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1 December 2023

Team Analysis

Strategic Intelligence and Foreign Affairs Initiative

Monthly Newsletter

Liberty University

Helms School of Government Students



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Israel - Hamas Conflict: 10/7 - 10/11

BLUF

- The Hamas-Israel war will further destabilize the ME, likely reversing recent peace advancements and increasing risk of broader regional conflict in the event of direct Iran involvement.

Analysis

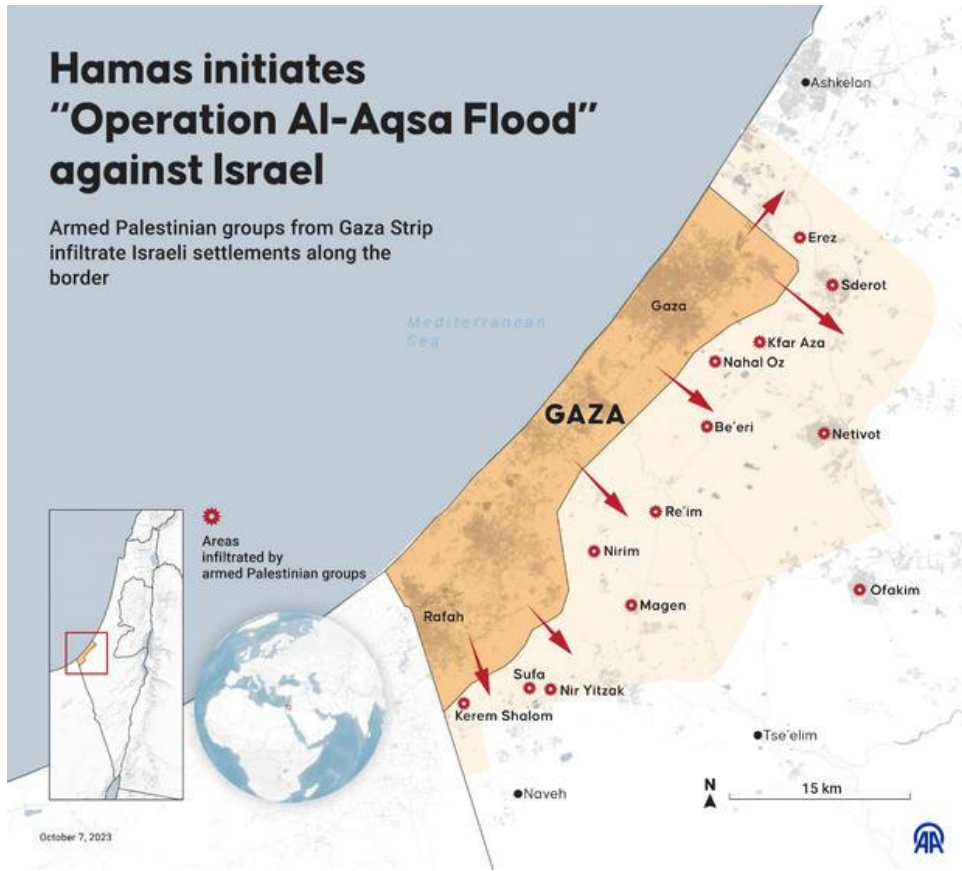
- Despite Egyptian leaders warning Israel about a possible attack, on October 7, Hamas successfully carried out an attack from Gaza into Israel, utilizing both ground troops and significant rocket fire.
 - The sophistication of the attack suggests that it was well planned and points to a high likelihood that Hamas received external support in their planning process for the invasion. Considering this, Iran's role in the conflict is called into question due to their history of support to Hamas and other FTOs such as Hezbollah, who briefly exchanged fire in the Golan heights on October 8.
 - In 2021, according to the U.S. State Department, Hamas "received funding, weapons and training from Iran, as well as some funds that are raised in Gulf Arab countries". Additionally, according to an investigation from the Wall Street Journal, Iranian security officials helped Hamas plan the invasion and IRGC officers have worked closely with Hamas leadership since August to plan the invasion. In recent years, with the success of the Abraham Accords, and a newly developing peace deal between Israel and Saudi Arabia, would, according to the Arab Gulf States Institute, "create a chain of American allies linking three key choke points of global trade—the Suez Canal, the Strait of Hormuz, and the Bab Al Mandeb connecting the Red Sea to the Arabian Sea". There is currently no hard evidence directly connecting Iran to the Hamas invasion. However, if Iran's involvement is uncovered and increases, it will likely lead to a wider conflict in the middle east.
 - Iran possesses considerable strike capabilities against Israel and established avenues to infiltrate Israel through their associated militias in Syria, and they may choose to engage in the current conflict via the IRGC-Quds Force (IRGC-QF). Iran's Al Kiswah military base is assessed with high confidence by ISW to be located less than 40 km from the Israeli de facto border with the UNFIL controlled border region between Syria and the Golan Heights. Additionally, there are numerous other suspected Iranian military bases in the same vicinity, as seen in Figure 3. The IRGC deployed 50 of its Syrian militia fighters to the Syrian-Israeli border, likely for the possibility of combat, alongside Lebanese Hezbollah (LH) Radwan Unit, who are attempting to infiltrate into Israel. Both Palestinian and Iranian leadership have stated that there is a possibility that Iran will aid the terrorist organizations in the conflict.
 - The Israeli response to Hamas attacks has been swift and aggressive in targeting terrorists in Gaza, The West Bank, Syria, and along the Lebanese border. Israel officially declared war on Hamas at 1000 on 7 October and struck their first target in Gaza shortly after. Israeli troops were sent to the southern border at 1200 to reclaim territory taken over by Hamas militants. Airstrikes are ongoing in Gaza. The IDF killed militants entering from Lebanon and began airstrikes against Lebanon with combat helicopters on 9 October at 1700. The IDF shelled sites in Syria after Syria struck them on 10 October at 2300. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin
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Netanyahu stated that the Israeli Defense Force would attack Hamas with a force, “like never before,” on 9 October. He has stated he expects a long and difficult war. It is likely that Israel will not stop retaliating against their enemies until they have been destroyed.

