

NEWSBYTES

January 25, 2023

No. 1098

Since 2001

A ministry of Calvary Chapel of Appleton

“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

Turkey: Putin's Open Door for Harming Western Interests

by Burak Bekdil January 20, 2023

- For Putin, Erdoğan's friendship is growing ever more important -- and vice versa.
- Turkey has refused to join Western sanctions against Russia over Ukraine, thereby throwing a lifeline to Putin. Turkish skies remain open to Russian airlines and its doors open to hundreds of thousands of Russians and their money. Turkish exports to Russia are surging. In July alone, exports to Russia shot up by a dizzying 75% year-on-year.
- Russian cash helped plug the growing hole in Turkey's foreign currency reserves -- at a time when Erdoğan needs foreign money for the country's ailing economy before the presidential and parliamentary elections this June.
- In March, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu said that Russian oligarchs were welcome in Turkey. In October, the *Financial Times* reported that between January and August 2021, a record \$28 billion from unclear origins had flowed into Turkey.
- "Putin's goal remains anchoring Erdoğan more and more to Russia through a vast mesh of mutually beneficial operations in the fields of defense, energy, trade, and finance... By doing this, Putin is comforting an embattled incumbent president and is openly bolstering Erdoğan's position in the upcoming elections.... [T]he world is witnessing the Russian president using Turkey for his own benefits." — Marc Pierini, senior fellow at Carnegie Europe and a former EU Ambassador to Ankara, August 30, 2022.
- The Erdoğan-Putin bond has two main pillars. One is pragmatism: They both strategically, politically and economically benefit. The other is ideological: They both hate the West.

Turkish Islamists, especially neo-Ottomans, have historically hated Russia -- both Czarist and Soviet. Similarly, Russians and Soviets have never been great fans of the Turks -- both Ottoman and republican.



Today, however, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, with a big foot in NATO, is exhibiting a pro-Russian tilt never seen before, and at a time when Russian President Vladimir Putin is seen as an existential threat to Western interests. What is the secret behind this sudden marriage?

For Putin, Erdoğan's friendship is growing ever more important -- and vice versa.

Turkey has refused to join Western sanctions against Russia over Ukraine, thereby throwing a lifeline to Putin. Turkish skies remain open to Russian airlines and its doors open to hundreds of thousands of Russians and their money. *Pictured: Erdoğan meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on September 16, 2022. (Photo by Alexandr Demyanchuk/Sputnik/AFP via Getty Images)*

Turkey has refused to join Western sanctions against Russia over Ukraine, thereby throwing a lifeline to Putin. Turkish skies remain open to Russian airlines and its doors open to hundreds of thousands of Russians and their money. Turkish exports to Russia are surging. In July alone, exports to Russia shot up by a dizzying 75% year-on-year.

Russia's state-run Rosatom, which is building Turkey's first nuclear power plant, has sent about \$5 billion to its Turkish subsidiary, the first in a series of such transfers. Russian cash helped plug the growing hole in Turkey's foreign currency reserves -- at a time when Erdoğan needs foreign money for the country's ailing economy before the presidential and parliamentary elections this June.

Some analysts see the Rosatom-Akkuyu-dollar bonds triangle as a Turkish-Russian scheme to open a parking space for Russian funds in Turkey. They think, for example, the increase in the Turkish central bank's foreign currency and gold reserves — \$108 billion on August 4, up from \$98.9 billion on July 26 -- had to do with Russian money flowing to Turkey.

Bloomberg reported that "mystery capital flows" into Turkey had reached "new highs allowing policymakers to boost foreign reserves despite a growing trade deficit and weak demand for lira assets." Bloomberg's source remains unclear.

In March, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu said that Russian oligarchs were welcome in Turkey. In October, the *Financial Times* reported that between January and August 2021, a record \$28 billion from unclear origins had flowed into Turkey. Turkish investigative journalist Aytuğ Özçolak listed a few of the Russian oligarchs who have business interests, investment and funds in Turkey as Leonid Mikhelson, Vagit Alekperov, Vladimir Lisin, Vladimir Potanin, Alexey Mordashov and Mikhail Fridman.

According to Marc Pierini, a senior fellow at Carnegie Europe and a former EU Ambassador to Ankara, the number of Russian expatriates in Turkey, as well as their real estate investments and financial transfers to Turkish banks, have grown substantially. Moreover, Pierini wrote, there is a suspicion that Russia is trying to circumvent some of the effects of Western sanctions via Turkey, in particular through the acquisition of stakes in Turkish oil businesses, as joint companies help to blur oil trade.

