



- Beyond the Water's Edge -

Honest Candor

'No Limits': Xi's Support For Putin Is Unwavering

TVC Board Member Matt Pottinger with Mathew Johnson & John Pomfret |
Foundation for Defense of Democracies | October 11, 2022

Bottom Line: Despite rumors of his displeasure at Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Xi Jinping likely reaffirmed his unreserved support for Putin at the pair's recent meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. If China's leader has any reservations about Russia's invasion, an educated guess would be that he wants Putin to get the job done faster.

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Waltzing in Beijing, Germany's Olaf Scholz Plays U.S. For a Fool

Tom Rogan | Washington Examiner | November 4, 2022

Bottom Line: The Chancellor's recent trip to China—the first western leader to visit since Xi's ascent to Mao-level political supremacy—signals Berlin's continued deference to Beijing in the name of trade. The U.S. should not allow Germany to have its U.S. security cake while it continues to glut itself at the expense of American interests.

Further Reading: [Scholz Kowtows to Beijing](#)

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Iran's Hard-Liners Are Starting to Crack

TVC Advisory Board Members Reuel Marc Gerecht & Ray Takeyh | Wall Street

Bottom Line: For decades, regime loyalists have united in times of crisis. Now, after a month of protests sparked by the death of a young woman in police custody, it is telling that many Iranian conservatives display little compunction about criticizing the regime.

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Putin Will Think Twice Before Nuking Ukraine

Sorin Adam Matei | National Interest | November 6, 2022

Bottom Line: The facts on the ground militate against Russian nuclear escalation. The scale of the fighting, the inherent limitations of nuclear weapons, and their secondary consequences make it difficult to see what advantage Moscow could gain from nuclear use.

Further Reading: [The Ukraine Dirty Bomb Rhetoric Is Russia's Zaporizhzhia Back-up Plan](#)

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Yes, Banning U.S. Oil Exports is a Horrific Idea

TVC Advisory Board Member Earl G. Matthews | RealClear Energy | November 3, 2022

Bottom Line: The Biden administration has floated the idea of limiting oil exports to curb the price of gas. Such a plan would backfire, causing gas prices to increase for Americans while alienating our global allies and undermining U.S. national security.

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Rising Inflation Forces Greater Attention on Food Insecurity in Africa

Ned Rauch-Mannino | Foreign Policy Research Institute | November 3, 2022

Bottom Line: Global economic trends—exacerbated by weather, violence, COVID-19, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine—are threatening food security in Africa. Expect food shortages to magnify conflict & violence in addition to sparking famine & malnutrition.

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