

# This Week's Developments

February 13 - 19, 2022

- Biden convinced Russia has decided to attack Ukraine
- Russia warns Britain of retaliation if sanctions imposed
- Putin to oversee huge nuclear drills amid tensions
- Russia sends hypersonic-armed fighter jets to Syria
- Warm welcome for Israeli leader in Bahrain
- Iran nuclear deal 'close', US says talks in final stages
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# ***Biden now convinced Russia has decided to attack Ukraine***

*The Times, February 19, 2022*



## **EVENT**

President Biden has said he is now convinced that President Putin has chosen to invade Ukraine within the coming days and that Russian forces will launch an assault on the capital, Kyiv. After speaking to Nato leaders yesterday, Biden said US intelligence believed the **Russian president had now made the final decision** and had “slammed the door shut” on a diplomatic solution to the crisis. “As of this moment, I’m convinced he’s made the decision. We have reason to believe that,” Biden told reporters. His comments are the first time the US has said categorically that Putin has decided to invade. The president repeated his threat of sweeping economic sanctions against Russia if it does invade and urged Putin to return to the negotiating table, but said **America’s “significant intelligence capability” had reached the conclusion that war was inevitable**. This marks a change in stance from recent days when the US said that the chances of a Russian attack were “very high”

## **COMMENT**

For the first time president Biden has said that he believes **Putin has now decided to invade Ukraine**. By the time you read this slide the invasion might already be underway. Things are moving fast and are clearly on the brink of conflict. As Biden says this is a war of choice. Putin doesn’t have to invade – **Ukraine is not threatening Russia in any way** and even if it joined NATO in the future it would only be from a defensive point of view. But Putin’s view is different. **He sees Ukraine as part of the Russian sphere of influence**. In fact even more than that Putin sees eastern Ukraine as **intimately connected to Russia**. In a sense he is right. Ancient Magog covered southern Russia and eastern Ukraine. Gog (Putin) is about to take back that piece of Magog....

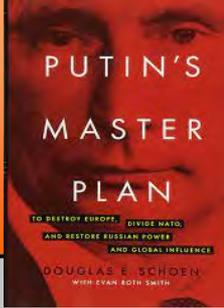
## **BIBLE QUOTE**

Son of man, set thy face against **Gog, of 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)*

# Russia warns Britain of retaliation if sanctions imposed

The Times, February 18, 2022



## EVENT

Britain would be hit with “immediate retaliation” if it tried to sanction Russia for invading Ukraine, Moscow’s ambassador to London warned. Andrey Kelin told Times Radio that any measure which Britain took against Moscow would be met with equal retaliation, though he refused to spell out exactly what form that would take. “Every sanction, it will be a retaliation measure,” he said. Asked what Moscow was preparing, he said he had “no idea”, but Russian government economists and the central bank were prepared “for any kind of retaliation” which would happen immediately after sanctions and any other measures. He also dismissed the impact sanctions would have, saying: “The United States in recent years has made 58 counts of sanctions against Soviet Union and then Russia. We are living under sanctions all our life.”

## COMMENT

Britain and America especially have planned extreme sanctions on Russia and even on Putin himself if he invades Ukraine. But Putin has factored this in to his planning. The war with Ukraine has been long in the making. Putin plans things way in advance. Unlike many other world leaders who have to face an uncertain ballot box every 4-5 years – Putin does not. He has eliminated all opposition so he can develop very long term plans. One such plan is to build up an immense war chest to cushion the blows of sanctions. Since 2014 Putin has accumulated more than \$630bn of international reserves to help prop up the rouble. Russia has been dumping dollars and buying gold and other currencies as well to help it weather sanctions. China is onside to support Russia with gas and oil purchases. We know Putin will one day invade Israel for a spoil. Israel has found huge gas reserves in recent years. Events now could easily lead to that occurring.

