

This Week's Developments

March 12 - 18, 2023 [go to extra Original Slides]

- Turkey, Hungary put Finland on course to join NATO
- Cyclone Freddy kills 438 in Malawi
- UBS seeks \$6 billion in guarantees for Credit Suisse
- Putin arrest warrant issued by ICC over war crimes
- Poland becomes first Nato nation to give Ukraine jets
- Assad gets red carpet treatment on visit to Moscow
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

Map 1

Map 2

Turkey, Hungary put Finland on course to join NATO

The Hindustan Times Mar 18, 2023



EVENT

Turkish President Erdogan ended months of diplomatically charged delays on Friday and asked parliament to quickly back Finland's bid to join NATO. A simultaneous decision by fellow holdout Hungary to schedule a Finnish ratification vote for March 27 means NATO will likely grow to 31 nations within a few months. This expansion into a country with a 1,340-kilometre (830-mile) border with Russia will roughly double the length of NATO's current Russian frontier. Finland had initially aimed to join together with fellow NATO aspirant Sweden. Helsinki and Stockholm ended decades of military non-alignment and decided to join the world's most powerful defence alliance in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. But the process got hung up once it reached Turkey and Hungary. Friday's breakthrough followed months of tense negotiations between Ankara and the Nordic neighbors that threatened to collapse several times.

COMMENT

This event significantly increases the NATO border with Russia - the exact opposite effect that Putin was hoping to achieve with his "military operation" in Ukraine. There is another effect that might be realized - in line with Bible prophecy, which has to do with the relationship between Russia & Turkey. Currently the countries are, at minimum, on a neutral to friendly basis. If it occurs, Russia won't be happy with the addition of Finland into the NATO family, & therefore logically not happy with the nation that had it in its power to prevent the alliance from happening. Bible prophecy indicates that Turkey is host country to Constantinople - the former capitol of the 4th Beast Dominion – the Greco Roman political “Dragon” that gave power to the Papacy, which together form the legs of the image. The King of the North (Russia) is prophesied to come against & take over that area & cause the image to stand upon its feet prior to being smitten by the Christ - stone

BIBLE QUOTE

This image's... legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay... the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind...and occupy and pass over... Thou sawest that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet ...and brake them to pieces... and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away... and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth

Dan 2:33-35; Dan 11:40

Cyclone Freddy kills 438 in Malawi

Publico World News March 18, 2023



EVENT

According to the Malawian authorities, the death toll in Malawi since Tropical Cyclone Freddy struck on Sunday has reached 438, 918 injured and 282 people missing. In southern Africa, more than 530 people have died since Freddy hit Madagascar and Mozambique repeatedly in recent weeks. According to the Disaster Management Department, floods, strong winds and landslides caused by Freddy in the southern region of the country forced the displacement of more than 345,000 people. The most affected districts are Blantyre, Chikwawa, Chiradzulu, Machinga, Mulanje, Neno, Nsanje, Phalombe, Thyolo, Zomba and Mangochi. The city of Blantyre, commercial capital and second city in the country, was one of the most affected places, registering at least 98 of the fatalities. The cyclone hit the east coast of Madagascar for the first time on February 21 and returned to the island on March 5, where it left a total of 17 dead and 300,000 people affected. In Mozambique, the cyclone, which made its first impact on February 24 and made landfall again at the end of last week, has so far caused 66 deaths.

COMMENT

NASA has confirmed that Cyclone Freddy set the record for having the highest accumulated cyclone energy of any southern hemisphere storm in history, and more than the total energy contained in all of the hurricanes to hit the US in 2022. Also, last week it unofficially broke the WMO's benchmark as the longest-lasting tropical cyclone on record. We think this event is important for 2 reasons: 1) This storm has hit an area where there are many Christadelphians (Mozambique and Malawi combined have over 17,000), so we need to keep them all in our prayers. More info will come out over time. 2) The Bible predicts that the increase of meteorological phenomena & climate change are a sign of the times and will be a part of the judgements on non-submissive nations at Christ's return.

