



IMPACT ANALYSIS

August 19, 2022

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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Monkeypox

Cases continue to increase and are doubling every 17 days. The U.S. has declared the disease a public health emergency. Nevertheless, travel or other restrictions are unlikely at this time.

Figure 1 — Monkeypox Global Spread
Monkeypox tally.info



Kenya Presidential Election

Kenya’s election commission declared William Ruto as the winner of the Presidential election held on August 9. Ruto received 50.49 percent of the vote with Raila Odinga received a second-place 48.5 percent. The vote count was completed at a slow pace with the result announced two hours after the constitutional deadline. Four of seven election commissioners refused to endorse the result. Odinga has refused to accept the result and is very likely to challenge it in court.

Odinga’s refusal to accept the result and allegations of irregularities increases the risk of violent unrest, however, violence comparable to that seen in 2007 and, to a lesser extent, 2017 is not anticipated. This risk would increase substantially if Odinga directly calls for protests.

Ukrainian Grain Exports

Ships have begun departing Ukrainian Black Sea ports to export grain following an agreement between Russia and Ukraine going into effect. Ukrainian grain exports were halted following the Russian invasion, with mines placed in the water and surrounding ports to deter Russian attacks.

Many African nations previously depended on Ukrainian grain, with current famine conditions further exacerbated by the lack of imports. The World Food Program (WFP) and United Nations (UN) have coordinated efforts to ship Ukrainian grain to Ethiopia, one of the countries most in need of grain.

Presently, there is no ceasefire agreement between Ukraine and Russia with no guaranteed ship safety. It is possible the grain export agreement may unravel as time progresses. For now, the movement of grain is a welcome development for the millions of people facing food shortages and increased food prices.

Protest Polling Data

According to recent Gallop polling data, 39 percent of adults have felt the urge to organize or join a public demonstration. 31 percent of those reporting a desire to protest stated abortion as the primary reason. Additionally, 22 percent considered demonstrating against police brutality, 19 percent for women's rights, and 11 percent for civil or equal rights.

The data also shows that politically liberal-leaning adults are twice as likely to protest as those who are politically conservative-leaning. Also, those with higher incomes, women, and college graduates are significantly more likely to organize or join a public demonstration.

Incel Movement

The incel movement, which has been a motive behind a growing number of mass shootings, continues to grow as a domestic threat. The term refers to typically straight, cisgender men who self-describe as 'involuntarily celibate', meaning they report having extreme difficulty forming romantic and sexual relationships with women. A number of these individuals resort to online forums as a place to connect with likeminded individuals often following feelings of intense alienation from social groups.

Many in these communities will assert that their social difficulties are insurmountable. They believe there is an unchangeable hierarchy based on financial status and physical appearance, declaring these the key to social success and happiness. Accepting this nihilist ideology completely, known as "taking the black pill" or being "blackpilled", signals a switch to an increased likelihood of committing violent acts following a loss of any hope in their present situation. A number of individuals describing themselves in this way have subsequently committed suicide, with a smaller number having committed acts of violence against others. These forums promote misogynistic ideology and while their philosophy is not inherently white supremacist, incel forums often allow far-right conspiracy theories and white supremacist content. Some far-right extremist groups have successfully radicalized users of these platforms.

A CLOSER LOOK...

Ukraine Scenarios

The war in Ukraine is now in its sixth month. Fighting remains concentrated in the East and South of the country, and this is unlikely to change in the near term. There are many variables, but below are our scenarios for the future of the conflict.

Scenario 1: Prolonged Conflict

This is currently our most likely scenario. The outlook means a conflict of attrition that ebbs and flows with short-term gains by both sides. However, in this scenario, neither side can score a decisive victory. A prolonged conflict may also result in multiple unsuccessful ceasefires followed by new rounds of fighting each time it breaks down.

