

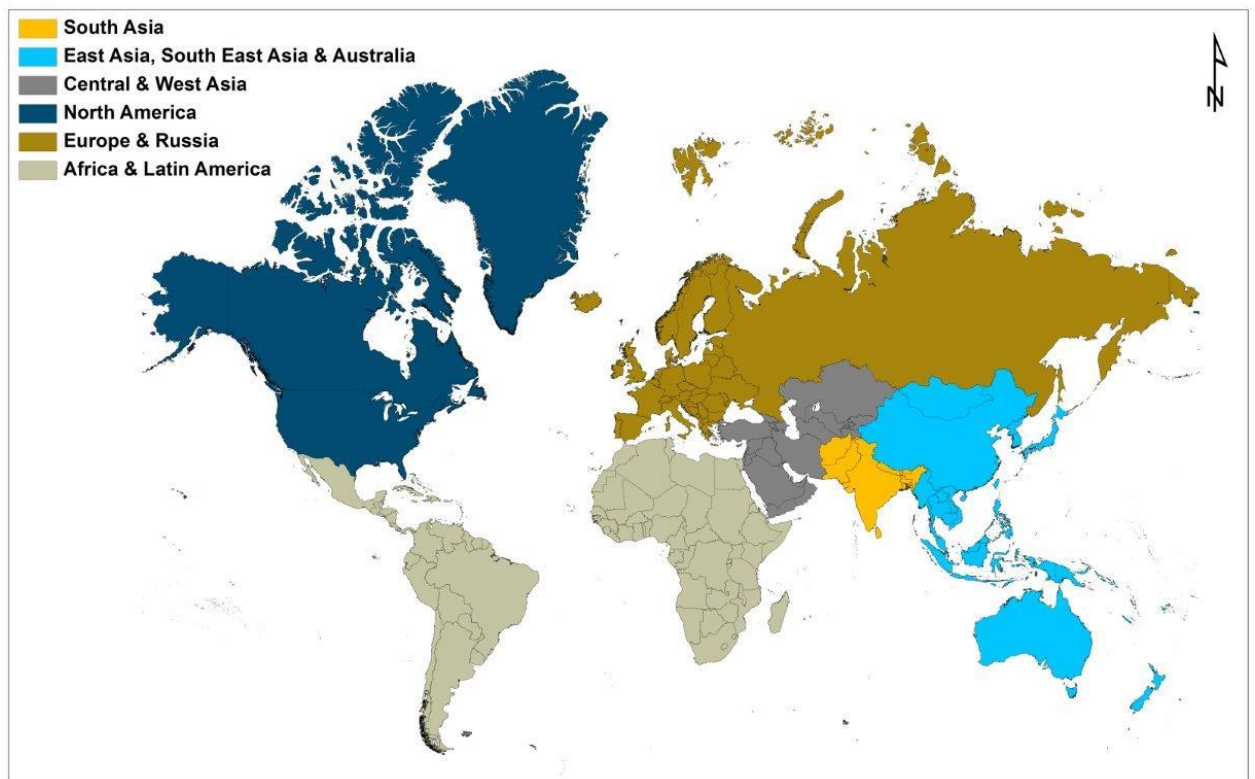


Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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Delhi Policy Group

Core 5A, 1st Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003

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Volume 4, Issue 31

ABOUT US

Founded in 1994, the Delhi Policy Group (DPG) is among India's oldest think tanks with its primary focus on strategic and international issues of critical national interest. DPG is a non-partisan institution and is independently funded by a non-profit Trust. Over past decades, DPG has established itself in both domestic and international circles and is widely recognised today among the top security think tanks of India and of Asia's major powers.

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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

['Disengagement process along LAC not yet complete': India rebuts China](#)

July 30, 2020, Hindustan Times

Just two days after China claimed that frontline border troops have completed the disengagement process in most locations and the situation on the ground is easing, India rebutted it, adding the exercise is not complete yet.

[Pangong and Gogra not yet resolved, Army awaits talks](#)

July 31, 2020, The Indian Express

The standoff at Pangong Tso and Patrolling Point 17A at Gogra, Army sources said, is still to be resolved and is likely to be the focus of the fifth round of talks at the level of the Corps Commander.

[China Warns India Against "Forced Decoupling" Of Their Economies](#)

July 30, 2020, NDTV

The statement came after the Central government's recent moves to ban Chinese applications, even as the de-facto border, the Line of Actual Control, remains tense.

