

# This Week's Developments

March 28 - April 04, 2021

- Iran “Blinks First” – will Hold Talks with US re JCPA
- Iran and China sign 25 yr Cooperation Agreement
- Saudi/Israel Normalization to bring “tremendous benefit”
- Cedars of Lebanon at risk from fires and drought
- UN Issues Bleakest and Darkest Outlook ever
- Israel experts discover more Dead Sea scrolls
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

# Iran “Blinks First” – will Hold Talks with US re JCPA

The Jerusalem Post, April 3, 2021



## EVENT

Late Thursday night, there was an announcement that the Islamic Republic would hold a virtual meeting with England, France, Germany, China and Russia to strategize how it and the US can return to the 2015 nuclear deal.

Following that virtual meeting, it was announced on Friday that the above five countries would do shuttle diplomacy on Tuesday between US and Iranian negotiators in Vienna. The announcement late Thursday night that the Islamic Republic will hold a virtual meeting with England, France, Germany, China and Russia to strategize how it and the US can return to the 2015 nuclear deal, shows that Tehran is feeling pressure to show some flexibility.

At the same time, all the current brinkmanship that led to the negotiations doesn't mean the deal is done.

Israel will need to watch maneuvers at both stages even if it seems that the US may temporarily have the upper hand with the ayatollahs.

## COMMENT

It appears as though Iran has “blinked” first in its standoff with the US regarding the attempts to resume the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Iran is obviously feeling the pressure from the trade and financial sanctions placed on it by the US.

This is only a minor first step, although an important one for the US, placing it in a position of strength for negotiations.

The meeting is to take place involving all the lead players in Bible prophecy – Britain/US (King of the South), France/Germany (area of the 10 toes, the “Beast”) and Russia/China (King of the North) & Iran/Israel – the protagonists in the struggle.

## BIBLE QUOTE

The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.'

(Daniel 4:17 ESV)

# Iran and China sign 25 yr Cooperation Agreement

Reuters, March 27, 2021



## EVENT

China and Iran, both subject to U.S. sanctions, signed a 25-year cooperation agreement on Saturday to strengthen their long-standing economic and political alliance. “Our relations with Iran will not be affected by the current situation, but will be permanent and strategic,” Chinese Foreign Minister Wang said ahead of the televised signing ceremony.

The accord brings Iran into China’s Belt and Road Initiative, a multi-trillion-dollar infrastructure scheme intended to stretch from East Asia to Europe.

The project aims to significantly expand China’s economic and political influence, and has raised concerns in the United States.

Wang met President Hassan Rouhani ahead of the signing in Tehran. The agreement was expected to include Chinese investments in sectors such as energy and infrastructure.

“Under the new administration, the Americans want to reconsider their policy and return to the nuclear accord, and China welcomes their move,” Wang said

## COMMENT

Iran’s deal with China is its first major venture into such negotiations since the 20 year agreement signed with Russia in 2001 and which has just expired in March of this year. In recent talks with Iran, Lavrov, Russia’s foreign minister, has proposed entering another similar long term agreement. If so, we see essentially the formation of a three-way tie-in linking Russia and China through Iran. This, along with surrounding nations of Syria, Iraq, and North Africa would be the ultimate establishment of a powerful “King of the North” coalition. Russia and China are also linked by this “Belt & Road Initiative” and by their individual self-interests in the rich oil and gas reserves in troubled Myanmar.

## BIBLE QUOTE

For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee:

(Psalm 83:7)

# Normalization with Israel to bring “tremendous benefit”

*Times of Israel, April 2, 2021*



## EVENT

Normalization with Israel would bring “tremendous benefit” to the region, the Saudi foreign minister has said, but such an accord with the kingdom would depend on progress in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Under the Abraham Accords brokered by former US president Donald Trump last year, four Arab countries — the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan — agreed to normalize ties with the Jewish state.

But Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said Thursday that any deal with Saudi Arabia was “very much dependent on progress with the peace process.”

He noted that normalization had been on the table since the introduction of the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative on the condition of reaching resolution with the Palestinians.

But mutual concern over Iran has gradually brought Israel and Gulf countries closer, and Riyadh has quietly been building relations with the Jewish state for several years.

## COMMENT

President Trump was extremely close to Netanyahu and Israel. President Biden is less so. Biden wants to distance himself from Trump’s policies so is acting colder to Israel than perhaps he might have otherwise. Trump was very supportive of Saudi Arabia and did enormous military deals with them while he was in power. Biden on the other hand wants to step back from this to some extent. He also would like to restore the Iranian deal that Trump pulled out of. All this means Israel feels more isolated and therefore is looking to develop new defence relationships. Hence the report above. In Ezekiel 38 we are told that Sheba and Dedan are first on the list of nations that support Israel when Russia invades. Sheba and Dedan are Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain etc

## BIBLE QUOTE

Sheba, and Dedan (Saudi Arabia), 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)

# Cedars of Lebanon at risk from fires and drought

The Times, November 4, 2020



**EVENT** The cedar forests of Lebanon were mythologised in the poem Epic of Gilgamesh, used to build King Solomon's temple and coveted for centuries by the ancient Egyptians, Phoenicians and Romans. Now the famed trees that grace the country's flag are being threatened by wildfires for the first time, owing to a combination of man-made activity and long, dry summers linked to climate change. In early September, fires engulfed the northern Qammouaa forest in Akkar, near the Syrian border, which is known for its abundance of cedar and juniper trees. Last month two large blazes in the Chouf region, south of Beirut, destroyed 300 acres of oak and pine forests encroaching on a nature reserve for the national tree. George Mitri, director of the land and natural resources programme at the University of Balamand, said: "Longer heatwaves and lower rainfall means fires are now reaching ever higher altitudes. The fact that they are reaching the cedars is a real warning sign that we urgently need to protect and manage our forests."

**COMMENT** The Bible talks about fires coming on the cedars of Lebanon in Zechariah 11. As in many cases in prophecy there is the literal and symbolic. When Jesus speaks of the sea and waves roaring he is talking about the people and nations of the world crashing against each other in violence and war. But at the same time we have seen the literal sea and waves roaring – think of the incredible tsunami's we have seen in recent years. The fire of Zechariah 11 is speaking when Lebanon's power (symbolised by the cedar) is destroyed. This comes during the initial inner ring war against Israel. But at the same time we see literal cedars on fire – a sign the symbolic is coming soon.

**BIBLE QUOTE** Open thy doors, O Lebanon, that the fire may devour thy cedars. Howl, fir tree; for the cedar is fallen; because the mighty are spoiled: howl, O ye oaks of Bashan; for the forest of the vintage is come down.

(Zechariah 11:1-2)

# UN Issues 'Bleakest And Darkest' Outlook Ever For 2021

Forbes, December 4, 2020



## EVENT

After a year widely panned as **one of the worst in modern history**, the United Nations is warning **2021 could be even more awful**, with top officials saying the new year could be **the worst in terms of humanitarian catastrophes in the organization's 75-year history**. World Food Program head David Beasley said Friday that 2021 "is literally going to be catastrophic" and bring the worst humanitarian crises the organization has ever seen, saying **famine is "knocking on the door" of 12 countries**. Top officials also said they're concerned about a **"stampede for vaccines"** that could leave poorer countries **struggling to contain the Covid-19 pandemic**. On Tuesday, UN Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock said the UN was presenting **"the bleakest and darkest perspective on humanitarian needs in the period ahead that we have ever set out"** for 2021.