BIBLE QUOTE

...fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word... the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: ... And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud... (Psa 148:7-8; Luke 21:25-27)

UBS seeks \$6 billion in government guarantees for Credit Suisse

Reuters March 18, 2023



EVENT

UBS is asking the Swiss government to cover about \$6 billion in costs if it were to buy Credit Suisse (CSGN.S), as the two sides raced to hammer together a deal to restore confidence in the ailing Swiss bank. The 167-year-old Credit Suisse is the biggest name ensnared in the turmoil unleashed by the collapse of U.S. lenders Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank over the past week, spurring a rout in banking stocks and prompting authorities to rush out extraordinary measures to keep banks afloat. The \$6 billion in government guarantees UBS is seeking would cover the cost of winding down parts of Credit Suisse and potential litigation charges, two people told Reuters. One of the sources cautioned that the talks to resolve the crisis of confidence in Credit Suisse are encountering significant obstacles, and 10,000 jobs may have to be cut if the two banks combine. Swiss regulators are racing to present a solution for Credit Suisse before markets reopen on Monday. Big U.S. banks threw a \$30 billion lifeline to smaller lender First Republic and U.S. banks altogether have sought a record \$153 billion in emergency liquidity from the Federal Reserve in recent days.

COMMENT

The failures of Silicon Valley Bank, Signature Bank, & potentially the First Republic Bank & Credit Suisse will cause catastrophic effects on the financial world. These institutions play critical roles in the global economy, and their failure could trigger market volatility, liquidity shortages, and a credit crunch. The interconnectedness of the global financial system means that their collapse could have global repercussions on other institutions that have exposure to them, leading to significant job losses, a slowdown in economic activity, and possibly a global recession. This is yet another example of world crises on steroids and a warning to us to exercise our stewardship and trust in the true riches of Christ.

BIBLE QUOTE

Look here, you rich people: Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you. Your wealth is rotting away, and your fine clothes are moth-eaten rags. Your gold and silver are corroded. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This corroded treasure you have hoarded will testify against you on the day of judgment. (James 5:1-3 NLT)

Putin arrest warrant issued by ICC over war crimes

The Times, March 17, 2023



EVENT

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued an arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin for war crimes, charging the Russian president with bearing individual criminal responsibility for the abduction and deportation of Ukrainian children into Russia. The warrant is the first to be issued against a Russian citizen since the court was invited by Ukraine to investigate war crimes committed in the year since the invasion. It was swiftly hailed by human rights organisations as a step towards holding Moscow to account for its abuses, although it is unlikely that Putin will ever end up in court. President Zelensky called it “a historic decision from which historic responsibility will begin”. Ukraine has accused Russia of large-scale war crimes against its citizens but prosecutors have long seen child abduction as the charge most likely to stick.

COMMENT

This is highly significant. The ICC is an intergovernmental organisation and international tribunal seated in The Hague, Netherlands. It is the first and only permanent international court with jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes. This warrant obliges any ICC member state to arrest a suspect who enters their territory. 153 nations are signed up to the ICC. There is no real provision to ever rescind the warrant once issued so this has put a permanent stain on Putin and makes him a pariah leader forever. The only countries he can now visit safely without fear of arrest are China, Syria and Iran. With no way back for Putin this makes him more dangerous than ever. Moscow has raged against this “outrageous” decision. Like a angry caged bear the ferocious consequences of the ICC warrant might soon be seen. Putin is a king of “fierce countenance”...

BIBLE QUOTE

And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, **a king of fierce countenance**, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.

(Daniel 8:23)

Poland becomes first Nato nation to give Ukraine jets

The Times, March 17, 2023



EVENT

Poland on Thursday pledged it would send four MiG-29 fighter jets to Ukraine, the first NATO member to do so, in a significant move in Kyiv's battle to resist Russia's onslaught. President Andrzej Duda said the planes – from about a dozen that it had inherited from the former German Democratic Republic – would be handed over in the coming days after being serviced. “When it comes to the MiG-29 aircraft, which are still operating in the defense of Polish airspace, a decision has been taken at the highest levels, we can say confidently that we are sending MiGs to Ukraine,” Duda said. Warsaw has taken a lead among NATO allies in supplying Kyiv with heavy weapons. The announcement that Poland will send the Soviet-designed planes marks a step beyond the rest of the alliance's commitments, and could put pressure on other member states to do the same. Other NATO nations have been reluctant to move far beyond a decision earlier this year to send tanks to Kyiv, and the US insisted Thursday that Poland's move would not force Washington's hand.