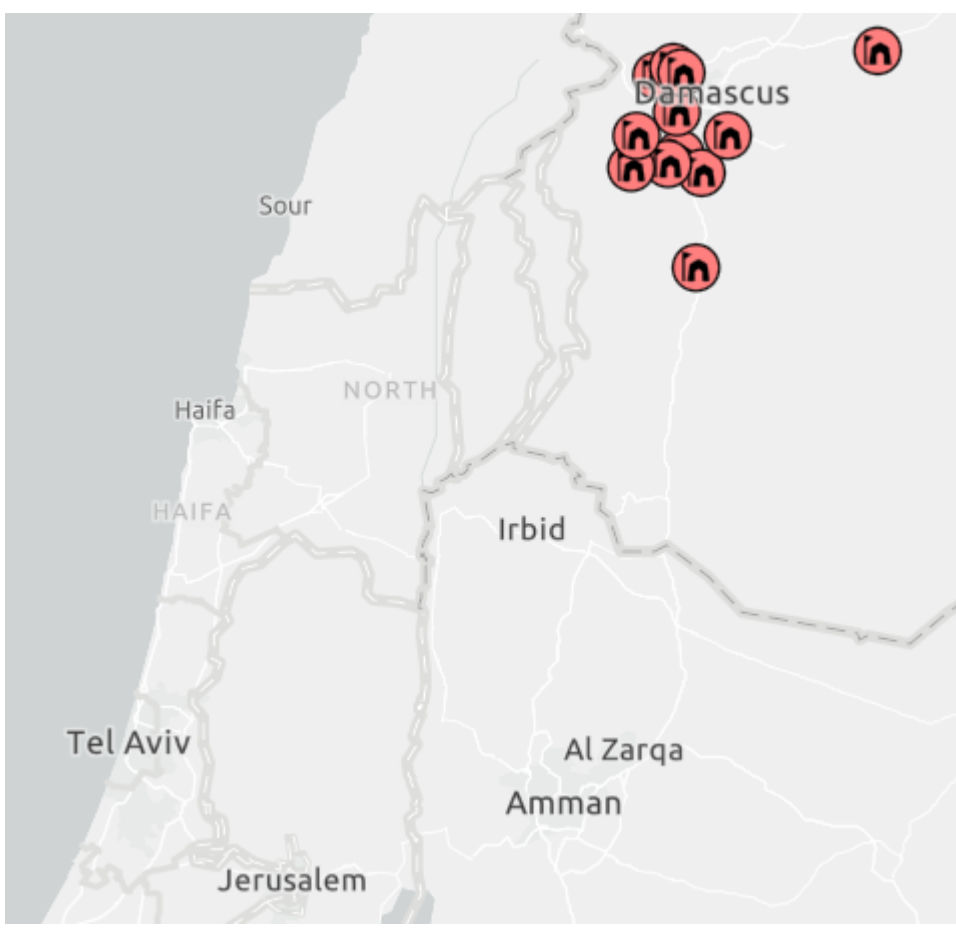
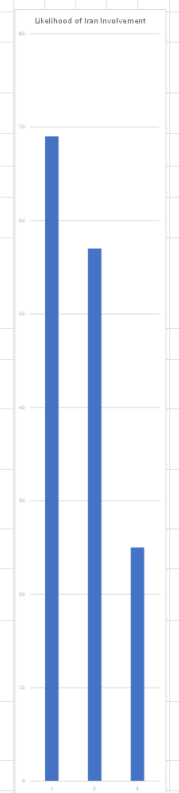
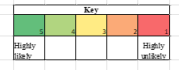
- Israel has called up 300,000 reservists and is imposing a total blockade on the Gaza Strip. They have also completely cut off the flow of water, food, fuel, and electricity to Gaza. Evidence shows that Israel has continued to warn civilians in the area before an attack on Hamas. The IDF claimed to have hit over 800 Hamas targets on 8 October. At least 270 more targets have been hit since, with the number likely being much higher. Netanyahu formed an emergency war council to oversee the war on Hamas on 11 October.
 - The response has been strong, and Israel sends a clear message. In order for the response to be more effective they must overcome weaknesses. The initial Hamas attack was unprecedented and a major intelligence failure. This indicates that Israeli sources in Gaza, Lebanon, and Iran are not enough, not effective, or unreliable. Hamas was able to damage Israeli communication towers in the initial attack. Hamas has over 100 Israeli hostages and has threatened to kill a hostage each time Israel attacks. This has not hindered Israeli attacks yet but if Hamas releases evidence of executions there will likely be pressure for Israel to ease up until the hostage crisis has been resolved. Israel also faced some trouble in getting support likely due to its portrayal in the media. When Palestinian civilians are harmed the jump in the media is that Israel is being too “heavy handed” rather than acknowledging that Hamas uses human shields. Israel warns civilians before attacks, which is important for humanitarian efforts but does come with the possibility of alerting Hamas and making the strike less effective. Israel also faces enemies on all sides. Hezbollah has ramped up attacks from Lebanon and Syria. They face violence from the West Bank and Gaza. Egypt is also providing Gaza aid. Their enemies receive funding from Iran. Iran is highly likely playing a significant role in these attacks from all directions and will be a formidable enemy as the war continues.
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Hamas initiates "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood" against Israel