Pierini further noted:

"The Kremlin's policy is highly pragmatic: knowing that Turkey's partners in NATO are keen to keep it in the North Atlantic Alliance and Ankara has every interest in staying within NATO, Putin's goal remains anchoring Erdoğan more and more to Russia through a vast mesh of mutually beneficial operations in the fields of defense, energy, trade, and finance.

"By doing this, Putin is comforting an embattled incumbent president and is openly bolstering Erdoğan's position in the upcoming elections. More than the Turkish president abandoning his traditional Western partners, the world is witnessing the Russian president using Turkey for his own benefits."

Jokes in Ankara's political grapevine describe Putin as "head of the Erdoğan Party's Moscow provincial branch." Whichever indicator one looks at, Putin wants Erdoğan to stay in power. He would rather not gamble with someone else as Turkey's new leader. After all, Erdoğan's potential rivals pledge to reinstate Turkey's strong bonds with Western countries.

The Erdoğan-Putin bond has two main pillars. One is pragmatism: They both strategically, politically and economically benefit. The other is ideological: They both hate the West.

[Jerusalem Post](#) > [World News](#)

World Court says it has received UN request for opinion on Israel 'occupation'

The General Assembly asked the ICJ to give an advisory opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's 'occupation, settlement and annexation.'

By REUTERS



SCALES OF JUSTICE decorate the International Criminal Court building in The Hague, Netherlands, in 2019.

(photo credit: PIROSKHA VAN DE WOUW/REUTERS)

Advertisement

The International Court of Justice on Friday confirmed it had officially received a request from the United Nations General

Assembly to give an advisory opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's "occupation" of the Palestinian territories in the West Bank.

The ICJ is expected to draw up a list of states and organizations that will be able to file written statements, but the press release gave no further information about a timeline for that process. In previous advisory opinions the court also scheduled hearings but it is likely to take at least several months before they can be scheduled.

UN court dealing with state disputes

The Hague-based ICJ, also known as the World Court, is the top UN court dealing with disputes between states. Its rulings are binding, though the ICJ has no power to enforce them.

In a move condemned by Israel and welcomed by Palestinians, the General Assembly asked the ICJ last month to give an advisory opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's "occupation, settlement and annexation ... including measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and from its adoption of related discriminatory legislation and measures."



ISRAELI POLICE officers escort a group of religious Jews as they visit the Temple Mount in May 2020. (credit: SLIMAN KHADER/FLASH90)

The UN resolution also asks the ICJ to advise on how those policies and practices "affect the legal status of the occupation" and what legal consequences arise for all countries and the United Nations from this status.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called the request for a World Court opinion a "despicable decision."

The ICJ last weighed in on the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians in 2004, when it ruled that an Israeli separation barrier was illegal. In the same ruling, the ICJ judges said that Israeli settlements in Palestinian territory "have been established in breach of international law."

Israel rejected that ruling, accusing the court of being politically motivated.

Putin's Secret Attack Plan Would Be Ukrainian Nightmare

Anna Nemtsova

Fri, January 20, 2023

KYIV—Ukraine is braced for a major new offensive that could begin within weeks. One of President Zelensky's key insiders told *The Daily Beast* that they expect a looming Russian move to encircle the country with a simultaneous attack on three fronts.

Rustem Umerov, a member of the team negotiating with Russia, said the Kremlin might be preparing for a fresh advance. He said that Ukraine was threatened from many directions but did not specify where the attacks could come from.

"Russians are encircling us from 240 degrees, attacking from the Black Sea, from Belarus and the Luhansk and Donetsk regions," Umerov said.

Russia declared its first victory in the war for months this week, claiming they had taken the salt-mining town of Soledar in Donetsk. There is still some dispute as to whether fighting continues for control of the town but the Russians have clearly made territorial gains—at a huge cost.

Mercenary fighters working for Wagner, Putin's private army, have led the charge on Soledar and the nearby city of Bakhmut. Fighters recruited from Russian prisons were key to the onslaught; *The Daily Beast* reported that their fearless advances towards near-certain death helped the Russians identify pockets of Ukrainian resistance.

"They are coming from all directions, with three lines of fighting: criminals, private contractors, and regular forces. Their goals are to get rid of their criminals, to test and train their contractors," Umerov said.

Putin: I Could Never Have Foreseen 2022's 'Unexpected' Crises That I Created

Ukrainian intelligence and defense experts believe that it is all preparation for a large-scale ground offensive, bolstered by more recruits to the regular army.

Colonel Oleh Zhdanov, a former staffer in the operational directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, told The Daily Beast that Ukraine's military and intelligence units are tracking the movement of Russian troops in real time.

