This Week's Developments

April 21 – May 5, 2024

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Could Israel keep the lights on and water running during a regional war?

Reuters, May 1, 2024



EVENT

Israeli utilities have deployed backup generators, filled water reservoirs to the brim and stepped up cyber defences in case the Gaza conflict triggers war against Israel on multiple fronts. Many Israelis showed their concerns by buying household generators and stocking up on emergency supplies. Some vulnerabilities are clear. NG: Israel was forced to shut its offshore Tamar gas rig for a few weeks as a precaution when the war began. A full conflict with Lebanon's Hezbollah movement would raise concerns about the security of Israel's Leviathan field farther north. There is also the chance, industry officials say, that Israel's air defences would be overwhelmed during a full-blown war and that falling debris from mid-air missile interceptions would damage critical infrastructure. **ELECTRICAL**: "We have generators spread out across the country" said Tamar Fekler, VP of operations at Israel Electric Corp (IEC). If one power plant is hit, she said, it is relatively easy to bring electricity from another. But if, heaven forbid, hundreds of missiles cause harm to dozens of substations, we will be in a different situation," she said. Should this happen, power supply will be prioritised for hospitals, desalination plants, military facilities and other critical infrastructure. WATER: Steps by Israeli national water carrier Mekorot to prepare for the worst-case scenario include filling its reservoirs and setting up a backup power system that it says can ensure supplies for at least a week during rolling blackouts. Mekorot keeps storage ponds all over the country, as well as continued pumping from the Sea of Galilee, in order to maintain a supply of water for all needs, relying heavily on an array of energy-hungry desalination plants.

COMMENT

Israel is forging ahead in spite of the possibilities of sparking a multi-front war with its surrounding nations, including Iran. Israel is powerful and capable but their leaders realize that they are not impregnable. Many of them are also atheists and secular and do not allow for the fact of God's declared purpose. They are trusting on their own strength and devices and will have to be painfully humbled to be finally in the position to recognise the true source of their strength.

BIBLE QUOTE

And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God. And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.

Zech 13:6,8,9

Turkey halts all trade with Israel, cites worsening Palestinian situation

Reuters May 2, 2024



EVENT

Turkey stopped all exports and imports to and from Israel as of Thursday, the Turkish trade ministry said, citing "worsening humanitarian tragedy" in the Palestinian territories. "Export and import transactions related to Israel have been stopped, covering all products," Turkey's trade ministry said in a statement. "Turkey will strictly and decisively implement these new measures until the Israeli Government allows an uninterrupted and sufficient flow of humanitarian aid to Gaza." The two countries had a trade volume of \$6.8 billion in 2023. Turkey last month imposed trade restrictions on Israel over what it said was Israel's refusal to allow Ankara to take part in aid air-drop operations for Gaza and its offensive on the enclave. Earlier on Thursday, Israel's foreign minister said that Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan was breaking agreements by blocking ports for Israeli imports and exports.

COMMENT

Turkey is the host nation of what was once the seat of political and military might of the 4th Beast Dominion of Nebuchadnezzars image, i.e., Constantinople. This is located in the very area that gave birth to the entity described in Daniel 8 and 11 by the title "the king who does according to his will". Initially this referred to Alexander the Great then the title became that of Constantine of the Greco Roman Empire who granted power to the Papacy as referenced in Dan 11:36-40, and which at the "time of the end" will form part of the great "King of the North" coalition that will come down on the mountains of Israel. We observe it here flexing its political muscles in preparation for that event.

BIBLE QUOTE

And at the time of the end shall the king of the south [nations hosted by Egypt – the US, UK, CAD, AUS etc] push at him [the "king who does according to his will" hosted by Constantinople / Istanbul / Turkey]: and the king of the north [nations hosted by Syria – Russia, Iran, China & allies] shall come against him [the "king who does according to his will" hosted by Constantinople / Istanbul / Turkey]: like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.

