

This Week's Developments

October 4 - 17, 2020

- Russia tests hypersonic missile on Putin's birthday
- Israel-UAE peace deal 'big' for trade in Middle East
- Boris Johnson vows to build 'new Jerusalem'
- The election that could break America
- Russia threatens to break ties with EU in feud
- Top world Bank economist says financial crisis could emerge from pandemic
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

Russia tests hypersonic missile on Putin's birthday

The Times, October 8, 2020



EVENT

President Putin got a birthday boost yesterday as the **Russian military said it had successfully tested a hypersonic missile** that can travel at up to eight times the speed of sound. Valery Gerasimov, chief of the army's general staff, said the Tsirkon missile covered a distance of more than 280 miles in 4.5 minutes to destroy a target in the Barents Sea off Russia's Arctic coast. He said it was fired from an Admiral Gorshkov-class frigate in the White Sea and that **it marked the first time the missile had hit a target at sea**. Mr Putin revealed the existence of the Tsirkon missile in February 2019. Russia is beefing up its Arctic military presence as it seeks to assert ownership over vast supplies of offshore oil and gas. **Russia's armed forces are better equipped and at a higher state of readiness than at any period since the 1990s**, according to a recent dossier. **"Combined with a more assertive foreign policy, these forces constitute a capability that should not be ignored,"** the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies said.

COMMENT

In December, Russia said it had deployed Avangard **hypersonic missiles that the Kremlin says can travel at 20 times the speed of sound**. The United States has set aside \$3 billion for a "war room" to develop a new generation of weapons to catch up with Russia and **China, which is also spending heavily on a hypersonic missile programme**. The gentile nations are **preparing for war**. In Daniel 11:36-39 we have a detailed description of the latter day king of the north – Gog. We are told that he "honours the **god of forces**". It literally means "strength". **Putin is often called a "strong man" and he does honour the god of forces – armed forces – which one day he will use**

BIBLE QUOTE

Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. But in his estate **shall he honour the God of forces**: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.

(Daniel 11:37-38)

Israel-UAE peace deal 'big' for trade in Middle East

BBC, October 16, 2020



EVENT

Israel's peace deals with the UAE and Bahrain are "going to be big" for business and trade in the region, one of the most influential businessmen in the Middle East has told the BBC. Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, the chairman and CEO of Dubai-based DP World, says they will remove barriers to business links previously "not allowed", by shortening trade routes and making it easier to deal with Europe. Israeli estimates suggest trade with the UAE could eventually total \$4bn a year, creating 15,000 jobs. Mr bin Sulayem agrees it would be mutually beneficial: "We need something from Israel, they need something from us". Many exports are likely to be technology based, including cybersecurity, as well as the latest innovations in medicine and agriculture. Trade is also likely to grow to include more physical goods with many Asian exports flowing through Dubai.

COMMENT

The recent peace agreements between Israel and the UAE and Bahrain are already blossoming into lucrative trade talks. Israeli estimates indicate that trade with the UAE alone could eventually reach \$ 4 billion a year, creating 15,000 jobs. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described the shipment of electronics, cleaning materials, iron and firefighting equipment as "the beginning of something huge." We have long expected Israel to be on the same side as the Gulf Arab states because Ezekiel 38 says this will be the case. We have also expected Israel to be rich in goods at the time of the end as well. But at the same time this increase in wealth and participation with Arab nations only fuels the fire of those that hate Israel – Hamas, Hezbollah and Iran.

BIBLE QUOTE

Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil? Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?
(Ezekiel 38:13-14)

Boris Johnson vows to build 'new Jerusalem'

Daily Telegraph, October 6, 2020



EVENT

Boris Johnson has promised to build a “new Jerusalem” out of the wreckage of the Covid crisis and said that returning to the status quo isn’t good enough. The prime minister pledged to create the conditions for the private sector to flourish and said that relying on “Uncle Sugar the taxpayer” was the wrong approach. He said that the Conservatives could make Britain “the greatest place on Earth”, adding that “even in the darkest moments we can see the bright future ahead”. Mr Johnson’s tone was in stark contrast to that of Rishi Sunak. On Monday, the chancellor warned that tax rises will be needed and refused to rule out breaching the Conservatives’ triple lock manifesto pledge, which rules out increasing VAT, income tax or national insurance.

