

# NEWSBYTES

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"Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him." Tozer

## What Have Fauci's Friends in the Ukraine Been Up To?

written by David Mark F

With Russia rolling through Ukraine, making clear gains in both Kharkiv in the east and the capital in Kiev, the US military has scrambled to vacate multiple bio weapons labs that it runs in Ukraine.

Beyond the Pentagon's speedy retreat from various laboratories across Ukraine, the US government erased all online documents in PDF form related to America's connection to the laboratories.

America's Biological Threat Reduction Program (BTRP) established Ukraine as its major partner:

*"The U.S. Department of Defense's Biological Threat Reduction Program collaborates with partner countries to counter the threat of outbreaks (deliberate, accidental, or natural) of the world's most dangerous infectious diseases. The program accomplishes its bio-threat reduction mission through development of a bio-risk management culture; international research partnerships; and partner capacity for enhanced bio-security, bio-safety, and bio-surveillance measures. The Biological Threat Reduction Program's priorities in Ukraine are to consolidate and secure pathogens and toxins of security concern and to continue to ensure Ukraine can detect and report outbreaks caused by dangerous pathogens before they pose security or stability threats."*

Back in April 2021 Newsweek Reported on "Vladimir Putin's Adviser Says U.S. Is Developing Biological Weapons Near Russia"

Interestingly, the BTRP has a direct connection the EcoHealth Alliance. That's the same EcoHealth Alliance connected to Dr. Anthony Fauci.

It doesn't take much to add all of this up. Ukraine is at the forefront of the US Department of Defense's Biological Threat Reduction Program that essentially is another form of a Wuhan lab, which means the US DoD is researching bioweapons right across the border from Russia. Putin may be brutal, but given what came out of Wuhan, these bioweapon research facilities in the Ukraine appear to be an existential danger to Russia. Why would he want to take a chance with an increasingly brazen NATO on his doorsteps and the threat of bioweapons?

None of the above justifies the Russian army's brutality in its attacks on Ukraine, but the US DoD's games in far off places having been causing more problems than they solve and if the game here was to get a one up on Russia, then it is America's willingness to play with fire that is the real trigger for this war.

NATO has done a good job over the years painting itself as the "defender of freedom" against an autocratic Russia. However, given the brutality showed across the world connected to COVID-19 restrictions, coupled with the fact that it was the USA's own government (albeit only a clandestine part of it) that had a direct hand in developing the COVID-19 pathogen, it is increasingly getting harder to tell the difference between the two sides.

## Zelensky suggests Jerusalem host negotiations between Ukraine, Russia

At briefing to reporters, Ukrainian president says Israeli PM can play 'an important role' in efforts to end war

By [TOI STAFF](#) 12 March 2022, 5:03 pm



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky speaks to reporters in Kyiv, March 12, 2022. (Ukrainian Presidential Press Office)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky suggested on Saturday that negotiations between Ukraine and Russia to end the war could be held in Jerusalem.

The Ukrainian leader also told media he believed Israel could provide security guarantees for his country, and said he hoped Prime Minister Naftali Bennett would have a positive influence on negotiations.

Zelensky spoke at a special briefing for reporters from Kyiv, under heavy guard. "We generally support mediation by anyone," he said in an answer to a question about Israel's potential role, posed by a reporter for Haaretz. "But I wouldn't call Prime Minister Bennett 'anyone.' You can play an important role because Israel is a country with a rich history."

Zelensky added that Ukrainian immigrants were among Israel's founders, "who brought with them their history and their desire to build a great country, as it is now. So it's not bad at all for us to have such mediation."

He said he told Bennett he did not believe negotiations could take place in Russia, Ukraine, or Belarus.

"These are not places where we can come to any understandings on ending the war — I'm not talking about technical meetings but meetings between leaders. I believe Israel can be such a place, especially Jerusalem. I think so, and I said this to Bennett."

Channel 12 cited unnamed Israeli government sources as saying Russian President Vladimir Putin was considering the proposal but "it's premature to assess its chances."

Zelensky said his government assessed that some 1,300 Ukrainian troops had been killed in the fighting so far. He insisted that Russian losses were far higher.

He also said Russia "will conquer Kyiv only if they kill all of us. They'll need to live in a world without us. They won't find friends among Ukrainians."

Speaking to Channel 12 news, Israel's Ambassador to Ukraine Michael Brodsky, who is temporarily back in Israel, said of Zelensky's remarks: "The idea to hold a summit in Jerusalem has also been raised before. If it can contribute, I think we of course must agree and take the idea forward."