Dan 11:40

How Putin's gas empire crumbled

Telegraph 3 May 2024



EVENT

Gazprom once kept the lights on in Europe – now, it faces humiliating losses. Vladimir Putin is throwing everything he has got at ramping up Russia's war machine. That is why the nation's economy – if one believes Moscow's figures – has held up better than might have been expected in the face of Western sanctions. Rather than reflecting anything remotely like prosperity, the statistics show more weapons being produced for the meat grinder of eastern Ukraine. The resources funding this include oil revenues. But Putin's financial firepower does not include one previously reliable source of cash: natural gas. Gazprom, the largely state-owned energy giant, has tumbled to its worst loss in a quarter of a century, losing 629bn roubles, equivalent to £5.5bn, last year, as its revenues dived by more than one quarter in rouble terms. It is the biggest loss in at least 25 years. The loss is a humiliation for the business and for the regime. Putin had thought the vast network of pipelines taking its gas into Europe had created an addiction which would force Western leaders to stand back and allow him to seize Ukraine, unwilling to wean themselves off the supply of energy. Before the war, this was a common view. But Europe's leaders did not comply; they found sources elsewhere. In 2021, more than 40pc of European Union gas imports came from Russia. That dropped to 8pc last year, according to the European Commission.

COMMENT

There are many parts and players in this Russian operation against Ukraine [Ros]. The upshot of the sanction program, the issues regarding the NordStream 2 pipeline, the restructuring by Europe of where they are obtaining supplies of NG and the passage of the \$62b US support to Ukraine the question arises as to what might be Putin's next moves under this pressure. There is always the question as to what it is that brings the King of the North against Israel. Is the reason economic pressure? or political? or religious? Or all of the above?

BIBLE QUOTE

Then I saw three impure spirits [adverse influences] that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon [Constantinople = political/military], out of the mouth of the beast [HRE = economic] and out of the mouth of the false prophet [Rome = religious]. They are demonic spirits [adverse influence] that perform signs [the doctrine of "liberty, equality, fraternity"], and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

- Rev 16:13-14.

Russia can't match a Western asset seizure, but it can inflict pain

Reuters, May 2, 2024



EVENT

Russia's ability to mete out like-for-like retaliation if Western leaders seize its frozen assets has been eroded by dwindling foreign investment, but officials and economists say there are still ways it can strike back. The United States wants to seize immobilised Russian reserves - around \$300 billion globally - and hand them to Ukraine. Much of that money is centrally held, meaning it is accessible if the West decides to go after it. Russia says any attempt to take its capital or interest would be "banditry" and has warned of catastrophic consequences, although it has been vague about exactly how it might respond. Former President Dmitry Medvedev on Saturday acknowledged that Russia did not have enough U.S. state property to retaliate symmetrically and would have to go after private investors' cash instead - a step he said would be no less painful. Energy group Shell, fast food giant McDonald's and carmakers Volkswagen and Renault have sold their Russian businesses. Others including Austrian bank Raiffeisen, food group Nestle and U.S. food and beverage giant PepsiCo continue to do business. Another area of leverage Moscow has is in Europe, where the Brussels-based depository Euroclear holds the majority of Russia's reserves. Some politicians in the bloc are nervous that the euro could be adversely affected if other countries such as China - a Russian ally - start repatriating reserves as a precaution against them being swooped on down the line.

COMMENT

This follows the theme of the previous slide and references another of the tactics generated by both sides manifesting the adverse influences ultimately guiding the nations to the Divine confrontation of Armageddon [sheaves gathered for threshing in a valley of judgement]. This is the adverse retaliatory influence coupled with the adverse influence driven by the desire for power and control coming from all sides and interests and stakeholders in this conflict. It is precisely this that brings the players to "Armageddon".