COMMENT

The unofficial anthem of England is the hymn “Jerusalem”. It is sung in schools and political gatherings and other events. It was originally a poem written by William Blake in 1804. The poem was inspired by the story that a young Jesus, accompanied by Joseph of Arimathea, a tin merchant, travelled to what is now England. The poem then implies how this visit would help spark the replacement of the “dark satanic mills” of England with a new Jerusalem – a new, a better, even an ideal society. This is why Boris Johnson promised to build a “new Jerusalem”. But we know the “new Jerusalem” spoken of in Revelation is actually the coming kingdom of God here on earth that Jesus himself will establish when he returns. That will be the new, better and perfect society that mankind can never build. The United Kingdom has fallen morally more than most nations - exporting homosexual marriage around the world. Far from building anything that looks like the future “new Jerusalem” – Britain is headed for chaos and judgement.

BIBLE QUOTE

Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. ..For, lo, the kings were assembled, they passed by together. They saw it, and so they marvelled; they were troubled, and hasted away. Fear took hold upon them there, and pain, as of a woman in travail. Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind. (Psalm 48:2-7)

The election that could break America

The Atlantic, October 17, 2020



EVENT

If the vote is close, Donald Trump could easily throw the election into chaos and subvert the result. Who will stop him? As November 3 approaches, screens are blinking red, alight with warnings that the political system does not know how to absorb. Close students of election law and procedure are warning that conditions are ripe for a constitutional crisis that would leave the nation without an authoritative result. Thus the blinking red lights. “We could well see a protracted postelection struggle in the courts and the streets if the results are close,” says Richard L. Hasen, a professor at the UC Irvine School of Law and the author of a recent book called Election Meltdown. The worst case, however, is not that Trump rejects the election outcome. The worst case is that he uses his power to prevent a decisive outcome against him. If Trump sheds all restraint, he could prevent the formation of consensus about whether there is any outcome at all. He could seize on that uncertainty to hold on to power.

COMMENT

The stage appears to be set for a potential crisis in the US elections to be held on 3rd November. The article above says “Donald Trump may win or lose, but he will never concede. Not under any circumstance. Not during the Interregnum and not afterward. If compelled in the end to vacate his office, Trump will insist from exile, as long as he draws breath, that the contest was rigged.” Many millions are voting by post due to COVID and Trump has consistently said that the postal ballots will be rigged and fraudulent. We could easily see both men claiming the presidency and litigation following. The Bible indicates that the America is greatly weakened at the time of the end - unable to counter Russian aggression and its strength ebbing away...

BIBLE QUOTE

Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth: break out the great teeth of the young lions, O LORD. Let them melt away as waters which run continually: when he bendeth his bow to shoot his arrows, let them be as cut in pieces. verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth.
Ezekiel 38:13 refers to offspring of UK as young lions eg USA (Psalm 53:6,7+11)

Russia threatens to break ties with EU in feud over Navalny poisoning

The Times, October 14, 2020



EVENT Russia has threatened to break off ties with the European Union amid a deepening row over the poisoning of Alexei Navalny, President Putin's biggest domestic foe. Sergei Lavrov, the foreign minister, issued the warning after the EU's top diplomats agreed this week to impose new sanctions on Moscow in response to an alleged Kremlin plot to kill Mr Navalny. Mr Navalny, 44, collapsed on a flight across Russia in August and was flown to Berlin for treatment. The global chemical watchdog said last week that he had been targeted with a form of novichok, a Soviet-developed nerve agent. The Kremlin says accusations that it orchestrated the assassination attempt are "unacceptable" and "absurd". "Russia would like to understand whether it is possible to have any business at all with the EU under the current circumstances," Mr Lavrov said. "The people who are in charge of foreign policy in the West don't understand the need for mutually respectful dialogue. Maybe we should stop talking to them for some time."

COMMENT Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov dropped a bombshell on Tuesday, warning that Russia might halt all dialogue with the European Union. The modern Russian state and the EU came into existence at practically the same time — the former in late December 1991 and the latter in February 1992. The EU though has doubled in size since that time. Then in recent years we have had Russia take Crimea and destabilise Ukraine. All this has led to a growing rift between the EU and Russia. So do we expect Russia and the EU to become a single power? The Bible does not say so. Revelation 16 says that they are separate powers – the dragon (Russia) and the beast (EU). Their downfall comes at different times as well. Russia when Christ returns. The beast after he returns.