## BIBLE QUOTE

Thus saith the Lord God; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought: The word for “thought” is the Hebrew word that means to plan in advance. This is exactly what Putin is doing with regards Ukraine and Israel. They are planned many years in advance. (Ezekiel 38:10)

# Russia to stage massive nuclear drills amid Ukraine standoff

Associated Press, February 18, 2022



## EVENT

The Russian military on Friday announced massive drills of its strategic nuclear forces, a stark reminder of the **country's nuclear might** amid Western fears that Moscow might be preparing to invade Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin will personally oversee Saturday's exercise, which **will involve multiple practice launches of intercontinental ballistic missiles and cruise missiles**, the Defense Ministry said. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Putin would observe the drills from the Defense Ministry's situation room and supervise the practice missile launches himself. The ministry said it planned the maneuvers some time ago to check the readiness of Russia's military command and personnel, as well **as the reliability of its nuclear and conventional weapons**. The war games follow U.S. President Joe Biden's warning on Thursday that Russia could invade Ukraine within days.

## COMMENT

Not only has Putin been preparing his economy for conflict he has also been preparing his armed forces as well. The Russian Armed Forces are among the world's largest military forces, with around **850,000 active personnel**. Russia has more than **30,000 armoured vehicles and over 12,000 tanks**, as well as a vast range of other equipment including more than **4,000 aircraft and a naval fleet of 605 ships and submarines**. On top of this Russia has huge numbers of nuclear weapons. Approximately 91 percent of all nuclear warheads are owned by Russia and the United States who each have around 4,000 warheads in their military stockpiles. And it is not just sheer numbers – Russia has spent the last decade completely overhauling its military capability. Many observers were shocked how easily Russia could intervene in the Syrian war. The Bible says that **Gog (Putin) would prepare for war – the preparation has been done....**

## BIBLE QUOTE

**Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself**, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them.

(Ezekiel 38:7)

# Russia sends warplanes, hypersonic missiles to Syria for major naval drills

The Times of Israel, February 15, 2022



## EVENT

The Russian military on Tuesday deployed long-range nuclear-capable bombers and fighter jets carrying state-of-the-art hypersonic missiles to its air base in Syria for massive naval drills in the region amid soaring tensions with the West over Ukraine. Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu arrived in Syria to oversee the drills that mark the biggest Russian naval deployment to the Mediterranean Sea since Cold War times. Shoigu met with Syrian President Bashar Assad on Tuesday to inform him about the drills and discuss plans for further military-technical cooperation. The Defense Ministry said the exercise in the eastern Mediterranean that involves 15 warships and about 30 aircraft is part of a series of sweeping naval drills that started last month amid a standoff over Ukraine. It said the maneuvers were intended to train for action to “protect national interests” and “fend off military threats against the Russian Federation.”

## COMMENT

Last week Russia condemned Israel for airstrikes on Iranian targets in Syria. This week (on Tuesday) Russia deployed MiG-31K fighter jets with hypersonic Kinzhal missiles and deployed long-range nuclear-capable Tupolev Tu-22M strategic bombers to its airbase in Syria for naval exercises, Interfax news agency reported, citing the Russian defence ministry. Yesterday Israel shot down a drone that Hezbollah sent into Israel from Lebanon. We know that an initial inner ring war will come soon. This war will involve the immediate surrounding enemies of Israel – Hamas, Hezbollah, Palestinians, Syria etc. Conflict between Israel and Syria will see Damascus destroyed. Russia will then descend into the void with Iran and Turkey etc. Russia is already moving south...

## BIBLE QUOTE

A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.

(Joel 2:2)

# Warm welcome for Israeli leader in Bahrain

BBC, February 17, 2022



## EVENT

It is unlikely that Bahrain's interior ministry band has played the Israeli national anthem much before - but they practiced it to perfection. The song rang out with an honour guard in the courtyard of Al-Qudaibiya Palace - home to the ruling Al-Khalifa monarchy. I watched and then saw smiles swapped in the sunshine between Israel's Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad. This was a scene unthinkable a few years ago. So was Mr Bennett's welcome on Monday night - an Israeli leader and Gulf royalty mingling over a red carpet, feted under airport floodlights. But already it was starting to feel less remarkable. Normalisation is becoming normal. Mr Bennett's trip to Bahrain is the second to a Gulf country in as many months. He went to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in December. Both Arab states have signed trade and defence "framework" agreements with the Israelis. A year and a half has passed since the "Abraham Accords" began, now extending to four Arab countries.

