The majority of the UN General Assembly switches to the Russian-Chinese side

Since the end of the Cold War US hegemony has been increasingly challenged by a growing number of countries advocating a world stabilized by international law instead of one governed by Western rules. The confrontation in Ukraine has only accelerated this trend.

No one said anything when NATO attacked Serbia without Security Council approval. Nobody protested when, going even further, the US and the UK lied to the UN Security Council to justify their aggressions against Afghanistan, against Iraq and against Libya. However, since Russia came to the rescue of the Syrian people in 2015 and now to the people of Novorossiya in application of UN resolution 2202, things are starting to change.

Westerners are currently trying to exclude Russia from all intergovernmental organizations. They have already achieved this at the Council of Europe and thought they would also succeed at the United Nations like they did in 1939 when they excluded the USSR from the League of Nations. In order to do this, they must first modify the UN Charter which seemed like child’s play just three months ago. On October 13th, 143 states condemned Russia’s “invasion” of Ukraine and only 35 welcomed its application of resolution 2202.

However, on December 30th 2022, the majority changed sides. They were 87 States to vote in favor of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the internal court of the UN, declaring illegal the occupation of the Palestinian Territories, against 26 for whom the world governed by Western rules must accommodate 75 years of non-Law.

AMERICA

US sabotage in Russia have been prepared since 2017

According to Jack Murphy, sabotage operations in Russia and Belarus were preemptively authorized by President Barack Obama just before the end of his mandate. They are coordinated by officers of
the Special Activities Center of the CIA delegated to the European Mission Center of the CIA. On the ground, they are never carried out by US citizens.

For several years, non-US CIA agents set up various sites of the Russian and Belarusian military-industrial complex. They only took action the day after the Russian intervention in Ukraine causing heavy damage.

What the Twitter Files Reveal

In the latest installment of the Twitter Files, put together by its CEO Elon Musk, we learn that not only did the FBI ask Twitter to censor information about the Hunter Biden case, but it also paid $3.5 million for it. The CIA participated in meetings to select what should be censored. This behavior of intelligence agencies against US citizens has been unparalleled since the years 1953-54, the era of McCarthyism’s "witch hunt”. Shares of Elon Musk’s companies keep falling on the stock market, some of his investors making him pay for his political commitment to freedom of speech.

Eric Schmidt subsidizes the FAS and pays civil servants salaries up to the White House

According to Politico, two dozen researchers from the prestigious and pacifist Federation of American Scientists (FAS) are employed by the Biden administration in the White House Council of Economic Advisers, White House Environmental Council, Department of Energy, Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Federal Trade Commission. They are not paid by the Biden administration but by billionaire Eric Schmidt. Former president of Google then of Alphabet, Eric Schmidt is the 54th richest man in the world according to Bloomberg. He’s a big advocate for federal government investment in technology.

He is notably a member of the Trilateral Commission and the Bilderberg Club.

In general, boosters of "RNA vaccines" weaken patients

According to Dr. Robert Malone, inventor of the messenger RNA processes used by Pfizer and Moderna laboratories, people who have received several shots of anti-Covid “vaccines” are more likely to be contaminated again and to die than those who received only one injection. The Epoch Times verified this apparent paradox in 17 of the 18 states where statistics are available.

The latest speculation from the Rand Corporation

The Rand Corporation, the historical think tank of the US military-industrial complex has published a short forecast study: Responding to a Limited Russian Attack on NATO During the Ukrainian War.

The Rand Corp. envisions that Moscow could strike targets in Europe such as the US base at Ramstein (Germany), but never that it would bomb the Foreign Office in London and the Pentagon in Washington as the former Russian ambassador to NATO suggested.

Searching for new pieces from the Hunter Biden case

Kevin D. Evans, a Colorado lawyer specializing in the transmission of official documents has filed a lawsuit in March against the Department of Justice to compel it to reveal 400 documents it has on the financial affairs of Hunter Biden and his professional connections in Russia, Ukraine and China.

Inspired by the Swedish example, The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requires federal agencies to release their documents.

Ron DeSantis against wokism

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, dedicated his new year address to defend freedom and stand.
against the “woke” ideology that has taken hold in cities and states across the country. “We seek normality, not philosophical madness (…) We will not allow reality, facts and truth to become optional (…) Florida is where Wokism is going to die,” he said.

DeSantis is assumed to take the head of the Republican Party.

The cement manufacturer Lafarge prosecuted in civil proceedings for the same facts negotiated in criminal proceedings

Two families of French Marines and one of US Marines who died respectively in Syria, Iraq and Libya, have filed a complaint against Lafarge-Holcim for complicity with Al-Qaeda (Al-Nusra Front) and Daesh.

In 2022 Lafarge pleaded guilty and paid $778 million to the United States Justice Department for the criminal part, although its links with the CIA are known. This time it is about civil damages. The US proceedings are distinct from the proceedings in other countries, such as in France where the Court of Cassation has ruled that Lafarge’s participation in the actions of the secret services (DGSE) does not exonerate it of prosecution for complicity in acts of terrorism. Holcim, which had merged with Lafarge in 2015 immediately announced that it was separating from its cumbersome ally.

Bolivian Oustachis prosecuted over 2019 Bolivian coup

Governor of Santa Cruz and leader of the opposition Luis Fernando Camacho was jailed for his participation in the 2019 coup.

Mr. Camacho whose slogan is “Bolivia belongs to Christ!” is the former president of the Santa Cruz Youth Union, an organization of Croatian immigrants linked to the Croatian Christian Democratic Party (HDZ) of Franjo Tudman. He is a successor of the fascist and anti-Semitic Oustachis who made an alliance with the Nazis before taking refuge in Latin America with the help of the Anglo-Saxons. His group is known for its raids against Aymara Native Americans. He played a central role in the riots that resulted in the flight of re-elected President Evo Morales and the seizure of power by President Jeanine Añez. At the time, the international media reported that the elections were rigged and that the Bolivian people had got the better of the dictator. However, what followed showed that this was not the case, which was confirmed by an MIT study.

For its part, Declassified UK showed with supporting documents that Boris Johnson’s United Kingdom helped the plotters in order to obtain Bolivian lithium operating licenses.

https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2021-03-08-revealed-the-uk-supported-the-coup-in-bolivia-to-gain-access-to-its-white-gold/

President Jeanine Añez has already been arrested and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Colombia reconnects with Venezuela

New Colombian President Gustavo Petro and his Venezuelan counterpart Nicolás Maduro have opened the bridge connecting the Colombian state of Norte de Santander to Tachira. It was completed in 2016 but never opened due to President Ivan Duque’s opposition to his Venezuelan counterpart.

Venezuela set to turn the Juan Guaido page

The Venezuelan opposition seeks to get rid of the shadow government of Juan Guaido. In the end it was only recognized by around fifty states, all linked to Washington. It is now tainted with an aura of corruption and has not achieved any results. A poll estimates that 57% of Venezuelans are calling for its dissolution and only 6% for its support in the country.

President Nicolás Maduro said in an interview on January 1st that his country was "totally
ready" to normalize relations with the United States.

EUROPE

UK to declare Iranian Revolutionary Guards ‘terrorists’

Director of MI5 General Ken McCallum makes no secret that the Iranian Revolutionary Guards are planning operations in the UK both against Iranian nationals and against British nationals. He pleads for this organization to be declared “terrorist”. Iran has a long tradition of assassinating its political opponents abroad, long before the Islamic Republic. London has not always been so fussy when supporting Tehran. For example, during the assassination of the revolutionary sociologist ‘Ali Shari’atî by the Savak of Shah Reza Pahlevi in Southampton, in 1977. Shari’atî was a friend of Jean-Paul Sartre and Frantz Fanon.

The Legacy of Pope Benedict XVI

Former Pope Benedict XVI has died. His dark side is in the way he fought against Liberation theologians in Latin America or suppressed homosexuality when he was the prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. However, this great intellectual advanced Catholic theology by denouncing the modern sins of accumulating excessive wealth, taking drugs or dealing drugs, environmental pollution, genetic manipulation, experiments on human beings, causing social injustice or poverty, abortion and pedophilia.

The controversy opened by his remarks in Ratisbonne (2006) on the Muslim conception of Transcendence ultimately made it possible to establish a permanent dialogue between Christianity and Islam. He chose to "give up" his office (and not to "resign" or "abdicate"), not for health reasons as his biographers claim but because he refused to give in to blackmail against him.

The CIA censored the internet to protect Emmanuel Macron

Documents from the Twitter Files show that the CIA interfered with Twitter, Yahoo, Twitch, Cloudflare, LinkedIn and Wikimedia to censor alleged "Russian disinformation" denigrating President Emmanuel Macron during his re-election campaign in 2022.

François Hollande confirms that the Minsk Agreements were only a Western maneuver

In an exclusive Kyiv Independent interview, former French president François Hollande confirms the words of former chancellor Angela Merkel to Die Zeit. To the question "Do you also think that the Minsk negotiations were aimed at delaying Russian advances in Ukraine?" “, he answers “Yes, Angela Merkel is right on this point”. As for former President Petro Poroshenko, he publicly declared as soon as the agreements were signed that he would never apply them. Only the fourth signatory Vladimir Putin believed in the good faith of his partners. However, the fact that he proposed to the United Nations Security Council and had adopted resolution 2202 endorsing these agreements shows that he no longer believed Westerners and was beginning to prepare for the current intervention. This resolution gives him the right, as guarantor of the Minsk agreements, to intervene by virtue of its “responsibility to protect”.

Belgium and Luxembourg release the assets of Western companies that worked in Russia

Belgium and Luxembourg, home to the clearing houses Euroclear and Clearstream have authorized them to return to 5 million investors the funds that had been frozen in the name of "sanctions" against Russia. Among the aggrieved customers were Western companies working in
Russia such as Amazon or Netflix. The lifting of these sanctions by these two States has enabled certain Russian customers to recover their assets. It only applies to operations that began before the announcement of the “sanctions”.

**Poland forms an alliance with Italy against the Franco-German project of European federalism**

In an interview with *La Stampa*, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki announces that he is uniting with the government of Giorgia Meloni against the Franco-German project for a supranational European Union. For him: “The EU was created so that individual states could develop to the best of their ability, some faster than others, but always taking into account their economic conditions (...) We have the choice between a true solidarity of equal states or the model of a single superstate in which the cards will ultimately be dealt in some of the largest capitals, to the exclusion of other countries”.

**Poland orders observation satellites from France**

Poland has ordered two *Pléiades Neo* satellites and an image processing station from *France* for a total value of €575 million. Each satellite can photograph 500,000 km² daily. The images thus taken have a resolution of 30 cm.

**Poland withdraws its protest against Ukrainian Integral nationalists**

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki posted a tweet on January 1st protesting Ukrainian authorities’ celebrations of the 114th birthday of criminal against humanity Stepan Bandera; ceremonies he described as "unacceptable". However, he took down this tweet the next day. Born on January 1, 1909, Stepan Bandera is considered the father of Ukraine by integral nationalists. He organized the massacre of millions of Ukrainians before and during World War II.

**Hungary calls for the dissolution of the European Parliament**

At his annual press conference on December 21, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban declared: “The Hungarians would like the European Parliament to be dissolved in its current form (...) And [the European partners] obviously know our political position: the swamp must be drained”. Brussels refuses to pay Budapest €6.3 billion under the 2021-2027 European budget and €5.8 billion under the post-Covid recovery plan i.e., a total of €18.1 billion.

**The EU releases seized Russian fertilizers**

After eight months of blockage the EU has revised its economic warfare measures against Russia, known as “sanctions”, in order to authorize the transfer of Russian fertilizers to Africa. Until now, the laws adopted on April 8 (known as the “5th series of sanctions”) prohibited the import of Russian fertilizers into the Union. This also applied to European vessels transporting fertilizer to non-European destinations and to European insurance companies guaranteeing these transports whatever their carrier and destination. Russia had announced that it was giving the 260,000 tons of fertilizer blocked in European Union ports to African states which would pay for the transport, but Western sanctions prevented these ships from leaving European ports and these states from paying Russian ships. *The Financial Times* had denounced this Kafkaesque situation. Assuming that the weather conditions are average in 2023, the eight months of blockage of Russian fertilizers by the EU should cause a drop of around 20% in world grain production. This will itself cause famines in 2024.
Corruption in the European Parliament: the Sakharov Prize in question

According to Le Soir from Bruxelles the Belgian investigators have just open a new lead in the case of corruption in the European Parliament: the Sakharov Prize for freedom of thought. It appears that following secret payments to deputies of the Foreign Affairs Committee in 2021, the candidacies of Saharawi Sultana Khaya and Bolivian Jeanine Añez have been rejected in favor of Russian Alexei Navalny’s. While it is clear that Morocco defeated Sultana Khaya, we do not know who ousted Jeanine Añez.

In the midst of the civil war, in 2022, when Russia intervened militarily to enforce United Nations Security Council resolution 2202, the Sakharov Prize was awarded to the "Ukrainian people" as a whole.

Very high tension between Serbia and Kosovo

The situation between Serbia and Kosovo is close to war. Many Kosovar civil servants have resigned in protest at their government’s decision to force fellow ethnic Serbs to stop registering their vehicles in Serbia. President Aleksandar Vucic ordered his defense minister General Milan Mojsilović to make the Serbian army combat ready. Ultimately, the situation seems to have relaxed a little and the barriers between the two countries have been lifted, but the Serbs of Kosovo have established a plan with those of Serbia. In the event of a new problem with Pristina, they will cut off all communications with Kosovo. Kosovo declared its independence, without a referendum, during NATO’s victory over Serbia. It has been recognized by the US and the EU, but not by the United Nations. In its early years, Kosovo as a whole was just a US military base.

Ukrainian army integrates Turkish-speaking mercenaries from Asia

The Kyiv authorities have integrated a new Muslim battalion into their army called “Turan”. It is made up of former mercenaries from Central Asia who participated in the civil war in Donbass in 2014 under the command of Kyrgyz Almaz Kudabek uulu. Probably to embarrass Türkiye, the Ukrainian media underline the presence of members of the Turkish Gray Wolves among them.

President Zelensky appoints sex therapist as ambassador

President Volodymyr Zelensky has appointed a person with no diplomatic nor governmental experience, his friend sexologist Olesya Ilashchuk as ambassador to Bulgaria. This character, founder of the jeweler Jemma, presents herself as a specialist in hypnosis. The Jemma company is owned by billionaire Ivan Rynzhuk. Police seized $650,000 in cash there as part of a money laundering investigation.

The Alliance between Ukrainian “integral nationalists” and Israeli “revisionist Zionists” does not work

During the vote by the General Assembly of the United Nations to request the ICJ to rule whether or not the West Bank is occupied by Israel, the new Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu phoned President Volodymyr Zelensky to call for help. The latter confirmed to him that he would support him if Tel-Aviv broke with Naftali Bennett’s policy and finally delivered arms to Ukraine. Mr. Netanyahu replied that Israel could not upset Russia without losing the possibility of bombing Iranian positions in Syria, but that he would see what he could do. Ultimately Ukraine did not participate in the vote.

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Ukraine prepares a "peace summit" against Russia

Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba is preparing a peace summit on February 24, 2023, the anniversary of the entry of the Russian army into his country. He said Russia could not participate until it was brought before an international tribunal for its crimes. He multiplies the steps so that Secretary General of the United Nations António Guterres is present and that the question of the exclusion of the Russian Federation from the United Nations is publicly debated.

Russia develops its gas fields

President Vladimir Putin has launched the drilling of the Kovykta gas field (eastern Siberia). It will supply the Power of Siberia gas pipeline to China. Its capacity is 1,800 billion cubic meters.

The next day, Rosneft announced the discovery of a large hydrocarbon deposit during geological prospecting work carried out in the Republic of Sakha. It includes more than 9.5 billion cubic meters of gas and more than 1.5 million tons of oil.

The political instability of the Western hydrocarbon market suggests a very serious energy crisis to come

According to Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak the Western policy of energy “sanctions” is leading multinationals in the energy sector to stop investing and to redistribute their profits as dividends. Therefore, the shortage of investment from them will be felt in 5-10 years, causing a deep crisis in the West.

Sergei Lavrov’s point of view

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov gave an interview to Tass press agency.

He specifies that Moscow does not want to reconnect with the EU given the way it has behaved. "Of course, there will be no more 'business as usual' with such actors. We have no intention of knocking on a closed door or initiating joint projects. Thank God the EU is not the center of the universe for us. We have many political friends in other parts of the world. If, or when Europe wakes up from the current Russophobia rage and starts sobering up, and there are nationally oriented politicians who understand the benefits of an equal and mutually beneficial partnership with Russia, I assure you there will be no problem on our part” he said. Also in the same interview, Mr. Lavrov commented on the Pentagon plan mentioned by Newsweek.

“Some 'anonymous officials' at the Pentagon have in fact threatened to inflict a "decapitation blow" on the Kremlin, but it is in fact a threat of physical elimination of the Russian head of state. If such ideas are actually hatched by someone, that person should think very carefully about the possible consequences of such plans. “As for the duration of the conflict,” Mr. Lavrov also said, “the ball is in the court of the regime and of Washington. They can stop senseless resistance at any time. The enemy is well aware of our proposals on the demilitarization and denazification of the territories controlled by the regime, the elimination of threats to the security of Russia emanating from them, including our new territories - the regions of the DPR, the LPR, Kherson and Zaporizhia. It remains only to implement them of one’s own free will. Otherwise, this problem will be solved by the Russian army.”

Contrary to a common idea, the defeat of the Azov battalion did not solve the “Nazi” problem, since integral nationalists remain in control of the main levers of the State and that monuments, stadiums and streets still bear the names of Banderist war criminals.
Russia withdraws from all its commitments with the Council of Europe

Russia which is no longer part of the Council of Europe should also withdraw from the treaties and agreements signed with this institution. This is already the case for the international cooperation group on drugs and addiction; the partial agreement of 1990 establishing the European Commission for Democracy through Law (known as the “Venice Commission”); the partial open agreement on forecasting, prevention and assistance in the event of natural disasters and technological disasters. This will soon also be the case for the European Support Fund for the co-production and distribution of cinematographic and audiovisual works; for the European Audiovisual Observatory; for the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport by the Council of Europe; for the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes and for the Observatory for History Teaching in Europe.

President Putin bans oil sales to EU and Australia

President Vladimir Putin issued a decree prohibiting the export of petroleum and petroleum products to countries applying price caps. Currently only the European Union and Australia cap the price of Russian oil at $60 per barrel. This decree will come in force from February 1 to June 30, 2023. Derogations may be authorized on a case-by-case basis.

Rings to symbolize the CEI

At the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) summit, President Vladimir Putin presented a gold ring with New Year’s wishes engraved on it. On this occasion, he acknowledged that some differences existed between the participants, but that all washed their dirty linen in private. Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko immediately put his ring on.

Tatarstan fully integrates into the Russian Federation

The Parliament of the Republic of Tatarstan has decided to change the title of its leader starting from its next election. He will no longer be “president”, but “raïs” as in Arab countries. Tatarstan joined the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in December 1991, but refused to sign the March 1992 Treaty which was to regulate ties within the Russian Federation and instead voted by referendum of 62 % its sovereignty. In the end, Tatarstan had negotiated greater autonomy than the other regions, giving rise to a separate Treaty in 1994. This was not renewed in 2017. The abandonment of the title of "president" puts Tatarstan in phase with the other regions of the Russian Federation which have ceased to elect their leader directly. Now they are elected by their local Parliament on the proposal of the Federal President.

Sabotage in shipyards

Sabotage occurred during the repair of the only Russian aircraft carrier, Admiral Kuznetsov. A fire broke out while she was in drydock.

Russian Navy world champion in nuclear submarines

The Russian Navy received a nuclear-powered submarine, Generalissimo Suvorov. This is the 6th submarine of the Boreï-A class, without equivalent in the world. These submarines are equipped with 20 Bulava strategic ballistic missiles, each one carrying 6-10 warheads which can be conventionally or nuclear loaded with 100-150 kilotons each.

AFRICA

Algeria recovers $20 billion embezzled by the clan of Saïd Bouteflika

President Abdelmadjid Tebboune revealed during his end-of-year speech that he had

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recovered $20 billion in property from corrupt personalities of the occult regime of former president Said Bouteflika. Faced with the skepticism of his constituents, Minister of Justice Abderrachid Tabi released 1,400-page catalog listing 4,200 properties and 6,000 bank accounts that the authorities claim to have seized. The report also includes 2 planes as well as several yachts, more than 11,000 vehicles plus jewelry, luxury watches and cash. However, the Algerian authorities are still in negotiations with the courts of friendly countries to seize property that has fled abroad.

**Algeria bows to US pressure**

President Abdelmadjid Tebboune told French newspaper *Le Figaro* about the Russian private military company Wagner in Mali: "The money that this presence costs would be better placed and more useful if it went to the development of the Sahel". His trip to Moscow was immediately canceled. Algeria’s 2023 budget shows a 20% drop in funds allocated to the armies due to the suspension of US aid.

**Clashes in South Sudan**

Clashes between the Nuer and Murle tribes left at least 57 people dead in the Greater Pibor region. 30,000 people have been displaced. This incident follows one that took place in Upper Nile State in mid-November. According to the United Nations, 9.4 million of South Sudan’s most vulnerable people will need urgent life-saving assistance and protection in 2023.

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**Foreign editions**

*Voltaire, international news* is now published in six languages:
- Dutch.
- English.
- French.
- Italian.
- German.
- Spanish.

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**Asia**

**Benjamin Netanyahu’s commitments**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has publicly made the following commitments with his allies:

- Remove clause 7a from the Basic Law prohibiting overtly racist parties from contesting elections.
- Amend the Anti-Discrimination Act to fund gender-segregated events or structures and to allow denial of services based on faith.
- Compel local authorities to fund ultra-Orthodox schools, even if they are not under the control of the central administration and do not follow its curricula and refuse to teach basic secular subjects such as mathematics and English.
- Withdraw the allocation of food stamps from the Ministry of Social Aid and entrust them to the Ministry of the Interior. He will apply as a criterion for distributing them the fact of not paying taxes, knowing that the ultra-Orthodox are exempt from it whatever their resources.

However, the Prime Minister wanted to distance himself from his allies. Thus, he declared that he would never authorize that one can evoke his faith to refuse services to an Israeli citizen. "There will be electricity on Shabbat. There will be [mixed] swimming beaches. We will maintain the *status quo*. There will be no country [governed] by halakha”

"There will be no amendment of the law of return" (the Prime Minister’s allies demand that
any returnee must prove that he has a Jewish parent in the strict sense of the word.

He disavowed his son, Yair Netanyahu, for whom the judges who indicted him while he was still prime minister are traitors and must be punished as such.

Finally, he elected the only openly gay deputy, Amir Ohana, president of the Knesset.

**Sephardi rabbis against Knesset speaker**

Rabbi Meir Mazuz, head of the Tunisian community in Israel, said Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana was “infected with a disease.” Former Sephardi chief rabbi Shlomo Amar denounced MPs who voted for the nomination and said it is "an unprecedented disgrace".

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs is not the one you think**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs falls to the former Minister of the Economy and later of Intelligence Eli Cohen for one year, then to the former Minister of Intelligence and later of Finance Yisrael Katz for the following two years, and again to Eli Cohen if the government remains in place until then.

In practice, it is former ambassador to Washington Ron Dermer who will control it from the Ministry of Strategic Affairs. This department, which had been dissolved by the governments of Bennett and Lapid, officially deals only with the fight against the BDS movement (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions).

**Change the status of the Chief Military Rabbi**

A bill from the government coalition plans to no longer place the chief military rabbi under the orders of the chief of staff of the armed forces, but of a civil committee of rabbis. In addition, he would be promoted to the rank of major general, which will be equivalent to making him the equal of the chief of staff. At the same time, the law should exempt all young Haredi men from military service.

**Netanyahu government will not ratify Convention on Combating Violence Against Women**

The new Netanyahu government will not ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (2011), known as the “Istanbul Convention”.

It was adopted by 45 States and the European Union, but Türkiye withdrew from it.

The government coalition disputes the following points: the granting of residence status to victims of violence who do not have it; the obligation for the State to compensate victims of violence in situations in which neither the perpetrator nor the insurance company pays compensation; the possibility of terminating violent marriages; the granting of asylum in gender-related cases; finally the definition of the zone of application of the Convention, knowing that the West Bank is not under Israeli sovereignty.

**Noam draws up lists of bad citizens**

According to the Yedioth Ahronoth, the Noam party which campaigns against all those who threaten the ultra-Orthodox Jewish conception of the family has compiled a list of gay people working in the media and another of Justice Ministry employees who have undergone training with NGOs advocating the integration of Arab Israelis (Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), The Nazareth Nurseries Institute, Israel Women’s Network, Center for International Migration and Integration, Israel Union for Environmental Defense (Adam Teva v’Din), Movement for Quality Government in Israel and Kav LaOved).
Israel lost its contract with Pfizer

According to i24news, the Ministry of Health claimed in court that it was unable to locate the agreement signed with the pharmaceutical company Pfizer regarding the sharing of epidemiological information on coronavirus vaccines, and even said it did not know if the agreement had been signed. "We did not find a signed agreement," said attorney Ahava Berman of the prosecutor’s office, on behalf of the Department of Health. "We searched every place, including the CEO’s office and the legal department."

6 million Israelis received free injections of Pfizer mRNA in exchange for the transmission to the pharmaceutical laboratory of their health data hitherto covered by medical secrecy.

Ben-Gvir in Sharon’s footsteps at Temple Mount

Violating the rules of the place Minister of National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir went alone for ten minutes on the Muslim part of the Temple Mount / Noble Shrine, on January 3, 2023.

The Muslim part of Temple Mount /Noble Shrine is under the jurisdiction of Jordan and not of Israel. It is only accessible to Muslims and their guests just as the Jewish part is only accessible to Jews and their guests. In the minutes that followed, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, Egypt, France, Jordan, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and Palestine condemned the operation. Sephardic Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef wrote to the Minister to remind him that the Chief Rabbis had strictly prohibited this violation of the rules of the place of worship. Hamas had announced in advance that it would respond to this provocation with "explosive" violence. Islamic Jihad, for its part, proposed to arm every Palestinian with handheld weapons and ammunitions to resist the new Netanyahu government.

On September 28, 2000, the visit of MP Ariel Sharon provoked the second Intifada.

The UN requests its internal court to rule on the legitimacy of Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territories

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu tweeted: “These are the fundamental directives of the national government that I lead: the Jewish people have an exclusive and indisputable right to all areas of the Land of Israel. The government will encourage and expand settlement in all parts of the Land of Israel – in Galilee, in Negev, in the Golan Heights, in Judea and Samaria.” He shouldn’t have.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution (A/77 /400) by 87 votes in favor (around Russia and China), 26 against (including the US, the UK, Australia, Austria, Canada, Germany and Italy), and 53 abstentions (including France, Brazil, Denmark, Finland, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine), asking the International Court of Justice (i.e., the internal tribunal of the UN) to rule on the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territories.

The text asks: "a) What are the legal consequences of Israel’s persistent violation of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, of its occupation, colonization and prolonged annexation of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, in particular measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and the adoption by Israel of related discriminatory laws and measures? (b) What impact do the policies and practices of Israel referred to in paragraph 18(a) above have on the legal status of occupation and what are the resulting legal consequences for all States and the United Nations Organization? »

The response of the ICJ leaves little doubt. In 2004, the International Court of Justice declared the illegality of the Israeli colonies on
the Palestinian territory and that of the parts of the Separation Wall located on the same Palestinian territory. Therefore, it should declare illegal the occupation of the Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem. Responding, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "The Jewish people are not occupiers of their own land and are not occupiers of eternal capital of Jerusalem. No UN resolution will distort this historical truth.”

Jewish Force MP Zvika Fogel concluded: Now “The occupation is no longer temporary, it is permanent”.

**Surrounded by numerous police investigations, Riad Salamé remains governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon**

European justice, which is investigating embezzlement of $330 million and €5 million of Lebanese funds committed between 2002 and 2021 will send attorneys and police officers to investigate in Lebanon. Currently, Eurojust has already seized €120 million in Germany, France, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg and Switzerland. The investigation revolves around the governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon and his countless lovers who serve as his nominees. In Lebanon where he was indicted Riad Salamé enjoys a privilege of immunity. He refuses to respond to Justice which he accuses of being politicized. Last week investigators in charge of the case arrested at the airport actress and MTV host Stéphanie Saliba, deemed “close” to the governor. A little before it was Anna Kosakova, a former lover of Riad Salamé’s who had been auditioned. The European mission is based on the United Nations Convention against Corruption. It should take place under the control of Lebanese judges who alone have the power of summons and hearing. Salamé who belongs to the Hariri clan was considered an exceptional governor. However, in 2021 his name appeared in the Pandora Papers along with that of other Lebanese personalities (banker Marwan Kheireddine, Prime Minister Najib Mikati, Vice-Governor of Bank of Lebanon Muhammad Baasiri and former Prime Minister Hassan Diab).

According to his critics Riad Salamé has set up a system of laundering money from Latin American cartels. Through his niece he formed an alliance with a large Mafia family of New York.

**France, the US and Qatar want to impose their presidential candidate on Lebanon**

France, the US and Qatar are preparing a meeting on Lebanon in Paris. It could choose the next President of the Republic, as was the case in 2008. The lucky winner would be endorsed at a meeting of Lebanese political parties in Qatar, then appointed by Parliament in Beirut. It could be either the army chief, General Joseph Aoun, or surprise candidate former finance minister Jihad Azour. The latter has recently featured in Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. He will soon go to Egypt. In 2008, France had pushed the candidacy of Michel Sleiman who was the subject of an investigation by the Justice in Paris and on whom it was therefore possible to exert political pressure. He had been enthroned in Beirut, not by his predecessor, but by the Emir of Qatar in Parliament in the presence of the French Foreign Minister seated, not on the benches of the public, but on those of the Lebanese government. This election violated the Constitution which imposes a deadline before an army chief can become President of the Republic. The inability of the Lebanese Parliament to elect a President of the Republic affects the possibility of exploiting hydrocarbons in the territorial waters, despite the signing of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement. It interrupts the search for new resources. It disrupts the entire
region because the exploitation of hydrocarbons requires pipelines which can only be built once all the players are in place. The Franco-US-Qatari plan has little chance of coming to an end, even if Gibran Bassil, the son-in-law of President Michel Aoun approves the candidacy of Jihad Azour. Indeed, secretary general of Hezbollah Hassan Nasrallah called on January 3 for a Lebanese solution validated by foreign countries and not the contrary. To the precedent of Michel Sleiman, he thus opposed that of Michel Aoun.

**$858 million to pin Captagon trafficking on Syria**

On December 23, 2022, President Joe Biden signed into law the *Countering Assad’s Proliferation Trafficking And Garnering Of Narcotics Act*, aka "CAPTAGON" (HR 6265). Officially, the goal is to stop the traffic of this synthetic drug between Lebanon and Saudi Arabia. Unofficially, the goal is to find a new pretext for the fury of the US against the Syrian Arab Republic. Over the past two years, as the UN secured aid from Syria against traffickers a slew of press articles linked Lebanese Captagon trafficking to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. This drug was introduced into the Middle East by NATO in order to provide a feeling of invincibility to jihadists. It consists of an amphetamine molecule joined to a theophylline molecule by an ethyl bridge. After losing the war they were waging through the jihadists, the US initiated a new war, this time economic, to the Syrian Arab Republic on the pretext that it would practice large-scale torture (Caesar Act).

The country is under siege so that it is impossible even for humanitarian NGOs and the UN to import anything there. Since supplies from Russia were cut off by “sanctions” against Moscow, the Syrians have run out of fuel, of electricity (except 2 hours a day) and are starting to suffer from hunger. It is therefore not possible to send the Captagon components there. It is unclear in these conditions how the "regime" could manufacture it.

The CAPTAGON act provides for an international press campaign to associate against all logic this drug with President al-Assad and to popularize the idea that the Syrian Arab Republic is only a narco-state. In addition, the US administration will have to produce reports on this subject. This intoxication campaign was given a budget of $858 million.

**Imminent Turkish-Syrian normalization**

Turkish and Syrian Defense Ministers Hulusi Akar and Ali Mahmoud Abbas met in Moscow in the presence of their Russian counterpart, Sergei Shoigu. The talks focused on “ways to resolve the Syrian crisis and [on] the refugee issue,” as well as “joint efforts to combat extremist groups.” This is the first Turkish-Syrian ministerial summit in 11 years. Since September the heads of the secret services of the two countries, Ali Mamlouk and Hakan Fidan, have met several times in Damascus. They were attending the summit in Moscow. In November, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan considered possible a summit with his Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad. Türkiye has warned the Syrian opposition organizations taking refuge on its territory that it will soon withdraw from the Syrian territories it occupies, those who oppose this reconciliation have been asked to leave. A joint action by Russia, Syria and Türkiye against the PKK terrorists is expected, and finally a summit of the two heads of state.

Through Oman, the US offered Syria to partially lift the sanctions against it if it interrupts its talks with Türkiye. Damascus refused.

**Bashar al-Assad receives Abdallah bin Zayed al-Nahyan**

Despite the US ban, Emirati Foreign Minister Abdallah bin Zayed al-Nahyan traveled to
Damascus to meet Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.
The Emirates provide very important support to Syria. This summit comes as the visit of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, scheduled for last week, has been “postponed”.

**Qatar plans to stop exporting gas to the EU**

Qatar plans to cut its gas supplies to the EU in retaliation for the Belgian anti-corruption operation in the European Parliament. The gas demand in Asia is sufficient for Doha to change customers.

**Qatar enters the Yemeni conflict**

While Saudi Arabia is secretly and directly negotiating with the Houthis in the absence of the Yemeni government in Oman, Qatar is organizing a conference on January 9 in Washington entitled "Towards a lasting peace and democracy in Yemen". It will be officially set up by the Tawakkol Karman Foundation and Democracy for the Arab World Now organization. The Muslim Brotherhood will participate extensively. At the same time, Qatar’s international media (with Al-Jazeera leading the pack) assure that everything is falling apart between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

**Türkiye restores relations with Israel**

Israel and Türkiye have reestablished their diplomatic relations which were interrupted four years ago. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan received Ambassador Irit Lillian and asked her to convey his country’s congratulations to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on his election. In 2018 Ankara broke with Tel Aviv which was bombing the Hamas Muslim Brotherhood in Gaza. Today, Türkiye is reinterpreting its Ottoman heritage. It no longer thinks of itself as the leader of the Brotherhood but as the protector of the Turkish-speaking peoples and has therefore abandoned its main ambitions in the Arab world.

**Iran adapts to China’s arrival in the Arab world**

Riyad’s Sino-Arab rapprochement sounded like a clap of thunder in Tehran. Admittedly, China is an age-old ally of Iran and supports it today in nuclear matters, but it is not blind. China leaned on the Arab side in the conflict on three Gulf islands between Tehran and Abu Dhabi. Furthermore, Beijing decided to expand its Silk Roads throughout the Arab world regardless of the Persians.

**India begins to organize without the dollar**

India is beginning to organize its international trade in rupees and no longer in dollars. The Central Bank of New Delhi has set up a special department to mobilize the cashflow necessary for these transfers.

**Rahul Gandhi lines up behind Washington**

Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi said that China has adopted the same attitude towards India as Russia has towards Ukraine. The former Congress Party chairman accused Narendra Modi’s government of failing to discern China’s ambitions. According to him, China is preparing to change the geography of India in Ladakh and Arunachal (Pradesh).

**Myanmar releases 7,000 prisoners**

On the occasion of 75 years of independence, the Myanmar army staged a show of force in Naypyidaw. The release of 7,012 prisoners was announced without it being known whether they were common law or political prisoners. General elections have been announced, without specifying whether the current electoral mode in one round would be maintained. The US preemptively called them a “sham”. Medals
were given to personalities, including the Buddhist monk Wirathu, herald of the non-Buddhists massacres. In 2020, the National League for Democracy (NLD) won the elections but these were immediately canceled and its president special adviser Aung San Suu Kyi was arrested. She was sentenced behind closed doors on December 30 to 33 years in prison. She is still incarcerated; however, she could again be placed under house arrest.

**North Korea is getting stronger**

North Korea fired 3 medium-range missiles just before the end of the year. They rose 100 kilometers high and fell 370 kilometers off the coast in international waters. In 2022, North Korea fired three times as many missiles as the previous year. It took advantage of the tension around Ukraine to significantly upgrade its arsenal of tactical nuclear weapons, new intercontinental ballistic missile, hypersonic glide warheads, nuclear-powered submarines and reconnaissance satellite. Supreme leader Kim Jong-un revealed on December 27 that he had adopted a new security strategy, but it has not been published yet. On January 1st, he called for an "exponential increase in the nuclear arsenal" to deal with the growing Western threat.

**China changes its Covid policy**

The Chinese Health Agency announced on December 26, 2022 that it will downgrade the Covid-19 infection from class A to class B from January 8, 2023. There will be no more quarantine for people entering the country, no more mandatory confinement for Covid-19 patients and no more isolation of high-risk areas. The Chinese central administration estimates that two weeks are needed for its national directives to be applied at the local level.

**Joint Sino-Russian maneuvers**

The Chinese and Russian Marines conducted a joint drill in the China Sea called Joint See 2022. The destroyers Baotou and Jinan, the frigates Binzhou and Yanpeng, the supply ship Gaoyouhu, a submarine, fixed-wing early warning planes, anti-submarine patrol planes and on-board helicopters took part on the Chinese side; and on the Russian side the missile cruiser Varyag, the frigate Marshal Shaposhnikov, the corvettes Aldar Tsydenzhapov and Sovershenny, as well as planes and helicopters.

**Taiwan extends military service**

Taiwan will extend compulsory military service from the current 8 months to 1 year at the end of 2023. The rebel Chinese province intends to prepare for a military operation by Beijing.

**Four Kishida government ministers resign**

Minister for Reconstruction Kenya Akiba tendered his resignation on 26 December. He is the fourth Fumio Kishida minister to leave the government in two months, after Daishiro Yamagiwa (Minister of Economic Revitalization, resigning on October 25), Yasuhiro Hanashi (Minister of Justice, November 11) and Minoru Terada (Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications, December 17). All four admitted to either embezzling public money or being corrupted by the Moon sect.

**Japan strengthens its Defense against China**

Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi canceled his planned trip to Beijing after Tokyo released its National Security Strategy naming China as "the greatest strategic challenge". In 2005, the Japanese government attempted to amend the Constitution to expand the role of the Armed Forces internationally. However, this project was not adopted. After several attempts
and despite the unanimous opposition of the country’s legal experts, the cabinet reinterpreted article 9 of the Constitution in 2014. From now on, it considers that it authorizes "collective defense operations". In this context, the Kishida government has decided to acquire “counter-strike” capabilities against China. It has also just reinforced the defense of the Nansei Islands, including Yonaguni, where it has set up a surface-to-air missile unit. This base is only 110 kilometers from the “Chinese rebel province” of Taiwan. Finally, the Kishida government has drawn up a list of 600 sites of strategic interest so that it can monitor them and their surroundings. It has just revealed the first 58 sites.

The Tokyo Olympics were corrupt

Chairman of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games Committee Haruyuki Takahashi has been indicted for corruption. He was released on an 80-million-yen (€563,000) bail after four months of preventive detention. He’s accused of having received 198 million yen (€1.39 million) from the civil engineering company Aoki Corporation.

OCEANIA

Australia tries to reconnect with China

Trade Minister Don Farrell said Canberra could withdraw its case against China at the WTO if Beijing lifts what he called "sanctions" against Australian products.

China does not practice “economic sanctions”. It introduced tariffs on barley, wine, meat and lobster. Signs of an Australian-Chinese thaw are increasing : Prime Minister Anthony Albanese met President Xi Jinping at the G20 in Bali in November. Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong traveled to Beijing in December to meet her counterpart Wang Yi.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

New members of the UN Security Council

The non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council are now :

For another year : Albania, Brazil, the United Arab Emirates, Gabon and Ghana.

For two years : Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Switzerland.

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« Noncompliance and punishment: lessons from multilateral chemical, biological, and nuclear arms control », Robert J. Hughes, The Nonproliferation Review
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WASHINGTON is trying to keep the war in Syria going

US State Department spokesman Ned Price said: "We urge states to carefully consider the Assad regime’s atrocious human rights record the past 12 years as it continues to inflict atrocities on the Syrian people and to deny access to lifesaving humanitarian aid".

Syria is about to restore diplomatic relations with Turkey. It would thus escape the economic blockade imposed by the US since the start of its war on Syria by jihadist proxies. Today the country is almost completely deprived of energy: it can only provide two hours of electric power per day and very little gasoline. US State Department envoys arrived in Ankara to offer Turkey an agreement with the Kurdish terrorists.

Simultaneously, the UN Security Council unanimously voted resolution 2672 authorizing humanitarian aid to the North-Western territories of Syria controlled by jihadists. However, Russia only adopted this resolution for six months while the US hoped to pass it for one year.

According to UN’s own services 4.1 million people (mainly foreigners) would live there but this figure is probably whimsical and as far from reality as those provided during the war and denied afterwards. The statistical differences were then from 1 to 10, the only way for Westerners to make believe that the majority of Syrians were opposed to the Republic.

AMERICA

Republican Kevin McCarthy elected President of the House of Representatives

The election of Kevin McCarthy (California) as President of the House of Representatives was hotly debated by the Republican Party requiring 15 successive ballots. It seems Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (Georgia) and former President Donald Trump have played a big part in winning
over his opponents within the party. Republican Representatives agreed on a common platform stating that they would fight to "get answers for the American people about President Biden’s inflationary policies, the Democrats’ 87,000 tax officials, parental rights in Education, the threat of the Chinese Communist Party, safety and security in US cities, the border crisis and Biden’s open border policies, the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan, the origins of COVID and the censorship of Big Tech".

Rep. Mark Green (Tennessee) has been named chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, while Rep. Jason Smith (Missouri) will lead Ways and Means, the tax-focused committee.

A new commission has been set up: it is dedicated to the “Strategic Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party”. It should be chaired by Mike Gallagher (Wisconsin) and audition Walt Disney CEO Bob Iger and NBA commissioner Adam Silver. Armed Services Committee Chairman Mike Rogers said he would investigate Woke policies within the Pentagon and the military.

Opening of the parliamentary investigation against the Biden family

Speaker of the House of Representatives Kevin McCarthy has kicked off the congressional investigation into the illicit activities of President Joe Biden’s family.

A first commission will be headed by James Comer (Kentucky) who had already revealed the activities of Hunter Biden. Mr. Comer said his preliminary investigations had already established a "pattern of influence peddling, national security risks and political cover-up". A second commission will be headed by Jim Jordan (Ohio). It will focus on the militarization of the Biden administration to censor the media and stifle these numerous cases.

To avoid being accused of political revenge, the Republicans will have to provide decisive evidence very quickly.

Request for the impeachment of the Secretary of Homeland Security

Republican Representative Pat Fallon (Texas) filed a bill to impeach Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for failing to maintain operational control of the border with Mexico.

Unlawful FBI Surveillance

The Cato Institute managed to obtain all 906 pages of the FBI rules manual. Although entire pages are illegible, it appears that the Agency has been working for a decade with the NSA and the CIA to "evaluate" certain American citizens outside of any legal procedure. According to the Cato Institute, the FBI doesn’t just spy on US citizens, it penetrates civil society organizations and tries to influence their actions. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has decided to join the Republicans and Libertarians to campaign against FBI abuses.

Hillary Clinton gets a new job

Former Secretary of State and unsuccessful presidential candidate Hillary Clinton joined Columbia University. She will “bring together outstanding policy thinkers from around the world to develop innovative policy solutions”.

A judicial inquiry into President Joe Biden

According to CBS, “A small number of documents with classified marks” were discovered while clearing the Penn Biden offices Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement where Joe Biden had an office after he left the vice presidency in 2017.

This case comes after the FBI raided the private home of former President Donald Trump and a procedure was brought against him for concealing classified documents. The
Department of Justice has opened an investigation into this new Biden case.

**The United States against Wagner**

Deputy Permanent Representative of the US to the UN Security Council Richard Mills strongly criticized the Russian private military company Wagner. He was immediately supported by France and the UK. The three countries denounced the ineffectiveness of the Russian model in the fight against terrorism, particularly in Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria. They could count on the representative of the Secretary General for West Africa and the Sahel, the Burundian Giovanie Biha. One after another, African states are ending their security cooperation with France and the US and are appealing to Russia.

**The US military-industrial complex on the brink of exhaustion**

According to *Defense One* Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro said that if the US arms industry failed to significantly increase production within six months, it would no longer be possible to meet both the needs of the US and those of Ukraine.

**Confusion in Brazil**

About 5,000 supporters of former President Jair Bolsonaro, hospitalized in the US, attacked the Parliament in Brasilia. They also managed to storm the Supreme Court and the Presidential Palace. Over 1,500 protesters were arrested. A judge has ordered the arrest of Anderson Torres, President Bolsonaro’s former justice minister who became Brasilia’s head of public security. He is accused of planning the coup attempt. The US and Russia gave their support to the constitutional order. During the presidential election Brazil was cut in two with the supporters of the fight against poverty behind Lula da Silva and supporters of order against the drug cartels behind Jair Bolsonaro.

Furthermore, Brazil rejoined the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) created in 2011 by Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez.

**Confusion in Peru**

The Attorney General has opened an investigation into the bloody repression of demonstrations in support of ousted President Pedro Castillo. His investigation for "genocide and homicides" targets new President Dina Boluarte, her Prime Minister Alberto Otarola and her Ministers of Defense Jorge Chavez and of Interior Victor Roja. Former Bolivian president (and ally of Pedro Castillo) Evo Morales has been banned from entering Peruvian territory.

**Colombian-Venezuelan reconciliation**

On the occasion of Colombian President Gustavo Petro’s visit to Caracas, his Venezuelan counterpart Nicolás Maduro pledged to help with inter-Colombian peace and reconciliation.

**Venezuela recovers its embassy in Washington**

As Venezuela’s reconciliation with the US is getting close, the opposition voted to impeach Juan Guaido. It nominated former representative Dinorah Figuera to preside over the National Assembly elected in 2015, whose mandate ended in 2020. Ms. Figuera lives in Spain. The government of President Nicolas Maduro fired all of its embassy staff in Washington who had supported without exception alternative president Juan Guaido. It recovered its premises, but did not reopen its embassy.
EUROPE

Martin Griffiths is an MI6 agent

According to Declassified UK, former UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths (UK) works closely with Her Majesty’s Secret Service. Martin Griffiths founded a company called Inter Mediate with Jonathan Powell, the former chief of staff of Prime Minister Tony Blair. It employs various former MI6 officers and has received £4m from the Foreign Office.

France and its allies simulate a war against Russia

France and its NATO allies have started the “Orion” military drills, the biggest since the Cold War. The goal is to mobilize all Arms (Air, Land, Navy and Space) in order to simulate a war in “Arnland” (Ukraine) against “Mercury” (Russia). The US participated with their aircraft carrier USS George HW Bush and 7,000 men; Germany, Belgium, Spain, Italy and the UK also took part in the drills while France mobilized 12,000 men. This drill has been in preparation for two years i.e., before the war in Ukraine.

Ukrainian billionaire Kostyantyn Zhevago will not be extradited from France

Billionaire and former Ukrainian MP Kostyantin Zhevago was released after posting €1 million bail. He was arrested in Courchevel on December 28, 2022 at the request of the Ukrainian authorities who accuse him of having embezzled $113 million. Mr. Zhevago claims to be innocent of what he is accused of and to have asked 15 times in three years to be heard by the Justice of his country, in vain. He had clashed with President Volodymyr Zelensky’s "Servant of the People" party.

Foreign editions

Voltaire, international news is now published in six languages :
- Dutch.
- English.
- French.
- Italian.
- German.
- Spanish.

Spanish-Moroccan reconciliation

A Spanish-Moroccan summit will be held in Rabat on 1st and 2nd February. Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez will go there with 12 ministers to close the estrangement that occurred during the hospitalization of the President of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic in Spain. Things changed when Washington let the Saharawis down and backed Morocco.

Italy bets on African hydrocarbons

CEO of the ENI group Claudio Descalzi explained to the Financial Times that the Europeans were making a mistake by wanting to offset Russian hydrocarbons with American’s. ENI being very well established in Africa, he assured that the African continent can supply Europe. ENI has just signed very important agreements with Algeria (Sonatrach) and Egypt (Egyptian Electricity Holding Company, Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company). It began to exploit deposits in the Republic of Congo, Mozambique and Côte d'Ivoire. It is interested in other projects in Angola and of course in Libya.

Doctor sentenced in Germany for not believing in Covid masks

Associated Press reports that a German general practitioner has been sentenced to 2 years and 9 months in jail, a €28,000 fine and a three-year ban on practicing his profession for having
issued more than 4,000 certificates authorizing his patients not to wear a mask during the Covid-19 pandemic. The doctor argues that the mask does not protect against contamination because like all other respiratory viruses the Covid spreads by aerosol.

**Sweden will not join NATO anytime soon**

Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson says his country will not be able to honor the promise made to Turkey to extradite members of the Fethullah Gulen Organization and the PKK. These two organizations are indeed not considered terrorists by Stockholm. As a result, Turkey is still blocking Sweden’s NATO membership.

**The European Union relies on NATO**

The European Union and NATO have signed a joint declaration. The EU confirms that it relies on NATO for its protection against the Russian "threat". This commitment has not been commented on in Europe. In the US it was applauded by supporters of imperialism and decried by nationalists.

**Canadian documents challenge the history of the Bosnian war**

The study of the cables of the Canadian UN force in Bosnia which were declassified by the Canadian government in early 2022 confirms that the US organized under a false flag the operations attributed to the Serbs which justified the war. The Blue Helmets also witnessed the Iranian-Turkish operation (under Saudi coordination) of Western support for Bosnia. This point is important insofar as the Western doctrine falsely claims that revolutionary Iran has always been an enemy of the West. The Revolutionary Guards with elements of Lebanese Hezbollah were then fighting alongside NATO. The Blue Helmets question the origin of the Markale market massacre attributed to the Serbs but according to them probably organized under false flag by Bosnians.

**NATO does not want to calm things down between Serbia and Kosovo**

Serbia deplored NATO’s refusal to deploy troops to Kosovo to stabilize its border. International agreements authorize the latter to station up to 1,000 members of its security forces on the spot but to do so without the protection of NATO would not fail to revive hostilities between the two countries.

**President Zelensky pursues the de-russification of his country**

President Zelensky signed Decree No. 4/2023 imposing sanctions on 119 cultural figures in Russia, ranging from opera singers to philosophers. Separately, Ukraine stripped 13 Orthodox bishops and priests of their citizenship as part of its policy of Ukrainianization of religion.

**Ukraine strengthens its ties with the Anglo-Saxons**

Ukraine has exempted the subjects of His Majesty Charles III from entry visas. In addition, a hundred Ukrainian soldiers arrived at Fort Sill (Oklahoma) to train in the handling of the Patriot missiles that the US must deliver to them.

**Georgia refuses to engage in war in Ukraine**

Georgia has no intention of returning the Buk missiles that Ukraine sent in 2008, let alone giving up its US Javelin anti-tank missiles. It does not intend to engage in this conflict. In addition, 1 million Georgians out of 5 million inhabitants have fled the country since the "Rose Revolution" in 2003.

**Armenia distances itself from Russia**

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan criticized the passivity of the Russian Blue Shapkas which let
Azerbaijan take control of the corridor connecting Armenia to the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh). Consequently, he declared that the next maneuvers of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) should not take place in his country.

Nikol Pashinyan is a George Soros’ man.

Stabilization of the Russian economy

The ruble’s rate has stabilized, falling back to its 2019 level i.e., less than 70 rubles per dollar. In 2021, it rose above 75 rubles per dollar, and during the military operation in Ukraine jumped to over 140 rubles per dollar.

Moscow worries that Washington will use the Ukronazis in other parts of the world

Security Council Secretary Nikolay Patrushev said Moscow worries the US would recycle key Ukrainian neo-Nazi figures in other countries, as it did with the Nazis in the aftermath of World War II.

Western military worried about Russian weapons

The Frankfurter Rundschau worries about Russian hypersonic missiles even if their performance is not established yet. According to the daily, Russia is the only state to master them. It has some that can be fired from planes (Kinzhal), from the ground (Avanguard) and now from ships too (Zirkon). They can reach a target more than 500 kilometers away, traveling at a speed 8 times faster than the speed of sound, while remaining maneuverable. They therefore cannot be intercepted and cause a panic in the NATO staffs.

The Chinese Army said it also has them.

United Russia uses AI to secure its supporters

According to Vedomosti, main Russian party United Russia uses software to analyze posts by his followers on social media and remove from his database those who speak out against the military operation in Ukraine.

The goal is to have a database of 30 million loyal supporters for the 2024 presidential election.

Roman Abramovich protected his fortune before sanctions

According to the Guardian, Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich bequeathed his fortune to seven children just after the Atlanticist leaders mentioned possible sanctions against the Russian oligarchs but before they were enacted. The sanctions that Canada has just taken against one of its companies would therefore not be applicable.

Wagner’s first common law prisoners granted amnesty

According to founder of the private military company Wagner Yevgeny Prigozhin, the first group of common law prisoners who enlisted 6 months ago to fight in Ukraine have obtained their release. However, according to Kommersant, cancellation of their sentence can only be pronounced by the President of the Russian Federation, which was confirmed by Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov without saying whether President Putin did it or not.

Breakdown of Russian-Japanese peace talks

Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko said that the anti-Russian policy that Japan has just adopted is distancing the prospect of a peace agreement between the two countries. The territorial dispute of the Second World War is still not closed.
AFRICA

The war against Russia sponsors Algeria’s membership of the BRICS

Algeria’s supply contracts with Europe would generate revenues of $50 billion in 2023 (compared to $20 billion in 2020). Algiers now intends to join the BRICS.

Egypt devalues its currency

At the request of the International Monetary Fund, Egypt devalued its currency. The pound is now trading at half the value it had in March. In one year, food prices have increased by 37.9%. In 2022, interest on Egypt’s debt alone was $42 billion. The IMF demands “a definitive change to a floating exchange rate regime” and a “monetary policy aimed at gradually reducing inflation”.

Egypt privatizes areas around the Suez Canal

Faced with very serious economic problems the government decided to transfer certain Suez Canal assets to a management fund in order to privatize them. While it is necessary to modernize the facilities around the Canal, the possibility of privatizing companies, stations, ports, arsenals and land around the Canal raises serious concerns: Egypt could lose its sovereignty over its main economic resource. The main potential buyer is the Ports of Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates). The Egyptian government has embarked on a policy of creating funds that escape the state budget.

MI6 brings together Muslim Brotherhood and Hizb ut-Tahrir

While the Muslim Brotherhood is in the throes of a debacle, the British MI6 is trying to bring it closer to Hizb ut-Tahrir. The Hizb ut-Tahrir emerged from a split in the Brotherhood. It is present in 70 countries and claims the restoration of a global caliphate whose principle had been overthrown with the Ottoman Empire by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. In Central Asia it is directly controlled by MI6. In 2017 it was the one who organized the “Muhammad cartoons” affair and the international demonstrations that marked it.

France tries to calm Burkina-Faso

French deputy minister of Foreign Affairs Chrysoula Zacharopoulou traveled to Ouagadougou after receiving a letter from the Burkinabe authorities demanding the dismissal of French ambassador Luc Hallade. Ms. Zacharopoulou tried to demine relations between the two countries. Burkina Faso is now led by the transitional government of Captain Ibrahim Traoré, a soldier claiming to follow the example of revolutionary Thomas Sankara, assassinated by Blaise Compaoré in 1987 probably on French President François Mitterrand’s orders.

Reconciliation between Mali and Ivory Coast

Malian President Assimi Goïta pardoned the 46 Ivorian soldiers who were sentenced to 20 years in prison for "attack and conspiracy against the government and undermining the security of the State". They returned to their country where they were welcomed by President Alassane Ouattara. The Ivorian president has invited his Malian counterpart to Abidjan.

Sudan invades Ethiopian territory

Taking advantage of the Tigray War, Sudan invaded the Al- Fashaga triangle, hitherto under Ethiopian governance.

Ethnic clashes in South Sudan

In addition, the White Army of the Prophet Makuach Tut (Nuer people) attacked a refugee camp of the Shilluk people, killing a hundred people and stealing cattle.
Chad foils a plot

The Chadian government has announced that it has foiled a coup attempt. The plot was led by Baradine Berdei Targuio, President of the Chadian Human Rights Organization (OTDH). Eleven officers were arrested and charged.

Westerners put Rwanda in its place

The US and the EU suddenly asked Rwanda to stop supporting the M23 rebels (Tutsis from North Kivu) in the Congo.

Former Mauritanian President Abdelaziz and his collaborators tried for illicit enrichment

11 defendants, including former President Mohamed Ould Abdelaziz, former Prime Ministers Mohamed Salem Ould Béchir and Yahya Ould Hademine, former Minister of Oil Taleb Ould Abdi Vall, ex-Director General of Snim Mohamed Abdellahi Ould Oudaâ and former president of the Nouadhibou Free Zone Authority Mohamed Ould Daf will appear in court on January 25. They are accused of "corruption, money laundering, illicit enrichment, squandering of public property, granting undue advantages and obstructing the course of justice". Former President Abdelaziz took refuge behind presidential immunity so as not to justify the origin of his fortune.

ASIA

Israeli retaliation for pro-Palestinian UN vote

In response to the UN General Assembly’s vote to refer the matter to the International Court of Justice over the situation in Palestine, Israel revoked the travel permit of Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Malki. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu blocked Palestinian Authority tax revenues and deprived Palestinian officials of all their privileges. A portion of these funds will be donated to Israeli families who are victims of Palestinian terrorism. National Security Minister Itamar Ben -Gvir has banned the use of the Palestinian flag in public.

The death of the Irish peacekeeper in Lebanon was not a political act

Army Intelligence has investigated the death of the young Irish UNIFIL peacekeeper and the injuries of three of his companions. They worked in collaboration with the United Nations, Ireland and Hezbollah. According to them, the UNIFIL vehicle got lost and mistakenly entered the Aaqibiyé area where it was not allowed to enter. It arrived at a field where young people were watching the football World Cup. Angry to see a light armored vehicle appear at their doorstep, the crowd blocked it. The passengers got scared. Shots were exchanged, including one killing the Irish soldier. The vehicle, which had knocked down Lebanese, overturned, injuring the three other passengers. Hezbollah delivered to Justice Mohammad Ayyad who had used a machine gun to fire on the armored vehicle. All parties insist that this is an incident attributable to fear on both sides and without political significance.

Iraqi justice prosecutes Donald Trump

President of the Superior Council of the Judiciary Faiq Zaidan announced he has issued an arrest warrant for former US President Donald Trump for the assassinations of General Qassem Soleimani and “Popular Mobilization” leader Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis. In April 2022, Commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Navy Ali Reza Tangsiri said that giving up revenge for Soleimani’s murder in exchange for the lifting of sanctions was an "illusion".

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Negev Forum pursues the Abraham Accords

Negev Forum brought together 150 representatives from Israel, Egypt, Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, the United States and Bahrain for two days to discuss their common security after the Abraham Accords. It is the most important Israeli-Arab meeting since the Madrid Conference in 1991. On the occasion of this conference, the United Arab Emirates announced that it was including the teaching of the Nazi "final solution" in the curricula of school history. They had already hosted an exhibition on this theme in Dubai in 2021.

The daughter of former Iranian President Rafsanjani imprisoned

Faezeh Hashemi, daughter of former President Rafsanjani was arrested during the protests. She was sentenced to 5 years in prison for "propaganda against the system". She had already been imprisoned in 2012.

Death sentences follow one another in Iran

Protesters gathered outside Rajai prison Shahr (Karaj) to condemn the imminent execution of Mohammad Ghabadlou and Mohammad Boroughani, sentenced to death for "corruption on Earth". The two men assured that their confessions are false and were extracted under torture. However, they were executed. Iranian Justice has also sentenced Saleh Mirhashemi, Majid Kazemi and Sa'id Yaghoubi to death for "war against God". They are accused of having played a role in the death of three members of the security forces. Another 109 protesters are charged with crimes carrying the death penalty. Meanwhile, Ayatollah Khamenei named General Ahmadreza Radan at the head of the national police.

Iran condemns cartoons of Ayatollah Khamenei

The Iranian government closed a French Institute in Tehran after the French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* published caricatures of Leader of the Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Lebanese Hezbollah also condemned the article as an insult to millions of believers who regard the Ayatollah as a spiritual guide.

India invests in hydrogen

Narendra Modi’s government has decided to invest $2.3 billion to make India the region’s hydrogen hub.

The “international community” will not help Pakistan

The International Conference for Pakistan and Climate Change Resilience was held in Geneva on 9 January. Secretary General of the United Nations António Guterres intended to raise $8 billion or half of Pakistan’s needs after the floods it suffered. Apart from the Islamic Development Bank which pledged $4.2 billion over three years, the other participants only ceded a few hundred million.

The Pakistani army and Saudi Arabia

New army chief General Asim Munir traveled to Saudi Arabia for lengthy negotiations. He got an additional $11 billion (including $8 billion from the Islamic Bank) of financial aid for his country and he promised to send 1,000 soldiers to Saudi Arabia. Defense Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan refused to explain their mission to Parliament which threatened to prosecute him for "contempt". Pakistani MPs want assurances that their soldiers will not fight in Yemen. After the parliamentary debates, it seems that the Pakistanis should train the Saudis for their war in Yemen.
South Korea’s plan for reunification
South Korean Reunification Minister Kwon Young-se will propose at the Davos Forum a development plan for North Korea in return for giving up nuclear weapons.

The Emirates mobilize the Muslim world to support China
A large delegation from World Muslim Communities Council is visiting Xinjiang, China. It is authorized to investigate the accusations made by the US and reproduced by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet a few minutes before the end of her mandate. The delegation spoke to many prominent Muslims and still found no traces of the anti-Uyghur crackdown. On the other hand, it was informed of the role of the jihadists, their attacks and the targeted repression of the Chinese government. The World Muslim Communities Council is an organization founded by the United Arab Emirates.

Qin Gang dismisses the "Wolf Warrior"
China’s new foreign minister Qin Gang is the former ambassador to Washington. One of his first measures was to get rid of spokesman Zhao Lijian and reassign him as deputy director of the Department of Borders and Maritime Affairs. Lijian’s wife reportedly posted messages on the internet criticizing the Central Committee’s anti-Covid policy. Zhao Lijian is known for his offensive declarations on racism in the US or even on the attacks of September 11 to the point of being nicknamed the "wolf warrior".

China wants to take control of the electrolyzer market
China is investing in the manufacture of electrolyser i.e., machines capable of extracting hydrogen from water. It currently manufactures 40% of the world’s production which should be multiplied by 90 in the next few years. Beijing hopes to become the world’s largest supplier and capture this market as it has already done for solar panels.

Taiwan has its missiles repaired in the People’s Republic of China
According to the South China Morning Post, the rebel province of Taiwan sent some of its missiles to be repaired in the People’s Republic of China. The National Chung-Shan Institute of Science and Technology (NCSIST) has confirmed that the defective parts were purchased in Switzerland from the Leica company in 2021 and that no spy equipment was added to them.

In addition, former Secretary General of NATO Danish Anders Fogh Rasmussen came to Taipei to plead for unity of democracies in the face of authoritarian regimes.

Japan’s rearmament still under debate
The announcement of the acquisition of counter-strike weapons aimed against China and North Korea leaves the population divided, half in favor and the other half against. On the other hand, there is a consensus not to increase taxes to finance these acquisitions. Constitutional Democratic Party leader Kenta Izumi spoke out against rearmament.

In addition, the US Marines will install a rapid reaction unit in Okinawa to defend the Japanese islands in application of the bilateral defense agreement between the United States and Japan.
COMMONWEALTH
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CUBA
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ETHIOPIA
Ethiopia: War in Tigray - Background and state of play, Eric Pichon, European Parliament

EUROPEAN UNION
Setting the table: More than half a century of US EU relations, Bruce Stokes, European Parliament

FRANCE
Quelles politiques pour favoriser l’évolution de la société vers la sobriété?, Albert Ritzenthaler, Conseil économique, social et environnemental

GERMANY
Ihre Bundesregierung. Der Bundeskanzler und die Mitglieder seines Kabinets
Der Bundeskanzler und das Bundeskanzleramt, Bundesregierung

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Building EU-India Synergy: Allying sustainable modernisation and strategic autonomy, Pooja Jain-Grégoire, Raphaëlle Khan, Arnaud Koehl, Swati Prabhu, Mihir S. Sharma, & John-Joseph Wilkins, Institut de recherche stratégique de l’École militaire (IRSEM)

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Proteste gegen das Mullah-Regime im Iran und innenpolitische Auswirkungen, Antwort der Bundesregierung
ISRAEL/PALESTINE

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NIGER

Die Bedeutung Nigers für die deutsche Militärpräsenz in der Sahelzone, Antwort der Bundesregierung

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TÜRKİYE

Les drones militaires, porte d’entrée de la puissance turque en Afrique, Charles Joseph, Institut de recherche stratégique de l’École militaire (IRSEM)

UKRAINA

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Deprivation of British citizenship and withdrawal of passports, CJ McKinney, Melanie Gower & Terry McGuinness, UK House of Commons Library

The coronation - history and ceremonial, David Torrance, House of Commons Library

Scottish independence referendum : legal issues, David Torrance, UK House of Commons Library

Voting systems in the UK, Neil Johnston, UK House of Commons Library

The Royal Navy’s surface fleet, Louisa Brooke-Holland, UK House of Commons Library

Imports [in UK] of fossil fuels from Russia, Paul Bolton, UK House of Commons Library

UK defence policy : from aspiration to reality ?, International Relations and Defence Committee, UK House of Commons

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UNITED STATES

La garde nationale dans le système fédéral Américain, Thibault Delamare, Institut de recherche stratégique de l’École militaire (IRSEM)
**ANTISEMITISM**

Nationale Strategie gegen Antisemitismus und für jüdisches Leben, Bundesregierung

Nationale Strategie gegen Antisemitismus und für jüdisches Leben, Bundestag

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

Trends in AI from Red and Blue Team Perspectives: Synthetic Data in a Data-Driven Society vs Sentiment Analysis, Gundars Bergmanis-Korāts, Alec Winshel, James Ostrowski, Kevin Zerussen, Omar Ali, Anastasija Cuikina, Alexander Gegov & Djamila Ouelhadj, Nato Strategic Communications Center of Excellence

**COMMUNICATION**

Information Laundering via Baltnews on Telegram: How Russian State-Sponsored Media Evade Sanctions and Narrate the War, Martha Stolze, Nato Strategic Communications Center of Excellence

Die „strategische Kommunikation“ der Bundesregierung und der Umgang mit „Desinformation“ im Ukraine-Krieg, Antwort der Bundesregierung

La proposition de législation européenne sur la liberté des médias, Constance Le Grip et Joëlle Mélin, Commission des Affaires européennes, Assemblée nationale française

**COVID-19**

Impact of COVID-19 measures on democracy and fundamental rights - Best practices and lessons learned in the Member States and third countries, Joëlle Grogan, European Parliament

**ENERGY**

Accelerating the transition from fossil fuels and securing energy supplies, Environmental Audit Committee, UK House of Commons

The role of hydrogen in achieving Net Zero, Science and Technology Committee, UK House of Commons

Verbindungen und Aktivitäten der rechtsextremen „Neue Stärke Partei“; Antwort der Bundesregierung

Förderung des Projekts „Vollkontakt“ und linksextreme Mitarbeiter, Antwort der Bundesregierung

**INTELLIGENCE**

Vertreter ausländischer Staaten in Deutschland und geheimdienstliche Agententätigkeit durch diplomatisches und konsuläres Personal in Deutschland, Antwort der Bundesregierung

**TERRORISM**

Nachfragen zu Angriffen auf kritische Infrastrukturen unter See, insbesondere zu Nord Stream 1 und 2, Antwort der Bundesregierung

Anschläge auf die Pipelines Nord Stream 2 und Nord Stream 1, Antwort der Bundesregierung

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Voltaire, international news

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Iranian-Saudi normalization could bring peace to the Middle East

Israel is deploying all of its lobbyists in Washington to get the US to deliver weapons that will allow it to attack Iran. However, the US pretends not to hear. Iran nuclear negotiations have collapsed according to director of the International Atomic Energy Agency Rafael Grossi. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hosein Amir Abdullahyan announced at a press conference in Beirut that Iranian-Saudi relations were about to resume with openings from their respective embassies. After the four secret Baghdad meetings, the process of normalizing Iranian-Saudi relations came to a halt in April 2022. An agreement has just been reached regarding Iranian pilgrims to Mecca. The US and Israel are doing their utmost to curb normalization that would hamper their hegemony over the region, while Russia and China are pushing for peace.

AMERICAS

Washington deprives the EU of Russian hydrocarbons but keeps importing them

While Washington has banned its entire population and allies from purchasing Russian oil, it is massively importing it without violating its so-called anti-Russian “sanctions,” *The Telegraph of India* reports.

India is buying 1.7 million barrels per day of Russian oil. This oil is refined by Nayara Energy and by Reliance Industries, then resold legally to the US which thus reconstitutes its strategic reserves. In practice, the US economic war therefore no longer affects Russia but exclusively its allies of the EU who are the only ones to be deprived of Russian hydrocarbons. This observation must be put into perspective with the sabotage of the *Nord Stream 1* and *Nord Stream 2* pipelines depriving the EU of its main source of energy.
Controversy surrounding actor Steven Seagal

CNN broadcast a report assuring that American actor of Russian origin Steven Seagal who supported Russia in Crimea and obtained his Russian citizenship is now condemning "Putin’s crimes in Ukraine". He was reportedly fined 30,000 rubles ($439) for spreading false news and has fled Russia. He could have taken refuge in the EU.

For Kanye West blacks are the true descendants of the Hebrews

Rapper Kanye West (160 million records sold and recipient of 22 Grammy Awards, 31 million followers on social networks) announced that he was running for the presidential election of 2024. Then he increasingly made controversial and often anti-Semitic interventions losing the support of its sponsors Adidas, Gap, and Balenciaga.

He promotes a 3.5-hour documentary produced in 2018 called Hebrews to Negroes: Wake Up Black America which claims that black Americans are the true descendants of the Hebrews of the Bible while so-called present-day Jews are nothing than imposters.

President Biden scatters classified documents

A first batch of classified documents was discovered in a residence of President Joe Biden’s on November 2, 2022, but the case was not revealed until January 9, 2023. A second batch was later found in his garage in Wilmington followed by the discovery of a third batch in his personal library, then a fourth batch at home.

The presence of classified documents in US leaders’ residences was first raised with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton then a second time with former President Donald Trump and this time with current President Joe Biden.

Big Pharma relied on Twitter to protect its super profits

In the latest installment of the Twitter Files, Intercept reporter Lee Fang shows that Big Pharma has stepped in to have any talk about their profit margins censored.

Republican law proposals

Republicans have reinstated a rule allowing Congress to lower the salary of any federal employee. They intend to use it as a priority against Special Counsel Jack Smith, the man responsible for investigating former President Donald Trump, in particular his possession of classified documents.

Republicans abound in bills. The most popular is one introduced by Rep. Kat Cammack (Florida) to try to limit the powers of the Presidency by giving Congress veto power over any major regulations an administration tries to issue.

Antony Blinken supports freedom of conscience

Celebrating the 237th anniversary of the signing of Virginia’s Statute of Religious Freedom (1786), Secretary of State Antony Blinken issued a press release praising freedom of conscience.

This is a significant shift in the position of the federal government which hitherto only defended religious freedom. The difference lies in accepting or not the choice not to believe, not to worship any God with all the consequences that implies. For example, the US Justice considers as inadmissible testimonies of followers (or former followers) of a religion against their own Church.

Douglas Wise does not recognize his mistake

Former Deputy Director of the Military Intelligence Agency Douglas Wise assured The Australian that yes, much of what is said to
belong to Hunter Biden’s computer is real, but that’s how Russian disinformation works, by mixing true and fake information. However, he was unable to give an example of what was fake regarding the contents of this computer. In 2020 Douglas Wise signed an open letter with 50 intelligence personalities assuring that the existence of the computer, and not its contents, was Russian disinformation.

**Pentagon coordination with Ukrainian armies**

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark A. Milley has met his Ukrainian counterpart General Valery Zaluzhnyi for the first time. The two men exchanged their points of view while the Ukrainian side will not be represented at the summit of NATO chiefs of staff.

**A former secretary of President Felipe Calderon’s tried in the US**

Mexican President Felipe Calderon’s former Public Security secretary Genaro Garcia Luna is on trial in the US for receiving millions of dollars from the Sinaloa cartel while in office. During his trial in 2018 the godfather "El Chapo" revealed that he had paid him $3 million in bribes. The same "El Chapo" had also revealed that he had corrupted President Felipe Calderon, who is not on trial.

**Planned Attack against Francia Marquez**

Seven kilos of explosives were discovered on the route that Colombian Vice-President Francia Marquez was to take. This personality is the first Afro-Colombian to access the government.

**Anderson Torres allegedly planned a coup in Brazil**

A draft executive order establishing a state of emergency was found during a search of the home of Anderson Torres'. Former Minister of Justice of President Jair Bolsonaro, Anderson Torres became responsible for the security of Brasilia after the election of President Lula da Silva. He let pro-Bolsonaro protesters attack official buildings in the capital. He is accused of fomenting a coup and has been indicted.

**Venezuela pursues rebellious pro-Western politicians**

Venezuela’s Attorney General Tarek William Saab has issued three international arrest warrants for opposition leaders Dinorah Figuera who has taken refuge in Spain and Marianela Fernandez and Auristela Vasquez who have both taken refuge in the US. The three women form the Office of a National Assembly recognized by several Western states which claims to be the only democratic representation of the country. However, if this assembly was elected in 2015, its mandate ended in 2020. The fact of not recognizing the elections that followed does not give it legitimacy.

Westerners continue to support these rebel politicians while restoring trade with Venezuela.

**EUROPE**

**France lectures Russia**

Responding to the indictment of Russia’s permanent representative to the UN Security Council Vassily Nebenzia, his French counterpart Nicolas de Rivière criticized Moscow for creating a diversion by exploiting freedom of religion or belief in Ukraine. According to him, Moscow claims to defend "religious freedom" while it gave no respite to the civilian population during Orthodox Christian religious holidays, particularly in Dnipro.

Mr. de Rivière spoke before the revelations of
President Zelensky’s strategic communications adviser (read below).

**The French Left against the rich**

Secretary general of *Europe Écologie Les Verts* (Greens) Marine Tondelier declared to the applause of excited activists at the meeting of the Nappes (Left): “We claim that we no longer want billionaires in France. We want a France without billionaires”.

**Belgium limits the investigation into the corruption of European bodies**

The Belgian public prosecutor’s office has reached a very favorable agreement with former MEP Pier Antonio Panzeri. His ill-gotten assets will be confiscated from him but he will not go to prison and will only be on house arrest with an electronic bracelet.

Belgium intends to conclude the corruption case in the European Parliament as quickly as possible by focusing on the Qatari and Moroccan network and above all by avoiding other extensions.

**German industry hopes to meet NATO ammunition needs**

Defense Minister Christine Lambrecht resigned after a series of blunders. Her successor lawyer Boris Pistorius will have to rapidly develop armament production capacities, particularly ammunition. Germany hopes to quickly have enough equipment to arm the Ukrainian forces and to replenish the stocks of the Atlantic Alliance.

**Poland fears Russian victory in Ukraine**

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki warned that Kyiv’s defeat in Soledar paves the way for a Russian victory not only in Donbass but over Ukraine. According to him, “The defeat of Ukraine could become a prelude to World War III”.

Western Europeans see these statements as unnecessarily alarmist aimed only at putting pressure on them. But in Poland some politicians advocate a military intervention outside “article 5” of the NATO Treaty. The Polish army would come to the aid of the Ukrainian nationalists as the regime of Marshal Józef Piłsudski did in 1920. However, if we refer to this historical precedent Poland and the Ukrainian nationalists were quickly defeated by the Soviets.

**Foreign editions**

*Voltaire, international news* is now published in six languages:
- Dutch,
- English,
- French,
- Italian,
- German,
- Spanish.

**The EU and NATO plan to massively increase military spending**

Several NATO member states including the UK, Poland and the Baltic states are calling for the military spending target of 2% of GDP to be increased to 3%.

**Respublika Srpska does not think like the EU**

On the occasion of its national day the Republic of Srpska (part of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina) awarded its highest honor to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The EU immediately condemned this pro-Russian demonstration and declared that if Respublika Srpska persisted, it would close Bosnia and Herzegovina’s path to membership.

**Censorship on the bombing of a civilian building in Dnipro**

The Russian missile which hit a residential building in Dnepropetrovsk/Dnipro on January 14, killing 44 people, seriously injuring 75 others
and destroying 236 apartments was shot down by Ukrainian anti-aircraft defense. President Volodymyr Zelensky’s special adviser for strategic communications Oleksii Arestovich revealed this. Then he changed his mind and finally confirmed. He was immediately terminated.

**Ukrainian interior minister dies**

Interior Minister Denys Monastyrskyi, a member of President Zelensky’s party, and several members of his cabinet died in a helicopter crash. It is possible that the accident was caused by bad weather conditions and the fact of flying at low altitude, however the theory of an internal account settlement is the most probable.

**Ukrainian army distributes fake document falsely attributed to Orthodox Church**

The Ukrainian Special Forces Psychological Information and Operations Center (TsIPSO) distributed a “Note to a Russian Warrior” attributed to a purported Orthodox Metropolitan of Bryansk. This false document dates from March 2022. It calls for “destroying the Ukrainian nation”. It was returned to circulation after the banning of the Orthodox Church loyal to the Patriarch of Moscow.

**The CIA retrospectively claims to have saved President Zelensky**

In his book *The Fight of His Life – Inside Joe Biden’s White House* (Scribner editions) journalist Chris Whipple who is known to be close to US intelligence agencies assures that director of the CIA William Burns met President Volodymyr Zelensky in Kiev just before the Russian military intervention. He allegedly informed him of a Russian plan to take over Antonov airport and of another to physically eliminate him.

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**Analysis of the Voltaire Network**

- **“The world order has already changed in 2022”, by Thierry Meyssan**

This is a constant in history: changes are rare, but sudden. Those who pay the price are usually the last to see them coming. They perceive them only too late. Contrary to the static image that prevails in the West, international relations have been turned upside down in 2022, mainly to the detriment of the United States, the United Kingdom and France, often to the benefit of China and Russia. With their eyes riveted on Ukraine, Westerners do not perceive the redistribution of the cards.

- **“Imperialist Justice is crumbling”, by Thierry Meyssan**

In times of peace as much as in times of war, Western domination over the rest of the world, as much as that of the United States over their allies goes through the instrumentation of Law. Thus, the International Tribunals do not seek to dispense justice but to confirm the world order and to punish those who challenge it. US law and European law also serve to compel the rest of the world to comply with the policies of Washington and Brussels. This system is starting to fade.

- **“The crimes that Julian Assange revealed”, by Manlio Dinucci**

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese seems to be able to negotiate with American President Joe Biden the release of Julian Assange.

**Russian Chief of Staff takes command of the operation in Ukraine**

Chief of Staff of the Russian Armed Forces General Valeri Gerasimov has been appointed commander of the special military operation in Ukraine. Former commander General Sergei Surovikin has become his deputy. General Sergei Surovikin implemented a
strategy aimed at depriving Kyiv of energy and therefore of the ability to continue the war. After having bombed the command structures, he attacked the power stations thus adopting the same approach (theory of the five circles) as US General John A. Warden III during the first Gulf War. The next stage will consist in destroying the physical means of communication, roads, railways and airports.

**Wagner takes on Soledar**

On January 11, head of private military company Wagner Group Yevgeny Prigozhin announced that his men had taken the town of Soledar known for its huge salt mines. This victory was confirmed two days later by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Soledar is a lock to control the city of Artemovsk (Bakhmut) and from there to control all of Donbass whose population voted by referendum to join the Russian Federation.

**Controversy in the case of Russian soldiers killed at Makiivka**

During the funeral in Samara of the 89 Russian soldiers who died during the bombardment of their barracks in Makiivka, the mothers of the heroes (who have a special cultural status) accused the military hierarchy of incompetence. According to them, the officers were negligent in placing all of their men in the same building. In addition, the opposition accuses the Ministry of Defense of minimizing the losses. According to it, there were not 89 dead, but 400. This last figure is very unlikely: the vast majority of the soldiers stationed at Makiivka were from Samara. And there were indeed 89 deaths among the conscripts of this city.

**Uncertainty around the Russian law penalizing homosexual propaganda**

While the law prohibiting homosexual propaganda for minors was only passed to prohibit extreme cases, its application is much more restrictive than expected. Lists of books to be removed from bookstores were sent by who knows who to booksellers who complied. Some booksellers resist these pressures by placing books in plastic film or by asking their customers to present proof of their majority.

**Russian airlines victims of Western “sanctions”**

Airbus and Boeing are no longer supplying spare parts under the Western economic warfare known as “anti-Russian sanctions”. As a result, Russian companies are forced to "cannibalize" grounded planes while air incidents multiply.

**Investigation of the Mariupol Massacres**

The Russian organization *The International Social Tribunal for Ukraine* investigated the massacres that took place during the capture of Mariupol. According to the testimonies and documents it collected, only the Azov battalion voluntarily caused civilian casualties.

**Russia commissions nuclear underwater drones**

Russia has armed the Oscar II-class nuclear submarine Belgorod with Poseidon nuclear torpedo drones. According to the US Naval Institute the Poseidon is “a nuclear-powered weapon, therefore possessing a virtually unlimited range. It has the potential to be both a strategic and tactical nuclear weapon while falling outside the definitions of the New START [disarmament] treaty”.

**Transformation of the Russian army**

Defense Minister General Sergei Shoigu has confirmed an in-depth transformation of the Russian armies over the next three years. The number of men will be increased to 1.5 million. This increase in personnel will have to be synchronized with the delivery of arms, equipment and military and special materials, the construction of infrastructure for the
deployment of troops and the provision of appropriate means.
Chairman of the Duma’s Defense Committee Andrei Kartapolov has proposed raising the age of recruitment into the armies from 27 to 30. The Russian army inherited from the Soviet period had serious alcoholism problems. Vladimir Putin massively fired more than 500,000 officers, then rebuilt his troops and trained them to fight in Syria.

Russia wants to try Merkel and Hollande before a new Nuremberg Tribunal

State Duma Speaker Viacheslav Volodin has called for an international military tribunal comparable to the Nuremberg tribunal to try former German Chancellor Angela Merkel and former French President François Hollande. “The confessions made by the representative of the Kyiv regime and the former leaders of Germany and France should be used as evidence before an international military tribunal. These leaders plotted to start a World War with foreseeable consequences. And they deserve to be punished for their crimes", he declared. Angela Merkel assured during an interview with Die Zeit that she had negotiated and signed the Minsk Agreements not to make peace in Ukraine, but to give the Ukrainian army time to prepare for the current war. François Hollande proved her right in an interview with The Kyiv Independent.

International law considers “crimes against peace” to be more serious than crimes against humanity. However, the United Nations has never clearly defined them nor how they should be dealt with. The non-implementation of the Minsk Agreements prolonged the civil war in Ukraine for 8 years, killing at least 20,000 people. Russia did not invade Ukraine, but launched a special military operation to enforce UN Security Council Resolution 2202 that validates the Minsk Agreements.

Who is spy Paul Whelan?

The US is seeking to exchange US/Irish/British/Canadian citizen Paul Whelan sentenced to 16 years in prison in Russia for espionage. He would belong to the invisible network of the Pentagon (and not of the CIA). Moscow does not seem to want to release him.

AFRICA

CIA concerned about Wagner’s presence in Libya

CIA Director William Burns visited Libya where he successively met Prime Minister of the Government of Tripolitania Abdul Hamid Dbeibah and commander of the Libyan National Army in Cyrenaica Marshal Khalifa Haftar.

More than Libya’s future the CIA wanted to discuss Russia’s place in the country and in particular the role of the private military company Wagner.

Tunisian opposition does not strengthen after the elections

After the unprecedented abstention in the legislative elections, the opposition was authorized to demonstrate for the 12th anniversary of the fall of President Ben Ali. But it made no new proposal, repeating its same slogans indefinitely.

ASIA

Bezalel Smotrich displays his homophobia

In a recording made public Israel Minister of Finance Bezalel Smotrich does not worry about the repercussions on his sponsors of his homophobic positions. He says, “A Sephardi [businessman] or a traditional Jew, do you think...
he cares about gay people? He does not care. He says "Do you think I care that you [Smotrich] are against them?"

Israel's Supreme Court recommends the resignation of a Shaas minister

The Israeli Supreme Court voted 10 out of 11 on a motion declaring that the appointment of Aryeh Deri as minister was extremely unreasonable. One of the founders of Shaas, Mr. Deri was convicted last year of tax offenses and placed on probation as part of a plea deal. He made it known that he would not resign. Benjamin Netanyahu’s government is planning a justice reform that will deprive the Supreme Court of most of its prerogatives.

Qatar opposes reconciliation between Hamas and Syria

The reception of a delegation from Hamas by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad gave rise to great declarations on Arab reconciliation. However, the Hamas office in Damascus is still not open. In addition, Qatar closed its humanitarian office in Gaza in retaliation. At the start of the war against Syria, Hamas was framed by elements of the Israeli Mossad. It attacked the Palestinian town of Yarmouk on the outskirts of Damascus to assassinate the leaders of the PFLP.

UN General Assembly condemns Israeli retaliation against the Palestinian Authority

At the United Nations, the General Assembly approved a resolution urging Israel to immediately cancel the sanctions it took against the Palestinian Authority after the vote on December 30, 2022, of another resolution asking the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to declare the illegality of the Israeli occupation. Germany which had voted against the first resolution voted the second in favor. Fifteen EU states which had abstained in the first vote, voted for the second. The survival of the Palestinian Authority is at stake with the blocking of taxes levied for it by Israel in accordance with the Oslo Accords. In private, diplomats qualify these Accords as moribund.

Israeli hostage Ahera Mengistu still alive

Hamas released a 43-second video of Israeli hostage Ahera Mengistu. In doing so, it broke with its doctrine of not broadcasting proof of a hostage’s life without something in return. Ahera Mengistu is an Ethiopian Jew suffering from psychiatric illness who crossed the Gaza border in 2014 and was taken prisoner by Hamas. After 8 years of absence, it is not possible to confirm with certainty the authenticity of the video. Hamas still demands the release of 60 prisoners in exchange for his release. Successive Israeli governments have done little to free him, probably because he is black.

Greece condemns Israeli company Intellexa

The Greek Personal Data Protection Authority has imposed a fine of €50,000 on Israeli spyware company Intellexa which notably created the Predator software. Owned by former Israeli intelligence officer Tal Dilian the company is accused of failing to cooperate with an ongoing investigation into the use of spyware in Greece.

Danny Danon prepares the annexation of the West Bank

Former Israeli ambassador to the UN Danny Danon has announced that he is working on a bill to annex the Jordan Valley i.e., a third of the West Bank.
Drug trafficking threatens Lebanon’s security

While visiting a military hospital commander-in-chief of the army General Joseph Aoun declared that drug trafficking is a phenomenon “more dangerous than terrorism”.

Since the collapse of Lebanese banks, the country has become a hub for drug trafficking.

Hezbollah will soon have 200,000 militiamen

Hezbollah’s secretary general said the Party of God had recruited 9,000 new fighters in addition to its 90,000 Mahdi scouts and its 100,000 soldiers.

Qatar predicts a return of Russian gas to the EU

Qatar’s energy minister and head of QatarEnergy Saad Sherida al-Kaabi told an energy forum in Abu Dhabi: "In my opinion Russian gas will come back to Europe" even if the EU now has "much greater diversity" of supply sources. “Europeans say today that it is out of the question, but things are repairing themselves over time”.

Emirati oil director to chair COP28

The follow-up climate conference COP28 will be chaired by director of oil giant Adnoc (Abu Dhabi National Oil Company) Sultan Ahmad al-Jaber.

Contrary to popular belief the Paris Agreement of 2015 were not drafted by French session chairman Laurent Fabius but by then senior adviser to President Barack Obama American Brian Deese. Subsequently he became one of the main managers of the BlackRock Investment Fund. He is now chairman of the White House National Economic Council.

Iran deploys its Navy off the coast of the US

The Iranian Navy now has a command for the Indian Ocean, a second for the Pacific Ocean and a third for the Atlantic Ocean. According to its commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani the Iranian Navy imposed itself despite the opposition of France and Australia which intended to restrict its movements in violation of the rules which they themselves had enacted.

Although it considers the presence of foreign armies in the Middle East as the cause of the destabilization of the region, the Iranian Navy is now closing in on the coasts of the United States and will cross the Panama Canal.

New version of the assassination of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh

Iran has executed former high official in the Ministry of Defense Ali Reza Akbari, close to current secretary of the National Security Council Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani.

Mr. Akbari who had been number 2 in the Ministry of Defense in the 2000s moved to the UK of which he became a citizen. He was invited to Iran allegedly for an assessment before negotiations with Westerners. It was a trap. He was arrested and charged with helping British intelligence assassinate nuclear program chief Mohsen Fakhri Zadeh. Iran previously blamed Israel for the assassination, while The New York Times claimed it was carried out thanks to a robotic device controlled by satellite.

Iranian armies acquire Russian fighter jets

Member of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Shahriar Heydari said Iranian forces would receive a "number" of Su-35 "Flanker E" fighter jets by the end of March. These Russian planes were originally intended for Egypt.

The Russian Su-35 "Flanker E" multirole fighter planes are far superior to their NATO
counterparts. About fifty of their components are produced by American, Canadian, Japanese, Swiss, Taiwanese and Chinese companies, which leaves one wondering when it comes to anti-Russian or anti-Iranian “sanctions”.

**Forced resignation of Vietnamese president**

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam has forced President Nguyen Xuan Phuc to resign following 539 corruption cases.

**Tensions between South Korea and Iran**

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has visited the United Arab Emirates to sell weapons. On this occasion he described Iran as the greatest danger for the Emirates. Tehran immediately summoned the South Korean ambassador and warned him of a possible review of relations between the two countries. Seoul then summoned the Iranian ambassador in the hope of calming things down. Although there are no Iranians in South Korea, Seoul has a Farsi-language television channel broadcasting a western view. In addition, Seoul is freezing 7 billion Iranian dollars in its banks under Western “sanctions”.

**China’s population is declining but its economy keeps growing**

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, for the first time in 61 years China’s population (excluding Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) fell by 850,000 people to 1.41 billion people in 2022. The authorities interpret this drop by suggesting that the population postponed births during the Covid epidemic.

Gross domestic production increased by only 3% in 2022, far from the double-digit growth of the 2000s.

**Washington tries to ban exports from Xinjiang**

The US attempted to have many allied states adopt the equivalent of its *Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act*. The goal is to prohibit any importation of goods manufactured in the Chinese region of Xinjiang which Washington accuses of exploiting the forced labor of 2 million of its citizens.

The EU has drafted a bill which is currently under discussion in the European Parliament. But it is very different from US law since the latter considers *a priori* everything produced in Xinjiang as coming from labor camps and leaving the burden of proof to the contrary to the care of importers, while Brussels considers *a priori* normal Xinjiang productions unless proven otherwise by national governments.

European parliamentarians such as French environmental senators Melanie Vogel and Guillaume Gontard are trying to have the US version adopted in their country.

**Beijing reframes its ties with Washington**

Chinese Vice Premier Liu He met with US Federal Bank President Janet Yellen in Zurich, then pleaded for his country’s gradual return to free enterprise. In doing so, he appears to be seeking economic detente with the US which presents itself as champion of free enterprise, even if it does not respect it.

Politically however Beijing continues to blame the US for causing the Covid-19 pandemic and initiating Russia’s war in Ukraine.

**Fumio Kishida prepares the next G7**

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has embarked on a tour of the G7 member countries. He relies on the US nuclear umbrella and told French President Emmanuel Macron that the security of Europe and the Indo-Pacific are indivisible. He signed a mutual troop access agreement with British Prime Minister Rishi
Sunak and agreed with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to improve defense ties.

**Japan beats the drum against China**

Giving a speech at Johns Hopkins University [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/statemnt/202301/_00005.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/statemnt/202301/_00005.html) during his stay in the US, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida emphasized that "It is absolutely imperative that Japan, the US and Europe remain united in the management of our respective relations with China".

**Erratum**

- In the first edition of our N° 23 we dated the case of the Muhammad cartoons in 2017. It took place in 2005.
Document supplement

3- Think tanks

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« Algeria’s cautious return to the world stage », Francis Ghilès, CIDOB

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« Understanding China–Russia Cooperation in the Arctic », Bipandeep Sharma & Uttam Kumar Sinha, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

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« CCP’s 20th Congress: Xi’s Return and Implications for the People’s Liberation Army », Amrita Jash, Observer Research Foundation

« Navigating Stormy Seas in US-China Relations », Rena Uphoff, Center for Security Studies

« China’s Loosening Covid Policy: Lessons from India and Singapore », Pan Xingjun & Lee Jonghyuk, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

« The Xi Plan: The Political Factors Driving China’s COVID-19 Strategy », Kalpit A Mankikar, Observer Research Foundation

« National Defense and Global Industries: Taiwan and the Game of Diversification in the
Global Semiconductor Supply Chain », Dr. Lin, Christina, Institute for Strategic, Political, Security and Economic Consultancy (ISPSW)

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« La sidérurgie européenne se prépare pour être à la pointe de la décarbonation », Sylvie Cornot, Institut français des relations internationales (IFRI)


« Assessment of market design options for the European Electricity and Gas Market », EPICO

« De quelle universalité les valeurs européennes sont-elles le nom ? », Thierry Chopin, Institut Jacques Delors

« Pro- and anti-competitive provisions in the proposed European Union Data Act », Bertin Martens, Bruegel


« The state of economic convergence in the Eurozone », Adriaan Schout, Netherlands Institute of International Relations ‘Clingendael’

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« India’s Energy Transition in a Carbon-Constrained World », Vivekananda International Foundation

« A Conceptual Relook at the Indian Army’s Terminal Air Defence », » Ashok Kumar, Observer Research Foundation


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« The Future of Cyber Warfare in the Indo-Pacific », Bart Hogeveen, Observer Research Foundation

« Maritime Road to 2030 : EU’s Indo-Pacific Footprint and India », Hague Center for Strategic Studies

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« Behind the Visits by US Officials to Israel : Signs of Cooperation or Confrontation ? », Eldad Shavit, Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)

« “The Day after Abbas” : Strategic Implications for Israel », Udi Dekel & Noa Shusterman, Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)

« The UN General Assembly Refers Israel to The Hague », Pnina Sharvit Baruch & Ori Beeri, Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)

« War Game” : Outbreak of Violence on Temple Mount », Udi Dekel, Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)
Regulation of Social Media in Israel», Tamir Hayman, David Siman-Tov & Amos Hervitz, Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)


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« Crowdfunding a War: The Money behind Myanmar’s Resistance », International Crisis Group

NATO

« How allied Sweden and Finland can secure Northern Europe », Anna Wieslander, Eric Adamson & Jesper Lehto, Atlantic Council

RUSSIA

« Russlands Eroberungskrieg – verhandeln worüber? », Dr. Olshausen, Klaus, Institut für Strategie- Politik- Sicherheits- und Wirtschaftsberatung (ISPSW)

SAUDI ARABIA


« Two to Tango: Xi Jinping’s Visit to Riyadh », Md. Muddassir Quamar, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

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« The political economy of energy production in post-independence Tanzania. A review », Japhace Poncian & Rasmus Hundsbæk Pedersen, Danish Institute for International Studies

UKRAINE

« Open-Source Intelligence and the War in Ukraine », TZ & Tamir Hayman, Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)

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**Israel holds the key to the Ukrainian conflict**

As the world restructures around the war in Ukraine seen as essential by Westerners and regional by the rest of the world, the evolution of the State of Israel is likely to turn the table. According to former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo if Israel is of primary importance in the US global strategy it no longer has the support of the American Jewish community which has taken a stand against the projects of the new Netanyahu government, while almost half of Israelis are worried about a religious authoritarian drift. For the first time former defense minister General Moshe Yaalon broke a taboo by comparing what is happening in Israel today to the rise of Nazism. Israel's new allies in the Arab world no longer know what to expect. The reversal of domestic policy in Israel could presage a reversal in foreign policy. For the moment the Netanyahu government sticks to the position of his predecessor Naftali Bennett that no Israeli weapons will be delivered to the successors of the Ukrainian integral nationalists who exterminated 1.6 million Jews before and during World War II. If Benjamin Netanyahu were to rebuild his majority with the pro-Americans instead of the partisans of Halakha, he could return to the alliance with the Ukrainian murderers of Jews embodied by his father historian Benzion Netanyahu. This change would finally convince Westerners that there are no Nazis in Ukraine and that Russia is threatening them.

**AMERICAS**

**US Security Council declares the Wagner group a "criminal organization"**

The United States Security Council has designated the private military company Wagner as an international criminal organization. His spokesman said Wagner receives weapons from North Korea and competes with the Russian Defense Ministry.
Against domestic use of gas

The Biden administration has abandoned plans to ban gas stoves and gas heaters. Yet it sees this ban as essential to fight “global warming”. However, 85 major US cities have already banned gas heating and governor of New York Kathy Hochul has announced that from 2025 apartment buildings will no longer be connected to the gas network.

Next White House chief of staff Jeffrey Zients

White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain is expected to be replaced by Jeffrey Zients after the State of the Union Address. The two men have in common to be Jewish and, as such, suspicious of the new Netanyahu government (see below). Jeffrey Zients was President Joe Biden’s anti-Covid policy coordinator.

CSIS recommends sanctioning Russian and Chinese banks

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) released a report on North Korea. It notices that Pyongyang has taken advantage of the diversions of Covid and the war in Ukraine to revive and develop its nuclear armament. It advises the Biden administration to sanction Russian and Chinese banks and companies that work with the People’s Democratic Republic.

US Jews worried about Netanyahu government

The Jewish Democratic Council of America said, “We support those Israelis who are concerned about extremist members of the current Israeli government. Their sectarian statements and the policies they adopt go against our common values. We urge the new Israeli coalition to remain true to these values, including the defense of democracy and minority rights and to stand with the tens of thousands of Israelis who are protesting the new government’s policies that are inconsistent with these values.”

54 influential US journalists paid by George Soros

The Media Research Center has published the second part of its study on the influence of George Soros on the US media. It shows that 54 personalities are financially linked to the billionaire including the editors of the press agencies Bloomberg News, Associated Press and Reuters and the daily Newspaper Washington Post or even the vice-president of the New York Times.

Congress to extend social media probes to TV stations

Telecom giant AT&T has cut conservative channel Newsmax through its DirecTV cable network. 41 Republican representatives sent a letter to AT&T in support of Newsmax saying, “Congress intends to conduct a thorough oversight of the extent to which House Democrats and officials in federal offices have colluded with private companies to limit, restrict and circumvent First Amendment rights. (…) These investigations will not be limited to social media companies”.

US uranium ammunition for Ukraine

The Pentagon plans to deliver uranium ammunitions to Ukraine. Projectiles coated with depleted uranium (waste from nuclear power plants) have an increased ability to penetrate tank armor. When used, these munitions release uranium particles polluting the surrounding environment. The US has used these ammunitions extensively in Kosovo, Iraq and recently in Syria. Using them in Ukraine would render Ukrainian combat zones uninhabitable.
The Biden administration against Google’s anticompetitive practices

The US Department of Justice backed by eight states has filed an antitrust lawsuit against Google/Alphabet. This lawsuit comes as Alphabet has made more than $54.5 billion in revenue in Q3 2022, but just announced it was laying off 12,000 employees.

Migration pressure in the USA

In 2022 border guards apprehended 2.4 million illegal immigrants at the Mexican border. It is estimated that 140 million Latin Americans would like to settle in the US.

Las Vegas Arms Fair

More than 52,000 professionals from around the world came to shop at Shot Show in the Venetian Resorts and Casinos of Las Vegas. 2,500 arms companies held stands there. The US military-industrial complex is the primary beneficiary of the war in Ukraine. A military delegation from North Korea visited the show under the watchful eyes of US counter-intelligence services.

The dollar still central

According to a study by Credit Suisse entitled The future of the monetary system, the dollar remains the unavoidable reference currency. It amounts to 60% of currency reserves (compared to 80% at the time of the Soviet Union) and 90% of transactions on the currency exchange market. However, many states are starting to trade in their local currencies and no longer in dollars.

Lula dismisses the Brazilian chief of staff

Brazilian President Luiz Ignacio Lula da Silva dismissed Chief of Defense Staff General Julio Cesar de Arruda who took office at the end of former President Jair Bolsonaro’s term. Lula also dismissed a dozen senior officers whom he suspects of colluding with protesters who stormed parliament.

Contrary to what the left feared, the army abstained from any political role during the presidency of Mr. Bolsonaro. General de Arruda refused to arrest the protestors, considering that bringing the army in would be tantamount to provoking a bloody confrontation.

Lula condemns Russia’s "occupation" of Ukraine

Brazilian President Luiz Ignacio Lula da Silva has condemned Russia’s "occupation" of Ukraine. He is the first BRICS leader to align with the Western narrative that Moscow is occupying Ukraine to annex it and not implementing UN Security Council Resolution 2202. This U-turn is all the more unexpected as Lula’s predecessor Jair Bolsonaro had established Brazil’s neutrality principle in the Ukrainian conflict.

Fernández and Lula for a common Argentinian-Brazilian currency

In a joint article published on the occasion of the summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in Buenos Aires, President of Argentina Alberto Fernández and President of Brazil Luiz Ignacio Lula da Silva pleaded for the creation of a common currency called the Sur. CELAC was created by late Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez to counterbalance the Washington-aligned Organization of American States (OAS). Current Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro could not go to the summit in Buenos Aires because of the arrest warrant issued against him by the Argentine justice. Once created, the Sur should also be adopted by Uruguay and Paraguay so as to become the common currency (but not the only currency) of the Common Market for the South of the Continent (Mercosur). This project seems...
ambitious to say the least, the economies of Argentina and Brazil being very different.

EUROPE

The UK is a coup expert

According to Declassify UK, records show that the UK has been involved in at least 42 coups in 27 different countries since World War II.

Influential French journalists secret guests of President Macron

According to Europe1 Radio journalist Eve Roger, French President Emmanuel Macron invited 10 editorial writers from BFM TV, Le Monde, Le Figaro, RTL radio, France TV, France Inter and Les Échos to lunch to brief them on talking points in favor of his pension reform.

Major demonstrations in France against pension reform

More than a million citizens across the country participated in demonstrations on January 19 to oppose the pension reform project. According to the Pensions Orientation Council (COR) there is no emergency to reform. Having ruled out both solutions of short-term financing and long term pro-natalist policy, the government only plans to push back the retirement age.

In the background, what is at play is the transition from a pay-as-you-go pension system to a privatized one according to the wish expressed by CEO of BlackRock Larry Fink during a discreet meeting at the Élysée Palace during President Macron’s first term.

Bruno Le Maire blocks RT France Bank accounts

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire blocked the Bank accounts of the already banned Russian general news channel RT France’s company. The Treasury Department explains that it took this decision by interpreting the 9th sanctions package of the European Union.

Anniversary of the Élysée Treaty

France and Germany celebrated together the 60th anniversary of the reconciliation between the two countries (Élysée Treaty). President Emmanuel Macron and Chancellor Olaf Scholtz participated in a ceremony at the Sorbonne. As usual, the Chancellor appeared pleasant but limited himself to generalities. If the institutions provide for a solid system of coordination between France and Germany, the “couple’s” divorce seems to have become inevitable. After the sabotage of the Nord Stream gas pipelines by the great US ally, Germany is relying less on its Western partners and is turning to China instead.

France will raise its military budget to NATO standards

During his wishes to the armies President Emmanuel Macron announced an increase of a third of their budget or €400 billion over seven years. The goal is to update the equipment so as to bring the budget to the 2% of GDP required by NATO.

If the French armies do wonders in low-intensity combat, they are under-equipped and according to the National Assembly’s Defense Commission would only last two days in the event of a high-intensity war.

Spain and France sign a Treaty of Friendship

Spain and France have signed the Barcelona Treaty providing for a strengthening of the bilateral relationship on migration, defence, energy and youth issues. Madrid has only signed a comparable treaty with Lisbon, while Paris has done so with Berlin and Rome.

The dispute between the two countries over the “Midcat” gas pipeline has been solved with the project burial in favor of a “green” hydrogen
pipeline linking Barcelona to Marseille called “H2Med”.

The Spanish right united against Pedro Sánchez

Right-wing parties were united in demonstrating against the left-wing government behind the banner “For Spain, Democracy and the Constitution”. They condemn Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez’ intention to abolish the offense of sedition in order to grant amnesty to the Catalan independent leaders including fugitive Carles Puigdemont. In addition, they condemn a reform of the repression of sexual crimes which punishes rape more severely than others.

Germany sends heavy tanks to Ukraine

The German government finally authorized sending Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine and the handover of Leopard 2 tanks by third countries. Olaf Scholz’s coalition was divided. Some ministers fear that this arms aid is seen by Russia as an entry into war.

Poland had already decided to violate the terms of its contract and transfer Leopard 2s with or without the authorization of the producing country (Germany) should it succeed in forming a coalition of States willing to send Leopard 2s to Ukraine, which was the case of Finland. Spain, the Netherlands and Norway should follow. For its part, the US has announced that it will send 31 Abrams tanks to Ukraine. The handling of the Leopard 2 (€13 million each) can be learned in 6 months but the Ukrainian army will have to do with a simplified 2 months training.

Unsatiable Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky asked France to give him Rafale planes (€78 million each).

Denmark does not know how to finance its military budget increase

Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen has withdrawn her proposal to no longer consider the 4th Friday after Easter as a public holiday (the "great day of prayer" instituted by King Charles V in the 17th century). She expected the addition of this day of work to finance the increase in the budget of the armies to bring it to the 2% of GDP requested by NATO. All the unions and all the opposition parties have unanimously opposed this measure.

Sweden will not join NATO as long as Turkey opposes it

On January 21 the libertarian lawyer Rasmus Paludan staged a protest outside the Turkish Embassy during which he burned a Quran. Swedish Foreign Minister Tobias Billstrom had previously said it would be "extremely inappropriate" to prevent a protest even if a Quran was burned there, even though Sweden’s ambassador had been summoned by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"It is clear that those who have caused such disgrace in front of our country’s embassy should no longer expect any benevolence from us regarding their application for NATO membership," Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan replied in a TV speech.

In addition, Al-Azhar University in Cairo (an authority of Sunni Muslims) called for "a boycott of Swedish and Dutch products".

Finland won’t join NATO until Sweden can

Reacting to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s statement on Turkey’s rejection of Sweden’s NATO membership, Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto considered decoupling the Finnish request from the Swedish approach. However, after the intervention of the Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Secretary General of NATO, Mr. Haavisto backtracked. According to him, the Turkish presidential election on May 14 could reshuffle the cards.
Hungary extends its ideological fight

Mathias Corvinus Collegium (MCC) is organizing an international conference on “The Future of Publishing”. On this occasion, the Hungarian government of Viktor Orbán intends to expand its networks. Speakers include Rod Dreher (American Conservative) as well as Jean Sébastien Ferjou (Atlantico.fr) and Yair Netanyahu (Benjamin’s son).

G7 and EU companies overwhelmingly stay in Russia

A study by professors Simon Evenett of the University of Saint-Gall (Switzerland) and Niccolò Pisani of IMD Lausanne (Switzerland) entitled: Less than Nine Percent of Western Firms Have Divested from Russia reveals that only 8.5% of EU and G7 companies have left Russia since the start of the military operation in Ukraine.

EU embarrassed by Parliament’s vote against the Iranian Revolutionary Guards

The Council of the European Union is reluctant to declare the Iranian Revolutionary Guards a “terrorist organisation” as requested by the European Parliament. No one has thought about the consequences of such a measure: the Revolutionary Guards being an army of the Islamic Republic, does this mean that the Iranian State is a terrorist organization? Above all, commander-in-chief of the Revolutionary Guards General Hossein Salami declared before the Majlis that if such a decision were taken, he would in return consider the armies of the EU present in the Middle East as “terrorists”. Aware of the risk for soldiers who are members of UN missions or assigned to embassies should such a case arise, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borell entrenched himself on the need to rely on a court decision. Tehran has taken sanctions against several European parliamentarians and European military officials, against French lobbyist Bernard-Henri Levy and against contributors to the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo which recently published cartoons ridicule Iranian clerical leaders.

Two EU states to break diplomatic relations with Russia

Going a step further in its escalation with Russia, the Estonian Foreign Ministry confirmed the dismissal of the Russian Ambassador to its country, to which the Russian Ministry responded by ordering the Estonian Ambassador to leave Russia no later than February 7. The severance of diplomatic relations including the dismissal of ambassadors and the closing of embassies is the last step before going to war.

This is the latest round of a conflict that began with the expulsion of Russian diplomats to put the staff of the Russian and Estonian embassies "on par" (8 diplomats and 15 staff only). In reality it was a measure of retaliation after the Russian military intervention in Ukraine. Then Russia reciprocated by expelling Estonian diplomats from the consulates in St. Petersburg and Pskov.

In December 2022, with the European Central Bank's agreement, the Central Bank of Estonia began selling to the public a commemorative €2 coin which it had minted in July. On the flip side the coin includes a Nazi slogan in homage to independent Ukraine. Indeed, on 30th June 1941 the “integral nationalist” Stepan Bandera proclaimed the independence of Ukraine with the support of the Nazis.

On January 23, Tallinn announced the transfer of €113 million in military aid to the Ukrainian Armed Forces including "all FH-70 155mm howitzers" as well as D-30 122mm howitzers, artillery shells and Carl Gustaf M2 anti-tank grenade launchers.

Since January 9, Estonia has been considering extending its “exclusive maritime zone” by
creating a “contiguous maritime zone” within which its coast guards could board any ship. Given the narrowness of the Baltic Sea, Tallinn would thus block, in violation of international law, entrance and exit points of the port of Saint-Petersburg, the second largest city in Russia.

In 1939, the Soviet Union tried to negotiate with Finland a way to protect Leningrad (present-day Saint Petersburg) from a Nazi invasion launched from the Gulf of Finland islands, but the Finns dismissed the Soviet concern. With its back to the wall, the USSR invaded part of the Finnish coast (“Winter War”), which was used by the West to exclude it from the League of Nations (ancestor of the current UN).

Following the example of Estonia, Lithuania announced that it was expelling the Russian ambassador.

**Serbia no longer wishes to join the EU**

After tensions with Kosovo and the EU’s refusal to intervene, Serbia is less eager than in the past to join the EU, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic declared at the Davos Forum.

**According to President Zelensky Vladimir Putin is already dead**

Speaking at the Davos forum, President Zelensky raised the possibility that his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin is already dead.

**Emese Fajk, high-flying con artist and spokesperson for the Ukrainian Foreign Legion**

According to the *Daily Mail*, spokesperson for the Ukrainian Foreign Legion Hungarian-born Australian Emese Fajk is allegedly blackmailing Ukrainian representative to NATO General Andriy Ordynovych (known as “Zeus”). Emese Fajk fled Australia after trying to scam a reality show for over $4 million. She took refuge in Portugal where she was again accused of fraud, then volunteered in Ukraine in March 2022. She is now accused of having embezzled several million dollars’ worth of drugs.

**Ukraine stores weapons in its nuclear power plants**

According to head of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) Sergey Naryshkin, Ukraine is stockpiling heavy Western weapons within the perimeter of nuclear power plants. If they were to explode, they would cause a nuclear accident for which the Russian forces would be blamed.

**Ukrainian Military Intelligence chief accuses SBU of murdering Ukrainian hero**

In an interview with *Radio Free Europe*, director of the Ukrainian Military Intelligence Agency General Kyrylo Budanov confirmed that banker Denys Kireev was an agent in his service. On March 6, 2022, returning from Belarus where he was participating in his country’s delegation to the peace negotiations, Kireev was shot dead in the city center by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU). He was then accused of collaborating with Russia because he had mentioned the common past of the two countries.

General Kyrylo Budanov condemned the assassination of a “Ukrainian hero” by a government faction.

**Major reshuffle of the Ukrainian government**

The revelations by journalist Yuri Nikolov (*Nashi Groshi*) on January 21, according to which the Ukrainian defense had artificially inflated the prices of certain foodstuffs intended for the soldiers, were initially denied on January 22, before a vast anti-corruption operation begun. On January 23, President Zelensky announced that officials would no longer be allowed to travel abroad except on official trip.
He was referring to the case of Deputy Attorney General Oleksiy Semenenko who went on vacation to Spain in defiance of the law prohibiting any man of military age from leaving the country. Semenenko immediately resigned. Fourteen others have resigned since. Five regional governors (Valentin Reznitchenko (Dnipropetrovsk), Oleksandre Starukh (Zaporizhia) Dmytro Zhivytysky (Sumy), Yaroslav Yanushevich (Kherson) and Oleksii Kouleba (Kiev)), four deputy ministers (including Viacheslav Shapovalov (Defence) and Vasyl Lozynsky (Infrastructure)) and two heads of a government agency left their posts, in addition to the deputy head of the presidential administration (Kyrylo Tymoshenko) and the deputy prosecutor general (Oleksiy Symonenko). Corruption was already the scourge of Ukraine in times of peace. It was noticeably denounced in a report by the Court of Auditors of the European Union, on July 20, 2021. In 2019, Volodymyr Zelensky was elected president on his anti-corruption platform against Petro Poroshenko. But he himself was singled out when the Pandora Papers were published.

The current wave of resignations is officially presented in the context of corruption cases, but some of them were announced before Yuri Nikolov’s article was published. They would be due to internal rivalries which caused the resignation last week of Oleksiy Arestovich, the very popular communication adviser to President Zelensky.

Russia arms key official buildings in Moscow

Reacting to the possible transfer to Ukraine of US weapons capable of attacking Crimea, Russia has decided to install defense systems in Moscow. The Russian capital is indeed only 840 kilometers away from the Ukrainian border. Therefore, these US weapons can not only be used to attack Crimea but also Moscow. Pantsir missiles were installed on the roofs of various official buildings, including the Kremlin and the Defense Ministry.

**European Court of Human Rights declares jurisdiction over Russia**

While the Russian Federation withdrew from the Council of Europe and its tribunal the European Court of Human Rights, the latter declared itself competent to judge possible Russian abuses of rights (Case Svetova and Others v. Russia). This decision paves the way for in absentia condemnations of Russia at the request of Ukrainian parties.

**AFRICA**

**US interests in Libya**

After the visits of director of the CIA William Burns and commander of Africom General John D. Lamontagne, it appears that US pressures are aimed at stabilizing the oil fields and creating the conditions for a withdrawal of the Russian private military company Wagner.

**Partial meeting of the Arab League in Tripoli**

A meeting of Arab League foreign ministers was held in Tripoli. Only Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Comoros, Oman and Qatar took part. Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, which do not recognize the Tripoli government, boycotted the move. Minister of Foreign Affairs of the government of Tripoli Najla Mangoush regretted that the quorum for the League had not been reached.

**Arrest of a Tunisian Islamists leader**

Leader of the Islamist party Al-Karama Seifeddine Makhlouf was arrested during a demonstration at Tunis airport. He is accused of insulting police officers.
On Republic Day, July 25, 2021, secular President Kais Saied dissolved the Islamist-dominated parliament. Simultaneously, he revoked his government. Since then, the president has tried to both fight against the Islamists and against the all-pervading corruption which has forced him into a certain authoritarianism.

**The inappropriate aid of the Libyan Brothers to Tunisia**

The Libyan government in Tripoli has sent humanitarian aid to Tunisia. The contribution of the Muslim Brotherhood consists exclusively of food. It does not at all meet the needs of Tunisia which asked to be able to send workers. The Muslim Brotherhood’s strategy is simple and similar to the way they brought down President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali with the help of the CIA: to feed the people without solving their problems.

**The Moroccan Parliament against the European Parliament and France**

The Moroccan Parliament reacted strongly to the adoption by the European Parliament of a resolution entitled "The situation of journalists in Morocco, in particular the case of Omar Radi" (P9_TA (2023)0014), https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0014_EN.html as well as allegations that Moroccan authorities have bribed MEPs. During the debates, Moroccan lawmakers condemned the role of France, “a country that was believed to be a friend and a reliable partner, but that the smell of gas made it lose its head”.

**Morocco denies wanting to host a US military base**

The Moroccan government has denied negotiating the installation of a US military base. However, everything suggests that contacts in this direction have taken place and that the question would have been postponed pending an assessment of the US Congress’ position. The United States already has a major base in La Rota, Spain, not far from Morocco. But they must take position in Morocco before the outbreak of the war they have planned in the Sahel.

Morocco currently allows free access to its communications bases to US forces, but does not permanently host US troops.

**Burkina Faso ends military cooperation with France**

Following Mali’s example, the Burkinabé transitional government of Captain Ibrahim Traoré has asked France to withdraw its troops from its country within a month.

**Separatists in Cameroon**

Nigerian herders clashed with Cameroonian separatists demanding they pay a revolutionary tax. Six people died and thousands have fled. The Yaoundé government has sent troops there.

**Gabon worried about an upcoming Spanish military base in Equatorial Guinea**

Gabon was deprived of its right to vote in the United Nations for not having paid its annual dues. Gabonese President Ali Bongo traveled to Equatorial Guinea accompanied by a delegation. He protested to his counterpart...
Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo about the forthcoming creation of a Spanish military base on the border between the two countries. Gabonese Minister of Foreign Affairs Michaël Moussa-Adamo suddenly died of a "heart attack" just after his return from Equatorial Guinea, when he was about to participate in the Council of Ministers.

**Eritrea withdraws from Ethiopia**

Following the November ceasefire agreement, Eritrean troops who were supporting Ethiopian forces against the Tigrayan rebels withdrew from the country. The Tigrayan rebels were supported by the US which accepted the ceasefire, but demanded a withdrawal of the Eritrean forces.

**The trial of British investment in Nigeria**

The administration of President Muhammadu Buhari accuses the company Process and Industrial Developments Ltd (P&ID) of bribing senior officials and lawyers to get an arbitration award to its benefit. It therefore refuses to pay the $6.6 billion to which it was sentenced in 2017 and the $2.5 billion in interest that has accrued since. The case will be argued for a month in London. The Buhari administration intends to prove that the decision to build a gas processing plant that Nigeria should supply for free with natural gas for 20 years was only a trick. P&ID had bribed the legal director of the Department of Petroleum Resources to the tune of $100,000 to support the scam. Then P&ID turned against the Nigerian State accused of not respecting its commitments and secured arbitration in its favor by corrupting the lawyers representing the country.

Since this affair, the CEO of P&ID has died and the debts of his company have been bought by Lismore Capital and VR Capital who are now claiming the jackpot.

**Massacres in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

42 victims including six children were exhumed from a mass grave in the village of Nyamamba (Ituri) by United Nations Forces, while the bodies of seven other men were found in another village called Mbogi. A Hema ethnic group would be responsible for these recent mass murders.

**One more opponent to President Kagame dies**

Journalist and editor of *The Chronicles* John Williams Ntwali died in a bizarre car accident. He was particularly critical of Paul Kagame's government. President Kagame has the reputation of eliminating his opponents by covering up their assassinations.

**China-Russia-South Africa naval maneuvers**

South Africa will participate in the Sino-Russian naval maneuvers in February. Russia will send its Admiral Gorshkov frigate armed with hypersonic Zircon missiles. South Africa claims to be neutral in the Ukrainian conflict and to be conducting military maneuvers not with an ally but with a "friend". Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov traveled to Pretoria to meet his counterpart Naledi Pandora. Nothing came out of these talks but South Africa is taking over the BRICS presidency at a time when Brazil is moving away from Russia and China and when new partners (Algeria, Iran, Argentina, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) wish to join the organization.
Benjamin Netanyahu bends before the Supreme Court and prepares his reform

After various corruption cases Israeli Deputy Prime Minister, Health and Interior Minister Aryeh Deri was removed from office by Benjamin Netanyahu on the recommendation of the Supreme Court. Then Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, several of his ministers, and Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana went to a hall of Shaas (Aryeh Deri’s party) to condemn the "arrogance" and "sense of supremacy" of the Supreme Court.

Israel's attorney general against keeping prime minister

Attorney General of Israel Gali Baharav-Miara is consulting on whether or not the court agreement signed by current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu three years ago allows him to perform his duties. This agreement which at the time allowed Mr. Netanyahu to remain Prime Minister despite the lawsuits against him, provides that he will not be able to make judicial appointments or get involved in legislative issues that could have an impact on his ongoing trials. But as Mr. Netanyahu stands trial for fraud, corruption and breach of trust in the Jerusalem District Court, his government is pushing through sweeping judicial review legislation that includes laws that could impact his legal position.

Israeli Media Law Reform

Minister of Communications Shlomo Karhi is considering reforming the TV regulatory bodies. In addition, a law should be adopted which will prohibit the distribution of written documents, audio or video clips infringing on privacy. However, almost all documents revealing state affairs include information relating to private life. In the past, Benjamin Netanyahu tried in vain to silence the press by changing the libel law. According to professionals, Israeli journalists live under threat which increasingly drives them to self-censorship.

Protest in Israel against PM’s reform plans

Mr. Netanyahu’s justice reform plan is four phases, the first of which has been presented to the public.

Phase I includes (1) legislating a notwithstanding clause that would allow the Knesset to pass legislation a second time by a simple majority that had been struck down by the Supreme Court ; (2) eliminate the reasonableness standard of judicial decisions ; (3) strengthen the power of the governing coalition in the Judicial Appointments Committee ; and (4) weaken the status of legal advisers within ministries.

Phase II would make the Basic Law of Human Dignity and Liberty of no more value than any other law. It could therefore easily be replaced.

Phase III would limit the right of appeal to the Supreme Court.

Phase IV would split the current powers of the Attorney General. A second body called "chief prosecutor" would be the only authority capable of bringing politicians to justice.

130,000 people including former defense ministers Benny Gantz and Moshe Yaalon demonstrated in Jerusalem, Be’er Sheva, Haifa and Tel Aviv on January 21 to protest against the first phase of the government’s plan to reform the judicial system.

Drawing a parallel between the current Netanyahu government and the Nazi regime, General Yaalon said: “The Jewish people paid a heavy price for the fact that in democratic elections in Germany a government came to power which eliminated democracy, and the first thing it eliminated was the fundamental democratic principle of the independence of the judiciary”.

11 - Voltaire, International Newsletter - N°25 - 27 January 2023
Pentagon backs IDF but not Iran bombing plan

The fact that the US happily dips into its arsenal in Israel to arm Ukraine is interpreted in Tel Aviv according to Washington’s priorities: Ukraine first, Israel later. The Netanyahu government does not have a US wild card to attack Iran. Such an initiative would be very dangerous given the state of US arms stocks. President Biden’s Security Advisor Jake Sullivan has visited Israel and Palestine. He met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Mahmoud Abbas. In Israel, the talks dealt with a possible attack by Iran and the government’s plans for Palestine. However, on January 21, 6,400 American soldiers with 1,100 Israeli soldiers launched very important military drills in the Mediterranean called Juniper Oak 23.

Mike Pompeo condemns Benjamin Netanyahu

In his new book Never Give an Inch: Fighting for the America I Love, former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo writes that relations between Washington and Jerusalem (the US-recognized capital of Israel) are of prime importance, but more fragile than those of London with Tel-Aviv (the capital recognized by the United Kingdom).

He also reports that Benjamin Netanyahu deliberately leaked for political reasons a non-existent promise to advance a formal defense treaty between the US and Israel.

Fundraising for Israeli extremists in the US

An Israeli extremist organization called Shlom Asirach organizes extensive fundraisers in the US. It was created by Mrs. Chanamel Dorfman, a top aide to National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir. Officially these funds are used to support Israelis imprisoned for racist murders and the assassin of Labor Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Jordan worried about Israeli attitude to ’Noble Sanctuaries’

The Jordanian ambassador to Israel was denied access to the Al-Aqsa Mosque by the Israeli police. Legally, Jordan has responsibility for the “Noble Shrines” (i.e., the Muslim part of the Temple Mount).

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rushed to Jordan on January 23. He assured King Abdallah II that his country would not question the status of the “noble shrines”. However, Israel’s Minister of National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir said after the meeting that notwithstanding the respect he owes King Abdallah, he has no intention of changing his policy and will continue his Temple Mount/Noble Shrines tours.

Summits around Egypt and Jordan

A three-way summit was held in Cairo with the Egyptian and Palestinian presidents and the Jordanian monarch. It was immediately followed by another in Abu Dhabi, again with the
Egyptian President and the King of Jordan, but also with the Heads of State of the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman. These summits seem to address the fears of Egypt and Jordan in the face of the Israeli government’s plans. Observers are lost in conjecture to explain the reasons for the absence of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait at the second meeting. Regarding Egypt’s liquidity needs, it seems that the two Gulf countries are now demanding counterparts to any economic aid.

**France prepares a summit for its candidate in Lebanon**

To unblock the Lebanese political situation and have an acceptable candidate elected to the presidency, France plans to organize a summit in Paris with the main Lebanese parties and third-party countries. Paris is keen to involve Saudi Arabia and is trying to involve its Egyptian ally to influence its position. Lebanon has not had a president since the end of Michel Aoun’s mandate on October 31st 2022, and his government can only expedite current affairs.

**Iran’s aid to Syria**

Iranian Foreign Minister Amir- Abdollahian traveled to Damascus to prepare for President Ebrahim Raïsi’s visit. On this occasion, economic agreements were renewed between the two countries.

**Russia tries to solve the Kurdish problem in Syria**

Russia is recruiting from Arab tribes in northern Syria to stabilize the region against the US. Simultaneously, the Russian Reconciliation Center organized a meeting with the Kurdish authorities of Kobani/Ain Arab, with a view to ensuring their protection once the agreement with Turkey is signed.

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**Dangerous rivalry between Iraqi Kurds**

The rivalry between the Barzani (Democratic Party of Kurdistan, pro-Israeli) and Talabani (Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, pro-Chinese) clans turns to mutual accusation. The bitterness accumulated since the US intervention is about to burst. All observers warn of an armed confrontation.

**Iraqi PM turns to US side**

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Chia al-Sudani surprised his supporters by suddenly taking a stand for the presence of US forces in the country and designating the Gulf as “Arab” and no longer “Persian”. The US relies on his government to exert very strong pressure on mainly Shiites Iraqi banks so that they stop all dollar transfers to Iran, Syria and Lebanon. Suddenly, a movement is taking shape among the Shiite parties against Prime Minister Mohammed Chia al-Sudani who has just dismissed the Governor of the Bank of Iraq and will soon be going to Washington.

**Saudi Arabia expects Israeli gestures towards Palestinians**

Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhane said on Twitter that “True normalization [with Israel] and true stability will only come by giving Palestinians hope and dignity, which requires to give them a state.”

**An Iranian satellite constellation**

Iran has started the launch of its "General Soleimani" constellation of satellites.

**Narendra Modi caught up in his past**

India announced that it was prohibiting the broadcasting via the Internet of the second part of the BBC documentary on the attitude of then governor of Gujarat Narendra Modi during the 2002 riots. He had then ignored the massacres of Muslims.
The Philippines wants to get along with China

Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said on television that he was preparing negotiations with China at the level of foreign ministers to settle their territorial dispute.

Difficult promotion of South Korea

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol visited the United Arab Emirates where he signed $30 billion worth of contracts, then attended the Davos Forum to promote his country. His visit to the Middle East was marked by unnecessary controversy over the "threatening" role he attributed to Iran vis-à-vis the Emirates. Indeed, Dubai owes its fortune to the diversion of the Western embargo against Iran and the territorial dispute between Abu Dhabi and Tehran is being settled through Beijing.

China at the South Pole

China intends to become a leading polar power. If it has naturally been present at the North Pole for a long time, it is now investing in the South Pole where it already has four scientific stations. The Pentagon fears that these facilities will be used for military purposes, in particular to increase the power of the Chinese army to destroy satellites.

Speaker of the US House of Representatives in Taiwan

Speaker of the US House of Representatives Kevin McCarthy announced that he would visit Taiwan later this year. The visit of his predecessor Nancy Pelosi caused strong tensions between Washington and Beijing that have not been addressed yet.

OCEANIA

Jacinda Ardern gives up

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced that she would not run again and would therefore complete her term on February 7. The Labor Party nominated Minister for Education, Police and Public Services Chris Hipkins to succeed her. On September 23, 2022 Jacinda Ardern had delivered a speech to the United Nations General Assembly against misinformation on social networks. She considered that freedom of speech could be manipulated as a weapon of war and called for it to be framed. Since then, polls show her party losing in the general elections.
Supplement documentation

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Ausnahmezustand : Geopolitische Einsichten und Analysen unter Berücksichtigung des Ukraine-Konflikts, Wolfgang Bittner, Print & Online 19,90 € (288 s.)

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**REFERENCE WORK**

The great purge has begun in Ukraine

A delegation from the Pentagon, the State Department and USAID visited Ukraine last week. It was the one who organized the so-called ongoing anti-corruption operation. It designated who should be harassed and who should remain in place. According to the Inspector General of Defense, its mission was to ensure that US taxpayers’ money was not squandered.

It is in this context that the former sponsor of President Volodymyr Zelensky, billionaire Ihor Kolomoisky (Privat group) found himself at the center of an investigation by the Ukrainian Security Service (SBU). According to investigators, he stole 40 billion hryvnias (about $1 billion) during the nationalization of his hydrocarbon companies Ukrnafta and Ukrtatnafta in November 2022. Hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash, watches and luxury cars were found during the search of his home.

In 2010, Ihor Kolomoisky tried to take control of the European Council of Jewish Communities. He had to withdraw in the face of the revolt of European Jewish leaders who denounced his mafia career. After the 2014 coup he financed “integral nationalist” armed groups including the Aidar, Donbass, Dnipro 1, Dnepr 227 battalions. In the 2020s he was the main sponsor of President Volodymyr Zelensky and his party Servant of the People. He was the owner of Burisma Holding, the company of which President Joe Biden’s son Hunter Biden and former Secretary of State John Kerry’s son Devon Archer became directors.

He fell out a few months ago with his protégé Volodymyr Zelensky who would have stripped him of his Ukrainian nationality.

An accomplice of Kolomoisky’s, former Interior Minister Arsen Avakov is accused of having received bribes from Airbus during the purchase of helicopters. On US advice, the SBU is therefore directing the ramifications of this case against Germany and France. By the way, Avakov could be prosecuted for the assassination of Interior Minister Denys Monastyrsky a few days ago aboard one of these helicopters.
Pfizer’s experiments with Covid

A Project Veritas video shows Jordon Trisston Walker, director of mRNA research and development, strategic operations and scientific planning at pharmaceutical company Pfizer, claiming that his company is exploring a way to "mutate" Covid to anticipate the development of future "vaccines".

The interview suggests that Pfizer took health risks and violated U.S. laws to conduct its research.

In five days, the video had already been viewed 41 million times on Twitter, when Pfizer issued a statement. Without questioning the authenticity of the recording, it said that it had not conducted any research on gain of function. It added: "In a limited number of cases when a complete virus does not contain known 'gain of function' mutations, that virus can be modified to allow the assessment of antiviral activity in cells."

At this point, it’s unclear whether or not Pfizer made the virus more dangerous before designing its "vaccine."

Moreover, the pharmaceutical company is already facing accusations that it knew all along that its vaccine did not protect against transmission, but let governments pretend otherwise.

The US no longer knows how to defend religious freedom in Ukraine

The summit for international religious freedom (January 30-February 1, 2023) brought together many US political leaders around former senator and then governor of Texas Sam Brownback and leaders of religious organizations.

International religious freedom is traditionally a political goal of the United States of America, the "City upon a hill." This year, it had to justify the Ukrainian government’s ban on Orthodox Church but failed to do so.

Biden administration refuses to explain its policy on Mexican border

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas barred the four border officials with Mexico from testifying before Congress. Kentucky Republican Rep. and chairman of the House Oversight Committee James Comer is considering subpoenaing them.

A sitting US general warns about an attack by China

Gen. Mike Minihan, commander of Air Mobility Command which oversees the Air Force’s fleet of tanker and cargo planes sent a memo to his 110,000 troops revealed by CBS. He warns of a possible Chinese attack in 2025. The Pentagon is not officially considering war against China.

The Rockefellers against gas stoves

According to attorney Christopher C. Horner who has been denouncing the liberal discourse on global warming for years, a two-day meeting was held at the Rockefeller family mansion in Pocantico in July 2019. It brought together many government officials and environmental organizations including the Rocky Mountain Institute. The agenda included "carbon pricing strategies." It was on this occasion that the plan to ban gas heating and kitchens gas stoves was drawn up.

The Federation of American Scientists is not what it used to be

The Board of Directors of the Federation of American Scientists (FAS), the very distinguished American pacifist organization has placed the cursor of its clock at 90 seconds before Nuclear War. In its newsletter it condemns Russia, China, Iran and North Korea. In our issue N°22 we noticed that according to...
Politico the prestigious FAS has come under the control of Eric Schmitt (Alphabet/Google) and has placed its employees in the US administration, including the White House.

Will Congress raise the maximum ceiling on US public debt?

A law passed in 2021 sets the maximum federal government’s public debt at $31.4 trillion. The Treasury has already exceeded that limit by $100 billion. The question is whether Congress will increase the limit it set or whether the Administration should restrict spending. The United States has the highest public debt in the world. Their main creditors are Japan, China and the United Kingdom.

By way of comparison, the Russian Treasury repaid most of its debt during the 2000s. It would now be only about $400 billion.

The end of gasoline cars in the US means a global environment devastation

The U.S. transition to lithium battery electric vehicles by 2050 would require three times more lithium than all current global production. It will exacerbate global environmental and social inequalities linked to mining, says the Guardian.

Hunter Biden demands prosecution of Rudolph Giuliani and Steve Bannon for invasion of his privacy

President Joe Biden’s son Hunter Biden is demanding federal prosecution of all those who published and relayed private information contained in his computer that was seized by the FBI.

Congress is preparing to launch a parliamentary inquiry into the mind-boggling contents of this computer, a copy of which has been sent to every federal parliamentarian.

Pentagon successfully tests a small hypersonic missile

The Pentagon hopes to technologically catch up with the Russian military. It has just successfully tested a small hypersonic missile called HAWC capable of rising to 60,000 feet and flying at 7 times the speed of sound. Russia and China already have hypersonic missiles capable of exiting the atmosphere and re-entering it after flying very long distances without being slowed down by air friction.

Mexico will not send weapons to Ukraine

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said his country will not send weapons to Ukraine. During his press conference, he criticized German democracy, observing that its government had yielded to its Mainstream Media on this point against the will of the German people.

Who committed a coup in Peru?

Peru’s parliament still refuses to call general elections despite 57 people having already died during the protests.

Deposed President of the Republic Pedro Castillo is still being detained and the Western Mainstream Media is convinced that he was preparing a coup d’état, failing to realize that it was the arrest of the president that was a coup d’état. They can’t explain the popular demonstrations either.

Colombia will not send weapons to Ukraine

President Gustavo Petro rejected US request to send Ukraine the weapons of Russian origin that Colombia possesses. He said: "No Russian weapons purchased by Colombia will be used in the armed conflict in Ukraine."

Jair Bolsonaro remains in the USA

Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has filed a request to stay in the US for another six months. He is under investigation in his country
to determine his role in the riots on Congress, the Supreme Court and the presidential palace by his supporters.

**Brazil will not send weapons to Ukraine**

Brazilian President Luiz Ignacio “Lula” da Silva who condemned last week the "Russian invasion" of Ukraine, refused to send weapons to Ukraine. He pleaded for strict neutrality; A position that was already expressed by his predecessor.

**Argentina will not send weapons to Ukraine**

"Argentina and Latin America are not thinking about sending weapons to Ukraine or any other place in conflict," Argentine President Alberto Fernández said.

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**EUROPE**

**Dismissal of British Conservative Party chairman**

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak dismissed chairman of the Conservative Party and founder of polling company YouGov Nadhim Zahawi on 29th January for "serious breach" of the ministerial code. He would have discreetly regularized for nearly £5 million of unpaid taxes when he was already in charge of the country’s Treasury. Nadhim Zahawi should have declared the tax investigation he was the subject of and should also have updated his declaration of interests once his dispute with the tax authorities has been settled.

Rishi Sunak whose very rich wife did not pay taxes, is himself implicated by the opposition in a case regarding illegal parties during the Covid epidemic and for driving without a seat belt. If Rishi Sunak presents himself as a model of virtue, his reaction to Nadhim Zahawi could be linked to an upcoming scandal affecting his deputy prime minister Dominic Raab. 24 senior civil servants with whom they work or have worked accuse him of "bullying".

**After Merkel and Hollande, Boris Johnson confirms that the Minsk agreements were not aimed at peace in Ukraine**

After former German Chancellor Angela Merkel and former French President François Hollande, former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson also confirmed that the Minsk agreements were only a way for the West to buy time. They never sought to stop the civil war in Ukraine.

Boris Johnson also claimed in a documentary broadcast by the BBC on January 29 that President Putin had threatened him just before the war, telling him that Moscow could kill him in London with a missile in just one minute. The latest allegations were denied by the Kremlin which called them "deliberate lies."

**The United Kingdom has fought 83 wars since 1945**

Historian Mark Curtis has counted at least 83 British armed interventions since the end of World War II, not including participation in peacekeeping operations. These official or secret wars were all aimed at maintaining what remains of the colonial grip.

**The British administration mismanages Brexit**

140,000 EU citizens residing in the UK received social benefits to which they were no longer entitled since the Kingdom’s exit from the Union.

**Polish PM discusses partition of Ukraine**

A controversy was raised with Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki following an interview with Atlanticist former minister Radoslaw Sikorski on Radio Zet. He assured that the government had received at the very beginning of the war a Russian proposal to
divide Ukraine and that it had hesitated for ten
days before rejecting it.

Several years ago, Sikorski said in an interview
with Politico that his party’s leader Donald Tusk
received a proposal to divide Ukraine from
Vladimir Putin during a visit to Moscow.

Polish personalities discuss Chechnya’s
independence

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki of
the ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party told
French newspaper Le Figaro: "There are parts
of Russia that are prisons for other nations.
These parts of Russia could be liberated, such as
Chechnya for example. They could become
independent. They have fought for their
freedom for centuries and in recent decades they
have fought with great motivation. I believe this
country deserves its independence."

Former Defense Minister Atlanticist Radoslaw
Sikorski of the opposition Civic Platform (PO)
party told Krytyka Polityczna: "I don’t think
[the Ukrainian conflict] threatens Russia
[disintegration], maybe somewhere on the
border, like in Dagestan or in Chechnya -
perhaps a very weakened Russia will be forced
to retreat to its home territory. But I don’t see
any part of Russia proper, any republic or oblast
that would resist the Moscow-Petersburg
strategic axis."

These statements launch the plan for the
dismantling of Russia, drawn up at the Forum of
Free Nations of Russia held this summer in
Prague.

Poland accuses Russia of building new camps
and does not invite it to Auschwitz
celebrations

Unlike in previous years, Poland did not invite
Russia to participate in the celebrations of the
liberation of the Auschwitz camp by the Red
Army.
1 million Jews, 80,000 non-Jewish Poles,
25,000 Roma and 20,000 Soviet soldiers were
murdered by the Nazis at Auschwitz, according
to the camp museum.

Delivering a speech on this occasion based on a
report by the UN Secretary-General, Polish
Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki accused
Russia of building "new camps" in Ukraine
where it would have disappeared 400 people.

Ukrainians destroyed their own country after
independence

In the same interview with Krytyka Polityczna,
Radoslaw Sikorski criticizes the Ukrainian
elites. He notices that Ukraine left the USSR at
the same time Poland was gaining freedom and
that Kiev was then richer than Warsaw. But the
Ukrainians have squandered this legacy. Just
before the war, their GDP was four times lower
than Poland’s.

Hungary nominates Recep Tayyip Erdogan
for Nobel Peace Prize

Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto
announced that he was nominating Recep
Tayyip Erdogan for the Nobel Peace Prize in
recognition of his mediation efforts in Ukraine.

General Petr Pavel new Czech President

General Petr Pavel was elected President of the
Czech Republic. He was Chief of the General
Staff of the Czech Army (2012-15), then
Chairman of the NATO Military Committee
(2015-18). This centrist presented himself as the
candidate "of truth, dignity, respect and
humility". Two years ago, he presented a plan to
fight Covid. He was congratulated by Slovak President Zuzana Caputova and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

**Atlanticist Petr Pavel calls for peace negotiations in Ukraine**

In an interview with the BBC, former chairman of NATO’s military committee and new Czech president Petr Pavel said that if NATO didn’t support Ukraine, it would probably lose the war and that it had already deserved to join the Alliance. He has spoken out in favor of peace talks with Russia.

**Croatia will not send weapons to Ukraine**

Croatian President Zoran Milanovic sharply criticized NATO’s proxy war against Russia in Ukraine and the NATO Secretary General’s trip to Asia. He declared that Ukraine would never be the same again and that the hatred of Westerners towards Russians was worse than that of Croats towards Serbs. According to him, Croatia’s partners in NATO are determined to see it as circus poodles who have to do what they are told.

**The EU does not understand the difference between "International Law" and "rules-based international order"**

On his blog, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell reflected on his trip to southern Africa. This is an opportunity for him to present his vision of the conflict in Ukraine. He writes: "What we ask of South Africa and all countries is to stand by the principles and values of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Nothing more but also nothing less. The EU sees South Africa as an important partner in maintaining and reinvigorating a rules-based international order." The High Commissioner seems to consider the terms "international law" and "rules-based international order" to be equivalent. However, contrary to what he says, the UN Charter which sets the framework for international law does not prohibit Russian intervention in Ukraine. On the contrary, Article 42 provides that the UN Security Council can restore order by military means and Resolution 2202 entrusted this responsibility in Ukraine to Germany, France and Russia.

**NATO is ready for World War**

Chairman of NATO’s Military Committee Dutchman Admiral Rob Bauer said on Portuguese television that NATO was now ready for a direct confrontation with Russia.

**Pentagon’s secret interest in Ukraine**

According to Newsweek magazine, the only reason that convinced Pentagon generals to support Ukraine against Russia was its colossal reserves of titanium, a metal essential to armaments and aeronautics.

**Russia excluded from the Olympics ?**

Backed by Britain and Denmark, President Volodymyr Zelensky has called for Russia to be excluded from the Olympics. In fact, many Russian athletes have been banned from participating in international competitions since the intervention of the Russian army in Ukraine.

Although the International Olympic Committee has stated that "no athlete should be banned from competition solely on the basis of his or her passport," it has failed to resolve the issue.

**Kremlin classifies its economic statistics**

Faced with Western economic warfare, President Vladimir Putin has decided to classify Russia’s economic statistics. The goal is to prevent the West from detecting ways to weaken Russia’s economy. The EU is on its ninth set of anti-Russian measures that it persists in calling "sanctions",
even though they are illegal under international law.

Dissolution of the Moscow Helsinki Group

A Moscow court ordered the dissolution of the Moscow Helsinki Group for exceeding its status. The NGO which was declared as regional was active throughout the country.

Latvian media outlet Meduza banned in Russia

Russia Prosecutor General’s Office stated that the activities of the Latvian Russian-language news site Meduza "pose a threat to the foundations of the constitutional order and security of the Russian Federation." Meduza who was already considered a "foreign agent" was placed on the list of "undesirable organizations," which prohibits Russian citizens from participating in or mentioning it. Since July 2022, Meduza has specialized in implicating the private military company Wagner.

Blagodatnoye liberated in Donbass

According to TASS, the settlement of Blagodatnoye near Soledar in eastern Ukraine has come under the control of Russian forces, founder of the PMC Wagner Yevgeny Prigozhin said on January 29.

Western sanctions benefit Moscow

Thanks to Western sanctions Russia has doubled its liquid gas revenues, the South China Morning Post reported.

AFRICA

Egyptian-Indian rapprochement

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi was the guest of honor on Indian Republic Day (January 26th). Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi described his visit as "historic". Egyptian-Indian relations were at a standstill when in mid-2021 Cairo sent Covid vaccines to New Delhi and in 2022 New Delhi in return passed on wheat to Cairo.

In 1955, Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser participated in the Bandung Conference, and in 1961 they founded the Non-Aligned Movement.

Dissolution of the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights

The Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights (LADDH) was dissolved due to the vacancy of its leaders. They had previously split into three distinct groups. Its funding was particularly obscure.

Sudanese-Ethiopian reconciliation

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed visited Sudan where he was received by Chairman of the Sovereignty Council Abdel Fattah al-Burhan. The two men resolved their dispute over the Great Renaissance Dam.

French defamation against Kenya and Tanzania

Air-France-KLM issued a passenger advisory that traffic would be disrupted in Tanzania and Kenya due to "civil unrest".

Kenyan Transport Minister Kipchumba Murkomen said on January 28 that he had protested to the airline against "this unfounded, false and misleading information that portrays Kenya in a bad light."

Tanzania’s Minister of Public Works and Transport Mrs. Mbarawa said: "This statement is baseless, alarmist, unfounded, ill-considered and has caused unnecessary fear and panic."

Air-France-KLM apologized. Local commentators see this case as the beginning of France’s hybrid war.

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**Pentagon eliminates Daesh leader in Somalia**

US Defense Secretary General Lloyd Austin has welcomed an operation that eliminated local leader of Daesh Bilal al-Sudani after he claimed responsibility for two car bomb attacks that killed 15 people.

**M23 takes Kitchanga in DRC**

The M23 group took control of the town of Kitchanga (population 60,000) in the Democratic Republic of Congo, after trying to do so for months. It claims to have intervened to prevent a "genocide" of the Tutsis.

The UN Mission condemned the M23 attack. Rwanda has denied any involvement. The US and EU last month warned Rwanda against supporting the M23.

**Rwanda shoots down Congolese plane**

The Rwandan government claimed to have shot down a Sukhoi from the Democratic Republic of Congo that allegedly violated its airspace. The DRC claims instead that its plane was still in Congo.

Rwanda supports the Tutsi rebels of M23.

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**ASIA**

**Israeli-Palestinian escalation**

Israeli-Palestinian attacks follow one another, increasing each time. Israeli troops killed nine Palestinians in a raid in Jenin and another person in ensuing clashes in Ramallah. Hamas fired five rockets into Israel, only one of which fell into Israel in an open area. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel was not seeking to escalate the situation, although he had ordered security forces to be on alert.

**Benjamin Netanyahu wants to distribute weapons to Israeli Jewish civilians**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a cabinet meeting on Jan. 29 that the government was working to expand and accelerate weapons licensing to thousands of Israeli citizens following back-to-back attacks in Jerusalem that killed seven people.

The Arab Hadash-Ta’al party stressed that this was "an irresponsible decision that will lead to bloodshed and an increase in cases of violence and murder," adding that while the party condemns the killing of civilians on both sides, "The occupation is the source of violence that must be stopped."

**Israeli economists against Benjamin Netanyahu’s policies**

A petition initially signed by 370 economists warned of the likely economic consequences of a transformation of Israel’s political regime. According to them, it would cause a downgrade of Israel’s credit rating, a decline in foreign investment, a transfer of activities of high-tech companies abroad, a brain drain and a long-term blow to economic growth and the quality of life of Israelis.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu summoned business leaders to reassure them, but in vain.

On January 29, this prognosis caused a 4.3% drop in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. There were also many withdrawals of bank deposits. However, no figures are available, as banks refuse to release them.

**Supreme Court Justices against Benjamin Netanyahu’s policies**

Speaking at a joint conference of daily Ha’aretz and the Civil Rights Organization in Tel Aviv, former Supreme Court Justice Menachem Mazuz said on January 29 that "the [Israeli] public is not stupid and does not buy what they are told. The public understands that there is a coup here that will have consequences in all areas of life."
Also speaking at the conference, former Deputy Attorney General Dina Zilber said: "This is not ‘crying wolf’, it’s a red alert – a real alarm. All comparisons are correct and not exaggerated."

Russia appreciates Israeli neutrality in Ukraine

Russia’s deputy representative to the UN Security Council Dmitry Polyanskiy told Kann News: "We really welcome Israel’s balanced line in terms of not delivering weapons to Ukraine. I think it’s very important not to get involved in this conflict."

Who is behind Benjamin Netanyahu’s policies?

According to Ha’aretz, religious Zionists rely on two think tanks: the Kohelet Policy Forum and the Law and Liberty Forum. The latter was designed to import into Israel the same revolution that was accomplished in the US after the attacks of September 11, 2001. This second think tank is inspired by the Federalist Society which drafted in advance the USA Patriot Act. It is financed by the Tikvah Fund which founded it and which is chaired by the Israeli-American neo-conservative Elliott Abrams (known for his role in the Iran-Contras affair and many coups in Latin America).

According to Haaretz, libertarian billionaires Jeffrey Yass and Arthur Dantchik (founders of the Susquehanna International Group) are donors to the Kohelet Policy Forum and, simultaneously, to the Shalom Hartman Institute which has ultra-conservative Jewish schools.

Towards a drastic limitation of the right to strike in Israel

A bill introduced by lawyer Simcha Rothman (religious Zionist), trustee of the Tikvah Fund and the Kohelet Policy Forum, aims to reduce the right to strike only to disputes with the employer and only when it does not bother the public.

Voltaire Network Analysis
"Two perceptions of the war in Ukraine" by Thierry Meyssan
https://www.voltairenet.org/article218751.html
The Russian military intervention in Ukraine is absolutely not construed the same way in the West as in Russia. This is a textbook case. This difference in representation does not come from antagonistic material interests but from fundamentally different conceptions of Man and the meaning of Life. For the West, the enemy is trying to restore the greatness of the Tsarist Empire or the Soviet Union. While for Russia, the West imagines being the embodiment of the Good.

OPCW accuses Syria of using chemical weapons in 2018

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has released its report on the 2018 attack in Douma, Syria. According to it, "there are reasonable grounds to believe" that the "Tiger Forces" dropped two yellow cylinders containing chlorine from a helicopter, killing 43 people. It notes that Russian forces were present at the airfield from which the helicopter took off.

Wikileaks published internal OPCW emails attesting that the contrary views of Ian Henderson, an expert on the agency, had been removed from early reports. These emails, initially denied by the director of the Agency, were later validated by its former director Brazilian ambassador José Bustani. This falsification was allegedly ordered by Chief of Staff of the Director General of the Organization, Frenchman Sébastien Braha. Syria and Russia have repeatedly responded to the accusations against them and have even arranged the hearing of 17 eyewitnesses in The Hague.

France then organized an amendment to the OPCW’s statutes.
Regime change in Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan has changed the role of its upper house, the People’s Council (Halk Maslahaty). Former President of the Republic and “People’s Protector” Saparmyrat Nyýazow became President and received the title of "National Leader". He will be able to make all the decisions. He and his family will have immunity from prosecution. Only when his health no longer allows him to carry out his duties will current President of the Republic replace him. And this president is none other than his son, Serdar Berdimuhamedow.

Kyrgyzstan to ban Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

Kyrgyzstan authorities are preparing to ban Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty’s Kyrgyz service, known as Radio Azattyk. They accuse it of spreading a false version of the events of September on the Tajik border. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty claims to be an "independent" outlet, while acknowledging that it is "supervised" and funded by the U.S. Agency for Global Media.

Pakistani-Russian reconciliation

Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari made an official trip to Moscow. He has revived the agreements that were reached a year ago by Prime Minister Imran Khan before he was overthrown by a colorful parliamentary manipulation, led by the CIA-controlled Chief of Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa. Pakistan will benefit from cheap Russian energy. It appears that Washington has allowed new prime minister Shahbaz Sharif to strike a deal it had forbidden his predecessor. This U-turn can be interpreted either as a gesture by Washington towards Moscow, or as a desire to facilitate the maintenance in power of the pro-US Shahbaz Sharif.

Bhutan-China talks

Bhutan and China which do not have diplomatic relations have begun border talks. According to the final communiqué, they are close to an agreement.

Immediately, India’s Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra visited Bhutan. India is very concerned about a possible land swap between Bhutan and China that would allow China to dominate the "Siliguri corridor" and make it difficult for India to access the Doklam plateau.

Drug development in Myanmar

According to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, drug production in Myanmar has increased by 33% since the overthrow of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Myanmar is the world’s second largest producer of opium and heroin, far behind Afghanistan.

NATO engages South Korea against Russia

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg paid an official visit to South Korea where he met with Foreign Minister Park Jin, Defense Minister Lee Jong-sup and President Yoon Suk Yeol.

In a speech at the Chey Institute for Advanced Studies in Seoul, he thanked South Korea for its continued supply of non-lethal aid (medical equipment, bulletproof vests and food rations) to Ukraine, but urged it to do more because of an "urgent" need for ammunition.

In a surprise deal announced in August, Seoul agreed to supply a massive shipment of NATO-standard weapons to Warsaw: 980 K2 main battle tanks, 648 K9 155mm self-propelled howitzers and 48 FA-50 fighter jets. In October, it added 288 K239 Chunmoo multi-launch rocket systems (similar to the US HIMARS) to this set.

By way of comparison, the British, French and German armies had a total of only 715 tanks. South Korea joins the club of the world’s leading arms suppliers.
China’s PLA upgrades its fighter Jets

The Chinese military has announced that it is retiring its old Chengdu JF-17 Thunder fighter jets. They will all be replaced by J-18, J-19 and especially by Chengdu J-20 Mighty Dragon. The latter are fifth-generation stealth aircraft comparable with US fighter jets. Their stealth system was copied from the debris of a Lockheed Martin F-117 Nighthawk destroyed by the Yugoslav army during the Kosovo War.

"Lunar New Year" or "Chinese New Year"?

A controversy is developing with Western states about the Chinese New Year celebrations. The Anglo-Saxons call it "Lunar New Year" to distinguish it from their New Year and emphasize that it is also celebrated in Vietnam and Korea. However, this celebration originated in China and there are different lunar calendars around the world.

OCEANIA

Australian Day protest

Aboriginal Australians strongly contested Australian Day this year. This national holiday is on January 26, celebrating the anniversary of the proclamation of British sovereignty on the east coast of what was then New Holland. Many left-wing organizations have also denounced this "Day of Invasion."

Aboriginal Australians have particularly suffered from colonialism. Premier Anthony Albanese paid tribute to the traditional owners of the land and announced a referendum on the creation of a "One Voice" advisory council, representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Parliament.

Chinese President Xi Jinping addresses Australians

On Australian Day, Chinese President Xi Jinping addressed the Australian people on video. Referring to the latest bilateral contacts he said, "The two countries reviewed the past and looked to the future, making active efforts in the right direction to improve and develop China-Australia relations."

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The Chinese balloon affair

Washington detected a Chinese weather balloon adrift at very high altitude over the Aleutian Islands (Alaska) on January 28. After more than 7 days of deliberation it concluded that this balloon did not pose any danger to the population but that it was potentially a spying device threatening National Security. So, it decided to shoot it down with a Pentagon deployed F-22 stealth fighter jet that fired an AIM-9X Sidewinder missile over the ocean. Air traffic was interrupted in the area during the operation. The coast guard was dispatched to the scene to recover the debris of the craft.

Washington justifies its incredibly long time of reflection by ensuring that it waited until the balloon...
crossed the continent and arrived over the Atlantic Ocean to be able to safely destroy it. However, this does not explain why it did not shoot it in Alaska, but in South Carolina on February 4.

According to a 2021 report by Washington’s Secure World Foundation, cyberattacks could be launched from weather balloons against ground stations used to communicate and control satellites in orbit. The report says several attacks on NASA’s satellite command and control centers from 2007 to 2009 were attributed to China.

According to Chinese TV, in September 2018 the People’s Liberation Army used balloons to fire small hypersonic missiles; ultra-fast maneuvering strike weapons that can thus evade current air and missile defense systems. China claims that this balloon was civilian, not military and that its drift was accidental. It has informed the US side several times of this incident, but refused to let its defense minister discuss it with his US counterpart because the mission of this balloon was exclusively civilian. China was surprised by the disproportionate reaction of the US and wondered about the exorbitant cost of its destruction (about $400,000). Finally, it notes that destroying an aircraft in distress is a hostile act, so it reserves the right to retaliate.

Weather balloons carry equipment that can be diverted from its function and used to spy on a territory. However, these balloons are not easily remotely controlled and are therefore not used for this. The Pentagon itself does not use them and it is not clear why China would.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) conducts research on how to make a balloon stationary, not remotely control it.

During a closed-door briefing by lawmakers from the House Armed Services Committee, the Pentagon said China has been spying with balloons on five continents for years. As far as the US is concerned, Chinese spy balloons have already flown over Texas, Florida, Hawaii and Guam, says the Washington Post. Commander-in-chief of NorthCom and Norad Gen. Glen Vanherck said several such incursions had taken place during Trump’s tenure, but the military had not detected them. They were only known later. The US armed forces are aware they’re late in this area and now have appropriate means of control. Leaving the balloon adrift made it possible to observe its mode of operation and monitor its communications.

Top national security officials in the Trump administration have each denied hearing of Chinese spy balloon incursions while on duty. Former President Donald Trump said on his social network that China would never have committed such incursions during his term because it had too much regard for him.

Following the balloon incident, the State Department canceled Antony Blinken’s visit to Beijing because it considers that a trip by the Secretary of State is not intended to improve diplomatic relations with a country, but to "do it a favor".

**Foreign editions**

Voltaire, international news is now published in six languages:
- Dutch
- English
- French
- Italian
- German
- Spanish

**US Justice at Ukraine’s service**

The US seized $4.5 million worth of assets of Russian oligarch Konstantin Malofeev for circumventing the embargo. The Department of Justice indicated that they should be returned to Ukraine. In principle, seizures under US law are
not intended for a foreign state, but for US taxpayers.
Konstantin Malofeev is an Orthodox financier
who sent mercenaries to Donbass in 2014-15.
He was harshly rebuked by the Kremlin and
forced to withdraw them. He shares his spiritual
adviser Bishop Tikhon Shevkunov with
President Vladimir Putin.

**Republican Retaliation in Congress**

Using his privilege, House Speaker Kevin
McCarthy banned Democrats Adam B. Schiff
(California) and Eric Swalwell (California) from
serving on the Intelligence Committee.
Republican Majority banned Democrat Ilhan
Omar (Minnesota) from serving on the Foreign
Affairs Committee’s subcommittees. It blames
her for her "anti-Israel and anti-Semitic
statements." These are retaliatory measures after
the removal of Republican representatives
during the previous session of Congress.

**Republicans oppose gas stove ban**
The Department of Energy proposes efficiency
standards for gas and/or electric cooktops, but
no ban for the moment.
Democratic Senator Joe Manchin III (West
Virginia) kicked off his first hearing as chairman
of the Senate Energy Committee by bringing
the debate over natural gas stoves to the
forefront.
Republican Senator Ted Cruz (Texas) has
introduced legislation to protect gas stoves.
Florida’s Republican governor Ron DeSantis
has proposed banning federal taxes on gas
stoves.

**Brian Deese leaves the White House**

Director of the National Economic Council
Brian Deese has stepped down. He played a
central role at the COP 2015 and was
considered the true author of the Paris Climate
Agreement. He then carried the same fight
within the investment fund BlackRock, leading it
to no longer invest in fossil fuels. According to
his interlocutors, Brian Deese presents the low-
carbon economy either as an ecological
necessity or as a step forward in terms of
capitalist competitiveness.

**Americans negatively judge the impact of
the Biden administration**

According to the Monmouth University Polling
Institute, 59% of Americans say the current
government in Washington is having a negative
impact on most people’s lives. Overall, only 16%
of the public say Washington has a positive
impact and 22% say it has little impact anyway.
(Cf. Question n°19)

**Democrats no longer support a new
Biden candidacy**

According to a poll by NORC Center for Public
Affairs Research/Associated Press, Democrats
voters no longer support the idea of President
Biden being re-elected. They were 57% in favor
before the mid-term general elections, they are
now only 37%.

**Strange SOTU address**

President Joe Biden delivered the annual State
of the Union address. At no point did he refer to
al-Qaeda, ISIS, Iran or North Korea, official
enemies of the US. On the contrary, he praised
his policies and attacked his opposition. For the
first time, the president was interrupted by
people shouting "It's your fault!" and "Liar!"

**Pro-Israel US lawmakers warn against
Benjamin Netanyahu’s policies**

Three Democrat Representatives are sounding
the alarm about Israel’s development. Former
chairman of the House Judiciary Committee
Rep. Jerry Nadler (New York) wrote in Haaretz
that Benjamin Netanyahu’s judicial overhaul
would undermine the values that underpin U.S.-
Israel relations. Staunch supporter of Israel Rep. Brad Sherman of California warned of the damage to the country’s position among Democrats. Finally, Senator Peter Welch (Vermont) warned against the Netanyahu government challenging democracy.