[Eye on China, PM Modi bats for security & growth in IOR during inauguration of Mauritius Supreme Court](#)

July 30, 2020, Times Now

Eye on China, PM Modi batted for security and growth in Indian Ocean Region (IOR) during the inauguration of Mauritius Supreme Court. Addressing a virtual event, PM Modi stressed on 'SAGAR – Security and Growth for All in the Region' and said that Mauritius is at the heart of India's approach to the Indian Ocean Region.

[Defence Ministry proposes ban on weapons that can be 'Made in India': Report](#)

July 29, 2020, Money Control.com

According to the Department of Defence Production, India aims to export defence products worth Rs 15,000 crore in 2020-21.

[India gets Rafale fighter jets from France, boosting its air force](#)

July 30, 2020, CNN

Five French-made jet fighters arrived in India, the first of 36 New Delhi ordered as it moves to upgrade its air force amid a spike in tensions with China.

[Day after Rafales land in India, Pakistan cries disproportionate arms buildup while China hopes for peace](#)

July 31, 2020, India Today

With the arrival of the first batch of Rafale aircraft on Indian soil, Pakistan is terming the acquisition as a 'disproportionate arms buildup' while China has also reacted to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's remarks.

[Not just Rafales: The blockbuster acquisitions that are driving India's military modernisation](#)

July 30, 2020, Times Now

The first batch of Dassault Rafale aircraft completed their 7,000km journey across the world to their new home in the Indian sub-continent, marking a new era of modernisation in the IAF's history. The induction of the five Rafale jets, and the 31 more to arrive in the next few years, is part of a larger drive toward military modernisation that India has embarked upon.

[UN Report Warns of ISIS Presence in Karnataka and Kerala](#)

July 26, 2020, The New Indian Express

A United Nations (UN) report on terrorism has warned that there are "significant" numbers of Islamic State of Iraq & Syria (ISIS) terrorists in Kerala and Karnataka. The report has warned that the terror organisation – al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), which reportedly has between 150 and 200 militants from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar, is planning attacks in the region to avenge the death of their leader Asim Umar.

Pakistan

[100 books banned in Punjab for profane, anti-Pakistan content](#)

July 24, 2020, The News

Punjab Curriculum & Textbook Board (PCTB) banned 100 books being taught in private schools for carrying blasphemous and anti-Pakistan content. PCTB had started critical review of 10,000 books being taught by private schools across the province and in the first phase had banned 100 books of 31

publishers including Oxford and Cambridge for blasphemous, immoral and anti-Pakistan content.

[Widespread criticism over rationale for new law to 'protect' Islam](#)

July 27, 2020, Dawn

Various sections of society, including a federal minister, have criticised the passage of the Punjab Tahaffuz-i-Bunyad-i-Islam (protecting the foundation of Islam) Bill 2020 by the Punjab Assembly, warning that such trends would fan extremism. The law passed on July 22 makes "desecration" of any prophet, any of the four divine books, family and companions of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), as well as abetting or glorification of terrorists, and promoting sectarianism in any book punishable with a maximum of five-year jail terms and up to Rs500,000 fine. It makes the use of the words "Khatam-un-Nabiyyeen" mandatory whenever the name of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is mentioned.

[Be more like Pakistan, China tells Afghanistan and Nepal at four-country meet](#)

July 28, 2020, Hindustan Times

China urged Afghanistan, Nepal and Pakistan to forge "four-party cooperation" to overcome the Covid-19 crisis and continue work on projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Presiding over a virtual meeting with his counterparts from the three countries, China's foreign minister Wang Yi said the four states should work together to extend CPEC to Afghanistan.

[Afghan transit trade via Gwadar Port begins](#)

July 28, 2020, The Express Tribune

Transit trade to Afghanistan through Pakistan's strategic Gwadar seaport began with a consignment of bulk cargo from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). "The first transit consignment of bulk cargo through Gwadar to Afghanistan has started. Several consignments are lined up for coming days," said Mohammad Sadiq, Pakistan's Special Envoy for Afghanistan.

[SAPMs Tania Aidrus, Dr Zafar Mirza quit amid flak](#)

July 29, 2020, The Express Tribune

Special Assistant to the PM on Digital Pakistan Tania Aidrus and Special Assistant to the PM on Health Dr Zafar Mirza announced that they were stepping down from their posts. Their decision to resign has come amid the government facing stiff criticism for appointing individuals with a dual nationality or holding another country's permanent residency as SAPMs.