Armed Palestinian groups from Gaza Strip infiltrate Israeli settlements along the border



Evidence	Hypothesis			Likelihood of Iran Involvement
	1. Iran is directly and indirectly involved in helping Hamas coordinate attack	2. Iran is only indirectly involved through Hezbollah in helping Hamas coordinate attack	3. Iran is not involved in helping Hamas coordinate attack	
Iran sees Israel as a permanent adversary	3	3	1	100
Iran consistently funds Hezbollah, which is hostile towards Israel	3	4	1	100
Israel blames Iran for coordinating the attack	4	3	1	100
WSJ reported that Iranian officials helped plan, according to senior members of Hamas and Hezbollah, Hamas has never conducted a land invasion before, but they did this time	2	2	1	100
The 3-dimensional nature of their coordinated attack	4	3	1	100
U.S. cancer charity combats Iran's involvement	3	3	1	100
Hamas has publicly acknowledged receiving support from Iran	2	2	1	100
Iran's peace deals with Gulf Arab states could cause a chain of American allies losing choke points of global trade—the Suez Canal, the Strait of Hormuz, and the Bab Al Mandeb	3	3	1	100
From early 2017, US believes Iran is "heavily involved"	3	4	1	100
The US State Department in 2021 said the group receives funding, weapons and training from Iran	3	3	1	100
Hezbollah have reportedly boasted about an increased security coordination with Palestinian Islamic groups	3	4	2	100
Hamas openly communicating with Iran and its paramilitary allies about its military goals	4	3	1	100
Israel says Iran support Hamas to the tune of some \$100 million dollars a year	4	3	1	100
Iran's direct involvement could prompt a wider conflict in the Middle East	2	4	5	100
Iran gave cash to Hamas as well as technical help for manufacturing rockets and deals with advanced guidance systems, and training in military tactics	2	3	1	100
Iran's alliance with Palestinian Islamic actors appear to be a consequence of the Revolutionary Guards' strategy	3	3	1	100
Hezbollah attack Israel in the Golan Heights	4	3	1	100
Israel	4	5	2	100