**CIA predicts Israeli-Palestinian conflict**

Speaking to students at Georgetown University in Washington, CIA Director William Burns predicted a future conflict in Israel.

**Former Twitter executives deny receiving orders from FBI**

Twitter’s former general counsel Vijaya Gadde, former deputy general counsel James Baker and former chief security officer Yoel Roth were heard by the House Oversight and Accountability Committee. They denied outright censoring posts about Hunter Biden’s computer at the behest of the FBI, despite documents to the contrary.

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**EUROPE**

**Pope Francis’ meeting with Presidents Zelensky and Putin postponed**

On his return from Africa, Pope Francis said he was ready for a meeting with Ukrainian and Russian Presidents Volodymyr Zelensky and Vladimir Poutine. Secretary of the Holy See for Relations with States British Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher said the Pope would only meet Russian Patriarch Kirill I in a peaceful situation, without war interference.

**Russia Today ceases operations in France and Germany**

RT TV channel, which has already been banned in both Germany and France, has announced that it is permanently ceasing its activities in both countries. Censorship of Russian media in the West began before the Russian military intervention in Ukraine in order to be certain that the Western public would not hear the Russian point of view on this war.

**Nord Stream was destroyed by the USA with a little help from Norway**

US investigative journalist Seymour Hersh, famous for exposing the My Lai massacre in Vietnam, the acts of torture in Abu Ghraib or the fake sarin gas attack in Syria has just revealed how the Nord Stream gas pipelines were sabotaged.

US Navy divers planted explosives under the Nord Stream pipelines last summer (during NATO's "Operation Baltops 22", June 5-17, 2022) which the Norwegians activated three months later on September 26, by dropping a buoy from an aircraft that blew them up.

The operation was led by National Security Advisor Jacob Sullivan, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland. These three characters are Strausians, part of the very small circle of disciples of the philosopher Leo Strauss. The planning of the operation began in December 2021 i.e., two months before the Russian military intervention in Ukraine pursuant to Security Council Resolution 2202 (presented as an "invasion" by NATO propaganda).

On February 7, 2022, while receiving German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, President Joe Biden declared: "If Russia invades... there will be no more Nord Stream 2. We will put an end to it."

In June 2022 the Norwegian Parliament adopted a military agreement with the US granting them the right of unlimited access and use in four areas of its territory.

The operation was executed by the U.S. Navy in such a way that it would not have to report to Congress, while the Special Forces Command (SoCom) is forced to do so.

This sabotage is the most serious terrorist act committed since World War II. The victims are
the owners of the pipelines, Russian-German-Dutch-French company Nord Stream AG domiciliated in Switzerland. The impact of this sabotage has ravaged EU’s economy, causing a staggering rise in energy prices and chain bankruptcies.

**EU bans the purchase of Russian oil**

The EU has banned Western shipping and insurance companies from financing, insuring, trading or transporting Russian crude or refined petroleum products unless they were purchased at or below the set ceiling price of $60 per barrel.

Before the war, the EU imported 1 million barrels per day from Russia. It continues to buy Russian liquefied gas (LNG).

However, there are three temporary exceptions. The first for contracts concluded before 5 February 2023, on the understanding that importers will only have 55 days for delivery in the EU. The second is for imports of crude oil by pipeline into Member States which, due to their geographical location, are dependent on Russian supplies and have no viable alternative. The third is for Bulgaria’s purchase by boat.

The EU hopes to deprive Russia of €160 million per day in revenue. However, so far, after having severely disrupted the Russian economy during the first two months, Western "sanctions" have largely benefited him.

In recent months India has imported the surplus Russian oil and refined it, making it impossible to determine its origin and then exported it to the EU and the US to replenish its strategic stocks. In addition, Russia has acquired a hundred ghost cargo ships i.e., those registered abroad which can be used to transfer oil at sea into tankers authorised for delivery in the EU. However, it won’t be possible to evaluate the consequences of the latest European measures because the Kremlin has decided to classify its economic statistics.

As a reminder, EU measures are not "sanctions" in International Law but "unilateral coercive measures" (UCM) contrary to the UN Charter and the two Additional Protocols. They undoubtedly violate UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/77/214 adopted on 15 December 2022.

**EU sets aside €1 billion for Ukraine’s reconstruction**

The EU, which has already given around €50 billion to Ukraine announced at the Kyiv summit that it would set aside an additional €1 billion for its rapid reconstruction.

**EU plans to ban renting poorly insulated buildings**

The European Commission is working on a rental ban of buildings that do not meet its insulation standards by 2030. If this provision were adopted, one third of the assets currently leased would no longer be usable. In addition to ruining many landlords, it would cause a very serious housing crisis.
Accusation of organ trafficking in Moldova and Ukraine

A Moldovan source accuses former oligarch Vladimir Plahotniuc of organizing organ trafficking from the clinics he still owns. Various witnesses testify that many seriously injured Ukrainians go to these institutions. Vladimir Plahotniuc (known as "the puppeteer" according to the nickname given to him by Prime Minister Vlad Filat) fled Moldova in 2019 after the current President Maia Sandu denounced to Justice his system of blackmailing a large number of politicians. He is now a refugee in the Turkish-occupied part of Cyprus. He is currently on trial in absentia in Chisinau for forming a criminal organization and stealing more than $1 billion from the Moldovan state.

Already 19 million books removed from Ukrainian libraries

Announcing a meeting with relevant bodies, Chair of the Subcommittee on Information Policy and European Integration of the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada Yevheniya Kravchuk said that 19 million books had already been removed from Ukrainian libraries last November.

Of these, 11 million were destroyed because they were signed by Russian authors of all eras. This program, which began in June 2022 aims to destroy 100 million books related to Russian culture. So, this is just the beginning.

This is the largest censorship program since World War II.

Ukrainian families worried about their men

According to Russian diplomat Dmitry Polyanskiy, families of Ukrainian soldiers taken prisoner by Russia are asking they not be exchanged. Indeed, as soon as they are released, they are sent back to the front where they would be considered cannon fodder.

CIA peace plan in Ukraine

According to the Washington Post, CIA Director William Burns made a secret trip to Kyiv in January. According to the Swiss-German daily Neue Zürcher Zeitung, he also went to Moscow. Citing German diplomats, the NZZ assures that Burns has proposed a peace plan to recognize the accession of Donbass to the Russian Federation but not that of Novorossiya. The Biden administration has denied the Swiss imputations that everything leads to believe.

Former US ambassador to Moscow William Burns is an opponent of the Sullivan/Blinken/Nuland Straussians.

Ukraine declares PMC Wagner a "criminal organization"

On 6 February, the Verkhovna Rada designated the private military company Wagner as a "criminal organisation".

The US Treasury Department had already done so on January 26, following the trip of CIA Director William Burns to Libya. From now on, working with Wagner is subject to US unilateral coercive measures (described as "sanctions" by Atlanticist propaganda). This system is gradually being extended to the entire West.

Use of chemical weapons by a Ukrainian unit

A Ukrainian unit dropped chemical weapons by drones on February 5th and 6th on the front line of Soledar and Artemovsk. It is not possible to say at this stage whether the use of these prohibited weapons is a decision of the Kyiv General Staff or an initiative of this unit precisely.

Donbass authorities have not yet identified the agent used. Adviser to the head of the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR) Yan Gagin told TASS that the victims suffered from "severe dizziness, nausea and vomiting."
Vladimir Putin denounces German support for Ukronazis

Speaking on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Stalingrad, President Vladimir Putin said: "Now, unfortunately, we see that the ideology of Nazism in its modern appearance, in its modern manifestation, again poses direct threats to the security of our country. Again and again, we are forced to repel the aggression of the West as a whole. It's incredible but true, we are again threatened by German Leopard tanks with a cross on their armor, still on the territory of Ukraine, Russia."

Patriarch Kirill I was an informant of the USSR

According to the Zurich daily Tages-Anzeiger citing Soviet archives, current Orthodox Patriarch of Moscow Kirill I briefed the Soviet KGB on the activities of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Geneva in the 1970s and 80s. This Council was created in the aftermath of World War II by the sect “The Family” created by Abraham Vereide to which the main generals of the Pentagon belonged. The aim was to highlight the religious character of the Atlantic forces in the face of the atheist nature of the Soviet Union. However, the Russian Orthodox Church participated in this Council because Joseph Stalin had reconciled with it to defend the fatherland during the Nazi attack. Contrary to an anachronistic image, there was no longer any religious persecution in the USSR. All the priests under the Moscow Patriarchate, whether they resided in the country or not had become employees of the Soviet state. Some of the members of the WCC did not know this.

Follow-up to the Russian investigation into US biological labs in Ukraine

The Russian Defense Ministry continues its investigation into US civil-military laboratories in Ukraine and around the world. General Igor Kirillov said he had identified several leaders of this secret program: Executive Director of Labyrinth Global Health and former head of Metabiota programs in Central Africa Karen Saylors. Since 2016, she has been working as a senior consultant for the U-P10 project studying the transmission pathways of African swine flu in Ukraine. Colleen Johnson is an associate at the University of Tennessee and director of the Host-Pathogen System Research Institute. She led the UP8 project to study the distribution areas of the Crimean-Congo fever pathogen and hantavirus in Ukraine. Johnson led the process of collecting biological samples from Ukrainian soldiers and liaised between U.S. contractors and the Ministry of Health’s public health center in Ukraine. Lewis von Taher is president and director of Battelle, a major contractor to the Pentagon and the Department of Energy. Since 2003, the company has supervised research projects related to zoonotic infections in Ukraine. According to the Russian Ministry of Defense, the US public-private partnerships allow the client, the Pentagon, to deny that it is conducting the entire program. During the Cold War, the biological research of the US army was carried out by the Navy. It had set up numerous labs abroad to sample, study and select various viruses. In 1977, the U.S. Navy Biological Warfare Laboratory in Cairo leaked the Rift Valley fever virus, causing a severe epidemic. The virus had been altered and the disease had become severe. The laboratory was moved. In 2010, the US Navy Biomedical Center in Jakarta was suspended due to a "conflict of interest" and numerous irregularities. The U.S. carried out work at this facility outside of the agreed research program, taking unauthorized biological samples and refusing to inform the Indonesian government of the purpose of the
US resumes New START disarmament negotiations with Russia

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov resumed negotiations on updating the New START Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with U.S. Ambassador to Moscow Lynne Tracy. If U.S. armaments have not evolved since the Treaty was signed, Russia has acquired all kinds of new nuclear weapons that do not fit into the current framework.

AFRICA

Tunisian justice wants to get to the truth about 2013 killings

The Tunisian Ministry of Justice has set up a special commission, under direct orders of Minister Leila Jaffal, to shed light on the assassinations of Choukri Bilaid and Boubaker El Hakim.

President Kais Saied sacks his foreign minister

Tunisian Foreign Minister Othman Jerandi was immediately sacked by President Kais Saied for calling his Syrian counterpart Faisal Mekdad and expressing sympathy after the earthquake in his country. A provocation vis-à-vis the United States.

Mali cleans up

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov visited Bamako to meet with Chairman of the Transitional Government Colonel Assimi Goita.

He is the first Russian official of this rank to travel to Mali.

The transitional government has given the head of MINUSMA 48 hours to leave the country. It accuses him of being biased in selecting the representatives of civil society who were heard by the United Nations Security Council.

The transitional government has banned German MINUSMA soldiers from flying drones on its territory. Since October, it has been demanding access to all the images taken by these machines. An agreement seemed to have been reached, but Berlin stubbornly refused to hand over these recordings.

Sergey Lavrov beats the EU in Sudan

The EU ambassadors who visited Sudan, as planned well in advance, were stunned to meet Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

Three Christian hierarchs in South Sudan

Pope Francis, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Global Leader of the Anglican Communion Justin Welby and Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland Iain Greenshields visited Congo and South Sudan.

The three men denounced tribalism and corruption. They called for peace. Tribal violence is certainly a scourge, but to equate tribalism with a fault or a sin is to condemn a type of political organization.

Does Uganda practice or punish torture?

Uganda will not renew the mandate of the UN Human Rights Office in the country. Complaints are regularly filed about cases of arbitrary detention and torture. However, the government of President Yoweri Museveni argues that it is fighting against these practices. Thus he prosecuted hundreds of people for acts of torture, which was recognized by the United Nations.

DRC expels Rwandan soldiers from EACRF

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has announced the departure of Rwandan soldiers from the multinational force. "Considering on the one hand the anti-EACRF [East African Regional Force] demonstrations and on the other hand, the negative perception that is
developing in popular opinion towards Rwanda, it follows that the safety of the three officers [of the Rwanda Defence Forces, RDF] is no longer guaranteed," said Congolese Chief of Staff General Christian Tshiwewe Songesha.

In addition, the mediation between the various Congolese parties, scheduled for Qatar, on 23 January was cancelled.

ASIA

Netanyahu administration promotes illegal settlements

Commander of Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank General Avi Bluth distributed a book to his officers: Ours in Tabu: The Secrets of Land Redeemers from Our Father Abraham to the Young Settlements. It presents as a divine will the purchase of Palestinian land by Jews from Abraham to illegal settlements.

56 economists against Benjamin Netanyahu’s program

56 world-renowned economists including 11 Nobel Prize winners have published an open letter that reads: "The governing coalition in Israel is considering an array of legislative acts that would weaken the independence of the judiciary and its power to constrain governmental actions. Numerous Israeli economists, in an open letter that some of us joined, expressed concerns that such a reform would adversely affect the Israeli economy by weakening the rule of law and thereby moving Israel in the direction of Hungary and Poland."

France tries to reorganize Lebanon to its advantage

Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the US, France and Qatar met in Paris to discuss the future of Lebanon "free from any foreign influence" (sic). France presented the candidacy of General Joseph Aoun for the presidency of the Republic and that of Ambassador Nawaf Salam for the post of Prime Minister without succeeding in getting Saudi Arabia to decide.

Governor Riad Salamé running for his own succession at the head of the Lebanese Central Bank

Outgoing Prime Minister Najib Mikati and President of the National Assembly Nabih Berri are maneuvering to reappoint governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon Riad Salamé. The latter, under international investigations for embezzlement of money in an organized gang, has been at the helm of the Lebanese economy for nearly 30 years with the catastrophic results that we know.

Syria, Russia reaffirm opposition to chemical weapons

Russian and Syrian Foreign Ministers Sergei Lavrov and Faisal Mekdad issued a joint statement in which they said: "Russia and Syria reaffirm the categorical inadmissibility of the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere and under any pretext."

The two countries intended to respond once again to accusations of the use of chlorine bombs in Douma in 2018, after the publication of a report by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), followed by a joint statement by the UK, the US, France and Germany. It should be remembered that since the modification of its statutes at the instigation of France, the OPCW is no longer a neutral body.

US “sanctions” prohibit aid to Syrian earthquake victims

President Bashar al-Assad called his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin to thank him for Russia’s help to the Syrian people after the earthquake that hit it so hard. Russia brought in a lot of equipment and sent 300 soldiers and 60 military engineering units to pull survivors out of the rubble. Only fifteen other countries have...
sent relief to the Syrians (Algeria, China, Egypt, Germany, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, New Zealand, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates). Some others sent their condolences (Armenia, Venezuela...) without having the possibility of sending emergency aid. Generally speaking, while there is a bidding war to help the victims of the earthquake in Turkey, few want to help the Syrian victims at the risk of defying the US. The "unilateral coercive measures" (UCM) of the US ("Caesar" act), falsely presented as legal "sanctions", de facto prohibit the sending of medicines and the dispatch of civil engineering assistance immediately essential to fight against the consequences of earthquakes. These measures do not apply to the governorate of Idleb, occupied by the jihadists.

US State Department spokesman Ned Price said using an earthquake as an opportunity to reach out to the "Syrian regime" would be "ironic."

Türkiye exports US equipment to Russia

According to the Wall Street Journal, 15 Turkish companies export $18.5 million worth of equipment purchased in the US to a dozen Russian companies subject to US unilateral coercive measures (described as "sanctions" by Atlanticist propaganda).

Biden administration fails to force Türkiye to enforce 'sanctions' against Russia

US Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Brian Nelson led a delegation to Ankara. He pressured Türkiye to stop trading with Russia at least as far as US equipment is concerned. US unilateral coercive measures are only effective if all its allies implement them. However, the publication of Israeli figures of Ukrainian casualties by the Turkish press thwarted the US attempt

Sadat Peker postpones his revelations

Turkish mafia boss Sadat Peker, now a refugee in the UAE said he would not make his revelations until after the Turkish general election. He had previously declared that he would make them two months before these elections. Sadat Peker made headlines in 2021 by accusing the sons of former Interior Minister Mehmet Agar and of former Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım of raping and murdering a Kazakh student. He also revealed that the SADAT company belonging to adviser to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan General Adnan Tanrıverdi had been used by the government to send weapons to the jihadists in Syria.

Tehran reminds Paris that it gave Israel the nuclear bomb

Iran’s Foreign Ministry slammed French President Emmanuel Macron for saying that "the continuation of Iran’s nuclear project (...) will inevitably have consequences." He recalled that more than forty years ago his country gave up acquiring nuclear weapons and questioned the French president about the historic role of his country. "The French side should inform the world about how the terrorist Zionist state obtained its nuclear weapons, instead of superficially expressing his concerns about Iran’s peaceful nuclear activities."

It was indeed senior French officials of the Fourth Republic who exported their scientists’ know-how to Israel during the construction of the Dimona power plant.

Mohammad Khatami returns to duty

Former Iranian President Mohammad Khatami noticed the widespread discontent of his people and called for forcing the state through non-violent means to change its approach and initiate reforms. Mohamed Khatami met George Soros in the US before the 2009 color revolution against President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.
Attacks on military bases in Iran

At the end of January 2023, unidentified drones caused a succession of explosions in Iranian military bases, including Isfahan. The authorities have downplayed the facts.

Imran Khan tries to discredit Pakistani justice

Former Prime Minister Imran Khan called on his supporters to fill the prisons. 500 members of his party gathered in front of each prison and asked to be locked up. The goal is to discredit the penal and judicial system that arrested collaborators of Mr. Khan.

Imran Khan was overthrown by Parliament in the first effective censure motion in Pakistan’s history. However, the new government did not call new elections. It does not seem capable of keeping its promises and solving citizens’ problems. Instead, it now consists of 78 ministers, 30 of whom are without portfolio.

India has two aircraft carriers

India is preparing to launch its second aircraft carrier INS Vikram Aditya. Unlike its first Indian-made INS Vikrant, this one is a completely refurbished and modernized former Soviet ship (the Baku).

Philippines accepts to host four new US military bases

Secretary of Defense Gen. Lloyd Austin has reached an agreement with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to host four new US military bases.

China’s balloon strategy

The Chinese People’s Liberation Army has extensively studied the military use of weather balloons, relying on traditional use of kite flying. According to the bimonthly journal Aerospace Electronic Warfare, published by China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp.’s Institute 8511, balloons can be used to monitor the layer of atmosphere below them; that is, to visualize drones that are not necessarily seen from the ground. If you place jammers in the balloon, you can then jam the signals from the satellites with which you operate the drones. According to a 2009 report by China’s National Defense University, balloons can be used for "psychological attack" in ways that create long-term anxiety.

According to a 2013 Chinese military report, balloons can counter U.S. reconnaissance drones, including the Air Force’s long-range Global Hawk and Stealth Sentinel.

According to a 2020 report by four technicians from the Aerospace Information Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, balloons are much cheaper and durable than satellites.

Trial of pro-Western protest leaders in Hong Kong

47 leaders of the 2019-20 protests against the amendment of the extradition law will be tried over the next three months in Hong Kong. Their movement was inspired by the "Umbrella Revolution" of 2014 and the "Fishball Revolution" of 2016 organized by the US, the UK and France. The amendment in question aimed to control the Triads (mafia) and the hundred billionaires of the city. It has been misinterpreted as a takeover of the population in the context of accusations that Beijing has interned 1 million Uighurs.

Some of the defendants face life in prison. Hong Kong’s population, although ethnically Chinese, is rather culturally British.

China supports Russian defense industry

According to the Center for Advanced Defense Studies (C4ADS), China exports to Russia the electronic parts needed for its military industry. De facto, Moscow immediately replaces the weapons destroyed in Ukraine despite US
unilateral coercive measures (described as "sanctions" by Atlanticist propaganda).

OCEANIA

US strategy in Ukraine and Taiwan

Speaking before the US Committee for the Republic, former director of the Chinese service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Australian diplomat John Lander detailed how the US is involving Australia in the proxy war it is planning against China. According to him, AUKUS quickly turned out to be not a defensive alliance but a trap. Washington is weakening Russia in Ukraine to the detriment of the EU and is trying to do the same with China in Taiwan to the detriment of Australia and Japan.
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- Les forces d’opérations spéciales: établir des partenariats mondiaux, Emily Spencer, Académie canadienne de la Défense
- Special operations forces: building global partnerships, Emily Spencer, Canadian Defence Academy

The Scylla and Charybdis of strategic leadership, J.R. McKay, Canadian Defence Academy
AMERICAS

How the FBI Spread the Myth of "Russian Disinformation"

In its first session, the House Subcommittee on the Federal Government’s Militarization heard from Republican Senator Charles E. Grassley (Iowa). He testified that when he chaired the Senate Finance Committee in 2019, he sent the FBI a request for documents on a suspicious transaction involving the Biden family. The FBI immediately came to brief him on "Russian disinformation." Then, a leak was organized to make believe that his request was the result of this disinformation.

Twitter and physician censorship

During the hearing of former Twitter executives in Congress, Republican Representative Nancy Mace (South Carolina) was outraged that they were able to censor information on Covid from reputable specialists, graduates of Stanford and Harvard universities. None of these Twitter executives went to medical school.

Beginning of the parliamentary inquiry into the Biden family

Representative James Comer (Kentucky) in his capacity as chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform wrote to Hunter Biden (the president’s son), James Biden (the president’s
brother) and Eric Schwerin (a Hunter Biden associate). He asked them for a long list of bank documents. Hunter Biden’s lawyer Abbe Lowell refused to share them and offered to discuss with the members of the committee what material would really be useful to them in their parliamentary work.

**US economic figures**

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the Biden administration and the Democratic majority increased the US federal deficit of $3.1 trillion in 2021-22.

Inflation will be 3.8% this year, down from 6.3% last year, but still nearly double the Federal Reserve’s 2% target.

The unemployment rate will rise from 3.6% to 4.7% this year and reach 4.9% in 2024.

**Sequel to "Chinese spy balloons"**

The US and Canada shot down three new unidentified objects over their airspace. To this day, it is not known what these objects were.

**NED vs. Republican Media**

The Global Disinformation Index, an NGO funded by the National Endowment for Democracy and George Soros’ network, circulates a blacklist of US mainstream media outlets on which it is not advisable to place ads. The list includes Republican media outlets accused of being "purveyors of disinformation."

**For Democrat Ocasio-Cortez, loving your enemies is fascist**

Two Christian ads ran during the Super Bowl. The second, "Love Your Enemies," featured black-and-white photos of people clashing in protests with the caption "Jesus loved the people we hate." Democratic Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez saw it as a "fascist" ad.

**New Democratic Senator Against Benjamin Netanyahu’s Policy**

Democratic Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois, chairman of the US Senate Judiciary Committee and a longtime supporter of Israel, said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "dangerously places his own narrow political and legal interests — and those of the troubling extremists in his coalition — ahead of the long-term interests and needs of Israeli democracy."

**Nikki Haley is running for president in 2024**

President Donald Trump’s former ambassador to the United Nations and former governor of South Carolina Nikki Haley has announced that she will run for president in 2024. Her first proposal is to set up a capacity test for all elected officials. 80 years old President Biden multiplies the gaffes and the gross mistakes on a daily basis, to the point that a television channel devotes a weekly program to it.

**Joe Biden in Poland**

President Biden will travel to Poland from February 20th to 22nd. He will meet the Heads of State and Government of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia... and Ukraine.

**David Malpass leaves the World Bank**

World Bank Director David Malpass has announced that he will not seek re-election. He was pleased to have achieved results in several developing countries including Afghanistan, which the Afghans did not notice. David Malpass is notoriously a climate skeptic. He is accused by Democrats including former US Vice President Al-Gore, of supporting fossil fuel producers.
**Nicaragua deports 200 ‘traitors’ to US**

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega freed 200 "traitors to the homeland" and deported them to the US. According to the *New York Times*, this gesture of "goodwill" could lead Washington to tone down some of the unilateral coercive measures it has taken against the country. Catholic bishop Roland Alvarez who refused to fly to the US was sentenced to 26 years in prison.

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**EUROPE**

**Resignation of Nicola Sturgeon**

Scottish Prime Minister and leader of the Scottish National Party Nicola Sturgeon shocked both her colleagues and observers alike by announcing on 15th February that she would resign as soon as her successor had been chosen. There is no reason for that. The press linked the resignation to the controversy surrounding the gender law that had been censored by the British Parliament. Ms. Sturgeon had considered that a rapist who had identified with the female gender should be transferred from one prison for men to another for women.

As shocking as this affair is for some Scots, it cannot explain this resignation.

**Anti-parliamentary French parliamentarians**

During the debate on the pension reform, three women deputies of the *National Rally* party (conservative nationalists) were notified by phone that one of their children was hospitalized. The purpose of these prank calls was to cause them to be absent from the Chamber when their presence was required to examine the referendum motion they co-signed. Subsequently, deputy of *La France insoumise* (radical Left) Thomas Porcher was photographed with his foot proudly placed on a balloon illustrated with a reproduction of the head of minister in charge of pension reform Olivier Dussopt. He refused to apologize and was expelled from the National Assembly for 15 days.

**French government’s pension reform project becomes incoherent**

While demonstrations of more than a million people follow one another, the government of Elisabeth Borne continues to amend its pension reform project to the point that it has become incoherent. People who started working at 16 will not have the benefits granted to those who started at 17 and 18. The announcement of a minimum pension of €1,200 per month, which was to concern more than 1.2 million pensioners, will only benefit 40,000 of them.

**Hollywood and the French military**

French Defense Minister Sébastien Lecornu has sharply criticized a blockbuster movie depicting abuses by French military in Africa. A French minister (other than Mr. Lecornu) must answer for their actions before the United Nations. The Ministry of Defense is all the more uncomfortable because it is not a Russian movie but an American one, the blockbuster from Marvel Studios *Black Panther : Wakanda Forever*.

**France fears Russian invasion of Ukraine through Belarus**

The French Foreign Minister issued the following statement: "In the context of Russia’s armed offensive against Ukraine and the closure of Belarusian airspace, any travel to Belarus is formally discouraged. French nationals in Belarus are invited to leave the country without delay by road, via border crossing points with Lithuania, Poland or Latvia."

**Another EU MEP in pre-trial detention**

Belgian Socialist MEP Marc Tarabella, who had been denounced by his colleague Pier Antonio
Panzeri and whose parliamentary immunity had been lifted by his Assembly, was arrested and imprisoned as part of the corruption investigation in the European Parliament.

**Church of England allows blessings for same-sex couples**

The Church of England National Assembly has allowed its priests to bless same-sex marriages and civil partnerships, while continuing to ban religious marriages for the same couples. The bishops proposed the compromise measure after five years of discussions over the Church’s position on sexuality. It was approved by the Church’s General Synod, made up of bishops, clergy and laity from across the country after eight hours of debate that spanned two days at a meeting in London.

Eastern Churches’ first Christians blessed homosexual couples (Adelphopoiesis).

**Publication of Munich Security Conference 2023 report**

The Munich Security Conference (MSC) sent its annual report to all its guests ahead of its meeting on 17-19 February. The US wants to turn the MSC into an internal meeting of the Western camp, while the Europeans want it to remain a forum for reflection where everyone can express their point of view rather than relaying Washington’s speech.

**Romania denies Volodymyr Zelensky’s allegations**

Ukraine’s Defense Ministry claimed that two Russian missiles entered Romanian airspace, causing the first Russian violation of NATO airspace. However, the Romanian Ministry of Defense denied these allegations: "The air surveillance system of the Romanian Air Force detected on Friday, February 10 an air target launched from the Black Sea from a ship of the Russian Federation, near the Crimean peninsula, most likely a cruise missile, which evolved in the airspace of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and returned to Ukrainian airspace without crossing the airspace of Romania at any time”.

Regardless, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has maintained his version of events.

**Ukraine presents possible liberation of Transnistria as an attack on Moldova**

Last week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky revealed that his intelligence services had intercepted Russian plans to destroy Moldova. Moldova confirmed these allegations. Moldovan President Maia Sandu said Russia planned to attack government buildings, take hostages and put the nation "at its disposal" to prevent it from joining the EU. Moldova was granted EU candidate status last June, on the same day as Ukraine.

Since Russia extended its operation to Novorossiya it has made no secret of wanting to also take Odessa and join Transnistria which, according to the Moldovan government, is a rebellious Moldovan province.

**Weapons seized by NATO around the world are now channeled to Ukraine**

The large arms shipments seized by NATO in various parts of the world are no longer destroyed by the US but transported to Poland for transfer to Ukraine. This is the case of the 3,000 Chinese assault rifles type 56-1, the VPO-158N-06 carbine, machine guns and their more than half a million rounds of ammunition, as well as 23 anti-tank systems seized by the French Navy in the Gulf of Oman bound for the Houthis in Yemen. They were transported to Rzeszow (Poland) via the Al Dhafra base (United Arab Emirates).
Elon Musk restricts the Ukrainian army use of Starlink

Elon Musk has restricted the use of Starlink by the Ukrainian military so that it cannot fly drones.

Russia allows saying that it has invaded Ukraine, if...

Invited by the Russian delegation to address the UN Security Council, Pink Floyd co-founder, singer and anti-war activist Roger Waters denounced both the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the responsibility of those who provoked it.

NATO coordinates its satellite systems

17 out of 30 NATO defense ministers (Belgium, Bulgaria, Hungary, Germany, Greece, Spain, Italy, Canada, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Türkiye, France and the UK) and Sweden have created a joint satellite intelligence network. The signatories will "explore: the potential for sharing data from national monitoring satellites; data processing, exploitation and dissemination within national capacities; and funding to purchase data from commercial companies." It will be operational from 2025.

NATO becomes a coalition of the willing

Defense Ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization met in Brussels to sign an Amending Convention of the Alliance’s Statute. From now on, NATO will be able to go to war outside Article 5 i.e., without one of its members being attacked, and no longer unanimously, but by majority. The aim is to make the Organization a "coalition of the willing à la carte". In the line of fire: Russia and China. In practice, this was already the case since the attack on Libya. But at the time NATO acted in violation of its own statutes.

NATO Coordination Centre kept away from Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria

The Euro-Atlantic Coordination Centre (NATO) has only been asked by Iceland and Azerbaijan to deliver aid to Türkiye. On the other hand, the European Civil Protection Mechanism (attached to the European Commission by ECHO) coordinated the aid of about twenty States to Türkiye, but not to Syria.

According to the SVR, the Pentagon recruits Asian and Caucasian jihadists

In a statement issued on February 13, the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation (SVR) accused the Pentagon of recruiting members of jihadist groups affiliated with Daesh and al-Qaeda to "commit terrorist attacks in Russia and the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] countries."

60 jihadists "from the North Caucasus and Central Asia" would undergo "accelerated training at the US military base of al-Tanf in Syria".

Russians now also save in UAE currency

The distribution of Russian savings is 45% in rubles, 25% in reserve currencies (dollar and euro), 25% in yuan and 5% in United Arab Emirates dirhams.

AFRICA

Tunisia continues the judicialization of the Muslim Brotherhood

Tunisian police have arrested construction tycoon Kamel Eltaief, a former confidant of ousted President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali who has moved closer to the Islamists. He is accused of "conspiracy against State Security". Eltaief was involved in the 1987 coup that ousted former President Habib Bourguiba from power for "medical reasons." He is said to have led a shadow government until his fall in 1992.
He had already been arrested in 2012, then released on the intervention of the Muslim Brotherhood.

As part of the same investigation, Tunisian police also arrested Abdelhamid Jelassi, a senior member of the Islamic Ennahda party; and Khayam Turki, a former leader of the Ettakatol Social Democratic Party; Noureddine Bhiri, a leader of Tunisia’s Islamic Ennahda party; and Noureddine Boutar, director of main private radio station Mosaique FM.

**Algerian army works with Russian counterpart**

According to *Algeria Part*, the Algerian army conducted exercises with its Russian counterpart in the Bechar region. Algiers cancelled the publicly announced exercises for November 2023 and replaced them with these secret drills in January-February 2023. Algiers is the only African state to have participated in the “Vostok 2022” military drills in September 2022 in Siberia, then to have let the Russian Navy dock in the port of Algiers in October 2022.

**What Sergey Lavrov negotiated in Sudan**

The Sudanese transitional government clarified the terms of the agreement with Russia envisioned in November 2020. Russia will have a small military naval base on the Red Sea that will only be able to accommodate four buildings and 300 soldiers on a permanent basis. Negotiated by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov while EU ambassadors were present on the ground, this agreement still needs to be ratified by an elected assembly once the civilian government is in place.

**Malawi drops charges against Martha Chizuma**

Malawi has dropped criminal charges against Director General of the Anti-Corruption Bureau Martha Chizuma. She implicated two senior officials who then filed a complaint against her for defamation. Washington intervened on her behalf.

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**Foreign editions**

*Voltaire, international news* is now published in six languages:
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- English
- French
- Italian
- German
- Spanish

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**ASIA**

**The policy of Benjamin Netanyahu’s coalition**

The security cabinet approved the immediate legalization of nine settlement outposts in the West Bank on 12 February and began processes to legalize additional settlements. National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Defense Minister Bezalel Smotrich called for 77 of them to be legalized. The cabinet also decided on a series of security measures including strengthening Border Police presence in Jerusalem and intensifying police operations against incitement and support for terrorism.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rallied to the security establishment’s position not to impose closures or resort to collective punishment. The governing coalition will submit for approval to the Knesset a bill that would strip anyone involved in terrorist attacks and approve the expulsion of terrorists, and finally, if they have Israeli citizenship, deprive their families of their citizenship.
Israeli protest against Benjamin Netanyahu’s coalition

Protests in Israel have been going on for six weeks. Israeli Arabs, who until then had not taken sides, began to join the movement of Israeli Jews. According to the demonstrators, the reform of the judicial system would mark the end of the balance of power in a country whose organization is not fixed by a constitution but by 12 fundamental laws.

President Isaac Herzog intervened urgently on TV on 12 February to propose mediation. 80,000 to 100,000 Israeli citizens demonstrated in front of the Knesset on February 13, 2023. It would be the sixth largest demonstration in Israel’s history.

Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai stressed that when a regime becomes dictatorial, it can only end in bloodshed.

Meanwhile, inside the Knesset, the Law Committee passed two bills. The first prevents the Supreme Court from blocking amendments to the country’s fundamental laws, the second changes the composition of the judicial selection panel. The extremely heated session was chaired by Simcha Rothman (religious Zionist party).

Arab League condemns Benjamin Netanyahu’s coalition policy

A meeting in Cairo on February 12 by the Arab League brought together Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, King Abdullah II of Jordan and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, as well as numerous foreign ministers and senior officials.

Speakers condemned Israel’s unilateral actions in Jerusalem and the West Bank, including house demolitions and settlement expansion. They also condemned visits by Israeli officials to the city’s disputed holy site, sacred to both Jews and Muslims. Finally, they expressed support for Jordan’s role as custodian of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam.

Israel interfered in 33 presidential elections abroad

According to Radio France, Haaretz and The Marker, Advanced Impact Media Solutions (AIMS) founded by "former" employee of the Israeli army’s secret service Tal Hanan (known as "Jorge" or "Michael", "Joyce Gamble" or "Coral Jaime") specializes in creating tens of thousands of fake accounts on the Internet. It offers its customers to penetrate the emails systems of their opponents and to broadcast on the Net, then to make viral, the true or false imputations they want. It is said to have intervened in 33 presidential campaigns and 27 of its candidates have been elected. It has accomplices in about thirty major newspapers including Le Monde, Der Spiegel and El País. The revelation that BMFTV journalist Rachid M’Barki worked for AIMS immediately led the editorial staff to suspend him from his duties.

World Jewish Congress horrified by Benjamin Netanyahu’s coalition remarks

The religious right-wing weekly Olam Katan published an article by Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu. He describes the regional earthquake as a divine punishment against the Arabs : "God judges all the nations around us who wanted to invade our land and throw us into the sea." He continues : "There is no doubt that those who saw the Egyptians drown in the sea and did not remember the whole event from beginning to end would have been filled with great pity for them and would have tried to save them from drowning, but the Israelites sang songs because they knew the Egyptians and understood that these drowning people wanted to kill some of them and keep enslaving others. They sang songs because they understood that there was divine justice here to punish the Egyptians, who had drowned the children of the people of Israel in the Nile, so that all the wicked of the world would see and be afraid." The World Jewish Congress condemned the remarks.
of the rabbi close to National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir.

**China denounces US behavior towards Syrian earthquake victims**

Many States have expressed their wish that the West immediately lift its unilateral coercive measures against the Syrian people and facilitate the sending of aid to the victims of the earthquake. Ignoring the illegality under International Law of these so-called "sanctions", the UN Secretary-General said: "This is a moment in which everybody must make very clear that no sanctions of any kind interfere with relief to the population of Syria in the present moment."

In a tweet, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken welcomed the fact that the US is the "largest humanitarian donor" and that its aid "will go to the Syrian people, not the regime". He said: "We call on the Assad regime to immediately allow aid to enter through all border crossings, allow aid distribution to all affected areas, and allow humanitarian workers access to all people in Syria who are in need, without exception."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying answered: "So why are they in trouble? You bombed, punished and stole them, and now you congratulate yourself for your charity?".

Humanitarian organizations that provide aid to Syrians outside the small area occupied by the jihadists are immediately sanctioned, their bank accounts are closed. The US is demanding to be able to enter Syria in order to save the jihadists and their families, no one else.

**The new UN Under-Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs is an MI6 officer**

UN Undersecretary for Humanitarian Affairs Martin Griffiths met with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Declassified UK historians have shown that Martin Griffiths was a British secret service agent (MI6).

He called for the opening of crossing points at the Turkish border in order to be able to rescue Syrians affected by the earthquake. President Assad immediately announced the opening of the Bab Al-Salam and Al Race posts for three months renewable.

**Iraq tries to help Syrians with oil**

Iraq has donated 60,000 tons of hydrocarbons to Syria which is responsible for fetching them in the al-Mikhtaf area in Iraqi territorial waters. Saudi Arabia has sent a rescue plane to Syria. No Saudi aircraft had flown to Damascus since the war began in 2011.

**According to Romanian Senator, the US triggered the earthquake in Turkey and Syria**

Speaking on 8 February in the Romanian Parliament, Senator Diana Ivanovici Șoșoacă observed that:

- 1 minute before seismographs detected the earthquake, Turkish gas and oil pipelines interrupted their traffic (NB. We were unable to verify this imputation alone).
- 24 hours before the earthquake, 10 Western countries withdrew their ambassadors to Ankara.
- 5 days before the earthquake several Western countries including Romania issued a counter indication to travel to Türkiye without motivating it.

The earthquake in Türkiye and Syria resulted in more than 150 aftershocks, the second (not the first) being the largest. Contrary to usual, it did not have an epicenter but took place along a fault for several hundred kilometers. There are currently other possibilities for replicas, including in Istanbul.

In addition:

- 15 Turkish companies export $18.5 million worth of equipment purchased in the US to a
dozen Russian companies subject to unilateral US coercive measures. 
- Türkiye fired US Undersecretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Brian Nelson who came to demand an end to Turkish military exports to Russia and opposition to Sweden’s membership of NATO. 
- During World War II the US successfully tested how to cause tsunamis, as evidenced by declassified New Zealand documents. 
- At the end of the Vietnam War, the US and the Soviet Union decided not to wage environmental warfare anymore. They signed a "Convention on the Prohibition of the Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques" (1976). According to this Treaty (not signed by France) are prohibited "all techniques intended to modify — through the deliberate manipulation of natural processes — the dynamics, composition or structure of the Earth", which clearly includes earthquakes. When the Soviet Union dissolved, the US recovered its scientists engaged in the Pamir program that successfully caused earthquakes. We had already asked the question in 2010 during the earthquake in Haiti corresponding to the beginning of the Pentagon’s exercise to coordinate and deploy private relief to disaster areas. 

Senator Diana Ivanovici Șoșoacă goes further and interprets these elements to assert that the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria was triggered by the US. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan asked his secret service (MIT) to verify the imputations of this Romanian senator.

Israel helps earthquake-stricken Turks

Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen visited Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara. Israel was one of the very first foreign states to provide aid to Turkish earthquake victims.

Voltaire Network Analysis

- "The defeat of Ukraine is becoming clearer", by Thierry Meyssan 
It is an open secret: Kyiv’s government is losing militarily to the Russian army. The latter is moving forward without hurrying and is building the defence of the regions that joined Moscow by referendum. But this unescapable reality hides more. For example, the fact that still NATO member Türkiye supports Russia and provides it with spare parts for its army. Not only is the Atlantic Alliance losing, but it is cracking at the seams.

- "Ukraine: recitation and reality", by Manlio Dinucci
Comedian turned president of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky shamelessly plays the role of Che Guevara in the service of NATO. He takes part through video calls in all Western international conferences and all major Western artistic events. It does not matter that the cause he defends is to not implement Security Council Resolution 2202 and that he keeps filling his pockets while at it.

Iran inaugurates underground air base

On the occasion of the 44th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, Iran inaugurated its Eagle 44 underground air base. In a video made public, we see huge tunnels where fighter jets move around. According to the TV commentator, this base is protected against bombing, including US bunker-busting bombs.

Ibrahim Raisi in Beijing

Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi visited Beijing. Alongside Chinese President Xi Jinping, he witnessed the signing of 20 cooperation agreements, including on trade and tourism.
CIA recovers all opponents of Iranian regime, including Nazis

The CIA has just formed a coalition of Iranians in exile around the son of Shah Reza Pahlevi and the People’s Mujaheddin. Former N° 2 of Savak Parviz Sabeti demonstrated in Los Angeles for the overthrow of power in Iran. Savak was created on the model of the German Gestapo by Prime Minister Nazi General Fazlollah Zahedi who overthrew Mohammad Mossadegh. During the fall of Shah Reza Pahlevi, Western journalists were invited to visit the secret museum of this political police where body parts of many victims were kept in formol.

China blinds Philippine border guards

Philippine border guards clashed with the Chinese People’s Liberation Army off the Atolls of Second Thomas Shoal (Spratly Islands). The Chinese used a laser weapon to blind Filipinos who suffered from prolonged blindness. Referring to a 2016 in abstentia ruling by the Hague Court of Arbitration, the US State Department reaffirmed that China has no rights to these atolls. However, the Commission does not have jurisdiction in this matter.

Who will succeed Kim Jong-un?

"Supreme Leader of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea" Kim Jong-un introduced his pre-teen daughter Kim Ju-ae at various official events. A stamp depicts her surrounded by military brass, with her father at her side and an intercontinental ballistic missile in the background. Many commentators therefore believe that she will be the country’s next leader. Others, pointing to North Korea’s highly masculine culture lean instead towards Kim Jong-un’s secret son, whose name is not even known.

Japan vs. "Chinese spy balloons"

Japan is considering relaxing requirements for the use of weapons against aircraft violating the country’s airspace, amid questions about how Tokyo can respond to incursions by suspected Chinese "spy balloons" and other unmanned objects. According to spokesman for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Wang Wenbing, China has all the more reason to react to Western hysteria on spy balloons because the US has flown some at least ten times over Chinese territory, including over Tibet and Xinjiang.

Hearing of China by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights heard from a Chinese delegation presenting its views on improving human rights in China. Ambassador Chen Xu and about forty diplomats answered questions from UN experts. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Chen said: "No one can claim a perfect record of human rights protection, as there is always room for improvement. China still faces multiple problems and challenges in the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights," including "obviously unbalanced" development and "stumbling blocks" in some areas of reform, including education, employment, medical care, housing and environmental protection.

Erratum

In some editions of our issue 27, we claimed that Venezuela had sent its condolences to Syria but had not been able to send relief. It was a mistake. Caracas sent a cargo plane with 15 tons of humanitarian aid and a team of 25 rescue workers to Syria. The plane arrived in Damascus on the third day of the disaster.
AFGHANISTAN

Les réfugiés afghans en Iran et au Pakistan : la disparition d’un espace de protection, Nassim Majidi et Cyrus Ettehadieh, Institut français des Relations internationales (IFRI)

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The African Union and security sector reform partnerships, Chido Mutangadura, Institute for Security Studies (ISS)

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China’s Conception of International Relations

China’s Foreign Ministry has released its Global Security Initiative, a document setting out the six commitments that must be met for peaceful international relations. They apply to peace negotiations, including those concerning Ukraine.

1 - Stay committed to the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security.

2 - Stay committed to respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries.

3 - Stay committed to abiding by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

4 - Stay committed to taking the legitimate security concerns of all countries seriously.

5 - Stay committed to peacefully resolving differences and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultation.

6 - Stay committed to maintaining security in both traditional and non-traditional domains. Written in the purest conciliatory Chinese style, these six principles are followed by about twenty tough points of application. The paper concludes with a call to increase the role of international forums.

As far as Ukraine is concerned, China acknowledges that the problem arose because the United States organized both the "Orange Revolution" (2004) and the "Maidan coup" (2014) in violation of the UN Charter (see &3). It also considers that the Russian demand for the absence of NATO in its immediate vicinity is necessary for its security (cf. & 4 and 6).

The publication of this document follows that of a study on US hegemony and its dangers. There has been a clear change in tone since the destruction of Chinese balloons. Now Washington’s policy is presented as destructive to all.
According to Washington, Al-Qaeda’s new emir lives in Iran

According to the US, Saif Al-Adl is the new leader of al-Qaeda. He was not proclaimed emir so as not to offend the Taliban who did not recognize the assassination of Ayman Al-Zawahiri, in Afghanistan in 2022. Saif Al-Adl would live peacefully... in Iran.

Continuation of the opaque 2020 US presidential election

Charged with investigating Donald Trump’s allegations of electoral fraud, the Grand Jury of Georgia has delivered its findings. Of course, it did not find any evidence to prove former President Trump right, and, more surprisingly, did not find any false testimony on which he could have relied. This procedure should conclude with an indictment of Donald Trump. As a reminder, the problem is not who lied but that the counting of the votes did not take place in public as required by democracy.

How can the United States condemn Wagner?

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham (South Carolina) proposes to consider paramilitary organizations as terrorists. The goal is to condemn the Russian private military company Wagner, without condemning the many US private armies such as Academi (formerly Blackwater).

Joe Biden fit for Office

White House physician Dr. Kevin O’Connor delivered his annual report. He confirms that President Joe Biden is fit for office. However, his predecessor Dr. Ronny Jackson who served under Presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump denounced a cover-up of the truth. According to him, everyone is witnessing a deterioration in the president’s cognitive abilities.

Foreign editions

Voltaire, international news is now published in six languages:
- Dutch,
- English,
- French,
- Italian,
- German,
- Spanish.

Christian Revival in the USA

Since February 8, the weekly service at a Christian university in Wilmore, Kentucky has turned into an uninterrupted prayer broadcast over the Internet totaling millions of views. Young people are coming from all over the US to join in. It is the largest Christian movement in the country since the 70s. Precisely, this is where the charismatic movement of those years began.

The United States ("the light on the hill") has a strong tradition of collective prayer and evangelism.

The US battle of gas stoves

U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm proposes to reduce the energy consumption of gas stoves by a third and bring it on par with electric ranges. Manufacturers of cooking equipment assure that this reform will double cooking time.

Faced with outcry, the Biden administration assured that there won’t be any gas stoves ban.

Sinaloa Cartel Moves to Arizona

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy of California said the Sinaloa cartel is now the largest employer in Cochise County, Arizona.
Parliamentary inquiries into the withdrawal from Afghanistan

The House Oversight and Foreign Affairs committees have each begun their investigation into the withdrawal from Afghanistan. This case has already been the subject of the report of Republican Senator James E. Risch (Idaho), *Left Behind*, and that of Representative Michael T. McCaul, Texas, *A Strategic Failure*.

Parliamentary Inquiry into the Biden Family

Chairman of the House of Representatives Oversight Committee James Comer summoned former UN General Assembly President Vuk Jeremić of Serbia.

The famous diplomat worked for the Chinese company that hired Hunter Biden. He was charged by the latter to establish contacts with personalities on a global scale. The commission suspects the Chinese Communist Party of using the company to approach the Bidens.

Protest in Washington against the war in Ukraine

The first significant protest against the war in Ukraine was held in Washington around former Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, former Democratic Representative Dennis Kucinich (Ohio), and former Republican Representative Ron Paul (Ohio). Many organizations from all over the political spectrum took part in the protest. In addition to opposing additional financial aid for Ukraine, speakers advocated for cutting the Pentagon’s budget, dissolving NATO, abolishing the CIA, and releasing Julian Assange.

Blinken-Wang Meeting

Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. "I made it very clear to him that China sending its surveillance balloon over the US... must never happen again," said Mr. Blinken to *Face the Nation* (CBS).

Meanwhile, after insisting that the balloon was civilian and not military Wang told reporters at the Munich Security Conference: "The [Pentagon’s] actions do not show that the United States is big and strong, but describe exactly the opposite... There are so many balloons all over the world, so is the U.S. going to shoot them all down?".

The US must rethink its military use of space

Commander of space operations Gen. B. Chance Saltzman said on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference that the US needs to rethink its investment in space. Indeed, China has developed anti-satellite missiles, ground-based directed energy weapons and capabilities to intercept robotic satellites in orbit. China thinks of war in terms of attacks on reconnaissance, communication, navigation and early warning satellites in order to blind and deafen its enemies.

US lawmakers against Benjamin Netanyahu’s policies

One after another, pro-Israel US parliamentarians are taking a stand against policies of Benjamin Netanyahu’s Coalition. This week:

• Democratic Representative Jamie Raskin of Maryland said, "The struggle to defend the separation of powers, judicial independence, and the rule of law in Israel is now an important part of this global defense of democratic freedom against corrupt plutocrats and autocrats who want power at all costs."

• Democratic Senator Ben Cardin (Maryland) said: "I have no doubt that Israeli democracy will show its resilience. If Mr. Netanyahu wants to show real strength and courage, I implore him not to turn his country away from democracy but to return to the roots and values that made his country prosper and grow. There is still time to change course and put the long-
term health of Israeli democracy ahead of short-term personal power."

**Biden Administration at Munich Security Conference**

The Biden administration was overwhelmingly represented by its top officials at the Munich Security Conference. All of them spoke very harsh words towards President Vladimir Putin. In her remarks, US Vice President Kamala Harris said: "Since the early days of this unprovoked war, we have seen Russian forces engage in horrific atrocities and war crimes. Their actions are an attack on our common values, an attack on our common humanity. And let’s be clear: Russian forces carried out a widespread and systemic attack against a civilian population – they committed horrific acts of murder, torture, rape and deportation. Murders amounting to execution, beatings, and electrocution (...) In the case of Russia’s actions in Ukraine, we looked at the evidence. We know the legal standards. And there is no doubt that these are crimes against humanity."

International law condemns "crimes against humanity" but considers "crimes against peace" i.e., the preparation of war to be even more serious. In this case, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg acknowledged in Munich that the war in Ukraine has begun... in 2014, which undermines Harris’ accusation that the war was "unprovoked."

**Ecuadorian president accused of being linked to cartels**

Banker and member of Opus Dei, Ecuadorian President Guillermo Lasso has just suffered a stinging defeat in the referendum of 5 February. His 8 questions all received a "No" answer. He therefore no longer has the means for his policy. That’s when *La Posta* revealed that the intelligence services had written a 145-page report on the relationship between Rubén Chérrez and his friend Danilo Carrera, President Guillermo Lasso’s brother-in-law, and the Albanian mafia. Copies of this report have just been distributed by *La Posta* to parliamentarians. They are already investigating the Encuentro Affair, a network of corruption in the administration. President Lasso, who is recovering from knee surgery, was unable to attend the summons of Parliament.

In addition, the Attorney General, Diana Salazar Méndez, filed a complaint against former President Lenin Moreno and 36 others. They are suspected of having organized a vast system of corruption around the Coca Codo hydroelectric project. Lenin Moreno now resides in Paraguay.

**Resumption of civil war in Colombia**

Commander-in-chief of the Colombian National Liberation Army (ELN) Eliécer Chamorro (aka "Antonio García") tweeted that "The killing of 9 fighters at the hands of government military forces, while they were defenseless, constitutes a war crime in violation of international law." Moreover, "captured by the ELN in Arauca Sergeant Libey Danilo Bravo is a prisoner of war, his status as a prisoner and his rights as a victim are respected, as established by IHL (International Humanitarian Law). He will be released alive and with respect for his integrity and dignity."

Negotiations between the Catholic liberation movement and the administration of new President Gustavo Petro, a former guerrilla member of the April 19 Movement (M-19), resumed in November 2022 in Caracas. They were interrupted on 30 January.

**Continuation of the coup against Peruvian President Pedro Castillo**

Lawyers of former Peruvian President Pedro Castillo argue that their client’s arrest for being
caught red handed does not meet the legal definition of "flagrante delicto." It is therefore null and void. They also note that Peru’s attorney general Patricia Benavides fired prosecutor Bersabeth Revilla who was investigating her sister Emma Benavides Vargas’ links with drug cartels, a case in which President Pedro Castillo intervened. Demonstrations followed one another in support of former President Pedro Castillo and against the "usurper" President Dina Boluarte. They are mainly run by the Amerindians. The police are instructed to brutally repress them. There are countless deaths.

According to a recent poll, 73% of the population wants parliamentary and presidential elections to be held in 2023 and not in 2026. But debates on the subject have been stalled in Congress.

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**EUROPE**

**Pope Francis takes up the fundamentalists’ question**

Pope Francis has abrogated the liberality decreed by his predecessor Benedict XVI allowing local bishops to let Mass be celebrated in Latin and to constitute parishes according to this rite. This restriction is intended to prevent the formation of a "parallel church". The Holy See intends to take over a rite often linked to far-right policies. However, many practitioners of the Mass in Latin do not share this point of view and do not understand the relentlessness against this specific rite.

**Stay-behind: the former Danish Minister of Defense indicted**

Former Defense Minister Claus Hjorth Frederiksen who revealed in 2020 that he had authorised Danish intelligence services to spy on German, French, Norwegian and Swedish leaders on behalf of the US NSA in 1992, was indicted on 14 January 2023 for divulging state secrets. It was the latest avatar of the US and UK stay-behind networks. They have never stopped spying on their NATO allies, shifting responsibility for operations from one to the other as scandals unfolded. However, as Claus Hjorth Frederiksen is now an MEP, Parliament refused to waive his parliamentary immunity.

**Czechia provides Ukrainian army**

The Czech Republic is starting to assemble a hundred Toyota all-terrain vehicles equipped with two rapid-fire machine guns that can intervene against drones. Destined for Ukraine these weapons will be paid for by the Netherlands.

**Hungary reorganizes its armies**

Hungarian Defense Minister Kristof Szalay-Bobrovniczky has begun a complete overhaul of the armed forces. Since 17 January, many senior officers have been retired. All officers over the age of 45 were asked to assert their skills or possibly resign. This sudden reform is surprising in the middle of the war in Ukraine insofar as it disrupts the armies in the short term.

**Drastic increase in asylum applications in the EU**

The number of asylum seekers in the EU, Norway and Switzerland has doubled in 2022 alone to 966,000.

**Norway sinks into war**

The annual report of the Norwegian Foreign Intelligence Service (Etterretningstjenesten) warns of the deployment in the Baltic Sea of Russian ships equipped with tactical nuclear weapons. Norway, which according to Seymour Hersh actively participated in the sabotage of the Nord
Stream gas pipelines, has so far benefited greatly from the war in Ukraine. In 2 years, it has quadrupled the value of its gas and oil exports (to nearly €166 billion in 2022, compared to €37 billion in 2020).

**The West is running out of ammo**

According to Secretary General of the Atlantic Alliance Jens Stoltenberg, Ukraine today uses several times the amount of ammunition that all NATO defense industries do produce. Ukroboronprom has announced that it will start producing 120mm shells. In his address to the nation, Russian President Vladimir Putin noted that ammunition supplies were also a problem for the Russian military. He announced a plan to rapidly increase their production.

**President Zelensky talks about his potential defeat in Donbass**

In an interview with *Corriere Della Sera* President Volodymyr Zelensky said that if Ukrainian losses continue to rise, Bakhmut may have to be abandoned. It is a complete reversal of his position that, until now, assured that Ukraine would reconquer Donbass.

**Chinese Remarks at Munich Security Conference**

Speaking at the Munich Security Conference, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi revealed that he will release a document outlining China’s position and proposing a peace initiative for Ukraine. "I suggest that everyone start thinking calmly, especially our friends in Europe, about what kind of efforts we can make to stop this war [especially since] some forces apparently don’t want the negotiations to succeed, or the war to end soon... they don’t care about the life and death of Ukrainians, [or] about the damage done to Europe," he said.

**Precautionary measure in the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict**

The International Court of Justice ruled as a precautionary measure, pending the final decision, that Azerbaijan had an obligation to "take all measures at its disposal to ensure the unhindered movement of persons, vehicles and goods along the Lachin corridor in both directions".

**News from Yevgeny Prigozhin**

Owner of private military company Wagner Yevgeny Prigozhin admitted for the first time to being also the owner of the Internet Research Agency in St. Petersburg (known as "the troll farm"). This agency is accused by Westerners of spreading misinformation on social networks. He also strongly criticised the "bureaucracy" which, according to him, has prevented the
capture of Bakhmut and directly questioned the inaction of Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Valery Gerasimov and Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu going so far as to speak of their "betrayal".

**The revelations of Vladislav Surkov**

Former Kremlin éminence grise Vladislav Surkov said he had no intention of implementing the Minsk agreements when he was put in charge of them. For Russia’s opponents, this nullifies the identical words of former German Chancellor Angela Merkel and former French President François Hollande. On the contrary, for those who have read his words precisely, it proves that the Kremlin did not take long to realize Western duplicity.

Vladislav Surkov’s emails, which were revealed by the Ukrainian secret service, show that as early as 2015, President Putin’s special adviser was preparing Russia’s current response to NATO.

Whatever one’s interpretation of Vladislav Surkov’s emails, the trigger for the conflict was the Western overthrow of democratically elected President Viktor Yanukovych; a coup publicly claimed by Victoria Nuland on behalf of the US.

**Russia rethinks its participation in the New START Disarmament Treaty**

President Vladimir Putin has indicated that Russia is suspending its participation in the New START nuclear disarmament agreement, but is not withdrawing from it. That is, Russia suspends its participation in the negotiations on the modernization of the Treaty. Washington wanted to add Beijing, but China refused. Moscow wants Paris, London and NATO to participate.

The New START Treaty is the only nuclear arms control mechanism still in force.

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**AFRICA**

**Possible solution in Libya**

Speaker of the House of Representatives Aguila Salah Issa proposed dissolving the two rival governments of Tripolitania and Cyrenaica and forming a new government of national unity. It would be composed of 15 personalities representative of each group and 15 independent personalities.

This proposal for a government of national unity is a prerequisite for the organization of national elections, but the proposal for its composition into three groups is not unanimous.

**Tunisian justice ready to indict Rached Ghannouchi**

The Tunisian anti-terrorist prosecutor’s office has reportedly acquired a video recording of a meeting of Ansar ash-Sharia leaders with leader of Ennahda Rached Ghannouchi. For health reasons, Mr. Ghannouchi was unable to attend the judge’s summons where a National Guard unit was ready to arrest him. A second summons was issued.

Ansar ash-Sharia is the Tunisian branch of al-Qaeda. As a Muslim Brother, Rached Ghannouchi exercises authority over all Tunisian jihadists.

**Peace mediation in Ukraine of the Brazzaville Foundation**

The Brazzaville Foundation, close to Senegalese President Macky Sall, organized two missions, one to Moscow, the other to Kiev. On the sidelines of the African Union summit, it prepared a conciliation mission of six African heads of state (Senegalese Macky Sall, Congolese Denis Sassou Nguesso, Ugandan Yoweri Museveni, Egyptian Abdel Fatah al-Sisi, South African Cyril Ramaphosa and Comorian Azali Assoumani).

The Brazzaville Foundation is chaired by French businessman Jean-Yves Ollivier, close to late
President Jacques Chirac. Ollivier played a discreet diplomatic role for France for many years. He no longer has political ties with it.

**Mali reacts to Charles Michel’s accusations**

The Malian transitional government summoned the EU ambassador after President of the European Council Charles Michel said on *France 5* TV channel: "The transitional authorities in Mali, which emerged from coups, have decided to break to a large extent with traditional partners, and particularly with European partners, and the consequence is a state that is collapsing, with terrorists occupying more and more areas in the region."

**Burkina Faso against terrorism**

War rages on in Burkina Faso where jihadists murdered 51 soldiers on February 17 and 19 more on February 20. Transitional president Ibrahim Traoré who has already recruited 90,000 Volunteers for the Defense of the Homeland (VDP) has just decided to hire 4,000 Water and Forestry agents to participate in the fight against terrorism. It will take at least a year and a half to train them.

**African Union expels Israel’s ambassador**

The South African delegation expelled Ambassador Sharon Bar-Li, Deputy Director of the Africa Department of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from the headquarters of the Organization of the African Union during the opening ceremony of the session. Israel has accused South Africa of anti-Semitism. However, the accreditation of the Israeli observer had been granted to the ambassador in Addis Ababa and not to Sharon Bar-Li. Above all, Israel’s observer status had not been validated yet by the General Assembly of the African Union.

**ASIA**

**Former allies of Benjamin Netanyahu protest against his new policies**

Former Likud justice minister and deputy prime minister under Netanyahu Dan Meridor spoke at the main protest outside the Knesset on February 20. He said: "Who would have thought that we would need to defend democracy in Israel, but it is under attack!"

Former director of the Mossad Tamir Pardo chosen by Benjamin Netanyahu is now one of the coordinators of the protests. In an interview with Kan public radio, he accused the prime minister of reforming the judiciary only so that he could personally escape it. In addition, he accused elements of the governing coalition of wanting to build "a racist and terrible state that cannot survive".

Former Shin Bet director Yoram Cohen, also chosen by Benjamin Netanyahu, said in a right-wing demonstration: "The proposed reform will change the governmental structure in Israel, since the executive branch — headed by the prime minister — will have unlimited power. The checks and balances necessary for a democratic society will disappear. Every citizen must be affected by such a situation, regardless of their political affiliation. Reform in its current state, brutally imposed and developed without negotiation with all components of the nation, could lead to disaster."

**Pfizer documents on Israeli government commitments**

During the Pfizer case, a lawyer for the pharmaceutical company incidentally cited the existence of an amendment to the contract signed by the Israeli Ministry of Health requiring it to be strictly confidential. A plaintiff then demanded and obtained that this document be handed over to him. This document, still under study, seems to prove...
that the laboratory used the Israeli population as guinea pigs.

**Israel attacks Nablus**

Israeli troops entered Nablus (West Bank) in broad daylight to make 3 arrests following the killing of an Israeli soldier. They caused 102 serious injuries, including 6 with a life-threatening prognosis, and 10 deaths. Israel has released footage from an armored vehicle showing a crowd rocking its troops. The Palestinians released footage from a time-stamped surveillance camera that shows Israelis killing two young people.

Since Benjamin Netanyahu’s coalition government took office and the announcement of new illegal Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories, clashes have multiplied.

**Benjamin Netanyahu ready to bomb Iran**

Responding to a question about Iran, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "The only thing that has reliably prevented rogue states from developing nuclear weapons is a credible military threat or action. This can be combined with economic sanctions, but it is not a sufficient condition. A necessary and often sufficient condition is credible military action." The longer you wait, the more difficult such an action becomes to perform. We’ve waited more than enough."

**Washington ready to condemn Netanyahu to save ‘two-state solution’**

The US had previously submitted a draft resolution on Palestine to the UN Security Council in which they condemned Israeli settlements and demanded its immediate halt. However, this project was withdrawn by the US itself which is negotiating a diplomatic solution with Israel and Palestine. The US State Department is doing everything possible to force Tel Aviv not to abandon the "two-state solution".

**Lebanese parliamentarians in Damascus**

A delegation from the Lebanese parliament went to Damascus to meet Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. It said that its Assembly wished to establish ongoing relations with that of the Syrian people.

**Nasrallah-Netanyahu controversy**

Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said in a radio address: "For the first time in the history of the Zionist entity [Israel] since its unfortunate creation, we hear from the Chief of Staff [of the IDF], former prime ministers, Yair Lapid, Naftali Bennet, Ehud Olmert, Ehud Barack, former defense ministers and former generals, talk about the approach of a civil war. They talk about the possibility that blood will be shed and that there is no solution to the new challenges of Benjamin Netanyahu’s government."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu replied: "I say to Nasrallah: don’t count on a fratricidal war. This will not happen, because we are truly brothers."

**Israeli bombing in Damascus**

Israeli warplanes destroyed several security service buildings in Damascus. As usual, the Israeli authorities did not directly claim responsibility for the aggression, but justified it. According to them, it was aimed at Iranian-related interests, which is highly unlikely. For thirty years, Israel has given itself the right to strike Syria whenever it wants. Tel Aviv always assures that these bombings target the Lebanese Hezbollah or Iran; unverifiable explanations with which the international community is satisfied.

The main target was a building in the residential area of Kafar Sousse (Damascus). It is the same building where Hizbullah’s military leader Imad Moughniyah lived when he was assassinated by Israel on 12 February 2008. In all likelihood, the Israeli action was aimed at assassinating leaders
of the Resistance who were holding a meeting there moments before. The Israeli Air Force did not kill any of them, but exclusively civilians.

Bashar al-Assad in Oman

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad visited Oman where he was welcomed by Oman’s Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.
Beyond declarations of understanding, Oman has a long tradition of diplomatic intermediary and hosts many secret negotiations.

Question on the earthquake in Turkey and Syria

According to the Damascus Institute of Seismology, the blue flash that was seen in Turkey and northern Syria just before the earthquake does not match any previous sightings.
This observation reinforces the hypothesis that this earthquake was not natural, but man made. Let’s recall that after the Soviet experiments aimed at creating small earthquakes to prevent larger ones and the US experiments aimed at causing storms, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, a disarmament treaty, was signed between the two countries in 1976. It has since been signed and ratified by 48 other states. When the Soviet Union was dissolved, the Russian scientists of the Pamir project were taken over by the US HAARP (High frequency active auroral research program) project.

Turkish Space Agency update on the earthquake

At an earlier conference, head of the Turkish Space Agency Serdar Huseyn Yıldırım described a weapon that the United States was developing:
"There are military satellites that can send 10-meter titanium alloy sticks from space to any target in the world. They penetrate 5 kilometers deep into the ground, creating an earthquake of 7-8 magnitude."

This excerpt from his speech resurfaced in the context of the earthquake. Serdar Huseyn Yıldırım then said:
"This short video is an excerpt from a lecture I gave a long time ago at a strategy institute [the Stratejik Düşünce Enstitüsü]. I explained how the weapon system can wipe a small town off the map when deployed and used in Earth orbit. It cannot trigger fault lines or create tectonic earthquakes. Therefore, it has nothing to do with the Maras disaster, which is a tectonic earthquake that occurred on a known fault line. I do not want to be misunderstood. The effect of this weapon is comparable to a meteorite impact."

It goes without saying that had he said anything else, Türkiye would have had to declare war.

Saudi Arabia talks about an upcoming normalization with Syria

After the meeting between Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Faisal bin Farhan and UN Special Envoy for Syria Norwegian Geir Pedersen, the path towards normalization of relations between Riyadh and Damascus seems clear.
The prince said at the Munich Security Conference that there was no point in continuing to isolate Syria and that all Arabs had a duty to help the victims of the earthquake.

Towards abolition of Iraqi Kurdistan?

Daily As-Sabah published a poll by the Academic Center for the Referendum and the analysis attesting that the majority of Iraqis consider the dissolution of Iraqi Kurdistan and the return to centralized power of Baghdad as the only solution to the ongoing crisis between the two Kurdish clans, the Barzani (pro-Israel) and the Talabani (pro-Chinese).
This publication was a bombshell in that it notices the bankruptcy of the Constitution and
Senator Joe Biden’s 2007 plan to partition the country into three separate entities. The meeting between President of the Regional Government of Iraqi Kurdistan Nechirvan Barzani and Iraqi National Prime Minister Mohammad Shia’ as-Sudani at the Munich Security Conference led to nothing. The government of Iraqi Kurdistan (Barzani clan) reacted by criticizing the way the poll was conducted and recalling that the inhabitants of its province voted for independence by referendum on 25 September 2017, which didn’t happen because of threats from Baghdad, Ankara and Tehran.

The Federal Supreme Court issued a verdict in February 2022 stating that the 2007 Law on Natural Resources of the Kurdistan Territory is unconstitutional and that its oil exports and contracts are illegal. In addition, it stated in January 2023 that none of the transfers from the central budget to the regional budget are legal. Iraqi Kurdistan can therefore no longer have resources.

Cambodia recovers jewelry stolen by Douglas Latchford

77 Cambodian jewels from the collection of famous antique dealer and collector Douglas Latchford have returned to their country of origin. The collection included objects "such as gold objects and other precious metal coins from the pre-Angkorian and Angkorian period, including crowns, necklaces, bracelets, belts, earrings and amulets."

Douglas Latchford, who died in August 2020, is accused of looting Cambodian antiquities. The transfer was brokered by MP Hun Many, son of Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Risk of famine in North Korea

The Workers’ Party of Korea (WPK) is expected to hold a second plenary session in two months to decide how to resolve the looming food crisis. North Korea experienced a terrible famine during the "Arduous March" of the 1990s. Western countries, which then managed the world grain market, had deliberately amplified this catastrophe. There is currently a food shortage in the north of the country.

Resumption of direct Sino-Japanese talks

China and Japan have resumed their defense talks, interrupted in 2019, over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands. These uninhabited islets are claimed by Japan, China and Taiwan. The issue of three possibly Chinese "spy balloons" that would have flown over Japan was also discussed.

China masters aerobic engines

According to a report by Changsha National University of Defense Technology (Hunan), Chinese military researchers have managed to operate a prototype aerobic engine running on solid fuel. It would have "an energy efficiency of 79% while moving at six times the speed of sound". It is expected to extend the operational range of hypersonic missiles by doubling their lethality.

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Vox, el retorno de los ultras que nunca se fueron, Xavier Rius Sant, Ediciones Akal (17,10 €)

De votantes a hooligans: La polarización política en España, Mariano Torca, Los libros de la catarata (17,57 €)

Las cloacas del 11M: 49, Ignacio López Brú, Última Línea (23,95 €)

TÜRKIYE

Military Innovation in Türkiye. An Overview of the Post-Cold War Era, Edited By Barış Ateş, Routledge (120 £)

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It's OK to Be Angry About Capitalism, Senator Bernie Sanders, Crown ($30)

Le regole del caos: Riflessioni sul disordine economico mondiale, Giorgio Arfiras, Paesi edizioni (13,30 €)

The Chile Project: The Story of the Chicago Boys and the Downfall of Neoliberalism, Sebastian Edwards, Princetown University press ($32)

ENERGY

Brexit and Energy Law. Implications and Opportunities, Edited by Ana Stanič & Silke Goldberg, Routledge (125 £)

Die große Energiekrise: ... und wie wir sie bewältigen können, Fritz Vahrenholt, Langen-Müller (22 €)

HEALTH

Covid 19, ce que révèlent les chiffres officiels: Mortalité, tests, vaccins, hôpitaux, la vérité émerge, Pierre Chaillot, L’artilleur (22 €)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Diaspora Organizations in International Affairs, Edited by Dennis Dijkzeul & Margit Fauser, Routledge (36,99 £)

Regional Approaches to the Responsibility to Protect. Lessons from Europe and West Africa, Jochem Rietveld, Routledge (120 £)

Advocacy Networks and the Responsibility to Protect. The Politics of Norm Circulation, Sarka Kolmasova, Routledge (120 £)

Deep State. L’ombra del quarto Reich, Germana Leoni, Manlio Dinucci (Prefazione), Nexus Edizioni (23,75 €)

La diplomazia del terrore. 1967-1989, Valentine Lomellini, Laterza (20,90 €)

MILITARY AFFAIRS

The Military Balance 2023, The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) 625 £

Conduire la guerre, Benoist Bihan & Jean Lopez, Perrin (14,99 €)

La guerra in casa: Come e perché la corsa al riarmo riguarda tutti noi, Roberto Arditti, Rai Libri (17,58 €)

POLITICAL IDEAS

Can War Be Justified?: A Debate, Andrew Fiala & Jennifer Kling, Routledge (26,99 £)

Evidence Contestation. Dealing with Dissent in Knowledge Societies, Karin Zachmann, Mariacarla Gadebusch Bondio, Saana Jukola & Olga Sparschuh, Routledge (120 £)

Conservatism and Grace. The Conservative Case for Religion by Establishment, Sebastian Morello, Routledge (120 £)

The Nature and Practice of Trust, Marc A. Cohen, Routledge (120 £)

The Crisis of Democratic Capitalism, Martin Wolf, Penguin ($25,15)

Die Psychologie des Totalitarismus, Mattias Desmet, Europa Verlage (24 €)

Il fantasma della nazione. Per una critica del sovranismo, Alessandro Campi, Marsilio (14,25 €)

POLITICS


Political Parties Abroad. A New Arena for Party Politics, Edited by Tudi Kernalegenn & Emilie van Haute, Routledge (36,99 £)

Sinistra! Un manifesto, Aldo Schiavone, Einaudi (11,40 €)

Libertax: El origen de una sociedad libertaria, Sharan Lalwani Shahadpuri & Alejandro Gutiérrez Gil, (10,36 €)
American settlers destroy a Palestinian village

More than 400 Israeli settlers from Har Bracha launched a punitive expedition on the Palestinian village of Huwara in the West Bank after two of them were killed. They burned hundreds of cars and 36 houses. They attacked the inhabitants, wounding 400 people and killing a man in front of the Israeli army who surrounded the village without intervening in the face of their abuses. The rioters chanted "Vengeance!" and "Land of Israel!" (Eretz Yisrael). They chanted, "I have perfect faith in the coming of the Messiah." They tried to scare away Israeli journalists by shooting them, so that no one could testify to their abuses.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir support Jewish supremacy and annexation of Palestinian territories.

Mr. Smotrich told the Arabs: "It is a mistake that Ben-Gurion did not finish the work [the Nakbah] and did not expel you in 1948." After the punitive operation, he said, “Huwara village must be annihilated. I think the State of Israel has to do it, not individuals — God forbid —.” Mr. Ben-Gvir, meanwhile, backed a soldier last December who had been disciplined for threatening Jewish peace activists.

Six rioters were arrested by the army. Five were released and one was sentenced to four days of house arrest.

The Arab High Monitoring Committee of the Israeli Arab community organized a protest march in Sakhnin against Jewish terrorism.

AMERICAS

U.S. recalls its nationals to Russia

The U.S. Embassy in Moscow sent an email to all its nationals residing in Russia saying: "U.S. citizens residing or traveling to Russia must leave immediately. They must be extra careful because of the risk of unjustified detention."
U.S. armies can’t recruit

The U.S. Armed Forces are no longer able to hire personnel. Of the 60,000 job vacancies, only 15,000 were filled in 2022. This is the worst result since conscription was ended in 1973. Only the Marine Corps achieved its goal. According to Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville only 23 percent of Americans between the ages of 17 and 24 are eligible, while 57 percent fear psychological problems because of their potential enlistment. 20% of candidates are obese. Only 21 per cent of current military personnel are children of civilians.

Ajay Banga next World Bank Director

US President Joe Biden has appointed Ajay Banga as the next director of the World Bank. Mr. Banga is a U.S. national of Shikh religion, who was a director of Mastercard and is currently Vice Chairman of General Atlantic Investment Fund.

Republican pre-primaries

The Conservative Political Action Coalition (CPAC) is hosting a debate called "Protect America Now" with candidates for the Republican nomination at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in suburban Maryland. Former President Donald Trump is expected to attend, along with former ambassador Nikki Haley, as well as anti-woke biotech tycoon Vivek Ramaswamy. Neither former Vice President Mike Pence nor Florida Governor Ron DeSantis will attend. The latter will participate in a rival event at the Club for Growth in Palm Beach, Florida, a group hostile to federal taxes.

US Treasury blocks documents incriminating Hunter and James Biden

Chairman of the House Oversight and Accountability Committee James Comer summoned Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Oversight Isabella More to explain the delays in providing documents requested by parliamentarians. 150 reports of suspicious activity related to Hunter Biden have been blocked for a month by the Treasury. According to James Comer, the lawmakers discovered "a pattern of influence peddling, national security risks and political cover-up" committed by the Biden family with the participation of the current president of the United States.

House requires evidence of sincerity of senior national security officials

Chairman of the House Law Committee Jim Jordan and Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee Michael R. Turner have written to 29 former senior national Security officials. They are asking them to produce without delay the evidence on which they relied to declare in the middle of the presidential election campaign that the New York Post article on Hunter Biden’s computer was "Russian disinformation".

The US exports its know-how to China

The U.S. Commerce Department has approved $23 billion in sales of sensitive technology to China in the last half of 2022, despite a policy announced by the Biden administration aimed at preventing U.S. know-how from being used to bolster China’s military.

US expert shows Congress that the PRC wants to destroy capitalism

Donald Trump’s former deputy national security adviser Matthew Pottinger presented a three-minute video during his hearing before the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party. Relying on US intelligence sources, he demonstrated that, according to him, the CCP is indeed Marxist and therefore tries to destroy capitalism.
The People’s Republic of China manipulates Hollywood

According to majors Morgan A. Martin and Clinton J. Williamson, the People’s Republic of China has managed to correct many Hollywood movies since 2023. The two Navy servicemen studied 147 films shot in co-production with Chinese companies. According to them, bit by bit China has managed to improve its image with Western audiences.

Mark Zuckerberg influenced the electoral system

The Honest Elections Project has established that Mark Zuckerberg (Meta/Facebook) paid DeKalb County $2 million to provide it with the staff and equipment it needed to conduct elections during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the state of Georgia prohibits financing elections from outside. A complaint was therefore filed. Honest Elections Project is linked to Leonard Leo, a conservative lawyer close to Donald Trump.

Russiagate backfires

Former Russian diplomat Sergey Shestakov and former head of FBI counterintelligence in New York Charles McGonigal are accused of accepting secret payments from Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska in exchange for an investigation into one of his rivals. They are on trial for conspiracy to violate US sanctions and money laundering. Charles McGonigal played an important role in the FBI investigation into Donald Trump’s alleged links with Russia (Operation Crossfire Hurricane). He’s now the one who must answer for the same accusation.

Origin of Covid-19

According to the Wall Street Journal, a confidential report was distributed to members of Congress by Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines. It updates the positions of the various agencies on the origin of Covid-19. The until now undecided Department of Energy says alongside the FBI that the virus came from a leak from the Wuhan laboratory. All but four intelligence agencies come to the same conclusion. Reacting to the WSJ article, the White House stressed that there was no unanimity among the agencies.

Foreign editions

Voltaire, international news is now published in six languages:
- Dutch
- English
- French
- Italian
- German
- Spanish

The limits of US generosity

At the initiative of Republican Representative Joe Wilson (Texas), the House passed a resolution (H. Res 132) assuring U.S. support for the Turkish and Syrian victims of the earthquake. This bill establishes the ban on trade with Syria (Caesar law) as a measure to support the Syrian people.

Mayor of New York against separation of church and state

New York City’s vegan Democrat mayor Eric Adams said, "Don’t talk to me about the separation of church and state. The state is the body. The Church is the heart. You remove the heart from the body, the body dies (...) When we took prayers out of schools, guns entered schools... I cannot separate my belief because I am an elected official. When I put policies in place, I implement them with a godlike approach. That’s who I am."
US Chamber against the obligation of ethical investments

The House of Representatives passed legislation striking down a Biden administration provision that says pension funds can only invest their members’ deposits ethically (environmental, social and governance criteria - ESG). This law is unlikely to pass Senate, which supports woke policies.

EUROPE

EU finally accepts Brexit

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak signed an agreement in Windsor with President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen. It aims to close Brexit by relaxing the rules that flowed from it. European products will still be able to enter Britain through Northern Ireland, but British products will now be able to enter the EU through the same Northern Ireland, whereas until now a customs border was erected in the Irish Sea.

In practice, the United Kingdom has rejoined the European common market, but not its political bodies. This was the meaning of Brexit when Brussels had linked the common market to the European Union. The only remaining problem is the continued authority of the European Court of Justice over Northern Ireland. The European Commission has lost its bet to make the UK pay for its departure from the EU.

France reorganizes its military bases in Africa

French President Emmanuel Macron has announced a redeployment of French armies in Africa. This should be accompanied by a reduction in troops. However, there is no question of military withdrawal, but of transforming permanent bases into academies where French instructors will train local armies. The Djibouti base is not affected by this redeployment since, although located on African territory, it is facing the Indian Ocean.

Since the Second World War, French military bases have been a guarantee of the maintenance in power for those who managed the countries that hosted them. According to an IFOP poll for the JDD, 55% of French people want the closure of French military bases in Africa and the repatriation of all French soldiers.

Recession fears in Germany

Germany’s economy shrank more than expected (0.4% instead of 0.2%) in the fourth quarter of 2022 according to revised figures, raising doubts over the ability of Europe’s biggest economy to escape recession and recover swiftly from its energy crisis.

Petition and demonstration in Germany against war in Ukraine

At the initiative of feminist journalist Alice Schwarzer and Die Linke (Left Party) parliamentarian Sarah Wagenknecht, a petition for peace collected 700,000 signatures, including those of many intellectuals. It led to a demonstration in Berlin on 25 February bringing together 13,000 people according to the police, 50,000 according to observers. The presence of the magazine Compact of sovereignist journalist Jürgen Elsässer, accused by Die Linke of belonging to the extreme right was strongly criticized and his group was excluded from the demonstration by the security service.

Germany against the policy of the Israeli coalition

Receiving her Israeli counterpart Elie Cohen, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock expressed concern over the Israeli government’s plan to cripple the judicial system. She also said she was "particularly concerned" about the
ruling coalition’s efforts to introduce death penalty for Palestinians convicted of deadly attacks on Israelis, and the latest escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Three weeks ago, Germany’s ambassador to Israel Steffen Seibert declared that Public Diplomacy Minister Galit Distal Atbaryan’s claim that protests against the government’s judicial overhaul are funded by Iran or Germany, was a "deception".

German liberals against banning petrol vehicles

The German Liberals (FDP) have indicated that their transport minister Volker Wissing will oppose the European Council’s vote on the European Parliament’s proposal banning the sale of petrol vehicles from 2035.

Demonstration in Zurich against war in Ukraine

A demonstration was held in Zurich to maintain Switzerland’s neutrality in the Ukrainian conflict. The participants protested against Switzerland’s alignment with the EU’s unilateral coercive measures (so-called sanctions). More than 10,000 people gathered in the city center.

Denmark abolishes a public holiday to fund its Defense

The Folketing (Parliament) approved the abolition of the public holiday of the Store Bededag. The savings will be allocated to the Defense budget. All the churches had spoken out against the plan of Social Democratic Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen to abolish the Store Bededag (Great Day of Prayer) instituted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark in the seventeenth century during the reign of Christian V.

Poland is gradually closing its Belarusian border

Poland has closed its borders to Belarusian freight. Since 10 February, at the initiative of Poland, Warsaw and Minsk have imposed progressive restrictions on the crossing of trucks at the borders.

Global public opinion doesn’t judge war in Ukraine the same way everywhere

According to a study by the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), “United West, divided from the rest : Global public opinion one year into Russia’s war on Ukraine”, if Western populations unite behind their governments in the war in Ukraine, the rest of the world hopes for a Russian victory in order to end Western hegemony and reorganize international relations in a multipolar way.

Westerners vs. TikTok

After the US and Canadian governments, the European Union administration also banned all its employees from running the Chinese application TikTok on their mobile phones. Washington, Ottawa and Brussels fear that the Chinese Communist Party will use the app to penetrate state secrets. Or they want to protect Western social networks. A 2021 report from the University of Toronto’s Citizen Lab showed that TikTok and Facebook collect similar amounts of user data, especially device identifiers that can be used to track users.

TikTok is already banned in Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, India, Iran, Pakistan and Syria.

Finland prepares for NATO membership

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg travelled to Finland to meet the leaders of the various political parties before Parliament debated the country’s accession to the Atlantic Alliance.
Until now, Finland's accession was linked to Sweden's. That no longer seems to be the case. **ECHR could confiscate 'seized' Russian assets**

Ukraine’s richest man and owner of the Azovstal factory in Mariupol Rinat Akhmetov filed a complaint in June against Russia for the destruction of his property. He is seeking $18 billion in compensation from the European Court of Human Rights. Russia is no longer part of this jurisdiction, but ECHR nevertheless considers the complaint admissible because the facts took place while Russia was still a member of the Council of Europe.

The procedure aims to recover Russian property seized in Council of Europe member States and allocate it to Rinat Akhmetov as compensation. In theory, a court does not have the ability to confiscate and dispose of seized property. **US Treasury could confiscate 'seized' Russian assets**

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen visited Kiev. Discussions focused on "sanctions" (unilateral coercive measures) aimed at weakening the Russian economy as well as the possibility of confiscating frozen Russian assets to help Ukraine’s economic recovery. **Ukraine attacks St. Petersburg**

Ukraine attacked Russia with drones, no longer in the Bryansk and Belgorod border area, but further inland. The drones reached 60 kilometers from St. Petersburg and sabotaged several infrastructures. Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered tighter air safety.

**AFRICA**

**Two political parties banned in Algeria**

Algerian authorities dissolved the Youth Action Group (RAJ) and the left-wing Movement for Democracy and Socialism. According to them, the two organizations were "gathering forces to destabilize the country", which they both deny. **Iran and Algeria want to use Mauritania against Morocco**

Algeria and its ally Iran support the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic against Morocco. In this perspective, Algiers organized the trip of Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Hossein Amir-Abdollahian to Mauritania. It is about paving the way for a military operation from that country. **Tunisia becomes racist**

Tunisian President Kais Sayed’s statements on sub-Saharan immigration have opened the floodgates to uninhibited traditional racism. For a thousand years Arabs have kidnapped and enslaved Bantu. This only stopped with Muammar al-Gaddafi in neighboring Libya. The Guide aimed to reconcile all Africans regardless of their skin color. But today, after NATO’s victory in Libya, slavery is back. **Risk of famine in Lake Chad Basin**

The 3 million people displaced in Lake Chad region (Cameroon, Nigeria, Niger and Chad) due to Boko Haram attacks are at risk of severe famine. Boko Haram now has weapons originally destined for Ukraine. **Sudanese power is divided**

The two heads of Sudanese power are competing. President of the Transitional Council Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his deputy Mohamed Hamdan Dogalo (known as "Hemedti") are now conducting separate negotiations with neighboring countries. It seems that Hemedti is closer to Russia, while President al-Burhan is closer to the Muslim Brotherhood and the US. Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen visited
Khartoum. He was received by President al-Burhan, but did not meet Hemedti. He concluded a normalization agreement with the former while the majority of the political class was against it.

Opaque election in Nigeria

Nigeria’s Electoral Commission has announced the victory in the presidential election of All-Progressives Congress (APC) candidate Bola Ahmed Tinubu with more than seven million votes. The opposition parties immediately disputed this result, noting that the figures coming from the polling stations do not match those compiled by the Electoral Commission. The election was marked by widespread delays, problems with voting machines, violence and coercion in some areas. Many observers, including the EU mission, said the vote lacked transparency and fell short of expectations. The two main opposition parties called for the cancellation of what they called a "sham" election. Declared the winner with only 37% of the vote, Bola Ahmed Tinubu called for national unity.

ASIA

Washington imposes the pursuit of the "two-state solution" on President Abbas

During his trip to Palestine, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken demanded that President Mahmoud Abbas renounce recourse to international institutions, mainly the International Criminal Court, to file charges against Israel. He reiterated that Washington believes in the “two-state solution”, but… that it is not possible at the moment to advance it. President Abbas said he was ready to work with the US administration and restart security coordination and negotiations with the occupation state to achieve the "two-state solution", knowing that these negotiations lasted thirty years and resulted in the settlement of 800,000 Israeli settlers. According to witnesses, Antony Blinken concluded coldly by saying that if President Abbas does not obey, he will be replaced.

Resignation of Deputy Minister for Jewish Identity

Deputy Minister for Jewish Identity Avigdor "Avi" Maoz resigned after 7 weeks in office. He was known for his hatred of homosexuals and his refusal to grant Israeli citizenship to grandchildren of Jews.

Hezbollah has nothing to do with Sheikh Rifai’s murder

As usual, the murder of Sunni Sheikh Ahmad Chouaib Rifai was initially denounced as a Hezbollah operation to eliminate one of its opponents. However, the police quickly arrested the mastermind, his cousin and rival, Sheikh Yehya Rifai, mayor of Karkaf.

New revelations on Riad Salamé’s embezzlement

According to the Sonntags Zeitung, about $500 million embezzled by governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon Riad Salamé found refuge in 12 Swiss banks. On behalf of late Rafik Hariri and with the agreement of the US, Riad Salamé set up a vast money laundering system for South American cartels authorized by Washington. He embezzled some of this money with his brother Raja Salamé and his assistant Marianne Hoyek. For the past two years, he has been under various investigations around the world for corruption and embezzlement of public funds. However, he remains governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon and as such enjoys judicial immunity. The Sonntags Zeitung revealed that he had British Virgin Islands-incorporated offshore company Forry Associates transfer $250 million
to his brother’s Swiss account at HSBC Bank in Geneva.

**Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union breaks Syria’s isolation**

Meeting on 25 February in Baghdad, Iraq, the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union proclaimed its solidarity with Syria. It formed a delegation of parliamentarians from different Arab countries (Egypt, Emirates, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Oman and Palestine) who met with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

**Saudi-Syrian negotiations**

Next Arab League summit host Saudi Arabia is considering reintroducing Syria. Riyadh encouraged the visit of Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry to Damascus, after that of UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah Bin Zayed and the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union delegation.

Kuwait, Morocco and Qatar remain to be convinced of this reintroduction.

The list of Saudi requirements would include:

- border control to prevent drug trafficking;
- the withdrawal of Iranian and Hezbollah forces from the Jordanian and Israeli borders;
- the cessation of Iranian strategic investments

In addition to these three conditions, there would be four others, imagined by Washington and which could be forgotten:

- the release of prisoners of war
- the guarantee of a safe return of exiles
- the inclusion in the political bodies of the opposition taking refuge abroad
- the holding of free elections.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait demand that the Arab military withdraw from the economy.

Saudi and Kuwaiti economists have posted tweets and articles arguing for Egypt to comply with IMF demands and privatize military-run sectors of its economy. It seems that now Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will present the separation of the military and the economy as a prerequisite for their assistance, whether in Egypt or elsewhere.

**New divisions in Iraqi Kurdistan**

While the two Iraqi Kurdish Barzani and Talabani clans are constantly quarreling, the latter has been going through an authority crisis since the death of Jalal Talabani. The two cousins Bafel Jalal Hussam Eddin and Lahur Sheikh Jangi asked a court to decide between them. In the end, it declared them both co-presidents of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

**Saudi Arabia helps the people of Ukraine and soon of Donbass**

At the request of the Kiev government, Saudi Arabia said it was collecting humanitarian aid to send it to Ukraine. It said it would do the same for the people of Donbass should they ask for.

**Complaint against TotalEnergies’ activities in Yemen**

Swiss association MENA Rights Group has filed a complaint against TotalEnergies on behalf of two Yemenis who were allegedly imprisoned and tortured in a secret Emirati prison at the Balhaf plant (Yemen). TotalEnergies stated that it only owns a third of this facility which is managed by Yemen LNG.

**Turkish public opinion turns against President Erdogan**

The damage from the earthquake is estimated at $34 billion.

The Turkish Red Crescent sold supposedly without profit 2,050 tents for survivors to charity NGO Ahbap for 46 million Turkish liras ($2.4 million).

Demonstrations against the Erdogan administration’s delay in coming to the aid of victims are spreading in football stadiums. In a first match, Fenerbahçe fans chanted: "Lies, cheating, it’s been 20 years, resign!" Then
during a meeting of Besiktas against Antalyaspor, it was: "Government resign!" President Recep Tayyip Erdogan asked for "forgiveness" for his administration's delay in providing relief. He confirmed that parliamentary and presidential elections will be held on May 14, when 14 million people have been affected by the earthquake and it is not clear how to organize polling stations in the devastated regions.

**EU interferes in Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict**

The European Union has deployed an observer mission to the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. It imposed itself and did not inform the Russian intervention force of its coming.

**New fall of the Iranian rial**

The Iranian currency plunged to 600,000 rials to the dollar. Inflation reached 53.4%.

**Attacks on girls’ schools in Iran**

Unidentified individuals poisoned school students in several regions of Iran. Their attack only targets girls' schools. The press compares these attacks to those perpetrated by the Taliban and Boko Haram against girls’ schools.

**Iraqi mediation between Saudi Arabia and Iran**

As part of the mediation between Iran and Saudi Arabia, former Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kazimi and former Iraqi President Barham Saleh visited Tehran. Upon their return, the two men briefed current Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia’ as-Sudani on the progress made. Iraq has every interest in seeing the conflict subside and peace return to the region.

**Indian covert operations against Pakistan**

NGO EU Disinfolab (linked to the US NED) published a report accusing the Asian News International (ANI) news agency of citing nonexistent sources in order to give substance to its smear campaign against Pakistan. The same NGO had written, in December 2020, another report accusing India of maintaining fake NGOs accredited to the United Nations, via the Srivastava Group, in order to discredit Pakistan and China. These operations have reportedly been going on for more than 15 years.

**Voltaire Network Analysis**

- "The responsibility of governments in the Ukrainian conflict", by Thierry Meyssan
  On the occasion of the first anniversary of the Russian military intervention in Ukraine, the Atlantic Alliance magnifies the actions of Kyiv’s forces. Before our eyes, we see it resorting to the most deceptive propaganda, skillfully handling omission and lies. Contrary to what it claims, this war has never been illegal, even if today it no longer seems necessary and should be stopped. However, the causes of the war remain and the Kremlin anticipates a second round, not to annex Ukraine or Moldova, but to save Transnistria.

- "The ninth anniversary of the war in Ukraine", by Manlio Dinucci
  Before our eyes, Ukrainian integral nationalists are restoring the symbols of Nazism. Thus, on February 14, 2023, President Volodymyr Zelensky awarded "the title of honor Edelweiss" to the 10th Separate Mountain Assault Brigade. Edelweiss refers to the 1st Nazi Mountain Division that "liberated" (sic) Kiev, Stalino, the Dnieper crossing and Kharkov. Modern Ukraine still celebrates the Third Reich as its "liberator".
promises and no longer harbor terrorists in Pakistan. Pakistani Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Director General Nadeem Anjum have since visited Kabul. They presented Taliban Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghani Baradar, Defense Minister Mullah Yaqoob and Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani with evidence that the terrorist group Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan has a rear base in their country. Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan has claimed responsibility for most of the attacks in Pakistan over the past decade, including most recently the attack on a police mosque in Peshawar on 30 January and on the General Inspectorate in Karachi on 17 February.

New leadership in Vietnam

After the resignation of Vietnamese President Nguyen Xuan Phuc and two of his four vice presidents, the Communist Party is expected to choose Vo Van Thuong to replace him. It is expected to rely on Nguyen Phu Trong, the anti-corruption official who brought down the former president.

US representative calls for end to Korean War

Democratic Representative Brad Sherman (California) has introduced a bill in the US House to declare the end of the Korean War (H.R.3446). Although military hostilities ended in 1953, the war is still ongoing.

Risk of famine in North Korea

The North Korean Communist Party held its second high-level meeting to address food shortages. It was decided to do everything possible to increase productivity of the agricultural system. A plan has been adopted to strengthen irrigation and to provide farmers with highly efficient machinery. The party has made increasing grain production its No.1 priority.

Japan conditions its aid to North Korea

The Japanese government will send humanitarian aid to North Korea only if it frees Japanese citizens it abducted in the 70s and 80s, or returns their bodies, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said.

China’s 12-point Proposal for Peace in Ukraine

"China’s 12-point proposal" to resolve the war in Ukraine only satisfy Russia. Indeed, if Beijing demands the cessation of hostilities, it also demands the withdrawal of NATO and the end of unilateral coercive measures (presented as sanctions by Atlanticist propaganda). Washington immediately expressed its disapproval, stressing that Beijing had not condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine. But Kiev, Minsk, Paris and Brussels (EU) have shown interest. Washington has warned Beijing against military support for Russia. Contacts have been made, including with G7 members, to assess the possibility of enacting "unilateral coercive measures" (which would be misrepresented as "sanctions") against China.

Erratum

In our previous edition, we mistakenly described Ron Paul as the Ohio representative whereas he is representative of Texas’ 14th District.
Note: These articles are totally overpriced. Very few are free to access (Open Access). However, many university libraries provide free access. Fortunately, the Sci-Hub site makes them available to the public. It usually takes a few weeks after they are published. In some countries, this site is banned and can only be accessed with a VPN or sometimes using Tor software.

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Who defines West’s secret geopolitical agenda?

Chinese President Xi Jinping explained at both parliamentary meetings that the US has launched history’s biggest containment offensive on China. He recalled the accusation of genocide against the Uighurs and the destruction of Islam, while 150 million tourists were able to verify for themselves that Islam is a culture like any other in China and that there is no infrastructure to jail 1.5 million people.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang has publicly referred to an "invisible hand" that pushes for the prolongation and escalation of the East-West conflict by using the Ukrainian crisis to serve certain geopolitical agendas.

Beijing thus agrees with Moscow which has been condemning the action of a "gang of drug addicts and neo-Nazis" since February 2022.

Contrary to the common interpretation of this expression, Russian President Vladimir Putin referred not only to Ukrainian "integral nationalists", but also and above all to American "Straussians". They are the one who define the West’s secret geopolitical agenda, nobody else.

Under these conditions, the coup in Israel must be interpreted according to this geopolitical agenda because it is led by the US Straussians. Until now, color revolutions and other coups were secret operations of great powers to secure the benefits of wars without waging them. Yet it seems that regime change in Israel is solely the work of a non-state US group.

AMERICAS

Democrats are much more imperialist than Republicans

According to a Gallup poll:
- 20% of American adults think the US should "assume the leading role" in world affairs.
- 45% overall think the US should "play a major role" in global affairs; 39% of Republicans, 42% of independents and 56% of Democrats agree.
- 27% overall believe that the US should "play a minor role" in world affairs.
7% overall believe that the US should "play no role" in world affairs.

**Native Americans bypass the Bureau of Indian Affairs**

An Indian tribe of about 600 people, the Muwekma Ohlone of California, is trying to gain federal recognition after it was declared "extinct" in 1927. However, instead of going through the Bureau of Indian Affairs this tribe went to Congress, infuriating other Indians. Federal recognition opens up all sorts of rights including the right to set up tax-free casinos. Only 574 tribes are recognized. Indian groups seceded from their tribe to try to obtain the precious advantages on their behalf. Therefore, applicants must file with the Bureau of Indian Affairs a file proving that their group has existed as a distinct and continuous community since 1900, that it has maintained political influence or authority, and that its members are descended from a historic Indian tribe and do not belong to other tribes. Using its constitutional privilege, Congress can override this procedure.

**Biden proposes voting rights reform**

President Joe Biden has proposed changing each state’s election laws to harmonize them. The bill would require them to propose voter registration on the day of their application, make polling day a statutory holiday and impose 15 days of early voting. It would also require universal mail-in voting, create a taxpayer-backed public funding system for House elections, and impose new restrictions on states’ ability to draw electoral districts.

Simultaneously, a case pits the North Carolina Congress against the Federal Administration before the Supreme Court. It provides that the organization of elections is not the responsibility of the federal administration, but exclusively of state legislators.

**10 minutes of Blinken-Lavrov talks**

State Secretary Antony Blinken spoke for ten minutes with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers’ Summit in New Delhi. According to the US press, he admonished him about the invasion of Ukraine. According to Lavrov’s spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, this staging just heralds the elections in the US.

**A presidential candidate asks $1 from each of his voters**

Vegan candidate for the Republican presidential nomination Vivek Ramaswamy has launched a fundraising campaign in which he asks only a dollar from every voter who believes in his anti-woke platform.

**Steve Bannon denounces Rupert Murdoch**

Steve Bannon was the most applauded speaker at last weekend’s Republican CPAC meeting. He centered his speech on a condemnation of the "betrayal" of the Australian-British Rupert Murdoch, the owner of Fox News. He accused him of wanting to derail the candidacy of former President Donald Trump in favor of that of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.

**Fake US arms shipments to Ukraine**

According to Russian State Duma speaker Vyacheslav Volodin, despite appearances Washington is having the war in Ukraine financed by its allies. The US are only the twelfth state to foot the bill with 0.37% of their GDP, the first being Poland with 2.1% of its GDP. Moreover, the EU states are the ones who must pay the consequences of their unilateral coercive measures (so called “sanctions”) on the Russian Federation.

The US will not send the Abrams tanks it promised to Ukraine. These are unsuitable for this terrain, said National Security Advisor Jacob Sullivan. According to him, Washington
had announced their delivery only to convince its allies to do the same. Once they agreed, the promise could be rescinded.

**War Powers Resolution called into question**

Republican Representative Matt Gaetz (Florida) has introduced two bills ([H.Con.Res.20](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/20) and [H.Con.Res.21](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/21)) requiring President Biden to withdraw within 15 days, or 3 months, US troops stationed in Syria.

This military presence is legal under US law (*War Powers Resolution*, adopted during the Vietnam War) while being illegal under international law. It will be debated next week in the House.

**Official version of Capitol Riot questioned**

New video recordings of the Capitol Riots on January 6, 2021, have been discovered by new Speaker of the House of Representatives Kevin McCarthy. Some clips were aired by reporter Tucker Carlson on Fox News. They show that some people arrested since then did not storm Congress, but moved freely escorted by police. These videos undermine the version of the Committee of Inquiry of the previous Congress, without clearing all participants of January 6.

**The only existing version of Nord Stream’s sabotage questioned**

Rejecting Seymour Hersh’s revelations the *New York Times* claimed that U.S. intelligence had identified the pro-Ukrainian group that allegedly sabotaged the Nord Stream pipelines. *Die Zeit* and German public television channels ARD and SWR believed they identified the boat that allegedly brought the explosives. The German public prosecutor’s office had it searched, to no avail.

The Ukrainian president denied being involved in the sabotage.

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**Americans don’t trust Joe Biden’s Ukraine policy**

According to a poll by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, only 19% of Americans are confident in Biden’s ability to handle the situation in Ukraine, while 37% say they have some confidence and 43% have virtually none.

**Congress threatens to militarily attack Mexico**

Senators Lindsey Graham (South Carolina) and John Kennedy (Louisiana) have introduced a bill to declare nine Mexican cartels as "foreign terrorist organizations" and authorize the use of U.S. military force.

Since the 19th century, the US has repeatedly waged wars against Mexico.

**The battle for gas stoves goes on**

The Consumer Product Safety Commission is considering how to ban gas stoves. The argument is no longer about the emission of methane supposed to cause global warming in the northern hemisphere, but about the dangers of gas for end-users. It would therefore be a health question.

Industrialists responded by publishing a study showing that health-altering particles in a kitchen do not come from cooking gas, but from cooked food.

**Argentina questions leonine agreements of the Falklands War**

On the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers’ Summit in New Delhi Argentine Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero briefed his British counterpart James Cleverly on the suspension of the 2016 agreement. At the end of the Falklands War the UK imposed a Leonine peace on Argentina. This included a never made public agreement prohibiting the Argentine Air Force from flying over the south of the country and entrusting the air safety of this vast region to the
Royal Air Force. In doing so, London controls much of Antarctica and the oceans. Santiago Cafiero said in a statement that "Argentina has sought to collaborate on concrete matters such as flights, scientific activity in Antarctica or the conservation and preservation of fishing resources, without the willingness shown by Argentina having been reciprocated [by the UK government]."

**EUROPE**

**Report on the Manchester Arena bombing**

The third volume of the investigation into the Manchester Arena bombing (22 May 2017) has been published. It highlights the shortcomings of MI5 which apparently could have prevented a thousand people being wounded. Terrorist Salman Abedi was the son of MI6 agent Ramadan Abedi who played an important role in the Arab Spring and the overthrow of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Neither then-Prime Minister David Cameron nor MI6 Director Sir Alex Younger were heard by the inquiry which does not answer any of the important questions that were asked.

**UK considers law against illegal immigration**

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has filed a bill to ban anyone illegally entering the UK from staying in the country. People arriving illegally by boat may be returned to their country of origin or to a third country. BBC presenter Gary Lineker was called to order after saying: "This is simply a policy of immeasurable cruelty directed at the most vulnerable people with a vocabulary that is not far removed from that used by Germany in the 30s."

British Home Secretary Suella Braverman told Sky News: "We are confident that the measures announced yesterday are in line with our obligations under international law, including the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the European Convention on Human Rights."

**The French against Macron’s reform**

Between 1.5 and 3 million French people demonstrated this week against President Macron’s pension reform. The massive demonstrations did not shake the Élysée Palace which intends to go on with its reform as if nothing happened. 82% of French people are opposed to this reform and say they are "very angry".

**Germany now independent of Russian hydrocarbons**

Germany has achieved independence from Russia in gas, coal and oil. Chancellor Olaf Scholz said: "A year ago, no one expected that we could easily get out economically from a situation in which there would be no gas supply from Russia to Germany and to many parts of Europe."

**Germany wrongly accuses Iran**

On a visit to Iraq German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock accused Iran of carrying out missile strikes outside its borders. "These attacks jeopardize both civilians and the stability of the region," she said. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani replied: "Instead of making baseless accusations against Iran to hide the crimes of the former German government which supported Saddam’s [Hussein] regime and provided it with chemical weapons for use against Iranian and Iraqi military and defenseless civilians, the German foreign minister was expected to apologize, first and foremost, for the German government’s past shameful approach to the Iranian and Iraqi
people."
Since Ayatollah Khomeini, it has been a constant military doctrine of the Iranian armies never to use weapons of mass destruction that can reach civilians.

**One-on-one between Scholz and Biden**
German Chancellor Olaf Scholz met with US President Joe Biden at the White House. The meeting without witnesses lasted one hour. The Chancellor was adamant about speaking privately with President Biden. No comment was made at the end of this meeting.
The two men may have addressed the issue of the sabotage by the US and Norway of the Nord Stream gas pipelines and the disastrous consequences it has had on the German economy.

**Norway reaps benefits from Nord Stream sabotage**
Norway has tripled its oil revenues since the sabotage of the Russian-German-French-Dutch Nord Stream pipelines. In 2022, it earned 1,457 billion crowns (€131 billion).
Seymour Hersh revealed that the White House had used Norway for this sabotage.

**John Paul II did not denounce pedophile priests**
Polish television TVN24 named three priests, convicted of pedophilia, whom future Pope John Paul II, then known as Msgr. Karol Wojtyla, moved between parishes or sent to a cloister in the 1970s, including one who was sent to Austria.
Karol Wojtyla was Archbishop of Krakow from 1964 until 1978, when he became Pope John Paul II. He died in 2005 and was declared a saint in 2014.

**Hungary for a ceasefire in Ukraine**
Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said the most important achievement of the war is that "Europe has withdrawn from the debate."
Hungarian Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Peter Szijjarto said the EU’s 10 “sanctions” packages against Russia were useless. According to him, the Nº1 objective must be to stop the massacre. This can only be achieved through a ceasefire.

**Foreign editions**
*Voltaire, international news* is now published in six languages:
- Dutch,
- English,
- French,
- Italian,
- German,
- Spanish.

**European states and Israel’s evolution**
In a joint statement the foreign ministers of France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain and the UK strongly condemned "the indiscriminate violence of Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including the destruction of their homes and property." They called on Israel to bring the perpetrators to justice. They recalled that Israeli settlements in Palestinian territory are illegal under international law. They now concern 750,000 settlers.
On the other hand, Hungary, which had invited Benjamin Netanyahu’s son to a conference, is preparing to transfer its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, becoming the fifth country to do so after the US, Guatemala, Honduras and Kosovo.

**The EU and production of 155mm shells**
European Commissioner for Internal Market, Frenchman Thierry Breton is considering a plan to support manufacturers of 155mm ammunition. The goal is to both supply Ukraine and replenish the stocks of the EU armies. Due
to outsourcing problems, this effort will not be completed for another year.

**Switzerland lifts anti-Syrian “sanctions”**

Switzerland, headquarters of the International Red Cross, has decided to repeal its unilateral coercive measures against Syria in order to facilitate the work of humanitarian organizations with earthquake survivors.

**Glencore pleads guilty to bribery**

New York Judge Loma G. Schofield fined Glencore $428.5 million and forfeited $272.2 million for corruption abroad. The fine will be divided between three beneficiaries: $262.6 million for the US, $136.2 million for the UK and $29.7 million for Switzerland, where Glencore is headquartered.

Glencore is the world’s largest commodity broker with $256 billion in revenue in 2022. Considered "the most irresponsible multinational in the world", it made headlines time and time again. Its founder, Marc Rich, was amnestied by President Bill Clinton a few hours before the end of his term. Its reference shareholder is Qatar.

**Serbia will not recognize Kosovo**

After meeting Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti in Brussels, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic wanted to reassure his fellow citizens. He told Serbian Radio and Television: "As long as I am president, I will not sign or accept official or unofficial recognition of Kosovo or for Kosovo to join the UN."

The Kosovar side then accused him of negotiating in bad faith.

**Major cleanup goes on in Ukraine**

President Volodymyr Zelensky sacked deputy minister of municipal development Vasil Luzhinskin on suspicion of receiving bribes, in addition to making contracts at inflated prices for food products for the military.

By Decree No. 130/2023, Oleksandr Yakushev was dismissed as Deputy Head of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU).

By Decree No. 131/2023, Oleksandr Provorotov was dismissed as head of the economic activities department of the SBU agency.

By Decree No. 132/2023, Ihor Nosko was removed from his position as head of the SBU Department for the Protection of State Secrets.

By Decree No. 135/2023, he was replaced by Oleh Khramov.

By Decrees Nos. 133/2023 and 134/2023, Borys Bezrukyi and Eduard Fedorov were dismissed from their positions as heads of the Zaporizhzhia and Sumy offices of the SBU.

By Decree Decree No. 136/2023, Oleh Krasnoshapka replaced the second.

**Belarusian presidential candidate sentenced in absentia**

Former presidential candidate Svetlana Tikhanovskaïa was sentenced to 15 years in prison after a trial in absentia for plotting to overthrow the government.

She got 10% of the vote and fled to Lithuania screaming conspiracy.

"Russian Volunteer Corps in Ukraine" attacks on Russian soil

On 2 March, two civilians were killed and one child wounded in Bryansk, Russia. The authorities denounced an incursion of Ukrainian terrorists, which Kyiv vigorously denied, accusing the Russians of wanting to frighten their own population. The Russian Foreign Ministry then accused the attackers of having used "NATO weapons", thus raising the question of the role of the Atlantic Alliance in this terrorist operation.

However, on March 3 the Financial Times gave the floor to German neo-Nazi activist Denis Kapustin (Russian-born), member of the Russian Volunteer Corps (KDR) in Ukraine,
who claimed responsibility for the attack and said he carried it out in coordination with Kyiv. This is the group that claimed responsibility for the assassination of Darya Dugina (the daughter of Alexander Dugin), in August 2022 in Moscow.

The FSB also said it had opened criminal proceedings against the Volunteer Corps for an attempted assassination of billionaire Konstantin Malofeev in August 2022. Just after the 2014 coup in Kiev, Konstantin Malofeev financed a Cossack formation in Donbass. However, he stopped all involvement in Ukrainian affairs after the signing of the Minsk Agreements.

**Relations between the Russian Army and the Wagner Group**

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu discussed in Mariupol with the heads of the units participating in the special military operation, the situation in the theater of operations and plans for the next stage. He stressed the need to "create all necessary conditions to allow the deployment of personnel in the areas of military operations, as well as to organize all support to these troops, including the work of medical units and support units retreating from the front lines."

Yevgeny Prigozhin did not participate in this meeting. The next day, he released a video suggesting a possible withdrawal of his private military company, the Wagner Group, from the Artemovsk/Bakhmut front.

Clearly, the tensions between the Russian army and the Wagner Group relate to the latter’s participation or not in the strategic meetings of the General Staff.

**Relations between Volodymyr Zelensky and the head of his armed forces**

According to the German magazine Bild, commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian armies General Valery Zaluzhny wanted to withdraw his troops from Artemovsk/Bakhmut three weeks ago when Krasna Hora fell. President Zelensky ordered him to maintain them regardless of Ukrainian casualties.

**Transparency International banned in Russia**

The Prosecutor General of Russia declared the activities of the NGO Transparency International (TI) undesirable on the territory of the Russian Federation.

Although TI is headquartered in Berlin, the NGO is notoriously an offshoot of the U.S. government.

**Russia introduces simplified visas**

Russia has implemented a simplified visa system with Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Bahamas, Barbados, Haiti, Zambia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago. It is being...
extended to Angola, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Syria and Vietnam.

"We can, together with other countries, drive the final nail in the coffin of the neo-colonial aspirations of the Western world"

Former President and current Deputy Chairman of the Security Council of Russia Dmytri Medvedev said: "The sharp blade of turbulence in international relations has opened the abscess of the old problems of our world. For many decades, they were treated with "political plasters" instead of eliminating the causes of the disease. However, an abscess cannot last forever. The time has come for international surgery to remove the malignant tumor of the colonial past."

"The UK will never give the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius and France will never give Mayotte to the Union of the Comoros or the Scattered Islands to Madagascar. Therefore, it is only recently that they have understood the correctness of resistance to the vestiges of neocolonial practices and the imposition of perverse cultural attitudes emanating from former Western metropolises."

AFRICA

Morocco positions itself on the cannabis extract market

The Bio Cannat Cooperative in Morocco has announced the inauguration of the first cannabis processing plant and extraction of materials for the food and medical industries (cannabidiol, cannabigerol, cannabinol and others).

Cannabis is a traditional production in the Maghreb. Taking advantage of prohibition in the West, Morocco became the main exporter to Europe. However, this market is being challenged by the decriminalization underway in many European countries.

Malian imams against the draft constitution

The Malian League of Imams and Scholars for Islamic Solidarity in Mali (Limama) called for a vote on March 19 against the draft constitution of the transitional government of Colonel Assimi Goïta. According to the league: "This word secularism in all its forms must be cleansed of the fundamental text and replaced by the multi-confessional state. We trust the transitional authorities, we trust their patriotic spirit, their intelligence, to perceive the wish of 95% of Malians by accepting the request we have made."

Central African Republic condemns Western looting

Speaking at a UN summit in Qatar President of the Central African Republic Faustin-Archange Touadéra said: "Since its independence, the Central African Republic has been subjected to systematic looting facilitated by the political instability maintained by certain Western countries [and] by armed terrorist groups whose leaders are foreign mercenaries (...) The recurrent attacks [by armed groups] are aimed at making the country ungovernable, preventing the state from exercising its right of sovereignty over nature reserves and its legitimate right to self-determination."

He also denounced "the unjust and illegitimate embargo on arms to the Central African armed forces and on Central African diamonds" as well as "the disinformation and demonization campaigns of certain foreign media in order to discourage investors".

François Bozizé covered by Washington

The departure of former Central African Republic President François Bozizé was organized by the US State Department. In
N’Djamena, he took a special flight chartered by Chad’s transitional president Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno to Guinea Bissau where he was granted asylum by President Umaro Sissoco Embaló.

**Emmanuel Macron’s difficult trip to Congo**

Twenty political parties and 150 NGOs have issued statements saying French President Emmanuel Macron is not welcome in Kinshasa. Indeed, France which has repeatedly verbally condemned Rwanda’s military support for the separatist group M23, has never taken any action against Kigali.

For 30 years, wars have never stopped in the Great Lakes region (Congo, Burundi, Uganda, Rwanda) causing a total of at least six million deaths. These wars are deliberately upheld by Western powers (France, US, Israel, UK) in order to be able to plunder the extraordinary natural wealth of this region.

Once in Kinshasa, President Macron declared: "Since 1994, it is not France’s fault, you have never been able to restore the military, security or administrative sovereignty of your country. It is a reality. We must not look for culprits outside."

**De-escalation between DRC and Rwanda**

Angola, which was appointed by the African Union (AU) to lead de-escalation efforts between the DRC and Rwanda, announced that it agreed with the M23 to a cessation of hostilities on March 7 at noon.

**Russia offers fertilizer to Malawi**

Since the beginning of unilateral coercive measures against Russia (presented as "sanctions" by Atlanticist propaganda), Russia has exported and often free of charge 260,000 tons of fertilizer to Africa. Moscow has just donated 20,000 tons to Malawi.

**South Africa reduces its embassy in Tel Aviv**

South African Parliament passed a resolution asking the government to reduce its representation in Israel in light of its political developments. It is the first state to draw conclusions from Benjamin Netanyahu’s coalition’s plan to reform the institutions. Israel has long been the sole ally of the South African apartheid regime. This alliance was negotiated by Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres.

**ASIA**

**Israeli army pushes former Knesset speaker**

The Israeli army prevented a demonstration of Jews from entering the village of Huwara to express solidarity with the Palestinian population after the village was destroyed by 400 Jewish settlers. Former Knesset speaker Avraham Burg was shoved by soldiers who brought him down.

**UN Human Rights Council deflects investigation into Beirut port explosion**

At the 52nd sessions of the UN Human Rights Council a group of Western states led by Australia called for an impartial investigation without political interference into the explosion at the port of Beirut on 4 August 2020. The various magistrates who have so far investigated were concerned to show that one of the communities outside them was responsible for this chaos. So, they bickered among themselves as during the investigation into the assassination of Rafik Hariri. In both cases, they overlooked the most obvious leads. The explosion of the port caused a mushroom-shaped cloud that, in no case, can come from fertilizer. It is a simple observation that all artificers and firefighters have explained in vain. The Australian statement can therefore only add
to confusion since it specifies that the investigation must not consider a political lead.

Hamas’ self-criticism

Hamas has been deeply self-critical. It admitted that the Muslim Brotherhood had diverted it from its goal of liberating the Palestinian people. Thus, Turkey, which protects the Brotherhood, maintains good relations with Israel, while Syria, which is fighting the Brotherhood, is still at war with Tel Aviv. Many Arab states have decided to reopen their embassies in Damascus, which is why Hamas has also visited Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. The heads of Hamas’ Political Bureau, Khaled Mesh’al, and then Ismail Haniyeh, opposed the reorientation. They are now replaced by Yahya Sinwar who had announced in 2017 the need to reconnect with Syria.

US Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Illegally Visits Syria

Syria has strongly condemned the illegal visit to its sovereign territory of Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley. The US occupies the northeastern quarter of the country where it maintains 900 troops. They supervise Kurdish mercenaries who have proclaimed an autonomous state, Rojava. Together, they exploit the Syrian oil fields. Half of the revenue is attributed to mercenaries, the other half to the CIA. It thus constitutes a slush fund with which it finances operations all over the world without reporting to Congress. The total value of oil stolen from Syria by the US now stands at $107 billion. Turkey has also reacted to this strong support for Kurdish terrorists. The Foreign Ministry summoned US ambassador to Ankara Jeff Flake to ask for an explanation.

Israel bombs supplies for Syrian earthquake victims

Israel bombed Aleppo airport, halting refugee relief operations. The supply of relief aid continues by road.

Saudi Arabia moves closer to Syria

According to Intelligence Online, a visit by the Saudi foreign minister to Damascus is being negotiated. It would mark the end of Syria’s isolation in the Arab world and its forthcoming reintegration into the Arab League. However, from a Syrian point of view, the League will be of little help insofar as it cannot oppose the US policy of containment. Turkish-Syrian normalization, however, is not expected to take place before the Turkish presidential election on May 14.

Alcohol banned in Iraq

In a sign of the Islamization of the country, the Iraqi government has decided to implement a 2016 law prohibiting the import, production and sale of alcohol under penalty of a heavy fine. According to some legal experts, this law would be unconstitutional because it infringes individual freedoms. According to others, it is the freedom to drink alcohol that would be unconstitutional because the Constitution prohibits any law contrary to Islam. Except that the Qur’an does not prohibit alcohol. The autonomous region of Iraqi Kurdistan has already indicated that it will not apply this provision.

Royal Navy seizes weapons destined for Yemen

The Royal Navy intercepted a small boat flying from Iran to Yemen. It carried Iranian-made 9M133 Kornet anti-tank guided missiles and Dehlavies for the Houthis. The equipment was seized.
Turkish opposition unites
The mayors of Istanbul and Ankara refused to run in the May 14 presidential election. After many twists and turns, Turkey’s six main opposition parties have nominated a joint candidate in the person of the chairman of the Republican People’s Party (CHP), the secular social democrat Kemal Kilicdaroglu. Türkiye is now divided in two. Mr. Kilicdaroglu is not Sunni, but Alevi, the Turkish version of the Syrian Alawites.

EU to declare Iran’s Revolutionary Guards terrorists
According to Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis, quoted by Axios, the EU is preparing to label the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) as a "terrorist organization" because of "their support for Russia in its war in Ukraine".

IAEA signs agreement with Iran
Head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi met with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran. The two men agreed to an agreement on the conditions for the Agency’s surveillance of Iran.

Investigation into the poisoning of young Iranian women
After leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called the poisoning of schoolgirls a "great unforgivable crime," police arrested five people. According to a parliamentarian, more than 5000 students in girls’ schools were poisoned across the country, 900 of which were hospitalized, no one died.

Fire at a refugee camp in Bangladesh
A fire has ravaged a Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh. More than 2,000 tents have been destroyed and 12,000 people are homeless.

Kem Sokha imprisoned
After a three-year trial, Cambodian opposition leader Kem Sokha was sentenced to 27 years in prison for "treason". He had admitted in 2017 to having received money from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) to organize a color revolution. Prime Minister Hun Sen has been in power for 24 years during which he has earned a dozen doctorates in political science, law, economics and education. Cambodia is developing its policy of independence. Deputy Prime Minister Prak Sokhonn visited Japan, while Prime Minister Hun Sen visited China. The Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying that "The best way to ensure the independence of a small country like Cambodia is to prevent a foreign power from interfering in its internal affairs or supporting one party against the other."

South Korea exports arms
South Korea’s arms exports increased by 140% in 2022 to a record $17.3 billion. Seoul does not give weapons to Ukraine, but fills the Western arms deficit, especially in ammunition.

North Korea warns against intercepting its missiles
Any interception of missiles during their testing phases over the Pacific Ocean "will be clearly seen as a declaration of war against the DPRK," said Kim Yo Jong, sister of the supreme leader.

Question about succession in North Korea
South Korean intelligence has claimed that DPRK supreme leader’s daughter Kim Ju-ae is his second child. The first would be a boy and the gender of the third is unknown. If the former was in good health, it would be up to him to succeed Kim Jong-un.
Former Hiroshima mayor for universal commitment not to use atomic bomb first

Hiroshima’s former mayor Tadatoshi Akiba has called on G7 members to honor the pledge they made last May to declare that they would never be the first to use nuclear weapons. This example would pave the way for Russia and allow the establishment of a universal declaration to that effect.

Wild animals take over Fukushima again

At least a third of the wildlife has returned to the irradiated area of Fukushima, twelve years after the nuclear accident. According to scientists who have autopsied many specimens, there is no trace that these wild animals are irradiated even if the area still is.

Japan negotiates compensation for Korean ‘comfort women’ and forced laborer’s

In 1965 an agreement between Japan and South Korea introduced some $800 million in subsidies and subsidized loans to South Korea after years of negotiations over the amount owed to prostitutes and forced laborers. The government in Seoul took the Japanese money but did not pay the victims. Instead, it used the funds as capital to build the South Korean economy.

In a 2015 agreement, Shinzo Abe offered compensation to Korean "comfort women" who served in Japanese military brothels. Most of the surviving women agreed to the deal, but the Moon administration froze the fund due to opposition from a small group of victims. In 2018, these protracted disputes have evolved from a historic dispute to an even more disorderly struggle in the legal, economic and security fields. South Korean courts have ordered two Japanese companies, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Nippon Steel, to compensate Koreans who were forced to work for them during World War II. When the companies failed to comply, courts seized their Korean-based assets as compensation.

Washington is trying to reconcile South Korea and Japan as quickly as possible to wage its war against China. But South Korean victims are not expecting financial compensation, they are demanding a public apology from Japan, which Tokyo does not want to hear about.

How Japanese government controls TV media

Hiroyuki Konishi of the Constitutional Democratic Party released a 78-page document written during Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s time. It shows how Abe lobbied to reinterpret the broadcasting law in order to control journalists. Abe would have decided to judge the impartiality of a media, no longer on the whole of its production, but only on the basis of a single case, admitting to being able to assimilate a simple error to the choice of an editorial policy.

Minister of Economic Security Sanae Takaichi assured the Diet that this document had been falsified, before retracting before parliamentarians and admitting to having lied. The opposition demanded her resignation.

Local elections will be held on 23 March.

Taiwan cries wolf

Taiwanese Defense Minister Chiu Kuo-cheng warned that the island must be on high alert this year to possibly face a "sudden entry" of the People’s Liberation Army into areas close to its territory. Speaking to the American Enterprise Institute however, US Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth and commander-in-chief of the US Army Pacific General Charles Flynn said that China did not have the means to organize the crossing of the Taiwan Strait and the landing of its troops.

General Charles Flynn is the brother of former National Security Advisor Michael T. Flynn.
Taiwan dreads TSMC relocation

The Taiwanese parliament is not so much debating the Chinese peril than the construction of the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company’s (TSMC) giant factory in the US. Has the company been pressured or has its management been corrupted? Whatever the answer, the stakes are high because this relocation makes Taiwan useless in the medium term in the eyes of its US protector which will become autonomous in terms of electronic chips.

Germany will not defend Taiwan

Chair of the Bundestag’s defense committee Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann said during her visit to Taipei that Germany would not supply arms to Taiwan. The situation of the island is different from that of Ukraine. Germany is the main European arms supplier to Kiev.

China Increases the People’s Liberation Army’s budget

China will increase defense spending by 7.2 percent in 2023, for a projected 5% economic growth. Beijing has the second largest military budget in the world ($224 Billion), about a third of the Pentagon’s ($772 Billion).

China toughens its tone against the US

Chinese President Xi Jinping said during the parliament session: "Western countries, led by the US, have implemented all-out containment, encirclement and repression against us, which poses challenges of unprecedented gravity to the development of our country.” Chinese Foreign Minister and former ambassador to Washington Qin Gang said: "If the US continues to go down the wrong path and does not put the brakes on it, no safeguards can prevent the derailment of relations ... Who will bear the catastrophic consequences? ».

Responding to reporters, he added: "I just think that what determines China-US relations should be common interests, common responsibilities and friendship between the two peoples [and not] US domestic politics and this kind of hysterical neo-McCarthyism.” And again: "The US says it seeks to 'suppress' China but does not seek conflict ... Yet in reality, their so-called 'competition' means containing and suppressing China in all respects and locking the two countries into a zero-sum game."

China participates in US Cobra Gold 2023 military exercises

The Chinese People’s Liberation Army is symbolically participating in the Cobra Gold 2023 exercises of the US military and 30 of its allies. The news is not announced on either the Pentagon website nor that of IndoPaCom.

OCEANIA

Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is expected to visit the US in two weeks. President Joe Biden is expected to announce that his country will deliver nuclear-powered submarines as part of the AUKUS alliance. This decision reverses US non-proliferation policy. Washington has supplied such submarines only to its privileged ally the UK. It also reverses Australia’s anti-nuclear stance. Indonesia responded by proposing to the UN the creation of a peaceful nuclear-free zone. The states of the region consider that Australia no longer has a sovereign policy and has become an auxiliary of the Pentagon.
John McCain’s widow to head the World Food Programme

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed US Senator John McCain’s widow, Cindy McCain, to head the World Food Programme, the world’s largest humanitarian organization. She was most recently U.S. Ambassador to the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
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EDITORIAL

Global energy market developments

Organized by S&P Global, CERA week hosted 7,000 participants, including 1,100 speakers from 80 countries on March 6-10 in Houston. This year’s edition was called "Navigating a Turbulent World: Energy, Climate and Security". S&P Global is the parent company of the financial rating agency Standard & Poor’s (S&P). Every year, it organizes the largest gathering of hydrocarbon industrialists. The war in Ukraine is pushing transnational corporations to abandon fossil fuels, not to fight global warming but for national security reasons. As a result, investments for oil drilling are rare, except in Western countries. This will result in a shortage in a few years, unless the market turns to another energy source.

Debates were dominated by the new hydrogen market of which there are three types:

- Grey hydrogen is mainly produced using fossil fuels such as natural gas without applying other emission reduction technologies;
- Blue hydrogen is produced from fossil fuels, with reduced carbon emissions thanks to CCUS technology (carbon capture, utilization and storage);
- Green hydrogen is produced by electrolysis, which uses electricity to separate water into hydrogen and oxygen.

Current world production is 59 million tonnes while demand is already 94 million tonnes. Production is expected to reach between 115 and 130 million tonnes in 2030. The Democrats Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) introduced tax incentives to get energy companies on this path as soon as possible.

The US House will soon begin consideration of Republicans’ flagship bill called H.R.1. It aims to reduce barriers erected in the face of mining and petroleum activities in the U.S. in order to reduce the time required to issue operating permits by 5 to 1 year. This bill is not expected to pass Senate where the Democratic majority calls it a "polluters’ bill for dirty energy". (…)
In total contradiction to her speech against fossil fuels, US Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland authorized the ConocoPhillips drilling project in Alaska. $8 billion will be invested to tap the region’s oil. Thus, the Biden administration hopes to pull the rug out from under the Republicans.

Traditional gas investments, which are getting scarce in Latin America, Africa and the Middle East, are quite significant in the China Sea. The China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) has started operating two gas fields in the Yinggehai Basin. Indonesia begins that of Tuna which will be intended for Vietnam with the help of Russian Zarubezhneft. Japan has quietly begun Idemitsu Kosan’s operation of the Nam Con Son basin. Harbour Energy and ExxonMobil are involved in these operations. Malaysia’s Petronas and French TotalEnergies have discovered a new Malaysian field. The Philippines tried to reactivate the Cadlao field, but without much success.

AMERICAS

Canada’s war goal in Ukraine is to overthrow Vladimir Putin in Moscow

According to Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly, the goal of the war in Ukraine is not simply to drive out the Russian military, but to bring about regime change in Moscow.

Americans unhappy with the Biden presidency

According to an Associated Press/NORC poll,
- 71 percent of U.S. adults say the country is "going in the wrong direction."
- 61% disapprove of President Biden’s handling of the U.S. economy.
- 59% disapprove of the way it manages border security.
- 58% disapprove of the way he handles relations between the U.S. and China.
- 54% disapprove of how he handles his overall work as president.
- 51% disapprove of the way he handles foreign policy.

Parliamentary inquiry into a parliamentary inquiry

Republican congressional representatives have decided to launch a parliamentary inquiry into the parliamentary inquiry into the Capitol riot on January 6, 2021. After the release of new videos, thousands of hours of recording, they believe that the Democrats-led previous inquiry was biased. In addition, during a trial against people accused of taking part in the storming of the Capitol, Nick Smith, one of the Proud Boys’ lawyers, revealed classified FBI emails that were hidden in an Excel spreadsheet tab. They included a directive from Special Constable Nicole Miller ordering the "destruction" of 338 pieces of evidence. The destruction of evidence is a federal crime.

New revelations about Biden family activities

The Treasury Department has started forwarding the first requested documents to the House of Representatives Oversight and Accountability Committee. They reveal a $3 million transfer from the Chinese company CEFC to Hunter Biden (Joe Biden’s son) and numerous transfers of unknown origin to members of the Biden family in the months following the end of Joe Biden’s vice presidency. The commission is trying to determine whether Vice President Joe Biden was bribed by a foreign state.
The presidential privilege of war questioned again

Democrat Senate Majority leader Charles E. Schumer has proposed repealing the 1991 and 2002 laws granting the President of the U.S. the privilege of going to war without having to seek permission of Congress (Authorization for Use of Military Force - AUMF). President Barack Obama used these laws to invade Syria and President Donald Trump to assassinate Iranian General Qassem Soleimani in Iraq.
The repeal of these laws is a recurring issue in Congress. Repeatedly announced in the House, it has never been voted on by the Senate.

Congress wants to know more about the origin of Covid-19

Senate has passed a House bill to declassify all documents related to the origin of Covid-19. The bill is supported by both Republicans and Democrats. It requires Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines to present all the documents of the various intelligence agencies on this subject within 90 days.
Two months before the Covid outbreak began in China, Avril Haines took part in a simulation by the Davos Forum on October 18, 2019 in New York aimed at "planning the response of transnational corporations and governments to a coronavirus outbreak".

Situation on the Mexican border

Border Patrol Commander Raul Ortiz was heard by the House of Representatives’ Homeland Security Committee. He is at the head of an agency that would need 22,000 employees. They were 21,370 in 2012, but only 19,016 today.
U.S. Customs and Border Protection said 155,000 foreigners were apprehended last month while illegally crossing the Mexican border. Arrivals have risen sharply since the Biden administration allowed nationals of Cuba, Venezuela, Haiti and Nicaragua to enter the country if they have filed a simple prior request. This hearing contradicts the words of Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas. It was boycotted by Democrat lawmakers.

Moody: US banking system is 'negative'

Following the bankruptcies of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), Silvergate Bank and Signature Bank (SNY), rating firm Moody downgraded the US banking system from "stable" to "negative". The company said First Republic, Intrust Financial, UMB, Zions Bancorp, Western Alliance and Comerica banks were particularly fragile.
Many analysts say that the bankruptcy of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) is due to its investment policy, which substituted woke criteria over financial standards.

U.S. government subsidizes British agency to dry up ads that fund Republican Media

Republican Representative Ken Buck (Colorado) has written to Secretary of State Antony Blinken asking him to cease current and future public funding of the Global Disinformation Index (GDI). "The GDI has used this funding to create a list of news organizations with which advertisers and commercial interests must refrain from doing business in order to limit the participation of these organizations in the marketplace of ideas ... This organization has received hundreds of thousands of dollars from the taxpayer-funded National Endowment for Democracy and the State Department’s Global Engagement Center."
U.S. public funding amounts to about $545,000 from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and $100,000 from the GEC, Fox News Digital reported.
The US "censorship industrial complex"
The House Special Subcommittee on Militarization interviewed journalists Matt Taibbi and Michael Schellenberger who accessed and published the Twitter Files. They testified about the existence of a "censorship industrial complex" set up by the federal government.

Is the war in Ukraine a US strategic interest?
Fox News reporter Tucker Carlson sent a questionnaire to each presidential candidate. 8 of them responded. The questions were:
1) Is opposing Russia in Ukraine a vital American national strategic interest?
2) What specifically is our objective in Ukraine, and how will we know when we have achieved it?
3) What is the limit of funding and materiel you would be willing to send to the government of Ukraine?
4) Should the US support regime change in Russia?
5) Given that Russia’s economy and currency are stronger than before the war, do you believe that US sanctions have been effective?
6) Do you believe the U.S. faces the risk of nuclear war with Russia?

Florida’s Republican governor Ron DeSantis and anti-woke entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy surprised with their answers. For them, as for Donald Trump, the war in Ukraine does not represent a US national strategic interest. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said "throwing money at Ukraine" was a failure, and South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem said opposition to Russia had only increased the threat posed by China.

90 Democrat representatives against Benjamin Netanyahu
90 Democrat lawmakers, led by Rosa DeLauro, Jan Schakowsky and Jim McGovern have written to President Joe Biden saying: "We urge you to use all available diplomatic tools to prevent Israel’s far-right government from further damaging the nation’s democratic institutions and undermining the potential two-state, two-peoples’ solution."

Does a Mexican cartel manufacture fentanyl?
White House homeland security adviser Liz Sherwood-Randall traveled to Mexico City to fight the trafficking of fentanyl (opioid painkiller). Mexican President Manuel Lopez Obrador replied: "Here we don’t produce fentanyl, and we don’t have fentanyl use... Why doesn’t [the U.S.] deal with its problem of social decadence?".
In 2021, the Mexican military raided a lab in Culiacan, the capital of Sinaloa state, that it said was likely manufacturing about 70 million blue fentanyl pills each month for the Sinaloa cartel. In February 2023, it seized more than half a million fentanyl pills from what it called the largest synthetic drug lab discovered to date.

Honduras recognizes the People’s Republic of China
Honduras severed diplomatic relations with Taiwan and recognized the People’s Republic of China.
Taiwan is now recognized by only 13 UN member states out of 193.

Migration through Latin America to the USA
The Daily Caller News Foundation revealed a kit distributed by the American Red Cross to migrants across Latin America. It includes a list of resources, including hotels, clinics and...
shelters where migrants can get help in Central America and Mexico. The maps include clearly defined lines leading to cities neighboring the U.S. border. The organization also has a "self-care" guide throughout the journey, which includes tips on how to survive the desert and protect yourself from disease, how to jump on trains safely, and how to get contraceptives. This program is funded by the U.S. government.

**Everything is falling apart between Nicaragua and the Vatican**

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said in late February: "The people should elect cardinals and there should be a vote among the Catholic people ... so that the pope is also elected, by a direct vote of the people, so that it is the people who decide and not the mafia that is organized there in the Vatican".

In an interview with Argentine website *Infobae*, Pope Francis replied: "With great respect, I have no other choice but to think that the person in power [Daniel Ortega] is mentally unbalanced. (...) it is like bringing back the 1917 communist dictatorship, or the 1935 Hitlerite dictatorship, bringing those back...They are a type of crass dictatorships" Nicaragua is considering suspending diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

**Ecuador expels Argentina’s ambassador**

The left-wing government of Rafael Correa (2007-17) was accused of having received "voluntary contributions" from transnational corporations, including Brazil’s Odebrecht, to finance its election campaigns. A large number of ministers and President Correa himself have been criminally prosecuted for corruption. Minister Maria de los Angeles Duarte was sentenced to 8 years in prison, but took refuge with her children in the Argentine embassy in Quito in March 2020. Argentina, whose ruling party also benefited from Odebrecht’s largesse, argues that this is not money paid to personalities, but "donations" to a political party without compensation.

Maria de los Angeles Duarte somehow left the Argentine embassy in Ecuador and presented herself two days later at the Argentine embassy in Venezuela. In retaliation, the Ecuadorian government of banker Guillermo Lasso expelled Argentina’s ambassador in Quito.

For its part, Argentina emphasizes that there is no international norm that forces the Argentine diplomatic authorities to exercise custody over Ms. Duarte.

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**EUROPE**

**Pope Francis and the celibacy of priests**

In an interview with the Argentinian site *Infobae*, Pope Francis said that the celibacy of priests being only a discipline is temporary, unlike their ordination which, being a sacrament, is by definition eternal. This question is regularly debated within the Catholic Church. Recently, the ordination of married men has been mentioned as a solution to the recruitment of priests in the Amazon, where the German Episcopal Conference has considered it.

Historically, the priestly function did not exist among the first Christians, or rather it was temporary as among the imams in Islam. A man was leading the prayer, occasionally nominated by his group.

The celibacy of priests only became a discipline in the Roman Church (but not in the Eastern Church which accepts married men as priests) in the fourth century to prevent this function from becoming hereditary.

**World War III has already begun**

In an interview with *RTS* (Swiss Radio and Television) Pope Francis said: There are in Ukraine "imperial interests, not only of the Russian Empire, but of the empires of other parties. It is characteristic of an empire to put
nations in the background (...) In just over a hundred years, there have been three world wars: 1914-18, 1939-45, and this one, which is a World War. It started in bits and pieces and now no one can say it’s not a World War."

**Alain Berset reaffirms Swiss neutrality**

In an interview with *NZZ am Sonntag*, President of the Swiss Confederation Alain Berset said: "I feel a war frenzy in certain circles. And I’m very worried about that, because this feeling is based on a short-term vision (...) Swiss weapons must not be used in wars (...) To simply say, now that the situation is different, that Switzerland must change everything without taking into account the legal basis, it is not possible."

Switzerland plans to get rid of 60 Rapier surface-to-air defense systems (anti-aircraft batteries developed by British Aircraft). Bern having reiterated its neutral position, they will not be sent to Ukraine, but will be destroyed.

**Demonstration for neutrality in Bulgaria**

Thousands of Bulgarians took part in a demonstration in Sofia on 12 March entitled "Bulgaria - Zone of Peace". They demand strict neutrality regarding the war in Ukraine.

**US-Ukraine alliance is cracking at the seams**

- According to *Politico*, the Pentagon is worried that Ukraine which wastes so many weapons on Artemovsk/Bakhmut will no longer have them to carry out its counteroffensive in spring. Cracks within the US-Ukraine alliance is widening.
- The Biden administration refuses to hand over to the International Criminal Court any evidence it may have of Russian war crimes, officially because Washington does not recognize this court, but everyone wonders if this evidence really exists.
- The U.S. will not be able to continue funding Ukraine at this pace. The new Republican majority in the House opposes it.
- Many experts in the Biden administration are expressing concern over President Zelensky’s claim to get Crimea back before starting peace negotiations.

**Rosatom new supplier for Chinese atomic bombs**

Rosatom supplies highly enriched uranium for fast breeder reactors in China. The Pentagon notices with concern that breeder reactors are used to make plutonium, which is only used for military purposes.

**Serious incident between Russia and the U.S. over the Black Sea**

On March 14, 2023, two SU-27s of the Russian Air Force attempted to intercept a US MQ-9 Reaper drone in the Black Sea’s international airspace.

The Russian Jets poured fuel on the drone, making the US Forces Europe Command (EuCom) lose control of the Reaper. According to the US side, they also hit the propeller of the MQ-9, which the Russian side denies.

The EuCom command in Germany then ordered US operators in Romania to destroy the drone in flight.

The US and Russian militaries are currently actively searching for the debris of the spy drone. Moscow is not interested in recovering the plans of the aircraft, it has better ones, but the recording data.

The US State Department summoned Russian ambassador to Washington Anatoly Antonov to deplore "unprofessional behavior," while US ambassador to Moscow Lynne M. Tracy protested to the Russian Foreign Ministry. According to the Russian side, the US drone was flying on the Russian border to collect information on targets in Russia and transmit it to the Ukrainian army. In the preceding weeks, a particularly well-informed Ukrainian group carried out serious sabotage in Russia.
According to the US side, the drone was only performing a "routine mission". In the end, Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu called his US counterpart Lloyd Austin. He recalled that the US spy drone had violated the restricted flight zone, established for all flying devices since the beginning of the special military operation. Lloyd Austin has taken note of this and has committed to continue its flights in accordance with international law.

Georgian government drops its law on foreign-funded organizations

Following protests, Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili announced the withdrawal of his bill to force NGOs receiving money from abroad to declare it. Irakli Garibashvili, who owes his entire career to former Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili of France, is considered to be his front man. Georgian political life is divided between the pro-US supporters of currently jailed former President Mikheil Saakashvili and the anti-US supporters of Irakli Garibashvili. It is “arbitrated” by President Salome Zourabichvili, former ambassador of France to this country. In 2003, President Eduard Shevardnadze was overthrown in a color revolution, the "Rose Revolution", orchestrated by organizations funded by the National Endowment for Democracy.

AFRICA

How many sub-Sahara Africans are willing to emigrate from Libya?

Head of the Brotherhood of Italy parliamentary group MP Tommaso Foti told Tgcom24 that the Italian secret service estimates that 680,000 migrants are currently being held in Libya as they try to reach Europe. The spokesperson for the International Organization for Migration said that he believes the figure corresponds to migrants in Libya, but most are migrant workers and very few seek to cross into Italy. Before the conquest of Libya by NATO, the country was home to a million migrant workers, coming mainly from sub-Saharan Africa. However, today the situation is very dangerous for them insofar as NATO has allowed the Brotherhood of Sanoussi to re-establish the slavery of blacks.

Two French journalists sentenced for blackmailing the King of Morocco

French journalists Eric Laurent and Catherine Graciet were sentenced to a one-year suspended prison sentence and a €10,000 fine by the Paris Criminal Court for blackmailing King of Morocco Mohammed VI. They tried to get €2 million in exchange for the non-publication of their book The Predator King. Main basse sur le Maroc, finally published by Eyrolles. Éric Laurent is also the author of a best-selling book on the September 11 attacks. He takes over the work of Thierry Meyssan, without ever naming him, and without assuming his political message.

Reactivation of the Khatumo conflict

Somali (administrative region of Ethiopia) denied sending soldiers to fight Somaliland (a state not recognized by the United Nations). Fighting broke out in Somaliland after the town of Las Anod declared secession and wanted to join Somalia (a UN-recognized state). This is the reactivation of the conflict around the Dhubbahante clan, residing straddling the three states of Somaliland, Puntland and Somalia. The 2017 disputed agreement led to the creation of the Khatumo Autonomous State, attached to Somalia.
**AfriCom in Ghana**

In Ghana and Ivory Coast, the U.S. Africa Command (AfriCom) is training 1,300 military personnel from 29 countries to fight jihadists.

**Constitutional referendum in Mali postponed**

Mali's transitional government announced it was slightly delaying the constitutional referendum originally scheduled for March 19. However, it wanted to reassure the population of its desire to restore democratic processes. ECOWAS lifted its sanctions against Mali only on condition that the military junta commit to restoring democracy.

"**Ras Bath**" imprisoned in Mali

Youssouf Bathily, known as "Ras Bath," said at a rally: "[Former Prime Minister] Soumeylou Boubeye Maïga [...] was murdered, that’s the word to [use]. He was killed [in prison]! Murdered! ». He was immediately arrested for "undermining the credibility of the State" and placed under arrest warrant.

**Benin denounces RFI's bias**

At a joint press conference of Beninese President Patrice Talon and Nigerian President Mohamed Bazoum, the two men mocked how Radio France International treated their counter-terrorism efforts without help from the French military. "We all heard this morning on your airwaves that W National Park is under regular attack. I don’t know if the word "regular" means the same thing as "sporadic" or rather "rare", but from what we see, it’s rather rare now. It’s a shame that what you’re interested in and what you glorify are only very bad things or things that exist only in your imagination. The press has an obligation to appreciate things as they are and use the right words," said President Talon. In March 2022, Mali disputed RFI’s allegations of massacres allegedly attributed to the transitional government and the Wagner Group. In December 2022, Burkina Faso interrupted RFI broadcasts after the French Foreign Ministry channel gave the floor to a "terrorist leader".

**Uganda fails to overcome discriminatory anti-gay prejudices**

Uganda’s parliament, dominated by evangelical churches, debates the penalties incurred for men who have sex with men. At the same time, there has been a considerable increase in violence against men denounced as homosexual.

**Washington is not done with unrest in Ethiopia**

The U.S. will not fully normalize its relations with Ethiopia until it has finally resolved the Tigray problem, announced US Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the beginning of his trip to the country. The Tigray War was organized by Straussian Jeffrey Feltman. Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

**UN Security Council accuses Rwanda of supporting M23**

A UN Security Council mission visited Congo under the chairmanship of France’s Permanent Representative Nicolas de Rivière. At his final press conference in Goma, Ambassador de Rivière said: "There is no longer any need to demonstrate that Rwanda supports the M23. It is also clearly established that there are regular incursions by the Rwandan army into North Kivu. This, too, is unacceptable (...) There is pressure, coercive measures that are taken among others against the leaders of the M23. This is a strategy that will continue and grow and that we are committed to."
Benjamin Netanyahu’s difficult trip to Rome

For Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s visit to Rome, El-Al pilots have announced that they will go on strike. In the end, the company found a crew, but only for a Boeing 737 and not for the planned Boeing 777.

Upon his arrival in Italy, the prime minister was greeted by president of the Jewish community Noemi Di Segni. But at the synagogue, she sharply criticized his new policy.

Bezalel Smotrich’s difficult trip to Washington

If Washington has dropped the idea of banning the visit of Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, his visit there still promises to be difficult. No U.S. officials of national stature will attend the reception in his honor at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. In front of the building, the Progressive Israel Network (12 US Jewish organizations dedicated to the pursuit of democracy in Israel) will organize a demonstration called "No to Smotrich, No to Hate", as well as the more extremist group UnXeptable, or Jewish Voice for Peace and IfNotNow.

Far from condemning the punitive operation of the Har Bracha settlers against the Palestinian town of Huwara, Bezalel Smotrich lamented that private individuals had substituted themselves to the State to "annihilate" this village.

Itamar Ben-Gvir tries to remove Tel Aviv police chief

Israel Police Inspector General Kobi Shabatai informed Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara that National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir had forced him to fire Tel Aviv Police Chief Ami Eshed, whom he found too lenient during opposition protests.

Itamar Ben-Gvir said on Channel 12: "I know that the inspector general of police is under several types of pressure (...) The radical left is putting pressure on him. I hope he will not surrender. There is a policy of the Israeli government, and the inspector general of police must implement the policy of the minister."

He further told the attorney general who had summoned him: "I do not trust you, neither in your considerations, nor in your decisions."

According to the current Basic Law, the Attorney General may intervene before the Supreme Court to have the latter dismiss the Minister, but this power will be withdrawn shortly.

Massive demonstration against Benjamin Netanyahu’s coalition

Hundreds of thousands of Israelis demonstrated in the country against the coup d’état carried out by Benjamin Netanyahu’s coalition government.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid told the crowd that Israel "is facing the biggest crisis in its history... A wave of terrorism is hitting us, our economy is collapsing, money is fleeing the country. Iran just signed a new agreement with Saudi Arabia yesterday. But the only thing this government cares about is crushing Israeli democracy."

Moshe Karadi, a former police chief, said: "Israel faces a danger it has not faced since the
1948 war of independence... Ben-Gvir, a convicted criminal, proceeds with a hostile takeover of the police and attempts to turn it into a private militia to serve his political purposes."

Inspector general of police Kobi Shabtai also spoke as suspended Tel Aviv police chief Ami Eshed was cheered by the crowd chanting his name.

**Israeli opposition announces withdrawal from parliament**

Israeli opposition leaders Yair Lapid, Benny Gantz, Merav Michaeli and Avigdor Lieberman signed a joint statement announcing that they would boycott the Knesset vote if the bill overthrowing the institutions is introduced at third reading.

Israel has no constitution. Its regime is organized by 12 basic laws that Benjamin Netanyahu’s coalition is preparing to repeal. The Knesset Special Committee to Amend the Basic Law on Government, chaired by Ofir Katz, a member of the Prime Minister’s party, adopted an amendment to prohibit the attorney general from declaring the prime minister unfit to govern. It stipulates that a Prime Minister cannot be declared unfit for office, except on grounds of physical or mental incapacity.

The last time he was prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu signed an agreement with the judiciary in order to remain in office, agreement which he no longer respects. The Supreme Court could therefore declare him unfit for office.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu commented: "We are witnessing an unprecedented attack by media channels that are mobilized against the government, fully mobilized in favor of opponents of reform. Live broadcasts, biased analysis, biased polls, fake news 24 hours a day."

**Benjamin Netanyahu will go all the way**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has sharply rejected President Isaac Hertzog’s proposal for mediation with his opposition.

**Israeli reactions to the Saudi-Iranian agreement**

- Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid said the Saudi-Iran deal represents "a major and serious failure of the government’s foreign policy." He said on his Twitter page: "This development constitutes the collapse of the regional protective wall that we had begun to build against Iran."
- Former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett described the deal as "a resounding failure resulting from diplomatic neglect, general weakness and internal struggle within Israel."
- Blaming his predecessors, current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu blamed their government as well as that of US President Joe Biden for letting Iran and Saudi Arabia negotiate for more than a year and finally come to an agreement with China’s help. According to him, they made Israel and the U.S. look weak.

**For Hassan Nasrallah, Syria comes back without losing itself**

In a TV speech, Hezbollah’s secretary-general Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah explained that when Syria joins the Arab League again soon, as all commentators agree to predict, it will not change. "Syria is the heart of the axis of the Resistance. During the second year of the World War against it, it was offered to renounce its historic status in the conflict with the enemy, but the Syrian command refused. This proposal was made to it several times including with appealing incentives but it has always refused," he said.

**Jordan intercedes in Syria’s favor**

Jordan has asked the U.S. to help Syria fight drug trafficking rather than to continue isolating
In recent months, Washington has organized a media campaign claiming that Syria has become a narco-state and that President Bashar al-Assad is directing this trafficking. On the contrary, Jordan claims that he is the only one capable of fighting it.

Bashar al-Assad in Moscow

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad headed a large delegation to Moscow. He met Foreign Ministers Sergey Lavrov and Mikhail Bogdanov, as well as President Vladimir Putin. The talks focused in particular on reconciliation with Turkey and the Arab League. Syrian Minister of Defense General Ali Abbas met with his Russian counterpart Sergei Shoigu. Syrian Foreign and Expatriate Minister Faisal Al-Miqdad met with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov. Other ministers participated in meetings on rebuilding Syria.

Spokesman for the Russian presidency Dmitry Peskov stressed that "the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria is a top priority for the Russian Federation."

Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee Konstantin Kosachev said: "Russia has no doubt about the rightness of its choice to cooperate with Syria and defend its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity."

How far will Saudi-Iran collaboration go?

Famous columnist Abdul Bari Atwan mentions in the electronic daily Rai al-Youm the possibility of Saudi-Iranian military and nuclear cooperation.

Saudi Arabia ponders how to re-integrate Syria

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faysal bin Farhan revealed the existence of Arab efforts to establish a dialogue that will "inevitably" take place with Damascus, in coordination "with the international community". He continued: "We must find a way to overcome the challenges posed by this status quo with regard to refugees and the humanitarian situation inside Syria."

Voltaire Network analyses

- Birth of the multipolar world (1) : "The Middle East frees itself from the West", by Thierry Meyssan
  The reconciliation between leader of the Sunni Muslim world Saudi Arabia and leader of the Shiite Muslim world Iran finally makes possible an era of peace in the Middle East. It was facilitated by Russia, an ally of the two enemy brothers, and negotiated first in Iraq and Oman before being concluded by China, a thousand-year-old ally of Iran, yet acting impartially. This agreement ends more than a century of predatory Western influence having brought many cruel and destructive wars. It is part of the actions promoting the emergence of multipolarity.

- "The EU empties the arsenals... to fill the arsenals", by Manlio Dinucci
  The European Union is rushing into US support plan for Ukraine. It develops its armaments production solely for this purpose. In fact, it is engaging in the war against the Russian Federation without ever having debated this objective.

Saudi Arabia buys $37 billion worth of US civil aircraft

Saudi Arabia has announced the creation of a second national airline company. Riyadh hopes to compete with the Emirates. Saudi companies will be equipped with US long haul carriers. A $37 billion contract has been signed with Boeing.

Iran-Bahrain rapprochement

Bahraini Parliament Speaker Ahmed Al-Musallam received an Iranian delegation from...
the Shura Council led by Mojtaba Rezakhawa. They discussed ways of cooperation and joint coordination in international parliamentary forums.

This is the first consequence of the agreement between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

**Recep Tayyip Erdogan predicted to lose presidential election**

An Aksoy Research poll on Turkey’s May 14 presidential election puts opposition alliance candidate Kemal Kilicdaroglu at 55.6% and incumbent President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at just 44.4%.

For its part, Piar Research finds 57.1% for Kilicdaroglu and 42.9% for Erdogan.

**EU closes trading scheme with Iran**

The European Union has announced the dissolution of the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX) system aimed at circumventing US sanctions to do business with Iran. This system, set up by 10 States (Belgium, Great Britain, Germany, Finland, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Sweden) has never worked.

**Ali Khamenei pardons 22,000 prisoners**

Supreme Leader of the Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei pardoned 22,000 people who were arrested and jailed during the protests against the veil requirement.

**State Department denies signing prisoner swap deal with Iran**

Spokesman for the US State Department Ned Price denied Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian’s claim that a prisoner exchange agreement had been reached between the two countries. On the same day, his Iranian counterpart Naser Kanaani said that the US representative had signed the agreement which was not being implemented at the moment. Tehran had prepared for the release of US spies Siamek Namazi, Emad Sharghi and Murad Tahbazi.

**Iranian reaction to the agreement with Saudi Arabia**

Gen. Yahya Rahim Safavi, an adviser to Iran’s Supreme Leader on military affairs, called the Iran-Saudi deal "a political earthquake for the U.S.... This political agreement marks the beginning of the end of US hegemony in the region (...) With the agreement between Tehran and Riyadh, the post-US phase has begun in the Gulf region."

The general spoke of Saudi Arabia’s upcoming accession to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

**Pakistani government ready to execute of Imran Khan**

Armed and police members opened fire on former Prime Minister Imran Khan’s Zaman Park residence in Lahore.

Imran Khan is a disciple of Iranian philosopher Ali Shariati, friend of Jean-Paul Sartre and Franz Fanon. For his political program, he was inspired by the principles by which the State of Medina was created by Muhammad: justice, equality, compassion and the well-being of all citizens, regardless of their religious, ethnic or social background. He focused on two priority areas: access to education and the fight against corruption.

He was overthrown by Parliament in favor of Shahbaz Sharif, prosecuted in many corruption cases, but supported by the West.

**India and gay marriage**

India’s Supreme Court will consider the issue of same-sex marriage on April 18. All former British colonies inherited the Victorian criminalization of male homosexuality. One by one, they ask themselves the question of its repeal, then of equality before the law regardless of sexual orientation. In the Anglo-Saxon...
system, this can only be done through gay marriage.

**North Korea fires two ballistic missiles**

North Korea has launched at least two short-range ballistic missiles from a submarine into the Sea of Japan. These launches confirm that Pyongyang could strike any target in Japan. They come as South Korea and the U.S. have started the largest military exercises in five years, called Freedom Shield.

**Yoon Suk-Yeol in Tokyo**

South Korean President Yoon Suk-Yeol traveled to Tokyo to meet Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. This is the first visit at this level between the two countries in 12 years. Before leaving, the president gave an interview, saying:

"There is an increasing need for Korea and Japan to cooperate in this time of poly-crisis, with North Korea’s escalating nuclear and missile threats and disruption of global supply chains... We cannot afford to waste time by leaving the strained relations between Korea and Japan unattended."

Returning to Japanese colonization, he continued: "It is time for the people of both countries to move forward "rather than confront the past." According to him, Japan expressed "deep remorse and sincere apologies for its past colonial rule through the position of its previous governments."

According to a Gallup Korea poll, 59% of South Koreans are not satisfied with their own government’s plan to settle the conflict, while according to a Kyodo News poll, 57% of Japanese find it excellent.

**Recovery of the Chinese economy**

China’s economy has begun its recovery after many cities closed during the Covid-19 outbreak. Industrial production in the January-February period was 2.4% higher than a year earlier. The government hopes to reach 5% this year. The recovery is very clear in the restaurant sector (+9.2%), but real estate construction is slow to recover.

"The economy is gradually recovering this year, but it should be noted that the pandemic has damaged the balance sheets of companies and individuals over several years, and they still need time to fully recover," said Fu Linghui, spokesman for the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

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**OCEANIA**

**Australia to be equipped with nuclear-powered submarines**

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and his British counterpart Rishi Sunak met with US President Joe Biden at the San Diego military base (California). They agreed as part of the AUKUS alliance that Australia would buy at least five nuclear-powered submarines (but not nuclear weapons).

In their final communiqué, they wrote: "Our plan elevates the industrial capacity of the three countries to produce and maintain interoperable nuclear submarines for decades to come, expands our individual and collective submarine presence in the Indo-Pacific, and contributes to global security and stability. We believe in a world that protects freedom and respects human rights, the rule of law, the independence of sovereign states and the rules-based international order.

Submarine Rotational Force West is expected to be operational as early as 2027 even though some submarines will only be delivered after. For China, AUKUS is a typical instrument of the Cold War mentality. It poses a serious risk of nuclear proliferation and violates the Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in both its object and purpose.
Paul Keating condemns the logic of AUKUS

Former Labour Prime Minister Paul Keating (1991-96) fiercely denounced the AUKUS agreement, accusing his Labour successor Anthony Albanese of relying on "two gravely reckless ministers, Penny Wong [Foreign Affairs] and Richard Marles [Defence]". According to him, "China does not threaten Australia and the Chinese have never suggested or said they would threaten Australia; threatening Australia would mean an invasion. Taiwan was not a vital interest for Australia – and it still is not." He criticized US hegemonic ideology and challenged "the prime minister to explicitly suggest or leave open the question that Australia could go to war with Taiwan – at the behest of the US or anyone else."
3- Think Tanks

CHINA
The Sino-Russian Partnership: Assumptions, Myths and Realities, Bobo Lo, Institut français des relations internationales (IFRI)

China, climate change and the energy transition, Xu Yi-Chong, The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI)

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EDITORIAL

The International Criminal Court at the service of NATO, not Justice

The International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for Chair of the Russian Federal Commission on Child’s Rights Maria Lvova-Belova and another one for Russian President Vladimir Putin. It suspects them of organizing the abduction of Ukrainian children and deporting them to Russia.