[Al Khalid-I tank inducted in Armoured Corps Regiment](#)

July 29, 2020, Dawn

The Pakistan Army inducted Al Khalid-I main battle tank in Armoured Corps Regiment. The handing over ceremony of the tank, which is an upgraded version of Al Khalid tank, was held at Heavy Industries Taxila (HIT). It is equipped with enhanced protection against smart ammunition and other forms of top attacks. The tank has improved Muzzle Reference System, Solid State Auto Loader, Improved Radiation Detector and independent and effective command and control system for deeper and long-distance operations.

[Taliban accuse Afghan govt of re-arresting insurgents](#)

July 27, 2020, Dawn

The Taliban accused Afghan security forces of re-arresting insurgents who had been released as part of a crucial prisoner swap meant to kick-start peace talks. They said the National Directorate of Security (NDS) had detained an unspecified number of insurgents released under the exchange programme, warning Kabul would "bear responsibility for the consequences".

[Afghan Govt Prepares for Intl Fund-Pledging in Geneva](#)

July 26, 2020, Tolo News

The Afghan government is expecting a "sufficient" amount of assistance from international donors to be pledged at the Geneva conference, which is scheduled to be held in November. Economy Minister Mustafa Mastoor said the second document of the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework, or ANPDF II, for 2021 to 2025 has been finalized and the international community is expected to announce its support to Afghanistan within the framework of this document.

[Pakistan receives \\$505m from World Bank](#)

July 29, 2020, The Express Tribune

Pakistan has received around \$500 million in soft loan from the World Bank. The global lender has provided the loan at a concessional rate to support Islamabad in bridging the shortfall in budgeted expenditures, mainly on healthcare and socio-economic fronts, to better fight the coronavirus pandemic.

[US urges Pakistan to act after American blasphemy accused shot dead in Peshawar court](#)

July 30, 2020, Dawn

The United States urged Pakistan to take action over the killing of an American national in a crowded courtroom in Peshawar as he faced trial for blasphemy. Tahir Ahmad Naseem, 57, was seated in the court of an additional sessions judge after arguments in his case, awaiting to be shifted to prison, when he was shot multiple times at close range. "We extend our condolences to the family of Tahir Naseem, the American citizen who was killed today inside a courtroom in Pakistan," the US State Department said in a tweet.

[Anti-terrorism, UNSC bills sail through amid rumpus by opposition](#)

July 30, 2020, The News

The National Assembly of Pakistan passed "The Anti-terrorism (Amendment) Bill, 2020" and "The United Nations (Security Council) (Amendment) Bill, 2020" with a majority vote amid sloganeering and strong protest from the opposition members. This legislation is related to fulfil certain requirements of the Financial Action Task Force in order to bring Pakistan out of FATF's grey list. The legislation is aimed at empowering the federal government to direct authorities in Pakistan to implement various measures in the Security Council resolutions including the freezing and seizure of assets, travel ban and arms embargo on the entities and individuals, who are designated on the sanctions list of the United Nations.

Afghanistan

[Rise of Foreign Fighters in Afghanistan's East: ANA General](#)

July 27, 2020, Tolo News

The number of foreign fighters has increased on the battlefields in the eastern parts of Afghanistan, with most of them Pakistani nationals who are fighting alongside the Taliban in areas along the Durand Line, an Afghan Army general said. UN report submitted to the United Nations Security Council indicated that the total number of "Pakistani foreign terrorist fighters" in Afghanistan is estimated at "between 6,000 and 6,500, most of them with Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)."

[Taliban to Release All 1,000 Prisoners by Eid](#)

July 29, 2020, Tolo News

Suhail Shaheen, a spokesman for the Taliban's Qatar office said that the Taliban will release the remaining government prisoners of the 1,000 pledged by Eid to show "goodwill." "The other side must also complete the process of releasing the pledged 5,000 detainees in accordance with the Doha Agreement, and the list, in order to facilitate the start of intra-Afghan talks after Eid," Shaheen said.

[As Intra-Afghan Talks Loom, Taliban Hark To 1990s Regime](#)

July 29, 2020, RFERL

Talks between the Afghan government and the hard-line Islamist Taliban movement finally appear to be on the horizon after the two sides announced a brief cease-fire during the Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha this week. But it is unclear whether they can overcome the immediate problems of reconciling differences over prisoner releases, extending the cease-fire, and resentment over relentless violence since the Taliban signed an initial peace agreement with the United States in February.

