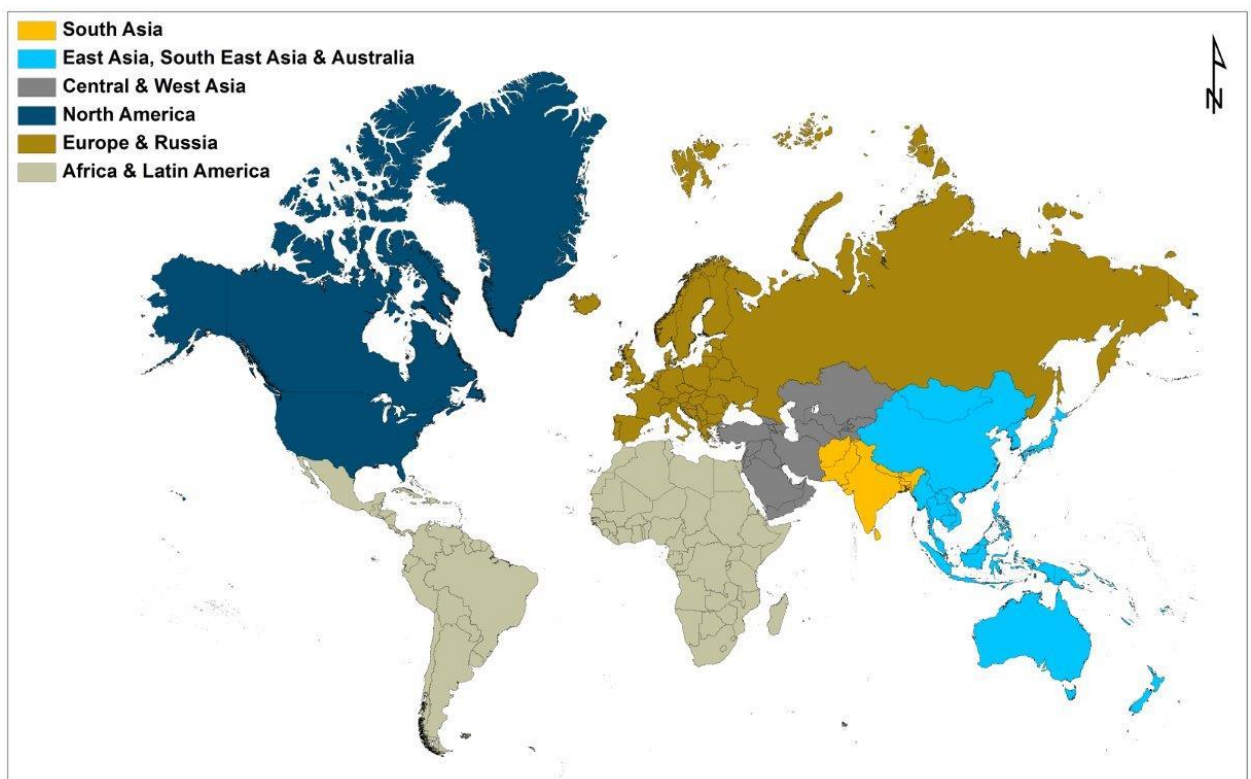




Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume III, Issue 2 | JANUARY 11, 2019



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

Volume 3, Issue 2

ABOUT US

Founded in 1994, the Delhi Policy Group is among India's oldest independent think tanks with its primary focus on international and strategic issues of critical national interest. Over the past decades, the Delhi Policy Group has established itself in both domestic and international circles, particularly in the area of national security.

In keeping with India's increasing global profile as a leading power and the accompanying dynamism of India's foreign and security policy, the Delhi Policy Group has expanded its focus areas to include India's broader regional and global role; India's initiatives to strengthen its strategic periphery; India's political, security and connectivity challenges and policies across the Indo-Pacific; and the strategic partnerships that advance India's rise. To support these goals, the DPG undertakes research, publishes policy reports and organises conferences on strategic and geo-political, geo-economic, and defence and security issues.

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[India raises 5 points to prove Imran govt is trying to mainstream terror](#)

Jan 11, 2019, The Times of India

With Pakistan PM Imran Khan stating that it is India which has blocked engagement between the two countries, the Indian government has highlighted how reality is to the contrary.

