



# **SIGNS OF THE TIMES**

**News Articles for Episode 230**

# China to send troops to Russia for 'Vostok' exercise | Reuters

#bibleprophecy, #russia, #china, #alliance, #ezekiel 38-39

Aug 17, 2022

BEIJING, Aug 17 (Reuters) - Chinese troops will travel to Russia to take part in joint military exercises led by the host and including India, Belarus, Mongolia, Tajikistan and other countries, China's defence ministry said on Wednesday.

China's participation in the joint exercises was "unrelated to the current international and regional situation", the ministry said in a statement.

Last month, Moscow announced plans to hold "Vostok" (East) exercises from Aug. 30 to Sept. 5, even as it wages a costly war in Ukraine. It said at the time that some foreign forces would participate, without naming them. [read more](#)

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China's defence ministry said its participation in the exercises was part of an ongoing bilateral annual cooperation agreement with Russia.

"The aim is to deepen practical and friendly cooperation with the armies of participating countries, enhance the level of strategic collaboration among the participating parties, and strengthen the ability to respond to various security threats," the statement said.

Under Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, Beijing and Moscow have grown increasingly close.

A year ago this month, Russia and China held joint military exercises in north-central China involving more than 10,000 troops. Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu praised the Sibu/Cooperation-2021 drills in China's Ningxia and suggested they could be developed further. [read more](#)

In October, Russia and China held joint naval drills in the Sea of Japan. Days later, Russian and Chinese warships held their first joint patrols in the western Pacific. [read more](#)

The next month, South Korea's military said it had scrambled fighter jets after two Chinese and seven Russian warplanes intruded into its air defence identification zone during what Beijing called regular training.

Shortly before Russia's Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine, Beijing and Moscow announced a "no limits" partnership, although U.S. officials say they have not seen China evade U.S.-led sanctions on Russia or provide it with military equipment.

Russia's eastern military district includes part of Siberia and has its headquarters in Khabarovsk, near the Chinese border.

# [Biden rejects call from Lapid as Iran deal looms \(israel365news.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #biden, #lapid , #genesis 12:3

Aug 25, 2022

US president Joe Biden and Prime Minister Yair Lapid at a welcoming ceremony for Biden, at Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv on July 13, 2022, for his first official visit to Israel since becoming US president. Photo by Noam Revkin Fenton/Flash90

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The White House reportedly refused an initial request from Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid to speak with U.S. President Joe Biden, saying he was on vacation, according to Israeli media reports.

The Americans say the talk is expected to take place in the coming days, Ynet reported.

The delayed call comes against the background of renewed momentum to revive the 2015 nuclear deal as the U.S. on Wednesday responded to Iran's latest offer.

"We have conveyed our feedback privately, and I'm not going to get into further details," State Department spokesman Ned Price said Wednesday.

Israel has expressed opposition to a U.S. return to the nuclear deal, a priority for the Biden administration.

Lapid said at a briefing for foreign correspondents on Wednesday, "On the table right now is a bad deal. It would give Iran a hundred billion dollars a year. This money will not build schools or hospitals. This is a hundred billion dollars a year that will be used to undermine stability in the Middle East and spread terror around the globe,"

Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz was scheduled to travel to the United States on Thursday for meetings with senior American defense officials.

He will hold meetings at U.S. Central Command in Florida and meet with National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan in Washington, D.C., according to reports.

However, he will not meet with Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin.

# [American Farmers Are Killing Their Own Crops and Selling Cows - Here's Why \(westernjournal.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #farmers, #crops, #livestock, #matthew 24

Aug 20, 2022

Due to droughts, American farmers are having to thin out their crops and sell livestock, which in turn is driving up food prices and adding to the overall economic downturn that Americans have been struggling with for two years.

According to a survey from the [American Farm Bureau Federation](#), drought conditions have put the production of beef, dairy, wheat, vegetable, fruits and nuts at serious risk.

Droughts have persisted in the states throughout the Central Plains up to North Dakota, all the way west to California and all the way south to Texas.

This is nearly the whole region that is key to U.S. [agriculture](#) and makes up about half of the nation's \$364 billion agricultural production value, according to the AFBF.

