

# This Week's Developments

August 8 - 21, 2021

- Raisi hosts Palestinian terror chiefs
- Taliban's takeover has weakened America
- Airliners forced to divert as Israeli jets pound Syria
- Russia and China hold joint military drills
- Kremlin attacks last election monitor before Putin polls
- Climate report warns of 'code red for humanity'
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# Raisi hosts Palestinian terror chiefs, vows to keep cause at top of agenda

The Times of Israel, August 8, 2021



## EVENT

Newly inaugurated Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi met with the leaders of several Palestinian terror groups during his first full day in office on Friday, using the opportunity to pledge allegiance to the cause of Palestine.

“Palestine has been and always will be the number one issue of the Muslim world,” Raisi told Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, according to the official Iranian state Fars news site. “We’ve never had and will never have any doubt about this policy.” In a separate meeting with Palestinian Islamic Jihad Secretary-General Ziad Nakhleh, Raisi said the Islamic Republic would “always defend the rights of oppressed people.” He also voiced the same message during a sit-down with Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine leader Talal Naji, Fars reported.

## COMMENT

Raisi was elected Iran’s president in June’s elections and his inauguration completes hardliners dominance of all branches of government in the Islamic Republic. His first meeting was held with Israel’s sworn enemies – Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad. He said that the Palestinian problem was the number one problem for the Muslim world. The covenant of Hamas says “There is no solution for the Palestinian problem except by Jihad.” Jihad is war! Hezbollah’s stated reason for existence is the elimination of Israel. Iran is the power and military might behind these terror groups. They are all sworn to destroy Israel. Psalm 83 speaks of a confederacy of tribes that surround Israel who have one goal – to destroy Israel. We are told they take “crafty council”. Another version says “with one mind the plot together”. Could we be seeing in this meeting the plotting together? What comes next is the inner ring war around Israel.

## BIBLE QUOTE

With cunning they conspire against your people; they plot against those you cherish. “Come,” they say, “let us destroy them as a nation, so that Israel’s name is remembered no more.” With one mind they plot together; they form an alliance against you—

(Psalm 83:3-5 NIV)

# Taliban's takeover has weakened America

The Economist, August 18, 2021

The  
Economist



How the Taliban  
weakened America

**EVENT** The Taliban's swift and dramatic takeover of Afghanistan took America by surprise, humiliating America and underlining its failure to protect those it had sworn to defend. The question is how will this affect the global standing of America and the future security of the world? As ordinary Afghans grapple with the Taliban takeover of their country, the recriminations in the West are growing in ferocity. Was it a failure of intelligence? Leaders in the US and UK appeared stunned by the speed of the Taliban advance and disintegration of Afghan state apparatus. President Biden said only weeks ago that a Taliban victory was "highly unlikely". Yet reports are widespread that US intelligence and military officials repeatedly warned Biden that withdrawal would likely lead to a swift Taliban takeover.

**COMMENT** After the September 11 attacks in 2001, president Bush launched an attack on the Taliban in Afghanistan. This was because Al-Qaida were based in this country and were backed by the radical Taliban government. 20 years later, president Biden pulls the remaining US forces from the country and within days the Taliban is back. It is a huge humiliation for America and its allies who appear weak and out of control. Biden said that we would not see helicopters rescuing US citizens from the embassy roof tops – but just days later that is exactly what has happened. Putin has gloated over the situation. He said Nato's failure in Afghanistan showed the folly of western interference in countries with different traditions. Many commentators say these events embolden America's enemies; it also makes America's allies more nervous. The Bible says that the teeth of the young lions (America) will be broken – they will be weakened at the end...

**BIBLE QUOTE** Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth: break out the great teeth of the young lions, O LORD. Let them melt away as waters which run continually: when he bendeth his bow to shoot his arrows, let them be as cut in pieces.