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 3. <https://www.cnn.com/2023/10/09/middleeast/amas-iran-israel-attack-analysis-intl/index.html>
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Rising Sino-Philippine Tension in the South China Sea

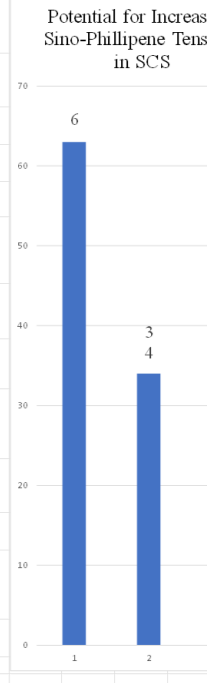
BLUF

- While the US strengthens military ties with the Philippines in a wider strategy to counter China, Sino-Philippine tensions in the South China Sea highly likely to increase

Analysis

1. Sino-Philippine tensions culminated on October 22, with a collision between a Philippine supply boat and a Chinese Coast Guard ship. This is the latest in a series of tensions that dates back decades, beginning in 1976 with the discovery of oil fields off the coast of the Philippines in the South China Sea.
 2. The South China Sea is a strategic location claimed in part by multiple countries including Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei, Philippines, and China. This sea contributes heavily to the fishing industry in the region and is strategically placed close to the strait of Malacca, a chokepoint that facilitates 40% of all international trade.
 3. China claims the entirety of the South China Seas as rightful Chinese territory, evidenced by a recent official map that claims ownership of internationally recognized Philippine territorial waters and exclusive economic zone.
 4. China's claims to the SCS are bolstered by their construction and occupation of multiple small islands in the sea. Encounters between the Philippines and Chinese ships have increased in recent years, largely in accordance with the closing of military and diplomatic ties between the U.S. and Philippines.
 5. These tensions should be viewed also in the context of a long-term great power competition between the U.S. and China, wherein China is vying for increased influence throughout the region and is pursuing the goal of reunifying with Taiwan. This fact, along with the series of increased tensions proves that it is highly likely Sino-Philippine tensions will continue to increase.
 6. It is also possible this collision incident is a way for China to test the U.S.'s response to rising Indo-Pacific tensions, amid the U.S.'s simultaneous focus on the Ukraine War and Israel-Hamas War.
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Evidence	Hypotheses			Key		
	1. Sino-Philippine tensions in the SCS will continue to increase	2. Sino-Philippine tensions in the SCS will continue not increase or decrease	3. Sino-Philippine tensions in the SCS will decrease	5	4	3
CCP goal to reunify with Taiwan	5	2	1	Highly likely		
SCS is vital for international trade	5	3	1			
China have built man-made island in CSC with military bases	5	2	1			
Despite criticism of nine-dash line, China asserted the new ten-dash line	5	2	1			
Philippines signs 10-year defense pact with US	4	3	2			
Philippines accepts increased US presence	4	2	1			
Philippines removes Chinese barrier in SCS	3	2	1			
President Marcos more hardlined against China and on their actions in SCS	5	2	1			
New Philippines president bolsters alliance with US	4	3	2			
China has increased enforcement of SCS claims	5	3	1			
the Philippines identified the locations of four new military bases the US will gain access to	3	2	1			
Philippine defense secretary vows to stand up to 'bully' China	5	2	1			
Philippine boat breaches China blockade	3	2	1			
Chinese naval ship reportedly aims its weapons control system at a Philippine naval ship	4	2	1			
Philippine oil field of off its coast in the CSC	3	2	1			
Total	63	34	17			



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Russian Missile Test from New Nuclear Submarine

BLUF

- The use of nuclear missiles by Russia in the foreseeable future is unlikely. Russia wants to keep the nuclear option as a last option especially in the Russia-Ukraine battle and the Israel-Hamas conflict in order to avoid total atomic annihilation with the US and the EU.