[Khalilzad Arrives in Kabul, Meets With Afghan Leaders](#)

July 29, 2020, Tolo News

The US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad visited Kabul where he met Afghan leaders ahead of the Eid-al-Adha ceasefire, which has started. In his meeting with President Ghani, the two discussed an extension of the ceasefire and a reduction in violence, the start of direct talks, and also the prisoner exchange. Abdullah Abdullah, head of the High Council for National Reconciliation, and former president Hamid Karzai were also present in Khalilzad's meeting with Ghani.

Bangladesh

[Flood engulfs over a third of Bangladesh](#)

July 30, 2020, The Daily Star.net

Around 37 percent of the country's total area has been flooded, said Prof AKM Saiful Islam, of Buet's Institute of Water and Flood Management, after analysing satellite images.

[Focus on Bangladesh](#)

July 30, 2020, Hindustan Times

The India-Bangladesh relationship, over the past decade, has been the brightest spot in Indian foreign policy. After a tense 1990s and 2000s, when power alternated between the moderate Awami League, led by Sheikh Hasina, and the extremist Bangladesh Nationalist Party, led by Begun Khaleda Zia, and a short period of indirect army rule, the Awami League returned to power in 2009. Sheikh Hasina, the daughter of Bangladesh's iconic freedom fighter and first president, Mujibur Rahman, was clear that having good relations with India, externally, was essential for Bangladesh's progress and cracking down on Islamists, internally, was essential for maintaining democracy and peace.

[Bangladesh too on the Chinese radar](#)

July 29, 2020, The New Indian Express

All of India's neighbours have joined Beijing's BRI and China's penetration in India's neighbourhood is in top gear. Bangladesh has latched on to the "China Card", publicly calling India and China development partners. Pakistan is already a client state and Nepal is on a similar track.

[Bangladesh's 'no foe' diplomacy grows ties with Pakistan](#)

July 30, 2020, Andolou Agency

Recent contacts between Pakistani and Bangladeshi leaders have provided a rare glimpse of a possible, if not yet probable, detente after years of strained ties between the two countries, according to observers.

Bhutan

[Chinese Territory Claims In Bhutan, India "Testing" The World, Says US](#)

July 31, 2020, NDTV

China recently staked claim over the Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary in Bhutan at the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council and opposed funding to the project.

[Why Is China Offering A 'Package Solution' To Bhutan To Solve Border Dispute?](#)

July 28, 2020, Huff Post

Beijing reiterated its claims over Bhutan's eastern sector and advocated a "package solution", which reports say is likely similar to the 1996 offer.

Nepal

[Nepal is walking a tightrope between India and China](#)

July 29, 2020, Al Jazeera

This year, amid a raging pandemic, a looming global economic crisis and devastating floods and landslides, the Himalayan nation of Nepal has been in political and diplomatic turmoil over its disputed border with its much larger neighbour, India. The dispute has deepened strains within the current government and reignited debate over the future of Nepal's relations with India and China.

[Nepal tells India not to restrict movement of its people in contested areas in Uttarakhand](#)

July 30, 2020, Hindustan Times

Nepalese authorities have insisted that Limpiyadhura, Kalapani, Lipulekh in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district fall under Nepal's territory where their citizens can move in and said that "no hindrances should be put in their movement by Indian authorities".

[The elusive dream of a land-linked Nepal](#)

July 31, 2020, Kathmandu Post

In recent years, the idea of Nepal as a land-linked country has figured prominently in academia and policymaking circles. Numerous commentators have written about the benefits of utilising Nepal's position to emerge as a land-linked country between India and China, a solution to Nepal's current restrictive situation as a landlocked country sandwiched between two giant neighbours. These theories talk about trilateral cooperation between India, China and Nepal as it is mutually beneficial for them, and points towards the emergence of Nepal as a transit economy.

[Nepal PM Oli loses ground, rival formula gives party, Prachanda greater say in govt](#)

July 28, 2020, The Indian Express

This was the seventh time since the start of the power tussle in Kathmandu that the standing committee, the key decision-making body of the NCP, was not allowed to convene. Oli and Prachanda, a former Prime Minister, are co-chairpersons of the NCP.

Sri Lanka

[As polls approach in Sri Lanka, China begins cultivating Buddhist clergy](#)

July 30, 2020, WION

In six days from now, Sri Lanka will go to the polls for the parliamentary elections which were delayed due to coronavirus. However, now, the elections are being compromised by China.