COMMENT

Russia has threatened to destroy any fighter jets given to Ukraine by its allies, after two countries promised planes. Slovakia became the second Nato country to pledge Kyiv some MiG-29 aircraft on Friday, a day after Poland. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov condemned the plans, saying that the aircraft would not affect the outcome of Moscow's "special military operation", as it calls the war. As each week goes by there is a further upping of the ante with neither side (West v Russia) wanting to back down. Where does this all end? Putin may finally resort to extreme destruction to bring things to a negotiation and somehow walk away with the final piece of Magog (Donbass region).

BIBLE QUOTE

Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

(Ezekiel 38:2-3)

Syria's Assad gets red carpet treatment on visit to Moscow

The Times, March 15, 2023



EVENT

Moscow welcomed President Assad of Syria with a red carpet as his country marked the 12th anniversary of the civil war that Russia has helped to suppress. Assad is set to meet with his Russian counterpart, President Putin, before four-way talks involving the deputy foreign ministers of Turkey, Syria and Iran as the Kremlin attempts to restore ties between Ankara and Damascus. The Syrian president attended a laying of flowers at Moscow's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and in a moment of confusion appeared to try to wrestle the wreath from the guard of honour laying it. Russia continues to provide military support to the Assad regime 12 years into the conflict in Syria, with regular bombardments on the last rebel-held pocket of the country in the northwest. Both Iran and Russia hold military installations and have a broad presence across the country. Turkey, as the last remaining major backer of the Syrian rebels in the northwest, has signaled over recent months that it is increasingly willing to negotiate an agreement with the regime.

COMMENT

On Wednesday this week Syrian President Bashar al-Assad met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow and offered his support in the Ukraine conflict. Syria is one of the very few nations that support Russia's war in Ukraine. With Bible in hand we know that Assad is currently ruler of the territory of the original king of the north (Seleucid empire was based in Syria). But the latter day king of the north is described as being from Russia (Magog, Meshech and Tubal). So why and when does the the king of the north move from Syria to Russia? The answer is when Damascus is destroyed and Syria ceases as a functioning nation. The mantle then passes from Assad to Putin.....

BIBLE QUOTE

The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from being a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap. The cities of Aroer are forsaken: they shall be for flocks, which shall lie down, and none shall make them afraid. The fortress also shall cease from Ephraim, and the kingdom from Damascus, and the remnant of Syria:

(Isaiah 17:1-3)

ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

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

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

2023-03-09 [Australia snubs out British submarines](#) - Gravitas - 5.03 min - YouTube

2023-03-06 [Israel Strike on Iran Nuclear Sites Outlawed by UN- Wars & Rumors of War](#) - Watchman Newscast - 9.46 min - YouTube

2023-01-31 [Is Russia's Invasion of Ukraine still a Religious War](#) - Religion and Global Society

2023-03-03 [Sara Netanyahu in the eye of the storm](#) - Gravitas - 8.13 min - YouTube

2023-03-02 [FBI says man threatened to kill Michigan AG Nessel, other Jewish officials](#) - mlive.com

[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)

"YOUNG LIONS"
(USA, CANADA, ETC)

"LION"
TARSHISH
UK

GERMANY
(LAND OF
MAGOG)

GOMER
European Economic Community

Gibraltar

TURKEY
(Togarmah)

IRAQ/IRAN
(Persia)