[US envoy for Taliban talks in Delhi](#)

09 Jan, 2019, Economic Times

Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad is leading an interagency delegation to India, China, Afghanistan, and Pakistan from January 8 – 21.

[India all set to take over ops in Myanmar's Sittwe Port](#)

Jan 9, 2019, The Economic Times

After Chabahar Port in Iran India is all set to take over operations of Myanmar's Sittwe Port.

[Raja Mandala: The centre moves east](#)

Jan 8, 2019, The Indian Express

In focusing on the scale of Sheikh Hasina's victory in the general election a few days ago and the allegations of rigging by her opponents in Bangladesh, it is easy to miss the significant structural change unfolding in Bangladesh and its long-term implications.

[Southeast Asia wary of China's Belt and Road project, sceptical of US](#)

Jan 6, 2019, The Times of India

Southeast Asian countries should be cautious in negotiating with China on its flagship Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to avoid being trapped in unsustainable debt, 70 % of respondents said in a policy released.

[Modi, Trump agree to further strengthen India-US ties](#)

Jan 08, 2019, The Economic Times

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, Modi and Trump exchanged New Year greetings in a telephonic conversation. "They expressed satisfaction at the progress in India-US strategic partnership in 2018".

[Some macroeconomic musings for 2019](#)

Jan 9, 2019, Business Standard

Some key economic issues for 2019 unfolds in the coming dozen months. There are economic and political developments about which we have little inkling at present.

Pakistan

[Military test fires newly-inducted air defence weapon system](#)

Jan 11, 2019, DAWN

Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa said induction of long-range air defence weapon system LY80 has greatly enhanced the capability of the military's air defence arm.

[Foreign debt, declining reserves pose major challenges](#)

Jan 11, 2019, The Express Tribune

Moody's – one of the three main global credit rating agencies –anticipates that Pakistan would continue to fight tough against larger economic challenges such as repaying mounting foreign debt amid rapidly declining foreign currency reserves during 2019.

[Pakistan Govt claims success against trade deficit](#)

Jan 11, 2019, DAWN

Pakistan's trade deficit fell sharply by 15 per cent in the month of December 2018 compared to November, driven largely by decline in fuel imports and machinery.

[Pakistan Govt still in talks with IMF: Asad Umar](#)

Jan 10, 2019 The Express Tribune

Federal Minister for Finance Asad Umar said that the government was still negotiating the bailout package with the International Monetary Fund and as soon as any suitable programme for the betterment of the economy finalised, the agreement with the fund would be signed.

[US, Pakistan need to be honest about differences: senator](#)

Jan 11, 2019, DAWN

Senator Jeanne Shaheen, a member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, pointed out that historically the United States and Pakistan "have been very good friends" but "that relationship has cooled, somewhat in the last few years".

[Endgame in Afghanistan?](#)

Jan 9, 2019, Pakistan Today

Imran Khan does not want Pakistan to be a hired gun. The PM is however willing to become an ally of the US for achieving durable peace in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan

[Karzai meets Indian foreign minister, discusses regional cooperation over Afghan peace](#)

Jan 9, 2019, Afghanistan Times

Former President, Hamid Karzai, met with Indian Minister of External Affairs Ms. Sushma Swaraj, discussing cooperation with the Afghan government's peace process.

[Afghan negotiator in Pakistan to push peace efforts](#)

Jan 9, 2019, Afghanistan Times

Umer Daudzai, head of the High Peace Council's secretariat is in Islamabad for a four-day visit during which he plans to discuss the government's peace process and meet religious scholars.

[Afghanistan Says End to War a 'Dream' Without Taliban Talking to Government](#)

Jan 10, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

Afghan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah said that the Taliban's refusal to involve the government in peace talks means that the end to a conflict that has lasted 17 years can only remain a dream.

[Key Taliban leader 'surrenders'](#)

Jan 9, 2019, Afghanistan Times

A prominent leader of the Taliban has surrendered to security forces in Afghanistan's northern province of Jawzjan, the military said.

[Afghanistan's Governance Challenges](#)

Jan 10, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

Governance has been defined as the provision of the political, social and economic goods that a citizen has the right to expect from his or her state, and that a state has the responsibility to deliver to its citizens. This seems to be a challenge in Afghanistan today.

