

Geopolitical, International, and Security collected stories, week of 21 April 2014

[Russia, Ukraine] [Russia orders exercises after Ukraine moves on separatists](#) – BBC News..

[China, Environment, Agriculture] [China says one-fifth of its farmland is polluted with toxic metals](#) – Associated Press. (Reuters also reported that amendments to China's environmental protection law were [submitted to the national parliament](#) to address pollution.)

[Israel, Palestine, Negotiations, U.S.] [Palestinian Groups Agree on Unity Government, Officials Say](#) – Bloomberg News. (Israel [suspended peace talks](#) after the announcement of the Hamas-Fatah agreement, the Washington Post reported. And prior to the announcement, the U.S. warned that it would have to [reconsider aid](#) to the Palestinians if such a deal were to occur, Reuters reported.)

[South Sudan, Internal Conflict, U.N., Peacekeeping Operations] [South Sudan: Dozens Dead As Group Opens Fire in U.N. Base](#) – Al Jazeera. (The U.N. stated that recent violence and calls to ethnic violence in South Sudan [greatly increased](#) the severity of the situation, The Guardian reported. Reuters also reported that the U.N. Security Council is [debating sanctions](#) against those associated with the violence.)

[U.S., Japan, Diplomacy, Alliance Relations, Commentary/Analysis] [US-Japan Relations and Obama's Visit to Japan](#) – The Diplomat.

[Mali, France, Kidnapping, NGOs] [French troops free five aid workers kidnapped in Mali](#) – Reuters.

[U.S., Russia, Ukraine, Strategy, Commentary/Analysis] [Obama's long-term approach to Russia uses containment strategy](#) – New York Times.

[China, Vietnam, Borders, Crime] [7 Die in Shooting at China-Vietnam Border](#) – Associated Press.

[U.S., Iran, Sanctions, Negotiations, Nuclear Programs] [US freeing Iran funds as Tehran cuts uranium stockpile](#) – BBC News.

[Mexico, Natural Disasters] [Mexico rattled by 7.2 magnitude earthquake](#) – Reuters/Agence France-Presse.

[Japan, Economy, Trade] [Japan's Trade Deficit Widens as Export Growth Weakens: Economy](#) – Bloomberg News.

[Swaziland, Human Rights, Internal Politics] [Africa's Game of Thrones](#) – The Atlantic.

[Japan, JSDF, Basing, Disputed Territories] [Japan to Station Troops on Yonaguni, Near Disputed Islands](#) – The Diplomat, Flashpoints blog.

[Greece, Economy, Eurozone] [Greek Milestone Helps Europe Put Crisis in Past](#) – Associated Press.

[Brazil. Internet] [Brazilian Congress passes Internet bill of rights](#) – Reuters.

[Nigeria, Boko Haram, Terrorism, Kidnapping] [Boko Haram leader claims bombing, stays mum on kidnapped schoolgirls](#) – CNN.

[Australia, RAAF, Fighter Aircraft] [Australia Buys 58 More F-35s](#) – DefenseTech.

[Afghanistan, Economy, Foreign Aid] [Hole in Afghan budget stirs unease as West starts packing bags](#) – Reuters.

[China, PLA, SAMs, Photos] [Photos of the day: HQ-6D/LY60D airport point-defense SAM](#) – China Defense Blog.

[South Sudan, Leadership, Internal Conflict] [South Sudan President Salva Kiir sacks army chief](#) – BBC News.

[Syrian, Internal Politics, Elections] [Syria calls presidential vote, defying Assad's opponents](#) – Reuters.

[Brazil, Police, Protests] [Easter deaths spark Brazil protests near Rio](#) – BBC News.

[Guinea, Liberia, Infectious Diseases] [Ebola outbreak: Death toll rises to over 140 in Liberia, Guinea](#) – CNN.

[U.S., Egypt, Arms Transfers, Helicopters] [U.S. to deliver Apache helicopters to Egypt, relaxing hold on aid](#) – Reuters.

[Ukraine, Russia, Journalists] [Putin's Men in Ukraine Seize U.S. Journalist](#) – The Daily Beast.

[U.S., DARPA, Logistics] [U.S. to Test Seabed Resupply Systems by 2016](#) – DefenseTech.

[China, Submarines, Surveillance] [China Has Begun Listening for American Submarines](#) – War Is Boring.

[Venezuela, Protests] [Venezuela unrest: Fresh violence erupts in Caracas](#) – BBC News.

[U.K., Education] [English Universities Losing International Students](#) – Chronicle of Higher Education.

[Peru, Natural Disasters] [Peru evacuates Ubina volcano area after ash cloud](#) – BBC News.

[South Korea, Maritime, Internal Politics] [South Korea ferry disaster: New arrests](#) – BBC News.

[Syrian Civil War, U.N., Chemical Weapons] [UN seeks probe of alleged chlorine gas in Syria](#) – Associated Press.

[U.S., Space Exploration] [NASA robotic spacecraft ends mission with crash into the moon](#) – Reuters.

[China, Japan, Legal, Maritime] [China Court Frees Japanese Ship After Unprecedented Seizure](#) – Bloomberg News.

[Russia, Russian Military, Ukraine, Commentary/Analysis] [Russia Displays a New Military Prowess in Ukraine's East](#) – New York Times.

[Pakistan, Ballistic Missiles, Weapons Tests] [Pakistan's military says it has test-fired nuclear-capable short-range missile](#) – Associated Press.

[Russia, Social Media, Internal Politics] [CEO of "Russian Facebook" Says He Was Fired And That The Social Network Is Now In The Hands Of Putin Allies](#) – BuzzFeed.

[Chemical Weapons, Baltic Sea, Environment] [The ticking time-bomb at the bottom of the Baltic Sea](#) – The Economist, Eastern Approaches blog.

[Japan, Commercial Aviation, VIP Security, U.S.] [Japan airport staff dash to replace passcodes after security cock-up](#) – The Register.

[Russia, Ukraine, Crimea Crisis, Ethnic Minorities] [Russia bans Tatar leader from Crimea after Putin signs decree](#) – Agence France-Presse.

[Sweden, Defense Spending, Russia] [Sweden to beef up air force to counter Russia](#) – The Local.se.

[Turkey, Armenia, History] [Turkey Calls WWI Armenian Killings 'Shared Pain'](#) - Associated Press.

[North Korea, Nuclear Programs, Unconfirmed] [Activity at North Korea site hints at nuke test preps](#) – Associated Press.

[U.S., Japan, Diplomacy, Disputed Territories] [Obama pledges Japan islands support as Asian tour begins](#) – BBC News.

[U.S. Army, Unmanned Systems, Helicopters] [Sirkorski Demonstrates Unmanned Black Hawk](#) – DefenseTech.

[Afghanistan, Medical Facilities, U.S.] [3 American doctors shot dead at Afghan hospital](#) – USA Today.

[U.S. Navy, Unmanned Systems, Institutional Culture, Commentary/Analysis] [Unman Your Battle Stations!](#) – Cmdr. (ret.) Michael J. Dobbs in *U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings*.