INDIA

LIBYA

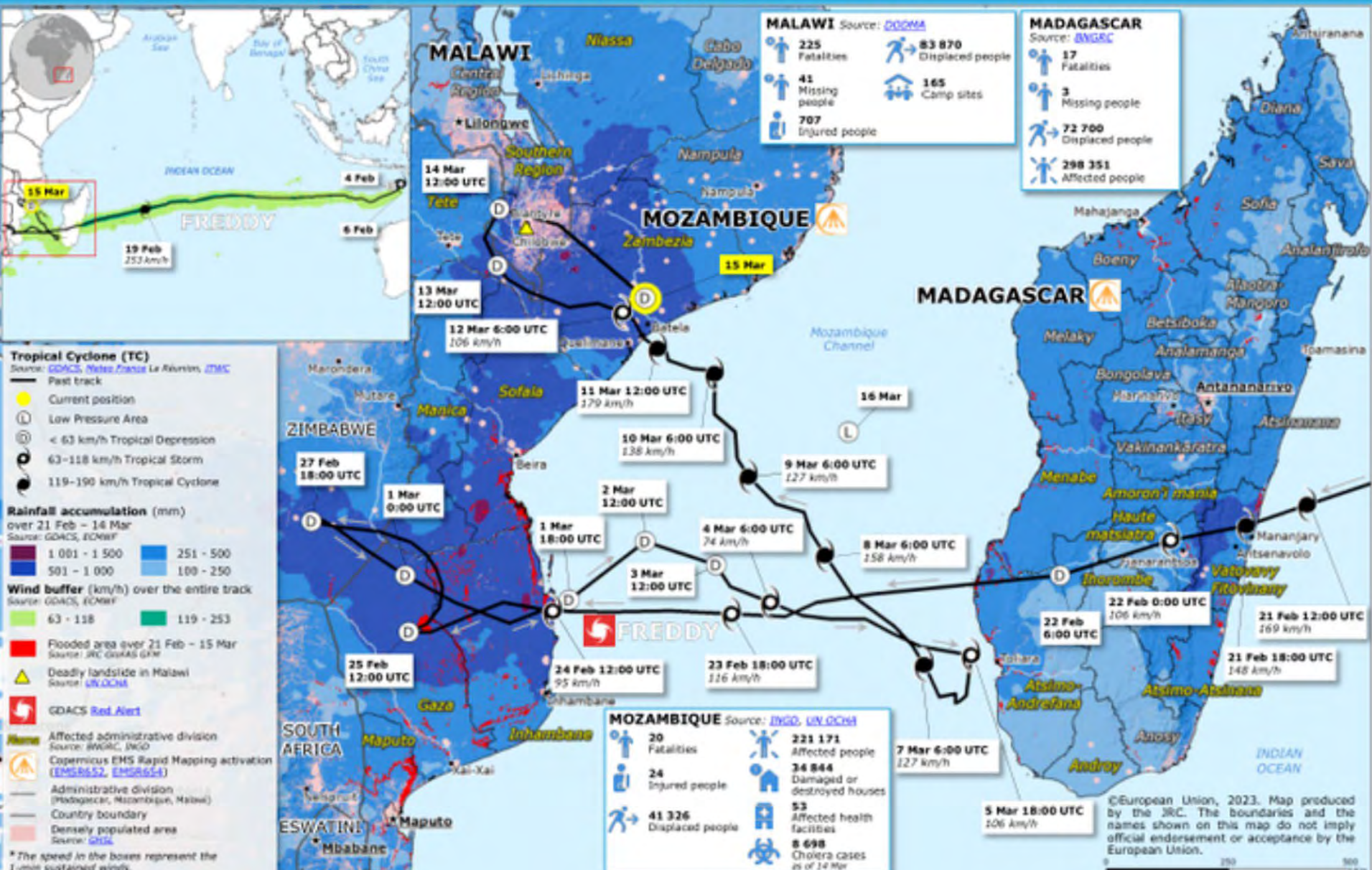
DEDAN
SHEBA

ETHIOPIA

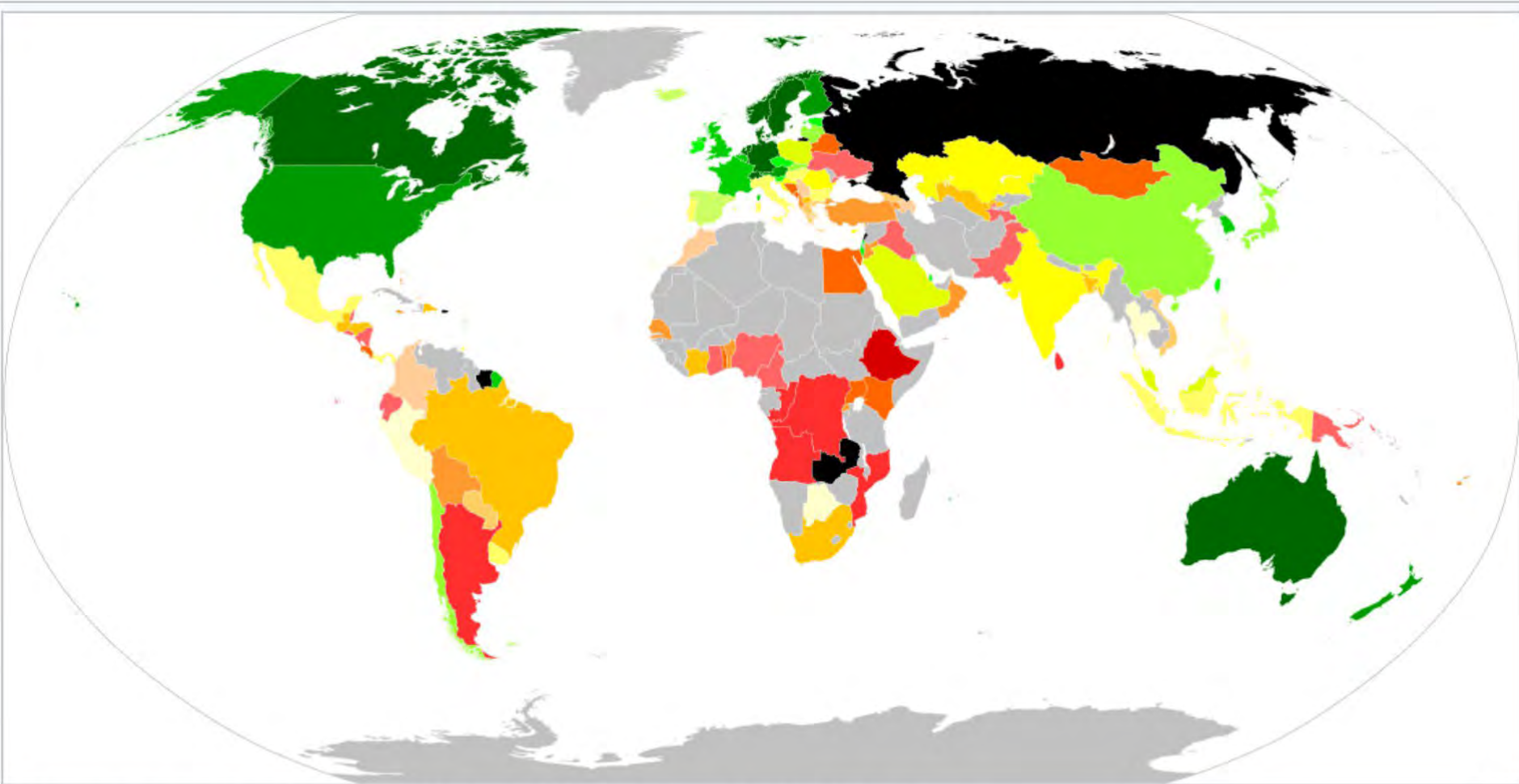
AUSTRALIA

Legend HandOut

Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique | Tropical Cyclone FREDDY



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Countries by Standard & Poor's long-term foreign rating. **Legend:**



AAA	AA+	AA	AA-	A+	A	A-	BBB+	BBB	BBB-
BB+	BB	BB-	B+	B	B-	CCC+	CCC	CCC-	SD/D

This Week's Developments

March 12 - 18, 2023 [go to edited Presentation]

- US drone crash: A moment fraught with danger
- Putin: West's bid to shatter Russia economy has failed
- US, UK and Australia agree on nuclear sub project

• *Additional & Supporting Articles*

Map 1

Map 2

US drone crash: A moment fraught with danger

BBC, March 15, 2023



EVENT The encounter between Russian jets and a US drone, which resulted in the drone crashing into the Black Sea, appears to be the most significant publicly acknowledged US-Russia confrontation since Russia's all-out invasion of Ukraine more than a year ago. As such, it raises a lot of questions and represents a moment fraught with danger. The United States' National Security Council's (NSC) John Kirby says there have been other intercepts "even in recent weeks", but that this one was different. Could it have been an accident? "Based on the actions of the Russian pilots, it's clear that it was unsafe, unprofessional," was the verdict of the Pentagon's Press Secretary, Air Force Brigadier General Pat Ryder. "I think the actions speak for themselves." "If the message is that they want to deter or dissuade us from flying or operating in international airspace over the Black Sea," Mr Kirby told broadcaster VOA, "then that message will fail because that is not going to happen".