## COMMENT

**235 million**. That's how many people around the world the UN estimated will need humanitarian assistance in 2021—a **40% increase over the 2020 amount**. The UN also warned a few weeks ago that there is an "obscene" chance of widespread famine in 2021, which could **fuel wars in impacted areas**. Covid-19 has impoverished millions from its economic impacts and the **full impact** of this has **not been felt yet**. Also there is warning that displacement from recent conflicts and the effects of climate change will bring **further negative impacts**. The world thinks that 2020 was the low and 2021 will see a recovery. In fact the world will continue to **decline in all areas** – **economically, spiritually and physically** – it is crying out for the **return of Christ** the King...

## BIBLE QUOTE

Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him. **For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth**; the poor also, and him that hath no helper. He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy. He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence: and precious shall their blood be in his sight.

(Psalm 72:11-14)

# Dead Sea Scrolls discoveries are first ancient Bible texts to be found in 60 years

NBC News, March 16, 2021



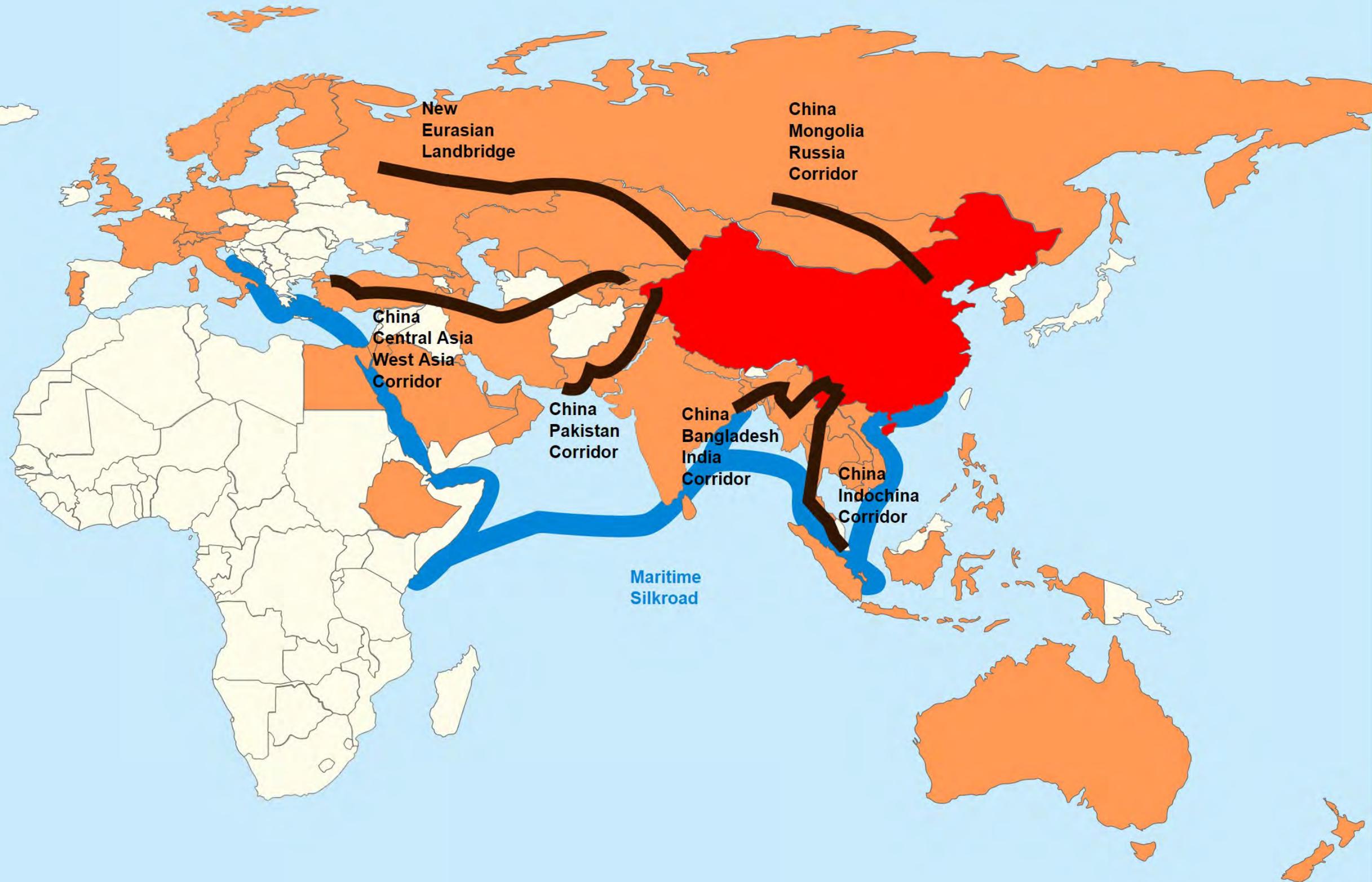
**EVENT** A new set of Dead Sea Scrolls, ancient fragments of biblical texts dating back almost 2,000 years and thought to have been hidden during a Jewish revolt against Rome, have been found in an Israeli desert. The Israel Antiquities Authority announced Tuesday that a four-year archaeological project uncovered portions of the Book of the Twelve Minor Prophets, including the books of Zechariah and Nahum. It was the first such discovery in 60 years. Among the recovered texts, which are all in Greek, is Nahum 1:5–6, which says: "The mountains quake because of Him, And the hills melt. The earth heaves before Him, The world and all that dwell therein. Who can stand before His wrath? Who can resist His fury? His anger pours out like fire, and rocks are shattered because of Him."