( Psalm 58:6-8)

# Airliners forced to divert as Israeli jets pound Syria

The Times, August 20, 2021



## EVENT

Israeli airstrikes in Syria forced two commercial airliners to change course as military jets invaded Lebanese airspace and flew low over Beirut. Several missiles hit weapons stores and suspected Hezbollah militia positions in a rural area between Homs and Damascus late on Thursday, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitor, despite claims by the Syrian military that “hostile targets” were shot down. Residents in Damascus reported hearing at least five loud explosions in 15 minutes. The missiles were apparently fired from over Lebanese territory. People in Beirut reported hearing jets flying low over the capital. The observatory said that four Hezbollah members had been killed in the strikes, but it was not immediately clear whether they were Syrian or Lebanese. Satellite imagery suggested that two targets in Qarah, north of Damascus, were hit.

## COMMENT

Israel regularly targets Iranian-backed militia targets in Syria and has recently targeted Iranian ships suspected of delivering oil to President Assad’s regime. Iran has in turn been accused of attacks on Israeli-linked vessels, including a drone strike last month on the tanker MT Mercer Street, which killed a British security guard. In recent days Israeli aircraft have also dropped leaflets in southern Syria, warning soldiers against cooperating with Hezbollah. Syria will be part of the inner ring war against Israel but during this war Damascus will be destroyed. It is why Syria is not mentioned in Ezekiel 38. It is not because Assad makes peace with Israel and is now Israel’s friend. It is because Syria will cease to be a nation – all Israel’s nearby enemies will be removed in that war.

## 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 [in Jordan] 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)

# Russia and China hold joint military drills

The Times, August 10, 2021



**EVENT** Russia and China have begun joint military drills amid tensions with western countries and mutual concerns about instability spilling over from Afghanistan after the withdrawal of American forces. More than 10,000 troops as well as air forces are participating in the five-day Zapad/Interaction 2021 drills in northwestern China's Ningxia Hui autonomous region. The region is close to Xinjiang, where China has incarcerated more than a million Uighurs and members of other Muslim groups as part of what it has portrayed as a fight against extremism and terrorism, though several western governments have labelled it a genocide. Xinjiang also has a small mountainous border with Afghanistan. China's state-run Xinhua news agency said the drills with Russia were aimed at "safeguarding international and regional security and stability".

**COMMENT** Some ask where China is mentioned in the Bible. The fact is China is hardly mentioned at all. The Bible is a book primarily about Israel, physical and spiritual. When other nations are mentioned, it is typically in relation to Israel. In biblical times, the interaction between the Chinese and the Israelites was of no major consequence, and so China is rarely mentioned. The Bible talks of Gog of the land of Magog. Josephus tells us that the Magogites are the same people as the Scythians. Scythia covered southern Russia right up to the border of China. Magog is the power north of Israel but it is a power that spreads east. Just as communism spread east and democracy spread west. The Bible itself splits the world into east and west. The east (Russia) is depicted in Revelation as a dragon. The west (the EU) is depicted as the beast. They are the two legs of Nebuchadnezzar's image – the Roman empire split into east and west empires...

## 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.  
*(Revelation 16:13-14)*

# Kremlin attacks last election monitor Golos before key test for Putin at polls

The Times, August 19, 2021



## EVENT

Russia has designated the country's only remaining independent election monitor as a "foreign agent" before a vote in which President Putin's party faces a threat to its supermajority. Golos ("Voice"), established in 2000, became known for disclosing evidence of vote-rigging in the 2011 election, which led to mass protests, and the 2012 presidential election, when Putin won a third term after four years as prime minister. The group trains election observers and operates a phone line that allows voters to report election violations. The justice ministry added Golos to a list of "unregistered foreign agents" yesterday, saying that it got funding from a "citizen of the Republic of Armenia". Organisations designated as "foreign agents" are required to indicate their status, which carries a negative Soviet-era connotation, on all material and are subjected to rigorous financial scrutiny with stiff penalties for violations.