Selected Indicators

- Neither side scores any significant battlefield victories
- Continued external financing and weapons supplies to Ukraine from Western donors
- Proposed but largely unsuccessful peace talks

Scenario 2: Ceasefire/Frozen Conflict

After several months without a decisive victory, a mutually agreed ceasefire halts full-scale fighting. This does not solve ideological differences and there are frequent and ongoing ceasefire violations. Russia keeps some or all of the territory it has taken in the war.

Selected Indicators

- Prolonged conflict lasting several more months
- Calls for a ceasefire by Ukraine's main donors, including US, EU, and UK
- Peace talks are held

Scenario 3: Ukraine Wins

Ukrainian battlefield victory. Russia is forced to withdraw its troops returning to the 2014 border (min) or the border established in 1991 (max) – Crimea returned to Ukrainian control.

Selected Indicators

- Increased military support, including more sophisticated weapons, is supplied to Ukraine
- Increasingly successful counter attacks by Ukraine, regaining large areas of lost territory
- Decreasing domestic support for the war within Russia

Scenario 4: Russia Wins

Russian battlefield victory and a pro-Russian government installed in Kyiv.

Selected Indicators

- Increased Chinese material support for Russia
- Reduced military and financial aid sent to Ukraine
- Calls for a ceasefire by Ukraine's main donors, including US, EU, and UK
- Full military mobilization in Russia

Scenario 5: Russia-NATO Conflict

Under pressure of an impending loss in Ukraine, Russia deploys chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons in Ukraine, or carries out an attack against a NATO country. There is also a risk of a miscalculation by NATO or Russia that results in an escalation and conflict.

Selected Indicators

- Increased rhetoric by Russia accusing NATO of direct involvement in Ukraine
- Increased Russian accusations of Ukraine deploying chemical or biological weapons
- Russia loses significant territory in Ukraine
- NATO supplied weapons are used to directly target Russia
- Increase in cyber attacks against US, EU, and UK

Outlook

While the conflict in Ukraine continues, the inflationary pressure on global economic growth will remain. Many countries in Europe will continue to pursue alternative energy supplies to reduce reliance on Russia, but this is likely to slow the progress towards renewable energy.

Salman Rushdie Stabbed in New York State

On August 11, author Salman Rushdie was stabbed several times while onstage at a literary event in Chautauqua, New York. Over thirty years ago, Iran's then supreme leader, Ruhollah Khomeini, issued a fatwa to kill Rushdie for what he deemed the blasphemous nature of Rushdie's book, *Satanic Verses*. Over the years, the bounty for killing Rushdie has risen to over US\$3 million.

The attacker, Hadi Matar, appears to have sympathies towards Iran. He reportedly posted pro-Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) messages on social media platforms and may have been in direct contact with them. He also had a fake driving license in the name of Hezbollah's leader, Hasan Nasrallah. Hezbollah is a U.S. designated terrorist group linked to Iran.

Hezbollah and Iran deny any knowledge of the attack, although it has been praised in Iranian media. Iran has also incited violence against Rushdie for decades. The fatwa has never been withdrawn and Iran's current supreme leader, Ali Khamenei, tweeted in 2019 that it was "solid and irrevocable".

The attack occurred a few days after an Iranian man was charged with plotting to kill former national security advisor John Bolton. The suspect is believed to be linked to the IRGC and is living in Iran. He reportedly attempted to pay individuals in the U.S. \$300,000 USD to carry out the murder in the District of Columbia or Maryland area.

The plot against Bolton was likely an attempt at retaliation for the U.S. strike that killed Qasem Soleimani, Iran's most powerful military commander. The suspect in the Rushdie attack reportedly had pictures of Soleimani on his phone. Iran has previously been accused of inciting violence against U.S. officials, also likely in retaliation for Soleimani's death. It was reported last year that Iran had a hit list of U.S. officials.