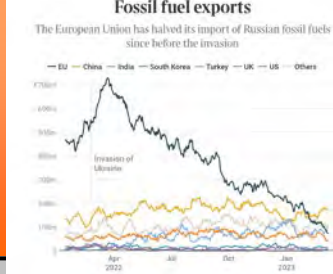
COMMENT Russia has conferred state awards on the two fighter pilots involved in the downing of a US surveillance drone that crashed into the Black Sea, the Russian Defence Ministry said. This incident shows how easily things could develop into a wider war. The incident marks the first known time Russian and US military aircraft have come into direct physical contact since Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine just over a year ago and is likely to increase tensions between the two nations. We are seeing the king of the north (Russia) and the king of the south (US/UK) pushing at each other. Clearly Russia is trying to tell the US to back off and to stop pushing them in Ukraine. But the US has no intention of backing down and has said the push will continue...

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)

Putin: West's bid to shatter Russian economy has failed

The Times, March 15, 2023



EVENT

Putin boasted on Tuesday that Russia had proven that its economy could withstand the worst that the West could throw at it. “What did our adversary count on? That we would collapse in two to three weeks or in a month,” he told workers at an aviation factory in Buryatia, a region in eastern Siberia. He said western countries had expected Russia’s financial system to shut down and that factories would stop working, resulting in mass unemployment and huge protests. “This did not happen,” Putin said. “The fundamental foundations of Russia’s stability are much stronger than anyone thought.” His optimism is not shared by everyone. Two weeks ago Oleg Deripaska, an energy and metals tycoon who was once Russia’s richest man, warned that the economy could “run out” of money next year as it struggles to replace western investors.

COMMENT

Putin gathered some of Russia’s oligarchs together on Thursday with a message that they had to invest in “patriotism before profit”. He repeated what he said on Tuesday that the attempt to destroy Russia's economy with sanctions had failed. But he went on to sound a note of urgency, saying the country could not afford to sit back. "I understand perfectly the threats that are taking place and what the ill-wishers are telling us, saying that Russia will have problems in the medium term. Yes, this is a threat we must keep in mind," he said. In other words there is a limited time this can go on. Russian reserves won't last forever. As time goes on Putin will be forced to bring things to a head. The draining of Russia's wealth will lead Putin to look for a spoil elsewhere. We know where he will turn with Bible in hand. He will look south to Israel and to Egypt who now supply the EU with gas - the gas he once supplied to the EU....

BIBLE QUOTE

He [Gog] shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.
(Daniel 11:41-43)

Aukus deal: US, UK and Australia agree on nuclear submarine project

BBC, March 16, 2023



EVENT

The US, UK and Australia have unveiled details of their plan to create a new fleet of nuclear-powered submarines, aimed at countering China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region. Under the Aukus pact Australia is to get its first nuclear-powered subs - at least three - from the US. The allies will also work to create a new fleet using cutting-edge tech, including UK-made Rolls-Royce reactors. Beijing has strongly criticised the significant naval deal. Its foreign ministry on Tuesday accused the three nations of "walking further and further down the path of error and danger". China's UN mission had earlier also accused the Western allies of setting back nuclear non-proliferation efforts. But US President Joe Biden said the deal was aimed at bolstering peace in the region and stressed the submarines would be "nuclear-powered, not nuclear-armed".

COMMENT

AUKUS is a trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, announced on 15 September 2021. The pact also includes cooperation on advanced cyber, hypersonic and counter-hypersonic, electronic warfare, innovation and information sharing. China is angered by this cooperation and the supplying of nuclear powered submarines to Australia. We see here the king of the south nations coming together to take on the power of the east. In fact as well as AUKUS there is another group called "Five Eyes". Five Eyes (FVEY) is an intelligence alliance comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These are the "young lions" described in Ezekiel 38. The UK is Tarshish (the old lion) and the young lions are those English speaking countries that descended from Britain...

BIBLE QUOTE

Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?

(Ezekiel 38:13)