“This includes 74% of beef cattle, responsible (in total) for 18% of U.S. agricultural production by value; 50% of dairy production, responsible (in total) for 11% of U.S. agricultural production by value, over 80% of wheat production by value and over 70% of vegetable, fruit and tree nut production by value,” the AFBA outlined.

But now [farmers](#) and ranchers are being forced to take drastic measures.

Most notably, there has been a significant increase from last year in farmers having to till under crops, remove fruit trees and even sell livestock.

“Those who reported tilling under crops because of drought conditions jumped from only 24% of respondents last year to 37% of respondents this year. Similarly, 33% of respondents reported destroying and removing orchard trees and other multiyear crops as prevalent or higher, up from only 17% last year,” the AFBF reported.

Across the region surveyed by the AFBF, respondents also expected average crop yields to be down 38 percent this year. Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico are expected to have the biggest yield drops.

Meanwhile, ranchers are having to reduce their herd sizes. Many did so last year and told the AFBF that they had to do so again this year.

“Of the surprising 67% of respondents who reported reducing herd sizes in 2021, nearly 50% were further reducing their herd or flock this year, 37% were maintaining the reduced herd size and only 14% were building their headcount back up,” the AFBF reported.

Along with the 67 percent who had to reduce herd sizes last year, 76 percent also fallowed rangeland.

One promising sign, though, is that although ranchers have had to reduce herds and fallow land, many are holding onto their land.

But as herds are thinned out, these “smaller inventories of livestock across a region that supports over 70% of domestic beef production by value decreases production and drives up prices for consumers,” the AFBF noted.

“For cattle and beef, once the market processes the excess animals sent to slaughter and has a smaller breeding herd to operate off of, [price increases] could be six months to well over a year. For specialty crops it could be immediate upon harvest,” said Daniel Munch, an economist at the AFBF, according to [CNN](#).

While the drought conditions most immediately impact ranchers and farmers, down the line it will affect every American as [food prices rise](#). And it will not go away after just a season or two, even if the drought conditions end.

“The effects of this drought will be felt for years to come, not just by farmers and ranchers but also by consumers. Many farmers have had to make the devastating decision to sell off livestock they have spent years raising or destroy orchard trees that have grown for decades,” said Zippy Duvall, AFBF president, according to [KMBC-TV](#).

Food prices have already been rising in the U.S. due to outrageously high [inflation rates](#).

“The [consumer price index] for all food increased 1.0 percent from May 2022 to June 2022, and food prices were 10.4 percent higher than in June 2021,” the [Department of Agriculture](#) reported in July.

The USDA predicted that food prices across the board will continue rising throughout 2022 and into 2023.

These price increases are going to hurt all Americans, but particularly poor Americans, as [The Heritage Foundation](#) noted.

“For lower-income Americans, this situation is particularly troubling. Skyrocketing food prices are regressive and particularly damaging to them, as they spend a greater share of their after-tax income on food compared with higher-income Americans,” Heritage pointed out.

“Their trade-offs might not just be giving up a night at the movies or not going out to dinner. It might be far worse, such as not going to the doctor or not running the air conditioning.”

While the increase in food prices is nothing new due to inflation, the news of how drought conditions are wreaking havoc on crops and herds should have all Americans paying attention and preparing for the coming years.

These problems are not just hurting farmers. This will continue to affect every corner of American society.

# [World Economic Forum Recommends Humans Become Cyborgs, Implant Brain Chips: There Are 'Solid, Rational' Reasons For Children To Be Microchipped \(thegatewaypundit.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #wef, #implants, #brainchips, #revelation 13

Aug 22, 2022

The World Economic Forum is promoting “augmentation technology” to morph humans into cyborgs and recommends children be implanted with brain chips.

The brain chips will not only improve health by eradicating impairments like learning disabilities and depression, but pave the way for humans to attain superhuman capacities, contends an August 16 article published on the WEF website.

“Superheroes have been dominating big and small screens for a while, but there’s a subtle change happening. Many children expect to develop superpowers themselves. These expectations may sound unattainable, but we’re already making the first strides towards an “augmented society,” writes WEF “agenda contributor” Kathleen Phillips in the [blog post](#) titled, “Augmented tech can change the way we live, but only with the right support and vision.”