Bangladesh

[Change of style or substance?](#)

Jan 11, 2019, The Daily Star

With at least 27 new faces and only a few septuagenarians around, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was greeted on her re-election to a record fourth term at Gono Bhaban.

[Election sets precedent worse than 2014](#)

Jan 8, 2019, Prothom Alo

An alternative perspective on Bangladeshi elections.

[How did Rohingyas get Bangladeshi passports?](#)

Jan 11, 2019, The Daily Star

Dozens of stateless Rohingya individuals are being deported to Bangladesh from Saudi Arabia. A question is being raised as to how they got their passports.

[What is the Chinese dream?](#)

Jan 10, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

A take on the Chinese dream, or relevant to Bangladesh.

Nepal

[Gyawali, Swaraj review bilateral projects](#)

Jan 11, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Visiting Nepali Minister of Foreign Affairs Pradeep Kumar Gyawali held a meeting with the Minister of External Affairs of India Sushma Swaraj to review bilateral projects.

[Japanese Foreign Minister calls on President](#)

Jan 10, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono, visiting Nepal, paid a courtesy call on President Bidya Devi Bhandari at the Office of the President in Shital Niwas.

[Nepal, France stress rule-based international order, multilateralism](#)

Jan 10, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Nepal and France held bilateral consultations in Kathmandu in which the two sides discussed bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.

[Nepal, India agree to hold joint committee meeting soon](#)

Jan 11, 2019, The Kathmandu Post

Nepal and India have agreed to convene the fifth meeting of the Joint Commission at Foreign Minister level in Kathmandu to resolve outstanding bilateral issues.

[Nepal's silent emergency: springs going dry](#)

Jan 4, 2019, Nepali Times

Nepal's emission of greenhouse gases maybe small, but its annual growth rate is already the highest in South Asia.

Bhutan

[Govt. to Amend Immigration Rules To Allow Foreign Domestic Workers](#)

Jan 8, 2019, Business Bhutan

Home and Cultural Affairs minister says the government will initiate the recruitment of foreign domestic workers as long as it does not pose a threat to the security and sovereignty of the country.

[Four Points Along Indo-Bhutan Border Included For Bhutanese Export](#)

Jan 8, 2019, Business Bhutan

Much to the relief of Bhutanese exporters, India has now officially included four border entry points as legal entry points for Bhutanese agro products.

[Modest Growth Of 5.1% Projected For Bhutan's 12th Five Year Plan](#)

Jan 9, 2019, Daily Bhutan

According to the current assessment of Bhutan's baseline growth forecast, a modest growth of 5.4 percent in the medium term and 5.1 percent on an average for the 12th Five Year Plan (FYP) has been projected.

Sri Lanka

[Foreign Reserves Dropped By USD 1bn](#)

Jan 11, 2019, Daily News

Foreign Reserves depleted by USD 1 billion within the 51-day political crisis completely upsetting the debt management plans of the country, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said.

[Govt. to obtain USD 1.9 bn to stabilise rupee: PM](#)

Jan 19, 2019, Daily Mirror

Outlining the steps government intends to take to stabilise the rupee, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe announced a plan to obtain US dollars 1.9 billion from international sources.

[Prez wants inquiry on violating Immigration Act](#)

Jan 10, 2019, Daily Mirror

President Maithripala Sirisena had ordered the Defense Ministry to enquire into an alleged violation of the Emigration and Immigration Act by a private jet, a team of foreign investors and a provincial governor who lost his job recently.

[Can Mahinda Rajapaksa reform himself?](#)

Jan 10, 2019, The Island

Mahinda Rajapaksa is currently the most popular politician. He earned his popularity by saving the country from certain destruction and then launching a gigantic development drive throughout the country including war ravaged North and East.

Maldives

[Maldives to shape foreign policy in its 'best interest'](#)

Jan 10, 2019, Avas

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's foreign policy is formulated around the best interest of the country and its people, said Foreign Minister, Abdulla Shahid.

[President Solih expresses gratitude for Chinese assistance](#)

Jan 10, 2019, The Edition

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih expressed gratitude to China for their invaluable aid to Maldives' socio-economic development in the past.

[SAARC Development Fund to launch MSME Funding Scheme in Maldives](#)

Jan 10, 2019, The Edition

SAARC Development Fund (SDF) announced a USD 10 million Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) funding scheme in Maldives.