[How China is safeguarding its interests in Sri Lanka](#)

July 30, 2020, WION

In recent years, China has cultivated a wide variety of political allies in Sri Lanka. In a video conference organised by China in June, various representatives of Sri Lanka's major political parties participated such as People's Front, United National Party, Sri Lanka Freedom Party and People's United Front of Sri Lanka.

[India inks currency deal with Sri Lanka to checkmate China](#)

July 25, 2020, Deccan Herald

Keen to counter China's influence in Sri Lanka, India extended a \$400 million currency swap facility with Colombo to help its economy recover from Covid-19 crisis.

East & South East Asia

China

[Uighur group calls for China to lose 2022 Games over 'genocide'](#)

July 30, 2020, France 24

An overseas-based Uighur group urged the IOC to reconsider holding the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing because of what it says is China's "genocide" of the Uighur population.

[Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam invokes emergency powers in delaying legislative elections, citing Covid-19 threat](#)

July 31, 2020, The South China Morning Post

Hong Kong's embattled leader has invoked emergency powers to postpone the Legislative Council elections scheduled for September 6, citing health risks from the resurgent Covid-19 crisis as the primary reason. Opposition camp, which saw 12 hopefuls disqualified, earlier warned of constitutional crisis if public's voice not heard.

[New fighter jets fuel nationalism in India](#)

July 30, 2020, Global Times

Disengagement in key locations still needs long-term consultations. Pro-US forces in India are now coordinating with US' attempt to stir up security troubles in China's surrounding regions. This escalation is timed with US' presidential election, which is just around the corner, and Trump's only tactic is ramping up animosity toward China to boost his support. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration is taking the situation, diverting public's attention from the government's incompetence in resolving domestic issues.

[China, Japan should avoid new animosity: Global Times editorial](#)

July 30, 2020, Global Times

British media reported that the Five Eyes intelligence alliance could be expanded to include Japan and become the "Six Eyes alliance," and be broadened into a strategic economic relationship, according to some British center-right members of parliament. Japanese Defense Minister Taro Kono has said Japan would welcome an invitation to join the Five Eyes alliance.

[Do India-China relations need a reset?](#)

July 29, 2020, Global Times

Recently, some Indian political analysts and media outlets have claimed it is inevitable and necessary to "reset" China-India ties. This is because they believe it is China's moves that have changed the status quo, which China and India should respect under a range of bilateral agreements since 1993.

[Manila seeks balanced S. China Sea diplomacy, a blow to Washington's strategy](#)

July 29, 2020 , Global Times

The Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's annual State of the Nation Address, delivered , sent a clear signal of the country's pursuit of an independent foreign policy, or of balanced diplomacy among major powers. This is, without doubt, based on the country's national interests.

[Will tech investment help mend economic ties with India?](#)

July 30, 2020, Global Times

As Chinese and Indian troops on the frontlines have now completed disengagement in most locations along the border, through military and diplomatic channels, it may take some time for China-India economic ties to warm again. But technology investment has the potential to be a promising start.

[Washington eyes forcing Beijing to buy more US debt](#)

July 30, 2020, Global Times

Behind the rapidly deteriorating China-US relations is US President Donald Trump's attempt to lure voters to his re-election campaign, promoting anti-China sentiment as his prospects become ever gloomier. China will not take on losses resulting from buying over-issued US Treasuries, which will undoubtedly damage the US dollar hegemony and even the US itself. That is another reason why the US is acting aggressively against China.

[China-US tensions offer EU new opportunity](#)

July 30, 2020, Global Times

Leaders of European Union (EU) countries recently agreed on plans for massive post-epidemic spending. Despite the difficult negotiations, the EU has reached a deal more efficiently than it did during the European debt crisis. So this is also a moment of time for Germany and France to show common leadership, plus a good start to the German presidency.

[China works with EU, Japan to save multilateralism](#)

July 31, 2020, China Daily

Vice-Premier Liu He and European Commission Executive Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis co-chaired the 8th China-EU High-level Economic and Trade Dialogue via video link . The two sides recognized the progress in the bilateral investment agreement negotiations, especially on the issue of fair competition, and promised to continuously strengthen supervision and accelerate discussions on the remaining issues to complete the negotiations within the year.

