



# PROPHETIC TIMES

January, 1998

The Weekly Reader of World News

April 23, 2022

## Weaponizing Europe: Why EU should buy arms for its states

*April 21, 2022 euobserver.com* reported: "Wars have often been catalysts for new European defence initiatives. In 1950, the launch of the Korean War and the fear of a Soviet invasion of Western Europe led to the French-inspired project of a fully integrated European army. After the Cold War, European states' experience of the Western Balkans crises in Bosnia and Kosovo encouraged the birth of the EU common security and defense policy.

More recently, the 2014 illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia largely stimulated the process that led the European Commission of former president Jean-Claude Juncker to propose, in September 2016, the creation of a European Defence Fund (EDF), eventually adopted in 2021, aiming to finance defense research and development through the EU budget.

However, Article 41.2 of the EU treaty prohibits the use of the EU budget for defense expenditure; the EDF thus stops at the prototype stage, leaving the procurement phase to the sole responsibility of the member states. Could the current Ukraine war turn a new page in European defense integration?

The EU defence white paper, the Strategic Compass, adopted on 24 March calls for a "quantum leap forward". If the EU is not bold and ambitious now, when will it be?

In the days following the Russian invasion, many national governments announced an increase in their defense budgets, starting with Germany." ..."

## Iran urges Iraq against hosting 'disruptive security presence'

*April 21, 2022 spacewar.com* reported: "Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi warned neighbouring Iraq on Thursday not to allow its soil to be used for activities that disrupt the Islamic republic's security, his office said. His comments follow accusations by Iran last month that Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region had hosted a 'strategic centre' used by Tehran's arch enemy Israel.

'The president emphasized that Iran strongly expects neighbouring countries, especially Iraq, not to allow any presence that is disruptive to the security of the Islamic republic,' a statement by Raisi's office said. The president accused Iraq's Kurdistan region of 'negligence', adding that Iran is closely monitoring the movements of Israel and will not allow it to endanger the security of the region through any country, including Iraq..."



Iran Pres. Ebrahim Raisi

## Palestinians inside Al-Aqsa Mosque throw Molotov cocktails; right-wingers plan march

*April 20, 2022 timesofisrael.com* reported: "Minor confrontations were reported at Jerusalem's Temple Mount and the Al-Aqsa Mosque Wednesday morning between Israeli police and Palestinians, with heightened tensions in the city ahead of a planned right-wing march that has not been approved by authorities.

Videos from the mount showed rocks and Molotov cocktails being hurled at cops, including from within Al-Aqsa.

Several firebombs sparked small fires in a mosque and a carpet at an entrance. These were put out. The clashes were limited in scope.

'The violence endangers worshipers attempting to enter the mosque, and impeded police efforts to ensure freedom of worship at the site,' Israel's Foreign Ministry said..."

## Solomon Islands Sign Security Pact With China

*April 20, 2022 voanews.com* reported: "The prime minister of the Solomon Islands, Manasseh Sogavare, has told parliament that a wide-ranging security pact it has signed with China will not undermine peace and stability in the region. However, the United States, Japan, New Zealand and Australia have expressed concern. A draft of the deal leaked online said it would allow China to send armed forces to the Solomon Islands to protect Chinese investments. Chinese warships would also be permitted dock on the islands.

The archipelago is 2,000 kms northeast of Australia..."

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## **Putin demands Russia gain control of Jerusalem church as promised**

*April 19, 2022 jpost.com* reported: “Russian President Vladimir Putin demanded that Israel grant his country control of the Alexander Courtyard in Jerusalem as the previous Israeli government had promised, in a letter delivered to Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on Sunday.

Putin’s letter came barely a day after the Foreign Ministry in Moscow slammed Foreign Minister Yair Lapid for accusing Russia of war crimes in Ukraine, saying that Israel is using Ukraine to cover up for its own conflict with the Palestinians. The Russian Foreign Ministry also summoned Israeli Ambassador Alexander Ben Zvi for a reprimand on Sunday.

Transferring the ownership of the church land could cause diplomatic trouble for Israel at a time when its Western allies have been sanctioning Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

The Alexander Courtyard, also known as the Alexander Nevsky Church and the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, is in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem’s Old City.

Former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised Putin that Russia could take over the landmark in 2020, as one of a series of gestures meant to help free Naama Issachar, an Israeli woman held in a Russian jail on drug charges. Soon after, Israel’s Land Registry commissioner listed the Russian government as the owner of the church...”

## **Jordan calls on Israel to cease attempts to ‘change status quo around al-Aqsa’**

*April 19, 2022 ynetnews.com* reported: “Jordan on Monday urged Israel to stop what it calls Jerusalem’s attempts to ‘change the historical and legal status quo around the al-Aqsa Mosque.’

In a letter to Israeli Chargé D’affaires Sami Abu Janeb, which he was asked to pass on to the government posthaste, Amman called Israel’s actions around the mosque ‘a reprehensible breach of international law and of Israel’s obligations as an occupying power’ and stressed the need to respect the rights of worshipers at the Jerusalem shrine.



The Foreign Ministry, in response, said that Amman’s actions ‘harm efforts to bring about quiet in Jerusalem and provide backing to those who are damaging the sanctity of the holidays and are using violence which endangers the lives of Muslims and Jews alike.’...”

## **When blood spills on Passover and Easter, it’s time to build the Temple**

*April 18, 2022 jpost.com* reported: “One would have hoped that yesterday’s unique convergence of Passover, Easter and Ramadan would have led to a wonderful day of peace and brotherhood in the spiritual capital city of Jerusalem. Alas, any dream of religious harmony on a day holy to all three great Abrahamic faiths, was shattered by Muslim rioters who turned the Temple Mount into a bloody battlefield hurling stones at Jewish worshippers and Israeli vehicles.

Palestinian terrorists have been fanning the flames of religious violence in recent weeks, as Israelis have been preparing for the Passover holiday, observed this week. On Thursday evening, April 8, a Palestinian terrorist attacked Tel Aviv’s busy Dizengoff Square where mainly secular Israeli young people were crowded at bars and cafes, tragically murdering three Jews in their 20s.

Shortly after the deadly massacre, Hamas explained their motive and declared, “The continuing terrorism of the occupation and its crimes, attempts to Judaize Jerusalem and to perform sacrifices in the Al-Aqsa Mosque to build its so-called ‘Temple’ during what they call ‘Passover’ — against it stands blood and bullets.”

Through their statement, Hamas exposed their greatest fear: that Israel will start to build the Temple. For thousands of years, Jews have been praying for a return to the Land of Israel. Over the last century, we have miraculously been restored to our homeland from the four corners of the earth, but are still awaiting the proper time to build the Temple.

Judaism is incomplete without the Temple, and Passover is a prime example, as Deuteronomy makes clear:

*“You are not permitted to slaughter the Passover sacrifice in any of the settlements that Hashem your God is giving you; but at the place where Hashem your God will choose to establish His name, there alone shall you slaughter the Pesach sacrifice, in the evening, at sundown, the time of day when you departed from Egypt.” (Deuteronomy 16:5,6)*

Hamas is terrified that after close to 75 years of statehood, Israel will begin turning its attention to the place where God chose to establish His name. In fact, each year, more and more Israelis take the dangerous risk of ascending the holy mountain under the hostile guards of Jordanian officials. Palestinian terrorists are getting scared as Jews are getting serious about restoring our holy of holies, the site we pray towards every day, and the building we beseech God for repeatedly throughout our liturgy.” ...”