East & South East Asia

China

[The truth behind China's presence in Djibouti](#)

Jan 10, 2019, Global Times

January 8 marks the 40th anniversary of the beginning of diplomatic relations between China and Djibouti. A closer look at the dynamics of China-Djibouti relations provides insight into how China has influenced the continent.

[Chinese State Councilor meets Afghan president's national security adviser](#)

Jan 11, 2019, Global Times

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Afghan president's national security adviser Hamdullah Mohib in Beijing.

[China, France to launch joint projects under B&R Initiative: ambassador](#)

Jan 11, 2019, Global Times

China and France are expected to jointly launch several projects on infrastructure and ecology in the coming years under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, China Ambassador to France Zhai Jun said.

[China, US hold vice-ministerial level talk on economic, trade issues in Beijing](#)

Jan 10, 2019, Global Times

China and the United States held talks at the vice-ministerial level on economic and trade issues in Beijing, according to a statement from the Ministry of Commerce.

[Xi Jinping, Kim Jong Un hold talks, reaching important consensus](#)

Jan 10, 2019, Global Times

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Chinese president, held talks with Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), who arrived in Beijing.

[China invites foreign diplomats and urges agencies to visit training centers in Xinjiang](#)

Jan 7, 2019, Global Times

China's Foreign Ministry extended its invitation to "any party who abides by China's laws and regulations and does not interfere with its internal affairs".

Diplomats from 12 countries visited vocational training centers in Xinjiang upon China's invitation.

[First China-Africa economic, trade expo set for June](#)

Jan 10, 2019, Xinhua

China will hold the first China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo in Changsha, the capital city of Hunan Province from June 18-20.

[China's Hong Kong, Japan set to enhance arbitration cooperation](#)

Jan 9, 2019, Xinhua

The Department of Justice of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government and the Ministry of Justice of Japan signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to strengthen Hong Kong-Japan collaboration on international arbitration and mediation.

[Japan-China ties to usher in new era in 2019: Japanese PM](#)

Jan 1, 2019, Xinhua

Japan will usher in a new era in its ties with China in the new year among others, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said in his New Year speech.

[China says willing to enhance coordination with India on int'l affairs](#)

Jan 4, 2019, Xinhua

China stands ready to work with India to enhance communication and coordination on international affairs, to jointly safeguard the overall interests of the two countries and developing countries around the world, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said.

Japan

[Japan, India to hold security dialogue this year](#)

Jan 8, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

Foreign Minister Taro Kono and his Indian counterpart, Sushma Swaraj, agreed that the two countries will hold a ministerial security meeting at an early date this year.

[Japan and the world do not want a no-deal Brexit, Abe says after meeting British PM Theresa May](#)

Jan 11, 2019, The Japan Times

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that the world did not want to see a disorderly Brexit and that he fully supported British Prime Minister Theresa May's withdrawal deal from the European Union that is now facing defeat in Parliament.

[Japan-Britain eye cooperation in overseas development projects](#)

Jan 9, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

Japan and Britain will establish a framework in which Japanese and British firms will cooperate to develop infrastructure in other countries, including in Africa, according to sources. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is expected to reach an agreement with British Prime Minister Theresa May during his two-day visit to the country.

[Japan fires back after South Korea's Moon urges Tokyo to take a 'humble stance' on wartime labor issue](#)

Jan 11, 2019, The Japan Times

The government rebutted South Korean President Moon Jae-in's accusation over Tokyo's response to Seoul's top court rulings on wartime labor involving Japanese companies.

[Russia says Japan distorting Nov. accord](#)

Jan 11, 2019, The Japan Times

Russia protested that Japan is distorting the essence of an agreement between the two countries' leaders in November to accelerate their territorial talks.

[Moon says Japan 'politicizing issues'](#)

Jan 11, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, in his New Year's press conference, claimed Japanese politicians are politicizing history issues between the two countries.

[Japan 'close to deal' to buy island for U.S. training site](#)

Jan. 9, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

The government is close to signing a purchase contract with the owner of Mageshima island in Kagoshima Prefecture, a candidate proposed site for field carrier landing practice (FCLP) for U.S. carrier-based aircraft, it has been learned.

Korea

[Vietnam and Singapore shortlisted for NK-US summit](#)

Jan 11, 2019, The Korea Herald

Vietnam and Singapore are likely to be shortlisted to host a second summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and the US President Donald Trump, DPRK Foreign Affairs Ministry officials said on condition of anonymity.