The attack against Rushdie, Iran trying to pay for Bolton's killing, and other attempts to incite violence indicate that Iran has limited capability to act directly in the U.S. Further attacks against individuals would likely be low-capability attacks by sympathizers, but not necessarily coordinated by Iran. Inciting violence rather than carrying out attacks directly may be an attempt by Iran to try and limit direct links to any incidents.

Iran Nuclear Talks

The attack against Rushdie took place against the backdrop of talks over renewing the Iran nuclear deal. Overnight on August 15, Iran responded to EU proposals on the deal. Iran's response has not been made public, but appears to neither accept nor reject the EU's proposals. There remain three outstanding issues for Iran.

- The dropping of an investigation by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) into uranium traces at three undeclared sites in Iran.
- A guarantee that no U.S. administration will pull out of any agreement.
- The removal of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corp (IRGC) from the U.S. Foreign Terrorist Organization list.

The Iranian demands will be difficult for the U.S. to accept, especially given the attack on Rushdie and the plot against Bolton. Additionally, the agreement would be non-binding with no guarantee a future U.S. administration would keep it, making a deal unlikely. However, the U.S. and other parties are motivated to reach a deal in order to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons and to release Iranian oil to the market, which would ease energy related inflation.

Chinese Escalations After Pelosi Visit to Taiwan

On August 2, U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi visited the island of Taiwan to “...honor America’s unwavering commitment to supporting Taiwan’s vibrant Democracy.” Her visit stirred controversy in the region and triggered harsh responses from the Chinese Communist Party.

China’s government has long claimed the island of Taiwan as a province but has never exercised control over the island. The People’s Republic of China (“China”) and the Republic of China (“Taiwan”) both claim to be the legitimate government of China. This dispute has led to the “One China” policy, where countries recognize the government of either mainland China or the island of Taiwan. The U.S. recognizes the government of mainland China and does not have official diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

In an immediate response to Pelosi’s visit to Taiwan, the Chinese military launched 11 missiles in the ocean surrounding Taiwan. One of the missiles flew directly over the island of Taiwan and Japan launched an official complaint with the Chinese government, as five of the missiles landed in the Japanese exclusive economic zone. China responded stating they do not recognize Japan’s claims to the waters. China also held military drills in the ocean on all sides of Taiwan, likely practicing an invasion scenario. In a statement by a Foreign Minister of the Chinese Communist Party, China declared that Pelosi’s visit “...seriously tramples the one-China principle, and severely threatens peace and stability across the Taiwan strait.” As a result, Pelosi was directly sanctioned by the Chinese government, but the specifics of what this entails are not clear.

On August 14, almost two weeks after Pelosi’s visit, Senator Ed Markey arrived in Taiwan with other American lawmakers as part of a larger visit to Asia. In response to this latest visit, China has resumed military drills surrounding Taiwan.

Immediate escalation between China and Taiwan is unlikely, and no direct conflict has occurred between them even as China’s live-fire drills continue. Such a conflict would likely involve the U.S.; President Biden has previously stated the U.S. would intervene militarily to defend Taiwan. War game simulations by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) showed that the U.S. and Taiwan would likely be able to fend off a Chinese invasion, but at devastating costs to all involved. Large portions of the U.S. Air Force and Navy would likely be lost over the course of the conflict.

The visits by American lawmakers potentially opens the door for other countries to send delegations to Taiwan as well, bolstering Taiwan’s standing on the world stage. Members of the British House of Commons are planning a trip to Taiwan later this year, another move which will likely enflame tensions with China again as Western countries continue to solidify their support for the island.

China’s actions are perceived as provocations beyond Taiwan itself, with South Korea and Japan condemning its previous actions as well. Though China’s future plans are not known, Nancy Pelosi reiterated that the U.S. will “not abandon” Taiwan in its time of need. Currently, there are no plans for talks between Taiwan and China.

Extremist Threats Following the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Search of Mar-a-Lago

On August 11, a man attempted to enter the Cincinnati, Ohio Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) field office with a nail gun and an AR-15 style rifle. Upon attempting to enter the facility, the suspect, Ricky Walter Shiffer, fired his nail-gun and then fled the scene after an alarm was triggered. After an hours-long standoff, negotiations failed, and he was fatally shot.

