**Everest**

Climbers Are Dying on Mount Everest at an Alarming Rate

The 2023 death toll on Everest has already reached double digits—with multiple people still missing. And the climbing season isn’t over yet.

The 2023 climbing season on [Mount Everest](https://www.outsideonline.com/tag/mount-everest/) has become a chaotic mess in recent days, with multiple reports of deaths, missing climbers, and high-altitude rescues. An estimated 500 people reached the summit in the last week, taking advantage of a [prolonged period of calm weather](https://www.outsideonline.com/outdoor-adventure/everest/mount-everest-summit-bonanza/) and clear skies. Amid the rush to the top, ten climbers have died, making 2023 among the [deadlier years in recent memory](https://www.outsideonline.com/outdoor-adventure/everest/worst-everest-disasters/)—and the season isn’t over yet.

Why Did So Many Climbers Die on Mount Everest This Year?

Some blame the weather, while others point the finger at the economic trends that are shaping Himalayan mountaineering.

In addition to deaths, mountaineers at Everest told me that climbers saw an uptick in cases of frostbite and calls for mid-mountain rescues this year. Some sources blamed this dynamic on the record number of foreign climbing permits issued by Nepal this year—478 foreign climbers received permits, and approximately 600 climbers reached the top.

1. What precautions should be taken to prevent this dangerous trend?
2. Who should be responsible for the precautions – national governments or local authorities in Nepal?

**Turkey**

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan [has won Turkey’s presidential election](https://edition.cnn.com/europe/live-news/turkey-election-runoff-results-intl/index.html), defeating opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu in Sunday’s runoff vote and stretching his rule into a third decade.

Foreign leaders including those of Russia, Qatar, Libya, Algeria, Hungary, Iran and the Palestinian Authority were among the first to congratulate Erdogan.

1. What does his victory mean for Western countries?
2. How can it affect Russia – Ukraine conflict?

**Wagner´s rebellion**

Head of the Wagner mercenary group Yevgeny Prigozhin has recorded an 11-minute audio message after leading Saturday's mutiny

Head of the Wagner mercenary group Yevgeny Prigozhin says his men headed to Moscow to "hold to account" those leaders he blamed for "mistakes" in the Ukraine war

He denied his "march for justice" was aimed at toppling Russian President Vladimir Putin

Prigozhin agreed to leave Russia for Belarus after calling off his troops - his current whereabouts are unknown

Saturday's rebellion was “a challenge to its stability”, according to Russia's prime minister who called for unity

The mutiny was a direct challenge to Russian President Vladimir Putin and has revealed "cracks" in his leadership, the US says

1. What does the mutiny mean for Russia and Putin himself?
2. In which way can it affect war?
3. What role do modern mercenaries play in current armed conflicts?
4. Can they be charged for war crimes?

**Targeted killing**

Targeted killing is a controversial practice. Indeed, it is sometimes referred to as extrajudicial killing, thereby implying it is unlawful. Moreover, targeted killing needs to be distinguished from assassination, a practice that is typically unlawful. Further, the contexts in which targeted killing takes place need to be distinguished, as do the nature of the targets. For example, targeted killing of civilians by police officers is both unlawful and morally impermissible. But what of targeted killing of combatants by combatants in a theatre of war? Surely this is both lawful and permissible. (In May 2011, Osama bin Laden was killed by US Special Forces in Abbottabad, Pakistan. in 2005 Jean Charles de Menezes—an innocent Brazilian student—was mistakenly shot dead by members of a UK counterterrorism squad in a London underground station.)

1. Is it morally and legally justifiable?
2. Does it decrease or increase terrorism?
3. Human rights groups and government watchdog organizations challenge the policy, as a violation of international law, and possibly resulting in the deaths of innocent civilians.

**UK Illegal Migration Bill controversy**

The Illegal Migration Bill was announced on 7 March 2023. It aims to deal with challenges relating to the UK’s asylum process, namely small boat crossings on the English Channel.

The bill, which was not subject to a public consultation, makes the following proposals:

* remove those who enter the UK via unauthorised routes to their home country, or a ‘safe’ third country, such as Rwanda
* block their access to the UK’s modern slavery protections
* disregard in most cases asylum or human rights claims made by asylum seekers
* widen the powers of detention for the purposes of removal, including detention of children
* The government said the policy would also have a deterrent impact.

Counterarguments:

* Concerns that the bill may be incompatible with our international obligations under the European Court of Human Rights and the UN Refugee Convention
* Breaching UK international obligations undermines the rule of law.
* The bill will fundamentally reduce the oversight of UK courts. More cases are likely to end up in Strasbourg, which puts the UK at increased legal liability.
* The bill contains limited safeguards that, coupled with restrictive timescales for appeal, are likely to diminish access to justice for everyone caught by its provisions.

1. Is this policy justifiable?
2. Does it violate several human rights (free movement, residence, access to justice)
3. Should it be adopted across EU? Why yes/not?