[Korea voices 'deep regrets' over Tokyo official's criticism of Moon amid forced labor dispute](#)

Jan 11, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korea's foreign ministry expressed "deep regrets" over a senior Japanese official's criticism of President Moon Jae-in's remarks this week regarding an escalating diplomatic dispute over Japan's wartime forced labor.

[Top diplomats of S. Korea, Japan agree to pursue future-oriented ties amid radar spat](#)

Jan 4, 2019, The Korea Herald

The top diplomats of South Korea and Japan agreed to pursue the "future-oriented" development of bilateral relations during their phone conversation, Seoul's foreign ministry said amid an escalating spat involving military radar.

Southeast Asia

[Proof needed before Malaysia investigates China-1MDB reports, Mahathir says](#)

Jan 10, 2019, South China Morning Post

The Prime Minister has questioned a recent article claiming Beijing offered to derail investigations into the sovereign wealth fund in exchange for the approval of projects linked to the belt and road plan.

[Chinese warships dock in Cambodia amid rumours Beijing is building a new naval base there](#)

Jan 10, 2019, South China Morning Post

China has pumped billions into Cambodia while seeking high-profile military exchanges, fuelling speculation it is building a naval base off the coast.

[US-China trade war divides Southeast Asia, Belt and Road fears unite it: survey](#)

Jan 9, 2019, South China Morning Post

The region's economy is a cause of optimism for most experts, a survey has found, even if there's little confidence in trade deals such as the CPTPP.

[Southeast Asia has major doubts about US reliability in the region, but still wary of China: survey](#)

Jan 9, 2019, South China Morning Post

More than 68 per cent of people surveyed lack confidence in the US as a 'strategic partner and provider of regional security'.

[Indonesia wants Asean to be axis of Indo-Pacific strategy](#)

Jan 10, 2019, The Straits Times

Indonesia wants to work with other ASEAN countries to strengthen the regional architecture under an Indo-Pacific cooperation, Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said in her annual speech.

[US-China trade war is good for Indonesia: Indonesian V-P](#)

Jan 8, 2019, The Straits Times

The US-China trade war is beneficial to Indonesia as it could lead to a shift in production to other countries in the region, according to Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla.

[New Malaysia King can assume duties immediately after swearing-in on Jan 31](#)

Jan 8, 2019, The Straits Times

The new King will take his oath of office on Jan 31, allowing him to carry out the duties of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong soon after, says the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal.

Central & West Asia

[Iranian ambassador: India eyes to develop co-op in Chabahar port](#)

Jan 10, 2019, Azer News

India intends to develop cooperation in Iran's Chabahar port, Iran's ambassador to India Ali Chegini said.

[Egypt-India trade exchange falls 2.1% in first 9 months of 2018](#)

Jan 9, 2019, Amwal Al Ghad

Trade exchange between Egypt and India dropped 2.1 percent to about \$2.412 billion during the first nine months of 2018 from \$2.462 billion in 2017.

[Central Asian, Indian, Afghan FMs to meet in Uzbekistan](#)

Jan 10, 2019, Azer News

The first meeting of the foreign ministers of the India-Central Asia dialogue with the participation of Afghanistan will be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on January 12-13.

[Uzbekistan, Pakistan discuss inter-parliamentary co-op](#)

Jan 10, 2019, Azer News

Uzbek Ambassador to Pakistan Furqat Sidikov and head of the Parliamentary Friendship Group with Uzbekistan, Senator Hidayat Ullah, have discussed cooperation in agriculture, trade, investment, logistics and culture.

[Kyrgyzstan rises by 15 positions in Forbes rating on attractiveness for business](#)

Jan 10, 2019, Azer News

Over the past two years, Kyrgyzstan has improved its position in the rating of the Forbes magazine in its attractiveness for business, having moved from the 123rd place to the 108th position.

[Astana's main development directions for 2019 revealed](#)

Jan 10, 2019, Azer News

Mayor of Kazakhstan's capital Astana Bakhyt Sultanov has announced the main directions of the city's development in 2019.

[Forecasts for Turkmenistan's GDP growth in 2019-2021 revealed](#)

Jan 10, 2019, Azer News

Turkmenistan's real GDP growth in 2019 is expected to stand at 5.6 percent.

