

## Weekly Top 10

**WASHINGTON, D.C. September 6, 2019**

**TO: NCSEJ Leadership and Interested Parties**

**FROM: Daniel Rubin, Chairman;  
Aleksander Smukler, President;  
Mark B. Levin, Executive Vice-Chairman & CEO**

Dear Friend,

Sincerely,



Mark B. Levin  
NCSEJ Executive Vice-Chairman & CEO

### **NCSEJ WEEKLY TOP 10** **Washington, D.C. September 6, 2019**

**Pence Asserts U.S. Support for Poland at Ceremony Marking Start of World War II** By Drew Hinshaw and Catherine Lucey  
**Wall Street Journal, 1 September 2019**

WARSAW—Poland commemorated the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II in a solemn ceremony in which Vice President Mike Pence asserted continued U.S. support for what the Trump administration has come to view as a reliable security ally.

[Read the full article here.](#)

**Maimonides' Mishneh Torah translated into Russian**  
**Cnaan Lipshitz**  
**JTA, 2 September 2019**

(JTA) — The Mishneh Torah, a 14-volume monumental work on Judaism by the 12th-century philosopher Rabbi Moshe Maimonides, has been translated and published in Russian for the first time.

The Moscow-based Knizhniki Publishing House, which specializes in Jewish subjects, completed the project this summer that has taken eight years and cost about \$1.5 million. It sent out about 3,000 copies of the final volume, “Judges,” according to Rabbi Boruch Gorin, a publisher, journalist and leader of Chabad Russia, who oversaw the translation project.

[Read the full article here.](#)

**The Change of Power in Russia Will Be Very Similar to My Arrest**  
**Yegor Zhukov**  
**The Moscow Times, 3 September 2019**

Yegor Zhukov is a 21-year-old political science student currently awaiting trial for participating in a

protest rally calling for free elections in Moscow in late July. He faces up to 8 years in prison and wrote this letter from pre-trial detention.

On Tuesday, Zhukov was charged with public appeals for extremist activity committed with the use of the internet.

[Read the full article here.](#)

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### **Idealism vs. Reality: Ukraine's New Government Prepares for Challenges**

**Konstantin Skorkin**

**Carnegie Moscow Center, 2 September 2019**

The new Ukrainian government's main problem is the harsh reality awaiting it. The majority of the new ministers—progressive young idealists who have studied at Western universities, founders of successful startups—may not be sufficiently familiar with the conditions of everyday life in the country away from the post-industrial digital economy clusters. A collision with that reality could be a shock, both for the reformers themselves and for Ukrainian society, which is desperate for immediate change.

[Read the full article here.](#)

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### **Serbia to block construction on former concentration camps**

**Cnaan Lipshitz**

**JTA, 2 September 2019**

(JTA) — Serbia's parliament will block plans for construction, including of a shopping mall, on former concentration camps, the country's president said.

President Aleksandar Vucic told Efraim Zuroff, the Eastern Europe Director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, on Thursday in Belgrade that a bill that would make the plans impossible would be passed this year, Zuroff told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

The law would also create a memorial center in Belgrade for tens of thousands of Jews, Serbs and Roma killed by Nazis in World War II.

[Read the full article here.](#)

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### **On Russophobia**

**James Russell**

**The Times of Israel, 5 September 2019**

In the 1930s, as he prepared for Germany's master plan of conquest and annihilation, Hitler built a passenger ship for his "Strength through Joy" program. Jews and other non-desirables had already been stripped of their jobs or worse; other German workers, deprived of the right to unionize and worked to the bone to serve the war machine, were given carefully supervised Kraft durch Freude holidays during which they were further indoctrinated in Nazi ideology and Aryan racial togetherness. It was all very jolly. The ship was to have been christened the Adolf Hitler; but when a young Jew named David Frankfurter assassinated the leader of the Nazi Party in Switzerland, the Führer commanded it be named the Wilhelm Gustloff instead.

[Read the full article here.](#)

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### **So Far, So Good**

**OLEH HAVRYLYSHYN AND BASIL KALYMON**

**The Atlantic Council, 3 September 2019**

Ukraine may not be the poorest country in Europe much longer if the new president can quickly translate his vision into actual policy. The initial indicators of the Zelenskyy administration's economic policies are most encouraging. Administration spokesmen have endorsed many of the directions which we as professional economists believe will be most beneficial to the economy and help integrate Ukraine into global markets. Pursuing neo-liberal reforms, from privatization to land market reform, should bring the country out of its historic isolation within the drab Soviet sphere and permit the country to emerge as a substantive player in Europe. While no overnight miracles should be expected, a steady improvement in economic growth, which has already started to emerge, should permit a conversion toward European standards of living.

[Read the full article here.](#)

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### **Netanyahu to go to Sochi soon for Meeting with Putin**

**Herb Keinon**

**The Jerusalem Post, 4 September 2019**

Russian President Vladimir Putin often seems like a tyrannical Svengali. "Putin's power as Russia's leader is based in fear, mystery, and propaganda," wrote the organizers of PutinCon, a conference for opponents of the president held in New York in 2018, adding, "Putin has wielded violence as the key tool in shaping a system that gives him unrivaled power and wealth, both within Russia and worldwide." He draws on a centuries-old secret-police culture to "keep citizens in check and destabilize foreign adversaries," warns ex-CIA operative John Sipher. He's a "modern day Pablo Escobar," claims the investor Bill Browder, comparing Putin to the murderous Colombian drug lord.

[Read the full article here.](#)

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### About NCSEJ

Founded in 1971, the National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry represents the organized American Jewish community in monitoring and advocating on behalf of the estimated 1.5 million Jews in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, including the 15 successor states of the former Soviet Union.

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