From the first weeks of the Russian special military operation, the children of Donbass were sent to Russia with the agreement of their parents, to protect them from the war.

In March 2022 the US embassy in Kyiv, relaying accusations from the Ukrainian government, condemned the abduction of 2,389 children.

At the end of April, President Vladimir Putin signed a decree facilitating the process of granting Russian citizenship to Ukrainian orphans and those without parental care.

At the end of May, the Ukrainian ambassador to the OSCE cited the case of a child who had lost his parents but still had his grandparents and whom the Russian authorities deported after declaring him orphan. The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry accused Russia of behaving with the children of Donbass as if they were Russians.

In September, four Ukrainian oblasts, including two in Donbass, voted in a referendum to join the Russian Federation.

By virtue of its definition, the crime prosecuted by the International Criminal Court will no longer exist when the United Nations recognizes these referendums.

Out of the 193 members of the UN, 123 States have acceded to the ICC. For example, neither the US nor Russia nor China nor India are members. Moreover, most Member States including all those that join NATO (except the USA) have signed a document in which they undertake to respect
the American Service-Members’ Protection Act (also known as the Hague Invasion Act) i.e., they will violate the statutes of this Court and will not carry out arrest warrants issued by it if they relate to US citizens. US law, on the other hand, goes even further since it explicitly threatens the Netherlands with military invasion in the event of extradition and detention of US suspects. However, US President Joe Biden whose country is not a member of the ICC, welcomed the international arrest warrants against Maria Lvova-Belova and Vladimir Putin. Moreover, this Court quickly appeared to be subservient to both the EU and NATO.

- Noting that for years it pursued only African leaders and did not intervene in any U.S. wars, Burundi, South Africa and Gambia withdrew.
- When NATO destroyed the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in order to put an end to popular resistance, the prosecutor of the Court claimed to have arrested Saif El-Islam Kaddafi and to have transferred him to The Hague. The fighting ceased for a few hours, but that same evening Saif El-Islam joined his followers live on television.
- During the French coup d’état in Ivory Coast, the Court indicted President Laurent Gbagbo for genocide, which justified France’s military intervention to stop the massacre. But after three years of trial, having failed to prove his guilt the Court was forced to acquit him. As if this staging was not enough, the Court placed him under house arrest to prevent him from running in the 2020 presidential election.
- Finally, the Court investigated US crimes in Afghanistan before closing its proceedings in the "interests of justice" (sic).

According to European Commissioner Didier Reynders, the EU paid €10 million to the ICC in 2022 for its "work on Ukraine" and will provide at least €3 million per year until 2025. Responding to the ICC, the Russian prosecutor’s office announced the opening of criminal proceedings against its prosecutor Karim Ahmad Khan and its magistrates

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**AMERICAS**

**Washington against a ceasefire in Ukraine**

Commenting on Fox News about the summit between the Russian and Chinese presidents, National Security Council Spokesman Rear Admiral John Kirby said: "We have said before, and we repeat it today, that if this meeting results in a call for a ceasefire, it will be unacceptable, because it will only ratify the Russian conquest to date." Russia and China "are two countries that oppose the rules-based international order that the US and so many of our allies and partners have built since the end of World War II," he said.

**House of Representatives demonstrates the Corruption of the Biden Family**

Democratic Representative Jamie Raskin (Maryland) revealed the subpoena that Republicans issued to Rob Walker, a former associate of Hunter Biden (the son of President Joe Biden).

In response, chairman of the House Oversight and Accountability Committee Republican James Comer made public the elements of investigation verified from the first documents transmitted by the Treasury. It appears that when Rob Walker formed a company with members of the Biden family and the semi-public company CEFC China, he cashed in $3 million. A third of this sum was paid to his associates, namely $35,000 to Hallie Biden (a daughter-in-law of the president with whom Hunter had an affair), $70,000 to a Biden account (no further details), $360,000 to James Biden (the president’s brother) and $610,692 to Hunter Biden (one of the president’s children). The Treasury still refuses to reveal more than 150 files that have been requested by parliamentarians.
President Joe Biden refuses to sign bill into law

For the first time in his term President Joe Biden refused to sign into law a bill passed by Congress prohibiting pension funds from using environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) factors to influence their investment decisions.

Review of US government propaganda channels

The US Agency for Global Media (USAGM) says it had 410 million regular viewers in 2022. It especially welcomes the development of its (mainly in Russian) media called Current Time devoted to the war in Ukraine. It claims that its online videos have reached 4 billion views.

Anti-war protests in the US

The ANSWER Coalition, which was created days after the 9-11 attacks, organized demonstrations in a dozen cities in the US around the catchphrases: "Peace in Ukraine," "Say no to endless American wars," and "Money for our needs, not for the war machine."

Violations of U.S. Political Financing Laws

According to The Epoch Times citing NGO Election Watch, in four years more than 10,000 US citizens have made micro-donations to personalities or political parties. The newspaper interviewed several of them who, according to Federal Electoral Commission (FEC) files, contributed more than 50,000 times. They denied having paid anything and claimed a theft of their identity. The FEC is supposed to verify compliance with donation limits.

Self-censorship in American universities

According to an Ipsos survey of university campuses, 54% of respondents say posting non-compliant religious or political views on social media could have "negative consequences" in the workplace.

More US weapons for Ukraine

The Pentagon offered another $350 million in security assistance to Ukraine — "the thirty-fourth drawdown of equipment from DoD stockpiles since August 2021." Items on the list include ammunition for High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS); high-velocity anti-radiation missiles (HARM); 81 mm and 60 mm mortars with their shells; AT-4 anti-armored weapon systems; grenade launchers, small arms and ammunition. Also included: demolition ammunition and obstacle crossing equipment; demining equipment; heavy oil tankers; thermal imaging systems, optical and laser rangefinders; river patrol boats; test and diagnostic equipment for vehicle maintenance and repair; as well as spare parts and other field equipment.

Organization of censorship by the Pentagon

At a House Subcommittee hearing on the militarization of government, witnesses claimed that the Pentagon gave $750,000 to NewsGuard which is building a directory of information websites by rating their quality. This directory is available to administrations and governments (including the East StratCom Task Force of the European Union).

NewsGuard’s board of directors is secret, but its advisory board includes one of Wikipedia’s co-
founders Jimmy Wales as well as former CIA and NSA director General Michael Hayden, former NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, former Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge and former Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy (i.e., Propaganda) Richard Stengel. NewsGuard contacted Voltaire Network a dozen times to ask about its relations with foreign governments and who funded it. They urged it to "correct" its articles on the 9-11 attacks, the wars in Libya and Syria, etc. The House Subcommittee’s investigation into government militarization highlights a system of censorship using NGOs and corporations to cut off all financial means for non-compliant media in the West.

**Washington still applies the Monroe Doctrine**

Honduras, which has just severed diplomatic relations with Taiwan, is under very strong pressure from Washington not to establish relations with the People’s Republic of China. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin criticized the attitude of the Americans and asked them to give up the Monroe Doctrine and respect Honduras’ sovereignty. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, US president James Monroe divided the world into two. He asked the Europeans not to intervene in Latin America and pledged that the US would not engage in Europe. However, Washington soon wanted to control first the Caribbean, then all of the Americas. In the early twentieth century, President Theodore Roosevelt enunciated the "corollary" that bears his name. From now on, the Roosevelt Doctrine must be understood as stating that the Americas are the reserved domain of the US. It is against this doctrine that Cuban commander Fidel Castro (1965-2011) and Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez (1999-2013) have stood up.

**Discovery of a corruption network in Venezuela**

Minister of Petroleum and Director of Petróleos de Venezuela (PdVSA) Tareck El Aissami submitted his resignation while several senior officials of his administration are under investigation for embezzlement by the National Anti-Corruption Police and the National Bolivarian Intelligence Service (SEBIN). They allegedly stole $3 billion. 19 people were detained, including a Chavista MP after his parliamentary immunity was lifted. Among the suspects is director of the National Superintendence of Cryptocurrencies Joselito Ramirez Camacho. Tareck El Aissami was accused of drug trafficking by Washington in 2017, but President Nicolás Maduro retains his full confidence in him. He is actively involved in the investigation alongside the police and SEBIN.

**EUROPE**

**UK Parliament approves post-Brexit deal with EU**

The British House of Commons has validated the post-Brexit agreement with the EU negotiated by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. However, the two predecessors of Mr. Sunak, Boris Johnson and Liz Truss voted against. Indeed, some EU rules continue to apply in Northern Ireland, however as a whole the agreement allows the UK to be part of the European common market without being a member of its politico-military structure.

**UK to supply depleted uranium shells to Ukraine**

British Defense Minister Annabel Goldie said the UK will supply Ukraine with depleted uranium armor-piercing shells for the 14 Challenger 2 main battle tanks they pledged to deliver.
When fired, depleted uranium shells release radioactive particles that cause a chemical reaction and make the area uninhabitable for many, many years. There has been dramatic increase in rates of childhood cancers and birth defects in the area. Obviously, the Ukrainians who will use these shells against Russia do not think they can recover territory, but just make them uninhabitable.

Widespread Unrest in France, including overseas

Unrest spread in France after President Emmanuel Macron appeared on television. Trade unions organize mass demonstrations in all cities, while small, often violent groups are forming everywhere. The country has not experienced a generalized crisis of this kind throughout the country for at least half a century.

Only 8% of French say they are convinced by Emmanuel Macron’s arguments.

Denmark forbids Russia to investigate sabotage of Nord Stream gas pipelines

Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen confirmed that his country, along with Sweden and Germany, would not allow Russia to participate in investigations into the explosions at the Nord Stream 1 and 2 gas pipelines. In response, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova illustrated the Dane’s attachment to the Law by publishing a known photograph of him taken during the war in Afghanistan against the communist government backed by the Russian military. He is seen carrying an AK-47 rifle alongside jihadists.

Sweden ready to join NATO

The Swedish Parliament voted by a very large majority in principle for NATO membership. However, Türkiye still refuses to let it enter the club.

Slovakia to deliver MiG-29s to Ukraine

Following Poland’s example, Slovakia has announced that it is preparing to deliver 13 MiG-29s to Ukraine. The Mig-29s are low range Soviet fighter aircraft. This will make it difficult for them to attack targets inside Russia.

Poland will go to war if Ukraine loses

Poland’s ambassador to France banker Jan Emeryk Rosciszewski announced in an interview with LCI TV that if Ukraine loses, Poland will go to war with Russia. Poland is the first NATO member state to announce that it will deliver aircraft to Ukraine, probably 4 Mig-29.

Faced with the scandal caused by Ambassador Rosciszewski’s remarks, his press service and the government tried in vain to refute them.

Finland to be NATO member soon

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has forwarded the text of the law authorizing Finland to join NATO for ratification to the Grand National Assembly in Türkiye.

EU is still paying arms for Ukraine

The EU decided on 20th March to release an additional €2 billion to supply arms to Ukraine.

EU is turning into a military organization

High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell has just organized the first Robert Schumann Forum on Security and Defense on 21st March. A large number of Defense and Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Union took part. In
addition to the non-EU but pro-US European states, many states were represented at ministerial level such as Angola, Ghana, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Egypt, Chile, Peru, Georgia, Indonesia and Japan. In addition to NATO were also represented ASEAN, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the African Union. Above all, the Arab League sent its Secretary General. The Forum had the explicit aim of defending "multilateralism and a rules-based international order"; an elegant way of denouncing the Russian-Chinese project of a "multipolar world based on international law".

The EU has already invested itself with powers in the field of health that were not provided for in the Treaties. It is now interpreting them to also become a military power, which is contrary to their spirit. The Union coordinated arms donations to Ukraine and paid astronomical sums of money in support to this country despite the fact that it is the only one in the world to have an explicitly racist Constitution (cf. Art. 16, written by the widow of former Nazi Prime Minister Yaroslav Stetsko).

During the forum, Josep Borrell presented his first report on the implementation of the EU’s "Strategic Compass". The goal is to coordinate the pooling of national armies, including intelligence services. "Europe of Defense" now appears as a motto aimed at placing not only the operational forces of the EU member states under the authority of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), today US General Christopher G. Cavoli, but also to take control of all financing decisions that have hitherto been the responsibility of national parliaments, and even arms and organizational decisions that have been the responsibility of the Executives of the Member States.

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**The New Axis of Japan and the Ukrainian "Integral Nationalists"**

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida made a surprise visit to Ukraine. He is due to host the G7 summit in May. He is the first Asian head of government to visit the country since the beginning of the war.

Mr. Kishida visited a mass grave in Bucha and expressed his condolences to the families of victims of “Russian abuses”.

In their final communiqué, Kishida and Zelensky stress "the inseparability of Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific security" and "the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait".

Japan’s constitution makes it impossible to transfer deadly defense equipment, reason why it has already offered Kyiv about $7.1 billion in humanitarian and financial aid. Mr. Kishida could only announce the shipment of non-lethal military equipment worth $30 million.

The alliance between Japan and the Ukrainian "integral nationalists" is reminiscent of Japan’s alliance with Nazi Germany.

Russia sent two strategic bombers over the Sea of Japan for about seven hours.

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**The Transcarpathian problem between Hungary and Ukraine**

A few months ago, Andriy Baloha, mayor of Mukachevo, one of the five cantons of Transcarpattia, had the statue of mythical bird "Turul" adorning the entrance to the medieval castle removed and replaced by another of the Ukrainian trident.

Transcarpattia is a historically Hungarian Ukrainian region. The Turul is the national emblem of Hungary. Since the beginning of the war, the majority of men from the Hungarian minority have fled. Mayor Andriy Baloha is the son of cigarette trafficker Vikto Baloha, now a refugee in Poland.
This case is becoming a point of conflict between Ukraine and Hungary.

Vladimir Putin’s visit to Crimea and Mariupol

President Vladimir Putin visited Crimea where he visited the "Korsoun" children's center, a branch of the Artek summer camp, and the children's art and beauty center. He was celebrating the 9th anniversary of Crimea's accession to the Russian Federation and was also responding to the International Criminal Court which indicted him for abduction and deportation of children.

Then he visited Mariupol. The city, several of whose neighborhoods were destroyed during the fighting at the Azovstal factory, has already been largely rebuilt.

He ended his journey at the command of the special military operation in Rostov-on-Don.

Extension of the law protecting the Russian army

A new law extends to people participating in the special military operation in Ukraine provisions that protect the role of the army in this operation. Penalties of up to 15 years' imprisonment are imposed on anyone who disseminates false news aimed at discrediting them.

Vladimir Putin at People’s Daily

On the eve of his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin gave an interview to the People’s Daily newspaper. After recalling that he has met with his counterpart forty times and having celebrated the rapprochement of relations between their two countries, he noted that "China and Russia are building bridges", in the real and figurative sense. He recalled that Russia has been described as an "immediate threat" and China as a "strategic competitor" by the US State Department. Then he condemned the policy of the US which "is becoming more and more fierce and aggressive".

Yeltsin’s role in the conflict over NATO expansion

British archives reveal that in 1993, Russian President Boris Yeltsin repeatedly told his Western interlocutors that he was not personally opposed to the accession of Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); Statements that obviously shocked his own team.

Boris Yeltsin hesitated to participate in the NATO summit in Madrid. He secured the adoption of the Founding Act by the Council, which was supposed to set out the modalities of cooperation between the Alliance and the Russian Federation. But this act has no binding value, it was just a communication tool aimed at justifying a rapprochement of the public and private positions of the Russian president.

During this period, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin constantly warned his interlocutors against President Boris Yeltsin’s private position and stressed that the expansion of NATO would "break up" the European continent.

EU tries to separate Armenia and Russia

At a joint press conference, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov condemned the EU’s attempts to quarrel their two countries.

According to the latter, Western countries are trying to "undermine the regional security architecture" with the aim of satisfying their own "geopolitical interests" in disregard of the interests of the countries of the region.

AFRICA

Africa-Russia Summit

At the Africa-Russia summit in Moscow, Russian President Vladimir Putin said: "African states
are constantly increasing their weight and roles in the international arena. They manifest themselves more confidently in politics and economics. We are certain that Africa will become one of the creative leaders of the emerging multipolar world (...) Russia and African countries defend our moral norms and traditional social values, confronting the imposed neo-colonial ideology. Many countries in Asia, Latin America and the Middle East share similar positions. All of us are a global majority. I have already said several times that our country is firmly committed to continuing to build a strategic partnership with our African friends in the full sense of the term; We are ready to create a world order together.

**Uranium theft in Libya**

According to the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency), 2.5 tons of natural uranium were stolen from Libya. Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar said he had recovered them not far from the facility where they had been stolen.

**The EU condemns Tunisia’s "authoritarian drift"**

The European Parliament said it was "deeply concerned by the authoritarian drift of Tunisian President Kais Saïed and his instrumentalization of Tunisia’s disastrous socio-economic situation to reverse the country’s historic democratic transition". High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell said: "If Tunisia collapses, it risks causing migration flows to the EU and leading to instability in the Middle East and North Africa region. We want to avoid this situation."

The Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad said the "remarks are disproportionate both in view of the well-established resilience of the Tunisian people throughout their history, and in relation to a migratory threat to Europe from the South".

**Guinea thinks about Africa-Russia relations**

President of the National Council of the Transition of the Republic of Guinea Dansa Kourouma said on the sidelines of the Africa-Russia summit in Moscow: "Africa must cooperate with all the countries of the world by being a united bloc." Russia-Africa relations must be "based on an economic relationship that allows all states to win while investing in priority areas for the African continent, and not in those wanted by countries in positions of technological dominance," he said.

**Mali armed by Russia and Türkiye**

At a ceremony attended by head of the transitional government Colonel Assimi Goïta and the Russian and Turkish ambassadors, Chief of staff of the Malian Air Force General Alou Boï Diarra said he received a batch of about twenty Russian planes and a dozen Turkish drones.

**Uganda cracks down on homosexuals**

Uganda’s parliament overwhelmingly passed legislation sentencing homosexual practices to up to 10 years in prison. President Yoweri Museveni supported this bill underhand. It is a repetition of an earlier Victorian law that had been repealed.

**London and Rwanda**

UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman helped lay the foundation stone for the construction of at least 500 homes, recreational facilities and an early childhood development center in Rwanda. His Majesty’s Government intends to deport anyone who has entered the UK illegally.

**Drought victims in Somalia**

The United Nations estimates that 43,000 people died as a result of last year’s drought in
Somalia. They predict that there will be at least 18,000 more this year.

ASIA

UAE funds Hawura reconstruction

The United Arab Emirates has donated $3 million to rebuild the Palestinian village of Hawura destroyed by Israeli settlers.

Israel relaunches settlement

The amendment to the Disengagement Law, passed by the Knesset, allows Israelis to return to four previously dismantled West Bank settlements. However, Kadim, Ganim, Sa-Nur and Homesh were never removed from the list of existing settlements compiled by the Yesha Council of Settlements. According to the opposition, everything is happening as if private organizations are preparing to settle new settlers in violation of international commitments.

Washington condemns Israeli settlement project

US Under Secretary of State Wendy Sherman summoned Israel’s ambassador to the US Mike Herzog. She expressed Washington’s concern about legislation passed by the Israeli Knesset reversing important aspects of the 2005 disengagement law, including the ban on settlement activity in the northern West Bank. State Department spokesman Vedant Patel said: "The US urges Israel to refrain from allowing settlers to return to the area covered by the legislation, consistent with both former Prime Minister Sharon and the current Israeli government’s commitment to the US... The comments, which were made [by Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich] on a platform adorned with an inaccurate and provocative map, are offensive, deeply concerning and, frankly, dangerous. Palestinians have a rich history and culture, and the US greatly values our partnership with the Palestinian people."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in response that while the Knesset’s passage of the new law ends a "discriminatory and humiliating law that prohibited Jews from living in northern Samaria," the government has no intention of building new settlements in those areas.

IDF's secret communication

According to Haaretz, during "Operation Guardian of the Walls" in May 2021, the Israel Defense Forces disseminated messages under the guise of fake Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and TikTok accounts. This involved circulating photographs of the bombings with messages like: "Why don’t they show Israel being attacked instead of our own strikes in Gaza? We need to show everyone how strong we are!". The IDF has also hired journalists and bloggers like Abu Ali Express Telegram (which has more than 100,000 subscribers). This major propaganda operation, however, received little echo in the Palestinian public. Once the 2021 Gaza war ended, the IDF unit in charge of this communication received the "best operational campaign" award from head of the IDF’s media department Lt. Col. Merav Stollar-Granot.

Syria and Arab unity

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad was welcomed in Abu Dhabi by his Emirati counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Diplomatic Advisor to UAE President Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash stressed the importance for the UAE of restoring Syria’s Arab unity leadership. Bashar al-Assad is president of the international Baath Party whose goal is to create a federation of all Arab states. In 1958, Egypt led by Gamal Abdel Nasser and Syria led by Shukri al-Kuitali formed the United Arab Republic. The two states now have only one representation at the UN.
300,000 Lebanese travel to Damascus to celebrate the creation of this new state. They tried to get Lebanon to join, but Lebanese President Camille Chamoun (a member of the World Anti-Communist League) opposed it. Abdel Karim Kassem’s Iraq is reluctant to join the new state. To avoid contagion, Washington sent 5,400 Marines to land in Beirut, while London sent forces to Jordan. In 1961, the Mutawakilite Kingdom of Yemen joined the United Arab Republic, but faced with Egyptian hesitation to engage in the war of independence against the British occupiers, it withdrew. The United Arab Republic is dissolved.

In 1971, Hafez al-Assad’s Syria tried once again to achieve Arab unity. With Libya of Muammar el-Gaddafi and Egypt of Anwar Sadat, he proclaimed the Union of Arab Republics. Gaafr Nimeiry’s Sudan and Ahmad Hassan al-Bakr’s Iraq are expected to join the Union. But this second attempt did not resist Egyptian president Anwar Sadat who approached the Muslim Brotherhood and therefore the West. Today, the International Baath Party envisions Arab unity in the form of a flexible federation and no longer under that of a single state.

**Contaminated Iraq**

Dutch NGO PAX obtained secret US Air Force data on the use of depleted uranium munitions during the war against Iraq in 2003. These documents show that in violation of official doctrine that only allows such ammo against difficult targets such as tanks and armored vehicles, the Pentagon has used such ammunitions against soldiers and in populated areas, including As-Samawah, Nasiriyah and Basra.

PAX estimates that more than 300 sites in Iraq have been contaminated with depleted uranium, which will cost at least $30 million to clean up. Depleted uranium is a chemically toxic and radioactive heavy metal, but it is extremely hard and can pierce shielding.

An estimated 782,414 DU shells were fired during the 1991 conflict and approximately 300,000 were fired in 2003. The 2003 war was initiated by Straussians Paul Wolfowitz, Richard Perle, Scooter Libby, Robert Kagan and Bill Kristol.

**UAE and the Saudi-Iranian agreement**

UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed received Iranian government envoy Admiral Ali Shamkhani who negotiated and signed the Saudi-Iranian agreement in Beijing.

**Türkiye’s great works**

Türkiye and Iraq will build a land and rail transport corridor stretching from Iraq’s Basra province to the Turkish border, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said. In addition, Türkiye will increase the amount of water released from the Tigris River to help Iraq cope with its water shortage. The Turkish president said: "We expect our Iraqi brothers to designate the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) as a terrorist organization and to rid their land of this bloody terrorist organization."

For its part, Moscow has confirmed that it is working with Ankara to create a gas hub in Türkiye. The project was discussed in October 2022.

**India initiates meeting of secret services from 25 countries**

Earlier this month, India held a closed-door meeting of intelligence officials from 25 states. Director of British MI6 Richard Moore was present. The talks focused on the evolution of geopolitical relations. This forum should become annual.

**Indonesia drops US bank cards**

Indonesian President Joko Widodo has called on his fellow citizens to abandon foreign bank cards like Visa and MasterCard. “Everyone [in Indonesia] should be able to use homemade
credit cards so that we can be independent... Be very careful. We must remember the sanctions imposed by the US on Russia. Visa and Mastercard could be a problem. " He warned. Central Bank of Indonesia has already encouraged Indonesians to stop using dollars.

**Washington is preparing a revolution in Thailand**

Washington is massively subsidizing anti-China groups in Thailand where it hopes to manipulate the election to elect an anti-China government.

**Cambodia denies hosting Chinese naval base**

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen denounced US accusations that the Ream naval base would be turned into a Chinese base. Cambodia is modernizing its naval base with a subsidy from China. The project started in June 2022.

"We announced the construction and then held a big ceremony to break ground. It is clear that construction is ongoing, and it is equally clear that it is not taking place in secret. No one should be unduly concerned. The details of the work we do are available for free, people just have to ask," Hun Sen said. "Cambodia has the right to expand the capabilities of its naval forces. The base was previously only 2.7 m deep and had to be dredged. It is hardly a threat to any other nation, let alone a superpower," he continued.

**Cambodia concerned about ASEAN nuclear risk**

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen recalled ASEAN as a nuclear-weapon-free zone and called on major countries not to use their power to abuse small ones, saying mutual respect and non-interference are essential for interstate relations. Referring to AUKUS’ nuclear submarines, he said : "They claim there is no nuclear weapon, but if there is nuclear, how will it happen ? Do they agree to allow us to control their submarines ? »

Voltaire Network analyses

- "France blocked for 4 years", by Thierry Meyssan
  The crisis that France is going through today is not another incident in an eternally turbulent country. This is a deep regime crisis that will only resolve itself with the coming of a new society. The country will go through several years of stalemate, before embarking on a complete transformation, a revolution that will last at least a generation.

- "The US escalation to the East", by Manlio Dinucci
  The US, which thought it would dominate the global world after the dissolution of the USSR, is no longer able to impose wars in the Middle East where China signs peace agreements. So, with their privileged partner the United Kingdom, they turned to Oceania where the Albanese government accepted what its predecessors had refused during the Vietnam War. Everything is not over for Washington and London, which can still count on a few naïve people.

**North Koreans massively join armies**

North Koreans are engaged in a wave of conscription. While the law requires all men to be ready for 10 years and women for 3 years, many volunteer to join the armies. According to observers, this phenomenon is seen in both urban and rural areas. On 17 March, 800,000 showed up for conscription positions. The 25 million North Koreans see that the US continues to threaten them, 53 years after the beginning of its aggression. No peace treaty was signed as a result of the hostilities of the Korean War (1950-53). The US is currently undertaking major military
maneuvers with South Korea, while the latter seals an alliance with its hereditary enemy Japan. According to the Workers’ Party, Washington is also trying to block grain imports. A vast food production plan was put in place last month in order to avoid a new famine, comparable to the one the West had aggravated in the 1990s.

**South Korea Restores Intelligence Exchanges with Japan**

South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol informed Japan of his decision to fully reinstate the military intelligence-sharing pact between Tokyo and Seoul, known as the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA).

In addition, South Korea withdrew its WTO complaint against Japan’s tariff restrictions.

**Korean government tries to get rid of opposition**

South Korean prosecutors have indicted progressive opposition leader Lee Jae-myung for corruption in a billion-dollar real estate scandal when he was mayor of Seongnam. They also accused him of receiving or demanding more than 18 billion won from four companies in bribes to fund a cash-strapped professional football club based in the city in exchange for administrative favors.

Lee Jae-myung, who outright denies, said the government had fabricated the case and had already jailed one of his closest aides. He pledged to uncover and reveal all the pieces of this plot.

**Japan creates the "Western Democratic bloc"**

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is making intense diplomatic efforts. He met with leaders from South Korea, Germany, India and Ukraine in less than a week. He intends to consolidate Japan’s position as a pillar of the "Western democratic bloc".

**Japan is Ukraine’s ally**

"Prime Minister Kishida is on a historic visit to Ukraine to protect the Ukrainian people and promote the universal values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations... About 900 kilometers away, a different and more harmful partnership is taking shape in Moscow, » U.S. Ambassador to Tokyo Rahm Emmanuel tweeted.

Mr. Emmanuel was the author of the report of the Presidential Commission on the attacks of September 11, then the secretary general of the White House under president Barack Obama.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Weibin said of the premier’s trip that he "hopes Japan will push for an easing of the situation, not the other way around."

**Fukushima partially habitable again**

12 years after the Fukushima disaster, the Japanese government will lift evacuation orders in parts of Namie at 10 a.m. on March 31 and in the nearby town of Tomioka at 9 a.m. on April 1, while aiming to lift a similar order in the remaining village, Iitate, this spring.

**China and Russia have formed a new model**

Chinese President Xi Jinping published an op-ed in Rossiyskaya Gazeta on the eve of his meeting with his Russian counterpart. He stressed that relations between the two countries are helping to chart a new architecture for international relations. He wrote: "There are profound changes in the modern world. Peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit are an irresistible historical trend. Multipolarity, economic globalization and the democratization of international relations are an irreversible trend."
Former Taiwan President Visits Communist China

Taiwan’s former president Ma Ying-jeou (2006-16) will visit communist China. Former president of the Kuomintang (2009-14), he is known for his willingness to reach an agreement with Beijing. During his tenure, he allowed flights between Taipei and the mainland, and encouraged Chinese tourism.

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EDITORIAL

Attack on illegal US military bases in Syria

Drones attacked a dormitory at the auxiliary facilities of the US military base in Kharb el-Jir, near Hasaka. The likely Iranian-backed militia attack killed a U.S. contractor and wounded five soldiers and another contractor. The Pentagon considered these drones to be Iranian-made. US President Joe Biden has ordered precision airstrikes in eastern Syria against facilities used by groups he considers "affiliated" with the Revolutionary Guard Corps.

The presence of US soldiers in Syria is illegal and violates International Law. US troops are supposed to fight Daesh. In reality they support the mainly Kurdish mercenaries of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) which created an autonomous state under the name of Rojava. It paralyzes grain farming, but exploits oil wells. Revenues are shared in two equal parts. The first goes to the Kurds of the PKK/YPG, the second to the CIA which uses them as a slush fund to finance its covert operations around the world without having to report to Congress.

For several months, Russia has been trying to reconcile Syria and Türkiye in order to drive out the PKK while guaranteeing the security of the Kurdish population. Moreover, for the past three weeks, China has been working in the same direction with the hope of securing the region for its "Silk Road" to pass through it.

The presence of US troops deprives Syria of its main agricultural and oil revenues. Leader of the Republican Senate minority Mitch McConnell immediately questioned the proposed repeal of the two Authorization for Use of Military Force (from 1991 and 2001). However, they were repealed by Senate.

The Kharb el-Jir attack shows that the popular Resistance has managed to defeat the high-tech surveillance system that includes radars, thermal cameras and an air defense system that the US has set up in all its bases in Syria and the Middle East. From now on all U.S. forces in the region are in danger.
AMERICAS

US goal in the war in Ukraine

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark A. Milley was heard by Congress. The parliamentarians asked him to clarify what the war goal in Ukraine is. He replied that the U.S. is working to defeat the Russian invasion and maintain the international order built at the end of World War II.

US hypersonic weapon test fails

Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall III told a congressional hearing that: "The US Air Force’s test of a hypersonic weapon on March 13 was not a success. We didn’t get the data we needed."

The ARRW (Lockheed Martin’s air-launched rapid response weapon) must successfully make 4 successive flights before being produced in chain. This was its second test. Last year four tests failed before one was successful.

Colonel Frank Kendall III is an aeronautical engineer. The U.S. lags far behind China and Russia when it comes to hypersonic weapons. The Russian military has mastered these weapons for several years and is working to increase their accuracy, while the Pentagon still fails to ensure their stability.

This month, chief scientist of the Defense Intelligence Agency’s (DIA) analysis division Paul Freisthler told Congress that China is ahead of Russia in developing hypersonic weapons and may have already deployed a weapon capable of hitting U.S. bases in the Pacific. He also assured that China continues to manufacture an intercontinental ballistic missile equipped with a hypersonic glide warhead that has been tested since 2014. In July 2021, the weapon showed it could circumnavigate the globe, he said.

According to General Glen VanHerck, the U.S. will soon be under siege

According to Commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command Gen. Glen VanHerck, within a year or two Russia will be able to permanently deploy nuclear-powered attack submarines (NSS) off the U.S. coasts, in the Pacific and the Atlantic.

Russia’s Yasen-class submarines are capable of conducting a range of missions, including anti-ship and anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, and special operations support.

What is the biggest threat to the US according to Trump?

At a rally in Waco, Texas former President Donald Trump was applauded for saying, "I was asked the other day..." What is our biggest threat? It’s China, sure? Is it Russia?" I said, "No, our biggest threat is the high-level politicians that govern the U.S. : Mitch McConnell, Nancy Pelosi, [Chuck] Schumer, [Joe] Biden, the Justice Department."

Joe Biden bans some spying software

President Joe Biden signed an "Executive Order prohibiting the use by the U.S. government of commercial spyware that poses national security risks." It only prohibits the use of spyware by government agencies if it poses national security concerns. That is, if foreign states are likely to recover the data they are spying on.

Continuation of the parliamentary inquiry into the Bidens’ corruption

The House Subcommittee on Government Militarization is investigating President Joe Biden’s possible involvement in his son Hunter Biden’s illegal financial affairs. It is currently looking into his many associates, including John Robinson "Rob" Walker, Tony Bobulinski, Devon Archer and James Gillier. One of them, Eric Schwerin, agreed to cooperate.

In a 2017 email, Tony Bobulinski asked "10 held
"per H for the big guy?" suggesting H would get 10% of the deal. He acknowledged that the "H" stood for Hunter Biden and "the big guy" was former Vice President Joe Biden, who had just left Barack Obama’s White House and was considered a likely 2020 Democratic presidential candidate. Asked by reporters about media reports’ accusations of a Chinese company’s $1 million payment to his son and brother's accounts, President Joe Biden denied it, replying, "That’s not true!" The House subcommittee then sent the corresponding evidence to the White House.

Two conceptions of freedom of speech in the USA

Students at Stanford University (San Francisco, Cal) violently heckled Judge Kyle Duncan who came to give a lecture on freedom of speech at the request of the local chapter of the Federalist Society. They insulted him and prevented him from speaking. A debate subsequently developed as to whether these insults were a manifestation of the students’ freedom of speech or, on the contrary, a thug attitude aimed at preventing the judge himself from enjoying his freedom of speech. In the end, Justice Duncan considered that it was a pressure of the rowdy students against those of their classmates who wished to attend the conference. Dean of the university Jenny Martinez published a note in which she condemned this heckling, drawing a distinction between freedom of speech and the "veto of the heckler". She did not take action against hecklers, but made it mandatory for all students to attend a half-day session on freedom of speech and the standards of the legal profession.

An audit of US aid to Ukraine in question

Republican Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia pushed through the House Foreign Affairs Committee a resolution calling for a full audit of $113 billion in military and civilian aid to Ukraine.

Inspectors general from the Pentagon, State Department and the Agency for International Development (USAID) have said such an audit is unnecessary.

Ukraine’s Importance to Americans

According to an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll conducted in January,

- 26% of Americans think their country should play a major role in Ukraine
- 37% think the U.S. should provide money directly to Ukraine
- 59% think it’s more important to fix the U.S. economy than to sanction Russia.

Fox News pro-Trump again

Steve Bannon’s imprecations against Rupert Murdoch seem to have paid off. TV network Fox News interviewed former President Donald Trump and appears to support him again. Unless it is for audience reason: Trump’s setbacks and comebacks do fascinate viewers.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and TikTok

Democrat Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (New York) opened a TikTok account to protest censorship of the social network in the U.S.

Critics point out that in December 2020 TikTok’s parent company, China’s ByteDance, paid $150,000 to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, whose advisory board includes Ocasio-Cortez.

Will Kevin McCarthy receive the President of Taiwan?

China threatened the U.S. with retaliation if House Speaker Kevin McCarthy officially receives Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen during her visit to the country.

McCarthy’s predecessor, Nancy Pelosi, travelled to Taiwan with far-reaching consequences.
Setbacks of the US Army recruiting campaign

Actor Jonathan Majors (*The Last Black Man in San Francisco, Creed III, Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania*) was arrested for rape. He was shooting commercials for the U.S. Army which has difficulties hiring new recruits. The Pentagon, while considering him innocent until proven guilty, removed the ads from distribution.

Implementation and project of the Salvadoran President

El Salvador's conservative president Nayib Bukele is overwhelmingly supported by his people. This popularity does not come from his conservative policies, but from his fight against gangs. Criminal organizations were formed in the 70s and 80s among emigrants to the U.S. When they were expelled, they returned to El Salvador where they took power at the local level. President Bukele placed the country under an emergency regime that allowed his police to arrest 63,000 people, halving the number of homicides. Many cases of police blunders have been documented, but these individuals are nevertheless representative of gangs. He built the Terrorism Containment Center, a gigantic 40,000-seat high-tech prison, the largest in the world. The number of detainees in the country is estimated to be around 100,000, making it the most repressive state in the world. President Nayib Bukele calls himself "the coolest dictator in the world." He has no religion, but prays in churches as well as in mosques. Although of Palestinian origin, he refused to open a Palestinian embassy. He spoke out against the governments of Cuba and Venezuela.

This week, proud of his popularity, President Bukele announced the beginning of his political program: to abolish taxes on high tech.

Sino-Brazilian trade shifts to yuan and real

Brazilian President Luiz Ignacio Lula da Silva was forced to postpone his trip to China due to illness, unless it was because of the return of former President Jair Bolsonaro. In any case, the Brazilian delegation has already announced in Beijing that trade between Brazil and China will no longer take place in dollars, but in yuan or Brazilian real.

EUROPE

Non-financial corporations’ debt

According to data from the Institute of International Finance (IIF) and S&P Global, non-financial corporate debt rose from 75% of total global gross domestic product (GDP) in 2007 to 98% last year (which, together with the debt of governments, households and financial corporations, brings total global debt to a record $300 trillion i.e., a leverage effect of 349% on the global gross domestic product).

The main companies involved are:

- Toyota Motor Corporation (Japan, US$217 billion in debt)
- Evergrande Group (China, US$174 billion in debt)
- Volkswagen AG (Germany, US$166 billion in debt)
- Verizon Communications (US, US$151 billion in debt)
- Deutsche Bank (Germany, US$150 billion in debt)
• Ford Motor Company (US, $139 billion debt)
• Softbank (Japan, US$138 billion debt)
• AT&T (US, $136 billion debt)
• Deutsche Telekom AG (Germany, US$115 billion debt)
• EDF (France, $108 billion debt)

Prince Harry vs. Daily Mail

A lawsuit has begun at the High Court in London against The Daily Mail and The Mail on Sunday, which spied on prominent figures before 2018. Prince Harry and Sir Elton John were among the victims and were present at the High Court. The tabloids reportedly hired private investigators, stole documents and placed microphones in the cars and homes of their targets.
The prince said the royal court, which was aware of the spying against him, had not informed him.
In 2011, News of the World was convicted of similar offences. Its owner, Rupert Murdoch, closed it and had to pay $388 million in damages and litigation costs. The tabloid's former publisher, who had become Prime Minister David Cameron’s communications officer, was arrested and jailed.

A new Scottish Prime Minister

The Scottish National Party (SNP) appointed Humza Yousaf as leader, and then the Scottish Parliament elected him as Prime Minister. Originally from Pakistani Punjab, he is the first Muslim Prime Minister in Western Europe. He does not have a majority among the population, but has become the leader of the SNP by pledging to pass the right for teenagers to change their sex.

Holy See Expands Responsibility for Reporting Sex Offenders

Pope Francis, who has already made it mandatory for the religious to report any suspicion of sexual abuse to their hierarchy and to warn of any attempt by this hierarchy to cover up sexual abuse perpetrated by clergymen, has extended this obligation to the presidents of organizations recognized by the Holy See.

Council of Europe concerned about repression of demonstrations in France

Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights Dunja Mijatović of Bosnia expressed concern about policing in France. She said: "It is up to the authorities to allow these freedoms to be effectively exercised, by protecting peaceful protesters and journalists covering these protests from police violence and violent individuals acting in or on the sidelines of the processions."
Three years ago, she published a Memorandum in the context of repression of the yellow vest movement.

Police protest replaces pension reform protest in French media

Violent clashes opposed a few thousand people including Black Blocks to the police around an artificial lake in Sainte-Soline, France. Videos shot by gendarmes from their car show a rain of projectiles launched with the intention of wounding or even killing. 47 gendarmes were hospitalized. 200 protesters were injured, 40 of them seriously and 2 are in a coma.
The demonstration had been banned by the prefect. Under French law, only the organizers of this gathering can be prosecuted. The protesters, on the other hand, are not demonstrators under the constitutional principle of freedom of speech. At most, they can be liable to a fine of €11 for non-compliance with the prefectural prohibition order. On the other hand, once the demonstration has degenerated and the gendarmes have issued the usual summonses, staying on site is punishable by one year’s imprisonment and a fine of €15,000.
These penalties can be increased up to 5 years’ imprisonment and a fine of €75,000 for carrying
a weapon.
The vast majority of French media today takes the side of the demonstrators against the police. In two weeks, demonstrations against the government’s misuse of article 49-3 of the constitution bypassing a vote in parliament, in violation of democratic principles have given way in the newspapers to an indictment of the police.

King Charles III’s visit to France postponed

The visit to France of King Charles III of England has been postponed indefinitely, at the request of President Emmanuel Macron. Law enforcement agencies are unable to ensure his safety at a time of widespread unrest.

The king will deliver a speech in the German Bundestag instead of the French Senate.

France supports the EU’s Global Gateway

Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade Olivier Becht chaired a European meeting in Paris on the "Global Gateway" project. It was announced with great fanfare by President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen in December 2021. The goal was to develop transport and communications in the Third World to compete with the Chinese “Silk Roads” project. It was endowed with €150 billion. More than a year later, it hasn’t progressed. No achievements are in sight. The French government suggests to organize a public-private partnership, not by launching a few concrete applications, but by labeling "Global Gateway" projects already underway.

World Bank supports President Macron’s pension reform

Regarding the opposition of the French People to the extension of their working time, chief economist of the World Bank Indermit Gill regretted that "people refuse to work even two more years despite the increase in their life expectancy by two decades". Contrary to what he claims, the extension of life expectancy has only a remote connection with the financing of pay-as-you-go pensions. If the working population has to pay pensions of retired people, the problem lies mainly in the age pyramid of each population, which differs greatly from country to country, and in the amount of pensions, proportional or egalitarian.

Five French banks raided

As part of a German-French operation, the national financial prosecutor’s office searched the headquarters of five banks: BNP Paribas, Exane (fund manager, subsidiary of BNP), Société Générale, Natixis and HSBC of UK. They are suspected of having organized a fraud called "CumCum" aimed at helping foreign holders of shares in public French companies to evade taxation on the dividends they received. Mentioned in the "CumEx Files" in 2018 among the banks that could have used this scheme, Crédit Agricole, via its subsidiary Cacib, was not one of the establishments targeted by the searches.

France recognizes the Holodomor

The National Assembly adopted Resolution No. 97 on "the recognition and condemnation of the Great Famine of 1932-1933, known as Holodomor, as genocide". Based on European Parliament resolution of 15 December 2022 (2022/3001 [RSP]), it says: "Considering the implementation by the Soviet authorities of a forced famine in Ukraine, causing the death of several million Ukrainians, to impose by force and terror their policy of collectivization; Noting the intentional nature of destroying in whole or in part the national identity and the Ukrainian people, and especially the Ukrainian peasantry, by confiscating crops and seeds, intensifying repression, closing borders and blockading..."
villages”. However, the interpretation of this famine as a Soviet plan to destroy Ukrainian identity is a myth created by Professor Lev Dobriansky (member of the World Anti-Communist League) and today supported by his daughter Paula Dobriansky (founding member of the Project for the New American Century). According to historians, this famine was due to bad weather conditions as much as to the setbacks of forced collectivization. It affected other regions of the USSR and cannot be interpreted either as a desire to kill, nor as a policy aimed solely at Ukrainians.

**TotalEnergy buys Emirati gas in yuan**

France’s TotalEnergies has just bought Emirati liquefied gas from the China National Offshore Oil Corporation. The transaction took place, not in dollars, but in yuan. The Chinese yuan is now the fifth most used currency in the world after the dollar, the pound sterling, the euro and the yen.

**Measures in favor of consumers in Portugal**

The Portuguese government of António Costa has repealed the Value Added Tax (VAT) on all basic food products. It has also increased family allowances. Inflation has risen to more than 10% and is just beginning to slow down.

**Mega-strike in Germany**

At the end of 2022, nearly four million German industrial workers won a wage increase of 8.5% over two years, after several weeks punctuated by work stoppages. At the beginning of March, Deutsche Post’s 160,000 employees received an average wage increase of 11.5%. Employees of airports, rail, sea freight, motorway companies and local transport totaling about 2.8 million workers have gone on a one-day strike on March 28, 2023 demanding a 10% salary increase.

The consensus between employee and employer unions seems to be over.

**Russia warns Sweden**

“If anyone still believes that this will somehow improve Europe’s security, you can be sure that the new members [Sweden and Finland] of the hostile bloc [NATO] will become a legitimate target for Russia’s retaliatory measures, including military ones,” Russian ambassador in Stockholm Viktor Tatarintsev warned.

**Hungary would not arrest Vladimir Putin**

Hungary will not arrest President Vladimir Putin if he visits the country, said Gergely Gulyas, chief of staff to Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. Hungarian laws do not allow this and the arrest warrant of the International Criminal Court is regrettable because it goes "in the direction of escalation rather than peace".

**Hungary hostile to Sweden’s accession to NATO**

Budapest reiterated its opposition to Sweden’s membership of NATO. It accuses Sweden of an alleged commitment to the "restoration of the rule of law in Hungary". On the other hand, it gave its support to Finland. Turkey will therefore not be the only one to block Stockholm within the Atlantic Alliance.

**Serbia does not forget NATO’s illegal bombing**

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic celebrated the 24th anniversary of the bombing campaign of former Yugoslavia by the Atlantic Alliance. He said: "24 years have passed. You have uprooted parts of our territory. You killed 79 children, 2,500 people and not only civilians, but also soldiers and police. Who are you to kill our soldiers and policemen on their territory and in their country? Where did you get the right to kill our soldiers and policemen? Who
gave you this right?». NATO attacked Yugoslavia without a UN Security Council mandate, allegedly to stop genocide. At the end of the war, a special tribunal was appointed to convict President Slobodan Milosevic, but failed to do so. Eventually, Milosevic died in custody and NATO refused to allow him to be autopsied while his supporters spoke of assassination and that Russia supported them.

**Zelensky on verge of nervous breakdown**

President Volodymyr Zelensky spoke by videoconference at the European Council on March 23, 2023. Surrounded by soldiers, he begged once again for weapons to be sent. With a trembling voice, on the verge of tears, he stressed the urgency of the situation and declared that if weapons did not arrive immediately his country would not be able to hold on.

The EU has decided not to broadcast this call, which clearly shows a serious problem even if it can be interpreted in several ways.

**Ukraine expels clerics loyal to Moscow Patriarchate**

The Ukrainian government has decided not to renew the lease of the Orthodox Church in the Kiev-Pechersk Lavra. As a result, 500 people including 200 monks will either have to join the Ukrainian Orthodox Church or leave the country. Until then, it forbids them access to the main buildings out of fear they might flee with relics, including the skull of Pope St. Clement.

The popes and monks of the Orthodox Church under the Moscow Patriarchate (including in Western Europe) are all employed by Russia. The Ukrainian Orthodox Church is not just a local Church organized by the U.S., it is the successor of a Church that supported the worst crimes of the "integral nationalists" before and during World War II, including the massacres of Jews.

**Ukrainian secret unit to injure Russian soldiers**

According to The Times and the Daily Express, the US CIA and the Ukrainian GRU have formed a secret 27 men unit called the Thor. Their mission is not to kill, but to seriously injure as many Russians as possible.

It seems that its members are all "integral nationalists" who fought in Donbass.

**Russia tests its arsenal**

Russia has tested anti-ship hypersonic cruise missiles Moskit in the Sea of Japan. These Soviet era missiles have been modernized; they have the particularity of moving much faster than US Harpoons. They are fired in a coordinated manner by several ships or aircraft, reaching their target at the same time which makes their interception almost impossible.

Russia has also conducted military drills with Yars-type thermonuclear intercontinental ballistic missiles.

**Russian nuclear missiles in Belarus**

Russia has deployed Iskander short-range ballistic missiles equipped with tactical nuclear warheads in Belarus at the request of President Alexander Lukashenko. Moscow intends to arm its allies as Washington does with its own: for years the Pentagon has deployed B-61 bombs, i.e., nuclear hydrogen bombs, in Germany, Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey. Until now, Russia considered the deployment of B-61s by the U.S. to its allies to violate the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. However, it decided to do the same, causing them concern.

"The hosting of Russian nuclear weapons by Belarus would mean an irresponsible escalation and a threat to European security... Belarus can still stop it, it’s its choice (...) The EU is ready to retaliate with new sanctions," wrote High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell.
EU-Morocco fisheries negotiations

The EU-Morocco fisheries agreement provides that 128 vessels from eleven EU member states (Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, the Netherlands, Ireland, Italy and the UK — meanwhile left the EU after Brexit) can fish in Moroccan territorial waters for about €50 million per year in return. However, the main fishing area is on the Atlantic coast, in the territorial waters of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (not recognized by the United Nations). This agreement has been invalidated by the Court of Justice of the EU and as it stands cannot be renewed.

According to Gilles Devers, lawyer for the Saharawis, if a new agreement were to be adopted without taking into account the principle of judgment, it would be immediately attacked by FrontPolisario, which would be entitled to claim compensation for "the damages suffered by the Saharawi people". Anticipating a failure of the negotiations, Morocco turned to Russia and Japan to take over while Spain prepared to come to the rescue of its fishermen.

Morocco and Indian and Chinese investors

Morocco is expected to benefit from Indian investments to produce green hydrogen and is building an industrial zone, the Mohammed VI Tangier Tech City, for 200 Chinese companies. 100,000 jobs are expected to be created.

Reform of the Sudanese army

Chairman of Sudan’s Sovereignty and Transition Council General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan has announced his intention to reform the entire state and build a professional army under the control of an elected civilian authority.

According to the framework agreement of 5 December 2022, the Sovereignty and Transition Council must unify the militaries by integrating the paramilitary corps of the Rapid Support Forces of General Mohamed Hamdan Dogolo (known as "Hemeti") to the regular armed forces. The difference between the military and civilian sectors has become a condition of Saudi and Kuwaiti financial assistance.

Meeting of the armies of the two Libya

For two years the Joint Military Committee (five members of the military institution of western Libya and five other members of the eastern forces) under the auspices of the UN has been organizing dialogue meetings inside and outside Libya to unify the army, in application of the ceasefire agreement signed in Geneva in October 2020. A meeting between Chief of Staff of the Libyan army Mohamed Al-Haddad and Chief of Staff of Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar’s forces Abderrazak Nadhour was held in the presence of UN envoy Abdoulaye Bathily.

Burkina Faso shocked by France 24 interview with terrorist leader

On March 6, France 24 broadcast written answers from Abu Obeida Youssef al-Annabi, the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), to about fifteen questions by journalist Wassim Nasr. In a March 27 statement, Burkinabe government spokesman Jean-Emmanuel Ouedraogo commented: "By opening its antennas to the first head of AQIM, France 24 not only acts as a communication agency for these terrorists, but worse it offers a space to legitimize terrorist actions and hate speech conveyed to satisfy the evil aims of this organization on Burkina Faso. (...) The government has therefore decided responsibly, and in the name of the best interest of the Nation, to suspend sine die the broadcasting of France 24 programs throughout the national
In December 2022, Burkina Faso had identically announced the censorship of Radio France International on similar grounds which the EU protested. France 24 wrote in a statement deploiring "this decision and contesting the baseless accusations that question the professionalism of the channel". The channel claims that "[it] never gave him [Abu Obeida Youssef al-Anabi] the floor directly, taking care to relate his remarks in the form of a chronicle allowing the necessary distancing and contextualization". And to note that "this chronicle allowed for the first time to confirm that the French hostage Olivier Dubois, since released, was held by AQIM". According to the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2023 of the Institute for Economics and Peace, Sydney, Australia, the Sahel has become the center of international terrorism and Burkina Faso and Mali are the most affected countries. The U.S. announced $100 million in assistance to combat extremism and instability in the Sahel. Only Benin, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast and Togo will benefit from it.

The return of Jean-Pierre Bemba

Jean-Pierre Bemba, who was jailed by the International Criminal Court for nearly ten years for war crimes and crimes against humanity before being acquitted in 2018, has just been appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense of the Democratic Republic of Congo. He will have to find a way to restore peace in the east, particularly in North Kivu, a province much of which is occupied by Rwandan-backed M23 rebels. President Felix Tshisekedi has reshuffled his government by introducing many political heavyweights.

South Africa and the ICC

South Africa, a member of the International Criminal Court, has extended an invitation to Russian President Vladimir Putin to the BRICS summit (22-24 August). However, the latter is the subject of an international arrest warrant from the ICC that Pretoria is requested to execute. In 2015, South Africa hosted Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir at an African Union summit. In 2016, President Jacob Zuma considered leaving the ICC. In 2017, the ICC lectured South Africa without imposing any sanctions.

ASIA

Israeli NGOs accuse their country of torture

Addameer Prisoner Support, which defends the rights of Palestinian detainees, and the al-Haq legal aid group, issued a joint statement at the 52nd session of the UN Human Rights Council. They claimed that the Israeli authorities systematically subject Palestinian detainees to torture. In addition, the courts refuse to observe traces of abuse on the bodies of Palestinian prisoners.

Knesset protects Benjamin Netanyahu

The Knesset passed an incapacity law, which prevents the attorney general from declaring a sitting prime minister unfit for office. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was likely to be declared unfit.

Benjamin Netanyahu dismisses his defense minister

Israel’s defense minister General Yoav Gallant expressed reservations about the justice reform promoted by his prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu. In a context of Israeli division, he noted that such reform could only take place through dialogue. He was immediately dismissed.
Coming restoration of Saudi-Syrian diplomatic relations

According to Reuters, Saudi Arabia and Syria are on the verge of re-establishing diplomatic relations after Eid al-Fitr, at the end of Ramadan (April 22). A Syrian delegation including security officials visited Riyadh for several days. This restoration will pave the way for Syria’s presence in the Arab League.

Barbara Leaf discusses the complete collapse of Lebanon

Under Secretary of State for the Middle East Barbara Leaf has told Lebanese leaders that Washington will not help them until they reach an agreement with the International Monetary Fund. In her interviews, she warned her interlocutors, telling them that if they did not accept Western conditions now, their country would collapse definitively before the end of the year. "The worst is yet to come," she said.

Iran changes its economic strategy in Syria

Iran, which was planning to set up a joint bank with Syria and operate a mobile phone network there, is curtailing its economic ambitions. Tehran envisioned a form of economic dominance in all sectors. It now focuses on some and withdraws from others.

Iranian-Jordanian negotiations

Tehran has begun negotiations with Amman via Iraqi mediators. For now, the Jordanian side seems skeptical about the sustainability of the Iran-Saudi deal. Yet, while relations between Qatar and Saudi Arabia were still difficult, these talks began with a reception by the Iranian Chargé d'Affaires and the Saudi Ambassador were publicly received by their colleague by the Qatari Ambassador in Amman.

Kurdish regional government orders Türkiye to stop exporting oil stolen from Iraq

An International Court of Arbitration has prohibited Türkiye from transferring oil from the autonomous region of Iraqi Kurdistan. For years, successive Iraqi governments have described the production of oil by the autonomous region as "theft" insofar as the Constitution makes it a national asset while Kurdistan does not return any revenue to the national budget. The Court considered that transit through Türkiye was a form of "smuggling".

SNB President resigns

Chairman of Saudi National Bank Ammar al-Khudairy has resigned. SNB was Credit Suisse’s largest shareholder, with 9.8% of the shares. The Swiss bank was bought for a pittance at the beginning of March by UBS.

Saudi Arabia partners with SCO

The Saudi government has decided to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. A meeting with King Salman is expected to formalize the request for association status at the SCO. This announcement comes three weeks after the signing in Beijing of a Saudi-Iranian agreement.

Türkiye shocked by reception of terrorists in French Senate

The Turkish Foreign Ministry summoned France ambassador in Ankara Hervé Magro to ask him for explanations on the reception in the French Senate of leaders of the "terrorist" organization PKK/YPG. On March 24, 2023, a delegation was received by Vice-President of the Senate Pierre Laurent (communist). The next day, a reception was organized in the Senate premises by the Union of Franco-Kurdish Entrepreneurs (UEFK) on the occasion of Norouz (Persian New Year). Among the guests were commanders of the
People’s Defense Units (YPG) and Women’s Defense Units (YPJ) in combat uniform. YPJ spokesman Ruksan Mihemed and YPG spokesman Nuri Mahmoud received medals of honor.

Turkish diplomacy invited France not to give credence to the PKK’s efforts in seeking international legitimacy for its branches in Syria, to support the protection of the borders of Türkiye, the security of the Turkish people, the unity and territorial integrity of Syria, and to show solidarity in accordance with the spirit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Complaint to the ICC over the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria

In an open letter to the International Criminal Court, published by the Advances in Social Sciences Research Journal, three personalities denounce the earthquake in Türkiye and Syria as an act of geo-engineering.

The article is based on numerous press articles (including those of Voltaire Network).

Myanmar dissolves Aung San Suu Kyi’s party

Considering that 40 political parties did not renew their registration within the prescribed two months, the Myanmar authorities dissolved them. Among them is the National League for Democracy (NLD), which won the country’s last general election under the leadership of 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner and former State Councilor Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been imprisoned since April 2021. 63 political parties have been registered, 50 of which already exist.

South Korea shocked by Japanese textbooks

The Republic of Korea (known as South Korea) has issued an official protest to Japan over the way Japanese textbooks address the issues of territorial dispute between the two countries and forced labor of Koreans during World War II. The textbooks, approved by the Kishida government, describe South Korea’s claim to the Takeshima Islands (Dokdo in Korean) as "unreasonable." They also trivialize forced labor.

North Korea’s arsenal

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (known as "North Korea") tested two underwater drones called Tsunami ("Haeil" in Korean). They would be able to cause a radioactive tsunami. In the test, the drones maneuvered 41 hours underwater before destroying their targets off Hamgyong province. According to experts, North Korea could have benefited from Russia’s development of its Poseidon drones, but would not yet master all aspects of it.

"North Korea" also released photographs of 10 Hwasan-31 tactical nuclear bombs causing a stir in Washington. Pyongyang has tested 6 strategic nuclear bombs since 2016, but it was unclear that it also had tactic ones.

Philippines joins Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

The Philippine Senate has validated the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). This trade agreement, the largest in the world (a third of global GDP), has already been signed by the 15 ASEAN states, plus Australia, China, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand. India and Myanmar have not joined.

State Department official’s discreet trip to China

After Secretary of State Antony Blinken’s trip to Beijing was cancelled, one of his deputies, head of China House Rick Waters made a discreet trip to Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing. The Chinese authorities did not see the trip as likely
to improve relations between the two countries, but they were keen to keep the door open.

**The Chinese army stealth underwater?**

After showing off its underwater drones at the NAVDEX 2023 exhibition in the UAE in February, China claims to have developed a particular coating that fools sonar. It would allow to approach any submarine without being noticed and sink it.

**BYD ahead of Tesla**

According to Charlie Munger, Warren Buffet's partner, Chinese EV automaker BYD is significantly ahead of the American Tesla. "It's almost ridiculous," he said. BYD is the world's leading electric car manufacturer. This company is characterized by its vertical integration from lithium mines to the end product.

**European leaders in China**

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez was received by Chinese President Xi Jinping. Next week, French President Emmanuel Macron and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will follow. High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell will travel to Beijing probably during his visit to the G7 Foreign Ministers’ Summit in Japan on 16 April.

Each of them will try both to convince China not to supply weapons to Russia and to test its willingness to negotiate peace in Ukraine.

**Former Taiwan President Supports Unification of the Two Chinas**

Former president of Taiwan and the Kuomintang Ma Ying-jeou is on a private visit to communist China. He visited Sun Yat-sen's mausoleum and stressed that unification is what all Chinese people want, and that the 1992 Consensus in which both sides recognized that they are part of the same China but with different interpretations of what that means, should be the basis for peace.

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**Voltaire Network Analysis**

"Birth of the multipolar world (2). Getting ready for a new World War" ; by Thierry Meyssan

The U.S. is pushing its EU allies to get ready for World War III. If it wants to emerge victorious from the "Thucydides trap", the U.S. has to wage this war. Unless all this fuss is just a show to keep its allies in step at a time when many states in South America, Africa and Asia are declaring themselves "neutral". Meanwhile, the drums of war are rallying Japanese warmongers who are back, like the "integral nationalists" in Ukraine.

**Boao Forum for Asia 2023**

Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva and Prime Ministers of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong, of Spain Pedro Sanchez, of Ivory Coast Patrick Achi, of Kazakhstan Alikhan Smailov, of Malaysia Anwar Ibrahim and of course of China Li Qiang participate in the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA 2023), aka the "Chinese Davos".

**Convening of the first China-Central Asia Summit**

A China-Central Asia summit will bring together the heads of state and government of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in May. In 30 years, trade between these countries has increased 100 times. A joint declaration, currently under talks, should be drafted around the following five points:

- magnifying the exemplary role of friendship (good neighborly relations);
- building a cooperation belt for high-quality development;
- strengthening the peaceful defense shield;
- building a family with diverse interactions;
• Protecting the global village so that it can enjoy peace and development.

**China helps poor countries**

According to a study by World Bank researchers and researchers affiliated with Harvard University, in partnership with Aid Data and the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, China spent $240 billion to bail out 22 developing countries between 2008 and 2021. Beijing does not place any political conditions on its loan agreements. In addition, it called on the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to follow its example and provide debt relief to the poorest countries. Atlanticist propaganda, however, swears that China’s Silk Roads contracts are traps impoverishing the countries that commit to them.

**Japanese reactions to their Prime Minister’s policy**

According to a Nikkei poll, 63% of Japanese approve of Japan’s and South Korea’s rapprochement with China, while 71% identify with Japan’s alliance with Ukraine.

**U.S. warns Japan**

At a conference at the University of Tokyo, US Ambassador Rahm Emmanuel called for the creation of a "global coalition" capable of responding to "Chinese economic coercion" (sic). He accused Beijing of engaging in "soft coercion," which he described as using economic influence and the size of its market to seize concessions from companies and countries that fear losing access to the Chinese market.
AFRICA

United Nations Peace Operations in Africa Civil-Military Coordination and State-Building, By Saleem Ahmad Khan, Routledge (120 £)

Resource Conflict and Environmental Relations in Africa, Kelechi Johnmary Ani, Palgrave Macmillan (96 €)

AUSTRALIA

Australia’s Security in China’s Shadow, By Euan Graham, Routledge (27 £)

AUSTRIA

Der Professor und der Wolf : Das 1 x 1 der österreichischen Politik, von Peter Filzmaier & Armin Wolf, Christian Brandstätter Verlag (25 £)

CANADA

Canadian Conservative Political Thought, Edited By Lee Trepanier, Richard Avramenko, Routledge (120 £)

CHINA

China, Media, and International Conflicts, Edited By Shixin Ivy Zhang, Altman Yuzhu Peng, Routledge (120 £)

Deliberation with Chinese Characteristics A Tale of Two Chinese Cities’ Participatory Budgeting Experiences, By Su Yun Woo, Routledge (120 £)

The Palgrave Handbook of Globalization with Chinese Characteristics. The Case of the Belt and Road Initiative, Paulo Afonso B. Duarte, Francisco José B. S. Leandro, Enrique Martínez Galán, Palgrave Macmillan (160 €)

The New China Playbook : Beyond Socialism and Capitalism, Keyu Jin, Viking ($29)

EUROPEAN UNION

The Nordic, Baltic and Visegrád Small Powers in Europe A Dance with Giants for Survival and Prosperity, By Hilmar Hilmarsson, Routledge (120 £)
Frontex and the Rising of a New Border Control Culture in Europe, By Antonia-Maria Sarantaki, Routledge (120 £)

The EU Political System After the 2019 European Elections, Olivier Costa, Steven Van Hecke, Palgrave Macmillan (107 €)

Politics and Security of Central and Eastern Europe. Contemporary Challenges, Ryszard Zięba, Palgrave Macmillan (107 €)

FINLAND

Cultural Diplomacy in Cold War Finland. Identity, Geopolitics and the Welfare State, Louis Clerc, Palgrave Macmillan (42 €)

FRANCE

Je n’ai pas dit mon dernier mot, de Éric Zemmour, Rubempre (22 €)

En bande organisée : Mitterrand, le pacte secret, de Sébastien Le Fol, Albin Michel (22 €)

GERMANY

Die Moskau-Connection : Das Schröder-Netzwerk und Deutschlands Weg in die Abhängigkeit, von Reinhard Bingener & Markus Wehner, C.H.Beck (18 €)

HOLY SEE

L’atlante, di Francesco. Vaticano e politica internazionale, di Antonio Spadaro, Marsilio (13,30 €)

INDIA

How Realist Is India’s National Security Policy?, Edited By Kanti Bajpai, Routledge (35 £)

INDO-PACIFIC

Handbook of Indo-Pacific Studies, Edited By Barbara Kratiuk, Jeroen Van den Bosch, Aleksandra Jaskólska, Yoichiro Sato, Routledge (120 £)

IRAN

Power of Bonding and Non-Western Soft Power Strategy in Iran. Comparing China and India’s

Engagement, Md. Nazmul Islam, Palgrave Macmillan (97 €)

IRAQ

Iraq Power, Institutions, and Identities, By Andrew J. Flibbert, Routledge (120 £)

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EDITORIAL

Towards a martial censorship law in the USA?

A bill has been introduced in the Senate to control any interference by adversaries of the US on the Internet in the US. (*Restrict Act*, S. 686)

The first debates focus on the possible application of this law to the Chinese company ByteDance, owner of social network TikTok. Its ban would aim to protect children from the theft of their login data by the Chinese Communist Party. The *Electronic Frontier Foundation* (EFF) has warned of a device that could miss its intended target to get to fundamental freedoms.

All Chinese, Cuban, Iranian, North Korean, Russian and Venezuelan companies that would be engaged "in a long-term model significantly detrimental to the national security of the US or the safety and security of U.S. citizens" are currently concerned. The goal would be censoring not specific information, but sources of information. Although, according to the bill, the power of censorship would be held by the Secretary of Commerce, it is martial law. Current Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo became famous by restricting the entry of the state of Rhode Island, of which she was governor, during the Covid-19 outbreak. In the last State of the Union address, she was chosen by President Joe Biden as his *designated survivor* in the event of a deadly attack on him and his constitutional successors (vice president and presidents of the assemblies).

If this law were passed and enforced, the Secretary of Commerce could apply it not only to one company, but to all companies of the same country which would therefore be deprived of the opportunity to make its point of view known to the American people. On the other hand, US elected officials could accuse it of all evils and the US media could defame it without limit. Quickly, a war against that country would seem legitimate.
AMERICAS

Indictment of Donald Trump by the State of New York

New York District Attorney Alvin Bragg has indicted former President Donald Trump. In particular, he is accused of having declared as "legal fees" the $130,000 in hush money he would have his lawyer pay to porn star Stormy Daniels who could have revealed a relationship they would have had after his marriage to Melania Knauss. However, this accounting error, if any, is a minor offense in New York, time-barred after two years. According to the prosecutor, the fact that Mr. Trump no longer lived in New York, but in Washington, suspends the statute of limitations. Above all, he argues that this accounting error is intended to cover up a violation of the campaign finance law, which constitutes a federal offense punishable by 4 years in prison. However, he does not specify what this violation of federal law is. Moreover, if there is a federal crime, he has no standing to prosecute it as a New York prosecutor. This clumsy legal set-up is only based on the allegations of Donald Trump's former lawyer Michael Cohen. He is the only witness to the payment of hush money to Stormy Daniels which he claims was made in cash by the CEO of the National Enquirer. But Michael Cohen considers Donald Trump responsible for his disbarment and hates him. In 2012, presidential candidate John Edwards was prosecuted for similar offences. The prosecution had fizzled out. It's hard to see why it would hold against Donald Trump. Between 1997 and 2017, U.S. lawmakers spent $17 million to settle sexual misconduct cases. None have been prosecuted. Donald Trump said in a statement that the indictment is the continuation of a long series of baseless investigations against him. He cited FBI spying on his 2016 campaign, special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation that found no collusion between his campaign and Russia, two parliamentary impeachment attempts and the ongoing investigation into his mishandling of classified documents after he left office. Prosecutor Alvin Bragg boasts of having prosecuted Donald Trump more than a hundred times.

Several members of George Soros' family supported Alvin Bragg's election campaign, including Mr. Soros' son, Jonathan Soros, and his daughter-in-law Jennifer Allan Soros, who gave him a total of about $20,000, but George Soros himself says he does not know him. However, one of his NGOs supported Alvin Bragg's campaign with a donation of $1 million. According to a CNN poll, six out of ten voters judge this matter political, while only three out of ten voters have a good opinion of Mr. Trump.

Escorted by a 17 cars convoy and an impressive crowd of supporters along the way, the former president of the US turned his indictment into a big show requiring 50,000 police officers to maintain order. In four days, Donald Trump's campaign recorded $8 million in donations, a quarter of which came from new donors. In an email to supporters, the campaign office wrote: "This incredible wave of grassroots contributions confirms that the American people view the indictment of President Trump as a shameful militarization of our judicial system by a Soros-funded prosecutor." Before starting his campaign for the 2016 presidential election, Donald Trump's office had decided to silence all those who could disrupt the debate (catch-and-kill strategy). The stories of several people, including that of Stormy Daniels, were purchased exclusively and were not published. Donald Trump hired former New York federal prosecutor Todd Blanche to defend him. This case is reminiscent of the much more serious one that was brought against leader of the Republicans in the House Tom DeLay in 2005. He was accused of money laundering and fraud, convicted at first instance, forced to retire from political life, only to be finally acquitted on appeal.

Proposal to no longer issue US visas to Chinese

Republican Representative Thomas Tiffany (Wisconsin) is demanding that the US refuse to issue visas to Chinese citizens until Beijing takes
back its illegal migrants. In retaliation of the visit to Taiwan of former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, China has refused to take them back.

**Release of the main defendant of the Capitol riot**

35 y.o. Jacob Chansley aka "QAnon Shaman" who wore a horned headdress during the Jan. 6, 2021, riot on Capitol Hill was released from prison 14 months earlier and transferred to a transition center. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy revealed that a large number of videos were covered up by the previous assembly's parliamentary investigative committee, including one showing the defendant being peacefully escorted by police inside the Capitol. His lawyer is seeking sanctions against Justice Ministry prosecutors for a concealed video that may have contributed to his defense.

**Should officials who censored information be condemned?**

Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry suggested during his congressional hearing by the House Law Subcommittee investigating the "militarization" of the federal government, to punish officials who participated in the censorship system. The subcommittee's investigations have already shown that the FBI, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Census Bureau, Dr. Anthony Fauci and several people in the White House have lobbied social media companies to censor dissenting views on Covid-19 and information about the Bidens. The 1st Amendment of the US Constitution provides that "Congress make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting its free exercise. It protects freedom of speech, the press, assembly, and the right to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." This Amendment is generally interpreted as prohibiting all forms of censorship, including by the Executive.

**New revelation on the commission of inquiry into the events of Jan 6, 2021**

Republican Representative Barry Loudermilk (Georgia) opened the session of the parliamentary committee of inquiry into the Capitol riot. He pointed out that the original commission's report accused him of leading a “reconnaissance” tour of the building the day before the riot in preparation for a coup d'état when the commission had police documents proving otherwise. This case comes in addition to that of the discarded videos, revealed by new Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy.

**General Milley does not believe in a Ukrainian victory nor an attack on Taiwan in 2023**

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley delivered an important speech at the *Defense One* magazine forum. After rejecting the idea that Ukraine could defeat Russia this year, he insisted that China would probably not invade Taiwan this year either. This war is "neither inevitable nor imminent," he said.

**Bill Clinton regrets denuclearizing Ukraine**

Former President Bill Clinton told *Radio and Television Ireland* (RTÉ) that he regretted pushing Ukrainians to give up their nuclear arsenal inherited from the USSR.

**Continuation of the anti-corruption investigation in Venezuela**

The anti-corruption investigation by the National Police and the National Bolivarian Intelligence Service (SEBIN) has already led to the arrest of 42 suspects, including president of the state-owned company Corporacion Venezolana de Guayana (CVG) Pedro Maldonado, officials of the Venezuelan steel giant Sidor, and especially former Chavista minister Hugbel Roa. In 2017, more than 200 people were arrested in a similar investigation.
EUROPE

Britain's financial primacy under threat

The City of London is no longer the world's leading financial center. It now shares this leadership with Wall Street, ahead of Singapore. The UK's financial and professional services, however, generated £64 billion in trade surplus in 2022. According to the City of London Corporation, "London's competitive advantage is threatened" (...) A long-term plan to drive growth in the financial and professional services sector is needed."

French government communicates in the adult entertainment press

The communication services of the Élysée Palace managed to place Marlène Schiappa, Secretary of State in charge of the Social and Solidarity Economy and Community Life, on the cover of erotic magazine Playboy and Minister of Labour Olivier Dussopt on the cover of gay magazine Tétu.

Former Lafarge CEO denies supporting Daesh in Syria

Former Lafarge CEO Bruno Lafont gave an interview to Libération newspaper. He said: "It is clear that between the story we told at the beginning, the one that says that Lafarge financed terrorist groups in Syria between 2013 and 2014 for pure greed, and what we discover today, the situation is totally different (...) We learn that there was a special relationship between the French state and its services, and Lafarge, and that's why I wanted to report to the judge everything I learned in recent years (...) I knew nothing about payments to terrorist groups and state activities in our factory."

He is indicted for "financing a terrorist organization" and "endangering" the life of his employees, as part of the judicial investigation opened since 2017 in Paris. Voltaire Network published from Syria the ins and outs of this case, but was never heard by Justice.

France will judge three Syrian personalities in absentia

France will judge for "crimes against humanity" head of national security General Ali Mamlouk, considered to be the Syrian No. 2, director of the Air Force Intelligence Services Jamil Hassan and Abdel Salah Mahmoud, one of his subordinates in charge of investigations. The three men are based in Damascus and will be tried in absentia. If the methods of the Syrian intelligence services are violent, talking about "torture" and "crimes against humanity" is propaganda, not facts. In January 2022, Germany convicted in Koblenz Syrian intelligence officer Anwar Rasland for 27 murders. He had fled his country where he was wanted for the same charges.

Emmanuel Macron's trip to China

French President Emmanuel Macron is traveling to China. At his request he is going together with President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen. He has always refrained from anti-Chinese statements, despite US pressure. He is therefore well regarded in Beijing.

Finland joins NATO

Finland became the 31st member state of the North Atlantic Organization. The operation was carried out in haste, just before Prime Minister Sanna Marin lost the general elections and, therefore, could no longer move this issue forward. The anniversary of the Alliance on April 4 hides this sleight of hand. At the time of its creation, the Atlantic Alliance had only 12 members. It increased to 16 until the dissolution of the Soviet Union. In 1999 the process of enlargement to the former Warsaw Pact states and the former USSR began. Today NATO has 31 members. The Alliance, which was envisioned for 12 states, cannot properly function beyond 16 members, according to the principles of group dynamics. The Atlantic Council i.e., the supreme authority of the Alliance can no longer be a place for talks and decision-making, nor was it consulted during the...
attack on Libya. In practice, the US is no longer simply the overlord but is the only one to decide, advised by the UK.

However, two members of the Alliance are no longer on the same wavelength as Washington: Hungary and Türkiye. This situation will necessarily have to be clarified.

Poland discriminates against Russian fencers

The Polish Fencing Federation has required that Russian athletes competing in the qualifying events of the Olympic Games sign a document attesting that they condemn the Russian offensive in Ukraine and that they are not employed by the Russian army or any Russian security service. Russian athletes have been banned from international competition in the wake of Russia's special military operation in Ukraine. However, the International Fencing Federation (FIE) announced in early March the reinstatement of Russian fencers, a first in international sport in more than a year. The Polish Federation is therefore reversing this decision. On 28 March 2023, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) recommended the return of Russian and Belarusian athletes under the neutral banner and individually, but did not decide at this stage on their possible participation in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

Hungary observes EU developments on Ukraine

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán told Kossuth radio that European heads of state and government were no longer only discussing sending weapons to Ukraine, but also the possible deployment of troops. Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto said his country did not want to send weapons to Ukraine because he believed it would endanger Transcarpathia's Magyar minority.

Ursula von der Leyen condemns the “yellow peril”

Before leaving for China along with French President Emmanuel Macron, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen gave an important speech on EU-China relations at the European Policy Center. By making very aggressive remarks, she wanted to distinguish herself from the French president. She said: "[China's] show of military force in the South China Sea and East China Sea, as well as on the border with India, directly affects our partners and their legitimate interests. We also stress the importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. Any weakening of regional stability in Asia, the world's fastest-growing region, affects global security, the free flow of trade and our own interests in the region. The serious human rights violations taking place in Xinjiang are also a source of great concern. Just as China has strengthened its military posture, it has also intensified its policies of disinformation and economic and commercial coercion. These escalatory actions indicate that China is becoming more repressive at home and more assertive abroad. China has now turned the page on the era of "reform and opening-up" and is entering a new era of security and control. All companies in China, for example, are already required by law to assist state intelligence collection operations and keep them secret. The imperative of security and control now trumps the logic of free markets and open trade. The clear goal of the Chinese Communist Party is a systemic change in the international order with China at its center." Mrs. von der Leyen will therefore probably be given the cold shoulder in Beijing.

Ukraine places Orthodox Metropolitan of the Kiev Caves under house arrest

The Ukrainian judiciary has placed under house arrest Metropolitan Pavel, who heads the Kiev Caves (Kyiv Pechersk Lavra) monastery. He is accused of "justifying the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and glorifying its participants" and "violating the equality of citizens on the basis of
their racial, national, regional [and] religious beliefs". No evidence has been presented for these accusations. The Metropolitan, like all clerics of the Orthodox Church dependent on the Moscow Patriarchate, is an official of the Russian Federation. In a video broadcast by Telegram, Metropolitan Pavel said: "There is no motive... I didn't do anything. I know it is a political order because I have been threatened. The Security Service of Ukraine called me to the director of the museum. He told me that we had to open a trial... I know who it is, but I'm not going to deal with it, it's not my style. They say I support Russia's aggression against Ukraine. I have said before, I'm saying now and I will say again: I condemn all attempts against our state and what Russia [and Vladimir] Putin have done is unjustifiable." For its part, the Russian Foreign Ministry condemned religious persecution in Ukraine.

**Oleksiy Danilov presents Ukrainian plan for "the Day After"**

Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine Oleksiy Danilov published the draft plan of reforms to be carried out after the victory over the Russian Federation.

- Criminal prosecution of collaborators and traitors.

- Russia, or its successor state, will have to extradite all its war criminals.

- As for magistrates and law enforcement agencies, if convicted, they will lose their pensions and be banned from employment by the State and local authorities.

- As far as journalists are concerned, if they are convicted, they will be deprived of liberty, titles, pensions, property, honor and respect.

- Russian nationals who have come to occupy Crimea since 2014 will be expelled. All property they have acquired will be seized and returned to their Ukrainian owners.

- The Kerch Bridge will be destroyed in order to guarantee complete freedom of navigation in the Sea of Azov.

- A vast program of de-Russification will be undertaken. It will include forced labor to rebuild the country by those who destroyed it.

- Creation of a documentary database of Russian crimes in Ukraine. Immediate release of all Ukrainian citizens and Crimean Tatars who have been imprisoned by the Russians. An official document is being drafted which will elaborate on each of these points.

**NATO command center reportedly destroyed in Ukraine**

According to Greek website ProNews relayed by Russian media, the Kinzhal hypersonic missiles that were fired by Russia at Ukraine on March 9 destroyed an underground bunker 130 meters deep. The bunker's Iris-R and NASAMS air defense systems were also destroyed. The bunker was a very important command center. It housed about 300 people, including telecommunications technicians and NATO advisers, mostly British and Polish. President Volodymyr Zelensky spoke of a "severe strike," without giving more details. The information has been censored in the West where NATO's direct involvement in the conflict is denied.

**Erratum**

The Russian Mosskit missile is not hypersonic, but only supersonic.

**Ukraine secretly resumes contacts with Kremlin**

While Ukrainian law prohibits any contact with the Kremlin until the overthrow of President Vladimir Putin, Kiev has resumed contact through a mediator. These are not negotiations yet, but we are getting closer.
Belarus prepares for war

Belarus has started the General Inspection of its Armed Forces. The goal is to check their state of preparedness and mobilize them in the event of imminent war. This inspection will include both the call of conscripts and the issuance of combat weapons.

Russia takes over rotating presidency of UN Security Council

The Russian Federation has taken over the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council for the month of April. It announced that it would behave in the most neutral manner possible. A few days ago, the Russian delegation to the Council sent a letter to the other Members criticizing the way in which Albania held the Presidency in February. Tirana indeed violated the Council's internal Rules of Procedure on several occasions. On 7 February, it gave the floor to S. Oñate Laborde for the Investigation and Identification Team of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), although several members of the Council question the legitimacy of this structure, created in violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. On 24th February it received Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmitry Kuleba, granting him a privileged status not enjoyed by other Foreign Ministers, notably those of Latin American and African countries.

At the same meeting on 24 February, the Albanian Presidency also invited an excessive number of delegations from EU member States to speak under article 37, in addition to the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. During its presidency, Russia will hold a ministerial-level debate chaired by its Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on multilateralism under the UN Charter.

US journalist caught red handed and arrested for espionage in Russia

Journalist Evan Gershkovich, who worked for the Wall Street Journal after contributing to the Moscow Times and AFP, was arrested in the act of espionage. He is the first American journalist arrested on this ground in Russia since the creation of the state in 1991. After crying foul about the illegal arrest, the US Secretary of State contacted his Russian counterpart by phone. After this meeting with Sergey Lavrov, Antony Blinken said he was checking Russian information before taking a position.

Voltaire Network analyses

- "Birth of the multipolar world (3): How Russia sees its role in the construction of the multipolar world", by Thierry Meyssan

Russia has just published its "Foreign Policy Concept". After recalling its position in the world, this document describes the end of Western domination and the efforts of the US and its allies to maintain Washington's hegemony. It lists Moscow's interests and goals, emphasizes the primacy of contemporary International Law (a creation of Tsar Nicholas II) and concludes with a description of the changing world.

- "Putin's nuclear red line", by Manlio Dinucci

Russia has announced that it is transferring nuclear weapons to Belarus. Contrary to what one might think, this is not a particularly aggressive attitude on the part of Russia, but a defensive response to the deployment of US nuclear weapons in countries bordering Russia. If Moscow had wanted to respond equally to Washington, it should have installed its nuclear warheads in Cuba.

Member of Navalny's organization carries out a terrorist attack in St. Petersburg

Journalist Maksim Fomin, aka "Vladlen Tatarsky", a specialist in military issues, was murdered in a bomb attack in a café in St. Petersburg which also injured 32 people. According to the Russian Counter-Terrorism Committee, the attack "was planned by the special services of Ukraine with the
participation of agents collaborating with [Alexei] Navalny's Anti-Corruption Fund". According to videos from the café, Daria Trepova brought the box containing the explosive and handed it to the victim. She is a supporter of Navalny's organization. She was arrested. The bomb had an explosive power of more than 200 grams of TNT equivalent. "Vladlen Tatarsky" was a highly respected commentator, Voltaire Network owes him several important information. It is not impossible that he was not the target of this operation. He was about to give a lecture in this café which founder of the Wagner Group Yevgeny Prigozhin was supposed to attend.

**NATO spends more on Ukraine than Russia does on its military budget**

According to NATO, the Alliance has given Ukraine $65 billion in 2022. For its part, Russia plans to dedicate 5,000 billion rubles ($63.7 billion) to its defense budget in 2023.

**AFRICA**

**Algeria opposes any foreign military intervention in the Sahel**

Algerian Chief of Staff General Saïd Chengriha stressed during an address to army officers that his country rejects any military intervention in the region under the pretext of the fight against terrorism. In 2013, he opposed French military intervention in Mali.

**Burkina Faso expels two French journalists**

Burkina Faso condemned the publication on 27 March of an incriminating article in newspaper Libération, entitled "In Burkina Faso, a video of executed children shot in a military camp". The Transitional Government points out that terrorists often use official uniforms to disguise their crimes and that the journalist did not consider this possibility but engaged in an ethnic interpretation of the facts. Agnès Faivre (Libération and Radio France) and Sophie Douce (Le Monde and Ouest-France) were expelled. In previous months, Burkina Faso expelled the French military from Operation Sabre, requested the replacement of Ambassador Luc Hallade (now "in consultation" in Paris), and interrupted broadcasts of Radio France International and France24, a radio and television station of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Burkinabe transitional government claims the example of the anti-imperialist revolutionary Thomas Sankara, assassinated on October 15, 1987, probably by Blaise Compaoré on the orders of French President François Mitterrand.

**Uganda supports Russia**

Muhoozi Kainerugaba, son of Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, said: "Call me 'Putinist' if you like, we Uganda should send soldiers to defend Moscow if it is ever threatened by the imperialists... The West is wasting its time with useless pro-Ukrainian propaganda," Uganda abstained from various votes against Russia at the UN General Assembly.

**M23 slow to withdraw from DRC**

While the roadmap for ending the crisis agreed between the heads of the armies of East African countries and the presidents of the countries of the region provided for the withdrawal of M23 forces and their replacement by Ugandan interposition forces at the end of March, they still occupied the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The M23 is a Rwandan-backed militia. The area it occupies is partially populated by Tutsis. This occupation allows Rwanda to appropriate its coltan mines, which is essential for the manufacture of electronic capacitors and mobile phones.
ASIA

**Major oil producers cut production**

Oil-producing countries Algeria, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman and Russia have announced that they will cut production until the end of the year. This decrease of about 1 million barrels per day comes in addition to the 2 million barrels per day cut announced in October. In total, this cut represents 3% of world production.

**Increase in Israeli attacks on Syria**

Israel attacked Syria on February 18 (Damascus), March 7 (Aleppo airport), March 12 (Hama and Tartus), March 30 (Damascus), March 31 (Damascus) and April 2.

**Israel resumes hostilities at Al-Aqsa Mosque**

Jewish settlers announced that they would sacrifice an animal on the esplanade of mosques, a site forbidden to Jewish worship. Many Muslim worshippers gathered to pray at Al-Aqsa Mosque (Jerusalem) to celebrate Ramadan. Israeli police evacuated the mosque compound late in the day with tear gas. The worshippers who refused to go out were beaten. In order to be able to gather (Itikâf), some barricaded themselves in the mosque. The Israeli police, who does not recognize this rite, accused them of possessing weapons and stormed the mosque. At least 350 people were arrested. Calls are mounting to defend the Al-Aqsa Mosque, especially since Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir visited the mosque compound and said: "Jews will come up here and those who threaten them will be treated with an iron fist." All Arab states condemned the Israeli intervention in the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Washington has expressed concern.

**Syrian Foreign Minister in Egypt**

Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal al-Meqdad visited Cairo on April 1st. "The discussions focused on ways to help the Syrian people restore their unity and sovereignty over all their territory." On February 27, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukri visited Damascus, a first in a decade even though relations between the two countries have never been completely severed. Egypt is the seat of the Arab League.

**Saudi Arabia to invite Syria to next Arab League summit**

According to Reuters, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faysal bin Farhane will travel to Damascus in the coming weeks. He'll hand over to President Bashar al-Assad an official

Lebanon

The US announced "sanctions" against two Lebanese billionaires, brothers Teddy and Raymond Rahmî. The US Treasury does not care about their activities in armaments and alongside the Barzani clan in Iraq, but accuses them without proof of having supplied "defective fuel" to *Électricité du Liban*. They would thus bear some responsibility for the country's energy crisis. These weird sanctions are interpreted in Lebanon as a repudiation of Sleiman Frangieh’s bid for the presidency of the Republic, since he is a friend of Raymond Rahmî. Sleiman Frangié is not only supported by his political party, the Maradas, and by France, but also by all Shiites including Hezbollah. He is a childhood friend of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Washington has already used sanctions to derail French influence, including in late 2020 when French President Emmanuel Macron intervened after the Beirut port explosion. Saudi Arabia, for its part, claims to have changed its political conception and no longer supports a candidate according to his community of origin – the president of the Lebanese Republic is necessarily a Christian who can be more or less close to the Sunnis – but only according to his program.
invitation to attend the Arab League summit scheduled for May 19 in Riyadh. Syria is one of the founders of the Arab League. It was excluded in violation of the League’s statutes during the allied operation to overthrow the Syrian Arab Republic and replace it with a regime led by the Muslim Brotherhood. Returning more or less to respect of its statutes, the Arab League had accepted that the pro-US Syrian opposition sit within it. But it quickly realized its inconsistency and left the seat vacant. Syria is not rejoining the Arab League, it is the League that is reintegrating it. Syria has never changed its position; its Arab partners are the ones who are coming to their senses.

**UAE helps Syrians affected by earthquake**

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has sent more than 2,200 tonnes of humanitarian aid via the port of Latakia to Syrians affected by the devastating earthquake of 6 February. Western humanitarian aid, meanwhile, is limited to the area occupied by the jihadists.

**TotalEnergies in Iraq again**

While oil-rich Iraq has no electricity for more than 12 hours a day, the project imagined by French President Emmanuel Macron at the Baghdad summit has stalled for a year. In the end, an agreement was reached for the next 25 years. A consortium of TotalEnergies (45%), Basrah Oil Company (30%) and QatarEnergy (25%) will exploit hydrocarbon fields and create a giant solar power plant to supply the country with electricity.

**Recep Tayyip Erdogan takes advantage of Kemal Kilicdaroglu’s clumsiness**

The US ambassador to Ankara met with Republican People's Party (CHP) leader and National Alliance presidential candidate Kemal Kilicdaroglu. The AKP press went on a rampage against this interference. In its eyes, it underlines the dependence of Kemal Kilicdaroglu vis-à-vis the US and, by contrast, the sovereign nationalism of Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The Turkish population is now very anti-American given the role of the CIA in the coup attempt of July 15, 2016, the support given by Washington to the PKK and the possible involvement of the HAARP system in the earthquake that has just hit the country.

**Erdogan invites Putin**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan invited his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin to attend the ceremony to load nuclear fuel from the Akkuyu nuclear power plant. The event will take place on April 27, two weeks before the Turkish presidential election. Turkey is not a member of the International Criminal Court (ICC) which has issued an international arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin. Obviously, Ankara is no longer part of the Western bloc although it is still a member of the Atlantic Alliance.

**The International Court of Justice rules against the US in favor of Iran**

The International Court of Justice, an internal organ of the United Nations, has ruled on Iran's 2016 case against the US. It ruled that freezing Iranian assets held by US banks is contrary to international law. It did not order their restitution but gave both parties two years to reach a compensation agreement, failing which it will set the amount of damages.

**Rahul Gandhi’s sentence suspended**

A court sentenced Rahul Gandhi (son of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, grandson of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and great-grandson of another Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru) to two years in prison for mocking three personalities bearing the surname Modi (two crooks and the current Prime Minister). On the basis of this conviction, the Speaker of Parliament expelled him from the assembly. However, this sentence was suspended on appeal, which makes Rahul Gandhi's return to Parliament possible and hence his participation in the next general elections.
**Macron and von der Leyen's trip to China**

Beijing is receiving French President Emmanuel Macron and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. Seen from China, the former is conciliatory, while the latter is violently aligned with the US. A few months ago, Emmanuel Macron had identically asked German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to come together to Beijing, but the latter had refused and preferred to go alone. Many EU experts advocate a reframing of China's European policy, so far based on a privileged alliance with Germany. They consider that France is less dependent on the US than Germany. Upon his arrival in China, President Macron's first statements were to warn of the consequences of Beijing's possible military involvement in the Ukrainian conflict, while praising the peacemaking capabilities that China could use there. Ursula von der Leyen, for her part, strongly criticized the National Defense Times for inviting President Macron to resume the action of national independence of his predecessor, Charles De Gaulle.

**Beijing interprets its agreement with the Holy See**

Beijing announced that the Catholic bishop of Heimen would now be in charge of the diocese of Shanghai. China's agreement with the Vatican provides that bishops will be chosen by mutual agreement, but does not specify this situation where a bishop chosen by mutual agreement is moved to another diocese.

**Japan takes anti-China action**

The government of Fumio Kishida has taken steps to restrict the export of hardware used to make computer chips. The move complements the U.S. plan to dry up China's semiconductor industry.

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**OCEANIA**

**US Influence on Australian Defense**

Professor of Foreign and Defense Policy at the University of Sydney Peter Dean was tasked with developing the review of Australia's Defense Strategy. He is a member of the Atlantic Council who leads several "public diplomacy" programs at the US State Department and the Pentagon. He played a central role in the purchase of US submarines from the AUKUS alliance and today promotes the purchase of long-range bombers.

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EDITORIAL

The mind-boggling Pentagon leaks

While pro-US journalists such as Bellingcat’s tried to downplay the leak of Pentagon documents by claiming that they had been doctored, the US Department of Defense sounded the alarm to identify and arrest the whistleblowers. The leak does not appear to come from foreign hackers, but from internal sources. This case is more serious for the US than the Wikileaks revelations because they are documents of a much higher level of secrecy. Democrat Senate majority leader Charles E. Schumer (New York) requested a closed-door session of the upper chamber to hear from administration officials. The documents appear to have been photographed. In addition to information on troop movements and casualties in Ukraine, they also contain daily intelligence briefings. It is a collection of short pieces of information from various sources around the world. These briefs were collected by the NSA (PRISM program) as part of the "Five Eyes" alliance and are therefore accessible not only to authorized US personalities and officials, but also to their Australian, British, Canadian and New Zealand counterparts. However, some documents are stamped with a special code prohibiting communication to the Five Eyes. These documents appeared on the social network Discord. Then they were the subject of an article in the New York Times and have been spreading very widely ever since. The US authorities have managed to remove these leaks from the social networks they control. In addition to the fact that this leak attests to the Pentagon's staggering security flaws, its content suggests the lack of professionalism of the US services who believe everything they hear, without verifying anything. Thus, they repeat in their daily briefings that secretary of the Russian National Security Council Nikolay Patrushev and chief of staff of the armed forces Valery Gerasimov have a plan to attack Kiev when President Vladimir Putin is undergoing chemotherapy for his cancer. In substance, these documents contradict NATO's figures of Ukrainian and Russian losses and confirm those of the Israeli Mossad revealed by Hürseda Haber in Turkey (cf. VIN N°27). In February, Israel estimated Russian losses at 18,480 while NATO publicly estimated them at more than 200,000. Today, we know that according to the Pentagon, internally, they were estimated at about 16,000. Regarding Ukrainian losses, the Mossad estimated them at 157,000 when the Pentagon internally recognizes 71,500. Ukraine's defenses are expected to collapse before the end of May. In other words, it is clear that the Atlantic Alliance is telling nonsense about what is happening on the battlefield, while Russia is close to the truth and probably victory. By the way these revelations attest to the ubiquity of US troops without uniforms on the battlefield, far from the non-engagement that the US Secretary of Defense prides himself on. Through this avalanche of documents, we see that even today the US shamelessly spies on its allies (NSA's PRISM program). (...)
We learn that in South Korea, the internal debates of the leaders have been spied on. Washington is closely following Korean concerns that their weapons and ammunition being sold to the US will be used to wage war on Russia in Ukraine. We also learn that in Israel the Mossad has encouraged demonstrations against the Netanyahu government which of course been denied in high places. Similarly, these documents reveal contacts of the Wagner group with Turkish arms manufacturers to buy NATO weapons via Mali and that Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic is ready to export arms to Russia (Serbia was bombed by NATO in 1999). All sorts of topics are being discussed, such as a possible sale of 40,000 Egyptian rockets to the Russian military and a possible hacking of a Canadian pipeline by Russian cyber-espionage agents. And especially the possible shift of Hungary and the EU towards Russia and China.

**Corrupt Supreme Court Justice**

ProPublica revealed that Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and his wife enjoyed private jet trips and vacations on billionaire Harlan Crown's yacht. They also received lavish gifts. All without declaring these benefits in violation of the most basic code of ethics. Judge Thomas pleaded friendship, but Democrat lawmakers are expected to take up the case. One of the most conservative judges, Clarence Thomas interprets the Constitution exclusively in its original sense (Originalism).

**Parliamentary inquiry into DA Alvin Bragg**

The House Law Committee intends to hear Matthew Colangelo, a former Justice Department official who participated in investigations into Donald Trump, who was hired by district attorney of Manhattan (New York) Alvin Bragg on the eve of the indictment of the former president. It also issued a subpoena on April 20 to Mark Pomerantz, a former prosecutor in the Bragg District Attorney's Office. Pomerantz published a book last month called *People vs. Donald Trump: An Inside Account*, in which he describes Bragg's working methods. Prosecutor Bragg has filed a lawsuit against Congress in a New York court for interfering in the judicial investigation against Donald Trump. He disputes that parliamentarians have the power to subpoena persons involved in this investigation. In addition, Donald Trump has filed a complaint against his former lawyer Michael Cohen who claims to be a witness to a cash payment from Mr. Trump to "Stormy Daniels" via the *National Enquirer*, at the origin of the case. He is seeking $500,000 in damages.

**Bank cooperates with parliamentary inquiry into Biden family**

Cathay Bank, a Los Angeles-based bank with offices in China, voluntarily handed over documents requested by Republican Senators Ron Johnson (Wisconsin) and Charles E. Grassley (Iowa) as part of the investigation into the Biden family. All other US banks have rejected the two parliamentarians' requests for financial documents. These bank statements were forwarded by the senators to David Weiss, prosecutor of Delaware, the state of residence of the Bidens. They attest that CEFC China Energy transferred $1 million to Hudson West III, a venture of Hunter Biden and Gongwen Dong, a business associate of CEFC founder and chairman Ye Jianming. A second Chinese energy company, Northern International Capital Holdings, which is associated with CEFC, transferred $5 million to Hudson West III. The money sent by the two companies funded a $4.8 million bank transfer from Hudson West III to the companies of Hunter Biden, Owasco PC, Owasco LLC, and Lion Hall Group, owned by President Biden's brother James Biden. Owasco PC sent 20 wire transfers totaling nearly $1.4 million to the Lion Hall Group. Hudson West III paid Hunter Biden a retainer of $500,000 plus $100,000 per month. James Biden was paid $65,000 a month. The transactions were made from August 2017 to October 2018, after Joe Biden left the Obama White House. In addition, Hunter Biden and Gongwen Dong opened a $99,000 line of credit.
for Hunter Biden, James Biden and his wife, Sara Biden.

**Erratum**

Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo was promoted to President Joe Biden's designated survivor in his State of the Union address, not in his address.

**CIA propaganda**

CIA Director William Burns gave a lecture at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy. He proclaims that Russia has become an "economic colony" of China. The event was moderated by the Institute's director, Straussian David M. Satterfield.

The director of the CIA does not have to tell the truth. It's not his job, it's quite the opposite actually. For example, William Burns claimed last year that Russia was considering using nuclear bombs in Ukraine, forcing the Kremlin to make numerous denials. His statement on "Chinese colonialism" is supposed to frighten some of Russia's allies such as India who fear Beijing.

**Rupert Murdoch's apology**

Fox News admitted to spreading false information about the company producing the Dominion voting machines, which is suing it for defamation. However, owner of Fox News Rupert Murdoch has argued that he is not responsible for what his journalists claim. It's not his fault that they're convinced Donald Trump won the 2020 presidential election. Fox News is for profit and recruits people who just have a bachelor's degree. Thus, the court could release Rupert Murdoch who just respected the freedom of speech of his employees and is sorry that they lied.

**Fighting Russian and Chinese information in the Balkans**

Former head of public diplomacy in the Clinton administration and current State Department special envoy for strategic communications James Rubin has been tasked with “bringing order” to the Balkans where information from Russia and China flows freely.

**Second Summit for Democracy**

The second summit for democracy went unnoticed. Many states that were not invited were outraged that Washington would divide the world into two sides, democracies and the rest of them, in order to pit them against each other. The participation of peoples in governments is an ideal that is almost universally shared. It makes no sense to single out this point to rank the different countries. Moreover, contrary to what it claims, the US is not a model in this regard. President of the Council on Foreign Relations Richard Haas said the "Democracy Summit" was a "bad idea" and that "U.S. democracy can hardly be a model for other countries."

**Lula da Silva's peace plan for Ukraine**

Brazilian President Luiz Ignacio Lula da Silva will release his peace plan for Ukraine during his trip to China. His top foreign adviser Celso Amorim met Russian President Vladimir Putin and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at the end of March. It seems that President Lula da Silva is suggesting recognition of Crimea's accession to Russia in exchange for Russia's withdrawal from Donbass and Novorossiya.

**Creation of the Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Countries against Inflation**

11 states (Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Honduras, Venezuela and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) have founded the "Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Countries against Inflation," Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador announced. They will meet on 6 and 7 May in Cancún, Mexico. Its purpose is to facilitate trade in food, commodities and intermediate goods by removing "barriers, tariffs, sanitary measures". Its priority will be to reduce "the cost of these..."
products for the poorest and most vulnerable population”.

EUROPE

Anglo-American sanctions against Alisher Usmanov and Roman Abramovich

The US and the UK have announced sanctions against Russian oligarchs Alisher Usmanov and Roman Abramovich. They are solely accused of being Russian. Metalloinvest tycoon Alisher Usmanov is the former president of the International Fencing Federation (IFF) which just reinstated Russian athletes (VIN N°35). He invested in English football clubs Arsenal and Everton. He is presumed to be the owner of the Dilbar yacht which was seized by German authorities following the Russian special military operation in Ukraine. He also owns Kommersant newspaper, 7 national TV channels and 33 regional TV channels in Russia. A former confidant of President Boris Yeltsin and his family, Roman Abramovich is a Russian-Israeli-Portuguese oil magnate. He is the owner of Chelsea F.C. At the beginning of the Ukrainian conflict, he offered himself as a mediator between President Zelensky and President Putin, but had to withdraw after being poisoned.

"Ukrainian genocide" and "Vendée genocide"

After the recognition by the French National Assembly of the "Ukrainian genocide" of the early 1930s by Joseph Stalin (c.f. VIN N°34), Moscow based French political analyst Xavier Moreau suggested the Russian Duma to recognize the 1790s French "Vendée genocide" committed by the Committee of Public Safety. In 1932, the famine was due to both a climate catastrophe and a forced reorganization of agricultural production. It only affected peasants, not only in Ukraine, but also in Kazakhstan. There is no trace of a desire to kill their own people emanating from Soviet authorities. On the other hand, the "Vendée genocide" was denounced by Gracchus Babeuf during the French Revolution under the name of "populicide". This theory is based on numerous speeches and writings by political figures. However, it comes up against the absence of Vendéen people prior to the massacres.

Emmanuel Macron De Gaulle-like in China

During his trip to Beijing along with the President of the European Commission, French President Emmanuel Macron gave an independent speech, much appreciated by his Chinese hosts. According to Xinhua, "He stressed that France has independent diplomacy and works for European strategic autonomy and against acts of antagonism, division and bloc-to-bloc confrontation. He stated that, instead of pursuing a strategy of alignment, France advocates solidarity and cooperation and maintaining stability in relations between major countries. He said true friendship means mutual understanding and respect. France appreciates China's continued support for the independence and unity of France and Europe, and stands ready to work with China to respect each other's core interests such as sovereignty and territorial integrity, open their markets to each other and strengthen technological and industrial cooperation, as well as cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence, in order to help each other achieve development and prosperity." France is the only European power present in the Indo-Pacific region with pre-positioned forces. Emmanuel Macron's remarks do not refer to the power of the dollar, but to US extraterritorial laws that harm France. In its editorial the Wall Street Journal condemned Macron's "blunders". It accused him of "weakening deterrence against Chinese aggression and undermining US support for Europe." The New York Times, meanwhile, accused him of playing the "De Gaulle card". Emmanuel Macron's statements should be taken with caution: he has often said and done contradictory things.
François Hollande trapped by Vovan & Lexus

Former French President François Hollande was tricked by Russian impersonators Vladimir Kuznetsov (aka “Vovan”) and Alexei Stolyarov (aka "Lexus") who staged a discussion posing as former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. Mr. Hollande recalled a story: "I still remember when you came to the Élysée Palace with Bernard Henri-Lévy, you were with [current mayor of Kiev] Vitali Klitschko, it was at the very beginning of the process: if you had not been there, there would have been no Maidan."

Italy overwhelmed by an influx of migrants

The government of Giorgia Meloni has declared a state of emergency for six months to deal with the influx of migrants. 31,000 people have been rescued at sea and have entered Italy since the beginning of the year, three times more than in previous years. While the Lampedusa transit camp is designed for a maximum of 400 people, it has even gone so far as to sometimes receive nearly 3,000 immigrants.

Germany will not equip its army in time

Commander of the German army General Alfons Mais sent a 14-page report to the General Staff, Bild reveals. He said that in the absence of the necessary equipment and given the lack of personnel, the German army will not be able to equip a complete and combat ready division this year, contrary to what was promised to NATO.

At the same time, we learn that General Eberhard Zorn will be replaced. He is the Inspector General of the Armies, the most important position in the Bundeswehr, equivalent of a Chief of Staff of the armed forces. General Carsten Breuer will succeed him. He was the one responsible for overseeing federal policy in the fight against Covid-19, then for overseeing infrastructure security after the sabotage of the North Stream gas pipelines. He is reputed to be more Atlanticist than his predecessor.

Hungary signs a contract with Gazprom

Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto signed a gas purchase agreement with Gazprom in Moscow. He is one of the few EU ministers to have visited Russia since the start of the special military operation in Ukraine. The signed contract modifies the previous one by providing for additional deliveries and capping their purchase at €150 per cubic meter.

The EU invaded by Ukrainian grain and chickens

EU markets are flooded with Ukrainian chickens and grain that do not meet European standards at all. Polish Agriculture Minister Henryk Kowalczyk resigned denouncing Brussels' carelessness.

Ursula von der Leyen rejected in Beijing

Chinese authorities gave a cold welcome to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen who went together with the French President. They wanted to show their disapproval of the aggressive speech she had just held in Brussels (VIN N°35). After the reception by President Xi Jinping, von der Leyen met only with the environment minister and was forced to leave the country on a commercial flight.

G7 calls on Switzerland to seize assets of Russian citizens

The G7 ambassadors sent a confidential letter to the Swiss Council. They note that although Switzerland has frozen $8.3 billion of Russian public funds, it could freeze another 50 to 100 billion dollars in Russian assets. Swiss Minister of the Economy Helene Budliger Artieda replied: "The seizure of private property is not allowed in Switzerland if it is of legal origin and has no proven criminal history."
Serbia denies delivering weapons to Ukraine or Russia

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic has denied speculation from leaked Pentagon documents that Serbia has sold weapons to Russia. "We have denied these lies more than a dozen times and here we are doing it again. Serbia has not and will not sell arms to Ukraine or Russia, or to the countries surrounding this conflict," he said. The reference documents do not refer to sales made, but to Serbia's agreement in principle to make them.

Emmanuel Macron abandons the pro-Ukrainian discourse in China

The meeting between the French and Chinese presidents on the Ukrainian crisis did not go at all as NATO had hoped: the two sides did not designate Russia as the invader, but raised its legitimate concerns. Chinese President Xi Jinping told his French counterpart that the cause of the Ukrainian conflict is complex and that a protracted crisis serves no one's interests. He stated that a ceasefire as soon as possible would serve the interests of all parties concerned, and that a political settlement was the only correct solution. French President Emmanuel Macron replied that France also believes that a political settlement of the Ukrainian crisis should take into account the legitimate concerns of all parties. France thinks China's international influence is of great importance and stands ready to work closely with China to facilitate an early political settlement of the crisis.

Prisoner exchange between Russia and Ukraine

Russia and Ukraine carried out a prisoner exchange. 100 people on each side were able to go back home.

Defection of an engineer from the Russian Presidential Protection Service

Gleb Karakulov, an engineer with the presidential protection service, defected three months ago during a trip to Astana, Kazakhstan. In December, he gave an hour-long interview to billionaire Mikhail Khodorkovsky's Dossier Center. He now lives under protection in an unknown location. According to his testimony, President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin only exchange on encrypted networks. The president travels by unmarked armored train. The interview only gives already known details. Defector Gleb Karakulov may have helped the U.S. intercept the Kremlin's encrypted communications.

Russia declares EU-Russia Civil Society Forum undesirable

Russia's Prosecutor General declared the Berlin-based EU-Russia Civil Society Forum "undesirable." The EU's External Action Service issued a protest that High Representative Josep Borrell did not sign. This Forum was an opportunity for the EU to spread in Russia the propaganda of the Atlantic Alliance on the Russian special military operation in Ukraine.

Creation of a computerized register of Russian conscripts

The State Duma passed a law establishing a unified register of conscripts. From now on, rebels will no longer be able to travel, take out loans or drive a vehicle.

Russia on US biological weapons labs in Ukraine

Commander of Radiation, Chemical and Biological Defense Troops Igor Kirillov said at a plenary session of the State Duma that US biological facilities in Ukraine have shown that "the US manufactures biological weapon components near the Russian border." The next day, Moscow received support from Beijing. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said his administration has reviewed all documents provided by the Russian Defense Ministry and thinks it is clear that the US is the only state in the world that stubbornly refuses any international process of verification of its
activities in this area. Hence the question: “What are they trying to hide?”

AFRICA

Egypt hesitates to formalize ties with Syria

Egypt is reluctant to formalize its relations with Syria. It fears that the US and the EU will retaliate by cutting off food supplies. In addition, three member States of the Arab League remain opposed to the Syrian Arab Republic. Moreover, Egypt is under pressure from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait. These three monarchies invested heavily in the land of the Nile. If they withdraw, it will collapse very quickly, taking away President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in the process.

Reorganizing Sudan’s army will take time

The process of merging the regular Sudanese army and the Rapid Action Forces militia is dragging on. We are now looking at 5 years to achieve this.

Foreign editions

Voltaire, international news is now published in six languages:
- Dutch
- English
- French
- Italian
- German
- Spanish

Algeria cuts oil production, but increases gas production

Sonatrach has discovered six new gas fields in Algeria. Algiers voluntarily reduced its oil production by 48,000 barrels per day from May to the end of 2023 in order to stabilize the market. Its ambition is to increase its gas production and double its exports to the EU, which now refuses to import Russian gas.

Chad and Germany fall out

Chad expelled German ambassador Jean Christian Gordon Kricke for “discourteous attitude” and "non-respect for diplomatic practices according to the Vienna Convention". Berlin by reciprocity expelled Chadian ambassador Mariam Ali Moussa.

Pirates in the Gulf of Guinea

On March 25, pirates attacked a Danish oil tanker off the coast of Congo. French naval forces located and escorted the ship to the Togolese capital Lomé. On April 11, pirates attacked a Chinese oil tanker off the coast of Ivory Coast.

Comoros condemns French projects in Mayotte

The French government is preparing to destroy Mayotte’s slums and deport illegal migrants to the autonomous island of Anjouan. The Comoros is talking about a massacre to come. They called on France not to take action. Mayotte and Anjouan are islands of the Comoros archipelago. According to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3385 (12 November 1975), Mayotte is a territory of the Union of the Comoros colonised by France. In violation of international law, Paris held a referendum there in 2009 to make it a French department; This statute was approved by a very large majority. Given the difference in living standards, many Anjouan nationals migrated illegally to Mayotte, creating serious security problems. Mayotte is essential to the French army. It stationed there a unit of the Foreign Legion which controlled the Glorious Islands (themselves territory of Madagascar illegally occupied by France). Above all, it has an electromagnetic interception center connected to the US Echelon network.

Deployment of the East African Community Regional Force in DRC

Ugandan, Kenyan and South Sudanese interposition troops deployed to the Democratic
Republic of the Congo (DRC) as part of the East African Community Regional Force (EACRF). The Ugandans made it clear that they would not fight against M23, but that they would occupy the positions that the M23 would hand over to them when they withdraw. In December, the UN Group of Experts for the DRC claimed that Uganda was serving as the M23’s rear base.

ASIA

Israel's repression of a demonstration in the Palestinian territories

Thousands of Israelis led by 7 coalition government ministers (including Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir), marched through Palestinian territory to Eviatar, a settlement that had been evacuated at the end of the military occupation. They demanded the reopening of the colony. Local residents determined to defend their land organized a counter-demonstration. They were dispersed with tear gas by the Israeli army. The Red Cross had to take care of more than a hundred of them. More than two dozen Palestinians were injured by rubber bullets. Itamar Ben-Gvir said: "We are here to say that the Israeli nation is strong... We are here and we will stay here."

Benjamin Netanyahu changes his mind

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who had announced the dismissal of Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, changed his mind. General Gallant had called for a moratorium on ongoing judicial reform.

Strange Israeli-Polish agreement

The agreement signed by Israeli and Polish Foreign Ministers Eli Cohen and Zbigniew Rau was made public for approval by the Knesset. It organizes trips for Israeli students to the ruins of the Holocaust. However, it caused trouble because Polish authorities introduced a list of sites to visit where Nazis massacred non-Jewish Poles. Some of the museums at these sites "glorify Poles who were up to their necks involved in the murder of Jews."

Israeli spyware for iPhones

According to Citizen Lab (University of Toronto), Israeli firm QuaDream (competitor of NSO, known for its Pegasus spyware) specializes in infecting iPhones. The software was sold in Israel, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Bulgaria, the United Arab Emirates, Ghana, Hungary, Mexico, Uzbekistan, Romania, and the Czech Republic. It allows you to spy on iPhone users without them having to take any action ("zero click").

Palestinian refugees from Lebanon coordinate with Hamas

One of Hamas' leaders Ismail Haniyeh traveled to Lebanon to meet with Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah. The interview comes after Palestinian refugees fired rockets into Israel. It appears that Hezbollah authorized these launches on the double condition that they do not target Israel, but illegal settlements in the Palestinian territories and that the Palestinians confirm to UNIFIL that Hezbollah is not involved in any way. It was the first large-scale attack on Palestinian refugees in Lebanon since 2006. It was coordinated with the Resistance forces in the Palestinian Territories and Israel. It is part of an ongoing bargain between Saudi Arabia and Iran that concerns not only Palestine, Lebanon, but also Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

Syria replies to the US

The US claimed before the UN Security Council that it struck Syria on March 23 in "self-defense" after a drone attack on its personnel and facilities in that country (S/2023/227). Syria has refuted these allegations, stressing that US forces are illegally present in Syria and therefore cannot invoke self-defence (S/2023/240). The US administration shamelessly uses the argument that its troops are present there, albeit illegally, to fight terrorism that Syria is unable to
eradicate. However, many witnesses attest that, on the contrary, US forces are protecting some terrorists while Syria has managed to eliminate them all from the territories it has liberated.

**Jordan paralyzed by Netanyahu government**

Amman watched with horror images of the Israeli army and police storming the Al-Aqsa Mosque. It is convinced that the abuses of the Israeli right have only just begun and will include the destruction of Jordan. However, no reaction from the government is yet visible, while the street is starting to get impatient.

**Iraqis vs. Syrian Democratic Forces**

An explosion occurred near Sulaymaniyah airport in the autonomous province of Kurdistan. It aimed to assassinate commander of the Syrian Democratic Forces Mazloum Abdi, a Kurdish mercenary member of the Turkish PKK. President of the Iraqi Republic Abdel Latif Rashid accused Türkiye and demanded an apology from Ankara. Yet it seems that the operation is attributable to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) of the Talabani clan, of which the president is a member. Mazloum Abdi's Syrian Democratic Forces are enemies not only of Syria, but also of Türkiye and the autonomous province of Iraqi Kurdistan.

**Reversal of the situation in Iraq**

Back to square one in Baghdad. The coordination framework, a pro-Iran Shiite alliance around former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, has reneged on its commitment to hold early parliamentary elections. These have been demanded for a year by the nationalist movement of Hojatoleslam Moqtada El-Sadr.

**Kuwait establishes oil rig in Iraq's exclusive economic zone**


**Sergey Lavrov in Türkiye**

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov visited Türkiye. He pleaded for the construction of a multipolar world no longer subject to the sole hegemon, the USA.

**Is Myanmar putting its Coco Islands listening station at the service of China?**

India accuses Myanmar of developing a Chinese interception center on the Bay of Bengal's Coco Island. Satellite images were presented by the Indians to the Burmese. It shows the development of the listening station and an airport runway. Without commenting on the listening station, Naypyidaw denies the presence of Chinese on the spot. Westerners are convinced that China has been installing an interception network in the region since the 90s, the "pearl necklace".

**Afghanistan and China reconnect**

Beijing has released its position on Afghanistan: "Three respects" and "three never": "China respects Afghanistan's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, respects the Voltaire Network Analysis

"War, division of the world or end of an Empire?", by Thierry Meyssan

Many observers are predicting a new World War. And it is true that some groups consider the possibility of a conflict and prepare for it. However, most States being reasonable, we can instead envision the scenario of a friendly separation, a division of the world into two different worlds, one unipolar and the other multipolar. Or perhaps what we are actually witnessing is a third scenario: the "American Empire" is not struggling in the "Thucydides trap", it is simply collapsing like its former Soviet rival before it.
independent choices of the Afghan people, and respects Afghanistan's religious beliefs and national customs. China never interferes in Afghanistan's internal affairs, never seeks selfish interests in Afghanistan, and never pursues what is called a sphere of influence." Beijing considers that foreign military interventions have ravaged this country and that no one should now install troops for any purpose whatsoever. It therefore sends back-to-back the supporters of the Soviet intervention (at the request of the communist government in Kabul) and the US (who invaded the country without authorization from the Afghans or the United Nations). Moreover, it is acutely aware of double standards in the fight against terrorism, with Washington choosing its good and bad mujahideen.

The Taliban and the UN

The Taliban banned women in general from working for UN agencies. In retaliation, the latter plan to withdraw from the country.

Joint US-Philippines-Australia military drill

The US and the Philippines are holding the largest military maneuvers in their history under the code name "Balikatan 2023" ("Balikatan" means "shoulder to shoulder" in Tagalog). 12,200 US troops, 5,400 Philippine forces and 111 Australian soldiers participated. An old boat was sunk and an amphibious landing was simulated on an island in the South China Sea. Many foreign States, including ASEAN members, have been allowed as observers. Among them Australia, Canada, France, India, Japan and the UK. In February, Manila accused China's People's Liberation Army of blinding its coast guard with a laser weapon (VIN N°28).

North Korea would master ICBMs

North Korea fired what is believed to be a solid-fuel ballistic missile that landed between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, raising fears of possible technical advances in its weapons program. A solid-propellant intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) is one of the key weapons on Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un's wish list.

South Korea rethinks its relations with DPRK and the US

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's office said: "The permanent members of the National Security Council (NSC) stressed that North Korea's recent successive provocations and threatening language once again show the importance of a strong alliance between South Korea and the US and the unwavering maintenance of trust", referring to both North Korean experiments and US espionage.

Xi Jinping revives patriotic formation

President Xi Jinping inspected the naval forces of the Southern Command. He gave a speech stressing the need for political training of the troops. He announced a program to teach patriotic and heroic values in schools at all levels. China does not conceive of its soldiers as war workers, but as devoted patriots.

People's Liberation Army reforms recruitment

The rules of conscription have been changed. Until now, all Chinese over the age of 18 could be soldiers, but very few were chosen for this position. Being a soldier opens to lifelong privileges. The intellectual level of the armed forces is therefore much higher than that of the average Chinese and those of its foreign counterparts. The new rules add more demanding physical criteria. For example, soldiers will now have to be taller. In addition, the sick and delinquents are excluded from national service. The army must bring together the top of the crop.

Japanese irredentism on the Liancourt Rocks

The Japanese Foreign Minister presented the Diplomatic Blue Book. In it, he confirmed Japan's claims to the South Korean-occupied Takeshima Islands. They are referred to by
Koreans as Dokdo Islands and by Westerners as Liancourt Rocks. If in the past these islands had only a symbolic value, they now determine, according to its owner, the territorial waters of Korea and Japan. Both Koreas considered them Korean until the Japanese invasion of 1905, while Japan considered them Japanese since the seventeenth century, even though the shogun had banned their access as part of Japan's isolationist closure policy. South Korea summoned the Japanese ambassador to object.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Security Council debate on multilateralism

As rotating President of the UN Security Council, Russia will hold a public debate on April 24 chaired by its Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on the theme: "Maintaining international peace and security: effective multilateralism based on the upholding of the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter." Three questions will be addressed: 1. How can the UN contribute to a smooth transition to a just and equitable world order? 2. The Charter and international law provide guidance to Member States during the transition period. What could be done to restore the culture of dialogue and consensus within the Organization, including in the Security Council? What is the best way to demonstrate that the current situation, marked by a selective approach to the norms and principles of international law, including the Charter, is unacceptable and can no longer continue? 3. How can initiatives such as Our Common Agenda and the New Agenda for Peace contribute to a smooth transformation and lay the foundation for more effective multilateralism?

Wearing a mask is useless against Covid

According to an analysis of 2168 studies on the consequences of wearing a mask during the Covid-19 pandemic (DOI 10.3389/fpubh.2023.1125150), this practice causes many health problems. The N95 mask (called FFP2 in Europe) is even more dangerous than simple surgical masks. Wearing masks causes itching, headaches and oxygen restriction. To date, there is no evidence that wearing a mask is effective in combating the spread of a respiratory virus.

IMF downgrades forecasts

According to Frenchman Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, chief economist at the International Monetary Fund, the economy is slowing down. The IMF now expects global growth for 2023 to be 2.8%, down from 3.4% in 2022. Rising interest rates could cause a recession.
EDITORIAL

G7 still true to itself and deaf to the world

G7 foreign ministers met in Karuizawa, central Japan. Discussions focused on the Taiwan Strait and Ukraine. The world’s 7 most advanced economies agreed to validate the US speech, but did not take any decision. Regarding China, the G7 accused it of "unfair, anti-competitive and non-market practices, including through illegitimate technology transfer or disclosure of data in exchange for market access". On China’s territorial claims, it says: "There is no legal basis for China’s vast maritime claims in the South China Sea" and reaffirmed that "the judgement made by the arbitral tribunal on July 12, 2016, is an important step which is legally binding on the parties to these proceedings, and a useful basis for peacefully settling disputes between the parties." In doing so, it refers to the Hague Arbitration Tribunal, which has no jurisdiction over borders, unlike the International Court of Justice, an organ of the United Nations, which alone has jurisdiction. In their public communication, the members of the G7 have tried to appear more united than ever as French President Emmanuel Macron has just declared that it is necessary to keep equidistant from China and the US. Most journalists, however, were not fooled and pointed out the visible fractures within the G7. G7 environment ministers also held a meeting in Sapporo. President Biden’s special envoy for climate John Kerry failed to push through a date for ending coal use, but did get declarations of good will regarding wind power. The Chinese Foreign Ministry commented: "We once again urge the G7 to stop slandering other countries and stop inciting antagonism and confrontation. It must reflect on its own strategic security policy, seriously implement the relevant international arms control obligations and shoulder its responsibilities for global peace and security. »
AMERICAS

US Strategy for Low Earth Orbit

The White House last month released its Low Earth Orbit (LEO) strategy. It declares the US pre-eminence in this area and advocates that it should be retained.

Donald Trump gun champion

Speaking at the National Rifle Association rally in Indianapolis, Donald Trump said: "If you put me back in the White House, their reign is over and America will become a free nation again, and I promise you: with me at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, no one will touch your guns ... On the first day of my new term, I will stop Joe Biden's war on legitimate gun owners." The Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution establishes the duty of citizens to form armed militias capable of overthrowing the government if it becomes a dictatorship again. It leaves it up to the states, or even the counties, to regulate the carrying of firearms.

Tom Perriello steps down as director of the Soros Foundation

Tom Perriello, who has led the George Soros Foundation for the past five years, will step down in mid-July. Under his leadership, the Soros Foundation redirected all of its funding. It dropped 47 menial causes and focused on fundamental changes in American society. It has been particularly active on the climate agenda, global health, and the US elections. Tom Perriello has managed to recruit 700,000 election agents for Joe Biden's presidential campaign. Tom Perriello was a Democrat Representative from Virginia (2009-11), Director of the Fund of the Center for American Progress Action (the Obamas' think-tank) (2011-17), Chief Planning Officer of the Department of State and the US Agency for International Development (USAID), and Special Envoy of the US to the Great Lakes Region. In this position, he oversaw opposition to the electoral census in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the ouster of pro-Iranian President Joseph Kabila, and the victory of pro-Western President Felix Tshisekedi.

Washington blames China for fentanyl ravages

Washington is stepping up its fight against fentanyl, the most widely used drug in the US today. It appears that the main importer is the Sinaloa cartel (also an opium and marijuana producer). U.S. officials point out that this cartel uses precursors exported by China and accuses them of complicity with traffickers. Fentanyl is an analgesic opioid. It has been abusively albeit legally prescribed by doctors for years in the USA causing addiction and dependence of millions of patients. It is now manufactured by criminal organizations that take advantage of this dependence. Responding to these accusations, China points out that although it is entirely possible it is not its responsibility. In international trade, it is the sole responsibility of the importer (in this case Mexico) to verify who the end-users (the cartels) will be. China condemns Washington's perverse strategy of shifting its responsibility onto foreign states. In Beijing's view, the US should prioritize educating its population about the dangers of drugs and much better managing the flow of its medicines.

U.S. could be hit by hypersonic missiles

Director of the Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency Vice Admiral Jon A. Hill said at a hearing before the House Armed Services Subcommittee that: "Ballistic and hypersonic
missiles capable of high-speed maneuvers, their use in large numbers with combined attacks, which may also involve cruise missiles and drones, could undermine the effectiveness of our missile defenses without continued development." In other words, US Defense is vulnerable to Russian, Chinese and North Korean missiles. That threat urgently needs to be addressed.

**China masters hypersonic ballistic missiles**

During a hearing of commander of US Indo-Pacific forces Admiral John Aquilino by the Senate Armed Services Committee, Representative Matt Gaetz (Florida) presented one of the secret Pentagon documents that has just leaked that shows that the Chinese People's Liberation Army has successfully tested a new DF-27 hypersonic ballistic missile, known as CSS-X-24 by NATO. The admiral confirmed that the US has not yet had a way to deal with it.

**Ilan Goldenberg appointed advisor to Kamala Harris**

Ilan Goldenberg has been appointed advisor to Vice President Kamala Harris for the Middle East, Defense and Technology. In 2013, Ilan Goldenberg drafted the *Syria Transition Support Act* for Senator John Kerry which allowed the White House to legally finance the arming of jihadists against the Syrian Arab Republic.

**Senator Roger Marshall and the origins of Covid**

Republican Senator Roger Marshall published *Muddy Waters, the origins of Covid19 Report*. According to him, in view of all the available documentation, Covid19 appeared in Wuhan, China after one or two leaks from a laboratory. Former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Dr. Robert Redfield and others have said the virus has properties not found in other coronaviruses, adding to the likelihood that it was man-made.

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**Biden administration obstructs investigations into US departure from Afghanistan**

Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction John Sopko testified before the House Oversight and Accountability Committee. He said the State Department has practiced systematic obstruction, unparalleled in at least three decades.

**According to four lawmakers, the Bidens are at the head of prostitution rings**

According to four members of the House of Representatives, James Comer (Kentucky), Marjorie Taylor Greene (Georgia), Nancy Mace (South Carolina) and Byron Donalds (Florida), the study of Hunter Biden's tax records would show that nine members of the Biden family operate a vast prostitution ring in the US with girls imported from Ukraine and Russia. Lawmakers also accused the Bidens of using POTUS Joe Biden's office to do business with leaders in at least four countries. Democrat lawmakers immediately refuted the Republicans' allegations and accused them of distorting bank statement information. Since the 2020 presidential election campaign, the Democrat Party has tried all sorts of maneuvers to hide the activities of Hunter Biden, the son of its candidate. Many documents were eventually found in the now infamous “Laptop from hell” and were later published. They confirm his relationships with prostitutes, his massive drug use and his lucrative contracts with foreign companies, particularly in Ukraine. Prostitution was mentioned as early as December 2022, but without proof. Accusations quickly spread to the president's brother, James Biden, and now to seven other family members. The House of Representatives has appointed a committee of inquiry that uses its constitutional powers to shed light on the matter. In his speech announcing the Russian special military operation in Ukraine, President Vladimir Putin cited the Bidens' criminal activities as an example of the illegitimacy of power in Kiev.
**Settlement between Dominion and Fox News**

We will never know whether Rupert Murdoch's plea – according to which, on Fox News, he only respected the freedom of opinion of his journalists and is sorry that they lied – convinced the US justice or not. He negotiated an out-of-court settlement with voting machine manufacturer Dominion to withdraw its complaint that will cost him $787 million, half of what the complainant requested. There will be no excuses made on air. Another voting machine manufacturer, Smartmatic USA, is waiting its turn. It is seeking $2.7 billion in damages. Fox News shareholders could also sue Rupert Murdoch for letting the firm sink in these affairs.

**Pentagon leaks reveal bewildering level of incompetence**

The FBI has arrested Jack Teixeira, believed to be responsible for US' largest leak of classified documents in recent years. The young man allegedly took pictures of hundreds of some of the most secret documents in the US and displayed them for six months on Discord, an online gaming forum. Ultimately, some of these documents appeared on social networks in early April, creating military and diplomatic waves around the world. In the blink of an eye, the Biden administration got all these social networks to remove them. According to US authorities, Jack Teixeira is a 21-year-old computer scientist assigned to National Guard Intelligence. He held the rank of aviator 1st class. This case beggars belief: how could a young enlisted member of the National Guard take pictures of highly classified documents, some of which were only intended for President Joe Biden and a handful of his aides? Contrary to initial information, it is not a hundred, but hundreds of documents that have leaked. All those identified have extremely high levels of classification, far more secret than the Pentagon Papers or the Wikileaks files. In addition to the incredible weakness of US security procedures, the information they contain (VIN N°36) reveals the incredible gullibility of intelligence analysts and US leaders: for them, any intercepted communication is gospel.

**FBI dismantles 'Chinese police office' in New York**

The FBI said it has dismantled a "secret Chinese police office" in New York. It arrested two U.S. citizens who had set up a Chinese immigrant aid office. They are accused of having identified two political opponents of the Chinese regime and having passed their addresses to the Chinese police. Meanwhile, the "Five Eyes" (US, UK, Canada, New Zealand, Australia) listen to all mobile phone communications of all citizens around the world.

**Mexican Supreme Court invalidates the attachment of the National Guard to the armed forces**

The Mexican Supreme Court has ruled that the Civil Guard of the Ministry of the Interior being attached to the Ministry of the Armed Forces is unconstitutional. President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador made the move to fight police corruption.

**Sino-Brazilian relations**

Former Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff has taken over the leadership of the BRICS' New Development Bank (NDB). Current Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva presented to his Chinese counterpart his "Club for Peace" project. Chinese President Xi Jinping ignored his proposal and focused on his plan to trade in local currencies.

**Russian-Brazilian relations**

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov traveled to Brasilia to meet President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva after returning from China. The two men noted that relations between their two countries had continued to deepen during Jair Bolsonaro's mandate. The Russian side thanked Brazil for its understanding of the genesis of the Ukrainian problem and for its commitment to peace, even if it does not share its conclusions. According to
President Lula, Brazil is trying to "build a group of countries without any involvement in war, which do not want war, defend world peace and can talk with both Russia and Ukraine."

**EUROPE**

**Tony Blair knew about the illegality of Iraq’s invasion as early as 1998**

Declassified UK studied documents from the office of Prime Minister Tony Blair (1997-2007) which prove that, as early as 1998, several advisers warned him against the illegality of bombing Iraq.

The Chilcot Commission, which reviewed the war against Iraq in 2003, was not aware of the 1998 files. It therefore did not decide whether Tony Blair knew or did not know that he was violating international law.

**Western Special Forces in Ukraine**

According to leaked Pentagon documents, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak secretly deployed 50 members of his Special Forces to Ukraine in February. Latvia sent 17, France 15, the US 14 and the Netherlands only 1.

**Three French parliamentarians illegally enter Syria**

After having organized a reception in the French Senate of Kurdish mercenaries in combat uniform on 24 March (VIN N°34), Communist senators Pierre Laurent and Laurence Cohen left for Syria with Marie Pochon (MEP for *Europe Ecology-The Greens*) on 31 March. The three parliamentarians did not apply for a Syrian visa, but entered the country with the help of the US and the Atlantic Alliance. They were received by the authorities of Rojava, the autonomous state created by the US in Syria. This support for the Syrian Democratic Forces, i.e. the PKK/YPG mercenaries who steal oil from north-east Syria for themselves and for the CIA, constitutes a violation of the principles of the UN Charter and Security Council resolutions stressing the need to respect Syria’s sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity. If the commitment of French environmentalists alongside the US and NATO is no longer surprising, that of the French Communist Party (PCF) shows an ideological shift. Turkey summoned the French ambassador after the separatists were received in the Senate. Syria has just referred the matter to the UN Security Council after the intrusion of French parliamentarians on its soil.

In addition, the Paris Criminal Court tried eleven Kurdish immigrants for extortion and financing terrorism. They received suspended sentences of up to five years in prison, but contrary to custom, didn't get any territorial bans. The defense lawyers condemned the "perfect ambiguity" of the French state in its relations with the PKK/YPG, noticing that it is labelled as an "ally" when it fights Syria, but as a "terrorist" when it attacks Türkiye. Communist Senator Pierre Laurent came to testify in favor of the defendants. Since the arrest of Abdullah Öcalan (aka "Apo") in 1999, the PKK has moved from the Soviet side to the Western side. It is now an army of mercenaries working on its behalf and that of the US.

**France increasingly unstable**

The French Constitutional Council ruled that Macron’s pension reform law was in conformity with the Constitution. It dismissed the question of the constitutionality of the procedure chosen for its adoption (by decree without a vote in parliament) and merely struck down six articles. Within an hour, the country went up in flames. As unions called for rallies, uncontrolled
elements set fire to state symbols including a police station. President Emmanuel Macron promulgated the law overnight. While his trips on the streets of France are now becoming very difficult, he chose to address voters on TV three days later. Only 7% of voters were convinced by his performance. The country is sinking into a deep crisis that no longer bears any relation to the debates that provoked it.

**Denmark protects Islamophobic and anti-Turkish demonstration**

Members of extremist group *Payrioterne Gar Live* tore up a copy of the *Koran* and the Turkish flag during a staged display outside the Turkish embassy in Copenhagen before livestreaming it all on their Facebook account. The protest was protected by Danish police. The Turkish Foreign Ministry summoned the Danish ambassador to Ankara and told him of its strong condemnation.

**Finland joins NATO maneuvers**

Finland participated in NATO naval maneuvers in the Gulf of Finland for the first time since joining the Atlantic Alliance.

**Finland and civil nuclear power**

Finland has commissioned its EPR (European Pressurized Reactor) nuclear power plant built by the French group Areva 13 years late at a time when Germany is shutting down all its reactors.

**Yuri Kosiuk floods EU with battery-raised chickens**

After Minister of Agriculture Henryk Kowalczyk's resignation, Poland, followed by Hungary, banned the import of Ukrainian poultry and wheat. Since the Maidan coup (2014), 93% of Ukraine's agribusiness sector has come under the control of billionaire Petro Poroshenko's first deputy head of presidential administration Yuri Kosiuk. He also became a billionaire, at the head of the MHP group (Mironivsky HliboProduct). The agricultural land was mainly acquired by three US companies (Cargill, Dupont and Monsanto), thanks to a change in legislation (VIN N°6). Ukrainian grain and chickens, which according to Moscow do not reach Third World countries contrary to the Istanbul agreements, actually do reach the EU.

If pro-Russian Hungary said it first, pro-US Poland has just confirmed it. Ukrainian chickens raised in deplorable sanitary conditions and once destined for the Third World are now flooding the EU where they account for more than half of consumption. Yuri Kosiuk was awarded the title of "*Hero of Ukraine*" in 2008 by pro-Western President Viktor Yushchenko for introducing numerous machines into the agricultural sector. MHP is listed on the London Stock Exchange where it is supported by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

**Slovakia delivers fighter jets to Ukraine**

Slovakia has delivered 13 MIG-29s to Ukraine. MIG29s date back to Soviet times. They can easily be shot down by Russian air defenses. They can therefore only be used on the Ukrainian battlefield and not in an attack on Russia.

**Ursula von der Leyen next NATO Secretary General?**

President of the European Commission German Ursula von der Leyen is running to succeed Jens Stoltenberg at the head of the Atlantic Alliance. She would thus pull the rug out from under the feet of an “integral nationalist”, Canadian-Ukrainian Chrystia Freeland.

**Vladimir Putin celebrates Orthodox Easter with Russian soldiers**

On the occasion of Orthodox Easter, Russian President Vladimir Putin visited the headquarters in Kherson and Luhansk to meet his soldiers to whom he offered an icon. He wanted to directly listen to his officers testifying on the state of the fighting. He was not escorted
by his Minister of Defence or the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces. However, both took part in a video conference with him and field soldiers. Since the war in Chechnya, Vladimir Putin has become used to visiting his soldiers for Christmas and Easter.

**Li Shangfu in Moscow**

Chinese Defense Minister Li Shangfu visited Russia. He was received by his counterpart Sergei Shoigu and also met with President Vladimir Putin. Li said, "China is willing to work with Russia to fully implement the consensus reached by the two heads of state, further strengthen strategic communication between the two militaries and strengthen multilateral coordination and cooperation so as to make new contributions to safeguarding global and regional security and stability." However, no concrete announcement has been made.

**AFRICA**

**Morocco and Tunisia take ownership of the Arab Maghreb Union**

The Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) has appointed Moroccan Amina Selmane to represent it at the African Union (AU) which accepted her credentials, sparking the indignation of Algeria. Algiers, which was never consulted on her appointment, points out that it violates the AMU’s statutes which require her to be unanimously appointed by the Council of Foreign Ministers. To make this appointment, outgoing Secretary General of the AMU Tunisian Taïeb Baccouche whose mandate expired in August 2022, declared himself "acting Secretary General", which the AMU’s statutes do not provide.

**Tunisia arrests Muslim Brotherhood leaders**

Tunisian justice arrested founder of Muslim Brotherhood Ennahda Rached Ghannouchi at his home and then two other leaders of the party at its national headquarters. The Western press denounces Tunisian President Kaïs Saïed as a dictator. He is actually trying to eradicate both the pervasive corruption in the country and the influence of the Muslim Brotherhood. To this end, he did not hesitate to suspend Parliament. The Tunisian Muslim Brotherhood is supervised by the British MI6 which has transformed Sheikh Rached Ghannouchi, a companion of Osama bin Laden, into a perfect democrat. Rached Ghanoucchi controlled not only the Ennahda party but also the "League for the Protection of the Revolution" which has multiplied political assassinations.

**Tunisia restores relations with Syria**

Tunisian President Kaïs Saïed announced the reopening of diplomatic relations with Syria. Both embassies have been reopened in Tunis and Damascus. After Algeria, Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal al-Meqdad is making an official visit to Tunisia, the first in a decade. This visit comes as the Tunisian judiciary has just arrested the leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood, the Western-backed organization which Syria defeated after fighting it for ten years. On February 4, 2012, President Mohamed Moncef Marzouki (a Trotskyist and ally of the Muslim Brotherhood) broke off all relations with his Syrian counterpart whom he called the "Butcher of Damascus".

**Chiefs’ War in Sudan**

Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of "General" Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (aka "Hemedti") are said to have deployed around a provincial air base of General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan's Sudanese Armed Forces (ISAF) which would have added an ultimatum to their request for withdrawal. The RSF then reportedly took several strategic points, including Khartoum airport. The unification of the Sudanese armed forces, provided for in the government agreement, will therefore not take place. ISAF and RSF are waging a merciless war among the civilian population. At least a hundred people were killed and four hundred wounded. This conflict underlines the age-old rivalry between the Nile Valley establishment represented by...
Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the forgotten of Darfur of which Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo is the hero. The Pentagon plans to partition Sudan into five separate states (Rumsfeld/Cebrowski strategy). It would like to revive hostilities in the country, especially since the two heads of power are both linked to Russia which has been waiting since 2015 to be able to open a military base in Port Sudan on the Red Sea. UN special envoy for Sudan Volker Perthes of Germany said he was appalled by the looting of a UN facility after it was bombed. Thanks to his loyal service against the Syrian Arab Republic, he was appointed to this post under pressure from the US to promote the conflict.

The African Union Peace and Security Council warned against external interference in the crisis and demanded that the warring sides "swiftly adopt a peaceful solution and inclusive dialogue." The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has appointed Presidents Salva Kiir (South Sudan), William Ruto (Kenya) and Ismail Omar Guelleh (Djibouti) to reconcile the protagonists. Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan bin Al-Saud reached Generals Burhan and Hemedti separately by phone. He called for an end to military escalation. Saudi Arabia has supported the new two-headed regime after the overthrow of Muslim Brotherhood Omar al-Bashir. "General" Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (aka "Hemedti") had become something of an adopted son of Omar al-Bashir. His troops, ISAF, are closely linked to Egypt, while the RSF are closely linked to the United Arab Emirates. This militia, descended from the Janjaweed of the Darfur war, supplied mercenaries to the Emirates in Yemen and Libya on behalf of Sudan. In Yemen its men were fighting under the command of its rival, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan. They were recently trained by Russian PMC Wagner.

**Paul Kagame explains the M23 fight against the DRC**

On a visit to Benin, Rwandan President Paul Kagame said: "With regard to the M23 and all those linked to the M23, the Congolese who benefited from the Rwandan heritage, the borders that were built during the colonial period affected and divided our peoples. Part of Rwanda that was given to Congo, the south to Uganda... etc." Congo and the West accuse Rwanda of supporting the M23, which President Kagame denies.

**Somalia on the brink of famine**

UN Secretary-General António Guterres announced from Mogadishu that half of Somalia’s population, at least 8.3 million people, would need food aid this year to survive. Parts of Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia have just gone through four years of drought that killed livestock and caused the exile of 1.7 million people.

**Comorians demonstrate against French colonization**

A historic demonstration on April 15 brought together tens of thousands of people in Moroni to calls of "No to France", "No to the French presence in Mayotte". The French Ministry of the Interior planned Operation “Wuambushu” which plans to expel more than 250 foreigners a day, mostly Comorians, to send them to the island of Anjouan. On the other hand, it also plans to carry out a vast “decasing” operation i.e., the massive destruction of about 10% of the illegal homes of Mayotte. Under international law (resolution of the United Nations General Assembly of 19 January 1994), Mayotte is a Comorian territory illegally occupied by France (VIN N°36).

**ASIA**

**Jabotinsky never anticipated the Holocaust**

According to historian Amir Goldstein, professor at Tel-Hai College and Efi Hoory, Jeev Jabotinsky's quote «Eliminate the diaspora or the diaspora will certainly eliminate you" is false. It was invented by Bension Netanyahu (the Prime Minister's father) to make believe that Jabotinsky had anticipated the Holocaust.
China calls on Palestine, Israel for 'two-state solution'

Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang received his Palestinian counterpart Riyad Al-Maliki in Beijing. He also called his Israeli counterpart Elie Cohen. He invited his two interlocutors to resume dialogue, telling them that it is never too late to do well. China, which is very concerned about the escalation of violence, still supports the "two-state solution".

Saudi Arabia restores relations with Syria

While Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad visited Saudi Arabia last week, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhane bin Abdullah paid an official visit to Damascus. He was received by President Bashar al-Assad, thus ending 11 years of isolation of the Syrian Arab Republic. The Saudi FM suggested a possible return within the Arab League. The Syrian President stressed the need to restore Arab unity in this period of rapid change in international relations. Saudi Arabia is considering inviting President Bashar al-Assad to the Arab League summit in Riyadh on 19 May, despite opposition from Qatar, in exchange for a gesture to the pro-Western opposition backed by Qatar. This gesture would be aimed at the Kurdish mercenaries of the PKK, which would not fail to derail Syria's rapprochement with Turkey.

Dissolution of the Assembly in Kuwait

Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Mashal al-Ahmed announced the dissolution of parliament. For the past three years, the monarchy has been unable to guarantee stability.

Istanbul next financial center between East and West?

A month before the general elections, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan inaugurated the first stage of Istanbul's Financial Centre. Türkiye hopes to benefit from its geographical position straddling two continents (Europe and Asia) to reap the benefits of the shift in the balance of the world, from West to East. The facilities under construction are expected to cost $3.3 billion.

Myanmar releases prisoners

Myanmar released 3113 prisoners, including 98 foreigners, on the occasion of the Burmese New Year celebration. According to the opposition, there are still 17,460 people detained for participating in protests in support of State Councilor and Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021.

China exasperated by Western blockade against North Korea

China's ambassador to the Korean Peninsula Liu Xiaoming said in Paris, France: "We are concerned about US intention to use the Korean Peninsula issues as a tool to contain China... It's as part of their Indo-Pacific strategy... to form allies, to strengthen their alliance with (South Korea) and Japan (...) People are focused on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear launches and tests, but they don't know that the reason they are doing it is the lack of a mechanism, a security structure." Beijing is pushing for a "dual-track" approach to ending Pyongyang's nuclear campaign, saying world powers should reduce UN sanctions in exchange for concrete disarmament measures. The US is still at war with North Korea. They observe a ceasefire, but refuse to negotiate peace.

South Korea downplays revelations of secret Pentagon documents

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has tried to downplay the consequences of circulating secret Pentagon documents showing that his government was being spied on by the US NSA. His spokesman said of the South Korea-US alliance: "It is an alliance based on the universal values of liberal democracy and market economy, and it is a resilient alliance based on values that can solve problems in their relations."
North Korea wins Cybertheft of the Year 2022

According to the National Police Agency (NPA), in 2021 the North Korean hacker group Lazarus infiltrated ININISAFE, a South Korean editor of personal authentication software used on 10 million computers in South Korea. Lazarus studied the weaknesses of the software and developed its own malware. By 2022, it had penetrated 207 computers in eight news outlets and 53 other agencies. Lazarus has been accused by the US government of stealing an astronomical amount of cryptocurrency through a Vietnamese online game called Axie Infinity. The U.S. Treasury Department said on April 6 that the hackers would have improperly earned $620 million. This would be one of the biggest cyber theft cases of the year.

China cautious about Western actions in Ukraine

Beijing wonders: Why would French President Emmanuel Macron, at the head of a sovereign state, ask a civil servant, Ursula von der Leyen, to accompany him? Is his non-aligned speech sincere? Why do Westerners, who are loosing on the Ukrainian battlefield, persist in this useless conflict?

CCP condemns US sabotage of human rights

The People's Daily published a series of ten articles devoted to the influence of the US on international relations. They are signed Zhong Sheng, a penname for Communist Party officials. It states that the US is "the greatest saboteur of the international human rights cause and should be seated as an accused in the courtroom of global human rights."

What the attack on Fumio Kishida hides

At an election rally in Wakayama, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida was the victim of an attack by 24-year-old Ryuji Kimura who threw an explosive device. He was held before he could launch a second one. The devices are thought to be fireworks. According to conservative daily Yomiuri Shimbun, Ryuji Kimura's bid in last July's parliamentary elections has been invalidated because of his age and inability to post a $3 million bail. He reportedly filed a complaint with a court in Kobe, which rejected his claim. The case is on appeal to the Osaka High Court. He pleaded psychological damages and is seeking $100,000 in damages. Japanese law provides for a minimum age of 30 to sit in the House, but the Constitution proclaims the equality of all citizens.

Fumio Kishida's predecessor, Shinzo Abe, was assassinated on July 8, 2022, by someone blaming him for his secret ties to the Unification Church (known as the "Moon sect"). Both men belonged to the movement of Yoshio Kodama, a war criminal recycled by the US. They spoke out in favor of the remilitarization of Japan. During his interrogation by the police, Ryuji Kimura reportedly mentioned the Prime Ministers' membership in the Unification Church again.

OCEANIA

Paul Keating criticizes Australian foreign policy

Former Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating sharply criticised Foreign Minister Penny Wong's statements in favour of a "balance of power". He pointed out that she did not place Australia halfway between the US and China, but lined it up behind Washington instead.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Human Rights Council condemns unilateral coercive measures

The Geneva Human Rights Council adopted by 33 votes to 13, with 1 abstention, a resolution (A/HRC/52/L.18) condemning the use of "unilateral coercive measures" as "not in conformity with International Law, international humanitarian Law, the UN..."
Charter and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States". The bill was submitted by Russia and Azerbaijan. Unilateral coercive measures are referred to as "sanctions" by Western propaganda.

The following countries voted against the resolution, and therefore against international Law: Belgium, Germany, Finland, France, Georgia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Romania, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Great Britain and the US.

**IMF says BRICS will surpass G7 in 2023**

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), by 2023 China's share of global gross domestic product GDP expansion will be 22.6%, India's will be 12.9% and the US' share will only be 11.3%. The IMF expects growth contributions from Brazil, Russia, India, and China to exceed that of the countries of G7.
EDITORIAL

France stubbornly colonizes the island of Mayotte

A significant influx of illegal, impoverished Mahorais has resulted in a staggering increase in violence and crime in Mayotte. The French Ministry of the Interior has begun "Operation Wuambushu" aimed at destroying the slums of Mayotte and deporting illegal immigrants to the nearby island of Anjouan. However, the security forces were interrupted by a court ruling prohibiting the destruction of slums because, given the form of their construction, this could damage legally constructed buildings. In addition, the Comoros has closed its ports to French ships.

During the beginning of the operation, 1,800 police fired 650 tear gas grenades, 85 decirclement grenades and 60 DBL (Defense balls launcher) shots. They were forced to fire 12 live ammunitions on the ground as warnings, despite the risk of them bouncing and killing someone. The Comoros archipelago was divided in two by France in 1974. On one side the current Union of the Comoros, on the other the current French department of Mayotte. This division violates, on the one hand, the commitment made by France in the agreements of 15 June 1973 signed by Minister for Overseas Bernard Stasi and President of the Government of the territory Ahmed Abdallah Abderamane and on the other hand the principle of indivisibility of the archipelago established by international law.

The question of the nature of successive regimes in the Comoros should not be taken into account, nor that of the lack of unity of the Comoros for centuries, let alone the operations of Bob Denard's irregular troops. France doesn't seem to know how to satisfy its citizens of Mayotte anymore and how to honor its commitment to decolonize the united archipelago. It is trying to keep the island of Mayotte which it uses to control the Scattered Islands (also illegally occupied) and maintains an electromagnetic interception base there. Rather than negotiating with the Union of the Comoros, France ignores the reminders to international law issued on this issue by the United Nations General Assembly and persists in maintaining itself on the island, risking eventually provoking a situation comparable to that which has arisen in Algeria.
**AMERICAS**

**The de-dollarization of the world**

The dollar's share of global reserves was 47% in 2022 compared to 71% in 2001. The regular acceleration of the phenomenon reached a paroxysm last year. The pace of de-dollarization is now 10 times faster than it was twenty years ago. The 2022 phase is explained because a number of countries were looking for alternatives after the West tried to generalize unilateral coercive measures against Russia. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said, "There is a risk, when we use financial sanctions related to the role of the dollar, that over time they could undermine the hegemony of the dollar."

According to Bloomberg Intelligence, the dollar's share of China's international trade is now smaller than the yuan's share. It was only 47% at the end of March, compared to 83% in 2010.

**How to vote in US elections without being a US citizen**

The Public Interest Legal Foundation has shown that it is possible to register with your driver's license to vote in the US, even though it is not proof of citizenship. In the US, elections are the responsibility of the states, not the federal government. However, some states have created the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), a joint agency to track down registrants in two different states. It is obviously easy to register for local elections, and quite possible to vote in federal elections without proof of citizenship.

**James at the center of the Biden family investigation**

The House subcommittee investigating the Biden family gathered various testimonies relating to 80yo President Joe Biden's younger brother, 73yo James Biden. They appear to be very close to the point that it was James who furnished the White House’s Oval Office for Joe. The subcommittee found that many times, James did put forward his kinship with Joe to run his business. While many payments have been identified, parliamentarians still ignore what James did to deserve them. He’s now the one at the center of the investigation, and no longer his nephew Hunter Biden.

**Hunter Biden's legal response**

Hunter Biden's lawyer Abbe Lowell has written to the Treasury Secretary asking it to launch an investigation into how Garrett Ziegler could get five confidential administration reports on his client's activities and publish them on the Internet. These documents were forwarded to the House Subcommittee investigating the activities of the Biden family which allegedly showed them to a witness for comment. However, bank secrecy laws prohibit parliamentarians from discussing with third parties the data examined so far. In addition, Hunter Biden was summoned by an Arkansas judge to present tax documents on his income to judge the alimony he must pay to the mother of his daughter.

**Whistleblower accuses AG of lying to protect Hunter Biden**

An IRS whistleblower has questioned the testimony of Attorney General Merrick Garland. He accuses him of lying to minimize Hunter Biden's crimes. According to his testimony, this criminal supervision of taxes special agent claims to have received political instructions not to investigate further the case of Hunter Biden. Merrick Garland has been under sanctions from Russia since April 2021. Moscow accuses him of validating false accusations to expel 10 Russian diplomats.

**Robert Francis Kennedy Jr. 2024 Bid**

Robert Francis Kennedy Jr., son of former Attorney General Bob Kennedy and nephew of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, ran for the nomination of the US Democratic Party against incumbent President Joe Biden. Polls today show Joe Biden losing to Donald Trump. Robert Kennedy Jr. is an environmental lawyer. He won a high-profile lawsuit against Monsanto. In the name of science, he led the fight against Dr.
Anthony Fauci and pharmaceutical companies during the Covid outbreak. Like Bernie Sanders in 2020, this left-wing figure who has consistently stood up against the leaders of the woke Democratic Party is trying to take over the party the way that Jacksonian Donald Trump took over the Republican Party. The battle cry of Kennedy’s campaign will be the fight against the corruption of institutions and against the power of transnational corporations. He embodies a non-sectarian left, turned towards the common good. In July 2021, Robert Kennedy, Jr. took part in the ReAwaken America Tour, described by the press as a far-right Christian movement. He was photographed there alongside General Michael Flynn and election strategist Roger Stone. Republican Roger Stone, who participated in the campaigns of Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, and directed that of Donald Trump, assures that whatever the differences between Trump and Kennedy (especially on weapons and abortion), a candidacy of national unity of the two men would offer a solution in response to the country's division and go a long way in preserving the integrity of the US. For his part, Steve Bannon encouraged Robert Kennedy, Jr. to throw his hat in the ring.

A law to protect women in sport


Attacks on freedom of speech on US campuses

According to the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE) which fights against "cancel culture", there were 83 sanctions to silence scholars in 2017, 82 in 2018 and 87 in 2019. They increased to 151 in 2020, 213 in 2021 and only 145 in 2022. The increase in these censorship operations is believed to be linked to Woke reactions to the murder of George Floyd in 2020 as well as the campaign on transgender identity, Donald Trump's presidency and the #MeToo movement. The most affected universities are Harvard (23 actions), followed by Stanford (22), California at Los Angeles (19) and Georgetown (16).

The Six Threats to U.S. Homeland Security

Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas announced a 90-day review of U.S. vulnerability which includes six topics:
- Migration. He said his administration's goal is to "build legal pathways to give individuals the opportunity to reach the US safely, in an orderly manner to avail themselves of the humanitarian relief that our laws provide, and then to obtain a consequence [of residency, even nationality] for those who follow those legal channels."
- Artificial intelligence. A working group has been created within the department to study the applications of AI in homeland security.
- China. He accused it of sponsoring attacks "designed to disrupt or degrade the provision of critical domestic functions, sowing discord, panicking, and preventing the mobilization of U.S. military capabilities."
- Domestic extremism. "Lone offenders and small cells of individuals motivated by a wide range of violent extremist grievances and ideologies, from white supremacy to anti-Semitism to anti-government attitudes, are the most persistent and deadly threat linked to terrorism in the US."
- Fentanyl trafficking.
- The effects of climate change.

Fox News fires Tucker Carlson

Without notice or reason, Fox News has put an end to its collaboration with Tucker Carlson, the most famous TV journalist in the US. The show's lead executive producer, Justin Wells has also reportedly left the network. This dismissal follows Fox News' lawsuit with Dominion Voting Systems (which cost Fox News $787 million) and anticipates the one brought against the network by Smartmatic. Contrary to appearances, Fox News yielded to Dominion for no reason: Tucker Carlson had not defamed the manufacturer of voting machines, but had given
the floor to experts explaining that these machines were connected to the Internet and could therefore be operated remotely during voting, something that no one disputes. Tucker Carlson Tonight was the second most-watched political show in the US. The press reports on a sexual harassment lawsuit filed a month ago by Tucker Carlson’s show secretary Abby Grossberg. But this action does not concern him directly but is directed against some of his collaborators. The dismissal of the star journalist was greeted with applause from Democrats and strong disappointment from Republicans. Steve Bannon said Tucker Carlson was "the" reason to watch Fox News. Shares of Fox Corp, which owns the channel, fell 5% after the news broke.

State Department contradicts White House over withdrawal from Afghanistan

Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Michael T. McCaul revealed the existence of an internal Secretary of State report on the fall of Kabul that would shift the blame to both the Trump and Biden administrations. He said the full report would undermine the 12-page document the White House just released that seeks to make Biden’s decision the only option available once Trump triggered the withdrawal. Michael T. McCaul called for the release of the report’s findings which would no longer be classified.

Alejandro Toledo detained in Peru

Former Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo has been extradited by the US to his country. He is accused of receiving a $20 million bribe from Brazil’s Odebrecht during the construction of the Inter-Oceanic Highway. Alejandro Toledo was pro-US and a member of former Spanish Prime Minister José María Aznar’s Friends of Israel Initiative.

Guatemala supports Taiwan

Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei pledged unconditional support to Taiwan during an official visit to the island. Only 13 out of 193 States maintain diplomatic relations with the unrecognized State of the "Republic of China". The other 180 consider Taiwan an insurgent province of the "People's Republic of China". Of these, 59 maintain non-diplomatic relations with the Republic of China.

Colombia hosts conference on Venezuela

Colombian President Gustavo Petro convened an international meeting to discuss the continuation or lifting of unilateral coercive measures (wrongly referred to as "sanctions") against Venezuela. Before the meeting, Juan Guaido who arrived illegally in Colombia the day before, was deported. His government has not been recognized by the Venezuelan opposition since the end of 2022. Gustavo Petro has asked US President Joe Biden to gradually lift sanctions against Venezuela in exchange for guarantees for the presidential election scheduled for 2024. The meeting was held in the presence of US Deputy National Security Advisor Jonathan Finer and EU Foreign Minister Josep Borrell. The summit brought the points of view closer together. It concluded by noting that only the publication of a precise timetable for the Venezuelan presidential election was capable of changing things.

Attack on the Argentine economy

According to one of the 24 directors of the IMF, the Argentine Sergio Chodos, three Argentine personalities have asked the IMF not to help the country as long as it is governed by Peronists and does not adopt liberal principles. These three personalities would be former Finance Minister Hernonza, former Central Bank Governor and former Finance Minister Alfonso Prat Gay and former Central Bank Governor Guido Sandleris, all members of Mauricio Macri’s governments (liberal PRO). President of Argentina Alberto Fernandez (Peronist) confirmed the facts. These revelations come as unidentified operators attack the Argentine Peso which consequently dropped 11% earlier this week. Current Minister of Economy Sergio Massa should be the one to wear the colors of
Peronism in the next presidential election and not President Fernández nor Vice-President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner. He is expected to face former Security Minister Patricia Bullrich, who is in favour of widespread gun ownership. According to Human Rights Watch, she was involved in the blackmail of Marcelo D'Alessio's indiscreet videos.

EUROPE

Catholic Synod opens to women

Pope Francis will appoint 70 "non-bishop" members – 35 of whom will be women and "many" will be "youth" – as delegates to the Synod with the same deliberative and voting rights that the 300 bishops will enjoy. 10 members of religious orders of both genders will also be appointed to attend and vote at the event.

Hungary denies secret Pentagon documents

The Hungarian government has denied allegations in secret Pentagon documents leaked by Jack Teixeira, that Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has ranked the US among the main opponents of his Fidesz party.