[Tajikistan's GDP per capita increases](#)

January 10, 2019, Azer News

Tajikistan's GDP per capita over the last year increased by 725 somoni.

[Turkey to co-op with Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan in several spheres](#)

Jan 9, 2019, Azer News

Turkey will cooperate with Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan in several spheres.

[What three Cairo speeches tell us about US foreign policy](#)

Jan 11, 2019, Al Jazeera

Condoleezza Rice, Barack Obama and Mike Pompeo have all spoken in Cairo to promote their failed Middle East policies.

[Moscow Cancels Haniyeh's Trip to Protest Reconciliation Paralysis](#)

Jan 11, 2019, Asharq Al-Awsat

The Russian Foreign Ministry said that Mikhail Bogdanov, the deputy foreign minister, and senior Hamas official Moussa Abu Marzouk have discussed the latest developments in the Gaza Strip during a phone conversation.

[Israel Believes Russia Will Intervene in Its Elections](#)

Jan 10, 2019, Asharq Al-Awsat

Despite Russia's denial of any involvement in the upcoming Israeli elections, there were several indications for such intervention, adding that Israel's cyber army has fended off several attacks.

[Turkey says will launch Syria attack if US delays troop pullout](#)

Jan 10, 2019, Al Jazeera

Turkey and US remain at loggerheads over the future of Syrian Kurdish forces after Trump's decision to pull out troops.

[Syrian refugees at risk as extreme weather hits Lebanon](#)

Jan 11, 2019, Al Jazeera

According to the UN, 40,000 children's lives are at risk, as Lebanon faces harsh winter storms.

[Qatar and the Legitimate Interests of Iran](#)

Jan 10, 2019, Asharq Al-Awsat

Qatar put the record straight by officially announcing, through its ambassador to Moscow, its position towards the Iranian occupation of Syria, by stating that Iran has "legitimate" interests in Syria and by supporting Tehran's quest to maintain those interests.

United States

[U.S. destroyer sails in disputed South China Sea amid trade talks](#)

07 Jan, 2019, The Economic Times

A U.S. guided-missile destroyer sailed near disputed islands in the South China Sea in what China called a "provocation" as U.S. officials joined talks in Beijing during a truce in a bitter trade war.

[Risch now chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations](#)

09 Jan, 2019, Associated Press

Republican U.S. Sen. Jim Risch of Idaho has been elected chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. The committee has jurisdiction over legislation concerning the conduct of U.S. Foreign policy, including treaties and declarations of war.

[The US is set to lose its crown as the world's most powerful economy, and is unlikely to ever get it back](#)

10 Jan, 2019, Business Insider

According to research released this week by Standard Chartered Bank, China will most likely become the world's biggest economy by some point in 2020, when measured by a combination of purchasing power parity (PPP) exchange rates and nominal GDP. Once it falls behind China, it is unlikely ever to regain the top spot, and by 2030 could also be behind India.

[US defence chief of staff Kevin Sweeney resigns](#)

06 Jan, 2019, RTE

Rear Admiral Sweeney's resignation comes a month after Defence Secretary James Mattis also announced his departure from the department. He is the third senior Pentagon official to step down since President Donald Trump announced that US forces would be withdrawn from Syria.

Europe & Russia

[These 3 Events Will Create a Perfect Storm For Europe In Early 2019](#)

04 Jan, 2019, Forbes

Across Europe, and particularly in the 18-member Eurozone, the economic news is sobering. It's now clear that the credit crunch in emerging markets which has played out over most of this year, plus the slowdown in China, are having negative consequences in Europe. Yet, despite the ongoing trauma of Brexit, the UK is cruising along relatively smoothly—for now.

[UK councils invest £566m in arms firms linked to Yemen war](#)

10 Jan, 2019, The Guardian

More than half a billion pounds of council workers' pension money has been directly invested by local authorities in arms companies implicated in Saudi Arabia's military campaign in Yemen, in which thousands of civilians have been killed.

[Germany and Ireland step up efforts to find Brexit border 'fix'](#)

07 Jan, 2019, The Guardian

Germany's foreign affairs minister is to fly to Dublin for Brexit talks as relations with Ireland intensify in an attempt to find a "fix" that will help Theresa May get the EU withdrawal agreement ratified.