*The cyborg age is already here, it’s just not evenly distributed* <https://t.co/Dg5dzlamMm>

— Mary Harrington (@moveincircles) [August 22, 2022](#)

While brain chips or augmentation, like “cochlear implants” or “prosthetics” are used to remedy cognitive impairments, the technology will be used to enhance everyday life, particularly for children who would benefit from developing ultra sensory perception, the article argues.

“The augmenting technology will help in all stages of life: children in a learning environment, professionals at work and ambitious senior citizens. There are many possibilities,” Phillips notes.

“Should you implant a tracking chip in your child? There are solid, rational reasons for it, like safety,” the scientist writes. “Many children with attention deficit struggle in school. In the best case, they get special education services or classroom accommodations. However, with extra visual and audio guidance that blocks off excess stimuli, an otherwise-enabled child can cope with a standard school environment. And when class is over and playtime begins, they can just take the aids off.”

Brain implants will provide health benefits “equivalent of a dog’s nose” in a gadget “that can be handy to sniff out COVID-19,” the WEF agenda contributor assures. But unlike phones that “might feel like part of your body,” the augmentation technology “will become more intertwined with the body in the form of implants.”

Phillips surmises an “augmented society” is inevitable and points to global elites who are establishing a monopoly over brain implants to “ethically” regulate the technology that soon be pervasive across the globe.

“The Council of Europe [recently launched](#) a strategic action plan tackling issues raised by the application of neurotechnologies. Another example, [Rathenau Institute](#) founded by the Dutch government, operates as an independent institution to reflect on questions related to the impact of technology on our lives,” Phillips writes. “Chile is already a step ahead. Last year, the country pioneered a bill to amend its constitution to protect personal brain data. [Several countries](#) are now exploring how to address these issues surrounding (brain) implants. The task is daunting as ethicists will not only need to scrutinize blooming technology but also potential future applications.”

“Technology has always had the potential to transform society and improve our daily and professional lives. So does augmentation technology,” the WEF article concludes. “It goes hand in hand with an evolution from health care to ‘well care’, where it’s not just about solving an impairment anymore. It’s about technology that supports you and improves your overall quality of life.”

WEF chief Klaus Schwab contends transhumanism, or merging man with machine, is imperative to achieving the “The Great Reset” or “[fourth industrial revolution](#).”

“What the fourth industrial revolution will lead to is a fusion of our physical, digital and biological identities,” Schwab told the Chicago Council on Global Affairs in 2019.

*“What the Fourth Industrial Revolution will lead to is a fusion of our physical, our digital, and our biological identities.”*

~ Klaus Schwab, 2019 [pic.twitter.com/HdUZBtPVPh](https://pic.twitter.com/HdUZBtPVPh)

— James Melville (@JamesMelville) [August 21, 2022](#)

As the WEF publishes propaganda to mull support for implantable microchips that can read the recipients’ thoughts, the pandemic is providing an opportunity for proponents of the Great Reset to implement the technology.

During a Davos meeting in May, Pfizer CEO Alberto Bourla boasted about developing “ingestible pills,” which contain a tiny microchip notify authorities using a wireless signal when the pharmaceutical is digested.

*Pfizer CEO Alberto Bourla explains Pfizer's new tech to Davos crowd: "ingestible pills" – a pill with a tiny chip that send a wireless signal to relevant authorities when the pharmaceutical has been digested. "Imagine the compliance," he says [pic.twitter.com/uYapKJGDJx](https://pic.twitter.com/uYapKJGDJx)*

— *Jeremy Loffredo (@loffredojeremy)* [May 20, 2022](#)

# [Bryce Young, QB for No. 1 Bama: I Want to 'Embody Christ in all that I Do' - Michael Foust \(christianheadlines.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #christian, #witness, #football

Aug 22, 2022

The defending Heisman Trophy winner says his faith is giving him purpose and peace as he prepares to lead No. 1 Alabama during his junior season.

Bryce Young guided the Crimson Tide to the SEC title and the College Football Playoff National Championship game in 2021 while becoming a [runaway winner](#) of the Heisman Trophy. Although Georgia edged Alabama during the national title game, Young and his team are ranked No. 1 heading into the 2022 season thanks to a core of returning players.