EU against online disinformation and hate

From August the EU will place 19 social networks with more than 45 million users each under surveillance so as to make sure they effectively fight online disinformation and hate. Violators will be liable to a fine of up to 6% of their turnover.

EU and Japan against US sanctions proposal

According to the Financial Times (FT), at the G7 foreign ministers' summit in Japan, the EU and Japan thwarted a US plan to ban all exports to Russia. At Washington's request, the EU and Japan apply import bans on Russian hydrocarbons that are far more restrictive than those applied by the US.

Josep Borrell against China

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (Spaniard) Josep Borrell published an op-ed in French newspaper Le Journal du Dimanche. This is a response to statements by French President Emmanuel Macron during his trip to Beijing. Josep Borrell poses "A cold look at China". He presents it as a partner, a competitor and a rival. He writes: "There is only one China in our eyes. But not under any conditions. And certainly not through the use of force. Europe must in fact be very present on this issue, which concerns us economically, commercially and technologically. That is why I call on European navies to patrol the Taiwan Strait to demonstrate Europe's commitment to freedom of navigation in this absolutely crucial area." In addition, before the European Parliament, Josep Borrell said: "Taiwan is clearly part of our geostrategic perimeter to guarantee peace (...) It is not only for moral reasons that an action [from China] against Taiwan must necessarily be rejected. It is also because it would be, in economic terms, extremely serious for us, because Taiwan has a strategic role in the production of the most advanced semiconductors." The EU is trying to impose its policy on Member States. France pleads for neutrality in the face of Sino-US rivalry, while Brussels can't think itself other than aligned with Washington.

Foreign editions

Voltaire, international news is now published in six languages:
- Dutch
- English
- French
- Italian
- German
- Spanish
Global increase in arms budgets

According to the Stockholm International Peace Institute (SIPRI), global arms spending increased by 3.7% in 2023 to $2.24 trillion. This surge is explained by the armed conflict in Ukraine. It mainly concerns European states: Finland with 36%, Lithuania with 27%, Sweden with 12% and Poland with 11%; bringing these countries back to the level of Cold War spending. This is the largest increase since the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Jens Stoltenberg in Kiev

Secretary General of the Atlantic Alliance Norwegian Jens Stoltenberg was received in Kiev by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. At the press conference that followed, he said: "Let us be clear: Ukraine's place is in the Euro-Atlantic family (...) NATO is at your side today; tomorrow and for as long as it takes (...) just as Russian aggression caused negative and very painful global consequences, the Ukrainian victory should bring the world new security standards, a new experience of joint action and economic potential, new opportunities to build and defend – together."

Xi-Zelensky conversation

Chinese President Xi Jinping called his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky for more than an hour. He confirmed the terms of Beijing's 12-point peace plan and invited him to negotiate. He announced that he will send a special envoy to hold talks with all parties. His mission will not be to take advantage of war to do business, but to work for peace. Mr. Zelensky was courteous, assuring Xi that Ukraine shared Beijing's view that there is only one China of which Taiwan is a province. However, he opposes any ceasefire with Russia. Kiev considers that not only Novorossiya, but also Donbass and Crimea are Ukrainian territories. A ceasefire would be a partial recognition of a Russian victory. M. Zelensky appointed Minister of Strategic Industries Pavlo Ryabikin as ambassador to Beijing. The US expressed skepticism, saying China was not in a position to play peacemakers because it had not condemned the "invasion" of Ukraine. On the contrary, France and Germany appeared attentive and interested in the Chinese approach. Before the phone call, Xi held talks with many leaders of relevant parties, including Russia, Germany, France and the EU as well as neutral third parties such as Brazil.

Crimes of French mercenaries in Ukraine

The Russian Commission for the Investigation of Crimes Committed in Ukraine said it had identified French mercenaries among those responsible for the murder of 25 Russian POWs (prisoners of war). They allegedly acted as part of the Azov Battalion and the 92nd Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The Commission of Inquiry will establish all the circumstances of the incidents to bring to justice those involved in the commission of the crimes. There are 8,000 foreign mercenaries on the Ukrainian front, mainly Poles, Americans, Canadians, Romanians and British. According to United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Volker Turk of Austria, Ukraine is not prosecuting its soldiers who have committed documented war crimes. The French Penal Code punishes mercenarism activities with 5 years' imprisonment and the prohibition of civic, civil and family rights (art. 436). Both mercenaries and regular soldiers must be held accountable for acts of torture and the murder of prisoners. They are then liable to life imprisonment.

AFRICA

Release of Chadian plotters

Chadian President Mahamat Idriss Deby Itno has announced that he will release the twelve people involved in the coup attempt against him in December 2022.
Disappearance of Sudan's most wanted prisoner

The prison where former President Omar al-Bashir was held was attacked. He reportedly disappeared along with Abdel-Rahim Muhammad Hussein and Ahmed Haroun. The three men would have been transferred to a military hospital according to some, freed by the men of "General" Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo (aka "Hemedti") according to others. Omar al-Bashir remains wanted on an arrest warrant by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Ethiopia negotiates with Oromo rebellion

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has announced the opening of negotiations with the Oromo Liberation Front in Tanzania. Oromo is in the south of the country, while Tigray is in the north. Abiy Ahmed is himself from Oromo.

Arrest of former Burundian Prime Minister

Former Prime Minister Alain-Guillaume Bunyoni (2020-22) was arrested. The charges against him are unknown. The US accused him of being responsible for the civil war in 2015. They placed him under sanctions from 2015 to 2021.

Yoweri Museveni opposes death penalty for homosexuals

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has refused to enact the law punishing homosexuality with death sentences. This law, passed under the influence of evangelical Christian churches, took up and aggravated the old Victorian law imposed by British colonists.

South Africa and the ICC

While the International Criminal Court is demanding that all its members, including South Africa, arrest Vladimir Putin to be imprisoned and tried in The Hague, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced his country's withdrawal from the ICC. President Putin is expected in Pretoria for the BRICS summit. However, under internal and external pressure, South Africa has backtracked and remains in the ICC.

ASIA

Adwan tribal leader arrested for smuggling

Jordanian MP Imad Adwan was arrested in Israel. He was allegedly carrying fifteen pistols, twelve machine guns and about 100 kilos of gold. The conditions of his arrest are unclear and official statements are contradictory. A revolt is foreseeable if Israel indicts him, while releasing him will appear as a sign of weakness. Imad Adwan is a leader of the Adwan tribe of over 100,000 people. Present in Jordan and Israel, it owns most of the land in the Jordan Valley and is one of the most patriotic and ferocious tribes.

French investigation against Riad Salamé goes on

French judges who are in Beirut to investigate the activities of governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon Riad Salamé have begun their hearings. The suspect's brother, Raja Salamé, could not appear before the judges for health reasons but was represented by his lawyer.

Meeting of Syrian and Turkish Defense Ministers

Defense ministers and heads of Russian, Iranian, Turkish and Syrian security services met in Moscow to bring Damascus and Ankara closer together. Syria is still demanding the withdrawal of Turkish forces ahead of a peace summit between Presidents Bashar al-Assad and Recep Tayyip Erdogan. This is the first time Iran has been invited to these negotiations. They stand as rumor spreads that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is seriously ill.
**Assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader's Representative**

Supreme Leader's representative at Tuesday prayers Ayatollah Abbas Ali Soleimani was coldly murdered by a bank guard. He had also represented him in the provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan. This premeditated murder is not yet explained.

**Possible agreement on decolonization of Chagos Islands**

Mauritius would have agreed to renew the illegal lease of the US base of Diego Garcia in case of retrocession of the Chagos Islands colonized by the British. The reaction of the US is unknown, knowing that Mauritius has a special relationship with China. In May 2019, the United Nations General Assembly gave the United Kingdom 6 months to leave the Chagos Islands, including the Diego Garcia base, and return them to Mauritius.

**Taliban keep promise**

A key element of the U.S. withdrawal agreement from Afghanistan with the Taliban was a promise that they would never again allow the country to be used as a base from which jihadists could launch terrorist attacks against the West. Washington has just confirmed that two weeks ago the Taliban killed an ISIS-Khorasan leader who is directly responsible for the August 2021 suicide bombing that killed 13 US Marines and 170 Afghans at Kabul airport.

**Sikh independence leader arrested**

Leader of the Punjab Sikh independence movement Amritpal Singh was arrested. The police managed to get him out of a shrine where he was praying without having to storm it. Amritpal Singh had become the leader of the movement for the creation of the “Khalistan” since the accidental death of actor Deep Sidhu. The Sikh Empire was defeated by the British in 1849. However, faced with the English Empire, then India, a movement was formed to restore it to Punjab. In 1984, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi ordered “Operation Blue Star” which goal was to arrest a hundred pro-independence terrorists entrenched in the Golden Temple of Amritsar. The operation, in which Sikh soldiers participated, turned into carnage, leaving more than 500 dead, mainly pilgrims present on the spot. Two months later, Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards.

**Russia calls on India to join Afghanistan Quartet**

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has proposed that India join the Afghanistan Quartet. In addition to Russia, this quartet includes China, Iran and Pakistan. This proposal is being presented as China is secretly trying to resolve the dispute between India and Pakistan.

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**Voltaire Network analyses**

- "Türkiye facing the American Empire", by Thierry Meyssan
  Three weeks before the Turkish presidential election, the debate is changing from for or against the Islamism of Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to for or against the alliance with the US. The outgoing president is regaining percentage points in polls that predicted he would lose. From Islamist he became a nationalist. It is unclear at the moment whether this will be enough for him to win, but if he does, he is expected to withdraw Türkiye from NATO.

- "Rebellion against the dollar empire is spreading", by Manlio Dinucci
  In a few months, the rebellion against the American empire has been translated into action: the dollar’s share of global reserves has fallen to 47% in 2022. US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen was forced to declare: "There is a risk when we use financial sanctions related to the role of the dollar that over time, they could undermine the hegemony of the dollar."
**Assassination in Myanmar with CIA assistance**

In Yangon, the People's Defense Forces assassinated deputy director-general of the Burmese Election Commission Sai Kyaw Thu. Little is known about the People's Defence Forces other than that they present themselves as the armed wing of a mysterious CIA-backed "Government of National Unity". These forces are trying to sabotage the holding of new elections while declaring themselves pro-democracy.

**Possible return of Shinawatra to Thailand**

Paetongtarn Shinawatra, daughter of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra (2001-06) and niece of former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra (2011-14), could win the Thai elections. When he was prime minister, Thaksin created a $1 medical care social security system. He had also taken measures in favour of peasants and the poor in general. However, his term ended in accusations of corruption. The return of his family is seen as a haunting by the political staff of Bangkok. His party is proposing to raise the minimum wage from $10 to $18 a day.

**NATO in the Indo-Pacific**

NATO's partners in the Indo-Pacific (including South Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand) met in Lithuania. The Alliance's Deputy Secretary General, Mircea Geoană of Romania, opened the meeting by saying: "Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is protracted. Authoritarian regimes in Moscow, Beijing and elsewhere are openly challenging the rules-based international order." He stressed that China is not NATO's adversary, but that by seeking to assert itself and applying coercive policies, it threatens "our interests, our security and our values". He said the growing alignment of Russia and China was worrying, with China refusing to condemn Russia for the war it "has waged against Ukraine without justification and in the absence of any provocation." "China is thus seeking to continue to pose as a model of neutrality while it nevertheless relays Russia's false theories and disinformation campaigns."

Participants agreed to develop a common position on the North Korean nuclear threat.

**North Korea prepares to launch spy satellite**

North Korea Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un ordered the launch of a military spy satellite. He explained that space development is "essential" to the country's independence and security.

**North Korea as seen by South Korea**

South Korea's Unification Ministry has released a 553-page report in English on human rights in North Korea. It is based on the testimonies of more than 500 North Korean defectors and highlights widespread human rights violations committed by state authorities, including killings, torture and public executions.

**South Korea will remain under US nuclear umbrella**

While 71% of South Koreans think their country should acquire nuclear weapons, President Yoon Suk-Yeol visiting Washington has pledged to remain under the US nuclear umbrella.

In September 2022, DPRK passed a law proclaiming its status as a nuclear power "irreversible." Although they condemned Russia's "invasion" of Ukraine, Joe Biden and Yoon Suk-Yeol did not officially discuss aid to Ukraine. The classified Pentagon documents that Jack Teixeira leaked show that the NSA was listening to the South Korean government on this subject. South Korea has aligned itself with the US when it comes to the Indo-Pacific and Taiwan.

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**Erratum**

The bail required in the Japanese legislative elections is 3 million yen (not dollars).
China reportedly preparing a maritime blockade of Taiwan

According to IndoPaCom, the US command for the Indo-Pacific region, China is preparing a complete naval blockade of Taiwan. Suspicious activity of helicopters specializing in submarine warfare was detected, as well as jamming of GPS signals.

China tests its 3rd aircraft carrier

The Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy celebrates its 74th anniversary. On this occasion, it opened some of its brand new vessels to the public (almost the entire fleet has been launched in the last 20 years). It also announced that it was completing navigation tests of its 3rd aircraft carrier, the Fujian, so that it could be operational in the coming months. Aircraft carriers are weapons intended for the projection of forces and not for the defense of territory. The US has the largest number: 21. These weapons are now vulnerable to hypersonic missiles and therefore cannot be used against modern militaries such as those of Russia and China.

10 years of the Belt and Road Initiative

China celebrates the 10th anniversary of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). During that period, it has signed more than 200 cooperation documents with 151 States and 32 intergovernmental organizations.

Trial in China

Dong Yuyu (61), a liberal journalist with Guangming Daily, will be tried for spying for Japan. He was arrested last week while having lunch with a Japanese diplomat. Yang Chih-yuan (33), a Taiwanese pro-independence politician, was arrested in August. He will also be tried as the founder of the Taiwanese National Party, banned in the People's Republic of China.

China strengthens its legislation against cyber espionage

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress has adopted a proposal by President Xi Jinping to reform the counterintelligence law. Cyberattacks targeting state bodies and critical information infrastructure will be included. Internet service providers will be required to assist authorities in charge of counterintelligence efforts and to report on potential problems. The U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) has taken control of parts of China's telecommunications network after hacking into a government-funded university, the Global Times reported. It is unclear whether China has managed to clean up its networks.

China legislates on AI

China has drafted its first legislation on artificial intelligence (AI). The aim is to prevent any achievement that would undermine socialist values and the country's history. Messages undermining state authority or encouraging separatism will also be prohibited. In addition, AI companies will be required to respect intellectual property and will have to register their algorithms with regulators. This reaction contrasts with Western laissez-faire.

The controversial remarks of the Chinese ambassador in Paris

Asked by Swiss journalist Darius Rochebin on French LCI TV, Chinese Ambassador to France Lu Shaye said: "It depends on how you perceive this [Crimea] problem. There is history. Crimea belonged at the very beginning to Russia. It was Khrushchev who offered Crimea to Ukraine during the Soviet Union. [The countries of the USSR] do not have effective status in international law because there is no
international agreement to concretize their status as sovereign countries."
One after another, European states have described these statements as "unacceptable". The Soviet Union regarded the countries it annexed as provinces whose administrative boundaries it often changed. The borders of the newly independent states were proclaimed within their Soviet administrative borders, not within their original historical borders. Thus, Crimea was attached to Ukraine by First Secretary of the CPSU Nikita Khrushchev, himself a Ukrainian.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

WHO concerned about Marburg virus

The World Health Organization is on alert. An outbreak of Marburg virus disease is reported in both Guinea and Tanzania. There is no cure for it yet and its mortality rate from hemorrhage may be comparable to that of Ebola. The Marburg virus appeared in 1967 in a laboratory in Marburg (Germany). It is considered that in its natural state, this virus is transmitted by bats, then between humans, by various mucous membranes and other bodily fluids.
EDITOIRAL

Hunter Biden investigation now threatens Antony Blinken and Joe Biden himself

The Hunter Biden case is a bottomless pit. The investigation now threatens Secretary of State Antony Blinken and President Joe Biden himself:

• Former CIA No. 2 Michael Morell testified that Antony Blinken initiated the letter from 51 National Security officials claiming, in the midst of the 2020 presidential election campaign, that Hunter Biden's laptop story was a “Russian disinformation” operation. Republican Senators Ron Johnson (Wisconsin) and Charles E. Grassley (Iowa) also established on the basis of emails from Hunter Biden's laptop that Secretary of State Antony Blinken lied twice to Congress. He had claimed to be ignorant of Hunter Biden's responsibilities on the board of directors of Ukrainian hydrocarbon company Burisma. U.S. political tradition would have Mr. Blinken resign. In the meantime, the two senators have summoned him to produce all correspondence he has had with Hunter Biden.

• Republican Senator Charles E. Grassley (Iowa) and Republican Representative James Comer (Kentucky) said, "Based on revelations [by a whistleblower], it has come to our attention that the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) have an unclassified Form FD-1023 [whistleblowing] that describes an alleged criminal scheme involving then-Vice President Joe Biden and a foreign national regarding the exchange of money for policy decisions. It was alleged that the document includes a precise description of how the alleged criminal scheme was used and its purpose." Acting as chairman of the House Oversight and Accountability Committee, M. Comer issued a subpoena ordering FBI Director Christopher A. Wray to deliver the form by May 10.

AMERICAS

National Archives refused to help President Trump move out of the White House

In a letter to the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, former President Donald Trump's lawyer said the National Archives refused to help his client prepare for his move at the end of his term in December 2021. As a result, he unknowingly took away classified documents. The lawyer requests a stay of criminal proceedings.
For political reasons NGOs are accused of promoting hate

The Southern Poverty Law Center, a notorious organization that publishes a list of hate groups, is being sued for listing the Dustin Inman Society, an anti-immigration group. The latter stresses that it has never held speeches against immigrants, but only against immigration laws. A legal immigrant sits on its board of directors and its president is married to an immigrant. Under US law, it is very unusual to win a defamation lawsuit. The complainant must prove that the defamer was aware of lying and had intention to harm. The Southern Poverty Law Center has previously argued that its classification is perhaps wrong, but that it is not a scientific truth. Its list is only an opinion protected by the 1st amendment.

Who is responsible for the Supreme Court leaks?

In an interview with the Wall Street Journal, Judge Samuel Alito said he thought he knew who disclosed last year's proposed ruling that the issue of abortion was not a federal matter. He rejected the idea that it could be one of the five conservative justices: "Look, this has made us targets of assassination. Would I do this to myself? Would five of us have done it to ourselves? It's completely unbelievable." Politico published the transcript several weeks before it was made public. Senator Ted Cruz asked the FBI to identify the leaker. A memo from Attorney General Merrick Garland to the Marshals charged with protecting Supreme Court justices had ordered them not to arrest people protesting against them.

Motion for a resolution in Congress for the victory of Ukraine

A draft resolution on the significance of Ukraine's victory (H.Res.322) was presented to both the House and the Senate. It "affirms that it is the policy of the US to see Ukraine victorious against the invasion and restored to the internationally recognized borders of 1991; It holds that the peace brought by Ukrainian victory must be secured by integrating Ukraine into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and other Euro-Atlantic institutions, as consistent with longstanding US policy, including the explicit statement in the 2008 Bucharest Summit Declaration (…); It declares that the US must work with its allies and partners to ensure that: (A) the Russian Federation pays reparations to Ukraine; (B) the global community helps to rebuild Ukraine; (C) the leaders of the Russian Federation are held accountable for this war of aggression; and (D) there is justice for victims of crimes committed by the Russian Federation during its invasion. »

US armies against a Russian-Chinese military alliance

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley told Foreign Affairs, the journal of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), that his main concern was to prevent a military alliance between Russia and China that would turn the current "tripolar world" back into a "bipolar world." However, Moscow and Beijing have already concluded a “no limits partnership” in February 2022. In addition, they called for the overthrow of the Western world order in March 2023.

US leadership is no longer popular in the world

According to a Gallup poll of 140 countries, confidence in U.S. leadership has dropped from 49 percent before the withdrawal from Afghanistan to just 41 percent today.

Brazilian police search Jair Bolsonaro’s home

Brazilian police searched the home of former President Jair Bolsonaro for his vaccination record. It suspects him of falsifying it to be able to travel to the US during the Covid-19 outbreak. In the US, the travel of heads of state is subject to a special protocol that exempts them from providing their vaccination records.
Colorado Party remains in power in Paraguay

Forty-four-year-old economist Santiago Peña easily won Paraguay's presidential election with nearly 43% of the vote compared to 27.5% for his center-left rival Efrain Alegre and nearly 23% for anti-establishment candidate Payo Cubas. According to polls, Santiago Peña and Efrain Alegre were neck and neck throughout the campaign, but the last moment appearance of Payo Cubas divided the left in favor of the sole candidate of the right. Former International Monetary Fund (IMF) official Santiago Peña is former President Horacio Cartes’ guy. Member of the irremovable Colorado party, Mr. Cartes has just been sanctioned by the US, officially for corruption, in reality for his links with the Lebanese Hezbollah. In addition to the presidential election, the Colorado Party won fifteen of the country's seventeen governorships and a majority in both houses of the National Congress as well as departmental councils. Upon his election, President Santiago Peña announced that he would move the Paraguayan embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and maintain diplomatic relations with Taiwan. However, many observers believe that, despite his statements, Santiago Peña is not linked to Taiwan as was the father of President Mario Abdo Benítez (former member of Chiang Kai-shek and Stepan Bandera's World Anti-Communist League). A pragmatic, he could eventually turn to China and get Paraguay out of its position as the only Mercosur member not to recognize the People's Republic of China. The China Oilseeds and Foodstuffs Corporation (COFCO) is eyeing the land exploited by US transnationals ADM, Bunge, Dreyfuss and Cargill. Chinese logistics companies are ready to take over the construction of the Biocenanic corridor and its ports. Huawei, Xiaomi and Oppo hope to take control of the telecoms sector.

Erratum

The former Argentine finance minister who intervened with the IMF to discourage it from helping his country is Hernán Lacunza (not Hernonza).

EUROPE

London aided Juan Guaidó’s attempted robbery

Declassified UK reveals that the British Foreign Office has spent £80,697 to help Juan Guaidó's lawyers in his attempt to seize $2 billion of Venezuelan assets deposited with the Bank of England.

Pope Francis' Prayer for Ukraine and Russia

During his trip to Hungary, Pope Francis said: "I would like to place in her heart [Mary's] the faith and the future of the entire European continent, which I have thought of these days, and in a special way the cause of peace." He recalled that he had consecrated to Mary "the very close wounded Ukrainian people, and the Russian people", Francis invoked the intercession of the "Queen of Peace", so that she may spread "in the hearts of men and leaders of nations the desire to build peace, to give the younger generations a future of hope, not of war; a future full of cradles, not graves; a world of brothers, not walls."

Fitch Ratings downgrades France to "AA-

Rating agency Fitch Ratings has downgraded the sovereign rating of French debt from "AA" to "AA-" with a stable outlook. It estimates the impact of the pension reform at "17.7 billion euros in savings by 2030", while this law has seen a complete discrediting of President Macron. From now on, national demonstrations follow one another every week. Fitch expects an
average annual increase in GDP of 1.1% by 2027, while French Economy Ministry expects from 1.7% to 1.8%. As for the deficit, from 4.7% in 2022, the agency forecasts it at 5% in 2023.

**Now Catalans reject independence**

According to a survey by the Centre for Opinion Studies (CEO) of the Generalitat of Catalonia, 50% of Catalans reject independence, 43% want it and 7% do not know or do not answer. The unilateral path defended by Carles Puigdemont and a section of Junts and the CUP, receives only 9% of support.

**Germany buys F-35s almost four times the price**

The government of Olaf Scholz bought 35 F-35s at $237 million each. In addition to the fact that these aircraft do not meet their specifications and that the Pentagon has decided to replace them for its armies with old F-16s, their serial sale has lowered their price since July 2022 to $62 million per unit. The overprice is intended to make Germany pay for expenses from the US.

**Polish Chief of Staff forecasts Ukraine’s defeat**

According to Do Rzeczy, Polish Chief of Staff Gen. Rajmund Andrzejczak told the National Security Bureau that war is first and foremost an economic issue before a military one. From this point of view, Russia’s possibilities are much greater than Ukraine's. Kiev's defeat is therefore likely. He warned his interlocutors about the situation in Poland, whose stockpiles of weapons are melting like snow in the sun.

**Pope Francis defends migrants in front of Viktor Orbán**

During his trip to Hungary, Pope Francis told political and religious leaders including Prime Minister Viktor Orbán: "It is sad and painful to see closed doors: the closed doors of our selfishness towards those who walk every day alongside us (...) the closed doors of our indifference to those who are suffering and poor (...) Please, open the doors!". Viktor Orbán is a Christian Democrat opposed to mass immigration.

**Sweden passes tough anti-terrorism law**

Sweden has passed a much tougher anti-terrorism law than the previous one. It condemns publicly financing, recruiting or encouraging a terrorist organisation, as well as travelling abroad with the intention of joining such a group. It provides for a sentence of 4 years in prison for those convicted of participating in or supporting an extremist organization. The penalty can be increased to eight years when a crime is deemed serious. The legislation allows a person identified as the leader of a terrorist organization to be sentenced to life, which in Sweden usually means a minimum of 20 to 25 years. In this way, Stockholm hopes to satisfy Turkey which is
fighting against the PKK and the Fethullah Gülen movement, and thus get the lifting of Ankara's veto on its NATO membership.

Andrij Melnyk interested in the Chinese peace proposal

In an interview with the *Berliner Morgenpost*, Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister and former ambassador to Germany Andrij Melnyk said: "The Chinese of course pursue their own interests. But I believe that a just and peaceful solution and an end to hostilities are more in Beijing's interests than this terrible and endless earthquake for the entire world order. Of course, the Chinese view on this could be different from ours. For Kiev, the withdrawal of all Russian troops from the occupied territories is a sine qua non. The devil is in the details, so we are excited to see what China's special envoy, who will join us soon, will bring." Andrij Melnyk is an "integral nationalist". When he was ambassador in Berlin, his praise of Nazi Stepan Bandera and his denialist statements of massacres of Jews aroused indignation (VIN N°20). He has just declared on Ukrainian TV that Western aid must be increased 10 times, up to 1% of Western GDP, to achieve a significant result against Russia.

$500,000 to assassinate President Putin

Ukrainian film producer Volodymyr Yatsenko offered $500,000 to anyone who could send a drone to assassinate President Vladimir Putin. Two drones actually attacked the president's residence in the Kremlin. They were destroyed by Russian security services. Vladimir Putin was not in Moscow at the time of the incident. Planning for May 9 Victory Day celebrations were upheld on Red Square but were canceled in about twenty towns near the Ukrainian border. The Immortal Regiment march which annually commemorates the dead of the "Great Patriotic War" (known as "World War II" in the West) will be held in mixed format (online and offline). Russia has announced that it will choose the date and place of its response to this attack. The US Secretary of State suggested that this failed attack could have been carried out by the Ukrainian secret services to allow President Putin to play the victim.

Voltaire Network analyses

- "What do Russia and China use their military superiority for?", by Thierry Meyssan
  The way of thinking of the former colonial powers leads them to imagine that Russia and China will use their military superiority to impose their way of life on the rest of the world. However, this is really not their intention nor what they are actually doing. Russia and China only intend to use their military power to force the West to respect their signature.

- "The cancelation of History: Weapon of War", by Manlio Dinucci
  We all remember how the Soviets made historical figures disappear, going so far as to remove them from official photographs. We thought it only existed under dictatorships and in particularly troubled times. To our shame, this is exactly what Ukrainian and Western governments in general are doing.

Drone attack on hydrocarbon storage in Russia

Drones attacked a hydrocarbon reserve in Russia, in the port of Sevastopol (Crimea), causing a gigantic fire. The Ukrainian authorities stemming from the Maidan coup (qualified by NATO as the “Revolution of Dignity”), consider Crimea to be Ukrainian territory occupied by Russia. Historians have another point of view: Five days after the 1991 coup against Mikhail Gorbachev, Crimea proclaimed its independence, so that when the Soviet Union was dissolved, it was already a free and sovereign state, aspiring however to join Russia.

But after paying the salaries of Crimean civil servants for more than a year, President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin decided, alone, to abandon it and leave it to Ukraine. During the 2014 Maidan coup against Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych, Crimea decided...
to regain its independence and join Russia, which the latter finally accepted.

**Yevgeny Prigozhin worries about the Ukrainian conflict**

PMC Wagner founder Yevgeny Prigozhin gave a long interview to *War Gonzo*. He criticized the lack of ammunition on the Ukrainian front and the role of some Russian generals. He is extremely critical about the functioning of the Russian armies.

**The world's largest minefield**

The conflict in Ukraine has turned a territory half the size of France into the world's largest minefield. The most dangerous regions are those of Donbass, because the war has been going on for 9 years there, and Kharkov, because the front line has often moved back and forth. The Kyiv authorities downplay this fact when addressing their people and emphasize it when talking to their allies. On the contrary, the Moscow authorities talk about it to their population and are silent about it with their foreign interlocutors.

**AFRICA**

**Algerian president dismisses his special representatives**

Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune dismissed 5 of his 7 special envoys. They are Ahmed Benyamina (International Security), Abdelkrim Harchaoui (Economic Diplomacy), Noureddine Aouam (Palestinian Cause, Middle East and Libyan Question), Leila Zerrougui (Major Partnerships) and Taos Haddadi-Djellouli (National Community Established Abroad). Amar Belani, appointed Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Special Envoy for Western Sahara and Maghreb countries, and Boudjemaa Delmi, (African issues) and Chair of the Monitoring Committee for the Implementation of the Algiers Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, are maintained.

**Marshal Haftar intervenes in Sudan from Libya**

Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, who controls eastern Libya, helps private Russian military company Wagner move logistics across the desert to supply the troops of "General" Mohamed Hamdan Dogolo (aka "Hemeidti") in Sudan.

**Sudan conflict benefits al-Qaeda**

The conflict organized in Sudan by the US straussians between the Khartoum armies of General Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman al-Burhan and the Darfur armies of "General" Mohamed Hamdan Dogolo (aka "Hemeidti"), benefits Al-Qaeda which is still present in the country. This situation prompts Egypt to intervene immediately to prevent the reconstitution of the terrorist network at home.

**Ugandan Parliament deliberates again on criminalization of homosexuality**

The bill criminalizing homosexuality returned to Uganda's parliament after President Yoweri Museveni refused to sign its first draft. The scopes of the crimes were revised but sentences were maintained. The second version only criminalizes homosexual acts and no longer homosexual persons. It sentences offenders to life imprisonment and, in the case of multiple relationships, to death penalty. It only condemns to 5 years' imprisonment the fact of not denouncing homosexual acts witnessed if they involve minors, and no longer in general as before. The conviction of landlords whose homes are used to commit the crime of homosexuality has been dropped. The parliamentarians discussed the defence of Ugandan culture in the face of Western permissiveness. In reality, homosexuality was only banned in the country starting from British colonization.

**China-Comoros friendship**

The Chinese ambassador to the Comoros stressed the visible nature of cooperation...
between the two countries. Chinese companies are building a stadium, the parliament headquarters, the national radio and television center and the China-Comoros Friendship Hospital. In addition, China has sent 15 groups of medical teams to treat tens of thousands of patients. These statements should be put into perspective with the deterioration of relations between the Comoros and France over the Comorian island of Mayotte, occupied by France in violation of international law.

**ASIA**

**Pro- and anti-Netanyahu protests in Israel**

The massive protests keep going for the 17th consecutive week in Israel. The opposition condemns the justice system reform undertaken by Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition government. "In the Knesset, only one voice separates the Jewish state from a dangerous messianic dictatorship," the organizers said. On the contrary, the coalition supports the reform and demands that it be completed. It condemns the judges of the High Court.

**Americans no longer know whether or not Israel is a democracy**

According to an Ipsos poll, 56% of Americans no longer know whether or not Israel is a democracy.

**Israeli Justice Minister Believes Biden Administration Supports Opposition**

According to a recording published by the Walla website, Israeli Justice Minister Yariv Levin confirmed the comments of Nair Netanyahu, son of the prime minister, that the Biden administration is secretly supporting the opposition. However, he specified that he believes in the good faith of the Biden administration, dismissing Thierry Meyssan's theory that this is a conflict between the Democrats and the Straussians.

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**Foreign editions**

Voltaire, international news is now published in six languages:
- Dutch
- English
- French
- Italian
- German
- Spanish

**Official trips of US personalities to Israel**

A bipartisan delegation from the US House of Representatives led by its President Kevin McCarthy visited Israel. McCarthy said he had as bad relations with President Joe Biden as Benjamin Netanyahu does. He assured that if Joe Biden did not invite the prime minister to the White House, he would invite him to Congress.

For his part, Republican Florida governor Ron DeSantis also visited Israel. Benjamin Netanyahu has already been to US Congress in 2015, against the advice of President Barack Obama, to condemn the 5+1 agreement on the Iranian nuclear program.

**Knesset debates Israeli budget**

The Knesset suspended deliberations on justice reform, still being negotiated under Israeli President Isaac Herzog, in order to prioritize the budget vote. Indeed, according to the law, if it is not adopted before May 29, the Assembly will be automatically dissolved. The budget debate is expected to include a discussion on the conditions for exempting students of ultra-Orthodox yeshivas from military service and the death penalty. Indeed, ultra-Orthodox parties have conditioned their support on judicial reform. They demand that Torah study be recognized as important to the State of Israel as military service. Similarly, National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's Jewish Force (Otzma Yehudit) party has conditioned its support for
reform on the adoption of the death penalty for those convicted of terrorism.

Netanyahu government doesn't want women in senior administration

The coalition government dismissed the 9 female central directors of ministries. All have not been replaced yet, but the first designated successors are all men.

Israeli Druze on the brink of revolt

The Israeli Druze community, which until now has been perfectly integrated even within the security forces and the IDF, is about to explode. It reacted angrily to the Jewish Force bill to proclaim Zionism as the "guiding value" of Israeli policy, which would imply a preference for Jewish communities over Druze, Muslim and Christian ones. Several Druze leaders, including Brigadier General Amal Asad, have claimed that "If this legislation is passed as is, it would be a public claim that this is a racist state that officially discriminates between Jews and non-Jews."

Revelations: Shimon Peres supported dictatorships in Liberia

According to Haaretz, recently declassified documents show that Shimon Peres organized not only support for apartheid in South Africa, but also support for the authoritarian regime of William Tubman and the dictatorship of Samuel Doe in Liberia. Available documents also show that Tel Aviv was aware of the persecution inflicted with its help on Liberia's former president, 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. These operations, ranging from favors to Liberian diplomat to direct military support, were organized to secure Liberia's assistance at the United Nations. They were conducted in permanent liaison with the CIA.

Imad al-Adwan's detention extended

An Israeli court has extended the detention of Jordanian MP Imad al-Adwan, who was arrested for smuggling arms and gold (VIN N°38). It has also issued a censorship order in the case that applies to all media outlets in the country. The al-Adwan tribe, which owns most of the land in the Jordan Valley, appealed to the King of Jordan.

Death by Willful Negligence of a Palestinian prisoner

A Palestinian prisoner called Khodr Adnan died in an Israeli prison while on hunger strike since 5 February. His death appears to be due to poor conditions of detention. Since Itamar Ben-Gvir became Minister of National Security, instructions have been given to guards to break the will of detainees. The duration of walks and showers has been reduced. The sanitary facilities are poorly cleaned etc. Khodr Adnan had been placed in solitary confinement in a small cell with no windows. The guards ate in front of him during his hunger strike. He didn't have access to a doctor, etc.

Hamas pressures Gaza with taxes

In July 2020, Hamas introduced taxes on 24 products imported and exported from Gaza, causing very high inflation: the price of infant formula increased 4-fold and that of bottled water by 15 times. Merchants appealed the decision to the Hamas court which suspended it. The clothing tax was waived for 600,000 jeans and 150,000 women's long tunics. In March 2023, Hamas announced new taxes on fish exports and fruit imports. After two weeks of strikes, Hamas cancelled the fruit tax, but kept the fish tax. Fearing that Hamas would reinstate the July taxes retroactively, most merchants refuse to sell the disputed goods. The number of bottled water available has halved.

Hamas moves into Lebanon

After being received by President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus, Hamas moved its assets and men from Turkey and Qatar to Lebanon. Qatar, which along with Morocco and Kuwait still opposes Syria's return to the Arab League, is now leading a press campaign against the new
strategy of the Palestinian Resistance which it describes as a "historic mistake".

**Repatriation of Syrian refugees**

There are three categories of Syrian refugees:
- Terrorists. They are very few in number and will be tried in Syria if they return. - Political. There are hardly more of them. President Bashar al-Assad has pledged to involve them in the political life of the country. - The displaced. There are millions of them in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. They are now fed by the United Nations and will only be able to return to their homeland with external economic aid.

**Lebanon and Syria hope to repatriate Syrian refugees**

Lebanon's Director of General Security General Elias Baissari visited Damascus to discuss the return of the 2 million refugees. Some 500,000 have already returned, but the United Nations which provides them with food aid continues to oppose it.

**Jordan could start repatriating Syrian refugees**

At the Amman summit on reconciliation between the Arab League and Syria, Jordan proposed to proceed in stages. It could start the repatriation of Syrian refugees in dribs and drabs starting with perhaps a thousand.

**Syria reduces presence of Hezbollah and Iranian troops**

Syria lifted numerous roadblocks in Damascus before April 18 i.e., before the visit of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhane. They were held either by Hezbollah or by the fourth division of the president's brother, General Maher al-Assad. Hezbollah has reduced its presence around the Shiite shrine of Sayeda Zeinab in Damascus, while Iran has reorganized its military deployment around the capital. We are moving towards a simultaneous withdrawal of all foreign troops from the country, whether US or Russian, Iranian or Turkish. The only remaining oppositions are those of the US and the Muslim Brotherhood represented by Qatar.

**Bashar al-Assad receives Ebrahim Raisi**

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad received his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi in Damascus. It was the first visit by an Iranian president since 2011. Raisi acknowledged that Syria has won after a decade of war, while Assad welcomed Iranian aid during the conflict.

The two countries signed a strategic agreement that included agriculture, railways, civil aviation, oil and free zones.

**UAE switches to the Russian-Chinese side**

The US is very concerned about the shift taken by the United Arab Emirates. They have resumed the construction of a Chinese military facility at home and export strategic equipment to Russia, such as US-made semiconductors. The UAE has always been lucid about the reality of US imperialism. However, they submitted to it as long as Washington militarily dominated the world. Thus, they kept their heads down when Washington forced them to close the think-tank of the Arab League, because they had received with all the honors Thierry Meyssan about the attacks of September 11. They kept silent when the CIA assassinated Prince Sheikh Ahmed bin Zayed al-Nahyan in Morocco in 2010 because he had secretly financed the Palestinian Resistance.

They started to distance themselves from Washington when the US, who were supposed to protect them, let Yemeni drones cross the KSA and come to attack them in late January 2022.

**Will Yemen be divided?**

A meeting was held on 4 May with all political components of South Yemen in order to present a formula for peace that involves the division of Yemen into two separate sovereign States. This formula, attractive at first glance, would make
Yemen extremely dependent on its external sponsors.

**Turkey eliminates Daesh caliph**

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced on April 30th that his special forces eliminated Daesh caliph Abu al-Hussein al-Husseini al-Qurashi near Afrin the night before. He was the fifth caliph of the organization. Strangely, Western leaders did not react to this announcement. Daesh is presented as an anti-Western organization. However, its victories in Iraq and Syria were organized, financed and armed by the Pentagon from the NATO base of Izmir. Its road map was to create a Sunni state straddling Iraq and Syria in accordance with the plan revealed by Robin Wright.

**Iran seizes another oil tanker**

The Iranian navy seized oil tanker **Advantage Street** in the Sea of Oman. Registered in the Marshall Islands, it was on its way to the USA when it collided with an Iranian ship, killing two people. The US called the seizure "contrary to international law" (sic) without elaborating. The EU launched a seventh wave of sanctions against Iran, which responded by sanctioning European figures.

**Iran consolidates its occupation of three Gulf islands**

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei ordered the Revolutionary Guards to consolidate Iran's presence on the islands of Abu Musa, the Great Tomb and the Small Tomb. They were occupied by Shah Reza Pahlevi in 1971, to the detriment of the British Empire. They are claimed by the UAE. At the Riyadh summit, China supported Abu Dhabi on this issue and urged the Emiratis to negotiate their return with Iran.

**Iran condemns US military presence in Middle East**

Receiving his Iraqi counterpart Abdul Latif Rashid in Tehran, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi questioned the military presence of the US in the Middle East. He stressed that Iranian-Iraqi relations are based on common interests, while "the Americans think of their interests and not those of the countries of the region"; Their forces are "disrupting the security of the region." Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei said: "The Americans are not friends with anyone and not even loyal to their European allies... Even the presence of a single American in Iraq is too much."

**Pakistan's Foreign Minister in India**

Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari attends the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) foreign ministers' summit in Goa. This is the first time since 2011 that a high-ranking Pakistani minister has visited India. We reported that China is secretly negotiating a lasting peace agreement between India and Pakistan.

**China modernizes Colombo port**

China is building South Asia's largest logistics hub in the port of Colombo in Sri Lanka where the China Merchants Group is investing $400 million. It already manages the port of Hambantota, in the south of the island, offering a stopover to Chinese tankers on the Persian Gulf route.

**Referendum approval of the new Uzbek constitution**

The constitutional referendum in Uzbekistan was approved by 90.21% with 84.54% participation. 27 new articles and 159 new provisions have been introduced such as the prohibition of the death penalty, the protection of people against the demolition of their homes, the prohibition of discrimination against women in the workplace during pregnancy, the right to remain silent for persons accused of crimes, etc. In addition, the presidential term will be increased from 5 to 7 years and will be renewable twice. Observers from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) deplored a "lack of genuine
pluralism and competition”. They noted that there had been no “organized opposition to the amendments” and stressed that there was still “some way to go before fundamental rights (...) are respected.” Westerners condemn a reform that could keep President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in power until 2040.

**South Korea criticizes China’s stance on North Korea’s nuclear program**

Back from Washington, South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol condemned China’s position vis-à-vis North Korea because Beijing does not apply the sanctions enacted by the UN. He blamed Beijing for rising tensions in the region. He said: "If they want to oppose and criticize us for adopting the Washington Declaration and improving our security cooperation to nuclear-based cooperation, they should reduce the nuclear threat or, at the very least, abide by international law and stick to UN Security Council sanctions against the nuclear threat."

However, the rise in tensions was not caused by China’s failure to enforce UN sanctions, but by joint military maneuvers by South Korea and the US, both of which have been at war with North Korea since 1950.

**North Korea expands its Yongbyon nuclear base**

Based on the study of satellite images, Peter Makowsky, Jack Liu and Olli Heinonen assure that North Korea continues its work to expand and modernize its military nuclear base in Yongbyon.

**Kim Yo-jong criticizes South Korea-US summit**

The sister of North Korean supreme leader Kim Yo-jong has criticized the agreement reached between the US and South Korean presidents. According to her, these aggressive measures can only threaten peace in the region.

**China would increase travel bans**

According to the report by the organization Safeguard Defenders, *Trapped: China’s expanding use of Exit Bans*, China would multiply travel bans. They would be issued by various jurisdictions and would not be subject to appeal.

**Qin Gang confirms Chinese support for Myanmar**

Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang visited Myanmar where he met Prime Minister Min Aung Hlaing. He assured his interlocutor that China would continue to support its development and national reconciliation while respecting its sovereignty.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**Albania, France and the US against Russia at the UN**

Albania, France and the US organized a debate on 28 April on the sidelines of the UN Security Council according to the Arria formula, entitled: "Taking action against the abduction and deportation of children in armed conflict: concrete measures for effective accountability and prevention". This is obviously to highlight the accusation of the International Criminal Court according to which President Vladimir Putin and the Commissioner for the Rights of the Child Maria Lvova-Belova had children abducted in Ukraine. We have already explained (VIN N°33) that this accusation only holds if we consider Donbass and Novorossiya as Ukrainian territories. From the Russian point of view, it is absurd.

**45 African ministers call for reform of the IMF**

45 African ministers of finance, planning and economic development called for reform of the International Monetary Fund at the spring meetings. They called for a significant increase in the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT). They also called for an end to the
reimbursement of administrative costs (personnel and operational costs) of this facility, the sale of part of the IMF’s gold reserves, and a temporary tripling of annual access limits to emergency loans.

**IMF predicts that a division of the world would be disastrous for Africa**

The International Monetary Fund predicts that a division of the world into two blocs (US-EU/Russia-China) would cause a decline of at least 4% in African GDP over the next 10 years.

**IMF forecasts record growth in Asia-Pacific**

The International Monetary Fund forecasts growth of 4.6% in Asia-Pacific and 5.2% in China for the year 2023, while it forecasts only 2.8% globally.
EDITORIAL

The corruption of the Biden family

The U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee investigating the Biden family's affairs reviewed thousands of bank documents and heard from several witnesses. It has delivered its initial conclusions.

Between 2015 and 2017, the Biden family organized a complex network of 20 companies that paid more than $10 million to 9 of its members. These revenues were collected mainly in China and Romania.

It could not be determined with certainty which specific services they remunerated. Subcommittee chairman James Comer said: "I think the American people understand that this stinks and I think they appreciate what we're doing."

The Democrat leader on the subcommittee, Jamie Raskin (Maryland) said: "[Republicans] continue to bombard the public with innuendo, false claims and outright lies, recycling baseless claims from stories debunked years ago. Unable to directly implicate the president, the committee's Republicans resorted to hand-picked bank records, false statements about confidential and unverified bank reports known as SAR, and baseless conspiracy theories to attack the president's family, including his grandchildren."

The FBI reportedly has a report on Joe Biden's "criminal scheme" to receive money in exchange for political favors.

Former Prosecutor General of Ukraine (2016-19) Yuri Lutsenko tried to contact the US Ministry of Justice in October 2018. He said he was willing to provide evidence that Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of State John Kerry had exerted their influence to protect Burisma Holdings in exchange for payments to Hunter Biden, Devon Archer and Joe Biden. The two lawyers, Bud Cummins and Geoffrey Berman, who represented Mr. Lutsenko, testified to the veracity of these contacts. The parliamentarians are seeking to get the FBI report and trying to understand why federal police did not verify the information, but instead investigated the lawyers who came before them. FBI Director Christopher A. Wray has officially refused to give them this report.

On October 14, 2020, the New York Post revealed that Hunter Biden's computer had been seized by the FBI. At first, the Federal Bureau of Investigation denied it.
AMERICAS

Deteriorating Canada-China Relations

On March 15, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau appointed former governor general (representing Queen Elizabeth II at the time) David Lloyd Johnston as special rapporteur to investigate allegations of Chinese interference in the election. According to the *Globe and Mail* of May 5, Toronto based Chinese diplomat Zhao Wei would have exerted pressure on Canadian MP and former Conservative minister Michael Chong. He allegedly threatened him with sanctions against his family members residing in Hong Kong.

Michael Chong is the sponsor of a law recognizing the Chinese Communist Party's crackdown on Muslim Uighurs. The Conservative Party accused the Prime Minister of not taking care of his MP. In the end, the government expelled Zhao Wei. In return China accused Canada of "unjustified" initiative and expelled Canadian consul general in Shanghai Jennifer Lynn Lalonde.

Justin Trudeau claimed that the intelligence report on this case was not communicated to him and that he learned about it from the press. Parliament adopted a resolution by 170 votes to 150 calling for the creation of a register of foreign agents and the closure of "police stations operated in Canada by the People's Republic of China".

It appears that one of the Prime Minister's aides, Morris Rosenberg, had received the report of the Intelligence services on the pressure allegedly exerted against the MP and his family. However, when he was director of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation, Morris Rosenberg accepted donations from Zhang Bin, a Chinese businessman linked to the Communist Party. To this day, it remains unclear whether the threats attributed to the Chinese diplomat were followed up and even if they were uttered.

On the other hand, it is certain that Canada-China relations began to deteriorate in December 2018 with the arrest of the daughter of Huawei's founder and chief financial officer of the firm Meng Wanzhou, accused by the US of circumventing its "sanctions" against Iran.

These actions constitute financial fraud under US law. Ms. Meng was not extradited, but released after three years of house arrest.

Avril Haines doesn't think Russia will use nuclear bombs

Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines was heard by the Senate Armed Services Committee. She said Russia's use of nuclear weapons was "highly unlikely, based on its current assessment."

Border Guards concealed chaos on Mexican border

According to the inspector general, distinguished visitors (including members of Congress) could not see the chaos at the Mexican border because the Border Guards presented them with a staging far removed from reality.

Bias of Supreme Court Justices

After the revelations of the corruption of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas (VIN N°36), the Senate Justice Committee, chaired by Democrat Richard J. Durbin (Illinois), opened an investigation. It asked for a list of all gifts to Supreme Court judges worth more than $415. Another judge of the same court was implicated by the *Daily Wire*. Sotomayor did not recuse herself from a lawsuit involving her publisher, Penguin Random House. However, she received $2 million from it, which put her in a position to be both judge and party.
In addition, in the next three months, the Supreme Court will have to rule on long-awaited cases involving "race," religious freedom, voting rights, social media and gay rights.

The laws regulating corruption apply only to lower court judges who have to declare in particular, any gift or benefit of more than $415. But this rule doesn’t apply to the Supreme Court Justices.

**Donald Trump sentenced for defamation and sexual assault**

A New York court has cleared the former president of the rape charge brought against him by writer and journalist E. Jean Carroll. Instead, it fined him $2 million for "sexual assault" after she seriously altered her testimony and an additional $3 million for defamation.

Drawn from a very anti-Trump population, the jury listened to an already known tape in which he boasted that he could grab women's genitals without asking for their consent because he was a TV star. He also called Carroll's complaint an attempted extortion. Considering that the accusation of sexual harassment has no more veracity than that of rape and that the accusation of defamation is based only on this conviction, Donald Trump appealed.

**Robert Kennedy Jr. accuses the CIA of assassinating his uncle**


Regarding the assassination of his uncle President John F. Kennedy in 1963, he said: "There is overwhelming evidence that the CIA was involved in his murder. I think at this point it's beyond a reasonable doubt."

He referred his listeners to James W. Douglass’ book *JFK and the Unspeakable*.

**Confusion in Chile**

Chileans elected a Constituent Assembly after rejecting the previous constitutional reform as too minority-friendly. For them, it is a question of putting an end to the rules of the Pinochet period. The Constituent Assembly will not have to write the draft Constitution itself, but amend a text drafted by 24 experts appointed by parliamentarians. The amendments will have to be adopted by a two-thirds majority.

84% of voters took part in the vote. However, many Chileans voted blank (21% of the votes cast) or against the left-wing government of Gabriel Boric.

As a result, out of 51 seats, 23 will go to the Republican Party (nostalgic for the military regime of General Augusto Pinochet), 16 to Unity for Chile (supporter of Gabriel Boric's government) and 11 to Chile without danger (of former liberal president Sebastián Piñera).

Therefore, only supporters of the Pinochet regime will have a veto and will be able to block any amendment. The Republican Party was led by José Antonio Kast, son of a Nazi officer.

**EUROPE**

**Decline of French state’s authority manifests itself in its armies’ recruitment**

The rate of termination of contracts in the French Army before the end of their 5-year period reached 32%. The armies are experiencing growing disaffection and are no longer able to recruit sufficient personnel. The same phenomenon is observed in the police and prison administration.

It is therefore not so much a problem, although real, linked to working conditions but one linked to the State's missions of authority.

The only answers provided by the Ministry of the Armed Forces concern the salary scale and admission conditions. No one wants to debate the authority of the state.

**French MPs declare Russia's Wagner group 'terrorist'**

The French National Assembly unanimously adopted a motion for a resolution (R. 111) asking the government to intervene at the European level so that Russian private military company Wagner is qualified as "terrorist".
In its recitals, the resolution accuses the Russian private military company of
- having attempted to assassinate President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky as well as twenty-three other political leaders, with the aim of destabilizing the Ukrainian state;
- having, according to German intelligence, taken part in summary executions, mutilations and acts of torture committed against civilians in the Ukrainian locality of Bucha [information not consistent with international forensic surveys on the spot];
- having tortured and beheaded Syrian citizen Mohammed Taha Ismail Al Abdullah in Syria in June 2017 before posting videos of the execution [unverified information];
- having, according to Italian intelligence, put a contract on the head of Italian Minister of Defense Mr. Guido Crosetto for having pointed out the responsibility of PMC Wagner in the exodus of populations within the African countries where it is established;
- having, according to French intelligence, regularly targeted disinformation campaigns and operations against the French army, such as the artificial mass grave near the Gossi military base in April 2022, with the aim of falsely accusing French troops;
- having, according to US intelligence, carried out through shell companies vast disinformation campaigns in order to influence the electoral process of the presidential elections of 2016 in the US and 2017 in France [allusion to the dissemination of emails from Emmanuel Macron's campaign];
- carrying out, according to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, actions with the aim of implementing a strategy of terror against the civilian population and its opponents, to coerce public authorities or to destabilize the fundamental structures of a country.
Beyond the Ukrainian conflict, the deputies' approach aims above all to respond to PMC Wagner's activities in French-speaking Africa and the supposed role of its founder Yevgeny Prigozhin in the hacking of Emmanuel Macron's electoral campaign emails.

Berlusconi condemns the EU's inability to militarily defend itself against China

Former Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi told Sky-TG24 that the EU could not defend itself if it was attacked by China. Europeans would just have to learn Chinese.
The situation mentioned has never really been considered and doesn't have to.
Mr. Berlusconi probably intended to stress that the EU is not only unable to defend itself against Russia, but is completely outdone militarily, including by China.
These statements come as Mr. Berlusconi was hospitalized for a month for heart problems and chronic leukemia. By the way, current Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni mentioned last month that she was considering withdrawing Italy from China's Silk Road program.

Red Army memorabilia banned in Berlin

For public order reasons, Russian and Soviet flags as well as St. George's ribbons were banned in Berlin on May 8 and 9, the dates of the liberation of the city by the Red Army. But Ukrainian flags were allowed.

Qin Gang in Germany

Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang visited Berlin. He said: “The achievement of common security and lasting peace was the dream of German thinker Immanuel Kant, and lasting peace is the important goal of building a community with a shared future for humanity. China and Europe should jointly build a bright future of lasting peace and universal security.
Taiwan's return to China is an integral part of the post-war international order. Any side that sincerely hopes for peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and sincerely commits to maintaining international order should earnestly abide by the one-China principle and resolutely oppose all acts of Taiwan's independence.”
Qin Gang also visited the site of the Allied Potsdam Conference in 1945. He recalled that the final communiqué at the time called for the return of Chinese territories to China, including Taiwan province, stolen by the Japanese from
China. He regretted that today the US had forgotten its signed commitments. Qin Gang also said that there is something in common between Chinese President Xi Jinping’s strategic judgment of the "world undergoing profound changes unseen in a century" and Chancellor Olaf Scholz's "Zeitenwende". Faced with a troubled world, the international community should strengthen cooperation and join forces to meet the challenges.

**German President considers that the European security order is dead**

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier told Bavarian radio: "Unfortunately, the European security order no longer exists (...) Not everyone wants to hear my prognosis for the near future (...) [At the end of the conflict in Ukraine] A new situation will emerge, in which Europe on the one hand, and Russia on the other, will defend themselves above all against each other."

**EU 'sanctions' 7 Chinese companies**

The EU has taken its 11th set of unilateral coercive measures (wrongly referred to as "sanctions") against Russia. It also decided to punish foreign companies that allow Russia to circumvent its unilateral coercive measures (one Armenian, two Uzbek, two Emirates, one Iranian, one Syrian and especially seven Chinese companies).

Beijing reacted immediately and threatened the EU with reciprocal measures. Brussels is now considering taking measures against third countries that allow Russia to circumvent its "sanctions", first and foremost China.

Beijing therefore immediately condemned this move as a pretext to restrict international trade for the sole benefit of Westerners.

**EU wants to regulate AI but with different standards than China**

After China, the EU is now drafting legislation to regulate artificial intelligence (VIN N°38). For Brussels, the goal is not to protect the rights of the community (manipulations of history or national identity), but to protect the rights of individuals.

**Israel delivers weapons to Ukrainian “Jewish murderers”**

Breaking with the policies of his predecessor Naftali Bennett, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu decided to support Ukrainian "integral nationalists".

Benjamin Netanyahu is a "revisionist Zionist."

His father, Benzion Netanyahu, was the private secretary of Vladimir Jabotinsky, a long-time ally of the "murderers of Jews." He always praised the [alliance signed with Simon Petlyura in 1921](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petlyura) against the Russians. Israel is expected to shortly deliver radars manufactured by RADA Electronic Industries. These are the first elements of a larger air defense system.

In response, the Kremlin is studying the possible delivery of air defense systems to the State of Palestine.

At this stage, it is unclear whether Tel Aviv authorized this weapons sale or offered these weapons to Ukraine.

**Kyrylo Budanov will kill Russians all over the world**

Head of Ukraine's Main Directorate of Military Intelligence (GUR) General Kyrylo Budanov gave an interview to [Yahoo News](https://news.yahoo.com). He declined to answer questions about particular operations...
like the assassination of Darya Dugina or the explosion of the Crimean bridge, but said: "All I will comment on is that we killed Russians and we will continue to kill Russians all over the world until the complete victory of Ukraine." He ridiculed the Kremlin's accusations against his action and gave the example, absurd in his eyes, of a possible failed drone attack on the Kremlin that the Russians would not fail to condemn. This interview was conducted on 24th April... or before the failed drone attack on the Kremlin.

Ukraine claims to have shot down a Kinzhal hypersonic missile

Ukraine claims to have shot down a Russian Kinzhal hypersonic missile with a US Patriot missile. The Pentagon has confirmed this version. Mayor of Kiev Vitaly Klitschko presented the debris of the Kinzhal to the press. Kinzhal missiles fly at Mach 10, while at best Patriot missiles only fly at Mach 4.1. It is therefore impossible for a Patriot to catch up with a Kinzhal.
The Kinzhal are also about 30 times larger than the debris presented by Mr. Klitschko.

Ukraine refuses to inform NATO about its counter-offensive

Commander-in-Chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces General Valery Zaluzhnyi informed by letter Chairman of the NATO Military Committee Dutch Admiral Rob Bauer that he would not be able to take part in the meeting scheduled in Brussels.
However, he also refused to join the meeting via video call.
General Zaluzhnyi was to inform NATO members about the counter-offensive he announced. His refusal can be interpreted in two ways: either he fears leaks within the NATO Military Committee, or he is bluffing about his great counter-offensive.
Admiral Rob Bauer was maybe ill-advised in predicting the victory of the "Ukrainian David against the Russian Goliath".

Video

Thierry Meyssan answered Studio One's questions. This interview mixes political and personal topics (in French only).

Distinguished guests at the ceremony on May 9 in Moscow

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan, President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov, President Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan, President Serdar Berdimuhamedov of Turkmenistan and President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan were present in Moscow for the ceremonies marking the anniversary of the Victory of May 9, 1945. However, for security reasons, none were present on the official podium next to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

AFRICA

Arrest of Malian General Souleymane Doucouré

Former Chief of Staff of the Malian Air Force General Souleymane Doucouré was arrested by State Security. He was released after several days of interrogation.

Meeting of the Comorian and French Presidents

President of the Comoros Azali Assoumani went to Paris where he was received by his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron. He reaffirmed that the island of Mayotte is Comorian, illegally occupied by France. As such, he told newspaper Le Figaro that the expulsion of Comorians from Mayotte is unacceptable.
He noted that there was no problem of violence in the rest of the Comoros and called on the French government to work with him to find a
solution to the violence on the Comorian island of Mayotte. He only received a dismissal. President Assoumani recalled that he was the ally of France and did condemn the "invasion" of Ukraine, but that Russia supported the annexation of Mayotte to the Comoros.

ASIA

Israel attacks Palestine

While Islamic Jihad had agreed to a truce proposed by Egypt and then broke it after the death in an Israeli prison of Khodr Adnan, one of its leaders (VIN N°39), the Israeli army launched Operation "Shield and Arrow" with 40 aircraft to liquidate its top leaders and destroy its weapons stockpiles. Last August, the IDF assassinated the top leaders of Islamic Jihad. They have since been replaced. Those who will be killed during the current operation will certainly be replaced too. The problem will persist as long as Israel tramples the rights of Palestinians. Operation "Shield and Arrow" succeeded in murdering head of the al-Quds Brigades for the Gaza Strip Jihad Ghannam, commander of the Brigades for the northern Gaza Strip Khalil Al-Batahini and Tareq Ezzedine, "a leader of the military action" of the movement in the occupied West Bank which he coordinated from Gaza. In addition, it reportedly destroyed at least four-fifths of Islamic Jihad's missile stockpiles and assassinated head of the missile Programme Ali Hassan Muhammad Ghali. The operation caused many collateral casualties: 25 dead and 76 seriously injured. Israel bears "responsibility for the consequences of this escalation," Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said. "The enemy will pay the price for his crime," says a statement by Ismail Haniyeh, "assassinating leaders [of Palestinian groups] will not bring security to the occupier, but will strengthen the Resistance."

Not to rescue Islamic Jihad but given the number of Palestinian civilian casualties, Hamas stepped out of its reserve and fired more than 500 rockets. The Israeli operation was ordered by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and overseen by resigning Defense Minister Gen. Yoav Gallant, with the approval of Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara but without informing National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir. It extends well beyond its initial objective and now takes on the appearance of a new war. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on television: "We say to terrorists and those who send them: we see you everywhere. You can't hide, and we choose the place and time to hit you."

Israeli National Security Advisor Tzachi Hanegbi spoke with his US counterpart Jacob "Jake" Sullivan who, according to a White House statement, "reaffirmed the Biden administration's support for Israeli security, as well as its right to defend its people from indiscriminate rocket attacks."

14 US Democrat lawmakers have written to President Joe Biden asking him to revise his Israeli policy. Led by Bernie Sanders (Vermont) and Jamaal Bowman (New York), they call for consideration of violence, land confiscation and denial of Palestinian rights. They demand that, in accordance with US law, US weapons delivered to Israel are only used for legitimate purposes and no longer to violate the rights of the Palestinians. 145 progressive Jewish leaders in the US gave their support to the lawmakers' approach.

Israel expels Imad El-Adwan

Israel handed over MP Imad El-Adwan (VIN N°38) to Jordanian authorities. His parliamentary immunity has been waived. He has been arrested in the act of smuggling weapons. The Adwan tribe is powerful in Israel and Jordan.

IMF warns of declining Israeli economy

IMF warns of economic consequences of political uncertainty in Israel. Rating agency Moody's downgraded Israel to "A1" last month.
Failure of secret US-Syria negotiations

According to L'Orient-Le Jour, the US negotiated with Syria in February-March in Oman. President Bashar al-Assad visited Oman on February 23. The negotiations failed, with Washington refusing to withdraw its troops occupying the northeast of the country. The US justifies its presence in Syria by the fact that it is fighting Daesh, which the Syrians would be supposedly incapable of. However, the Syrian and Russian armies are the only ones to have victoriously repelled Daesh, while the US armies only contained it in the "Sunniistan" that was allocated to it by the Pentagon (Robin Wright plan). As for fifth caliph of Daesh Abu al-Hussein al-Qurashi, he was eliminated on April 30 by Türkiye and not by US forces.

Removal of obstacles to Syria's reintegration into the Arab League

Meeting in Amman, the main Arab countries agreed to bring Syria back into the Arab League. This compromise clashes with the US, which still refuses to leave the territory it illegally occupies and to lift its "sanctions" ("Caesar Act"). Qatar, Kuwait and Morocco indicated that they would not oppose a compromise that they deplore nonetheless. The compromise is based on UN Security Council Resolution 2254 of 18th December 2015 known as the "Syria Peace Plan"; a resolution that was imposed by Russia and that the US failed to block. Most of its decisions concern how to end the war. However, its provisions concerning the regime after the war provide:
- that the future of Syria will be decided only by the Syrians (a clause claimed by Damascus);
- that a new constitution will be approved by referendum (the only questions that arise are the religious criterion for running for the presidency and the regional organization of the state);
- that the government will not be chosen according to religious criteria (a clause claimed by the Ba'as party)
- that the authorities will be elected under the control of the United Nations (a clause claimed by Russia).
It should also be recalled that Syria's expulsion from the Arab League was pronounced in violation of its own statutes.

Bashar al-Assad invited to Arab League summit

Saudi Arabia King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud invited Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to the Arab League summit in Riyadh. It is not yet known if he will go there. The U.S. State Department said: "Syria does not deserve to reintegrate into the Arab League, and we continue to believe that we will not normalize our relations with the Assad regime, nor do we support our allies and partners in this endeavor." The Chinese Foreign Ministry commented: "The Middle East belongs to the peoples of the Middle East, and its affairs should be decided independently by the people of the Middle East."

Suleyman Soylu accuses US, EU of supporting terrorism against Turkey

At an election campaign rally, Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu said: "When I became interior minister [in 2016], our president summoned me. He told me: "Suleyman, I don’t support the municipalities of the HDP [People's Democratic Party] and the PKK [Kurdistan Workers' Party] in the southeast. Because they have children and take them to the mountains. They give state taxes to the PKK. And these taxes come back on our soldiers in the form of bullets. You must immediately relieve them of their function." What I wanted was one eye, Erdogan gave me two eyes. Two days passed and at 8 a.m. we revoked them all."
He continued: "Fighting terrorism in Turkey is not an easy task. Because when you fight terrorism in Turkey, you are not fighting against a terrorist organization. You do it against those who cause trouble [by supporting it]. It is the US and the Europeans who are troubling Turkey. And some countries in the region are
trying to take advantage of it. We are waging a great battle against them."

Elaborating, he added: "July 15 [2016] was their attempted military coup. May 14 [2023] is their attempted political coup. That is clear and unequivocal. [The elections are] an attempted political coup by the West."

**Turkey revolutionizes identity papers**

Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu revolutionized identity papers. Turkey is now able to issue driver’s licenses, identity cards and passports including the holder's picture and a microchip in less than a day. Everything is sent directly to the home of the person who made the request.

Turkey is already issuing identity papers for the (unrecognized) Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, and is preparing to do so for Libya (or at least Tripolitania) and Azerbaijan.

In addition, the Minister presented an application that can identify anyone from a simple picture.

**Qin Gang clarifies Chinese vision in front of Pakistani diplomats**

During his trip to Pakistan, Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang said: "Today's world has undergone profound changes unseen in a century. The collective rise of China, Pakistan and other developing countries has had a profound impact on the international landscape and the world order. China advocates that all countries should be independent and follow a development path suited to their national realities. China advocates mutual respect, equality and win-win cooperation between countries ("win-win" is a catchphrase referring to Chinese history according to which the emperor should make sure all his governors have an interest in his decisions instead of ignoring the small ones); China does not pursue its own selfish interests, does not put itself first, does not impose its own system and culture on others, and does not intimidate weak countries. China supports the peaceful settlement of disputes between States through dialogue and consultation, without resorting to the threat or use of force. China calls on all countries to work together to tackle global challenges, build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world with lasting peace, universal security and prosperity, and build a community with a common future for mankind. China's modernization means the growth of global peace and justice forces. Young Chinese and Pakistani diplomats should clearly discern the trend, distinguish right from wrong, act according to the changing times and the aspirations of the people of all countries, and oppose the erection of barriers, incitement to confrontation and the formation of a new Cold War."

**Pakistan's engagement with China**

Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said: "The Pakistani side will do its utmost to track down suspects involved in terrorist attacks targeting China, resolutely suppress terrorist organizations such as the Baluchistan Liberation Army and ensure the safety of Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan."

**Evolution of Pakistan's position on the Kashmir crisis**

Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang has obtained from his Pakistani counterpart a notable change in his position on Kashmir. The Chinese side reiterated that the Kashmir dispute has its origins in history [and not in India’s attitude] and should be properly and peacefully resolved in accordance with the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements. Both sides opposed any unilateral action that further complicates an already volatile situation. This development is reminiscent of Riyadh's Sino-Arab declaration on the territorial dispute between Iran and the United Arab Emirates; a statement that preceded the announcement, four months later, of the Iranian-Saudi reconciliation. Similarly, China is currently secretly holding peace negotiations between Pakistan and India.
Pakistan-China Alliance

In their final communiqué, the Pakistani and Chinese foreign ministers noted: "Reaffirming Pakistan's special place in China's neighborhood diplomacy, the Chinese side reaffirmed its firm support for Pakistan's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity as well as its unity, stability and economic prosperity. The Pakistani side reaffirmed its commitment to the one-China policy and its firm support for China on all issues of concern to it, including Taiwan, Xinjiang, Tibet, Hong Kong and the South China Sea."

Arrest of Imran Khan

In a corruption case, former Prime Minister and current opposition leader Imran Khan (VIN N°32) was arrested in court by paramilitary forces. When his guards refused to open the doors of the courtroom, the army broke them down. There is no doubt that the pro-US government of Shahbaz Sharif, which seeks to remove him by all means, fabricated this case after having tried in vain to assassinate him. Immediately demonstrations broke out throughout the country. Dozens of people were seriously injured and at least one died. Imran Khan has far more popular support than Shahbaz Sharif, but he was overthrown by parliamentarians and the military. The army was deployed in major cities.

The army was deployed in major cities. White House spokeswoman Karine Jean-Pierre said: "As we have said before, the US does not have a position on one candidate or political party over another."

The EU said: "Restraint and composure are necessary (...) Pakistan's challenges cannot be met and its path can only be determined by Pakistanis themselves, through sincere dialogue and respect for the rule of law."

Afghan-Pakistani-Chinese meeting

The foreign ministers of Afghanistan, Pakistan and China held a trilateral summit. 3 commitments were made: Respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity and properly address disputes through consultation where each party will be heard equally (including the unfreezing of Afghanistan's financial assets), Strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation (including countering the East Turkestan Islamic Movement which threatens China's integrity), Advance cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, Support the extension of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to Afghanistan, promote connectivity between the three neighbors by improving the cross-border trade system.

North Korea reportedly using factories abandoned by South Korea

DPRK is reportedly using factories abandoned by South Korea in the border area of the Gaeson industrial complex without permission. At least that's what U.S. satellite images seem to indicate. This complex was abandoned by South Korea in 2016, in response to North Korea's nuclear and long-range missile tests.

The "Moon sect" and the CIA against China

The Unification Church (known as the "Moon sect") organized through the Universal Peace Federation, its organization with the United Nations, a meeting in Seoul entitled "Towards Peace in the Indo-Pacific". Among the speakers were Austrian Werner Fasslabend (former Minister of Defense and former President of the Lower House), Albin Kurti (former Prime Minister of Kosovo), the American Newt Gingrich (former Speaker of the House of Representatives) and especially Mike Pompeo (former Director of the CIA and former Secretary of State). The meeting was intended to accuse China of being responsible for the crises in Taiwan, the China Sea and North Korea.

Fumio Kishida apologizes to South Korea

During his trip to Seoul, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said: "My heart aches because many people had an extremely painful
and sad experience under difficult conditions at the time."
75 years after the fact, Japan still fails to apologize clearly for the crimes of its "militarists" during the occupation of Korea. The conservative Korean People's Power party did not hesitate to condemn Japanese inaction on this issue.

The Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) and the Japan Enterprise Federation (Keidanren) announced in Tokyo the launch of a committee for the "Future Partnership Fund". The goal is to find an arrangement for the compensation of Korean forced laborers during the Japanese occupation.

**US-Japan-South Korea military coordination**

The US, Japan and South Korea are looking to link their radar systems to better track missiles coming from North Korea. A meeting will be held in June in Singapore, on the margins of the UK-hosted Shangri-La Dialogue. The three militaries are expected to be coordinated by the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (IndoPaCom). In 2017, China responded to the proposed deployment of US anti-missile weapons system Thaad by cutting off some trade with South Korea which consequently backtracked.

**Warren Buffet foresees national security problem in Taiwan**

Billionaire Warren Buffet backed out of his investment in Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co (TSMC) because, in his view, security is not assured in Taiwan amid Sino-US tensions. He said that although it is a "wonderful company," he considered it more prudent to invest in Japan.

**Japanese-French Council**

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada and their French counterparts Catherine Colonna and Sébastien Lecornu held a video conference. The two states have pledged to maintain peace in the South China Sea, including in Taiwan.

Neither Japan nor France recognize Taiwan. Both maintain diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China and officially consider Taiwan a rebellious Chinese province. But they are now positioning themselves along the anti-China perspective of the US.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**The issue of Ukrainian children at the UN**

The meeting organized by Albania, France and the US against Russia at the UN, "Taking action against the abduction and deportation of children in armed conflict: concrete measures for effective accountability and prevention" (VIN N°39), was a response to the one organized on April 5 by Russia, "Children and Armed Conflict: The Ukrainian crisis – evacuation of children from the conflict zone". But it was censored by the United Nations administration, which neither recorded nor broadcast it. It appears that two members of the Security Council intervened to prevent UN officials from carrying out their work.

Recall that from 2014 to 2022, many Ukrainian children were killed in the fighting in Donbass to the indifference of the "international community".

Commissioner of the Presidency for the Rights of the Child of the Russian Federation Maria Lvova-Belova (VIN N°33) spoke by videoconference. She explained that the children of Donbass and Novorossiya were not abducted by Russia, but protected by being moved out of conflict zones. None have been adopted, but all have been entrusted by the State to foster families. Russian ambassador to the UN Vassily Nebenzia confirmed that some children had been identically taken in by the Ukrainian authorities and placed with foster families, without anyone seeing anything wrong with it.
NATO intends to continue violating members' commitments

In an interview with the *Washington Post*, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said: "All NATO allies agree that Ukraine will become a member of the alliance. All allies agree that Ukraine has the right to choose its own path, that it is not up to Moscow, but Kiev, to decide." Contrary to what Mr. Stoltenberg suggests, Russia recognized Ukraine's right to choose its allies by signing the OSCE Istanbul Declaration in 1999. That is not the subject of the dispute at all. NATO members, by signing the same Istanbul Declaration, also pledged not to ensure their security at the expense of others, which implies that they must refrain from stockpiling their allies' weapons on their own territory. However, Ukraine has been stockpiling Western weapons for the current war since 2014. So that there is no doubt, Jens Stoltenberg asserts in the same interview: "The war did not start in 2022. The war began in 2014. And since then, NATO has implemented the greatest strengthening of our collective defense since the end of the Cold War. »

NATO should open an office in Tokyo

According to Japan's ambassador to the US Koji Tomita, NATO should soon open an office in Tokyo. Since 2019, NATO hopes to expand to Australia and Japan, then to New Zealand and South Korea in order to become a global alliance.

Meeting of SCO Foreign Ministers

The Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization met in Goa, India. Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang stressed that "the world is facing multiple crises and challenges, including the resurgence of the Cold War, the rise of unilateralism and protectionism, and the emergence of the cult of power."

He set out five points to answer them:
1. Strengthen strategic autonomy;
2. Fight against the three forces of terrorism, extremism and separatism;
3. Protect the international economic and trade order, as well as market rules, and defend stable and harmonious industrial and supply chains;
4. Seek equity and justice and improve global governance; in the spirit of the "Global Development Initiative", the "Global Security Initiative" and the "Global Initiative for Civilization";
5. Strengthen the establishment of mechanisms with a long-term perspective. For example: completing the accession of Iran and Belarus to the SCO and adding Kuwait, Maldives, Myanmar and the UAE as SCO dialogue partners.

Washington questions Chinese presence at WHO

The US has called for Taiwan to participate in the World Health Organization as a sovereign state. China replied that under the principle of Chinese unity, Taiwan could only participate as a province of the People's Republic of China. This is the meaning of Resolution 2758 of the United Nations General Assembly (October 25, 1971) and the WHO is a UN agency.
EDITORIAL

Israel's participation in the UN could be suspended for non-compliance with its commitments

The UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People commemorated, on 15 May 2023, the seventy-fifth anniversary of the "Nakba" (catastrophe), which occurred in 1948, when several hundred thousand Palestinians were driven from their lands. It was the first event ever held at the UN to commemorate this tragedy. It was planned on the instructions of the General Assembly (resolution 77 of 5 December 2022).

The Chair was held by Permanent Representative of Senegal Cheikh Niang. "The UN's position is clear, the Israeli occupation must end and the two-state solution must materialize," said US Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Rosemary DiCarlo. Commissioner-General of UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) Philippe Lazzarini recalled that the Nakba had created the longest refugee crisis in history, before insisting on the difficult situation of his agency.

In his speech, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas stressed that Resolution 77 was a formal UN recognition of the Nakba. He recalled that over the years, the UN has adopted hundreds of resolutions recognizing the rights of Palestinians to regain their land, some by the General Assembly, others by the Security Council or the Human Rights Council. None of those hundreds of resolutions has been implemented, neither resolution 181 (1947) calling for the establishment of an Arab Palestinian State nor resolution 194 (1948) calling for the return of refugees. Respect for UN decisions was a prerequisite for Israel to become a member. As a result, he demanded, "officially and in accordance with international law", that Israel comply with these resolutions, or risk having its participation in the UN suspended.

The Gulf Cooperation Council, the Group of 77, the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and China supported the request for Israel's suspension. Israel now enjoys blind protection from the US and support from Russia. It is the only state that can violate UN resolutions without ever having to face the consequences. This could change with the delivery of Israeli weapons to Ukrainian "integral nationalists."
AMERICAS

Foreign Influences in U.S. Elections

At a hearing on May 14, National Intelligence Director Avril Haines announced that China was preparing to exploit divisions in the US to disrupt the upcoming elections. She will soon release a third report on foreign influence and interference in U.S. elections. Since its inception at the end of World War II, the CIA has implemented its own system of interference in the elections of its allies. In addition, since 1988, it has developed a know-how in terms of pseudo revolutions organized among its opponents.

Restricting voting rights in the US

Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy has proposed raising the voting rights’ age from 18 to 25 for U.S. citizens who have not done their military or civic service and are unable to pass the test required of migrants.

U.S. Revises State Secrets Classification System

Democrats and Senate Republicans are considering reforming the classification system for official documents. The Jack Teixeira case showed that highly classified documents were not protected, while many other cases showed that worthless documents were classified.

End of the investigation into FBI’s role in "Russiagate"

Special Counsel John Durham released a 320-page report before ending his four-year investigation into FBI conduct in alleged Russian interference in candidate Donald Trump’s campaign. It shows that the FBI has seriously failed in its obligations, but does not point to any violation of the law. His report concludes with a series of recommendations to the FBI and the Department of Justice to ensure this does not happen again.

The FBI's "Russiagate" allegations sparked a parliamentary impeachment of the president. Many personalities and organizations reacted with surprise to this report. They point out that it establishes faults, but does not consider them to be subject of prosecution. Thus, it is possible to set up a huge hoax without having to assume the consequences. On the contrary, many Democrat personalities and organizations denounce the same report, stressing that it is not because regulations were not respected by the FBI that its investigation was absurd. For them, it is therefore appropriate to continue it.

House could prosecute Antony Blinken for "contempt" on May 24

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Michael T. McCaul (Texas) said that if Secretary of State Antony Blinken did not deliver the documents requested from him on the fall of Kabul on May 24, the committee would vote to prosecute him for "contempt." These documents were required more than three months ago. The State Department indicated in April that it would not hand them over. The Secretary of State refused a subpoena to appear on May 11.

Washington Post accuses Yevgeny Prigozhin of betraying his homeland

The Washington Post claimed that private military company Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin was approached by Ukrainian intelligence. He reportedly demanded that the Ukrainian army withdraw from Artemovsk in exchange for intelligence on Russian defense systems. He would also have recommended them to attack Crimea. In Russia these revelations are taken as an effort by the CIA to divide the country by interfering in the conflict between Wagner and the Ministry of Defense.

CIA recruits spies in Russia

The CIA has launched a campaign via Telegram aimed at Russians to convince them to work to improve their country by giving...
information to the US to overthrow President Vladimir Putin. The CIA tells you how to use Tor (browser), how to get to the darknet and how to encrypt your communications. Of course, the Agency is committed to protecting its officers.

**Chile President fails to solve the problem of the disappeared from the Pinochet dictatorship**

Chilean President Gabriel Boric announced on the 49th anniversary of the fall of President Salvador Allende that he intended to discover the remains of the 1112 disappeared from the dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet. After the failure of the constitutional referendum (VIN N°40), the issue of the disappeared resurfaced. But nothing has developed.

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**EUROPE**

**Council of Europe establishes Register of Russia-caused damage in Ukraine**

The Council of Europe has set up a "Register of Damage Caused by the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine". This body will be based in The Hague and Kiev. 40 member States of the Council have acceded to it to which must be added the 4 observer States to the Council (Canada, US, Japan and Mexico). The EU has also acceded to it. On 14 November 2022, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution A/ES-11/L.6 recommending the establishment of such a register, but it was not acted upon. The General Assembly had ultimately considered it to be a legislative body and should not be transformed into a judicial body.

**Council of Europe proclaims "Reykjavik Principles for Democracy"**

The Council of Europe has declared "to protect and promote the three fundamental, interdependent and inalienable principles of democracy, the rule of law and human rights".

1- Democratic participation
2- Organization of elections and referendums
3- Parliaments
4- Separation of powers
5- Independence, impartiality and efficiency of the judiciary
6- Relentless fight against corruption
7- Freedom of speech
8- Investing in a democratic future
9- Essential civil society
10- Full, equal and meaningful participation in political and public life

☞ One can only be surprised by the heterogeneous nature of this catalogue. Now that Russia has been de facto expelled from it, the Council of Europe is aligning itself with the EU behind democratic verbiage.

**UK and Netherlands mobilize to deliver F-16s to Ukraine**

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, meeting in Reykjavik for a Council of Europe summit, announced the creation of an international coalition to supply F-16s to Ukraine. France, which refuses to provide aircraft that can reach targets in Russia, announced that it would train F-16 pilots. Ukraine currently has only Mig-29s supplied by Poland and Slovakia.

☞ Under international law, states that provide aircraft to anyone to attack another state will be complicit and therefore co-belligerent. This principle does not apply to the training of pilots.

**French spies in Iran**

Iran has released Frenchmen Benjamin Briere and Bernard Phelan accused of espionage. Three Frenchmen remain prisoners in Iran for espionage. Public TV channel France Television devoted a long program to assure that these were only absurd accusations of the paranoid authorities of Tehran. Yet young teacher Cécile Kohler and her companion Jacques Paris confessed in October 2022 on Iranian television to being agents of the DGSE. Trade union delegate Cécile Kohler had met privately with leaders of the demonstrations against the Islamic Republic, who were also
Unlike what has become common practice in the West, Iran is not used to arresting innocent people. In 1979, the so-called "hostages" of the US embassy were arrested red-handed. The armored floor of the embassy and the CIA facilities have been turned into a museum. The US never demanded compensation because they were at fault. Two embassy guards, once released, testified to the US that the Iranians were right.

French Parliament wants to make the EU flag mandatory on the pediment of town halls

The French National Assembly adopted at first reading a bill making it compulsory to display French and EU flags on the pediment of town halls (No. 114). This law will not apply to towns and villages with fewer than 1,500 inhabitants. The French flag represents the French nation, while the European flag is not that of a nation, but of an international institution. In 2005, the French people rejected the draft European Constitution by referendum. But in 2008, French parliamentarians ratified the Lisbon Treaty, which roughly corresponded to the draft rejected by voters three years earlier. The law on the ornament of the pediments of town halls draws from the same logic. To date, no Member State of the EU has made the European flag compulsory in its town halls.

Wacky judgment against Nicolas Sarkozy

The Paris Court of Appeal sentenced former French President Nicolas Sarkozy, his lawyer Thierry Herzog and Judge Gilbert Azibert to a three years sentence, including one year in prison and two years suspended sentence, for corruption and influence peddling. Mr. Herzog was banned from practicing, while his two "accomplices" were deprived of their civil rights. The judgment is based on phone tapping between Mr. Sarkozy and his lawyer Mr. Herzog. It concerns a corruption project that has never started to begin. Judge Azibert received no benefit, but was mentioned in a conversation in which he did not take part.

The legality of Mr. Herzog's wiretapping contravenes case law. However, it was validated by the Court of Cassation, which returned three months later to its initial doctrine. The judgment ignores legal arguments and develops moral considerations: it deplores "a serious attack on public confidence" in justice, suggesting that "hidden arrangements to satisfy private interests" are possible. Nicolas Sarkozy appealed to the Court of Cassation.

Macron says Russia is China’s vassal

In an interview with L'Opinion, French President Emmanuel Macron said: “Russia has already lost geopolitically. Let's be clear, this is not a "special operation" since Vladimir Putin has decided to mobilize. Moreover, Russia has made its historical allies, its first-rate corset, start to doubt. It has de facto begun a form of vassalization towards China, and it lost access to the Baltic that was critical for it, since it triggered the Swedish and Finnish choice to join NATO.” Notice that the term "special operation" does not refer in Russian discourse to a small-scale operation without mobilization, but refers to the legal status of an operation to protect the populations of Donbass and not a war of invasion of Ukraine. Moscow reacted by calling his understanding of Russia China relations "erroneous", while Beijing recalled that there is no military coalition in a multipolar world.

Volodymyr Zelensky wins 2023 Charlemagne Prize

The 2023 Charlemagne Prize was awarded to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. It rewards a personality for outstanding services to European unification. The jury is an organization from Aachen, comprising the mayor, the Catholic bishop and the rector of the university. The Charlemagne Prize is usually given to a European head of state or government, but sometimes also to foreign personalities such as Henry Kissinger (1987) or President Bill Clinton (2000).
In addition to President Zelensky, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz were present at the Award Ceremony.

The promises of the Law and Justice party

At the Law and Justice party Congress, chairman Jaroslav Kaczynski said that if the government was re-elected it would increase family allowances from 500 to 800 zlotys per child. It would also offer free medicines for minors and the elderly.

EU-Indo-Pacific summit fails

The EU organized an EU-Indo-Pacific Forum in Stockholm. Despite the name, it was about building a coalition against Russia... and China. 13 out of 27 European states have refrained from sending their foreign ministers. The ministers present appeared divided: Gabrielius Landsbergs (Lithuania) spoke in favor of decoupling from China, while Annalena Baerbock (Germany) took a stand for small-scale sanctions and Constantinos Kombos (Cyprus) described China as a "great partner".

Joseph Borrell's efforts to ensure that the EU was not calling for a crusade were ineffective. Everyone noticed that neither Russia nor China were invited, but that Dmytro Kuleba (Ukraine) was present.

With the exception of Japan, the guests were all cautious, if not in complete opposition to the EU’s way of thinking. Hina Rabbani Khar (Pakistan) said escalation was no way to approach conflict. On the contrary, she called for a cessation of hostilities and the negotiation of peace. Retno Marsudi (Indonesia) recalled that his country was opposed to a logic of blocs and that ASEAN had just refused to turn Asia into a "scene of rivalry". Azali Assoumani (Comoros) recalled that his country had already spoken out for China against Taiwan independance, which led to his election as Chair of the African Union. Vivian Balakrishnan (Singapore) recalled that the principle of South Asia was to remain a region open to all, whether to the US, to the EU or to China and Russia.

Subrahmanyam Jaishankar (India) said just because India and China have a border dispute does not mean his country will refuse any contact with it, as for Russia, it is a long-time friendly power.

Eurovision rejects Volodymyr Zelensky’s request for video call

The European Broadcasting Union in charge of Eurovision declined the proposal of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to address the public when the results were announced. Furious, he condemned the choice of Liverpool to host the contest, saying that it was too far a destination for Ukrainians.

Eurovision is presented as an apolitical competition. However, Ukraine conveniently won the 2004 (Orange Revolution), 2016 (attachment of Crimea to Russia) and 2022 editions (Russian special operation described as an "invasion").

Declassified documents, dated November 30, 1955 and February 17, 1956, attest that Eurovision is not just a TV show, but also a propaganda operation. The contest was not created by television, but by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Russia destroys largest stockpile of Western ammunition in Ukraine

On 13 May, Russian drones blew up the ammunition depot in Khmelnytskyi (western Ukraine). It seems that the Ukrainian army has run out of ammunition to use the Western weapons it received.

On the eve of the Ukrainian counteroffensive, one by one Moscow destroys all of Kiev's ammunition stockpiles.

Ukraine could attack Russia and Hungarian interests

According to the Washington Post of May 14, based on classified documents dating back to mid-February, Ukraine has proposed to the US to use Western weapons to retake Russian-occupied villages, or even in pre-2014 Russian territory to sabotage the pipeline linking Russia
to Hungary (EU member like the owners of Nord Stream) and to also point long-range missiles at Russia. President Volodymyr Zelensky denied these reports. Ukraine promised its European sponsors that it would only use the weapons they give to defend itself and never to attack Russia.

Six EU states call on Zelensky to negotiate peace

According to US journalist Seymour Hersh relying on US intelligence sources, a group of states led by Poland asked President Zelensky to negotiate peace without delay. The Polish approach dates from a few days ago. It is supported by the Czech Republic, Hungary and the three Baltic states. Seymour Hersh clarifies that these states do not consider the Russian army dangerous and effective, but that they react to the considerable human losses, particularly in Artemovsk (Bakhmut in Ukrainian) which he compares to the WWI battle of Verdun. For now, Ukrainian law prohibits President Zelensky from negotiating with the Russian “enemy” as long as it “occupies” a piece of “Ukrainian territory” (in the sense of the 1991 borders). However, Zelensky has already made contact with Moscow through a third party.

Westerners are still delivering weapons to Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky visited Italy, Germany, France and the UK successively. At each stage, he announced that he was preparing a counter-offensive and needed additional weapons which all his interlocutors agreed to give him. For the first time, there has been talk of training fighter jet pilots even though the delivery of aircraft is not yet on the agenda.

President of the Ukrainian Supreme Court jailed for "corruption"

President of the Supreme Court of Ukraine Vsevolod Kniazev was arrested for "corruption" and jailed. He was reportedly bought to give a judgment favorable to oligarch Kostyantin Jevago, now refugee in France. Jevago allegedly paid $2.7 million, a third of which was taken by his lawyers.

No news of Generals Oleksandr Syrskyi and Valeri Zaluzhnyi

There is no news of commander of the Ukrainian Army General Oleksandr Syrskyi nor of commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian armed forces General Valeri Zaluzhnyi. The Ukrainian Ministry of Defense has denied the rumors of their deaths.

China begins its mission of good offices on the Ukrainian conflict

China has appointed its special representative for Eurasia Li Hui to bridge the gap between Ukrainian and Russian views. He will travel to Kiev, Moscow, Paris, Berlin and Warsaw.

Four Russian aircraft destroyed by Ukraine in Russia

On 12 May, four Russian military aircraft (one Su34, one Su35 and two Mi-8 helicopters) were destroyed by Ukraine in the Bryansk region (Russia). They were most likely shot down by Franco-British SCALP-EG missiles, offered by the UK and officially delivered on May 10. Russian airspace on the Ukrainian border is no longer safe.

Ramzan Kadyrov says he paid Ukrainian spies

Russia’s Chechen Republic President Ramzan Kadyrov said he paid Ukrainian spies $18,000 to recover his racehorse, which had been stranded in Czechia since 2014.

Russia withdraws from CFE Treaty

The Russian lower house voted to withdraw from the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) which set the quantity of
weapons authorized in certain former Warsaw Pact and NATO States.
Faced with NATO's refusal to ratify an updated version in 1999, and with the West demanding the withdrawal of Russian forces from Transnistria, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, Russia suspended its participation in the Treaty in 2007.

**Russia and Iran sign agreement for a section of the North-South Transport Corridor**

While communication routes have been Russia's weak point for several centuries, in 2018 President Vladimir Putin planned a vast Russian program complementary to the Chinese Silk Roads.

The most important project is the more than 8,000-km North-South Transport Corridor (NSTC) linking St. Petersburg to Damascus, via Novorossiya. This is the resumption of a project of Tsarina Catherine II which was deemed "unrealistic" by Westerners when it was presented to the UN General Assembly.

The presidents of Russia, Vladimir Putin, and Iran, Ebrahim Raisi, sponsored through video call the signing of an agreement on the Astara-Rasht section.

**AFRICA**

**African Union good offices mission to Ukraine and Russia**

Senegal, Zambia, Congo, Egypt, South Africa and Uganda have formed the delegation that will visit Kiev and Moscow on a mission of good offices on behalf of the African Union. African states refrained from condemning Russian intervention in Ukraine and proclaimed their neutrality. However, as an exception, Kenya and Rwanda sided with the West, while Eritrea sided with Russia.

**Egypt moves closer to Iran**

Egypt and Iran are getting closer after the Saudi-Iranian agreement. The two countries are talking via Iraq.

Egypt remained for a long time an ally of Shah Rez Pahlevi after his flight and the establishment of the Islamic Republic. Cairo has always watched with concern Tehran's ties with the Muslim Brotherhood and has never appointed an ambassador to the Islamic Republic, but only "chargé d'affaires." At the end of World War II, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini visited Egypt. He reached an agreement with Hassan Al-Banna not to compete with each other, but to divide the Muslim world between Shiites and Sunnis. The current leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, continued this agreement, inviting a Brotherhood delegation to all its international conferences.

**Brother Rached Ghannouchi sentenced to 1 year in prison**

Tunisian justice sentenced Rached Ghannouchi to a fine of 1,000 dinars and one year in prison for calling for civil war at the funeral of a leader of his party in early 2022.

Westerners interpret this decision as proof that Tunisian justice is subservient to President Kais Sayed and participates in the establishment of a dictatorship. Tunisia is desperately trying to close the "Arab Spring" period i.e., the "color revolutions" organized by the British for the benefit of the Muslim Brotherhood. Financed and structured by MI6, Rached Ghannouchi's Ennahda party is only the local version of the Muslim Brotherhood. For several years, the Brotherhood murdered political leaders with impunity through their assault section called the "League for the Protection of the Revolution".

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Voltaire, internationale Nachrichten erscheint nun in sechs Sprachen:
- Deutsch;
- Englisch;
- Spanisch;
- Französisch;
- Italienisch;
- Holländisch.
Commitment by both Sudanese parties to protect civilians

The two Sudanese sides, the Khartoum armies of General Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman al-Burhan and the Darfur armies of "General" Mohamed Hamdan Dogolo (alias "Hemedti") signed in Riyadh a Declaration of Commitment to protect Sudanese civilians.

German ambassador to Chad was preparing a color revolution on behalf of the US

The reasons for the expulsion of German Ambassador Jan-Christian Gordon Kricke from Chad in April are now clear. He was to participate with the US National Endowment for Democracy (NED) in an overthrow of the government prepared by a fake coup that was to be blamed on Russian PMC Wagner.

UN Secretary-General accuses Wagner and Malian army of murder, rape and torture

According to the Report on the events in Moura from 27 to 31 March 2022 by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, more than 500 people were killed by Malian soldiers and white foreigners during a five-day military operation in the village of Moura in central Mali. At least 58 women and girls were raped or subjected to other forms of sexual violence. Some people were subjected to torture and other ill-treatment during interrogation and detention in Moura, Sévaré, as well as at the National Agency for State Security (ANSE) in the capital Bamako. Although the report does not specify this, the white foreigners are believed to be soldiers of the Wagner Group. This operation is described by the authorities as a military counter-terrorism operation against an Al-Qaeda-affiliated group known as the Katiba Macina.

Isaias Afwerki in Beijing

Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki made an official visit to Beijing. Coming from a Maoist movement, he is comfortable in China. With his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping he welcomed the Chinese example for developing countries. Together with Prime Minister Li Qiang, he discussed areas where China can help Eritrea, within its competence, including infrastructure, maritime and fisheries industries, water resources, energy development, mining, and foster cooperation in digital, green and blue economies.

South Africa says it has not delivered weapons to Russia

US ambassador in Pretoria Reuben Brigety II accused South Africa of secretly sending weapons to Russia because Russian freighter Lady R stopped at Simon’s Town. The government recalled its neutrality in the Ukrainian conflict and denied the double game attributed to it. It opened an investigation and requested the US to provide the evidence in its possession in order to take the necessary follow-up to the case.

South African armies cooperate with Russian counterparts without lining up behind Moscow

Commander of the Russian ground forces General Oleg Salyukov met with Head of the South African army General Lawrence Mbatha at the headquarters of the Russian General Command in Moscow. This meeting resulted in a cooperation agreement between the land forces of the two sovereign nations. In his weekly address, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa reaffirmed his country’s non-aligned stance on the Ukrainian conflict. South Africa will not be dragged behind one bloc or another, he said.
ASIA

International arrest warrant against Riad Salamé

French investigating judge Aude Buresi has issued an international arrest warrant for governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon for thirty years Riad Salamé for "criminal association". He challenges the manner in which the procedure is conducted. In March 2022, Germany, France and Luxembourg blocked €120 million that was allegedly embezzled in Lebanon by Riad Salamé. In early 2023, German, French (including Aude Buresi) and Luxembourg judges went to Lebanon to question Salamé and several of his relatives. The French international arrest warrant cannot be applied in Lebanon until Interpol has issued a red notice and the Lebanese judiciary has authorized extradition. This will have to be confirmed by a decree of the Lebanese government, all the more unlikely since Lebanon has never extradited nationals.

Syria officially re-integrated into the Arab League

A preparatory meeting for the Arab League summit was held in Jeddah, broadcast live by El-Ekbariya TV. Saudi Finance Minister Mohamed Al-Jaddan warmly welcomed the Syrian delegation. This included Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Faisal Miqlad, Minister of Information Boutros Al-Hallaq, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Ayman Soussan as well as Director of the Foreign Minister's Office Jamal Najib. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad was invited to the summit which several Western leaders are expected to attend. The recognition of the Syrian Arab Republic's victory over the Western-backed jihadists and its reintegration into the League of Arab States marks the end of foreign domination over the region.

US lawmakers oppose normalization of relations with Syria

In response to the reintegration of the Syrian Arab Republic into the League of Arab States, on 16 May the Foreign Affairs Committee of the US House of Representatives adopted the Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act of 2023 (H.R.3202) which will be submitted to the vote of the two Congress assemblies. At the end of the war against Syria in 2016, the US did not acknowledge its defeat. They prevented the reconstruction of the country and tried to starve its people by burning crops. They have installed a legal device that is beginning to be undermined:

- In 2017, they banned UN agencies from participating in any way in the reconstruction of Syria.
- In 2019, they passed the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act which instituted drastic sanctions against the entire Syrian economy.

Qatari presidency of the 2023 ILO summit challenged

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) disputes that Qatari Labour Minister Ali bin Saeed bin Samikh al-Marri could become, in the absence of another candidate, the president of the 2023 summit of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Qatar has been accused of shamelessly exploiting its migrant workers to build facilities for the 2022 World Cup. About 6,500 of them are believed to have died on construction sites. Then, Qatar amended its legislation on kafala, a system that deprived migrant workers of all their rights. But, according to many observers, this change has never materialized. This information was denied by Sharan Burrow, former ITUC General Secretary. However, Ali bin Saïd ben Samikh al-Marri was seen in Brussels with now imprisoned Italian Pier-Antonio Panzeri, former MEP at the heart of the corruption scandal. Vice-president of the European Parliament Eva Kaili from Greece had then assured to everyone's surprise that "Qatar is leading the pack on workers' rights". She is now under house arrest for corruption.
Recep Tayyip Erdogan expected to be re-elected

In the first round of the Turkish presidential election, Recep Tayyip Erdogan (People's Alliance) won 49.5% of the vote, Kemal Kilicdaroglu (Nation Alliance) 44.8% and Sinan Ogan (Ancestral Alliance) 5.1%. Recep Tayyip Erdogan campaigned on Turkish nationalism against the West; Kemal Kilicdaroglu on equality between all and the full reintegration of Kurds and Alevi; Sinan Ogan on xenophobia against Syrian immigrants and nationalism against Kurdish separatists. He won over a part of the electorate disappointed by President Erdogan, but resolutely opposed to the candidacy of Kemal Kilicdaroglu because he is supported by the Kurdish HDP party. His voters should either abstain or vote for Erdogan in the second round. There is no doubt President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will be re-elected on 28 May. He will therefore be able to keep his bet and celebrate the centenary of the Treaty of Lausanne and the foundation of the Republic of Turkey, if his health allows him.

Iran again threatened by US and Israel

Iran has sent an official protest to the UN Security Council after statements by US National Security Advisor Jacob “Jake” Sullivan (S/2023/339) who told the Washington Institute for Near East Policy: "We have made it clear to Iran that it will never be allowed to get a nuclear weapon. As President Biden has repeatedly reiterated, he will take the necessary steps to honor this declaration, including recognizing Israel's freedom of action." Iran ended its military nuclear program in 1988 at the request of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and never resumed it. Israel has tried many times to pretend otherwise by releasing documents that it said proved Iran was lying. But once examined, the opposite became obvious. Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly prepared a bombing of Iran's civilian nuclear facilities, the latest being the one organized with President George W. Bush Jr.

For many years, 5+1 negotiations have been conducted to conclude an agreement between the US and Iran that President Donald Trump has torn up. As a result of these negotiations, the Russian and Chinese sides confirmed that there was no Iranian military nuclear program, except in the imagination of the West.

A new electoral map in India

Voters in Karnataka (southwest India), the only region governed by the BJP in power in New Delhi, voted overwhelmingly for the secular Congress party in by-elections. It won 135 seats out of 224 and an absolute majority. The BJP, which supports Hindu rule, has only 65 seats. It had passed a law in the state limiting the possibilities of conversion to Christianity. A new electoral map is emerging. The BJP and Hindutva ideology flourished in Hindi-speaking regions; the Congress party prevailed in all others.

Imran Khan still under threat from Pakistani government

The arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan by hundreds of police officers in the courtroom during a trial was ruled illegal by the Supreme Court. Two days after his release, the Interior Ministry accused him of harboring individuals who had attacked the police in his family palace. The latter surrounded the property and gave Mr. Khan 24 hours to deliver about forty of his activists.

Thais vote against junta

In Thailand's general election on 14 May, the Moving Forward Party (led by Pita Limjaroenrat) won 36% of the votes cast, Pheu Thai (Paethongtarn Shinawatra) 27% and the United Thai Nation Party (Prayut Chan-o-cha) 11%. Parties supporting the military junta received only 6% of the vote. The large victory of Moving Forward is a surprise to all observers. Pheu Thai said it looked forward to working with it and announced that it supported Pita Limjaroenrat's candidacy for prime minister.
South Korea receives Mrs. Zelensky

Unelected Ukrainian First Lady Olena Zelenska went to South Korea to negotiate the support of President Yoon Suk Yeol. She signed a preliminary agreement for substantial financial aid to Ukraine. Her delegation included Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy Yulia Svyrydenko who met with Minister of Aviation, Infrastructure and Transport Won Hee-ryong to explore ways South Korea could provide for Ukraine's reconstruction. No figures have been published.

North Korea prepares the launch of its first spy satellite

North Korea could launch its spy satellite on July 27, the 70th anniversary of the ceasefire, described as a "Victory" by Pyongyang. According to the US 38 North website, a launch tower with a height of about 90 meters was erected next to the existing tower in the Sohae base. Supreme leader Kim Jong-un, accompanied by his daughter Ju-ae, inspected the entire facility and signed the launch order.

USA/China Meeting

Director of foreign affairs of the Communist Party of China Wang Yi met with US national security adviser Jake Sullivan in Vienna for more than 10 hours. The talks focused on bilateral relations, the Taiwan issue, the situation in the Asia-Pacific and the Ukrainian crisis. The US side said its One-China policy has not changed and it does not support Taiwan's independence.

China's population policy

The People’s Daily of May 16 presents China's population policy. "China has the largest vocational education system in the world, training some 10 million technical staff each year (...) It now has more than 200 million skilled workers and more than 60 million highly qualified personnel. Average life expectancy is now over 78 years, and the country ranks among middle- and high-income countries in terms of key health indicators. About 240 million Chinese have higher education. The average period of education for the new workforce is about 14 years (...) China ranks first in the world in terms of the total number of research and development personnel (...) It is necessary to make education the means to build a strong country and to improve overall scientific, cultural, health, ideological and moral quality of the population. It is necessary to establish and improve the fertility support policy system, to vigorously develop the childcare system, to promote the construction of a society conducive to childbirth. It is necessary to develop an old-age insurance system, and to strive to achieve a sense of security, worth and happiness for the elderly."

For Japan, China and Russia form a military bloc

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi said in a speech at the EU’s Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum (Stockholm) that Russia and China are military allies. The Chinese official press strongly denied this interpretation and reiterated that Russia and China are two countries that are politically friendly, but militarily independent of each other.
**Installation of a hotline between the Japanese and Chinese Ministries of Defense**

Japanese Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada and his Chinese counterpart Li Shangfu have inaugurated a direct telephone line between their administrations. Both States are aware of the dangers of misunderstanding caused by rising political tensions.

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**OCEANIA**

**Australian regional government fears conviction for Covid lockdown measures**

The Victoria state government offered $5 million to 3,000 Melbourne residents in exchange for withdrawing their complaint. During the Covid-19 epidemic, the State of Victoria placed its citizens under house arrest. In July 2020, following the discovery of 23 Covid19 cases in social housing, it had nine buildings surrounded by police and prevented their inhabitants from leaving for five days and even two weeks for one of the towers.

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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**Advisor to Joe Biden elected director of International Organization for Migration**

American Amy Pope has been elected Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). She was previously the Deputy Director of the Organization. She defeated her director, Antonio Vitorino, who was standing for re-election. In this role, she implemented a series of budget reforms to optimize execution and risk management on the ground, improve operational results, and strengthen coordination with the United Nations system.

In 2021, Amy Pope served as President Joe Biden's advisor on migration. He publicly supported her candidacy. She has also worked at Chatham House, the UK's think tank.

This is the first time there has been a duel at the head of an intergovernmental organization between a director-general and his deputy. Antonio Vitorino had already left IOM headquarters before the vote.

**ASEAN Summit**

The 42nd summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was held in Indonesia. Particular attention was paid to the protection of migrant workers and victims of trafficking in human beings. Leaders also issued a statement on advancing regional payments connectivity and promoting local currency transactions.

**Cancellation of the Quad Summit**

The Quad summit, which was to bring together Australian, American, Indian and Japanese leaders in Sydney, has been cancelled. President Joe Biden will not be able to come because of the difficulties faced by Congress around the legal debt ceiling. This event, which was described as the most important in Australia since the G20 in 2014, did not resist the US withdrawal.

This is a blow to Western strategy in the Indo-Pacific.
EDITORIAL

The 69th meeting of the Bilderberg Group

The Bilderberg Group held its 69th annual meeting in Lisbon, Portugal from 18 to 21 May. Security for the event was provided by Portuguese police in the vicinity and by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for the meeting itself. The talks were conducted according to Chatham House protocol. The topics on the agenda were:

- Artificial intelligence
- The banking system
- China
- Energy transition
- Europe
- Tax challenges
- India
- Industrial policy and trade
- NATO
- Russia
- Transnational threats
- Ukraine
- U.S. leadership

This club was formed by the US and British secret services. It was initially chaired by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, today by Dutch economist Victor Halberstadt and Marie-Josée Kravis (wife of financier Henry Kravis). Participants are selected by a Board of Directors to test their Atlantic commitment. The careers of those who pass the test will be supported by NATO.

Present at all the meetings, the unavoidable Henry Kissinger (who will be 100yo on Saturday) gave a long interview to The Economist, which provides the secretariat of the Bilderberg Group. As in January before the Davos Forum, he spoke in favor of Ukraine's accession to NATO. Among this year's 130 guests was Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba.
AMERICAS

US Intelligence Community does not consider global warming as an existential threat

US National Intelligence Director Avril Haines does not consider global warming a threat to the country's security. At most, "Climate change will increasingly exacerbate risks to U.S. national security interests as physical impacts increase and geopolitical tensions rise over the global response to the challenge." Her latest report also makes no mention of sea-level rise, which is said to be of particular concern in the Indo-Pacific region.

US vs Non-Kinetic Threats

According to Robert McCreight, several states are developing Non-Kinetic Threats. These are silent, largely undetectable technologies capable of inflicting damaging, debilitating and degrading physical and neural effects on its targets. They can produce three types of strategic effects: a beheading blitz against leaders; a secretive and undetected surprise attack to disable leadership; and insidious ongoing attacks that degrade leadership analysis, defensive systems and strategic warning. They would be particularly effective on "enhanced soldiers," undoing research on exoskeletons, modified diets, cyborg add-ons, special biophysical interventions, AI augmentation, and other technologies.

Interpretation of the Durham Report

John Durham's report on the FBI investigation into collusion between Donald Trump and Russia suggests that Hillary Clinton's campaign team is behind the smear. House Republicans want to revisit this aspect. Especially since the Clinton campaign manager was none other than Jacob "Jake" Sullivan, President Biden's current National Security Advisor.

NAACP condemns Ron DeSantis' 'attacks' on black Americans

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has issued a travel advisory. Its president declared: “Once again, the leaders of the state inspired by hatred have chosen to put politics before people. Governor Ron DeSantis and the State of Florida have engaged in a blatant war against the principles of diversity and inclusion and have rejected our common identities to appeal to a dangerous extremist minority. We will not allow our rights and our history to be held hostage by our grandparents' politics. The NAACP proudly fights against malicious attacks in Florida against black Americans. I encourage my fellow Floridians to join this fight to protect us and our democracy.”

Faced with the Wokist interpretation, Governor DeSantis banned the teaching of slavery in Florida schools.

Jeffrey Epstein blackmailed Bill Gates

According to the Wall Street Journal of May 22, Jeffrey Epstein tried to blackmail Bill Gates about his extramarital relationship with a Russian bridge player, the very young Mila Antonova.

US Navy to train allies in Persian Gulf

The Bahrain based Fifth Fleet has established Task Force CTF 154. Unlike other special forces in the region, it will not fight piracy, but will assist the international ground forces of the 38 states of the Combined Maritime Force (CMF). It will train them in maritime law and leadership.

U.S. vets are not sensitive to extremist groups

A Rand Corporation study of 1,000 veterans shows that they are rather less sensitive than the rest of the population to extremist ideas. However, among them, Marines are the most likely to join supremacist groups.
**US trapped by its own policy vis-a-vis China**

The meeting announced between the Defense Ministers of US and China, Generals Lloyd Austin and Li Shangfu on the sidelines of the IISS Shangri-La Dialogue stumbles on US sanctions against Li Shangfu. The US State Department confirmed that they would not be lifted. Beijing stresses that one cannot negotiate under unilateral coercive measures (referred to as "sanctions" by Washington). It is therefore necessary to choose between maintaining them or meeting.

**Zelensky stands Lula up**

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who had agreed on a meeting with Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky on the sidelines of the G7 in Hiroshima, waited in vain. The interview was cancelled, without explanation or apology. In a May 22 [tweet](https://twitter.com/LulaDaSilva/status/1759446023601788168), Lula claimed that Brazil, China, India and Indonesia condemned Russia’s occupation of Ukrainian territory. Either President Lula did not understand his partners or he is lying.

**EUROPE**

**King Charles III wiped out all archives on the British royal family**

The British royal family has removed more than 500 files from the National Archives. Until now, these files were classified and could not be consulted. Today, they are gone. The royal family even intervened to destroy documents held by the FBI in the US. To date, historians have no records of the private lives of monarchs since Queen Victoria. Biographies of members of the royal family are solely based on press articles and palace communiqués. It is believed that Queen Victoria had secretly married John Brown, one of her servants; that Edward VIII resigned because he was a Nazi; that Viceroy Lord Mountbatten was a pedophile, etc. Nothing can be verified. King Charles III is the master of secrecy.

**Free speech in question at Oxford**

The controversy opened by a group of anti-TERF (Trans-exclusionary radical feminist) students against a lecture by feminist philosopher Kathleen Stock at Oxford University is growing. One after the other, many academics are taking position on freedom of expression in the face of theories that would have a negative impact on society. The conference was not cancelled.

**France will create optional military service**

The French Army wishes to expand its commitment offer. It would like to institute a six-month voluntary military service in order to create by 2035 at the latest a regiment of reservists.

**France will reduce its cattle herd**

The [Court of Auditors](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/juridique/affichText.do?cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006072306&dateTexte=20230329) calls on France to reduce its cattle herd to meet its commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Cattle farming is a heavily State supported activity that barely benefits farmers financially. It also generates a large amount of methane. Its disappearance would therefore be a good thing for public finances.

**Interior Minister Darmanin condemns the danger of Islamist terrorism in France**

French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin visited the US to recall “that for Europeans and
for France, the primary risk is Sunni Islamist terrorism and that anti-terrorist collaboration between intelligence services is absolutely essential." He deplored the "departure of the Americans from Afghanistan" and that of France from "the Sahel-Saharan strip", "the reconstitution of Daesh cells in the Levant, which make these exogenous threats, in the perspective of the major events that will be organized by France, are moments of significant risk of terrorist attacks ».

Insufficient victory for Kyriakos Mytsotakis in Greek general elections

In the Greek general elections, New Democracy (led by Prime Minister Kyriakos Mytsotakis) won 40.7% of the votes cast, compared with only 20.0% for SYRIZA (Alexis Tsipras), 11.4% for PASOK/Movement for Change (Nikos Andreoulakis), 7.2% for the Communist Party (Dimitris Koutsoubmas) and 4.4% for Greek Solution (Kyriakos Velopoulo). The voting system this time was a little more complex than usual. It was a list system where voters could favor personalities regardless of their place on the list they chose. New elections will be held in July, but with a majority bonus giving 50 seats to the party that wins. Kyriakos Mytsotakis is then due to get a majority in terms of number of seats and become Prime Minister again.

In the meantime, Greek President Katerina Sakellaropoulou has appointed Judge Ioannis Sarmas as Prime Minister.

Poland worries about Ukrainian conflict consequences on its agriculture

"We want to continue our support for Ukraine. But if this leads to the bankruptcy of millions of farmers, it will not be possible. Not only in Poland, but also in many other countries," said Poland's ambassador to the EU Andrzej Sados (Le Figaro newspaper, May 24).

Armenia ready to abandon Nagorno-Karabakh

Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan said he was ready to recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as Azerbaijani territory on the condition that Baku stop ethnic cleansing of the region.

Since 1994, Nagorno-Karabakh was considered by Yerevan as the territory of the Republic of Artsakh (not recognized by the United Nations). In 2018, a color revolution funded by George Soros toppled President Serzh Sarkisian and his top pro-Russian generals. It brought to power liberal journalist Nikol Pashinyan. The latter was defeated in 2020 during the war waged by Azerbaijan to recover Nagorno-Karabakh.

Nikol Pashinyan will meet Azeri President Ilham Aliyev on May 25 in Moscow. According to Gallup, Nikol Pashinyan is now supported by only 13.9% of Armenians. Protests erupted against him everywhere in Armenia and Artsakh.

Valerii Zaluzhnyi reappears

After 12 days without news of his whereabouts, Commander-in-Chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces General Valerii Zaluzhnyi participated in a video conference. This appearance puts an end to rumors that he was seriously injured.

General Valerii Zaluzhnyi disappeared just as President Volodymyr Zelensky was embarking on a long trip abroad. For several days, no one seemed to be in charge of the country, even though it was at war.

Erratum

The four Russian aircraft that were destroyed in Russia were not destroyed on the ground by Franco-British Scalp/Storm Shadow missiles, but in the air, probably by Norwegian NASAMS surface-to-air missiles.

On the other hand, Westerners have dismantled many weapons systems on the planes they have just delivered to Ukraine. In principle, they will not be able to fire missiles from Ukraine at significant targets inside Russia.
**Rogozin does not believe that Americans “walked on the moon”**

Former Russian ambassador to NATO and then director of the Roscosmos space agency Dmitry Rogozin said he did not believe the US ever landed on the moon. There is no evidence that the Apollo missions landed on the far side of the Moon. No foreign power was allowed to examine the lunar soil samples they allegedly brought back (except Japan for less than 1 gram).

**Russian fighters against Russia**

On Ukrainian territory Russia bombed the "Freedom for Russia" Legion (Svobo-da Rossii), a group of Russian dissidents close to Ukrainian integral nationalists. The Legion had sneaked into Russia and sabotaged several facilities in Belgorod. French newspaper *Le Figaro* of May 24 assures that it is a heterogeneous legion, without real ideology, except the overthrow of President Vladimir Putin.

**Russia imposes sanctions against 500 US personalities**

In retaliation, Russia has banned access to its territory to 500 US personalities, mainly political and media leaders.

**Russia dismisses Western environmental NGOs**

Russia's Prosecutor General declared Greenpeace "undesirable." Last March, the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) was classified as a "foreign agent ».

**Russia increases exports to China**

Russian energy supplies to China will increase by 40 percent in 2023 compared to 2022, said Deputy Prime Minister for Energy Alexander Novak.

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**Voltaire Network Analysis**

- **"The moment of truth in Ukraine"**, by Thierry Meyssan
  Since February 24, 2022, the eyes of the world have been on the Ukrainian conflict. The West is supporting Kiev financially, delivering incredible quantities of weapons and ammunition, but is careful not to get directly involved in the theater of operations. Moscow remains patient and pretends not to see foreign military advisers on the ground. We are reaching a tipping point where Westerners could be pushed into war by deliberate use of their weapons against Russia on its pre-2014 territory. That is why six EU states suddenly recommend peace negotiations and two good offices missions are set up by China and the African Union.

- **"The rising cost of war on our shoulders"**, by Manlio Dinucci
  So far, the Ukrainian war has not turned into World War III. Westerners are content with paying for the conflict, whose massive toll in lives they would not put up with at home. However, the cost of this war continues to climb.

**AFRICA**

**Ceasefire in Sudan**

On May 20, in Jeddah, the army of General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of "General" Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo agreed to a new 7-day humanitarian ceasefire. More than a million people have already moved to flee the fighting. The Qatari embassy in Khartoum was vandalized by the RSF according to General al-Burhan's troops.

**DRC relies on China**

President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Felix Tshisekedi visited China to convince his interlocutors to invest an additional $6 billion in his country on top of the $17 billion negotiated in 2008 by his predecessor Joseph Kabila. The DRC is the world's leading producer of raw materials for the manufacture
of batteries. It also has significant deposits of diamonds, gold, lithium and tantalum.

ASIA

Israel's QuaDream produced “zero-clicks” spyware

Israeli spyware company QuaDream announced it was shutting down because it did not get permission to sell its products abroad, including Morocco. It has technologies that are unparalleled in the world and has been NSO's (Pegasus) most serious competitor. According to Haaretz, many companies are already snapping up its technicians. A probably accidental leak revealed the existence of two of its software called Reign and Blue Spear. These are zero-click technologies i.e., infecting a phone without the complete knowledge of its owner.

Benjamin Netanyahu reintroduces homophobic Noam party into coalition

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has struck a deal with the Noam party to get its budget through the Knesset. Three months ago, Noam left the governing coalition because Netanyahu was reluctant to implement its commitment to "Jewish identity." However, the budget includes NIS 285 million ($76 million) for the creation of a High Authority for Jewish Identity. Noam is a violently homophobic party. It proposes to impose strict censorship on school curricula.

FATF designates Lebanon

The French Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in charge of fighting money laundering and the financing of terrorism has just placed Lebanon on its grey list. This decision comes after the issuance of an arrest warrant by the French justice and another by the German justice against governor of the Lebanese Central Bank Riad Salamé.

Hezbollah's show of force

On the occasion of the 23rd anniversary of the liberation of South Lebanon, Hezbollah organized a huge show of live ammunition maneuvers in Amarata, ten kilometers from the Israeli border in front of hundreds of journalists. Signs proclaimed "We swear we will come", "We swear we will cross", "We swear we will pray in al-Quds".

The Israeli General Staff reacted to this show of force by declaring that if the Party of God (Hezbollah) were to launch an attack, it would be "70 times" more difficult for it than in the 2006 war.

Hezbollah Deputy Secretary-General Sheikh Naim Qassem said on AlManar TV that the next war would take place in occupied Palestine.

Intra-Kurdish conflict escalates in Parliament

A serious altercation took place between the MPs of the KDP (Barzani clan, majority) and those of the PUK (Jalabani clan, minority) in the Regional Parliament of Iraqi Kurdistan. The chair of the session refused to review the agenda.

Restoration of Iran-Saudi diplomatic relations

After 7 years of interruption of diplomatic relations, Iran has appointed Alireza Enayati as ambassador to Saudi Arabia. He was Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Saudi Arabia negotiates Chinese arms purchase

According to Tactical Report, Saudi Arabia is negotiating with China North Industries Group Corporation (Norinco) the purchase of Sky Saker FX80 (UAV) drones, CR500 vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) drones, Cruise Dragon suicide 5 and 10 and QG-17AE short-range air defense system (SHORAD). The ban on purchase of Russian and Chinese weapons from US allies no longer works.
**Sinan Ogan supports Recep Tayyip Erdogan**

Although Kemal Kilicdaroglu suddenly adopted an anti-immigrant discourse, Sinan Ogan officially called for a vote for Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The alternative discourse of the coalition of six opposition parties was drowned in a nationalist consensus to which it adhered. The re-election of Recep Tayyip Erdogan is no longer in doubt.

**Türkiye prepares normalization with Syria**

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said he had formed a commission to prepare normalization with Syria. This normalization was delayed by the Turkish presidential election. It supposes the withdrawal of the Turkish army from Syrian territory and implies the fall of the Islamic emirates created in the Idlib region.

**Ali Shamkhani removed from office**

Former commander of the Revolutionary Guards' paramilitary forces Ali Akbar Ahmadian has been appointed secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council. He is a very anti-Western character. He replaces Ali Shamkhani, accused of his links with Alireza Akbari, a former deputy defense minister accused of spying for the British and executed in January 2023. He was mainly blamed for his son's alleged corruption. Ali Shamkhani was Iran's top Arab official.

**Iran resumes construction of civilian nuclear power plant**

According to Reuters, Iran is building an underground civilian nuclear center in the Zagros Mountains. Commenting on the news, director of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohamad Eslami said: "Zionists make such allegations whenever their position in the region or their internal situation is in a critical state." According to him, Iran is merely restarting the construction of the Darkhoveyn civilian nuclear power plant, abandoned in the 90s. "We hope that in the first stage of the construction of small power plants, we can build the 300 MW Darkhoveyn power plant to create a new chapter in the country's industrial and technological capacity and also expand this technology to the general level," he concluded.

**China and Türkiye refuse to attend G20 meeting in Srinagar**

The meeting of the G20 Tourism Working Group was convened from 22 to 24 May in Srinagar. China and Türkiye have said they will not attend an international summit in a disputed area. With a Muslim population, Srinagar is the capital of Kashmir and is claimed by Pakistan.

**Bankruptcy of Gujarat jewelers**

While Gujarat used to cut 90% of the rough diamonds discovered in the world, banking sanctions against Russia dried up its market by 39%. The scarcity of the raw material is estimated at $800 million annually. Moscow, which produces a third of the world's diamonds, can no longer export them due to a lack of compatibility between Indian and Russian banks. Western jewelers refuse to buy Russian diamonds anyway. The UK could soon ban them at home.

**Kazakhstan rejects Ukrainian ambassador**

In August 2022, Ukraine's ambassador to Kazakhstan Piotr Vrublevskiy caused a scandal by declaring that his country was trying to "kill as many Russians as possible." He was relieved of his duties in October by President Zelensky, but spent his holidays in Kazakhstan, provoking an outraged intervention by the Russian Foreign Ministry. New ambassador-designate Sergey Gaidai has just been challenged by Astana. He is not a professional diplomat, but the former governor of the Kiev-controlled part of Luhansk Oblast.
South Korea exports ammunition to Ukraine

According to the Wall Street Journal on May 24, South Korea exports hundreds of thousands of cartridges to the US which are then transferred to Ukraine. Although the defense minister denied the information, there is some embarrassment in Seoul. The South Korean parliament is currently discussing possible military aid to Ukraine.

U.S. Condemns North Korean Computer Scientists

The US has taken unilateral coercive measures (dubbed "sanctions" by Washington) against North Korean computer scientists. According to the State Department: "The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) conducts malicious cyber activities and deploys IT Pros who fraudulently get jobs to generate revenue, including in virtual currency, to support the Kim regime and its priorities, such as its illegal weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs."

These measures include the GB-controlled Technical Reconnaissance Bureau and its subordinate cyber unit, the 110th Research Centre and the Jinryong IT Cooperation Company.

China monitors “due diligence” of foreign companies

Chen Yixin, who became state security minister last October, is conducting a vast surveillance operation against foreign companies in his country, particularly Anglo-Saxon companies. China considers that sociological surveys conducted for foreign investors in the name of "due diligence" of Chinese companies’ data violate its national security requirements.

China and the US are no longer such important trading partners

The share of trade between China and the US in their import-export has been steadily declining since 2017 compared to 2022 statistics.

At the time, they accounted for 14.21% of Chinese trade, now they are only 12.04%. Identically, they represented 16.34% of US trade, they are now only 13.08%. However, trade between the two countries still stands at $690 billion.

Gao Zugui explains China’s vision of the multipolar world

The Chinese Communist Party has undertaken a vast campaign to raise awareness of current foreign policy among Chinese and those in the diaspora. In the May 22 People's Daily, dean of the International Institute for Strategic Studies at the Central School of the Communist Party Professor Gao Zugui describes the concept of "shared community" within a multipolar world. It must be based on
- 1. Dialogue and consultation to build lasting peace;
- 2. Shared benefits;
- 3. "Win-win" agreements (reminder: this expression does not mean that each party must find an interest in the agreement, but that no international agreement is valid if even one actor does not find its interest in it);
- 4. Mutual exchanges and learning;
- 5. An ecological concern.

To do this, China is implementing four tools:
• The New Silk Roads (unfettered interconnectivity and trade);
• The Global Development Initiative (GDI), stressing that each State must find its own path of development outside of the Western model of colonization;
• The Global Security Initiative (GSI), which must take into account the specific security requirements of each State;
• The Global Civilization Initiative (GCI), emphasizing that unity can only exist in diversity. This initiative was presented at the World Congress of Political Parties, organized by Beijing in response to the second Summit for Democracy organized by Washington.

From a Chinese point of view, every People without exception is in search of peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom. Dividing the world into "democratic"
and "non-democratic" countries therefore goes against the interests of humanity.

**For Mishustin, the NDB protects Russia from Western « sanctions»**

During his visit to China, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin visited the New Development Bank (NDB), a BRICS organization now led by former Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff. He said the body was intended "to protect the economic and trade ties of the BRICS countries from the influence and illegitimate sanctions of the West. »

**Mishustin and Xi reaffirm the nature of the Russian-Chinese political alliance**

During their talks, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin and Chinese President Xi Jinping reiterated the importance of the Russian-Chinese political alliance. Mikhail Mishustin said: "Russia is ready to work with China to promote the multipolarization of the world and consolidate the international order on the basis of international law... Our two countries have sought to counter the attempts of the collective West to preserve its global dominance by taking advantage of illegal sanctions to impose its will on independent states." Xi Jinping, for his part, continued: "China and Russia should continue to support each other on issues concerning each other’s core interests and strengthen coordination in multilateral arenas such as the United Nations, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), BRICS and G20. They should further exploit the potential to raise the level of economic, trade and investment cooperation, improve institutions and mechanisms for bilateral cooperation, and consolidate and expand cooperation on energy and connectivity." Negotiations between the two men and their team covered 79 joint projects worth more than $165 billion.

**New Chinese ambassador to the US Xie Feng**

Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Xie Feng has been appointed ambassador to the US. The appointment of this very professional diplomat was decided before the G7 summit when Beijing thought relations with Washington could still be appeased. Simultaneously, former ambassador to Washington Cui Tiankai (2013-21) started a tour of US national security officials. He explained to them that his country was independent and that it was counterproductive to put pressure on it to condemn one of its allies. Finally, he reiterated that China is actively acting to negotiate peace in Ukraine.

**Japan moves closer to NATO membership**

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida could attend next NATO summit in Lithuania in July, as he did last year in Spain. The liaison office to be opened by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Tokyo would be announced.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**G7 summit against Russia and China**

The G7 summit was held in Hiroshima. In addition to the 7 Heads of State and Government that make up this group, those of India, Australia, Brazil, South Korea, Viet Nam, Indonesia, the Cook Islands and the Union of the Comoros were invited. The Ukrainian president joined them. Reacting to the G7 final communiqué on May 20, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said: "The time is gone when a handful of Western countries can deliberately interfere in the internal affairs of other countries and manipulate world affairs. We urge the G7 members to catch up, address the various issues they have at home, stop forming exclusive blocs, stop containing and mistreating other countries, stop creating and fueling the bloc's
confrontations, and embark on the right path of
dialogue and cooperation."
China stresses that the G7, by aligning itself
with the position of the US on Taiwan, calls
into question the post-war world order (Potsdam
Conference in 1945 and UN General Assembly
Resolution 2758 in 1971). It declares that
accepting a world order based on the changing
rules of the West is out of question.
For his part, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei
Lavrov commented: "[The G7 powers] make no
secret of the fact that Russia's existence as an
independent center is not compatible with the
West's goal of achieving world domination."
☞ The G7 summit turned into support for
Ukraine against Russia and condemnation of
China. In doing so, the G7 completed its
transformation, which began in 2014 with the
exclusion of Russia from the G8. This Group is
no longer an economic consultation meeting
between equal heads of state, but has become a
summit during which Westerners receive
political orders from their US overlord. Despite
the invitation of foreign heads of state and
government, the G7 no longer seems to exert
any fascination on the hundred or so states of
the "Global South ».
EDITORIAL

Narendra Modi hijacks the inauguration of India's new parliament

Surrounded by many Hindu priests, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new premises of the Indian Parliament on May 28, 2023, the 140th anniversary of the birth of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, the thinker of Hindutva, the ideology of reference of the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) in power.

Contrary to its name, Hindutva (lit. “Hindu-ness”) is not an apology for Hinduism's open-mindedness, but a supremacist view of its appearances. The thought of VD Savarkar is an invitation to the massacre of Muslims and Christians in the purest style of the 1930s.

Although member of BJP, President Droupadi Murmu was removed from the ceremony so that the prime minister could take the top spot.

All parliamentarians from a dozen opposition political parties recalled that the Indian constitution is secular and boycotted the ceremony during which Narendra Modi solemnly revealed a gold scepter of the state of Tamil Nadu, which would have been received by first Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru, symbolizing the transfer of power at independence in 1947. He focused his speech on democracy.

Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi noticed that the scepter did not symbolize independence, but the end of the Maharajahs. It was exhibited only to mark the monarchical ambition of the Prime Minister. He was surprised that the Indian character of the new Parliament could be praised when its architectural style was Western and that democracy could be celebrated in the absence of the opposition.

The old Parliament was built for 500 parliamentarians. The two chambers now have 788 parliamentarians. The new Parliament has the capacity to host 1,172 MPs. Its cost is estimated at $120 million.

The plans of the Lok Sabha (lower house) are modeled after a peacock, the national bird of India. Those of the Rajya Sabha (upper house) are designed on the model of the lotus, the national flower of India.
**AMERICAS**

**Canada Re-Establishes Diplomatic Relations with Saudi Arabia**

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Saudi Crown Prince Mohamed Ben Salman re-established diplomatic relations between their two countries on the sidelines of the APEC forum. Ottawa had fallen out with Riyadh in the wake of the case of Samar Badawi, whose sister-in-law and children are Canadian citizens.

This reconciliation marks the end of human rights diplomacy whereby Westerners break diplomatic relations with states whose judicial decisions they disapprove. No one has ever believed in the sincerity of the Westerners who massacred millions of civilians over the past thirty years and hid their crimes behind respect for the human rights of the people who supported them.

**Appointment of the next chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff**

President Joe Biden has nominated the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Charles Q. Brown (known as "CQ"), subject to approval by the Senate. He will take office in September at the end of the term of his predecessor, General Mark Milley.

General Brown is the current Chief of Staff of the Air Forces. He served in the Indo-Pacific. He is considered to be a fine strategist.

**Gen. Mark Milley points out that F-16s can't do much against Russian aviation**

Current chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley said: "The Russians have 1,000 fourth-generation fighter jets ... If you want to face Russia in the air, you will need a substantial number of fourth- and fifth-generation fighters. So, if you look at the cost curve and do the analysis, the smartest thing to do is exactly what we've done, which is provide a significant amount of integrated air defenses to cover the battlespace and deprive the Russians of airspace. In war, there are no magic weapons, F-16s are not and neither are any others."

**US Deterrence Force no longer deters Russia or China**

At the request of former commander of US Strategic Command (StratCom) Admiral Charles Richard, experts from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory studied the impact of US deterrence on Chinese defense. According to them, it is outdated.

In addition to having increased 6.5 times its number of strategic warheads, the Chinese military is investing in many theaters of operation, which gives it a range of options that it did not have until now.

In addition, experts believe that in the face of Russia the US deterrent is hardly more effective because it is not known whether Moscow persists in its doctrine of the "dead hand" (an automatic, non-human response to a nuclear attack) and that its criteria are ignored.

According to experts, there is an urgent need to increase US options by adding nuclear warheads to submarine-launched ballistic missiles, building a new nuclear-submarine-launched ballistic missile, and preparing new long-range Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missiles on mobile road launchers.

**COVID-19 patients have been killed by medical management of this disease**

According to a study published by the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, conducted from autopsies of patients who died of Covid-19 in Chicago, secondary pneumonia is present in at least 40% of cases, and pneumonia or diffuse alveolar disease is present in more than 90%.

This observation suggests that a large proportion of Covid19 patients who died while on ventilators did not die from Covid19, but from induced pneumonia.
Three undeclared US grants to the Wuhan laboratory

NGO Open the Books revealed in 2021 that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) had given a $600,000 grant to EcoHealth Alliance to forward to the Wuhan laboratory. This money was used for risky 'gains of function' research on bat coronaviruses. Open the Books has identified three more funds’ movements to the Wuhan lab:

- A $216,000 subgrant from the NIH, this time through the University of California, for research on transgenic mice.
- $1.1 million from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), as part of a "sub-agreement" with EcoHealth Alliance to study viruses.
- An unspecified NIH subgrant via Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory to conduct electroshock experiments on mice.

US and EU no longer respect property rights

The US sent to Ukraine $5.4 billion seized under unilateral coercive measures against Russia (wrongly referred to as "sanctions"). This money was seized from the accounts of billionaire Konstantin Malofeev (owner of the Tsargrad media group). Until now, Western Justice distinguished between "seized" and "confiscated" property, in the name of property rights. It could not reallocate to anyone what was seized, but only what was confiscated.

The EU has blocked €200 billion from Russian public assets placed in the Euroclear clearing house. Belgium, which hosts Euroclear, seized €650 million in interest on the blocked sum and paid half of it to Ukraine.

Already in 2012-13, the EU had violated property rights by validating without judicial grounds the confiscation of all Cypriot bank deposits over €100,000. The stolen money was attributed to bailing out the eurozone country's finances.

US conception of trade negotiations with China

The G7 in Hiroshima pledged to resist China's "economic coercion." At the same time, the US has asked South Korea to slow down its exports of microchips to China (SK supplies 40% of its needs). Beijing responded by calling US chipmaker Micron Technology a "risk to its national security". It has banned its sales to key domestic industries.

However, the meeting in Washington on May 25 between Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao and his US counterpart Gina Raimondo resulted in "frank and substantive discussions on issues relating to trade relations between the US and China, including the general environment in the two countries for trade and investment and areas of potential cooperation." according to the US press release.

But three days later at the meeting of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo led her partners to adopt anti-China measures on supply chains, infuriating Beijing.

China's Commerce Minister Wang Wentao accused Washington of doublespeak. He called on all members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum not to align themselves with anyone and to be independent.

Russia continues research on US biological weapons programs

The Russian Ministry of Defense continues its investigations into US military biological programs. After claiming in August 2022 that Covid-19 was a "US biological weapon", it explores the reasons why the US military has taken massive DNA samples, including from Ukrainian soldiers. Its working hypothesis is that the U.S. military was pursuing research into diseases capable of invalidating or killing particular ethnic groups.
While the vast majority of biologists consider that this type of disease does not and cannot exist, research in this direction has been conducted in the past by apartheid South Africa and Israel under the name "Coast Project". They were conducted by President Pieter Botha's personal cardiologist Wouter Basson (known as "Doctor Death"). It was around his main laboratory in Guinea that AIDS and Ebola first appeared in humans.

On the other hand, according to the Aspen Security Forum, it would be possible to target particular diseases on individuals based on the analysis of their DNA.

**Kamala Harris shares her vision of the world at West Point**

US Vice President Kamal Harris was the first woman to deliver the graduation speech at West Point Military Academy. In front of the 950 applicants, she drew a picture of current threats: "An increasingly unstable world where long-standing principles are in danger". She said: "Russia's aggression is an attack on the lives and freedom of the Ukrainian people and an attack on international rules and norms that have served as the foundation for international security and prosperity for generations... China is rapidly modernizing its military and threatening both the freedom of the seas and the rules of international trade. Autocrats have become bolder, the threat of terrorism persists, and the accelerating climate crisis continues to disrupt lives and livelihoods."

**Freedom of speech: tug-of-war between Twitter and the European Commission**

Elon Musk, owner of the social network Twitter, announced that he was withdrawing from the EU’s Code of Practice, provoking the fury of Brussels.

From 25 June, the EU's Digital Services Act (DSA) will apply to 19 major internet companies (AliExpress, App Store, Bing, Booking.com, Facebook, Google Maps, Google Play, Google Search, Google Shopping, Instagram, LinkedIn, Marketplace, Pinterest, Snapchat, TikTok, Twitter, YouTube, Wikipedia and Zalando). They will have to comply with the laws of the Member States of the EU or face a fine of up to 6% of their overall turnover. The DSA mainly includes competition rules, but also a mechanism to combat "disinformation".

The Code of Practice is not part of the DSA. It is a voluntary commitment.

The Member States of the EU apply different laws. Thus, blasphemy is illegal in Austria and Finland, while comparing a politician to Hitler is illegal in France. Twitter refuses, as a matter of principle, to censor its users and refers the judicial authorities to their responsibilities. In addition, Elon Musk has fired half of Twitter employees, making it impossible to follow up on the messages exchanged on the network.

EU Competition Commissioner Thierry Breton responded: "Twitter leaves the EU's voluntary code of practice against disinformation. But obligations remain. You can run, but you can't hide."

**Impeachment of Texas AG**

The Texas State House voted overwhelmingly to suspend local Attorney General Ken Paxton. This lawyer is accused of abusing his position to cover up the actions of Austin real estate developer Nate Paul. The Texas Senate must now try him and eventually decide on his final impeachment.

**Two militias convicted of seditious conspiracy in Capitol riot**

On May 4, a court found the Proud Boys armed militia guilty of "seditious conspiracy" in the "Capitol riot" case. On May 25, so were the Oath Keepers. Their leader, Stewart Rhodes, was sentenced to 18 years in prison.

These militiamen denounced these sentences and warned about how the trial of Donald Trump, which they believe is coming, would be conducted.
According to phone taps, the two groups had planned to attack the Capitol, but neither of them carried out their plan.

**Republicans demand more information on Durham report**

Republican Senators Ron Johnson and Charles E. Grassley want special counsel John Durham to explain why his report does not mention questioning of figures involved in the Crossfire Hurricane investigation against Donald Trump. It is indeed very strange that successive directors of the FBI, for example, did not participate in his investigations.

He will answer questions from the House Intelligence Committee behind closed doors and then in public before another committee.

**Impartiality of IRS, FBI and Justice questioned in the Biden family case**

IRS supervisor Gary Shapley testified behind closed doors for six hours before a House committee. He reiterated under oath his testimony that all tax investigations that began after alerts from banks about the Biden family's activities were halted without explanation. In addition, two prosecutors, appointed by Joe Biden, have refused to prosecute despite mounting evidence.

House Republicans continue to search for hundreds of bank documents related to the Biden family's trade deals, involving Russia, Ukraine, China and other states.

**US space diplomacy**

The State Department has released its *Strategic Framework for Space Diplomacy*. It aims not only to promote U.S. leadership in space, but also to put into practice the Biden administration's policies on gender equality, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

**Mexican army spies on a close associate of President López Obrador**

Undersecretary for Human Rights Alejandro Encinas Rodríguez was spied on with the Israeli software Pegasus. In Mexico this software is only allowed for the police and army. President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (known as "Amlo") decided to downplay the affair.

**The US tries to monitor the Darién**

The Biden administration is negotiating surveillance of the Darién, the border area between Panama and Colombia. These swamps and forest are the mandatory passage from the south to the north of the continent, but have no roads. Migrants must pass through at their own risk. The area is controlled by the National Liberation Army (left-wing Christian rebels of Father Camilo Torres Restrepo) and the Gulf Clan (narco-traffickers, from the far-right paramilitaries of United Self-Defense of Colombia).

The ELN has been classified as a terrorist organization by the US, Canada and the EU. The Gulf Clan works with the Mocro Mafia in Europe.

Commander of U.S. Southern Command (SouthCom) Gen. Laura J. Richardson and Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas visited the region in April. A US military mission was deployed for 2 months to study how to impose Pax Americana on the region.

**Uncle Sam to lead Peruvian police**

While indigenous peoples and the left-wing opposition in Peru are announcing demonstrations in July, Congress has preemptively voted for police cooperation with the US military. It is both for Washington (1) to penetrate this country bordering Colombia and Bolivia,
(2) to support the illegitimate presidency of Dina Boluarte and
(3) to control the country's natural resources, including lithium.

Since the coup that overthrew President Pedro Castillo in December 2022, Peru has been going through deadly unrest. Interfering in social conflicts, particularly between indigenous populations and those of European immigration, the US extended its control over the country. To justify this use of force, US propaganda changes reality by accusing President Pedro Castillo of having tried to foment a "self-coup" (sic); a stupid concept masking a genuine constitutional problem, that of the relationship between the Executive and the Legislature.

**US will not loot the Venezuelan Social Fund**

According to Reuters, the US Secretary of State has informed the United Nations that it will ensure that, when it is released, the Venezuelan Social Fund is not emptied by petitioners against the Venezuelan State.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is unable to repay its debts because its international assets are frozen. In addition, the leaders of the pro-US Venezuelan opposition, Juan Guaido and then Dinorah Figuera (in exile in Spain), have already managed to recover part of Venezuelan assets based on the fact that they were recognized by the West as representatives of Venezuela instead of the elected president, Nicolás Maduro.

**Restoration of the Caracas-Damascus scheduled airline**

Venezuela's national airline Conviasa has restored its Caracas-Damascus route after a 12-year hiatus.

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**EUROPE**

**Macron considers the Ukrainian counter-offensive failure**

Speaking at the Global Security Forum (GlobSec) in Bratislava, French President Emmanuel Macron said he was in favor of negotiations between all NATO members to provide "tangible and credible security guarantees to Ukraine" in the event of failure of its counter-offensive. He said he was in favor of a system comparable to the one that binds NATO to Israel's security even though the Jewish state is not a member. GlobSec is NATO's forum in Slovakia.

**Prisoner exchange between Belgium and Iran**

Belgium and Iran exchanged two prisoners: Belgian humanitarian Olivier Vandecasteele, accused of terrorism in Iran, against Iranian diplomat in Austria Assadollah Assadi accused of attempted murder in France and detained in Belgium.

**The search of Alisher Usmanov's residence in Germany was illegal**

The Frankfurt court has declared illegal the search of the property of Russian billionaire Alisher Usmanov (owner of Kommersant). German police were seeking to verify allegations made against him by Russian opponent Alexei Navalny.

Usmanov is also subject to sanctions by the EU.

**Olaf Scholz wants to call Vladimir Putin soon**

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz gave an interview to the Koelner Stadt-Anzeiger. He declares his intention to reconnect with Russian President Vladimir Putin, with whom he has not had contact for six months.

With €17.4 billion, Germany became Ukraine's second largest supporter after the US. Following
the sabotage of the North Stream pipelines, probably by the US and Norway, Germany entered a recession. Inflation now stands at 7.6% at an annual rate.

**According to the BND, neither Russia nor Putin's "regime" is weakening**

Director of Germany's intelligence service (BND) Bruno Kal told the Federal Academy of Security Policy (BAKS) in Berlin that Russia shows no signs of weakening: "We don't see any flaws in Putin's system. Criticism of the war against Ukraine is an ordinary disagreement, harmless to the regime. Russia is still capable of waging war for a long time. It still has a lot of weapons and ammunition."

According to him, Russia's willingness to attack Ukraine was visible two weeks before it attacked. He also referred to the sabotage of the North Stream gas pipelines to find that investigations were still ongoing and refused to discuss the possibility of Ukrainian guilt. The U.S. has speculated that the North Stream sabotage was made by Ukraine. This version has the advantage of exonerating both Washington and Oslo. But it poses a new problem: if Kiev is responsible, it is not only an act of war by Ukraine against Russia, but also against Germany, France and the Netherlands.

**Strange deaths in Italy**

A pleasure boat where 23 people were partying sank on Lake Maggiore. A Mossad agent, Érez Shimoni, two Italian intelligence agents and the Russian wife of an Italian captain drowned. All other passengers collected their belongings from the hotel and disappeared. According to the Italian authorities, they were interrogated before leaving.

**Unrest in Kosovo**

Violent unrest broke out in the Serb-populated Zvečan region. The unrecognized state of Kosovo tried to impose the mayors resulting from the elections. But these were boycotted by the population, with the new mayors receiving the votes of only 3.5% of registered voters.

At least 52 Serbs were injured in these incidents. According to the Hungarian Ministry of Defense, more than 20 Hungarian KFOR soldiers were also affected, seven of whom were seriously injured. According to Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani, another 11 Italian soldiers were wounded.

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic met the ambassadors of the "Quint", the godfathers of Pristina (Germany, the US, France, Italy and the UK). The night before, he had called on them to "reason with their child" (i.e., the Kosovars).

**Cleansing in Poland**

The Polish Parliament has adopted a law establishing a commission of inquiry into "Russian influence in Poland" in the years 2007-2020.

Those found guilty may be banned from holding public positions related to access to public finances and classified information for ten years, in order to "prevent them from acting again under Russian influence to the detriment of the interests of the Republic of Poland".

President Andrzej Duda indicated that he would send the text establishing this commission to the Constitutional Tribunal to verify its compliance. This commission should have both executive and judicial powers, in violation of the principle of separation of powers.

**Poland plans to acquire nuclear-powered submarines**

With its fleet being reduced to only one submarine and four small units, Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Błaszczak has announced plans to equip his army with submarines. Spokesman for the Polish Armaments Agency Lt. Col. Krzysztof Platek said: "We are also talking about a stealth strike anywhere in the world at any time, using cruise missiles fired from the surface of the water... However,
nuclear propulsion solutions can never be ruled out, as this technology provides complete ocean capabilities. This case will be an open question and will be related to the financial capabilities and, ultimately, the specific requirements of the Polish Navy."

**General Karel Rekha prepares Czechia for war**

Chief of Staff of the Czech Armed Forces General Karel Rekha said that preparations must be made for a high-intensity war between Russia and NATO. Pursuant to article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, Czech troops should participate.

**54 conflicts of interest in two years at the ECHR**

The European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ), which published a report in 2020 on the conflicts of interest of judges of the European Court of Human Rights and George Soros' organizations, has just published a follow-up report: *The impartiality of the ECHR – Issues and Recommendations.*

It shows that nothing has really changed despite the scandals denounced by its first report. While the ethical rules have been modified, the ECIJ has identified 54 conflicts of interest in the last two years.

**Ukraine: the "revolution" is devouring its children**

Geo Leros, a Ukrainian parliamentarian and former member of "Servant of the People" (Volodymyr Zelensky's party), filed a complaint against Volodymyr Zelensky (President), Andriy Yermak (Head of the Presidential Administration) and his deputy Roman Mashovets, Ivan Bakanov (former head of the Security Service of Ukraine - SBU), Ruslan Demchenko (former Deputy Secretary of the Security and Defense Council). He accuses them of having appointed within the security services several agents of Russia who worked against Ukraine causing thousands of deaths.

**Foreign editions**

*Voltaire, international news* is now published in six languages:
- Dutch
- English
- French
- Italian
- German
- Spanish

A judge in Pechersk Rayon (Kiev) ordered the opening of a preliminary investigation for "high treason".

**Mikhail Galuzin warns against extending the Ukrainian conflict to Transnistria**

Russia's deputy foreign minister Mikhail Galuzin gave an interview to Tass news agency. He warns against extending the conflict to Transnistria. It seems that, following the decision of the International Court of Justice of March 16, 2022, Moscow has given up on liberating Odessa and making the junction between Crimea and Transnistria. The latest maps printed in Russia establish the Dnieper as the border between the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

**Attack on a Russian ship in the Black Sea**

Russian intelligence vessel Ivan Khours which was performing maintenance tasks on the Turkish Stream and Blue Stream gas pipelines, was attacked for 2 and a half hours by drones in the Black Sea on May 25. It managed to destroy all the attacking devices and return to the port of Sevastopol despite a damaged hull.

**Moscow air attack**

On May 30, eight drones attacked Moscow. Five were shot down by air defense and the other three were deflected off course by EW defense.

Previously, Washington had not condemned the Kremlin attack because it was carried out with
non-Western means. On the other hand, it condemned the attack in Belgorod because it was perpetrated by the Legion of Russian fighters in Ukraine with Western means. On the contrary, London has openly congratulated Ukraine for defending itself by attacking Moscow.

International law considers arms manufacturers responsible for their use. Westerners do not want to be held responsible for attacks within Russia's pre-2014 borders.

**Russian arrest warrant for US Senator Lindsey Graham**

The Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs has issued an arrest warrant for US Senator Linsey Graham (North Carolina).

In a video released by the Ukrainian presidency, he talks with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and declares that "the Russians are dying" and that US aid to Ukraine is "the best money we have ever spent".

In a tweet, Senator Graham commented: "I will continue to stand with and for the freedom of Ukraine until every Russian soldier is expelled from Ukrainian territory... I will wear the arrest warrant issued by Putin's corrupt and immoral government as a badge of honor." ☞ Lindsey Graham and John McCain participated in the meeting held in Cairo on 4 February 2011, where the overthrow of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was launched. They were also present, on February 22, 2011 in Lebanon, where they went to Arsal to establish what would become the rear base of the jihadists when the war against Syria began. They were together again in 2016 with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko when they addressed the "integral nationalists" of the Azov Battalion to tell them that the US would send them weapons to defeat Russia.

**Voltaire Network Analysis**


On behalf of China, Li Hui came to propose to the West to make peace in Ukraine by acknowledging their mistakes. His analysis is accurate and substantiated. But the Westerners did not listen to him. They relentlessly pursue the narrative they developed during the Cold War: they are democrats, while the others, all the others, are not. They will continue their support for Ukraine, even though it has few more soldiers and has already lost on the ground.

**German, Danish and Swedish investigations into North Stream sabotage still stalled**

Eight months after the sabotage of the Russian-German-French-Dutch North Stream gas pipelines, "The ambassadors of Germany, Denmark and Sweden were summoned to the Russian Foreign Ministry where they were strongly protested against the total lack of results of national investigations allegedly carried out by the authorities of these countries."

While these states refuse any Russian participation in their national investigations, they have still not provided their results.

**According to Lavrov, Washington threatens African and Latin American states**

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said: "Some of my friends in Africa and Latin America complain that they are fed up with Western demands to join their 'sanctions'. I asked them what was offered to them in exchange from an economic and financial point of view. They confess with a lower eye that in exchange, they are promised not to be punished."
AFRICA

Mevlut Cavusoglu in Cairo

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu visited Cairo just after the re-election of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Relations between Egypt and Türkiye have been abysmal since the overthrow of President Mohamed Morsi in 2013. Ankara and the West consider that he was democratically elected and that his successor, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, is illegitimate. On the contrary, the latter published documents proving that the Muslim Brotherhood had rigged the vote and threatened the members of the electoral commission. It was therefore Morsi who was illegitimate and the army only restored legality at the request of the people. The Egyptian-Turkish problem is particularly visible today in Libya where Cairo supports Benghazi, while Ankara supports Tripoli.

Clashes in Tripoli

Fighting broke out in Tripoli on the evening of 28 May. Clashes continued late into the night between two armed groups affiliated with the Government of National Unity, the al-Radaa (Deterrence) Force and the 444 Brigade.

Since the overthrow of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in 2011, the country has returned to its pre-1969 Revolution state, when tribal clashes occurred.

CAR wants to host Russian military base

Central African Republic's ambassador to Moscow Léon Dodonou gave an interview to Izvestia. He reveals that during his visit in October 2022, president of the Central African National Assembly Simplice Mathieu Sarandj had asked Moscow to install a military base in his country. This project, essential for the Central African Republic to free itself from French and American colonialism, could soon see the light of day.

Thabo Mbeki wants to hasten the creation of an African Criminal Court

Former South African President Thabo Mbeki said: "The documents establishing an African Criminal Court must be ratified by the countries of the continent as soon as possible so that they can make their own decisions on issuing warrants, and not follow the International Criminal Court."

The principle of an African Criminal Court was enacted by the African Union in 2014. It has not been followed up so far.

South Africa is due to host the next BRICS summit and has been ordered by the International Criminal Court to arrest Russian President Vladimir Putin.

ASIA

Riad Salamé will not be extradited

Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon Riad Salamé shares with former Renault-Nissan CEO Carlos Ghosn the privilege of being among the six Lebanese wanted by Interpol. He is even the subject of two "red notices". He has just been summoned by a Lebanese judge who, pending verification of the validity of the extradition request against him, has confiscated his Lebanese and French passports. Riad Salamé protested his good faith and claimed to have won the €120 million which were blocked in Europe when he worked at the Merrill Lynch bank from 1973 to 1993. Now he can live peacefully in Lebanon like Mr. Ghosn, as European judges cannot bring them to trial.

The State Department spokesperson hoped that the Lebanese authorities would respect the procedure for appointing his successor. Riad Salamé's term at the helm of the Central Bank of Lebanon will end on 30 June.
Bashar al-Assad/Hassan Nasrallah
Summit
Secretary General of Lebanese Hezbollah Hassan Nasrallah was received in Damascus by President Bashar al-Assad.

The Sultan of Oman in Iran
Sultan of Oman Haitham bin Tariq paid an official visit to Iran. Oman offers its good offices to all kinds of international negotiations.

The People's Mujaheddin of Iran get the support of a hundred former heads of state and government against President Raisi
NGO Justice for Victims of 1988 Massacre in Iran, an offshoot of the People's Mujaheddin of Iran, managed to gather a petition from 50 former presidents, 47 former prime ministers, 1 former chancellor and 9 other former heads of state from around the world to "hold the Iranian regime accountable".

In 1988, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ordered the execution of traitors that, alongside the Iraqi army, had just participated in a military operation against Iran. This order has been interpreted by courts as applying to all jailed members of the People's Mujaheddin of Iran, and even more comprehensively to jailed members of left-wing parties.

These executions made 2,500 to 5,000 victims according to the sources of the time. Today, the People's Mujaheddin of Iran claim, without providing the slightest proof, that they were 30,000.

The case is all the more sensitive since, among the judges of the time, was current President Ebrahim Raisi who would have had a very "firm" hand.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan wins legislative and presidential elections
Recep Tayyip Erdogan (People's Alliance) won 52.2% of the votes cast in the second round of the Turkish presidential election. His competitor Kemal Kilicdaroglu (Nation Alliance) won only 47.8% of the votes.

In the general elections that corresponded to the first round of the presidential election, the People's Alliance (Recep Tayyip Erdogan) won 323 seats, the Nation Alliance (Kemal Kilicdaroglu) 212, whilst the Labour and Freedom Alliance (Pervin Buldan and Mithat Sancar) won 65 seats.

The Alliance of the Nation therefore retains the presidency of the Republic and the majority of the Grand National Assembly. Forecast to lose the elections by all the polls just a month ago, Recep Tayyip Erdogan convinced his fellow citizens with a program based on the independence of his country from the West. This is what Thierry Meyssan had announced against the tide last month.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan's re-election was celebrated not only by the Turks in their homeland and by their diaspora, but also by all supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Arab world and the West.

Commenting on the election result in front of a crowd of his supporters, Recep Tayyip Erdogan delivered a speech against sexual minorities. He asked: "Is the CHP [Kilicdaroglu's party] pro-LGBT?" To which the crowd replied: "Yes!" Is the HDP [Kurdish autonomist] pro-LGBT? ». The crowd replied, "Yes!" Is the AKP pro-LGBT? ». His supporters yell: "No!"

Dismantling of Mossad cell in Turkey
Turkish intelligence (MIT) has arrested 15 people accused of belonging to an Israeli Mossad cell. They had been recruited from among the followers of Fethullah Gülen to spy on Iranian companies.
North Korea builds wall on its Chinese border

According to Reuters, North Korea is building a wall along its border with China. The experts interviewed interpret it as a protection against pandemics.

North Korea fails to launch spy satellite

The North Korean spy satellite ran aground off the west coast of the Korean Peninsula. Japan had ordered all Okinawa residents to join the air raid shelters during the launch.

Three to five spy satellites would be needed to monitor the entire Korean peninsula.

Kim Yo-jong, the sister of the supreme leader assured that it was only a postponement. She mocked the US according to whom the launch would be contrary to international law, when it itself launched thousands of spy satellites.

Why the Chinese prefer their democracy to the Western system

At the "Second International Forum for Democracy: Shared Human Values", in the presence of Li Shulei, member of the politburo and current head of the Propaganda Department, speakers explained why they prefer Chinese democracy to Western democracy:

• Chinese democracy is designed for all its citizens, while Western democracy only gives power to the richest 1%.

• Chinese democracy selects its leaders based on their results, while Western democracy selects them on the basis of their talents through elections.

Xi Jinping aims for China to be at the center of the IT revolution

The Chinese Communist Party has just published a collection of speeches by President Xi Jinping on scientific research where he explains that the power of a nation depends neither on its economic capacities nor on the size of its population, but on its scientific capacities. After lamenting that China was absent from the industrial revolution of the nineteenth century, he calls on his compatriots to be the drivers of the current computer revolution, including in terms of big data and artificial intelligence.

Today, Huawei has not stopped its production despite the semiconductors crisis. China is still the world's leading producer of supercomputers.

Xi Jinping also warns about how Westerners have used their scientific and technological lead to try to dominate the world. On the contrary, he calls on the Chinese to act in the interests of humanity.

China intercepts US spy plane in China Sea

Chinese military aircraft intercepted a US spy plane in the South China Sea. Commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Admiral John C. Aquilino called the action "unnecessarily aggressive." Meanwhile, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said: "The US should immediately stop these dangerous provocations."

According to George Gao, a Covid virus leak from Wuhan lab cannot be ruled out

In a BBC documentary broadcast on May 30, former director of China's Centre for Disease Control and Prevention Professor George Gao revealed that Beijing had conducted its own investigation into a possible leak from the Wuhan lab, but found nothing. However, he added, "You can always suspect something. It's scientific. Don't rule anything out."

George Gao had participated on October 18, 2019 in New York, in an exercise of the Davos Forum with the help of the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, simulating a global pandemic.
Lloyd Austin/Li Shangfu meeting cancelled

Chinese Defense Minister General Li Shangfu has officially declined the invitation of his US counterpart General Lloyd Austin to a meeting in Singapore on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue.

China is reacting to the US anti-China statements and does not intend to let it speak in double talk, threatening in public and conciliatory in private.

The US last year placed General Li Shangfu under sanctions which they still refuse to lift.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

US Democrats challenge COP28 presidency

US and EU parliamentarians have written to the UN Secretary-General asking him not to entrust the presidency of COP28 in Dubai to Sultan al-Jaber. He is the UAE Minister of Industry and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc).

The signatories protest against the attribution of the presidency to a lobbyist for fossil energy sources. They believe, on the contrary, that it should be entrusted to a lobbyist for alternative energy sources.

Insurers bow to pressure from US Republicans

On May 15, 2023, 23 US Republican attorneys general wrote to insurers and reinsurers who are members of the Net-Zero Insurance Alliance (NZIA) to tell them that the decarbonization class action lawsuit violates US antitrust laws. As a result, Munich Re, Zurich Re, Hannover Re, Swiss Re, then Scor, Axa and Alliance left the organization.

Conversely, in 2017, the Sierra Club and Amazon Watch, two Democrat NGOs, led a campaign against the BlackRock investment fund because it invested in fossil fuels. BlackRock then hired the main drafter of the 2015 Paris Agreement, Brian Deese, and withdrew its fossil fuel investments in 2020.

Saudi Arabia negotiates entry into New Development Bank

The New Development Bank (NDB), known as the BRICS bank, has opened negotiations with Saudi Arabia to become a member. The NDB is an alternative to the tools of Breton Woods (World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF)). It has a capital of $100 billion. In addition to the five BRICS powers, Bangladesh, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Uruguay are already members. It is based in Shanghai and chaired by former Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff.

The value of the Saudi riyal is pegged to the dollar’s.