Analysis

"The trick is to get very close to nuclear use but avoid it - to force the adversary to take a step back so the US and NATO think: 'Is it really worth it?' To change the calculation of costs and benefits,"
-Sokov.

1. The background regarding Russia's nuclear weapons programs is shrouded in questions of legitimacy about the Russian's research and their intentions and use of these weapons. During the Soviet Union a total of 715 nuclear tests were conducted. The last nuclear test of the Soviet Union took place on October 24, 1990. Putin signed a Bill to terminate the Kremlin's ban on nuclear testing. By reversing their agreement on the CTBT, it would apparently "mirror" the White House's position on nuclear testing, Putin said. The United States is a signatory to the CTBT but has never ratified it. Seven other countries including China, Iran, Israel, Egypt, North Korea, India and Pakistan also never ratified the treaty. In October both the upper and the lower Duma passed the bill opting out of the CTBT. Putin's signing it into law was expected. More brief history is that Russia has sent tactical nuclear bombs to Belarus earlier this year and they have also suspended participation in the New START treaty.
 2. The Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement that the Emperor Alexander III was the strategic missile cruiser that fired the Bulava missile from an underwater position in Russia's northern White Sea and hit a target in the far-eastern region of Kamchatka. The Emperor Alexander III is one of the new Borei-class nuclear submarines that carry 16 Bulava missiles each and are intended to serve as the core naval component of the nation's nuclear forces in the coming decades. It should be known to the US that the Russian navy has three Borei-class submarines in service, one more is currently finishing tests and three others are under construction, the Defense Ministry said. According to the Defense Ministry, launching a ballistic missile is the final test for the vessel. We do not know if this is true.
 3. The responses to Russia's nuclear maneuvers from Ukraine has been that these weapons systems tests are not successful and that there are a multitude of errors that occur during these launches. But the Defense Minister of Russia Sergei Shoigu said on Saturday, Russia's new silo-based intercontinental ballistic nuclear missile system is nearly combat-ready. This may be rhetoric to stir the pot in Ukraine and add to the growing sense of instability in the nation. Russia is also testing missiles called Sarmat missiles. The Sarmat missiles reportedly
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have a short initial launch phase, which gives little time for surveillance systems to track their takeoff. Apparently according to Ukrainian intelligence tests of the Sarmat missiles have gone awry and the missile is unreliable and incomplete. A similar assessment was made of the Yars ICBM.

4. The implications of a nuclear missile test carried out by Russia really points to an almost complete diplomatic failure. It shows cracks and fissures and highlights a very fragile inter-country relationship. Kremlin Spokesperson Dmitry Peskov says that relations with the US are “at zero, or below zero.” And in another statement President Putin said that he wanted to ease tensions with the US. We assess that although we see an apparent willingness from the Russians to work on relations, the positive correlating action is simply not there (such as pulling out of the CTBT). Doing a nuclear weapons test puts the entire world on edge and may even encourage countries such as India, Iran, North Korea, and others to re-engage their nuclear testing programs as well. This puts the world, especially the US in a tedious position.

Sources

SOURCE 1: [Russian nuclear submarine test launches Bulava intercontinental missile | Reuters](#)

- Strategic nuclear submarine (Imperator Alexander III)
- Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile
- Russian relations with US “below zero”

SOURCE 2: [Russia Says It Test-Fired an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile From a New Nuclear Submarine - VINnews](#)

- Putin signed bill revoking Russia’s ratification of a global nuclear test ban
- Borei-class submarines carry 16 Bulava missiles
- Russia has 3 Borei-class subs in service, 1 in testing, and 3 more under construction

SOURCE 3: [Putin signs bill revoking Russia's ratification of a global nuclear test ban treaty - ABC News](#)

- Putin signed a bill revoking Russian ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
- Now even with US, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, Israel, Iran, and Egypt which has signed but not ratified the treaty
- “Russian officials say Russia’s planned move to withdraw its ratification does not mean that it will resume testing, and we urge Moscow to hold to those statements,” Blinken said.