"I work to be the best version of myself that I can be and to embody Christ in all that I do," Young told the [Sports Spectrum Podcast](#) for an episode that will be released on August 31. The Sports Spectrum website recently posted excerpts. "So, for me, regardless of how someone else views me, whatever award, accolade, what someone may say ... at the end of the day, what motivates me and pushes me is to model myself after the Lord."

Young has been outspoken about his faith since stepping onto the Alabama campus. His Twitter [bio](#) reads "Follower of Christ." A picture on his bio depicts a cross.

Last season, he referenced his faith during his Heisman Trophy acceptance speech.

"First and foremost, I'd like to thank my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Without Him, I couldn't be here, and through Him, all things are possible," Young said before addressing his father and mother, who were in attendance.

He [completed](#) 68 percent of his passes for 4,322 yards with 43 touchdowns and just four interceptions during the regular season last year. Included in that was a last-minute, Heisman-worthy touchdown drive against Auburn that saved the Tide's championship hopes.

"There's a lot of excitement surrounding this year, this team," he told Sports Spectrum for the August 31 episode. "Obviously, it's a new group of guys. ... [Head coach Nick Saban] has a very strict policy year to year that you're not entitled to anything, so right now, it's all of us individually proving ourselves, us pushing each other to get better."

Young and his teammates learned plenty of lessons during a 2021 season in which they finished 13-2, he said.

"I think the biggest thing that I took away – we took away as a unit – is that all things come to light," Young said. "I think there was a lot of shortcuts we were taking, a lot of stuff we weren't doing to our level, to our standard. A lot of little things that we should've ironed out that didn't really get ironed out. In the big moments throughout the season, I think all those little things got exposed."

# [Court: California Church Does Not Have to Pay over \\$200,000 in Fines for Violating COVID-19 Restrictions - Milton Quintanilla \(christianheadlines.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #christian, #covid, #fines, #isaiah 54:17

Aug 19, 2022

On Monday, a California appeals court ruled that a San Jose church does not have to pay the more than \$200,000 in fines it accrued for violating COVID-19 restriction.

The ruling, which was issued by a three-judge panel in California's 6th District Court of Appeal, reverses several lower court decisions against [Calvary Chapel San Jose](#), which was fined for continuing to hold large, in-person gatherings in violation of state and local COVID-19 restrictions.

According to [The Christian Post](#), the appeals court overturned a December 17, 2020, order requiring Calvary Chapel to pay \$33,000 for violating Santa Clara County's restraining order prohibiting the church from holding indoor gatherings with more than 100 people on November 2, 2020.

The county issued the restraining order on October 13, 2020, after the church failed to follow its COVID-19 rules.

Despite making exceptions for other public institutions, including schools, train stations, airports, medical facilities, stores and restaurants, the county placed restrictions on churches.

For this reason, the appeals court argued that the restraining order was "unconstitutional because it discriminates against a religious institution in violation of the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment."

The panel also ruled that Calvary Chapel does not have to pay an additional fine of \$22,000 for violating the November restraining order or a penalty of close to \$200,000 levied against the church in February 2021 for contempt.

Monday's ruling cited previous rulings, including the 2020 decision in *Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn v. Cuomo* and the 2021 ruling in *Tandon v. Newsom*, where the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of houses of worship facing COVID-19 gathering restrictions from officials in New York and California, respectively.

As reported by [Fox News](#), Robert Tyler, president of Advocates for Faith & Freedom, celebrated the appeals court ruling in favor of Calvary Chapel Jose.

"This is a significant victory for churches and pastors across this country," Tyler said in a press release. "We are honored to represent pastors and churches who are willing to take the heat in defense of liberty because it benefits everyone."

Mike McClure, the senior pastor of Calvary Chapel Jose, also celebrated the legal victory and argued that the county's order violated religious freedom.

"I thank God that our actions have been justified by the Court of Appeal," McClure said in the release. "We are here to help the hurting, save the lost, and worship God without governmental intrusion."

# Lawyers could have chips implanted in their brain in bid to cut legal costs (yahoo.com)

#bibleprophecy, #chips, #implants, #lawyers, #revelation 13

Aug 24, 2022

[Lawyers](#) of the future could bill their clients by ‘units of attention’ monitored by computers directly connected to their brains, [a report from the Law Society suggests](#).

