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Most British Jews believe they don't have a long-term future in the UK, survey finds

January 30, 2025 timesofisrael.com reported: "Only one-third of British Jews believe that Jews have a long-term future in the United Kingdom, and half have considered leaving Britain in the past two years due to antisemitism, according to a new survey published by the Campaign Against Antisemitism.

The survey of 4,078 British Jews, conducted in June 2024, was released Monday to coincide with International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Respondents were required to self-identify as Jewish and confirm that they lived in the United Kingdom, and were contacted through other Jewish organizations. Campaign Against Antisemitism conceded that it is possible that the numbers include duplicate responses.

The results reflect the sharp rise in antisemitism in the UK since October 7, 2023, when Hamas launched its war against Israel by invading, killing 1,200 in Israel and taking 251 hostages.

Nearly 2,000 antisemitic incidents were documented in the first half of 2024, the highest-ever tally for a six-month period, according to the Community Security Trust, an organization helping secure Jews in the UK..."

China Wants to See US, Russian Nuclear Disarmament Efforts Before Talks

January 29, 2025 barrons.com reported: "China called on Washington and Moscow on Tuesday to "further reduce" their nuclear arsenals as a precondition for its participation in potential disarmament talks called for by US President Donald Trump.

Trump said in a video address to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland last week that "we'd like to see denuclearisation", and reiterated his desire for three-way talks with Russia and China.

The day after Trump's Davos address, Russia said it wanted to resume bilateral nuclear disarmament talks "as soon as possible", and that "the ball is in the Americans' court".

The former Cold War rivals possess almost 90 percent of the world's nuclear weapons between them, but Moscow pulled out of the last remaining arms control agreement with Washington in 2023 amid a sharp deterioration in relations.

"The two nuclear powers with the largest nuclear arsenals should conscientiously fulfil their special... responsibilities for nuclear disarmament," the Chinese foreign ministry said in a statement sent to AFP on Tuesday..."

Why is Trump threatening to take over the Panama Canal?



January 28, 2025 usatoday.com reported: Newly inaugurated U.S. President Donald Trump is pushing to "take back" the Panama Canal, the world's second busiest interoceanic waterway, spurring concerns that the United States could invade the Central American nation.

Trump argues that Panama has broken a pledge of neutrality made when the United States transferred the canal to Panama in 1999, falsely claiming that China is operating it. The canal is operated by the Panama Canal Authority, an autonomous agency overseen by the Panamanian government..."

Over two-thirds of all cargo passing through the canal today originates from or is destined for the United States. The U.S. completed construction of the canal in the early 20th century, a project begun by France that cost over 25,000 workers' lives.

Following pressure from anti-colonial movements, the U.S. signed treaties in 1977 granting Panama control and full sovereignty over the canal zone and guaranteeing its permanent neutrality. These took effect in 1999.

Between 2023 and 2024, a severe drought aggravated by climate change lowered the level of lakes feeding the canal, forcing its administrator to restrict transits and vessel draft, which increased costs and waiting times. The passage restrictions were lifted late last year, but the waterway has not yet seen a full return of normal traffic as many shippers, especially bulk carriers and liquefied natural gas tankers, have continued taking alternative routes.

In his inaugural address last week, Trump repeated accusations he made following his election victory that Panama has ceded control of the canal to China. He has also said Chinese troops are stationed at the canal, without providing evidence. Both Panama's government and the Chinese government have rejected those assertions.

CK Hutchison Holdings, a Hong Kong-based company, has for more than two decades operated the ports of Balboa and Cristobal at the canal's Pacific and Atlantic entrances. The company is publicly listed and not financially tied to the Chinese government, though Hong Kong firms are subject to government oversight.

China's economic influence has been growing in Latin America, fueling worries in Washington that the resource-rich region will tilt to Chinese interests rather than those of the United States....”

Trump orders ‘Iron Dome for America’ in sweeping missile defense push

January 28, 2025 **usatoday.com** reported: “President Donald Trump signed an executive order Jan. 27 that calls for the development of a sweeping new missile defense system for the United States, including controversial space-based interceptors.

The “Iron Dome for America” order, which invokes Israel’s successful rocket defense system, directs the Pentagon to accelerate development of defenses against hypersonic weapons and other advanced aerial threats that Trump’s order describes as “the most catastrophic threat facing the United States.”

While drawing inspiration from Israel’s Iron Dome system, the U.S. initiative would need to be dramatically different in scale and capability to defend the continent-spanning American territory against sophisticated intercontinental ballistic missiles, rather than the short-range rockets that threaten Israel.

The U.S. has collaborated with Israel on missile defense technology since the 1980s, including support for the Iron Dome system, which has intercepted thousands of incoming rockets since its 2011 deployment. Unlike Israel’s system, which defends a territory roughly the size of New Jersey, a U.S. continental defense system would need to protect an area nearly 500 times larger against more sophisticated threats such as Chinese hypersonic glide vehicles...”

Iran’s Revolutionary Guards commander says Iran purchased Russian-made Sukhoi 35 fighter jets

January 28, 2025 **jpost.com** reported: “Iran has purchased Russian-made Sukhoi-35 fighter jets, a senior Revolutionary Guards commander said on Monday, amid Western concerns about Tehran and Moscow’s growing military cooperation.

This is the first time an Iranian official has confirmed the purchase of Su-35 jets. However, Ali Shadmani, who was quoted by the Student News Network, did not clarify how many jets were purchased and whether they already had been delivered to Iran.

‘Whenever necessary, we make military purchases to strengthen our air, land, and naval forces. ... The production of military equipment has also accelerated,’ the deputy Coordinator of the Khatam-ol-Anbia Central Headquarters said...”

Doomsday Clock moves one second closer to midnight in latest Armageddon prediction

January 28, 2025 **metro.co.uk** reported: The Doomsday Clock, which predicts how close humanity is to extinction, has been moved forward to 89 seconds to midnight.

It comes as last year, the clock remained at 90 seconds, with conflicts in Ukraine, Israel, Gaza and increasing tensions between China and Taiwan cited as a reason for the stagnant clock hand.

But the re-election of divisive figures may have contributed to this year’s decision, with Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin, Narendra Modi and Nicolas Maduro all taking office again.

In recent years, climate change has been a major factor in pushing the clock hands forward, with devastating wildfires in California this month and powerful hurricanes leaving thousands without homes. This year, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists cited nuclear escalation, climate change and biological threats such as Covid and Avian flu as the main reasons for the change.

But the announcement also namechecked disruptive technologies such as AI and a spread of misinformation and conspiracy theories as major factors contributing towards the change. The symbolic clock is set by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, who last year set it at 90 seconds to midnight.