BIBLE QUOTE

And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

(Revelation 16:13-14)

Top world Bank economist says financial crisis could emerge from pandemic

Bloomberg, October 16, 2020



EVENT

If not handled correctly, the coronavirus pandemic could fuel a global financial disaster and exacerbate dire economic damage, the World Bank's chief economist, Carmen Reinhart, said Thursday on Bloomberg TV. Even after the virus drove the biggest economic slump in nearly a century, bankruptcies have been somewhat staved off by massive government stimulus and central-bank easing. But the path of global quantitative easing "is not a sustainable one," and many countries could face a debt crisis just as their economic recoveries materialize, Reinhart said. "This did not start as a financial crisis, but it is morphing into a major economic crisis with very serious financial consequences," she said. "The longer the uncertainty, the longer the pandemic works its way through the global economy, the bigger the balance-sheet damage," she added.

COMMENT

There is no doubt that the world is on the brink of financial collapse. The pandemic has vastly reduced global output and although it has recovered somewhat it is still way behind where it was before it began. Governments have had to borrow unbelievable sums of money to prop up their economies. The amount of borrowing the US owes its investors has hit levels not seen since WW2. In Isaiah 24 (which comes after a chapter speaking about the rise and fall of Tarshish – Britain) we read about the total financial collapse of the entire world. We read that is doesn't matter if you lend money or borrow money - the financial crash that is coming will impact everyone. Rich or poor. This COVID19 crisis may be part of the unravelling of the finances of the world - now is not the time to trust in riches – but to put our trust in God and his Son.

BIBLE QUOTE

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

This Week's Developments

September 20 – October 3, 2020

- Trump Covid: How will this affect US election?
- US, Israel and UAE to cooperate in oil, gas, energy
- Pandemic, petroleum & Putin: Russia's rouble buckles
- Experts: Russian Military strongest since Cold War
- Palestinian leaders announce breakthrough on unity
- Animal population down two-thirds in 50 years
- *Additional & Supporting Articles*

Trump Covid: How will this affect US election?

BBC, October 2, 2020



EVENT

The US presidential election has been **turned on its head**. That sentence could have been written about any number of moments in a tumultuous year in American politics, but **nothing quite like this has occurred this year, this decade, this century**. Just 32 days before the presidential election, Donald Trump has tested positive for Covid-19. Given his age, 74, he is in a high-risk category for complications from the disease. At the very least, he will have to quarantine while he is treated, meaning the US presidential contest - at least his side of it - has been **fundamentally altered**. The initial implications are obvious. The president's rigorous campaign schedule - which included visits to Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Georgia, Florida and North Carolina in just the past week - is on indefinite hold. However, **during times of national turmoil, the American public tends to rally in support of the president**.

COMMENT

It has been a **tumultuous year for the world's No1 superpower. Pandemic, economic disruption, violent unrest, historic fires – and now the president and first lady have COVID19**. Despite all this the polls have been stable showing presidential contender Joe Biden has held a statistically significant lead over Trump for months. We can see **God's hand in the timing of Trump getting COVID19**. God puts the leaders in power that he wants. We don't know who God wants next but clearly **this could well impact the results one way or the other**. Back in 2012, one month before the US election, Hurricane Sandy struck New Jersey. The storm and its aftermath had a **direct impact on the outcome of the election**. It isn't a storm this time but a political earthquake. We know God rules in the kingdom of men and puts in charge the basest of men.

BIBLE QUOTE

This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the **most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men**.

(Daniel 4:17)

US, Israel and UAE to cooperate in oil, gas, energy

S&P Global, October 2, 2020



EVENT

The US, Israel and the UAE agreed to cooperate in the fields of oil, gas and renewables among other energy sectors, following the signing of a peace agreement between Israel and the UAE in September. The three countries "agree to encourage greater coordination in the energy sector, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, oil, natural gas resources and related technologies, and water desalination technologies," according to a joint statement by the energy ministers of all three countries posted on the US Department of Energy website Oct. 1. "Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States are committed to exploring collective activities in multilateral settings in coordination with financial institutions and the private sector to enhance international investment in research and development and the rapid adoption of new energy technologies," the statement added.