Supporters of neurotechnology for lawyers have argued that corporate clients will press for chips as an efficiency measure, as it would cut legal costs, as well as reduce the number of [solicitors](#) needed to work on complex cases.

The report, published last week, forecasted that [brain](#) implants could become the “iPhone of the future” in the legal profession.

Skyrocketing hourly billing rates for legal advice is a concern in the City, where a radical technological solution to reducing costs significantly would be an attractive option to chief executives and board directors, [reported the Times](#).

The report, from Neurotechnology, Law and the Legal Profession, predicted: “Lawyers might try to gain an advantage over competitors and try to stay ahead of increasingly capable artificial intelligence systems by using neurotechnology to improve their workplace performance.”

Allan McCay, professor at the University of Sydney law school in Australia, who wrote the report, said: “One can imagine changes to billing that may be brought about by the attention-monitoring capacities of neurotechnologies.”

He added: “This might even prompt a move from billable hours to billable attention.”

He also pointed out that Elon Musk has been investigating neurotechnology for the past eight years: “This tech is coming, and we need to think about regulation. Action is needed now as there are significant neurotech investors such as Elon Musk and Meta (Facebook).

“We need law reform bodies, policymakers and academics to be scrutinising these technological advances rather than waiting for problems to emerge.”

Dr Kion Ahadi, the [Law Society](#)’s director of strategy, said: “The debate on whether and how we should make our brains ready to be ‘plugged’ into technical devices must begin today.”

He added that implanting chips raises ethical questions: “Any such fusion poses interesting and complex ethical and legal issues.”

Richard Susskind, lawyer turned author, said widespread artificial intelligence would come first, and some AI systems were already outperforming junior lawyers. He added: “In the long run, we’ll all be digitally enhanced ... The only question is whether that processing and storage is inside or outside our bodies.”

# [Congressional Report: Some UFOs Don't Have Man-Made Origins | Newsmax.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #ufo, #origins, #1 tim 4:1 Aug 23, 2022

An addendum to the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 — a budget that governs America's clandestine services — produced a revelation that might pique the interest of the American public: Congress [doesn't believe all UFOs](#) are "man-made."

The overall report, which came [courtesy of Vice.com](#), also says that "temporary nonattributed objects," or objects that are positively identified as man-made after analysis, will be passed to appropriate offices and "should not be considered under the definition as unidentified aerospace-undersea phenomena."

Which leads to another revelation from [the IAA report](#): The U.S. government acknowledges "cross-domain transmedium threats to the United States national security are expanding exponentially."

Citing the Department of Defense's definition, a "cross-domain transmedium threat" can move from water to air to space in ways that human beings might not comprehend.

In July, according to Vice, the Pentagon announced the opening of the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office ([AARO](#)) to investigate these versatile threats.

Vice also reports that legislation would "reclassify 'unidentified aerial phenomena' as unidentified aerospace-undersea phenomena" and rename the Pentagon's office in line with the new designation. Last year, a leaked video that was confirmed by the Pentagon as being authentic appeared to show a UFO seamlessly flying beneath the waves.

In 2021, the Department of Defense issued reports covering [more than 100 UFO sightings](#), according to Vice.

UFO sightings have long been a staple of the photography age. However, before this congressional acknowledgment, such claims of [encountering unidentified objects](#) or extraterrestrials might have been chalked up to fantasy.

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., vice chair of the Senate Select Committee overseeing intelligence that issued the IAA report, has previously stated he prefers future UFO encounters [be aliens](#) — and not foreign weapons.

"It strains credulity to believe that lawmakers would include such extraordinary language in public legislation without compelling evidence," Marik von Rennenkampff, an Obama-era Pentagon official, recently wrote in an op-ed in [The Hill](#).

"This implies that members of the Senate Intelligence Committee believe that some UFOs have non-human origins," von Rennenkampff continued. "After all, why would

Congress establish and task a powerful new office with investigating non-'man-made' UFOs if such objects did not exist?

"Make no mistake: One branch of the American government implying that UFOs have non-human origins is an explosive development," said von Rennenkampff.