

Reflagging Ships Could Be the Answer to Russia's Blockade of Black Sea Ports

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Capt. Garrett I. Campbell (Ret.) directed the U.S. Navy's Staff OPNAV N5 Russia Strategy, Policy, and Engagement Branch, and served as a federal executive fellow at the Brookings Institution.



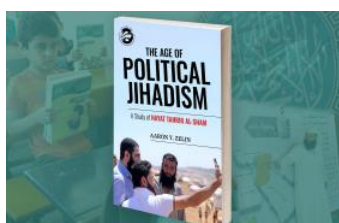
Articles & Testimony

Such an option could limit the risk of escalation, pressure Russia, and help avert a humanitarian crisis in the Middle East.

Russian President [Vladimir Putin \(/people/vladimir-putin/\)](#) continues his war on Ukraine. Russia is now blockading Ukraine's Black Sea ports, which prevents upwards of [25 million tons \(/url.emailprotection.link/?budXaHR8Q6McA4TZKAHnYmZJBqQWvnlaC6J6VC8kBEDdtVzOa3sm92rzSAst2s2PaO7_J0NF8crpoeRyWLO9JDn1dQyFP62WS6MMG_W9ZpDulWS6D-cRsaRRqbhtWiIORDw3dgRg7khZDAjhzR6c9d3663CjkKwgxgk43xBSxPo8~\)](#) of grain and other agricultural goods from delivery to international markets. Left unchecked, this will likely create a [food \(/url.emailprotection.link/?bZsaYcZnM4wogookJODyR6wSBzqLxd_e9BK3Kg8otN_aL7UEQifitOmNqc1JsiM_8oIEStHLR3YvX-u_FM30RKXxwKLRNNwGluvouXT5aJyc42v0vOpqjiaDEP_t8tPAGQWy_nEnc_nwKjLt-cGaUaUBLspZyEdsHfuiWts04PM~\) crisis \(/url.emailprotection.link/?bfQkcsZPZY2VVEiTiuDXEdQCMenB0IWIRvJH40s51OQTZDIVAhC25FBIJ9NWGeFO-Cfyv11sMohq9bONSVveQh3S8zlbGk6jLEDnJwY45S3uY6A-m3Fj9hOg3_TtG5C64fyAizpjm6f05ShUWP2SajdEeAK2moSwLwhvNK8M_MY~\)](#) due to severe shortages in parts of the Middle East and Africa, which may result in civil conflicts and large-scale migration into Europe. The Russian blockade requires an international response, supported by the U.S. and NATO, that minimizes escalation risk. Reflagging of international merchant vessels could be the answer...

[Read the full article on the Hill website. \(/url.emailprotection.link/?bfQkcsZPZY2VVEiTiuDXEdQCMenB0IWIRvJH40s51OQTZDIVAhC25FBIJ9NWGeFO-Cfyv11sMohq9bONSVveQh3S8zlbGk6jLEDnJwY45S3uY6A-m3Fj9hOg3_TtG5C64fyAizpjm6f05ShUWP2SajdEeAK2moSwLwhvNK8M_MY~\)](#)

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Matthew Levitt,
Anastasia Smith,
Aaron Y. Zelin

[\(/policy-analysis/al-qaeda-hayat-tahrir-al-sham-and-future-jihadism\)](#)



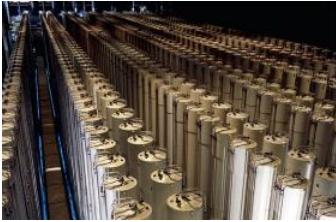
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June 6, 2022, starting at 1:00 p.m. EDT (1700 GMT)

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Jennifer Gavito,
Qubad Talabani,
Bilal Wahab

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Jun 2, 2022

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