Brodsky added: "The question is not really where but what. If we get to the 'what,' then of course there can be a meeting in Jerusalem. There can be a meeting anywhere, but Jerusalem has symbolic significance, and I think President Zelensky is referring precisely to that significance."

Asked how the city was significant in this context, Brodsky said: "As a city of all the faiths. A city where individuals and people of different faiths live in coexistence. A city that is equally important for Ukrainians and Russians."

Earlier in the day, a top adviser to Zelensky denied a report that Israel had pushed the Ukrainian leader to accept an offer from Putin that would see Kyiv make significant concessions to end Russia's invasion.

Mikhail Podolyak tweeted that Bennett did not urge Ukraine to agree to the Russian demands, as was reported Friday by two Hebrew-language outlets.

Bennett, Podolyak wrote, "just as other conditional intermediary countries, does NOT offer Ukraine to agree to any demands of the Russian Federation."

"This is impossible for military & political reasons," he added.

Podolyak said that Israel has urged Russia "to assess the events more adequately."

Israel has been engaged in diplomatic efforts to try to end the war in Ukraine, with Bennett traveling to Moscow last Saturday for an hours-long meeting with Putin. He was the first foreign leader to sit down with the Russian president since the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24.

The Haaretz and Walla news sites did not specify on Friday the details of Putin's offer as reportedly conveyed by Bennett, but previous reports from Walla said that the Russian leader was demanding an independent Donbas region, stopping short of seeking regime change in Ukraine.

Other reports have suggested that the plan Bennett brought to Zelensky includes recognizing Russia's annexation of Crimea, recognizing Donetsk and Luhansk as separate entities, and changing the Ukrainian constitution to rule out joining NATO.

"Bennett has proposed that we surrender," an unnamed senior Ukrainian official told the Israeli news sites Friday. "We have no intention of doing so. We know that Putin's proposal is just the beginning." The prime minister's office denied the reports. A source in the Prime Minister's Office said Friday, "It is doubtful whether this is a senior official who is in Ukraine and on [Bennett's] call [with Zelensky], since it took place on a private line."

The PMO source denied that Bennett told Zelensky to take Putin's offer, "as Israel does not have such an offer."

"In any case, the prime minister does not intend to give Zelensky recommendations or advice on how to act at any stage," the source told Walla. "The conversation between the two was long and positive and included the possibility of a meeting [between Russian and Ukrainian negotiators] in Jerusalem."

Israel has long had good relations with both Ukraine and Russia, and has been seeking to use its position to broker an agreement as it also tries to walk a tightrope maintaining its ties to both countries. But its relationship with Kyiv has strained as Bennett has avoided directly blaming Russia for the war, although Foreign Minister Yair Lapid has done so.

The unnamed Ukrainian official was quoted in the Hebrew reports soon after Ukraine's ambassador to Israel, Yevgen Korniychuk, gave a press conference at which he urged Israel to drop its neutrality and side openly with Ukraine. He noted that Bennett was not the only mediator, and claimed Israel was "afraid" of offending Moscow.

## **How a New Digital Dollar Could Shake the US Financial System**

**The Biden administration is looking into a government-issued digital currency. The implications would be profound.**

The president ordered federal agencies to prepare a report within six months analyzing the pros and cons of a Central Bank Digital Currency.

BIDEN yesterday issued an executive order that could lead to the US creating a digital currency.

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"My Administration places the highest urgency on research and development efforts into the potential design and deployment options of a United States CBDC [Central Bank Digital Currency]," the executive order said. "These efforts should include assessments of possible benefits and risks for consumers, investors, and businesses; financial stability and systemic risk; payment systems; national security; the ability to exercise human rights; financial inclusion and equity; and the actions required to launch a United States CBDC if doing so is deemed to be in the national interest."

Biden's order said a US-issued digital currency could be used to "support efficient and low-cost transactions, particularly for cross-border funds transfers and payments, and to foster greater access to the financial system, with fewer of the risks posed by private sector-administered digital assets" such as bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies. But there are "potential risks and downsides to consider," and Biden ordered federal agencies to prepare a report within six months analyzing the implications. Over 100 countries are already "exploring or piloting" CBDCs, the White House said.

Biden also ordered government agencies to develop policies for managing cryptocurrencies that already exist. "The rise in digital assets creates an opportunity to reinforce American leadership in the global financial system and at the technological frontier, but also has substantial implications for consumer protection, financial stability, national security, and climate risk," the White House said. Biden's order "encourages regulators to ensure sufficient oversight and safeguard against any systemic financial risks posed by digital assets."