SOURCE 4: [Russia says it successfully test fired an ICBM from its new nuclear submarine | The Hill](#)

- According to the Federation of American Scientists, the missile is designed to carry up to six nuclear warheads.
 - The announcement comes three days after Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a bill that will revoke the country’s ratification of a major nuclear test ban treaty. This signifies that the Kremlin is continuing to brush aside nuclear restrictions amid its war with Ukraine.
 - He also sent tactical nuclear bombs to Belarus earlier this year.
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SOURCE 5: [RSM-56 Bulava \(SS-N-32\) | Missile Threat](#)

- Development of Bulava missile began in the 1990s
- The first Borei SSBN was commissioned in January 2013 and is stationed with Russia's Northern Fleet
- The dimensions of the Bulava missile is not precisely known, but it is estimated that it is 12-13.5 m in length, has a diameter of approximately 2.0 m, and weighs between 36,000-39,000 kg. The missile is expected to carry 10 MIRV warheads, with a yield of 100-160 kT, to a maximum distance of 8,300 km. The missile would likely carry decoys and according to Russian officials, the missile's RV's are capable of in-flight maneuverability and re-targeting to out maneuver any enemy defense. The RVs have an expected accuracy around 250 to 300 m CEP

SOURCE 6: [Russia says it test-fired nuclear-capable Bulava missile from new submarine | Weapons News | Al Jazeera](#)

- Sunday's launch comes just days after Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the withdrawal of its ratification of the global nuclear test ban treaty in a move Moscow argued was needed to bring it into line with the United States.
- Emperor Alexander III, Bulava sea-based intercontinental missile
- The missile, which the Federation of American Scientists says is designed to carry as many as six nuclear warheads, was launched from an underwater position in the White Sea off Russia's northern coast and hit a target thousands of kilometers away on the Kamchatka peninsula in the Russian Far East.
- Borei-class nuclear submarines that carry 16 Bulava missiles each and are more maneuverable and quieter than previous models.
- the Russian navy currently has three Borei-class submarines in service, one more is finishing tests and three others are under construction, according to the defense ministry
- 12-meter-long (39 ft) Bulava missile was designed to be the backbone of Moscow's nuclear triad and has a range of more than 8,000km (5,000 miles)
- The 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty treaty outlaws all nuclear explosions, including live tests of nuclear weapons, although key countries — including the US and China — have never ratified it.
- Earlier this year, Russia also suspended participation in the New START treaty, the last major nuclear arms control treaty between Moscow and Washington, but said it would continue to respect the caps on nuclear weapons set by the treaty

SOURCE 7: [Video shows the moment a new Russian submarine test-fired an intercontinental-range 'Bulava' missile](#)

- The test involved the firing of an intercontinental-range Bulava submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) and was a significant step for the vessel. Decisions on the submarine's entry into service with the Russian navy will follow this test, the last of the state trials, Russia said
 - RSM-56 Bulava ballistic missile
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- “Missile warheads arrived in the designated area at the set time. The ballistic missile firing is the final element of state trials, with the decision to be made after that on cruiser's acceptance by the Navy”
- seventh and latest of Russia's Project 955 Borei-class submarines to do so and only the fourth of the newer, more modern 955As. These ballistic missile submarines have been in service with the Russian navy since 2013, and the most recent boat in the class to join the fleet was the Generalissimus Suvorov, which was commissioned in late December 2022
- are designed to carry as many as 16 Bulava SLBMs, which have been in service since a series of successful tests in 2018 and are a powerful — and expensive — weapon for the Russian navy
 - Bulava: “mace”, as of 2012 cost \$32.2M

SOURCE 8: [Russian Submarine Test-Fires Nuclear-Capable Bulava ICBM Amid Kyiv's Doubts](#)

- Ukraine has said that Russia's recent rocket tests have failed as Moscow boasted it had successfully launched an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) capable of carrying up to six nuclear warheads.
- Last week, the U.S. Air Force said it had safely destroyed an unarmed LGM-30G Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile, shortly after midnight on November 1, off the coast of California, which has prompted mockery from several Russian sources.
- In a post on its Telegram channel, the Defense Ministry said that the launch was “part of the final stage of the state testing program” and that the rocket warheads “arrived in the designated area at the expected time.”
- In a Telegram post on Saturday, Ukraine said that on November 1, Russia had “conducted an unsuccessful test” of a Yars ICBM, which is the main ground component of Russia's strategic nuclear forces and had been conducted from the Plesetsk cosmodrome in the northwestern Arkhangelsk region.
- “Moscow also has serious problems with its RS-28 Sarmat ICBM,” Ukrainian intelligence said, according to a translation, which described it as an “incomplete, crude rocket.” Kyiv said that Russia's missile program was being hampered by Western sanctions imposed since the start of the full-scale invasion which have impacted its ability to access the technology and components it requires.

