



Quick Quotes



Jens Stoltenberg (AP Images)

Most NATO Members Spend Little on Defense, Knowing the U.S. Will Pick Up the Slack

“Only seven of the 30 NATO member nations are meeting the alliance’s target of spending two percent of their gross domestic product on their military.”

*NATO Secretary-General **Jens Stoltenberg** admitted the deficiency in his annual report while urging leaders of member nations to consider two percent “a floor, not a ceiling.” As has been the case ever since NATO’s 1949 creation, the United States contributes the bulk of NATO’s spending for all of its activity.*

Will Xi Jinping’s Visit With Putin Lead to Military Assistance and More?

“Xi is making a significant gesture of political support to Putin with this trip, basically demonstrating that the relationship will be resilient even in these straitened circumstances, and that he is willing to live with the opprobrium of the West.”

*The possibility of a future East vs. West war grew more ominous when Communist China’s leader traveled to Russia to meet with Vladimir Putin. During the visit, Xi referred to the Russian leader as his “dear friend.” **Andrew Small** had already hinted of such a potential alliance in his book entitled No Limits: The Inside Story of China’s War With the West.*

UN Insists Time Is Running Out to Avoid Climate Disaster



Written by [Staff](#) on April 4, 2023

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Hoesung Lee (AP Images)

“The pace and scale of what has been done so far and current plans are insufficient to tackle climate change. We are walking when we should be sprinting.”

*To avert a climate disaster, the latest report from the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recommends slashing greenhouse gases in half and terminating emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The assessment quoted above was made by IPCC chair **Hoesung Lee**.*

Good Sense About Student Debt From a New York Times Columnist

“Pardoning student debt is another form of moral hazard. It encourages people to take out loans unwisely in the expectation that they might one day be forgiven. If we are forgiving college loans now, why not forgive mortgages next?”

*Asked by Times colleague Gail Collins how the student loan issue should be resolved, columnist **Bret Stevens** not only disagreed with her encouragement to erase the debt for a huge number of ex-students, he also said such a proposal was “unconstitutional.”*

North Korea Gives Its Soldiers a New Assignment: Planting Crops to Avoid Starvation

“North Korea is the kind of country that needs to show military strength through provocations when it faces domestic problems like a food crisis.”

*According to **Yi Jisun** at South Korea’s Institute for National Intelligence Service, many thousands of North Korean soldiers are being trained to plant and harvest crops while others have been assigned to produce tractors and threshing machines. Some are even being ordered to convert airfields into greenhouses.*



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Donald Trump (Gage Skidmore)

Donald Trump's 2016 Rivals Not Interested in 2024

“Except for former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, who has not officially offered his candidacy for 2024 and was a loser in the 2016 race for GOP’s nomination, none of the other 2016 candidates are seeking the 2024 Republican nomination for President.”

New York Times reporters **Reid J. Epstein** and **Maggie Haberman** noted that GOP presidential candidates who lost to Donald Trump in 2016, but aren’t seeking the high office in 2024, include Senators Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, and Rand Paul, plus Scott Walker, Dr. Ben Carson, John Kasich, Jeb Bush, Carly Fiorina, and George Pataki.



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