"We are watching Russia build lots of forces in the Zaporizhzhia region. It looks like they are planning a pincer attack from Kharkiv [in the east] and Zaporizhzhia [in the south] directions, they will attempt to capture all of Ukraine's major defense forces," Zhdanov told The Daily Beast. "We are also watching Russian military constantly moving 10-12,000 men in Belarus [to the north]. They are also reinforcing in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions."

Colonel Zhdanov says there is only one man in the world who knows when the war in Ukraine will end: President Joe Biden. He believes that the war will go on until the White House signs off on all of the additional military firepower Ukraine is requesting.

"President Biden has a detailed scenario of this war in the White House. The sooner we get weapons the sooner we finish the war, but it looks like the U.S. wants Russia to exhaust itself with all of its war efforts," Zhdanov told The Daily Beast. "In Russia they now have a cult of death: on all levels, from propagandists to the Orthodox Patriarch, Russians are called to go and die in this war, as their grandfathers died in previous wars."

According to the most recent polls by the Levada center, the number of Russians who believe the country "should definitely continue military actions in Ukraine" has dropped to 23 percent. And so, Putin is updating his rhetoric. He no longer talks about the "unity" of Ukrainian and Russian peoples. The Kremlin has given up on calling for Russians to die for the ancient Kievan Rus heritage. Instead, they are casting this war as a mighty battle against NATO.

On Saturday, his top adviser Nikolai Patrushev said: "The events in Ukraine are not a clash between Moscow and Kyiv; this is a military confrontation between NATO, and above all the United States and England, with Russia."

Putin and Patrushev are both graduates of Soviet KGB schools. They have always seen the United States and its allies as enemies worth destroying at all costs.

Ukraine knows full well it is facing the wrath of that decade-old conflict with NATO.

Umerov, who is also the head of State Property Fund, said Russian missiles and land attacks have already destroyed or stolen property worth more than \$127 billion. The violence has wiped out Ukrainian business. To try to compensate for the losses and build Ukraine's resources, the state is now selling off state-owned companies, but that is nowhere near enough. They need an increase in investment from the West.

Ukraine lacks ammunition and weapons. "We fight the Russians with bare knuckles," Umerov said.

One of Ukraine's problems is a lack of air defense systems, but they are hoping a flood of Western military aid being announced will help to change that.

The Epic Arsenal of Western Guns Coming for Putin This Year

A Russian Kh-22 missile destroyed more than 70 apartments, killing at least 44 people including four children, in the south-central Ukrainian city of Dnipro last Saturday. "The screams of victims in the debris on the videos of the catastrophe are still ringing in my head," Yulia Mashuta, editor at Svoi.City newspapers, told The Daily Beast earlier this week.

As well as the civilian deaths, a monstrous number of Ukrainian soldiers have also perished.

A field of little blue and yellow national flags has been growing in Kyiv's central square, known as the Maidan. Each flag is inscribed with the name of a dead soldier. Walking past this week, Olena Zinchenko, an engineer, donated her change to volunteers collecting money for the army: "This is for our defenders," she said. She took a small blue and yellow ribbon from a volunteer and twirled it around her wrist.

With eyes full of tears, she looked at the little flags on the ground. "Putin knows he can stay out of jail only for as long as he is fighting this war, so he is not going to stop attacking us for as long as he is alive," Zinchenko told The Daily Beast. "Russia is mobilizing more soldiers, there is no end to this hell."

Media Admits That We Are Facing "The Worst Food Crisis In Modern History"



People on the other side of the planet are dropping dead from starvation right now, but most people don't even realize that this is happening. Unfortunately, most people just assume that everything is fine and dandy. If you are one of those people that believe that everything is just wonderful, I would encourage you to pay close attention to the details that I am about to share with you.

Global hunger is rapidly spreading, and that is because global food supplies have been getting tighter and tighter. If current trends continue, we could potentially be facing a nightmare scenario before this calendar year is over.

Pakistan is not one of the poorest nations in the world, but the lack of affordable food is starting to cause panic inside that country. The following comes from Time Magazine...

Last Saturday in Mirpur Khas, a city in Pakistan's Sindh province, hundreds of people lined up for hours outside a park to buy subsidized wheat flour, offered for 65 rupees a kilogram instead of the current, inflated rate of about 140 to 160 rupees.

When a few trucks arrived, the crowd surged forward, leaving several injured. One man, Harsingh Kolhi, who was there to bring a five kg bag of flour home for his wife and children, was crushed and killed in the chaos

We are seeing similar things happen all over the planet

Just because you still may have enough food to eat doesn't mean that everybody else is okay.