[Recession fears are stalking Germany](#)

08 Jan, 2019, CNN

Europe's largest economy may be in recession for the first time since the region's debt crisis. A shock plunge in industrial output in November suggests Germany may have suffered a second consecutive quarter of economic contraction at the end of 2018.

[Yellow vests: France to crack down on unsanctioned protests](#)

08 Jan, 2019, BBC

French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe has announced plans to punish people who hold unsanctioned protests after seven weeks of anti-government unrest.

[Orban warns immigration will divide EU ahead of parliamentary elections](#)

10 Jan, 2019, Euro News

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban held his first government news conference of 2019, where he drew a distinct line between European ideologies. "There will be two civilisations in the EU," said Orban in Budapest, "One mixed Muslim-Christian in the West, and one traditional European-Christian in Central Europe."

[Turkey Stands By Deal to Buy Russian Missiles, Attack Kurds In Syria](#)

10 Jan, 2019, Radio Free Europe

Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu says Turkey may buy U.S. Patriot missile systems if conditions are right, but insists such a deal would be impossible if Washington forces Ankara to cancel its agreement to purchase S-400 anti-aircraft missiles from Russia.

[Iran plans naval drills with Russia in Caspian Sea](#)

06 Jan, 2019, Reuters

Iran and Russia are preparing to hold joint naval exercises in the Caspian Sea, including rescue and anti-piracy drills, the commander of the Iranian navy was quoted as saying.

Africa & Latin America

[Brazil's President Bolsonaro Considers Opening U.S. Military Base to Counter Russian Influence](#)

07 Jan, 2019, AP

In the interview to the SBT network , Bolsonaro said he is worried about Russia's closeness with Venezuela. "My proximity with the United States is economic, but it could also be strategic," said Bolsonaro, adding the base would be "symbolic" since American military power can reach any part of the globe.

[Brazilian President Bolsonaro Withdraws From U.N. Compact on Migration](#)

09 Jan, 2019, Estadao

The Brazilian government officially informed the UN in New York and Geneva that the country is withdrawing from the Global Migration Pact, signed in December by the government of Michel Temer. In the organization, the speed at which the decision was taken was interpreted as a sign that the new government will promote a turnaround in its relationship with the United Nations.

[The OAS Sends a Powerful Message to Maduro: "You Are not a Legitimate President"](#)

Jan 10, 2019, Panamapost

Colombia, Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Honduras, the United States, Canada, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Panama, Costa Rica, Peru, Guatemala, Paraguay, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, the Bahamas, Ecuador, and Haiti. These are the 19 nations, representing, representing well over 80% of the combined population of the Americas that refused to recognize the legitimacy of Nicolas Maduro's presidency, during a vote at the Organization of American States (OAS).

[Venezuela, Iran and Hezbollah - all hostile to the US - forge closer ties](#)

10 Jan, 2019, Fox News

As Iran and Venezuela become increasingly isolated and sanctioned by the U.S and much of the international community, the two governments are said to be tightening their bond - with the help of Tehran's proxy group, Hezbollah, in the middle of the action.

[Cuba: Armed Forces appoint prime minister to weaken president](#)

07 Jan, 2019, Panamapost

Everything indicates that the inclusion of a prime minister is intended to reduce the power of the president, so any decision is still governed by the council of ministers, who control the economy.

[ONGC Videsh twice lucky in Colombia](#)

05 Jan, 2019, Telegraph India

OVL had earlier discovered commercial oil in the well Mariposa-1 in the block in 2017.

[Algeria stops entry of Syrians through Mali, Niger border](#)

04 Jan, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Algeria has barred all Syrians from entering the country through its southern border with Mali and Niger "to prevent the infiltration of the Syrian opposition factions and armed terrorists", the Algerian interior ministry announced.

[International pressure mounts on DRC](#)

08 Jan, 2019, Africa News

Diplomatic pressure is mounting on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to announce the outcome of December 30 elections to replace its 13 year leader Joseph Kabila.

[Nigeria is on edge with multiple internal security conflicts as it prepares for tense elections](#)

09 Jan, 2019, Quartz Africa

In large parts of central Nigeria, internecine conflicts between nomadic herdsman and farming communities have claimed hundreds of lives this year. These attacks are over competition over land and water, risk spiraling into something larger.



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