And they [the adverse influences] gathered them together into the place which is called in Hebrew Ar-Magedon [arama = heap (gathered for threshing); gay = valley; dun = judgement] Rev 16:16

US troops to depart Chad and Niger, leaving way clear for Russia

The Times, April 26, 2024



EVENT

American troops are preparing to pull out of Chad and Niger in a move that risks ceding more influence to Russia. The withdrawals follow demands by the military rulers of the neighbouring countries to re-examine the terms of the US military's presence to give them a better deal, in a blow to US counterterrorism operations. This week Chad questioned the validity of an agreement covering a US military presence in its borders. Washington has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in building bases in Niger and training its military since beginning operations there in 2013. At one point, more than a thousand troops were stationed there. But tensions were strained by a coup last year that robbed the West of its most important ally in the Sahel, the semi-arid region south of the Sahara where affiliates of Islamic State and al-Qaeda wreak havoc. Now, only a skeleton team remains. Niger's president has visited the Kremlin in recent months and Putin said the two countries had "great opportunities to develop our bilateral ties".

COMMENT

Chad and Niger lie between two nations in northern Africa – they are Libya and Sudan. Libya and Sudan are specifically mentioned in Ezekiel 38 as being allied with Russia when the invasion of Israel occurs. It is probable that nations close by are also involved eg Chad and Niger. With reports this week that the US is preparing to pullout allowing Russia a greater foothold clearly lines up with Ezekiel 38. In modern versions Ezekiel 38 says that the nations of Cush and Put are allied with Russia. Cush refers to the kingdom of Kush which was centred around modern Sudan. The region of Put (west of Egypt) is now Libya. Which is why in the AV the name Put is actually translated as Libya. Russia's influence over all these African nations is continuing to grow...

BIBLE QUOTE

I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army—your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords. Persia [Iran], Cush [Sudan] and Put [Libya] will be with them, all with shields and helmets,

(Joel 3:2-4 NIV)

Belarus moves troops to border and warns of nuclear 'apocalypse'

The Times, April 25, 2024



EVENT

Belarus has moved combat-ready troops closer to the border with Poland, President Lukashenko said as he warned that a growing stand-off between his country, its ally Russia and the West could end in nuclear "apocalypse". The long-serving Belarusian dictator said on Thursday that troops had been moved from Vitebsk, close to Russia, to the western end of Belarus in response to a Nato build-up across the border. "From Vitebsk we've transferred a couple of battalions and are [now] standing head to head with Nato," he said. "These battalions are at full operational readiness, with a readiness of three hours from leaving their place of deployment. Three hours and we're there." The Belarusian leader confirmed that "several dozen" Russian tactical nuclear weapons had been deployed in Belarus under an agreement struck with President Putin last year. Lukashenko said it was "very dangerous" that the US was now supplying longer-range weapons to Ukraine, adding: "Russia will use the entire arsenal which it has. And that will be apocalypse."

COMMENT

This week the US signed off an enormous \$61bn of military aid for Ukraine. So far the US have given \$46 bn so this is a huge boost for Ukraine. The Pentagon says it will "rush" Patriot air defence missiles and artillery ammunition to Ukraine as part of its new military aid package. This new package has infuriated Russia. It is no confidence that Putin's ally President Lukashenko of Belarus has spoken this week of an "apocalypse" coming and also the possible use of nuclear weapons. The Bible says that the king of the south (US/UK) will PUSH (military provocation) against Gog (the king of the north) in Daniel 11 verse 40. The Ukraine war is part of the push which causes Putin to descend.

BIBLE QUOTE

And at the time of the end shall the king of the south [US/UK] push at him [Gog]: and the king of the north {Russian nation] shall come against him [US/UK] like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.