COMMENT

Christadelphians have long believed that we would see the gulf nations be more friendly towards Israel. John Thomas, a Christadelphian, writing in the mid 1800s wrote: "Tarshish [Britain], Sheba and Seba [Gulf nations], are subservient to the angelic mission for the protection and regeneration of Israel." (John Thomas, 1861, Eureka). Notice the word "regeneration." Why do we expect regeneration in Israel? We have expected Israel to be prosperous before Russia and its allies invade. This is because Russia sees Israel with "silver, gold, cattle and goods" and wants to take a spoil. Cattle can mean possessions or wealth. With this new UAE deal over oil and gas we see these words coming to fruition. Israel is prospering in the very area Putin is interested in....

BIBLE QUOTE

Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil? Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it? (Ezekiel 38:13-14)

Pandemic, petroleum & Putin: Russia's rouble buckles Under Pressure

Reuters, October 3, 2020



EVENT

The Russian rouble ended September at about a **five-year low against the euro**, falling as far as **93.3 roubles to the euro on September 29**. The same day, the rouble traded at 79.8 against the U.S. dollar, the **weakest exchange since the oil-price crash** in March. "The fact that the rouble has fallen by 20 percent or even more so far this year is about two-thirds due to the political situation," said Russian economist Yevgeny Gontmakher. "Even the fall in oil prices that happened in February was prompted by our policies." There are many factors influencing the rouble's downward trend, **including the impact of the global coronavirus pandemic**, worldwide **nervousness** surrounding the upcoming U.S. presidential election, and a sharp **decrease in Moscow's revenues from the export of oil and gas**. In recent days, the decline has been **exacerbated by the outbreak of fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan** over the disputed Azerbaijani region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

COMMENT

The Russian economy is being **hit by two problems**. **Firstly, COVID19** is hurting their economy. **Secondly**, because of a worldwide slow down the **oil and gas prices have fallen**. A huge proportion of the Russian economy and its wealth is **generated through oil and gas exports**. The slow down in turn has caused the Russian currency to drop against the euro. Over 150 years ago John Thomas (the first Christadelphian) wrote these words "“Let the **Russian treasury be as empty as it is said to be**, and its **expenditure exceed its revenue by double** the alleged deficit, it will only operate as a **pressure from within**, causing her autocrat to " enter into the countries, and to overflow and pass over," and to **enrich himself with the spoil** of those he is destined to subdue.”

BIBLE QUOTE

Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I **will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth**, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: (Ezekiel 38:3-4)

Russian Military strongest since COLD WAR – experts issue worrying nuclear weapons warning

The Express, October 2, 2020



EVENT

Russia's military might is at its greatest since the Cold War, a report by a British think-tank says. The country's nuclear weaponry and air forces are gaining particular strength according to the report. Moscow has an estimated 6,375 nuclear warheads compared to America's 5,800 and Britain's 215, according to the Arms Control Association. The Soviet Union had around 40,000 warheads at its peak but fears of a new arms race have grown after the US backed out of a Cold War-era treaty last year. The experts say this increase in military might is due in part to increased investment over a period of nearly ten years. The IISS said: "The re-equipment programme has been complemented by reforms to create a core of professional military, much of it held at a high state of readiness, rather than depend on conscription. "Russia also retains one of the world's two largest strategic arsenals. "The Strategic Dossier concludes that Russia's armed forces are today a capable military tool that Moscow has demonstrated a willingness to use or to threaten the use of."

COMMENT

The think tank report also said "Russia is today a far more capable military power than it was in the early 2000s or at any time since the fall of the Soviet Union". It claims the analysis of Russia's military capabilities at this point in time "could not be more important," claiming Russia is "increasingly trying to exert control in neighbouring states." It also points to "deteriorating" relationships between Russia and NATO – the global security alliance featuring 30 countries. So despite Russia's precarious financial situation it manages to maintain an incredible arsenal of weapons and huge army. Surely the pieces are in place for Gog to soon invade Israel and beyond...

