

## Weekly Top 10

**WASHINGTON, D.C. January 9, 2022**

**TO: NCSEJ Leadership and Interested Parties**

**FROM: James Schiller, Chairman;  
Mark B. Levin, Executive Vice-Chairman & CEO**

Dear Friend,

Below is the Weekly Top 10.

Sincerely,

Mark B. Levin  
NCSEJ Executive Vice-Chairman & CEO

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## **NCSEJ WEEKLY TOP 10 Washington, D.C. January 9, 2021**

### **How Kazakhstan could shift Putin's calculus on Ukraine**

**John E. Herbst**

**New Atlanticist | January 6, 2022**

The crisis in the Central Asian former Soviet republic fuses geopolitical issues across Eurasia, from Moscow's efforts to cow the West and subjugate Ukraine to its delicate relationship with China—and the implications are enormous. It's a happy surprise that this region has been largely stable since the end of the Tajik civil war in the late 1990s. It has proved to be a buffer for major players Russia, China, and India, as well as lesser but still important powers such as Pakistan and Iran. But the instability in Kazakhstan offers opportunities for these states to enhance their position in Central Asia, and they are seizing them

**[Read the full article here](#)**

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### **Charting Kazakhs' Discontent: The Unrest In Numbers**

**Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty | January 7, 2022**

Data from the Oxus Society for Central Asian Affairs shows protest activity has been rising in the region since 2018, including Kazakhstan, where the government is using deadly force to quell a nationwide wave of demonstrations that was triggered by an increase in fuel prices.

## **Protests On The Rise**

Discontent has been rising in Kazakhstan: the total number of documented protests in the country was more than six times higher in 2019 than 2018, and then almost doubled in 2020, partly due to the pandemic: 112 protests related to Covid-19 were documented from the beginning of the pandemic through June 2021.

[\*\*Read the full article here.\*\*](#)

## **Russia Warns That U.S. Doesn't Understand Its Goals on Ukraine**

**Anton Troianovski and David E. Sanger**  
**The New York Times | January 9, 2022**

Russian and American officials appeared pessimistic on Sunday that high-stakes negotiations would close the widening gulf between Moscow and the West, with a senior Russian official warning that the United States had a “lack of understanding” of the Kremlin’s security demands, and the United States voicing doubts over whether Russia was “serious” about de-escalating the Ukraine crisis.

The comments by Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei A. Ryabkov maintained the hard-line rhetoric that some analysts and Western officials see as a possible prelude to new Russian military action against Ukraine, and seemed to lower expectations just hours before he opened the session with a private dinner in a residential building on the Geneva lakefront with Wendy Sherman, the deputy secretary of state.

[\*\*Read the full article here.\*\*](#)

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## **Left Out of High-Level Talks, Ukraine Tries Other Diplomatic Channels**

**Andrew E. Kramer**  
**The New York Times | January 9, 2022**

Peace negotiations are usually thought to involve two sides brought together by a mediator trying to tease out possible compromises, far from the anger and destruction of the battlefield.

But talks starting in Geneva Monday on the eight-year-old war in Ukraine are different. The conflict — and an overtly threatened Russian invasion that the talks are intended to forestall — is in Ukraine. But Ukraine will be missing from two of the three negotiating sessions scheduled for this week.

Such a limited role for Ukraine in the talks has clearly unnerved the government in Kyiv. Fearing the talks will yield little or nothing, and with President Biden’s statement that the United States will not intervene militarily if Russia invades, Ukraine has quietly pursued its own negotiating track with Moscow.

[\*\*Read the full article here.\*\*](#)

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## **Nearly 6,000 Detained Amid Unrest in Kazakhstan**

**Ivan Nechepurenko**  
**The New York Times | January 9, 2022**

At least 5,800 people have been detained and more than 2,000 injured during several days of violence last week in Kazakhstan, government officials said on Sunday, after protests ignited by a fuel price hike set off a political crisis and prompted the president to seek help from a Russia-led security alliance to restore order.