(Daniel 11:40)

War footing as Sunak ramps up defence spending

The Telegraph, April 23, 2024



EVENT

Rishi Sunak said he would put Britain's defence industry "on a war footing" as he unveiled the biggest boost to military spending in a generation. Speaking during a visit to Poland, the Prime Minister unveiled £75 billion in new funding that will take the defence budget to 2.5 per cent of national wealth – or £87 billion a year – by the start of 2030. Mr Sunak announced that £10 billion would be used to "put the UK's own defence industry on a war footing" and "hugely ramp up" domestic weapons production. He said the plan, which will make Britain "by far the largest defence power in Europe", would serve to "show our enemies that we are resolute and determined". The Prime Minister also committed to matching this year's £3 billion of military support for Ukraine every year until at least the end of the decade. Mr Sunak's announcement was welcomed by Nato, and the Prime Minister – who will hold talks with Olaf Scholz, the German chancellor, on Wednesday – challenged other European countries to match Britain's commitment.

COMMENT

The UK prime minister has said that Britain's defence industry is on a "war footing". Why? Well it's almost entirely down to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. For the first time in modern history, Russia is set to spend 6 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2024 on the military, and defense spending will exceed social spending. We are seeing the world gearing up for war. The Bible says that leading up to Armageddon that nations would divert spending from agriculture to armaments. The Bible puts it like this in Joel 3:10.... "Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears." It won't be until Christ returns and establishes God's kingdom that the opposite will happen.

BIBLE QUOTE

And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. The opposite situation to Joel 3:10!

2024-05-03 UN agencies prepare for Rafah incursion, warn of 'slaughter' - Reuters

2024-05-03 Israel AIRSTRIKE Near Damascus; Turkey BANS Trade with Israel - Watchman Newscast - 12.07 min- YouTube

2024-05-03 How Putin's gas empire crumbled

2024-05-03 Explainer- What is behind the pro-Palestinian protests at US universities- - Reuters

2024-05-02 Russia can't match a Western asset seizure, but it can inflict pain - Reuters

2024-05-02 Kenya flood toll rises to 181 as homes and roads are destroyed - Reuters

2024-05-01 Could Israel keep the lights on and water running during a regional war- - Reuters

2025-04-25 Kenyan military deployed as East Africa floods kill dozens - Reuters

2025-04-25 Israelis Horrified by Protests on American Campuses - Virtual Jerusalem

2024-04-27 Moscow may seize private US assets in Russia if US seizes frozen reserves, says Putin ally - Reuters

2024-04-27 As solar capacity grows, some of America's most productive farmland is at risk - Reuters

2024-04-26 US-Israel Tensions Soar as Blinken Heads to Israel and IDF Tanks Ready for Rafah - Virtual Jerusalem

2024-04-26 In Beijing, Blinken confronts China over 'powering' Russia's war - Reuters

2024-04-26 China to host Hamas, Fatah for Palestinian unity talks - Reuters

2024-04-25 Saudi Arabia Plans Gaza Talks as Rafah Invasion Looms - Vantage with Palki Sharma - 5.00 min - YouTube

2024-04-25 Hamas REJECTS Hostage Deal; Iran Attempts COVER UP of Israel Attack - TBN Israel - 13.01 min - YouTube

2024-04-25 China must stop aiding Russia if it seeks good relations with West, NATO says - Reuters

2024-04-23 Blinken in China- China Shows Off Nuclear Might in a Video - Vantage with Palki Sharma - 4.51 min - YouTube

2024-04-19 China is Sinking, 270 Million People are in danger. Here's why - Vantage with Palki Sharma – 3.57 min - YouTube

2024-04-15 Will Russia and China Defend Iran Against Israel- - Vantage with Palki Sharma - 6.19 min - YouTube

2024-04-15 Why West Asian Powers are Losing Patience with Israel - Vantage with Palki Sharma - 5.56 min - YouTube

2024-04-13 Sirens, blasts sound across Israel after Iran launches retaliatory attack - Reuters







of Ros (river in Ukraine) Meshech and Tubal (rivers in Russia)"?

Russia falls out of favour

Imports from EU's main gas suppliers 400

billion cubic metres