SOURCE 9: [Bulava: Russia's new nuclear submarine tests intercontinental missile](#)

- The alleged launch comes days after Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the withdrawal of the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Signed in 1996, the treaty never came into force since eight specific nations, including the US, did not ratify the treaty. Russia has now claimed that revoking its ratification aligns it with the US.
 - Earlier this year, Russia also suspended its participation in the New START Treaty, a nuclear arms control pact between Moscow and Washington and the last of its kind
 - Under Vladimir Putin, Russia has continued to build its weapons capability and developed hypersonic missiles, even as the US has struggled. On the nuclear front, Russia has built nuclear submarines under the 955 Borei project. The Emperor Alexander III is the seventh such submarine in the fleet and the fourth of the modernized variant.
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SOURCE 10: [Russia says it test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile from a new nuclear submarine](#)

SOURCE 11: [Russia's New Nuclear Submarine Test Launches Intercontinental Missile](#)

- "Firing a ballistic missile is the final element of state tests, after which a decision will be made to accept the cruiser into the Navy," the defense ministry said in a statement on the Telegram messaging app.

SOURCE 12: [Russia Flexes New Nuclear Submarine Emperor Alexander III With Successful Ballistic Missile Launch - Benzinga](#)

- the US had warned about Russia's potential use of tactical nuclear weapons earlier, a claim that Russia had dismissed as 'absurd and cheap rhetoric'

SOURCE 13: [VIDEO | Russian nuclear submarine successfully tests intercontinental missile - Baltic News Network](#)

- Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in an interview on Sunday that Russia's relations with the US were currently "at zero – or should I say below zero". However, he added that President Putin has expressed his readiness to establish contact between Russia and the US

SOURCE 14: [NATO freezes a Cold War-era security pact after Russia pulls out, raising questions on arms control | AP News](#)

- Russia pulled out of the Treaty of Conventional Armed Forces in Europe
 - Shortly after, NATO member countries froze their participation in the pact
-

U.S. Sends ATACMS Missiles to Ukraine

BLUF

- The United States has sent Ukraine missiles to aid them in the war with Russia. Ukraine has full authority over the missiles, and even though they have vowed not to use the rockets on Russian territory, that possibility should still be a concern for the United States.

Analysis

- Up until this point, the Biden Administration has been reluctant to send certain military aid to Ukraine. Biden sends ATACMS and F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine in order to aid their war with Ukraine. The Biden administration has changed their stance on providing weapons to Ukraine, and has since provided approval for the exportation of anti-aircraft missiles, Howitzer artillery pieces, anti-ship missiles, and HIMARS systems.
- On October 17th, the United States remarked that they had sent ATACM missiles to Ukraine and that Ukraine had received them. The United States reportedly sent around 20 missiles to Ukraine; these missiles must have the standard capability of America's highly functioning ATACM missiles, typically 180 miles. Since the United States is concerned about the possibility of Ukraine Using these missiles against Russians on Russian territory, Ukraine has vowed not to use them against Russia to attack but to protect against the Russians invading Ukrainian territory.
- The United States sent five different kinds of missiles to Ukraine, including M39 Block I, M39A1 Block IA, M48 Quick Reaction Unitary, M57 TACMS 2000 Unitary, M57A1 TACMS Height-of-Burst Unitary; all these different kinds of missiles are high. The United States has sent 200 million dollars in support to Ukraine.
- Ukraine has reportedly said that these missiles will significantly help their ongoing war with Russia; in the war, the United States has tried to support Ukraine while still not making them an official ally.
- Conclusion: the United States has sent Ukraine missiles to aid them in the war with Russia. Ukraine now has full authority over the missiles, and even though they have vowed not to use the rockets on Russian territory, it should still be a concern to the United States that they will not follow through with their word.