## COMMENT

Putin is cracking down on election monitors ahead of parliamentary elections. September's election has already been mired in controversy after several opposition figures connected with Putin's main political rival Alexei Navalny were barred from standing. Putin has effectively removed all opposition parties and any opposition to him over the last 20 years. Many commentators say Putin acts and operates as a Tsar. A Tsar is the Russian word for supreme rulers of Eastern Europe. It means an emperor or king. The Bible talks about a ruler of Magog (Southern Russia) who is a king. We are told in Daniel 11 (speaking the latter day king of the north) that he exalts himself and magnifies himself. He prospers until the indignation is accomplished. The indignation comes when he [Gog] is destroyed by God in fire, hailstones and earthquake.

## BIBLE QUOTE

And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

(Daniel 11:36)

# IPCC climate report warns of 'code red for humanity'

The Times, August 9, 2021



## EVENT

Global warming is expected to reach the 1.5C limit set by the Paris Agreement during the next two decades and then breach it after 2040 even if the world rapidly cuts emissions, according to a landmark scientific report which sets out the devastating consequences of climate change. Greenhouse gas emissions caused by humans are already affecting every region of the world, causing more intense heatwaves, floods, droughts and storms, according to the UN's intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC). Some of the changes already set in motion, including continuing sea level rise, are "irreversible over hundreds to thousands of years", it said in a statement alongside the report. "Unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5C or even 2C will be beyond reach," the IPCC added.

## COMMENT

There have been incredible "wonders in the heavens and signs in the earth beneath" with fire and smoke in recent weeks. The UN report published last week is disturbing reading and shows how the world is destabilising from a climate point of view. We know that seedtime and harvest will never fail but we can also see how drought and storms are on the increase and bringing terrible destruction. One of the largest fires in recorded history is taking place in Siberia. It is bigger than combined size of the blazes that have ravaged swathes of Canada, Italy, Greece, Turkey, the United States. This week rain has fallen for the first time on record on the summit of Greenland's ice cap, two miles above sea level. The icesheet saw 7 billion tonnes of water falling in 3 days. These are signs we are near the end – God has always used weather to bring about his purpose.

## BIBLE QUOTE

And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

(Acts 2:19-21)

## ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

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

2021-08-13 Israeli Archaeologists Find Evidence of Ancient Biblical Earthquake in Jerusalem – YouTube 8:20 min

2021-08-07 Israel's Iron Dome BLOCKS Hezbollah's Rocket "Response" to Israeli Airstrikes – YouTube 11:46 min

2021-08-06 Israel Ready to STRIKE Iran, Defense Minister Confirms; Raisi Takes Presidency - YouTube 12:18 min

2021-08-05 Rockets Launched at Israel as Tensions with Iran Reach Boiling Point - YouTube 13:41 min

2021-08-04 Israel WARNS Iran Over Attacks and Slams EU Appeasement - YouTube 11:15 min

2021-08-03 Israel Vows Response to Iran Drone Attack as U.S. & UK Pledge Support - YouTube 10:32 min

2021-07-31 Israeli Airstrikes in Syria Escalate Tension w- Russia; Prophetic Implications- - Watchman Newscast

2021-07-25 Iran 2.11 Water crisis spurs violence in Khuzestan, anti-govt protests rage - Oneindia News - YouTube

