in eastern Syria which it said were linked to Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) - its most powerful armed force - after rocket attacks on US troops there. Thursday night's air strikes were carried out on President Biden's orders "in response to... [the drone] attack as well as a series of recent attacks against coalition forces in Syria by groups affiliated with the IRGC", US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin said. Mr Biden, who is in Canada for a working visit, said he was briefed on the death of the US contractor while he was travelling to Ottawa early evening on Thursday.

COMMENT

On Thursday Iran backed militia's used suicide drones against a US military facility in Syria. Biden ordered a response and struck back using missiles. On Friday, defiant Iran's militias nevertheless launched rockets against the US military guard defending the Al Omar oil field. Iran has become brazen enough to challenge the US military head-on. This confidence may well come from its success supplying suicide drones to Russia. Iran is also in talks with Saudi Arabia to establish better relations with them. The Bible says that Iran will be stirred up and they will use their missiles. Iran is the power behind the throne of the initial inner ring war – as their confidence grows war gets closer...

BIBLE QUOTE

Behold, I will stir up the Medes [Iranians] against them, which shall not regard silver; and as for gold, they shall not delight in it. Their bows also shall dash the young men to pieces; and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eye shall not spare children.

(Isaiah 13:17-18)

Putin threatens response over Britain's toxic tank shells

The Times, March 22, 2023



EVENT

Russia has warned that Britain is taking “steps towards a nuclear collision” and that Moscow will be forced to react after the government announced that it was sending shells tipped with depleted uranium to Ukraine. Baroness Goldie, the defence minister, said that the Challenger 2 tanks Britain was supplying to Ukraine would be armed with the shells, which penetrate armour more easily but have been linked to adverse health effects. “Alongside our granting of a squadron of Challenger 2 main battle tanks to Ukraine, we will be providing ammunition including armour-piercing rounds which contain depleted uranium,” Goldie said in a parliamentary written answer. “Such rounds are highly effective in defeating modern tanks and armoured vehicles.” Putin, asked about Goldie’s comments, said: “If this happens, Russia will be forced to react accordingly, given that the West collectively is already beginning to use weapons with a nuclear component.”

COMMENT

Another day and another warning of nuclear confrontation – this time Russia is threatening nuclear war against Britain because the UK announced it was sending shells tipped with depleted uranium. These shells are nothing to do with nuclear weapons, however, depleted uranium is a byproduct of the process needed to create nuclear weapons. It is denser than lead so makes it “ideal” for a missiles / shells. What it does do is destroy tanks with greater ease. Putin however is linking this to using nuclear weapons. It shows how quickly things could get far worse in Ukraine. We also see here a further “push” from the king of the south (UK) against the king of the north (Russia). The push is part of what brings Russia down into Israel at some point...

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)

No path to peace: Five key takeaways from Xi and Putin's talks in Moscow

CNN, March 22, 2023



EVENT Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin have made a sweeping affirmation of their alignment across a host of issues – and shared **mistrust of the United States** – in a lengthy statement following talks between the two leaders in Moscow this week. Their meeting, which took place under the shadow of Russia's onslaught in Ukraine, left no question about **Beijing's commitment to developing its rapport with Moscow, despite Putin's growing isolation on the global stage as its devastating war continues into its second year.** It also failed to move the needle on bringing that conflict to resolution. Instead, Xi's three-day visit to the Russian capital, which concluded Wednesday, was an opportunity for the two self-described "friends" to showcase their close personal rapport amid the pomp of a state visit – and lay out how they could advance a world order that counters one they see as led by Washington and its democratic allies.

COMMENT As the West has shunned Putin and even put out a warrant for his arrest, Russia has turned East to China. It is interesting the world is broadly split into West and East. The West is home to liberal democracy's and freedom of speech. The East is home to totalitarian, authoritarian leaders. The Bible indicates this split. The 3 froglike spirits in Revelation (that began in the French Revolution) come out of a beast, a dragon and a false prophet. The beast is the West (Europe). The dragon is the East (Russia). The froglike spirit for the beast is Liberty (freedom). The froglike spirit for the dragon is Equality. The communistic teaching was that all men are equal. But it led to dictatorships

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. **The spirits went West and East** (*Revelation 16:13-14*)

ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

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

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

2023-03-11 What are the implications of Saudi-Iranian diplomatic deal - 28.10 min - YouTube

2023-03-11 Ukraine says Bakhmut battle is giving it an edge - Latest News - English News - Top News - WION - 3.47 min - YouTube

2023-03-11 China's role in Saudi-Iran deal a tricky test for the U.S. - Latest World News - English News - WION - 7.56 min - YouTube

2023-03-10 Iran & Saudi Arabia restore Relations; Israel to increase Gas Exports - Watchman Newscast - 14.17 min - YouTube

2023-03-09 John Paul Child abuse claims trigger angry reactions in Poland - AP News

2023-03-09 China brokers truce between Iran & Saudi Arabia - Gravitas - 5.15 min - YouTube