BIBLE QUOTE

Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them. After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, (Ezekiel 38:7-8)

Palestinian leaders announce breakthrough on unity

AI Monitor, September 25, 2020



EVENT

A high-level delegation of Palestinian officials is expected to arrive this week in Turkey to sign a co-operation agreement between the two main Palestinian factions, Fatah and Hamas, which have been at war for the past 13 years. The main motivation for the agreement — only days after Israel, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates signed a peace deal in Washington — is an attempt to present a joint front in the face of the increasing number of Arab states prepared to have open ties with Israel, despite the occupation of the Palestinian territories. The delegation representing Fatah, the organisation that dominates the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, is to be headed by Jibril Rajoub, secretary-general of the Fatah central committee. Abbas has given his blessing to the agreement amid his frustration at the increasing willingness of Arab states to “normalise” their ties with Israel.

COMMENT

The breakthrough in Turkey was confirmed with a press release issued Sept. 24 after a meeting held at the Palestinian Embassy in Istanbul. The release said the two delegations are united on a single vision and a mechanism with a timeline. “We agree that the vision has matured and we plan to move ahead with a broad national dialogue with the participation of all factions under the patronage of President [Mahmoud] Abbas to take place before Oct. 1.” And so the Palestinians are uniting together as Israel makes peace agreements with Gulf Arab nations. We can see this uniting of the Palestinians leading to the inner ring of people who “consult” together and form a “confederacy” against Israel with the aim of cutting off Israel from being a nation. The polarisation of positions is underway and could quickly lead to Psalm 83 being fulfilled

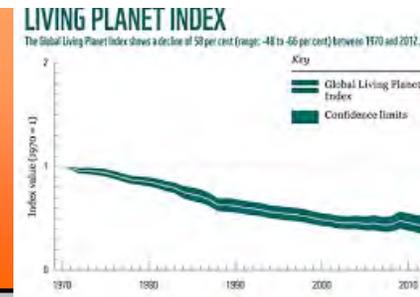
BIBLE QUOTE

For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.

(Psalm 83:2-4)

Animal population down more than two-thirds in 50 years, WWF says

Financial Times, September 23, 2020



EVENT

The world's animal population has fallen by more than two-thirds in the last 50 years, according to a new study of more than 4,000 species of mammal, fish, bird, reptile and amphibian. The Living Planet Report published by WWF, the conservation group, highlighted the deterioration of animal life on the planet and revealed large declines in population numbers in the two years since the last report. "This shows that the state of nature really is in freefall," said Mike Barrett, head of science at WWF's UK branch. "This is a rate of species loss not seen since the dinosaurs, which is why scientists suggest we are heading toward a sixth mass extinction event." The study, which covers the period from 1970 to 2016, found the greatest drops in animal numbers had occurred in Latin American and the Caribbean, where populations had declined by 94 per cent.

COMMENT

The world's population 50 years ago was 3.5bn. It is now 7.7bn. The huge spike in people on earth has caused pressure on agriculture. The WWF report said "The available land for nature is just getting smaller and smaller. Three-quarters of land globally has now been significantly altered by human activity. And half the habitable land on the planet is given over to agriculture." This in turn has impacted on the natural habitat of countless animals and insects. But over harvesting has also impacted fish. Freshwater species tracked in the report has fallen by 84 per cent since 1970. Before the flood the population of the earth spiked – and at the same time so did violence and corruption. We see exactly the same thing happening now before the second judgement of the world. We need to prepare now for Christ to intervene....