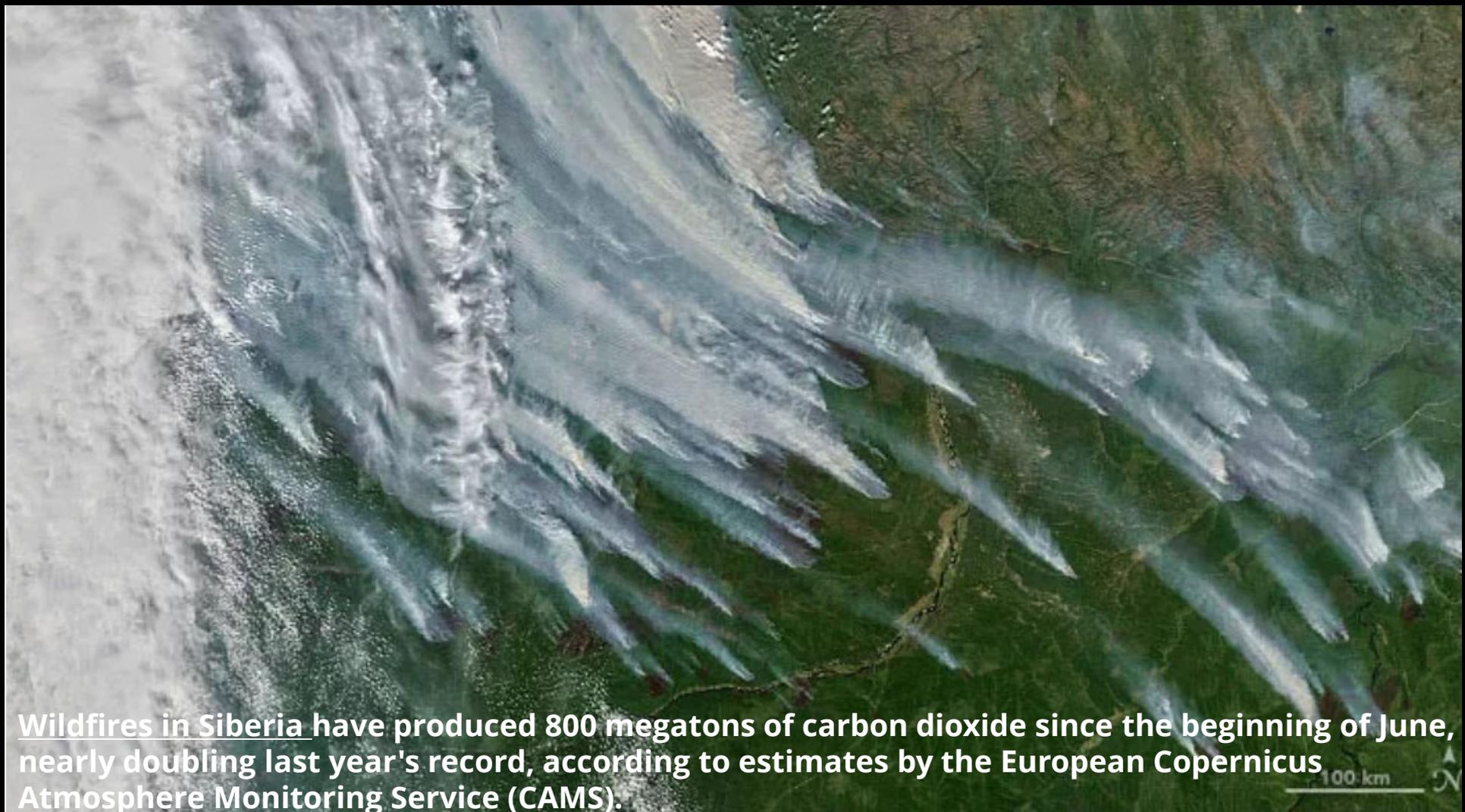
2021-07-25 Iran 3.24 Violence escalates in water-shortage protests in Iran's Khuzestan - Drought - YouTube

2021-07-25 Iraq 3.53 Why Iraq's great rivers are dying - Climate Change - West Asia water crisis - YouTube

2021-07-25 Iraq 9.56 Vox - Why Iraq's great rivers are dying - YouTube

2021-07-25 Russia, exasperated, moving to curtail Israeli strikes in Syria - The Times of Israel \*Pdf version \*DebkaFile

