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Global fertility rate to keep plummeting, major study warns

March 21, 2024 [yahoo.com](#) reported: “The population of almost every country will be shrinking by the end of the century, a major study said Wednesday, warning that baby booms in developing nations and busts in rich ones will drive massive social change.

The fertility rate in half of all nations is already too low to maintain their population size, an international team of hundreds of researchers reported in *The Lancet*.

Using a huge amount of global data on births, deaths and what drives fertility, the researchers tried to forecast the future for the world's population. By 2050, the population of three quarters of all countries will be shrinking, according to the study by the US-based Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME).

At the end of the century, that will be true for 97 percent -- or 198 out of 204 countries and territories, the researchers projected. Only Samoa, Somalia, Tonga, Niger, Chad and Tajikistan are expected to have fertility rates exceeding the replacement level of 2.1 births per female in 2100, the study estimated...”

China, Not Russia, Still Tops List of Threats to US

March 20, 2024 [voanews.com](#) reported: “Russia’s war in Ukraine — portrayed by top U.S. officials as posing a danger to the United States itself — still trails China when it comes to long-term threats to America’s security, according to a top Pentagon official.

The warning from Ely Ratner, the Defense Department’s assistant secretary for Indo-Pacific security affairs, comes in testimony prepared for a hearing Wednesday by the House Armed Services Committee on security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

‘The PRC [People’s Republic of China] continues to present the most comprehensive and serious challenge to our national security,’ Ratner is set to tell lawmakers, according to a copy his opening statement obtained by *VOA*.

‘The PRC remains the only country with the will and increasingly the capability to dominate the Indo-Pacific region and displace the United States,’ Ratner warns, adding, ‘the PRC is pursuing its revisionist goals with increasingly coercive activities in the Taiwan Strait, the South and East China seas, along the Line of Actual Control with India, and beyond.’

This is not the first time Ratner has addressed the growing threat from Beijing...”

Trudeau Government Cuts off Arms Sales to Israel

March 20, 2024 [breitbart.com](#) reported: “The Canadian government of Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Tuesday that it is ending arms sales — such as they are — to Israel, bowing to pressure from left-wing radicals as Israel fights against genocidal Palestinian terrorists.

According to *Al Jazeera*, Canada’s arms exports to Israel are minuscule, amounting to less than \$90 million over the past nine years. ‘The vast majority of Canada’s military exports to Israel come in the form of parts and components.’

Israel’s foreign minister, Israel Katz, reacted angrily, according to the *Times of Israel*: ‘I am sorry that the government of Canada is taking this step that undermines Israel’s right to self-defense in the face of Hamas murderers who carried out terrible crimes against humanity and against innocent Israelis, including the elderly, women and children,’ he says in a statement. ‘History will judge the current acts of Canada harshly,’ he says...”

China says US has ‘no right’ to interfere in South China Sea

March 18, 2024 [spacewar.com](#) reported: “China said Tuesday the United States had ‘no right’ to interfere in the South China Sea, after Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington stood by its commitments to defend the Philippines against armed attack in the disputed waterway.

‘The United States is not a party to the South China Sea issue and has no right to interfere in maritime issues that are between China and the Philippines,’ foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian told a regular press conference in Beijing.

Blinken is in the Philippine capital Manila — his second visit since President Ferdinand Marcos took office in 2022 — as part of a brief Asia tour to reinforce US support for regional allies against China.



‘Military cooperation between the US and the Philippines must not harm China’s sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea, and still less be used to provide a platform for the Philippines’ illegal claims,’ Lin said in a response to a question on Blinken’s earlier comments.

‘China will continue to take necessary measures to resolutely defend its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests, and uphold peace and stability in the South China Sea,’ he added.

Beijing claims almost the entire South China Sea — a crucial route for global trade — brushing aside competing claims from several Southeast Asian nations, including the Philippines, and an international ruling that has declared its stance baseless...”

REPORT: Self-Proclaimed Hezbollah Terrorist Arrested at Border in Texas

March 18, 2024 [breitbart.com](#) reported: “A Lebanese migrant apprehended near El Paso, Texas, reportedly claims to be a Hezbollah terrorist. The Lebanese national claimed to be headed to New York and said he wanted to make a bomb.

Border Patrol agents arrested 22-year-old Basel Bassel Ebbadi, a Lebanese national, after he illegally entered the United States from Mexico near El Paso. ‘I’m going to try to make a bomb,’ Ebbadi told Border Patrol agents when asked why he came to the U.S., according to an exclusive report by the *New York Post*.

Agents captured Ebbadi on March 9 after he crossed the border from Mexico into Texas. The agents transported the Lebanese man to the El Paso hardened facility for processing and investigation. Two days later, Ebbadi told the agents he was going to make a bomb. The agents moved the man to isolation and contacted the Tactical Terrorism Response Team to conduct an interview...”

G7 threatens new sanctions if Iran sends Russia ballistic missiles

March 18, 2024 [spacewar.com](#) reported: “G7 countries warned Iran on Friday that they will impose ‘significant’ new sanctions if Tehran transfers ballistic missiles to Russia for use in Ukraine.

‘We reiterate our call on third parties to immediately cease providing material support to Russia’s illegal and unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine or face severe costs,’ the group, which includes the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada, said in a statement.

‘Were Iran to proceed with providing ballistic missiles or related technology to Russia, we are prepared to respond swiftly and in a coordinated manner including with new and significant measures against Iran,’ the countries said.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken voiced his concerns during a visit in Vienna on Friday. ‘We’ve sent very clear messages to Iran not to do it... And I think that the concern about that eventuality — and the commitment to address it if necessary — is very real and very strong,’ he told reporters...”

Christians could be caught out by new ‘extremist’ definition

March 15, 2024 [christiantoday.com](#) reported: “Christians are at risk of being branded ‘extremists’ under the [UK’s] government’s new definition of extremism published this week, a campaign group has warned.

The new definition says that ‘extremism is the promotion or advancement of an ideology based on violence, hatred or intolerance, that aims to’ among other things ‘negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others’.

Christian Concern said that Christians who are pro-life, gender-critical or have traditionalist beliefs about marriage may fall foul of the new definition.

‘Christians who are pro-life could be seen as being opposed to an assumed ‘fundamental right’ to abortion and thus to be ‘intolerant’ and so extremist. It is already the case that being anti-abortion is on a Prevent list of ideologies seen as potential signs of extremism,’ the organisations said.

‘Christians who are opposed to same-sex ‘marriage’ could also be seen as wishing to ‘negate or destroy the fundamental rights and freedoms of others’ and to be ‘intolerant’.

Prevent is the government’s counter-terrorism scheme that aims to stop individuals from becoming terrorists...”



G7 Members Meet

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