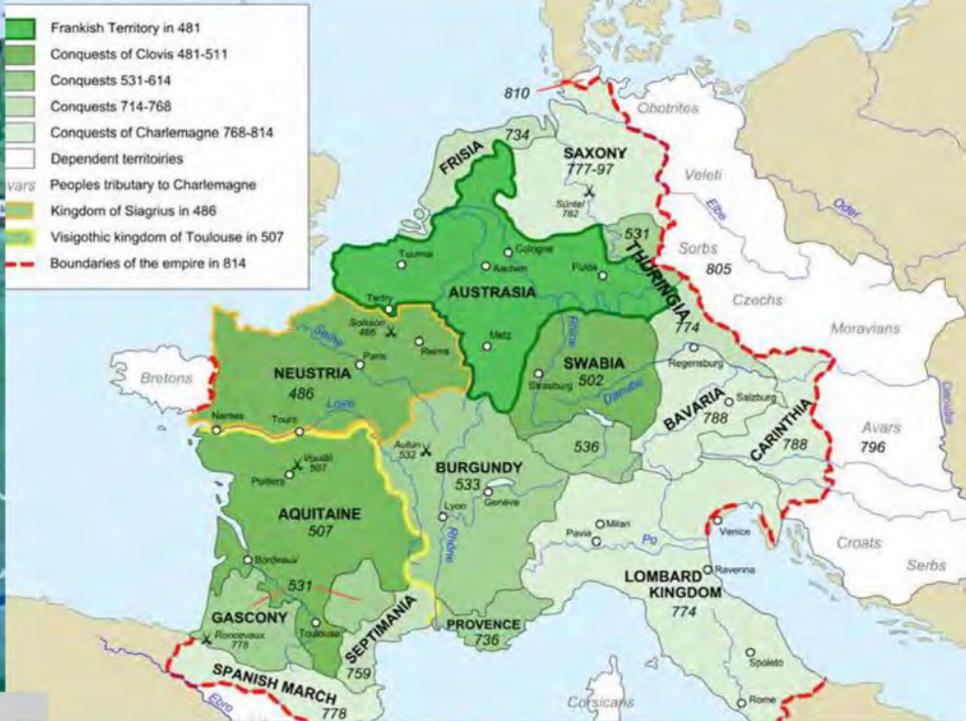
Animated Map - Indo-European migrations - File-Indo-European migrations.gif - Wikipedia

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 *



Legend HandOut

This Week's Developments

March 19 - 25, 2023 [go to extra Original Slides]

- Iraq war's 20th anniversary: Historic Mistake
- Russia will nuke any country that tries to arrest Putin

• *Additional & Supporting Articles*

Map 1

Map 2

The Times view on the Iraq war's 20th anniversary: Historic Mistake

The Times, March 20, 2023



EVENT

The Iraq war, which began 20 years ago today, was a disaster for Iraq, the Middle East and the world. Its consequences reverberate still. Even before the decision to go to war, there were many who were warning that Iran, the third country alongside Iraq and North Korea in President Bush's "axis of evil", presented the most potent threat to western interests. Iraq was prioritised because it was considered a softer military target and in the expectation that a democratic Iraq would fuel demands for change in Iran. Instead, the opposite occurred. Iran has increased its sway not just over Iraq but also Syria, Lebanon and Yemen. It is America's influence in the Middle East that has waned. Perhaps the gravest consequence of the war was to distract western attention from far greater risks to its long-term security from China and Russia. We all now live with its legacy: a less stable, more dangerous world than at any time since the Second World War.

COMMENT

In Isaiah there are ten burdens that start in Isaiah 13 and conclude with the judgement of the entire world in Isaiah 24. These burdens are national nightmares that trouble the world. They are unsolvable issues that lead to Armageddon. Amongst them is Isaiah 17 and the burden of Damascus – we are told it will be completely destroyed. Isaiah 23 is the burden of latter day Tyre speaking of Britain and even the death of the Queen. Another in Isaiah 21 speaks of Iran blocking the Hormuz Strait which it has threatened to do. But these burdens begin with the burden of Babylon – modern day Iraq. All of the whirlwind of chaos around the Middle East can be dated to this war. Although Isaiah 13 was partially fulfilled in ancient times – it is being fulfilled again at the time of the end....

BIBLE QUOTE

The burden of Babylon [Iraq], ..The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like as of a great people; a tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together: the LORD of hosts mustereth the host of the battle. They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, [CLICK HERE](#) to watch a video on the significance of the Iraq war – From Babel & Babylon to Baghdad (Isaiah 13:1-4)

Medvedev says Russia will nuke any country that tries to arrest Putin

The Independent, March 24, 2023



EVENT Dmitry Medvedev has said that any attempt to arrest Vladimir Putin would amount to a declaration of war against Moscow. The former Russian president and prime minister also warned that the threat of a “nuclear apocalypse” has not passed. He has, in the past, often talked about the use of nuclear weapons in the context of last year’s Ukraine invasion, and has emerged as one of Mr Putin’s most hawkish and outspoken deputies. His new comments come just days after he speculated that a hypersonic missile could be fired at the International Criminal Court (ICC) headquarters at The Hague after the tribunal issued an arrest warrant for Mr Putin. “Has the threat of a nuclear conflict passed? No, it has not passed. It has increased. **Each day when foreign weapons are delivered to Ukraine ultimately brings this same nuclear apocalypse closer...**,” the deputy chairman of the Russian security council said in a video in his Telegram channel on Thursday.

COMMENT Dmitry Medvedev was once put in power by Putin and became the Russian president for 4 years. He was seen as pro West and a far more reasonable person to deal with. However, that was then. Medvedev (Putin’s right hand man) has become one of the most outspoken hawks and has repeatedly threatened nuclear consequences from the war in Ukraine. Interestingly he said *“Let’s imagine the current head of a nuclear state arrives on the territory of, say, Germany, and is arrested. What is this? A declaration of war against the Russian Federation. In this case, everything we have would fly toward the Bundestag, the chancellor’s office and so on.”* Russia is threatening nuclear war and there is every likelihood that if push comes to shove they will resort to using them.

BIBLE QUOTE And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: **and he shall destroy wonderfully**, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people.

(Daniel 8:24)