## COMMENT

Israel, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates established diplomatic relations in September 2020 as part of the Abraham Accords, brokered by the Trump administration. Bahrain is hugely significant for its closeness to Saudi Arabia. It is certain that Saudi Arabia would have given this Israeli visit their blessing. Israel and the Gulf Arab nations are coming together to counter the growing threat of Iran. We may have expected without Bible in hand for these Arab nations to be Israel's foe not friend. But the phrase – the enemy of my enemy is my friend, rings true here. God told Ezekiel 2500 years ago how the nations would line up in the latter days. He said that Sheba and Dedan (Gulf Arab nations) would be allied to Israel and we see this in place now.

## 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)

# Iran nuclear deal 'close' as US says talks in final stages

The Times, February 17, 2022



## EVENT

Hopes were raised of a deal between the United States and Iran within days after both sides reported progress in talks on Tehran's nuclear programme. Ned Price, a US state department spokesman, said: "Our assessment is that we are in the midst of the very final stages of . . . a complex negotiation with the key stakeholders here." Ali Bagheri Kani, Iran's lead negotiator, tweeted: "After weeks of intensive talks, we are closer than ever to an agreement; nothing is agreed until everything is agreed, though." France said that decision time was only days away on reviving a 2013 deal that the US left four years ago under President Trump, who called Iran's commitment to peaceful nuclear energy "a lie" and the deal "a giant fiction". Despite the Biden administration's overtures, Iran has been enriching uranium beyond levels permitted in the original deal.

## COMMENT

Iran has reached a moment of truth and must decide in days, not weeks, whether to accept the text of a nuclear deal accepted by China, Russia, European powers and the US, the French foreign minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian, has said. Iran's lead negotiator tweeted: "After weeks of intensive talks, we are closer than ever to an agreement." The Bible talks about a treacherous deal done by Iran that leads to terrible conflict. God showed a vision to his prophet Isaiah which is detailed in Isaiah chapter 21. It says that Elam and Media (both areas of Iran) do a treacherous deal. Elam and Media rise up and besiege the desert of the sea. The sea referred to is the Persian Gulf. Iran has in fact threatened to besiege this very sea as 20% of the world's oil supply goes through it. If a deal is made it is going to go badly wrong for the world. But is a sign of Christ's return.

## 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. We have a treacherous deal with Iran but also then the spoiler spoiling – ref to Russia (Isaiah 21:2)

## ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

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

2022-02-16 [Russia's Middle East Military BUILDUP- What Putin Wants](#) - Watchman Newscast - 11.31 min - YouTube

2022-02-15 [Russia Sends Warplanes & Hypersonic Missiles to Syria for Naval Drill](#) - Watchman Newscast - 8.58 min - YouTube

2022-02-14 [Russian Invasion of Ukraine Would EMBOLDEN China & Iran](#) - Watchman Newscast - 8.59 min - YouTube

2022-02-11 Iran Assassination Plot Thwarted; Russia Tells Israel to END Syria Airstrikes - Watchman - 11.06 - YouTube

2022-02-10 Ukraine Direct- How has Putin surrounded Ukraine - Gravitas - 3.42 min - YouTube

2022-02-10 Iran unveils ballistic missile called Kheibar buster as nuclear talks resume in Vienna - English News - 4.35 min- YouTube

2022-02-10 Drone Attack Targets Civilians at Saudi Airport; Iran-Backed Houthis Responsible - Watchman - 7.15 min YouTube

2022-02-08 Ukraine Direct- Putin hints at nuclear response if NATO attacks - Gravitas 4.20 min - YouTube