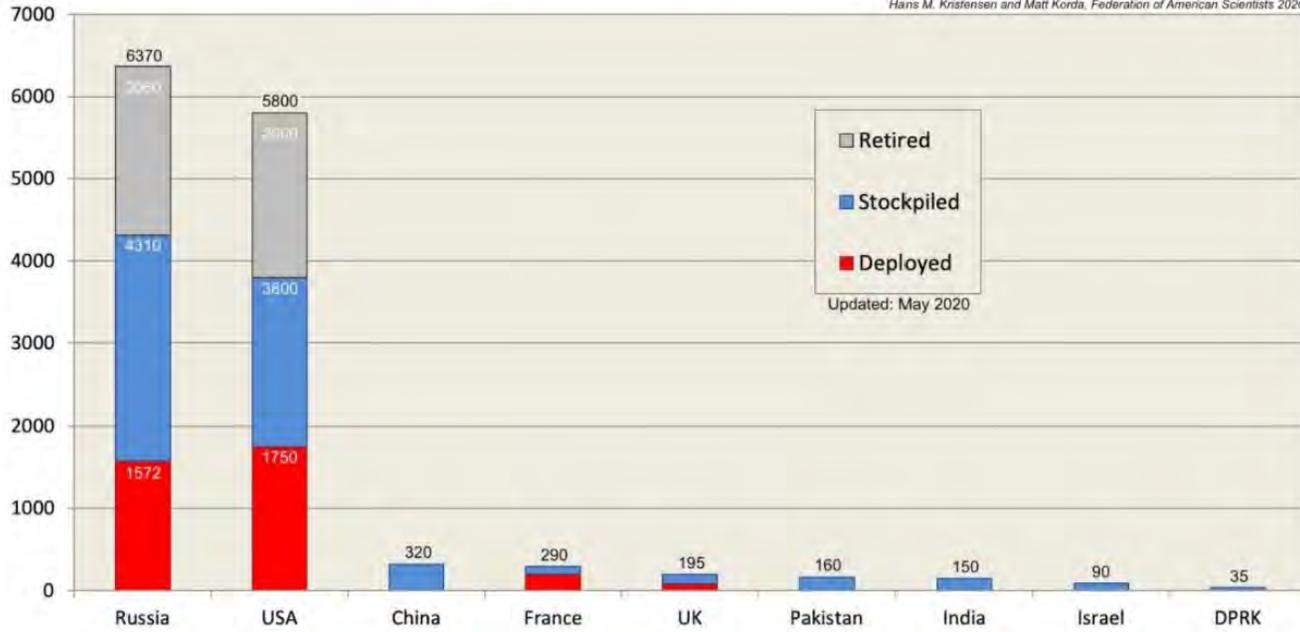
BIBLE QUOTE

And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.... The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

(Genesis 6:1+5+11)

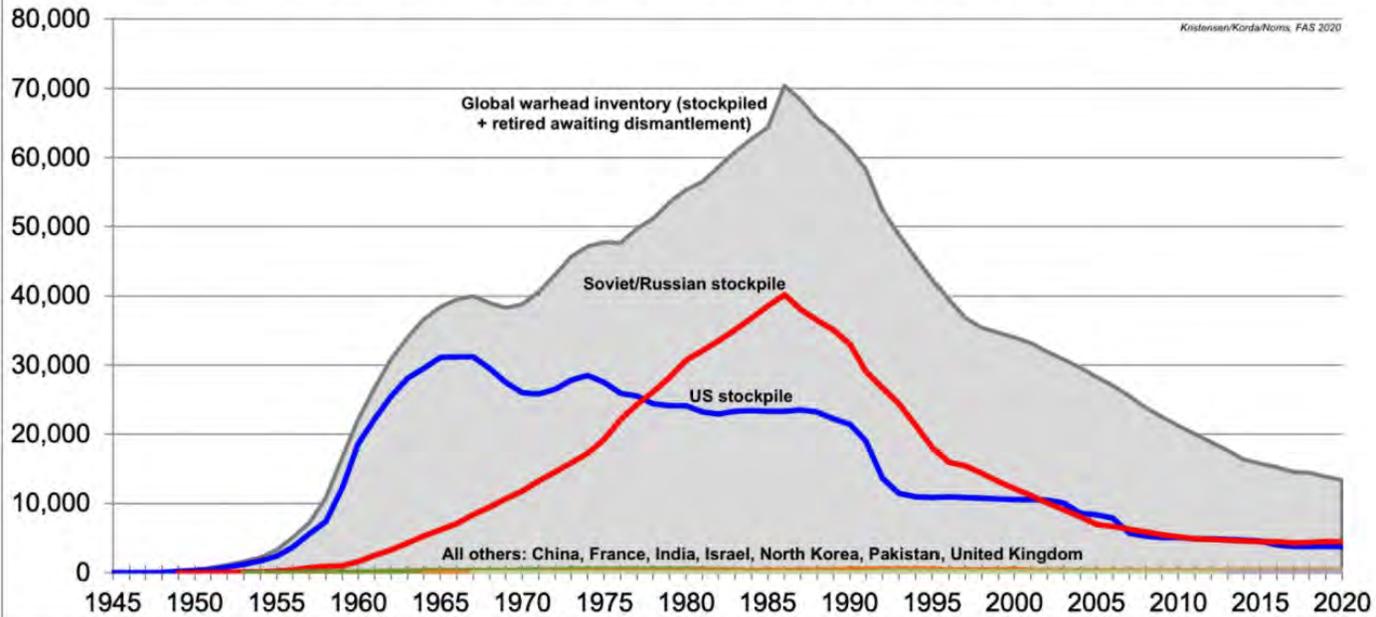
Estimated Global Nuclear Warhead Inventories, 2020

