



# PROPHETIC TIMES

January 1998

The Weekly Reader of World News

April 27, 2024

## **'Europe could die': Macron urges stronger defences, economic reforms**

*April 25, 2024 reuters.com* reported: "French President Emmanuel Macron called on Thursday for stronger, more integrated European defences as he outlined his vision for a more assertive European Union on the global stage.

In a speech at the Sorbonne University in Paris, he also said the continent must not become a vassal of the United States.

"There is a risk our Europe could die. We are not equipped to face the risks," Macron said.

With just three years left of his second and final term in office, Macron, 46, wants to show his critics he retains the energy and fresh thinking that helped propel him into the presidency in 2017 and that he has not become a lame duck leader.

In the speech lasting nearly two hours, he warned that military, economic and other pressures could weaken and fragment the 27-nation EU.

Russia must not be allowed to win in Ukraine, he said, calling for a boost in Europe's cybersecurity capacity, closer defence ties with post-Brexit Britain, and the creation of a European academy to train high-ranking military personnel. Europeans should give preference to buying European military equipment, he said.

"We must produce more, we must produce faster, and we must produce as Europeans," Macron said.

The speech won a positive response from Macron's main EU partner, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, with whom he has often clashed on defence and trade issues.

Macron has long called for European "strategic autonomy" involving less reliance on the United States, a stance that has gained greater resonance in the face of Donald Trump's bid to return to the White House. Trump has often accused Europe of free loading on defence at the United States' expense. Europe "must show that it is never a vassal of the United States and that it also knows how to talk to all the other regions of the world," Macron said.

Many EU officials believe there is currently no credible alternative to the U.S. military umbrella..."

## **China warns US military support for Taiwan increases 'risk of conflict'**

*April 25, 2024 spacwar.com* reported: "China warned on Wednesday that US military support for Taiwan only increased the 'risk of conflict' along the strait, after the US Congress allocated \$8 billion in military support for the island.

'I'd like to emphasize that the United States and Taiwan strengthening military ties will not bring about security for Taiwan,' foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said.

'It will only increase tensions and the risk of conflict across the Taiwan Strait, and will ultimately be an act of shooting oneself in the foot,' Wang warned...

Closer military aid cannot 'save the doomed fate of Taiwan independence', Wang warned.

'The United States should... stop arming Taiwan, stop creating new tensions in the Taiwan Strait, and stop jeopardising peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait,' he said..."

## **Why Americans are losing their religion**

*April 24, 2024 voanews.com* reported: "A decades long trend toward secularization, which has come more slowly to America than many other developed countries, appears to be picking up speed in the United States, according to polling and other evidence. In 1965, a Gallup poll found that 70% of respondents said religion is 'very important' in their lives. Today, fewer than half of Americans (45%) say religion is 'very important.'

'Younger generations probably weren't really brought up in a faith tradition, or maybe if they were, they didn't go to church that often ... so I think that's a big reason,' Jeff Jones, a senior editor at Gallup, says.

One-fourth of Americans (26%) said they were religiously unaffiliated in 2023, which is up from 21% in 2013, according to the Public Religion Research Institute.



*French President Emmanuel  
Macron*

---

---

The same study suggests that these religiously unaffiliated folks are not looking to get more religion. Only 9% say they are interested in finding a new religious or spiritual home...”

### **US commander sees ‘breathtaking’ development of China’s space power**

*April 24, 2024 spacewar.com* reported: “China’s military capabilities in space are developing at a ‘breathtaking’ pace that only looks set to intensify after recent defence reforms, the head of the US Space Command said Wednesday.

General Stephen Whiting told journalists that Beijing had ‘tripled the number of intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance satellites on orbit’ in just six years, with repercussions across military domains.

‘Frankly, the People’s Republic of China is moving at breathtaking speed in space and they are rapidly developing a range of counter-space weapons to hold at risk our space capabilities,’ Whiting said.

Describing China as the United States’ top ‘pacing challenge’, Whiting said Beijing had used ‘space capabilities to improve the lethality, the precision and the range of their terrestrial forces’. China’s leaders had underscored future space ambitions with recent military reforms, he added...”

### **Amid China tensions, India delivers supersonic cruise missiles to Philippines**

*April 23, 2024 voanews.com* reported: “India has begun delivery of supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines as the two countries tighten defense and strategic ties amid rising tensions between the East Asian nation and China over maritime disputes in the South China Sea. The BrahMos missiles are being acquired by the Philippines under a \$ 375 million deal signed in 2022.



*India's Brahmos Supersonic Missiles*

‘Now we are also exporting BrahMos missiles. The first batch of this missile is going to the Philippines today,’ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Friday at an election rally. India and Philippines have ramped up defense cooperation as concerns over an increasingly assertive China deepen in both countries...”

### **Palestinian Ruling Party Admits: Hamas Steals Aid, Kills Aid Workers in Gaza**

*April 22, 2024 Breitbart.com* reported: “Fatah, the “moderate” ruling party of the Palestinian Authority, has admitted on live television that Hamas steals humanitarian aid and kills aid workers in the Gaza Strip.

The admission, captured by Palestinian Media Watch, confirms what Israel has been saying all along — and goes further, stating that Hamas is not only responsible for endangering aid workers by hiding among them, but also asserts that Hamas has been killing aid workers directly...”

### **China unveils new cyber force to ‘fight and win’ wars**

*April 22, 2024 spacewar.com* reported: “China announced the creation of a new military cyber corps on Friday, saying it would bolster Beijing’s capacity to ‘fight and win’ wars.

The Information Support Force will act as a ‘key support for coordinated development and application of network information systems’, defence ministry spokesman Wu Qian said.

China has ploughed billions of dollars into modernizing its armed forces in recent years as tensions with the United States and other regional powers have escalated. President Xi Jinping has also sought to bring the military more firmly under his control since rising to power a decade ago. The new cyber force represents ‘a strategic step to establish a new system of services and arms and improve (China’s) modern military force structure’, Wu said.

He did not give details about its role but said the corps ‘bears great responsibility in promoting high-quality development and the ability to fight and win in modern warfare’. Xi ‘extended warm congratulations’ on the force’s establishment at a grand ceremony in Beijing on Friday, state broadcaster *CCTV* said...”

### **Israeli source: Attack on Iran was ‘carefully calibrated’**

*April 19, 2024 israelnationalnews.com* reported: “An Israeli source on Friday morning said that the aerial attack on Isfahan, Iran, ‘carefully calibrated,’ the *Washington Post* reported. The source is an individual familiar with an Israeli briefing on the attack but not authorized to speak about it, the *Post* said.

The source also said that the IDF carried out an aerial attack within Iran in response to the Iranian barrage of missiles and UAVs launched towards Israel on Saturday night. The attack was intended to signal to Iran that Israel is capable of attacking within Iranian territory...”

Compiled by L. Jim Tuck

Minister

<jim\_tuck@ucg.org>