Eurasian Economic Union Summit

The Presidents of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan as well as the Armenian Prime Minister met in the Kremlin to define the main orientations of their customs union (Eurasian Economic Union - EAEU) in the medium and long term.

Russian President Vladimir Putin reaffirmed that "the Union of Five remains founded on principles of mutual benefit." He called for cooperation with similar bodies in other parts of the world.
EDITORIAL

The 20th Shangri-La Dialogue

The 20th Dialogue at the Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore, at the initiative of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in London brought together all that counts military leaders from the Asia-Pacific.

US Secretary of Defense General Lloyd Austin and his Chinese counterpart General Li Shangfu politely shook hands at the entrance, despite the coercive measures (wrongly described as "sanctions") that the US imposes on the Chinese. One speaker noted that, in the upcoming duel, it did not matter whether the US or China would win while seeing which of the two would convince the audience did.

The IISS has distributed its 2023 report attributing full responsibility for the tension to China by questioning the regional order. Chinese officials have pointed out that it was the Americans who disrupted the post-war international order by challenging the one-China policy stemming from the Potsdam Agreement (1945) and UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 (1971).

For the first time in its history, the Shangri-La Dialogue was the scene of a diplomatic confrontation.

• Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese delivered the opening remarks. He stressed that a breakdown in dialogue between Washington and Beijing could have devastating consequences for the world.

• US Secretary of Defense Gen. Lloyd Austin delivered a speech entitled: "U.S. Leadership in the Indo-Pacific Region." He stressed the many regional cooperations and the will of all to shape a peaceful world.

• Indonesian Defense Minister Prabowo Subianto presented his country's peace plan to end the Ukrainian conflict. It calls for a ceasefire, a mutual military withdrawal 15 kilometers from the line of contact, the deployment of UN peacekeepers in the demilitarized zone between them, and UN-supervised referendums in disputed territories. The Indonesian plan was condemned by Kiev while Russia did not react.

• India's deputy national security adviser Vikram Misri spelled it out. He said that even if India buys weapons from Russia and does not condemn its action in Ukraine, it is not a military ally. India condemns military alliances because it wants to remain independent. This is the meaning of non-alignment expounded by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in 1955 in Bandung.

• Japanese Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada stressed that his country's rearment was in accordance with international law. Then he denounced unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force. He was referring to the deployment of Chinese forces around the uninhabited Senkaku-Diaoyu islands, handed over in 1972 by the US to Japan, but claimed by Japan, China and Taiwan alike (…).
Chinese Defense Minister General Li Shangfu questioned who was disrupting peace in the region. Then he made four remarks: (1) mutual respect must prevail over hegemony; (2) international law (not Western rules) should supplant the law of the jungle; (3) mutual trust and consultation solve problems; (4) we need flexibility, openness and inclusiveness; all things that become impossible if military alliances are instituted. He concluded by calling on everyone to participate in this collective work in intergovernmental forums.

General Li Shangfu also clarified China’s position vis-à-vis Taiwan. Beijing will stick to its doctrine of reuniting China peacefully, but if a third party tries to separate the island from its motherland, the Chinese military will intervene immediately. "We will not fear any opponent and will resolutely safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity, whatever the cost," he said.

AMERICAS

Congress raises US debt ceiling

After a very long parliamentary battle, Congress suspended the $31.4 trillion US debt ceiling, representing more than 120% of its GDP. This amount is equivalent to a public debt of $94,000 per U.S. citizen, including children.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy has spoken out against further increases in the defense budget to support Ukraine. But proponents of this support argue that with rising prices, the increase in the defense budget is actually a decline in purchasing power.

Meeting of the Anti-Daesh Coalition

Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhane bin Abdullah al-Saud co-hosted a meeting of the Global Coalition to Defeat the Islamic State (ISIS) to "address the continuing threat of ISIS and reaffirm our commitment to ensuring its enduring defeat."

The US National Security Community in turmoil

Individuals are impersonating US National Security experts to send emails on their behalf to other public figures. According to the CIA, this campaign would be carried out by the Kimsuky group, linked to the General Bureau of Reconnaissance (GBR), a North Korean secret service.

The US massively violates its citizens’ privacy rights

The statistical report of US Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines on the nominative surveys on the Internet carried out in 2021 shows a huge violation of the right of US citizens to privacy. Each intelligence agency has the possibility to ask Internet companies to give it access to the nominative information they have concerning foreign or US Internet users suspected of crimes. Edward Snowden has shown that this data includes emails, video and voice chats, photos, file transfers, logins, details about social media accounts, etc. Under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), not only can the U.S. Attorney General authorize such searches, but so can an official such as the Director of National Intelligence. In 2021, the CIA conducted about 4,000 searches... while the FBI undertook 3,394,053. The Bureau may use the data collected for purposes other than those that motivated its requests.

Americans think things are out of control

According to a The Economist/YouGov poll, 71% of American adults believe that things are out of control in their country. Only 14% think things are under control. The remaining 15% have no opinion.

Joe Biden lied about his son Hunter’s business

The Daily Mail published excerpts of text messages and voice conversations recorded on
Hunter Biden’s computer. They mix family and financial matters. They confirm that, contrary to his statements, Joe Biden knew that his son was doing business with a Chinese company close to the Communist Party.

**FBI refuses to reveal information about Biden family**

An FBI delegation came to show a classified document to a delegation from the congressional subcommittee investigating the Biden family. This is a dossier on unverified revelations from an anonymous source. The FBI refused to leave a copy of the document with lawmakers. Subcommittee Chairman James Comer called for a vote on June 8 to file a contempt charge against FBI Director Christopher A. Wray who oversees the withholding of information.

**Erratum**

We mistakenly reported that Jacob "Jake" Sullivan was Hillary Clinton’s campaign manager. He was in fact her chief advisor. Her campaign manager was John Podesta.

**Washington monitors six global south powers swing states**

According to *Foreign Policy*, the challenge to the leadership of the US by Russia and China will only be possible if six medium-sized states switch to their side. These are Brazil, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Turkey.

**Eric Adams and illegal immigration**

New York City’s Democrat mayor Eric Adams has offered New Yorkers stipends to house illegal immigrants in their homes.

**AMLO wins key PRI region**

Delfina Gomez, from President Andrés Manuel López Obrador’s Morena party, won the Mexico City governorate election with 52.7% of the vote. Her opponent, Alejandra del Moral, only got 44.3%.

The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) thus loses the most populous region of Mexico that it controlled for 94 years.

Andrés Manuel López Obrador (aka "AMLO") is one of the most popular heads of state in the world.

**AMLO does not tolerate extrajudicial executions**

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (aka "Amlo") reacted strongly to a video showing soldiers executing 5 people. He said they will be identified and tried. Amlo has entrusted considerable responsibilities to the army and demands an end to extrajudicial executions.

**EUROPE**

**MI5 arrests journalist Kit Klarenberg who revealed the deposition refuting 9/11 official version**

Britain’s intelligence service MI5 arrested journalist Kit Klarenberg upon his arrival in the UK. He was subjected to a five-hour interrogation. All his papers and notes, as well as his computers, hard drives and memory cards were confiscated. Kit Klarenberg is a British journalist based in Serbia. He has worked for Russian news agency *Sputnik* and now for investigative media *The Grayzone*. In particular, he revealed the statement of Donald Canestraro, an agent of the US Department of Justice body responsible for overseeing the cases of the September 11 defendants, dated July 20, 2021. This irrefutable document proves that at least two of the alleged hijackers of the 9/11 attacks, Nawaf al-Hazmi and Khalid al-Mihdhar, were CIA agents. According to the official version, they hijacked American Airlines Flight 77 and crashed into the Pentagon; a version incompatible with the crime scene.
Kit Klarenberg also revealed British plans to bomb Kerch Bridge in Crimea and Paul Mason's links with Her Majesty's secret service. Paul Mason is a star journalist for Channel 4 who writes for *The Spectator* and *Le Monde diplomatique*.

**UK calls for closure of so-called 'Chinese police stations'**

Security Minister Tom Tugendhat has written to the Chinese government asking it to close its four police stations in the UK.

The US has already arrested dual nationals who, under the pretext of helping the diaspora, were providing Beijing with information about its political opponents. Such units would also exist in France.

Beijing has always denied these speculations.

**Video**

Thierry Meyssan participated in the program "*Libre parole*" of TV-ADP (only in French). This is a free commentary on the news of the month.

**Belgium opposes its assault rifles being used to attack Russia**

Belgian SCAR assault rifles were used by the "Freedom of Russia" legion and the "Russian Volunteer Corps" to carry out attacks on Russian territory, in the Belgorod region. Some of these volunteers in the service of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense are integral nationalists or neo-Nazis.

Belgian Defense Minister Ludivine Dedonder and Foreign Minister Hadja Lahbib announced that they were seeking clarification from the Ukrainian government.

"These deliveries are intended for the Ukrainian armed forces to protect their territory and population from Russian invasion. This is expressly stated in the documents accompanying each delivery (...) These weapons are therefore not allowed for isolated groups that have an internal Russian agenda. »

**Italy lifts sanctions against Saudi Arabia**

The government of Giorgia Meloni has lifted its ban on arms sales to Saudi Arabia imposed in response to Saudi action in Yemen.

Italy had already lifted its sanctions on the United Arab Emirates, which first withdrew from the conflict.

These decisions follow the restoration of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

**Sweden strengthens its legislation against the PKK**

"Promoting, strengthening or supporting a terrorist organization" is now a criminal offence in Sweden. The new law intends to sanction the PKK in order to get the approval of Türkiye to the country's accession to NATO. Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson published an op-ed in the *Financial Times* reiterating his country's commitment to the fight against terrorism.

Justice Minister Gunnar Strömmer promised on Turkish television to ban the PKK flag from party demonstrations. But these cannot be banned under constitutional provisions.

Secretary General of the Atlantic Alliance Jens Stoltenberg travelled to Ankara on the occasion of President Erdogan's inauguration to receive Turkish approval.

**Foreign editions**

*Voltaire, international news* is now published in six languages:
- Dutch
- English
- French
- Italian
- German
- Spanish

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**Donald Tusk threatens power in Poland**

Former Polish Prime Minister, then President of the European Commission and now President of the Civic Platform party Donald Tusk managed to rally 500,000 demonstrators in Warsaw. They spoke out in favor of a European and democratic Poland against the present Prime Minister, accused of being nationalist and illiberal.

The blocking of the constitutional reform, adopted in February by both chambers, prevents Poland from receiving the €23.9 billion that Brussels is supposed to pay. It is due to a crisis between the President of the same Court, Julia Przylebska, and five of its judges according to whom her mandate ended on 20 December 2022. They refuse to sit and therefore to validate the pending bills, including this reform. Ms. Przylebska, who refuses to give in, is close to leader of the ruling Law and Justice party Jaroslav Kaczynski whom Poles see as the "puppeteer" of their political life.

**Peter Szijjarto thinks Russian gas will soon flood southeastern Europe**

According to Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto, in the coming years Türkiye will become the (Russian) gas supplier to the south-east of the EU.

**Hungary does not spontaneously declare Crimea "Ukrainian"**

Hungary published a video on the Ukrainian conflict on 3rd June with a map without Crimea. In the face of protests, it corrected it and republished it on June 4, this time with Ukrainian Crimea.

**European Parliament calls for removal of Hungary's right to preside over European Council in 2024**

In a resolution (P9_TA (2023)0216), the European Parliament notes that Viktor Orbán's government "undermines the founding values of the Union" and worsens "the situation of fundamental rights in Hungary". Above all, it "questions how Hungary will be able to hold the presidency [of the European Council] credibly in 2024 [second half of the year]" and calls on the Commission to continue to freeze the funds it has to pay Hungary until it complies.

**European Parliament advocates system to combat Russian and Chinese interference along the lines of the WACL**

The European Parliament proposes the establishment of a system to combat foreign interference in the 2024 elections. The rapporteur, Latvian Sandra Kalniete, referred to the examples of struggle of the Ukrainians and Taiwan, referring without naming it to the World Anti-Communist League (co-chaired by the Ukrainian Yaroslav Stetsko and the Chinese Chiang Kai-shek).

Sandra Kalniete is one of the founding figures of Latvian independence. She is also President of the Group for the Reconciliation of European Histories, which since 2008 has been implementing the Prague process equating communism with Nazism.

The European Parliament calls for the creation of

1. an EU structure to act as a focal point and specialized knowledge center,
2. a Sharing and Analysis Centre (ISIC) for the joint development of methodologies and
3. an early warning system for parliamentarians (national and European).

Sandra Kalniete prides herself on having already passed several resolutions against Russia and of having successfully worked for the censorship of Sputnik news and Russia Today.

**The EU establishes a patent court**

The EU, which has created a European patent law replacing previous national laws, has just created a single court to hear disputes. The judges of first instance will be delegated in each Member State, but coordinated by the head office in Paris. The appeal procedure will take place in Luxembourg.
Brussels bans Ukrainian grain in 5 EU states

The European Commission has banned the import of Ukrainian grain into Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. Sold at low price, it threatened the survival of local farmers.

Protests in Serbia

After two shootings, demonstrations follow one another in Serbia. Protesters are calling for the revocation of the licenses of TV stations that broadcast violent programs, such as reality shows featuring former criminals turned stars; banning media that stir up hatred against dissenting voices; the resignation of the Minister of the Interior and the Director of the Intelligence Services.

Faced with the inertia of the government, some are beginning to call for the resignation of President Aleksandar Vucic.

Turkish NATO forces deploy in Kosovo

To restore order in the unrecognized state of Kosovo, NATO has announced the deployment of 700 more soldiers, including 500 Turks.

The unrest was caused by Kosovo Serbs. Turkey is the heir of the Ottoman Empire which conquered the "field of blackbirds" (Kosovo).

The Kosovar government has announced that it is ready to call new local elections for its Serbian population. However, organizing them will not make sense as long as the leaders of this population call for a boycott.

Li Hui clarifies his method

Chinese negotiator of the Ukrainian crisis Li Hui reacted strongly to the Wall Street Journal article assuring that he had asked his Western interlocutors to advocate an immediate ceasefire and to recognize the occupied territories as Russians. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba confirmed that this was not true at all.

Li Hui focuses his talks on the recognition of principles from which borders will arise and not on military actions. By making a shortcut, the Wall Street Journal acknowledges that these wise principles implicitly prove Russia right.

Voltaire Network analyses

• "Global warming and the confrontation of the West against the rest of the world", by Thierry Meyssan

The theory of the anthropogenic cause of global warming will soon be at the center of the confrontation between the West and Russia. While no one disputes that some parts of the world are warming, there is currently no other explanation for this phenomenon. But renowned scientists will present an alternative explanation at COP-28 in Dubai. They happen to be members of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

• "The reorganization of the Russian armies", by Thierry Meyssan

In the midst of the Ukrainian conflict, the Russian Federation decided to complete the reorganization of its armies. It is a mammoth task that has been accomplished since the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the complete anarchy that followed. However, despite the very serious problems that arose last year, first with the dispatch to the front of young men with no military training, then with delays in supplying certain units, a professionalization of the system is already clearly visible. The announced reform aims not only to homogenize the Armed Forces upwards, but to profoundly transform the methods of command.

CIA reportedly knew in June 2022 about Ukraine's plan to sabotage Nord Stream

According to a Discord Leaks document, which the Washington Post got from a friend of Jack Teixeira, the CIA got wind of a Ukrainian plan to sabotage Nord Stream in June 2022. The CIA allegedly shared this information with the German secret service (BND) before the sabotage was carried out on September 26,
2022, which intelligence officers reportedly confirmed.

At the same time, a private expedition involving a Grayzone journalist found a diving boot at the scene of the attack that matched those of US and Ukrainian combat swimmers.

Several senior European and US officials acknowledged in December that there was no evidence to incriminate Russia.

The saboteurs would be under the direct orders of commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian armies General Valerii Zaluzhnyi and his deputy, integral nationalist Dmytro Yarosh.

Contrary to what one might think at first glance, this news does not absolve the US because Dmytro Yarosh is a historical member of NATO’s secret services. He has conducted a number of covert operations for the Atlantic Alliance against Russia since the 2000s.

The Nord Stream gas pipelines are owned by an international Russian-German-French-Dutch consortium. The sabotage of these pipelines is an act of war against Russia, Germany, France and the Netherlands.

**Ukrainian integral nationalists sabotage Kakhovka dam**

The Ukrainian authorities seem to have given up on a counter-offensive against Russia and replaced it instead with large-scale sabotage in the tradition of “integral nationalists” (so-called "Banderists" or "Ukro-Nazis"). They thus partially blew up the Kakhovka dam (a hundred kilometers from Kherson), in accordance with their plan that General Andrey Kovalchuk had revealed to the Washington Post on December 30, 2022.

**Russian Academy of Sciences proposes new interpretation of global warming**

According to the Academy of Sciences of the Russian Federation, “The main cause of local climatic disasters is the increasing emission of natural hydrogen due to the alternating gravitational forces of the moon and the sun, which cause holes in the ozone layer. The resulting rise in temperature and the combination of ozone and hydrogen are the main causes of forest and steppe fires (...) This refutes the concept of the Montreal Protocol, the implementation of which has wiped out entire sub-industries of the chemical industry without affecting the size of the ozone holes, which have only increased. We publish the Board's decision and the presentations of the reports.”

This new theory contradicts the conclusions of the IPCC, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change created in 1988 within the United Nations at the initiative of UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to support her conflict against British miners' unions.

As far as we know, Russia rejects *a priori* any discussion on the territories that validated their annexation by referendum i.e., Crimea, Donbass and part of Novorossiya.

**Moscow ready to negotiate with Kiev**

"President Putin has been, is and will be open to any contact in order to achieve our objectives by means other than the special military operation. If it is possible, it would be preferable," his spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Rossiya-1 TV.

**iPhones of Russian execs hacked by NSA**

The FSB accused the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) of hacking top executives' Apple phones.

CEO of Internet security firm Kaspersky Eugene Kaspersky said the iPhones of his company’s executives were compromised. Spyware was discovered that collects audio recordings, photos, location and other data.
This is the first time that Apple has been questioned for its relations with the US secret services.

AFRICA

Israel participates in African Lion 2023

For the first time, 12 Israeli soldiers are participating in the African Lion 2023 exercises currently taking place on Moroccan territory.

18 countries and 8,000 soldiers are involved in this exercise of the US Africa Command (AfriCom) based in Germany.

Giorgia Meloni in Tunisia

During her visit to Tunis, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni outlined an Algiers-Tunis-Rome axis.

Italy intends to obtain gas supplies from North Africa and get the countries of the region to control their emigration. In exchange, it pleads in vain for IMF aid for them without political compensation.

General al-Burhan and Islamists call for the dismissal of Volker Perthes

General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan has written to UN Secretary-General António Guterres asking him to dismiss his special representative in Sudan Volker Perthes.

For several weeks, Islamists have been organizing demonstrations against him.

Former director of the Bundestag's think tank, the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), Volker Perthes became an adviser to Jeffrey Feltman during the war against Syria. He became the representative of the UN secretary-general in Sudan when Feltman, having left the post of under-secretary-general for political affairs, became a US diplomat in the Horn of Africa again.

In addition, the US had suspended its participation in the talks in protest at the numerous human rights violations committed by both Sudanese sides. They issued unilateral sanctions against four companies, two linked to the military and two to the SAF. However, it appears that the sanctions are much more troublesome for General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan's army than for the Rapid Action Forces. Washington is pressuring the military, which was the first to withdraw from Saudi negotiations.

Riots in Senegal

The sentencing of Ousmane Sonko to two years in prison for "corruption of youth" sparked riots in Casamance and Dakar much more violent than when he was charged in 2021. Abroad the consulates of Paris, Bordeaux, Milan and New York were attacked. The government has temporarily closed all its consulates pending the reinforcement of their security.

The rape charges against Ousmane Sonko were dropped.

His Franco-Spanish lawyer Juan Branco was turned back at the border and was unable to assist him during his trial.

Ousmane Sonko is the author of Oil and Gas in Senegal: Chronicle of a Spoliation; a book in which he accuses President Macky Sall and his entourage of embezzlement in the management of hydrocarbons. He is the founder and president of the African Patriots of Senegal Party for Work, Ethics and Fraternity (PASTEF). He is a deputy and mayor of Ziguinchor and was a candidate in the 2019 presidential election.

A senior custom official, he is a nationalist. He denounces both corruption and homosexuals.

Equatorial Guinea's blatantly sham elections

Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo (80) was re-elected president of Equatorial Guinea for a 6th
term with 94.9%, according to the Electoral Commission. Voter turnout was officially 98%.

Andrés Esono Ondo of the Convergence for Social Democracy (CPDS) reportedly received 9,684 votes, while Bonaventura Monsuy Asumu of the Social Democratic Coalition Party (PCSD) reportedly received 2,855.

General Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo came to power in 1979 following a military coup. Equatorial Guinea is home to 1.4 million people.

Vladimir Putin will not be arrested in South Africa

South Africa announced the publication of decrees offering immunity to participants of the BRICS summit at the end of August.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) demanded the arrest of President Vladimir Putin.

ASIA

In Israel, no Covid deaths of patients aged 18-49 with no underlying morbidities.

The Israeli Ministry of Health has so far recorded more than 12,500 deaths from Covid-19. Each case was the subject of a medical report. All of these reports have been centralized in the department.

The ministry confirmed that 356 patients between the ages of 18 and 49 have died from COVID-19. All of them, without exception, had underlying morbidities.

Antony Blinken at AIPAC

On June 5 in Washington, Secretary of State Antony Blinken addressed the American Israel Public Affairs Committee Policy (AIPAC), the pro-Israel lobby in the US.

During his speech, he made it clear that Washington considers its alliance with Saudi Arabia a matter of national security and that it will do everything to advance Saudi-Israeli normalization. He also reiterated the US' commitment to the "two-state solution" despite being rejected by some members of the Israeli government. If Washington takes the initiative for the Saudi-Israeli rapprochement, it lets Tel Aviv steer the Palestinian-Israeli one.

Incident between Egypt and Israel

At the request of Egyptian Intelligence Director Abbas Kamel, a Hamas delegation led by Khaled Meshad and another from Islamic Jihad led by Al-Nakhalah, rushed to Cairo.

Egypt wishes to discuss the worsening security situation and to take a peace approach before it is too late.

A deadly incident pitted an Egyptian policeman against Israeli soldiers on the Egyptian-Palestinian border, killing three on the Israeli side and one on the Egyptian side. The two sides give very different versions of the same incident.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi spoke by phone with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He offered his condolences.

Prince Hussein of Jordan’s Wedding

Jordanian Crown Prince Hussein married with great fanfare to Jordanian architect Rajwa Al Saif. In April 2021, Jordanian figures linked to Saudi Arabia tried to overthrow King Abdullah II of Jordan.

How to get the US occupation forces out of Syria?

According to the Washington Post, based on classified Pentagon documents revealed by the Discord Leaks, at a time when Syria and Russia are preparing a revolt of local populations against the US presence, Iran is training militiamen to trap GIs. Explosive devices, placed on the roads, are capable of piercing US tanks.
Pentagon delivers HIMARS to its Kurdish mercenaries to threaten Türkiye

HIMARS multiple rocket launchers were reportedly delivered by the Pentagon to the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). These would be basic models with a range of 80 kilometers, not improved models with a range of 300 kilometers.

The Pentagon has been using them for its base in Al-Tanf, on the Jordanian border, since 2017. It has just delivered some to Ukraine. It is not known whether the HIMARS of northern Syria are used directly by Kurdish mercenaries or under US supervision. In any case, the presence of HIMARS calls into question the principle of a right of pursuit of the Turkish army on Syrian territory within a strip of 40 kilometers. This right was recognized in 1998 by the Adana Accords and serves as a basis for the current negotiations between Syria and Türkiye.

Syria and Iraq against drug trafficking

The Syrian and Iraqi foreign ministers met in Baghdad. They agreed on cross-border coordination to combat drug trafficking. After accusing Syria of torture, the US accuses it of organizing drug trafficking while preventing President Bashar al-Assad from fighting this scourge. During antiquity, the most important religious center of the Roman Empire was located in Baalbeck (present-day Lebanon). The temple of Bacchus is decorated with bas-reliefs and frescoes of poppies. The drugs produced in the Bekaa Valley (Lebanon) were considered the best in the world and exported as far as India.

During the Lebanese civil war, Syrian Vice President Rifaat al-Assad became the leader of Lebanon's drug traffickers until his dismissal, when he tried to overthrow his brother, President Hafez al-Assad. He then took refuge in Paris under the protection of his friend, President François Mitterrand.

Today, the main producers of cannabis and opium in the Bekaa are Shiites who pay their zakat (religious tax) to Hezbollah. The latter, when it occupied the Ministry of Agriculture, tried several times to offer them alternative crops, but only partially succeeded. The US accuses Hezbollah of being an international cartel, which it rejects. None of the Hezbollah figures who have been charged by the US DEA have been convicted of drug trafficking in any country.

At the beginning of the war against Syria (2012), the US provided the jihadists with captagon, a synthetic drug. It was manufactured in Bulgaria by SIC, the network of Prime Minister Boyko Borissov. Today, captagon is produced locally by former jihadists and allies of the US. It floods the Middle East market, especially Saudi Arabia.

Iraq begins its post-Western reconstruction

Iraq will just begin its reconstruction after its destruction by the West in 2003.

Baghdad has just signed a billion-dollar deal with Saudi Arabia to build a new district of 4,000 apartments and 250 villas. It will house many businesses and should help breathe new life into the country.

Washington tries to reconnect with Riyadh

• In November 2022, President Joe Biden visited Riyadh to convince Saudi Arabia to increase oil production amid Western unilateral coercive measures against Russia.

• In October, the US reacted very negatively to Saudi Arabia's decision to cut oil production. President Biden immediately declassified a report on the murder of Muslim Brotherhood Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul by the crown prince's men.

• In April 2023, White House energy security envoy Amos Hochstein and Middle East coordinator Brett Mcgurk visited Saudi Arabia and Israel. Then director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry Ronen Levy traveled to
Washington to meet with the secretary of state. Discussions focused on the Saudi civil nuclear project, which Tel Aviv sees as the first step toward military nuclear power.


- In early June, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken participated in a meeting of foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The US has come to strengthen its ties with the Gulf countries that, one after the other, are looking on China. Now Washington is in favor of peace in general. It now preaches it in Yemen and assures that its only objective vis-à-vis Iran is to prevent it from building the atomic bomb (which it does not do, according to China and Russia).

New Parliament in Kuwait

The parliamentary elections in Kuwait saw the arrival of 12 reformist deputies and one woman in Parliament.

The Kuwaiti Parliament is the place of real discussions unlike the other Gulf monarchies. It is also at the origin of several political crises and remains dominated by Islamists.

The new Erdogan government

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has formed his new government. Mehmet Simsek returns to the Ministry of Economy that he left in 2018. Hakan Fidan becomes Minister of Foreign Affairs and left his post as head of the secret service (MIT) to his deputy, Ibrahim Kalin. Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces General Yasar Güler becomes Minister of Defense.

Spy exchange with Iran

Belgium and Oman have organized new prisoner swaps with Iran, as part of Operation Blackstone. One Dane, Thomas Kjems, and two Iranian-Austrians, Karam Ghaderi and Massud Mossaheb, were released by Tehran. It is not known who was released on the European side.

A naval coalition in the Gulf and the Arabian Sea

Admiral Shahram Irani, a Kurdish Sunni who commands the Iranian navy, announced that Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar (in addition to Oman which has already signed a treaty with Iran) will form a naval alliance to replace the US presence in the Gulf. This alliance could extend to India and Pakistan to drive the US out of the Arabian Sea. Iran is once again becoming a regional hub.

Ebrahim Raisi in Latin America

President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi will go to Latin America next week to visit Venezuela, Nicaragua and Cuba at the invitation of Presidents Nicolás Maduro, Daniel Ortega and Miguel Díaz-Canel.

New US Unilateral Coercive Measures Against Iran and China

The US has announced unilateral coercive measures (wrongly referred to as "sanctions") against a group of individuals and companies from Iran, China and Hong Kong associated with the alleged development of Iran's ballistic missile program.

In addition, Tehran announced that it had tested hypersonic missiles.

Afghanistan produces almost no opium anymore

Pursuant to the April 2022 decision of Taliban Supreme Leader Haibatullah Akhundzada, poppy fields have been largely eradicated. Such a ban had already been imposed by the Taliban in 2000, but could not be enforced due to the Anglo-American invasion.
Since the Anglo-American invasion in 2001, Afghanistan had become one of the world’s leading drug producers with more than 80% of global opium and 95% of European heroin. Soon drug use had wreaked massive havoc among Afghans themselves. Today, an estimated 4 million Afghans are addicted to drug use.

While the US claimed to be fighting this crop, it still flourished during its occupation. In reality, the US Department of Defense was airlifting opium to Europe via Kosovo, under the control of the US State Department. The Taliban put an end to this trafficking.

Failed color revolution attempt in Kyrgyzstan

The Kyrgyz secret service, the State Committee for National Security (GKNB), announced that it had arrested 30 people who were preparing a color revolution in the country with foreign money.

President Sadyr Japarov's Kyrgyzstan is moving closer to China.

Bangladesh to import Russian fertilizer

Bangladesh has signed an agreement with Russia to import 180,000 tons of Russian fertilizer in the current fiscal year, in violation of Western unilateral coercive measures (wrongly referred to as "sanctions").

Xi Jinping and Chinese identity

President Xi Jinping inaugurated various cultural events and stressed his personal involvement in building the national archives and an ambitious archaeological program.

He gave an important speech on his interpretation of Chinese culture through the millennia. According to him, it is characterized by "coherent, innovative, strong, inclusive and peaceful development". At the political level, it is republican and multiplies the forms of consultation. He sees no contradiction between immemorial Chinese culture and “Chinese-style communism”.

Thierry Meyssan, leading geopolitical analyst on the global Internet

The team of statistician Juan C Diaz-Herrera of the Mexican University of Guadalajara (Centro Universitario De Ciencias Sociales) has established, for the second consecutive year, that Thierry Meyssan was the most read geopolitical analyst on the Internet during the year 2022. This is a purely quantitative ranking which measures influence on a global scale.

France opposes the opening of a NATO office in Japan

According to the Financial Times of 5 June, France would oppose the opening of a NATO office in Tokyo. It would consider it perilous for the EU and for itself to engage in a conflict with China, especially as China moves closer to Russia.

According to the People's Daily, Emmanuel Bonne, diplomatic adviser to President Emmanuel Macron, spoke with Wang Li. He assured him that France was working to keep the EU united and cooperating with China. The two sides also reportedly agreed to help each other resolve the Ukrainian crisis i.e., to support Li Hui's approach which starts from the principles to arrive at their concrete implementation.

Sino-Russian patrol in the China and Japan Seas

Two Chinese H-6 strategic bombers joined two other Russian Tu-95 strategic bombers to patrol the China Sea and Japan.

Although neither South Korea's nor Japan's airspace was violated, Seoul and Tokyo considered this show of force a threat and put their air force on alert.
Japan indirectly participates in arming Ukraine

Japan has authorized the sale of TNT to the US. However, everyone knows that it will not be used for civilian purposes, but to arm artillery shells for the Ukrainian army.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

2nd Summit of the European Political Community

The European Political Community (EPC) held its second meeting in Moldova, on the border of Ukraine and the unrecognized state of Transnistria (the so-called "Moldovan Republic of the Dniester"). All European states participated except Russia and Belarus, which were not invited, and Türkiye, whose newly re-elected president did not travel.

During the summit France announced its new position on the enlargement of the EU. Paris is now in favor of the rapid accession of Ukraine and Moldova, and an accelerated accession of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and even Georgia and the non-recognized state of Kosovo. The idea is to transform the EU into an anti-Russian economic and political alliance.

NATO adopts action plans in the event of war against Russia

At its closed-door meeting in Brussels on 10 May, NATO's Military Committee adopted a series of plans. For the first time since the dissolution of the USSR, they provide for everything that must be undertaken in the event of a conflict with Russia.

They are not subject to parliamentary scrutiny and will not be formally brought to the attention of governments until the North Atlantic Organization summit in Vilnius on 11 and 12 July.

North Korea puts World Maritime Organization back in its place

The World Maritime Organization has strongly condemned North Korea for launching a spy satellite on May 31 without informing it, endangering navigation. The satellite exploded in midair.

North Korea replied that the WMO was meddling in matters that were none of its business since the ships had been directly notified through the Global Navigation Warning System. WMO is a United Nations agency whose Secretary-General is Kitack Lim of South Korea.

OPEC+ Closed Meeting

Media were not allowed to attend the OPEC+ meeting in Vienna. The 13 members of the Organization of Petroleum Producers and their 10 partners deliberated behind closed doors. Saudi Arabia has advocated a further cut in production, while the United Arab Emirates which has invested heavily in oil infrastructure has opposed it.

Contrary to what the NATO media claim, Russia is indifferent to production quotas: it manages to circumvent the selling price ($60 per barrel) imposed on it by the West.

Only Saudi Arabia will reduce its production by 1 million barrels per day.

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EDITORIAL

Mahmoud Abbas in China

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas undertakes an official trip to China. Beijing finds that US peace efforts with Israel have come to nothing and proposes to do better, as it did for Saudi Arabia and Iran and as it is trying to do for India and Pakistan.

China was one of the first countries to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), in May 1965, and then the State of Palestine, in November 1988. In recent years China proposed three ways for implementing the "two-state solution", and organized a seminar for peace activists from Palestine and Israel. Five Chinese special envoys have visited Palestine, Israel, Egypt, Jordan and other countries in the region to mediate the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

China supports Palestine to become a full member of the UN and to resume peace talks with Israel on the basis of the principle of land for peace, relevant Security Council resolutions and the "two-state solution".

For China the fundamental solution lies first in the establishment of an independent State of Palestine that enjoys full sovereignty on the basis of the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Then, the economic and basic needs of Palestine must be met, and the international community must increase development and humanitarian assistance to Palestine.

Third, the historic status quo of the holy sites in Jerusalem must be respected and excessive and provocative words and deeds must be avoided. A large-scale international peace conference should be convened in order to create the necessary conditions for the resumption of peace talks.

Mahmoud Abbas thanked China for its long-term firm support and selfless assistance to the just cause of the Palestinian people which is to restore their legitimate national rights. He stated his support for the one-China principle and all current Chinese initiatives (Global Security Initiative, Global Development Initiative and Global Civilization Initiative).
AMERICAS

Canada seizes Antonov-24

The Government of Canada seized a Russian-registered cargo plane that was grounded at Toronto Pearson Airport. This Antonov 124 is allegedly owned by a subsidiary of Volga-Dnepr Airlines LLC and the Volga-Dnepr Group, two companies against which Canada has taken unilateral coercive measures (wrongly referred to as "sanctions"). It was delivering drugs for the fight against Covid-19.

In December 2022, Canada blocked US$26 million from Granite Capital Holdings Ltd., a company it believes is owned by Roman Abramovich, a Russian-Israeli-Portuguese billionaire who is also under unilateral coercive measures. Ottawa intends to give the Antonov 124 to Ukraine in violation of property rights. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova commented: "Continuing the tradition of its predecessors, who gave refuge in Canada to Nazi accomplices among seasoned Banderists, Justin Trudeau's regime under US leadership is inciting the Ukrainian authorities to war against Russia until the 'last Ukrainian'. This is done using promises of military and financial aid, which in reality turn out to be stingy, and promises to reward zeal with stolen Russian property."

Canada and the Netherlands prosecute Syria for torture

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly and her Dutch counterpart, Wopke Hockstra, said: "On June 8, Canada and the Netherlands launched legal proceedings at the International Court of Justice to hold Syria accountable for torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment inflicted on its own people. Since 2011, Syrians have been tortured, murdered, sexually assaulted, forcibly abducted and subjected to large-scale chemical weapons attacks. Twelve years later, the Syrian regime is still committing human rights violations."

The International Court of Justice is the internal court of the United Nations. It has no jurisdiction in criminal matters, but exclusively in disputes between States.

China sets conditions for Antony Blinken’s trip to Beijing

Secretary of State Antony Blinken will travel to China. Exceptionally, as soon as the visit was announced, Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang called his counterpart to set the conditions for this trip: not to interfere in China's internal affairs. The Secretary of State should refrain from making statements about Taiwan independence, the situation in Tibet and Hong Kong, inappropriate remarks about alleged Cuban spy balloons and other bases, and accusations against Chinese companies.

Audition of Janet Yellen

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen appeared before the House Finance Committee. She said the IMF and World Bank reflect "American values" and serve as a counterweight to China's unsustainable loans, for example. She pleaded for global institutions not to lend money to China, while stressing that a US/China decoupling would be catastrophic for all.

Commenting on the hearing, China’s People's Daily wrote: "Since last year, the US has launched unprecedented massive interest rate hikes, making some countries' debt problems even more serious and sending more shockwaves through the global financial market. The US must take concrete steps to assist developing countries and involve multilateral financial institutions in debt treatment solutions, rather than introducing geopolitical confrontation into multilateral financial institutions."

The Hypersonic Arms Race

The US assures that it is not lagging behind Russia and that it is conducting a manufacture program of hypersonic weapons.
Many US think tanks keep on saying that the Ukrainians managed to destroy six Russian Kinzhal hypersonic missiles, which Russia denies. According to Moscow, these missiles fly at Mach 10, making their interception impossible. The photos published by Kiev do not confirm Kinzhal being shot.

NATO literature distinguishes between hypersonic glide vehicles (HGV) and hypersonic cruise missiles (HCM). However, the Kinzhal is neither, it is just a very fast air-launched ballistic missile. Despite all the provocations carried out in Ukraine, the Russian army has not shown the full scale of its arsenal yet.

According to the Congressional Research Service (CRS), the Navy, Army, Air Force and DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) are all pursuing separate hypersonic missile programs.

In the summer of 2021, China launched into space a hypersonic missile capable of carrying a nuclear payload. It announced last month that its hypersonic weapons could destroy a group of US aircraft carriers "with certainty."

Last week, Iran presented the "Fattah", what it called the first hypersonic ballistic missile produced in the country, with a range of more than 1,400 km.

Americans think Joe Biden should not run again

According to a CBS poll, 67% of U.S. adults say President Biden "should not run" for president in 2024.
• 58% of this group say he should not run because of his "performance in his first term".
• 21% are worried about whether he could finish another term.
• 12% are worried about "what he could do in his second term, if he is re-elected".
• 9% are worried about "his chances of winning in 2024".

The existence of Joe Biden's corrupt scheme now established

The FBI presented a document to lawmakers on the Biden family subcommittee on June 8. It shows that a "trusted" and "highly credible" informant said that Ukrainian gas company Burisma paid a $10 million bribe between 2015 and 2016 to buy help from then-US Vice President Joe Biden to thwart Ukrainian Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin, who was investigating the company. $5 million would have benefited Hunter Biden, administrator of Burisma, while the other $5 million would have been intended for Joe Biden himself. The payments were allegedly made via a host of shell companies.

This information clarifies and above all confirms a pattern of corruption whose principle was already known since 2017.

On the Senate floor, Republican Chuck Grassley (Iowa) said that the owner of Burisma Holdings, Mykola Zlochevsky, had evidence: 15 recordings of his conversations with Hunter Biden and 2 others with Joe Biden.

Indictment of Donald Trump

Donald Trump and his valet, Walt Nauta, have been indicted. Most of the 37 charges relate to conspiracy to possess documents relating to National Defense, contrary to the Espionage Act of 1917.

The Espionage Act had never been interpreted in this way, except against President Trump’s first National Security Advisor General Michael T. Flynn.

Honduras opens embassy in China

Honduras opened an embassy in Beijing in the presence of China's Minister of Foreign Affairs Qin Gang. President Iris Xiomara Castro Sarmiento was received by her Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping.
Washington talks about a Chinese base in Cuba

According to the Wall Street Journal, China has set up a US spy base in Cuba. U.S. authorities said the information in the article was not "accurate," which appeared to validate some of the newspaper's imputations. Subsequently, a senior official specified that this base was not a project, but has been operating since 2019, intercepting all electronic communications in the southern US.

This accusation follows that of "Chinese spy balloons" at a time when a visit by Secretary of State Antony Blinken to Beijing was just announced.

The Cuban government published posters of the Navy prison at Guantánamo with the caption: "There is no Chinese base in Cuba. There is an illegal occupation of Guantánamo by the US." Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Fernández de Cossío said: "Cuba is a signatory to the Declaration of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, signed in Havana in January 2014. Under this Declaration, we reject any foreign military presence in the region, which includes the military personnel of the US, including in the military base that illegally occupies part of our national territory in the province of Guantánamo."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said: "It is well known that the US is an expert at casting shadows and interfering in other countries' internal affairs. The US is the global champion of hacking and the superpower of surveillance. The US has long occupied Guantánamo Bay in Cuba for covert activities and imposed a blockade on Cuba for more than 60 years. The US must look at itself, stop interfering in Cuba's internal affairs under the pretext of freedom, democracy and human rights. It must immediately lift its economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba, and act in such a way as to improve relations with Cuba and regional peace and stability, not worsen them."

EUROPE

Boris Johnson resigns as MP

Former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Conservative MP Nigel Adams and former Culture Minister Nadine Dorries have resigned from the House of Commons. This announcement came just before the parliamentary committee investigating Partygate sanctioned Boris Johnson by suspending him of his mandate for 10 days.

Nicola Sturgeon questioned by police

Former Prime Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon was arrested for six hours for questioning about her party's funding.

Meeting of the Weimar Triangle

French President Emmanuel Macron hosted German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Polish President Andrzej Duda for dinner in the so-called Weimar format.

SGDN accuses Pyotr Tolstoy of organizing fake news websites

According to the Viginium unit of the French General Secretariat of National Defense (SGDN), two Russian companies, Struktura and ASP, have set up four French-language websites aimed at spreading false information about the war in Ukraine. They are headed by Ilya Andreevich Gambachidze, a communications specialist who worked with current speaker of the Duma Pyotr Tolstoy. They would have published two fake Le Monde and Le Figaro articles.

Emmanuel Macron wants to attend the BRICS summit

French President Emmanuel Macron has written to South Africa to attend the BRICS summit to be held in August in Pretoria. South Africa reserved its reply.
President Macron has invited Brazil, India, China and South Africa to next week's financial summit in Paris. France agreed to talk to Russia, but refused to trade with it.

The French proposal was reportedly preceded by a secret meeting with the Chinese delegation during the 20th Shangri-La Dialogue.

**Olaf Scholz's party overtaken by the AfD**

According to a YouGov poll on 9 June, 20% of German voters would give their vote to the AfD, making it the second party behind the CDU (28%) and ahead of Chancellor Olaf Scholz's SPD (19%).

**The EU enters recession**

As a result of German recession, the EU as a whole has also entered in recession. Its GDP just contracted by 0.1% in the first quarter.

**Belarus clarifies conditions for use of nuclear weapons**

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko gave an interview to Russia's leading TV channel. He said he considered any invasion of his country by its neighbors to be a red line. Violating it would authorize the use of nuclear weapons.

**US Energy Companies Profit from War in Ukraine**

According to Ukrainian nuclear company Energoatom, agreements were signed with the US Westinghouse Electric Company in June 2022 to increase the number of new AP1000 reactors for Ukraine, from five to nine, and for "the supply of fuel to all its nuclear power plants". The goal is for Ukraine to completely stop using Russian fuel. Ukraine's state-owned gas company Naftogaz held talks in April with major U.S. oil companies including ExxonMobil, Halliburton, and Chevron with the goal of increasing natural gas production to 13.5 billion cubic meters this year.

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**Ukrainian responsibility for the sabotage of Nord Stream becomes clearer**

According to a joint investigation by ARD, Die Zeit and the Dutch program Nieuwsuur, the Dutch secret service (Militaire Inlichtingen- en Veiligheidsdienst - MIVD) informed the CIA in June 2022, three months before the sabotage, that the Ukrainian army was preparing the destruction of the Nord Stream gas pipelines. The operation was planned by Commander-in-Chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces General Valerii Zaluzhnyi.

According to the Wall Street Journal, the CIA told the Ukrainian military to give up its project.

Dutch Defense Minister Kajsa Ollongren declined to comment. "I cannot comment on the work of our intelligence services."

The Washington Post revelations of June 7 (VIN No. 44) are consistent with information from German investigators that a team of six people equipped with false passports rented a sailboat from the port of Rostock, Germany, to conduct the operation. The Polish company that rented the sailboat is believed to be owned by Ukrainians.

Don’t forget that the sabotage of Nord Stream is an act of war against its owners: Russia, Germany, France and the Netherlands.

Commenting on the news, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said: "Compared to their aggressive response on Syria, the US inaction on the Nord Stream gas pipeline explosions seems to be quite intriguing. Why did the U.S. remain silent? What can't they say about it? When exactly will the US react to the doubts and concerns of the international community? The US owes an explanation to the international community."

**Who is Denis Kapustin?**

Denis Kapustin (aka the "White King"), who commands the Russian Volunteer Corps, is responsible for attacks and sabotage operations.
in Belgorod (Ukrainian-Russian border). He is a neo-Nazi albeit ethnically Jewish. He has 45,000 followers on social media.

He taught at the Sigurd Cultural Camp (Wales) in August 2014. He proposed to recreate the nazi SS. He trained about thirty participants in knife fights. Two of his students, Christopher Lythgoe and Matthew Hankinson, were later imprisoned for a total of 14 years for their involvement in the group. The camp was an initiative of National Action, a neo-Nazi group later banned in the UK under the Terrorism Act for glorifying the murder of MP Jo Cox. Germany banned Kapustin from entering Europe in 2019.

According to his internet posts and testimonies from war correspondents, he was the one who had custody of Snake Island when it was taken over by the Russian navy. He was also at the Zaporizhia nuclear power plant when it was occupied by the Russian army.

For its actions in Belgorod, his group had American HIMARS –High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems– which cost about $5 million each. His men were armed with Belgian FN-SCAR assault rifles and Swedish Pansarsbott rocket launchers.

**China's Method for Peace in Ukraine**

China's special envoy to Ukraine Li Hui took stock of his interactions. He tried not to address practical applications, but to reach consensus on China's 12 principles, including respect for the sovereignty of all states, abandoning the Cold War mentality, cessation of hostilities and launching peace talks.

"China has no selfish interest in the Ukrainian issue; It does not engage in creating cliques, does not add fuel to the fire, does not take advantage of the situation," he said.

He then explained that the talks can only be held when all actors have a comprehensive vision of the problem: "It is necessary not only to promote peace talks for an early truce, but also to promote the establishment of a balanced, effective and sustainable European security architecture and to commit to long-term stability. To this end, the international community should adhere to the concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security and better safeguard world peace and stability."

**Cyber Anarchy Squad attacks Russian banks**

Pro-Ukrainian group Cyber Anarchy Squad attacked the Infotel JSC communication system used by Russian banks. A hundred banks would have been affected.

**Sergey Lavrov on the sabotage of the Kakhovka Dam**

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov recalled in an interview with Mezhdunarodnaya Zhizn that the Kiev regime has repeatedly bombed hydroelectric plants using, among other things, American HIMARS multiple rocket launchers. Moreover, after the Washington Post revelations, Russia had drawn the attention of the UN to the
declared plans of the Kiev regime to destroy the Kakhovka hydroelectric plant.

Noticing that neither the UN General Secretariat nor the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) did respond to the weekly Russian notes on the bombings and sabotage attempts against the Zaporozhe nuclear power plant, he concluded that Westerners "pretend to ignore all the facts and events that bother them and their proteges in Kiev."

Moscow draws conclusions from sabotage of Togliatti-Odessa pipeline

Moscow does not intend to renew the Istanbul agreement (22 July 2022) on grain after the sabotage of the Togliatti-Odessa ammonia pipeline on 7 June 2023.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said: "This site was of key importance to ensure global food security. In one year, 2 million tons of raw materials for fertilizer production were provided, enough to feed 45 million people. Thus, the Kiev regime has not only eliminated the physical possibility of supplying ammonia [essential for the manufacture of mineral fertilizers] to world markets. A blow has been dealt to the joint efforts to combat the threat of famine and to assist countries in need in Asia, Africa, Latin America, as well as to the personal efforts of UN Secretary-General António Guterres."

The 26th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF)

The 26th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) is being held from 14 to 17 June on the theme: "Sovereign development, the basis of a just world. Let's work together for future generations."

AFRICA

European philanthropy vis-à-vis Tunisia

The EU has offered $1 billion to Tunisia, in the midst of an economic crisis, in exchange for monitoring migrant flows from its shores.

ASIA

Netanyahu government lashes out at J Street

Israel's Minister of Diaspora Affairs Amichai Chikli called US NGO J Street a "hostile organization," funded by George Soros.

• J Street released a picture of the minister giving the middle finger to Israelis protesting against justice reform.

Archaeologists rewrite Jerusalem's history

A new archaeological study, conducted by Professor Nadav Na'aman and published in the *Tel Aviv Journal of the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University*, assures that the city of Jerusalem/Al Qods was probably not founded in the "City of David", but on the "Temple Mount/Esplanade of Mosques".

However, no excavation is possible on the Temple Mount/Esplanade of the Mosques.
This new theory contradicts the Bible, if one reads it literally, but not if one admits that it was written half a millennium after the founding of the city and is therefore not a journal, but an intellectual construct.

**US lobbying for Israeli spyware**

Israeli spyware maker NSO (Pegasus) paid Paul Hastings LLP, Chartwell Strategy Group, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman and Bluelight Strategies more than $1 million to lobby Washington. They flooded US executives with documents claiming that "all sales of NSO Group technologies are subject to approval by the Israeli government and all its customers are coalition governments of Western countries" and that NSO has developed a "human rights governance compliance program."

**The underside of the sinking of the Goduria**

On May 28, the Goduria, a pleasure boat where 23 people including at least 20 spies from different countries were partying, sank in Lake Maggiore (Italy). Mossad agent Erez Shimoni, two Italian intelligence agents of the Agenzia Informazioni e Sicurezza Esterna (AISE), Tiziana Barnobi and Claudio Alonzi, and the Russian wife of the Italian captain, Anna Bozhkova, drowned (VIN 43).

Corriere della Sera revealed that Il Verano, the restaurant that hours before the tragedy hosted the Mossad agents' end-of-mission lunch with their Italian colleagues from AISE, had also secretly hosted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu many times. When he goes there, he arrives by helicopter and does not spend the night.

According to the Italian press, the purpose of this mysterious meeting was to establish contacts with Russian oligarchs against the backdrop of arms transfers. The province of Varese is home to many companies in various strategic military sectors. But, according to La Cruna dell'Ago, the meeting was intended to plan a provocation in the region of Kosovo, a territory wrested from Serbia by NATO in 2008, and thus to trigger a new escalation in the Balkans.

Just before her election, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni gave an interview to Israel Hayom, the daily created by casino mogul Sheldon Adelson to support Benjamin Netanyahu. She expressed her unconditional support for Israel.

**Hezbollah prepares for war against Israel in Palestine**

Exceptionally, Military chief of Lebanon's Hezbollah Hashem Saffiedine, gave an interview to Iran's Tasnim news agency. He declares that any miscalculated "blunder" on Israel's part will elicit an immediate response. This includes not only actions on Palestinian territory but also the entry of elite al-Radwan special forces into the area of Palestinian Galilee.

Last week, Hezbollah conducted an exercise involving about a thousand drones near Palestine's northern borders. It was not broadcast on TV.

**Arab-Chinese Business Conference**

The 10th Arab-Chinese Business Conference, which is believed to be the largest business meeting between China and Arab countries, kicked off in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Simultaneously in Beijing, diplomats from 15 Arab states were invited to attend a course on Chinese diplomacy, its history, objectives and methods.

**Everything is falling apart between Abu Dhabi and Washington**

- In November 2021, the UAE signs an economic agreement with Iran.
- In 2022, Yemen's (pro-Iranian) Ansar Allah sends drones traveling the Gulf and attacking the Emirates without the US intervening.
- In February 2022, the UAE is negotiating the purchase of fighter jets with China.
• In March 2022, the UAE welcomes Syrian president Bashar al-Assad in violation of US unilateral coercive measures.
• At the same time, the UAE is beginning to help Russia circumvent US unilateral coercive measures.
• The UAE continue the deployment of its 5G network with China's Huawei.
• At the end of May 2023, the UAE withdrew from the maritime coordination led by the US, which the Fifth Fleet denies.
• In early June 2023, the UAE joined the Iranian maritime coalition.
• Iran has just seized two oil tankers that connected the emirate of Dubai (on the Persian Gulf) to that of Fujairah (on the Arabian Sea), without the US intervening.

Washington-Riyadh relations are not what we think

The Washington Post has seen a classified Pentagon document revealed during the Discord Leaks. When President Joe Biden threatened Saudi Arabia because it was cutting its oil production instead of making up for Russia’s, Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman (MBS) responded by announcing that he would impose significant economic costs on the US.

The newspaper specifies that this document is a snapshot of relations between Washington and Ryad and that MBS’ threat has not been acted upon.

Iran's condition for a nuclear deal

Supreme Leader of the Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei declared that a deal with the West on Iran's nuclear program was still possible. He issued only one condition: not to touch Iran's infrastructure. He recalled that his country had ceased its military nuclear Programme in 1988.

Indo-Pakistani secret negotiations in China

China is pursuing its efforts to reconcile India and Pakistan. Counter-terrorism talks are secretly taking place in Beijing, knowing that the main dispute between the two countries is Kashmiri (supported by Pakistan against India) and Baluchi (supported by India against Pakistan) terrorism.

Simultaneously, other counter-terrorism talks are also taking place in Beijing between Pakistan and Iran. China is trying to secure its China-Pakistan corridor (CPEC).

Pakistan imports (some) Russian oil

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif celebrated the import of Russian oil. However, it should not be a large quantity.

The trade, which violates US unilateral coercive measures, is a way for the Sharif government to deny accusations that it overthrew Imran Khan in order to prevent him from allying with Russia.

Pita Limjaroenrat still not appointed Prime Minister of Thailand

Pita Limjaroenrat's Move Forward party was the surprise winner of Thailand's May 14 general election (VIN N°41), but the Election Commission accused Limjaroenrat of electoral fraud. Instead of becoming prime minister, he faces 10 years in prison and 20 years of ineligibility. He is accused of holding shares in his late father's TV channel ITV.

North Korea collects personal information from South Koreans

According to South Korea's National Intelligence Service (NEI), North Korea's secret service compromised South Korea's Naver online platform. In this way, they collected all kinds of personal data from South Korean Internet users.
US-Japan-France maneuvers in the South China Sea

The US, Japan and France have undertaken naval maneuvers in the South China Sea with the aircraft carriers USS *Nimitz* and USS *Ronald Reagan* as well as the Japanese helicopter carrier *JS Izumo*. China has observed them with a new reconnaissance aircraft, the PLA Y-9.

U.S./Philippines/Japan Security Summit

Japan, the US and the Philippines will hold their first security advisers trilateral talks (Takeo Akiba, Jake Sullivan and Eduardo Ano) in Tokyo on June 16 to tackle China's growing military activities in the Indo-Pacific region.

1,200 Chinese companies under "sanctions"

The U.S. has added 31 Chinese companies to its list of "sanctioned" companies. This brings to 1,200 the total number of Chinese companies and personalities subject to US unilateral coercive measures. For Beijing, these illegal measures under international law are aimed exclusively at organizing an economic system favorable to the US alone.

China celebrates human rights

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the UN Conference in Vienna, Beijing is organizing a Forum on Global Human Rights Governance. It is a question of building on the Vienna Declaration and Process (1993) according to which human rights are indivisible. Of course, a large part of the speakers insisted on economic and social rights, declaring that the first human right is that of food.

In a letter that was read to the participants, Chinese President Xi Jinping wrote: "China advocates promoting human rights with development, implementing the Global Initiative for Development and ensuring an equitable right to human rights by people of all countries through modernization paths with their own characteristics."

Beijing intends to replace the US as a promoter of human rights, but without seeking to instrumentalize, prioritize or rate them.

Tsai Ing-wen sabotages the 15th Straits Forum

The 15th Straits Forum opened in Fujian Province in eastern China. It is the largest communication event between the two sides of the Strait, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China (Taiwan). However, for the first time, it was obstructed by the authorities of the Progressive Democratic Party (DPP); the political party of Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Election of the next rotating members of the UN Security Council

The UN General Assembly has elected five new non-permanent members of the Security Council who will begin their two years term of office on 1 January 2024.

Guyana was elected with 191 votes and will occupy the seat reserved for Latin American and Caribbean States. The three seats for African and Asia-Pacific States went to Algeria, Sierra Leone and the Republic of Korea, elected with 184, 188 and 180 votes respectively.

The seat reserved for Eastern European States will go to Slovenia, which has obtained 153 votes. Thirty-eight delegations voted in favor of Belarus, which was also a candidate. But with a required two-thirds majority of 128 votes, Belarus will not enter the Council.

The USA returns to UNESCO

The US submitted a letter to UNESCO announcing that it would join after 5 years of absence. Their return has yet to be approved by the General Assembly of the Organization.
2023 session of the Special Committee on Decolonization

The Special Committee on Decolonization opened its 2023 session.

- In particular, it heard France report on the referendums it has organized in New Caledonia, which has led to its retention in the country. The FLNKS representative challenged the December 2021 referendum organized in the midst of the Covid-19 outbreak.
- The Prime Minister of Gibraltar advocated its continued membership of the UK, which Spain disputed.
- The Prime Minister of the British Virgin Islands condemned the UK dominance and requested that a mission of the Special Committee be dispatched to the Territory.
- The question of the Turks and Caicos Islands, US Virgin Islands, French Polynesia and Tokelau were also discussed at this meeting.

The Special Committee has adopted a resolution requesting the administering Powers concerned to submit regular information on economic, social and educational conditions, as well as on political and constitutional developments in the Territories for which they were responsible.

Difficult preparation of COP-28

The preparatory session for COP-28, which is being held in Berlin, is stalling. The participants are unable to agree on the agenda or on the chairman. Westerners are pushing to implement the Paris Agreement, while the Global South intends to talk about financing the energy transition and Russia wants to present its scientific work on global warming.

At the UN Security Council, the Chinese representative said: "Developed countries are lagging behind in climate finance. The $100 billion per year US deficit must be filled as soon as possible, and the new quantified collective target for the post-2025 period must be set. Last year, COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh established the Loss and Damage Fund, and developing countries are eagerly awaiting the implementation of the Fund."

Many developed countries have subsidized the energy transition of their industries without fulfilling their international commitments, thus creating a serious distortion of trade.

NATO increases major exercises

Last week saw the Arctic Challenge (ACE23), a NATO exercise in Finland, Norway and Sweden. With 150 aircraft and 3,000 soldiers from fourteen countries, it was the largest military drill organized in years by the Air Forces of Northern Europe.
This week, 250 military aircraft and 10,000 people from twenty-five NATO member and partner countries, including Japan and Sweden, are participating in Air Defender 23, under German command.

The Atlantic Alliance will continue its expansion towards China

According to Nikkei Asia, NATO will deepen its cooperation with the four main partners in the Indo-Pacific region, namely Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea, and develop with them a Customized Partnership Program (PIPP).

The Atlantic Alliance intends to continue its eastward expansion, despite opposition from France.

NATO members have proposed naming the future Tokyo office "Action Centre for the smooth implementation of the personalized partnership Programme", in the hope of securing France’s support.
EDITORIAL

International grain deal called into question

The agreement signed on July 17, 2022 on the transit of Ukrainian grain aimed to stop the price surge and to continue the supplying of the populations of the Third World. Over the past 10 months, it allowed the export 31.7 million tons of grain.

However, according to the Joint Coordination Centre, 97% went to rich countries and only 3% reached poor countries.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said: "The world needs Russian fertilizer and wheat just as much as Ukrainian feed grain, produced by American companies and bought at a discount by Europeans, hypocritically hiding behind humanitarian pretexts (...) I declare that any extension of the agreement is inconceivable if by July 17 all the clauses of the Istanbul grain agreement are not implemented as defined by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres."

Moscow is demanding the lifting of Western sanctions on its exports of fertilizers and food products, the reconnection to the Swift system of Rosselkhozbank – a public investment bank in the agricultural sector –, the resumption of deliveries of agricultural equipment and spare parts as well as the resumption of the Togliatti-Odessa ammonia pipeline operation (sabotaged by Ukrainian integral nationalists), this gas being the essential chemical component of mineral fertilizer.

Russian President Vladimir Putin commented: "These European neo-colonial authorities, but in fact, American, have for the umpteenth time deceived the international community and African countries in need: 31.7 million tons were dispatched but only 3% reached the African countries in need. Isn't that a scam? They have been lying to everyone for centuries and they continue to do so today."
AMERICAS

Canada considers the Dominican Republic its backyard

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly publicly thanked her counterpart in the Dominican Republic, Roberto Alvarez, for his support in opening a Canadian Forces Coordination Office in Haiti.

Furious, the latter denied having given his consent. He said: "The Dominican government confirms that it has not discussed, agreed or granted any authorization for the installation on our territory of a [Canadian] coordination office in support of the Haitian National Police."

The US tasked Canada with resolving the situation in Haiti, which has been volatile since France’s abduction of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 2004. Gangs are multiplying there from the rural exodus. The level of food insecurity has become one of the highest in the world while the agricultural potential is "huge" in a peninsula where normally "everything grows". But Canadians are failing. They don’t know the history of the region and ignore, for example, that the Dominican Republic murdered 20,000 Haitians in 1937 and has never apologized for it.

Antony Blinken in China

State Secretary Antony Blinken paid an official visit to China. He went there along with Kurt Campbell, an adviser to President Joe Biden and an expert on the Indo-Pacific.

Campbell said: "We come to Beijing with a realistic and confident approach and a sincere desire to manage our rivalry in the most responsible way possible... We are competing with China, but we are not looking for confrontation or a new Cold War."

The Chinese government deployed a minimum protocol contrasting with the lavishness of the reception it had reserved for French President Macron.

Among others, Antony Blinken met Wang Yi, the head of international policy at the Communist Party. According to CCTV, he warned Blinken to "choose between dialogue and confrontation, between cooperation and conflict".

In the end, the two sides merely reiterated their previous joint communiqués. However, China attaches the highest importance in time to the commitments made, while the US sees them as reflecting the interests of a moment. A working group has been established to reconcile views on the principles.

Antony Blinken invited his counterpart, Qin Gang, to visit Washington.

However, immediately violating the commitments of his Secretary of State while speaking at a fundraiser for his election campaign, President Joe Biden said the next day: “The reason why Xi Jinping got very upset in terms of when I shot that balloon down with two box cars full of spy equipment in it was, he didn’t know it was there. That’s a great embarrassment for dictators. When they didn’t know what happened.”

The US spends almost half of the world’s defense budgets

The US has the largest defense budget in the world with $1,200 billion (including $886 billion for the Pentagon to which must be added Nuclear, Intelligence and Veterans Affairs) compared to $1,300 billion for the rest of the world. Their budget is 5 times larger than China’s and 15 times larger than Russia’s.

However, if they are the leading power in terms of military spending, they have poor results as we have seen in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan.

Supreme Court rules in favor of Indian tribes

Indian tribes won three Supreme Court cases by 7 judges to 2. They stated that under the Indian
**Child Welfare Act of 1978**, Indian children cannot be placed outside their tribe. On the contrary, the two disagreeing judges considered that federal law could not be superior to the interests of the child interpreted by a judge and that local courts could place them outside their tribe.

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris said the 1978 federal law and the Supreme Court address the "systemic injustice" suffered by Indians.

In a joint statement, Chief of the Cherokee Nation Chuck Hoskin Jr., Chairman of the Morongo Band of the Mission Indians Charles Martin, President of the Oneida Nation Tehassi Hill, and President of the Quinault Nation Guy Capoeman, said: "We hope that this decision will put an end to the political attacks aimed at diminishing tribal sovereignty and creating instability in Indian legislation, which have persisted for too long."

**Democrat elected official calls for Trump to be shot**

Democrat delegate from the U.S. Virgin Islands Stacey Plaskett said: “Having Trump not only have had the codes but now having the classified information for Americans and being able to put that out and share it in his resort with anyone and everyone who comes through should be terrifying to all Americans. And he needs to be shot—stopped.”

**Donald Trump can’t publicly state his case**

Federal Judge Bruce E. Reinhart has issued an order prohibiting Donald Trump and his co-defendant, his butler Waltine Nauta, from releasing evidence related to the case by any means.

**Hunter Biden makes a deal with the prosecutor**

Hunter Biden, son of President Joe Biden, pleaded guilty in two cases of tax evasion and criminal possession of a weapon. An exceptional deal allows the prosecutor to close the trial without the defendant having to justify his level of income.

Lawmakers investigating corruption in the Biden family had hoped to witness the unpacking of its bank accounts that the big banks and the FBI refused to hand over to them.

**House passes resolution condemning Adam Schiff**

The House of Representatives passed a resolution condemning one of its members, Adam B. Schiff, for using his capacity as a member of the Select Intelligence Committee to defame Donald Trump.

Adam B. Schiff had made "false accusations that the Trump campaign colluded with Russia." It has now been established that these accusations were false and without any real basis.

**YouTube censors Robert Kennedy Jr.**

YouTube has censored a video of Democratic presidential candidate Robert Kennedy Jr. He is the lawyer of patients suffering from side effects of certain vaccines. He referred in an interview with the Jordan Peterson channel to chronic side effects not recognized by the US health authorities.

**EUROPE**

**International Conference on the Recovery of Ukraine**

The International Conference on the Recovery of Ukraine was held in London on 21st and 22nd June in the presence of Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal.

Contrary to what one might think, this conference is not a follow-up to the Russian special operation of 2022, but to the Maidan coup of 2014. The first edition of this conference was held in London in July 2017.
under the co-chairmanship of Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman and British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson. It was then called Conference for the Reform of Ukraine.

It was successively held in Copenhagen (2018), Vilnius (2019 and 2021) and only changed its name in 2022 during the Lugano edition.

Boris Johnson joins the Daily Mail

Former Prime Minister Boris Johnson became a columnist for the Daily Mail. He returned to his profession as a journalist, which he had pursued at The Times, then as Brussels correspondent for The Daily Telegraph and The Spectator.

He is expected to earn £1 million a year for a column every Saturday.

SGDN accusations against Russia are part of NATO smear campaign

The Russian embassy in France denied the accusations of the French General Secretariat of National Defense (SGDN), relayed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, that Russia had set up fake French news sites, under the supervision of Pyotr Tolstoy (VIN N°45).

“Suffice to say that the basis of these allegations is the report of the National Agency for Combating Foreign Digital Influences (Viginum), which claims participation in a disinformation campaign of our diplomatic missions and cultural centers abroad, including the Russian Embassy in Paris” said the Russian embassy on its Telegram network.

Judge investigating Qatargate has relinquished

Belgian judge Michel Claise who investigates the multiple cases of corruption in the European Parliament has relinquished jurisdiction over these cases. A lawyer for the defendants, Maxim Töller revealed that the judge’s son had set up a company with the son of MEP Marie Arena whose office had been searched.

German National Security Strategy

Olaf Scholtz's government has published the German National Security Strategy.

This document takes up NATO’s rhetoric and accuses Russia of starting a war and China of being a strategic rival.

Li Qiang in Germany

Receiving Chinese Premier Li Qiang, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said Germany opposes decoupling and any form of bloc confrontation, and is willing to strengthen communication with China to promote world peace and development.

Chancellor Olaf Scholtz said the German side is willing to maintain close communication with China on all issues between the two countries and jointly address global challenges such as climate change, food security and debt problems. Germany has no intention of decoupling from China and is ready to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation with China to promote development and prosperity around the world.

Li said he hopes the German side will continue to keep an open mind, defend an independent policy and act on the basis of international law and in accordance with treaties.

Sweden extradites PKK sympathizer

Sweden has extradited a Turkish national who was sentenced in his country to 4 years in prison for carrying 1.8 kg of cannabis. He had served only 6 months before being released. But, given his links with the PKK, the Turkish Prosecutor General requested his extradition to serve the remainder of his sentence.

On 4th June Sweden authorized a demonstration in support of the PKK.

Türkiye still criticizes Sweden for its support for the PKK and is still blocking its membership of NATO.
**Secret conference in Norway**

In a remote residence, Norway held a closed-door meeting of international figures who had worked to free hostages or resolve conflicts. These included Robert Malley (former negotiator of the nuclear deal with Iran and close to George Soros), Colonel Douglas MacGregor (former adviser to the Trump administration) and Abbas Ibrahim (former director of Lebanese General Security).

**EU becomes Ukraine’s ammo manufacturer**

European Commissioner for Industry Thierry Breton confirmed to *Le Parisien* that the EU would deliver 1 million high-quality ammunitions to Ukraine in the next 12 months. However, info about these munitions is classified.

The European Parliament has voted €500 million to modernize the arms factory industry. The announced objectives imply the construction of many factories.

**European Parliament calls for spyware regulation**

Building on a year-long investigation into the use of Pegasus and equivalent spyware, European MEPs say the illegal use of spyware has put democracy at risk. They call for credible investigations, legislative changes and better enforcement of existing rules to fight abuse. They adopted a resolution by 411 votes in favor, 97 against and 37 abstentions.

**Albania raids People's Mujaheddin**

Albanian police searched the People's Mujaheddin Ashraf-3 camp near Manze (west of Tirana) to verify whether or not they were engaged in terrorist activities. Members of the sect resisted and one person was reportedly killed. 150 computers were seized. The People's Mujaheddin have been based in Albania since 2013 under the protection of Washington. But secret negotiations between the U.S. and Iran are going on right now. The People's Mujaheddin have committed many crimes and murders in Iran. A Pentagon report showed that, contrary to their claims, they have never been of much help to the US military. Tehran has so far in vain demanded their arrest.

**Ukraine becomes the main center for organ trafficking**

Trade in human organs was legalized in Ukraine by the law of January 5, 2022. The country quickly became the leading exporter of human organs. It is now possible to remove organs from children and deceased persons who did not give their consent during their lifetime. Organ harvesting and transplantation were exempt from VAT in April (Law 5610).

The same phenomenon occurred in Kosovo during NATO's war against Yugoslavia.

**Human toll of operations according to Ukrainian MoD**

Deputy Defense Minister Ganna Maliar said at the national telethon: "Over the past week and a half, we have seen an intensification of Russian propaganda efforts on two axes. They are trying to circulate information about apparently huge losses on the Ukrainian side and discredit Western aid. In fact, according to military calculations, in some areas of the front line the Russians have suffered losses six to nine times greater than Ukraine’s. That’s why fake news is easy to refute."

Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast (in the west of the country) decreed general mobilization. It applies to all men between the ages of 18 and 60 who have ten days to reach their place of enlistment. The authorities reserve the right to requisition all vehicles.

**Ukrainian command claims to have destroyed Kinjal in flight**

According to an interim report by the Ukrainian Air Force Command, in total, the air defense forces shot down "six Kinjal air-based ballistic
missiles, six Kalibre cruise missiles and two reconnaissance drones."

CEO of Raytheon Gregory J. Hayes assured that the Ukrainians managed to modify "the software of the Patriot system so that it can adapt to variations in movement and destroy the Russian hypersonic missiles."

Even with Patriot missiles it is impossible to destroy Kinjal hypersonic missiles in flight. These move at Mach 10 against Mach 4.1 for the most efficient conventional missiles, and they can change direction while in flight.

The alliance of "revisionist Zionists" and "integral nationalists" is confirmed

Natan Sharansky, the former Soviet dissident who was decorated by Ronald Reagan before becoming minister to Ariel Sharon and Benjamin Netanyahu, organized a video conference between many Jewish personalities and chief of staff of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky Andriy Yermack. Natan Sharansky was born in Donetsk (USSR). He is a disciple of Jeev Jabotinsky who was born in Kherson. In 1921, Jabotinsky made an alliance with the "integral nationalist" Simon Petlyura against the Bolsheviks. When it became known, the World Zionist Organization stripped him of his mandate as administrator and expelled him from its ranks because Petlyura was a virulent anti-Semite and had organized huge massacres of Jews. When Jabotinsky died in New York in 1940, David Ben-Gurion opposed Jabotinsky's secretary, Bension Netanyahu (Benjamin Netanyahu's father), and refused to allow him to be buried in Israel. Andriy Yermak has a Jewish father, but is close to the Church of Scientology. He served as an intermediary with Rudy Giuliani during Donald Trump's attempts to investigate Burisma's corruption of Joe Biden. He recalled that with the support of President Zelensky, the Verkhovna Rada had adopted a law to combat anti-Semitism.

Participants in the meeting agreed to continue equating Holodomor with the Holocaust and to take action against Iran's drone deliveries to Russia.

The Ukrainian "integral nationalists" claim against all evidence that the famine of the 1930s which affected the South of the Soviet Union was Stalin's way to kill the Ukrainian people, while the "revisionist Zionists" hide that Dmytro Dontsov, the theoretician of integral nationalism and administrator of the Reinhard Heydrich Institute, was one of the architects of the "final solution" of the "Jewish and Gypsy questions".

Participants in the meeting included:
- Rabbi David Niederman, president of the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg and rabbi of North Brooklyn;
- oligarch Boris Lozhkin, president of the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine;
- Professor Hannah Lessing, Secretary General of the General Fund for the Compensation of Victims of National Socialism;
Lubavitcher Rabbi Raphael Rutman, Executive Chairman of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Ukraine.

Death of Russian General Sergei Goryachev

The Ukrainian integral nationalists managed to assassinate General Sergei Goryachev, commander of the Russian 35th Army, during a missile strike on his headquarters in the Donetsk region. He is the fifth Russian Major General to die in service since the start of the special military operation.

St. Petersburg Economic Forum

The St. Petersburg Economic Forum (SPIEF) failed this year to bring together the stars who flocked to previous editions. Not only Westerners were absent, but so were Chinese and Indians. Most participants came from the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, African countries, Cuba and the UAE.

Internet connections were interrupted during President Vladimir Putin's speech to allow security to control any drone that came along. He said at the opening: "The inherently ugly neocolonial international system has ceased to exist and the multipolar world, on the contrary, is strengthening."

Adversaries trading barbs

Russian President Vladimir Putin told the St. Petersburg Economic Forum (SPIEF) about his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelensky: "I have many Jewish friends. They say he is not Jewish, that he is a disgrace to the Jewish people."

In the press, former Israeli-born minister Natan Sharansky replied: "Zelensky unites the Ukrainian people against barbaric aggression, and we Jews can be proud that a representative of our people plays a historic and important role in uniting the whole world to protect our future." Sharansky said in a Washington Post op-ed last month that Putin was worse than the soviets.

In an interview with the BBC, Volodymyr Zelenskyy replied: "It's as if he doesn't fully understand what he's saying. Excuse me, but it's like he's the second king of anti-Semitism after Hitler."

Suicide of Russian opponent during his detention

Anatoly Berezikov, 40, was arrested last month on suspicion of hanging pro-Ukrainian leaflets in the city of Rostov-on-Don, about 60 kilometers south of eastern Ukraine, in the Donetsk region. According to police, he committed suicide while in custody.

AFRICA

Algeria turns away from France to Russia

By decree of Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, the 3rd verse of the national anthem was restored. It is a song written during the War of Independence and designating the French occupier as the enemy. Here are the lyrics:

"O France! The time for palaver is over; We closed it as one closes a book O France! here comes the day when you must be accountable Get ready! here is our answer, The verdict, our revolution will give it back Because we have decided that Algeria will live Be a witness! Be a witness! Be a witness! ».

This initiative comes as France has asked for the renegotiation of the privileges granted to Algerian immigrants and President Tebboune's visit to Paris has been cancelled in favor of a trip to Moscow.

He has signed several agreements with Russia and presented Algeria's candidacy to the BRICS.
Russia is currently Algeria's second trade partner after China and before France.

**Mali demands withdrawal of "Blue Helmets"**


The representative of the Secretary-General and head of MINUSMA, Senegalese El-Ghassim Wane, pleaded for the continuation of the mission. Last month, he wrote a report (VIN N°41) assuring that the Malian army and Wagner had slaughtered more than 500 Malians in Moura.

The Russian representative condemned the negative reaction to the strengthening of Russian-Malian cooperation, demonstrating a neo-colonial approach and "double standards". Abdoulaye Diop condemned the desire of some states to instrumentalize the UN to "harm and punish Mali for its sovereign choices".

**Jihadist attack in Uganda**

The Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an Islamist militia that has pledged allegiance to Daesh since 2019, attacked a high school in Kasese, Uganda, before retreating to a natural park in the Democratic Republic of Congo. They looted food supplies and murdered 41 people, mostly students.

In June 1998, the ADF burned alive 80 students in their dormitories and abducted a hundred others.

**Somalia calls for lifting of sanctions**

On 15 June, the UN Security Council took note of the report of the sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning al-Shabab. It also received the report of a Panel of Experts on the conflict in Laascaanood, in the north of the country, where clashes between the SSC militia (named after the Sool, Sanaag and Cayn regions) and Somaliland forces.

The representative of Somalia called for the lifting of sanctions (on import of arms and export of coal) affecting his government. "We must target those who threaten the peace and security of Somalia, while assisting the Federal Government with strong security measures," he said.

**ASIA**

**Israel arms Arab countries**

In 2022, **Israeli arms exports** reached $12.556 billion, of which 24% went to Arab states, 30% to Asia-Pacific, 29% to Europe and 11% to the Americas.

The UAE, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan signed the Abraham Accords with Israel.

**Israel develops hypersonic missile interception system**

Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd said it was developing Sky Sonic, a system capable of intercepting Iranian Fattah hypersonic missiles. It must both monitor their changes in trajectory and respond to their speed.
Truth be told, no one knows exactly what the Fattah's abilities are, and the Sky Sonic system has never been used in combat situations.

**Secret US Iran negotiations**

Israel is trying to find out by all means what Washington is secretly negotiating with Iran. Europe fears that Israel's military confrontation with Iran will force Washington to reduce its aid dedicated to Ukraine.

**Who will benefit from Gaza Marine 1 revenues?**

Future revenues from the Gaza Marine 1 gas field will be divided among three parts: the Palestinian Investment Fund will get 20% (the Palestinian Authority is a partner), the Egyptian gas company that will carry out the exploration work will get 40%, while the remaining 40% will go to the Cypriot transnational Consolidated Contractors Company CCC, led by Palestinian billionaire Said Khoury.

This arrangement would have been reached several months ago. It is expected to be announced by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

**US still opposes reconstruction of Syria**

According to International Red Cross spokesman Suhair Zaqout, "Nearly 90% of Syrians today live below the poverty line (...) There are more than 15 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, a trend that has remained constant in recent years."

The World Food Programme reports: "An unprecedented funding crisis in Syria is forcing the World Food Programme (WFP) to reduce its basic food assistance to 2.5 million people, compared to 5.5 million" rescued so far.

The 7th Brussels conference on "Supporting the future of Syria and the region" pledged €4.6 billion for 2023 and €1 billion for 2024. They will be distributed to refugees abroad and jihadists in Idlib, but not to the Syrian population loyal to Damascus.

Since 2017, the UN has refused to undertake anything that would rebuild Syria, under a note signed by American Jeffrey Feltman, then No.2 of the Organization.

The US has granted more than **$1.1 billion** to Syrians in exile and jihadists in 2023. On May 30, State Department regional spokesman Samuel Warburg said: "Our position will not change until we see concrete steps toward a political solution in accordance with Security Council Resolution 2254. As a result, sanctions against the Assad regime will continue in the absence of any real progress." This situation leaves one wondering: Syria won the war waged by the jihadists supported by NATO in 2016. But it is still at the same point 7 years later.

From now on, winning a war is no longer enough. The Syrians will only come out of this when the unipolar system of Western domination itself is defeated.

**EU still opposes reconstruction of Syria**

High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell said: "During its tour, the Syrian opposition delegation stressed the need to reject normalization with the regime after the components of the Negotiating Committee met in Geneva at the beginning of June and unanimously announced their refusal to normalize the Syrian regime." He confirmed that the resumption of relations with the regime was not currently on the agenda.

**Pentagon deploys F-22A Raptor to Syria**

The position of the US occupation forces in Syria would be threatened by both Iranian-trained militias, the Syrian Arab Army and Russian forces aircraft. So, the Pentagon announced the deployment of F-22A Raptor aircraft. They are expected to arrive at the US base in Muwaflaq Salt (Jordan) before being stationed in occupied Syria.
The US Command for the Greater Middle East (CentCom) considers that the pre-war in Ukraine Russian-US deconfliction agreements still apply. Syria and Russia, on the contrary, claim that the US is an occupying force and must leave the Syrian territory.

Western communicators assure that the US presence aims to fight Daesh while local media report the support the US brings to the jihadists.

**Restoration of diplomatic relations between UAE and Qatar**

Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have reopened their respective embassies. This is a late application of the Al-Ula agreement, signed at the opening of the 41st summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) between Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait, in January 2021, under pressure from Jared Kushner, adviser to US President Donald Trump.

**Resumption of Yemen/Saudi Arabia flights**

For the first time since 2016, a commercial flight connected Yemen to Saudi Arabia. It transported 277 pilgrims performing their hajj to Mecca.

**Iranian banks bypass SWIFT**

Iranian banks will be connected to Indian, Pakistani, Burmese, Maldivian, Nepalese, Sri Lankan and Bhutanese banks via SEPAM, the equivalent of Western SWIFT, the Asian Clearing Union said.

**Saudi-Iranian protocol issue**

The press conference of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan and his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir Abdollahyan was not held in the ministry's press briefing room in Tehran. It was moved at the last moment to another room when the Saudi realized that the press briefing room was dedicated to General Qassem Soleimani, symbol of Iranian resistance to US imperialism, then supported by Saudi Arabia.

**Agreement between Beijing and the Kuomintang**

General Secretary of the Communist Party of China and President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping sent a letter to the "Straits Forum" of Chinese and Taiwanese leaders. He wrote: "The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries will continue to enhance the vitality of the expansion of non-governmental exchanges between the two sides and the deepening of the integration and development of the Crossed Strait."

The vice-chairman of the Kuomintang (Chiang Kai-shek's party), Andrew Hsia, who attended the Forum pledged to support the 1992 consensus and oppose "Taiwan independence". It is clear that Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, by aligning herself with the US position, has distanced herself from the opinion of the majority of her people.

In 1992, Beijing and Taiwan agreed to let time go by and to peacefully proceed with eventual reunification. For the past two years, the Biden administration has instead supported pro-independence politicians in Taiwan, violating previous U.S. commitments and threatening peace in the region. Beijing responded by stressing that should the project go ahead, it would preserve Chinese unity by invading the island.

**How China Sees Equality among Civilizations**

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Peoples held a congress at which it explained the Global Initiative on Civilization.

- Respect for the diversity of the world's civilizations
- No civilization should use its own standards to measure other civilizations, and any attempt to resolve differences among civilizations by
coercive means will bring nothing but disastrous consequences to world civilization.

• Promotion of the common values of all humankind
Each country must promote the common values of humanity and refrain from imposing its own values and models on others. It must practice true multilateralism, oppose hegemonism, unilateralism and power politics, abandon the theory of the "superiority of a civilization" and the "clash of civilizations".

• the legacy of civilization is compatible with innovation
It is necessary to be skilled in letting go of the old and absorbing the new while maintaining the continuity of the national cultural heritage, be effective in drawing inspiration from the strengths of other civilizations.

Japan’s double-play in Ukraine

Japan has promised Ukraine about 100 military vehicles. It has already given Kiev protective equipment such as helmets and bulletproof vests.

However, Moscow learned that Tokyo was in fact sending armored vehicles, in violation of its constitutional neutrality.

The Russian Foreign Ministry then summoned the Japanese ambassador. It informed him that this measure would lead to an escalation of hostilities and a further increase in the number of casualties from Kiev.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Turkey questions some of NATO's rapid action plans

NATO's new rapid response plans are expected to be adopted at the Vilnius summit on 11-12 July, if all member states approve them. For the time being, Turkey is opposed to this. In particular, it calls into question the elements concerning the British bases in Cyprus, Akrotiri and Dhekelia.
EDITORIAL

Ukrainian government sells its Russian art collections

According to head of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) Sergei Naryshkin, the Ukrainian authorities have decided to export cultural treasures in violation of the International Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. Its Protocol prohibits the removal of cultural treasures from a country during a war.

- 70 paintings were transferred from the National Art Museum in Kiev to the Thyssen-Bornemisa Museum in Madrid, in November 2022.
- 11 works, including five icons, and 11 paintings from the National Museum of Ukrainian Arts in Kiev were transferred to the Louvre Museum in Paris.
- Further transfers would be negotiated to the Vatican and Germany.

“The globalist elites, known for their habit of appropriating the goods of others, are intensifying their efforts to plunder Ukraine. If previously they were satisfied with financial and material resources, including grain and farmland, now they are attacking Orthodox shrines located on Ukrainian territory,” declared Sergey Naryshkin. According to him, this operation would have been organized by the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH), led by American collector Thomas Kaplan.

The head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Onufriy of Kyiv, was reportedly advised that icons, objects of worship and relics would be transferred temporarily, "until normalization (?) of the situation in Ukraine".

AMERICAS

US Intelligence Report on Wuhan Laboratory

US Director of Intelligence Avril Haines published a report on "The Potential Links Between the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the Origin of the COVID-19 Pandemic".

This document assures that Covid-19 is probably of natural origin, while the Intelligence Office of the Department of Energy and the FBI believe that it leaked from the Wuhan laboratory.
Recall that the Wuhan P4 laboratory depended on the World Health Organization (WHO) and not the Chinese government. Research was conducted on several viruses, including SARS-CoV, which China considers a US biological weapon.

The People's Daily comments: "The US must immediately stop politicizing and militarizing the debate about the origins of Covid, stop looking for scapegoats and answer questions about their role in its spread. They must address the legitimate concerns of the international community, share data with the WHO on the first suspected cases in the US, reveal what is happening at Fort Detrick and in US biological laboratories around the world."

**US transfers Abrams tanks to Ukraine**

The U.S. has delivered a dozen M1 Abrams tanks to Ukraine out of the 31 announced. They arrived in Szczecin (Polish port on the Baltic Sea). These second-generation tanks are very powerful, but difficult to maintain.

**National Security officials lied in the Biden case**

Hearings of IRS agents testifying under oath before the congressional committee investigating the Biden family reveal that the FBI had Hunter Biden's computer since 2019, but took time to decrypt it.

Anyway, the Federal Bureau had authenticated it from the beginning, while the statement by National Security officials that it was just Russian disinformation came much later (October 19, 2020).

**AG Garland lied in Biden case**

Attorney General Merrick Garland lied when he said he did not obstruct investigations into the crimes of Hunter Biden, the son of President Joe Biden.

Republican Senator Ted Cruz (Texas) has launched a campaign to have him prosecuted for "obstruction of justice and perjury."

**Foreign editions**

Voltaire, international news is now published in six languages:
- Dutch
- English
- French
- Italian
- German
- Spanish

**US senators challenge climate emergency**

Republican Senator Kevin Cramer (North Dakota) and nine of his colleagues have reintroduced the Real Emergencies Act bill in the Senate, which aims to prohibit the President of the US from invoking the climate emergency to justify exceptional measures.

According to the Russian Academy of Sciences, global warming is not explained by the emission of greenhouse gases as IPCC officials claim, but by the increasing emission of natural hydrogen (due to the alternating gravitational forces of the Moon and the Sun) that causes holes in the ozone layer.

**US still violating human rights at Guantánamo**


She found that even if the 9/11 attacks are described as crimes against humanity, the rights of suspects must be respected. However, despite marked improvements, "the detention infrastructure involves near-constant surveillance, forced cell extractions, improper
use of means of restraint and other arbitrary and non-human rights-compliant operational procedures resulting from inadequate staff training; structural deficiencies in health care; insufficient access to the family, including lack of meaningful communication; and arbitrary detention that violates the principle of fair trials."

**Supreme Court clarifies limits on free speech**

In *Counterman vs. Colorado*, the U.S. Supreme Court clarified that the First Amendment that protects free speech does not apply to "threatening speech." Should be considered as "threatening", not a message interpreted as such by its receiver, but only a message aimed in the mind of its sender to threaten a person or a group.

The U.S. Constitution protects the diversity of arguments and opinions in religious and political matters.

**Can the US deprive China of oil?**

The House of Representatives could amend the Defense Finance Act to compel the defense secretary to report within six months on options for establishing a naval blockade of China. The goal would be to deprive it of oil in the event of war.

**Government censorship in the US**

The House Subcommittee investigating the Biden family issued a report titled, "*The Weaponization of CISA: How a 'Cybersecurity' Agency Colluded with Big Tech and 'Disinformation' Partners to Censor Americans.*"

It summarizes how the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), an agency of the Secretary of Justice, has transformed itself into a censorship body.

**Lawsuit against Jair Bolsonaro**

Brazil's Supreme Court is hearing several cases against former President Jair Bolsonaro. He is accused of using government media to promote his campaign and cast unfounded doubts on the country's e-voting system.

**EUROPE**

**Bank of England raises its key interest rate**

The Bank of England (BoE) raised its key interest rate by 0.5 percentage points at once, to 5%. Its board of directors intends to curb the inflation that persists in the UK while it decreases in the rest of the European continent. The British who buy real estate will see their loans increase by the same amount because they are indexed to the key rate.

**Church of England withdraws from Shell**

The Church of England Commissioners (CCE), the £10 billion investment fund of the British Anglican Church, has decided to withdraw from the oil companies. Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby urged his worshippers to "take global warming seriously and align with the goals of the Paris Agreement".

The CCEs held significant stakes in Shell.

**People's Mujaheddin Congress banned in Paris**

The French government banned the big meeting that the People's Mujaheddin of Iran wanted to organize in the middle of Paris, on July 1. The police headquarters invoked a serious danger to public order.

On 20 June, Albanian authorities raided Camp Ashraf-3, the world headquarters of the People's Mujaheddin, not far from Tirana.
Hungary opposes Ukraine's entry into the EU

Hungary opposes Ukraine's entry into the EU as long as it does not comply with the Council of Europe's demands on minority rights. In its report of 12 June 2023 on Ukraine, the Venice Commission issued several "recommendations". These include the extension of the "right of everyone to organize events in a minority language" and the removal of "the obligation to provide a translation into Ukrainian at public events at the request of visitors".

The Zelensky administration announced the closure of a hundred Hungarian schools in Transcarpathia. Faced with the Hungarian opposition, it assures that the application of this measure has been postponed.

Far-right enters the Finnish government

True Finns MP Vilhelm Junnila has been appointed Economy Minister. The media noted his links with the Nordic Resistance Movement (a neo-Nazi party banned by the Supreme Court) and his "jokes" on the number 88 (referring to the initials of Heil Hitler). Jussi Halla-aho, a former member of the nationalist Suomen Sisu group, was elected speaker of parliament. 20 years ago, he was convicted by the Supreme Court of "inciting racial hatred" and "violating religious freedom."

Kyriakos Mytsotakis wins Greek general election

After the parliamentary elections in May which failed to secure a majority, Greeks were called to the polls again but with a new electoral system giving a bonus to the leading party.

- New Democracy (Kyriakos Mytsotakis) won 40.55% of the vote and 158 seats,
- SYRIZA (Alexis Tsipras) won 17.84% and 48 seats,
- PASOK - Movement for Change (Nikos Androulakis) won 11.85% and 32 seats
- The Spartans (Vasilis Stigkas) won 4.64% and 12 seats
- The Greek Solution (Kyriakos Velópoulos) won 4.44% and also 12 seats.

Bilateral consultations of Ukraine, US with the EU, Japan, India and South Africa

Head of the Ukrainian presidential administration Andriy Yermak met bilaterally in Copenhagen (Denmark) Chief Foreign Policy Advisor to the President of the European Council Simon Mordue; General Secretary of National Security of Japan Takeo Akiba; Director at the Indian Ministry of External Affairs Sanjay Verma; and National Security Advisor to the President of South Africa Sydney Mufamadi. He presented them with the broad outlines of President Zelensky's "peace plan".

Also in Copenhagen, US Security Advisor Jacob "Jake" Sullivan and Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland met separately with the European, Japanese, Indian and South African delegations.

The EU adopts the extra-territoriality of its unilateral coercive measures

The EU, which already practices unilateral coercive measures (wrongly described as "sanctions"), has decided to also adopt the principle of extra-territoriality, which is also contrary to international law.

Brussels intends to blacklist third-country companies suspected of re-exporting banned goods to Russia, or of being involved in activities such as the maritime transport of Russian oil.

87 companies accused of "directly supporting" the Russian military-industrial complex, based in Armenia, China, the UAE, Uzbekistan and Syria, have been added to this blacklist.

"Brussels can hardly be expected to encourage third countries to join the sanctions through diplomatic efforts. The EU always prefers to resort to blackmail and coercion," Russian Ambassador to the EU Kirill Logvinov said.
What is the status of Ukraine and Moldova's EU accessions?

The European Commissioner for Enlargement, the Hungarian Oliver Varhelyi, presented to the Union's Foreign Ministers his report on Ukraine's possible accession. Out of 7 criteria, it would not satisfy more than 2.

One of the unwritten conditions of the EU is that Ukraine appoints to the Supreme Court judges "recommended by the international community" (sic). This provision was only adopted at first reading.

Contrary to custom, no written report was presented, it was just read out loud.

The Baltic States and Poland want to speed up Ukraine’s accession. Sweden, Austria and Romania agree to its accession on condition that the Balkan countries, which have been waiting for two decades, are also speeded up. Germany, Italy and France want the procedure to be respected.

MEPs split on “nature restoration”

The European Parliament was split over the "nature restoration" project presented by European Commissioner for the Environment Lithuanian Virginius Sinkevicius. The aim is to return 20% of the EU’s surface to nature. According to the group of UN officials on global warming (IPCC) this would be the best way to fight against this phenomenon.

Victoria Nuland in Brussels to tell the EU how to deal with China

Secretary General of the EU’s External Action Service Stefano Sannino received the US Undersecretary of State, Straussian Victoria Nuland.

It seems that the purpose of Ms. Nuland's visit was to specify to the EU what the US expects of them vis-à-vis China.

US President Joe Biden has defined “de-risk” with China as a form of protectionism on advanced technologies that could tip the military balance.

China interprets this slogan as an attempt to hinder its economic development. Instead, it calls for ensuring that global supply chains are maintained for all products.

Kosovo police officers freed in Serbia

Three Kosovo police officers who had been arrested by Serbia were released by a Serbian court, which nevertheless charged them. Kosovo maintains that they had not committed any crime, but had been abducted by Serbia.

The interpretation of events differs depending on whether or not the State of Kosovo and its borders are recognized.

Aleksandar Vucic blames the West for Wagner’s rebellion

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic accused Westerners of playing a role in the rebellion of the Wagner Group, Yevgeny Prigozhin's private Russian military company.

Ukrainian pressure to join NATO

Dane Anders Fogh Rasmussen, former Secretary General of NATO and former adviser to Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, and Ukrainian Andriy Yermak, director of the Ukrainian presidential administration, signed a joint op-ed in major daily newspapers entitled: "Ukraine must join NATO, there is no other solution".

US President Joe Biden has spoken out against such membership.

Ursula von der Leyen vows to lift restrictions on Ukrainian grain

According to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen has promised
that the ban on imports of Ukrainian grain into some EU countries will be lifted by 15 September at the latest.

**English soon to be the language of administration in Ukraine**

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has urgently presented for approval by the Verkhovna Rada a bill aimed at elevating the English language to the status of "language of international communication". Proficiency in English would be mandatory for heads of local government and their deputies, military officers, prosecutors, tax and customs officials, intermediate and senior police officers, senior officials of other law enforcement agencies and civil defense services.

This reform comes at a time when administrations no longer use minority languages.

**For Zelensky, the first Ukrainian constitution dates back to the 18th century**

On the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the Ukrainian Constitution, President Volodymyr Zelensky delivered a vibrant speech at the Verkhovna Rada. He tried to link the current constitution with that of the Hetman of the Cossacks, Pylyp Orlyk, in the eighteenth century. This reference has the benefit of erasing the origin of the current text, which owes its explicitly racist article to Slava Stetsko, wife of the Nazi Prime Minister and co-president of the World Anti-Communist League. This article states that "preserving the genetic heritage of the Ukrainian people is the responsibility of the State".

Moreover, this reference makes it possible to rewrite history: Pylyp Orlyk's document is not strictly speaking a constitution and has never been applied. It is entitled "Pacts and Laws of Rights and Freedoms of the Zaporizhzhia Army" (*Contenta Pattern inter Ducem et Exercitum Conventorum*). It limits the prerogatives of the hetman, maintains the special status of the Cossacks and affirms the political and ecclesiastical separation of Moscow. This document also sets as an objective the eradication of the Jews.

The soldiers who had put themselves in the service of Pylyp Orlyk were Khazars who rejected both state Judaism and Kievan Rus. The territory he claimed included eastern Ukraine, western Kazakhstan, northwestern Uzbekistan, eastern Turkey, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

In 2021, an abridged version of the "Pacts and Laws" was loaned by Sweden to be exhibited at St. Sophia's Cathedral in Kiev as part of the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of independence.

**Why has Russia just declared WWF "undesirable"?**

According to an investigation by the Prosecutor General of Russia, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) uses its environmental protection and eco-education activities only as cover for projects that threaten Russia's economic security.

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**Voltaire Network Analysis**

- "The rebellion of Yevgeny Prigozhin", by Thierry Meyssan
  Contrary to Western media comments, Yevgeny Prigozhin has never attempted a coup against Vladimir Putin. He wanted to blackmail him in order to keep the exorbitant privileges he has accumulated since the creation of his private military company. Then he came to his senses and returned to his post.

- "The 'Korean Solution' for Europe", by Manlio Dinucci
  Westerners have taken note of their successive defeats in Germany, China, Korea, Vietnam, Syria, and now Ukraine. Just as they divided Germany, China and Korea, they have just written off the division of Ukraine, hoping to survive by prolonging the Cold War a little more.
One of the aims of WWF's activities is said to be to disrupt the Russian government's policy towards industrial development in the Arctic. The Fund legitimates restrictions that aim to move the Northeast Passage to the exclusive economic zone of the US. WWF's initiatives are directed against major oil, gas and energy companies as well as producers of precious metals and other mineral resources.

**Two Russian personalities plead for the change of nuclear doctrine**

Honorary chairman of the Council for Foreign Policy and Defense (Svop) Sergei Karaganov and former director of the Russian office of the Carnegie Institute Dmitry Trenin have published articles advocating for a nuclear strike.

An unambiguous – and no longer verbal – signal must be sent to the main adversary that Moscow will not play randomly and according to the rules established by the opposing side (...) Fear must be brought back into politics and into the public consciousness: in the nuclear age, this is the only guarantee of the preservation of humanity."

**Margarita Simonyan accuses US, UK and Israel of manipulating Wagner**

Director of the state-funded broadcaster Russia Today Margarita Simonyan accused the US, UK and Mossad of playing a role in the rebellion by the Wagner Group, Prigozhin's private military company.

**AFRICA**

**Macron accuses Russia of destabilizing Africa**

French President Emmanuel Macron said in an interview with France Info/RFI/FRANCE 24: "[Russia] is a destabilizing power for Africa through private militias that come to prey, abuse civilian populations (...) This was documented by the United Nations in the Central African Republic through the Wagner militia."

**Egypt begins assembly of the MisrSat-2 satellite**

The Egyptian Space Agency (EgSA) has received from China the elements of its MisrSat-2 satellite. Egypt will assemble them itself in order to experiment with these materials and acquire its autonomy in this matter. Egypt is the first African state to develop a space industry.

**ASIA**

**Israel's further expansion**

Israel's Defense Ministry has announced that it has approved some 5,700 new homes in West Bank settlements.

For three-quarters of a century, Israel has continued to colonize the Palestinian territories in violation of UN resolutions.

**Towards a multi-national interposition force in the West Bank?**

After the anti-Arab pogroms in Hawara, Turmus Ayya and Umm Safa, Western diplomats raised the possibility of creating a multi-national intervention force in the West Bank to protect the Palestinian population from the abuses of Jewish settlers. It would be composed of the signatory or associated states of the Abraham Accords, namely the UAE, Bahrain and Morocco, plus Egypt, Jordan and Turkey, and perhaps even Saudi Arabia.

This possibility is also intended to prevent the formation of a UN interposition force.

**Netanyahu's government attacks Anglo-Saxon media**

Israeli Public Diplomacy Minister Galit Distal Atbaryan has asked Israel to broadcast as much as possible a video implicating several major media outlets: the BBC, the *New York Times*, CNN, the *Guardian*, Reuters and AP. They would spread fake news against Israel.
Ukraine puts pressure on Israel again

Ukraine's ambassador to Tel Aviv Yevgeny Korniychuk said: "Israeli leaders, hiding behind a demagogic discourse about their neutrality (and although they no longer hide it), are actively building relations with the Russian Federation... In reality, on the ground, the so-called "neutrality" of the Israeli government is a clear pro-Russian position. We call on the Israeli government to change its position and support Ukraine with defensive means."

The ambassador was referring to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's statements to The Jerusalem Post. He claimed that Israel needed Russia to be able to strike Iranian targets in Syria without hindrance.

"The Israeli government continues its cooperation with Ukraine, as agreed between the two countries ... The ambassador's behavior does not help," he said.

Former Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and former Defense Minister Benny Gantz had been briefed on the role of "integral nationalists" in the Ukrainian government. They had declared that "Israeli weapons will never be sent to the murderers of Jews!"

Israel accommodates with 'murderers of Jews'

Israeli Ambassador to Ukraine Michael Brodsky gave an interview to Israel's Russian-language internet channel Iton TV. He said: "Of course, we don't like these heroes [Bandera's men], but for the majority of Ukrainians, they are heroes who fought for independence... Therefore, it would be incorrect to condition our support for Ukraine (...) by demanding that it stop renaming streets or stop designating Bandera or Melnik as heroes."

Spokeswoman for the Russian Foreign Ministry Maria Zakharova commented: "No one deserves such heroes. Because they are not heroes, they are creatures from hell, and this is not an identity but a shame for the Ukrainian people. It is the glorification of Nazism."

Hezbollah shoots down Israeli drone

Hezbollah announced that it had "shot down an Israeli drone that entered Lebanese airspace in the border village of Zebqine."

Hezbollah had not shot down an Israeli drone since September 30, 2021 in the context of the now resolved gas conflict.

Hezbollah against homosexuals tied to the West

Lebanese homosexuals, who had organized a Gay Pride in 2017, are the subject of general condemnation. Lebanese law inherited from the French mandate represses "sexual relations contrary to nature".

After the Sunnis and the Christians, now the Shiites are condemning them, while the embassies of the US and Germany support them.

Hezbollah's spiritual leader Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah used very harsh words against this moral deviation. However, shortly before his death, Party of God activists revealed him their homosexuality. He then did everything possible to ensure that they were integrated as such into Hezbollah.

Today, in reaction to Western support for LGTBIQ+, Hezbollah's parliamentary group has spoken out against them. It said: "This is a serious problem that threatens Lebanese society and makes it vulnerable to the blind imitation of a Western model whose moral structure is collapsing and whose crimes against peoples and states affect all economic, educational and behavioral levels."

MBS in Paris

Escorted by a large delegation, Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohamed Ben Salman (MBS) spent a week in Paris. He opened
an office of the Public Investment Fund (PIF), the monarchy's sovereign wealth fund. At the Paris Air Show, he bought 30 Airbus A320s for €3 billion for the low-cost airline Fly Nas and a hundred Airbus helicopters for the company Ajlan. He gave a gala on the Champ-de-Mars intended to promote Riyadh's bid to host the 2030 World Expo. Finally, he met twice with French President Emmanuel Macron and participated in the Global Financial Pact summit.

**Erdogan’s new economic and monetary policy**

- Kurd Mehmet Simsek was appointed Turkish Minister of Treasury and Finance. He made his career at the U.S. State Department and Merrill Lynch. He has the confidence of the business community.

- Hafize Gaye Erkan has been appointed Director of the Central Bank of Türkiye. Aged 44, she has spent her entire career at the head of US banks. As soon as she took office, she raised the key interest rate from 8.5% to 15%.

**Narendra Modi on state visit to Washington**

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a state visit to the US. This is the third such visit to Washington after that of French President Emmanuel Macron and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky.

This trip did not clarify much but it showed that for many US leaders India has already replaced the EU. India is the fourth world power in terms of purchasing power parity (after China, the EU and the USA).

The two countries have signed several arms deals and US firms have announced investments in High Tech in India. Washington is ready to go to great lengths to distance India from China.

At the end of the state visit, Indian External Affairs Minister Subramanyam Jaishankar confirmed that India is not aligned with anyone, but has excellent relations with Russia, good relations with the US and the EU, difficult relations with China and Pakistan and poor relations with Canada.

**Barack Obama considers a possible partition of India**

In an interview with CNN's Christiane Amanpour, former US President Barack Obama said: "I think it's true that if President [Biden] meets with Prime Minister Modi, then the protection of the Muslim minority in a Hindu-majority India is worth mentioning.

And, by the way, if I had a conversation with Prime Minister Modi, whom I know well, part of my argument would be that if you don't protect the rights of ethnic minorities in India, then there's a strong possibility that India will start partitioning. And we've seen what happens when you start having these kinds of significant internal conflicts. It would therefore be contrary to the interests not only of Muslim India, but also of Hindu India."

**Pakistan starts importing Russian oil**

After tanker *Pure Point* and its 45,142 tons of Russian crude oil in mid-June, now the *Clyde Noble* and its 56,000 tons of Russian crude oil has arrived in Karachi.

The US authorized these transfers to save the government of Shehbaz Sharif against his challenger Imran Khan.

**Wagner's rebellion encourages Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan's mistrust of the West**

Most Asian observers are convinced that the Western secret services manipulated Yevgeny Prigozhin against Vladimir Putin.

From the beginning of the rebellion, Putin called both Kazakh president Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Uzbek president Shavkat Mirziyoyev who had also faced coup attempts manipulated by the Anglo-Saxons. He assured
them that he was in control of the situation and urged them to be even more wary of Westerners.

The FSB feared similar rebellions in several regional states since the Ukrainian authorities had called for the overthrow of Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.

**North Koreans don't spy on what you think**

According to cyber intelligence firm Recorded, North Korean cyber spies prioritize cyber espionage over destructive digital attacks. Out of 273 operations carried out in the last 14 years, their priority targets were in descending order: government, cryptocurrency, media, traditional finance and, only last, the defense sector.

**Davos Summer Forum in China**

Chinese Premier Li Qiang met with World Economic Forum Director Klaus Schwab. The two men welcomed their cooperation, the Forum having been for the past 40 years a space for talks between Westerners and China.

The Davos Forum is an institution controlled by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) via the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) which itself depends on the US Chamber of Commerce.

The 14th annual meeting of the new champions, known as the "Davos Summer Forum", was held in Tianjin (North China). Li Qiang announced China's economic recovery with a forecast growth of 5%.

**Fentanyl remains a bone of contention between Washington and Beijing**

China has strongly protested after the arrest of several of its citizens by the US. They are accused of supplying cartels with precursors to make fentanyl, a drug that wreaks havoc in their country.

Beijing argues that "The root cause of the drug problem in the US lies within its own borders. The US is trying to solve its drug problems through pressure, coercion and illegal means, using external measures to treat its internal diseases. It will simply prove ineffective."

Trade in these precursors is perfectly legal. China stresses that its companies are not responsible for their customers.

"Instead of supervising domestic companies and individuals, the US has imposed unreasonable sanctions on Chinese institutions, illegally sanctioned Chinese companies, and openly framed and prosecuted Chinese citizens. This arbitrary act tramples on international law and seriously undermines the foundation of China-US drug control cooperation."

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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**UN General Assembly again divided over R2P**

The UN General Assembly split over the presentation of the 2023 report on the "responsibility to protect". Secretary-General António Guterres intended to enshrine in international law an obligation of States to prevent mass atrocities (Ref.: United Nations A/77/910–S/2023/409).

His services offered: "Member States are encouraged to recognize the inter-relationship between development and the responsibility to protect and to build on development programs in all areas of atrocity risk assessment, early warning, preparedness and response to avoid, reduce or mitigate atrocity risks and their effects."

The debate pitted the Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect, led by Croatia, against the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations, led by Venezuela.

Costa Rica noted that it was strange to consider the impact of lack of development on the
commission of atrocities and not to study the impact of atrocities on the impossibility of development.

Russia strongly criticized the Secretary-General's initiative, considering it to use a fashionable theme to try to "redefine the famous humanitarian intervention" dear to the former colonial powers. This criticism explains why Russia only refers to the Minsk II Agreements and does not invoke the responsibility to protect to justify its intervention in Ukraine, although this principle applies perfectly.

Establishment of the "Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine"

The Conference of Participants in the Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine held its constitutive meeting within the Council of Europe. It brought together representatives from more than 40 countries.

"The perpetrators of war crimes — including the crime of aggression — must be held accountable, and justice must be done to the victims, survivors, families of those who did not survive, and to the Ukrainian State. Our Assembly stressed that justice and overall responsibility for the aggression and its consequences cannot be achieved without full reparation for the damage caused to Ukraine and its citizens", said the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Dutchman Tiny Kox.

The Conference elected
• its President: Sandy Moss (Permanent Representative of the UK)
• its Vice-Presidents: Tanja Gonggrijp (Permanent Representative of the Netherlands) and Emil Ruffer (Director of the Department of International Law at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic)
• and its Executive Director: Markiyan Kliuchkovskyi (Advisor to President Volodymyr Zelensky).

Global Financial Compact

France organized a summit to create a Global Financial Pact. While the fifty or so heads of State and Government present in Paris agreed that the Bretton Woods institutions no longer work, they did not succeed in bridging the gap on what should be substituted for them.

At most, the meeting sealed an agreement between Zambia's Western and Chinese creditors to cancel that country's debt.

What should become of the BRICS?

South Africa presented the 19 BRICS membership applications to the organization's foreign ministers. According to Pretoria, unilateral coercive measures by the US and the EU have frightened many States and discouraged them from working with them.

These economies are disparate and their accession would profoundly transform the BRICS from a coordination of emerging states into a non-Western bloc.

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EDITORIAL

The Holy See's Good Offices Mission

• On February 25, 2022, the day after the start of the Russian military special operation in Ukraine, Pope Francis went to the Russian embassy to the Holy See to try to mediate.
• However, shortly after he adopted the Western version of the facts that he described as "unacceptable armed aggression". At the suggestion of Secretary for Relations with States British Archbishop Paul Gallagher he announced that he would consecrate Ukraine and Russia to the heart of the Virgin Mary according to the wishes of Fatima. The ceremony reportedly took place the day after President Biden attended the NATO summit.
But other collaborators of the Holy Father argued that this would be interpreted as a call for a crusade against Russia. He then backtracked and consecrated the whole world to Mary's heart.
• On August 24, 2022, he condemned the assassination of Russian journalist Daria Dugina, daughter of philosopher Alexander Dugin. Ukraine's ambassador to the Holy See Andriy Yurach accused him of assimilating "aggressors and victims."
• In November 2022, Pope Francis said in an interview with America that when talking about Ukraine, "I talk about cruelty because I have a lot of information about the cruelty of the troops (...) Perhaps the cruelest are those who come from Russia, but are not of Russian tradition, such as Chechens, Buryats, etc. ». Following the Russian Foreign Ministry's reaction, he apologized.
The Argentine pope then refrained from any public initiative. He has, however, increased indirect contacts on both sides.
• On May 13, 2023, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky visited the Vatican where he was received by Pope Francis.
• On May 16, 2023, Vladimir Putin appointed Ivan Soltanovsky as the new Russian ambassador to the Holy See. The latter was ambassador to the Council of Europe and is very close to Orthodox Patriarch of Moscow Kirill I.
• Cardinal Matteo Zuppi, President of the Episcopal Conference of Italy and General Ecclesiastical Assistant of the Community of Sant’Egidio, visited Kiev on 5 and 6 June and Moscow on 28 and 29 June to present the Holy See's mission of good offices.
Ultimately, the Holy See refuses to take sides and is developing its own approach. According to its press service: "The main objective of the initiative is to encourage gestures of humanity that can help foster a solution to the current tragic situation and find ways towards a just peace." Cardinal Matteo Zuppi met briefly with the Ukrainian president and at length with the Patriarch of Moscow.
AMERICAS

In Space, US military clearly outpaced by China’s

The Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies has published a report entitled Building U.S. Space Force Counterspace Capabilities: An Imperative for America’s Defense. It postulates that the US aerospace defense means are clearly insufficient.

“China has built an offensive space arsenal that includes ground-launched missiles capable of hitting satellites in all orbits, satellites with robotic arms that can maneuver and crush others, lasers and jammers that can disrupt or damage satellites, and cyber weapons capable of cutting satellite ground links.

By attacking U.S. space systems, China could reduce the overall ability of U.S. militaries to see, communicate, navigate, project power, command and control its forces.”

The Grayzone’s audit of US arms spending in Ukraine presented to UN Security Council


He noted that only 30% of US military aid to Ukraine arrives in the country. "Where is the rest of it? No one knows," he said (source: S/PV.9364).

US Supreme Court dismantles progressive policies

The U.S. Supreme Court has declared the practice of affirmative action in the admissions programs of some universities unconstitutional. It said a Christian graphic artist had the right to refuse to create marriage websites for same-sex couples, despite anti-discrimination laws. Finally, the court blocked the Biden administration’s plan to cancel some of the debt of low-income students.

Justice Terry Doughty bans federal government from asking social media to censor arguments or opinions

Justice Terry Doughty has issued an injunction to about 30 personalities in response to the 2022 complaint by the attorneys general of Louisiana and Missouri. He banned the federal government from working with social media to establish "protected speech."

Examples of censorship cited in the order include opinions on anti-Covid measures and the wearing of masks, theories about the origin of the virus, vaccination requirements, the integrity of the 2020 election, President Joe Biden’s policies, and his son, Hunter Biden’s laptop.

White House spokeswoman Karine Jean-Pierre commented: "We will continue to promote responsible action ... to ensure that we protect public health, to ensure safety and security." The New York Times lamented an injunction that "could curtail efforts to fight disinformation."

Joe Biden and the firing of Ukraine’s Prosecutor General

A detective obtained from the National Archives a White House planning email sent on May 26, 2016 by Assistant to Vice President Joe Biden. It states that Mr. Biden was to have a phone call with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. For some reason, this email was sent to the vice president's son, Hunter Biden.

Two months later, Ukraine’s Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin was fired. During a debate at the Council on Foreign Relations, Joe Biden boasted that he had obtained this dismissal by threatening President Poroshenko not to pay the billion dollars promised to his country if he did not comply. Prosecutor Shokin was investigating the activities of Burisma Holdings of which Hunter Biden was a director.

Joe Biden has always denied knowledge of his son's activities.
‘Making Putin pay’

Former chess champion Garry Kasparov, president of the Renew Democracy Initiative, launched the Making Putin Pay campaign in April. He asked the law firm Kaplan Hecker & Fink LLP to update its plan to seize Russian assets in the West.

This work was presented at the conference for the reconstruction of Ukraine held in London. Renew Democracy Initiative and Kaplan Hecker & Fink LLP were already involved in the impeachment attempt against President Donald Trump because he had asked Ukraine to investigate the illegal activities of Burisma Holding and Hunter Biden.

Russia ready to release US spy who infiltrated Wagner

The US and Russia have begun negotiations for the simultaneous release of Vladimir Dunaev and Evan Gershkovich. The former is a Russian national who was arrested in South Korea and extradited to the US. He is accused of creating the Trickbot software and using it to ransom companies. The latter is a Wall Street Journal reporter. He was arrested for espionage while making contact with members of Evgeny Prigozhin’s Wagner Group.

Robert Malley laid off at the State Department

State Department’s special envoy for Iran Robert Malley was relieved of his duties. It seems that he is accused of leaking information about secret US-Iranian negotiations to the Israeli press.

Robert Malley is a former employee of George Soros. He is not sympathetic to the Netanyahu government.

At the same time, we learn that Daniel Shapiro, current US ambassador to Israel and personal friend of Benjamin Netanyahu, will be appointed to monitor the implementation of the Abraham Accords.

Bolivia catches up in lithium mining

The Chinese company Citic Guoan and the Russian Uranium One (to the tune of €532 million), two semi-public companies, will join forces with the public company Yacimientos de Litio Bolivianos (for €857 million) to build two plants to produce 100,000 tons of lithium carbonate per year, from 2025.

British secret services organized the overthrow of Evo Morales to appropriate Bolivian lithium but the coup government did not last long.

British Justice continues to block Venezuela’s gold

The London Court of Appeal has rejected an appeal filed by the Central Bank of Venezuela which still doesn’t have access to Venezuelan gold reserves deposited with the Bank of England and blocked since 2018.

A judgment of the High Court of July 29, 2022 stated that this gold no longer belonged to the Central Bank of Venezuela, but to bankers designated by Juan Guaido.

At the time, the British government did not recognize Nicolás Maduro as president of Venezuela, but his opposition leader Juan Guaido instead. However, it no longer recognizes Guaido today. The Court of Appeal considered that the appointments made by "President" Guaidó were not in question.

This gold was deposited in England to guarantee Venezuelan oil during its transport.

Its blockade prevents Caracas from continuing to trade its oil.

EUROPE

British Justice opposes the law of transfer of illegal immigrants

The London Court of Appeal found that "there are serious grounds to believe that people sent to Rwanda could be returned to their country of"
origin, that they are fleeing, even if they have good reason to seek asylum." Therefore, the UK law on the transfer of illegal immigrants to Rwanda is illegal.

A report assures that the cost of transfer will amount to £169,000 per illegal immigrant. The law provides that it will not be possible to apply for asylum in the UK, but only in consulates before entering the Kingdom.

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury and Primate of the Anglican Church, denounced the law as an “immoral policy” which he said “shames our country.”

The Orkney archipelago plans to request its annexation into Norway

The Orkney Islands consider that they are abandoned by both Scotland and London. They plan to request their annexation to Norway.

The latter refuses to take a position and assures that this is a British domestic problem. Norwegian Crown Prince Haakon and Crown Princess Mette-Marit paid an official visit to the Orkney Islands in 2017.

Riots in France

France experienced a week of riots following the death of a young man killed by a police officer. An investigation is underway to determine the circumstances of the tragedy. In any case, it served as a trigger for urban riots in more than 300 cities.

On 6 July, 5,892 vehicles were burned, 12,202 garbage can fire, 1,105 buildings burned, defaced or looted, 269 attacks on police stations or gendarmeries, 5,800 businesses looted, and 808 police officers were injured. 3,486 people were taken into custody. The damage would amount to more than €1.6 billion.

A 54-year-old man died in Guyana when hit by a stray bullet fired by a rioter, according to police.

In an unprecedented move, rioters attacked elected officials and burned 210 schools.

At least a third of the rioters were minors. They showed great determination and attacked all the symbols of the state as well as businesses. The boys attacked the buildings and were joined by the girls to loot them.

The police officer who killed the young man was remanded in custody. A fundraiser was opened to help his family. In a few days, it raised more than €1 million.

President Emmanuel Macron has said his government is considering cutting off social media if more riots break out.

The Anglo-Saxon press interprets these riots by comparing them to those that followed the death of George Floyd in the USA. It projects American racism on France and believes it recognizes in the French police the same violence as in the US.

In reality these riots seem to be the consequence of the collapse of the National Education system. Young people noticing the lack of interest in this institution attacked it. It was as if a generation was trying to take power by force.

Emmanuel Macron postpones his trip to Germany

Riots that have rocked more than 300 French cities have forced President Emmanuel Macron to postpone his planned three-day visit to Germany.

In March, the Elysée Palace had already had to cancel the visit in France of British King Charles III because of strikes and demonstrations that shook the country in the context of the pension reform.

Lifting of parliamentary immunity of Catalan separatists confirmed

The Court of Justice of Luxembourg has rejected the request of the three Spanish MEPs,
Carles Puigdemont, Antoni Comin and Clara Ponsati, who sought the cancelation of the waiver of their parliamentary immunity. However, far from admitting defeat, the three Catalan separatists have announced that they are playing for time and appealing this decision.

Giorgia Meloni believes France exploits Africa

During a broadcast of La 7 TV on January 19, 2019, future Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni declared: "50% of everything that Burkina Faso exports ends up in... the French Treasury", then she brandished CFA francs by calling them "colonial currency".

She concluded: "The solution is not to take Africans to Europe; the solution is to liberate Africa from some Europeans who exploit it."

The German vision of European Defense

The Munich Security Conference has published a report on European Defense where it advocates the creation of a common arms market in the EU. It is about working under the "American umbrella" and not about organizing an independent defense.

This project bears an uncanny resemblance to the first phase of the European Defense Community in the 1950s.

Opening of a bureau to investigate Russian crimes in Ukraine

The International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine (ICPA) has opened its doors in The Hague, Netherlands. It brings together prosecutors from Kiev, the EU, the US and the International Criminal Court (ICC).

It is only an investigation office, not a court. What law might be applied when a court is formed is still unknown.

Koran burning in Sweden

On the day of Eid al-Kebir in Stockholm (Sweden), Iraqi refugee Salwan Momika juggled the Koran before burning it while putting his foot on it behind a security cordon.

Iraq requested his extradition, while a mob attacked the Swedish embassy in Baghdad.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on TV: "We will eventually teach arrogant Westerners that insulting Muslims is not freedom of speech." Given this autodafé, Ankara continues to oppose Sweden's accession to NATO.

Morocco recalled its ambassador to Stockholm, condemning an "offensive and irresponsible" act.

Already on January 21, a Swedish-Danish extremist set fire to a copy of the Koran, provoking a first diplomatic crisis with Ankara.

Sweden prevents the propagation of information about Ukrainian integral nationalists

The Swedish Psychological Defense Agency, an agency of the Ministry of Defense, provided analysis and advice to the Ukrainian government from the outset of the Russian special military operation.

The agency says it has helped combat Russian disinformation. However, it is careful not to give concrete examples of this misinformation. It seems to have helped suppress information about "integral nationalists."

Viktor Orban notes the failure of the EU project

On 29th June Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban declared from Brussels that the EU was asking the Member States for billions of additional euros, including 50 for Ukraine, but refused to reveal what it had done with its
previous budget. He accused the Commission of bankrupting the EU.

“The EU was created for two reasons. The first is peace, and now a war is raging here. The second is prosperity, but today the economy gives more and more reasons to worry,” he concluded.

Spain holds six-month presidency of European Council

Spain took over the rotating presidency of the European Council on 1 July. Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez is preparing to leave Moncloa in the next parliamentary elections. This is not the first time that national elections will shake up the European institutions.

For the time being, Spain has announced that it is placing support for Ukraine at the top of its priorities. Then the development of trade with Latin America in general and Mercosur in particular. The likely victory of the right-wing coalition should not change this agenda.

EPP calls for pause in EU Green Deal

Several heads of state and government members of the European People's Party (EPP) have written to ask their counterparts in the European Council to take a break from the EU’s ecological agenda. They argue that the war in Ukraine has generated enormous expenses and that it is not possible to achieve everything that was foreseen in the Green Deal that was adopted.

The signatories are: Nikos Christodoulides (Cyprus), Krisjanis Karins (Latvia), Ulf Kristersson (Sweden), Kyriakos Mitsotakis (Greece), Karl Nehammer (Austria), Petteri Orpo (Finland), Andrej Plenkovic (Croatia) and Leo Varadkar (Ireland).

In Parliament, the EPP fights the restoration of nature and the reduction of the use of pesticides; two parts of President Ursula von der Leyen's Green Deal.

Voltaire Network Analysis

“Russian and Western secret services faced with the rebellion of Yevgeny Prigozhin”, by Thierry Meyssan

By rebelling in the middle of the war to keep in his own name the property entrusted to him, Yevgeny Prigozhin threatened the cohesion of his country. This affair, which could have been dramatic, ended well. Independently of this initiative, the Western and Russian secret services had both foreseen in advance the benefits they could derive from it.

European Commission will subsidize up to 20% all defense tenders in Europe

The European Parliament and the European Council agreed to create an entity to manage Member States’ defense tenders.

Only industrialists established in the EU or EFTA (i.e., Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) will be able to compete for these public contracts.

The Commission will subsidize all these contracts to the tune of 20%.

EU wants to seize frozen Russian assets

The EU is planning a bill to confiscate the frozen Russian assets. For the moment, only Germany opposes it.

Ukraine tries to protect Mikhail Saakashvili

Former Georgian president Mikhail Saakashvili (2004-13) was taken from prison and appeared before a court in Tbilisi. He was sentenced to 8 years in prison for "abuse of power". In 2008, he launched a war against South Ossetia.

Lifting his T-shirt at the hearing, he unveiled a torso with exposed ribs and a hollowed belly. In 2015, he acquired Ukrainian citizenship and was appointed governor of Odessa by President Voltaire, International Newsletter - N°48 - 7 July 2023
Petro Porosenko. However, he soon got angry with him and resigned.

The Zelensky administration has asked the Georgian ambassador in Kiev to leave Ukraine within 48 hours.

**Attempted assassination of the governor of Crimea**

Ukraine staged an assassination attempt on governor of Crimea Sergei Aksionov.

For this, it relied on a Russian citizen whom it had trained in the use of explosives.

Crimea was Ukrainian from 1991 to 2014. Its citizens became Russian when Crimea applied in a referendum and obtained its annexation to the Russian Federation.

**Michel McFaul shows how to deprive Russia of its missiles**

Western sanctions against Russia have been coordinated since April 2022 by former US ambassador to Moscow Michael McFaul from the Freeman-Spogli Institute for International Studies at the University of Stanford.

He came to Kiev to give his latest report to director of the presidential administration Andriy Yermak.

The report studied 1,057 foreign components of Russian military equipment. It determined that they are manufactured by 155 companies. Ukraine has forwarded this list to NATO members, pending further sanctions against them.

According to Michael McFaul, cutting off supplies to Russia would mean depriving it of its missiles.

**Beating of journalist covering trial of opponents of Ramzan Kadyrov**

Journalist Elena Milashina (Novaya Gazeta) and lawyer Alexander Nemov were beaten while covering the trial of the mother of two opponents of Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov denounced a "very serious attack that requires vigorous measures."

**AFRICA**

**Restoration of Egyptian-Turkish diplomatic relations**

Egypt and Türkiye have re-established diplomatic relations. They were broken during the overthrow of President Mohamed Morsi in 2013.

According to the Muslim Brotherhood, Türkiye and the West, Mohamed Morsi was democratically elected but massive demonstrations asked the army to overthrow him. However, a document was published attesting that Morsi's election was fraudulent: the Muslim Brotherhood had threatened to kill members of the electoral commission and their families if they did not proclaim him president.

**Confusion in Senegal**

While Ousmane Sonko was sentenced to 2 years in prison (VIN N° 44), but is still not jailed, Senegalese President Macky Sall has announced that he will give up running for a third term.

**UN will not withdraw from Mali within six months**

The United Nations Fifth Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs has stated that it is impossible to withdraw all MINUSMA personnel within six months, as recently decided by the Security Council. It has 12,420 uniformed men, 4,313 civilians and 12,000 heavy equipment. However, MINUSMA has only $590 million to organize its withdrawal.

Mali has just managed to drive out the French forces, but will have to endure those of the UN for a while.
Benjamin Netanyahu changes his justice reform project

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the Wall Street Journal that he was abandoning plans to allow the Knesset to override Supreme Court rulings. There would therefore be no longer any reason to accuse him of a "judicial coup".

However, it is just kicking the can down the road. The PM plans to deprive the Supreme Court of its "reasonableness" argument that it used whenever it censored government policy.

Don’t forget that the reform of Israeli institutions is led in the shadows by American Straussian Elliott Abrams.

In the same interview, Benjamin Netanyahu said: "If this system [the Iron Dome] fell into Iran's hands, then millions of Israelis would be left defenseless and in peril." As a result, Israel will not hand it over to Ukraine, despite the Biden administration's demands.

Former Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and former Defense Minister Benny Gantz used to say that Israeli weapons should never be delivered to "murderers of Jews" (i.e., Ukrainian "integral nationalists").

Tel Aviv Police Commander resigns

Tel Aviv district police commander Ami Eshed preferred to resign rather than bloodily suppress opposition protests.

A new demonstration gathered to support him. It was harshly repressed by the police, leaving 14 seriously injured.

Knesset authorizes incarceration of minors

The Knesset approved by 44 votes to 28 a law allowing prison sentences for minors between the ages of 12 and 14 involved in "terrorist" acts that have caused at least one homicide.

Israel launches punitive expedition in West Bank

Israel has launched a vast operation against the Resistance in Jenin (West Bank). About 1000 soldiers participated. 1 Israeli and 12 Palestinians died. Another 3,000 fled the city. There is a lot of roads and homes destroyed.

Tel Aviv is trying to prevent a transformation of the West Bank along the lines of Gaza. However, if attacks against the Resistance temporarily destroy networks, they only make them stronger in the long run.

Australia, Canada and UK condemn Israel's policy

The foreign ministers of Australia, Canada and the UK issued a joint statement declaring their states' concern about the construction of more than 5,700 new settlement units in the West Bank. The three States reiterated their condemnation of the reprehensible and ongoing violence of Israeli settlers targeting Palestinians.

UN worries about "missing Syrians"

The United Nations General Assembly adopted by 82 votes in favor, 11 against and 62 abstentions, a motion creating an independent institution to investigate the fate of missing persons in the Syrian Arab Republic during the 80s.

All Arab states voted against except Qatar and Kuwait.

Lower oil production and exports

Saudi Arabia has announced that it is extending the cut of its oil production by one million barrels per day.

Russia has announced that it will cut exports (not production) by 500,000 barrels per day in August.
Qatar tortures French-Algerian lobbyist

A search was carried out at the office of Rachida Dati, former French Minister of Justice and mayor of Paris' 7th district, and at the offices of lawyers Francis Szpiner, Renaud Semerdjian and Olivier Pardo. The police were looking for documents about the kidnapping of lobbyist Tayeb Benabderrahmane in Qatar, the torture he suffered and the pledge he was forced to sign.

Tayeb Benabderrahmane reportedly had in his possession evidence of Qatar's corruption of football federation officials for the organization of the 2022 World Cup.

Türkiye quietly supports Russia

According to the Wall Street Journal, a hundred Russian cargo ships have stopped in Türkiye since the beginning of the special operation in Ukraine.

Türkiye is the only NATO member that has not taken action against Russia.

Washington is threatening to extend its unilateral coercive measures (abusively described as "sanctions" by US propaganda) against Turkish companies that trade with Russia in violation of its embargo.

Disney Celebrates the Centenary of the Turkish Republic

Disney has made a series to the glory of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. It will be broadcast from the centenary of the Turkish Republic, on October 29, 2023.

If the event is welcomed by many Turkish organizations, it is denounced by Armenian and Kurdish groups as the apology of a criminal.

The People's Mujahidin still supported by world political figures

The mass demonstration of the People's Mujaheddin that was banned in Paris turned into a video-conference at the sect's headquarters in Auvers-sur-Oise, and an authorized demonstration at Place Vauban (Paris). Speakers at the video conference included Mike Pence (former US Vice President), Stephen Harper (former Prime Minister of Canada), Guy Verhofstadt (former Prime Minister of Belgium), Rita Süssmuth (former President of the German Bundestag), John Bercow (former Speaker of the British House of Commons), Ambassador John Bolton and General James Jones (former advisers to the US President), Michèle Alliot-Marie, Bernard Kouchner and Hubert Védrine (former French Foreign Ministers), Senator Giulio Terzi (former Italian Foreign Minister), John Baird (former Canadian Foreign Minister), Dr. Liam Fox (former British Minister of Defence), US General Wesley Clark (former NATO Commander) and US Senator Joseph Lieberman.

Foreign editions

Voltaire, international news is now published in six languages:
- Dutch
- English
- French
- Italian
- German
- Spanish

IAEA commits to Fukushima

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has approved the discharge of water from the civilian Fukushima nuclear power plant despite opposition from Japanese, South Korean and Chinese organizations. It ensured that water contamination was below international standards.

However, the IAEA relied on documents provided by the Japanese government and did not conduct any investigations of its own.

“The IAEA is not an agency that analyzes people's health and environment. It is an agency that attaches importance to the production of
nuclear energy (...) The results of its investigation can only be not credible,” head of the DPK group in the Korean assembly Park Kwang-on said.

South Korea has announced that it will maintain its ban on importing seafood from Fukushima until health safety is scientifically confirmed.

**Japan-South Korea meeting**

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol are expected to meet on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Commenting on the announcement, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told a trilateral forum that most Americans and Europeans can’t tell China, Japan and South Korea apart:

“No matter how blonde you dye your hair, how sharp you shape your nose, you can never become a European or American, you can never become a Westerner,” Wang said. “We must know where our roots lie.”

Wang called for Japan and South Korea to work together with China to “prosper together, revitalize East Asia, revitalize Asia and benefit the world.”

**U.S.-China escalation**

The US, Japan and the Netherlands have banned some exports to curb the supply of advanced semiconductors to China.

In retaliation, China imposed export restrictions on gallium and germanium, two rare earth minerals.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the Biden administration is considering escalation. It reportedly intends to restrict Chinese companies' access to US cloud services using advanced artificial intelligence chips.

**Erratum**

- A sentence was skipped in VIN N°46: we wanted to specify that Türkiye opposes the plans of NATO which envision a force of rapid action on the British bases of Cyprus.

Indeed, Ankara occupies the north of the island.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**Vanessa Kerry appointed WHO "Special Commissioner for Climate Change and Health"**

Dr. Vanessa Kerry has been appointed "Special Commissioner for Climate Change and Health" of the World Health Organization.

She is the daughter of John Kerry, former secretary of state and current special envoy for climate change under President Joe Biden. While studying at Harvard and London, she interned at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI). In partnership with the U.S. Peace Corps, she co-founded an international medical aid program already active in Malawi, Uganda, Sierra Leone and Zambia, called Seed Global Health.

**Jens Stoltenberg reappointed to NATO Secretary General**

The rivalries between the candidates for the NATO General Secretariat seem insurmountable. Many member states opposed the candidacy of Canada's deputy prime minister, "Ukrainian integral nationalist" Chrystia Freeland. European Commission President Ursula von der Layen declined the post. In the end, Jens Stoltenberg was reappointed for another year.
Iran becomes full member of SCO

The online summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, held in New Delhi, officially admitted Iran as a full member.

Türkiye to chair BSEC for six months

Türkiye took over the current chairmanship of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) on 1 July 2023 for a six-month term. The BSEC has 12 members, including Russia and Ukraine, and has headquarters in Istanbul.
EDITORIAL

NATO summit’s discord

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) held the annual summit of its heads of state and government on 11 and 12 July in Vilnius, Lithuania. In addition to the Member States, Ukraine and 4 Associates from the Indo-Pacific Region (Australia, South Korea, Japan and New Zealand) were also in attendance.

Allies endorsed peacetime defense plans, committed to increased investment in defense, took steps to bring Ukraine closer to the Alliance, and strengthened partnerships with Indo-Pacific countries.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky continued to lobby for his country's membership of NATO as soon as he arrived in Vilnius. In particular, he offered a Ukrainian flag of Bakhmut to Lithuania. It was mainly a question for him of diverting attention from the failure of his "counter-offensive".

Moreover, as previously announced by US President Joe Biden, Ukraine has not been included in the Alliance, but has been promised security guarantees at the end of the ongoing war. In the past, this type of promise was an elegant way for colonial states to express a rejection. Moreover, the Allies have not defined whether these security guarantees would be comparable to that granted to Israel (military support) or to South Korea (a physical presence of the GIs). The first solution would make Ukraine a thorn in Russia’s flesh, while the second would enshrine a division of the world comparable to that of the Cold War.

An argument pitted President Zelensky against British Minister of Defense Ben Wallace who pointed out that Ukraine never shows the slightest gratitude for the aid it receives.

The surprise came from the fact that the announcement of the policy towards Ukraine was not made within NATO, but by an impromptu G7 summit (Japan included); intervention that could reflect a de facto extension of NATO to the Indo-Pacific. Unless it illustrates the division of the member states on this subject and the impossibility of the US to maintain order among its allies.

As a consolation prize, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan lifted his veto on Sweden's membership, which is presented as a dropping of Russia by Ankara. Yet this does not change much since Moscow has no intention of attacking Stockholm, and Ankara continues its industrial support to Moscow. Türkiye monetized its change of position with the unblocking of its $20 billion order of F-16 fighter jets, while to save his partners’ face Recep Tayyip Erdogan (…).
(..) pretended to be disappointed that his country could not join the EU.

The adoption of defense plans aims to profoundly transform NATO, moving it from nuclear deterrence to deterrence through impediment. Until now, the Allied armies were only auxiliaries of the US’. In the end, only the US nuclear Bomb really mattered. Today, Russia is far superior in this respect since its hypersonic missiles can hit their targets before the US can retaliate. Sure enough, Washington can also reach its own targets and cause huge damage, but it can no longer achieve victory. The Alliance is therefore moving to a strategy aiming to inflict heavy losses on Russia by sacrificing non-US Alliance soldiers.

The final statement of the heads of state and government includes a rant against China's economic intentions, its alliance with Russia and the strengthening of its military. In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin replied by comparing the nature of China-Russia relations with the very different nature of NATO member states. Regarding the development of nuclear weapons, he recalled that China is the only nuclear power to have pledged never to threaten non-nuclear countries or nuclear free zones to use this weapon. He did not fail to ridicule NATO's concerns about China’s economic development and its claim to substitute Western rules for international law.

On the sidelines of the summit, NATO highlighted its NAFO (North Atlantic Fellas Organization) NGO which is in charge of ridiculing "Russian propaganda" on social media. The basis of its work is to stage the contradictions between what Russia says and the perception that Westerners have of the conflict. The goal is therefore not so much to stigmatize “Russian lies” than to validate with humor Western leaders’ accusations.

AMERICAS

Janet Yellen's trip to Beijing

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen paid a 4-day visit to China. She sought to clarify the two countries’ points of friction. She first confirmed that President Joe Biden doesn’t see the relationship between the US and China as a power conflict (as in the famous "Thucydides trap"). "We believe the world is big enough for both our countries to prosper. Both nations have an obligation to responsibly manage this relationship," she said.

She then specified that her country preferred "healthy competition" to a "win-win relationship". This capitalist view indicates that the two states should each strive to do better than the other, while the Chinese formula means that there should be no one left behind. Finally, she assured that the semiconductor export restrictions were "national security" measures and not "protectionism" in disguise. They will therefore be "highly targeted".

Both sides seemed satisfied with these talks. China sees Janet Yellen as the spokesperson for the US business community.

"Chinese culture values peace above all else, as opposed to hegemony and intimidation," Premier Li Qiang said.

“The US side does not seek to decouple or cut supply chains and has no intention of hindering China’s modernization process,” Yellen said.

Schism in the United Methodist Church

One-fifth of the congregations of The United Methodist Church decided to leave the second US Protestant Church and form The Methodist World Church.

Methodists forbid the marriage or ordination of "avowed practicing homosexuals," but many consider this rule to be unenforced. So, they chose to make a schism.
The Chinese military would have weapons capable of neuro-striking the human brain

US anti-China think tank CCP BioThreats Initiative (CCP BTI) has published a report entitled "Enumerating, Targeting and Collapsing the Chinese Communist Party’s NeuroStrike Program." It was written by Ryan Clarke, a senior researcher at the East Asia Institute at the National University of Singapore; Xiaoxu Sean Lin, former army microbiologist, now at Feitan College; and LJ Eads, former Air Force intelligence officer and current artificial intelligence (AI) specialist for the US intelligence community.

Their report claims that the People's Liberation Army has weapons able to directly attack brains using microwaves or other-directed energy weapons in portable pistols or larger weapons firing electromagnetic beams. However, for the moment, China would not be able to produce these weapons on a large scale.

Joe Biden and Climate Change

In the presence of Sultan Ahmed al-Jaber (President of COP28), Alastair Borthwick (Director of Bank of America), Anil Wadhwani (Director of Prudential plc), Larry Fink (Director of BlackRock), Oliver Bäte (Director of Allianz), John Neal (Director of Lloyds of London), Alison Rose (Director of NatWest Group) and Tony O. Elumelu (Director of United Bank of Africa), President Joe Biden, his special climate envoy John Kerry and King Charles III reiterated their commitment to "fight" climate change.

The idea that we can "fight" against (and not adapt to) global warming assumes that it is man-made (as the IPCC claims) and not natural (as demonstrated by the Russian Academy of Sciences).

New lead in the Biden family case

Gal Luft, 57, is a dual Israeli-American national. He was an advisor to Chinese government front company CEFC China Energy when that company was doing business with President Joe Biden's son Hunter Biden. Luft was charged with conspiracy to illegally sell weapons to Chinese individuals and companies, selling bombs and rockets to the UAE, selling Chinese arms to Kenya and selling Iranian oil in violation of "sanctions". He faces up to 100 years in prison.

He was to recruit on behalf of Beijing former director of the CIA R. James Woolsey and former national security adviser Robert C. McFarlane with whom he heads the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security (IAGS). This think tank received $350,000 from a figure close to President Xi Jinping.

According to the New York Post, he told FBI prosecutors in Brussels in 2019 that the CEFC paid Hunter Biden and his uncle James Biden $100,000 a month in exchange for using their names to promote Chinese business interests.

Who censored social media in the US?

The Louisiana and Missouri attorney general's complaint (VIN N°48) identified the composition of the White House team that censored arguments and opinions on social media about Covid, the Biden family's affairs and the 2020 election.

They are:
- Clarke Humphrey
- Rob Flaherty
- Andy Slavitt

Have worked with them:
- Vivek Murthy (General Surgeon)
- Center for Countering Digital Hate (British NGO)
- Carol Crawford (Director of Digital Media, CDC).

Christopher A. Wray refuses to reply to MPs

Appearing before the House Judiciary Committee, FBI Director Christopher A. Wray
declined to answer questions about the Bureau's investigations into former President Donald Trump and Hunter Biden. Nor did he respond to those about the alleged presence of agent provocateurs during the Jan. 6, 2021 storming of the Capitol, or to those on the FBI memo describing Catholics as domestic terrorists.

EUROPE

**Tobias Ellwood calls for London to start a war against Russia**

According to the YPA (Yemen Press Agency), Colonel Tobias Ellwood, chairman of the Defense Committee and leader of the Conservative parliamentary group in the British House of Commons, said on Sky News: "Britain must start a direct war against Russia, we are fighting in Europe, we must apply martial law."

Contacted to confirm or deny his remarks, the Conservative MP did not wish to answer us.

**France repatriates Daesh families**

France repatriated 10 Daesh women and 25 children from occupied Syria.

There are still about 80 women loyal to Daesh (and a hundred children) who do not want to return to France.

**Michael Kretschmer wants Nord Stream to be repaired**

Saxony's Minister-President Michael Kretschmer (CDU), told Welt TV: "There's no reason why we shouldn't start securing and repairing this [Nord Stream] pipeline now."

Germany has entered recession following the sabotage of Nord Stream.

Michael Kretschmer relies on the fact that German intelligence services were warned by the CIA before the attack that Ukraine was planning to commit such sabotage.

He is therefore calling on the federal government to provide a public update on its investigation. The Minister-President challenges Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Ukrainian policy.

There are three options:

- If his government suspects possible Ukrainian involvement, he will no longer be able to support Kiev militarily.
- If he has evidence of its involvement, he will have to declare war on Ukraine.
- If he refuses to fix Nord Stream, he will implicitly admit the responsibility of the US.

**Rheinmetall to produce ammunition in Ukraine**

Rheinmetall will open a munitions factory in Ukraine in August. In addition, Fuchs armored vehicles will be repaired and Ukrainian workers will be trained.

Germany is Ukraine's second largest arms supplier after the US.

**Arrest of Daesh members in Germany and the Netherlands**

One Turkmen national, one Kyrgyz and five Tajiks were apprehended in Germany, as well as a Tajik and a Kyrgyz woman in the Netherlands. They were members of the Islamic Emirate in Khorasan and were raising funds in Europe.

**Mark Rutte resigns and leaves politics**

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte submitted his resignation to King Willem-Alexander. His goal was to call for early general elections in the hope of winning them before the Peasant Citizen Movement (BBB) takes shape and wins. However, the union of the left parties and the right's opposition (qualified as far right by the mainstream media) deprived him of a majority and has barred him from any possibility of governing again.
Western-Chinese escalation

The Netherlands has announced that from September it will limit exports of semiconductor machinery.

In retaliation, China announced that it would limit the export of germanium and gallium, two rare earth minerals needed to manufacture semiconductors.

Poland is poised to become the greatest conventional military power in Europe

In a speech delivered on 20 March 2023 at the German University of Heidelberg, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said: "Europe is at a historic turning point. We must upset the status quo in Brussels and arrest those who want a superstate run by a narrow elite. Only nation-states can protect nations – their culture, their society, their economy, their politics, their military security. The alternatives are illusory and utopian."

The scale of Poland's current rearmament is unprecedented. Its army is about to become the most powerful in Western and Central Europe, ahead of the German, British and French armies. Its equipment is plethoric and completely new.

By 2025, Poland is expected to spend 4% of its GDP on defense, the highest percentage in Europe where most countries are struggling to reach 2% of GDP.

11,000 US troops are currently stationed in Poland.

Bulgaria divided against Ukraine

Bulgarian President Rumen Radev received his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky. Of course, Ukraine has asked Bulgaria for arms and ammunition. However, although a member of the EU, Sofia resisted: "This conflict has no military solution," Rumen Radev said. "I do not accept ammunition supplies, especially from the reserves of the Bulgarian army." (…) Right now, we hear the word "victory, victory, victory". I understand that for a country at war, this is the most important word. But we would also like to hear the word “peace” more often,” he added.

Bulgarian Prime Minister Nikolay Denkov is on the opposite side. Since the beginning of the Russian military operation in Ukraine, he has been operating weapons factories at full capacity for the benefit of Kyiv.

In addition, Sofia and Kyiv have agreed to cooperate in the energy sector, Bulgaria offering to sell Ukraine two nuclear reactors that it had ordered from Russia for a project now abandoned.

EU hires US Apple and Amazon lobbyist to allegedly fight their monopolistic practices

Denmark's Margrethe Vestager, European Commissioner for Competition, has appointed US Fiona Scott Morton to the EU's Directorate-General for Competition. Margrethe Vestager is awaiting her appointment as Director of the European Investment Bank. She will therefore not be faced with the consequences of this appointment.

Fiona Scott Morton is a world-renowned specialist in Anglo-Saxon competition law. She directs the authoritative Thurman Arnold Project at Yale University. She has worked for the U.S. Secretary of Justice, Congress and the White House.

She will oversee EU investigations into the application of competition law to Alphabet/Google, Apple, Meta Platforms and Microsoft, as well as high-profile mergers such as Amazon's acquisition of iRobot and Figma's by Adobe.

Actually, according to American Prospect, Fiona Scott Morton is both the US expert on competition law and, secretly, the paid advisor to Apple and Amazon to expand their monopolies. Far from being neutral, her scientific publications were always aimed at the
rivals of her secret employers, particularly Google.

Various organizations (Balanced Economy Project, Corporate Europe Observatory, European Digital SME Alliance, Irish Council for Civil Liberties, LobbyControl and Open Markets Institute Europe) have expressed concern about an obvious conflict of interest.

**Christine Anderson files a complaint against YouTube**

German AfD MEP Christine Anderson filed a complaint against YouTube after the platform censored two of her videos for "medical misinformation" and refused to explain what that wording meant.

Both videos were public sessions of the European Parliament's Special Committee on Covid-19.

YouTube eventually put them back online, but the MP maintained her complaint.

**Ukraine and Türkiye**

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky returned from his official trip to Türkiye with Ukrainian soldiers who had been taken prisoner by Russia in Mariupol.

Contrary to what has been said at the time of the fall of Mariupol, the US intervened so that the Ukrainian military surrendered and that Russia would spare them. Following this agreement, some were entrusted to Türkiye on the condition that they remain in jail until the end of the war.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan consciously violated this deal, thinking that his counterpart Vladimir Putin would tolerate it. This seems to be the case since Moscow condemned this early release, but did not take retaliatory measures, believing that Ankara was doing what it could not to take sides.

Among the liberated soldiers was Colonel Denys Prokopenko, grandson of a Finnish Karelian who fought in the Winter War (1939-40). He has made his current commitment a personal matter, assuring to continue his family's fight.

In 1939, the Soviet Union attempted to negotiate with Finland a way to protect Leningrad (present-day St. Petersburg) from the islands of the Gulf of Finland, from a Nazi invasion but the Finns did not understand the Soviet concern. Therefore, the USSR invaded part of the Finnish coast ("Winter War"), pretext that was used by the West to exclude it from the League of Nations (ancestor of the current UN).

After World War II, Finland recognized that it had neglected Soviet analyses and that the USSR had no choice but to attack it. The issue of Karelia's lost territories is still relevant today.

Moreover, Colonel Denys Prokopenko was an official of the Azov Battalion. The rules of procedure of this unit stipulate the compulsory reading of the works of Dmytro Dontsov, the founder of Ukrainian "integral nationalism" and co-organizer of the “final solution” of Gypsy and Jewish questions in Europe. He is therefore a neo-Nazi in the strict sense of the word. He also participated in the war in Donbass since 2014.

**US will give cluster munitions to Ukraine**

The US has decided to give cluster munitions to Ukraine.

Cluster munitions (not to be confused with fragmentation weapons) are designed to disperse mines on airstrips or to paralyze armies on the move.

Used in civilian populated areas, they are very dangerous over time. It usually takes one or two generations to neutralize them. Hence the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which prohibits their use. However, only 103 States have ratified it, but neither the US, the Russian Federation nor Ukraine have done so.
Vladimir Putin receives Wagner

Russian President Vladimir Putin received the former commander of the Wagner Group, Yevgeny Prigozhin, and about thirty of his lieutenants, for three hours on June 29.

They presented the results of their actions in the world and their grievances against the Ministry of Defense.

AFRICA

Support for Mohamed Hamdan Dogolo

Arab tribal leaders in Darfur have recorded a video calling for support for "General" Mohamed Hamdan Dogolo's Rapid Support Forces (RSF) against General Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman al-Burhan's army.

ASIA

A study of Middle Eastern public opinion

German Social Democratic think-tank Friedrich Ebert Stiftung has studied Middle Eastern public opinion regarding the war in Ukraine.

Its report shows that the policy of balance between the West and Russia is widely supported by the population.

However, two non-Arab countries are exceptions: Israel and Iran. In these two cases, and only for them, the populations are overwhelmingly pro-US and therefore anti-Russian. Both populations also believe that economic sanctions are morally acceptable, albeit ineffective, and should be continued.

All Middle Eastern populations believe that the US is the main beneficiary of the war, far ahead of Russia.

This study shows that Arab countries are more democratic than the Jewish and Iranian states.

UN Secretary-General criticizes Israel

UN Secretary-General António Guterres stressed that all military operations must be conducted in full respect of international humanitarian law.

He was critical of Israel's military operation in Jenin, which injured more than 100 civilians, forced 3,000 people to flee, damaged schools and hospitals, and disrupted water and electricity networks.

The United Nations has been making a slow shift for several months that should lead it to suspend Israel from the Organization.

The fabrications of CIJA

The Commission for International Justice and Accountability (CIJA), a supposedly non-governmental organization, was created in 2011 and supported by the member states of the "Friends of Syria". However, in 2014 the US stopped subsidizing it and so did the EU in 2020.

In 2017, its budget was $10.5 million. It employed 150 investigators, more than the International Criminal Court. Its sole purpose was to document the repression of the "Butcher of Damascus" against his own people.

Seeking new funding, it now claims to have documents from the Syrian Arab Republic ordering abuses and torture.

However, given what this NGO claims about the Islamic State of Baba Amr, where Thierry Meyssan was a trusted third party between the Syrian Arab Republic and France, all this is just bad faith talk.

US-Russian turbulence in Syria

According to the Russian military in Syria, the drones of the International Coalition violated the Conflict Avoidance Protocols 9 times this week by flying over a closed area.
UAE commissions an investigation into Muslim Brotherhood in Europe

According to French news site Mediapart, Geneva-based company Alp Services carried out on behalf of the United Arab Emirates a study of organizations and personalities linked to the Muslim Brotherhood and Qatar.

The Muslim Brotherhood is a secret political organization controlled by British intelligence and funded by Qatar of which almost all the leaders of Islamic terrorist organizations, from Osama bin Laden to Caliph Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, were members (see Before Our Very Eyes). Many European politicians support them without knowing them.

After China, Russia also backs Emirati claims in Gulf

In a joint statement, the Gulf Cooperation Council and Russia said they support Emirati claims to the Iranian-occupied islands of Grande Tomb, Petite Tomb and Abu Musa.

China had previously taken the same position during President Xi Jinping's trip to Saudi Arabia.

Iran summoned the Russian ambassador to Tehran for explanations.

Turkish journalist arrested

The Turkish judiciary arrested journalist Merdan Yanardag and charged him with glorifying terrorism.

At the same time, the Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTUK) opened an investigation into his channel, Télé1, and fined it an amount equivalent to 5% of its monthly advertising revenue. Merdan Yanardag criticized the government's handling of the Kurdish question.

Turkish-Ukrainian armaments production

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky paid an official visit to Türkiye.

A memorandum was signed on the development of capabilities and manufacturing possibilities for autonomous vehicles, especially unmanned aerial vehicles; increasing the production of various types of drones; research and development in the field of autonomous systems, space and other technological sectors of the strategic industries of the two countries; other forms of technical cooperation necessary for the development of strategic industries.

Iran reopens old border dispute

Iran has announced that it is investing massively to exploit the Arash/Al-Dura offshore oil field, although it is claimed both by Saudi Arabia and by Kuwait.

Discovered in 1960, the ownership of this field has never been established. The maritime boundaries of the three countries are uncertain. This announcement is likely aimed at reopening negotiations in the context of the Iran-Saudi Beijing deal.

Foreign editions

Voltaire, international news is now published in six languages:
- Dutch
- English
- French
- Italian
- German
- Spanish

Re-election of Shavkat Mirziyoyev

Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev was re-elected for another 7-year term with 87.05% of the votes.
An early presidential election was called after the reform of the Constitution (VIN N°39).

**Pakistan receives $5 billion**

Pakistan received $2 billion from Saudi Arabia and a pledge of another $3 billion from the IMF. The country seems unable to recover.

**North Korea and the US spy plane**

Kim Yo-jong, sister of North Korea's supreme leader, said fighter jets had repelled a U.S. spy plane. She warned Washington of the "shocking consequences" it would face if such actions were repeated.

**China reiterates its openness to foreign companies**

China's Foreign Ministry has reacted strongly to the US State Department's allegations warning US nationals against abusive arrests in China.

The Chinese ministry recalled that its country is committed to the rule of law. Security reviews of foreign companies are carried out within the framework of the law and respect for the legitimate interests of citizens.

Western secret services have used commercial companies to carry out sociological studies of the Chinese population, not for commercial but for military purposes.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**Russian veto in UN Security Council**

The UN Security Council failed to agree to renew the humanitarian aid granted to the jihadists of northern Syria.

Russia which had demanded in return the lifting of unilateral coercive measures (abusively described as "sanctions" by the West) against the Syrian Arab Republic, failed to rebalance the bill and finally vetoed it for the 11\(^{th}\) time since the beginning of the aggression against Syria.

**Sultan Al-Jaber takes a stand for carbon-free energy**

Sultan Al-Jaber, the Emirati president of COP28, gave pledges to his opponents. He recorded a video calling on oil companies to use carbon-free energy. He is chairman of the Emirati oil company.

**The future of SCO, BRICS and EEU**

At the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) virtual summit in New Delhi, Belarussian President Alexander Lukashenko, building on his success in mediating with Wagner's Yevgeny Prigozhin, proposed the merger of the SCO, the BRICS and the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU).

His motto was nothing less than to forget the West and unite the South Global.

The new organization will have a common currency in the coming years, the one being developed by Russia for the EEU.

31 states have already officially applied for BRICS membership. Eventually, the new organization could bring together all states favorable to international law (and not Western rules) and replace the United Nations.

**Suspension of our publications**

*Voltaire, International Newsletter* will not appear the next four weeks. We will resume on Friday, August 18.

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EDITORIAL

BRICS Summit

The BRICS summit (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) in Johannesburg (South Africa) was an opportunity to welcome six new member states from 1 January 2024.

These are Iran, Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. From then on, the organization will represent more than 35% of the world's GDP and nearly half of the world's population. Seventeen other applications have been postponed.

Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed that the BRICS enlargement marks a historic milestone. This organization has already proven itself and achieved important development results. It is now being extended to other emerging countries that will play a greater role in international relations. According to him, we are entering an era of cooperation.

The Western media claimed that enlargement had been imposed by China and Russia on their partners, which they have repeatedly denied.

Russian President Vladimir Putin did not physically attend the summit but intervened by videoconference because he did not want to embarrass South Africa which has been ordered by the International Criminal Court to arrest him. He detailed the agenda for the coming year, knowing that Russia is taking over the rotating presidency of the BRICS. Emphasis will be placed on financial cooperation, including "expanding the use of national currencies", as well as on the development of transport infrastructure. As such, he suggested the creation of a BRICS Standing Committee on Transport aimed at "developing interregional and global logistics and transport corridors".

On the sidelines of the summit, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the unresolved issue of border areas between the two countries. They agreed on a disengagement and rapid de-escalation. Military-to-military consultations followed. The two leaders will meet again on September 9 on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Delhi. This negotiation process is reminiscent of the one that settled the Doklam plateau dispute in 2017. The two leaders have negotiated it on the sidelines of the G20 and BRICS summits.
AMERICAS

Canada prepares for Donald Trump's return

Canada is studying what a possible re-election of Donald Trump in the US would mean for it. What would happen if Washington neglected NATO and Norad or questioned NAFTA's trade agreements? Minister of Foreign Affairs Mélanie Joly said on Montreal radio that the Trudeau government had already developed a vast plan to deal with it.

Joe Biden's mental disorders are increasing

In a speech in Milwaukee this month, President Biden entertained the audience with previously debunked stories about his grandfather's death, a conversation with an Amtrak conductor, his father's education and eyewitness testimony of a bridge collapse in Pittsburgh. A week later, Biden attended a campaign fundraiser in which he repeated Amtrak's debunked story, then recounted his meeting with a same-sex couple in 1960s Delaware. While this story is impossible to prove or disprove, several fact-checkers including the Washington Post responded with skepticism.

In front of Hawaii blaze survivors last week, Biden spoke of a fire in his home that threatened his wife, Corvette and cat. The media at the time described a small kitchen fire that was brought under control in about 20 minutes.

According to experts, the evidence of confabulation is overwhelming. Confabulation is most closely associated with dementia-related memory loss, it is a memory error consisting of the production of fabricated, distorted, or misinterpreted memories about oneself or the world.

Progress in Joe Biden's corruption investigations

House investigators have established that when Joe Biden was Barack Obama's vice president, he used pseudonyms to intervene in the financial affairs of his son, Hunter Biden. His pseudonyms were "Robert L. Peters", "Robin Ware" and "JRB Ware". Witnesses said Vice President Biden attended at least 20 of his son's financial meetings. He never said anything about the subject of the meeting and only talked about uninteresting things, but his presence validated his son's demands.

The National Archives identified 5,138 emails and 25 attachments sent or received with these pseudonyms. They sent them to President Joe Biden to authorize their transmission to Congress.

Investigators have also established that nine members of the Biden family, including one of his granddaughters, pocketed $20 million they can't justify.

Finally, the former Prosecutor General of Ukraine, Viktor Shokin, whose dismissal President Biden had demanded in exchange for $1 billion in aid to Ukraine, declared on the program "One Nation with Brian Kilmeade" (Fox News) that he was ready to testify before Congress about his investigation into the Burisma Holding company of which Hunter Biden was a director. According to him, Hunter Biden took bribes and laid the groundwork for Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Dramatic increase in suicides among U.S. veterans

A study conducted between 2006 and 2020 shows that the suicide rate of Americans is 18.42 per 100,000, while it is 42.13 per 100,000 among US vets.

Military authorities explain this difference by pointing out that many suicidal veterans had been wounded in combat. Another explanation is that they understood on the ground that their
government was lying to them and sending them to kill people for shameful reasons.

**How Americans evaluate their political system**

According to a CBS News poll, asking a sample of American adults to check off the qualifier or qualifiers that apply to their political system:

- 64% answered "dysfunctional"
- 58% "corrupt"
- 37% "unfair"
- 14% "effective"
- 12% "fair"
- 7% "honest"

**US welcomes 200,000 Ukrainians for 18 months**

Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas granted an additional 18 months of provisional legal status and work permits to 200,000 Ukrainian immigrants. A total of 600,000 illegal immigrants are protected by this status.

**The Biden administration vs. Proud Boys**

The Department of Justice asked former leader of the Proud Boys Enrique Tarrio be sentenced to 33 years in prison for "seditious conspiracy". Tarrio was absent from Washington during the Capitol riot, but the Biden administration says he planned and organized the attack.