ATACMS Figures:

M39 Block I

- Range: 25-165 km
- Payload: 950 APAM bomblets
- Guidance: Inertial

M39A1 Block IA

- Range: 70-300 km
 - Payload: 300 APAM bomblets
-

- Guidance: Inertial with Global Positioning System (GPS) aided

M48 Quick Reaction Unitary

- Range: 70-300 km
- Payload: Unitary Warhead
- Guidance: Inertial with GPS aided

M57 TACMS 2000 Unitary

- Range: 70-300 km
- Payload: Unitary Warhead
- Guidance: Inertial with GPS aided

M57A1 TACMS Height-of-Burst Unitary

- Range: 70-300 km
- Payload: Unitary Warhead
- Sensor: Proximity sensor for height-of-burst capability
- Guidance: Inertial with GPS aided

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Deepening Sino-South African Relations

BLUF

- **China and South African relations have deepened in recent years, causing the U.S. to be concerned about losing a strategic partner in Africa.**

Analysis

- Relations between China and South Africa have deepened over the years, while continuing to support each other. South Africa, being both part of BRICS and the BRI (Belt and Road Initiative), has given China large amounts of Educational, Humanitarian, Military, and informational support. In return, China has given South Africa technological and energy aid. China also has roughly three ports for export and import shipments.
 - Over the years, China has been exporting \$20.5B to South Africa. The main products that China exported to South Africa are Broadcasting Equipment (\$1.4B), Computers (\$1.18B), and Coated Flat-Rolled Iron (\$504M).
 - During the last 26 years, China's exports to South Africa have increased at an annualized rate of 14.3%, from \$637M in 1995 to \$20.5B in 2021. This statistic was collected from the 2021 trade statistics of China and South Africa. In return, South Africa will send to China raw materials—around 20.6 billion dollars worth of diamond, iron, and gold.
 - China also has majority-stake ownership of three known ports in South Africa, one of which is a deep-water port. China also owns a dock close to a U.S. embassy, which may pose a strategic threat to the U.S. as China may use this to gather intelligence from the U.S.
 - The map below shows the overview of these ports, major cities, U.S. embassies, and Chinese embassies in the country.
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- Based on the Map above, Chinese owned embassies are in close proximity to major cities as well as the U.S embassy posted in Durban. This point poses a strategic threat to the U.S. since China can gather U.S. intelligence. We used a DIME model to go further in our analysis. This model shows the relations between China and South Africa.

<p>Diplomatic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Joined BRICS in 2010 ● Both China and South Africa are members of the G20 ● Diplomatic outreach from China to South Africa ● Meetings between the ANC and the CCP 	<p>Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Three ports are China own ● Chinese Embassies ● Chinese Schools ● many migrants coming from China to South Africa for education ● Increase Chinese population
<p>Military</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Joint military exercises ● China Africa security Peace Form ● South African defense procedures funded by China ● Chinese peacekeeping standby force in Africa ● Chinese peacekeeping police squad 	<p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Military funds ● Trade funds between China and South Africa ● Chinese infrastructure investments and South African natural resource extraction ● Chinese loans to South Africa

Sources

South Africa & China relations

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 - China's Africa policy
 - Chinese presidents and premiers make a point to make trips to Africa as soon as they take office
 - "China-Africa relations are certainly about infrastructure investments and natural resource extraction, but these go hand in hand with investments in people-to-people relations and sustained diplomatic outreach."
 - Chinese gov sponsors a bunch of African visits, trainings, scholarships, etc.
2. [https://www.idsa.in/idsacomments/The-China-Africa-Peace-and-Security-Forum-AMishra-060923#:~:text=The%20forum%20serves%20two%20primary,Global%20Security%20Initiative%20\(GSI\).](https://www.idsa.in/idsacomments/The-China-Africa-Peace-and-Security-Forum-AMishra-060923#:~:text=The%20forum%20serves%20two%20primary,Global%20Security%20Initiative%20(GSI).)
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 - China's "Africa policy" looks to build strong defense networks throughout the country.
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 - The forum follows up on China's pledge to build Africa's defense capacity.
 - "I also wish to announce that China will provide a total of US\$100 million of free military assistance to the African Union in the next five years to support the establishment of the African Standby Force and the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crisis."
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 - China's defense strategy in Africa is significantly different from the United States' strategy in Africa
 - Blending in not only military, but also economics, trade, investments, etc
 - The defense and security forum mirrors another China-Africa forum.
 - Arab states - initiated in 2004

China–Africa Peace and Security Forum

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“The question shouldn’t be what we ought to do, but what we can do” – Rory Stewart