2022-02-08 Israel & U.S. Headed for Clash Over New Iran Nuclear Deal - Watchman - 13.36 min - YouTube

2022-02-05 Biden REMOVES Sanctions on Iran Nuclear Program- Watchman - 12.54 min - YouTube

2022-02-04 China & Russia Anti-Western Alliance Grows as Putin & Xi Meet in Beijing - Watchman - 13.56 min - YouTube

2022-02-03 ISIS Leader KILLED in U.S. Special Ops Raid; U.S. Forces Headed to UAE - Watchman 8.27 min - YouTube

2022-02-03 US claims Russia could use a propaganda video as pretext to invade Ukraine- World News - WION 5.27 min - YouTube

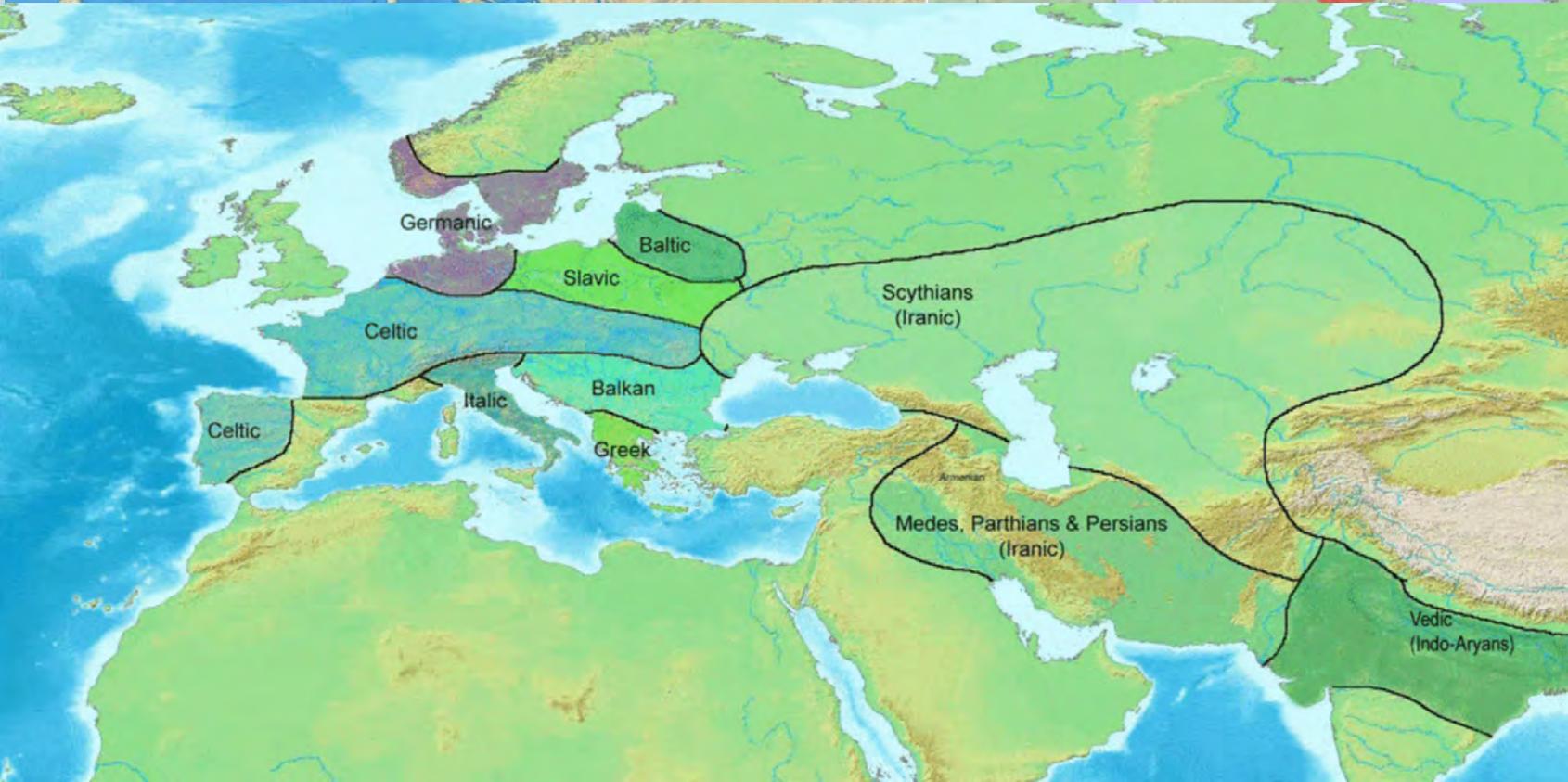
2022-02-02 Israel's new way to intercept missiles- Laser wall to be new generation of air defence - WION - 2.39 min - YouTube