While no FBI employees were harmed, it comes following a warning from the agency on an increase in online extremist activity following the search of Mar-a-Lago. The perpetrator in Cincinnati posted several concerning and threatening messages on Truth Social prior to carrying out this attempted attack. A joint FBI and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) intelligence bulletin warning of increases in extremist activity was distributed to law enforcement agencies across the country. Government officials and those seen as having ideologically inverse positions to online extremists are also presently at an elevated risk.


Users on the image board platform 4chan have made comments extreme in nature such as, "What are the FBI going to do when millions of right-wing terrorists start butchering them and their families?" Another user, referring to Shiffer, stated, "Next time research the setup used by the beltway sniper", a reference to a District of Columbia area sniper attack in 2002.

On political forums, there are several discussions of the Mar-a-Lago search warrant that have led to users comparing the FBI to Nazis (Figure 2). Comparing groups to fascists is a common talking point for right-wing groups attempting to incite violence.

On white supremacist forums, the focus is on Merrick Garland's (the attorney general who authorized this search warrant) identity as a Jew. These posts allude to a white supremacist conspiracy theory which claims that Jews are bringing immigrants in to invade the U.S. This conspiracy theory was the motive behind the 2018 Tree of Life Synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Online activity is likely to be elevated by any additional legal action following the search of Mar-a-Lago. Additionally, the 2022 Midterm Elections are likely to serve as a further point of increase in extremist activity.

Figure 2 — Online Forum Content


Thursday at 6:34 AM
#21

BULLDOG said:

Trump was given a receipt for what was taken in the warrant. Why won't trump say what that was?


"The soldiers gave the Jew shop keepers receipts for all the property we destroyed" - German Progressives, 1938

"The worst enemy that the Negro have is this white man that runs around here drooling at the mouth professing to love Negroes and calling himself a liberal, and it is following these white liberals that has perpetuated problems that Negroes have. If the Negro wasn't taken, tricked or deceived by the white liberal, then Negroes would get together and solve our own problems. I only cite these things to show you that in America, the history of the white liberal has been nothing but a series of trickery designed to make Negroes think that the white liberal was going to solve our problems. Our problems will never be solved by the white man." -- Malcolm X

"Biden is turning out to be Jimmy Carter without the intelligence, integrity or love of country." - MarathonMike

Billiejeens

Figure 3 — Online Forum Content


Thursday at 7:33 AM
#36

If any violence happens it is 100% the fault of the Democrats. I conducted a POLL and that was the result

POM 08/10/2022 I am not a Doctor. I did not sleep at a Holiday Inn. But I can tell you this for a fact. Certain people have TDS. I can spot TDS vs. "Fake" TDS. Trump lives in their narrow mind 24 hours a day. Trump is literally locked in their narrow mind. Trump is making beautiful speeches in their narrow mind. Crowds are chanting "Trump, Trump Trump". You show these people facts, they deny it. So sad for them. **And they are the most hateful and truly disgusting examples of a human being.**

OZFO

Figure 4 — Online Forum Content

08-10-2022, 11:05 PM
#1

reynoldsg
"Friend of Stormfront"
Sustaining Member
Join Date: Dec 2015
Posts: 32,736

Spygate! The Real Reason FBI Raided Mar A Lago! - Red Voice Media [VIDEO]

Spygate! The Real Reason FBI Raided Mar A Lago! - Nick Moseder [VIDEO]

August 10, 2022

Biden's pick for US Attorney General, Merrick Garland, is pro Third World immigration into America, against the Second Amendment and wants to turn White conservatives into terrorists by having the FBI hunt us down.



NATION-WRECKING JEW

Nothing to see here but more corrupt Jews - Barr and Garland placed in charge



IMPACT ANALYSIS

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