[US ideologues' claims about China dangerously divorced from reality: China Daily editorial](#)

July 30, 2020 , China Daily

With the benefit of hindsight, it is easy to understand why United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, FBI Director Christopher Wray and National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien all went to great lengths recently to accuse China of stealing US technology. It is now clear that they were laying the groundwork for the US administration's order that China close its consulate in Houston, a move it was claimed would "protect American intellectual property and Americans' private information". However, as usual, no evidence has been forthcoming to support the allegations, just the spurious accusation that the consulate was a node for "a vast network of spies and influence operations in the United States".

[China urges U.S. to stop damaging bilateral relations](#)

July 29, 2020, China Daily

China urged the likes of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to immediately stop words and acts that damage Chinese interests and China-U.S. relations. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said this at a press briefing when asked to comment on Pompeo's speech at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library last week.

Japan

[Decoupling Kabuki: Japan's Effort to Reset, Not End Its Relationship with China](#)

July 28, 2020, CSIS

Japan's decision to give subsidies to its companies to relocate from China may spur concerns in Beijing and celebrations in Washington, but observers should

not get carried away. These adjustments will affect barely 1 percent of total Japanese investment in China. As with firms from other countries, most Japanese are in China for the Chinese market, which for many is the largest source of revenue and profits.

[Japan's China engagement conundrum](#)

July 28, 2020, The Japan Time

As the world's second-largest economy, China presents the greatest conundrum for a would-be league of decent peoples. It has become a powerhouse market for global capitalism and an essential link in international supply chains...But should "business as usual" continue if liberal, democratic values are threatened?

[Japan ruling party group proposes strike capability in enemy territory](#)

July 31, 2020, The Asahi Shimbun

A Japanese ruling party policy committee approved a proposal for Japan to have the capability of halting ballistic missile attacks within enemy territory, a document showed.

[Japan's factory output rebounds; jobless rate falls](#)

July 31, 2020, Japan Today

Japan's industrial output snapped four months of decline in June, pointing to a modest recovery in broader business and consumer activity in the world's third-largest economy following a heavy hit to demand from the coronavirus pandemic, according to data released.

[Japanese lawmakers seek tougher regulations on Chinese-made apps](#)

July 31, 2020, Japan Today

A group of ruling party lawmakers plan to call on Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government to restrict the use in Japan of apps developed by Chinese companies due to security concerns.

[U.S. says it will help Japan monitor Chinese incursion around disputed islands](#)

July 30, 2020, Japan Today

The U.S. military will help Japan monitor "unprecedented" Chinese incursions around East China Sea islands controlled by Tokyo but claimed by Beijing as Chinese boats prepare to begin fishing in nearby waters, the commander of U.S. Forces Japan said.

Korea

[Kim Jong-un Hails Nuclear Arms on Armistice Day](#)

July 29, 2020, The Chosun Ilbo

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un marked Armistice Day with a paean to his crackpot country's nuclear weapons development. He said North Korea has walked the path of a self-developed nuclear power, tenaciously overcoming all kinds of pressure and challenges.

[Jitters Mount over USFK Reduction](#)

July 31, 2020, The Chosun Ilbo

Worries are mounting here over the threat of a reduction of the U.S. Forces Korea after Washington announced the pullout of about 12,000 troops from Germany.

[WTO Agrees to Mediate Japan, South Korea Electronics Dispute](#)

July 30, 2020, Bloomberg

The World Trade Organization granted South Korea's request for a dispute inquiry into Japan's decision to restrict exports of electronics components.

[S. Korea's first military satellite successfully reaches orbit](#)

July 31, 2020, The Korea Herald

South Korea's first military communications satellite successfully reached its final position in the geostationary orbit, 10 days after its liftoff, the arms procurement agency said.

[New 'comfort woman' statue in South Korea stokes anger in Japan](#)

July 29, 2020, Japan Today

A pair of new statues in South Korea of a man kneeling in front of a girl symbolizing a victim of sexual slavery by Japan's wartime military is the latest subject of diplomatic sensitivity between the countries, with Tokyo's government spokesperson questioning whether the male figure represents the Japanese prime minister.

[Vietnam agrees on \\$348 million Japan loan to build 6 patrol vessels](#)

July 29, 2020, Japan Today

Vietnam signed an agreement with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to borrow 36.63 billion yen (\$348.2 million) to build six patrol vessels, state media reported, amid rising tensions in the South China Sea.