2022-02-01 Israel Sharing Iron Dome Technology w- Arab Nation- Joins MASSIVE US Naval Drill - Watchman - 9.56 min - YouTube

2022-01-28 Rocket Attack Near U.S. Base in Iraq; Iran Proxy Groups Growing Bolder - Watchman 8.28 min - YouTube

2022-01-28 Wuhan scientists flag deadlier coronavirus – [Gravitas](#) - 4.00 min YouTube

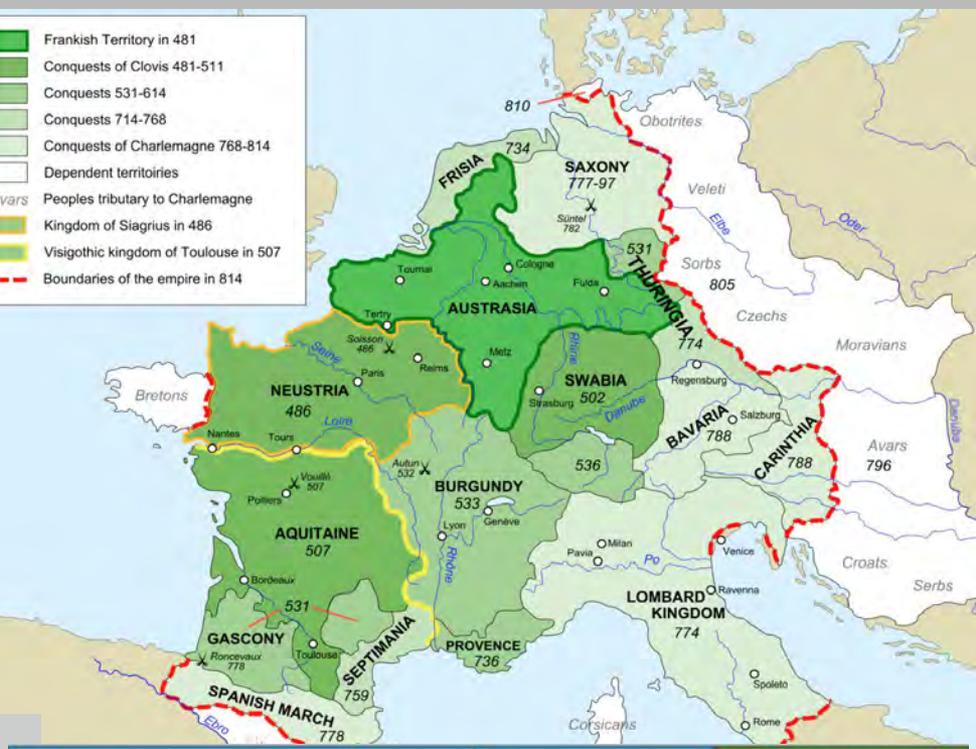
2022-01-28 Has Putin overplayed his hand – Gravitas - 4.52 min - YouTube



# NATO PRESENCE IN EASTERN EUROPE



- 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



- LITHUANIA
- LUXEMBOURG
- LIECHTENSTEIN
- CZECH REPUBLIC
- BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
- YUGOSLAVIA