Biden's order noted that "negative climate impacts and environmental pollution ... may result from some cryptocurrency mining." There would be no need for mining with a digital currency issued by a central bank.

Bitcoin's price was up 8 percent Wednesday, and other cryptocurrencies rose as Biden's order "appeared to take a supportive stance toward the industry," CNBC wrote. Bitcoin's price has been highly volatile, as it "began the pandemic at \$7,300, peaked at around \$68,000 before falling back down to about \$39,000," a Biden administration official noted in a call with reporters on Tuesday.

## **What Is a Central Bank Digital Currency?**

The Federal Reserve explains that a Central Bank Digital Currency "is generally defined as a digital liability of a central bank that is widely available to the general public." That's in contrast to the two current types of central bank money in the US: "physical currency issued by the Federal Reserve and digital balances held by commercial banks at the Federal Reserve," a Federal Reserve FAQ said.

"While Americans have long held money predominantly in digital form—for example in bank accounts, payment apps, or through online transactions—a CBDC would differ from existing digital money

available to the general public because a CBDC would be a liability of the Federal Reserve, not of a commercial bank,” the Federal Reserve says. Because it would be a liability of the Federal Reserve, “a CBDC would be the safest digital asset available to the general public, with no associated credit or liquidity risk.”

A US-issued digital currency would in some ways be similar to stablecoins that are pegged to the value of the dollar. A major difference is that CBDCs would be issued by the Federal Reserve itself.

The Federal Reserve says it hasn't decided whether to pursue a digital currency but notes that a CBDC “could provide households and businesses a convenient, electronic form of central bank money, with the safety and liquidity that would entail; give entrepreneurs a platform on which to create new financial products and services; support faster and cheaper payments (including cross-border payments); and expand consumer access to the financial system.”

“The Federal Reserve does not intend to proceed with issuance of a CBDC without clear support from the executive branch and from Congress, ideally in the form of a specific authorizing law,” the Federal Reserve also says.

A US CBDC wouldn't replace cash or paper currency. “The Federal Reserve is committed to ensuring the continued safety and availability of cash and is considering a CBDC as a means to expand safe payment options, not to reduce or replace them,” the Federal Reserve said.

Senior Biden administration officials told reporters that “the implications of potentially issuing a digital dollar are profound.” But those officials added that they intend to “maintain the centrality of the dollar in global financial markets and in the global economy.”

### **Digital Currency Can Be a Tool for Surveillance**

Digital currency issued by a central bank can be used as a tool for government surveillance of citizens and control over their financial transactions. This has been a concern with China's digital currency, which is in the early stages of rollout. As Akram Keram, an expert on China at the National Endowment for Democracy, wrote last year, “With digital yuan, the CCP [Chinese Communist Party] will have direct control over and access to the financial lives of individuals, without the need to strong-arm intermediary financial entities. In a digital-yuan-consumed society, the government easily could suspend the digital wallets of dissidents and human rights activists, for example.”

The Federal Reserve said that any US-issued digital currency “would need to strike an appropriate balance between safeguarding the privacy rights of consumers and affording the transparency necessary to deter criminal activity.” That could be accomplished with an intermediated model in which “the private sector would offer accounts or digital wallets to facilitate the management of CBDC holdings and payments,” thus “facilitat[ing] the use of the private sector's existing privacy and identity-management frameworks,” the Federal Reserve said.

The Federal Reserve provided more information on a potential digital currency in a report issued in January 2022.

## **Biden Seeks Analysis**

The report ordered by Biden is to be produced by the secretary of the treasury, in consultation with the secretary of state, attorney general, secretary of commerce, the secretary of homeland security, director of the Office of Management and Budget, and director of national intelligence.

The report is supposed to analyze the potential implications of a digital currency on economic growth, stability, and “financial inclusion”; the relationship between a US-issued digital currency and digital assets administrated by the private sector; “the future of sovereign and privately produced money globally and implications for our financial system and democracy”; “the extent to which foreign CBDCs could displace existing currencies and alter the payment system in ways that could undermine United States financial centrality”; potential implications for national security, financial crime, and human rights; and the effects that foreign CBDCs may have on US interests generally.

The executive order encourages the Federal Reserve to “assess the optimal form of a United States CBDC” and develop a strategic plan “that evaluates the necessary steps and requirements for the potential implementation and launch of a United States CBDC.” Biden also wants the Federal Reserve to evaluate how a CBDC “could enhance or impede the ability of monetary policy to function effectively as a critical macroeconomic stabilization tool.” Biden further asked federal agencies for an assessment of whether Congress would need to make legislative changes before the US can issue a digital currency.