The Proud Boys are considered neo-fascist because they glorify violence to restore US ideals.

**Will there be a trial for the 9/11/01 attacks?**

The Department of Justice has offered an agreement to detainees accused of having conceived or participated in the 9/11 attacks, according to a letter presented to the press by Khalid Sheikh Mohammed's lawyer.

However, the administration refuses to confirm or deny the news, arguing that, for the time being, no trial date has been set.

**US public opinion against the war in Ukraine**

An SSRS poll for CNN conducted in early August shows that Americans disapprove of the Biden administration's foreign policy, whether on China, Russia or Ukraine.

They approve of supporting Ukraine in intelligence and training, but not sending weapons and especially not soldiers.

Americans fear that prolonging this war
- lasts indefinitely (77%),
- threatens democracy around the world (65%),
- pushes Russia to further attacks (64%),
- expands into Europe (59%),
- threatens the security of the US (56%).

The Heritage Foundation assures that the war in Ukraine has already cost $900 per American household.

**Presidential election in Guatemala**

Outgoing Guatemalan president Alejandro Giammattei is embroiled in a serious corruption case.

In the second round of the presidential election voters have elected surprise candidate Bernardo Arévalo (Semilla party) with 60.9% of the votes cast.

The Guatemalan political class is strongly opposed to this candidate. The Supreme Court hesitated to cancel the first round of the election and then suspend the Semilla political party. Bernardo Arévalo is expected to take office in six months, if his party is not banned by then. The daughter of former dictator Efraín Ríos Montt, Zury Ríos (Valor-PU), received only 8.7% of the vote and was therefore eliminated in the first round.

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**First round of the presidential election in Ecuador**

Outgoing president Guillermo Lasso escaped possible impeachment by dissolving the National Assembly and resigning ("cross death" procedure). To succeed him, eight candidates were in the running. None obtained either the majority of the 50% of the votes cast, nor the 40% with 10% lead over the next one, required by the constitution.

Candidate Fernando Villavicencio was murdered on 9th August in the middle of the electoral campaign. He was an investigative journalist who managed to highlight the responsibility of former President Rafael Correa in a corruption case.

Luisa González (Movement of the Citizens' Revolution - RC) and her running mate Andrés Arauz (both heirs of Rafael Correa) won 33.6% of the votes cast.

Daniel Noboa, son of the richest man in the country (Álvaro Noboa, the "king of bananas"), qualified with 23.4% of the vote. The youngest of the eight candidates running, he would have benefited from his good performance in the TV debate held six days earlier.

**EUROPE**

**Pope Francis and Russia**

Speaking by videoconference on August 25 to a group of young worshippers gathered in a church in St. Petersburg, Pope Francis said: "You are the children of Great Russia, of the great saints, of kings, of Peter the Great, of Catherine II, of a Russian people of great culture and humanity (...) Never forget this great legacy. You are the heirs of the great mother Russia, go ahead with this."

Oleg Nikolenko, spokesman for Ukraine's Foreign Ministry, called the Pope's language "very unfortunate," saying it is with "this kind of imperialist propaganda, in support of 'spiritual pillars' and in the name of the 'necessity' to save 'great mother Russia,' that the Kremlin justifies the murder of thousands of Ukrainians and the destruction of hundreds of Ukrainian towns and villages." However, the Pope's mission would be "precisely to open the eyes of Russian youth to the destructive trajectory of the Russian leaders in power."

On the contrary, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "The pontiff knows Russian history. That's great. It is profound, and the legacy is not limited to Peter and Catherine. It is heartwarming that the Holy Father is in unison."

**Nicolas Sarkozy for reconciliation with Russia**

In his book *The time of the fights (Le temps des combats)* published by Fayard, former French President Nicolas Sarkozy argues that France and Russia must find common ground. "We need them and they need us," he said, while judging that a return of Crimea to the Ukrainian fold is "illusory". The "majority of the population has always felt Russian."

Ukraine's ambassador to France Vadym Omelchenko reacted in *Ouest-France* newspaper: "I would not be surprised if the Prosecutor General of Ukraine is interested in the remarks made to see if there are elements of a crime [under Ukrainian law]."

**Martinique votes to recognize Creole**

The island of Martinique, which has a single local authority like Mayotte, Guyana and Corsica, has recognized Creole as an official language alongside French.

The prefect immediately requested the repeal of this law, which is contrary to article 2 of the Constitution. The President of the Executive Council of Martinique, Serge Letchimy (Martinican Progressive Party), refused.
No government in Spain anytime soon

King Felipe VI appointed Alberto Nuñez Feijoo (People's Party - PP) to form a new government. He presides over the party that won the elections. However, with 172 MPs, his coalition does not seem capable of winning a majority (the assembly consists of 350 seats). In the shadows, outgoing Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez (Socialist Party) is also trying to form a majority and seems to have already succeeded. He would already have the support of the other 178 MPs.

Incident in Cyprus

Turkish Cypriot police assaulted UN soldiers in the village of Pyla. The UN Security Council met behind closed doors. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused peacekeepers of trying to prevent Turkish Cypriots from crossing into their land.

The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is a puppet state masking Türkiye’s occupation of part of Cyprus. Cyprus is a member of the EU (supposedly founded to ensure peace in Europe), but Brussels is careful not to intervene.

Switzerland takes sides against Russia

The Swiss Federal Council adopted the unilateral coercive measures of the EU’s 11th "sanctions" package against Russia.

Moscow immediately deplored Switzerland's relinquishment of its neutrality.

The Netherlands and Denmark arm the Ukrainian Air Force

Washington has allowed the Netherlands and Denmark to supply Ukraine with US-made aircraft. They will give 42 F-16s.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was received by Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, along with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Defense and Crown Princess Mary, at Skrydstrup Air Base in southern Denmark.

The F-16s are multirole combat aircraft from the 70s. They are undoubtedly of superior quality to those available today to the Ukrainian Air Force, but without comparison with the Russian fleet.

Der Spiegel and ZDF on the trail of saboteurs

Der Spiegel (#35 of August 25) and ZDF have carried out a very comprehensive investigation into the sabotage of Nord Stream pipelines. Journalists show that the sailboat Andromeda carried octogen (HMX) when it was in the area at the time of the operation. 40 kg of this underwater explosive was necessary. The rental was made in Warsaw in the name of a fictitious Ukrainian company by a career soldier of the 93rd Ukrainian Mechanized Brigade. He would have taken diving courses probably provided by the British SAS. The crew consisted of 6 people.

Journalists are lost in conjecture to determine whether the operation was indeed piloted by commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian armies General Valery Zaluzhny without informing President Volodymyr Zelensky.

These conclusions are disputed by the Swiss physicist Hans-Benjamin Braun. According to him, after studying the seismic data according to two methods, the analysis of the development of aerosol clouds after detonation, the examination of underwater currents in the Baltic Sea, in particular in an underwater canyon between Bornholm and Kaliningrad in the following days, temperature changes on the seabed, and the propagation of a possible radioactive explosion, the explosion suggests an explosive force equivalent to 1-4 kilotons of TNT. That is at least four times more than estimated so far.

Olaf Scholz baffled by Vladimir Putin’s indifference to Western sanctions

According to Bild, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz told French President Emmanuel Macron in March about his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin: "Something
bothers me more than negotiations: he doesn't complain about all the sanctions."

**Annalena Baerbock notes the failure of economic "sanctions" against Russia**

In the book *Ernstfall. Regieren in Zeiten des Krieges* (Emergency situation. Governing in Wartime) published by C.H. Beck, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock declares: "In principle, economic sanctions should have economic consequences, but [in the case of Russia,] this is not the case."

Let’s recall that the "unilateral coercive measures" of the West violate international law and therefore strictly speaking do not constitute "sanctions".

**General elections in the Netherlands**

The general election in the Netherlands will pit Justice Minister (and runner-up to outgoing Prime Minister) Dilan Yeşilgöz-Zegerius against former EU Commissioner for Climate Action Frans Timmermans.

Dilan Yeşilgöz-Zegerius (People's Party for Freedom and Democracy - VVD) is in favor of integration (she is of Kurdish origin) and nuclear power. She has already made an alliance with Geert Wilders' far-right pro-Israel Freedom Party.

Frans Timmermans is standing on behalf of the Labour Party (PvdA) and the Green Left (GL).

The game will be troubled by two personalities:

Piet Omtzigt (New Social Contract) who brought down Mark Rutte when his government unduly demanded reimbursements of family allowances in 2021. Caroline van der Plas (Farmer-Citizen Movement - BBB) who led the revolt of farmers deemed “useless” by the EU.

**Biased referendum in Poland**

The Polish government called a referendum on the same day as the general election. Voters will have to answer four biased questions before appointing their MPs and senators:

- Do you want to sell off state assets by selling them to foreign entities?
- Do you want an increase in the retirement age?
- Do you agree to remove the barrier on the border with Belarus?
- Do you support the admission of thousands of illegal immigrants from the Middle East and Africa, in accordance with the forced relocation mechanism imposed by the European bureaucracy?

The ruling Law and Justice Party (PiS) supports the Three Seas Initiative (Intermarium) i.e., a Central Europe free from the influences of Russia and Germany. On the contrary, the main opposition party Civic Platform is in favor of the EU i.e., a Central and Eastern Europe dominated by Germany against Russia.

**Poland urges Belarus to expel PMC Wagner**

Poland has ordered Belarus to expel the Wagner Group. Its interior minister, Mariusz Kaminski, has threatened to close its borders if Minsk does not comply.

**Illiberal summit in Budapest**

The World Athletics Championships were an opportunity for Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán to invite many European and Asian heads of state to Budapest. The press was able to speak of an "illiberal summit".

**Hungary demands protection from Ukrainian agricultural competition**

István Nagy, Hungary's agriculture minister, told Agrarszektor.hu that if the EU did not extend its restrictions on Ukrainian wheat, maize, rapeseed and sunflower beyond September 15, he would take action on behalf of his government.
Following a standoff, the European Commission banned the movement of these cereals in Hungary, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and Slovakia except in cases of transit to other countries. It had also released €100 million in aid to farmers in these countries.

The Hungarian government could impose bans on 24 other Ukrainian agricultural products.

**Viktor Orbán warns that a Turkish Stream sabotage wouldn’t go unpunished**

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán gave an interview to Tucker Carlson on X (formerly Twitter). He states that if someone tries to sabotage the southern gas pipeline, Turkey, Bulgaria, Serbia and Hungary would retaliate, unlike Germany did with North Stream. When Tucker Carlson asked him if the message had reached Russia, Viktor Orbán replied that it was not intended for it. The journalist then explained to his listeners that it was obvious that the sabotage of Nord Stream had been carried out by the US with or without Ukraine.

**Kaja Kallas weakened by revelations about her husband’s activities**

Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas is weakened by the revelation made by public radio ERA that her husband, Arvo Hallik, part owner of Stark Logistics, continued his convoys in Russia despite the EU embargo.

**Resignation of No. 2 of the European Commission**

The First Vice-President of the European Commission and European Commissioner for Climate Action, Frans Timmermans, has resigned from his post. He intends to stand in the Dutch elections to succeed Prime Minister Mark Rutte.

**Training of EU diplomats**

The EU is starting to train its diplomatic staff. The first year has just ended. About fifty senior officials will follow the second.

**Russia disputes version of death of General Jean-Louis Georgelin**

According to Russia's deputy representative to the UN Security Council Dmitri Polyanskiy, French General Jean-Louis Georgelin did not die hiking in the mountains as the official version claims, but on a mission in Ukraine.

Former Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces General Jean-Louis Georgelin was in charge of overseeing the reconstruction of Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris.

Officially, NATO does not send soldiers to Ukraine.

**Russian Sanctions Against Enemies of the State**

Russia has imposed sanctions against:

- Karim Khan, the Prosecutor General of the International Criminal Court (ICC) who indicted President Vladimir Putin for child abduction,

- Lucy Fraser, British Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport who is working to ban Russian athletes from competing at the Paris Olympics,

- Annabel Goldie, British Minister of State for Defense, who is working to arm Ukraine.

**Assassination of PMC Wagner’s leaders**

Wagner Group’s leaders’ private plane exploded in flight. Russian investigators favor the assassination thesis. Among the victims were both Wagner's owner Yevgeny Prigozhin and the commander of the private military company, neo-Nazi Dmitry Utkin.

A Russian source tells us that Utkin had convinced Prigozhin to enter into conflict with the General Staff of the Armed Forces and, ultimately, to rebel against the Kremlin.
President Vladimir Putin assured Wagner's fighters that he would not pursue them for their rebellion. This amnesty did not apply to a Nazi commitment.

AFRICA

Resignation of Najla Mangoush who had met her Israeli counterpart

In accordance with the demands of CIA Director William Burns, Libyan Foreign Minister (Tripoli government) Najla Mangoush (pro-US) met discreetly in Rome with her Israeli counterpart, Eli Cohen. However, as soon as Israel made the meeting public, tempers flared in Tripolitania. Public buildings and the Prime Minister's residence were set on fire. Najla Mangoush was forced to resign and left the country for Turkey.

The Tripolitan public opinion considers this contact as a violation of Arab and Islamic positions in the face of the Zionist enemy.

Contrary to popular belief, while Muammar Gaddafi expelled a few hundred Jews and confiscated their property, he always maintained secret diplomatic contacts with Israel.

Libya-Chad joint operation against Chadian rebels

Libya (government of Cyrenaica) and Chad conducted a joint operation against Chadian rebels. Marshal Haftar's army bombed Chadian rebel camps on Libya's soil, while that of President Mahamat Idriss Deby prevented their retreat to Chad.

Ethiopia joins BRICS

In recent years, Addis Ababa has had to deal with the Tigray War instigated by US Ambassador Jeffrey Feltman. Ethiopia has therefore joined the BRICS. Nigeria on the other hand was not selected because of its subordinate ties with Washington.

Coup d'état in Niger

Niger is going through a security and economic crisis. The multinational force (France, USA, Belgium, Italy, Germany) failed to resolve the Sahelian crisis. Economic development is blocked by widespread corruption.

General Abdourahamane Tchiani overthrew constitutional President Mohamed Bazoum on 26 July and ended the influence of his predecessor, Mahamadou Issoufou, who was effectively governing.

After Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso, this is the fourth military junta to note that the French military presence is not producing the expected results.

Protesters have caused damage to the French embassy.

France and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) intend to support the constitutional order. Of the other 14 ECOWAS members, Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso are barred from sitting. However, the other 11 (Benin, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo) demanded on 31 July the immediate release of President Bazoum and the return to constitutional order within a week. While not only Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso, but also Algeria have warned against military intervention. On 10 August, ECOWAS retained the option of military intervention in Niger. It mobilizes the troops of its member states.

20,000 people gathered at the Niamey stadium to support the putschists, the National Council for the Safeguarding of the Fatherland (CNSP). During the meeting, Colonel Ibro Amadou declared: "The fight will only stop the day when there are no more French soldiers in Niger." The US has a channel of communication with the junta through General Moussa Salaou Barmou. The commander of the Nigerien special forces studied at the National Defense University near Washington. He received the Under-Secretary
of State, Straussian Victoria Nuland. However, the negotiations do not seem to have been successful.

The junta announces a three-year transition period before returning to democratic functioning. ECOWAS demands the immediate restoration of institutions.

The junta declared France's ambassador Sylvain Itté persona non grata after he refused to come for an interview. But the latter, posing as a guarantor of constitutionality, refuses to leave the country. During his conference before French ambassadors, President Emmanuel Macron highlighted what France has brought to Niger. He stressed that his ambassador has presented his credentials to the constitutional president and that he will not give in to the putschists.

The junta also demanded the partial withdrawal of the French military by November 4. Whatever the arguments of the French president, they do not justify his refusal to obey the Nigerian authorities whose legitimacy he does not recognize.

The US is refraining for the moment from qualifying the coup. Indeed, if they did so, Chapter 7008 of their cooperation code would force them to cease all their activities in Niger, including their military base in Agadez.

**Coup d'état in Gabon**

According to the Electoral Commission, Gabon's general elections (presidential and legislative) resulted in 64.2% of the votes cast for Ali Bongo Ondimba and 30.7% for Albert Ondo Ossa. 12 other candidates shared the remaining 5%.

A few hours later, a Committee for the Transition and Restoration of Institutions overthrew outgoing President Ali Bongo Ondimba, invalidated the elections and dissolved all the institutions of the Republic.

In a statement broadcast on Gabon 24 from the presidential palace, the junta declared: after noting "irresponsible, unpredictable governance that results in a continuous deterioration of social cohesion that risks leading the country to chaos (...) We decided to defend peace by putting an end to the regime in place."

Immediately, the population took to the streets to cheer the junta that freed them from Ali Bongo who had obviously already rigged the 2016 elections.

Gabon is the 5th French domino to fall, after Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso and Niger.

**Fighting goes on in Sudan**

General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, Chairman of the Sovereignty Council of Sudan, paid an official visit to Cairo. He is supported by Egypt and Turkey.

Meanwhile, fighting goes on in Sudan particularly in Darfur. The RSF troops of "General" Mohamed Hamdan Dogolo (alias Hemedt) are gaining ground at the cost of a now ethnic war. They are supported by the UAE and Russia.

**Disputed presidential election in Zimbabwe**

The electoral commission declared incumbent President Emmerson Mnangagwa (aka "the crocodile") re-elected with 52.5% of the vote, compared to 44% for his main rival, Nelson Chamisa, candidate of the Citizens Coalition for Change.

According to him, the results were "hastily assembled, without proper verification." He tweeted to his constituents: "They stole your voice and your vote, but never your hope... This is a blatant and gigantic fraud."
Division within Netanyahu's government

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant asked the Biden administration for an explanation about the US-Saudi Arabia negotiations. The defense wanted to know Washington's position on Riyadh's civilian nuclear projects.

However, another branch of the Israeli government, that of Ron Dermer, special adviser to the prime minister, had already asked Washington to meet Saudi Arabia's expectations.

France gets bogged down in Lebanon

After a meeting of the Group of Five (Egypt, Saudi Arabia, US, France, Qatar) in Doha, President Emmanuel Macron's special envoy, Jean-Yves Le Drian, returned to Lebanon. Having failed to impose the appointment of a (Sunni) Prime Minister of his choice in exchange for the election of Sleiman Frangieh (Maronite), Mr. Le Drian sent a questionnaire to the various political parties to help them determine who will be the next President of the Republic; An approach very badly received by all.

At the reception of the ambassadors of France, the French president said that the situation in Lebanon could only be clarified when Iran has made its position clear.

News from the Syrian opposition

• France organized a meeting of former Syrian army officers around General Manaf Tlass in Syria.

• Three US representatives went to Syria illegally. Joe Wilson (South Carolina), Victoria Spartz (Indiana) and Dean Philipps entered illegally through the Bab al-Salama border crossing and went to Azaz Hospital. They were welcomed by the jihadist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (ex-al-Qaeda).

• For the past two weeks, 400 Druze have organized demonstrations against President Bashar al-Assad in Soueida (south of the country).

Washington spares Riyadh

Saudi Border Guards reportedly slaughtered hundreds of migrants trying to enter the Kingdom through Yemen. According to the *New York Times*, the Biden administration was immediately notified, but did nothing.

Saudi Arabia joins BRICS

By joining the BRICS, Saudi Arabia has distanced itself from the US, its staunch ally since World War II.

- Riyadh is already Moscow's oil partner
- Riyadh is constantly getting closer to Beijing
- Finally, Riyadh refuses to stimulate its oil production, much to the chagrin of Washington.

UAE and India

The United Arab Emirates, once a British colony attached by London to the Indian Empire, has signed an agreement with New Delhi to conduct all its trade in local currencies.

Iranian oil blocked in the US

In April, the US seized a Greek oil tanker off the coast of Texas containing Iranian oil, under its unilateral coercive measures (wrongly described as "sanctions" by NATO member countries). The Revolutionary Guard Corps threatened any person or company involved in the theft with retaliation. In addition, it seized in the Gulf of Oman a US tanker registered in the Marshall Islands.

To date, no US oil company has agreed to unload the 800,000 barrels that the Greek tanker contains although they represent a value of 60 million dollars.
Iran Sentences U.S. to $330 Million in Damages for 1980 Failed Coup

The International Court in Tehran ordered the US to pay $330 million to victims of the failed 1980 coup. The CIA had hired a group of Air Force officers to bomb Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's residence and military centers, and to take control of state television. The operation failed, with 120 people arrested the day before. A clash had left three dead whose families filed the case in 2020.

Iran joins BRICS

Iran has been culturally close to China for millennia. Beijing recently brokered Iran's rapprochement with Saudi Arabia. Iran is also indispensable to Russia. The roads connecting St. Petersburg to India pass through Iran.

Iranian justice prosecutes singer Mehdi Yarrahi

Pop singer Mehdi Yarrahi released a 3-minute music video. His song *Rousarito* ("Your scarf") argues for the optional wearing of the scarf. He had already composed in October *Soroode Zan* ("Hymn to the woman") which became the protesters’ chorus.

The religious court decided to prosecute him.

Iran threatens to retaliate against Israeli attacks

Iran's foreign minister Hossein Amirabdollahian told a news conference in Damascus that Israeli bombing of Syria would not always go unpunished. It came after Israel bombed Aleppo airport, rendering it temporarily unusable.

Imran Khan finally free!

The Islamabad High Court has suspended opposition leader Imran Khan's conviction for corruption. It granted provisional release on bail and will rule on the merits at a later stage. According to the law, Imran Khan will not be able to stand in the November parliamentary elections if his conviction is not overturned.

India sends craft to Moon

India is the fourth power (after the US, Russia and China) to have managed to send a craft to the Moon.

Bangladesh threatened by Jamaat-e-Islami

India has warned the US that the secret Washington-Kabul deal will promote a rise of Islamism in the region. This should soon be the case in Bangladesh, to the detriment of India and to the benefit of China.

The US has invested in Jamaat-e-Islami, the Indian version of the Muslim Brotherhood. However, New Delhi believes that Washington's influence on the Brotherhood is much less than Islamabad's.

Political overthrow in Thailand

After three months of stalemate, Pita Limjaroenrat (Moving Forward party) was unable to form a government, as the army ("red shirts") had strewn its path with pitfalls. In the end, it was his former ally, real estate magnate Srettha Thavisin (Pheu Thai), who was appointed.

He immediately arrested former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawa ("yellow shirt") who has just come back to his country. He was sentenced to 8 years in prison and should soon benefit from a royal pardon.

The "yellow shirts" (People's Alliance for Democracy) and the "red shirts" (United National Front for Democracy and Against Dictatorship) who have clashed for a decade are therefore reconciled on the back of Pita Limjaroenrat.
Dynastic transmission of power in Cambodia

After winning the parliamentary elections Prime Minister of Cambodia Hun Sen submitted his resignation. Not surprisingly, his son Hun Manet succeeded him. While Hun Sen had trained in the resistance to the Khmer Rouge, Hun Manet was raised abroad and in luxury.

The young man graduated from the US Military Academy at West Point.

China-US negotiations

Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao received US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo in Beijing.

The two sides announced

- the establishment of new communication channels;
- the creation of a bi-annual working group to seek solutions to specific trade issues;
- the establishment of a mechanism for the exchange of information on export controls;
- Experts from both countries will undertake technical consultations on the protection of trade secrets and confidential business information during the process of improving administrative licenses.

It is obviously this last decision that is the most important. Beijing has placed US companies in China under surveillance. It appears that Secretary of State Anthony Blinken's WestExec Advisors company has used its ties to US companies to spy on China over the past 7 years.

Beijing spies on Taiwan

According to Microsoft Threat Intelligence, a group of Chinese hackers called Flax Typhoon has managed to spy on Taiwan's computer systems in a sustainable way. Its attack mode uses spyware to penetrate them, but it is designed to drag on by using the features of the operating systems themselves to keep access open.

China can detect nuclear submarines

According to the Chinese Journal of Ship Research, China has developed a nuclear submarine detection system. It would not be based on sonar, but on the observation of the bubbles formed by the movement of these machines.

Japan begins the discharge of Fukushima waters

Japan has begun dumping the water used to cool the Fukushima nuclear power plant into the sea. It is based on the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which deemed this discharge safe.

South Korea, North Korea and China are strongly critical of the discharge. They argue that the IAEA relied solely on documents provided by Japan and did not inspect the site. In addition, Japan has refused any foreign inspection. As a result, the riparian countries have all banned the export of fishery products around the possibly contaminated area.

OCEANIA

Australia explains AUKUS

The Australian federal government defends the AUKUS alliance in front of its voters. It argues...
that the US has 9 times the power of missiles and far greater in terms of cyber. It relies on a report by the US Congressional Research Service last May.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**Towards a Far Eastern NATO**

President Joe Biden received South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at Camp David. He intends to hasten the formation of a NATO-type military alliance.

The South Korean and Japanese governments have excellent relations, although South Korean public opinion is still shocked by Japan's lack of apology for its crimes during World War II. Yoon Suk Yeol is a former prosecutor who brought down the former president. However, he is suspected of having conducted his investigations with political intent. He is also said to be a supporter of former dictator Chun Doo-hwan (a member of the World Anti-Communist League).

Fumio Kishida owes his election to the Moon sect (member of the World Anti-Communist League). He sent two of his ministers to pay their respects at the graves of Japanese mass criminals at Yasukuni Shrine, angering China and the Korean people. He made a surprise trip to Kiev to forge with President Zelensky the alliance of his party's founders, mass criminals Ryōichi Sasakawa and Yoshio Kodama, with Yaroslav Stetsko (Ukraine's Nazi Prime Minister), during the founding of the World Anti-Communist League.

The three heads of state debated support for Ukraine and Taiwan.

China accused the US of instrumentalizing South Korea and Japan to "plunge the Asia-Pacific into a new Cold War."

**1,600 scientists against COP goals**

The two Nobel Prize winners in Physics John Clauser and Ivar Giaever gathered the signatures of 1,600 scientific personalities to sign a global declaration on climate: "There is no climate emergency".

These scientists argue that:
- The natural causes of global warming are sufficient to explain it;
- Global warming is slower than expected;
- Climate policies are based on highly questionable models;
- CO2 is an essential gas for life;
- There is no evidence that natural disasters have increased; According to them, it is necessary to adapt to climate change and not to aim for zero carbon emissions by 2050.
EDITORIAL

ECOWAS sanctions and France's actions against Niger are acts of war

In a letter dated August 28 and distributed on September 6, the Nigerien Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Nigeriens Abroad, Yaou Sangaré Bakar, draws the attention of the UN Security Council to the violation of international law to which Niger is subject by the ECOWAS and the French Government.

He notes that:

• the Additional Act of February 17, 2012 relating to sanctions against member states that do not respect their obligations towards ECOWAS does not provide for sanctions taken by ECOWAS against Niger such as “the freezing of all service transactions, including public services” or “the suspension of all commercial transactions and financial relations between ECOWAS Member States”. Identically, “the closure of land and air borders between ECOWAS countries” and the sanctioned member state or even “the establishment of an ECOWAS exclusion zone for all commercial flights to or from” of it, constitute abuse of power.

• the threat of military intervention by ECOWAS which has mobilized troops violates the ban on the use of force without the prior approval of the UN Security Council.

• the meetings held by the Heads of State and the Chiefs of Staff of the ECOWAS armies constitute acts of planning and preparation with a view to putting into action or launching the ECOWAS standby forces. This is a crime of aggression, within the meaning of Article 8 bis § 1 of the Revised Rome Statute.

• France released jailed terrorists. They were grouped in a valley from the village of Fitili (28 km northwest of Yatakala) where a planning meeting was held with the aim of attacking military positions in the tri-border area. Sixteen terrorist leaders were apprehended in three operations, including two in Nigerien territory and one in Malian territory. These are serious acts of the French Republic which are likely to undermine international peace and security.
AMERICAS

U.S. health authorities censored authentic COVID information

Senator Ron Johnson accused the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of abusing its authority by coordinating with social media platforms to censor information about messenger RNA drugs (referred to under US tax law as "vaccines") against COVID-19. Twitter had censored the senator's comments on the comparative adverse effects of different COVID drugs. Subsequently, on the intervention of Elon Musk, Twitter revealed to have acted on the requisition of the CDC.

Slow progress in Joe Biden's corruption investigation

The congressional committee investigating the actions of the Biden family stumbles over the protection of confidential government information. It fails to prove that then Barack Obama's vice president Joe Biden was involved in the financial affairs of his son, Hunter Biden.

On the contrary, the organization America First Legal tries the opposite approach. The law does not allow documents concerning a person who is not involved in government to be kept secret. However, Hunter Biden has never been part of the official team.

More than 5,000 emails were exchanged between Joe Biden and his son during his vice presidency. Those which are already known show that they were written allegorically. For example, Hunter Biden asks to see the Christmas decorations of the White House to justify his visit to the premises. It remains to be seen what these codes were intended to hide.

At the same time, parliamentarians are trying a new strategy. They study the legacy of President Joe Biden which would only amount to $10 million.

Two neo-Nazi demonstrations were reportedly staged by the Democratic Party

A protest outside Disney World brought together a dozen white supremacists linked to the Order of the Black Sun, the Aryan Freedom Network and the National Social Movement. More than 50 white supremacists from the Blood Tribe and the Goyim Defense League later protested in Orlando, waving swastika flags while shouting "Heil Hitler" and chanting "Jews will not replace us."

Republican Senator Cory Mills (Florida) relayed the information that these demonstrations would be staged with actors paid by the Democratic Party. He asked Congress to conduct an investigation.

Jack Lew new US ambassador to Tel Aviv

President Joe Biden has appointed Jacob "Jack" Lew as his next ambassador to Tel Aviv. His confirmation by the Senate should not be a problem.

Jack Lew, an Orthodox Jew, served as chief of staff to President Barack Obama and then secretary of the Treasury. He served on the National Security Council.

Cancelation of the conviction and imprisonment of Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva

Brazil's Federal Court (STF) has ruled that evidence collected in the case of Lava Jato against Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva must be cancelled because it was obtained illegally by Judge Sergio Moro. The court also said this case's jailing of the current president was a "historical mistake". Finally, the Court denounced political justice and compared the psychological pressure exerted on witnesses to the torture of the military dictatorship.
EUROPE

The UK Government has manipulated the BBC and social media about Covid

The UK government created a Counter Disinformation Unit (CDU) at the start of the Covid pandemic. A parliamentary inquiry showed that this public body censored dissenting opinions.

The CDU is led by Sarah Connolly, a human rights specialist at the University of Cambridge. Its budget is unknown, but we are now talking about at least fifty employees to which must be added those of a subcontracted AI company.

According to the Daily Telegraph of 1 September 2023, the CDU includes representatives of the secret service (MI5, MI6, GCHQ) and the BBC.

In violation of the principle of freedom of speech, this agency has had dissenting opinions on Covid, such as those of professors Carl Heneghan and Alexandre de Figueiredo on the measures concerning minors, removed from the web and from BBC radio and TV broadcasts. This agency secretly exerted pressure on social media in general.

However, it reportedly had difficulties with Twitter.

City of Birmingham goes bankrupt

The UK's second largest city, Birmingham, has declared bankruptcy. It was placed under the protection of "section 114". This means that only its essential expenses are maintained.

Who shot down Itavia’s DC9 in 1980?

In an interview with La Repubblica, former Italian Prime Minister and current President of the Constitutional Court Giuliano Amato (Centre-left) accused France of persisting in hiding the conditions for the fall of DC9 Bologna-Palermo from Itavia near Ustica on 27 June 1980.

Two months before the facts, Libya and Chad had announced their merger arousing strong disapproval from France.

According to the Italian side, NATO, believing that Muamar Gaddafi was on board, was planning to shoot down this plane. A large air exercise was planned to mask the firing of a missile. The destruction of the civil aircraft killed 81 people.

A company linked to the French secret services collected the debris of the plane. Its reconstruction established that the plane had been shot down by a French or American missile. However, at the time, France was not participating in NATO exercises.

Switzerland could try General Khaled Nezzar

Switzerland has opened proceedings for crimes against humanity against Algerian General Khaled Nezzar.

The latter, now 85 years old, was Minister of Defense and member of the High Committee of State from 1992 to 1994. He has played a central role in the fight against Islamist terrorism and has always opposed torture.

The plaintiffs, meanwhile, claim to be Islamists. They supported all the actions of the war against Algeria.

Poland extradites Ukrainian delinquents and criminals

Poland has begun extraditing to Ukraine refugees convicted of human trafficking and fraud. Warsaw is pressuring Kiev to take back its criminals, who could number as many as 40,000.

EU invests in Space Intelligence

EU Defense and Foreign Ministers met informally on 29th and 30th August in Toledo
(Spain). The Treaties do not grant defense competence to the EU. Ministers decided to strengthen the resources of the Union's satellite center.

The Copernicus Earth monitoring service has been coordinated with the satellite center.

895,000 homeless people in the EU and the UK

According to an estimate published by the European Federation of Organizations Working with Homeless People (Feantsa), at least 895,000 people are homeless in the EU and the UK.

MEPs receive Jens Stoltenberg

MEPs from the Foreign Affairs Committee received NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg on 7th September.

European Parliament proposes internet media censorship rule

The European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education has introduced into the draft media law “a self-declaration and verification procedure, with a view to helping to distinguish independent media from dishonest media. The committee also proposes a 24-hour trading window, with the involvement of national regulators, before a major online platform can suspend or restrict content.”

Nikol Pashinyan turns away from Russia and the CSTO

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan (who came to power thanks to a revolution financed by oligarch George Soros) gave an interview to La Repubblica.

He accuses Russia and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) of not having fulfilled the obligations set for them by the tripartite declaration that ended the war with Azerbaijan.

Moscow reacted with embarrassment insofar as it was not the Russians who did not keep their commitments, but both the Azeris and the Armenians. The former threatened to continue their advance, while the latter continued to claim to have a right to the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh in violation of international law and their own signature.

Russia argues that it has protected Armenia from Azeri anger, but it refuses to intervene militarily on its behalf both because of its assigned role as mediator and because of international law.

Armenia announced the recall of its representative to the CSTO. It has given instructions to arrest Russian President Vladimir Putin pursuant to the arrest warrant of the International Criminal Court. It has not yet announced its application to join NATO, but will conduct military exercises with the US.

Belarus does not respond to Polish intrusion

A Polish helicopter entered Belarusian airspace one kilometer. Belarusian Defense Minister Viktor Khrenin decided to attribute the intrusion to a lack of training of the Polish pilot and did not reinforce his border.

New Ukraine Defense Minister Tatar terrorist Rustem Umerov

President Volodymyr Zelensky appointed Rustem Umerov as Minister of Defense, replacing Oleksiy Reznikov.

The new minister is known to have been appointed in September 2022 to head the State Property Fund. In this capacity, he oversaw the sale and restructuring of more than 3,600 companies, from iron mines to seaports and factories, in the largest privatization operation in Ukraine's history.

Tatar Rustem Umerov has been campaigning until 2014 for the independence of Crimea and, since the accession of this region to the Russian Federation, for the liberation of Crimea within
Ukraine. He is close to Mustafa Dzhemilev who under his Turkish name of Mustafa Abdülcemil Cemiloğlu, collaborated with the CIA throughout the Cold War.

In 2007, their organization, the World Congress of Tatars, participated in the creation of the Anti-Imperialist (i.e., Anti-Russian) Front with various neo-Nazi and Islamist organizations. In 2015, they founded an International Islamic Brigade to fight Russia.

Volodymir Zelensky appears alongside the “whiteführer”

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky published a short video on his Telegram account in which he appears with his chief of staff alongside the head of special operations in Bakhmut.

However, this one is none other than Andriy Biletsky aka the “whiteführer”, founder of the integral nationalist Azov regiment. Biletsky made compulsory for his men training in the anti-Semitic and anti-Russian writings of Dmytro Dontsov (co-responsible for the “final solution”) and celebrates a true cult of Nazi collaborator Stepan Bandera.

On the contrary, Volodymyr Zelensky is Jewish.

Arrest of Ihor Kolomoisky

Ukrainian oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky was arrested by the SBU. He is accused of laundering €13 million abroad.

A court decided on a preventive measure by ordering his imprisonment for two months and setting his bail at more than 509 million hryvnias (about €12.7 million). Ihor Kolomoisky is the main partner of Hunter Biden, son of President Joe Biden.

He was the one who financed the transformation of comedian Volodymyr Zelenski into the president of Ukraine without going through any political process.

Ukraine abandons most cases of exemption from military service

Mild infections such as viral hepatitis, slow-progressing blood diseases, thyroid diseases, HIV and mild mental illnesses will no longer be cases of exemption from military service.

Last week many officers from the armed forces' conscription services were dismissed in order to fight corruption. Exemptions from service were heavily trafficked.

Voltaire Network Analyses

"CIA revives Ukrainian Nazism", by Thierry Meyssan

It is no wonder that the CIA structures anti-Russian organizations. It is surprising, however, that it does not hesitate to choose Nazis and integral nationalists supposedly to defend freedom and democracy.

The decrepit medical service of the Ukrainian armies

According to the Globe & Mail, the health service of the Ukrainian armies is very deficient. It did not have the necessary equipment for war surgery. A large number of soldier's lives could have been saved with such simple means as good tourniquets.

UK says Ukrainian losses are 'unsustainable'

According to a report by the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) entitled Stormbreak: Fighting Through Russian Defenses in Ukraine's 2023 Offensive, “Ukraine is suffering significant equipment losses (…) Attempts at rapid breakthrough have resulted in an unsustainable rate of casualties.”

Russia's conditions

During his meeting with his Turkish counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that he...
would not renew the agreement on the transport of Ukrainian grain across the Black Sea as long as the Europeans maintain their sanctions against Russia.

Westerners accuse Russia of threatening world starvation. Yet only a tiny part of Ukrainian grain is intended for developing countries.

According to the UN, out of 35 million tonnes of Ukrainian food products, 12 million tonnes were shipped via the Black Sea to the EU and 8 million tonnes to China.

Eventually, a deal was reached through Qatar.

**Putin stigmatizes Zelensky's role in glorifying Nazism**

Russian President Vladimir Putin chaired the annual meeting of the “Pobieda” Committee, dedicated to the construction and maintenance of monuments in memory of Soviet victims of Nazism.

"By placing at the head of Ukraine a man of Jewish origin, from a Jewish background, Western leaders wanted to hide the inhuman essence that lies at the foundation of the Ukrainian state today (...) This makes this whole situation despicable to the highest degree. Because here we have a Jew who endorses the glorification of Nazism and those who orchestrated the Jewish genocide in Ukraine, which caused the death of a million and a half people,” he said.

The Ukrainian Constitution is the only explicitly racist one in the world (Art. 16). Monuments glorifying Nazism are now everywhere in Ukraine.

**Creation of a Bashkir Liberation Army**

A Bashkir Liberation Army was created with the help of the CIA. Within the Russian Federation, the Republic of Bashkortostan (known as Bashkiriya) is mainly populated by Russians (36.32%), Bashkirs (29.76%) and Tatars (24.14%).

**AFRICA**

**Ennahda leader placed under house arrest**

Abdelkarim Harouni, president of the shura council of the Islamist Ennahda party, has been placed under house arrest by the Tunisian authorities.

**IRENA organizes the first African Climate Summit**

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) hosted the first Africa Climate Summit (ACS) in Kenya with the help of Denmark, Germany and the UAE.

IRENA has long been and perhaps still is a tool of the Israeli presence.

**ASIA**

**Tamir Pardo calls Ben Gvir's regime in West Bank "apartheid"**

Tamir Pardo, former Mossad director (2011-16) and now an opponent of constitutional reform, told AP about the West Bank: "There is an apartheid state here, in a territory where two people are tried under two legal systems, it is an apartheid state." He noted that Israeli citizens could get into a car and drive wherever they wanted, excluding the Gaza Strip, but that Palestinians could not. He continued that his view of the system in the West Bank was "not extreme. That's a fact."
The Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court defines apartheid as "an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination of one racial group over any other racial group."

Tamir Pardo supports a clear separation of Israel and Palestine into two separate states with precise borders.

Saudi-Israeli normalization and Palestinians

Normalization talks continue between Saudi Arabia and Israel through the US. The IDF presented a plan to the coalition government asking for improvements in the situation of the Palestinians in exchange for Saudi giving up uranium enrichment.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu refused to link the negotiations to the fate of the Palestinians.

Pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad denounced the deal to the detriment of the Palestinians.

Clashes between immigrants in Tel Aviv

Immigrants clashed in Tel Aviv at an event marking the 30th anniversary of Eritrea's independence organized by the embassy, leaving 160 injured, 15 of them in critical condition. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has announced that he will expel a thousand Eritreans who support President Isaias Afwerki. "They obviously can't claim to be refugees. They support this regime. If they support him so much, they can go back to their country," he said. According to June statistics, there are 17,850 Eritrean asylum-seekers in Israel. Most of them arrived illegally through Egypt's Sinai Peninsula several years ago, and settled in poor Tel Aviv neighborhoods to flee President Afwerki's regime.

The reality is perhaps different from this narrative: almost everywhere in the world, the festivities of the anniversary of Eritrean independence were not disrupted by Eritrean opponents, but by sympathizers of the Tigray Liberation Front. Over the past two years, the CIA instigated the Tigray revolt against the Ethiopian federal state and Eritrea intervened on Ethiopia's side.

Foreign editions

*Voltaire, international news* is now published in six languages:
- Dutch.
- English.
- French.
- Italian.
- German.
- Spanish.

King Hussein warned Israel of Syrian plans for Yom Kippur War

A [document from the Israeli archives](https://example.com) revealed on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the October 1973 war (known as the "Yom Kippur War") shows that Israel was warned of the Syrian attack by King Hussein of Jordan.

Lebanese Christians attacked for calling for decriminalization of homosexuality

Lebanese Christian channel MTV broadcast a clip for the decriminalization of homosexuality which proclaims: "Love is not a crime. Theft is a crime. Rape is a crime. But love is not a crime. Campaign for the termination of Article 534 of the Penal Code". Faced with outraged reactions from all religious communities, the channel changed its script to "In the words of His Holiness Pope Francis... Homosexuality is not a crime... For the termination of Article 534 of the Penal Code which criminalizes homosexuality". In vain. For three months a media campaign has been agitating all of Lebanon against homosexuals and a Christian militia attacked a gay bar.

Bashar al-Assad repeals military field courts

President Bashar al-Assad has repealed military field courts by decree. These bodies, created
after the attempted coup d'état of the Muslim Brotherhood in Hama (1980) were developed during the 2011-16 war. The defendants did not have a lawyer and could not appeal. Their jurisdiction had been extended to civilians so that they could try the jihadists.

**Internal clashes within the SDF**

US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Ethan A. Goldrich and commander of the international coalition against ISIS General Joel Vowell illegally traveled to northeastern Syria to calm internal tensions of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). On 27 August the Kurdish mercenaries arrested the tribal leader of the Deir ez-Zor military council. His tribe then rose up. The clashes left at least 90 people dead.

The Kurds recalled their troops, while several tribes declared themselves neutral.

Washington is trying by all means to pacify the ranks of its allies in order to be able to remain in this region and prevent Damascus from exploiting its oil resources there. The Pentagon fears that this uprising is secretly orchestrated by President Bashar al-Assad.

**Clashes in Kirkuk**

Clashes pitted the Arab and Turkmen populations against the Kurdish population in Kirkuk. This oil-rich region is disputed between the federal government in Baghdad and the local Kurdish government in Erbil. 15 people were injured and 4 killed after news circulated of a handover of the city by Baghdad to Erbil.

**Yemeni population’s critical situation**

According to the World Food Programme, 21.6 million Yemenis will need humanitarian assistance by the end of the year, while 17 million people are already food insecure. According to UNICEF (UN children's agency) more than 540,000 children under the age of 5 in Yemen are severely malnourished.

The decrease of UN humanitarian programs in Yemen follows US pressure to increase the problems and suffering of Yemenis in order to subdue their leaders.

**UAE prepares to legalize casinos**

The United Arab Emirates has a body to regulate gambling. It is chaired by American Kevin Mullally (former assistant to Democrat Senator Harry Wiggins of Missouri) and should legalize casinos. Already one of the 7 emirates, Ras el-Khaimah, is building a Mega casino on the artificial island of Al-Marjan with the Wynn Resorts group.

**Türkiye's EU accession negotiations stalled**

"Negotiations for [Türkiye's accession to the EU] are currently at a standstill. For them to resume, there are very clear criteria to define [which include] democracy and the rule of law," said the European Commissioner for Enlargement, the Hungarian Oliver Varhelyi, visiting Ankara.

**Swedish EU diplomat jailed in Iran**

According to the New York Times, a Swedish diplomat, Johan Floredus, has been detained for a year in Iran. Stockholm confirmed that one of its nationals was imprisoned, but not his identity or function. This would be an employee of the European Commission who went to Iran on a pleasure trip. He was reportedly arrested for espionage at the airport at the end of his trip.

**Iran no longer cooperates with IAEA**

According to AFP, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) notes Iran's reluctance to restore surveillance cameras at its atomic centers. They were disconnected in June 2022 and are still not all back online. In addition, the Agency complains that it has still not received answers to its questions on the presence of uranium particles at two undeclared nuclear sites, Turquzabad and Varamin.
Iran is no longer respecting the commitments it made with JCPOA since the US withdrew from it.

**Israel tried to sabotage Iranian missile production**

According to Iranian TV, an Israeli spy network was dismantled as it tried to sabotage missile production. Spies had begun to introduce into the assembly lines small parts measuring 7 by 3 centimeters programmed to explode on specific dates and times. This is the most serious case of sabotage in Iran in a century.

**India changes its name to Bharat**

The invitations to the G20 in New Delhi were sent by Draupadi Murmu as president of Bharat and not president of India.

Her party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), intends to return to the Sanskrit name of her country.

**Reconciliation in Thailand on the back of the elections’ winner**

As expected, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra ("red shirt"), back from 15 years of exile, was sentenced to 8 years in prison with the possibility of requesting a pardon after 3 months. Barely incarcerated, he was transferred to hospital to care for his health problems. He then received the main political leaders of the kingdom. His health should recover... in 3 months. Until then, he rules the country from his penitentiary hospital room. He shares power with the new prime minister, real estate tycoon Srettha Thavisin.

Former Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul is promoted to the rank of Deputy Prime Minister, while the new Chief of Police is none other than the brother of General Prawit Wongsuwan ("yellow shirt"), architect of the 2022 putsch.

This staging aims to remove fiercely outspoken Pita Limjaroenrat (Move Forward) who won the last elections but could not secure the support of military-appointed senators.

**Towards a military rapprochement between North Korea and Russia**

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu offered joint military exercises by North Korea, China and Russia when he held a one-on-one meeting with North Korean National Intelligence Service (NIS) Director Kim Kyou-hyun in late July.

Pyongyang has announced that Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un will travel to Russia to meet with President Vladimir Putin.

It is likely that Pyongyang is expected to provide munitions, while Moscow will exchange them for key technologies involving nuclear-powered satellites and submarines.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeo and US National Security Council coordinator Admiral John Kirby have warned against strengthening the military alliance between the DPRK and Russia. They assured that this would not go unanswered.

**China claims Indian and Russian territories**

China's Ministry of Natural Resources has released China's 2023 map provoking Indian and Russian reactions. It includes in its territory the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh (north-east of the Indian Union), as well as the mountainous plateau of Aksai Chin. China claims territories that India and Russia also claim.

However, New Delhi and Moscow have decided not to raise their voices.

Faced with the controversy in India, President Xi Jinping decided not to go to the G20 summit on September 9 and 10.
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Russia presents its program for strengthening multilateralism at the UN

Before the parade of heads of state and government (19-26 September), the UN General Assembly began its debates. The Russian delegation officially presented its 81-point program for strengthening multilateralism.

It also stressed the need not to censor information essential to public debate, referring to the banning of its international TV channel RT and her news agency Sputnik.

The procedures of the UN Security Council in question

On 5 September, the UN Security Council held a debate on its procedures. The now frequent use of the veto is presented by the West as a blockage of normal procedures, while Russia and China see it as an integral part of it. Obviously, the two sides do not have the same understanding of the Council’s role.

This is the divide that appeared when the UN was created. During the preparatory work, US President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill wanted to create a global Anglo-Saxon governance.

While First Secretary of the CPSU Joseph Stalin intended to create a body to prevent new wars. Obviously, this debate is not over.

ASEAN: product of the Cold War or independent organization?

Created in the midst of the Cold War by five anti-communist dictatorships, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has gradually transformed into a regional organization. It held a summit attended by the heads of state of the 10 member countries and their guests at successive meetings, China, Japan, South Korea and the US.

However, ASEAN meetings are always held with a Western-style agenda. This year: human rights in Myanmar and China’s controversial map of maritime areas, then the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the possible Chinese invasion of Taiwan.

Host country Indonesia said member states should not act as intermediaries for major powers.

The rotating ASEAN presidency will not return to Myanmar in 2026 given its domestic politics, but to the Philippines.

In his speech, Chinese Premier Li Qiang called on member states to cooperate economically rather than interfere in their respective policies. He said: "Disagreements and disputes can arise between countries because of misunderstandings, divergent interests or external interference... To keep these disputes under control, what is essential now is not to choose sides, to oppose confrontation between blocs, and to prevent a new Cold War."

EU-AU mini-summit in the margins of the G20

The EU will take advantage of the absence of Chinese and Russian Presidents Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin from the G20 in India to hold a high-level meeting with African leaders in the margins of the summit.

OPEC+ continues to cut production

Saudi Arabia and Russia have announced that they will continue to cut their oil production for another three months, until the end of 2023. The decision was taken during the visit of Saudi Prime Minister Prince Mohamed bin Salman to Sochi.

Immediately the markets rose 1.43%. The barrel of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) was selling at $ 86.77.
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EDITORIAL

Impeachment proceedings against President Joe Biden

Speaker of the House of Representatives Kevin McCarthy announced the opening of impeachment proceedings against President Joe Biden. Since the beginning of the year, Republican lawmakers have been investigating how Hunter Biden used his father, then Barack Obama's vice president, to make lucrative deals. They were able to demonstrate that, contrary to his claims, Joe Biden had played a central role in his son's affairs, but could not establish whether he himself had been corrupt or not.

The focus of the House investigation will be to determine whether there is a link between the appointment of Hunter Biden to the board of directors of Ukrainian hydrocarbon company Burisma although he had no expertise in this area, and Joe Biden's interventions to force Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to fire prosecutor Viktor Shokin who was investigating Burisma.

Viktor Shokin announced the previous week that he would agree to testify before US Congress.

A former associate of Hunter Biden, Devon Archer, has already testified before Congress of a plot by Burisma to remove or even eliminate prosecutor Viktor Shokin.

Attorney General Merrick Garland who had agreed to appear before Congress before the announcement of the opening of impeachment proceedings, will be heard Wednesday, knowing that his administration is now itself implicated.

This impeachment proceedings are the third in four years. It has no chance of succeeding, as Democrats have a majority in the Senate, but could publicly expose the Bidens' corruption. One of those lawsuits was filed against President Donald Trump because he pressured the US government to get to the bottom of the Biden and Burisma story.

The White House immediately sent a memo to the mainstream media to “coordinate” the narrative they will use to report on the congressional investigation.
AMERICAS

US Air Force surpassed by China

In a secret note quoted by *Inside the Ring*, US Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall said: "While China has focused on creating the regional conventional forces it believes it needs, it is also significantly expanding its nuclear force and military space capabilities. We cannot maintain deterrence by standing still." He therefore pleads for an immediate increase in the US arsenal.

According to the Pentagon, China's People's Liberation Army has created a rocket force designed "to attack high-value [US] assets, aircraft carriers, forward airfields, and key [command and control] and logistical nodes." In addition, it seeks to achieve "information dominance" in space and cyber warfare.

Conviction of Peter Navarro

Peter Navarro, a former aide to President Donald Trump, has been convicted of contempt of Congress. He faces one year in prison.

The judge who ruled did not recognize that President Donald Trump had activated his executive privilege and that, therefore, Peter Navarro could not invoke it to refuse to testify before Congress.

This is the second collaborator of Donald Trump, after Steve Bannon, to be so sentenced. Peter Navarro is a specialist in international trade and particularly trade relations with China and Germany. He became known to the general public during the Covid pandemic when he clashed with Dr. Anthony Fauci, taking a stand against home confinement and for the use of hydroxychloroquine.

President Biden spares 9/11 commemorations in New York

On a trip to Asia, President Joe Biden stopped in Alaska to commemorate the attacks of September 11, 2001. Vice-President Kamala Harris, who represented him at the New York ceremonies, left after an hour as the list of victims was being listed.

Ron DeSantis challenges convictions of Capitol riot

Florida Gov. (Rep.) and 2024 presidential candidate Ron DeSantis said that if elected, he would commute the sentences of, or even pardon, citizens convicted of the Jan. 6, 2021 riot on Capitol Hill. According to him, all the sentences handed down are excessive, with some sentenced to 17 years in prison being absent from the premises and having committed no violence.

Largest anti-trust trial in history opens

A gigantic anti-trust lawsuit opens in the US against the Alphabet company which is accused of organizing its products, its Google search engine, its Chrome browser, its Gmail email service, its YouTube videos and its online maps to become indispensable at the expense of its competitors.

The court has already rejected the complaint filed by 38 states, both Democrat and Republican, dismissing the accusations concerning advertising revenues to only retain those on the search engine.

Director of the Federal Trade Commission Lina Khan has bet heavily on this trial. However, journalists, who were surprised by her four previous failures in the fight against trusts, ensure that she was an expert in the field... for some GAFA.

New Mexico governor violates U.S. Constitution

New Mexico's Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham has suspended the right to carry firearms in public places for 30 days in response to a shooting in Albuquerque. Immediately complaints were filed for violation of the 2nd amendment of the US Constitution.
revocation procedure was initiated against her in the local senate.

**Georgia Special Grand Jury Report Released**

Georgia's special grand jury investigating 2020 election interference recommended indicting 39 people, including President Donald Trump and his lawyer former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Senator Lindsey Graham, former Senators Kelly Loeffler and David Perdue, and former National Security Adviser Michael T. Flynn.

The special grand jury's recommendations were revealed with the release of the full report of its activities. It also testifies that the jurors were very divided and that one of them voted against all the indictments.

**US wars abroad are shaped by domestic electoral strategies**

According to the latest book by British historian Andrew Payne, US presidents conduct their wars abroad with their eyes glued to polls at home. In *War on the Ballot: How the Election Cycle Shapes Presidential Decision-Making in War*, Columbia University Press, he demonstrates from declassified documents from the Korean, Vietnam, and Iraq wars that presidential decisions are not guided by facts on the ground, nor out of concern for saving lives, but out of considerations of electoral strategy.

Until now, historians have been divided between those who interpreted presidential decisions according to ideological factors or according to pressure from arms manufacturers.

**CIA report on origin of Covid allegedly falsified**

A CIA agent denounced to Congress a falsification within the Agency. According to him, six of his colleagues have benefited from a large bonus to modify their analyses on the origin of Covid. At the invitation of Director William Burns, they finally declared that the virus was not manufactured at the Wuhan laboratory, but was probably of animal origin.

CIA spokeswoman Tammy Kupperman denied the allegations. She said the agency does not pay its analysts to come to specific conclusions.

Keep in mind that the Wuhan P4 laboratory was an international facility of the World Health Organization built with France. Teams from all over the world including of course from China were working there. Two studies were conducted on Covid, one by Chinese, the other, illegally funded by Dr. Anthony Fauci, by Americans.

**Brazil invites Vladimir Putin**

The new president of the G20, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has confirmed the invitation of his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, in 2024 to the Brasilia summit.

The Brazilian presidency will issue a diplomatic immunity decree guaranteeing that President Putin will not be arrested contrary to what the International Criminal Court demands. Contrary to what the Western press reported, President Putin enjoyed the same assurance at the BRICS summit in South Africa and the G20 summit in New Delhi. So that's not why he didn't go to either.

**Venezuela pursues its development path by following China's example**

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has embarked on his fifth official trip to China. His Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, highlighted the common struggle of their two peoples for independence. The two countries already cooperate at the UN in the Group of 77. Venezuela, which has failed economically to lead "21st century socialism", has been eager to understand the model of "development with Chinese characteristics".
EUROPE

Detention of Daniel Khalife

His Majesty's Private Daniel Khalife was remanded in custody after being accused of passing secret information to Iran. His escape on 6 September caused panic and a massive manhunt in the UK. The defendant was arrested again without resistance.

It remains unclear what information he allegedly gave to Iran and why.

British parliamentary assistant arrested for espionage

According to the *Sunday Times*, a parliamentary assistant who worked for the chairman of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee was arrested on charges of spying for China. He was not charged and was released on bail. A second person was reportedly arrested in the same case.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak expressed to Chinese Premier Li Qiang his "very deep concern about any interference in our parliamentary democracy, which is obviously unacceptable".

The fact that no one has been charged suggests that nothing has been done contrary to British law.

Foreign journalists excluded from Macron’s press conference

The press service of the Elysee Palace refused entry to President Emmanuel Macron's press conference at the G20 in New Delhi to non-French journalists.

This seriously damages France's image abroad.

Poland will continue ban on Ukrainian grain

The Polish government has announced that if the European Commission does not extend the ban on sales of Ukrainian wheat, maize, rapeseed and sunflower in Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia beyond 15 September, it will take national measures to do so. The Ukrainian government has threatened to sue Poland before the World Trade Organization (WTO) tribunal.

Open Society Foundation abandons Western Europe

George Soros' Open Society Foundation has announced the redeployment of its aid. It will leave Western Europe next year and focus on the US and Eastern Europe, mainly Poland, Czechia and Ukraine.

By withdrawing €186 million per year in donations, the Open Society Foundation is expected to cause the bankruptcy of a large number of left-wing NGOs. It should simultaneously make the fortune of other NGOs in other countries.

EU acquires first defense tool

The European Parliament has approved the creation of an agency allowing at least three Member States to jointly purchase Defense products.

The European Treaties place European Defense under NATO umbrella.

Ukraine quarrels with the Holy See

Ukrainian government spokesman Mykhail Podolyak said Pope Francis was taking "a pro-
Russian position that is quite obvious to everyone ... A totally unconscious approach (...) which puts the reputation of the Holy See to zero".

He was commenting on remarks made by the pope during a video intervention for young people gathered in Saint Petersburg.

Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said in writing: "The Pope wishes to encourage young people to preserve and promote all that is positive in the Russian cultural and spiritual heritage, certainly not to exalt imperialist logic and government figures, [which he has] mentioned to indicate certain historical periods."

Ukrainian integral nationalists, including journalist Mykhail Podolyak, consider in accordance with the writings of Dmytro Dontsov that Russian culture is an incarnation of evil and that the duty of Ukrainians is to exterminate the Russian population as a whole. During World War II, they carried out mass killings, mainly in Ukraine and Poland. The Uniate Catholic Church had supported these abuses. Pope John Paul II had finally succeeded in dissociating the Uniates from these crimes and reintegrating them fully into the Catholic Church.

Regional elections in Russia

Russia's regional elections mobilized only 43% of voters. However, this is a quarter more than usual.

Voter turnout was much higher in the republics that had recently joined the Russian Federation, notably in Donbass (72.5% in Luhansk and 75% in Donetsk).

The election appointed 21 governors of oblasts (regions) and deputies of 20 regional and local parliaments.

President Vladimir Putin's United Russia party came out ahead (75%), doing much better than in 2019 after the law pushing back the retirement age.

The Ukrainian issue was not discussed.

UN Security Council notes that the outcome of the elections organized by Russia in the disputed territories of Ukraine has no legal basis

The UN Security Council discussed regional elections organized by Moscow in the disputed territories of Ukraine.

The General Assembly adopted a resolution A/RES/ES-11/4 on 12 October 2022 condemning the holding by the Russian Federation of illegal referendums in regions within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders and the attempted illegal annexation of Ukraine's Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia regions. On the basis of this resolution, the Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas, Miroslav Jenča of Slovakia, stressed that these elections had no legal basis.

It is not certain that this resolution would be voted on identically today.

Nevertheless, in the current state of international law, which is by nature evolving, it is not possible to recognize the result of these elections in the disputed territories.

Russia will protect Turk Stream and Blue Stream

Delivering a speech in Bangladesh, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said he had information about attempts to sabotage the Turk Stream and Blue Stream gas pipelines.

Hungary had already mentioned these operations and indicated that, unlike Germany, it would not hesitate to respond to those who ventured.
The Nord Stream pipelines were sabotaged in 2022, probably by the US and/or Ukraine.

**Russian arms production greater than that of the US and EU combined**

According to the New York Times, despite the unilateral coercive measures (wrongly referred to as "sanctions") imposed on Russia, its weapons production capabilities are superior to those of the US and EU combined.

This staggering result is explained by Russian technology that makes it possible to manufacture the same weapons for costs often ten times lower than those of their Western counterparts. Unless it is because of the degree of corruption of Westerners, much greater than we think.

In addition, parts missing from Russia are easy to acquire from smaller states like North Korea.

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**AFRICA**

**Egypt bans niqab in schools**

The Egyptian government has banned the wearing of the niqab in schools.

The niqab or full-face veil covers the entire face, with the exception of the eyes. It is a tradition of free women of Arabia in pre-Islamic times which was then forbidden to slaves.

While the veil is not a Muslim garment, it was imposed in Egypt, then in Arab countries, by the Muslim Brotherhood as a symbol of the Islamization of societies.

In Iran, on the contrary, the ban on the veil refers to the pro-British regime of the Shah.

**10,000 dead in Libya**

Hurricane Daniel destroyed two dams in Libya, causing gigantic waves that swept away at least 10,000 people in the Mediterranean Sea.

**Resignation of German Straussian Volker Perthes**

Volker Perthes, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sudan and Head of the UN Integrated Assistance Mission for the period of assistance to the transition period in Sudan (UNITAMS), has resigned. He had already left Khartoum and sought refuge in Port Sudan.

President Abdel Fattah al-Burhan accused him of organizing arms deliveries to his rival "General" Mohamed Hamdan Dogolo known as "Hemediti". Sudan declared him persona non grata.

Volker Perthes had worked as an employee of Straussian Jeffrey Feltman, number 2 of the United Nations, to draft a plan for the surrender of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Then, when Jeffrey Feltman left the UN and became President Joe Bien's special envoy to the Horn of Africa, Volker Perthes was appointed UN special envoy to Sudan. The two men then organized the destabilization of the region, including the Tigray War and the Sudanese conflict.

**UN General Assembly debate on the position of the great powers regarding the Malian crisis**

The UN General Assembly debated the veto of the motion for a resolution to extend international sanctions against persons who threaten the peace, security or stability of Mali. From now on, the General Assembly monitors disagreements between major Powers and debates with each veto. August 30th veto was Russia’s.

During the debate, the delegation of Mali expressed surprise that the Group of Experts mandated by the Secretary-General on behalf of the Security Council had exceeded its functions. The Group, which is responsible for defining persons under sanctions, illegally attempted to obtain detailed information on...
military and security cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Mali. The latter expressed outrage that the Security Council had considered, allegedly in Mali's interest, pursuing sanctions that Mali does not want.

**Gabonese government proposes to restore electoral process in 24 months**

Gabonese Prime Minister Raymond Ndong Sima said: "It is a good idea to start with a reasonable goal and say: we hope to see the process completed in 24 months, so that we can return to the elections," knowing that this period could be "slightly longer or shorter."

Under the control of the junta, he proceeded to appoint the government by mixing personalities from the former regime and its opposition.

**Russia and Mali on Niger**

After a phone conversation, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Malian transitional President Assimi Goïta called for a political settlement in Niger.

**Uranium from Niger**

The French government does not communicate on the origin of its radioactive materials. However, according to a report by the High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Safety, in 2021, Niger supplied 34% of French imports of concentrated uranium.

**According to Nigerien authorities, France preparing military intervention in Niger**

According to Colonel Amadou Abdramane, "two A400M military transport aircraft and a Dornier 328 were deployed [by France] as reinforcements in Ivory Coast", "two Super Puma multirole helicopters" and "about 40 armored vehicles" were deployed "in Kandi and Malanville in Benin". In addition, "a French military ship docked in Cotonou [Benin] with military personnel and means on board."

"France continues to deploy its forces in several ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] countries as part of preparations for aggression against Niger, which it is considering in collaboration with this community organization."

“The military partnership is suspended so French troops are waiting for their possible departure from Niger. The boat off Cotonou is the amphibious helicopter carrier Mistral engaged in the long-planned Corymbe operation and which provides maritime security in cooperation with the countries bordering the Gulf of Guinea against trafficking (illegal fishing, drug trafficking, etc.),” a French military source told RT.

Niger cancelled its military pact with Benin considering the latter's involvement in the invasion arrangements.

**Voltaire Network Analysis**

"The rejection of France in French-speaking Africa sanctions 12 years of betrayal", by Thierry Meyssan

Nothing happens by chance in politics. The French do not understand why French-speaking Africans suddenly reject them. They console themselves by accusing Russia of dark machinations. In reality, they are only reaping the fruits of what they have sown over the past 12 years. It has nothing to do with colonialism and Françafrique. This is exclusively the consequence of the provision of the French army to the US strategy.

**Olam charged with $50 billion fraud**

The Nigerian Daily and Prime Business Africa reported that Nigeria’s secret police were investigating the activities of Singaporean agribusiness multinational Olam International for a fraud of more than $50 billion. Olam categorically denies it. This multinational seems to have made great efforts to combat forced child labor and to regulate speculative rice and cocoa markets.
Nigeria and Cameroon attempt to clarify the borders inherited from colonization

After the International Court of Justice (i.e., the internal arbitral tribunal of the United Nations), asked Nigeria and Cameroon in 2002 to withdraw their troops near Lake Chad and to specify their borders, nothing has been decided yet.

The Nigerian parliamentary commission has just suspended its work after discovering the Cameroonian military apparatus.

The borders were fixed by two colonial agreements: the Anglo-French Thomson-Marchand Declaration of 1929-1930 and by the Anglo-German agreements of 11 March and 12 April 1913. However, these texts draw straight lines unrelated to what people are experiencing.

Presidential election in Madagascar

Malagasy President Andry Rajoelina has resigned to stand for re-election.

Andry Rajoelina, nicknamed "DJ" in reference to his career in events, managed to partially develop Madagascar, but failed to foresee the 2021 food crisis.

He will face his historic opponent, former president Marc Ravalomanana (2002-09), and his former heir, Henry Rajaonarimampianina (2014-18).

According to the Constitution, power should be exercised during a vacancy by the President of the Senate. However, he refused for personal reasons, leaving the government to take over in the interim. The opposition denounced a staging allowing Andry Rajoelina to manipulate the result of the upcoming election.

ASIA

The Israeli government coalition won’t hesitate to create a constitutional court

Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana told Yedioth Ahronoth that the governing coalition would not hesitate to create a constitutional court if the current Supreme Court persisted in opposing it. The current Supreme Court, when sitting as the High Court, has the power to adjudicate "unreasonable" legislation and government decisions. The ongoing judicial reform aims to deprive it of this power. However, the Court has just ordered Minister of Justice Yariv Levin not to appoint magistrates without convening the Judicial Appointments Commission.

Benjamin Netanyahu calls Fake News a debate by his own cabinet

A heated controversy has erupted in the Israeli government's WhatsApp discussion group about possible arms deliveries to Mahmoud Abbas's Palestinian government. For some, it would be an opportunity to defeat Hamas, while for others it would be a suicidal strategy. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu closed the debate by saying that this possibility was fake news.

Israeli bombing of Syria

For the second time in 24 hours, Israeli warplanes attacked targets in Syria.

Saudis invest in Israel

Affinity Partners, Jared Kushner’s (son-in-law of former US President Donald Trump) company has raised $3 billion, mainly of Saudi origin, which will be invested in Israel. He has just taken a minority stake in the car manufacturer Shlomo Group.
Intra-Palestinian clashes in Lebanon

Armed clashes pitted President Mahmoud Abbas’s Fatah against the jihadists of Jund el-Sham and al-Shabab al-Moslem – two groups that committed themselves alongside NATO against the Syrian Arab Republic – in the Palestinian camp of Ain el-Helou (Sidon, southern Lebanon). They caused a dozen deaths and significant material damage.

70,000 Palestinian refugees live in this camp out of the 400,000 present in Lebanon.

Apparently, the fighting resumed after a month of calm, the Islamists having refused to honor their commitment to hand over the assassin of Fatah leader Abu Ashraf el-Armouchi. However, there are two indications that this case is still in its early stages and could lead to a much more serious conflict: first, displaced refugees from the camp managed to set up tents almost immediately, not far away. They are in front of the highway linking Beirut to southern Lebanon which could be easily cut by them.

Second, missiles were fired at a Lebanese army checkpoint. All this is reminiscent of the occupation of the Palestinian camp of Nahr el-Bared (North Lebanon) in 2007 where a terrible battle opposed the Lebanese army to an Islamist group killing a hundred soldiers and destroying the entire camp.

US Treasury Department sanctions Hezbollah in Latin America

The U.S. Treasury Department has imposed unilateral coercive measures (“sanctions”) against several members of Lebanese Hezbollah in Latin America. On that occasion, it named Amer Mohamed Akil Rada as responsible for the 1994 AMIA bombing in Buenos Aires.

Our investigation in Argentina of Jewish victim families and in Lebanon of Hezbollah showed that the Lebanese Resistance was in no way involved in the Buenos Aires attacks of 1992 and 1994. The Argentine judiciary has issued contradictory judgments; however, the US and some Argentine judges attribute these attacks to Hezbollah without evidence.

An Israeli delegation in Saudi Arabia

An Israeli delegation of 4 people participates in a meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Riyadh.

Already, on November 23, 2020, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahou had traveled to Neom to meet with Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman.

Iran releases five US spies

President Joe Biden has agreed to release $6 billion in Iranian assets seized in South Korea in exchange for the release of five US spies jailed in Iran.

The agreement provides that the funds can only be disbursed for the purchase of consumer goods, not for weapons.

The names of the five spies have not been revealed. Three of them, however, have been identified: Siamak Namazi, Emad Sharghi and Morad Tahbaz.

The freezing of Iranian assets in South Korea is a US unilateral coercive measure falsely presented as an international sanction.

NATO covert operations in Iran

According to Iranian Security Minister Ismail Khatib, "200 terrorists have been arrested this year in the country."

He said their group was newly created on the model of Daesh. "They are trained and supplied with weapons in the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, and Germany," he said.

Taliban tighten ties with China

The Taliban last month signed a $700 million contract with the Xinjiang Central Asia Petroleum and Gas Company (CAPEIC), a
subsidiary of CNPC. Then, they asked Huawei
to finalize a deal to install surveillance cameras
across the country. Finally, they welcomed with
pomp new Chinese ambassador Zhao Sheng.

It seems that Sino-Afghan relations are changing
in nature, even if there is still no official
diplomatic recognition.

**Washington plans the overthrow of Joko Widodo**

According to Kit Klarenberg (MintPress), the
CIA and the National Endowment for
Democracy (NED) are preparing a color revolution in Indonesia against President Joko Widodo.

In the tradition of Indonesia's first president
Ahmad Sukarno, Joko Widodo asserted his
country's sovereignty over the US. He received
President Vladimir Putin at the G20 in Jakarta
and supports Palestinian rights. A staunch opponent of the Islamists, he banned Hib ut-Tahrir, a local version of the Muslim Brotherhood.

**Russia sends a message with North Korea to South Korea**

North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong-Un
paid an official visit to Russia. The exact
purpose of his meeting with Russian President
Vladimir Putin is not known. The two men
celebrated the friendship between their
countries.

International observers feared that the DPRK
would supply Russia with ammunition to
continue its military intervention in Ukraine
and, in exchange, that Moscow would share nuclear technology with Pyongyang. At most, they spoke of space cooperation.

The details of what was decided are still
unknown, but the South Koreans have understood that they cannot engage with Ukraine without consequences.

Symbolically, the summit ended with an
invitation from Kim Jong-Un to President Putin
to visit the DPRK at his convenience which he accepted... without setting a date.

**China allows a third child per family**

The Chinese government has changed its
population policy. From now on, couples are
allowed to have three children under certain
conditions.

For the first time this year, China's population has begun to decline. The one-child policy, instituted by Den Xiaoping, was irrelevant since 2002. The government conditionally allowed a second child per family.

**PRC continues the process of peaceful reunification with Taiwan**

The China Council for the Promotion of
Peaceful National Reunification elected Wang Huning as its president. Its session stressed that peaceful reunification would take time and that, in the meantime, it was necessary to bring the two sides of the Straits closer together, in particular by increasing trade. This process needs the help of foreign countries.

A large "demonstration zone" is being built in
Fujian province which will welcome Taiwanese companies wishing to cooperate with the People's Republic of China. The goal is to bring the two populations closer together in their common efforts.

**China's proposal for global governance reform**

China has released its Proposal of the People's Republic of China on the Reform and Development of Global Governance.

We haven't had time to study it yet. We will come back to that.
**OCEANIA**

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese met with his Chinese counterpart, Li Qiang. The two men agreed that great progress has been made since the Bali meeting and that relations between the two countries are now based on trust.

At the China-Australia High-Level Dialogue in Beijing, the two sides agreed not to repeat past mistakes.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

54th session of the Human Rights Council

The UN Human Rights Council began its 54th session in Geneva under the presidency of Václav Bálek of the Czech Republic.

The Council will examine periodic reports on the human rights situation in several States:
- France (A/HRC/54/5), Tonga (A/HRC/54/6),
- Romania (A/HRC/54/7), Mali (A/HRC/54/8), Botswana (A/HRC/54/9),
- Bahamas (A/HRC/54/10), Burundi (A/HRC/54/11), Luxembourg (A/HRC/54/12), Barbados (A/HRC/54/13),

**African Union joins G20**

Bharat Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the African Union to the G20, now G21. The African Union brings together the continent's 55 states. So far only South Africa represented it in this organization.

**China calls for IMF and World Bank reform**

China stressed at the G20/21 the importance of intensifying reform of the global economic governance system and effectively increasing the representation and voice of developing countries in international financial institutions.

**At the G20/21, Washington promotes a corridor linking Bharat to Europe via the Middle East**

During the G20/21, the US pushed an ambitious project for a logistics corridor linking Bharat to Europe via the Middle East. An agreement in principle was signed in New Delhi between the US, India, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, the EU, France, Germany and Italy, according to a statement released by the White House.

This pharaonic project would turn the table. It would marginalize the Suez Canal and create a new transit route competing with China's new silk roads. It partially repeats an old Israeli project deliberately excluding Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Turkey and Iran. Hence the cries of joy of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

**G20/21 takes up Russian arguments on Ukraine**

After 200 hours of negotiation, the G20/21 declaration on the Ukrainian conflict stresses the "need to settle all conflicts, in accordance with the provisions of the UN Charter" and insists on "the right of peoples to self-determination".

It does not accuse Russia of having invaded Ukraine.

This is precisely Moscow's position, which claims not to have entered Ukraine militarily to conquer this territory, but to implement Security Council Resolution 2202 (with the Minsk agreements in annex) by virtue of its "responsibility to protect" (R2P). The Kremlin also indicates that the regions of Crimea, Donbass and Novorossiya bring together populations historically distinct from those of the rest of Ukraine and therefore have the right to self-determination. They therefore legally proceeded to independence referendums, then voted their accession to the Russian Federation.
The Westerners agreed to sign this document because they interpret the UN Charter as prohibiting war (which is explicitly not the case) and the right to self-determination as that of the Ukrainian populations not to be Russian.

**G20/21 tribute to Mahatma Gandhi**

Bharat held a tribute ceremony for Mahatma Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi which was joined by all G20/21 leaders. British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Indonesian President Joko Widodo attended barefoot.

Yet in Bharat, Narendra Modi's government now downplays the role of M.K. Gandhi in India's independence and emphasizes that of his predecessor, Aurobindo Gosh.

The Mahatma's assassin, Nathuram Godse, was a member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the militia of the BJP, now in power.
EDITORIAL

Evolution of the Western position on the war in Ukraine

The West noted that:

- ammunition is lacking and the West’s arms industry cannot compete with Russia’s, either in the short or medium term;
- the rebellion against the Kremlin by the owner of the Wagner Group, Yevgeny Prigozhin, and the head of this unit, Dmitry Utkin, failed;
- The Ukrainian counter-offensive is extremely deadly for Ukraine soldiers without achieving any significant success.

Voices are beginning to raise calling for negotiations with Russia. However, this is impossible because of Ukrainian law definitively prohibiting it. A debate is developing in the US to determine now a regular subsidy to Ukraine, rather than a succession of separate payments negotiated with Congress.

A meeting of the G7, on the sidelines of the 78th General Assembly of the United Nations, admitted that the war will go on at least for the next 6 or 7 years.

AMERICAS

Canada accuses Bharat of murdering opponents on its territory

Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau accused the Indian Secret Service (R&AW) of assassinating Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia on June 18.

The deceased was the leader of the Khalistan Tiger Force, an armed group fighting for the creation of an independent Sikh state on Indian territory.

Canada is home to the largest Sikh community outside Bharat.

President of the New Democratic Party Jagmeet Singh told the Canadian House of Commons: "We knew as children that the Indian government was committing many atrocities. But we never thought we would face this danger after coming here to Canada. I want to tell everyone that I'm here. I will not move until justice is done in this case."
Another Sikh separatist, multimillionaire Ripudaman Singh Malik, was also assassinated last year. He was accused of ordering a first attack on an Air India plane on 23 June 1985 that killed 329 people, and a second on another Air India plane. The bomb exploded at Tokyo airport, killing two baggage handlers. Canadian police arrested two suspects accused of shooting him. They would supposedly be hitmen.

Justin Trudeau reportedly raised the issue of these two assassinations with his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, at the G20 summit. The latter then allegedly reprimanded him for sheltering a secessionist and terrorist group.

Canada has just expelled an Indian diplomat, Pavan Kumar Rai, who is said to be an R&AW officer. Bharat replied, "The allegations of Indian government involvement in any act of violence in Canada are absurd and without cause." Canada would seek to divert attention to hide its support for Sikh separatists. In retaliation, New Delhi expelled a Canadian diplomat.

**President Joe Biden’s defense strategy inevitably condemns his son Hunter**

To exonerate himself from corruption charges, President Joe Biden says he knows nothing about his son’s financial affairs. At the same time, he did everything possible to avoid criminal prosecution.

However, Republican congressional lawmakers opened impeachment proceedings on September 12. The data they have already accumulated puts President Biden in the position of choosing to resign or let go of his son. The first hearing will take place on 28 September. Legal proceedings have been initiated before the federal court of Delaware against Hunter Biden for firearms’ possession with drug use for which he faces up to 25 years in jail. In addition, a second trial could be opened against him for non-payment of $200,000 in taxes in 2017 and 2018. Previous frauds are time-barred. Finally, a third lawsuit could be filed for undeclared lobbying for foreign states (Ukraine, China and Burma). This is a long-standing incrimination, but was not enforced until the indictment of President Trump’s National Security Adviser General Michael T. Flynn for lobbying for Türkiye.

Proceedings against Hunter Biden should have been cancelled after an agreement between prosecutors and the president’s son. However, the agreement has not been signed. It is therefore null and void.

By dropping his son, President Joe Biden could save himself from being impeached. However, he would then lose any chance of being re-elected.

**Hunter Biden files complaint against two whistleblowers**

Hunter Biden filed a lawsuit against the IRS and two whistleblowers, Gary Shapley and Joseph Ziegler for disclosing tax documents.

The plaintiff’s lawyers said the two officials "targeted and sought to embarrass" the "First Son" by "leaking to the media confidential information about his private tax matters."

Attorneys for the defendants said they never disclosed confidential taxpayer information except through legally authorized whistleblower disclosures. Once Congress made their testimony public, they exercised their right like any other citizen to discuss on TV this information that had become public.

At the same time, Delaware Attorney David Weiss who was cautiously investigating Hunter Biden was promoted to Special Counsel by U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland. He then forced the IRS to remove Gary Shapley and Joseph Ziegler from the Hunter Biden investigation.

**Hearing of the Attorney General**

During his hearing before the House Justice Committee, Attorney General Merrick Garland
said he knew nothing about his administration's ongoing investigations.

He was not aware of the investigation into the presence of FBI agents among the protesters who stormed Congress on January 6, 2021. He knows nothing about the investigations against former President Donald Trump. He was not informed of the investigations against Hunter Biden.

His memory is lacking for his conversations with his subordinates.

**According to Capitol Police Chief, Nancy Pelosi is primarily responsible for Jan. 6 events**

Former chief of the Capitol Police Steven A. Sund testified before Congress. According to him, the events that occurred on January 6, 2021 should never have happened. The primary responsibility lies with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi who refused to call in the National Guard.

**Alaska's oil exploration is again an electoral argument**

U.S. oil production peaked in December 1970 at 9.9 million barrels per day. It continued to decline until November 2008 to 5.0 million barrels per day. Then, with shale oil it expanded again reaching 12.6 million bpd in April 2023.

However, the Biden administration's environmental policy banned explorations in Alaska that were authorized by the Trump administration. U.S. production is therefore expected to decline again as the deposits currently exploited are getting exhausted.

Already, U.S. consumers are feeling an increase in prices. The revival of exploration is once again becoming a subject of the federal election campaign. All the Republican candidates have said they want to revive exploration and therefore production. On the contrary, the Democrat candidates put forward ecological demands and support the current policy.

**US military fleet and its Chinese rival**

The confirmation hearing for next Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Lisa M. Franchetti resulted in unexpected attacks from Republican Senator Roger Wicker (Mississippi). According to him, China's shipbuilding capacity is more than 230 times greater than that of the US. "We would have to produce between 2.3 and 2.5 attack submarines per year to meet our own needs. Instead, we are reduced to building 1.2 attack submarines per year. The return to 2 per year is based only on hopes and wishes," he said. In addition, maintenance problems are very important, grounding a third of the US military fleet.

Admiral Lisa M. Franchetti acknowledged the facts quantitatively while stressing that, in her opinion, qualitatively the capabilities of the US fleet are far superior to those of the Chinese fleet.

**Declaration on Atlantic Cooperation**

On the margins of the UNGA, the US opened for signature a Declaration on Atlantic Cooperation signed by 32 States (Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Cape Verde, Canada, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ivory Coast, Dominica, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Iceland, Ireland, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Senegal, US, UK).

Initially, the signatory countries will have to conduct joint oceanographic research and train young scientists.

**The Pentagon neither confirms nor denies its position vis-à-vis Taiwan**

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Ely Ratner was heard by the House of Representatives.

Taipei is waiting for the necessary spare parts for the old F-16 aircraft used to intercept increasing air incursions by Chinese aircraft. The delivery of 66 new F-16s and Harpoon anti-ship missiles
has been delayed for several years because of the priority given to the war against Russia in Ukraine.

The Pentagon returned to President Joe Biden’s unfortunate remarks assuring that the US would immediately fly to the rescue of the island in case of Chinese invasion of Taiwan. It decided to maintain its strategic ambiguity about its possible intervention.

For its part, the State Department confirmed that it recognizes Taiwan as a region of the People’s Republic of China.

**US psychological analysis of Vladimir Putin**

At the 2023 Strategic Command (StratCom) symposium held in August, psychologist Nirit G. Pisano presented the results of a behavioral analysis of Vladimir Putin’s speeches.

Her laboratory evaluated 10 emotions of the "patient" during his speeches announcing his special military operation in Ukraine, February 22 and 24, 2022: joy, anger, disgust, fear, sadness, surprise, amusement, contempt, hope and confidence. It established that President Putin was filled with great anger, disgust and contempt, but never fear. The study of subsequent press conferences confirmed these results.

StratCom finds itself helpless: the nuclear deterrent, for which it is responsible, is based on the fear it inspires.

**Creation of an Advisory Group of Intelligence Experts to the DHS**

The Department of Homeland Security has established an advisory group of intelligence experts.

It is run by the non-profit company MITRE.

MITRE is a creation of the arms industry from an MIT computer lab. In particular, this company organized NATO’s intelligence exchange computer system. It also organized the standards of more than 300 health observation organizations during the Covid-19 pandemic to harmonize their statistics.

**Argentina commemorates the dictatorship’s victims**

The Argentine Secretariat for Human Rights intends to place commemorative plaques inside the barracks that served as illegal detention and torture centers during the last military dictatorship.

There are already commemorative signs outside these barracks. Installing them inside would remind the military themselves of these abuses and facilitate ceremonies at the very places where they were committed.

**Lula declares that "Brazil is back"**

Opening the debate of heads of state and government at the 78th UNGA, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva declared that "Brazil is back".

He pleaded for greater financial contributions from the richest citizens, for the fight against deforestation and for increased multilateral cooperation as practiced by the BRICS.

**EUROPE**

**UK submits false report to UN Security Council**

The UK reported on its presidency of the United Nations Security Council throughout July 2023 (Reference: S/2023/622). It states: "Most members of the Council expressed concern that the Islamic Republic of Iran is still not complying with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)". This relationship is factually inaccurate.
UK postpones end of petrol and diesel cars

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has postponed for five years a ban on the sale of petrol and diesel cars that was due to come into force in 2030. According to him, these measures impose "unacceptable costs" on ordinary citizens. To achieve net-zero emissions, the government will further encourage the construction of wind farms and nuclear reactors, invest in new green technologies and introduce new measures to protect nature.

France supports sexual minorities around the world

French Minister of Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna participated in the UN LGBT+ Group meeting on the sidelines of the 78th General Assembly.

She announced the creation by France of a €2 million fund intended "to support those who defend the rights of LGBT+ people, sexual minorities around the world".

In 2022, France appointed Jean-Marc Berthon as special ambassador for LGBT+ rights.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan calls for recognition of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan pleaded at the UN General Assembly for the end of the current Cypriot system and the recognition of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

Poland, Hungary and Slovakia defy the European Commission

On 15th September the European Commission lifted the marketing bans on Ukrainian wheat, maize, rapeseed and sunflower in Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Romania.

However, three of these States, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia, immediately reinstated these bans, in violation of the European Treaties. In addition, they extended them to 20 other agricultural products.

The Commission has started negotiations with Ukraine over these agricultural exports, but Kiev is threatening to refer the matter to the World Trade Organization (WTO), including against its Polish ally.

Polish Army acquires high-end equipment

Poland, which already has the largest army in Europe, is planning massive purchases of equipment to make it the most powerful in Europe.

It is expected to order billions of dollars’ worth of Apache helicopters, Abrams tanks and HIMARS.

Poland stops supplying arms to Ukraine

Poland has announced that it will stop supplying weapons to Ukraine in order to finance its own rearmament.

Polish President Andrzej Duda has spoken of a possible halt to aid to Ukrainian refugees, given the opposition they now encounter in public opinion.

He compared Ukraine to a drowning country that poses a danger to its rescuer: sometimes a drowning person struggles in a disorderly manner and drags his rescuer with him.

President Andrzej Duda, who until now was a key partner of the Zelensky administration, is distancing himself from it. This turnaround may be temporary and explained by the context of the Polish parliamentary elections of 15 October, or it may be a long-term strategy.

Historically, Ukrainian integral nationalists exterminated with the Nazis at least a million Poles during the interwar period and World War II.
Bulgarian farmers protest against Ukrainian grain imports

Bulgaria finally gave up on issuing rules banning the import of Ukrainian grain beyond 15 September.

Farmers immediately demonstrated against the government. They argue that they cannot fight against their Ukrainian competitors who receive their seeds free of charge.

European Parliament challenges electricity price hikes

The European Parliament has started negotiations with the Commission to reform the electricity market in the Union.

Currently, energy prices are compulsorily set on those of the most expensive energy source. However, the EU’s unilateral coercive measures against Russian hydrocarbons have mechanically caused a drastic rise in electricity prices.

Ukraine begins its de-oligarchization

The Ukrainian government has begun a de-oligarchization of the country by presenting it as an action to "strengthen the sustainability of democracy".

Fascist parties have historically both favored conglomerates and fought against oligarchic systems.

Ukrainian government stages myth of Kiev's victory

The Ukrainian government gathered the ambassadors present in Kiev at Antonov Airport in Hostomel. It showed them the destruction wrought by the Russian army and developed the myth that Moscow wanted to take Kiev, but was repulsed.

In reality, Russia began its special military operation by destroying the Kiev cargo airport. It was the only one in the country capable of receiving military cargo, thus Western air support. Russia never wanted to take Kiev, so its special military operation could never be defeated there.

North Macedonia expels Russian diplomats

North Macedonia has expelled three new Russian diplomats in addition to the eleven others already expelled since the beginning of the special military operation in Ukraine.

North Macedonia is a candidate for membership of the EU. It has adopted Western unilateral coercive measures against Russia (aka sanctions).

Russia unlocks the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh

The Azeri army has launched a blitzkrieg military operation against the separatists which killed more than 200 people in a single day and resulted in an indisputable victory.

Russian peacekeepers negotiated the passage of an International Red Cross (ICRC) convoy through the Lachin corridor allowing 23 tons of wheat and medicines to be transported to Nagorno-Karabakh (Azerbaijan). A second convoy is expected to follow.

The Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh was beginning to suffer from hunger, refusing to get supplies by road through Azerbaijan, considering itself as not Azeris but still Armenian. However, Armenia has signed a peace agreement recognizing that the Republic of Artsakh no longer exists and that Nagorno-Karabakh is indeed Azeri territory.

The Armenian diaspora for a war of the West against Azerbaijan

The Armenian diaspora in the US is exerting very strong pressure on the White House to intervene militarily in Nagorno-Karabakh. Its propaganda denounces a "genocide" committed
by Azeris against Armenians in the former Republic of Artsakh.

All the Western powers that have united against Russia are repeating this propaganda.

No state in the world, not even Armenia, maintains that Nagorno-Karabakh is not Azeris territory but Armenian territory.

The Armenian authorities in Nagorno-Karabakh have concluded a ceasefire with the Azeri army.

Armenia did not participate in the negotiation.

**Ukraine, US accused of plotting coup in Georgia**

Georgia's National Security Service accused Georgi Lortkipanidze, deputy head of Ukraine's military counterintelligence and former Georgian deputy interior minister, of "plotting" to "violently overthrow the government."

The plot called for anti-government protests in Tbilisi "in October and December," when the next assessments of Georgia's progress toward EU membership were to be published.

**Penny Pritzker to lead Ukraine's reconstruction**

U.S. President Joe Biden has nominated Penny Pritzker to lead Ukraine's reconstruction.

Ms. Pritzker comes from a large Jewish family in Chicago. After running the family business, Superior Bank of Chicago, she became President Barack Obama's Secretary of Commerce. For the past five years she has been president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Her brother, J. B. Pritzker, was governor of Illinois.

Penny Pritzker presented herself to President Volodymir Zelensky on the sidelines of the 78th United Nations General Assembly.

**Ukraine vs. Russia before the International Court of Justice**

On February 26, 2022, Ukraine filed a complaint with the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the internal judicial body of the UN. It challenged the "Allegations of genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide" used by Russia to justify its special military intervention.

In Russia's absence from the session, the ICJ issued a protective order before the trial began which states:

“(1) The Russian Federation shall immediately suspend the military operations it began on 24 February 2022 on the territory of Ukraine;

(2) The Russian Federation shall ensure that none of the military units or irregular armed units that may act under its direction or benefit from its support, nor any organization or person that may be under its control or direction, commits acts tending to the continuation of the military operations referred to in paragraph 1 above;

(3) Both parties shall refrain from any act which might aggravate or extend the dispute before the Court or render its settlement more difficult.”

The trial opened on 20 September 2023. Russia should present evidence of the genocide of the population of Donbass. According to the Russian Investigative Commission, at least 20,000 people have been tortured or murdered. Russia claims to be acting to implement the Minsk agreements validated by Security Council Resolution 2202. It avoids citing the "responsibility to protect" (R2P) as an ambiguous concept devised by the imperialist powers. It was actually first used by the British Empire against the Ottomans in Greece.

**Purge at the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense**

Secretary General of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers Oleh Nemchinov announced a purge
within the Ministry of Defense. The six deputy ministers were sacked: Hanna Maliar, Volodymyr Havrylov, Rostyslav Zamlynski, Denys Sharapov, Andriy Shevchenko and Vitaliy Deynega.

No explanation for this staff movement has been made public. It comes just before President Volodymyr Zelensky’s trip to the US, as criticism of Defense Ministry corruption grows.

Two weeks ago, President Zelensky appointed Rustem Umerov as Minister of Defense.

The shooting at the Konstantinovka market was due to a Ukrainian mistake

According to an investigation by the New York Times, the missile launch on the Konstantinovka market on September 6 is not attributable to the Russian army as claimed by President Volodymyr Zelensky, but to a mistake by the Ukrainian army.

The accidental shooting killed 16 people.

Two US diplomats expelled from Russia

Moscow declared persona non grata First Secretary of the U.S. Embassy Jeffrey Sillin and Second Secretary David Bernstein. They had reconnected with a former employee of the US consulate in Vladivostok who was arrested earlier this year on charges of military espionage.

AFRICA

Tunisia arrests people migrating to the EU

The Tunisian government began a massive anti-immigration operation after more than 10,000 migrants arrived on the island of Lampedusa (Italy). At least 2,000 people were arrested and deported into the desert.

Migrants are fleeing fighting in Burkina Faso, Mali, Sudan and Cameroon, or economic conditions in Ivory Coast, Guinea, Eritrea, Tunisia and Egypt.

The current wave foreshadows what migration will be like in the region when the Western-planned war in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin begins.

The EU will provide €840 million to Tunis this year to support its economy and its fiber optic and electrical cable projects between the EU and North Africa.

The EU-Tunisia anti-migration agreement should serve as a model for similar agreements with other North African states.

EU policy in French-speaking Africa

The EU is trying to redefine its policy in Africa. It took unilateral coercive measures against the juntas that overthrew the supposedly elected presidents in Mali, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Niger and Gabon, repeating the French attitude.

However, the EU is aware that its military efforts have all failed. The soldiers it trained are supporting coups everywhere. It is expected to launch a new civil-military training mission with police and soldiers in Ghana, Togo, Benin and Ivory Coast.

ASIAb

Meeting of Benjamin Netanyahu and Volodymyr Zelensky

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Mossad Director David Barnea met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. Israel has pledged to continue its humanitarian support to the Ukrainians, but not to provide an Iron Dome capable of intercepting medium-range missiles.

The familiarity between the two men betrayed an earlier agreement. Benjamin Netanyahu is a revisionist Zionist, that is, a disciple of Vladimir
Jabotinsky who allied himself with the Ukrainian integral nationalists and was expelled from the World Zionist Organization. The Israeli army is vehemently opposed to any military aid to the successors of the "massacgers of Jews." The coalition government is therefore acting cautiously.

**Quintet eager to elect president in Lebanon**

The Quintet (Egypt, France, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the US) met on the margins of the 78th UNGA. No statement was issued at the end of the summit.

Quintet is seeking a solution to elect a President of the Lebanese Republic. It seems that Saudi Arabia and the US are dissatisfied with the French initiative (the mission entrusted to former Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian) and have demanded a timetable.

**Bashar al-Assad in China**

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is expected to attend the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) International Conference in China. He should offer to join the port of Latakia to Chinese projects.

He will already take part with other heads of state in the opening ceremony of the Asian Games in Hangzhou.

By hosting him, China is breaking the isolation decreed by the West, of which Syria is the victim.

Bashar al-Assad visited China in 2004. Syria pledged several years ago to participate in the Silk Roads. For centuries and until the opening of the Suez Canal, it was the mandatory passage between the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. One of the goals of the Western war against Syria was to cut off this route in order to isolate Iran.

**Türkiye attacks PKK in Iraq**

The Turkish army again attacked PKK positions in Iraq. Helicopters bombed about thirty targets.

**Saudi-Yemeni negotiations**

A delegation representing Yemen's Ansar Allah (so-called "Houthis") rebels visited Riyadh to discuss over five days an end to the crisis. The talks were made possible through the Sultanate of Oman.

The UN estimates that three-quarters (21.6 million) of the population is in need of humanitarian assistance.

Without giving details, Saudi Arabia said that significant progress had been agreed.

**Iraq does not respect the Security Pact it signed with Iran**

In March 2023, Iran and Iraq signed a Security Pact stipulating that no armed group would use the territory of one of the signatories to attack the other. This agreement put an end to the punitive expeditions of the Revolutionary Guards, which began in September 2022.

The Iraqi government in Baghdad asked the Kurdish regional government in Erbil to evacuate the barracks of the Kurdish armed groups on the Iranian border and relocate them further inside the region. However, according to Iran, some of these commitments have still not been fulfilled.

Iranian Defense Minister Gen. Mohammad Reza Ashtiani said Tehran would not extend the pact beyond Sept. 19 and that a "last-minute decision" would be made on the issue.

**Iran accuses IAEA of politicization and draws the consequences**

Iran has withdrawn the approval of German and French observers from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). According to
Tehran, these two countries and the UK are politicizing the agency.

IAEA Director Rafael Grossi called the decision "disproportionate and unprecedented."

However, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani stressed that his country was referring to Article 9 of the agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the IAEA on the application of safeguards under the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons.

**Instrumentation of Mahsa Amini's death**

Four members of the "Five Eyes", the US, the UK, Canada and Australia, have taken unilateral coercive measures (referred to as "sanctions" by Western propaganda) against Press TV, Tasnim News Agency and Fars News Agency.

The Anglo-Saxons wanted to mark the anniversary of the death of the young Iranian Kurd Mahsa Amini, who died of a malaise during her arrest.

New Zealand did not associate itself with this decision. Its new prime minister Chris Hipkins has already moved away from the common Five Eyes policy on the China issue.

Many Shia groups in the Middle East have denounced this censorship and that of various media outlets in the rest of the world. Thus, the Lebanese Hezbollah stated "The true meaning of the sanctions against intellectuals, authors, media professionals and media institutions around the world is an admission of failure of intellectual confrontation."

Meanwhile, Iranian police arrested a terrorist cell that was planning to assassinate Mahsa Amini's father.

Finally, the European Parliament should nominate Mahsa Amini, or Iranian women or the Women, Life, Freedom movement as the winner of the 2023 Sakharov Prize.

**Biden administration “sanctions” former President Ahmadinejad**

The US Treasury Department issued unilateral coercive measures against former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (2005-13) for making "bad decisions" without further explanation.

President Ahmadinejad has not spoken in public for more than a year. He was banned from running in the last presidential election and his top aides were jailed following closed-door trials. It is unclear what danger he represents today for US imperialism.

The Biden administration's decision was made under the Levinson Act on hostage detention, at a time when Washington and Tehran entered into a prisoner swap.

**US-Iran spy exchange**

The exchange of spies negotiated between the US and Iran is effective. 6 Americans incarcerated in Iran were released against 5 Iranians detained in the US and the release of $6 billion of Iranian deposit in South Korea.

Only the identities of three Americans and two Iranians have been made public.

**China industrially produces microchips that are more advanced than those in the US**

Chinese company Huawei has launched a new model of mobile phone, the Mate 60, with a microchip with capabilities far superior to those of its US counterparts. It is not known how these chips were produced and by whom.

The US had taken unilateral coercive measures to prevent the People's Republic of China from disposing of chips manufactured in Taiwan and the US. The goal was for Washington to keep the People's Republic of China in a lower technical stage just as London had kept the Indian Empire in underdevelopment by prohibiting it to spin cotton there. Indian
production was to be exported to Manchester where factories spun it, then the British sold the fabrics to India.

Since July, the US has been trying to deprive China of certain rare earths of which the PRC has reserves on its own territory.

In 1999, the US blocked China from accessing its GPS system. But Beijing has developed its own navigation system. Baidu (GNSS) is now the most accurate in the world with 45 satellites and about thirty ground bases.

These technological advances are reversing the choices available to other states. Until now, they were all dependent on the US. Now they have a choice. Or rather, if they want to have the best, they must turn to China and break with Washington's colonial policy of isolation.

The technological war that Washington wants will probably backfire on US industries that are now outdated.

**China-Russia strategic cooperation**

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi received Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev. The two men took stock of Sino-Russian relations. They welcomed the support provided by each side to the fundamental security issues of the other. This is how, in their view, strategic cooperation should work.

For Nikolai Patrushev, “In the midst of the campaign unleashed by the collective West to double the containment of Russia and China, it is particularly important to further deepen Russian-Chinese coordination and interaction in the international arena.”

Wang Yi also met with his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov. Regarding the Ukrainian conflict, China displays strict neutrality. Beijing's 12-point proposal not only offers a ceasefire, it seeks to address the root causes of the crisis.

Finally, Wang Yi met with Russian President Vladimir Putin who praised China for first understanding the magnitude of the changes in the world and leading the BRICS to their enlargement. Wang Yi said he is willing to continue cooperation between the two countries within the framework of the consensus set by Presidents Putin and Xi.

**China has not forgotten Unit 731**

China has released new documents on the activities of Japan's Unit 731 during World War II. It invited Japan to look at history and reflect on its crimes.

Unit 731 was a medical research institute. The Japanese practiced many dissections of living and healthy human beings. At the end of the war, the US did not try the officers of Unit 731 at the Tokyo Tribunal, but relied on them to build the new regime. They used their experiences to conduct their biological weapons program, which, according to Russian and Chinese authorities, was still going on until recently in Ukraine.

Mass criminal Ryōichi Sasakawa became the richest man in Asia. He took control of the World Health Organization. His statue still adorns the entrance hall of the WHO in Geneva.

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**Voltaire Network Analysis**

"At the G20, developing countries turn against the West", by Thierry Meyssan

The G20, which was created by the G7 to obey it, has emancipated itself from it. It certainly did not question the Anglo-Saxon capitalist system based on the anonymity of capital but it stopped signing the Washington statements. It still participates in Western projects, but has few illusions about their implementation.
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Expulsion of the Israeli ambassador from the UN

Meanwhile, during Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi’s speech at the 78th UN General Assembly, Israeli Ambassador Gilad Erdan stood up and held up a placard. It was a photograph of Mahsa Amini with an overprinted slogan: "Iranian women deserve freedom NOW." He was expelled from the Chamber in accordance with the Rules of Procedure. Before President Ebrahim Raisi arrived at the United Nations, Israel's ambassador had rented billboards in front of various monuments to implicate the "butcher of Tehran" (an allusion to his role in executions during the 1979 revolution). These ads reminded passers-by that he was still under sanctions and would not be allowed to visit these places.

The General Assembly incident shows that the UN is perceived by the West as a moral authority, all members of which should conform to their worldview.

However, the UN is statutorily a forum intended to resolve conflicts without having to resort to war. By definition, they accept within themselves different states which, culturally, are opposed to other conceptions of the world.

Iran, Qatar and Turkey condemn European Islamophobia

During the general debate of the 78th General Assembly of the United Nations, the presidents of Iran and Turkey and the Emir of Qatar denounced the burning of the Koran in Sweden and the clothing bans in France. Secretary-General António Guterres agreed with them on the latter point, noting that these bans only concern women and are therefore gender-based discrimination.
EDITORIAL

Sergey Lavrov’s speech at the UN

Speaking at the 78th UN General Assembly, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov first recalled the way in which the Collective West has conceived its relations with Russia since the Victory of 1945. Even before the end of the war, London and Berlin considered pursuing it against Moscow, then came Operation Dropshot in 1949 and the prospect of massive nuclear bombing. In 1962, it was the Cuban Missile Crisis. After 1989, it was the written commitments before the OSCE not to expand NATO. We know that they were taken without intention of respecting them. And that's what happened. In 2021, a Russian proposal to build a new security architecture was grossly rejected.

In major military exercises, NATO leaders have declared their goal of inflicting a "strategic defeat" on Russia. This obsession has finally blurred the vision of irresponsible politicians who have become accustomed to impunity and abandonment of the fundamental sense of self-preservation.

They are now trying to expand their sphere of influence in Asia under the pretext of “indivisible security of the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific areas”. In the Vilnius Declaration of the Atlantic Alliance, the “growing partnership between Russia and China” is described as “a threat to NATO”.

As BRICS and the SCO grow, the Collective West continues to claim to be superior to others, while the UN Charter posits equal sovereign states, whether large or small. EU’s foreign policy chief Josep Borrell spoke of the West as a flowering garden, while the rest of the world was just a jungle.

The West decrees unilateral coercive measures which it abusively assimilates to international sanctions, to the detriment of the weakest.

Western egocentrism pushes to "ukrainize" all international summits. The Middle East yearns for peace, which implies a settlement of the 70-year-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict. By eliminating Gaddafi as soon as he gave up his nuclear program, the West pushed for general nuclearization. Witnessing the indignant reactions of the West to the coups in Niger and Gabon, how can we not think of its cheers after the bloody coup in Ukraine (...)
(...). In 2009, the West pledged to spend $100 billion each year to finance the energy transition. Of course, they didn’t do it, and instead of the $1.3 trillion announced for the climate, they spent $170 billion to support the racist regime in Kiev.

We must reform the UN by drawing inspiration from the experiences of ASEAN, CSTO, EAEU, CIS and China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The UN was created in 1945, but today we are witnessing a revival of Nazism. Last year, Germany, Italy and Japan voted for the first time against the UN General Assembly resolution condemning the glorification of Nazism.

We must revive the UN against those who divide the world into "democracies" and "autocracies" and dictate their neocolonial "rules" to others.

AMERICAS

Canadian Parliament honors former SS

At Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky’s reception at the Canadian Federal Parliament, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rota introduced a veteran sitting in the public benches.

“I am very proud to say that he is from North Bay and my constituency of Nipissing-Timiskaming. He is a Ukrainian hero, a Canadian hero, and we thank him for all his service.” He said he fought for the Ukrainian First Division. President Zelensky then wielded his fist, smiling. This veteran is 98 years old Yaroslav Hunka. He fought for the First Ukrainian Division, better known as the SS Galicia Division. He took part in many massacres of civilians, mainly Ukrainian and Polish, often Jewish.

Following the ceremony, several Jewish organizations including the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center issued vehement protests.

A monument honoring the heroes of the SS Galicia division was erected in Edmonton, Canada, by Halyna Chomiak, mother of Canada's current Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland. It has just been vandalized.

Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King, a personal friend of Adolf Hitler, harbored many war criminals at the end of World War II, including Dmitry Dontsov, the founder of Ukrainian integral nationalism. Dontsov, who was not tried at Nuremberg, was one of the main organizers of the “final solution” of the Gypsy and Jewish questions as administrator of the Reinhard Heydrich Institute. His "executive" arm, Stepan Bandera, came to visit him legally in Canada. Then, Nazi Prime Minister Yaroslav Stetsko was received triumphantly in Winnipeg.

The current Deputy Prime Minister, Chrystia Freeland, granddaughter of Michael Chomiak, publisher of the main Nazi newspaper in Central Europe, worked for a group of war criminals to rewrite the history of Ukraine (Encyclopedia of Ukraine) by making people believe that Ukrainian integral nationalists never collaborated with the Nazis.

Three days after cheering Yaroslav Hunka, Speaker of the House of Commons Anthony Rota apologized to the Jewish community alone. Faced with protests from the Polish ambassador, he finally resigned.

The Canada-India crisis sparked by the "Five Eyes"

According to the New York Times, the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) has transmitted intercepted conversations of Indian diplomats to Ottawa, on the basis of which Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused India of ordering the murder of Sikh activists on Canadian soil.

Canada is a member of the "Five Eyes", the Anglo-Saxon alliance for intercepting communications.

Bharat denies any assassination by its secret services in Canada.
The US has identically organized the accusations of assassination abroad perpetrated by the Russian secret services.

**Americans in favor of the Republican Party**

According to a YouGov poll, 43% of American adults would vote for the Republican Party candidate if congressional elections were held today, compared to 41% for those in the Democratic Party.

**Volodymyr Zelensky is no longer welcome in Congress**

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky who visited Washington after his speech at the 78th UNGA was not greeted the way he thought he’d be. Unlike what then-president of the House Nancy Pelosi had done in December 2022, Republican speaker of the House of Representatives Kevin McCarthy objected to him addressing Congress.

To clear this affront, President Joe Biden received him at the White House and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin at the Pentagon. Finally, the Atlantic Council quickly awarded him a prize.

**Parliamentarians inquire about what happens to Aid sent to Ukraine**

28 Republican lawmakers have written to the Biden administration to find out what is happening to financial aid to Ukraine. The administration doesn’t seem to be able to provide detailed information.

The move is aimed at blocking the next $24 billion aid project for Ukraine.

**Pentagon plans for continuity of aid to Ukraine**

The Pentagon has taken steps to maintain the continuity of its support to Ukraine in the event of a disruption to the US administration’s funding.

President Joe Biden announced to his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelensky, an additional $325 million in aid.

**Pentagon hesitates to target Chinese civilian populations**

In May, the Atlantic Council released a report calling for a rethink of nuclear deterrence vis-à-vis China and Russia. It advocated a return to the Cold War doctrine of targeting civilian populations in large cities.

The Pentagon is currently considering this option. A strategy of deterrence against cities involves more modest costs, as its proponents claim, but the primary objective is to deter nuclear war as much as possible, without relying on budgetary considerations, it concluded. Targeting civilian populations, as was the case in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, is a war crime.

**The Pentagon reactivates its underwater surveillance system**

The Pentagon has reactivated the underwater surveillance command based near Seattle on Whidbey Island. The Integrated Undersea Surveillance System (IUSS) plans to upgrade the existing network of underwater acoustic spy cables and equip a fleet of surveillance vessels with state-of-the-art sensors and underwater microphones.

The war in the Black Sea radically renewed submarine warfare. From now on, underwater drones play a central role.

**Washington takes unilateral coercive measures against Xinjiang’s economy**

The US has imposed unilateral coercive measures (wrongly referred to as "international sanctions") against Xinjiang Tians Foundation Textile Co Ltd, Xinjiang Tianshan Wool Textile Co. Ltd, and Xinjiang Zhong Tai Group Co. Ltd.

According to Washington, this is about sanctioning the forced labor of the Uyghurs.
According to Beijing, it is about preventing the development of Xinjiang.

The US and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights accuse China of having interned 1 million Uighurs in re-education camps. China only admits to having interned a few jihadists.

No one has made public any information about China's prison capacity in Xinjiang. On the contrary, China's State Council has issued a white paper on \textit{Respecting and Protecting the Rights of All Ethnic Groups in Xinjiang}.

The US and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights accuse China of having interned 1 million Uighurs in re-education camps. China only admits to having interned a few jihadists.

The authorities had never called a political demonstration at government headquarters a "crime of obstruction of justice." Under US law, the government is made up not only of the Executive power, but also of the Legislative and Judicial branches.

2\textsuperscript{o} Summit of the US and the Pacific Islands Forum

Solomon Islands did not send a delegation to the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Summit of the US and the Pacific Islands Forum.

Is the F-35 cursed?

The Government Accountability Office released a report to Congress titled \textit{"F-35: The Department of Defense and the Army Must Reassess Their Sustainment Strategy."}

Since the beginning of the implementation of this program, complaints have been piling up against its budget overruns and its inability to achieve the intended performance of this aircraft. According to the regulatory body, "The program is facing limited repair capacity, an increasing number of components awaiting repair, an increasing rate of people unable to perform missions due to supply delays, a lack of access to technical data to perform repairs, insufficient quantities of support equipment and a record downtime."

Michigan AG says voters who believe victory was stolen from Trump have been brainwashed

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel participated in a Protectors of Equality in Government video conference. She pretended that Donald Trump's voters who said the former president had won the election were "brainwashed".

Joe Biden's health worries his loved ones

President Joe Biden is struggling with several health issues. He wears an air mask at night to
treat sleep apnea, has recently been treated for a form of skin cancer, has mobility issues attributed to arthritis in his back and foot neuropathy. The president is also being treated for high cholesterol and atrial fibrillation, which cause an irregular heartbeat. However, those around him are mainly concerned about his decreased mental acuity. He often stumbles over words or confuses facts; Above all, he no longer seems to distinguish between true and false. As an example, President Biden said that he and Cook Islands Prime Minister Mark Brown were from Baltimore, even though neither seems to have roots in the Maryland city.

His opponent, former President Donald Trump, referred to the 25th Amendment which provides that the President may declare himself incapable of continuing his office. In this case, the Vice-President succeeds him.

**The noose is tightening around Joe and Hunter Biden**

The House Ways and Means Committee has released hundreds of pages of emails and other documents related to the IRS and FBI investigations into Hunter Biden. They include a WhatsApp message addressed to Hunter Biden by the president's brother, James Biden. It links Joe Biden to the corruption of his family. Other documents attest that internal U.S. presidency memos were sent by Joe Biden's cabinet to his son's partners.

**US voters dissatisfied with Bidenomics**

44% of Americans say in the latest ABC News/Washington Post survey that their financial situation has worsened under Joe Biden's presidency, while 15% say they are doing better.

72% say they are dissatisfied economically.

**US barracks are unsanitary**

In a 118-page report, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has drawn up a state of military barracks in the US. It attests to the deplorable conditions of accommodation, without heating or air conditioning, with rodents and bed bugs. It deprecates that the Pentagon does not take into account the multiple complaints of young people. It denounces living conditions that affect the availability of staff.

**The Travis King Case**

US Army soldier Travis King was ordered by a South Korean court to pay $5 million in damages following an assault.

Taking advantage of a moment of inattention from his superiors, he fled to North Korea. Following Chinese and Swedish mediation, he was deported by the Pyongyang authorities and repatriated to the USA where he was detained.

**“The Power and Purpose of American Diplomacy in a New Era”**

Summary of Secretary of State Antony Blinken's September 13 speech at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University:

Beijing and Moscow are working together to make the world safe for autocracy through their "no limits partnership."

A handful of governments have used subsidies, stolen intellectual property rights, and other market-distorting practices to gain unfair advantage in key sectors.

Inequality has skyrocketed. Between 1980 and 2020, the richest 1% accumulated the same wealth as the poorest 50%.

More democracies are under threat. Challenged from the inside by elected leaders who exploit resentment and stoke fear, erode independent judiciary and the media, enrich cronies, crack down on civil society and political opposition; And challenged from the outside, by autocrats who spread disinformation, who weaponize corruption, who meddle in elections.
The United States is leading in this pivotal period from a position of strength.

Our competitors claim that the current order is a Western imposition, when in fact the norms and values that anchor it are universal in aspiration - and enshrined in the international law they’ve signed onto. They claim that what governments do within their borders is their business alone, and that human rights are subjective values that vary from one society to another.

Our domestic renewal reinforces, and is reinforced by, American leadership in the world. And that's where the power and purpose of American diplomacy comes in: America's alliances and partnerships. We've added an incredibly capable new member in Finland, Sweden will join soon, and NATO's doors remain open. We're transforming the G7 into the steering committee for the world's most advanced democracies. We're strengthening our alliances and partnerships with the EU, Japan, South Korea, Australia, the Philippines, India, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia... President Biden has hosted summits with leaders from the Americas, Southeast Asia, Africa, Pacific Island countries to drive transformational partnerships. We've aligned scores of countries in imposing an unprecedented set of sanctions, export controls, and other economic costs on Russia. We have created a new security partnership – AUKUS – with Australia and the United Kingdom.

Together with our allies and partners, we’ve committed to deliver $600 billion in new investment by 2027 through the Partnership of Global Infrastructure and Investment, or PGI.

The United States is the largest donor in the world to the UN World Food Programme – we provide about 50 percent of its annual budget. Russia and China? Less than 1 percent each.

We’re starting with our closest partners, like the G7, where we’re designing an international code of conduct for private actors and governments developing advanced AI.

Together with more than a hundred States, we have created a new global coalition to prevent the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in synthetic drugs.

Upon taking office, President Biden moved swiftly to rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Human Rights Council and UNESCO.

President Biden is working with Congress to unlock new lending capacity for the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to provide more financing – at cheaper rates – for investments in climate mitigation, public health, and more.

So, when the Beijings and Moscows of the world try to rewrite – or rip down – the pillars of the multilateral system; when they falsely claim that the order exists merely to advance the interests of the West at the expense of the rest – a growing global chorus of nations and people will say, and stand up to say: No, the system you are trying to change is our system; it serves our interests.

EUROPE

France withdraws from Niger

French President Emmanuel Macron announced the withdrawal of his troops and his ambassador to Niger Sylvain Itté. The authorities in Niamey had declared him persona non grata and demanded the departure of French troops.

President Macron said Niger no longer wanted to fight terrorists. It is exactly the opposite: to fight against terrorists, the Nigerien junta intends to expel the French secret services that supervise them and that it cannot distinguish from the French army.

Leaks from the French National Defense

Journalist Ariane Lavrilleux was briefly arrested and interrogated for "compromising national defense secrecy" and "revealing information that
could lead to the identification of a protected agent”. She had made a report for the public TV channel France2 on “Operation Sirli”. It showed that information given by the General Directorate of External Security (DGSE) to Egypt had been used by Cairo to commit crimes and offences.

A senior defense official was also arrested. The latter was charged and placed under judicial supervision.

**Germany bans two neo-Nazi organizations**

The German Interior Ministry last month banned the neo-Nazi organization Hammerskins Deutschland and, this week, the Artgemeinschaft, avatar of the Nordic community. 39 searches were carried out simultaneously in 12 Länder.

**Berlin vs. Huawei**

The German government is considering banning, on national security grounds, all parts supplied by China's Huawei. This involves around €5 billion in work on 60% of the country's 82,000 mobile communication stations.

To date, the threats to national security, which have been denounced by the US, are unproven.

**Berlin interferes in Polish election campaign**

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz questioned the Polish government's failure to stop visa trafficking.

Deputy foreign minister Piotr Wawryk has already resigned after the possibility of buying Polish visas for €5,000 was revealed. Berlin insinuates, without proof, that the scandal persists and that very numerous visas have been purchased.

Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau perceived the Chancellor's remarks as interference in the Polish general election campaign. He replied: “The latest statement by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz violates the principle of sovereign equality of states, which is the basis of the good neighborly relations and friendly cooperation recognized by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany in the 1991 Treaty with Poland. It is clear that the German Chancellor competences do not extend to the proceedings under way in Poland.

The statements on this subject indicate an attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of the Polish state and in the ongoing election campaign in Poland. In the name of good bilateral relations, I appeal to the German Chancellor to respect Poland's sovereignty and refrain from making statements that harm our mutual relations.”

**Everything's falling apart between Poland and Ukraine**

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky declared from the 78th UNGAs stand: "Some of our European friends [Poland, Hungary and Slovakia], play solidarity on the political scene and make quite a drama with grain (...) They pretend to play their role, but in fact they are preparing the ground for the Moscow actor."

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki replied: "I want to tell Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky never to insult Poles again, as he did recently during his speech at the UN, Poles will never allow it."

Until now, Poland was Ukraine's main ally. It has taken in more than 1.5 million Ukrainian refugees since the start of the war, agreeing to heal the wound of the massacre of 120,000 Poles by Ukrainian integral nationalists during World War II.

**Poland announces request for Yaroslav Hunka’s extradition**

Polish Education Minister Przemyslaw Czarneck announced that his country would ask Canada
to extradite SS fighter Yaroslav Hunka, who was applauded by the House of Commons.

By applauding Yaroslav Hunka, President Volodymyr Zelensky reopened the wound of the massacre of 120,000 Poles by integral nationalists during World War II.

Former Prime Minister Beata Szydło tweeted: "The applause of former SS Galicia in the Canadian Parliament is part of a larger problem. Canadian politicians - although that does not reflect very well - may not have known who they were applauding. But didn't the Ukrainian president guess what the 98-year-old "Ukrainian hero" was doing during World War II? Perhaps President Zelensky did not notice the problem, just as he did not pay much attention to the worship of Ukrainian formations of World War II, which collaborated with Nazi Germany, which is becoming more and more common in Ukraine.

In recent months, Ukrainians have fought bravely against Russia, and it seems that they have new heroes. I hope that Ukrainian identity will not be based on the red and black tradition." The Ukrainian integral nationalists massacred mostly Jews, Ukrainians and Poles. Unlike the Russian authorities, the Polish authorities avoid mentioning President Zelensky's Jewishness.

**Poland reopens Przewodów case**

The Polish commission of inquiry into the explosions in Przewodów on 15 November 2022 concluded that the missiles which killed two people and destroyed agricultural facilities were fired by Ukraine.

At the time, U.S. President Joe Biden considered this to be a likely hypothesis. He intervened to calm the Poles.

The publication of this official information came after Ukraine announced that it was suing Poland before the WTO and especially after the glorification of SS Yaroslav Hunka by the Canadian Parliament and the Ukrainian President.

**Bulgaria expels Russian priests**

Bulgaria expelled the three priests of the Russian Church from Sofia for espionage.

Moscow condemned the application of Western policy against Russian culture "under a fabricated pretext, in a vexatious manner and against any respect due to the sacred."

**Nikol Pashinyan threatened**

Text messages were sent to the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh to make them believe that planes were waiting for them at Khojaly airport to bring them to Armenia. When a crowd of about 10,000 people gathered there, photos and videos were taken and distributed to Western media to accuse Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan of treason. This operation took place on September 21, Armenia's National Day.

Pro-Western forces are trying to prepare the overthrow of Nikol Pashinyan. He himself came to power with George Soros’ help by overthrowing pro-Russian Serzh Sargsyan’s team.

**Spying on Armenian officials’ communications**

Thirteen Armenian government officials, human rights activists, journalists and academics have been spied on by a foreign country using Israeli spyware Pegasus, according to Amnesty International and Citizen Lab.

In the past, Azerbaijan has used the software, but against its own citizens.

**Exodus of Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh**

2,906 Armenians from the former Republic of Artsakh, who lost their homes during the day of fighting, arrived in the Republic of Armenia.
escorted by Russian peacekeepers. At least another 50,000 refugees arrived soon after.

The authorities of the former Republic of Artsakh seem to be divided between pro-Russian and pro-US. It appears that the latter faction has asked the entire population to leave Nagorno-Karabakh.

In a TV address, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said that if Armenians were to "leave their homeland as the only way to save their lives and identity," the "responsibility for such a development of events would lie entirely with Azerbaijan which has adopted a policy of ethnic cleansing, and to the peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation in Nagorno-Karabakh".

The Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman lamented that "attempts are being made to absolve themselves of responsibility for the failures of domestic and foreign policy, blaming Moscow."

The former president of the Republic of Artsakh, billionaire Ruben Vardanyan, was eventually arrested by Azeri forces.

**New clashes in Kosovo**

The conflict between the Serb population in Kosovo and the Kosovo authorities has resumed. An armed group of Kosovo Serbs was surrounded by Kosovo police. It took refuge in an Orthodox monastery. Snipers managed to kill three, while insurgents killed one policeman. Kosovo police arrested two insurgents, or possibly six.

The Kosovar authorities accuse Serbia of having armed the arm of these "terrorists". Turkiye called on both sides for dialogue. The EU sided with the Kosovo authorities, but refrained from calling the insurgents "terrorists".

Chinese police have set up joint patrols with Serbian police at Kosovo's unrecognized border.

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**Voltaire Network Analysis**

*"The Zelensky lie is coming to an end", by Thierry Meyssan*

President Volodymyr Zelensky's trip to the US cleared up any remaining ambiguities. Everyone wondered about his strategy. He doesn't seem to seek to defend his own, for he mobilizes all his men and sends them to die on the front line without hope of victory. From now on, he appears to have no qualms about lying and cheating, and uses every means at his disposal to expel certain states from intergovernmental organizations.

How can we not draw a parallel with Stepan Bandera who massacred his own compatriots by the thousands in the last days of WWII i.e., when the defeat of the III° Reich was beyond any doubt?

*"The Great Business of War", by Manlio Dinucci*

Historians are used to describing some wars as investment operations. However, the war in Ukraine breaks all records. Its pursuit has no meaning other than the business it enables.

**According to the BBC, the commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian armies is accused of high treason**

According to the BBC, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) and the State Investigation Bureau are investigating General Valery Zaluzhnyi, commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian armed forces. He is accused of not having pursued the "liberation" of the south of the country. This is an accusation of high treason.

Several senior officers have already been questioned, including commander of the defense forces Sergei Naev, former commander of the southern zone and head of the administration of the Kherson region Andrei Kovalchuk.
General Valery Zaluzhnyi no longer has enough men to continue the counter-offensive on all fronts. For two weeks, his army has been losing more than a thousand men a day. Measures have been taken to requisition all able-bodied men present in Ukraine. Most exemptions have been repealed.

**Ukraine renounces prosecution of certain crimes and offences**

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has ratified a law softening criminal penalties. Those convicted of 29 crimes or misdemeanors will be placed under judicial supervision and no longer imprisoned. They will have to report their changes of address and will not be allowed to leave the territory.

These crimes include:
• Intentional assault,
• Domestic violence,
• Child exploitation,
• Rape.

**Admiral Viktor Sokolov is alive and kicking**

Commander of the Black Sea Fleet Admiral Viktor Sokolov whom Ukraine claimed to have killed, appeared on 26th September during a videoconference with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu.

The Ukrainian Armed Forces had struck the headquarters of the Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol on 22nd September. They said they had killed Admiral Viktor Sokolov during a meeting of his staff.

**AFRICA**

**US, EU pressure UAE to cut off arms supply to Sudanese rebels**

The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of "General" Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (aka "Hemedit") are supported by the Wagner Group in Sudan.

A network of companies is run from Dubai by Hemedit's younger brother Algoney Hamdan Dagalo. It supplies weapons to the Rapid Support Forces, mainly via Amdjarass airport in eastern Chad.

The US and the EU are pressuring the UAE to end this supply chain.

**Mali condemns France's support for terrorists**

At the 78th UNGA, Mali interim Prime Minister Abdoulaye Maiga accused "the French authorities, deeply anti-French for having denied universal moral values and betrayed the heavy humanist heritage of the philosophers of the Enlightenment" and of having "transformed themselves into a junta in the service of obscurantism". He accused the "nostalgic French junta of neocolonial, condescending, paternalistic and revanchist practice which ordered and premeditated unprecedented, illegal, illegitimate and inhumane ECOWAS and UEMOA sanctions" against his country. He accused France of having violated Malian airspace more than fifty times by providing "intelligence, weapons and ammunition to terrorist groups", he recalled that, on 15 August, Mali had officially requested an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council on this issue and criticized France for obstructing such a debate aimed at "the manifestation of the truth"; meeting that was never held.

**SSC-Khatumo claims independence from Somaliland**

The regions of Sool, Sanaag and Cayn are rising up against the unrecognized state of Somaliland, mainly ruled by the Isaaq ethnic group. The SSC regions, meanwhile, are predominantly ethnic Dhulbahante and supported by the unrecognized state of Puntland.

In recent months, Las Anod Hospital (SSC-Khatumo) has been hit five times by Somaliland troops. Doctors Without Borders withdrew last July. It has just been bombed again.
President of Somaliland Muse Bihi accuses the SSC-Khatumo of relying on jihadists, although there is no evidence to confirm this.

At the beginning of the war in Yemen, a joint Israeli-British-Saudi staff was installed in Somaliland.

Former British Defense Minister (2017-19) Sir Gavin Williamson became a regular guest of Somaliland and obtained honorary citizenship. He is now campaigning for the UK to recognize the country.

Sir Gavin Williamson was sacked as defense secretary because he was accused of leaking confidential information, which he has always denied. Then he was forced to resign as minister without portfolio for blackmailing parliamentarians.

**Niger closes its airspace to France**

The Nigerien junta announced it was closing its airspace to France-chartered aircraft. This ban also applies to military flights as previously authorized by the regime of President Mohamed Bazoum.

**Violence after general elections in Zimbabwe**

Zimbabwean MP Maureen Kademaunga was arrested under false pretenses, then released. New MP Gift Ostallos Siziba, supported by the Obama Foundation, was also arrested. He is accused of provoking a football riot in Bulawayo. These two deputies are members of the Citizen Coalition for Change (CCC), from the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC).

Harare Deputy Mayor Kudzai Kadzombe has been arrested for assaulting an ANU-PF official. An elected official, Womberaiishe Nhende, and an activist, Sonele Mukhuhlani, were kidnapped and tortured. Their lawyers, Douglas Coltart and Tapiwa Muchineripi, were arrested and charged with obstructing justice during their visit to their patients in hospital.

ANU-PF youth and Forever Associates (FA) activists attacked and beat candidates or their family members. They also burned the farms of candidates and officials of their parties.

**ASIA**

**Israel sells weapons to Germany**

Israel will sell its Arrow-3 missile defense system to Germany for almost €4 billion. Berlin intends to be able to protect itself in the event of war with Russia.

**Mahmoud Abbas’ succession**

While President Mahmoud Abbas’ health is at its worst, Fatah is divided into three tendencies:

- The first is linked to the traditional command under the leadership of Fathi Abou al-Ardate, head of national security.
- The second is under the leadership of Mohammad Abdel Hamid Issa (aka “Lino”), commander of Kifah al-Moussallah (the armed struggle). He is part of the movement of the former head of Palestinian Intelligence, Mohammad Dahlan, now supported by the UAE.
- The third is led by the former military leader of Fatah, Mounir Maqdah, who has moved closer to the Islamist movement in recent years.

It would be in this context that the clashes that occurred in the Palestinian camp of Aïn el-Héloué, in Lebanon, should be interpreted and not from the perspective of the formation of a new Islamist group.

**China-Syria cooperation**

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad led a large delegation to China including Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Fayssal Mikdad, Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Mohammad Samer al-Khalil, Minister of Presidential Affairs Mansour Azzam and Special
Adviser to the President of the Republic Buthaina Shaaban.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang, receiving Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, said Beijing will continue to support Syria in safeguarding its national independence, its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and that it will oppose external interference in its internal affairs.

China welcomes Syria's participation in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It will continue to support the reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of Syria, and stands ready to expand bilateral economic and trade exchanges.

He also noted that China is willing to strengthen coordination with Syria to effectively fight terrorism.

During the meeting with Zhao Lijian, the two men discussed how to build a community with a common future for humanity. The Chinese National People's Congress is willing to work with the People's Congress of Syria to strengthen exchanges and cooperation between legislative bodies at all levels and contribute to consolidating traditional friendship and promoting practical cooperation between the two countries.

President Bashar al-Assad said China's development is the growth of the force for justice in the world, and he hopes China will play a bigger role in promoting peace, justice and progress.

Syria's Permanent Representative to the UN Bassam Sabbagh said during his address to the 78th UNGA: "Syria calls for the lifting of the coercive measures imposed on it and a number of countries, considering them as economic terrorism that is no less brutal and dangerous than armed terrorism (...) The policies of constructive chaos adopted by the US have led to destabilization and insecurity in our region and have provoked the emergence of terrorism."

Reopening of Iran-US talks

As UN sanctions against Iran expire on October 18, Leader of the Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has authorized new negotiations with the US.

They should begin in a few weeks in Oman.

Bharat seizes assets of Sikh terrorist exiled in Canada

India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) seized Gurpatwant Singh Pannun's property in Chandigarh and Amritsar.

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun is a lawyer, supporter of Khalistan independence. He is a refugee in Canada. He is a co-founder of Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), whose Canadian section was chaired by Hardeep Singh Nijjar before his assassination.

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun has just released a video calling for the return of Canadian Hindu immigrants to Bharat.

Ill-prepared South Korean military

South Korea held a large military parade on the occasion of the 75th Armed Forces Day. However, this show of force worried rather than reassured: the soldiers were not really marching in step; overflights of helicopters and fighter jets were cancelled due to rain; Drones were excluded from the show.

Xi Jinping calls for strict compliance with WTO rules

At a meeting of the CPC Central Committee, President Xi Jinping said China's membership of the World Trade Organization (WTO) has played a very favorable role in the country's development. He insisted that China strictly respect the statutes of the organization. He also wanted it to actively participate in WTO's reform.
China's vision of a common future

According to the People's Daily, the concept of a "common future for humanity" is based on long practice, deep understanding of the laws of history and comprehensive thinking on global issues.

The six common values are peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom.

China clarifies its criticism of the US' international role

China's State Council has released a white paper entitled: A Global Community with a Shared Future: China's Proposals and Actions.

This is, without naming it, an official position against the US foreign policy.

Beijing has never been so systematic and explicit.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Security Council paralyzed again regarding Nord Stream sabotage

The UN Security Council held its 4th meeting on the sabotage of the Nord Stream gas pipelines. US commentator Jimmy Dore pointed out that it's impossible to ignore that US President Joe Biden made it clear on February 9, 2022, that he would attack the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline if Russia invaded Ukraine. German journalist Dirk Pohlmann criticized the investigation by his colleagues at ZDF and showed the impossibility of an operation carried out from a pleasure yacht. The Norwegian seismological station NORSAR reported that a magnitude of 2.1 to 2.3 was recorded during the explosion, equivalent to a detonation of 650 to 900 kilograms of TNT. This operation therefore required military means.

The Russian Federation, after learning of the investigation by the American journalist Seymour Hersh, announced that it was drafting a motion for a resolution.

On 27 March, the Russian Federation called for the creation of an independent international commission to shed light on the sabotage of the Nord Stream 1 and 2 gas pipelines and identify the "perpetrators, sponsors, organizers and accomplices". The Motion was rejected, after having received only 3 votes in favor and 12 abstentions.
EDITORIAL

Scuttling of Republicans in the House of Representatives

This is a historic first in the U.S. Congress. Eight parliamentarians from the majority added their votes to the minority’s to impeach the Speaker of the House. In the current situation, the election of a new president is impossible.

Officially, the disagreement is over how the Speaker of the House allowed the White House not to shut down government by agreeing to a budget extension.

Unofficially, the impeachment of the Speaker of the House gives the war party hope that appropriations can once again be voted for Ukraine. It also gives the Democratic Party hope for a premature end to the impeachment proceedings against Joe Biden.

Republican Representative Patrick McHenry (North Carolina) was elected as temporary president. Three congressmen are likely to succeed him: Steve Scalise (Louisiana), Jim Jordan (Ohio) and Kevin Hern (Oklahoma).

As soon as he was elected temporary president Patrick McHenry announced the expulsion from their offices of former Speaker of the House Democrat Nancy Pelosi and her damned soul, former Maryland congressman Steny H. Hoyer.

The split in the Republican Party is a complete suicide. It follows the suicide of Democrats who keep on pretending that the 2020 presidential election was democratic, even though its counting was sometimes held behind closed doors.

It is unclear what new shenanigans will prolong the life of the institutions, but they are no longer legitimate. Americans no longer have confidence in them.

The U.S. political system is dead.
AMERICAS

Justin Trudeau offers “apology”

Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau has apologized after a former SS soldier was cheered by the House of Commons.

“I would like to offer my sincerest apologies for what happened on Friday and for the situation in which President Zelensky and the Ukrainian delegation were placed. It was a terrible mistake and a violation of the memory of those who suffered cruelly at the hands of the Nazi regime.”

Contrary to what Mr. Trudeau suggests, neither Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky nor Canadian Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland were unaware that the term "Ukrainian First Division" refers to the SS Galicia.

Mr. Zelensky is a supporter of the integral nationalists. He was filmed last month alongside their "führer".

Freeland is the co-author of The Encyclopedia of Ukraine, a revisionist book designed to make it appear that integral nationalists fought against both the Soviets and the Nazis.

"There was a time in our history when it was easier to enter Canada as a Nazi than as a Jew. I think it’s a story with which we need to reconcile," Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Marc Miller told the National Post. Canada could declassify documents about the presence of Nazi war criminals in the country. At least 600 members of the SS Galicia were allowed to immigrate to Canada after the Second World War.

Canada doesn’t comply with its own unilateral coercive measures against Russia

According to Le Devoir, since March 2022, Canadian authorities have issued "more than a dozen special permits" to domestic companies in order to circumvent their own sanctions regime against Moscow.

This would include “aluminum parts”, “electric static converters” and “X-ray devices and devices using alpha, beta, gamma or other ionizing radiation”.

Black philosopher Cornel West’s candidacy

Left-wing philosopher Cornel West has announced that he will run in the 2024 presidential election for the People's Party. He could also win the support of the Green Party.

A university professor, he has written extensively on the situation of African-Americans and poverty. He hosted a radio show, sang rap songs, and was a consultant for the Matrix movies.

He supported the election of Barack Obama before turning against him, declaring that he was just a kind of "Republican Rockefeller in a black mask."

He was the first person to support the United Auto Workers strike. Donald Trump and Joe Biden followed him in this field.

This candidacy comes in addition to that of Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

If he is not able to score well, Cornel West's candidacy will siphon off the votes of Joe Biden who will no longer be able to hope gathering a majority of votes.

U.S. Army Recruitment Crisis

The U.S. Army is no longer able to recruit. The drop in numbers threatens its entire operation and ambitions.

The Army is powerless to change certain factors, such as the epidemic of obesity in the age group.

Army Secretary Christine Wormuth and her chief of staff Gen. Randy George announced a new program. From now on, the recruiters will
no longer be foot soldiers, but people from outside the Army, specialized in HR.

**Washington condemns Chinese “propaganda”**


According to State Department's communications coordinator James Rubin, "a slow and steady destruction of democratic values" is to be feared.

Chinese propaganda is said to be carried out by the Communist Party's United Front Work Department (UFWD), the CCP's Central Propaganda Department and the Ministry of State Security.

Beijing responded: “The US itself is the pioneer of information warfare aimed at public opinion”, citing the CIA's Operation Mockingbird during the Cold War designed to influence the US and foreign media, and former Secretary of State Colin Powell's deceitful speech before the UN Security Council to denounce Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction. According to China's Foreign Ministry, “Facts have proven time and again that the US fully deserves its title of Empire of Lies (...) More and more people are seeing through the layers of lies woven by the US to cover up their own misdeeds and inglorious way of maintaining their hegemony by smearing others.”

**Gen. Mark Milley is replaced by Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr.**

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley has retired. On the occasion of the handover of power to his successor General Charles Q. Brown Jr., he delivered a speech in the presence of President Joe Biden.

He insisted that the U.S. military does not swear an oath to a tyrant, but to the US Constitution. They are devoted to their conception of the US and are prepared to die for it.

Gen. Mark Milley has opposed President Donald Trump's plans to withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq and Syria, countries they occupy in violation of international law and to use his troops against racial protests in the US. In the midst of a trade negotiation with Beijing, he called his Chinese counterpart to assure him that President Trump was not serious when he threatened his country with war.

Last week, former President Donald Trump called him a "traitor," saying that in other times he would have been "sentenced to death." Taking these remarks seriously, General Mark Milley and his family sought and were granted police protection.

**Mass surveillance of Americans in question**

The court in charge of verifying the way the US government applies the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 has issued its report. It assures that this law is essential in the fight against terrorism.

Since Edward Snowden's revelations, we know that the intelligence services use Section 702 of this law to engage in mass surveillance.

In principle, this law applies only to foreigners but it has been reported from various sources that the FBI has the ability to access data and request surveillance.

It is unlikely that Congress will vote to renew this law without amending it.

**Maryland's Catholic Diocese Bankrupt**

Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore has bankrupted the largest Catholic diocese in the US. This procedure will allow it to settle a large number of lawsuits for historical cases of child sexual abuse.
"Staggering legal fees and damages for a few victims would have depleted our financial resources, leaving the vast majority of victims uncompensated while ending the ministries that Maryland families rely on for material and spiritual support," the prelate said.

**Donald Trump banned from commenting on the bias of his judges**

NY Judge Arthur Engoron warned former President Donald Trump of insulting the court. The defendant had posted a photo of the assistant magistrate, Allison Greenfield, posing with Senate Majority Leader Democrat Charles E. Schumer, with the comment "His girlfriend is leading this case against me!"

Mr. Trump and his company are accused of repeatedly inflating the value of their properties to get better financial terms on loans and insurance policies.

**Biden administration resumes construction of wall on Mexican border**

According to the Constitution, federate states have the right to defend themselves against invasion. According to Texas, this is exactly what has become with the drug cartels and migrant crisis, while according to the White House, this law only applies to a hostile army trying to overthrow the institutions.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has begun installing a sophisticated floating barrier on the river that serves as the border, which is impossible to cross. Several people have drowned while trying to cross it.

This fence poses a diplomatic problem in that it is partially located in Mexican waters. It made it possible to completely stop the transport of drugs and the illegal crossing of the border by migrants.

Contradicting President Joe Biden's pledge to never build another foot of Donald Trump's wall on the Mexican border, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said there is an urgent need to build it in Texas.

He issued an order overriding 26 federal laws, including the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

**EUROPE**

**Synod on the Future of the Catholic Church**

The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith has published the Holy See's new instructions concerning homosexuals.

Pope Francis, who had already accepted the principle of civil marriages for same-sex couples, is now indicating his potential support for a church "blessing" for these couples, provided that the partnership does not look like the sacrament of marriage.

The Catholic Church thus returns to the position of the first Christians. The followers of St. Paul (Damascus Church) accepted gay couples and blessed them in a special ceremony. On the contrary, the disciples of St. James (Church of Jerusalem) did not consider them Christians.

It is in this context that Pope Francis opened to all an ordinary general assembly of bishops on “For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission”.

"We are not here to create a parliament, but to walk together under the eyes of Jesus," he said. Even before it began, this gathering was historic because Francis had decided to let women and lay people vote alongside bishops on any final document. Inside the synodal auditorium, women and lay people sat at round tables alongside cardinals and bishops, rather than in the top and back rows of the Vatican audience room as in previous synods.
The UK comes to Ukraine's aid

The British Armed Forces are coordinating the training programs for Ukrainian soldiers provided by 10 NATO member states.

In the opinion of experts, while these trainings are of high quality, they do not correspond to modern wars, but reproduce the best of what they did during the Second World War. They ignore modern means of aerial surveillance and combat, including the use of satellites and drones, in which the Russians excel. This explains the catastrophic results on the ground.

UK Defense Secretary Grant Shapps and UK Chief of the Defense Staff Admiral Sir Tony Radakin visited Ukraine.

In an interview with War on the Rocks, Sir Radakin said: "This is a visceral war where time and measures are adjusted. What you're seeing here is a Ukraine that is adapting to strong Russian defenses, but keeping the initiative, overcoming them, and making progress." Nevertheless, "once the simulations and estimates for Russia were done, it turned out that some of the Russian defense lines were more robust than expected."

The fight against porn-crime in France, infiltrated by the moral order

The French High Council for Equality between Women and Men has issued a report entitled Porn-crime: Putting an End to Impunity in the Pornographic Industry.

While it draws up a damning assessment of practices on the Internet and proposes measures to fight the sexual exploitation of minors and the dissemination of deliberate attacks on the integrity of persons, it nevertheless mixes genders. Thus, it also conveys anti-prostitution moral points of view and sexist preconceptions. It interprets homosexual relations according to heterosexual prejudices. Its 33rd recommendation is to "ban the term “sex work” from all public communication, state or community".

Robert Fico, opposed to the Zelensky regime, wins the Slovak parliamentary elections

Contrary to exit polls, the Slovak parliamentary elections were won by the opposition, with 13 parties competing.

- Robert Fico's SMER-SD (Social Democratic, Eurosceptic) won 22.95% of the vote and 42 seats out of 150;
- Michal Šimečka's Socialist Party (Social Liberal, Europhile) won 17.96% of the vote and 32 seats;
- Peter Pellegrini's HLAS-SD (Social Democratic, Europhile) won 14.70% of the vote and 27 seats.

A further 4 parties entered Parliament, while six others did not reach the required 5% threshold.

Former president of the government Robert Fico (2006-10 and 2012-18) thus emerged victorious. He led his campaign by denouncing the support of the EU and NATO for Ukraine, recalling that since 2014, Ukraine has been governed by Nazi putschists. The incident in Canada's House of Commons proved him right. He also condemned the flow of migrants across the country and the help Brussels is providing them. Finally, he denounced gender theory and same-sex marriage.

Mateusz Morawiecki warns Ukraine against a deal with Germany

Speaking at the congress of his party, Law and Justice (PiS), Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said: "I understand that he [Ukrainian President] now thinks that there will be a close alliance [of Ukraine] with Germany. I'm warning you; the Germans will always want to deal with the Russians over the heads of the Central European states (...) It was Poland that took a few million Ukrainians under its roof, it was the Poles who welcomed the Ukrainians (...) it's worth you not to forget, President Zelensky."
Mateusz Morawiecki convinced his audience. Poland disappeared four times, at the hands of Germany and Russia. On the other hand, it has not convinced the Ukrainians: the integral nationalists no longer think rationally. During the First World War, they formed themselves as agents of Germany which never betrayed them, but lost both World Wars.

The Council of Heads of State and Government of the EU recognized Ukraine's candidacy in June 2022. However, accession negotiations have not begun yet.

The EU has set out its conditions of accession as follows:

- Political principle: stable institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, respect for and protection of minorities;
- Economic principle: a functioning market economy capable of coping with market forces and competitive pressure within the Union;
- Acquis of the EU: ability to assume the obligations arising from membership; and in particular to subscribe to the objectives of political, economic and monetary union.
- Union's integration capacity.

NATO is working to prevent the formation of a government in Slovakia and to force the winner of the elections, Robert Fico, to resign.

**Voltaire Network Analysis**

"Poland and Ukraine are at loggerheads", by Thierry Meyssan

Poland, which until now was a staunch ally of Ukraine, suddenly realizes who the leaders of this country really are. The Yaroslav Hunka case in the Canadian Parliament sparked a firestorm. The entire political class is condemning the Ukrainian integral nationalists. A series of disputes is piling up. This U-turn comes at a time when the Republican majority in the US House of Representatives wants to distance itself from the Ukrainian conflict.

**Hungary and Slovakia oppose the opening of Ukraine's EU accession negotiations**

The West can no longer send ammunition to Ukraine because it no longer has any. The heads of state and government of the EU have decided hastening Ukraine's accession to the EU in order to come to its aid. However, two of them, Viktor Orbán (Hungary) and Robert Fico (Slovakia), are demanding that the procedures be followed, which is currently impossible.

For Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, "Is it appropriate to start negotiations with a country at war? We don't know the dimensions of the territory [of Ukraine] because of the ongoing war. Nor the size of its population given the flood of refugees." To integrate this state "without being aware of these parameters would be an unprecedented decision" when "the whole decision-making system in the EU is based on such elements".

The European Parliament has adopted a resolution calling for the opening of accession negotiations with Moldova.

In international law, Moldova includes the territory of Transnistria. However, historically it conducted a military operation with Romania, under NATO command, to crush that state during the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

The Kremlin plans to continue its special military operation in Ukraine and link Novorossiya to Transnistria by taking Odessa.

Transnistria, a former resort for Soviet scientists, is an unrecognized state, known as the Moldavian Republic of the Dniester.
Appointments in Brussels

Parliament approved Wopke Hoekstra of the Netherlands as Commissioner for Climate Action (replacing Frans Timmermans who is running for the post of Prime Minister) and Slovakia's Maroš Šefčovič as Executive Vice-President of the Green Deal.

European Parliament wants to strengthen and protect the independence of the press

Parliament wants the European Media Services Board – a new EU body to be created under the Media Freedom Act – to be legally and functionally independent of the Commission and to be able to act independently of the Commission. MEPs also encourage the creation of an "expert group", representing the media sector and civil society, to advise the new committee.

Tension in Serbia and Kosovo

Serbian Defense Minister Milos Vucevic compared the paramilitary commando members killed in Kosovo to Serbs who fell in the past "for the freedom of Kosovo and for the freedom of Serbia [...] they are the new dead in this line of heroes or victims [...] for the freedom of the Serbian people in Kosovo."

The prime minister of the unrecognized state of Kosovo, Albin Kurti, had previously said that "the perpetrators did not act alone but with state support". He immediately added that Serbia "must be held fully responsible for supporting terrorist violence on the territory of Kosovo." "It is not ordinary Serbian citizens of Kosovo, but Serbian state-backed troops who are the perpetrators of these terrorist attacks."

Serbian President Alexander Vucic proclaimed a day of national mourning. He commented: "From the point of view of the Serbian Constitution, everyone is a citizen of our country. In Serbia, we are celebrating the day of mourning for the three Serbs and the murdered [Kosovar] policeman."

The Republic of Artsakh is no more

President of the Republic of Artsakh General Samvel Chakhramanian published a decree announcing the dissolution of all institutions of his state, no later than December 31, 2023.

No state in the world, not even Armenia, had recognized the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh).

At least 100,000 of the 120,000 Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh went into exile after Azerbaijan's lightning military victory that left 600 people dead.

Former Minister of State of the Republic of Artsakh Billionaire Ruben Vardanian and former Minister of Foreign Affairs David Babayan were arrested in Azerbaijan and placed in pre-trial detention on charges of "financing terrorism".

Armenia requested the International Court of Justice (ICJ) i.e., the internal court of the UN, to remind Azerbaijan of its obligations with regard to the orders it has issued, in particular those of 7 December 2021 and 22 February 2023.

"We know that the Armenians and the international media are saying that we are going to arrest all the military. If they lay down their arms, they are free and have the choice to go to the Republic of Armenia," said Hikmet Hajiyev, diplomatic adviser to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev. He stressed that everyone is free to stay and be integrated into Azerbaijan or to leave, without coercion. It is therefore absolutely wrong to speak of "ethnic cleansing".

Azerbaijan has not yet indicated whether it will keep the Russian military peace mission, which is now on its exclusive territory.

The European Parliament considers that the exodus of Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh is in itself ethnic cleansing. It holds Azerbaijan responsible for this, although no such action is reported. The fugitives fear being massacred like their great-grandparents were.
Armenia breaks with Russia

The Armenian Parliament has voted to join the International Criminal Court (ICC). In doing so, it supports the arrest warrant issued against Russian President Vladimir Putin and breaks with Moscow.

During the conflict, Western states did not support the Armenians because this would have forced them to recognize the right of Crimea, Donbass and Novorossiya to self-determination. As for Russia, it did not support Armenia because Yerevan overthrew its elected government in favor of a George Soros man who is no more legitimate in Russia’s eyes than Petro Poroshenko and Volodymyr Zelensky in Ukraine.

Antony Blinken signals in Ukraine the end to the war against Russia

Secretary of State Antony Blinken traveled to Kyiv ahead of the United Nations General Assembly to inform Volodymyr Zelensky’s government of the material impossibility of continuing the war against Russia. The Allies ran out of ammunition and were running out of weapons. He called on Ukraine to acknowledge the loss of some territories and negotiate with Russia.

While President Zelensky may have understood this, the integral nationalists did not see it that way.

The U.S. hopes to freeze the conflict as it is, just as it froze the Korean War. However, Russia wants to go through with its special military operation i.e., to denazify the whole of Ukraine and not just Crimea, Donbass and Novorossiya.

For its part, the European Parliament has come out in favor of the appropriation of seized Russian assets and their transfer to Ukraine.

Binance pulls out of Russia

World's largest virtual currency exchange Binance has announced that it will cease all operations in Russia to comply with the requirements of U.S. law. It will transfer its Russian clients' assets to CommEX; This process can take up to a year.

EBRD projects Russian economy growth of +1.5% in 2023

Following in the footsteps of the IMF and the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has raised its growth forecasts for Russia. In a forecast report published on 27 September, this London-based international body projects that the Russian economy will grow by +1.5% in 2023 while a previous forecast anticipated a contraction of the same magnitude.

By way of comparison, German experts predict a recession of between -0.2 and -0.3% for the German economy over the same period.

Andrei Trochev takes command of former Wagner Group members

President Vladimir Putin has put Andrei Trochev in charge of volunteer units from the Wagner Group. They will be integrated within the Ministry of Defense.

A member of the Wagner Group, Andrei Trochev participated in the war in Syria and the operations in Donbass before the Russian special military operation in Ukraine.

Deputy Minister of Defense Yunu-Bek Yevkurov has been tasked with setting up the Defenders of the Fatherland fund, so that all Russian fighters, whether they work for the Ministry of Defense or for a private military company, have the same social security benefits.

Ramzan Kadyrov's son beats up prisoner

Head of the Chechen Republic Ramzan Kadyrov released a video of his son Adam (15) brutalizing a prisoner, Nikita Zuhuravel. The latter is in pre-trial detention for having burned a copy of the Koran at the request of the Ukrainian secret services.
Russia simulates a nuclear war

Russia has staged the largest nuclear war maneuvers in history.

Considering that the US, cornered in Ukraine, could start such a murderous war, the Russian Ministry of Defense has simulated the destruction of half of Russian facilities and territory.

AFRICA

Presidential election in Egypt

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has begun his presidential election campaign, seeking a third term. He highlighted his fight against the Islamic movement in Sinai and the gigantic works he has launched to relieve congestion in the city of Cairo.

The presidential term is no longer four, but six years. Eligibility requirements have been tightened.

Egypt faces 72% rise in consumer prices.

Khalifa Haftar in the Kremlin

Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar was received by Russian Deputy Defense Minister Yunus-Bek Yevkurov and then by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

A former general of Muamar Gadhafi during the war in Chad, Khalifa Haftar had fallen out with him and had become a CIA consultant.

Algeria substitutes the teaching of English for that of French

Algeria has put an end to dual teaching, according to the Algerian curricula and according to the French curricula. Schools are no longer allowed to use French textbooks. Students who wish to take the French baccalaureate will have to take the exams abroad.

ASIA

Russia exerts less pressure against US occupation of Syria

Russian forces in Syria have lessened the pressure they are exerting on the U.S. occupation forces. While they continue to shoot down U.S. drones and enter the airspace of illegal U.S. military bases, they no longer fly over them.

No criminal consequences for Abu Ghraib torture

According to the NGO Human Rights Watch, victims of torture 20 years ago at Abu Ghraib have still not received compensation or can file complaints.

At least 11 U.S. soldiers have been convicted of abuses at Abu Ghraib, but U.S. critics say the Pentagon's punishments have been light and no superiors have been prosecuted.

Soon Iran and Iraq will be connected

The Shalamcheh-Basra railway is expected to be operational in two years. It will stretch for 32 kilometers, include three train stations, and a bridge connecting Iran to the other side of the Shatt al-Arab, all built with Iranian support.
Iran, which is located on the North-South corridor, aims to become the hub of regional trade. Turkey has already signed an agreement with Iraq to build a 133 km road linking the two countries.

Saudi Arabia, for its part, is studying the possibility of linking the kingdom to Iraq via Kuwait and Basra.

**Saudi-Iranian incident**

Karim Benzema's Saudi football team, Al-Ittihad, refused to enter the pitch of Iranian club Sepahan, at the Naghsh-e-Jahan stadium, despite 60,000 spectators waiting for them there because a bust of General Qassem Soleimani adorns the sports field.

The authorities of both countries agreed to replay the match.

**Sultan Al-Jaber chairs ADIPEC 2023**

Sultan Al-Jaber, in his dual capacity as Group CEO of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company and UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technologies, chaired ADIPEC 2023, a major oil industry conference.

He presented this industry as essential to the economic development of humanity. He invited participants to support efforts for a green transition, not by shutting down, but by investing in clean solutions.

For the past fifteen years, the Al-Jaber family has been building a new city, Masdar City, a model of respect for nature. Sultan Al-Jaber will be the president of COP 28, despite opposition from many Western NGOs.

**Fake GPS signals for commercial flights and military drones**

12 commercial aircraft flying in Turkish, Azerbaijani and Iranian airspace received fake GPS signals. They lost control of their route, from which they deviated significantly.

The origin of these false signals is unknown.

This type of electronic warfare cannot hinder military aircraft that have a more sophisticated GPS system than private aircraft. But most drones could be hijacked.

**Iran launches Noor-3 into space**

Iran has launched its Noor-3 ("Light-3") satellite into orbit. The new type of launcher used also makes it possible to launch long-range missiles at the US. The satellite itself could have a more precise observing system than Noor-2's. Iran is now a satellite surveillance power.

**Iran protests Benjamin Netanyahu's threats**

Iran has issued a protest after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu once again threatened Iran with a nuclear strike, moreover, at the stand of the 78th UN General Assembly (S/2023/697).

Tehran, which supports the plan to make the Middle East a "nuclear-weapon-free zone", recalls that Israel is the only country in the region to have this type of weapons.

Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter of the United Nations provides: "Members of the Organization shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or in any other manner incompatible with the purposes of the United Nations."

**Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and the UK consider Iran solely responsible for the downing of Flight PS752**

Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 was accidentally destroyed near Tehran on January 8, 2020. General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, commander of the Revolutionary Guards' Aerospace Force, had endorsed human error in the context of war, that of the assassination by
the US of General Qassem Soleimani five days earlier.

Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and the UK, which met with the Iranian side this week, considered that the "respective positions are too far apart to be reconciled through negotiations." In a statement, they said: "As long as Iran refuses to assume its full legal responsibility, the Coordination Group will continue to take steps to resolve this dispute in accordance with international law, including before the International Court of Justice. The families of the victims of Flight PS752 have a right to transparency, justice and accountability for the tragic loss of their loved ones and the suffering they continue to endure, and the Coordination Group remains committed to this."

The main question is whether this error occurred in a situation of war or peace.

**Bharat expels Canadian diplomats**

Bharat declared *persona non grata* 41 of the 62 Canadian diplomats stationed in the country. New Delhi, which has already called accusations of terrorist assassination in Canada "absurd and without cause," intends to sanction their continuation by Justin Trudeau's government.

**Pro-China candidate elected president of Maldives**

The results of the second round of the Maldives presidential election are:

- Mohamed Muizzu & Hussain Mohamed Latheef (Maldives Progressive Party) with 54.04% of the vote
- Ibrahim Mohamed Solih & Mohamed Aslam (Maldivian Democratic Party) with 45.96% of the vote.

The new president, Mohamed Muizzu, is pro-China. He could shut down India's military bases.

Both candidates were backed by Islamic fundamentalists, who oppose women's and gay rights.

**China's independence in microchips**

China will build a particle accelerator with a circumference of between 100 and 150 meters. It involves using new technologies to produce microchips.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**Russia questions EU migration policy at Security Council**

At a meeting of the UN Security Council on migrants in the Mediterranean Sea, Russia's permanent representative questioned the EU’s policy. According to Vassily Nebenzia, "The mass exodus of people from the Middle East and North Africa region to Europe is a consequence of the irresponsible and reckless interference of Western countries, including EU countries, in the internal affairs of sovereign states in order to destabilize them and change unwanted governments by force. These countries are primarily responsible for these consequences (...) It's time for Brussels to stop blaming smugglers for people's deaths and take responsibility, rather than just expressing regret for the death of yet another group of migrants and refugees."

**A Kenyan Peace Force in Haiti**

The UN Security Council voted to send a mission of the Kenyan Armed Forces to restore order in Haiti. As none of the major powers wanted to get involved in this impossible situation, Kenya was designated.

The people of Haiti have to deal with the violent operations of gangs and drug cartels.

**Criticism of the UN budget**

The Fifth Committee of the UNGA which is responsible for administrative and budgetary
matters has examined the organization’s budgetary difficulties. The Group of 77 and China noted that the performance report of the Secretary-General on the Program budget for 2022 did not provide any information on the establishment of criteria for cases of exceptional use of special funds, did not include a review of the cumulative surplus in the cost-recovery fund accompanied by recommendations and did not contain a table or annex detailing all the amounts charged to the contingency fund. They were also surprised by the absence of civil servants in their offices, allegedly working remotely.

**France's colonization of Polynesia**

The Fourth Committee of the UNGA responsible for special political and decolonization has considered a petition from French Polynesia.

The Permanent Representative of France stated that the Territory was autonomous and therefore did not have to be included in the lists of countries in the process of decolonization. He argued that the recent election of the pro-independence Tavini party illustrated the evolution of the territory.

The representative of the Solomon Islands then exclaimed: "Democracy has spoken!", stressing that Tavini is calling for independence.

**The British Colonization of the Falklands**

The Fourth Committee of the UNGA responsible for special political questions and decolonization considered the question of the Falklands Islands/Malvinas, "one of the last colonial issues of the twenty-first century". In this particular case, it is not appropriate to refer to the principle of self-determination, since the British population was illegally introduced into these islands and "therefore does not constitute a people in the legal sense of the term," MERCOSUR argued.

Argentina reiterated that the Malvinas Islands, the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas are an integral part of its territory and that they are illegally occupied by the UK. The referendum organized by the UK amounts, according to the delegation, to "asking the British inhabitants if they want to remain British", but there is no "colonized people" in this dispute. It therefore regretted that London, in violation of the relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly, persisted in justifying the status of the Falkland Islands by the will of its current inhabitants.

**Ukraine asked G7 for missiles to strike Iran and Syria**

A 47-page document submitted by Ukraine to G7 members in August, titled *Barrage deaths: report on Shahed-136/131 UAV*, calls for missile destruction of drone manufacturing plants in Iran, Russia and Syria. According to the document, seen by the *Guardian*, the components of the Russian drones are manufactured in the US, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Germany, Canada, Japan and Poland.

The G7 has not responded to the request for missiles capable of hitting Iran and Syria from Ukraine.