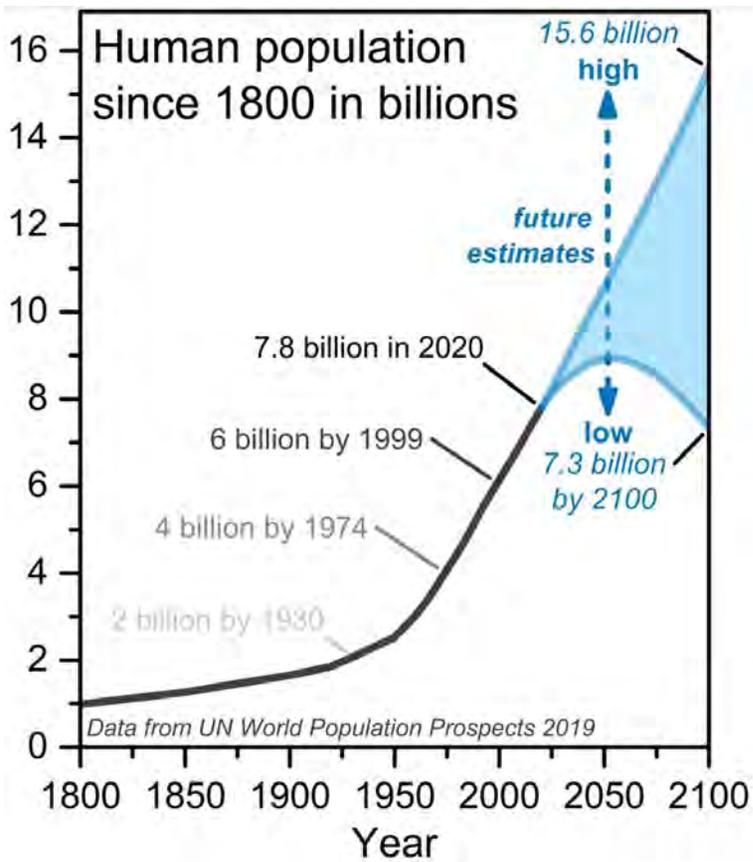
Hans M. Kristensen and Matt Korda, Federation of American Scientists 2020