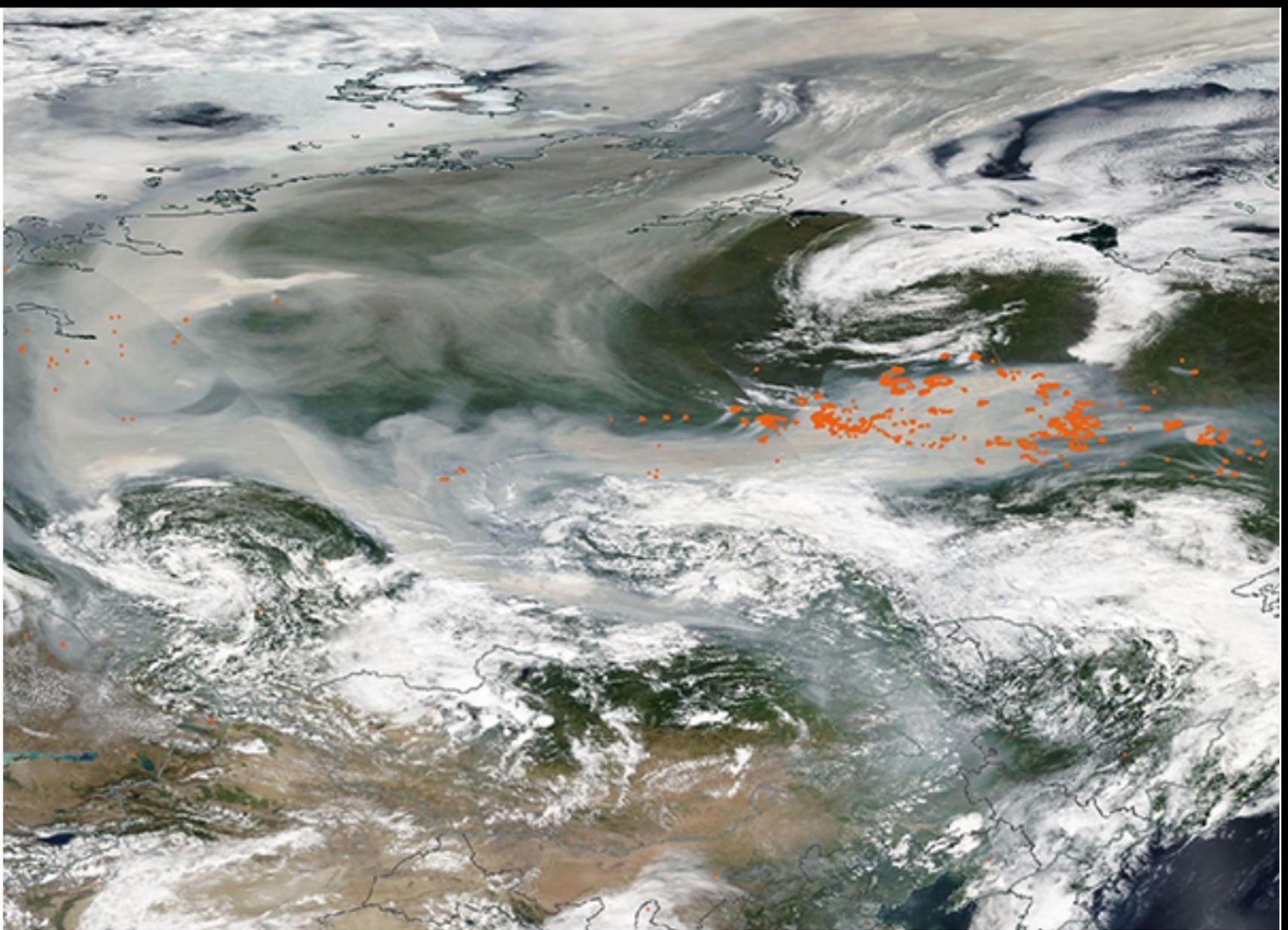
2021-07-25 The REAL Meaning Behind Israel's Recent Archaeological Revelations - Watchman Newscast LIVE - YouTube



**Wildfires in Siberia** have produced 800 megatons of carbon dioxide since the beginning of June, nearly doubling last year's record, according to estimates by the European Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS).

In only two and a half months, the fires exceeded the annual carbon dioxide emissions of Germany, the most polluting European country. According to Climate Trade, Germany is the world's sixth worst polluter.

Satellites are keeping an eye on the fires as they devour the subpolar forest in the sparsely populated Russian northeast. Last week, they captured how the massive plume of smoke from the fires, over 4,000 miles long (6,437 kilometers), spread all the way to the North Pole and reached the coast of Alaska.



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A vast, thick, and acrid blanket of smoke emitted from hundreds of forest fires covered most of Russia on August 6, 2021.