In fact, things have already gotten so bad that even CNN is admitting that we are facing "the worst food crisis in modern history"...

Yet the world is still in the grips of the worst food crisis in modern history, as Russia's war in Ukraine shakes global agricultural systems already grappling with the effects of extreme weather and the pandemic. Market conditions may have improved in recent months, but experts do not expect imminent relief.

That means more pain for vulnerable communities already struggling with hunger. It also boosts the risk of starvation and famine in countries such as Somalia, which is contending with what the United Nations describes as a "catastrophic" food emergency.

Sadly, it isn't just in Somalia where the food crisis has reached "catastrophic" proportions.

According to Reuters, the entire continent is now dealing with the worst food crisis that Africa "has ever seen"...

Across Africa, from east to west, people are experiencing a food crisis that is bigger and more complex than the continent has ever seen, say diplomats and humanitarian workers.

Please go back and read that statement again.

Do you remember all those years when Sally Struthers was begging us to feed the starving children in Africa? Well, the truth is that conditions are now far worse than when she was making those commercials.

At one hospital in Somalia, grieving mothers are regularly bringing in very young children that have literally starved to death...

"Sometimes mothers bring us dead children," said Farhia Moahmud Jama, head nurse at the paediatric emergency unit. "And they don't know they're dead."

Weakened by hunger, camp residents are vulnerable to disease and people are dying due to a lack of food, said Nadifa Hussein Mohamed, who managed the camp where Isak's family initially stayed.

"Maybe the whole world is hungry and donors are bankrupt, I don't know," she said. "But we're calling out for help, and we do not see relief."

UN officials are doing what they can to help, but the truth is that they are being absolutely overwhelmed by the scope of this crisis.

Over the past 12 months, the number of Africans that are dealing with "acute food insecurity" has absolutely exploded...

The number of East Africans experiencing acute food insecurity - when a lack of food puts lives or livelihoods in immediate danger - has spiked by 60% in just the last year, and by nearly 40% in West Africa, according to the World Food Programme (WFP).

Sadly, a lot of Americans are simply not going to care about what is going on over there as long as we have enough food over here.

Of course food supplies continue to get tighter on our side of the planet as well.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, our corn harvest this year was the smallest in 15 years...

Last year was a bad year for corn -- the latest US Department of Agriculture (USDA) report shows drought conditions and extreme weather wreaked havoc on croplands.

USDA unexpectedly slashed its outlook for domestic corn production amid a severe drought across the western farm belt. Farmers in Nebraska, Kansas, and Texas were forced to abandon drought-plagued fields.

The agency estimated farmers harvested 79.2 million acres, a decline of 1.6 million acres versus the previous estimate -- the smallest acres harvest since 2008.

That wouldn't be so bad if our population was still the same size that it was back in 2008.

Other harvests have been extremely disappointing too, and that is one of the factors that has been steadily driving up food prices.

At this point, the average U.S. household is spending 72 more dollars on food per month than it was at this same time a year ago...

As inflation continues to decimate the budgets of American families, the December report from Moody's Analytics showed that families are spending an estimated \$72 more on food per month than they were a year ago.

That figure is pulled out of a report that says the typical US household is shelling out \$371 on goods and services more than they were a year ago.

In particular, the price of eggs has gone completely nuts.

I recently came across an article about one small business owner that is now paying three times as much for eggs as she once did...

It just seems like the cost of everything is going up these days and that includes egg prices, which are affecting local businesses. "We used to buy 15 dozen eggs from Sam's for 23 dollars. They are now 68 dollars," said Cindy Gutierrez, the owner of Creative Cakes. "Now it's about 63-ish for 15 dozen and it's also hard to get 15 dozen," said Caitlyn Wallace, the owner of Catie Pies.

The prices for eggs have surged three times their original price. According to the consumer price index, egg prices increased by 10% in October 2022 and that increase has continued to rise. This is causing a domino effect for restaurants, businesses, and bakeries who use eggs.

Economic conditions are changing so rapidly now, and nothing will ever be quite the same again.

As we move forward, the widespread use of "beetleburgers" is one of the "solutions" that the global elite are starting to push...

Beetleburgers could soon be helping to feed the world, according to new research. The creepy crawlers' larvae -- better known as mealworms -- could act as a meat alternative to alleviate hunger worldwide. The process uses a fraction of the land and water and emits a smaller carbon footprint in comparison of traditional farming.

To make this a reality, French biotech company Ynsect is planning a global network of insect farms, including nurseries and slaughterhouses. A pilot plant has already been set up at Dole in the Bourgogne-Franche-Comte region of France.