Estimated Global Nuclear Warhead Inventories 1945-2020

Kristensen/Korda/Norms, FAS 2020



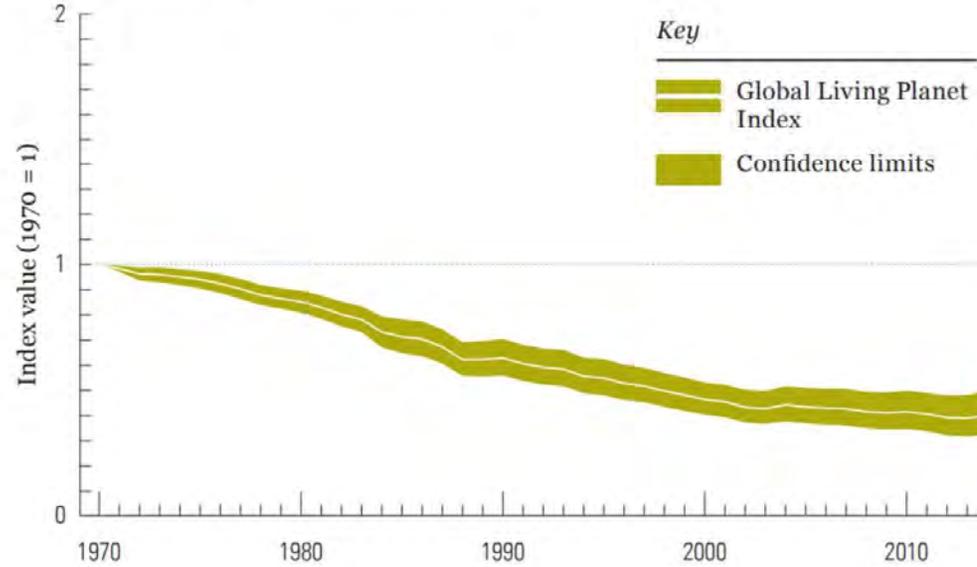


Living Planet Report 2018

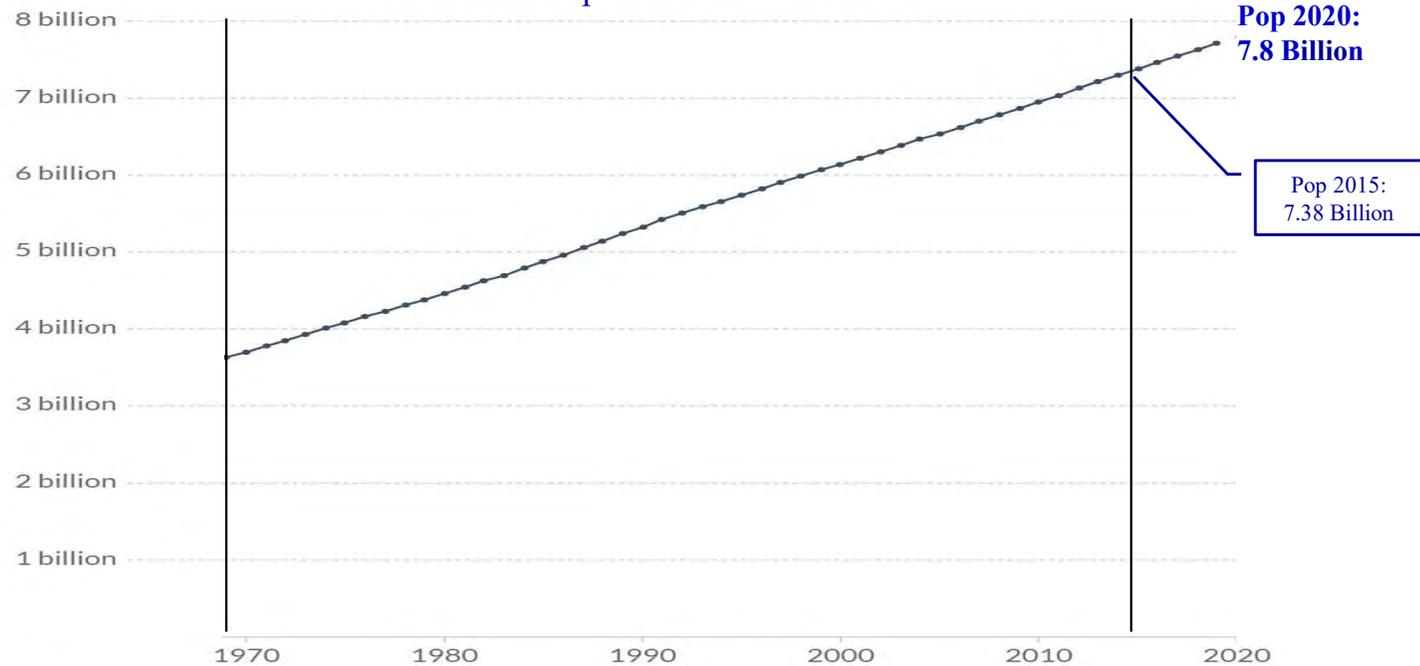
World Animal Population Decline since 1970

The 2020 Living Planet Report is the thirteenth edition of WWF's flagship publication. The biennial report, produced in collaboration with the Zoological Society of London, uses the global LPI as a measure of the health of 16,704 populations representing 4,005 vertebrate species. Download the full report [here](#) and access the data behind the global LPI below.

The main statistic from the report is the global LPI which shows an average 60% decline between 1970 and 2014 (Figure 1). This means that, on average, animal populations are, on average, less than half the size they were in 1970.



World Human Population Growth since 1970



ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

Climate Change Has Led To Extreme Wildfires In California

ISIS could exploit coronavirus pandemic to carry out terror attacks - Fox News Video

Why Turkey is Invading Syria (9 min)

The Quick Read About... What's Happening in Libya - Time

How the Kurds Became a Key Player in Syria's War (5 min)

2020-09-25 DebkaFile (world events through the bi-focals of Israeli military intelligence)

2020-10-16 DebkaFile (world events through the bi-focals of Israeli military intelligence)