Within the European Commission, EU Ambassador [David O'Sullivan](mailto:david.osullivan@eeas.europa.eu) has been tasked with monitoring the case and flushing out companies that violate unilateral coercive measures of the West.
EDITORIAL

Hamas and Israel's War Crimes

Hamas attacked the population in Israeli territory for the first time. In a matter of minutes, drones blinded all the watchtowers of the Separation Wall. About 2000 commandos then infiltrated with the mission of indiscriminately slaughtering everyone they encountered. The victims are usually Jews, but sometimes also Buddhist migrant workers. So, this attack was not anti-Semitic, but Muslim supremacist. At the same time, a hail of rockets saturated the "Iron Dome". In addition, Hamas took about 150 hostages, including 81 military personnel, in order to exchange them for the 1,256 Palestinian detainees in Israel's maximum-security prisons. The Hamas attack killed about 1,200 people.

Israel, which had been warned ten days in advance by the Egyptian intelligence services, did not defend itself. It seems that the coalition government was focused on the situation in the West Bank, but it is not impossible that it let the attack happen thinking that it would be smaller. A commission of inquiry will have to shed light on these events when they are over. The coalition government has launched a punitive expedition against the population of the Gaza Strip. Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Galant announced his goal in a Jewish supremacist statement. He has cut off the supply of water, electricity and medicine and will not restore it until the hostages are released. He bombed targets he believes are linked to Hamas. 200,000 people had their homes destroyed and were forced to flee to the south of the Strip. The Israeli army has mobilized 300,000 reservists in order to invade Gaza. It is expected to wage a counterinsurgency war comparable to the Battle of Algiers and Operation Phoenix in Vietnam. It will involve identifying Hamas sympathizers and executing them. This strategy has never defeated an oppressed people, but manages to maintain a semblance of order. Israel's attack has killed about 1,200 people as of October 12, as many as the Hamas.

Internationally, only Iran and Qatar have supported Hamas. All Western states have given their support to Israel against the “terrorists”. Russia and China, on the contrary, have called for respect for international law.

An agreement has reportedly been reached between the US and Russia not to oppose Israeli revenge (see below).
Many Israeli, American and Ukrainian figures have accused Iran of ordering the attack. The same people had presented stupid interpretations of evidence accusing Iran of supplying drones to Russia. They seek to exploit these tragedies to justify an attack on Tehran. There was a scuffle between Israeli and Iranian representatives in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. Israel accused Iran of organizing the Hamas attack, while Iran strongly protested. Many Democratic senators have lobbied President Joe Biden to have assets that are to be returned by Qatar to Iran be frozen until Tehran's innocence is established. Before joining his Israeli and Palestinian counterparts on October 6, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called his Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan. He joined him again on 7 and 8 October. Türkiye is home to Hamas’ top leaders.

AMERICAS

The House of Representatives no longer has a speaker

Former President Donald Trump has said he is ready to assume the presidency of the House of Representatives. He will go to Congress this week.

The rules of the House do not indicate that its president must be a member. Given the division of the Republican Party, lawmakers failed to elect a president.

Washington expels two Russian diplomats

Two Russian diplomats have been declared *persona non grata* by Washington in retaliation for the expulsions of two US diplomats from Russia who had been caught red-handed. They served as liaison officers with former employee of the U.S. consulate in Vladivostok Robert Shonov who was convicted of espionage.

Voltaire Network Analysis

"Paradigm shift in Palestine" by Thierry Meyssan

The bloody conflict that began in geographical Palestine comes after 75 years of equally deadly injustices. From the point of view of international law, the Palestinians have the right and the duty to resist the Israeli occupation, just as the Israelis have the right and duty to respond to the attack they suffer. It is everyone's responsibility to help resolve the injustices suffered by both groups, which does not mean supporting the cruel revenge of some of them. Moreover, the support that can be given to the Palestinian and Israeli peoples must not lead to amnesty for their respective leaders for the crimes they have committed, nor the great Powers that have manipulated them.

Questioning of President Joe Biden by Special Counsel Robert K. Hur

Special Counsel Robert K. Hur has questioned sitting U.S. President Joe Biden as part of his investigation into classified documents found in President Biden’s houses. The White House stressed that the president was cooperating voluntarily.

Pimping is not a crime if it involves President Biden’s son

Noting that investigations by the subcommittee on the militarization of the government have yet to result in at least one indictment of Hunter Biden for pimping, the House Ways and Means Committee blamed the Justice Department’s inaction. In a public session, Marjorie Taylor Greene (Rep., Georgia) showed off photos of Hunter Biden’s antics. The Democrats protested, while gasps could be heard in the room. The representative established that the Department of Justice had not responded to her letters of July 25 and September 8 on this matter. She argued that for the same crimes Jeffrey Epstein’s assistant Ghislaine Maxwell was sentenced to 20 years in prison. IRS official
Joseph Ziegler tried to track down the prostitutes employed by Hunter Biden, but was discouraged by his superiors.

**Tucker Carlson mocks calls for war**

Influential TV journalist Tucker Carlson mocked statements by US politicians calling for support for Israel against Hamas. He noted that, contrary to what Nikki Haley claims, this is not an attack on the US but on Israel. He warned against calls for war against Iran by Senator Lindsey Graham and Representative Dan Crenshaw. He downplayed Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis’ comments that Israeli victims outnumbered the 100,000 annual fentanyl deaths in the US.

**Donald Trump calls on Israel to show moderation and remove Benjamin Netanyahu**

Former United States President Donald Trump has called on his followers and donors to work to remove Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

According to those close to him, this is to sanction his passivity in the face of revelations from the Egyptian intelligence services on the imminence of the Hamas attack.

On the contrary, according to his opponents, he would be driven by a desire for revenge after being abandoned by Netanyahu during the 2020 US election.

Furthermore, Donald Trump encouraged those close to him to put pressure on Israel to encourage reason and moderation.

Benjamin Netanyahu and his defense minister General Yoav Gallant announced that they were preparing to “crush” the “animals” of Hamas. They asked 1.1 million Palestinians to flee from Gaza City to nowhere.

Donald Trump was considered a personal friend of Benjamin Netanyahu and the most pro-Israel US president. With the Abraham Accords, he attempted to substitute business for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, modeled on the way President Andrew Jackson put an end to the Indian genocide.

**Anglo-Saxon Partnership for Mineral Security**

The U.S. is securing its supply of rare earths. It co-chaired a meeting of the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) in London. The aim was to ensure that Anglo-Saxon companies could exploit rare earths all over the world.

The meeting was chaired by Jose W. Fernandez, Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment, and Nusrat Ghani, Minister for Business and Trade of the UK.

**State Department Expands Information Control to Asia-Pacific**

The Department of State is expanding its Digital Communication Network (DCN) in Asia-Pacific. It created this so-called NGO in 2016 in order to train and coordinate Internet actors. In practice, the goal is to fight together against information contrary to the doxa of the US.

Under Secretary of State for Propaganda and Public Affairs Liz Allen will inaugurated a branch of the DCN in Australia.

**We will never know who ordered the assassination of Fernando Villavicencio**

The six Colombians arrested in connection with the assassination of Ecuador’s presidential candidate, journalist Fernando Villavicencio, were themselves murdered in the prison where they were being held. The event took place during an uprising of the prison population.

Current president Guillermo Lasso announced on a private trip to New York that he was cancelling his trip to Korea and immediately returned to his country.
The second round of the election will be held on 15 October. Fernando Villavicencio's successor, journalist Christian Zurita, was eliminated in the first round.

With 6,800 inmates, the Coastal Penitentiary Rehabilitation Centre (Guayaquil) is the largest prison in Ecuador. In 2021, clashes between two gangs left 123 people dead, several of them beheaded, and some even roasted and eaten.

**Colombia negotiates civil peace**

The government of Colombian President Gustavo Petro and the "Central Staff of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia–People's Army" (EMC FARC-EP) announced the signing of a bilateral ceasefire. It will come into force from 16 October.

This is in addition to the progress made in negotiations with the National Liberation Army (ELN), which led to a six-month ceasefire in August.

**Salvador launches crackdown on gangs**

Salvador has launched a crackdown on gangs in the slums of Popotlan, Valle Verde and La Campanera. 4,000 police officers were deployed.

President Nayib Bukele has made the restoration of order the alpha and omega of his mandate.

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**EUROPE**

**Franco-German Summit**

Germany and France held an inter-ministerial summit in Hamburg under the co-chairmanship of Chancellor Olaf Scholz and President Emmanuel Macron. The debates were dominated by the issue of immigration. Germany makes no secret of the fact that it wants to replace with immigrants the 13 million baby boomers who are retiring. France wants European coordination to limit illegal immigration.

**Regional elections in Germany**

The election results of the 180 members of the Bavarian Parliament (Munich) are:

- CSU (Christian Democrats) Markus Söder, 37.00% of the vote, 85 seats
- FW (Free Voters) Hubert Aiwanger, 15.80% of the vote, 37 seats
- AfD (Alternative for Germany) Martin Böhm and Katrin Ebner-Steiner, 14.60% of the vote, 32 seats
- Grünen (Greens) Katharina Schulze and Ludwig Hartmann, 14.40%, 32 seats
- SPD (Social Democrats) Florian von Brunn, 8.40% of the vote, 17 seats
- FDP (Liberal Democrats) Martin Hagen, 5.1%, 11 seats
- Die Linke (left) Adelheid Rupp, 3.2% of the vote, 0 seats.

The election results of the 110 members of the Hessian Parliament (Frankfurt) are:

- CDU (Christian Democrats) Boris Rhein, 34.66% of the vote, 52 seats
- AfD (Alternative for Germany) Robert Lambrou, 18.49% of the vote, 28 seats
- SPD (Social Democrats) Nancy Faeser, 15.13% of the vote, 23 seats
- Grünen (Greens) Tarek Al-Wazir, 14.82% of the vote, 22 seats
- FDP (Liberal Democrats) Stefan Naas, 5.05% of the vote, 8 seats
- Die Linke (left) Elisabeth Kula and Jan Schalauske, 3.1% of the vote, 0 seats.

**Incident on the Finland-Estonia gas pipeline**

According to the Finnish government, the drop in pressure on the undersea gas pipeline and the partial cut of the telecommunications cable linking Finland to Estonia appear to have been caused by "outside activity". There is no question of sabotage yet, just an accident.
The Daphne Caruana Galizia Prize for Journalism 2023 will be awarded by the European Parliament. The candidates are:

- **OCCRP** (Netherlands) for the Rotenberg Files
- **Der Spiegel** (Germany) for its coverage of the European Parliament corruption scandal
- **Sociedade Independente de Comunicação** (Portugal)
- **Le Monde** (France), for its investigation into chemical pollution
- **OCCRP** (Estonia) for its denunciation of Kremlin relays in favor of the annexation of Crimea
- **Solomon** (Greece) for its revelations of the illegal pollution of the Mediterranean
- **Le Soir/Knack** (Belgium), for its denunciation of Qatar gate
- **Solomon** (Greece), for its revelations on Islamic banking and migration
- **theshiftnews** (Malta), for its denunciation of negotiations with Qatar
- **Mediapart** (France) for its revelations on the secrets of Abu Dhabi
- **Forbidden Stories** (France) for their revelations on the Amazon
- **VSquare, Delfi Estonia** (Estonia), for their publication of the Kremlin Papers

The European Parliament creates the "European Green Bond" standard

The European Parliament has adopted the "European Green Bond" or EuGB label. It will be usable by all companies that voluntarily subscribe to the EU Taxonomic Standards for Sustainable Activities.

According to Volodymyr Zelensky, Hamas terrorists are instruments of Russia

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said: "According to the available information - very clear - Russia is trying to start a war in the Middle East, so a new source of pain and suffering could undermine world unity, increase discord and contradictions, and thus help Russia destroy freedom in Europe. We see Russian propagandists jubilant. We see Moscow's Iranian friends openly supporting those who attacked the Jewish state. And all of this is a much greater threat than the world currently perceives. The world wars of the past began with local aggression (...) Today, I addressed the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, first of all, on the issue of unity. All states in the world must now choose how they will defend international law."

Volodymyr Zelensky calls for Israel's support against terrorists

Visiting Brussels (Belgium) for a NATO meeting, then Ramstein (Germany) for a meeting of Ukraine's allies, President Volodymyr Zelensky called on his interlocutors to support Israel in the face of attacks by Hamas and Russia.

Russia will soon cancel its ratification of the CTBT

At the forum of the Valdai Club, the issue of the non-ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) by the US was raised. President Vladimir Putin has offered to withdraw the Russian ratification, but has not withdrawn his signature.

The CTBT was signed at the 50th UN General Assembly on 24 September 1996. It prohibits the conduct of any nuclear test in any environment. Russia signed it on 24 September 1996 and ratified it on 30 June 2000.

To date, this international treaty has not yet entered into force, as several of the 44 States listed in annex II to the text have not ratified it. These are the US, Egypt, Iran and China. As for North Korea, India and Pakistan, they didn't even sign it.

Speaker of the State Duma Vyacheslav Volodin announced that the assembly will soon discuss the possible withdrawal of its ratification.
Russia could challenge Ukraine's declaration of independence

Bearing in mind that Ukraine's declaration of independence on 4 August 1991 was not based on a referendum on self-determination and violated Law No. 1409 of 3 April 1990 on the Procedure for Resolving Issues Related to the Withdrawal of a Federal Republic from the USSR, Russian historians claim that Russia, as the successor of the USSR, could revoke Ukraine's independence for violation of the law (and a violation of the 1991 declaration), which would, at the very least, make it a disputed territory and would no longer allow NATO to legally supply weapons there.

AFRICA

Kamel Abbas had warned Israel 10 days in advance of the Hamas operation

Egyptian Intelligence Minister Abbas Kamel personally briefed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on September 30 about the operation being prepared in Gaza. "We warned them that an explosion of the situation was coming, and very soon, and it would be big. But they underestimated these warnings."

Unnamed Egyptian officials said they were shocked by Netanyahu's indifference to the news and said the prime minister had told Abbas that the army was "overwhelmed" by unrest in the West Bank.

Netanyahu's government is made up of West Bank settlers who have demanded a crackdown there in the face of a growing wave of violence over the past 18 months.

Benjamin Netanyahu denied that he had received such a warning, saying in an address to the nation on October 9 that the story was "fake news." "No early message has come from Egypt and the prime minister has not spoken or met with the intelligence chief since the establishment of the government – not indirectly or directly," his office said on the same day.

Algeria denounces double standard in Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Attaf called for denouncing the international community's policy of "double standards" in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Ali Bongo could be granted political asylum in Morocco

The Moroccan secret services got wind of the coup d'état in Gabon on 30 August. They informed their French counterparts of this. They chose not to warn President Ali Bongo.

We now know that Ali Bongo has not recovered his faculties after his stroke (2018), he could only work in the morning. His entourage got the better of him. An agreement was reportedly reached to grant him political asylum in Morocco. However, his wife Sylvia Bongo Ondimba and their son Noureddin Bongo Valentin could be held accountable for their embezzlement.

Niger faces France, ECOWAS, the US and the UN

Niger has announced a 40% reduction in its budget. The country is a victim of the economic war decided against it by France and ECOWAS in retaliation for the overthrow of President Mohamed Bazoum.

Officially these unilateral coercive measures are sanctions against the military coup and aim to restore constitutional continuity.

In addition, the US announced two months after the overthrow of President Mohamed Bazoum that it called it a "coup d'état". U.S. law prohibits the State Department from supporting a coup regime. As a result, all of Washington's aid programs in Niger are halted. This decision closes the agreement that was negotiated by Undersecretary of State Victoria Nuland with commander of the Nigerien special forces General Moussa Salaou Barmou on the backs of the French.
The National Council for the Safeguarding of the Homeland (CNSP) declared *persona non grata* special representative of the UN Secretary-General Canadian Louise Aubin.

In a statement, it denounced: "The underhanded maneuvers that the Secretary-General of the United Nations continues to orchestrate, at the instigation of France, through all the obstacles already put in place in order to thwart the full participation of Niger in the various sessions of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly (...) This sponsored sabotage continued on the occasion of the IAEA General Conference from 25 to 29 September 2023 in Vienna and the 4th Extraordinary Congress of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) from 01 to 05 October in Riyadh (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)."

**Nigeria reforms its central bank**

Nigeria has chosen Olayemi Cardoso as governor of its central bank. After graduating from Harvard, he was a director of Citibank-Nigeria. Nigeria's central bank is just emerging from a corruption scandal.

**Kenya's peace mission in Haiti challenged**

Former presidential candidate Dr. Ekuru Aukot has filed a petition with the High Court of Justice of Kenya. He denies that his country can send a peacekeeping force to Haiti when it is unable to guarantee the security of its own citizens in the face of ethnic violence. The High Court therefore suspended their deployment and will rule within two weeks.

**U.S. prepares operation against Al-Shabaab**

U.S. Under Secretary of State for African Affairs Mary Catherine "Molly" Phee traveled to Türkiye to seek the Turkish military's assistance against the Young Fighters' Movement (Harakat al-Shabab al-Mujahideen), known as "Al-Shabaab," in Somalia.

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**ASIA**

**No joint Brotherhood-Khomeinist General Staff**

In recent months, Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) have held several coordination meetings in Beirut (Lebanon) in which Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad participated. They were chaired by commander of the al-Quds Brigades Ismail Qaani.

One of them, in May 2023, was made public. It brought together Hassan Nasrallah (secretary general of Lebanon's Hezbollah), Saleh al-Arouri (Hamas' No. 2) and Ziad al-Nakala (commander of Islamic Jihad).

The purpose of these meetings was to share feedback on attacks carried out on Israeli territory. It was probably during these meetings that the Palestinian participants changed their conception of war.

However, it is absurd to believe that the groups claiming to follow Imam Ruhollah Khomeini and those claiming to follow Hassan El-Banna (founder of the Muslim Brotherhood) have agreed to form a joint military staff. Khomeini and El-Banna developed competing ideologies that both use religion in politics. They met and divided the world among themselves: the Shiites are the zone of influence of the Khomeinists, the Sunnis that of the Brotherhood. This agreement is being followed to the letter by the current Guide of the Iranian Revolution, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Hezbollah fought Hamas during the Syrian war, then made peace with it when it acknowledged that it had made a mistake and sent an envoy to apologize to Damascus. Both groups share the same goal of liberating Palestine, but a fundamental ethical difference separates them. Hezbollah did not join Hamas' operation against Israel but is expected to do so when Tel Aviv starts applying the principles of counterinsurgency warfare.
Hezbollah and Israel go easy on each other

Hezbollah displayed its support for the Palestinian resistance by bombing the disputed area of the Shebaa farms. This tiny, uninhabited territory is claimed by both Lebanon and Israel. Hezbollah has been careful not to intervene alongside individuals that until just recently it considered terrorists.

Israel responded by bombing the Hezbollah tent erected in the Shaba farms which had been set up to symbolize Lebanon’s claim. Israel was careful not to consider Hezbollah’s action as a provocation.

Hezbollah has set up a new tent, not far from the first, and replaced the guards defending it. Both sides have been very careful not to start new hostilities. Hezbollah and Israel can thus claim to have only bombed their own territory and not attacked their neighbor’s.

Soon the Lebanese army will have no commander-in-chief or chief of staff

While the Lebanese army has been without a chief of staff since December 2022, its commander-in-chief General Joseph Aoun will retire on January 10, 2024. No candidate to replace him has come forward yet.

Attack on young officers of the Syrian Arab Army

An unclaimed attack killed 80 people and wounded 240 others at a graduation ceremony for young Syrian Arab Army officers in Homs. There was no claim of responsibility for the attack.

At the UN Security Council, France, the US and the UK opposed the adoption of a Russian statement condemning the attack. Albania, Malta and Japan supported them. Secretary-General’s Special Envoy Geir Pedersen declined to say any words about the victims' families.

Syria asks Russia to help clean up Israeli border

The Syrian Arab Republic has no intention of interfering in the conflict between the Muslim Brotherhood and Israel. It called on Russia to ensure that no one takes any initiative to the contrary. The Russian military oversaw the movement of anti-Israel groups stationed on the Golan border. It ensured that none of them were within 140 kilometers of the demarcation line.

Syria and Russia reportedly receive US approval to eradicate jihadists from Idlib

While the eyes of the world are riveted on Gaza, the Syrian and Russian armed forces have launched a gigantic military action against the jihadists gathered in the governorate of Idlib. Their air forces bombed about fifty localities.

For the past 7 years, Syria and Russia have been regrouping foreign jihadists in northwestern Syria, in the governorate of Idlib. The EU supplied them with weapons and food, while Türkiye protected them. Syria called on its nationals to flee and welcomed them in Damascus. However, the foreign jihadists never disarmed. There is no other solution but to kill them.

The U.S. reportedly agreed with Russia to let the Israelis massacre Hamas in Gaza in exchange for letting the Syrians finish off foreign jihadists in Idlib.

International Court of Justice seized of alleged institutional torture in Syria

Canada and the Netherlands presented before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) i.e., before the internal tribunal of the United Nations, the complaint they filed on June 6 against Syria. Canada and the Netherlands insist that the Syrian Arab Republic “continues to rape”. Canada and the Netherlands intend to “protect the lives and physical and mental integrity of persons in Syria who are currently
subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, or are at risk of being subjected to.”

It is likely that Syria, which was not represented at the hearing, will request that Canada and the Netherlands provide evidence of these claims.

Qatar will supply France with liquefied gas

QatarEnergy will supply 3.5 million tonnes per year of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to France for 27 years. Deliveries will begin in 2026. They will come from the North Field East (NFE) and North field South (NFS) gas fields, in which TotalEnergies holds 6.25% and 9.375% shares, respectively.

Turkish drone shot down by US in Syria

Türkiye continues its punitive operations against the PKK after the attack in Ankara at the opening of the session of the Turkish Grand National Assembly. However, the U.S. shot down a Turkish drone that was threatening Kurdish mercenary installations at an illegal U.S. military base in Syria.

Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan import Russian gas

Russian President Vladimir Putin, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev attended the opening ceremony of Russian gas deliveries in Moscow.

Thailand seeks release of nationals held hostage by Hamas

Thailand claims that 20 of its citizens were massacred by Hamas and that 14 others were taken prisoner. Thailand's Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin visited Malaysia, a Muslim country that has diplomatic relations with the Palestinian Authority, to understand how to secure their release.

Possible deliveries of North Korean arms and ammunition to Russia

Satellite observation of North Korean railways shows a sharp increase in traffic to Russia. Since the supreme leader's trip to Moscow, NATO has feared that Pyongyang will deliver weapons and ammunition to Russia.

Foreign editions

Voltaire, international news is now published in six languages:
- Dutch
- English
- French
- Italian
- German
- Spanish

Opening of the Northern Sea Route

The Chinese container ship New Polar Bear arrived from Shanghai to Kaliningrad via the Arctic route.

Russia intends to develop this route to connect the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. This route is shorter than that of the Suez Canal. This option was raised by President Vladimir Putin at the BRICS summit in Johannesburg (RSA).

China reacts to the war in Palestine

China's Foreign Ministry said: "China is deeply concerned by the current escalation of tensions and violence between Palestine and Israel. We call on the parties concerned to remain calm, exercise restraint and immediately cease hostilities in order to protect civilians and prevent a further deterioration of the situation. The resumption of conflict shows once again that the long deadlock in the peace process cannot continue. The fundamental way out of the conflict is to implement the two-State solution and establish an independent State of Palestine. The international community must act with greater urgency, intensify its contribution to the question of Palestine,
facilitate the early resumption of peace talks between Palestine and Israel, and find a way to achieve lasting peace. China will continue to work tirelessly with the international community to this end.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Moroccan-Algerian clash at the UN

The Fourth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (dealing with special political affairs and decolonization) has been the scene of violent clashes between Morocco and Algeria.

Morocco recalled that it had included the question of the Spanish Sahara in 1963. This was resolved by the Green March and the Madrid Accords in 1975. However, Algeria then created, financed and hosted the separatist group POLISARIO.

Algeria, on the other hand, considers that Morocco has carved up and shared this territory and its population with its Mauritanian neighbor to make Western Sahara the last colony in Africa.

Nuclear bombs are not compatible with international humanitarian law

The First Committee of the UN General Assembly (Disarmament and International Security) agreed that “It is doubtful that nuclear weapons can ever be used in accordance with international humanitarian law.” It reminded the signatories of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) of their obligations.

The U.S. is illegally stockpiling nuclear weapons in five of its allies, and now Russia in one of them.

Russia is not elected to the Human Rights Council (HRC)

On 10 October, the United Nations General Assembly elected 15 of the 47 members of the Human Rights Council (HRC) for the period 2024-2026. Voting was by secret ballot, by region of the world. Were elected: Indonesia (186 votes), Kuwait (183), Japan (175) and China (154) in their second terms, Malawi (182), Ivory Coast (181), Ghana (179) and Burundi (168), the Netherlands (169) and France (153), Cuba (146), Brazil (144), the Dominican Republic (137), and Peru (108).

Russia was not elected.

Failure of the 3rd Summit of the European Political Community

The third summit of the European Political Community was held in Granada (Spain) on 6 October. While the one at Prague Castle (6 October 2022) was hailed as the beginning of the unification of the states of the European continent with the exception of Russia, the one at Chisinau (1 June 2023) did not lead to much.

The 3rd summit was dominated by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. A special meeting had been scheduled between Armenia and Azerbaijan to negotiate the fate of the inhabitants of this enclave. However, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev cancelled his visit after France announced arms deliveries to Armenia and passed a European Parliament resolution accusing it of ethnic cleansing.

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EDITORIAL

Western veto against a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza

The UN Security Council held a closed-door meeting on the situation in Palestine. The US, France and the UK opposed a Russian draft resolution calling for a humanitarian ceasefire. Japan also voted against.

The Russian draft called for an "immediate, lasting and fully respected humanitarian ceasefire" and "unimpeded" humanitarian access to the Gaza Strip.

U.S. Permanent Representative Linda Thomas-Greenfield confirmed having used her veto. She said the Russian draft resolution had been presented without any consultation and did not mention Hamas. She accused Russia of giving cover to a terrorist group.

Since Henry Dunant, the Battle of Solferino and the creation of the International Red Cross, humanitarian law has been based on strict neutrality: never condemn one side or the other, even when witnessing abuses. The argument of the US to justify its vote and that of its allies is therefore meaningless.

Obstructing a humanitarian ceasefire, at a time when everyone is aware that the Israeli army is considering committing ethnic cleansing, is a blank cheque for committing mass crimes.

Moscow and Beijing have developed their neutral stance, unchanged since 2003. They refuse to condemn either Hamas or Israel. They stick to international law alone. If it were to be implemented, it would impose great sacrifices on Israel, but not on the Palestinians. This is why Westerners speak of "neutrality favorable to Palestine."
AMERICAS

Canada Takes Unilateral Coercive Measures Against Moldovan Media

Canada has taken unilateral coercive measures (misrepresented as "international sanctions" by Canadian propaganda) against 6 Moldavian TV channels labelled as pro-Russian, against the leaders of a political party, the Shor Party, also described as pro-Russian, and against businessmen, including Vladimir Plahotniuc and Ilan Mironович Shor, who are described as pro-Russian.

For the first time, a NATO member took action against media outlets and a political party solely on the basis of a difference of political opinion.

Washington's Goals in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken listed Washington's four relevant goals:
• supporting Israel
• preventing the spread of war
• securing the release of hostages
• and addressing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Antony Blinken's trip to his allies in the Middle East

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken traveled to the Middle East.
• In Israel he was received by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, then met with members of the government and finally with President Isaac Herzog.
• In Jordan he met with King Abdullah II and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.
• In Qatar he was received by Sheikh Amir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, then by Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani.
• In Bahrain he was received by Crown Prince Salman bin Hamed Al Khalifa.
• In the UAE he was received by Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
• In Saudi Arabia he waited for a very long time for Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman whom he eventually met.
• In Egypt he met with President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.
• Finally, he returned to Israel where he met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and members of the war council, then President Isaac Herzog, and finally Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.

Antony Blinken's message to U.S. vassals in the Middle East

Antony Blinken has tried to forge an alliance of his vassals against Hamas. The U.S. got the approval of the UAE but not Egypt nor Saudi Arabia. Both Jordan and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas rejected the proposal.

David Satterfield "Acting Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs in the Middle East"

President Joe Bien has appointed Ambassador David Satterfield as Acting Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs in the Middle East.

David Satterfield served as U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon (1998-2001) and Türkiye (2019-22). He served as Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs (2017-19) He was neocon Jeffrey Feltman's replacement as President Biden's Horn of Africa envoy.

15 U.S. Representatives Denounce Israeli War Propaganda

15 members of the House of Representatives refused to support a resolution condemning Hamas for the "Al-Aqsa Flood" operation.

They discovered that the accusations of rape and beheading of babies were war propaganda as well as the claim that the operation was not organized by the United Palestinian Resistance, but exclusively by Hamas.
These lawmakers are:

- Jamaal Bowman (Democrat, New York).
- Cori Bush (Democrat, Missouri).
- Andre Carson (Democrat, Indiana).
- Al Green (Democrat, Texas).
- Summer Lee (Democrat, Pennsylvania).
- Thomas Massie (Republican, Kentucky).
- Gwen Moore (Democrat, Wisconsin).
- Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (Democrat, New York).
- Ilhan Omar (Democrat, Minnesota).
- Ayanna Pressley (Democrat, Massachussetts).
- Delia Ramírez (Democrat, Illinois).
- Bennie G. Thompson (Democrat, Mississippi).
- Rashida Tlaib (Democrat, Michigan).
- Gregorio Sablan (Democrat, Northern Mariana Islands).

**Ron DeSantis denounces humanitarian aid in Gaza**

President Joe Biden has announced plans to send $100 million to Gaza and the West Bank to help civilians caught in the middle of the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Gov. DeSantis said in an online video “They say it’s humanitarian assistance, we know Hamas is going to commandeer that money, and Hamas is going to use it to advance terrorism.” (…) “I say there will be no U.S. taxpayer money in the Gaza Strip... “I challenge every Republican running to step up to the plate,” DeSantis added. “Join me in opposing Biden’s $100 million gift to Hamas.”

**Republicans try to prevent Jacob J. Lew's nomination**

Republican senators tried in vain to prevent the appointment of Jacob J. Lew as the new ambassador to Israel. Mr. Lew had served as Secretary of the Treasury in the Obama administration. In 2016, he approved a $400 million transfer to Iran.

**House could sanction pro-Palestinian universities**

Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee Rep. Jason Smith proposed removing tax exemptions for universities when they allow pro-Palestinian protests.

**Arrest of Jewish pacifists**

Capitol Police arrested at least 500 people including more than 20 rabbis during a protest by Jewish peace activists organized around Democratic Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Michigan). They chanted "Free Palestine!", "Not in our name!" and "Ceasefire now!" The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) described Jewish Voice for Peace as a "radical anti-Israel and anti-Zionist" organization.

**Joe Bien takes part in the Israeli war cabinet**

President Joe Biden traveled to Israel where he attended a war cabinet meeting.

He said: "In the aftermath of the horrific Hamas terror attack – what they did was brutal, inhumane, almost unbelievable – this Cabinet came together, strong and united. I want you to know that you are not alone. You're not alone! ».

**Pentagon to secure U.S. satellites**

The Pentagon has released a report entitled *Space Policy Review and Strategy on Protection of Satellites*.

It highlights the creation of space forces by Russian and Chinese armies. General B.
Chance Saltzman has been charged with assigning 8,600 U.S. Space Force troops to secure U.S. satellites, both civilian and military.

“Space forces must be resilient, ready and combat-credible” the report said, without specifying the weapons that will be used. A secret annex details the means available to Russia and China.

**Coordination of the US and British armies**

US Secretary of Defense General Lloyd Austin III received his British counterpart, Grant Shapps. The two men harmonized their policies in the face of the Israeli-Palestinian crisis and in the face of Chinese pressure in the Pacific.

**Five Eyes Summit in California**

Welcomed by FBI Director Christopher Wray, the directors of intelligence from Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the UK gave a conference on security in Palo Alto (Cal). They gathered at a summit of the Five Eyes, the global organization that spies on all communication signals.

Spymasters have denounced China's growing “intrusion”.

**U.S. measures against the sale of computer chips to China**

U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina M. Raimondo announced new restrictions on exports to China. According to her, they would aim to prevent the Chinese military from gaining critical technologies that could strengthen it.

**U.S. measures against Iran**

The Biden administration has imposed sanctions on a group of individuals and companies based in Iran, China, Hong Kong and Venezuela, related to the development of Iran's ballistic missile and drone programs.

The U.S. administration accuses Iran of supplying drones to Russia. It has submitted a dossier to this effect to the United Nations, which Russia has refuted in detail (S/2023/738).

The international sanctions imposed by the United Nations against Iran will end in the coming weeks.

**International Summit on Latin American Migration**

Mexican President Andres Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) will host an international summit on migration in Latin America in Palenque on 22 October. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel, Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry, Honduran President Xiomara Castro and other Central and South American leaders will participate.

**Daniel Noboa, President of Ecuador**

Against all odds, “banana king” Daniel Noboa won the second round of the Ecuadorian presidential election with 52.01% of the vote. His competitor, Luisa González, supported by former president Rafael Correa, won only 47.99% of the vote.

The outgoing president had called early elections to avoid impeachment proceedings. The anti-corruption candidate, Fernando Villavicencio, was assassinated in the first round, and then his killers were themselves assassinated two weeks ago.

**2024 Presidential election in Venezuela**

Negotiations hosted by Norway in Barbados on the situation in Venezuela have resulted in the announcement of a presidential election at the end of 2024. Caracas should clean up its electoral rules and allow opposition leader Maria Corina Machado to run.

The US has partially lifted its unilateral coercive measures, helping to lower the price of oil at a time of tension in the Middle East.
Argentina to judge Father Franco Reverberi

The Italian judiciary has authorized the extradition of Argentinian-Italian Catholic priest Franco Reverberi. He is wanted for his role in the torture and assassinations of General Videla's military junta (1976-83). The former military chaplain attended the torture sessions and encouraged the detainees to confess.

In the Videla years, the Argentine Church was dominated by the Cité catholique of Frenchman Jean Ousset (companion of François Mitterrand during the regime of Philippe Pétain) and by the schismatic bishop Mgr. Marcel Lefebvre. These men, referring to the Holy Inquisition, were convinced that torture was a means of preserving religion and social order.

EUROPE

London asks its citizens to leave Lebanon

The UK Foreign Office has warned His Majesty's subjects about the deteriorating situation in Lebanon and asked them to leave the territory immediately.

Rishi Sunak in Israel

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak visited Israel where he was received by his counterpart, Benjamin Netanyahu. He met with President Isaac Herzog, families of "hostages," and reiterated that the UK stands in solidarity with Israel and stands by it.

The UK and Israel have been linked by a secret military treaty since 2020.

Podemos wants to sue Benjamin Netanyahu and Hamas at the ICC

Ione Belarra, Spain's minister for social rights and secretary general of Podemos, said both Netanyahu and Hamas should be tried by the International Criminal Court. She accused Israel of planning genocide.

Antonio Tajani criticizes ban on pro-Palestinian protests in France

Antonio Tajani, Italy's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, told RTL 102.5 radio: “France makes its own choices, but banning demonstrations in a democratic country when they are not violent does not seem to me to be fair, if there is no indication that the protests could escalate (...) Peaceful demonstrations are being held in the US, which is the country most committed to defending Israelis, including the presence of the Navy off the coast of Lebanon, and demonstrations have also been held in the UK. When protests turn violent, that's another question, when there are security threats, that's another question.”

The French Council of State later invalidated the ban on pro-Palestinian demonstrations.

Boris Pistorius in Lebanon

German Minister of Defense Boris Pistorius visited Lebanon where he inspected the German UNIFIL troops. Germany has pledged to defend Israel in the name of its "historic solidarity."

Scholz criticizes Russia's stance on Israeli-Palestinian conflict

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz told the Bundestag during his speech on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: “I am more than outraged to hear the Russian president warn everywhere that there could be casualties, civilian casualties, military clashes. It really doesn't get more cynical than that.”

First military exercise of the EU

The Armed Forces of the EU simulated a military operation with an amphibious landing from the US military base in Rota, Spain. This is the first exercise conducted by the Union Armed Forces.

High Representative Josef Borrell was accompanied by Chairman of the EU Military Committee General Robert Bireger and Spanish

The exercise involved 25 aircraft, 6 ships and 2,800 men. The 31 units involved included infantry, navy, air, special operations, space and cyber.

According to the Treaties, the forces of the EU can only act under the command of NATO which is solely responsible for the EU’s defense.

The headquarters of the EU’s Naval Force has been located on this US base since 2019. This is where "Operation Atalanta" is directed to combat piracy in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia. EU ships stop at the US naval base in Djibouti.

EU Council on the impact of the conflict in Gaza

President of the EU Council Charles Michel has convened a summit on the European repercussions of the war in Israel/Palestine.

France, which allowed pro-Israel demonstrations, banned pro-Palestinian demonstrations, before changing its mind.

Germany has pledged military support to Israel in the name of its "historic responsibility."

Nikol Pashinyan rewrites the history of the fall of the Republic of Artsakh

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan addressed the European Parliament. He pledged "to sign a peace agreement by the end of this year" as well as normalize relations with Azerbaijan, he reiterated his charge against his partners in the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). According to him, those countries that "had bilateral security obligations" to Armenia "did nothing to help us" during the escalation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border in May 2021. "They left us on our own," the Armenian PM insisted.

He also said that Armenia was "ready to move closer to the EU, as much as the EU deems possible." He thanked MEPs for describing the exodus of Nagorno-Karabakh residents after the lightning victory of Azerbaijani forces as "ethnic cleansing".

A senior Russian Defense Ministry official commented: "We consider this speech to be absolutely irresponsible and provocative, especially with regard to Russia and Russian-Armenian relations."

Ukraine is no longer able to secure funding

Ukrainian Finance Minister Serhiy Marchenko told Reuters at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund summits in Marrakech: "I see a lot of fatigue, I see a lot of weakness among our partners, they would like to forget about the war, but the war is still ongoing, on a large scale."

Ukraine got only $5.4 billion, while its deficit will be $43 billion in 2024.

The U.S. is concerned with its upcoming elections and its attention to the war in the Middle East is taking precedence over the war in Ukraine.

Ukraine attacks two Russian airports

Ukraine claims to have destroyed several aircraft at two Russian-occupied airports in Luhansk and Berdiansk. It is believed to have used long-range US missiles.

These airports are located in the regions of Ukraine that have chosen by referendum to join the Russian Federation.

Volodymyr Zelensky won't go to Jerusalem

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who wanted to visit Israel, was turned down by the Israeli unity government.
Opposition leaders Yair Lapid and Benny Gantz have joined Benjamin Netanyahu's government. They see him as an ally of the Ukrainian "integral nationalists" whom they call "massacres of Jews."

On January 17, 1923, the World Zionist Organization (WSO) set up a commission of inquiry into the activities of its administrator, the Ukrainian Vladimir Jabotinsky. He had signed an agreement with Symon Petlyura, the president of the Ukrainian People's Republic, and his special adviser Dmitro Dontsov against the Soviets. However, Petlyura's men continued to massacre Jews, while the Soviets protected them.

Jabotinsky refused to justify himself to the commission and preferred to resign. Subsequently, he went into exile in New York and took Benzion Netanyahu, Benjamin Netanyahu’s father, as his private secretary.

New archival documents on the massacres of Jews by Ukrainian integral Nationalists

Russia Today (RT) has seen numerous documents from the KGB archives. They attest to the crimes committed by Ukrainian "integral nationalists" against Jews.

Vladimir Putin calls the protagonists of the Palestinian-Israeli war

Russian President Vladimir Putin reached all the protagonists in the Israeli-Palestinian war by phone from the Kremlin, with the exception of the Muslim Brotherhood.

• Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.
• Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.
• Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.
• Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.
• Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

Russia repeals its ratification of the CTBT

The State Duma has revoked its ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). The Russian Federation, however, maintains its signature.

AFRICA

Egypt Seeks Comprehensive Settlement of Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Egypt proposes a regional and international summit to discuss the evolution and future of the Palestinian cause, continue communication with all partners to reduce violence, end the targeting of civilians and deliver humanitarian assistance.

Cairo wants the US, China, France, Germany, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the UAE to participate.

Egyptian Humanitarian Aid Finally Possible

The UAE, Tunisia, Turkey and Russia have gathered tons of humanitarian aid in warehouses at Egypt's El-Arish airport which were stranded there for several days. They are expected to be distributed by UNRWA and the Red Cross after Israel allowed entry into the Gaza Strip at the request of the US.

For its part, Egypt kept the border closed to prevent U.S. nationals from leaving the Gaza Strip on their own, which would have made a massacre of Gazans possible.

Egyptian-Turkish talks

President Al-Sisi held a closed-door session of talks with his top military and security consultants and a high-level Turkish diplomatic and security delegation led by Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan. The two sides agreed to have closer security meetings regarding the explosive situation in Gaza. The Turkish delegation told the Egyptian side that President
Recep Tayyip Erdogan is fully ready to help Egypt on two issues:

how to deal with the pressure on the possible population transfer; and second, on the provision of aid to the people of Gaza if Egypt decides to open its border with the Gaza Strip.

The two sides agreed to build a diplomatic wall in order to block the Israeli-US project of population transfer.

**Egypt reportedly supports Muslim Brotherhood in Sudan**

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, Egypt has delivered Turkish Bayraktar drones to commander of the Sudanese army Abdel Fattah al-Burhan despite being allied with the Muslim Brotherhood.

Immediately, the Sudanese army used them to attack four bases of Mohamed Hamdan Dogolo's (aka "Hemedti") Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

**Israel evacuates its embassy in Morocco**

Israel has decided to evacuate its embassy in Morocco and repatriate all its staff after an aggressive popular protest.

**ASIA**

**Israeli Defense Minister Banned from Prime Minister’s Office**

In June, secretary general of the government Tzahi Braverman banned Defense Minister Yoav Gallant from entering the prime minister's office at army headquarters. This ban is still in effect.

**Benjamin Netanyahu decides to bomb Gaza against the advice of some of his ministers**

It took Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu 7 days to bring his opposition leaders into his government and form a national unity cabinet.

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**Voltaire Network Analysis**

- **Paradigm shift in Palestine (2): "Israeli military censorship hides the truth from you"**, Thierry Meyssan
  
  This was the most important piece of information from the "Al-Aqsa Flood" operation but we still missed it. Israel's attack was not carried out by Hamas jihadists, but by four united armed groups. This is the first time in fifty years that Palestinians in Gaza have united. Like it or not, the long years of Western indifference to the plight of the Palestinians are coming to an end. From now on, we will have to start applying international law.

- **"The 9/11 of the Middle East,"** Manlio Dinucci
  
  The official version of Hamas' attack on Israel is impossible. According to CNN, Hamas has been able to train for a year and a half at six military facilities in Gaza. This preparation had been the subject of rumors since May in Lebanon. It led to a deadly battle between Palestinian factions in September in Saida. On September 30, Egyptian Intelligence Minister Kamel Abbas personally called Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to warn him. An Israeli private security company seized the Shabak in the following days. The CIA also informed the Mossad on October 5. It is impossible for Israel to have been surprised. In addition, as Manlio Dinucci points out, routine security procedures were not applied. And it took the army 5 hours to intervene. So, the question is, why did Benjamin Netanyahu let 1,300 of his fellow citizens die?

  He refused to dismiss his Jewish supremacist ministers and thus created a war council within the government from which they were excluded.

  At the council's first meeting, there was a heated dispute between current Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant and his predecessor and leader of the opposition Benny Gantz over the bombing of Gaza. The prime minister then called on
former chief of staff Gabi Ashkenazi, an absolute supporter of the bombing who was admitted to the War Council as an observer. The bombing of Gaza could then begin.

The war cabinet no longer seems to take into account the lives of the 199 prisoners of the Palestinian Resistance. This is a complete reversal of its policy.

Tsahal is planning to carpet bomb Gaza with JDAMs (S. Hersh)

According to Seymour Hersh, the Israeli war cabinet decided to bomb Gaza City to reduce it to dust with penetrating Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) bombs.

These GPS-guided bombs can weigh up to two tons and can penetrate between 30 and 50 meters underground and destroy everything within a radius of 800 meters. The Army would then be sent to eliminate the survivors.

However, the General Staff reportedly indicated that the 360,000 reservists are not fit for combat. Their training is limited to policing and guarding border posts.

According to Seymour Hersh, the US tried in vain to convince Qatar to finance a tent city for one million people in southern Gaza.

Israel's government paralyzed

Israel's coalition government is paralyzed in this time of crisis. Several key ministries (National Security, Education, Information, Intelligence and Culture) still do not have directors general.

Israeli Prime Minister's Office refuses to work with General Roni Numa

The Israeli Prime Minister's Office refuses to work with the Defense Forces infrastructure repair team, which is commanded by Reserve General Roni Numa. General Numa has participated in numerous protests against Benjamin Netanyahu's coup. He filed a petition with other retired officers in the Supreme Court against the law prohibiting the judiciary from overturning unreasonable decisions of the Executive and Legislative Branches.

The prime minister appointed Moshe Edri, director general of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission, in charge of its infrastructure repair unit within the Jewish supremacist Bezalel Smotrich finance ministry. However, there is no text specifying the relationship between the two competing units.

Information warfare on X

Elon Musk, owner of X (formerly Twitter) has terminated his contract with the Israeli company ActiveFence which was in charge of determining which accounts disseminated anti-Israel information.

The Israeli NGO FakeReporter, created in 2020, denounces a number of accounts that it considers fake and that reproduce information hostile to the Netanyahu government. This organization specializes in fighting networks that it believes to be Iranian.

Information Minister loses to military censorship

Israeli military censorship is such that Information Minister Distel Atbaryan resigned in the middle of the war.

Anti-Arab pogroms in the occupied West Bank

According to the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem, settlers in the West Bank have killed 58 Palestinians since the beginning of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood.
Israel arrests suspects in occupied West Bank

Since the beginning of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, Israel has arrested 524 Palestinian terror suspects in the occupied West Bank, including 330 suspected members of Hamas.

Wafa stresses that Hamas' actions do not represent the Palestinian people

Official Palestinian news agency Wafa published a report of the conversations between Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, in which it said: "President [Abbas] stressed that Hamas' policies and actions do not represent the Palestinian people, adding that the PLO is the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

The dispatch was removed from Wafa's website.

Mahmoud Abbas sanctions Fatah senior figure

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas is expected to sanction Abbas Zaki, a member of Fatah's Central Committee. The latter has publicly praised the United Palestinian Resistance's operation "Al-Aqsa Flood" and regretted that only Fatah did not participate. Abbas Zaki will be added to the long list of Fatah executives dismissed because they opposed the line of President Mahmoud Abbas.

Muslim Brotherhood deplores Hezbollah's weak commitment

Chairman of Hamas' political bureau Khaled Meshaal blamed Lebanon's Hezbollah for its inaction. According to him, what Hezbollah has done is good, but still timid and hesitant.

Hezbollah blinds IDF on northern border

Hezbollah snipers began destroying Israeli surveillance cameras on the Lebanese border. Israel evacuated the population of 28 settlements on the northern border.

Lebanon's Muslim Brotherhood to the rescue

Jamaa Islamiyah, the Lebanese branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, claims to have been involved in the "Al-Aqsa Flood" operation, announcing that it is preparing for battle.

Protest escalates in front of U.S. Embassy in Lebanon

Protesters attacked the compound of the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon. The Lebanese army protected the property. The U.S. State Department has decided to repatriate non-essential embassy staff and issued a warning to U.S. citizens asking them to leave Lebanon.

Cancellation of Joe Biden's summit in Jordan

Protests erupted in Jordan amid reports of a visit by US President Joe Biden. The demonstrators chanted: "The Messenger [Muhammad] is our leader, jihad is our path, Hamas is our movement, and Al-Qassam is our army."

The majority of Jordan's population is Palestinian immigrants.

Joe Biden's trip was canceled. He was due to hold a summit with Jordan's King Abdullah, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

Joe Biden puts pressure on Iraq

U.S. President Joe Biden called Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani to ask him to mediate with Iran. He told him that if Iranian weapons passed through his country on their way to Lebanon, Syria or Palestine, or if Iraqi militias intervened in the conflict, the US would take "sanctions" (i.e., unilateral coercive measures) against the Iraqi population.

The Middle Eastern press is reporting that the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) have created a joint operating chamber of the
United Palestinian Resistance, the Lebanese Hezbollah, the Syrian Arab Army and the Iraqi Shiite militias. However, the existence of this joint staff has not been confirmed.

**Marginalized Muslim Brotherhood in Yemen**

Ansar Allah (known in the West as the "Houthis", in reference to their leader, the late Hussein Badreddine al-Houthi) has broken off negotiations with the Reformist Party (Yemeni branch of the Muslim Brotherhood).

The Brotherhood is marginalized by both Saudi Arabia (Wahhabi) and Ansar Allah (Zaidi, supported by Iran).

**Indirect negotiations between Washington and Hamas**

Washington has asked Qatar to negotiate a deal with Hamas. All civilian hostages, including Americans, would be released... in exchange for medical and food aid to Gaza. Hamas then demanded a precise list of these prisoners and indicated that only civilians could be the subject of an agreement. The military can only be exchanged with Palestinian detainees in Israel's maximum-security prisons. Hamas said some of those considered prisoners in Gaza may have died in Israel. It recalled that the prisoners were divided among the four groups of the United Palestinian Resistance and that it has no authority to release those held by the PFLP or Islamic Jihad. Finally, Hamas said that some prisoners had died under Israeli shelling and that it would take a long time to establish an exact list.

**Türkiye plays moderation in Israeli-Palestinian conflict**

Against all odds, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has approached the Palestinian-Israeli issue with moderation in his public speeches. He did not use his old phrase that Israel is a "terrorist state" and did not have the Israeli ambassador summoned by his Foreign Ministry to express his outrage.

Türkiye is very careful not to appear to be pushing Hamas into confrontation and maintains its relations with Israel which were restored during the meeting between President Erdoğan and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the occasion of the United Nations General Assembly.

President Erdoğan organized the last Hamas congress in his country.

**U.S. Naval Groups Ready for Ethnic Cleansing**

According to Türkiye, the U.S. said the two aircraft carriers and escort ships USS Gerald Ford and USS Eisenhower sent off the coast of Israel were ready to "evacuate" the civilian population from Gaza.

**Iran is not exerting pressure on Hezbollah**

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahyan visited Beirut. He met with Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah who informed him of the Lebanese Resistance's plans in the event of the Israeli army's entry into the Gaza Strip.

The minister called on “the entity of Israel” to exercise caution.

In Shiite law, the declaration of war is a prerogative of the Leader of the Revolution, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei (Velayat-e faqih). However, Hezbollah is autonomous. During the 2006 war, it decided to respond to Israel without referring to the Guide.

**Iran confirms Hezbollah ready to defend Gazans**

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahyan said on TV: "All possible options and scenarios exist for Hezbollah. Everything has been properly taken into account in their calculations and the leaders of the resistance will not allow the Zionist regime to act in the region."
Any preventive measures are possible in the coming hours."

**Indian law does not allow for the legalization of gay marriages**

The Supreme Court of India has referred the legalization of same-sex marriages to the legislator.

**Sergey Lavrov in Pyongyang**

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov visited North Korea. He assured Pyongyang that Russia "fully supports" the country's efforts to defend its national interests despite the obstacles posed to it by the US.

The Russia-DPRK rapprochement is interpreted in the West as an "alliance of dictatorships". On the contrary, South Korea sees it as a warning against a possible investment by Seoul alongside Kiev.

**China clarifies its position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict**

After receiving the ambassadors of Arab countries in Beijing at their request, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi outlined the four priorities that China considers urgent in view of the gravity of the current situation.

• First, stop the fighting as quickly as possible, prevent it from spreading endlessly and prevent a further deterioration of the situation.

• Secondly, it is imperative to respect international humanitarian law, to do everything possible to ensure the safety of civilians, to provide humanitarian rescue and assistance as soon as possible and to prevent a serious humanitarian catastrophe.

• Third, the countries concerned must remain calm and exercise restraint, take an objective and fair position, work towards the de-escalation of the conflict and avoid dealing an even greater blow to regional and international security.

• Fourthly, the UN should play its proper role in the settlement of the Palestinian question. The UN Security Council must assume important responsibilities in this regard, build an international consensus as soon as possible and take concrete steps to this end.

**China invests even more in the Belt and Road Initiative**

The main financiers of the Belt and Road Initiative, the China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China (Eximbank), will inject nearly $100 billion in additional loans into the project, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced at the opening ceremony of the third international Belt and Road Forum.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**World Health Organization Denounces Israeli Order to Evacuate Gazan Hospitals**

The **World Health Organization** (WHO) has strongly condemned Israel's repeated evacuation orders for 22 hospitals treating more than 2,000 patients in northern Gaza. "The lives of many critically ill or frail patients are at stake. People in intensive care or on ventilators, people on hemodialysis, newborns in incubators, women with pregnancy complications and other groups of patients are at imminent risk of deterioration or death if they are forced to leave their facilities and cut off from life-saving care while being evacuated."
EDITORIAL

General Yitzhak Brik's prescient analyses

While the Israeli press is talking about General Yitzhak Brik's “prophecies,” Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with him on October 22, 2023. The content of their meeting has not been revealed. All we know is that the general called for the resignation of the head of Military Intelligence (Aman) and the head of the Southern Command.

Since 2015, many specialists have been warning about the deterioration of the Israeli army. General Yitzhak Brik caused trauma by naming things and implicating Chief of Staff General Gadi Eisenkot who was heard by the Knesset in December 2018.

General Yitzhak Brik starts from an observation: "Anyone who visits the training bases today will not feel even a slight whiff of combativeness. This makes it possible to understand the low competence of the units and the lack of motivation of the combatants to prepare well for the next war. The situation among senior officers is even worse: they hope that a miracle will happen and that war will not break out while they are in office." It is therefore necessary to "place as the cornerstone of the IDF's values the sanctification of victory and the revival of the ethos of self-sacrifice."

At the organizational level, he denounced the way in which the Chief of Defense Staff was appointed, on a political basis, by the Minister of Defense. He also denounced the fact that the commander of the Army was also responsible for the accommodation of the Air Force and Navy staffs, having therefore no time to deal in detail with his own army. In addition, he denounced the role of the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces who is busy with his advancement and has no time for his mission.

In terms of management, the rejuvenation of the army has been achieved by dismissing experienced officers. The current officers are incapable of fulfilling their responsibilities and hide behind lies. This is particularly noticeable during internal investigations.

Israel's strategy is based on the idea that Israeli soil will never be the theatre of operations. This is absurd: tomorrow the fighting will be dominated by missiles aimed at the country as well as drones. The Iron Dome does not have enough ammunition. The first communities to be attacked will not be able to count on the help of the armies and will have to defend themselves.
Joe Biden's speech on his return from Israel

Returning from Israel to Washington, President Joe Biden delivered a TV address to his fellow citizens. He drew a parallel between the situation in Ukraine and that in Israel. According to him, Russian President Vladimir Putin seeks to destroy Ukraine as Hamas seeks to destroy Israel. Thank God, the US, the indispensable nation, stands in their way. “Tonight, there are innocent people all over the world who hope because of us, who believe in a better life because of us, who are desperate not be forgotten by us and who are waiting for us.”

Biden's support for Israel was expressed through his trip to Tel Aviv, a pledge of more than $14 billion in aid and daily phone coordination with the prime minister. However, the president urged Israel to respect civilians. He is worried, not so much about the attack on Gaza, as about the consequences it could have for the US. The Pentagon has already endured fire at nearly all of its bases in the Middle East.

U.S. military deployment near Gaza

Since the United Palestinian Resistance's attack on Israel, 97 U.S. transport planes have airlifted Israel. They transport equipment to Israel itself (62 planes), but also to Cyprus (20 planes) and Jordan (15 transport planes, 2 parachute squadrons and Special Forces).

These forces are in addition to the USS Gerald Ford's naval group, already off Gaza, and that of the USS Eisenhower, which has just passed Gibraltar.

Pentagon advice to the IDF

The Pentagon briefed the IDF on its experience against Daesh in Mosul, Iraq. The US had only managed to defeat the jihadists by razing the city to the ground. The U.S. generals have advocated for the creation of a humanitarian corridor in the southern Gaza Strip in order to maintain international support during the elimination of the population from Gaza City.

The operation is expected to consist mainly of airstrikes, repeated ground incursions and assassinations of senior Hamas figures. All of this would be part of a long war whose goal is to sow death and destruction in the ranks of Hamas.

Resignation of a senior State Department official

On October 18, Josh Paul resigned as director of the State Department's Bureau of Political and Military Affairs in protest of what he calls the Biden administration's “intellectual bankruptcy”.

He had worked in Baghdad for the Coalition Provisional Authority (2004-05), served as a parliamentary assistant to Democratic Representative Steve Israel (2006) and then worked in the office of Secretary of Defense Robert Gates (2007-08). He had headed the Office of Political and Military Affairs of the Secretary of State for 11 years.

In a letter published on LinkedIn, he condemned the monstrosity of the Hamas attack to better denounce "The response of this administration – and much of that of Congress as well – is a knee-jerk reaction based on biased confirmations, political convenience, intellectual bankruptcy and bureaucratic inertia."

Mutiny at the State Department

Following Josh Paul's resignation, a mutiny broke out at the State Department, according to the Huffington Post.

It extends to all grades of civil servants, from the bottom up. It is not intended to defend Hamas but to draw attention to the plight of the Palestinians.
Since the trauma of the Vietnam War the State Department has set up a "chain of dissent." It is an internal forum for public servants to exchange dissenting views. Usually, no one dares to take the risk of debating the department's policy, but this time the emails denouncing the administration's blindness to the suffering of the Palestinians are much more numerous and civil servants are adding their signatures in droves.

The anger is focused on the influence of Antony Blinken's deputy chief of staff Tom Sullivan, brother of National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan.

President Joe Biden announced during his election campaign that no member of his family would work in his administration. In his view, this was a measure to prevent corruption. However, many members of his cabinet have family members who also work for the upper administration.

**Rebellion in Congress**

411 congressional staffers from both the Jewish and Muslim communities signed a petition calling on lawmakers to promote an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and not to support the indiscriminate actions of the Israeli army.

"Voices calling for de-escalation and peace have been drowned out by those beating the drums of war. As Muslims and Jews, we are tired of reliving generational fears of genocide and ethnic cleansing."

**U.S. Muslims & Jews Vs. Joe Biden**

The U.S. Muslim minority (4.5 million people) sees President Joe Biden's support for Israel as a betrayal. It represents only one percent of the US population but would be able to prevent Joe Biden from winning the presidential election.

The US Jewish minority, barely more numerous (6 million people), continues to demonstrate against the support given to Benjamin Netanyahu, whom it considers to be a bloodthirsty dictator.

But these two minorities do not represent much compared to that of Zionist Christians (20 million people) who are convinced that the Jewish people must be brought together in Palestine so that the final battle (Armageddon) can take place and Good finally triumphs over Evil.

**Ron DeSantis bans pro-Palestinian group**

At the request of Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, Florida's public universities have closed the offices of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) who supported the Hamas attack on October 7.

This decision applies to the University of North Florida at Jacksonville and Florida State University at Tallahassee.

**Mike Johnson new Speaker of the House of Representatives**

The House of Representatives has finally elected Mike Johnson as its Speaker after 22 days of waiting since Kevin McCarthy was removed from office.

Mike Johnson is a Southern Evangelical Baptist Christian and a lawyer by training. He became involved in the Alliance Defending Freedom, a powerful organization that provides legal support for Christian causes. He has been elected for the Republican Party to the House of Representatives since 2017. He made a name for himself with his fight against abortion and gay rights.

In his inaugural address, he said, "I believe that each of us today has a huge responsibility to use the gifts God has given us to serve the extraordinary people of this great country as they deserve and to ensure that our Republic remains the great beacon of light, hope, and freedom in a world that desperately needs it. (...) Let the enemies of freedom in the world hear us loud and clear: the People's House is back in business."
Release of evidence of Joe Biden's corruption

The House Oversight and Accountability Committee released a photocopy of a $200,000 check from James Biden to his brother Joe Biden dated March 1, 2018, for a “loan repayment.”

On that day, James Biden received $400,000 and $200,000 in loans from Americore Health which had been told that the name "Biden" would improve the company's business in the Middle East, as evidenced by the documents of Americore's bankruptcy trial.

This is the first time a transfer of funds has shed light on Joe Biden's corruption.

Peronist candidate leads Argentine presidential election

The results of the first round of the election of the Argentine President and Vice-President are:

- Sergio Massa and Agustín Rossi (Peronists) 36.68% of the vote.
- Javier Milei & Victoria Villarruel (Libertarians) 29.98% of the vote.

Javier Milei, candidate of Freedom Advance (LLA), wants to abandon the peso for the dollar and thus dissolve the Central Bank. He intends to break with Communist China and considerably reduce the areas of intervention of the State. He advocates for criminalizing abortion and allowing both the carrying of weapons and the sale of organs.

EUROPE

100,000 protesters in London against the war in Gaza

100,000 people demonstrated in London against the war in Gaza. The government had warned that any support for Hamas' crimes would be harshly punished. The procession marched peacefully.

The Defense of the UK and Israel are bound by a treaty signed in 2020, the text of which has never been made public.

Scotland calls for a ceasefire in Gaza

Scottish Prime Minister Humza Yousaf reiterated his call on the British government to support a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

Irish-Israeli altercation

Irish President Michael Higgins said of Israel's operation in Gaza: “To announce in advance that you will break international law and to do so on an innocent population, it reduces all the code that was there from second world war on protection of civilians and it reduces it to tatters.”

Israeli Ambassador Dana Erlich responded that there is "an unconscious bias in Ireland against Israel."

The Israeli embassy published a quiz: "Ireland wonders who funded the terror tunnels? A Brief Direction of Inquiry – 1. Find a mirror 2. Point it at yourself 3. ... That's it."

U.S. President Joe Biden has said Ireland is "the homeland of his heart."

Fake bomb threats in France

Many French high schools, airports and museums had to be evacuated as a result of fake bomb threats. The Château de Versailles must have been evacuated at least four times. Seven teenagers were arrested for the hoaxes.
Emmanuel Macron ready to widen Gaza conflict

During his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, French President Emmanuel Macron said: "France is ready for the international coalition against Daesh in which we are participating for operations in Iraq and Syria to also fight against Hamas."

The Élysée Palace immediately published a press release to put his comments into perspective.

Sahra Wagenknecht founds BSW

Die Linke's “Pasionaria” Sahra Wagenknecht has created her own party, the Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance (BSW) with which she intends to continue her humanist fight against NATO. Today, she is one of Germany's favorite political figures.

Karl Nehammer gives Austria's support to Israel

Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer spoke of a "joint fight against terrorism" during his visit to Israel where he met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Isaac Herzog.

Chinese cargo ship reportedly damaged BalticConnector pipeline

According to Finland's National Bureau of Investigation (BNI), the incident that damaged the BalticConnector gas pipeline and two undersea telecommunications cables on October 8 was caused by a Chinese anchor that was found at the scene. The Bureau assures that it would come from the NewNew Polar Bear cargo ship.

China has requested a more detailed investigation.

The BalticConnector pipeline connects Finland to Estonia. Since 2019, it delivers 2.6 million cubic meters of gas per year.

Petr Fiala gives Czechia's support to Israel

Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala called Hamas a "common enemy" during his visit to Israel. He met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Isaac Herzog.

Slovakia stops military aid to Ukraine

New Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico said: “We consider aid to Ukraine only as humanitarian and civil aid; we will no longer supply weapons to Ukraine.”

Slovakia is the first NATO member state to stop arming Ukraine. It devoted 0.65% of its GDP to its Defense. According to the Kiel Institute, the total value of announced aid, mainly military, amounted to €680 million as of July 31.

So far, Slovakia has notably delivered combat aircraft – Soviet-designed MiG-29s, MANPADS (portable ground-to-air defense systems) and an anti-aircraft defense system, as well as repairing the weapons used by Ukrainian soldiers.

For Viktor Orbán, the EU behaves like the USSR

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said the pressure from the EU reminded him of that of the Soviets. He noted that history sometimes repeats itself. According to him, Brussels is imposing a model of liberal democracy on Hungary which rejects it.

Foreign editions

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High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, replied: "To be honest, I don't see any similarity between the Soviet occupation of Budapest and what is happening in Berlyamont [the European Commission's headquarters in Brussels]. I didn't see a single tank in Berlyamont. No one is forcing Hungary to remain a member of the EU."

**Joseph Borrell assures that the Palestinian issue is important**

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Joseph Borrell, said: "In normal times, not during the war, a hundred trucks of aid enter Gaza every day. It is therefore obvious that 20 trucks will not be enough (...) Without water and electricity, hospitals can barely work. The major powers have forgotten about the Palestinian issue thinking that it was going to be solved alone or that it does not matter. Yes, it matters."

**Sanctions against Russia should affect every citizen**

Vladyslav Vlasiuk, advisor to President Volodymyr Zelensky, gathered the foreign ambassadors at the headquarters of the Ukrainian presidency. He presented the sanctions against Russia and Iran. He said: "Sanctions should genuinely affect every Russian citizen. This will make it clear that something is wrong with our country."

Vladyslav Vlasiuk is a lawyer. He is now the coordinator of the hundred or so experts in the Yermak-McFaul group dedicated to sanctions. Until now, the Ukrainian presidency has insisted that sanctions are directed against President Vladimir Putin's regime, while the integral nationalists have said they want to destroy Russian culture and people.

**Russia shoots down two MGM-140 ATACMS**

Russia announced that it had shot down two MGM-140 ATACMS missiles fired by the Ukrainian military.

These missiles were supplied by the Pentagon to Ukraine a week or two ago. President Vladimir Putin assured at the time that his country was in a position to bring them down. Each MGM-140 ATACMS destroyed costs the U.S. taxpayer $1 million.

**Russia prepares for nuclear war**

Russia held military exercises testing its nuclear defense on the day of the revocation of the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Ballistic and cruise missile training launches took place.

On the same day, the Kremlin received proposals from Washington to discuss strategic stability and arms control "regardless of what happens." Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov responded: "We believe that without a change in the deeply and fundamentally hostile attitude of the US towards Russia, it is simply impossible to resume dialogue on strategic stability, including New START."

**Vladimir Putin is surprised by the IOC’s racist discrimination**

Commenting on the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) decision to ban Russian athletes, President Vladimir Putin said: "Thanks to some leaders of the current International Olympic Committee, we have learned that an invitation to the Olympic Games is not an unconditional right for the best athletes, but a privilege (...) And that the Games themselves could be used as an instrument of political pressure against people who have nothing to do with politics, as a crude and de facto racist means of ethnic discrimination."
US journalist arrested in Russia

Russian-American journalist Alsu Kurmasheva was arrested in Russia. She is accused of collecting military information and passing it on abroad. An employee of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, she had previously been fined for failing to register as working for a foreign power ("foreign agent"). Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty is a radio station exclusively funded by the U.S. government (Congress, not the White House).

After Evan Gershkovich (a journalist for the Wall Street Journal), she is the second American journalist to be arrested in Russia.

Armenian-Azerbaijani Negotiations

The foreign ministers of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Russia and Turkey met in Tehran. After the fall of the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh), Armenia feared that Azerbaijan would use its advantage to conquer a corridor that would allow it to connect its territory with the Azeri population of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. This region proclaimed its independence at the end of the USSR to constitute an unrecognized republic. It has been claimed by Azeris, Armenians and Kurds alike.

In addition, Armenia has joined the International Criminal Court (ICC). Officially, the goal is to protect itself criminally from an Azeri incursion. Unofficially, it would be more a matter of distancing itself from Moscow, not after the recent defeat, but rather after the overthrow of the elected president and the rise to power of Nikol Pashinyan, a man sponsored by George Soros.

AFRICA

Egypt could host Palestinians for $135 million

Although Egypt has repeatedly reiterated its commitment to the 1979 Arab League resolution opposing the transfer of the Palestinian people from their homeland, Cairo could open the Rafah border crossing.

In the 2006 war, Egypt took in 35,000 Palestinians but President Hosni Mubarak later sent them back to Gaza.

Israel and the US reportedly offered Egypt the transfer of Palestinians from Gaza to Sinai in exchange for cancelling Egypt's $135 million foreign debt.

Algeria and Tunisia consider withdrawing from Arab peace initiative

Algeria and Tunisia no longer believe in the principle of "land for peace" or the "two-state solution". Both states could withdraw from the 2002 Saudi Arab Peace Initiative. Their withdrawal could spread to other Arab states.

Libya divided again

The Libyan parliament has passed a resolution calling for the immediate expulsion of the ambassadors of the US, France, Italy and the UK who support Israel's crimes in Gaza.

Libya was split in two by the NATO war between Tripolitania and Cyrenaica.

Immediately after the overthrow of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, NATO installed the Muslim Brotherhood at the head of Tripolitania. On the contrary, Egypt and Russia installed Marshal Haftar in power in Cyrenaica.

Closure of the Israeli liaison office in Rabat

Demonstrations brought together several hundred thousand people in Morocco, the largest crowd in decades, chanting "the people want the criminalization of normalization." They were organized by the Moroccan Front for the Support of Palestine and Against Normalization which represents some 20 parties, trade unions and NGOs and the National Action Group for Palestine which is close to the opposition.
The Israeli liaison office in Rabat has been closed. It is unclear whether this is a decision by Israel to protect its staff from the wrath of the street or a decision by the royal palace after Israel's retaliation against the Gazan population.

Israel had just recognized the Moroccan character of the former Spanish Sahara.

**Mohamed Bazoum reportedly tried to escape**

Niger's ousted president Mohamed Bazoum reportedly tried to flee with his family, two cooks and two bodyguards. Two helicopters from a foreign power were ready to evacuate him to Nigeria.

**Fraud in Mozambique’s municipal elections**

Mozambique's Comissão Nacional de Eleições (CNE) has announced the victory of the Frente de Libertação de Moçambique (Frelimo) in 64 of the 65 regional elections.

Numerous protests immediately erupted as evidence of widespread fraud against the Resistência Nacional Moçambicana (Renamo) mounted.

**Somalia overwhelmed by jihadists**

Somali president Hassan Sheikh Mohamud is no longer questioned after his military failures in August against the jihadists of Al Shabab. He reformed his armies, appointed a new army commander, Dayah Abdi Abdullah, and sacked General Ahmed Adan Ali, whom he had appointed three months earlier.

However, Somalia is now abandoned by all. It can now only count on the US, the UK, Turkey, the EU and the UAE.

**ASIA**

**Benjamin Netanyahu’s close friend opposes IDF entry into Gaza**

In Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu's former communications chief Ran Baratz has launched a campaign to delay the IDF's entry into Gaza.

It seems that the prime minister is trying not to engage in a conflict that appears to be very lethal for Israel. He could only cancel his commitments under popular pressure.

**Israeli army presents a montage of Hamas abuses**

The Israeli military gathered foreign correspondents and special envoys to present them with a video montage. Based on videos recorded by GoPro cameras of the October 7 attackers and surveillance cameras, it shows unbearable images of gratuitous abuses.

Hamas' barbarism is nothing new. It did not bother Israel when it was used against Yasser Arafat's men or, more recently, against those of the PFLP during the war against Syria. At that time, Israel did not hesitate to mentor Hamas and Benjamin Netanyahu did not hesitate to visit the Al-Qaeda jihadists it was hosting in hospitals.

**Israel legalizes torture**

Israel's Attorney General Galia Baharav-Miara authorized the detention of Hamas terrorists without a lawyer for 90 days instead of 60.

It is generally accepted that the protection of detainees from torture requires that they have access to a lawyer within 48 hours.

**Google disables GPS apps in Israel**

Google is disabling its maps and GPS apps in Israel. They could be used by the Palestinian Resistance.
Yocheved Lifshitz’s story

At the time of her release by Hamas and handing over to the Red Cross, Israeli hostage Yocheved Lifshitz (85) turned to one of her masked and armed captors. She shook his hand and said, "Shalom!" (Peace!). At a press conference, she described her abduction: "As we rode, a motorcyclist hit me with a stick. They didn't break my ribs, but it hurt a lot in that area, which made it hard for me to breathe. They stole my watch and jewelry (...) Eventually, we went underground and walked for miles in wet tunnels, for two or three hours in a spider web of tunnels. We arrived at a large room. We were a group of 25 people, and they separated us according to our kibbutz."

The guards fed the prisoners the same food as them. A doctor visited them daily and provided them medicine and treatment, including for a hostage injured in a motorcycle accident. "They were very concerned about hygiene and worried about an outbreak of something. We had toilets that they cleaned every day." She insisted that during her detention, her captors had been "friendly". They had given them "care" and had been "gentle."

Mrs. Lifshitz and her husband Oded (83), are peace and human rights activists who used to transport sick Palestinians from Gaza for medical treatment in Israel.

Mahmoud Abbas snubs Joe Biden

According to Israel's Kan Radio, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas refused a phone call from his US counterpart Joe Biden during the latter's visit to Israel.

Theophilos III of Jerusalem denounces Israeli bombing

Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem said: "The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem condemns in the strongest terms the conditions of the Israeli airstrike that hit the territory of its church in Gaza City. The Patriarchate points out that the church itself and its auxiliary buildings have opened their doors to innocent civilians, especially women and children, who have lost their homes as a result of Israeli airstrikes on residential neighborhoods that have continued over the past 13 days. The bombing of these facilities is a war crime that cannot be ignored."

Voltaire Network Analysis

Paradigm shift in Palestine (3): "A crime is being prepared before our eyes, will we prevent it?", by Thierry Meyssan

The Israeli army is preparing to ethnically cleanse the Gaza Strip in accordance with the old dream of the Jewish supremacists. However, in Israel and in the US many citizens oppose this crime. Meanwhile in the Middle East many volunteers are preparing to save them by attacking the Jewish state.

Contrary to our perception of this conflict, the impossibility of resolving it for 76 years does not stem from the bad faith of its protagonists but from the absence of a choice between two systems: a world "based on rules" or "on international law".

Israeli leaflets on Gaza

The Israeli Air Force dropped leaflets in Arabic on Gaza. It reads: "If you want a better future for yourself and your children, please provide us with tangible and useful information about the hostages held in your area. The Israeli army assures you that it will do its best to ensure the safety of you and your home and offer you a financial reward. We also guarantee total discretion."

President Joe Biden asked Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during his visit to Israel: When you have destroyed Hamas, who will replace it?
**Protests in Israel against Benjamin Netanyahu**

While Israeli military censorship prohibits coverage of protests against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, these are growing in Israel. The protests were organized by victims' families after it was revealed that his office had destroyed documents showing that he had been warned about the "Al-Aqsa Flood" operation.

**Western weapons from Ukraine in the hands of Hamas and Hezbollah**

Hamas holds a stockpile of Western weapons that had previously been shipped to Ukraine. It is unknown how they reached it.

The study of Hamas' videos is unmistakable. The organization has FGM-148 Javelin (US-made) and NLAW (Swedish-made) anti-tank missile launchers and AT4 (Swedish-made or US-made) rocket launchers.

Israel should expect heavy casualties if it sends its army on the ground in Gaza. The Israeli General Staff has already confirmed that one of its officers was killed by these weapons during a reconnaissance in Gaza.

In August 2021, *Newsweek* revealed that an Ilyushin-76 had landed a shipment of $100 million worth of Western weapons in Tehran. It was believed at the time that Russia was supplying examples of Western weapons to Iran so that its army would copy them. They may have ended up in the hands of Hamas. The Pentagon denied this. On a more serious note, the Ukrainian army is so corrupt that it is easy to buy weapons from them. These can transit through the Black Sea, without help from Russia or Iran.

**Hezbollah's commitment to Gaza**

Hezbollah believes it is protecting Gazans by having Israel maintain three military divisions of 30,000 troops on the Israeli-Lebanese border.

Hezbollah's involvement is limited by Resolution 1701 adopted at the end of the 2006 Israeli-Lebanese war, preventing the Lebanese Resistance to cross the Litani River. This commitment can only be called into question by an action by the Israeli army against Lebanon.

In addition, all international news agencies and media outlets withdrew their correspondents and special envoys from southern Lebanon after the assassination of the Reuters photographer and the wounding of six of his colleagues. So, there will be no international coverage of what happens on that front.

**Jordan caught in a vice**

7,000 young Iraqis are camped on the Jordanian border waiting to be able to cross it to fight the “Israeli Satan”.

Meanwhile, according to Jordanian officials, King Abdullah fears that Egypt will bow to international pressure and open the Rafah border, allowing the transfer of two million Gazans.

While Jordan is calling for calm, the Islamic Action Front i.e., the Jordanian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood is calling for the complete severance of diplomatic relations with Israel. This would imply the withdrawal of the Jordanian ambassador in Tel Aviv and the breaking of the various treaties between both states, particularly on water.

**Israeli attack in Syria**

The Israeli Air Force attacked several military targets in Syria killing at least 7 soldiers. The IDF said it was responding to rocket fire from Syria for which it held Damascus responsible.

**Attacks on U.S. Forces in Iraq**

On October 19, a rocket hit the camp of US forces in Ain al-Assad (western Iraq). The attack was claimed by the Shiite militia “Islamic Resistance in Iraq”. No one was injured.
On October 20, three Katyusha rockets fell near the camp of the forces of the international anti-jihadist coalition which includes U.S. soldiers near Baghdad's international airport.

These attacks come as many Iraqi militias prepare to attack the interests of the US and some of its allies in the event of the entry of the Israeli army into the Gaza Strip.

About 2,500 U.S. military personnel and 1,000 soldiers from other Coalition member countries are currently stationed on three Iraqi force bases.

**Yemenis attack illegal US base in Syria**

Yemeni militias linked to Lebanon's Hezbollah fired missiles at the U.S. base in northeastern Syria.

This base, like another located on the Syrian-Jordanian border, is illegal.

**Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani challenges Israel's right to kill**

Opening the annual session of the Qatar Consultative Assembly, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani said: “We say, “Enough!” Israel must not get an unconditional green light, nor an unrestricted license to kill.”

Qatar is home to Hamas' political bureau, obliging to the request of the State Department as it has done before with the Taliban. In addition, it finances Hamas’ administration in Gaza to the tune of $30 million a month, in full agreement with Israel.

**Recep Tayyip Erdoğan denounces UN Security Council's attitude**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan accused the UN Security Council of “aggravating the crisis” in the Gaza Strip with its “biased” attitude and thus causing “the worst damage” to the UN's own reputation.

Türkiye has reportedly asked Hamas to consider leaving the country. Ankara, which supports the Muslim Brotherhood's fight to liberate Palestine, opposes the targeting of civilians. The Turkish press accuses Hamas of committing war crimes comparable to those of the Israeli army.

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has also defined that "Hamas is not a terrorist group, it is a group of liberators who protect their land."

**President Erdogan interprets the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with regard to colonization**

At the meeting of his party's parliamentary group (Justice and Development Party), Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said: “The perpetrators of the massacre and destruction of Gaza are those who give unlimited support to Israel. From there, I address both Israel and those who support and encourage it: As long as Muslims continue to die in Gaza, no ship, no plane, no political gimmicks will bring peace. The Israeli government should seek security not 10,000 kilometers away, but among its neighbors in the region, especially in Türkiye. When the powers Israel relies on today pack up and leave to put out the fire at home, Türkiye will be the first place where the Israeli people seek trust and compassion, as they did 500 years ago. We are aware of the fact that the powers that inflicted on us a century ago this persecution that drowns in blood and fire the lands that are home to the oldest colonies in the world, do not want a solution today more than they did yesterday. Those who cause the problem, of course, don't want a solution.

The more the crisis worsens, the more it takes root, the better it is for their interests. They want the Israeli-Palestinian issue to escalate... They want peace and stability to never come to this region... They want the shadow of war never to leave the Eastern Mediterranean... They want the people who have lived there for thousands of years not to benefit from the resources of these lands... They want their system of exploitation...
based on blood, persecution and tears to continue... That is what we are against. We reject this system of exploitation for which all the peoples of the region, Muslims, Christians and Jews, are paying the price.”

**Iran wants to avoid the generalization of the conflict**

Leader of the Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has reportedly approved a plan by the Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) not to expand the war in the Middle East, but to support the Palestinian resistance in the West Bank.

**Normalization of relations between Bhutan and China could open a conflict between China and India**

Negotiations for the normalization of diplomatic relations between Bhutan and China could lead to the transfer of part of Doklam to Beijing. This disputed region is claimed by both Bhutan, China... and India.

This could lead to a stronger Chinese claim to the Indian-administered territory of Arunachal Pradesh. This region, which the British had attached to India just before the First World War, is historically linked to Tibet, and therefore to China, which has claimed it since India's independence.

**Imran Khan Charged**

Former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, already incarcerated for more than 200 different cases, has been charged with leaking classified documents. He faces up to 14 years in prison, or even the death penalty.

In addition, the Supreme Court ruled that the 100 or so Imran Khan supporters who were to be tried by military courts are subject to civil justice.

The progressive Imran Khan is still Pakistan's most popular politician.

**Pakistan observes that the struggle against occupation cannot be equated with terrorism**

At the UN Security Council meeting on the Palestinian issue, Pakistan's ambassador Munir Akram said that his country condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. However, under international law, the struggle against occupation, for self-determination and national liberation is legitimate and cannot be equated with terrorism.

**Filipino-Chinese tension**

A skirmish between one Filipino and two Chinese ships around Ren'ai Reef has reignited tensions in the South China Sea. However, it does not appear that the Philippine side would have attempted anything without the presence of the US naval group **USS Ronald Reagan**.

**Ministerial changes in China**

China's Defense Minister Li Shangfu has been relieved of his duties by the Standing Committee of the People's Congress. He had not appeared in public since August 29. It appears that Li Shangfu was involved in the corruption case that shook the command of strategic missiles, including nuclear ones.

Similarly, the dismissals of former foreign minister Qin Gang (who had already been dismissed from this post, but retained the title of minister without portfolio), minister of science and technology Wang Zhingang and minister of finance Liu Kun were also confirmed.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**The ICJ has been seized of the legal consequences of Israeli practices**

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), an internal body of the United Nations, will examine in an advisory capacity the consequences of Israeli practices in the Palestinian territories.
In 2004, the ICJ ruled that the construction of the separation wall was contrary to international law. Israel, however, has continued its construction.

António Guterres criticizes Western blindness

Opening a special session of the Security Council on the Palestinian issue, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said Hamas' attacks on Israel “did not happen in a vacuum (...) The Palestinian people have been subjected to 56 years of suffocating occupation.”

“The grievances of the Palestinian people cannot justify Hamas' appalling attacks. And these appalling attacks cannot justify the collective punishment of the Palestinian people,” he added.

Afterward, Guterres tweeted: “Nothing can justify the killing, wounding and abduction of civilians by Hamas.”

Israel calls for resignation of UN secretary-general

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations Gilad Erdan called for the resignation of Secretary-General António Guterres for saying that the Hamas attack did not happen in a vacuum.

“There is no justification or interest in speaking with those who show understanding of the most terrible acts committed against the citizens of Israel – let alone by a terrorist organization.”

Israel has already denied new visas to UN officials, including to under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs (and notorious MI6 agent) Martin Griffiths.

At Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen's press conference at the UN, a demonstration of pacifist Jews denounced the Netanyahu government's attitude. The crowd shouted "Resign!" at the minister.

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EDITORIAL

Hezbollah's strategy

Secretary general of Hezbollah Hassan Nasrallah delivered a highly anticipated and publicized speech. He presented the Gaza war as a Palestinian initiative for which Hamas must be given full responsibility. Hezbollah's role is secondary, limited to stationing part of the Israeli army on the Lebanese border, nothing more. However, depending on how this war develops, Hezbollah reserves the right to intervene.

The speech was intended both not to implicate Iran and its allies at this stage and to highlight the heroism of the Sunnis.

Some commentators thought they could discern a change in the position of the "Axis of Resistance". Hassan Nasrallah spoke of a possible evolution of the conflict which seems to lend credence to the idea that he has rallied to the 2002 Arab peace initiative. This proposal for regional peace, formulated by the Arab States in Beirut at the instigation of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, provided for the establishment of a Palestinian State including, in accordance with the Oslo Accords, Gaza and the West Bank and with East Jerusalem as its capital. In exchange, Arab capitals were to collectively recognize Israel and establish diplomatic relations with the Jewish state.

If this reading is correct, the "Axis of Resistance" would have abandoned the traditional Iranian rhetoric that the "Zionist entity" is illegitimate.

In 2005, Reuters participated in an Israeli intoxication campaign aimed at preventing this development. It reported, before retracting, that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying, "Israel must be wiped off the map." On the contrary, Mr. Ahmadinejad had spoken to say that the Jewish state was doomed to disappear as the Soviet Union had disappeared, and not to mean that the Israeli population should be exterminated.
AMERICAS

Pentagon deploys cruise missile submarine off Gaza

The Pentagon has deployed Ohio-class cruise missile submarine USS Florida off the coast of Gaza, armed with 154 Tomahawk missiles. Already three naval groups are stationed off the coast of Israel.

Mike Lewis and Elon Musk denounce the influence of Soros

Sheriff of Wicomico, Maryland Mike Lewis said "I'm in my 40th year of law enforcement, and I've never seen it this bad... I've never seen a government so entrenched — and frankly complicit — in the criminal activity taking place in our nation." He was referring to elected officials backed by George and Alexander Soros.

Commenting on the case, Elon Musk said on Joe Rogan's podcast: “Soros has realized that you don't need to change laws — you just need to change the way they're enforced — if no one chooses to enforce the law — or if laws are applied differentially — it's like changing laws.”

Pentagon plans to send $320 million worth of weapons to Israel

The U.S. plans to send $320 million worth of precision bombs to Israel. The law requires the State Department to notify Congress 15 days before any arms transfer.

Isaac Herzog Calls on U.S. Universities to Condemn Hamas and Anti-Semitism

In a letter to 700 heads of U.S. academic institutes, Israeli President Isaac Herzog called on university and college presidents in the US to condemn the Hamas attacks on Oct. 7 and to stand at the forefront of the fight against anti-Semitism in their institutions.

Education Secretary Miguel Cardona, meanwhile, has warned schools and colleges that they could lose federal funds if they don't address anti-Semitic and Islamophobic discrimination.

Peace protests in New York

Manhattan's massive Grand Central Station was occupied by a giant sit-in of several thousand people in late October.

Ten days ago, the gigantic multicultural district of Brooklyn saw an outpouring of thousands of pro-Palestinian activists, including American Jewish organizations.

More media-savvy, Jewish pacifist activists occupied the Statue of Liberty in New York. They carried T-shirts and banners reading "Jews demand ceasefire now," "Not in our name," and "Palestinians should be free."

Anti-Semitic conspiracy in Brazil

Brazilian police say they have foiled in collaboration with the Mossad a plot against Israeli and Jewish targets in the country. Two Brazilian citizens were arrested as part of the operation, and extensive searches were carried out in three states, including Minas Gerais and Sao Paulo.

According to the Brazilian news site Globo and the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, this plot was hatched by Hezbollah.

Since the Buenos Aires bombings (1992-94), which Israel and some Argentine judges attribute to Hezbollah, the latter insists it has
never plotted an attack against Israeli interests in Latin America.

**EUROPE**

**Pope Francis receives European rabbis**

Pope Francis received the European rabbis at the Vatican on October 6. He made a point of greeting them one by one. However, not feeling well, he was unable to read the speech he was to give, but handed it over to his hosts.

**124 UK companies have violated sanctions against Russia**

124 British companies have taken the lead and pleaded guilty to violating the Kingdom's "sanctions" against the Russian Federation. Their lawyer, Pinsent Masons, argued that the measures taken by the British government are not comparable to those concerning North Korea or even Iran: Russia plays a very important commercial role in the international market. He hopes to benefit from the indulgence of the administration.

Western sanctions have frozen $300 billion belonging to Russia's central bank since Russian troops invaded Ukraine.

The EU council rejected plans to confiscate seized Russian assets, but approved plans to use the proceeds to help Ukraine.

**Rishi Sunak challenges allowing pro-Palestinian protest on Armistice Day**

London's police chief authorized a second pro-Palestinian march. The first one drew half a million people. Since then, the police proceeded to arrest 188 people for hate crimes, including 98 for alleged anti-Semitic offenses, 21 for Islamophobic offenses and 12 for "religious hate crimes". The police chief presented himself as the guarantor of the democratic right to demonstrate.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak summoned him. He said it was disrespectful to protest for this kind of thing on First World War Armistice Memorial Day.

**Imran Hussain resigns from Labour shadow cabinet**

Labour MP Imran Hussain has resigned as shadow minister for the New Deal and the working class in protest at his party's policy on the Gaza massacres.

**In 1963, the British collaborated in the demolition of Kurdish towns in Iraq**

According to historian Mark Curtis, in October 1963, the British government approved the export of demolition explosives to Iraq, with the understanding that they "are likely to be used... for the demolition of Kurdish villages."

**International Humanitarian Conference for Gaza**

France is preparing an international conference in Paris on the humanitarian situation in Gaza. At the same time, it is negotiating with Egypt to deploy a field hospital for the seriously wounded in Gaza. It has already sent the helicopter carrier Tonnerre, and will soon send the Dixmude too, which have state-of-the-art surgical facilities.

Suspiciously, the Arab press points out that this humanitarian gesture could mask an attempt to force the sick and wounded Palestinians to leave Gaza and would foreshadow the complete destruction of hospitals.

**Boycott of Dior products**

Luxury fashion house Dior has replaced American-Palestinian model Bella Hadid in its advertisements with the Israeli May Tanger.

Many pro-Gaza NGOs are calling for a boycott of the brand.
Germany bans actions in support of Hamas

Germany has banned activities in support of Hamas based on the EU's designation of Hamas as a terrorist group. This prohibition also applies to the humanitarian actions of the terrorist group.

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said at a meeting with leaders of Arab and Muslim associations: "Don't let yourselves fall into the hands of Hamas' partners. Speak for yourself. Express a clear stance against terrorism." He urged them to denounce Hamas' networks in the country.

Italy sends hospital ship to Gaza

According to Italian Defense Minister Guido Crosetto, Italy will send a hospital ship with 170 men on board off the coast of Gaza.

Slovakia slows down arms deliveries to Ukraine

"If a [Slovak] company wants to manufacture weapons somewhere and supply them [to Ukraine], no one will stop them," Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico said.

At the same time, he cancelled the 14th aid package arranged by the former Directorate of the Ministry of Defense including the delivery of 7.62mm and large-caliber ammunition for 125mm guns.

Polish truckers face Ukrainian competition

Polish truckers have blocked Ukrainian border crossings to protest competition from their Ukrainian counterparts. Since June 2022, Ukrainians have been exempted from holding an international driving license and paying customs duties.

The new Polish government has indicated that it does not have competence in this area, as the agreement was signed at EU level, and that it will therefore not question it.

Ursula von der Leyen's vision for Gaza's future

President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen presented her vision of the world on 6 October:

- Regarding Ukraine:
  It needs a just and lasting peace, based on President Zelenskyy’s peace formula. Ukraine should become a member of the EU in order to strengthen and protect it in the future. [NATO has rejected Ukraine's application for membership.]

- Regarding Gaza:
  The EU stands in full solidarity with the Israeli people [not a word about the Palestinian people]. The hostages must be released immediately and we must also do “everything possible to protect civilians”:
  - Gaza cannot be a safe haven for terrorists;
  - The terrorist organization Hamas cannot govern in Gaza;
  - There can be no long-term Israeli presence in Gaza which is destined to become the territory of the Palestinian state;
  - There can be no forced displacement of Palestinians from Gaza.

- Regarding China:
  The EU will continue to talk and work with China on common challenges such as climate change and ensure that its support for Russia remains as limited as possible. “Our rivalry can be constructive, not hostile.”

EU’s Enlargement

On 8th October the European Commission announced the opening of accession negotiations with Ukraine and Moldova.

Until now, NATO membership seemed to be a prerequisite for EU membership. However, last week NATO said no to Ukraine. Moldova on
the other hand claims the territory of the unrecognized state of Transnistria.

European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee has taken an interest in the enlargement process for the first time by hearing Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy Hungarian Olivér Várhelyi on Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine. This issue also concerns Georgia, a potential candidate.

EU regulates political advertising

Political advertising in the EU will have to be clearly marked. Under the new rules, it will be easier for citizens, authorities and journalists to get information about who funds political advertising, where they are established, how much they pay and where the funding comes from, among other details.

MEPs included a ban on third-country entities sponsoring political advertising in the EU during the three months before an election or referendum. This rule should also apply to sponsorships from the US.

Political ads based on profiling using specific categories of personal data (e.g., ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation) will be prohibited.

These rules apply only to paid advertising, not to internal newsletters of NGOs and political parties, or to advertisements that have not been the subject of a trade.

European Parliament in favor of confiscating frozen Russian assets

A resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 9 November calls on the EU to work with the G7 to lower the cap on the price of Russian oil. Parliament also wants the European Commission and EU member states to expand their “sanctions” to include a total ban on the marketing and cutting of diamonds of Russian origin. The EU is also invited to explore legal ways for the confiscation of frozen Russian assets and their use for the reconstruction of Ukraine.

Dissent between President Zelensky and his head of the armed forces

Washington is looking for an end-of-crisis scenario in Ukraine. How do you explain that you have lost and that it is no longer important? President Volodymyr Zelensky should be blamed for the defeat and replaced by a military government tasked with restoring democracy.

In this spirit, after Time Magazine’s revelations about President Zelensky's denial, the New York Times published an article about his rivalry with commander-in-chief of the armed forces General Valery Zaluzhnyi.

In this context, several U.S. and Russian officials said that negotiations on Ukraine between Washington and Moscow “are not impossible”.

Voltaire Network Analysis

"What international order?, by Thierry Meyssan

We publish the text of Thierry Meyssan's intervention in Magdeburg (Germany) at the “Friendship with Russia” conference organized by Compact magazine on November 4, 2023 in which he explains what he considers to be the fundamental difference between the two conceptions of the world order that confront each other today from Donbass to Gaza: that of the Western bloc and that which the rest of the world refers to. The question is not whether this order should be dominated by one power (unipolar) or by a group of powers (multipolar), but whether or not it should be respectful of each other's sovereignty. The author draws on the history of international law, as conceived by Tsar Nicholas II and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Léon Bourgeois.
Kyiv dismantles a symbol of Ukrainian Resistance to the Nazis

On 4 November, the Kiev City Hall authorities began dismantling the three-meter copper star placed at the top of the 30 meters high obelisk in Galitskaya Square (formerly Victory Square) which was erected as a tribute to the resistance of the city's inhabitants to the Nazi occupiers.

AFRICA

Egypt refuses to administer Gaza

According to the Wall Street Journal, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Intelligence Minister Abbas Kamel rejected CIA Director William Burns' proposal to administer security in Gaza until the Palestinian Authority accepts responsibility.

Tunisia passes law banning contact with Israel

The Tunisian parliament passed a law providing for prison sentences of 6 to 12 years for any “communication, contact, propaganda, conclusion of contract or cooperation, directly or indirectly, by individuals or legal entities of Tunisian nationality with all natural and legal persons affiliated with the Zionist entity.” Tunisians are also prohibited from interacting with “individuals, institutions, organizations, governmental or non-governmental entities” linked to Israel.

Algeria's commitment to Palestine

In its editorial, the Algerian Armed Forces' El-Djeich Magazine writes: “Based on the noble principles of our glorious revolution, our country's positions have developed to support the populations under occupation who are fighting and struggling to determine their own destiny and guarantee their legitimate right to independence in their own territories, as is the case with the Saharawi and the Palestinians. With regard to the Palestinian cause, which is a central cause for Algeria as a sponsor and people, all signs and facts confirm that the Zionist occupation has planned to liquidate it, as evidenced by the brutal war of genocide targeting Palestinian civilians, especially women and children, in flagrant violation of all international customs and charters in the context of the inability of the Security Council and the UN to impose a two-state solution with international consensus.”

On 15 November 1988, Yasser Arafat announced from Algiers the creation of a Palestinian state.

Everything is falling apart between South Africa and Israel

South Africa's minister of the Presidency Khumbudzo Ntshavheni noted the Israeli ambassador's “disparaging remarks to South Africa about those who oppose the atrocities and genocide perpetrated by the Israeli government.” He announced the recall of all South African diplomatic staff to Tel Aviv for consultations. South Africa is preparing an official protest against the massacre of Gazans.

ASIA

Benjamin Netanyahu calls to support Israel to rescue its hostages

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met 80 ambassadors at the Kirya military base in Tel Aviv on 6 November. He asked them to “support Israel's demand for the immediate release of the hostages and to exert pressure on Qatar.”

Israel's pro-Gaza domestic opposition banned from protests

Arab Israeli organization Adalah and the Hadash party filed a lawsuit in the High Court seeking to overturn the bans on showing support for Arabs in Gaza. They argued that freedom of speech is everyone’s right, regardless of their opinion.
Given “the complicated reality in which we find ourselves”, the High Court dismissed the plaintiffs' claim.

**Closure of Kafr Aqab**

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel, HaMoked, Ir Amim and residents of the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Kafr Aqab asked the High Court to invalidate the decree to seal off the neighborhood.

According to the complaint: “Pedestrians are not allowed to pass through the checkpoint during the closure of the area, and since public transport has stopped... they can't leave the neighborhood (...) When the checkpoint is completely closed at 5 p.m., Kafr Aqab turns into a great prison.”

Kafr Aqab is a neighborhood in East Jerusalem where the Israeli government hoped to confine the capital of a possible Palestinian state.

**Benny Gantz calls for fight against anti-Semitism**

Gen. Benny Gantz, a member without portfolio of Israel's war cabinet, said on X (formerly Twitter): “The murder of Jewish American Paul Kessler [murdered on the sidelines of a pro-Palestinian demonstration in Los Angeles] should serve as a stark warning to the world.” “I call on world leaders and the international community to be unequivocal and proactive in condemning terror and anti-Semitism.”

**Itamar Ben-Gvir attacks three Arab Israeli judges**

Israel's security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir has successively attacked three Arab Israeli judges.

About three weeks ago, he verbally abused Nazareth District Court Judge Arafat Taha after he placed actress Maisa Abdel-Had under house arrest (not incarceration) for participating in a demonstration in support of Arabs expelled from East Jerusalem.

Last week, he called the Canaan judge an “enemy within” after he ordered the release of Yoav Bar, 68, of Haifa, who was prosecuted for making signs about security prisoners and terrorist organizations.

He has just attacked Judge Ziad Saleh and called his decision not to publish the name of a lawyer arrested for his support of Hamas “outrageous”. He also wrote: “The name and image of anyone who incites and supports terrorism should be spread everywhere, so that others can be suspicious. Zero tolerance for online and on-the-ground incitement.”

**Yair Lapid on Benjamin Netanyahu**

Former Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid said, “As long as the fighting continues, we will not address the issue of blame... Netanyahu takes advantage of our silence and keeps blaming others for his own failures.”

**Avigdor Lieberman on Benjamin Netanyahu**

Chairman of the Yisrael Beiteinu party Avigdor Lieberman said he expected Benjamin Netanyahu to resign. According to him, the Prime Minister “has no intention of admitting his mistake... All he does is pass on the responsibility for the war to others. It was absurd when, yesterday, he blamed the protesters [against the judicial coup]. This is a serious blow to the IDF reservists who fought to stop the takeover of the Supreme Court and are now fighting Hamas. He only violates Israel's security.”

**Ehud Barak calls for UN force**

Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barack notes the widespread condemnation around the world of the IDF operation against Hamas. At the same time, he observes that weakening Hamas takes time, at least a year. He therefore invites his fellow citizens to be realistic. He advocated the creation of a United Nations Force composed mainly of Arab states to administer the Gaza Strip.
Ehud Barak had opposed UN intervention in the past.

**Amichai Eliyahu advocates nuking Gaza**

Israel's heritage minister Amichai Eliyahu told *Radio Kol Berama* that Israel was considering using nuclear weapons in Gaza: “This is a solution... it's an option.” He then compared the residents of the Gaza Strip to “Nazis”, assuring that “there are no non-combatants in Gaza” and that the territory does not deserve humanitarian aid. “There are no uninvolved people in Gaza,” he said. Gazans “can go to Ireland or to deserts, the monsters of Gaza should find a solution on their own,” he said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office announced on October 5 that the minister had been suspended from cabinet meetings “until further notice.” The office said: “Eliyahu's statements are not based on reality. Israeli forces and the IDF operate in accordance with the highest standards of international law to avoid harming innocent people. We will continue to do so until we win.”

In any case, it is impossible to use nuclear bombs in Gaza without risking radioactive spillover in Israel.

Amichai Eliyahu went to justify himself on social media. He withdrew his remarks on nuking Gaza, but maintained his restatement: “A strong and disproportionate response to terrorism is absolutely necessary, which will make it clear to the Nazis and their supporters that terrorism is not worth it.”

This week unnamed officials told U.S. media outlets including the *New York Times* that their Israeli counterparts had privately referred to the bombings of Germany and Japan during World War II as well as the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to justify potential large-scale civilian casualties in Gaza.

Israel has never publicly acknowledged its possession of nuclear weapons. There are about 80 of them. Russia reacted to this admission by asking: “If this is the case, where are the international organizations, where is the IAEA, where are the inspectors? (...) Where were the tests carried out, on which test grounds? Apparently, not in the area, so where?” Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said, adding: “Isn't the US behind all this?”. She also claimed that such statements by Israeli officials revealed the real reasons why Tel Aviv opposes the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

Iran's foreign minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian commented on the Israeli minister's remarks on the use of nuclear bombs. According to him, they testify that the Resistance has already defeated the “Zionist entity.”

**Benjamin Netanyahu's position**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told *ABC News*’ David Muir on World News Tonight that there would be no talk of a ceasefire or a humanitarian pause until all hostages were released.

**Yoav Gallant's Goals**

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant told a special hearing of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee that its main objectives are the removal of the threat to the security of Israeli citizens, the end of Hamas' military and governmental activities, and the IDF's freedom of action in Gaza “without restriction on operations.”

According to Gallant, “The security system under my leadership focuses on two key things: victory in the war and the return of hostages.”

The minister described the Gaza Strip as “the largest terror base of all time.”

**Mossad disavows Yossi Cohen**

The Mossad issued a scathing statement: “There is only one body that manages the release of hostages. Any other party that claims to have
anything to do with it is not allowed to do so”, thus disavowing Yossi Cohen.

The former Mossad director is one of the personalities who are helping the families of the hostages and he has made a trip to Qatar. Rumors had spread that he was acting on an official mission.

**Israel can access security cameras without the owners' knowledge**

Israel's Ministry of Justice issued a memorandum on November 7 allowing the IDF and Shin Bet, on a temporary basis for six months, to access private security cameras and examine the images without the owners' knowledge.

**Religious Zionists Attack Haredim Budget**

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich has been trying to get the Knesset's approval to use NIS 1.35 billion (more than $350 million) to help Israelis displaced by the war.

The sum includes:
- NIS 250 million for people from border communities who have left independently and are not staying in government-provided hotels;
- an additional NIS 200 million for evacuations from border communities in Gaza in the south and Lebanon in the north;
- NIS 174 million to help local governments;
- NIS 100 million for the authority set up to oversee the reconstruction of the Gaza border area;
- and the lion's share, NIS 628 million to pay for hotels.

However, part of this windfall had already been set aside:
- NIS 200 million for the budget of state religious schools;
- NIS 143 million for the Haredi education budget;
- NIS 120 million for proposals dealing with the strengthening of Judaism;
- and NIS 28 million for schools in the colonies.

The ultra-Orthodox (Haredim) Jews immediately denounced the religious Zionists.

**“Jewish state” plans to re-establish settlements in Gaza**

Israeli Education Minister Yoav Kisch said he did not rule out a scenario in which he would rebuild settlements in the Gaza Strip. They were dismantled in 2005.

A bill has been introduced in the Knesset to restore the right of free movement of Israelis in the Gaza Strip.

The Union Government tested several Allied states on this issue. It seems that they would express their displeasure but would not sever their ties with the “Jewish state.”

For his part, Israel's finance minister, in charge of the civil administration of the West Bank, Bezalel Smotrich, called for the creation of safe zones around West Bank settlements. This strategy could eventually lead to their expansion.

**Foreign editions**

Voltaire, international news is now published in six languages:
- Dutch.
- English.
- French.
- Italian.
- German.
- Spanish.

**Mahmoud Abbas doesn't forget East Jerusalem**

President of the Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas did not reject the possibility of administering the Gaza Strip at the end of the war. However, he has set a legitimate condition, but one that is unacceptable to Israel. Receiving US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, he said: “The Gaza Strip is an integral part of the State of Palestine, we will take full responsibility for a
comprehensive political solution for the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.”

Queen Rania denounces Western double standards

Queen Rania of Jordan gave an interview to CNN to denounce the West’s double standard in the face of massacres in Israel and Palestine.

Iraq-Jordan pipeline project resurfaces

The oil pipeline project linking Basra (Iraq) to Aqaba (Jordan) would allow Baghdad and Amman to reach international energy markets without depending on the Gulf, by transporting barrels to the West, via Israel.

Tehran has called the project a contribution to normalization with Israel. It was postponed in May due to “threats from Iranian-backed Shiite militias,” according to Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad Shia’ al-Sudani.

This project resurfaces in the context of the Gaza war.

Maronite Patriarch defends Lebanon’s chief of staff

Maronite Patriarch Archbishop Bechara Raï said: “It is necessary to elect a president [in Lebanon] at any cost and protect the institutions instead of planning the fall of this or that person, or manipulating the leaders of this or that institution... It is shameful to hear talk about bringing down the commander-in-chief of the army [General Joseph Aoun] during the most critical period in Lebanon's history... This kind of talk undermines the resolve of the military establishment, which needs more support and encouragement.”

Simultaneous Daesh attacks in Syria

Daesh killed eight Syrian soldiers and 26 members of the National Defense Forces in simultaneous attacks in the desert region of al-Rasafa.

The Syrian and Russian air forces immediately proceeded to shell the jihadists’ positions.

The war continues in Syria

The Syrian Arab Republic and the Russian Federation continue to bomb jihadist sites in the north-west of the country, while the Republic of Türkiye is bombing PKK installations in the north-east.

There are numerous collateral victims. 65 children were reportedly killed in one month (compared to nearly 5,000 in Gaza).

The jihadists are supported by the EU and administered by the Turks, while the PKK is supported by the US.

Qatari negotiations

According to Lebanon's Al-Mayadeen TV channel, “The talks [between Qatar and Israel] are about the release of 12 hostages, half of them Americans, in exchange for a three-day truce to allow Hamas to release these hostages.”

Ansar Allah shoots down a US drone

A U.S. MQ-9 Reaper drone worth $30 million was shot down by Ansar Allah in Yemen (the "Houthis").

Antony Blinken in Türkiye

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Ankara. He was received by his Turkish counterpart Hakan Fidan. The two countries do not have the same vision of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The US supports Israel, rejects a ceasefire, timidly evokes “a humanitarian pause”, while Türkiye defends the Palestinian cause, calls Hamas a “resistance movement” and condemns Israel for its strikes on the Gaza enclave where 2.4 million people live.

Indian Muslims for Gaza

The Jamaat-e-Islami, the organ of the Muslim Brotherhood (branch of Syed Abul Ala
Maududi), organized a meeting in Bharat under the title: “Overthrow the bulldozer of Hindutva and Zionist apartheid.”

Hamas' political leader Khaled Meshaal said via video conference: “Together we will defeat the Zionists and we will be united for Gaza, which is fighting for Al Aqsa.”

**Bharat for Israel**

Bharat's prime minister Narendra Modi tweeted to his Israeli friends: “We stand together in this difficult hour!”. In a phone conversation with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu, he said he “strongly and unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.” The Indian delegation to the UN General Assembly abstained from voting on resolution A/ES-10/L.25 in support of the civilians of Gaza.

Religious nationalism is an idea shared by those on the far right in both countries who aspire to Greater India (Akhand Bharat) and Greater Israel (Eretz Israel).

The Modi government has just banned all pro-Palestinian demonstrations.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**Debates in the UN Security Council**

On 6 November, the UN Security Council met behind closed doors. While all agreed that humanitarian aid should be sent to Gaza, its members were divided over whether it should be a “humanitarian pause” or a “humanitarian ceasefire”.

A ceasefire would be more durable, while a pause would not impede the IDF's operations.

**Extraordinary Summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation**

Saudi Arabia and Iran have convened a summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). They stressed that the OIC should review developments in Palestine, put an end to war crimes in Gaza and the West Bank, and send humanitarian aid to the region.

**WHO takes stock of attacks on hospitals in Gaza**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported 118 attacks on hospitals in Gaza that caused 512 deaths, 654 injuries, 39 damaged facilities and 36 ambulances hit.

**UN agencies call for immediate humanitarian ceasefire**

Several UN agencies and humanitarian groups have appealed “We need an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. It's been 30 days. Enough is enough. This has to stop now.”

The signatories are:

**The G7’s position on Gaza**

Following two days of talks in Tokyo, G7 foreign ministers agreed that they supported “Israel's
right to defend itself” and the need for “humanitarian pauses” to help Gazan civilians.

Israel's “right to defend itself” is a slogan aimed at giving it the right to kill. The humanitarian pauses are intended to oppose a “humanitarian ceasefire”. The difference between the two expressions is that in the second, combatants should stop pointing their guns at each other.

**Complaint against Israel at the ICC**

A group of mostly French NGOs has filed a complaint for genocide with the ICC against Israel over crimes it intentionally commits in Gaza.

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EDITORIAL

Negotiations with Hamas and Islamic Jihad

• According to the United Nations, two-thirds of Gazans have left their homes and fled. Almost all of Gaza City was destroyed. More than 11,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed, including more than 5,000 children.

• On 15 November, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted its first resolution (No. 2712) on the Israeli-Palestinian war in five weeks of conflict. It “calls for urgent and prolonged humanitarian pauses and corridors throughout the Gaza Strip for a sufficient number of days.” It also calls for the “immediate and unconditional release of all hostages held by Hamas and other groups, especially children.”

This resolution does not refer to Hamas or Israel, like the Russian draft resolution that was vetoed by the West. However, it asks for a pause rather than demand a truce. Immediately, Israel announced that it would not respond to the Security Council's requests. Putting words into action, the IDF extensively bombed, until it reduced to dust, the family home of Hamas political leader Ismaël Haniyeh, now residing in Qatar.

• According to the Associated Press (AP), CIA Director William Burns visited Qatar on November 9. He reportedly met with David Barnea, his Mossad counterpart, and Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani. The three men reportedly gave an update on negotiations with Hamas and Islamic Jihad aimed at the release of the hostages.

• According to a Qatari source, the negotiations are stumbling on three points:
  - The Palestinian Resistance demands that Israel release its civilian prisoners in exchange for the release of the civilian hostages;
  - Israel only agrees to a three-day truce when the Palestinian Resistance demands five.
  - The Palestinian resistance demands that the IDF not only cease its firing, but also its drone surveillance of Gaza, pointing out that it can't risk exposing its hiding places when freeing the hostages.

• U.S. President Joe Biden said he believed the release of hostages held in the Gaza Strip “is going to happen, but I don't want to go into details.” “Hold there. We're coming!” He exclaimed (…).
Meanwhile, the Mossad is trying to shore up its Western support. To this end, it is inciting demonstrations against [Hamas's] anti-Semitism in major Western capitals. In addition, it organizes private screenings of the IDF film on the October 7 massacre. Its comments induce the interpretation among viewers that only Hamas participated in the assault, that it raped and cut up its victims (one assailant tried in vain to behead a corpse). Above all, it suggests that the victims, especially the charred people, were all killed by the Palestinians while it shows the impact of its own missiles (Hannibal directive). Only the Belgian Parliament refused to watch it. In reality, the attack by the Palestinian Resistance was a sting operation aimed at kidnapping hostages for exchange and attacking an IDF barracks. The attackers had no time to rape anyone, nor to cut their victims into pieces.

**AMERICAS**

**U.S. economy under threat**

The Fitch rating agency has downgraded the rating of the US economy. Moody's has warned of rising US foreign debt, forecasting that the US political division is likely to continue, preventing the reversal of budget deficits (up 23.2% in a single year).

**The Supreme Court adopts a loose code of conduct**

The U.S. Supreme Court now has a code of conduct. It didn't have any until then. Several judges were implicated for gifts they had received from billionaire friends.

The Code merely specifies the cases in which judges may be challenged. It does not specify a procedure for questioning the impartiality of any of them. Nor does it set rules for the gifts they receive.

**Eric Adams Suspected of Turkish Secret Financing**

The FBI has seized the cellphones of New York City Mayor Eric Adams (Democrat) after raiding the office of his fundraising manager, Brianna Suggs.

The ongoing investigation is said to be into secret funding from the Turkish government.

**Mike Pompeo, Director of KievStar**

Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, an active supporter of the war in Ukraine, has been appointed as a director of the Ukrainian telecommunications operator KievStar, a subsidiary of the Netherlands' Veon. He has no experience in this area other than having been director of the CIA.

**The House of Representatives has still not voted on the $61 billion in aid to Ukraine**

Contrary to what we had announced, the House of Representatives did not pass the $61 billion aid budget for Ukraine. New speaker of the assembly Mike Johnson tried to finance the subsidy by confiscating the seized property from Russian citizens. But, according to the Budget Office, this maneuver would not prevent the budget deficit from increasing by $12 billion.

**Parliamentarians watch videos of the October 7 attack**

About 100 U.S. lawmakers viewed the 43-minute video montage made by the Israeli military from the cameras of the October 7 attackers.

**Hillary Clinton compares Donald Trump to Adolf Hitler**

At a rally in New Hampshire, former President Donald Trump said he would “eliminate the communists, Marxists, fascists, and thugs of the radical left who live like vermin in the far reaches of our country.”

President Joe Biden noted it was the same kind of rhetoric as the Nazis.
Hillary Clinton (76), a former secretary of state and unsuccessful presidential candidate, commented on the talk show The View: “I think it would be the end of our country as we know it, and I don’t say that lightly... And you could see it in countries where -- well, Hitler was duly elected, right? (...) And so all of a sudden, someone with these tendencies, these dictatorial, authoritarian tendencies, would be like, ‘OK’, we’re going to shut this down. We’re going to throw these people in jail, and they don't usually say that... Trump tells us what he intends to do. Take his word for it. The man says he will throw people in jail who disagree with him, shut down legitimate media outlets, do what he can to literally undermine the rule of law and the values of our country.”

☞ Adolf Hitler was democratically elected as a deputy, but he only became chancellor because the party that came out on top, the Catholic Zentrum, asked him to do so in order to fight against the communists.

Hillary Clinton sets goals for Israel's post-war government

Hillary Clinton has set the mission for the next Israeli administration. She writes in The Atlantic that “it should crack down on violence perpetrated by extremist settlers and stop building new settlements that make it harder to imagine a future Palestinian state. Ultimately, the only way to secure Israel's future as a safe, democratic Jewish state is to achieve two states for two peoples. And in the region, it should resume serious negotiations with Saudi Arabia and others to normalize relations and build a broad coalition to counter Iran.”

☞ Mrs. Clinton does not specify how an ethnic-confessional state could consider citizens of other ethnic-confessional communities equal and, therefore, be “democratic”.

Jake Sullivan in favor of the Palestinian Authority administering Gaza

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan told CNN: “There should be a unified political leadership in the West Bank and Gaza. The Palestinian Authority is the political leadership in the West Bank. In the long run, of course, the determination of how the West Bank and Gaza are governed will depend on the Palestinian people.”

The U.S. and the Slow Israeli Operation Against the Palestinian Resistance

• Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown said that dragging out the Israeli operation in Gaza was encouraging Gazans to join Hamas.

• According to Russian intelligence, the U.S. has a different narrative about Gaza in public and in private. In public they call for moderation while in private they would urge Israel to intensify its operations. It would be necessary to act quickly, knowing that the sight of this massacre damages the image of President Joe Biden before the presidential election.

115 political figures support Joe Biden

• 115 prominent Democrats have thrown their support behind President Joe Biden. Their attitude contrasts with the opposition he encounters in political circles, in his administration and among the population.

• 400 senior Biden administration officials wrote to the president urging him to stop the massacre in Gaza.

In Washington, 200,000 people support the war

• A large demonstration of 200,000 people gathered in Washington, D.C., both in support of the Israeli military operation and against anti-Semitism. Organizers and speakers included Israeli President Isaac Herzog, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, House Speaker Mike Johnson, families of American hostages held in Gaza, allies such as Rev. John Hagee (founder of the evangelical organization Christians United for Israel), actresses Debra Messing and Tovah Feldshuh, former refusenik
and Israeli political activist Natan Sharansky (close to President Zelensky).

• Musical performances by Israeli pop stars Omer Adam and Ishay Ribo brightened up the event.

merican Jews are overwhelmingly liberal and anti-war. These include Ameinu, Americans for Peace Now, Habonim Dror, J Street, Jewish Democratic Council for America, National Council of Jewish Women, New York Jewish Agenda, Partners for Progressive Israel, Reconstructing Judaism, and Truah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights.

The participants in this demonstration were mostly Christian Zionists.

Dismissal of a Texas bishop

Pope Francis has dismissed Joseph E. Strickland, bishop of Tyler, Texas. He was initially asked to resign, which he refused. It seems that the prelate had a rather personal conception of the management of ecclesiastical property. However, he became known for attending a rally for former President Donald Trump, calling President Joe Biden the embodiment of "Evil" and declaring that one cannot be Catholic and Democrat at the same time.

Lebanese-Brazilians deny involvement in anti-Semitic plot

The two Lebanese-Brazilians who were arrested as part of the investigation into a terrorist plot against Brazilian Jewish interests deny all the charges against them. The Israeli government, and the Israeli government alone, has portrayed them as members of Hezbollah. Brazil's Justice Minister Flavio Dino accused Israel of trying to pre-empt the results of an ongoing investigation for propaganda purposes.

EUROPE

The Catholic Church and Transsexuals

Pope Francis has authorized the publication of a letter from the prefect for the Doctrine of the Faith to Brazilian bishop Giuseppe Negri about the situation of transsexuals.

The dicastery defines transsexuals as people who have undergone hormone treatment and sex reassignment surgery. It clarifies that the change of sex does not affect the sacrament of baptism. Similarly, a transsexual can be a godfather or godmother of a baptized person, or even a witness to a wedding, but this is not a right and must therefore be accepted with caution so as not to generate scandal. Generally speaking, the dicastery considers that the role of each person should always be evaluated according to his or her ability to transmit the faith, otherwise it is better to ask for another person.

Investigation into Boris Johnson's cabinet

An administrative and judicial inquiry is trying to shed light on how Boris Johnson's cabinet reacted during the coronavirus outbreak. It has so far heard a lot of complaints about the sexist remarks and buffoonery of the various advisers and ministers. The former prime minister and his successor, Rishi Sunak, are expected to be questioned shortly.

In London, 300,000 people against the war

300,000 people demonstrated in London to denounce the massacre in Gaza. Home Secretary Suella Braverman called the pro-Palestinian protests “hate marches”. Founder of the English Defense League Tommy Robinson planned to attack them. Police chief Mark Rowley had guaranteed civil peace against the advice of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak who considered him responsible for any excesses. 2,000 police officers were deployed. 82 counter-demonstrators, waving flags of Britain or the UK, were arrested “in order to prevent peace
from being jeopardized” as they “tried to reach the march of the pro-Palestinians”.

The Prime Minister sacked Suella Braverman the day after the protest.

British Jews overwhelmingly support “Free Palestine” against Israel. Many of them argue that the Jewish state should not exist.

**British MPs want to criminalize IRGC**

In a letter to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, 60 members of the British Parliament wrote: “Given the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, it is now more urgent than ever to outlaw the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).”

Since 2019, the US has considered the Revolutionary Guards Corps a terrorist entity. The EU did not follow them, but sanctioned 18 of its senior officers.

**Collapse of living standards in the UK**

According to the Guardian, around 2 million British households have been forced to decommission a fridge or freezer to save money.

The latest CPP survey found that in October, a quarter (2.8 million) of low-income UK households increased their debt to pay for food, a third sold personal belongings to raise cash, and one in six used heated community spaces.

**David Cameron appointed Minister for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs**

Former British Prime Minister David Cameron has been appointed Minister for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs. No former prime minister had agreed to be part of a government for half a century. Moreover, David Cameron is not a member of the House of Commons.

☞ During his tenure as prime minister, he promoted a “modern and compassionate conservatism”. He carried out an austerity plan while announcing that he would take care of the poorest. Together with French President Nicolas Sarkozy, he launched the war against Libya. He also called the Brexit referendum.

Descended from Jewish ancestry, he said: “In me, you have a prime minister whose belief in Israel is indestructible. I will always be a staunch defender of the Jewish people, a supporter of the State of Israel, and I will never stand idly by while the Jewish community in Britain is under threat.”

**UK High Court strikes down Illegal Refugee Deportation Act**

The British High Court upheld a lower court’s ruling that the risk was too great if the illegal immigrants were sent to Rwanda. It is likely that this country would not process cases appropriately and that applicants could be forced to return to their country of origin.

**The BBC's apology**

The BBC apologized to its viewers. Citing a Reuters report, it reported that the Israel Defense Forces targeted medical workers and journalists during the attack on Gaza's Al-Shifa Hospital. It should have specified that the IDF was accompanied by Arabic-speaking doctors and personnel.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews, the second-largest British Jewish NGO, filed a lawsuit against the channel.

**For Emmanuel Macron, the bombing of Gaza has no legitimacy**

French President Emmanuel Macron told the BBC that he recognized “Israel’s right to defend itself, but we urge it to stop this bombing... Today, civilians are being bombed. These babies, these ladies, these elderly people are being bombed and killed. There is no reason for this, nor is there any legitimacy for this. We therefore encourage Israel to urgently stop.”
Emmanuel Macron backs Israel's right to self-defense

French President Emmanuel Macron reached Israeli President Isaac Herzog by phone. He told him, “I unequivocally support the Israeli state and your right to self-defense.”

In France, 100,000 people against anti-Semitism

Several tens of thousands of people, mainly elderly and bourgeois, marched in Paris “For the Republic and against anti-Semitism”, at the call of the presidents of the National Assembly and the Senate. All the former Presidents of the Republic, Presidents of Parliamentary Assemblies and the Constitutional Council participated.

The president of the National Rally also participated, but was not admitted to the top four. The President of the Republic, who had called for demonstrations, and the France Unbowed party who defend Gazans, abstained from attending. The event was supervised by 3,000 police officers.

Among the notable absentees were two former foreign ministers known for their resistance to “American imperialism”: Roland Dumas (also former president of the Constitutional Council) and Dominique de Villepin (also former prime minister).

☞ The French understood, rightly or wrongly, that this event was intended to divert attention from the massacres in Palestine. For example, the Jewish anti-Zionist Rony Braumann, former president of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) (Doctors without borders), said: “I will not go to protest on Sunday, because I think it is totally unbalanced, and in the current context, it is more a march in support of Israel than a march in support of Jews.”

The innuendo revealed a fundamental contradiction in the slogan “For the Republic and against anti-Semitism” which was referring to the anti-Semitic role of the “French state” (which had replaced the Republic during World War II). However, the organizers hoped to bring together 4 million people as in 2015 after the attacks against Charlie Hebdo. They would have relied on the French tradition of rejecting imported wars... which was the reason for popular support for Philippe Petain’s regime.

Incidentally, the participation of the National Rally in a march against anti-Semitism broke the lock that prevented Marine Le Pen from becoming president of the Republic.

General Dominique Delawarde, Thierry Meyssan and Youssef Hindi on Gaza (video)

French Senate Considers Criminalizing Contesting the Existence of the State of Israel

The French Senate has been seized of a bill by Stéphane Le Rudulier (Republican) supplementing the penal framework punishing anti-Zionism. This bill provides:

Article 25 of the law of 29 July 1881 on the freedom of the press is re-established as follows: “Art. 25. – Those who contest the existence of the State of Israel by one of the means set out in Article 23 shall be punished by one year's imprisonment and a fine of 45,000 euros.”

“Insult committed against the State of Israel, by any of the means set out in Article 23, shall be punishable by two years' imprisonment and a fine of 75,000 euros.”

“Those who, by the same means, have directly provoked hatred or violence against the State of Israel shall be punished by five years' imprisonment and a fine of 100,000 euros.”

☞ Zionism is a form of colonialism. It was sanctioned by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3379 (10 November 1975). This resolution was revoked by Resolution 46/86 (16
December 1991) in order for Israel to agree to participate in the Madrid Conference (October-November 1991). The reinstatement of Resolution 3379 was discussed at the Durban conference.

Many prominent Jews denounce the existence of the State of Israel in its current form. Their views would fall within the scope of this law, if it were passed.

**French judges issue arrest warrant for Bashar al-Assad**

French judges have issued arrest warrants for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, his brother Maher al-Assad, director of branch 450 of the Centre for Scientific Studies and Research (CERS) General Ghassan Abbas and adviser to the Syrian president on strategic affairs General Bassam al-Hassan. Following a complaint by the Open Society Justice Initiative and the Syrian Archives, they hold them responsible for the chemical attack in Eastern Ghouta in August 2013.

The judges did not accept the numerous testimonies and expert reports that showed the inanity of this accusation.

**Attack on Alejo Vidal-Quadras**

Former president of the Catalan People’s Party Alejo Vidal-Quadras (78), who became president of Vox before resigning, was the subject of an assassination attempt near his home in Madrid.

A member of the European Friends of Israel, he managed to get funding for Vox by the People's Mujaheddin of Iran, an Iranian terrorist organization sponsored by the CIA and based in Albania.

**Pedro Sánchez becomes Prime Minister by granting amnesty to Catalan secessionists**

Despite only coming second in the general election, Pedro Sánchez's Socialists formed the new Spanish government with the help of Catalan separatists. This coalition was formed with the promise of an amnesty for its leaders, six years after their attempted secession.

The People's Party and Vox organized demonstrations against this law on 12 November. They consider it to be a violation of the principles of equality, territorial unity and the separation of powers.

**Germany plans to double aid to Ukraine**

Chancellor Olaf Scholz's government wants to increase its military and financial support for Ukraine. It has already provided €17 billion to Kiev and would like to give it another €8 billion next year and not just €4 billion as previously announced. By comparison, the U.S. has already provided $42 billion to Ukraine.

The main beneficiaries of this largesse are German arms makers. However, Ukraine's failure on the battlefield is largely explained by the new way of waging war. The widespread use of drones makes it much easier to destroy heavy weapons. Under these conditions, the excellent German weapons are of little use at the moment. Germany, Ukraine and Google are looking for ways to re-establish Western technological superiority.

President Volodymyr Zelensky is said to have a very concrete plan for a new counteroffensive next year.

**Finland buys David's Sling**

According to the Israeli Ministry of Defense, an agreement for the sale of the David's Sling anti-missile system has been signed with Finland. The transaction is worth €317 million ($339 million).

**Finland plans to close its border with Russia**

Illegal crossings of Russian and Ukrainian citizens across the Finnish border have increased significantly. According to Finnish Prime
Minister Petteri Orpo, this can only be attributed to Moscow's desire to stop screening irregular migrants. As a result, he announced his intention to intensify the work of monitoring the border, or even to close it.

Hungary says Ukraine is too corrupt to join EU

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said: “The EU must not start negotiations on Ukraine's accession.”

His chief of staff Gergely Gulyás said in a TV press briefing: “Ukraine does not meet the necessary criteria [for EU membership]. It did not respond to it before the beginning of the conflict and does not come any closer to it now. We have to admit that Ukraine is totally corrupt and is not yet mature enough to become a member of the EU.”

Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto believes that Kiev does not respect the rights of the Hungarian minority in Transcarpathia. He said that “enlargement is supposed to spread peace, not bring war.”

Czechia files 384 lawsuits against Russia “supporters”

According to the website of the Czech public broadcaster, iRozhlas, the Public Prosecutor's Office is stepping up the prosecution of citizens who glorify the Russian aggression against Ukraine. It is a criminal offence in that country to “publicly endorse, accept or support the Russian Federation's attacks against Ukraine”. It also prohibits “supporting” or “praising the main representatives of the Russian Federation”.

For Jean-Claude Junker, Ukraine is too corrupt to join the EU

In an interview with the Augsburger Allgemeine, Luxembourg's Jean-Claude Junker, former president of the European Commission, said: “Anyone who has dealt with Ukraine knows that it is a country that is corrupt at all levels of society. Despite the efforts made, it is not eligible and requires massive internal reform processes (...) We have had bad experiences with some of the so-called new members, for example in the area of the rule of law.”

European humanitarian aid to Palestine

Since 16 October, the EU has sent 8 humanitarian flights to Egypt for Gaza carrying 372 tons of aid. In peacetime, the EU is the largest donor to the Palestinian people. This year, it is expected to send donations worth €100 million.

EU Member States' military R&D budgets down

The EU Member States participating in the Permanent Cooperation Structure (PESCO) met in Brussels. They congratulated themselves on having increased their defense budgets by 12% this year. However, budgets for military research and development fell from 1.7% to 1.1%.

☞ In other words, PESCO participants are making weapons designed to fight jihadists and are not creating weapons to fight high-intensity wars. According to parliamentary reports, no European army could fight Russia or China for more than two days.

Anders Fogh Rasmussen proposes to have Ukraine join NATO, without the territories occupied by Russia

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, former Secretary General of NATO (2009-14) and current adviser to President Volodymyr Zelensky, has proposed that Ukraine join NATO, without the territories occupied by Russia. In this way, according to him, Article 5 would only apply in the event of Russian shelling of the rest of Ukraine.

Such accession would make it possible to bring the present war to an end without having to formally acknowledge having lost it.
James Stavridis proposes to have Ukraine join NATO, without the territories occupied by Russia, on the model of South Korea and the US-Korean treaty

In an op-ed published by Bloomberg, Admiral James Stavridis, former NATO commander (SACEUR) when Anders Fogh Rasmussen was secretary general, compares the future of Ukraine to the fate of South Korea in the 20th century. According to him, it would be appropriate to show realism and interrupt hostilities. What is left of Ukraine must be rebuilt and security guarantees must be provided in its current territory.

Washington Post and Der Spiegel accuse Ukrainian dissident officer of coordinating Nord Stream sabotage

According to a survey by the Washington Post and Der Spiegel, Colonel Roman Chervinsky is alleged to have been the coordinator of the sabotage of the Nord Stream gas pipelines, which he denied through his lawyers. The operation was reportedly carried out without informing President Volodymir Zelensky.

☞ This accusation benefits the West without answering the technical questions of its possible implementation by the Ukrainian services. Roman Chervinsky is a Ukrainian Special Forces officer who has come into conflict with President Zelensky. He is currently on trial in Kyiv on charges of abuse of power.

Meeting of National Security Advisers on Ukraine

During a working visit to the US, Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine Andriy Yermak participated in a summit with National Security Advisor of the President of the US Jake Sullivan, Secretary of the National Security Council and National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of the UK Timothy Barrow, Foreign Policy Advisor to the German Chancellor Jens Plötner and Foreign Policy Advisor to the French President Emmanuel Bonne.

Secret Prigozhin-Ukraine negotiations

According to Stephen Bryen, former undersecretary of defense and former president of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (Jinsa), (now deceased) head of the Wagner Group Yevgeny Prigozhin had made contact with Ukrainian intelligence during his travels in Africa. He is said to have negotiated the return of Donbass to Ukraine in exchange for the lease of Crimea.

Convicted criminals who have enlisted at the front expiate their crimes with their blood

According to Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, speaking of the criminals hired by Wagner: “Those convicted, including for serious crimes, atone for their crimes with blood on the battlefield (...) They expiate with blood in assault units, under bullets, under shells.”

Russian humanitarian aid for Gazans

“A special aircraft delivered 25 tons of humanitarian aid to the Arab Republic of Egypt,” the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations said. “The humanitarian shipment has already been handed over to representatives of the Egyptian branch of the Red Crescent... more Russian aid will be sent to the residents of the Gaza Strip.”

Armenia could leave the CSTO

Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan will not attend the upcoming summit of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). Armenia seems to be preparing to leave the organization. It was the one who opposed the entry of Syria.
AFRICA

Kenyan peacekeepers postpone deployment to Haiti

Kenya, which pledged last month to deploy a UN-brokered peacekeeping force to Haiti, has postponed the mission indefinitely. It demands that its soldiers first be trained in this police function.

The US, which has been militarily present in Haiti for 41 years in the last 100 years, is determined to launch an eighth mission in Haiti. The country no longer has any elected officials. It is administered without any legitimacy by Ariel Henry, an opponent of President Aristide. This mission is referred to as "Multinational Security Support" (MSS). It should be outsourced, not to Canada or Brazil which politely refused, but to Kenya, supported by Jamaica, the Bahamas, and Antigua and Barbuda. The US has stated that it is prepared to finance them to the tune of $100 million. In addition, the Pentagon has said it is ready to help Kenya fight the jihadists of al-Shabab.

South Sudan chooses Russia to exploit its oil reserves

South Sudanese President Salva Kiir Mayardit has chosen Russia as a partner for his country's development. Moscow was allowed to map all of the country's natural resources for the first time in history. It is expected to build an oil refinery and even an alternative pipeline linking the Red Sea via Ethiopia and Djibouti.

South Sudan is a member of OPEC. It has the third-largest oil reserves in sub-Saharan Africa, about 90% of which is believed to be untapped.

ASIA

Anti-Netanyahu protests in Israel

The Israeli opposition staged a protest in Caesarea where Benjamin Netanyahu owns a vacation home. The appeal leaflet reads: “Every minute that passes increases the rage against the defendant [referring to Netanyahu, who is on trial for corruption] who, after 34 days, has failed to free the hostages, to create security for Israeli citizens, to rehabilitate communities near Gaza, to repatriate the residents of the north to their homes, and to support IDF soldiers and their commanders in the fight against Hamas.”

In Haifa, the leaflet read: “We are not waiting for tomorrow, we are not waiting for another day. The government and its leader must leave now.”

Intimidation of opponents of the war

According to Haaretz, Israeli pacifist Meir Baruchin, a civics and history teacher, was arrested by the Shin Bet on a complaint by the Petah Tikva municipality and jailed for five days before being released. He tweeted the names and ages of six Palestinian youths, aged between 14 and 24, who were killed in Gaza with the caption: “They were born under occupation. Have lived there all their lives. They have never known a single day of freedom. They were executed by our wonderful boys.”

Two Knesset MPs suspended for challenging official version of October 7 and Gaza war

MPs Aida Touma-Sliman (Hadash-Ta'al) and Iman Khatib-Yassin (Joint List) were suspended from the Knesset with withholding of their salaries.

In a post on X, Aida Touma-Sliman wrote: “And they always insist that “the most moral army in the world” doesn't harm innocent people or attack hospitals. Tonight, the army spokesman issued an official statement saying that the army is not bombing Al-Shifa.”

Khatib-Yassin said of the IDF film of the October 7 massacre that no babies were slaughtered, and no women were raped by Hamas.
Israel censors Al-Mayadeen

The Israeli government's security cabinet has approved the order of new Minister of Communications Shlomo Karhi to block broadcasting organizations deemed a threat to national security, the closure of their offices and the seizure of broadcasting equipment. As a result, the minister signed an order to block the websites of the "Hezbollah-affiliated" Al-Mayadeen network, as well as close the network's West Bank offices and confiscate its equipment.

Contrary to what the Israeli Ministry of Communication states, Al-Mayadeen is not affiliated with Hezbollah which has the Al-Manar TV channel. However, Al-Mayadeen which has become the main Arabic-language news channel is mainly funded by Iran.

Three cities excluded from the October 7 victims' compensation plan

The Knesset's Finance Committee granted increased compensation to cities that fell victim to the October 7 attack, including Sefer. These compensation payments have been extended to towns 7 km from the Gaza Strip border and 9 km from the Lebanese border. Three towns in the Eshkol Regional Council – Tzalim, Gvulot and Urim, which are more than 7 km from the border – were not included in this list, although they were hit by Hamas and were evacuated.

Chairman of the Eshkol Regional Council Gadi Yarkoni announced that he intended to sleep in front of the Knesset to protest the exclusion of these three cities from the government plan.

After the war, Israel will increase its defense budget

At a press conference on November 11, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that a lesson of the war was that the defense budget should be increased and that the IDF would also have to be expanded. He was publicly expressing the first reflections that took place in the dialogue between the political echelon and the Chiefs of Staff, following the outbreak of the war.

The US subsidizes the IDF to the tune of $3.8 billion annually. They just gave them a special subsidy of $14 billion.

Tony Blair could become humanitarian coordinator in Gaza

According to Ynet, Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet is in contact with former British Prime Minister Tony Blair. He hopes that he will agree to become humanitarian coordinator for Gaza.

Tony Blair has not yet given his answer. Discussions focus on the scope of his mandate, how to evacuate the wounded, and of course his remuneration.

During his first term in office, Tony Blair aligned the British Labour Party (New Labour) with the economic views of US President Bill Clinton. This is the beginning of the rise of the “super-rich” in the UK. During his second term, he aligned the country's foreign policy with the imperialist views of U.S. President George W. Bush, becoming “Bush's poodle” in the eyes of his opposition. Subsequently, Tony Blair was the Quartet's representative in the Middle East. He made his fortune with his consulting firms, Blair Inc. and Tony Blair Associates.

Benjamin Netanyahu blames Hamas for massacres

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu replied to the French president: “The responsibility for the harm caused to civilians lies with Hamas-Daesh and not with the Jewish state.”

Israeli lawmakers want to expel Palestinians

The Wall Street Journal published an op-ed by Danny Danon (Likud) and Ram Ben-Barak (Yesh Atid) in support of the transfer of Palestinians out of the Gaza Strip.
MP Nissim Vaturi (Likud) commented, “Yes, we have to get them out of here, there is no way to live with them.” He added: “If the Scottish Prime Minister, for example, wanted refugees, we would transfer them there.” He spoke out in favor of the relocation of settlements in the Gaza Strip. Finally, he tweeted: “Rabbi Kahane is a saint.”

☞ New York Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder of the Jewish Defense League, was a “revisionist Zionist” sponsored by Yitzhak Shamir. He has organized murderous attacks against neo-Nazis in the US and against Muslim figures. He became a member of the Knesset, but was expelled because of his hate speech. His U.S. organization has been classified as “terrorist” by the FBI.

Itamar Ben-Gvir calls for re-occupation of Gaza

Israel’s Minister of National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir said in an interview with Kan Sunday public radio that “After the Gush Katif settlements were evacuated, the world changed; Reality has changed (...) What we need here is an occupation. Every time our enemies have lost territory, they have lost the war. We should have full control; This will deter our enemies, let them know that we have won and that we are allowing residents to return to their homes. I’m not afraid that the Israelis will resettle in Gaza.”

Eliyahu Revivo wants the word “Gaza” removed

MP Eliyahu Revivo (Likud) wrote to the Appointments Committee asking that the word Gaza no longer correspond to any place or appear on any road signs. According to him, “There is no doubt that the name “Gaza” is immediately associated with a negative and evil connotation.”

Mercenaries on the side of the IDF

According to El Mundo, the IDF have used Albanian, German, Spanish, American and French mercenaries to oversee certain operations in Gaza. The media outlet interviewed one of them, Pedro Diaz Flores, who had previously served in Ukraine in the “integral nationalist” Azov battalion.

French MP Thomas Portes (LFI, radical left) has referred the matter to the public prosecutor in Paris. According to article 436-1 of the French penal code, mercenary activity is punishable by five years' imprisonment and a fine of €75,000.

IDF Discovers Hamas Arsenal at Sea

The Israeli Navy has discovered a cache of Hamas underwater weapons off the coast of Gaza. The weapons were wrapped in such a way as to resist marine corrosion.

Voltaire Network Analysis

"The Collapse of Israel and the US", by Thierry Meyssan

For the first time, the world is witnessing a crime against humanity live on television. The US and Israel, who have long stood together, will both be held responsible for the mass killings in Gaza. Everywhere, except in Europe, Washington's allies are withdrawing their ambassadors from Tel Aviv. Tomorrow, they will do it in Washington. Everything is happening as it did during the break-up of the USSR and will end in the same way: the American Empire is threatened in its existence. The process that has just begun cannot be stopped.

Hezbollah attacks Israeli military targets

According to Al-Manar, Hezbollah attacked an Israeli logistics force and a bulldozer near the Dovov barracks, as well as the Zarit barracks and an Israeli infantry force in Birkat Risha, in the Al-Taihat triangle and in Ruwaisat Al-Asi, on the Lebanese border. It used “guided missiles”, causing several casualties on the Israeli side.
The attacks followed a second speech by the party's secretary general Hassan Nasrallah on November 11.

**Israel retaliates against Yemeni fire... on Syria**

Militiamen from Ansar Allah (referred to as “Houthis” by the Western press) fired a missile and hit a school in the Israeli city of Eilat on the Red Sea. In response, the IDF launched an attack... against Syria. According to Israel, their targets were weapons depots of pro-Iranian militias, comparable to Ansar Allah.

Syria condemned the attack, but did not respond.

**GCC Creates Unified Tourist Visa**

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has approved a unified tourist visa project for all the organization’s member states: Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman. It is expected to be available at the end of 2024.

**Iranian-Azerbaijani rapprochement**

In the midst of the Israeli massacre in Gaza, Iranian President Raisi paid an official visit to Azerbaijan, a longtime ally of the Jewish state. Tel Aviv supplies two-thirds of its weapons to Baku.

The two heads of state welcomed the rapprochement between their countries. Armenia's evolution on the western side is pushing the member states of the International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC) to reorganize.

**Iran will not commit to Hamas’ initiative**

Several senior Iranian officials reported the remarks exchanged during the audience granted by Leader of the Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to Hamas' political leader Ismail Haniyeh. The Leader reportedly stated that, since he had not been informed in advance of the 7 October attack, he did not feel co-responsible for this initiative. As a result, Iran has no reason to engage in it.

Furthermore, the Leader said: “This is not a war between Gaza and the Jewish state. It is a war between Good and Evil, between Faith and Arrogance.”

**Resumption of civil war in Myanmar**

The Arakan Army, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army have formed the "Three Fraternities Alliance". They launched an attack on the government of General Min Aung Hlaing in northern Shan State on October 27. With all roads cut off, the Burmese army was unable to reach the rebel region.

The MNDAA and the junta jointly produced opium and heroin.

One infantry battalion of the Raglan Army (261 people, i.e. 127 soldiers and 134 members of their families) defected and joined the Alliance.

**South Korea's Top Public Broadcaster Apologizes for Falsifying News**

Park Min, the new president of South Korea's main public broadcaster KBS has apologized for his administration's biased political reporting. “We deeply regret the loss of public trust by undermining fairness, which is a core value of public service, and we respectfully apologize,” he said.

**DPRK responds to G7**

The foreign ministers of the advanced G7 countries issued a joint statement from Tokyo condemning North Korea's ballistic missile programs and alleged arms transfers to Russia. , Central director of North Korea's Foreign Ministry Jo Chol-su called the G7 “a conflicting group of destroyers and violators of peace and stability.” According to him, these accusations are “baseless and unreasonable”.

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DPRK accuses US of being responsible for Gaza massacre

North Korea has denied supplying weapons to Hamas. The Rodong Sinmun wrote: “The U.S. has systematically handed over mass murder equipment to the Jewish state, forcing them to invade and commit massacre.”

Controversy in Korea over a Japanese massacre

North Korea has denounced the revisionism of Japan's cabinet minister Hirokazu Matsuno who is said to have declared at a parliamentary meeting that it was difficult to know the truth about the Grand Kanto massacre (1923) because the court records of the time were no longer available.

During the earthquake in Japan, the Imperial Army, fearing an uprising by Korean employees, is said to have massacred 6,000 of them.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UN honors civil servants killed in Gaza

The United Nations observed a minute's silence on 13 November in memory of the 100 or so of its staff killed in Gaza. “This is the highest number of humanitarian workers killed in the history of our organization in such a short period of time,” said Director-General of the United Nations in Geneva Tatiana Valovaya.

UN: the humanitarian plan in 10 points

The UN has published a 10-point plan for humanitarian aid in Gaza:

1. Facilitate aid agencies' efforts to attract a continuous flow of aid convoys, and to do so safely.
2. Open additional crossing points for the entry of aid and commercial trucks, including the one in Kerem Shalom.
3. Provide access to fuel for the UN, other humanitarian organizations, and public and private sector entities to provide sufficient supplies to provide aid and basic services.
4. Allow humanitarian organizations to deliver aid throughout the Gaza Strip without hindrance or interference.
5. Allow for an increase in the number of safe shelters for displaced persons in schools and other public facilities in Gaza and ensure that they remain places of safety for the duration of hostilities.
6. Improve a humanitarian notification mechanism that would help spare civilians and civilian infrastructure from hostilities and help facilitate humanitarian access.
7. Enable the establishment of emergency distribution centers for civilians, as needed.
8. Allow civilians to move to safer areas and voluntarily return to their places of residence.
9. Fund humanitarian action, which now stands at $1.2 billion.
10. Implement a humanitarian ceasefire to allow basic services to restart and resume essential trade. Such a ceasefire is also essential to facilitate the delivery of aid, allow for the release of hostages and provide respite for civilians.

57 heads of state and government gather to protest the genocide in Gaza

The Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation held a joint summit in Riyadh five weeks after the outbreak of the Israeli-Palestinian war. 57 heads of state and government, a quarter of the UN General Assembly, participated.

Opening the session, Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman said, “We hold the occupation authorities accountable for the crimes committed against the Palestinian people... We are certain that the only way to ensure security, peace and stability in the region is to end the occupation, siege and colonization.”

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said: “The UN Security Council must act swiftly to stop Israeli aggression and allow humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, and to prevent the expulsion of the Palestinian people from Gaza.
and the West Bank... We will not accept any military or security solution to the Palestinian issue. All of these solutions have failed. I cannot believe that all these crimes are taking place before the eyes of the world without any real action by the international community to end this criminal war and achieve justice for the Palestinian people.” He added: “We call for an international peace conference that will lead to a political solution based on the decisions of the international community and the Arab peace initiative to provide protection to the Palestinian people. The Gaza Strip is part of the Palestinian state and the political solution must include it.”

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on his first trip to Saudi Arabia urged participants to classify the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) as a “terrorist organization”.

[Following the execution of Sheikh Nimr Baqr al-Nimr by Riyadh, Iran severed diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia. The latter then classified the IRGC as a “terrorist organization”. This designation was dropped in March 2023, when diplomatic relations were re-established under the auspices of China.]

King Abdullah II of Jordan said Palestinians in the Gaza Strip were dying “in a terrible war that must end immediately.” Abdullah added that “this injustice has been going on for more than seven decades.”

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi called for “an immediate and unconditional ceasefire.” He said the “displacement of Palestinians from their land must be prevented.” He called for “a formula for a settlement of the conflict based on the two-state solution and the establishment of a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders.”

Lebanese Prime Minister Nagib Mikati, after outlining his peace plan, stressed that Hezbollah, in its wisdom, was not responding to Israel's provocations.

Qatar's emir Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani said the international community “has not stopped war crimes in Gaza,” accusing the world of allowing Israel to act as if it were above the rules of international law. “The world order betrays itself before it betrays us by allowing the bombing of hospitals, neighborhoods and camps. Our position is firm regarding our support for the resistance of the brotherly Palestinian people and their just cause.”

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said: “The latest aggression on Gaza is just one event in a long context that goes back to 75 years of Zionist crimes and 32 years of a doomed peace, the one and only absolute and irrefutable result of which is that the “entity” has become more aggressive and the Palestinian situation more unjust, with even more oppression and misery. The land has not been returned and the right has not been restored either in Palestine or in the Golan.”

Some countries, including Algeria and Lebanon, have proposed severing economic and diplomatic ties with Israel and stopping oil supplies to Israel and its allies. However, at least three countries, including the UAE and Bahrain, which normalized relations with Israel in 2020, have rejected the proposal.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said: “It is shameful that Western countries, which always talk about human rights and freedoms, remain silent in the face of the ongoing massacres in Palestine.” He then called on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to open an investigation into Israel's possession of nuclear weapons and reveal its findings to the world.
The president of the largest Muslim country in the world, Indonesian Joko Widodo, called to refer the matter to the International Commission on the Occupied Palestinian Territories (Human Rights Council) and demanding to relaunch negotiations for the recognition of Palestinian state.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Mahathir Mohamad's successor, called on all participants to put pressure on the US to stop the massacre.

The Final Communiqué recognizes the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. It does not mention Hamas or Islamic Jihad. It only expresses condemnations and demands without taking any operational measures. It rejects Israel's arguments that it is acting in “self-defense” and demands that the UN Security Council adopt a “binding” resolution to end Israeli “aggression.” It also rejects any future political solution to the conflict that would keep the Gaza Strip separate from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.

In a TV address, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Arab and Muslim leaders should have “stood up against Hamas,” which he described as “an integral part of the Iranian-led axis of terrorism.”

**Conference on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East**

The 4th session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East opened on 13 November at the UN headquarters in New York.

The debates were dominated by recent statements by an Israeli minister referring to his country's possession of the atomic bomb. Israel is not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Pact.

**Socialist International condemns Hamas and reaffirms Israel's right to self defense**

The Socialist International met in Malaga (Spain) on 12 November. While the member parties rejected the idea of a joint communiqué on the Israeli-Palestinian war, Israeli Labor Party chairman Merav Michaeli insisted that they issue a statement. It was approved by the heads of government present, including German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and the Prime Ministers of Spain (Pedro Sánchez), Denmark (Mette Frederiksen), Romania (Marcel Ciolacu) and Malta (Robert Abela). It condemns the Hamas attack, the cruel murder of Israelis and the captivity of many of them. It reaffirms Israel's right to defend itself against this terrorist attack in accordance with international law. Having made this observation, it deplores the humanitarian tragedy in Gaza and calls for the restoration of humanitarian access.
EDITORIAL

What truce in Gaza?

The humanitarian pause agreed between Hamas and Israel is not a ceasefire, but merely a halt to the fighting to facilitate an exchange of prisoners.

Its conditions were imposed by the US on Israel which refused them. Its exact terms are not known. However, it is known that:

- The truce will allow the release of 50 Hamas prisoners (considered hostages by Israel) in exchange for 150 administrative prisoners (i.e., not tried) of Israel (considered hostages by Hamas).

- A list of 300 Palestinian administrative prisoners has been published by the Netanyahu government, giving Israeli citizens the opportunity to oppose their release.

- Israel will not be able to use drones for more than 6 hours a day. As a result, the IDF will not be able to locate the Hamas hideouts where the prisoners are being held. Hamas demanded a complete ban on drone flights. Israel would not be allowed to monitor the main road to the Gaza Strip during the four days.

- Trucks carrying supplies, medicine and fuel will be allowed to enter the Gaza Strip from Egypt. This pause will not take place until 24 November.

In the meantime, the IDF continues the destruction of Gaza City, attacks Al-Shifa Hospital and begins the destruction of towns in the southern Gaza Strip. The Palestinian resistance continues to fire rockets into Israel and is waging a fierce battle against Israeli foot soldiers and tanks.

This Israeli operation has already caused more than 13,000 Gazan civilian casualties in 48 days.
AMERICAS

Washington opposes forced relocation of Gazans to Egypt

President Joe Biden called his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fatah El-Sisi on November 22 to assure him that the US opposes the forced relocation of the Gazan population.

His special envoy for humanitarian affairs in Gaza, David Satterfield, told Lebanon's Al-Jadeed television on the same day that displaced Palestinians "must be allowed to return to their homes in the north as soon as possible."

☞ Gaza City has already been completely destroyed. No building is habitable anymore. In 48 days, the IDF has fired into Gaza several times the number of bombs used by the Russian army during the entire war in Ukraine.

Jake Sullivan acknowledges that hostages are not being held solely by Hamas

U.S. Security Adviser Jacob "Jake" Sullivan acknowledged on November 22 on CBS that the hostages held in Gaza were not only held by Hamas. This is the first time that the US, cutting back on Israeli propaganda, has acknowledged that the October 7 attack was not an operation by Hamas, but by the United Palestinian Resistance.

Bernie Sanders says Congress can't vote for additional subsidies to Israel

Sen. Bernie Sanders (Dem., Vermont) said, "There is a terrible humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. The bombing must stop now and allow massive amounts of humanitarian aid, including fuel, to be sent to reach those in need. Congress cannot pass a supplemental spending bill that allows these actions to continue."

However, his far-left blames him for not having asked for a ceasefire and accuses him of ambiguity.

Patrick Leahy calls on IDF to apply his law

Former Democrat senator Patrick Leahy authored a law prohibiting subsidizing regimes that violate human rights. He said: "It seems to me that shooting at civilians and targeting civilian infrastructure, when you can't prove that it's being used by Hamas, is a violation of human rights."

"What can be done to enforce Leahy's Law now? It should apply to the Israel Defense Forces, unless the administration, like many, has given up on it."

Antony Blinken lays out his goals for Gaza

Speaking to World News Tonight (ABC), Secretary of State Antony Blinken said, "There can be no reoccupation of Gaza by the Israeli state."

However, there could be "a transition period for security to be ensured in Gaza." "It is imperative, in our judgment, that there be lasting peace and security for both Israelis and Palestinians, we are actually moving forward to ensure that Palestinians have political rights, that they have the ability to govern themselves, to make decisions for their own future, in their own state."

John Finer worried about the fate of Gazans who have fled to the south

US deputy national security adviser Jon Finer said on Face the Nation (CBS) that the US does not dispute Israel's right to defend itself but that it cares about the fate of the people of Gaza. If fighting begins in the south, Israel must first secure the refugees it has forced to flee from the north.

US State Department classifies KSS as a "terrorist organization"

The US State Department has classified Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada (KSS) (Master of the Martyrs' Battalions) as a "Foreign Terrorist
Organization" (FTO) and a "Specially Designated Global Terrorist" (SDGT).

KSS is an Iraqi Shiite militia that protects Shiite shrines around the world.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said, "Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. The US remains committed to using every tool available to counter Iran's support for terrorism, degrade and disrupt the ability of Iranian-backed groups to carry out terrorist attacks."

Mike Johnson questions the impartiality of the Commission on Jan. 6

New Speaker of the House Mike Johnson has authorized an investigation into the conditions under which the House Committee on the January 6 Capitol riot concluded that it was an attempted coup.

The 40,000 hours of video attest to a completely different version.

The Inquiry Committee was led by Republican Liz Cheney of Wyoming, daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, and another Republican, Adam Kinzinger of Illinois. Both are opponents of Donald Trump. Cheney and Kinzinger warned Americans against fake news and other misinformation.

President of the House Mike Johnson is proposing to make public 5% of the available videos so that everyone can judge the bias of the House under the presidency of Nancy Pelosi.

☞ Several citizens were convicted of instigating or participating in the "attempted coup d'état of January 6". The most well-known is Jacob Chansley, known as QAnon Shaman, who was sentenced to 41 months in prison. The so-called "coup attempt" is also at the heart of the lawsuits against Donald Trump.

How Publicis and the Knight Foundation Control the World's Press

NewsGuard, which monitors and rates the international press, is not a non-profit organization but a successful for-profit company.

Its advisers include:
- Anders Fogh Rasmussen, former Secretary General of NATO and current adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky;
- Michael Hayden, former director of the CIA;
- Tom Ridge, former Secretary of Homeland Security;
- Richard Stengel, former Undersecretary for Public Diplomacy (Propaganda);
- Jimmy Wales (aka Jimbo Wales), co-founder of Wikipedia.

We therefore warned at the time against NewsGuard's political biases.

However, during the Covid pandemic NewsGuard cracked down on news sites that criticized government measures.

The political powers behind NewsGuard, which can be easily identified through its Committee of Advisors, are having their crusade funded by friendly capitalist powers. NewsGuard's two largest shareholders are Publicis and the Knight Foundation.

- Paris-based international advertising group Publicis has feminist philosopher Élisabeth Badinter as its majority shareholder (with 7.10% of the shares). Its director, Arthur Sadoun, is the husband of France2 TV's star anchor Anne-Sophie Lapix.
- The Knight Foundation is a philanthropic foundation that funds media and art centers. It distributes free notes to journalists on hygienist speeches to be made.

The Publicis Group represented the major pharmaceutical companies, including Pfizer, that sold messenger RNA drugs, wrongly called "vaccines."

The Knight Foundation had access to Google's secret portal located in Indonesia and run by
Mafindo's Islamists. As a result, it could monitor the progression of information on the internet relating to the pandemic.

☞ Shareholders have therefore outdone the politicians who had solicited them. They are the ones who censored websites (including Voltairenet.org) highlighting Dr. Fauci's network at the WHO laboratory in Wuhan, the inanity of the lockdown of healthy people, the side effects of the so-called vaccines and information about other drugs available.

David Brock vs. Elon Musk

Media manipulation specialist David Brock has launched a vast campaign against the reputation of Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX, and Tesla.

Brock has launched about twenty different stories to ruin his life. However, Elon Musk has filed a lawsuit against his latest poisoning: print screens that would show that X (ex-Twitter) is dressing up the accounts of major companies with neo-Nazi advertising.

Nicaragua leaves the OAS

Nicaragua has left the Organization of American States (OAS).

Guatemalan elites begin to attack Bernardo Arevalo

The prosecutor, Angel Saul Sánchez, has begun proceedings to lift the immunity of President Bernardo Arevalo and a dozen of his MPs.

Colombia joins Algeria against Israel at ICC

Colombian President Gustavo Petro, who recalled his ambassador to Tel Aviv, announced that his government was studying how to prosecute Benjamin Netanyahu for atrocities committed against civilians in Gaza. He said his country would join Algeria's war crimes complaint before the International Criminal Court (ICC).

5 states have already filed complaints with the ICC: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Comoros, South Africa and Djibouti.

Javier Milei, Argentina's new president

To everyone's surprise, libertarian economist Javier Milei won the second round of the Argentine presidential election with 55.6% of the vote, against 44.3% for the Peronist Sergio Massa.

As soon as he was elected, he announced that he wanted to implement his program as quickly as possible: a drastic remedy based on a disengagement of the state from culture, health, education etc.

His running mate and now vice-president, lawyer Victoria Villarruel, is a human rights activist. However, she accused the Argentine guerrillas of being instrumentalized by Fidel Castro and of being linked to Yasser Arafat. She also defended individuals involved in the crimes of General Videla's dictatorship.

EUROPE

Pope Francis calls Gaza massacre 'genocide'

Pope Francis received a Palestinian delegation. "When we shared the stories of the families who were killed [in Gaza], he said, 'I see the genocide,'" said Shireen Awwad Hilal, who teaches at Bethlehem Bible College. "He was very clear; the word genocide didn't come from us. It comes from His Holiness, Pope Francis," she said.

Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni, asked for confirmation of the use of the word "genocide," replied: "I don't know if he [the pope] used such a word. He used terms that he expressed during the general public and words that, in any case, represent the terrible situation in Gaza." Other participants in the Palestinian press conference acknowledged that they had heard the pope use the word "genocide." "We were all there. We've heard it and no one has a hearing problem."
**Restoration of relations between Ukraine and the Holy See**

Secretary of State of the Holy See Cardinal Pietro Parolin visited Ukraine where he was received by President Volodymyr Zelensky. H.E. presided at the Mass in memory of the victims of the Holodomor, the famine of 1932-33.

_integral nationalists are trying hard to interpret this famine as a plot by Joseph Stalin to exterminate the Ukrainian people. In the 1980s, they won the support of the US and, since the Russian special military operation (February 2022), that of almost all Western parliaments.

Historians point out that the famine had a climatic cause. It has not only affected Ukraine, but Kazakhstan for example. Moreover, the way in which the CPSU reacted by privileging the cities over the countryside should not be interpreted as a desire for genocide.

**Mutiny in the UK Labour Party over the Israeli-Palestinian war**

Ten Labour MPs quit the shadow government in protest at the party's policy on mass murder in Gaza. 56 Labour MPs voted in favor of a motion calling for a ceasefire, defying party orders. Party chairman Keir Starmer agreed to change his rhetoric and call for a "cessation of hostilities," but not a "ceasefire."

**Zionist far-right wins Dutch parliamentary elections**

The Dutch general elections ended on 22nd November. The results are:
- Party for Freedom - PVV (Geert Wilders), 23.5% of the vote, 37 MPs elected;
- Labour Party–Green Left - PvdA-GL (Frans Timmermans), 15.5% of the vote, 25 MPs elected;
- People's Party for Freedom and Democracy - VVD (Dilan Yeşilgöz-Zegerius), 15.1% of the vote, 24 MPs elected;
- New Social Contract - NSC (Pieter Omtzigt), 12.8% of the vote, 20 MPs elected;
- Democrats 66 - D66 (Rob Jetten), 6.2% of the vote, 9 MPs elected.

Leader of the Forum for Democracy (FvD) Thierry Baudet was attacked by a young man during a rally two days before the election. He was not allowed to speak about the two attacks of which he was the victim.

Geert Wilders, who is expected to be appointed as the new prime minister by King Wilhelm Alexander, is supported by the American Straussians and by the State of Israel.