The protests, which started last weekend in western Kazakhstan and

spread thousands of miles east, also left the country's most populous city, Almaty, in disarray.

On Sunday, government officials said that the chaos had been "gradually stabilizing," and that thousands of people had been swept up in an "anti-terrorist" operation.

[\*\*Read the full article here.\*\*](#)

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## **Europe's Far Right Joins Russia and China Backing Bosnia's Serb Secessionists**

**Hikmet Karcic**

**Haaretz | January 9, 2022**

Thirty years later, Milorad Dodik, the Bosnian Serb member of the country's tripartite presidency, is calling for the secession of the country's Bosnian Serb entity, Republika Srpska.

Over the last decade, Dodik has become widely known for his anti-Bosniak rhetoric, genocide denial, and political posturing. Backed by Serbia and with support from the Russian Federation, Dodik has been able to position himself as a key destabilizer in the region. In addition, he has cultivated increasingly close ties to far-right nativist leaders in Europe.

In recent months, Dodik's threatening and hateful rhetoric have intensified, resulting in the worst political crisis in the country since of the end of the war.

[\*\*Read the full article here.\*\*](#)

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## **The Consequences Of Inviting Russian-Led CSTO Troops Into Kazakhstan**

**Bruce Pannier**

**Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty | January 9, 2022**

Sparked by a small protest over a fuel price increase in the western oil town of Zhanaozen a few days earlier, angry crowds flooded the streets and squares of Kazakhstan's major towns and cities on January 5, shouting their discontent with the authoritarian government's domestic policies.

Alarmed by the scale of the demonstrations, President Qasym-Zhomart Toqaev quickly ordered fuel prices to be lowered, special commissions created to resolve economic problems, and accepted the resignation of his government.

But the protests only intensified and Toqaev decided to change his narrative of the unfolding events.

[\*\*Read the full article here.\*\*](#)

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## **The Cold War Zombie Law That Uses Jews as an Excuse**

**Vladislav Davidzon**

**Tablet | January 6, 2022**

In hindsight, the supposedly peaceful dissolution of the Soviet Union more closely resembles the slow motion fragmentation of the Ottoman Empire than the Hegelian conclusion of history. The recent war between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the attempt by Belarusian strongman Alexander Lukashenko to flood Europe with refugees, and the extended standoff between Moscow and Kyiv are just a few of the most well-known ongoing crises. In the last few days, the president of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, has declared a two-week-long state of emergency and invited Russian-led

peacekeeper forces to intervene in nationwide protests over the price-controlled cost of gas. With years of pent-up anger at the Kazakh state now erupting on the streets, the country that shares a 5,000-mile border with Russia may be in the midst of a full-blown uprising, threatening the system that former President Nursultan Nazarbayev had stewarded since August 1991.

[Read the full article here.](#)

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## **YIVO reunites archives to form ‘largest single remnant of Jewish life’ in Europe**

**PJ Grisar**

**Forward | January 6, 2022**

In 2014, Jonathan Brent discovered something he didn’t know he was missing. Walking into the Wroblewski Library in Vilnius, he saw a long table covered with boxes. Inside were documents belonging to the organization he heads, YIVO, the Institute for Jewish research, which was founded in Vilna and moved its operations to New York in 1940, a year before the Nazi invasion of Lithuania, which saw the destruction of the old YIVO building and much of its holdings.

The Wroblewski Library had held onto the documents since 1948. Brent asked what the archivist was planning to do with them. They were waiting, she said, for YIVO.

Now, after over 80 years, as part of a seven year, \$7 million international project in collaboration with the Wroblenski Library, Lithuanian Central State Archives and National Library of Lithuania, YIVO has reunited and preserved its prewar archives on an accessible online portal. The effort bridges a gap between the institute’s operations in the U.S. and its origins in Eastern Europe, recovering much of what was left behind just before the decimation of European Jewry and making it available digitally in one place.

[Read the full article here.](#)

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