**COMMENT** The first set of Dead Sea Scrolls to be discovered were found by a Bedouin shepherd in the same area in 1947 and are considered among the most important archaeological finds of the 20th century. 60 years later more scrolls have been found. Interesting that part of the passage found is Nahum 1:5-6. Nahum is a prophecy against Nineveh. Nineveh is first mentioned in Genesis 10:12. It was part of Nimrod's kingdom. See Genesis 10:10. This was the first kingdom of men. We know the kingdom of men in its entirety will be soon replaced with the coming kingdom of God. When this happens the verses of Nahum 1:5-6 will be fulfilled. The mountains will quake, the hills will melt away, the earth will tremble and many people will perish. This is the same language of Ezekiel 38:20 – which happens when Gog invades Israel.

## BIBLE QUOTE

The mountains quake before him and the hills melt away. The earth trembles at his presence, the world and all who live in it. Who can withstand his indignation? Who can endure his fierce anger? His wrath is poured out like fire; the rocks are shattered before him. The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him, but with an overwhelming flood he will make an end of Nineveh;

*(Nahum 1:5-8 NIV)*



**New  
Eurasian  
Landbridge**

**China  
Mongolia  
Russia  
Corridor**

**China  
Central Asia  
West Asia  
Corridor**

**China  
Pakistan  
Corridor**

**China  
Bangladesh  
India  
Corridor**

**China  
Indochina  
Corridor**

**Maritime  
Silkroad**

## ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

This Week's **DebkaFile Review** (world events through the bi-focals of Israeli military intelligence)

Israel's Latest Election Too Close to Call - WSJ

Israel election- In tight race to power, Palestinian party emerges as possible kingmaker for Netanyahu — RT World News

Water fight- Israel turns off Jordan's water supply amid drought and 'personal frictions' — RT World News

Iran and China sign 25-year cooperation agreement - Reuters

Iran blamed as Israeli-owned ship said hit by missile near Oman - The Times of Israel

Navalny Joins the Ranks of Russia's Religious Dissidents - The Moscow Times

What Does China's Latest Five-Year Plan Mean for Russia- - The Moscow Times

The revolt of the public- Martin Gurri on a world without trust - Vox

Egypt Expanded the Suez Canal. It Wasn't Enough. - WSJ

Could Russia Benefit From the Suez Canal Blockage- - The Moscow Times

Russia's Pursuit of Internet Sovereignty Backfires, Again - The Moscow Times