**Foreign editions**

Voltaire, international news is now published in six languages:
- Dutch
- English
- French
- Italian
- German
- Spanish

**Finland partially closes its borders with Russia**

Finland has closed four border crossings with Russia. The goal is to halt the massive influx of migrants from the Middle East and Africa that began a few weeks ago.

Since Finland relinquished its neutral status in violation of its 1947 written commitments, Russian border guards no longer turn back migrants who do not have visas for the EU. The filter they used to operate was not theirs. It was just a gesture of courtesy. As a result, migrants enter the buffer zone and then enter Finland illegally.

**Viktor Orbán's anti-EU consultation**

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán launched a consultation on his Facebook page asking 11 questions, including for example:
"Brussels wants to establish migrant ghettos in Hungary. What do you think? ». Or: "Brussels wants to give more weapons and money to Ukraine", "Brussels wants Ukraine to join the EU". In a question about Hamas, the consultation claims that this Palestinian Islamist movement has received financial aid from Brussels, which has not been proven.

Hungary has 8 million voters, and at least 1 million are expected to respond to this consultation.

The EU reaffirms its support for the two-state solution

EU’s High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell said: "I think the best guarantee for Israel's security is the creation of a Palestinian state."

Ilham Aliyev criticizes French colonialism

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said: "France is destabilizing not only its past and present settlements, but also our region, the South Caucasus, by supporting separatist tendencies and separatists. By arming Armenia, it is implementing a militaristic policy, encouraging the revanchist forces in Armenia, and preparing the ground for the start of new wars in our region. At the same time, France is abusing its status as a permanent member of the UN Security Council to carry out its one-sided policy. It engages in geopolitical intrigues in various regions and tries to use Western organizations as a means of exerting pressure on other states. The recent expulsion of French troops from Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso has shown once again that its ruthless neo-colonialist policies in Africa are doomed to failure. France, which should be ashamed of its history of colonialism rich in bloody crimes, instead of apologizing for the atrocities it has committed, speaks of fictitious ethnic cleansing in other countries."

"There is no longer a Russian minority in Ukraine"

Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration Olga Stefanishina said that the EU should not be worried about the Russian minority in Ukraine, because there are no longer any.

Lloyd Austin in Kyiv to reassure Ukrainians

U.S. Secretary of Defense Gen. Lloyd Austin visited Poland and then Ukraine. He met with President Volodymyr Zelensky and discussed the country’s armament needs. On November 1, Chief of Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces General Valery Zaluzhnyi told The Economist that the fighting in Ukraine reminds him of the bloody battlefields of World War I and that it would take an extraordinary technological leap to break the deadlock.

General Austin's visit was supposed to reassure the Ukrainians. He could also select the military with which the State Department could replace president Zelensky.

The war in Ukraine has already cost the West $160 billion.

Corruption in Ukraine (continued)

Head of Ukraine's government communications protection service Yuri Shchygol and his deputy were sacked by President Volodymyr Zelensky. They are accused of embezzling 62 million hryvnias (more than €1.5 million) from software purchases.

Vladimir Putin for equal rights for homosexuals

Serbian filmmaker Emir Kusturica asked President Vladimir Putin at the St. Petersburg forum about the privileges granted to sexual minorities that are winning all Western art competitions. Mr. Putin replied: "I will tell you something unexpected. They too – these minorities and people – have the right to win, to
show and to tell, because they are also part of society. That's what people are going through, too. But it's bad that they win all the competitions, it's useless."

**Arrest warrant for Susana Jamaladinova**

Russia's prosecutor general has issued an arrest warrant for singer Susana Jamaladinova.

She won the 2016 Eurovision Song Contest with her song *1944* about the deportation of Crimean Tatars under Stalin. However, this song contravenes a 2022 law punishing the falsification of military history. *1944* led to the belief that there was a mass racist deportation when in fact it was a punishment for individuals who volunteered to join the SS.

☞ Eurovision is a Song Contest created by the Information and Culture Committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

**AFRICA**

**Continued pressure from Washington and Tel Aviv on Cairo**

According to *Al-Araby al-Jadeed*, Washington and Tel Aviv have repeatedly pressured Cairo to tone down Egyptian criticism of Israel, stem anti-occupation protests, and calm statements by religious institutions.

After offering to write off the country's foreign debt ($135 billion), Washington and Paris demanded the creation of an evacuation corridor for the seriously wounded through the Egyptian border. Today, Washington is using the card of electricity supply against Cairo.

**The new plan to 'transfer' Gazans**

The plan to "transfer" the Gazans is becoming clearer. After the $135 billion Sinai relocation project, Washington is turning to dispersing Gazans. They would be taken to several host countries, while Egypt would take in only 1 million. The EU and the IMF would help its economy as compensation. President of the European Commission Ursula von der Layen travelled to Cairo to discuss possible support from the EU. In an internal EU memo, she wrote: "Egypt's role is vital for the security and stability of the Middle East, it hosts a growing number of refugees, and we have a responsibility to support it."

Managing director of the IMF Kristalina Georgieva announced that she was looking at ways to help the Egyptian economy overcome its current shortage of dollars.

The forcible transfer of the Palestinians would be a violation of their rights that would put an end to the "Palestinian question."

The Egyptian faction in favor of the project is increasing its contacts with possible host countries, while the one opposed to it is trying to free the hostages and achieve a permanent ceasefire.

According to *Al-Araby al-Jadeed*, Tel Aviv would like to increase Egypt's role in negotiations for the release of the hostages.

**Algeria files collective complaint against Israel at the ICC**

Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has announced that his country will take action against Israel at the International Criminal Court. He called on all Arab human rights organizations to join together in a collective complaint.

**Lajmi Lourimi, new secretary general of Ennahda**

After the arrest of Sheikh Rached al-Ghannouchi and his interim replacement, Mondher Ounissi, the Brotherhood party Ennahda held a video meeting and elected Lajmi Lourimi as its new secretary general.

Ennahda is the Tunisian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood.
Jean Emmanuel Ouédraogo stresses that there is nothing in common between the political ban on media in France and the anti-terrorist ban on media in Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso's Minister of Communication, Culture, Arts and Tourism, Jean Emmanuel Ouédraogo noted at the Saint-Petersburg Forum that France had not hesitated to censor RT, while it was outraged that Burkina Faso censored RFI, then France24.

However, the ban on RT is based solely on the fact that the channel is financed by the Russian state. "We saw in this, of course, the desire to ensure that there is only one way of seeing the world that is disseminated and that any dissenting voice does not have the right to be heard." On the contrary, the banning of RFI was a punishment for publishing an interview with the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.

Wagner Group's propaganda campaign against France

A former Wagner Group agent who wishes to remain anonymous worked for Project Lakhta, Wagner's propaganda department. He leaked documents in Russian and PowerPoint slides. These include photos of bank transfers and receipts from a Cameroonian company, Bang and Partners, controlled by Jérôme Ebossama, program director of Douala-based Afrique Média TV (AMTV). He signed three receipts for a "digital blogger campaign" in August, October, and November 2022 for $3,400, $3,000, and $3,000, respectively. The campaign included allegations that France staged an ambush of Malian soldiers that claimed the lives of dozens of people. The main bloggers were Souleymane Gbagbo, Egountchi Behanzin and Drissa Meminta.

Mahamat Kaka in Paris

Chadian President Mahamat Kaka visited Paris. He was received at the Élysée Palace by his French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron, and at the headquarters of the secret services, the Directorate General for External Security (DGSE). A representative of the UAE was associated with these meetings.

There have been delays in the financing of the Demobilization, Disarmament and Reintegration (DDR) Programme agreed during the Doha negotiations between Chadian armed groups.

The French president thanked his Chadian counterpart for allowing the French contingent from Niger to travel to Chad. He announced that some of the French troops would be relocated elsewhere in West Africa.

Towards a partition of Sudan

The Saudi-led talks have been suspended, although they appear likely to be concluded at a later date. The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of "General" Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (known as "Hemedti") have taken control of Darfur, while those of the regular army of President Abdel Fattah al-Burhan hold the north of the country. Both sides are said to be engaged in ethnic cleansing. We would be heading towards a break-up of the country.

South Africa files complaint against Israeli government

South Africa has filed a complaint with the International Criminal Court (ICC) against the Israeli government for "war crimes", President Cyril Ramaphosa announced during his trip to Qatar.

ASIA

Controversy over fuel supply to Gaza

Benny Gantz, minister without portfolio, said the provision of two truckloads a day of fuel to humanitarian NGOs for the Gaza Strip was an approved transfer for the operation of desalination plants and sewage disposal, as well as for other needs of international organizations. He stressed that "this is not a
changing strategy, but a specific response that serves the continuation of IDF fighting," and noted that "the entire policy will be discussed by the political security cabinet."

This delivery was decided not by the Council of Ministers, but by the War Cabinet at the request of the US.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said the decision was illegal because it was contrary to the decisions of the Council of Ministers. He is demanding that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reform his government and the war cabinet to include all the leaders of the parties in his pre-war coalition.

**A minister greeted with shouts of "Shame on you!"**

Minister Miki Zohar, whose wife Sharon and daughter Noam were kidnapped, tried to join the protest of victims' families marching to Jerusalem. He was greeted with shouts of "Shame on you!".

The victims' families are convinced that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu allowed the Hamas attack to go ahead and is doing nothing to free the hostages, but only to liquidate the Palestinians.

**The Israeli Air Force successfully implemented the "Hannibal Directive" on 7 October**

According to Haaretz, an investigation by the Israeli police reveals that in accordance with the Hannibal directive, the military aircraft bombed the crowd fleeing the Supernova Music Festival on October 7 in order to kill the few attackers who were there.

☞ The Hannibal Directive is an Israeli military doctrine developed in 1986 by General Yossi Peled, commander of the Northern Forces. The initial order, drafted with Colonel Gabi Ashkenazi (later IDF Chief of Staff and now a member of the War Cabinet) and intelligence officer Colonel Yaacov Amidror (later National Security Advisor), stated that in the event of capture, the IDF's main mission is to prevent soldiers from being taken prisoner at all costs. It is equivalent to the order to shoot a captured soldier to prevent him from becoming a prisoner. According to former generals, it can be summed up as follows: "Better a dead soldier than a living captive." Or: "After the protocol is triggered, we focus on a specific area and with a single goal: to disrupt the enemy and prevent him from escaping with a prisoner." In 2014, when the Palestinian Resistance captured soldier Hadar Goldi in Gaza, the IDF pounded Rafah at the rate of one missile per minute for 4 hours. They killed 150 civilians and declared that the soldier had died of his wounds.

Many military personnel have challenged this directive, which has been reformulated several times. Among them was General Benny Gants, a current member of the council of war.

**Videos by Thierry Meyssan (in French)**

- The third video of Thierry Meyssan's column for the Courrier des Stratèges is available [here](#).

- The second part of the discussion between General Dominique Delawarde, Thierry Meyssan and Youssef Hindi is also available [here](#).

**Simcha Rothman sees anti-war protests as support for terrorism**

Simcha Rothman, chairman of the Knesset's Constitutional, Legal and Judiciary Committee, said the anti-war demonstration by left-wing Arabs and Jews was a promotion of "terror" and "support for the enemy and its actions in wartime."

He criticized its authorization by the High Court, saying: "Some judges are still stuck in the wrong approach of the past, on which much of the free world continues to evolve after 7 October."
Nissim Vaturi calls for Gaza to be burned

MP Nissim Vaturi (Likud), deputy speaker of the Knesset, wrote on X: "All this concern about whether or not there is internet in Gaza shows that we have learned nothing. We are too human (...) Burn Gaza now, nothing less! Don't let fuel in, don't let water in until the hostages return!"

Israel Security Council Considers Death Penalty for Arab Terrorists

The National Security Council is considering promulgating the law drafted by National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir (Otzma Yehudit) which provides for the death penalty for anyone who has caused Jewish blood to be shed. It specifies that the death penalty applies only to crimes that are "racially motivated and have the objective of harming the Jewish people or preventing the Jewish people from being resurrected in their homeland."

This bill could apply to Palestinian resistance fighters currently detained in Israel.

Gila Gamliel confirms that she is preparing to send off the Gazans

In a November 19 op-ed in the Jerusalem Post, Israeli Intelligence Minister Gila Gamliel explains Israel's new strategy: expelling the Palestinian population from the Gaza Strip.

In it, she writes: "Some world leaders are already discussing a global refugee resettlement program and saying they would welcome Gazans back to their country. This could be supported by many countries around the world, especially those that claim to be friends of the Palestinians." "The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN's global body dealing with refugees, is mandated by its statute and UN General Assembly resolutions to undertake resettlement as one of its three sustainable solutions." "We need to try something new, and we call on the international community to help do that. It could be a win-win solution: a victory for Gaza's civilians seeking a better life and a victory for the Jewish state after this devastating tragedy."

The minister popularizes the central idea of her October 13 memo: Alternatives to a political directive for the civilian population in Gaza.

On October 17, the Institute for Zionist Strategies published a paper along the same lines, but focused on a transfer only to Egypt. It estimates the cost of rehousing Gazans at $19,000 per family. With an average of 5.14 people, this implies about 400,000 dwellings, or $8 billion.

Jordan's prime minister Bisher Al-Khasawneh commented: "Any attempt to displace Palestinians from Gaza or the West Bank is a declaration of war."

Russia condemned the transfer plan, saying: "If it is implemented, the consequences of mass displacement of people will be catastrophic and will only worsen the situation in the region."

Voltaire Network Analysis

• "How Netanyahu falsifies the news", Thierry Meyssan

We believe that we are properly informed in the West about what is happening in Gaza. This is not the case. The images we see are selected. The comments we hear do not allow us to understand them. They deliberately mislead us. Any dissenting opinion is censored.

• "The West's Two Wars", Manlio Dinucci

For a year and a half, we have been stressing that the US' war in Ukraine is having a serious impact on the standard of living of the citizens of the EU. The one against Gazan civilians, too. However, the latter will also benefit the EU: we will finally be able to return to decent gas prices, thanks to the gas we are going to steal from the Palestinian survivors.
The Israeli embassy in Washington clarified that Gila Gamliel is not a member of the War Council. Her opinion as a minister is not binding on the government. U.S. President Joe Biden has taken a stand for the reunification of Gaza and the West Bank; This policy is incompatible with that of the "transfer" of population.

**Hostages and Missing Families Forum opposes UN Special Rapporteurs**

The Forum on Hostages and Missing Families rejected the UN Special Rapporteurs' statement. "Populist rhetoric by individuals who do not have substantial influence on politics cannot be used as evidence to establish an intent to commit genocide ... If the Special Rapporteurs aim to advance relief efforts in the region, their fundamental focus should be unequivocally the immediate release of all hostages."

**Amir Yaron reappointed as governor of Israel's Central Bank**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich have reappointed the governor of Israel's central bank, Amir Yaron, for a new five-year term.

**Israel attacks Lebanon's agriculture**

The Israeli attacks on Lebanon are primarily aimed at destroying part of its agricultural resources. According to Minister of Agriculture Dr. Abbas al-Hajj Hassan, statistics from November 7 to 16 showed that the number of fires reached 351 in 53 villages in the southern and Nabatiyeh districts.

"So far, we do not know the exact impact of phosphorus bombs on the soil and we have asked FAO to send experts to Lebanon to inspect the effects of white phosphorus on soil, produce, crops and groundwater. This poison could cause long-term damage that has yet to be fully discovered."

Since the beginning of the war, 46,000 Lebanese and 70,000 Israelis have been displaced.

**Concentration of NATO forces in the vicinity of Israel**

32 jets, including 9 from the U.S., Dutch and British Air Forces, landed at Hamat Air Base, and 23 jets, belonging to the French, Spanish, Canadian, Italian, and Saudi armies, landed on the dependency dedicated to military and diplomatic aircraft at Beirut airport, between November 8 and 10.

According to *Al-Ahbar*, Lebanon rejected a French request to send a ship carrying about 500 soldiers and about 50 vehicles. These Western weapons are in addition to the submarine carrying 154 tomahawk missiles and the three U.S. naval groups.

**Hassan Nasrallah receives Hamas representatives**

Secretary general of Hezbollah Hassan Nasrallah met on November 21 with deputy head of Hamas' Political Bureau Khalil al-Hayyah and Hamas' representative in Lebanon Osama Hamdan.

**Iraq's Supreme Court dismisses Speaker of Parliament**

The Iraqi Supreme Court has convicted Speaker of Parliament Mohamed al-Halbousi of forgery of public documents and use of forged documents. He is said to have helped an oil company, BGR, which works for Israel. He did not present his defense at the hearing and is only presenting it today. But Supreme Court decisions are immediately executive and cannot be appealed. He was removed from both his position as Speaker of Parliament and his status as a parliamentarian. He should not be able to run again in the next election. A criminal trial is expected to follow.

Three ministers from Mohamed al-Halbousi's party (Taqadom) submitted their resignations in
protest, but these were denied. The three ministers are responsible for Culture, Planning and Industry.

**Ansar Allah seizes Israeli cargo ship**

Yahya Sarea, spokesman for Ansar Allah (pejoratively known as "Houthis") announced that his organization would seize Israeli ships. He called on the international community to withdraw its personnel from these vessels.

Immediately, a cargo ship, the *Galaxy Leader*, was taken hostage off the coast of Jeddah. It transports vehicles from Turkey to India. The 25 crew members are from Ukraine, Mexico, the Philippines and Bulgaria. The boat flies the flag of the Bahamas.

Abraham (Rami) Ungar, an Israeli billionaire, is said to own the boat, via a British company, and hired the crew, via a Japanese company. He is a close friend of Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. He is believed to have played a key role in bribing Israeli President Ezer Weizman, who was forced to resign when the affair broke in 2000. Abraham (Rami) Ungar is also alleged to have bribed a whistleblower who was preparing to expose the crimes of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

Although Ansar Allah has informed Iran, this operation is purely Yemeni. It is set in the context of the genocide in Gaza. The party's spokesman said: "We are ready to build a Yemeni army dedicated to helping defend the people of Gaza. And if the states that share a border with Palestine allow it, thousands of troops will go there."

**Islah for six Yemen**

The Yemeni Reform Rally (Islah), the Yemeni branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, has revived the now unlikely idea of dividing Yemen into six separate states.

Peace negotiations between Riyadh and Sana'a are on the verge of success.

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**Ali Khamenei says Zionism is a form of racism**

Supreme Leader of the Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said: "The Zionist regime is the epitome of racial discrimination. The Zionists consider themselves the superior race and despise the rest of humanity, which is why they slaughter many thousands of children without any remorse." He expressed surprise at the support of the US, Germany, France and the UK for such a "racist regime" attesting to the fact that these governments support racial discrimination. He called on Muslim states to "cut political ties with the Jewish state for a limited period of time."

**Pakistan's Muslim Brotherhood protests for Gaza**

The Jamaat-e-Islami (Islamic Party), the Pakistani branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, held large demonstrations in Karachi and Islamabad. In view of the lack of a decision by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, it called for an initiative to be taken to support Hamas.

**2018 Inter-Korean Agreement Suspended**

North Korea managed to launch a spy satellite to monitor the U.S. forces massed in South Korea. In doing so, it violated UN Security Council resolutions prohibiting the use of ballistic missiles.

In retaliation, South Korea announced that it was suspending the inter-Korean military agreement of September 19, 2018 which stipulates an end to all hostile military activity between the Koreas, the establishment of maritime buffer zones and the establishment of the demilitarized zone as a zone of peace.

**North Korea Introduces Some Democracy to Parliamentary Elections**

North Korea's first parliamentary elections will see two candidates compete in each constituency. One of them will be nominated by
the Communist Party, the other by citizens of the constituency. This is the first time that this type of competition has been considered.

**U.S.-China Summit**

Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Joe Biden met for four hours in California on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.

The two men did not agree on concrete measures but agreed on the principles that govern their relations. The Chinese president reassured his host that he was not looking for a Cold War or a Hot War. The U.S. president, dropping his demand for a ban on the sale of fentanyl precursors, has demanded that China tell him to whom it sells them so that it can fight those of its customers who use them to make drugs. President Xi Jinping reminded his counterpart that he had signed the recognition of Taiwan as a Chinese province and that any foreign incitement to independence would provoke war.

The two presidents agreed on the regulation of artificial intelligence and the resumption of high-level military communications, in a spirit of equality and respect.

**Fumio Kishida's popularity plummeting**

Three polls published by the major daily newspapers Yomiuri, Asahi and Mainichi give only 24%, 25% and 21% support for Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, respectively.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**Famine looms in Gaza**

According to the World Food Programme (UN), "Food and water supplies are virtually non-existent in Gaza and only a fraction of what we need arrives through the borders. With winter rapidly approaching, insecure and overcrowded shelters, and a lack of clean water, civilians face the immediate possibility of starvation."

The catastrophic health situation in Gaza

Ethiopia's Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), gave an update on the situation in Gaza at the UN General Assembly.

He said: "Only 10 of Gaza's 36 hospitals are still operational, with only 1,400 hospital beds. Premature babies are dying; More than 2,000 patients with cancer, 1,000 with kidney disease, 50,000 with cardiovascular disease, and 60,000 patients with diabetes, are all at risk as their treatment is discontinued; Up to 200 women give birth every day in the worst conditions imaginable; An estimated 20,000 people are in need of specialized mental health services; Among displaced populations, in overcrowded shelters, we are witnessing an increasing number of respiratory and skin infections; Cases of watery diarrhea occur as the sewage system breaks down and people are forced to defecate in the open; Malnutrition is on the rise."

He concluded: "The attacks by Hamas and other armed groups on the Jewish state, the killing of 1,200 people and the taking of more than 200 hostages are completely unjustifiable. But with at least 11,500 Gazans killed, 70% of them women and children; With 1.7 million people displaced; With two-thirds of Gaza's hospitals out of order; No electricity, no fuel, no drinking water, no food; With every bomb that kills or maims a child; Each family buried under the rubble of their own home; The scale of Israel's response seems increasingly unjustifiable."

He called for an immediate ceasefire.

The WHO is preparing to evacuate the remaining 23 staff members and 291 patients at Gaza's Al-Shifa Hospital within three days.
Martin Griffiths calls Gaza crisis 'the worst ever'

UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Martin Griffiths of Britain, told CNN's Christiane Amanpour that the Gaza crisis is "the worst ever, and I don't say that lightly. I started in my twenties with the Khmer Rouge and the killing fields (...) I've never seen anything like it before. It's a complete and utter carnage."

Extraordinary BRICS Summit on Genocide in Gaza

At the initiative of South Africa, which filed a complaint against the IDF at the ICC, the BRICS held a virtual summit on the genocide in Gaza on November 21. The five founding states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) participated, as well as the new adherents (Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) and the UN Secretary-General.

Russian President Vladimir Putin welcomed the importance of the virtual summit, which brings together representatives of more than half of humanity. He called for this format to be used for every international crisis, alongside the UN Security Council.

Chinese President Xi Jinping outlined the three imperative emergencies:
1. ceasing hostilities and reaching an immediate ceasefire;
2. ending all forms of violence and attacks against civilians and releasing civilians held in captivity.
3. ending collective punishment of the people of Gaza.

The international community must act with concrete measures to prevent the conflict from spilling over and endangering stability in the Middle East as a whole.

Xi Jinping also pointed out that the root cause of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict lies in ignorance of:
1. the right of the Palestinian people to exist as a people (denied by the "revisionist Zionists" from Ze'ev Jabotinsky to Benjamin Netanyahu);
2. its right to a state (reaffirmed in the Oslo Accords in 1993);
3. and its right of return (stipulated by UN General Assembly Resolution 194 in 1948).

It is therefore necessary to organize an international conference to repair these injustices. Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman has called on all states to immediately halt all arms sales to Israel.
EDITORIAL

Everything you need to know about the Security Council high-level meeting on the situation in Gaza on 29 November

China has held a debate on the situation in Gaza at the UN Security Council at the level of foreign ministers.

It was preceded by a statement by Chinese President Xi Jinping calling for a halt to the return of war. According to Beijing, the humanitarian pause, established pursuant to Resolution 2712, must be immediately followed by a genuine and definitive ceasefire.

China had prepared a five-point document, which was not discussed, stating:

"1) Implement a comprehensive ceasefire and end the fighting

The parties to the conflict should effectively implement the relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council and immediately reach a lasting humanitarian truce. On the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 2712, the Security Council, in response to calls from the international community, should explicitly demand a comprehensive ceasefire and an end to the fighting, work towards de-escalation of the conflict and de-escalation of the situation as soon as possible.

2) Effectively Protecting Civilians

The Security Council resolution specifically requires all parties to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, including with regard to the protection of civilians. It is imperative to put an end to all violent attacks on civilians, violations of international humanitarian law, and to avoid attacks on civilian facilities. The Security Council should also send a clear message of its opposition to the forcible transfer of the Palestinian civilian population, preventing the displacement of Palestinian civilians and calling for the release of all civilians and hostages held as soon as possible (...)"
3) **Ensure humanitarian assistance**

All parties concerned must, in accordance with the requirements of the UN Security Council resolution, refrain from depriving the civilian population of Gaza of supplies and services essential to their survival, create humanitarian corridors in Gaza to allow rapid, safe, unhindered and sustained humanitarian access, and avert an even greater humanitarian catastrophe. The Security Council should encourage the international community to increase humanitarian assistance, improve the humanitarian situation on the ground, and support the coordinating role of the United Nations and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) throughout the Middle East in terms of humanitarian aid, and prepare the international community to support post-conflict reconstruction in Gaza.

4) **Strengthening diplomatic mediation**

The Security Council should leverage its role in facilitating peace, as mandated by the UN Charter, to demand restraint from the parties to the conflict to prevent the conflict from widening and to promote peace and stability in the Middle East. The Security Council should appreciate the role of States and regional organizations, support the good offices of the UN Secretary-General and his Secretariat, and encourage States with influence over the parties to the conflict to defend an objective and just position in order to play a constructive role together in de-escalating the crisis.

5) **Seeking a political settlement**

According to the relevant Security Council resolutions and international consensus, the fundamental settlement of the Palestinian question lies in the implementation of the two-State solution, the restoration of Palestine's legitimate national rights and the establishment of an independent State of Palestine with full sovereignty based on the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital. The Security Council should help restore the two-State solution. A broader, more reliable and effective international peace conference, led and organized by the UN, should be held as soon as possible in order to formulate a concrete timetable and roadmap for the implementation of the two-state solution and to facilitate a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine. Any arrangement on the future of Gaza must respect the will and independent choice of the Palestinian people, and must not be imposed on them.

- Secretary-General António Guterres has taken stock of the war: more than 1,200 Israelis killed, more than 14,000 Palestinians killed and 111 UN staff members have died. 80 % of the entire population of the Gaza Strip has been displaced. 45 % of all housing in the Gaza Strip has been damaged or destroyed.

- Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyadh al-Maliki said: "This is not a war, this is a carnage, which nothing and no one can justify, it must end... We are being wiped off the map." He noted that "the man in charge of the assault on the Palestinians [Benjamin Netanyahu] is a man whose very political survival depends on the prolongation of the massacres."

- Israel's permanent representative Gilad Erdan rewrote history: he recalled that the Arab states had opposed the creation of Israel in 1947. Brandishing a historic photograph of Grand Mufti of Jerusalem Mohammed Amin al-Husseini received by Adolf Hitler, he compared him to the "Houthist" of Yemen or the Ayatollahs of Iran, he declared that all are the custodians of a genocidal ideology aimed at annihilating Israel and eliminating the Jews. He then opposed the idea of a lasting ceasefire, asking how such a move would allow Israel to defend its citizens. He denounced a contradiction in supporting both peace and a truce, believing that the supporters of the latter are actually supporting Hamas. "Nothing can change a genocidal movement dedicated to achieving Hitler's Final Solution," he said.
Continuing, he lashed out at the Security Council for failing to condemn the "absolute evil" perpetrated by Hamas on October 7. The UN bodies are being used and turned against Israel, he concluded.

• Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia noted that the agreement which allowed a humanitarian pause and the release of hostages in exchange for the handover of Palestinian prisoners is the result of an agreement between regional actors and has nothing to do with the Security Council's decision. He added that although this agreement offers a glimmer of hope, it is neither sustainable nor comprehensive. It has, for example, not allowed Palestinians to return to the north of the enclave and does not cover Syria or Lebanon. Therefore, the main question remains: what will happen to Gaza and other occupied Palestinian territories tomorrow, he asked.

• Secretary-General of the League of Arab States Aboul Gheit said that if the "last colonial military occupation on Earth" is not ended, there will be "a sixth, seventh and eighth war, until the end of time." He also spoke of the voices of people around the world, as well as the anger and disappointment, especially of the Arab and Muslim peoples, with those who talk about values and morals and who "turn their backs as circumstances change." In his view, the restoration of confidence in International Law is more necessary than ever to avoid in the future the consequences of this anger, which finds expression in extremism. Finally, he called on the international community to condemn the massacre of civilians in a manner that was neither one-sided nor selective, and considered that the Council had a fundamental role to play in this regard.

☞ The Arab states, which rejected the creation of Israel in 1947, based themselves on the massacres perpetrated by the revisionist Zionists, in response to those organized by Grand Mufti Mohammed Amin al-Husseini. They fought a short war with Israel. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Israeli Provisional Government then sent a letter to the United Nations, assuring them of his peaceful intentions and accepting "without any reservation the obligations arising from the Charter of the United Nations and undertaking to observe them from the day it becomes a Member of the United Nations". As a result, the United Nations General Assembly voted to grant Israel's accession (resolution 273 (III)). The massacres of Palestinians, however, continued unabated.

### Foreign editions

Voltaire, international news is now published in six languages:
- Dutch.
- English.
- French.
- Italian.
- German.
- Spanish.

### AMERICAS

According to the US Congressional Research Service, Iran has not violated the Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

In a report entitled *Iran's Nuclear Program: Tehran's Compliance with International Obligations*, the Congressional Research Service takes stock of the dispute and fails to conclude that Iran has violated the Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

House of Representatives conflates challenge to Israel's right to exist with anti-Semitism

The US House of Representatives adopted Resolution 888 in which it:

1) reaffirms the right of the Israeli state to exist;
2) Recognizes that denial of the right of the Israeli state to exist is a form of anti-Semitism;
3) rejects calls for the destruction and elimination of the Jewish state alone; and
4) condemns the terrorist attack carried out by Hamas against Israeli territory.
One representative, Republican Thomas Massie (Kentucky), voted against it because the resolution conflates challenging Israel's right to exist with anti-Semitism. Thomas Massie is a libertarian, former member of the Tea Party.

**Americans disapprove of President Biden's management**

According to a Gallup poll:
- 67% of American adults disapprove of President Biden's handling of the U.S. economy.
- 66% disapprove of his handling of foreign affairs.
- 64% disapprove of the way he is handling the war between Israel and Hamas.
- 59% generally disapprove of the way he handles the office of president.
- 58% disapprove of the way he is handling the situation in Ukraine.
- 57% disapprove of the way he is handling US health policy.

**US voters dissatisfied with both major parties**

According to the Siena College Research Institute, Robert Kennedy Jr.'s candidacy for president of the US "represents a sense that no party really represents me, that government needs to be reinvented, that we need a new and different approach."

According to a *New York Times* poll, about a quarter of registered voters consider him their preferred choice.

**Starlink will not be deployed in Gaza**

In the end, Elon Musk bowed to Israel's insistence. He will not activate Starlink over Gaza without its permission. He had deployed it to Ukraine at the beginning of the war.

**Pentagon changes its deployment in the Middle East**

The *USS Eisenhower*'s naval group, which had been placed off Israel, crossed the Red Sea and positioned itself in the Persian Gulf, off Iran.

One of its destroyers remained in the Arabian Sea to rescue the Israeli tanker *Central Park*.

**Ecuador returns to 'war on drugs'**

Two days after taking office, Ecuador's new president Daniel Noboa reinstated the penalties for drug possession that his predecessor Rafael Correa had relaxed.

All adults were allowed to possess 10 grams of marijuana, 2 grams of coke, 0.10 grams of opium and 0.04 grams of amphetamine.

**Who threatened Alberto Fernández?**

Argentina's outgoing president Alberto Fernández told the weekly *Perfil*: "When I was president, two or three times while traveling by helicopter from the Casa Rosada [presidential palace] to [the official residence of] Olivos, [the laser dot of] a rifle scope appeared inside the helicopter (...) I don't think the intention was to shoot down the helicopter. I don't know. The intention was for me to get the message that there was a scope pointed at the helicopter."

**EUROPE**

**Tension between Israel and Spain**

The Spanish Foreign Ministry summoned Israeli Ambassador Rodica Radian-Gordon to express its disapproval of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's remarks. The latter said that his Spanish counterpart had not sufficiently condemned Hamas.

**Germany penalizes support for Hamas**

On 2 November, Olaf Scholz's government banned all actions in favor of Hamas. He dissolved Hamas-linked NGO Samidoun. It has just carried out numerous searches at the homes of citizens sympathetic to Hamas. According to the police, there are 450 members of the terrorist organization in Germany.

According to the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, the risk of an
Islamist attack is real. It is the highest the country has ever seen.

**Frank-Walter Steinmeier visits Israel**

During his visit to Israel, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said: "It is not only with the Jewish state as a victim of terror. Our solidarity is also with the Jewish state, which is defending itself, fighting against an existential threat."

He also announced that the Bundestag would vote a €7 million grant to Kibbutz Be'eri for the restoration of the art gallery destroyed by Hamas.

**Annalena Baerbock for Ukraine’s accession to the EU and NATO**

Germany's foreign minister Annalena Baerbock told the congress of her party, the Greens: "It is in our own geopolitical interest for Ukraine to join the EU, which is why we will not only continue to support Ukraine, but we will also strengthen it within the EU and NATO (...) Europe is our life insurance and that is what is important and crucial from a geostrategic perspective. Today it is clear that Ukraine will strengthen the EU in the near future,"

**Robert Fico calls for a ceasefire in Ukraine**

Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico has called for a ceasefire in both Ukraine and Gaza. This, he said, is the only way to prevent half a million more deaths.

**László Kövér criticizes Germany, EU and UN**

Speaker of the Hungarian parliament László Kövér said that
- the German government was destroying its country's economy faster than Hitler did;
- the EU will abolish the "sovereignty" of its member states;
- the UN is a mere "shell company" with no weight and is used solely for propaganda purposes.

"The world since 2001 (video of Thierry Meyssan)"

"Service Public Libre" invited Thierry Meyssan, asking him to review his history and the evolution of international relations over the past twenty years.

**The Visegrad Group against illegal immigration**

Ministers from the Visegrad Group (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) were joined by their counterparts from Austria and Germany for a summit in the southern Hungarian city of Szeged, 8km from the Serbian border. They agreed to step up their efforts to protect the EU from illegal immigration and target smuggling groups operating at its borders.

**Moldova aligns with EU anti-Russian 'sanctions'**

The Moldovan Parliament voted for European "sanctions" against Russia.

President Maia Sandu, although very much in the minority today, is trying to break the historic relations between her country and Russia.

**Davyd Arakhamia confirms Ukraine could have signed peace in March 2022**

According to Davyd Arakhamia, a Ukrainian MP and former negotiator in Istanbul in March 2022, Ukraine could have made peace, Russia then only demanding its neutrality. However, Kiev refused because it hoped to join NATO. In addition, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson travelled to Ukraine to urge President Volodymyr Zelensky to reject the deal. A slaughter could have been avoided.
The Ukrainian army no longer has enough soldiers

The number of dead and wounded in combat is a state secret in Ukraine.

Cases of conscripts being shot because they refused to go into battle are increasing.

About half a million men likely to be drafted into the armies have fled Ukraine in recent months.

Commander of the Armed Forces of Ukraine General Valery Zaluzhnyi calls for a new wave of conscription.

Mariana Bezuglaya and Aleksey Danilov come to the rescue of Volodymyr Zelensky

Mariana Bezuglaya, deputy chairwoman of the Verkhovna Rada's Committee on Security, Defense and Intelligence, said that General Valery Zaluzhnyi, commander of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, had no plans for the coming year. In these circumstances, she challenged the plan to extend conscription and called for his dismissal.

Mariana Bezuglaya is a close friend of President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Aleksey Danilov, secretary of Ukraine's Security Council, told the Times that Vladimir Putin was mobilizing his agents of influence in Ukraine to provoke peaceful protests.

Kyrylo Budanov's wife poisoned

Marianna Budanova, wife of director of Ukrainian Military Intelligence General Kyrylo Budanov was poisoned and hospitalized.

Air Defense of Russia and its Allies

Over the past twenty years, Russia has been implementing bilateral air defense agreements with Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. It could formalize them within the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), which Armenia hopes to leave for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

AFRICA

Hamas-Fatah dissidents meet

A meeting took place in Cairo between Hamas leaders, including Ismail Haniyeh, and Fatah dissidents, including Nasser al-Qudwa and Samir al-Mash'harawi, Mohamed Dahlan's deputy.

☞ Hamas is looking for partners with Fatah to establish the future governance of Gaza.

Controversy in Egypt: Hamas, Resistance Movement or Terrorist Organization?

At the Egyptian Media Forum in Cairo, Egypt's ambassador to the UK Husam Zolot and journalist Ibrahim Eissa exchanged sharp words. The latter said: "I don't believe that Hamas is a resistance movement. Does this subject me to condemnation? »

Libya's 'big five' meeting to unblock electoral process

UN secretary-general's special envoy Abdoulaye Bathily has convened a meeting to resolve the obstacles facing the electoral process, inviting the country's "big five," i.e.: • Aguila Saleh, Speaker of Parliament; • Mohamed Takala, President of the Supreme Council of State; • Mohamed al-Menfi, chairman of the Presidential Council; • Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh, Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity; • Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, commander of the eastern forces.

Resignations within the Mauritanian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood

Two prominent figures from the National Rally for Reform and Development (Tewassoul), the
Mauritanian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, have resigned with a bang. They are the Chief Financial Officer of the Executive Committee and former Member of Parliament, Mohammad al-Mokhtar Ould al-Taleb al-Nafe', and the Head of Legal Affairs, Dr. Sidi Ab-Ali. Both men are reportedly preparing to join the president's party.

**Coup attempt in Sierra Leone**

Sierra Leone's Ministry of Information said: "In the early hours of Sunday [26 November] ... unidentified individuals attempted to break into the military armory at Wilberforce Barracks. They were all rebuffed."

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has condemned the coup attempt.

In June's presidential election, Samura Kamara, a 72-year-old technocrat, challenged the vote count in which the incumbent president, Julius Maada Bio, a 59-year-old retired military officer, was declared the victor.

**ASIA**

**Netanyahu fired his defense minister in July because he warned of a Hamas attack**

According to the Israeli press, the Israeli government crisis in July was explained by IDF announcements that Hamas was preparing to launch "a perfect storm" against Israel from Gaza.

Head of the IDF Military Intelligence Research Department General Amit Sa'ar wrote to the prime minister on March 19 and July 16, warning him of a Hamas attack in preparation. He explained that Hamas, Hezbollah and Iran interpreted the domestic debate over the reform of the Basic Laws as a sign of Israel's internal weakness.

Defense Minister Gen. Yoav Gallant asked Netanyahu to suspend the reforms and focus on the Hamas threat. The Prime Minister immediately dismissed him. However, in view of the reactions to his dismissal, he finally reinstated him in his ministerial post.

This episode is unquestionable. This is now evidenced by the publication of Amir Saar's letters. He rejects the official narrative that the warnings sent to the government did not reach the prime minister and that, in any case, the prime minister was too busy with the West Bank to worry about Gaza.

The question of a false flag attack is raised.

**Illegal expropriation of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem**

The Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem has warned that it faces the "greatest existential threat" in its history. An Israeli-Australian developer, Daniel Rubenstein, is trying to build a luxury hotel on the lands of the patriarchate. Signatures have been forged; thugs have been hired to displace patriarchy. The Israeli police demanded that the community leave the premises.

**How Israel envisions Gaza's future**

Israel presented the US with new ideas for managing the Gaza Strip after the offensive. They are based on a Palestinian administration, but through a civilian council made up of local dignitaries from among the leaders of the main families that do not belong to Hamas, and businessmen who own large companies in the Gaza Strip, supported by representatives of international organizations affiliated with the UN.

**Benny Gantz accepts Israeli budget**

General Benny Gantz, minister without portfolio in the emergency government, will not resign despite the conflict between him and revisionist Zionist finance minister Bezalel Smotrich. The latter intends to reduce the coalition's budget by only 20%.
**During the Gaza war, the forced exodus continues in Area C**

According to the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories B'Tselem, more than 1,000 Palestinians were forced to leave their homes in Area C (Occupied West Bank Palestinian Territory) as the Israeli army shelled the Gaza Strip.

**Israeli Truce Commitments Do Not Apply to U.S. Air Force**

According to Declassified UK, the U.S. is reportedly using Britain's Akrotiri base in Cyprus, not only to smuggle weapons into Israel, but also to fly drones and other spy aircraft at high altitudes over Gaza. Obviously, they would pass on their findings to the Jewish state.

**Organ trafficking in Gaza**

According to Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor, Palestinian health workers found that organs had been removed from the bodies of dead Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Bodies have reportedly been held since 7 October in two Israeli mortuaries, one housing 145, the other, the "cemetery of numbers" (on the Jordanian border, closed to the public), 255.

Information has circulated for several years about organ trafficking carried out by Israelis.

In 2008, CNN claimed that Israel was the world's largest hub for the illegal global trade in human organs.

In her Hebrew-language book *On Their Corpses, Power, Knowledge and the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Israel* (2014), Israeli anthropologist Meira Weiss claimed that organs had been harvested from Palestinians, who died between 1996 and 2002, and used for medical research at Israeli universities and/or transplanted into Israeli patients.

In 2014, an Israeli TV investigation featured testimonies from senior officials that skins were taken from the bodies of dead Palestinians and African workers to treat soldiers with severe burns.

In 2021, the Knesset passed a law allowing the military to harvest organs.

**Voltaire Network Analysis**

"*The October 7 Inconsistencies: What's Behind Benjamin Netanyahu's Lies and Hamas' Dodges,*" by Thierry Meyssan

The official version of the Hamas-Israel war raises more questions than it answers. Here, the author highlights seven major contradictions. When you think about it, Hamas and Benjamin Netanyahu, far from being enemies, are acting in concert with no regard for the lives of Palestinians and Israelis. Behind them, the US and the UK are pulling the strings.

**Mahmoud Abbas calls for Palestine's membership in the United Nations**

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with Palestine, Permanent Representative of Palestine Riyad H. Mansour read a letter from President Mahmoud Abbas to the UN General Assembly. It calls on the Assembly to demand that the Security Council adopt a resolution on Palestine's accession.

**Mohammad Dahlan is back**

Mohammad Dahlan returned to the screens during the war against Gazans. The former minister of state for security in the Abbas government, who is in exile in the UAE, now heads the democratic reform bloc. He could offer a solution accepted by Israel for governing the Gaza Strip.

His deputy, Samir al-Mash'harawi, gave an interview to Al-Jazeera from Doha. He had already met with senior Hamas figures in Cairo.

Fatah published old correspondence from Mohammad Dahlan suggesting that he was
Qatar lays down its cards

A Qatari delegation paid an official visit to Israel to negotiate the follow-up to the truce. It was the first time Qatari officials had visited Israel.

They were also able to travel to Gaza. Qatar’s Minister of State for International Cooperation Lolwah Al-Khater has become the first foreign official to visit the besieged Gaza Strip. He was able to meet Wael al-Dahdouh, Al Jazeera’s Gaza bureau chief, who lost his wife, son and grandson in an Israeli airstrike.

To the astonishment of the Israeli war cabinet, it appeared that Qatar could make commitments on behalf of Hamas, without consulting it.

Contrary to what has been claimed until now, Qatar is not content to host Hamas' political leaders loyal to the Muslim Brotherhood. It has power over them.

Qatar is home to the largest U.S. military base in the Middle East. Since 1995, it has been in talks with Israel. In 1996, it founded the Al-Jazeera TV channel with brothers David and Jean Frydman. At the time, it was a matter of encouraging debates between Israelis and Arabs.

However, in 2005, the channel was transformed by the JTrack cabinet of Mahmoud Jibril (future NATO official in charge of the overthrow of Muammar El-Gaddafi) to become a propaganda instrument of the Muslim Brotherhood. Brother Wadah Khanfar became its director. He was replaced in 2011 by Prime Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jasem bin Jaber Al Thani. Al-Jazeera now serves as the emirate's mouthpiece. Imam Youssef al-Qaradawi, a star of the Muslim Brotherhood, becomes the channel's official preacher. Al-Jazeera will play a central role during the "Arab Spring"; a political operation devised by the UK Foreign Office to place the Muslim Brotherhood in power in the Arab world.

Starting in 2014, at the request of the US and Israel, Qatar paid more than $1 billion to Hamas, the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Israel will 'settle scores with Qatar' as soon as it can

Joshua Zarka, deputy director-general for strategic affairs at the Israeli Foreign Ministry, said Israel will "settle scores with Qatar" as soon as it completes its role as mediator in talks to return hostages from the Gaza Strip.

Why did Hamas attack pacifist Jews?

Yocheved Lifshitz (85) met with Brother Yahya Sinwar, head of Hamas' political wing in Gaza, in the tunnel where he was being held. He asked him how he could have done this with Israeli pacifists? Sinwar did not respond.

The kibbutz dwellers are left-wing Jews opposed to Benjamin Netanyahu's "revisionist Zionists." Most of those in Nir Oz are engaged in actions for peace.

Toll of the "Al-Aqsa Flood" in Lebanon

Since the beginning of the "Al-Aqsa Flood" operation, 77 Hezbollah members, according to AFP; 85 according to L'Orient-Le Jour, have been killed by the Israelis.

Abbas Raad, son of Mohamed Raad, head of Hezbollah’s parliamentary bloc, was killed in Beit Yahoun (Bint Jbeil).

Harvard calls for dollarization of Lebanon

In a report titled "Towards a Sustainable Recovery for Lebanon's Economy," Harvard University calls for resolving Lebanon's economic crisis by moving from the local currency to the dollar.
Ayman Safadi at the Union for the Mediterranean

Jordan's foreign minister Ayman Safadi said he intended to use the Union for the Mediterranean meeting to get the 42 states present to commit to turning the humanitarian pause in Gaza into a permanent ceasefire.

Pause also in Iraq

No Iraqi militia continued an attack on the US during the truce in Gaza. All of them have scrupulously observed it.

The Saudi Interpretation of the Al-Aqsa Flood

According to the popular Saudi monarchist daily Okaz, quoting Mahmoud Zahhar, Hamas' occult guide in Gaza, the Al-Aqsa Flood operation was nothing more than a staging by the globalist elites to prove:
- that no one can do anything in the Middle East without the US;
- that this is as true for Israelis as it is for others;
- to restore the image of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Middle East;
- to enhance Iran, which has established relations with the Muslim Brotherhood and thus to embarrass Saudi Arabia;
- to depreciate Arab governments in the eyes of their public opinion;
- to prepare regime change in the Arab world.

☞ The article suggests that Hamas is aware that it has been manipulated, not by the Israelis, but by the US. It does not see Palestine as a state in the making, but only as a temporary solution, with its goal remaining a Caliphate over all Arab populations. It interprets the way the events are reported in the Western press as ultimately favorable to the Brotherhood, even though it is now equated with a gang of barbarians.

☞ It is also observed that Hamas' communication in the Muslim world is of a new style. Its military spokesman, Abu Obeida, speaks carefully and using appropriate symbols. He seems to have been trained by British spin doctors and has received an unprecedented response.

Torture complaint against Ahmed Nasser al-Raisi, President of Interpol

A complaint of "torture" and "arbitrary detention" has been filed in Austria against Ahmed Nasser al-Raisi, the Emirati president of Interpol. He is expected in Vienna for the General Assembly of the International Police Organization.

Matthew Hedges, a researcher, and Ali Issa Ahmad, a security guard, said they were arrested, beaten and subjected to solitary confinement by Ahmed Nasser al-Raisi, then inspector general of the Interior Ministry.

Ansar Allah opens a new front in the Red Sea

Ansar Allah (pejoratively called "Houthis" by Westerners) captured the Galaxy Leader, while Somali pirates attempted to capture the Central Park oil tanker. Both ships are Israeli-owned.

The destroyer USS Mason, belonging to the USS Eisenhower's naval group, came to the rescue of Central Park, but Ansar Allah fired two ballistic missiles to help the pirates.

The opening of a new front, in the Arabian Sea, where no U.S. forces had been deployed, poses a strategic problem for the US.

In a statement, the G7 said: "Emphasizing the importance of maritime security, we call on all parties not to threaten or interfere with the lawful exercise of navigational rights and freedoms by all vessels. In particular, we call on the Houthis to immediately cease attacks on civilians and threats to international shipping lanes and commercial vessels and to release the M/V Galaxy Leader and its crew, illegally seized in international waters on 19 November."

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Recep Tayyip Erdogan calls for a non-discriminatory response to Jewish, Muslim and Christian deaths

Attending the virtual G20 Leaders' Summit, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said: "The effectiveness of the multilateral system is increasingly being questioned every day. As the war in Ukraine continues, we woke up to another crisis, that of October 7. The tragedy unfolding in the occupied Palestinian territories, Gaza in particular, has now exceeded the limits of humanity's tolerance. November 20th was 2 days ago; it was Universal Children's Day. Sadly, nearly 7,000 innocent Palestinian children do not live on that day, because the Israeli government has taken away the most basic right of these children, their right to live. It sentenced them to death by cutting off their water, electricity, food and fuel. It forced Palestinians to migrate from their homeland; It mercilessly bombed the hospitals, schools, camps, places of worship and churches where they took refuge in a last hope of escaping death. It has even threatened to use nuclear bombs, the existence of which it has always denied. As any conscientious person can attest, none of these events can be explained with the right to self-defense. Here, war crimes and crimes against humanity are openly committed. Those who commit these crimes must be held accountable to international law as well as the conscience of humanity... We in no way justify actions against civilians and we do not consider them legitimate... I call on all leaders here to react in the same way to civilian deaths, without discriminating among them as Israeli-Palestinians, Jewish-Muslims-Christians. »

According to General Bagheri, it will ensure "peace, security of commercial fleets, fight terrorists and respond to likely incidents in the future."

Iran plays a role in the release of some hostages

The Thai hostages in Qatar have been released, not only with the help of Qatar, but also Iran. The Thai government congratulated the Islamic Republic and sent a high-level delegation to Tehran.

Dhaka and the Muslim Brotherhood

More than 10,000 members of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) were arrested on the eve of the elections. The BNP is the mainstream version of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, the Bengali branch of the Muslim Brotherhood.

According to Russian diplomats, the U.S. is preparing a color revolution in Bangladesh.

Burmese guerrillas take border post

The National Democratic Alliance of Burma (MNDAA) Army has taken control of the Kyin San Kyawt border post. Trade with China goes through this route. The Burmese government is thus deprived of any supply of machine tools. Beijing has asked its citizens to avoid the area and stay away from the fighting.

Record turnout in North Korean elections

North Korea's local elections saw a turnout of 99.63 percent. For the first time, there were multiple candidates for each position.

Erratum

We mistakenly referred to the North Korean Communist Party. It is, of course, the Labour Party. There is no Communist Party in North Korea.
The first photos taken by North Korea's spy satellite

The North Korean press reported that the country's new spy satellite, Malligyong-1, had been able to transmit to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un "detailed satellite photos of the Norfolk Naval Base, the Newport News Naval Shipyard and an airfield in Virginia, US, taken at 11:35 p.m. on November 27 (Pyongyang time), from the White House and Pentagon in Washington and other objects, at 11:36 p.m. on November 27 (Pyongyang time). Four U.S. Navy nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and one British aircraft carrier were spotted in photos of the Norfolk Naval Base and Newport News Shipyard.

Resignation of the head of South Korea's secret services

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has accepted the resignations of Kim Kyou-hyun, director of the National Intelligence Service (NIS), and his top aides, Kwon Chun-taek and Kim so-youn.

Rivalries between the heads of the intelligence agency, in the midst of a crisis with North Korea, made his job impossible.

Anti-China campaign in the context of Beijing's stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

According to Human Rights Watch, China is cracking down on Islam not only in Xinjiang, but now across the country. Many mosques have reportedly been closed, while architectural features in others, such as domes and minarets, have been destroyed.

☞ The U.S. has been claiming for several years that China is cracking down on Islam and has even imprisoned a million Uighurs. In addition to the fact that there is no infrastructure to detain such large numbers of people, travelers to Xinjiang attest that Islam flourishes unhindered and that Uyghurs even enjoy religious privileges.

This new anti-China campaign is starting in the context of Beijing's stance in favor of the recognition of a Palestinian state.

The question of "comfort women" resurfaces

Japan's foreign minister Yoko Kamikawa called the South Korean court's ruling in favor of a group of former "comfort women" seeking compensation from Tokyo "extremely regrettable." He urged Seoul to address the issue in bilateral talks with South Korea's top diplomats. Japan considers all issues arising from its colonization of the Korean Peninsula to be "completely and definitively" settled under a 1965 bilateral agreement. In addition, it considers that a landmark agreement in 2015 has resolved the issue of comfort women. Yoko Kamikawa therefore called on Seoul to "immediately take appropriate measures". But South Korea does not interpret these agreements in the same way at all.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UN General Assembly calls on Israel to evacuate Syrian Golan

The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/78/L.10) calling for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan, pursuant to Security Council resolution 497 (1981). The text "also declares that the decision of 14 December 1981, by which Israel imposed its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan, is null and void and invalid in any way, as confirmed by the Security Council in its resolution 497 (1981), and calls upon Israel to rescind it".

UN General Assembly calls on Member States to observe Olympic Truce

At the initiative of France, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/78/L.9) entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal". It calls on Member States to observe the Olympic Truce.
The International Olympic Committee has banned Russian athletes from participating in the Paris 2024 Games.

**UN Security Council Fails to Condemn North Korea's Launch of Spy Satellite**

The UN Security Council held an emergency meeting to respond to North Korea's launch of a spy satellite, Malligyong-1. To do so, Pyongyang used a ballistic missile, in violation of Resolution 1718 of 12 June 2009.

North Korea's permanent representative Kim Song noted that the launch of the satellite was essential for his country's security after six joint drills by the US, Japan and South Korea, which are still at war with his country. "This is a legitimate and fair exercise of the DPRK's right to self-defense." The Council should not waste its time challenging the exercise of that right by a sovereign State under hostile forces, he said, but instead called on it to stop the killing of civilians in the Middle East.

The Council did not adopt a resolution.

**Noticeable absences at COP28**

King Charles III of the UK will attend COP 28 in Dubai. But neither U.S. President Joe Biden, nor Russian President Vladimir Putin, nor Chinese President Xi Jinping nor Pope Francis will be there.

**Russia will no longer participate in OPCW Executive Council**

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has renewed its Executive Council, composed of 41 states, designated by continent. Neither Russia nor its allies were elected.

In recent years, the impartiality of the OPCW has been called into question. After monitoring the dismantling of Syrian chemical weapons, its missions concluded that the Syrian Arab Republic had used them against its own population. However, numerous testimonies and expert reports presented by Russia have shown that this is false. The chief of staff of the Organization's director-general, Frenchman Sébastien Braha, was accused of falsifying a report.

**Krisjanis Karins candidate for NATO Secretary General**

Krisjanis Karins, Latvian Foreign Minister and former Prime Minister, has submitted his candidacy for the NATO General Secretariat. He is a dual citizen of the US and Latvia.

**Alexander Sollfrank proposes a Schengen for Defense**

Head of NATO's logistics command JSEC (Joint Support and Enabling Command) German General Alexander Sollfrank told Reuters: "We are running out of time. What we don't do in peacetime won't be done in a crisis or war." He proposed the creation of a defense Schengen that would allow arms to be moved across Europe without border controls.

**Riyadh to host World Expo 2030**

Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) has been chosen to host the 2030 World Expo. It beat Rome (Italy) and Busan (South Korea). The Saudi project includes a major public transport network and a futuristic round space with public parks, electronic gaming facilities, large-scale performance stages and sports venues. The project focuses on "accelerating innovations" to preserve natural ecosystems.

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EDITORIAL

Israel wants to establish 'buffer zones' in Gaza and Lebanon

Israel wants to establish a buffer zone in the Gaza Strip. It is part of a larger plan, including (1) the destruction of Hamas, (2) the demilitarization of Gaza, as well as (3) its deradicalization.

☞ Spokesman for the U.S. Security Council John Kirby said: "We have said many times that we do not support a reduction in Gaza's geographical limits. Period. We also said that Israel has the right to protect itself of course, no one wants to see October 7 happen again. We have been very clear through the principles outlined by Secretary Blinken in Tokyo that Gaza should no longer be governed and controlled by Hamas. And, as I said, the territory of Gaza, in any future scenario, must remain Palestinian land and cannot be reduced. But at the moment, we are not in a position to speculate on the composition of future barriers or security structures."

Israel presented its plan to Egypt, Jordan, and the UAE.

By way of comparison, Israel established a buffer zone with Lebanon stretching 15 km into Lebanese territory during the Lebanese civil war. A second buffer zone was envisioned by Resolution 1701 at the end of the 2006 war, but was never implemented. According to Arab diplomats who participated in the negotiations with Israel, it could only be a strip of no more than 2 km with Gaza.

Egypt, for its part, has established a buffer zone between the Gaza Strip and Sinai. But it is only 3 km deep and is placed on its own territory. This is not about preventing Gazans from coming to Egypt, but Daesh from entering Gaza.

Türkiye for its part obtained from Syria in 1998 when the PKK was a pro-Soviet organization, the right to allow its army to enter a strip of 5 km inside its territory to repress Kurdish attacks to which it would be subjected.

At the same time, Israel wants to establish a buffer zone on Lebanese territory. According to Moshe Davidovitz, head of Mateh Asher's Regional Council, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant has pledged to push Hezbollah north of the Litani River (…)
Since the beginning of the war, the IDF has been shelling southern Lebanon, burning fields and killing journalists who were documenting the destruction of the area between the ceasefire line and the Litani River.

A buffer zone was provided for in Resolution 1701, adopted at the end of Israel's war against Lebanon in 2006. It was not implemented, along with other provisions of the resolution.

AMERICAS

No more automatic visas to the USA for Israeli extremists

The State Department will no longer issue visas in the coming weeks to extremist Israeli settlers engaged in violence against Palestinian civilians in the West Bank.

General Lloyd Austin's Worldview

Speaking at the Reagan National Defense Forum, Secretary of Defense Gen. Lloyd Austin said today's challenges are manifold and include "the major conflicts facing our sister democracies, Israel and Ukraine; intimidation and coercion by an increasingly assertive China; and a global battle between democracy and autocracy." "From Russia to China, from Hamas to Iran, our rivals and enemies want to divide and weaken the US — and separate us from our allies and partners."

"You know, in every generation, some Americans prefer isolation to engagement—and they try to pull up the drawbridge. They try to kick loose the cornerstone of American leadership. And they try to undermine the security architecture that has produced decades of prosperity without great-power war, and you'll hear some of them try to brand an American retreat from responsibility as bold new leadership... So, when you hear that, make no mistake: it's not bold. This is not new. And it's not leadership... The world will only become more dangerous if tyrants and terrorists believe that they can get away with wholesale aggression and mass slaughter. And America will only become less secure if dictators believe that they can wipe a democracy off the map."

At the same time, he assured that he had "repeatedly made clear to Israel's leaders that protecting Palestinian civilians in Gaza is both a moral responsibility and a strategic imperative."

George Santos expelled from the House of Representatives

The House Ethics Committee has released a devastating report revealing the illegal behavior of George Santos (R-NY).

He was expelled from the House by his peers and was charged with 23 counts (conspiracy, fraud, false records and identity theft).

Mike Johnson for a vote to impeach Joe Biden

Speaker of the House of Representatives Mike Johnson proposes to formally vote on an act of impeachment of POTUS Joe Biden although this will not have immediate legal consequences. According to him, this is to point out that the White House is obstructing the ongoing investigation, that it has forbidden three witnesses to attend their summons and that it has withheld thousands of documents.

White House warns of halting subsidies to Ukraine

White House Budget Director Shalanda Young wrote to the speaker of the House of Representatives: "I want to be clear: If Congress does not act, by the end of the year we will run out of resources to deliver more weapons and equipment to Ukraine and to provide equipment from US military stockpiles."

House of Representatives blocks subsidies to Israel and Ukraine

The Republican majority in the House of Representatives rejected the Biden administration's $110 billion package for Israel and Ukraine.
The Democratic minority, meanwhile, refused to trade that vote for a subsidy for Mexican border security.

**The OxyContin case**

A federal court has found Purdue Pharma liable for causing the opioid crisis by falsifying the results of its drug OxyContin and bribing various experts. A compensation fund worth $6 billion has been set up with the assets of the bankrupt group.

One of the plaintiffs opposes this agreement. She demands that the Sackler family, founder and owner of Purdue Pharma, be criminally prosecuted. The case was referred to the Supreme Court.

According to *Forbes* magazine, in 2015 the Sacklers wealth was $14 billion.

**Hunter Biden summoned to appear before the House**

The House of Representatives sent a closed-door subpoena to Hunter Biden on Nov. 8. He indicated through his lawyer that he would only appear in open court. The committee that summoned him issued a statement: "If Mr. Biden fails to show up for his deposition on December 13, 2023, the committee will initiate contempt of Congress proceedings."

**Which war poses a danger to the US?**

According to a *News Nation / Decision Desk* survey,

- 28 percent of U.S. adults believe the war between Israel and Hamas is the greatest threat to national security; 31 percent of Republicans, 24 percent of independents, and 29 percent of Democrats agree.
- 28% believe that a possible war between China and Taiwan poses the greatest threat to U.S. national security; 32 percent of Republicans, 29 percent of independents and 23 percent of Democrats agree.
- 22% believe the war between Ukraine and Russia is the biggest threat; 17 percent of Republicans, 22 percent of independents and 27 percent of Democrats agree.
- 7% believe that "something else" is the biggest threat; 7% of Republicans, 10% of independents and 5% of Democrats agree.
- 15% of respondents overall have no opinion; 13 percent of Republicans, 16 percent of independents and 15 percent of Democrats agree.

**Samantha Power in Gaza**

Director of USAID Samantha Power arrived in Gaza on the 60th day of the war. She immediately announced that the U.S. would give an additional $26 million for Gaza, on top of the $100 million already announced by President Joe Biden.

☞ *Samantha Power* made a name for herself in 2002 when she wrote the book *A Problem from Hell: America in the age of Genocide*. In it, she describes Raphael Lemkins’ work at the League of Nations to have the Armenian and Assyrian genocides recognized. She concludes by wishing the US to resume its work, except that she doesn’t mention the multiple genocides in which Washington is implicated. Professor Edward Herman summed up her work as follows: "For her, the US is not the problem, it is the solution."

In an interview with the UC Berkeley video series, *Conversations with History*, she was asked what the US would do if the Israeli-Palestinian conflict escalated and made genocide possible. She advocated sending a heavy military force to separate the two sides. This response was used to accuse her of not siding with Israel out of anti-Semitism. She then had to enlist the help of American Jewish figures, such as Abraham Foxman of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), to get her out of this predicament and restore her image.

She became an adviser to then little known Senator *Barack Obama*. She prepared for the Darfur leg of the senator's trip to Africa on behalf of the CIA.
She joined his presidential campaign. But she soon left because of her personal conflicts with Hillary Clinton. Appointed to the National Security Council, she advised President Obama not to attend the UN conference in Durban because it was going to discuss the reinstatement of Resolution 3379 calling Zionism racism.

She married the left-liberal law professor Cass Sunstein, darling of the US media; He is the main theoretician of "liberal paternalism," a method of infantilizing the masses. He also devised a plan to counter the work of Thierry Meyssan and the protest movement he started.

Samantha Power played a central role in unleashing the war against Libya, justifying it with a well-rehearsed discourse on the fight against tyranny, although the tyranny of Muamar al-Gaddafi has never been demonstrated. Now ambassador to the UN, she similarly argued to justify the war against Syria in the name of fighting the tyranny of President Bashar al-Assad, then the most popular head of state in the Arab world.

**Arrest of Manuel Rocha, U.S. diplomat and Cuban agent**

Retired U.S. diplomat Manuel Rocha was arrested. He is accused of being an undercover Cuban agent. He was Director of Inter-American Affairs at the National Security Council (1994-95). Until 2017, he was the U.S. officer at the Swiss embassy in Cuba in the absence of a U.S. embassy. He then worked in Buenos Aires, Rome and finally as ambassador in Lima. In retirement, he was a councilor to the fast food chain MacDonalds for South America and, most importantly, Special Advisor to General Laura J. Richardson, Commander of U.S. Forces South America (SouthCom).

☞ Cuba has managed to infiltrate the U.S. administration with famous agents, such as Ana Belén Montes at the Defense Intelligence Agency.

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**Referendum on the future of Essequibo**

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela held a referendum on the status of Essequibo, where gigantic hydrocarbon reserves were discovered by Exxon-Mobil in 2015 in its territorial waters.

It consisted of five questions:

1) Do you agree to reject by all means, in accordance with the law, the line fraudulently imposed by the Paris arbitral award of 1899, which aims to deprive us of our Guayana Esequiba?

2) Do you support the position that the Geneva Agreement of 1966 is the only valid legal instrument for achieving a practical and satisfactory solution for Venezuela and Guyana with regard to their dispute over the territory of Guayana Esequiba?

3) Do you agree with Venezuela's historic position of not recognizing the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice to resolve the territorial dispute over the Guayana Esequiba?

4) Do you agree to oppose by all means, in accordance with the law, Guyana's claim to unilaterally dispose of a sea yet to be demarcated, in an unlawful manner and contrary to international law?

5) Do you agree with the creation of the State of Guayana Esequiba and the elaboration of an accelerated plan for the comprehensive care of the current and future population of this territory, which would include the granting of Venezuelan citizenship and identity cards, in accordance with the Geneva Agreement and international law, thus incorporating this State on the map of Venezuelan territory?

On 1 December 2023, the International Court of Justice issued a judgment. It emphasizes that Guyana's claims are plausible, but that it will not render a judgement until later on whether they are well-founded or not.

It therefore orders Venezuela not to change the status quo until it has adjudicated the case.

The Court does not specify whether or not Guyana has the possibility of exploiting the oil
reserves discovered in the territorial waters of the disputed territory.

Irfaan Ali, President of Guyana, appeared on television in combat uniform. He said that his country was prepared for any eventuality and that it would continue to exploit, together with Exxon-Mobil, the reserves of the territorial waters of the Essequibo.

The Essequibo is a swampy, largely uninhabited area. It is claimed by both Venezuela and Guyana. In the nineteenth century, during the time of Simon Bolivar, it was an integral part of Venezuela. However, the British Empire did not recognize Venezuela's independence with the Essequibo. The Paris arbitral tribunal in 1899 confirmed the British Empire's ownership, but lawyer Severo Mallet Prevost wrote a letter explaining how London had rigged the arbitration; a letter that was not published until after his death. In 1966, before British Guyana's independence, an agreement was reached in Geneva between Venezuela and the British Empire. It established a process for settling the dispute; a process that has not been respected by independent Guyana.

Lebanon's Hezbollah again implicated in Brazil

Lucas Passos Lima, one of the three men arrested by the Brazilian judiciary for plotting anti-Semitic attacks, has been scouting his targets. Videos were found on his mobile phone and personal computer. He was employed by Mohamad Khir Abdulmajid, whom Israel presents as a member of Lebanon's Hezbollah.

EUROPE

Pope Francis calls Isaac Herzog to order

In a phone conversation with Israeli President Isaac Herzog, Pope Francis said, according to the Washington Post, "It is forbidden to respond to terror with terror." When Mr. Herzog asserted Israel's right to defend itself, the pope replied that the terrorists of the October 7 massacre should be held accountable but not the civilians of Gaza.

£16.9 billion deficit in the equipment plan for the British Armies

According to the National Audit Office (NAO), the British Armed Forces' 2033 capital plan shows a shortfall of £16.9 billion. Many pieces of equipment were not maintained during the previous period, particularly armored vehicles.

France makes up sanctions against Hamas

France imposed nationwide sanctions on Hamas military commander Mohammed Deif and his deputy, Marwan Issa, on November 12. It imposed more, on December 5 against Yahya Sinwar.

None of these three persons has assets in France, which renders this decision moot.

Investigation into corruption in the European Parliament continues

According to Politico, the Belgian police investigation into corruption in the European Parliament has already identified more than 300 different actions for the benefit of Qatar, Morocco and Mauritania.

Israeli settlers in the West Bank banned in Belgium

Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said that he would refuse entry to his country to settlers from the West Bank.

Italy withdraws from China's 'Silk Roads'

Italy's prime minister Giorgia Meloni has put an end to the agreements to participate in China's "Silk Roads". They were signed in 2019 by her predecessors in the Five Star Movement.

Italy was the only G7 state to have made a trade alliance with China.
Saxony requires immigrants to acknowledge Israel's right to exist in order to be naturalized

Tamara Zieschang, Saxony-Anhalt's interior minister and a member of the Christian Democratic Party (CDU), instructed that applicants for German naturalization be required to confirm in writing that they "recognize Israel's right to exist and condemn any effort directed against the existence of the Israeli state."

The Baltic States vs. the Poles

The ambassadors of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia have made an overture to Warsaw against the month-long blockade on the Polish-Ukrainian border. Polish truckers intend to block illegal imports from Ukraine.

EU Budgetary Control Committee points finger at Ukraine and EU Commission

The EU's Committee on Budgetary Control has delivered its annual report. It notices

that the use of funds allocated to Ukraine is not properly monitored, particularly pre-accession funds;

that the €6.3 billion intended for Hungary, which was suspended from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), can only be paid by the Commission after the implementation of the required corrective measures. However, it plans to pay them if Budapest approves aid for Ukraine.

The U.S. doesn't want any more talk of Ukraine's NATO membership

According to Oleksiy Goncharenko, a member of parliament from Odessa, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has instructed European states to no longer talk about Ukraine's possible accession to NATO.

Ukrainian Military Intelligence assassinates Ilya Kyva in Moscow

Andriy Yusof, spokesman for Ukraine's Military Intelligence, said: "We can confirm that Kyva has been liquidated. Such a fate will befall other traitors of Ukraine, as well as the henchmen of Putin's regime. [He was] one of the biggest bastards, traitors and collaborators ... His death is only "justice."

Illia Kyva was a Ukrainian parliamentarian who fled his country before the Russian special operation and took refuge in Moscow. His body was discovered in a park in Odintsovo, the posh suburb of the Russian capital.

Vladimir Putin in UAE and Saudi Arabia

Russian President Vladimir Putin has begun an official trip to the UAE and Saudi Arabia. Abu Dhabi is Russia's largest Arab trading partner. The Emirates and Saudi Arabia have just joined the BRICS.

AFRICA

Egypt rejects EU plan for Gaza

At the meeting of the 43 foreign ministers of the Union for the Mediterranean in Barcelona, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry confirmed that his country rejects any plans to displace the population of Gaza. The EU had offered to temporarily settle the 2 million Gazans in a huge refugee camp in Egypt and then disperse them around the world.

Questioning migration towards Europe

A movement is taking shape in the Maghreb that is calling into question migration to Europe. The people of North Africa, seeing the support of the Europeans for the massacre in Gaza, questioned the sincerity of European culture.
Muslim Brotherhood at the center of Sudan's civil war

In Sudan, the conflict between General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and "General" Mohamed Hamdan Dogolo (aka "Hemedti") is crystallizing around Islamists who escaped from prisons during the civil war. General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan refuses to arrest these former collaborators of Omar al-Bashir, a dissident from the Muslim Brotherhood.

Niger breaks with EU

Niger's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has denounced its country's agreement with the EU on the European civilian mission "EUCAP Sahel Niger", which has been active since 2012.

Burkina Faso bans French daily Le Monde

Burkina Faso's transitional government has suspended the distribution of the French daily Le Monde after it reported on the terrorist attack in Djibo.

Government spokesman Jean-Emmanuel Ouedraogo said: "In an intellectual balancing act, the newspaper tries to put the Burkinabe state back to back with the hordes of terrorists who attacked Djibo on November 26, but does little to hide its penchant for these lawless men who rape, loot and kill innocent populations by legitimizing terrorist discourse and propaganda (...) Contrary to what Le Monde newspaper peremptorily asserts, the Burkinabe government has never locked itself into a propaganda logic in the war we are waging against terrorism. On the contrary, it has always made it its duty to speak the truth to the population about the conduct of the fight against terrorism, and its communication on the events in Djibo has not deviated from this rule of governance ethics."

ASIA

Benjamin Netanyahu lays out his goals for Gaza

Benjamin Netanyahu's office issued a statement: "The Hamas-Daesh terrorist organization violated the agreement; It has failed to live up to its commitment to release today all the women hostages and has launched rockets at Israeli citizens... With the return to fighting, we emphasize: The Israeli government is determined to achieve the objectives of the war: (1) release our hostages, (2) eliminate Hamas, and (3) to ensure that Gaza will never again pose a threat to the people of Israel."

Point 3 ("ensuring that Gaza will never again pose a threat to the people of Israel") is the politically correct term for the expulsion of the Gazan population from their ancestral land.

Benjamin Netanyahu vows there will never be a Palestinian state

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, "Only I [Netanyahu] can prevent the creation of a Palestinian state in Gaza, Judea or Samaria": "I will not allow it." "There will never be one [a Palestinian state]." "Only I can manage relations with Biden. Only I know how to deal with the American psyche."

On October 2, insiders bet on a decline in Israel's economy

According to a study by Jackson, Jr., Robert J., and Mitts, Joshua, titled Trading on Terror? unidentified investors on Wall Street bet on a short-term collapse in Israeli stocks the month before the Palestinian resistance attack.

MSCI manages Exchange Traded Funds. One of them follows all Israeli companies. It is possible to bet on the rise or fall. 5 days before the attack, 227,000 bearish short-term stock bets were recorded compared to the usual few thousand per day.
weeks before the attack to warn him that Hamas was going to take action.

The press is now trying to explain why Israel's leaders ignored these warnings. By all means, it is a matter of discrediting the hypothesis of complicity between the Prime Minister and Hamas.

**The notebooks of the assailants of October 7**

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) seized and studied the diaries of the October 7 attackers. It appears that the operation had been planned well in advance. Some of the attackers had a map of an Israeli military base which was more accurate than the one used by the IDF. Regarding hostage-taking, the instructions are to "kill those who cause trouble and anyone who tries to escape."

**Timeline of the night of October 6-7**

On the night of 6 to 7 October, the IDF was alerted to a possible attack by the Palestinian resistance.

A first phone meeting was held as midnight approached and included high-ranking figures from the Shin Bet Security Service and the IDF's Southern District: Oded Basyuk, head of the IDF operations branch, General Yaron Finkleman, head of the Southern Command, and other senior officers. The Chief of Staff, Herzl Halevi, was briefed on the warnings and emergency consultations.

A second meeting, attended by Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar, took place around 3 a.m. The commander of the Northern Brigade of the Gaza Division, Col. Haim Cohen, who signed
the authorization for the Nova rave party on October 5, was aware of the warnings and was aware of the meetings.

However, the authorities agreed with the Shin Bet's claim that Hamas' movements were just exercises. The organizers of the rave party were therefore not informed.

The attack took place around 6:30 a.m. The organizers of the rave party then tried to contact the Northern Brigade that was responsible for their security, but it had been demobilized to celebrate a Jewish holiday. The duty officer told them to fend for themselves.

A third meeting was held on October 7 at 8 a.m. at Shin Bet headquarters. All the heads of the security services were invited. The talks were to focus on the CIA report of 5 October.

The attack by the Palestinian resistance continued.

The security officials did not leave their meeting until 11 a.m. The Israeli counterattack then began.

**Senior Soldiers Declare Defeat**

General Israel Ziv, a popular figure of individual initiative, said: "I believe that now, if Hamas succeeds in stopping the war, it will emerge victorious... The October 7 developments in the Arab world, Hezbollah and the Iranian axis are considered very important achievements. Hamas has also preserved its power. Its central command still exists and still keeps the majority kidnapped, which means that Hamas has won the victory."

General Yossi Kuperwasser, a former head of research at Military Intelligence, echoed his colleague's comments to the BBC. In addition, he said; "This is an outrageous failure; All Israeli intelligence agencies have failed; They underestimated Hamas so much that they didn't pay attention at all to the intelligence reports on it."

**Bezalel Smotrich wants to continue the war to the end**

Israel's finance minister Bezalel Smotrich said: "We are very happy for the return of the freed hostages, but now the idea of a truce has gained ground. To agree to stop [the war] further would be a terrible mistake that only reflects weakness... We must sever all ties and negotiations with Hamas and the mediators and look at the enemy only through the scope of a rifle."

**Israel's 'total war'**

According to +972 Magazine, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) uses artificial intelligence (AI) software to plan its bombings.

They are capable of designating more than 500 targets per day instead of the 100 designated by the General Staff. Software evaluates the number of collateral victims. In 2021, they were not to exceed 10 civilians. Today, they are unlimited.

All military targets were destroyed in the first days of the war. It is now a question of destroying civilian infrastructure in order to incite the Palestinians to revolt against Hamas.

This system was designed for "total war."

**The Damage of "Total War"**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) (bulletin of 29 November):
- 15,000 Palestinians were killed, 41 per cent of them children;
- The bodies of 2,700 Palestinians buried under rubble have not been found;
- 1.8 million Palestinians have been displaced.

**Yair Lapid calls for the dismissal of Benjamin Netanyahu**

Leader of the opposition Yair Lapid said the time has come for the “one on whose watch the greatest calamity in the history of Israel...
occurred to leave us alone”, adding, “those who fail like this cannot continue”.

**The trial of Benjamin Netanyahu has resumed**

The criminal trial of Benjamin Netanyahu (74) has resumed. He is accused of receiving large quantities of gifts from wealthy personalities worth about 700,000 shekels (about €176,000). These bribes took the form of cigars, bottles of champagne and jewelry distributed between 2007 and 2016.

**Is it possible to demonstrate against the war?**

Chairman of the Arab High Supervisory Commission Mohammed Barakeh has asked Israel's High Court to oppose bans on expressing opposition to the war.

**Israel summons the Spanish ambassador to remonstrate**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has instructed his foreign minister to summon the Spanish ambassador to convey the intolerability of Sánchez's remarks.

The Spanish prime minister said in an interview: "The images we see and the increasing number of children dying raise serious doubts about Israel's compliance with international humanitarian law" and "What we see in Gaza is not acceptable."

The Belgian ambassador has already been reprimanded.

**Some kibbutzim refuse to talk to Benjamin Netanyahu**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with the leaders of several of Gaza's border communities. The meeting was attended by about 15 representatives from the southern city of Sderot and the kibbutzim of Saad, Alumim, Zikim, Karmia, Yad Mordechai, Netiv HaAsara and Mefalsim. However, representatives of Kibbutzim Kfar Azza, Be'eri, Nir Oz, Nahal Oz, Re'im, Or Hanar, Ein Hashlosha and Kerem Shalom refused to attend the meeting.

**Benjamin Netanyahu negotiates delivery of medicine to hostages**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with President of the International Red Cross Miriana Spoljaric. He asked her to put pressure on Qatar to grant them access to the hostages and provide them with medicine.

**Thierry Meyssan on TV-ADP**

Thierry Meyssan was invited by TV-ADP to take stock of the events in Gaza (interview in French only). He explains the complicity of Hamas and Benjamin Netanyahu in an operation that only aims to prevent the two-state solution. For the first time, a massacre takes place live on social media. It follows that it will have long-term implications. The West, which supports this crime, has already lost the esteem it enjoyed. Please note: this genocide has nothing to do with the regional context. This is just one episode of the "endless war." If, at our level, it is too late to stop this massacre, we can, and we must, distance ourselves from those who commit it so as not to be complicit in their next crime.

**Facebook and Instagram shut down accounts at Israel's request**

Israel's Attorney General's Office has asked Mark Zuckerberg's Meta (Facebook and Instagram) and Shou Zi Chew's TikTok to remove pro-Palestinian posts and accounts. According to digital researcher Mona Shtayyeh, interviewed by Al-Jazeera, it won 94% of the time.

**Isaac Herzog meets Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani**

Israeli President Isaac Herzog and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani shook hands and held talks at COP28 in the UAE.
Israelis to travel less

Israel's National Security Cabinet has warned its citizens about the risks they face when traveling.

- Level 2 - in Germany, France, the UK, Australia, Russia, Brazil and Argentina.
- Level 3 - in South Africa and Eritrea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- Level 4 - Arab countries, Türkiye and Iran, Indonesia.

Palestinian Authority under threat

Palestinian prime minister Mohammad Shtayyeh told his government that the October 7 attack had been authorized by the US to place a "renewed Palestinian Authority" at the helm of the country. He elaborated on his thinking by saying: "The Prime Minister of the occupying Government regards the PLO, the Authority and the Government as symbols of Palestinian patriotism, of the State, of the unity of political discourse and of the unity of the Palestinian territories. That's why he fights us every day."

Afterward, he said: "[The Israelis] seek to undermine the Authority. They are trying to get rid of it in the West Bank, not just in Gaza. Look at how Netanyahu treats the idea of a Palestinian Authority in Gaza. He rejects any Palestinian there and says the creation of the Authority was a mistake."

Establishment of the "Youth of the Al-Aqsa Flood"

Hamas announced the creation of the "Youth of the Al-Aqsa Flood," not in Israel, but in Lebanon. Lebanon's entire political class condemned the move. Hamas then clarified its position by indicating that it was a political group and not a militia.

In 1989, Fatah's slogan was: "The road to Jerusalem passes through Jouniah." This is one of the causes of the civil war.

Israel attacks Lebanese army

In violation of Resolution 1701, the IDF attacked a military post in southern Lebanon, killing one soldier and wounding three others.

Since 7 October, fighting has killed 110 people in Lebanon, mainly Hezbollah militiamen, but also 14 civilians and 3 journalists. For its part, Israel claims to have lost 6 soldiers and 3 civilians.

Lebanon has filed a complaint against Israel at the UN.

Riad Salamé travels without a hitch

According to lawyer Hassan Bazzi, former governor of the Bank of Lebanon Riad Salamé made a trip to an Arab state last month. Although subject to two international Interpol arrest warrants, Mr. Salamé is said to have boarded a plane at Beirut airport, without going through security lines. He did, however, show his luggage to customs, containing valuable items.

A judicial investigation has been opened.

The Syrian Arab Republic will be able to use the confiscated properties

The Syrian parliament is set to pass an authorizing law specifying the conditions under which the state may use confiscated property.

It is often unknown whether the owner of a property is still alive or if he or she died during the war. As a result, the state was authorized to confiscate unoccupied and unclaimed property.

These provisions are contested by Syrians who have taken refuge abroad and who do not dare to go to embassies and consulates to claim the property they own.

Syrians revolt against US occupiers and Kurdish mercenaries

The Syrian Arab tribes in northern Syria have risen up against the Syrian Democratic Forces,
i.e., the Kurdish mercenaries, and against the US occupation forces. Daesh units joined the fighting.

**Jordan could break gas deal with Israel**

The Jordanian parliament has begun reviewing the 13 agreements between the Kingdom and Israel.

The government of Bisher Al-Khasawneh has found a solution in the event of a breakdown in its gas agreements with Israel. It could use a Jordanian company that is starting to dig wells there. In addition, Saudi Arabia could help secure its wells operating on the border.

**Targeted bombing of the Pentagon in Iraq**

The U.S. strikes in Iraq were not intended to kill, but rather to send a message to the government of Mohammed Shia al-Sudani: you are responsible for your militias. The Pentagon destroyed an Iraqi Hezbollah drone workshop.

**The Red Sea Front**

Ansar Allah (pejoratively referred to by Westerners as "Houthis" after their leader) claimed responsibility for the attacks on the ships Unit Explorer and Number Nine in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

CentCom said it had "every reason to believe that these attacks, launched by the Houthis in Yemen, are fully enabled by Iran. The US will consider all appropriate responses in full coordination with our international allies and partners."

The Destroyer USS Carney, who had come to protect them, was targeted by missiles. According to CentCom, they were shot down. But according to local sources, one of the missiles hit the U.S. Navy ship.

General Yahya Saree, a spokesman for the Yemeni army, did only mention two commercial ships to confirm that they had been hit. But according to Anglo-Saxon agencies, there were three of them, plus the US warship.

✈️ It is unlikely that the USS Carney has been affected because it has high-performance electronic detection and protection equipment. However, if that had happened, it would have provoked a massive U.S. response against Ansar Allah at the risk of inflaming the entire Middle East.

U.S. National Security Adviser Jacob "Jake" Sullivan has called on U.S. partners in the region to form a multinational force to protect Israeli ships.

Amir Sacid Iravani, the Islamic Republic's representative to the UN, said Iran had no involvement in the attacks.

The U.S. State Department has appointed Tim Lenderking, already a special envoy to Yemen, to negotiate with states in the region to strengthen security measures in the Red Sea.

Washington and Tehran talked via former head of Lebanese security General Abbas Ibrahim. The U.S. has called on Iran to pressure the Houthis to stop their attacks. Iran responded that it cannot demand anything from Ansar
Allah and called on Washington to pressure Tel Aviv to stop the massacre in Gaza.

Former President Ali Abdullah Saleh used to say that "whoever has the keys to Bab El-Mandeb and Hormuz does not need a nuclear bomb... ».

**For Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the West has given a license to kill to the "butcher of Gaza"**

President of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan told the Standing Committee on Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC): "It is incumbent upon all of us, as the Islamic world, not to cede even an inch of Gaza territory to the Israeli occupier... We must do this not only for our brothers and sisters in Gaza and Palestinians, but also for our own security, our own territorial integrity. We know very well that those who occupy Gaza today will turn to other places tomorrow with the delusions of promised lands. So much so that they don't even feel the need to hide their intention anymore. Netanyahu, the butcher of Gaza, personally revealed in front of the cameras that the issue was not Gaza or Ramallah, but that he was pursuing expansionist goals. Therefore, defending Gaza and Palestine today means defending Al-Quds, Mecca, Medina, Istanbul, Damascus, Beirut, Baghdad and other Islamic cities."

"Western nations that support Israel give it 'unconditional support for killing babies' and are complicit in its crimes. Beyond being a war criminal, Netanyahu will be tried as the butcher of Gaza."

**Türkiye will not allow Palestinians to be murdered on its soil**

The Turkish authorities have warned their Israeli counterparts against any operation by their intelligence services on Turkish territory.

Director of the Mossad Ronen Bar announced on the radio that he was preparing to assassinate Hamas officials in Lebanon, Qatar and Türkiye. **Türkiye admits financial support to Hamas**

U.S. Treasury Undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Brian Nelson has questioned Türkiye's support for Hamas.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan reminded him that Washington was aware that, unlike the US, Turkey did not consider Hamas a terrorist organization but a liberation movement. "First of all, Hamas is a reality in Palestine, it is a political party there, which ran in the elections as a political party and won them," he said in a declaration released by his office.

"I am sure that our interlocutors recognize the constant and balanced efforts of Türkiye’s foreign policy in such humanitarian crises and conflicts"

**Ebrahim Raisi cancels his participation in COP28**

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi will not attend COP28 due to the presence of his Israeli counterpart, Isaac Herzog.

**Philippines rekindles Second Thomas shoal conflict**

After the **USS Gabrielle Giffords** positioned itself, the Philippine government has authorized about 100 civilian boats to form a caravan to support its sailors based at Second Thomas shoal.

☞ The Philippines occupy the Second Thomas shoal, an atoll in the Spratly Islands. These are claimed by Brunei, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. However, this atoll is only claimed by China and the Philippines. In 1999, **BRP Sierra Madre**, a Philippine Navy ship, was intentionally beached on the bank. It now serves as a military base for a dozen men.
South Korea launches spy satellite

SpaceX has launched its first spy satellite for South Korea. It responds to North Korea's first spy satellite.

China is capable of destroying the U.S. military's communications system

According to Bill Gertz of the Washington Times, the China University of Defense Technology released a report on military operations in near space. It says the People's Liberation Army is now able to fire hypersonic missiles at heavily protected targets, including adversary's communications equipment. The People's Liberation Army also operates "a large number" of spy balloons, solar-powered unmanned aerial vehicles and other support equipment.

The U.S. Department of Defense is trying to clarify the international legal norms that apply to different satellites according to the height of their orbit.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

António Guterres refers the matter to the UN Security Council

Secretary-General of the UN António Guterres has referred the matter to the Security Council pursuant to Article 99 of the Charter of the UN.

According to him, the situation "could aggravate existing threats to the maintenance of international peace and security (...) More than eight weeks of hostilities in Gaza and Israel have created appalling human suffering, physical destruction and collective trauma across Israeli and Occupied Palestinian territory. [it is to be expected] that law and order will collapse completely quickly because of the desperate conditions... [In addition] there is a serious risk of a collapse of humanitarian aid ... The situation is rapidly deteriorating into a catastrophe with potentially irreversible consequences for all Palestinians and for peace and security in the region."

High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell and Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus gave their support.

UN Security Council Examines Investigation into Daesh Crimes

Christian Ritscher, Assistant to the Secretary-General of the UN and former Prosecutor of the Federal Republic of Germany, presented his report on the crimes of Daesh to the UN Security Council. He expressed doubts about the possibility of finalizing within the set deadline (less than 10 months) some of the investigative work, including those relating to the crimes committed in Mosul, the destruction of cultural heritage, the plundering of oil and other natural resources in Iraq, the genocidal intent of Daesh against the Shia community and the returnees from Hol.

The Iraqi representative expressed concern that the extensive evidence collected by Mr. Ritscher's team had not been passed on to his government.

The Russian representative, Maria Zabolotskaya, has publicly wondered what these secret elements are for?

☞ The UN investigation has been going on for 7 years already. The fact that the elements...
collected were not transmitted to the Iraqi government prevented it from arresting and trying terrorists itself. Furthermore, this approach gave Daesh the indication that its crimes would go unpunished. Above all, knowing Russia's accusations before the Council against Türkiye and those of Syria and Iraq vis-à-vis NATO, this endless investigation gives the impression that the UN does not want to know the truth.

Russia no longer participates in the leadership of the IMO

The General Assembly of the International Maritime Organization did not re-elect Russia to its governing board. It had served continuously for 40 years.

International Criminal Court Investigates October 7 Terrorist Attacks

The Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Karim Khan, will visit Israel at the invitation of survivors and families of victims of the October 7 attacks.

The controversial phrase

COP28 President Sultan al-Jaber said: "No scientific study, no scenario, says that phasing out fossil fuels will allow us to reach 1.5°C [global temperature reduction]."
EDITORIAL

The Red Sea Front

Ansar Allah's attacks on ships in the Bab El-Mandeb Strait are increasing. They no longer only affect ships of Israeli shipowners, but also others stopping in Israel. These attacks have direct repercussions on Israel, whose economy is no longer running, as all its workers have been mobilized on the Gaza front. Tel Aviv now imports everything it consumes. The closure of the strait forces Israel to transport its imports by other, much more expensive routes. In addition, insurance premiums soar for any Israeli ship or ship stopping in Israel.

To secure its Israeli ally, the US has therefore adopted a new strategy. President Biden's special envoy for Yemen Timothy A. Lenderking has begun to awaken the militias created by the UAE during the war in which Saudi Arabia was Israel's ally. But alliances have changed. The Transitional Council is expected to proclaim an independent state, confirming the partition of the country. Washington intends to do as much harm as possible to Ansar Allah (pejoratively called "Houthis" by the West) and, eventually, force it to abandon its actions in the Bab El-Mandeb Strait.

At the same time, "Tim" Lenderking is consulting with his allies in the region to see what unilateral coercive measures (misdcribed as "sanctions" by US propaganda) are possible and what military coordination can be organized.

Already, the French multi-mission frigate (FREMM) Languedoc, who came to the rescue of the Strinda, an oil tanker belonging to the Norwegian company Mowinckels heading from Malaysia to Israel and Italy, was attacked by an Ansar Allah missile. It had to shoot down two surface-to-sea missiles.

Ansar Allah, which has been ideologically trained over the years by Iran, has its own logic. Contrary to what the West thinks, it sets its objectives on its own, although it is dependent on Tehran for its weapons. Currently, it is planning to send massive numbers of fighters to Gaza. We are talking about 500,000 men.
AMERICAS

U.S. Heats Up with Russian Uranium

The U.S. increased its import of Russian uranium in October, reaching 43.25 tons.

According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), there are 54 nuclear power plants and 93 reactors in operation in the US, making it the largest nuclear fleet in the world.

One-fifth of the electricity produced in the U.S. comes from nuclear power.

Despite the Ukraine conflict, Washington has never imposed sanctions on Russian uranium exports.

Congress Against NewsGuard's Influence

The Department of Defense's 2024 funding bill includes a provision calling on the Secretary of Defense to ensure that all advertising agencies that contract with its secretariat do not "place advertisements in news sources based on personal or institutional political preferences or biases, or disinformation determinations." It also requires the Secretary of Defense to notify Congress whenever an advertising agency employs NewsGuard, Global Disinformation Index, or similar services.

NewsGuard has also come under fire from Elon Musk, whose social network X issued a warning about the news rating service in November.

NewsGuard is a privately held company, employing many former U.S. intelligence officials. It is funded by France's Publicis and the US-based Knight Foundation (VIN N°63).

The U.S. View of the Conflict in Palestine

According to a survey by the Wall Street Journal, 55 percent of Americans believe Israel is "taking the necessary military action to defend itself and prevent another Hamas attack."

• 25% consider Israeli military action to be "disproportionate and going too far."

Furthermore
• 42% of respondents expressed more sympathy for the Israeli people
• 12% to the Palestinian people
• 33% to both parties equally.

White House worried about Israel's possible use of white phosphorus

White House spokesman John Kirby said the US is concerned by reports that Israel is using white phosphorus in southern Lebanon. They are looking for more information.

☞ There are numerous testimonies that the IDF, in violation of international humanitarian law, used white phosphorus in southern Lebanon against civilian populations.

Emergency aid from North American Jewish communities to Israel

The Jewish Federations of North America, which represent more than 350 Jewish communities in the US and Canada, have raised more than $700 million for Israel since the Oct. 7 attack.

Boycott of brands supporting Israel

The main US multinationals impacted by the war in Gaza are Starbucks and McDonalds. The former posted a loss of $12 billion in three weeks, while the latter lost 70% of its customers in the Middle East.
Hunter Biden to be indicted on charges of 'contempt of Congress'

The House of Representatives will vote on a motion indicting Hunter Biden for "contempt of Congress." President Joe Biden's son refused to attend a summons for a closed-door hearing.

Colombia questions the use of untested anti-Covid drugs, particularly mRNA

Professor Guillermo Alfonso Jaramillo, Colombian Minister of Health, was heard by his country's Senate.

He has long criticized the spread of mRNA anti-Covid drugs (wrongly referred to as "vaccines"). He said: "We are playing with the lives of Colombians (...) We don't want to be part of an experiment (...) All the vaccines with new technology [mRNA, not the Chinese Sinovac] came here without authorization. It was an experiment. All vaccinated Colombians participated in the largest experiment in human history. We cannot continue to carry out experiments on the Colombian population and even less on the indigenous population, the blacks, the poorest in the country, the farmers."

Venezuelan-Guyanese mediation

President of Venezuela Nicolás Maduro and President of Guyana Irfaan Ali will meet under the auspices of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Caribbean Community (Caricom), at the initiative of Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Moreover, contrary to what we thought, the provisional judgment of the International Court of Justice concerning Essequibo also prohibits Guyana from changing the status quo. Exxon-Mobil can therefore keep on building Off Shore infrastructure but can’t exploit the region's oil.

EU-Mercosur negotiations fail

The EU-Mercosur agreement, which has been under discussion for two decades, has not been signed because the outgoing Argentine president opposed it.

Criminal Alberto Fujimori freed

Almost exactly one year after Dina Boluarte took power as Peru's president, the country's highest court has issued a verdict long sought by the Peruvian right: to free former president Alberto Fujimori. He has been jailed since 2005 and convicted since 2007 for leading death squads in the 1990s, when his government was engaged in a war against the Shining Path.

EUROPE

Boris Johnson considered stealing AstraZeneca doses from the Netherlands

According to the Daily Mail, former UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has asked MI6 in March 2021 to mount an operation to seize millions of doses of the anti-Covid drug (incorrectly called "vaccine") from the AstraZeneca factory in Leiden, the Netherlands.

The European Commission had blocked the authorization of this drug while negotiating with its competitor Pfizer.

Pfizer sues Poland

Pfizer is suing Poland for non-payment for doses of mRNA Covid drugs (incorrectly called "vaccines"). The pharmaceutical giant is demanding $1.2 billion.

Poland has invoked a case of force majeure to the contract signed for the Member States by the European Commission: the disorder linked to the war in Ukraine. It considers that it notified Pfizer in good time so as not to have to bear these expenses which were imposed on it and which it did not negotiate itself.

If Pfizer wins this case, it could turn against nine other EU member states that have not taken over all of the European Commission's orders.
Hungary bans foreign financial aid in domestic politics

The Hungarian Parliament has enshrined in the Constitution the creation of an "Office for the Defense of Sovereignty". It will be placed "under the authority of a president appointed by the President of the Republic on the proposal of the Prime Minister". It will have "unlimited authority to request sensitive data and private information from anyone, without control and without legal recourse."

This body will have to monitor the ban on receiving foreign funds for any political activity.

Hungary conditions the support for Ukraine to the release of its subsidies

Balázs Orbán, an unrelated adviser to Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and president of the Mathias Corvinus Collegium, announced that Hungary would not support the EU's plan for Ukraine until the funds earmarked for Budapest were paid to it.

The European Commission has blocked €22 billion from the Cohesion Fund, due to Hungary’s failure to protect the rule of law, academic freedom and the LGBTQ community; plus €6 billion due to its insufficient fight against corruption; plus €2.6 billion, due to allegations of homophobia and repression against asylum seekers. That is a total of €30.6 billion.

In the end, the European Commission agreed to release €10.2 billion on the eve of the EU summit but €20.4 billion are still blocked.

EU divided over Hamas

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna and Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani sent a letter to EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell calling for the strengthening of European sanctions against Hamas and its supporters. In it, they write: "The swift adoption of a sanctions regime would allow us to send a strong political signal of the EU's commitment against Hamas and its solidarity with Israel."

"This implies a stronger European commitment both to fight Hamas’ infrastructure and financial support, and to isolate and delegitimate Hamas internationally, which in no way represents the Palestinians or their legitimate aspirations."

On the contrary, the leaders of Ireland, Spain, Malta and Belgium have called for a lasting truce in Gaza.

European Parliament demands that China abide by 'rules-based international order'

The European Parliament adopted a recommendation on EU relations with China (P9_TA (2023)0469). It advocates "demanding that China abide by the rules-based international order."

☞ This is the problem: China rejects Western rules and only accepts a world governed by international law that the West has trampled underfoot for three-quarters of a century.

Ukraine in Davos

Ukraine will hold a meeting on its 10-point peace plan in Switzerland on 14 January 2024 ahead of the Davos Forum.

Russia and Denmark

Denmark's ambassador to Moscow Jakob Henningsen has been summoned to the Russian Foreign Ministry following the publication of one of his articles in the Danish daily Berlingske in which he described the "temporary" takeover by the Russian state of 98.56% of the shares of the Russian brewery Baltika, owned by Carlsberg, describing it as "theft".

The ministry reiterated Carlsberg's intention to exit the Russian market, bankrupting Russian companies and withdrawing profits made in Russia. "Companies who have decided to
continue their activities in our country have the full support of the Russian authorities”.

AFRICA

Egypt protects itself from Gaza’s Muslim Brotherhood

Egyptian intelligence is conducting a thorough investigation before allowing any dual Palestinian-Egyptian national to cross the Rafah border. They refuse any entry by the Muslim Brotherhood.

The Brotherhood therefore launched a campaign to make it appear that Egypt was taking advice from the Mossad on granting or denying the right of passage.

At the same time, the Arab press reports many examples of corruption. The right of way can go up to several thousand dollars.

Agreement between Khalifa Haftar and Russia

Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar is said to have negotiated with Russian Deputy Defense Minister Yunubek Yevkurov to set up a Russian military base in Libya. In exchange, Moscow would provide military support and armaments. The two men are said to have reached an agreement, but it still needs to be approved by parliament.

Algiers hosts meeting of authors of complaint against Benjamin Netanyahu at ICC

600 lawyers and 150 NGOs took part in the meeting organized by Gilles Devers in Algiers to discuss their complaint against Israeli leaders before the International Criminal Court (ICC) for the genocide they are carrying out in Gaza.

Devers stressed that an indictment of Israeli leaders will automatically lead to the indictment of Hamas leaders.

Abdel Fattah al-Burhan aligns himself with the Muslim Brotherhood

Commander of the Sudanese army General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan has decided to expel fifteen Emirati diplomats from Khartoum. He is increasingly aligning himself with the positions of his predecessor, Brother Omar al-Bashir.

On the contrary, "General" Mohamed Hamdan Dogolo (aka "Hemedti") governs Darfur with the support of the UAE and fighting the Muslim Brotherhood.

Burkina Faso prepares to abandon French as an official language

The government of Burkina Faso has adopted a draft revision of the country’s Constitution, aimed at consolidating the national languages as official languages in a country that has nearly sixty national languages to the detriment of French.

Mali uncovers evidence of French support for jihadists

According to Africa Media TV, the documents seized by the Malian army and Russia in Kidal on 14 November attest to the cooperation between jihadist groups and the French intelligence services. In it, French intelligence officers report that the armed groups CSP and JNIM are losing the battle, and record the coordinates of the positions of Malian army and Wagner PMC units.

☞ In Mali, the French army was fighting the jihadists, while the French intelligence services were arming and supporting them. This policy, modelled on and coordinated with that of the US, was denounced by the National Committee for the Salvation of the People of the transitional president of Colonel Assimi Goïta as soon as he took power two years ago. The Prime Minister at the time, Choguel Kokalla Maïga, explained this in an interview with RIA-Novosti.
Hezbollah's influence in Mali and Benin

The arrest of president of Yerevolo-Debout sur les ramparts Adama Ben Diarra last September may be linked to his close ties with Hezbollah and Iran. In August, he and several other leaders of his NGO went to Beirut at the expense of the Iranian embassy in Bamako. The delegation was reportedly received by the Hezbollah authorities. A second delegation reportedly went to Beirut at the end of August to receive training in communication and social networks. Finally, Moussa Diarra, the secretary general of the association, is said to have visited Tehran in October.

In addition, the Franco-Beninese Kemi Seba has also benefited from financial support from Iran, where he is this week, and from Russia.

ECOWAS Tribunal rejects Niger's request

The West African Community Court of Justice has rejected a request by the National Council for the Safeguarding of the Homeland (Niger's transitional government) to lift sanctions related to the coup. The judges ruled that the government in power is unconstitutional and therefore has no authority to make such a request.

The Alliance of Sahel States could evolve into a confederation

The foreign ministers of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger met for two days in Bamako. They recommended that their countries, already militarily united against the jihadists, form a confederation. The finance ministers of these states are studying ways of creating an investment bank and an economic stabilization fund as well as a monetary union.

President Cyril Ramaphosa dropped by his party

Many advisers to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa have resigned from their posts. The African National Congress (ANC) is expected to lose its majority, while its internal opposition tries to topple the president in favor of his deputy, Paul Mashatile.

ASIA

Eli Cohen confirms that the war against Hamas will continue

Israel's foreign minister Eli Cohen said Israel would continue its war against Hamas regardless of whether it had international support: "A ceasefire at this point is a gift to the Hamas terrorist organization, and will allow it to return and threaten the residents of Israel."

Negotiations with Hamas continue, but elsewhere

Negotiations between Israel and Hamas are ongoing, but following the blunder of Qatar's Minister of International Cooperation Lolwah Al-Khater, members of the war cabinet demanded that they no longer be held in Qatar, but in Europe.

☞ Lolwah Al-Khater let her interlocutors notice that Qatar was not neutral in this negotiation, but had political and military authority over Hamas.

Ukraine fears being abandoned by Benjamin Netanyahu

Reacting to the long phone conversation between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Russian President Vladimir Putin, Ukraine's ambassador to Israel Yevgeni Korniychuk said: Today, Ukraine is at the forefront of the global war for freedom against the axis of "Evil led by Russia and Iran ... We call on the Israeli government to cooperate more closely with Ukraine, to fight together against this terrorist alliance (...) When the Israeli prime minister speaks to the president of Russia, it is a conversation between the head of a democratic state and the head of the snake that represents a clear and tangible danger to the entire free world."
As Kyiv sees the Biden administration's chance of supporting it fade away during an election year, it fears that Benjamin Netanyahu, who had authorized the sale of Israeli weapons by private companies to Ukraine, might follow its lead.

**Yosef Almansi on the "Sinwar Gang"**

The Shin Bet (counterintelligence) has released footage of the investigation into Hamas' former communications minister in the Gaza Strip Yosef Almansi. In it, he is seen assuring that people in the Gaza Strip "say that Yahya Sinwar and his gang destroyed us. They took us back 200 years. We have to get rid of them... What they have done is not accepted by logic, religion, or reason. Those who are responsible are Sinwar and his gang of madmen."

**Yair Lapid against Hamas billionaires**

Opposition leader Yair Lapid published an op-ed in *Haaretz*. In it, he recalls the efforts of Naftali Bennett when he was prime minister and his own when he succeeded him, to dry up the sources of funding for Hezbollah and Hamas. He regretted that they had not been carried on. He recalls that Ismail Haniyeh, Moussa Abu Marzouk and Khaled Meshal are recognized billionaires and asks that they be hit in the wallet.

**Hamas visit to Beijing postponed**

A Hamas delegation's trip to Beijing was canceled or postponed following an intervention by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

Until now, China had never invited Hamas.

**IDF Communication Error**

The IDF held a symbolic ceremony at the site where Hamas has returned its hostages and humiliated Israel. They invited a number of journalists to attend the lighting of the first Hanukkah candle.

Unfortunately, this was not the right place: there are two Palestinian Squares in Gaza City.

**Soldiers kept away from the prime minister**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will visit the Air Force's 5101 ("Shaldag") and 669 elite units. However, soldiers were instructed to stay away from the facilities. The military authorities feared that they would not welcome him.

**Voltaire Network Analysis**

- "Supremacism Inevitably Leads to Crime", by Thierry Meyssan

In a matter of months, Israel, which had a long and contradictory tradition, both democratic and criminal, has sunk. Its fundamental laws have been reformed and its prime minister has organized, with the complicity of the Muslim Brotherhood, a bloody pretext to liquidate the Palestinian people.

Since then, the Israeli ruling class has been gripped by a kind of supremacist madness. It only talks about the eradication of Hamas and the forcible transfer of Gazans. Before our eyes, we are witnessing a genocide, live on social media.

- "Israel knew of Hamas' attack plan for more than a year," by Manlio Dinucci

Manlio Dinucci looks back at the reasons why the Israeli government knowingly allowed the October 7 attack to take place.

**Buffer zone between Israel and Lebanon**

The UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) conveyed an Israeli message to Hezbollah. Tel Aviv wants to create a 3-kilometer-deep buffer zone in Lebanese territory. Hezbollah reportedly responded that this would mean doubling the 3-kilometer buffer zone into Israeli territory.

The Netanyahu government believes that the 100,000 Israelis displaced from the northern sector would benefit from this buffer zone.
Israel will never agree to return home if it fails to create a buffer zone with Lebanon.

The Israeli position is a step forward from Benjamin Netanyahu's talk of a buffer zone up to the Litani River, i.e. 40 kilometers.

Bernard Emié in the Middle East

Director of the French Foreign Intelligence Service (DGSE) Bernard Emié visited Beirut. He met with Speaker of Parliament Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Najib Mikati and President of the Socialist Progressive Party (PSP) Walid Jumblatt.

He urged his interlocutors to prepare for the consequences of the Gaza war for them.

Israel's leaders are in a state of hysteria. Everywhere, they only talk about displacing populations or eliminating them. The Lebanese should fear Israeli interventions at home. Whatever the outcome of the conflict, resolution 1701 which has prevailed since the end of the Israeli-Lebanese war in 2006, will have to be implemented, modified or invalidated.

Incidentally, there was also talk of the extension of the mandate of General Joseph Aoun at the head of the armed forces.

Following these talks, Bernard Emié travelled to Doha and Tel Aviv.

He was the bearer of a French peace plan for Gaza, drawn up at the Élysée Palace by Xavier Chatel de Briançon, which provided:
- the release of 5,000 Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails – not 10,000 as Hamas demands;
- the granting of a safe haven to Hamas leaders to exile them in Algeria;
- the deployment of an interposition force in Gaza consisting of France, Saudi Arabia and the UAE;
- The placing of Gaza under the administration of the Palestinian Authority.

Israéli provocations against Lebanon

Israel is trying to expand its war into Lebanon. So, Hezbollah and Iran are being very cautious. Walid Jumblatt, one of the two leaders of the Kurdish community, met with each of them to warn them.

Jordan's vision of Israel

Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi accused Israel of dragging the region "deeper into the ocean of death." "Israel just thinks it can do it, that it's not accountable."

Evolution of jihadist factions in Idlib

The Levant Falcon Brigades (Liwa Suqour al-Sham) seceded from the Syrian Islamic Liberation Front (Jabhat Tahrīr Sūriyā al-Islāmiyyah). They could join the Levant Liberation Organization (Hayat Tahrir al-Sham).

☞ This change does not seem to be due to ideological reasons, as there is no difference between the two federations on this point. Rather, it is a matter of personal rivalries against the backdrop of the slow disintegration of Idlib's jihadist structures.

Syria to renovate Homs refinery

Iran will renovate the Homs refinery. Since the end of the war in 2016, Syrian industry has not been able to recover. Its access to its own oil is still impossible due to the occupation of its own oil fields by US troops and their Kurdish mercenaries. The only solution would be to import Iranian crude oil and refine it locally.

US lobbying case resurfaces in Iraq

Before the fall of President Saddam Hussein, many Iraqi personalities and political groups had signed contracts with lobbying firms in the US to promote them in the eyes of the American leadership. The aim was to present them as possible alternatives to the Baathist regime. These contracts continued later, during
the U.S. occupation, in order to present them as the best local partners. They continued at least until former parliament speaker Mohamed al-Halbousi publicly revealed them. In fact, this would be the real reason for his impeachment.

Today, in the context of the war on Gaza, this case has resurfaced. The Iraqi press no longer wonders about how this or that personality has benefited from Washington's support, but about the cynicism of those who still seek the support of the country that supplies the bombs that kill Gazans.

**Saudi Arabia considers Russia more important than the UK**

Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman has cancelled a long-planned trip to London to receive Russian President Vladimir Putin. The two men discussed Saudi Arabia's responsibilities within the BRICS.

**Saudi Arabia and Iran coordinate against Israel**

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan and Iran's foreign minister Hossein Amir Abdollahyan met in Geneva. They discussed the coordination of the two states to exert joint pressure on Israel in Gaza.

**Ali Khamenei reiterates Iran's position on Israel**

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said: "Some in the world lie about Iran. According to them, we would say that Jews and Zionists should be thrown into the sea. This has been said by some Arabs in the past. Don't get me wrong. We don't throw anyone into the sea."

Iran prides itself on its ideological work

In their statements for internal use, the Iranian leaders emphasize that for years they have carried out in-depth ideological work and that today the various components of the Axis of Resistance are fighting Israel without having to take orders from Tehran.

This way of seeing is in total contradiction with that of the Westerners, for whom the Axis of Resistance is nothing but a set of proxies, doing exactly what their masters tell them to do.

**Türkiye plans to deport 200,000 Syrian migrant workers**

There are still 3.288 million Syrian immigrants in Türkiye. Most of them are not refugees per se: they were invited by Ankara at the beginning of the war to come and get protected from the fighting. This migration was a NATO plan to weaken Syria. Subsequently, Türkiye used them to keep its industry running and as a means of exerting pressure on the EU. With the country's economic difficulties, they have become a burden. Ankara wants to expel 200,000 of them in the coming months. They could be stabilized in Idlib as this jihadist area is controlled by the Turkish army. They could also return to Damascus-controlled areas, but then risk losing their UN-held financial support.

This is why its diplomats speak of a "Zionist entity" and not a "State of Israel."

Under no circumstances did Iran wish to eradicate the Jewish population from geographical Palestine. The 2005 Reuters statement attributed to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad that "Israel must be wiped off the map" was a "mistake" in translation, as the agency corrected. He compared Israel to the USSR and found that such regimes, not such countries, could not last.

Iran considers that the State of Israel did not respect its commitments when it joined the UN. According to Tehran, it will only be legitimate when the UN plan is fully implemented i.e., when a Palestinian state has been recognized.
**Bharat Supreme Court upholds Narendra Modi's crackdown in Kashmir**

The Supreme Court in Bharat has endorsed the decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to end the semi-autonomous status of Kashmir, which has been the focus of a decades-long insurgency. It is therefore only a "Union Territory", placed under the direct administration of New Delhi.

The Supreme Court also ordered elections to be held in Jammu and Kashmir in 2024, ruling that Jammu and Kashmir should be put on an equal footing with other Indian states "as soon as possible", with an election to be held by 30 September 2024.

Just over 120 people have been killed in 2023, in India's crackdown, two-thirds of whom are insurgents.

**Bharat again accused of attempting to assassinate Sikh separatists abroad**

According to the FBI quoted by the *Financial Times*, the Indian secret services allegedly recruited a hitman, Nikhil Gupta, to assassinate a Sikh independence leader in the US, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun; a contract worth $100,000. The hitman was arrested in June in the Czech Republic and later extradited to the US. He will be tried in Manhattan.

In June, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also accused Bharat of ordering the assassination in Canada of another Sikh independence leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Director of the CIA William Burns visited Bharat in August and Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines visited in October.

After denying any responsibility in the Canadian affair, Narendra Modi's government set up a special commission of inquiry to get to the bottom of both cases.

**Accident between two Philippine and Chinese vessels in the Spratly Islands**

A Chinese coast guard ship attacked one of the Philippine ships with water cannons that had come to supply the *BRP Sierra Madre* on the Second Thomas shoal. In the end, a Philippine ship deliberately collided with one of the Chinese coast guard vessels. Both states accuse each other of causing the accident. The Philippine civilian convoy was organized with the support of the US.

☞ 24 years ago, the Philippines willfully beached the *BRP Sierra Madre* over this atoll in order to claim sovereignty over the whole of the Spratly Islands. As this area is administered by China, the 11 soldiers occupying the wreckage are usually supplied by airdrops.

China asserts that the Philippines have committed to tow the *BRP Sierra Madre*. We have not been able to find any record of this decision.

**2023 World Peace Convention in Manila**

The World Peace Foundation organized a major congress in the Philippines. Its president, Hyun Jin Moon, has long advocated for the unification of the two Koreas.

Hyun Jin Moon is the son of Reverend Sun Myung Moon, founder of the "Moon Sect"; a CIA-sponsored anti-communist religious organization.

**North Korea reportedly considering supplying Russia with workers**

According to South Korea's National Intelligence Agency (NIS), North Korea is trying to negotiate sending migrant workers to Russia. According to Seoul, such migration would violate Security Council resolutions adopted at the end of hostilities in the Korean War.

**Human rights according to Kim Jong-un**

Kim Jong-un, supreme leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (aka
"North Korea") gave a speech at a meeting of the Workers' Party. He announced the publication of a White Paper on Human Rights to mark the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the UN. According to the document, under his leadership, the DPRK has made significant progress in this area. For example, there is no longer any mention of the collective punishment used during hostilities. However, Westerners continue to accuse him of this. Furthermore, the Westerners who claim to support human rights are only fighting them since they deny in many cases the sovereignty of States which is an essential condition for their exercise.

South Korea to resume leaflet drops over North Korea

The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Korea (aka "South Korea") has repealed the law prohibiting the sending of propaganda leaflets over the territory of its northern neighbor.

This law was adopted in 2018, under pressure from President Moon Jae-in, who is in favor of rapprochement between the two Koreas. His successor, current President Yoon Suk-Yeol, an admirer of Chun Doo-Hwan's dictatorship, is on the contrary in favor of the resumption of hostilities. However, he now has only 19% of favorable opinions.

China claims the Senkaku Islands

General He Lei, former vice president of the Chinese People's Liberation Army's Academy of Military Sciences, gave an interview to the Kyodo News. He recalled that Beijing claims sovereignty over the Senkaku Islands as well as Taiwan and warns Tokyo, which also claims them.

The Senkaku Islands are not inhabited today, but they allow the state that owns them to claim to have a much larger fishing area, or even to exploit Off Shore oil resources.

☞ Under the Treaty of Shimonoseki, China has recognized the Senkaku Islands, like the Formosa Islands (Taiwan), as Japanese. But Beijing considers this treaty to be one of the "unequal treaties" imposed by the colonial armies. The Senkakus were exploited by the industrialist Tatsushirō Koga, and later by the Koga clan. At the end of World War II, while the Allies recognized that Taiwan was not Japanese, but Chinese, they occupied the Senkakus until 1972. Since then, they have been considered Japanese.

Epidemic of espionage in Taiwan for the benefit of the People's Republic of China

A Taiwanese Air Force pilot has been convicted behind closed doors on espionage charges. "According to the instructions of the agents of the mainland [i.e., People's Republic of China], Lt. Col. Hsieh was asked (by the Chinese services) to fly a helicopter at low altitude along the coast to the Chinese communist aircraft carrier that is conducting exercises 24 nautical miles (44 km) off the coast of Taiwan," the court said. In exchange, the Tribunal said, he received $15 million, the first of which had already been paid to him. In addition, his family was reportedly evacuated to Thailand. Hsieh has admitted to planning a helicopter flight, but not to bribery.

Hsieh's case came to light after Taiwanese prosecutors indicted a group of active and retired officers for alleged espionage for Beijing in late November.

Japan's Liberal Democratic Party's Massive Systemic Corruption Scandal

Japan is rocked by a vast scandal of illegal funding of the Liberal Democratic Party and mainly of the faction of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. At least $500 million was allegedly paid to 99 MPs in secret accounts between 2018 and 2022, according to the Asahi Shimbun. At least 10 MPs are believed to have pocketed more than $10 million each.

Among them, Senator Yasutada Ohno is said to have pocketed more than $50 million and Senator Seiko Hashimoto, a former minister of
the Olympics, is said to have earned more than $20 million.

Criticism focuses on the government's chief secretary, Hirokazu Matsuno, because he was also the secretary general of Shinzo Abe's faction from 2019 to 2021.

MP Yoshitaka Ikeda has acknowledged failing to report receiving $32 million in "donations" over the past four years.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida is considering sacking not only Hirokazu Matsuno, but also the three ministers of his faction, Minister of Economy Yasutoshi Nishimura, Minister of Agriculture Ichiro Miyashita and Minister of the Interior Junjie Suzuki. Along with them, 11 other junior cabinet members — five assistant ministers and six politicians — could be removed, regardless of their involvement in the allegations. In addition, within the party, the head of political affairs, Koichi Hagiuda, the secretary general of the Senate, Hiroshige Seko, and the head of parliamentary affairs, Tsuyoshi Takagi, are threatened.

In a joint survey conducted by the Sankei Shimbun and Fuji TV, the Cabinet's approval rating fell to 22.5%, down 5.3 points from last month. 87.7% of respondents said Prime Minister Fumio Kishida was responsible for the scandal.

☞ The majority of Liberal Democrat MPs come from hereditary dynasties. This party was created by the US in the aftermath of the Second World War in order to recycle war criminals who had not been tried by the Tokyo Tribunal. It has always ruled Japan for 67 years (with the exception of two short periods not exceeding a total of 4 years). On the occasion of Shinzo Abe's assassination in 2020, the public discovered that his faction was still receiving considerable funding from the Unification Church (known as the "Moon sect"); a religious organization historically linked to Asian and Latin American dictatorships.

The Political Funds Control Act stipulates that a fundraising association must report the name, address and occupation of each donor — including private organizations or other structures — who donate more than $200,000. Donors are prohibited from donating more than $1.5 million to the same political association within a single party.

To this day, it is still unclear where these bribes came from and what they paid.

OCEANIA

Australia tightens immigration requirements

Australia is reforming its migration policy. "The system is broken," Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said. From now on, international students will have to score higher in their English exams to be eligible for a visa, and more scrutiny will be given to applications for extensions of stay. Meanwhile, the government will establish a new specialized visa for highly skilled workers that will boost recruitment efforts to better compete in global markets.

Papua New Guinea signs security agreement with Australia

Australia and Papua New Guinea signed a security pact on Thursday that will allow Canberra to help Port Moresby with its internal security. In exchange, Australia hopes to boost its economy by investing more in the region and encourage Papua New Guinea to side with Western actions in the Pacific.

In May, Papua New Guinea signed a defense agreement with Washington to upgrade its military bases. However, the move has not hampered its efforts to secure bigger trade deals with Beijing this year.
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

153 states adopt resolution demanding immediate ceasefire in Gaza

On the proposal of Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen and the State of Palestine, the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution entitled "Protection of civilians and compliance with legal and humanitarian obligations" (A/ES-10/L.27).

"1. It demands an immediate humanitarian ceasefire;
2. It reiterates its demand that all parties comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, including with regard to the protection of civilians;
3. Demands the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages as well as the assurance of humanitarian access."

10 States voted against (Austria, Czechia, Guatemala, Israel, Liberia, Micronesia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, US), 23 abstained, while 153 approved.

The States that voted against tabled two amendments, which were rejected. They intended to condemn Hamas alone, without pointing out Israeli crimes.

Still no multinational force in Haiti

In a short briefing to the Security Council, the Chairman of the Sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 2653 (2022) concerning Haiti regretted that the deployment of a specialized multinational force in support of the Haitian National Police (HNP) has been delayed, while the security situation in the country remains worrying.

WHO statistics on the situation in Gaza

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), as of December 7,
• 17,487 bodies of deceased Palestinians were reportedly found (plus those of the dead buried under the rubble)
• The hospital corps reportedly received 46,480 wounded Palestinians.
• An estimated 1.9 million Palestinians have been displaced, 1.2 million of whom are staying in UNRWA camps.

G7 steps up cooperation in the fight against cross-border organized fraud

The G7 Interior Ministers, meeting in Mito, Japan, agreed to intensify their cooperation to fight cross-border organized fraud.

According to Interpol Secretary General Jürgen Stock of Germany, who attended the meeting, there are bases in Asia and West Africa from which fraudulent phone calls are made that endanger economic security or play a role in cybercrime, child sexual exploitation and abuse, terrorism and embezzlement of funds intended for Ukraine.

A global summit against cross-border fraud will be held in the UK in 2024.

The Special Tribunal for Lebanon closes its doors without any light being shed

The Special Tribunal for Lebanon should close its doors due to lack of funding. It was created purportedly to shed light on the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and other crimes. However, from the outset, China, Indonesia, Qatar, the Russian Federation and South Africa denounced a colonial institution designed to serve as a justification for a future war.

In fact, this Tribunal has never agreed to examine forensic evidence and, on the contrary, has always confined itself to unbelievable media scenarios.
In the end, in sixteen years, it has only succeeded in convicting two Lebanese journalists, Ibrahim El-Amine (al-Akbar daily) and Karma al-Khayat (al-Jadeed TV) for contempt and obstruction of justice. It also tried three accused and convicted them in absentia.

☞ Contrary to its name, this international body is not a "court" in the legal sense of the term: it was neither created by the political bodies of the UN, nor by Lebanon, but by resolution 1757 which validates an agreement reached between a senior international official (UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan) and a resigned Prime Minister (Fouad Siniora).

Its operation has been punctuated by a cascade of resignations involving its president, two prosecutors and a clerk, and by numerous irregularities, one of the investigators was bribed, arbitrary arrests on the basis of the testimony of false witnesses, investigators being agents of the CIA…
EDITORIAL

The war for Gazans develops in the Red Sea

Four of the world's five largest shipping companies, Denmark's Maersk, France's CMA-CGM, Germany's Hapag-Lloyd and Switzerland's MSC, have announced that they will no longer use the Bab El-Mandeb crossing and therefore the Suez Canal, so as not to risk attacks by Ansar Allah. Only China's COSCO continues this route. Oil companies such as Shell have announced that they are taking the same measures.

High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josef Borrell and Secretary General of NATO Jens Stoltenberg announced "Operation Guardian of Prosperity".

Bahrain, Canada, Spain, the US, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Seychelles and the UK have agreed to coordinate to ensure maritime security in the Red Sea and the Bab El-Mandeb Strait. Other states support them, but are afraid to be named.

The commitments of each are of an operational or intelligence nature.

The whole thing is commanded from Northwood, in the suburbs of London (MarCom). British Vice Admiral Michael Keith Utley and his deputy, French Rear Admiral Didier Maleterre, were both under the command of U.S. General Christopher G. Cavoli (SACEUR).

Saudi Arabia, which is negotiating a peace treaty with Ansar Allah, and Egypt have refused to join them, despite pressure from US National Security Adviser Jacob "Jake" Sullivan, who increased the back and forth.

☞ In principle, the security of the Red Sea has been ensured, since April 2022, by CTF 153, bringing together 39 states under the orders of the Pentagon from the Naval Support Activity Bahrain (NSA Bahrain); a base that was renovated in 2010 at a cost of half a billion dollars. The aim was to prevent the Yemeni conflict from spilling over into the Red Sea. Clearly, the war in Gaza has changed the situation. We now have to face an outgrowth of the war against the Palestinians without ending it. In total, the entire system concerns at least the 44 states that make up the political West (...
(…)**To date, the size of Ansar Allah’s naval forces is unknown. The party claims to have developed it during the war and to keep it hidden. In any case, it now has its own weapons manufacturing plants and no longer needs to import its arsenal from Iran.**

Ansar Allah (God’s supporters) is a political organization founded by the al-Houthi family. Hence the derogatory nickname given to it by Westerners: the Houthis (i.e. the al-Houthi family gang). They profess Zaydism, a Shiite branch of Islam, whose rites are culturally marked by Hinduism.

In 2015, Israel and Saudi Arabia pledged to exploit the Rub’al-Khali oil field; merge Saudi Arabia, Yemen, even Oman and the UAE; exploit the Ethiopian-controlled Ogaden oil fields; secure the port of Aden in Yemen, and build a bridge linking Djibouti to Yemen. To do this, they set up a joint headquarters in the unrecognized state of Somaliland and interfered in the conflict between the Yemeni government of Abdrabbo Mansour Hadi and Ansar Allah, the latter being opposed to the merger. It was war. Ansar Allah gained support from Iran, received weapons, and its fighters received military and ideological training in Iran.

Since no one was ever able to defeat the Yemenis, this war of conquest could not be won by the Saudis and the Emiratis. As part of the Saudi-Iranian reconciliation brokered by China, a peace treaty was being signed. The date of the ceremony had been set. It should have been held last week in the presence of the UN Secretary-General's special envoy, Hans Grünberg of Germany. However, it was cancelled, under pressure from Washington.

The peace treaty restored the country’s unity, but the Southern Movement still demanded that it be divided into two independent states. A reversal occurred in the 2000s, the south, formerly a Marxist-Leninist republic, is now dominated by Salafists, while the north is now nationalist with Ansar Allah.

**Ansar Allah has announced that it will attack Israeli ships or ships calling at Israel as long as the slaughter of Gazans continues and they do not have access to sufficient humanitarian aid. Operation Guardian of Prosperity aims to prevent Ansar Allah from disrupting traffic in the Red Sea so that it can continue the ongoing slaughter in Gaza. All participating states are therefore complicit in Israeli crimes.**

**AMERICAS**

**Democrats pressure on Benjamin Netanyahu**

Jewish Democratic Rep. Steve Cohen (Tennessee) met with president Joe Biden for a Hanukkah ceremony at the White House. On his way out, he said National Security Adviser Jacob “Jake” Sullivan would convey the following message to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu: Israel must limit its bombing of Gaza or it will lose its last true friend, the US.

Steve Cohen boycotted Benjamin Netanyahu’s speech to Congress in 2015.

**CentCom prepares to intervene**

Gen. Michael Erik Kurilla, commander of U.S. Forces for the Greater Middle East (CentCom), visited his counterparts in Egypt, Jordan and Israel.

**Parliamentarians defend press rights in Gaza**

Five Democratic Senators Brian Schatz (Hawaii), Peter Welch (Vermont), Chris Van Hollen (Maryland), Tim Kaine (Virginia) and Cory Booker (New Jersey) have written to President Joe Biden asking him to ensure press access to Gaza. They write: "We call on you to further urge the Israeli government, as well as the Egyptian government, to respect press freedom by allowing all interested journalists unrestricted entry into Gaza and providing them with appropriate protections to carry out their essential work."
Chris Van Hollen Calls for Clearer Commitment from Joe Biden to Humanitarian Law in Gaza

Democratic Senator Chris Van Hollen (Maryland) said on ABC's This Week: "We have unacceptable levels of civilian casualties [in Gaza], we're seeing very loose rules of engagement — much looser than anything the U.S. would accept," which is very important because the U.S. is not a bystander. We are a major provider of military assistance to the Jewish state." In this regard, President Joe Biden's message to the Jewish state "is not clear enough."

Lindsey Graham wants a resolution in Gaza rather than a cycle of revenge

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham (South Carolina), a guest on NBC's Meet the Press, said: "We have two options: continue the death spiral, or use October 7 as a catalyst for change. I think the Arabs are going to demand some form of two-state solution to recognize the Jewish state. I think Israel is going to demand buffer zones to guarantee its security... I don't know how it's going to end, but I'll tell you this: If we don't get that this time, we'll have another generation of death just for revenge."

Debbie Dingell deplores Joe Biden's passivity in the face of war crimes

Democratic Rep. Debbie Dingell (Michigan), a guest on NBC's Meet the Press, expressed concern about the reaction of Muslim voters to President Joe Biden's passivity. She said: "I can't tell you how many voters I've spoken to who have lost entire families. We need to be empathetic and compassionate. A Jewish baby and a Palestinian baby are babies, I don't want to see a baby die. We have to get out of this, we have got a ceasefire, this has to stop."

Bernie Sanders wants to apply foreign aid law reservations

Democrat Senator Bernie Sanders (Vermont) filed a draft resolution (S. 504) to "request information on Israeli human rights practices under Section 502B (c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961."

He said: "We all know that Hamas' brutal terror attack started this war. But the blind response of the Netanyahu government is immoral. This is a violation of international Law, and Congress must demand answers about the conduct of this campaign. A just cause of war does not excuse atrocities in the conduct of that war. The scale of the suffering in Gaza is unbelievable – it will be remembered as one of the darkest chapters in our modern history. It's a humanitarian cataclysm, and it's being perpetrated with U.S. bombs and money. We have to face that fact – and then we have to end our complicity in these actions."

The Foreign Aid Act requires the State Department to submit a report within 30 days or cancel all forms of aid.

U.S. Views on the Gaza War

According to a New York Times poll, 44 percent of Americans favor an immediate ceasefire in Gaza while 39 percent are against.

Meanwhile, 57% of voters are dissatisfied with Biden's approach, while 33% support it.

The cost of the U.S. withdrawal from Russia

According to the New York Times, "Western companies that have announced their departure from Russia have reported more than $103 billion in losses since the start of the war."

300 unemployed millionaires on benefits in the USA

In the US, where 18 million unemployed people receive non-means-tested benefits, 300 of them earned more than $10 million the previous year. Their allowances amounted to $14,000 per month on average.
Millions of U.S. voters admit to fraud in 2020

According to a Rasmussen Report poll of the controversial 2020 election in which 43% of voters voted by mail, the highest percentage in U.S. history:
• 17% of mail-in voters said they voted in a state where they no longer lived permanently
• Another 17% said they signed a ballot for a friend or family member.

Thus, contrary to the Trump administration's statements, if fraud is not proven, millions of voters admit to fraud.

Colorado Supreme Court bans Donald Trump from running for federal presidency

By a majority of four out of seven justices, the Colorado Supreme Court upheld the trial court's decision concluding that Donald Trump had "engaged in a rebellion on January 6, 2021" during the Capitol riot, it also considered that the 14th Amendment to the Colorado Constitution, invoked to claim his ineligibility, does apply to a president.

California Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis urged her state to do the same.

Difficult inauguration of Bernardo Arevalo

Prosecutor Leonor Morales said the election of Guatemala's president, moderate liberal Bernardo Arevalo, was null and void because his party had failed to complete certain formalities.

The Supreme Court, however, ordered Congress to guarantee his inauguration, despite the political difference between them.

The U.S. State Department has imposed sanctions on 300 Guatemalans whom it accuses of undermining the country's institutional foundations. The presidents of Chile, Brazil and Colombia issued statements, as did the Alliance for Development and Democracy and the Organization of American States in support of the president against the abuse of justice.
☞ Bernardo Arevalo is a sociologist fighting corruption. He is de facto opposed to Guatemala's elites.

Agreement between Venezuela and Guyana

The Presidents of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, and the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Irfaan Ali, met in the presence of Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and President of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC);

Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister of Dominica and President of the Caribbean Community (CariCom); and

Celso Amorim, representative of Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

They signed an 11-point agreement:
• Resolve their dispute without the use of force;
• Resolve their dispute in accordance with international law, including the 1966 Geneva Agreement;
• Seek peaceful coexistence and unity in Latin America and the Caribbean;
• Take note of the various points continue the dialogue;
• refrain from anything that would aggravate the conflict and prevent CELAC, CariCom and Brazil from any dispute;
• create a joint commission chaired by the two foreign ministers;
• rely on the mediation of Ralph Gonsalves, Roosevelt Skerrit and Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, acting in their own name and independently of their functions.
• meet again in Brazil within three months;
• thank Ralph Gonsalves, Roosevelt Skerrit and Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva for their initiative;
• thank the people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for their welcome.
**Washington releases Alex Saab**

Alex Saab, a Colombian middle man working for Venezuela, was arrested during a stopover of his private jet in Cape Verde on his way to Iran. This arrest was organized by the Straussian Elliott Abrams. Saab's wife, Italian model Camila Fabbri, has fled to Moscow. The Venezuelan and Nigerian governments have mounted an international campaign for his release. Former Spanish anti-terrorism judge Baltasar Garzon became his lawyer in Cape Verde. President Nicolás Maduro has appointed Saab as Venezuela's ambassador to the African Union. The UN Human Rights Committee (responsible for monitoring the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) has called on Cape Verde to suspend Saab's extradition. He was, however, transferred to custody in the US.

According to documents that were made public during his trial, Alex Saab was a U.S. DEA agent. He reportedly received $10 million in exchange for information about the involvement of Venezuelan officials in drug trafficking. However, one of his lawyers explained that Alex Saab did not collaborate with the DEA, but only provided explanations about his business ties with the Venezuelan government.

After the U.S. eased its economic siege (dubbed "sanctions" by U.S. propaganda) of Venezuela in October, it agreed to release Alex Saab in exchange for a dozen dual nationals and 20 Venezuelans on Dec. 1. Qatar helped National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan negotiate the deal. Among those exchanged was Malaysian Leonard Francis (known as "Fat Leonard"), a fugitive con man. He was arrested in Caracas at the request of Interpol. He is accused of having organized a gigantic embezzlement of funds to the detriment of the U.S. Navy.

It seems that Washington has decided to put an end to the Juan Guaído episode directed by Elliott Abrams, in which President Nicolás Maduro was described as a drug lord and Juan Guaído as the country's legitimate president.

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**Devaluation of the peso and deregulation of the Argentine economy**

The day after his inauguration, Argentine President Javier Milei announced a 54% devaluation of the peso. Kristalina Georgieva, president of the International Monetary Fund, congratulated him.

In a TV address, President Javier Milei announced:
- the repeal by decree of the rent cap law,
- the transformation of all state-owned enterprises into public limited companies that will all be privatized,
- and various other deregulation measures.

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**EUROPE**

**Catholic Church Returns to Blessing Gay Couples**

Pope Francis has approved permission for priests to bless same-sex couples.

☞ In the early centuries of the Church, same-sex couples received a blessing in a ceremony, the *adelphopoiia*. In the fifth century, the first Christian community, that of Maaloula (Syria), consecrated a monastery to St. Sarkis and St. Bacchus, two soldiers of the personal guard of Emperor Maximilian. Sarkis was martyred at Resafa (Raqqa). The destruction of this monastery, where the memory of this gay couple is still commemorated, was one of the objectives of Daesh during the war in Syria.

The Christians of Damascus were goyim living in the Greek tradition, while those of Jerusalem were Jews. The latter remained strangers to this way of life.

**Conviction of Giovanni Angelo Becciu for embezzlement**

Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Becciu, who was substitute for General Affairs of the Secretariat of State of the Holy Sec, that is, No. 2 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Holy Sec, has been sentenced by the Vatican Criminal Court.
After a lengthy trial, he was convicted of embezzlement and sentenced to 5 and a half years in prison.

The cardinal had recorded a conversion with Pope Francis without his knowledge, and then tried to blackmail him. The embezzled funds benefited his family.

**Ben Wallace warns of Benjamin Netanyahu's murderous rage**

In an op-ed, former UK defense minister Ben Wallace pointed out that "the original legal authority of [Israeli] self-defense is being undermined by its own actions... Netanyahu's mistake was to miss the Hamas attack in the first place. But if he thinks murderous rage is going to make things right, then he's absolutely wrong. His methods will not solve this problem. In fact, I think his tactics will fuel the conflict for another 50 years."

**London sanctions Muslim Brotherhood leader in Gaza**

The UK has taken unilateral coercive measures against Mahmoud Zahar, leader of the Muslim Brotherhood in Gaza and Hamas' supreme authority.

This is the first time London has taken "sanctions" against a Muslim Brotherhood authority that King Charles long supported when he was Prince of Wales.

**Anglican Church blesses same-sex partnership**

Priests in the Church of England have blessed a same-sex partnership for the first time, although the ban on religious marriages for same-sex couples remains in force in the Anglican religion.

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**Anglo-Saxon military deployment in Cyprus and military censorship in the UK**

The British Army's Defense Advisory Notice sent a memo to all British media on October 28 asking them not to publish any information about the activities of the SAS (Special Forces) in Gaza.

The *Sun* revealed that SAS were to be deployed to Gaza.

It seems that this is not the first "Defense Advisory Notice" and that the British army has already censored articles relating to the position taken by 41 UN experts who denounced the risk of genocide in Gaza on 16 November. In any case, the British press ignored this event.

In addition, the UK has already secretly sent at least 500 additional troops to its bases in Cyprus. Other British troops have been sent to Egypt, Israel and Lebanon.

The UK has sent 30 transport flights to its military bases in Cyprus since 7 October, while the US has sent 40.

**France holds international meeting against Hamas**

France organized an international meeting to fight against Hamas as part of President Emmanuel Macron's Initiative for Peace and Security for All.

Under the chairmanship of Frédéric Mondoloni, delegates from a dozen countries worked "on the one hand on the fight against the financing of the terrorist organization and, on the other hand, on combating terrorist content disseminated online by Hamas."

**France urged to act in Israel's interest in Lebanon**

According to *Al-Akbar* (Lebanon), Israel briefly thanked France for its initiative against Hamas funding, but asked it to interfere in Lebanon.
rather than Palestine. Tel Aviv expects President Macron to use his influence in Beirut to convince the various Lebanese factions to implement Israel's interpretation of Resolution 1701, i.e. the demilitarization of the 30 kilometers separating the ceasefire line from the Litani River.

Resolution 1701 does not refer to a demilitarized zone, but stipulates that "a permanent ceasefire and a long-term solution" must be based, inter alia, on the "Adoption of a security arrangement that prevents the resumption of hostilities, including the establishment of a zone between the Blue Line and the Litani River that excludes all armed personnel, property and weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and UNIFIL forces authorized in paragraph 11, deployed in the area." However, there is an agreement between Hezbollah and the Lebanese army authorizing the former to deploy in this area. Israel expects France to repeal the system.

Four Hamas operatives arrested in Germany and the Netherlands

Four Hamas operatives were arrested on suspicion of planning attacks on Jewish institutions in Europe, German prosecutors said in a statement. Three of the suspects are being held in Berlin and the fourth in the Netherlands.

Preparation of an attack in Denmark

Copenhagen police and the Danish Security and Intelligence Service (PET) said they had made several arrests in a coordinated action across the country. The suspects were planning a terrorist attack.

"This is extremely serious (...) For a number of years now, we have seen that there are people living in Denmark who do not wish us well. Who are against our freedom and who are against Danish society, with all that that entails," Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said.

Renewal of the rotating presidency of the EU

The rotating presidency of the EU will befall to Belgium on 1 January 2024, and then to Hungary on 1 July.

Foreign editions

Voltaire, international news is now published in six languages:
- Dutch
- English
- French
- Italian
- German
- Spanish

The EU is preparing to legislate on press law

The European Parliament and the European Commission have agreed on the principles that should govern the press.

• Public media should have long-term budgets and administrators with long mandates to ensure their independence from political powers.
• It will be forbidden to force journalists and editors to reveal their sources, whether it's through detention, punishment, office searches, or the installation of intrusive surveillance software on their devices.

By way of derogation, such interference will only be permitted on a case-by-case basis "for an overriding reason of public interest", subject to the authorization of a judicial authority. The use of intrusive surveillance software against journalists will also have to be justified in the context of investigations into serious crimes punishable by deprivation of liberty in the Member State concerned. In this case, the surveillance measures will have to be regularly monitored by the judicial authorities.

Even in these cases, the right of the persons concerned to be informed of ongoing surveillance and to benefit from judicial protection will apply.
• Media outlets of all kinds will have to make public their beneficial owners and sources of funding.
• The moderation of very large online platforms should not limit the freedom of the press and the expression of contradictory opinions.
• The authorities should distribute their paid advertising fairly and publish their annual budgets.

Russia warns Finland

The Russian Foreign Ministry summoned the Finnish ambassador in Moscow to tell him that the build-up of NATO equipment in his country threatens the security of the Russian Federation. Finland has just signed a bilateral arms agreement with the US. Russian President Vladimir Putin said his country has not had a problem with Finland's accession to NATO, but now it has a problem with the stockpiling of US weapons in Finland. He announced "the creation of an infrastructure for the military district of the Leningrad region and the concentration of some military units there."

☞ During World War II, the USSR asked Finland to let it deploy troops on its coast to defend Leningrad (St. Petersburg) from the Nazis. When Helsinki refused, the Soviets forced their way into the Winter War. Later, the Finns acknowledged that Moscow had no choice.

☞ In 1947, Finland made a written commitment to remain neutral. However, it violated its own signature by joining NATO.

AFRICA

Aguila Salah gets closer to Türkiye

Speaker of the Libyan House of Representatives Aguila Salah Issa visited Türkiye. He praised Ankara and its swift and generous response to the Derna disaster. He appeared open to ratifying the military and security agreement, and the maritime economic policy agreement, signed in 2019, but never endorsed.

In addition, the Security Council endorsed the agreement reached between the various authorities for the upcoming elections. However, they refuse to meet to implement it.

Mysterious downing of a Russian plane in Cyrenaica

A Russian plane has been shot down at a military airport controlled by Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, according to Italian media. It could be a U.S. Special Forces operation.

Sudanese-Chadian quarrel

Yasser al-Ata, deputy to General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, said in November that Chad had supplied weapons to the Rapid Support Forces of "General" Mohamed Hamdan Dogolo (aka "Hemedti"). His remarks were echoed on television by Ali Sadek, Sudan's foreign minister.

In retaliation, Chad, which denies any involvement in Sudan's internal life, declared four Sudanese diplomats persona non grata.

Sudan immediately expelled three Chadian diplomats.

ASIA

Isaac Herzog in favor of a deal to release hostages

Israeli President Isaac Herzog told 80 ambassadors from around the world that "he is ready for a new humanitarian pause and additional humanitarian aid to allow for the release of the hostages. The responsibility for an agreement lies fully with Sinwar and the Hamas leadership."

For Isaac Herzog, now is not the time to create a Palestinian state

In an interview with The Associated Press (AP), Israeli President Isaac Herzog said:

"What I want to emphasize is against talking about 'a two-state solution.' What for? Because
there is an emotional chapter here that needs to be addressed. My nation is traumatized. To go back to the idea of dividing the land, negotiating peace or talking to the Palestinians, etc., we must first and foremost face the emotional trauma we are going through and the need and demand for a full sense of security for all."

So now is still not the time to create a Palestinian state, which has been planned for three-quarters of a century.

Benjamin Netanyahu does not want to stop his military action

Receiving U.S. National Security Adviser Jacob "Jake" Sullivan, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "I told our American friends – our fighting heroes did not fall in vain. From the deep pain of their fall, we are more determined than ever to keep fighting until Hamas is eliminated – until absolute victory."

☞ Jake Sullivan has made it imperative that the Gaza massacre end early February. However, Benjamin Netanyahu is aware that he could be overthrown once peace returns. The Prime Minister is therefore trying to prolong the war as long as possible in order to consolidate his power.

David Barnea in Warsaw

According to CNN, Mossad director David Barnea met in Warsaw with Qatari Prime Minister Mohammad al Thani and CIA Director William Burns to discuss a possible hostage deal. The meeting was rated as "positive".

Bezalel Smotrich wants to destroy Hamas

Israel's finance minister Bezalel Smotrich told Kan public radio: "That's the goal: to destroy Hamas, so that there is no one to talk to on the other side."

Itamar Ben-Gvir opposes delivery of humanitarian aid to Gazans

Minister of National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir has written to National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi asking him to convene the War Cabinet to review the previously approved decision to open the Kerem Shalom crossing in Gaza to allow humanitarian aid to pass through. He notes that this decision was taken after a simple phone consultation. He writes: "As I have said before, I strongly oppose it. However, even those who approve of it should only decide after a substantive debate in the cabinet."

In a tweet on X, he wrote: "If anyone wants, God forbid, to stop the IDF before Hamas has been defeated and all the kidnapped people have been sent back – let them take into account that [my party] Otzma Yehudit is not with them. The idea of reducing activity in Gaza would be a failure of the limited war cabinet. This cabinet must be dismantled immediately. It's time to hand over the reins to the enlarged cabinet."

Yair Lapid for a Palestinian State

Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid said in an interview with the Saudi-British magazine Al-Majalla that it is "our duty to future generations" of Palestinians and Israelis "to live side by side in peace."

Of a Palestinian state, he said: "I don't think the idea is dead. I think it will be delayed significantly because we have to find ways to keep our people safe."

Yuli-Yoel Edelstein rescues sanctioned soldiers in Jenin

MP Yuli-Yoel Edelstein, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, called on IDF Chief of Staff Herzl Halevi to reconsider removing from the army soldiers who were filmed using the loudspeakers of a Jenin Mosque to sing Hannukah songs and address the city's residents. In the video, a soldier can be heard saying, "In the name of
God, the merciful. This is the spokesman of the IDF," and chanting "We have come to banish the darkness."

In his letter, he wrote: "Without minimizing the soldiers' misjudgment, it would have been better if a higher-ranking officer had had a conversation with them and set up a disciplinary procedure. I invite the Chief of Staff to reconsider this way of handling the facts."

Rabbi Yitzchak Yosef Wants Respect for Other Faiths

Israel's Sephardic Chief Rabbi Yitzchak Yosef has written to his IDF counterpart asking him to teach soldiers respect for other faiths.

Amichai Eliyahu intends to scare people

Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu said he was in favor of a reoccupation of Gaza: "Anyone who sells an illusion that Hamas will come back to manage things does not want to remember what happened on Simchat Torah [i.e., October 7]."

He had previously talked of the possible use of a nuclear bomb against the Gazan population. He added: "All day we were busy calming everyone down. Why don't we create deterrence? (...) It's as if, for our morals' sake, we don't want to be a little cruel. To win, you need a little cruelty. To win, you have to be a little scary."

Biden Administration Delays Assault Rifle Deliveries

According to Walla News, while the Biden administration continues to supply the IDF with shells and bombs, it is withholding deliveries of assault rifles because it fears they will be distributed to settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank.

Journalists still banned in Gaza

The Jerusalem Foreign Press Association has filed a petition with the Israeli Supreme Court requesting immediate international media access to the Gaza Strip.

CNN journalist Clarissa Ward managed to enter the Gaza Strip without an IDF escort. She is the first Western journalist to enter Gaza without Israeli approval.

Voltaire Network Analysis

- "The survival of Washington's domination of the UN", by Thierry Meyssan

When it was created, the UN had an ideal of equality between peoples and nations. However, from the first months of its existence, Washington and London supported Israel against the Palestinian people. Then, Washington falsified the Security Council by having Formosa sit in place of China and provoking a boycott of the USSR. Today, the dominance of the US over this institution is denounced by a vast majority of Member States. Meanwhile, the BRICS are positioning themselves in battle order for the institution to return to international law.

☞ In this article, Thierry Meyssan could also have cited the case of the General Assembly's vote on the annual resolution condemning the illegal blockade of Cuba by the US. There are now 187 states in favor, 2 against (the US and Israel) and 4 abstentions.

- "Same strategy of war from Ukraine to Palestine" by Manlio Dinucci

The two wars against the Russian-speaking population of Ukraine and against the Arab population of Gaza are managed in the same way from Washington. From its point of view, the Empire cannot lose, even if everything on the ground indicates otherwise.

IDF Announces Rewards for Capture of Hamas Leaders

The IDF distributed leaflets in Gaza. They are offering:

- $100,000 for Mohammed Deif;
• $200,000 for Rafa'a Salameh;
• $300,000 for Mohammed Sinwar;
• $400,000 for his older brother Yahya Sinwar (Hamas leader in Gaza).

3 Israeli hostages killed by IDF

Yotam Haim, 28, from Kibbutz Kfar Azza, Samer Fuad El-Talalka, 24, from Hura and Alon Shamriz, 26, also from Kfar Azza, were kidnapped by Hamas. They left messages on the walls of a house where they were being held, but the IDF did not investigate them. Two days later, they showed up almost naked and with their arms raised, but suspecting a booby trap, the IDF shot and killed two of them. The third escaped. the IDF found him and also shot him dead.

Alon Shamriz’s father said: "It wasn't a mistake; it was an execution – literally ... They did everything right – took off their shirts, hung a white flag, and walked out in broad daylight in the middle of the street. They cried out for help, but in our army, no one knows how to follow the rules of engagement... Even if he was a terrorist, why shoot him like that? He was naked, unarmed, and even if he was a terrorist - why not shoot him in the legs? This goes against all the rules taught by the IDF."

Then he gave an interview to NBC. In it, he said: "I'm going to tell the government. You murdered my son twice: You let Hamas take my son on October 7, and you killed my son on December 14... Netanyahu's government cannot serve us... They don't deserve us, as a country, as a community. They are not our leaders. They think only of themselves, of their chairs, of their salaries." The minister without portfolio, Benny Gantz, visited the family of Bedouin Samer Fuad El-Talalka.

Yossi Cohen Calls for Resignations

Former director of the Mossad Yossi Cohen said officials who had been warned about the Oct. 7 attack and did nothing must take responsibility and resign. Responding to a question about his responsibility for failing to address the Hamas funding network he uncovered in 2018, he replied: "The Mossad operates in accordance with the decisions of the Israeli government and the political security cabinet; the Mossad does not invent politics itself."

IDF Discovers Vast Hamas Tunnel

The IDF discovered a tunnel in Gaza about 3 meters wide and four kilometers long. It was built under the authority of Mohammed Sinwar, brother of Yahya Sinwar, with sophisticated techniques. It is equipped with communication facilities, an electrical network, a ventilation system and sanitation infrastructure. Located 400 meters from the Erez border, it is accessible by car. It had probably been dug in preparation for a motorized attack by Israel.

IDF Murders Parishioners Sheltering in Church

According to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, an IDF sniper murdered two Christian women inside the Church of the Holy Family in Gaza, where the majority of Christian families in the parish have taken refuge since the beginning of the war. Nahida and her daughter Sahar were killed as they made their way to the Sisters of Charity convent in order to protect her. Another 7 people were shot and wounded while trying to protect other parishioners inside the church. No warning had been given. They were shot in cold blood inside the church compound where there are no fighters.

Hussein al-Sheikh wants an assessment of political actions for Palestine

Hussein al-Sheikh, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and a possible successor to President Mahmoud Abbas, said that once the war was over, there should be a "serious and honest assessment and reconsideration of all policies and methods" used to solve the problems of the Palestinian people.
Il said the Oslo Accords had been buried under the tracks of Israeli tanks in Gaza.

**Restoring communications in Gaza**

The Paltel and Jawwal companies managed to restore telephone and internet communications in the Gaza Strip.

**Tel Aviv is using the weapon of hunger**

According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), the Israeli government is using civilian starvation as a method of warfare in the Gaza Strip, which amounts to a war crime.

$1.3 million found at Hamas leader's home

Israeli soldiers found suitcases containing about NIS 5 million (about $1.35 million) at the home of a senior Hamas official in Jabalya, as well as weapons, the IDF spokesman said.

**Hamas tunnels able to withstand flooding**

Osama Hamdan, one of Hamas' top figures, said in Lebanon: "The tunnels were built by qualified engineers, who took into account all possible attacks, including flooding."

**Starving Gazans loot humanitarian convoy to survive**

Gazans attacked a humanitarian aid convoy and looted it to distribute food to the population. According to the UN World Food Programme, about half of Gaza's population is hungry and does not know where they will find their next meal.

**Mahmoud Abbas reiterates his opposition to any population transfer**

Receiving U.S. National Security Adviser Jacob "Jake" Sullivan, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said his people "oppose any plan to expel residents of the Gaza Strip or the West Bank," adding that in the West Bank there is "a discreet transfer by the settlers and with the support of the army, and the U.S. administration must intervene immediately to stop this policy."

**Incident on the Syrian-Jordanian border**

Jordanian border guards fought off incursion attempts by Syrian smugglers for five days. The Syrians, taking advantage of the tension around Gaza, tried to smuggle drugs and weapons. These were intended to fight Israel in the West Bank.

**Jordan warns of 'double standards' in Gaza**

Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said that if the UN Security Council does not adopt a resolution on humanitarian aid to Gaza, it will mean that the institution is shifting from international law to double standards.

**Washington plans to 'sanction' Syrian armed opposition**

Finally, the Biden administration is concerned about human rights violations committed by the Syrian armed opposition. Nikolas Granger, an adviser to Gen. Michael E. Kurilla's CentCom, met with its leaders in Syria. He called on them to ensure respect for human rights, failing which they would be sanctioned by the US.

**NATO turns to Saudi Arabia in the face of Ansar Allah**

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg visited Riyadh. This is the first time that a NATO official of this rank has visited Saudi Arabia. This trip takes place in the context of Ansar Allah's anti-Israel attacks in the Red Sea.

**Jake Sullivan in the Greater Middle East**

U.S. National Security Advisor Jacob "Jake" Sullivan met with his Emirati counterpart, Tahnoon bin Zayed, in Abu Dhabi. The two men discussed the situation in Yemen.
He also met with Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv. He reportedly told him that the military operation in Gaza must end by early February at the latest.

**Erratum**

In some editions of our Newsletter N°66, we reported that Yemeni politicians were threatening to send 500,000 troops to Gaza. This must be explained: 500,000 men would be the fifth largest army in the world (after the USA, Russia, India and China). This is obviously absurd. Ansar Allah never numbered more than 120,000 men. In Semitic (i.e., both Arab and Sephardic) culture, numbers are not only a means of counting, but also of symbolically expressing ideas. "500,000" in this context means "an army more powerful than Israel's."

**Yemen peace postponed under pressure from Washington**

The peace signing ceremony between Saudi Arabia and Ansar Allah, under the auspices of the UN, was suddenly cancelled. The local press reports that the US is putting pressure on the UN Secretary-General's special envoy, Hans Grünberg. Riyadh, for its part, has not followed Washington's desire to restart the war in order to put an end to Ansar Allah's anti-Israeli attacks in the Bab El-Mandeb Strait.

The Sultanate of Oman has begun an offer of good offices between Ansar Allah and the US.

**Al-Jazeera files complaint with the ICC**

*Al Jazeera* intends to refer the death of its cameraman, Samer Abu Daqa, who was injured in an airstrike in Khan Yunis, to the International Criminal Court. The IDF said the ambulance it had sent to help Abu Daqa could not reach him due to road damage.

**Recep Tayyip Erdogan announces Israel's diplomatic isolation**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said: "It is impossible to expect goodwill from Israel at this stage. However, what really matters is how the whole world reacts to the Jewish state. In fact, remember that initially 121 states opposed it at the UN General Assembly and they took action with us. At the time, 40 states abstained and 10 countries, including the US, supported Israel. Yet, today, the tide has turned, and the number of these 121 countries working with us has increased dramatically [reaching 153], which shows that Israel is now moving towards isolation. This isolation will only grow further in the days to come."

**Malaysia bans Israeli ships from docking at its ports**

Taking into consideration the effectiveness of Ansar Allah's efforts in Yemen to stop the ongoing slaughter in Gaza, the government of Anwar Ibrahim has banned Israeli ships from its ports.

**The Moon Sect Launches New Program**

The Global Peace Foundation (GPF) announced the launch of the World Peace Corps in Manila, Philippines.

☞ As the Japanese government teeters to collapse amid the $500 million Moon cult bribery scandal, the sect is launching a new program in Asia.

**New Director of South Korean Intelligence**

Former South Korean ambassador to Washington Cho Tae-Yong has been appointed...
South Korea's Supreme Court upheld 2013 and 2014 rulings ordering two Japanese companies, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Nippon Steel Corp, to compensate Koreans who were forced to work under Japanese occupation from 1910 to 1945. They will have to pay 1.17 billion won ($898,000) to 11 victims or their relatives.

Political earthquake in Japan

Searches and resignations follow one another in Japan since the revelation of the secret funds of the Liberal Democratic Party (see VIN N°66), the country's biggest scandal since the Lockheed affair half a century ago. 99 parliamentarians pocketed $500 million in bribes. At the moment, the investigation focuses on the distribution of funds. Their origin has not yet been addressed.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Renewal of the Security Council

On 1 January, the UN Security Council will be composed of:
- Algeria, Guyana, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia
- Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique and Switzerland
- The People's Republic of China, the US, the Russian Federation, France and the UK are permanent members.

Embezzlement of funds at the UN

Ukraine's Vitaly Vanshelboim, the UN under-secretary-general for investments, has been fired. He allegedly gave $58 million from the UN to businessman David Kendrick and his 22-year-old daughter, Daisy Kendrick. The founder of Sustainable Housing Solutions (SHS), was supposed to use this money for projects such as building houses in developing countries. However, the company is unable to repay the funds it has already used to pay off pre-existing debts. Other fraudulent operations have emerged, such as the $3 million invoicing of a Stone song that had been composed on a voluntary basis for the UN.

WHO deplores attack on Kamal Adwan Hospital

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), said: "We have learned that many patients [at Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza] were supposed to evacuate it at great risk to their health and safety as ambulances cannot reach the facility. Of the patients who died, several died due to a lack of adequate health care, including a 9-year-old child. We are extremely concerned about the well-being of the displaced persons who are believed to be sheltered in the hospital building. Gaza's health system was already on its knees, and the loss of another hospital is a severe blow."

In a note, published on December 14, the WHO said that
- 18,787 Palestinians had been killed in Gaza, including 7,729 children;
- 50,877 Palestinians were seriously injured;
- 1.93 million Palestinians have been displaced (i.e. 85% of Gazans);
- 803 Palestinians have been allowed to leave Gaza since 7 October.

UNRWA warns of looming catastrophe in Gaza

Spokesman for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Abi Hasna said: "People have nothing, they have lost all hope... We arrived at the places where trucks were robbed. We found people sitting and eating what they had just stolen... Beyond the bombing and destruction, there is hunger in Gaza and there is disease. There is Nakba [catastrophe] in every sense of the word. If the world doesn't act, we're on the
Westerners against extremist West Bank settlers

Australia, Belgium, Canada, the EU, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the EU have decided to prevent the entry of extremist settlers involved in acts of violence against Palestinians. However, no mechanism has been defined to implement this principle.

In a joint statement, they said: "[Since 7 October], settlers have carried out more than 343 violent attacks, killing 8 Palestinian civilians, injuring more than 83 and forcing 1,026 Palestinians from their homes... This increase in acts of extremist settler violence against Palestinians is unacceptable... Israel's failure to protect Palestinians and prosecute extremist settlers has created an environment of almost total impunity in which settler violence has reached unprecedented levels. This undermines security in the West Bank and the region and threatens the prospects for lasting peace."

G7 could legalize confiscation of Russian assets

The G7 is multiplying the meetings to find a justification for the confiscation of the $300 billion of the Russian Central Bank and Russian billionaires already seized and frozen.

This seizure would fund the war in Ukraine for at least three years after Republicans blocked all aid to Ukraine in Congress and Hungary also blocked it in the European Council.

The general opinion of legal experts is that the West probably has no right to seize and freeze Russian assets, and certainly not to confiscate them. Many states, convinced that Westerners no longer respect property, have begun to withdraw their assets from these countries.

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