Southeast Asia

[South Korea's New Southern Policy and ASEAN-ROK Relations](#)

July 28, 2020, The Diplomat

Despite intense focus on South Korea's renewed push for inter-Korea engagement, the Moon Jae-in government continues to expand its outreach to Southeast Asia and India through its New Southern Policy (NSP). President Moon demonstrated his commitment to Southeast Asia, visiting all 10 ASEAN countries in his first two years in office. In November 2019, the South Korean president hosted ASEAN state leaders in Busan for the ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) commemorative summit celebrating 30 years of ASEAN-South Korea relations.

[US Signs MoU With Vietnam Against Chinese 'intimidation' In South China Sea](#)

July 30, 2020, Republic

The US and Vietnam signed an MoU to strengthen Hanoi's fisheries management and law enforcement capabilities amid disputes with Beijing in the South China Sea.

[India & Indonesia agree to expand defence ties and technology sharing](#)

July 27, 2020, The Print

The possible areas of further expansion of defence and military ties were discussed during talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and General Prabowo Subianto.

[Understanding the Case of the Philippines and China in the South China Sea Dispute](#)

July 29, 2020, Modern Diplomacy

The Philippines issued proceedings against China under Part XV of the Convention on January 22, 2013. The Philippine's made multiple claims. Firstly, they requested the halt of the Chinese's expansive 'nine-dash line'. Before moving any forward, it is important to explain the relationship between a state's historic rights and Convention since historic waters and its roots are historic reality.

[Myanmar pushes back against BRI; to involve foreign partners in China-funded mega city project](#)

July 31, 2020, The Economic Times

Myanmar has decided to involve international partners in the Chinese funded mega Yangon City Project, a key pillar of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in the Southeast Asian country, marking another pushback against China.

[Singapore spy case reawakens fears China recruiting on island state](#)

July 28, 2020, Reuters

The case of a Singaporean caught spying for China in the United States has reawakened fears over China recruiting intelligence assets on an island state which has won trust among Western governments while keeping on good terms with Beijing.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Border problems in Central Asia: dividing incidents, uniting solution](#)

July 25, 2020, The Times of Central Asia

Border incidents have sporadically occurred in Central Asia since the breakup of the Soviet Union, but independent countries of the region have always been able to manage the crises on their own, taking resolute steps to complete the long process of their border delimitation.

[EU and Tajikistan discuss cooperation issues](#)

July 29, 2020, The Times of Central Asia

The European Union and Tajikistan held their eighth Cooperation Committee meeting on July 28. The meeting took place by videoconference between Brussels and Dushanbe because of the travel restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic, the Delegation of the European Union to Tajikistan said.

[Tajikistan to limit power supply due to low water at hydroelectric dam](#)

July 29, 2020, The Times of Central Asia

Tajikistan's national energy company Barqi Tojik says it will impose restrictions on the supply of electricity due to a dramatic drop in water levels in a reservoir used to generate hydroelectric power.

[Post-COVID, China Set to Gain in Central Asia](#)

July 29, 2020, The Diplomat

Beijing is well positioned to continue growing its influence in Central Asia, though some challenges remain ahead.

[Uzbekistan begins upgrading its T-64 MBTs](#)

July 28, 2020, Janes.com

The Uzbek army has begun upgrading its fleet of T-64 main battle tanks (MBTs) to the T-64MV standard following a series of successful user trials, the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the Defense Industry said in a 23 July statement.

[Turkey, Uzbekistan vow to boost trade volume](#)

July 28, 2020, Andolou Agency

Turkey and Uzbekistan will increase their bilateral trade volume up to \$5 billion, the top Turkish diplomat said after meeting Uzbekistan's deputy foreign minister.

[Uzbekistan to Establish Co-Op With Pakistan in Aviation, Tourism Spheres](#)

July 28, 2020, Aviation Pros

The Embassy of Uzbekistan in Pakistan organized negotiations in the format of a videoconference on bilateral cooperation in the field of civil aviation and international tourism.

[Singapore PM: U.S. -Chinese Relations at 'Very Dangerous' Level](#)

July 29, 2020, USNI News

The relationship between Washington and Beijing has sunk to such a "very dangerous" level with no sign of tensions easing after the next U.S. presidential election, the prime minister of Singapore said.

West Asia

[The Mideast Pudding Loses Its Theme](#)

July 29, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

It is hard to overstate how much the Middle East has changed in the past five years. The great themes and grand narratives that shaped the region in the 20th century have largely disappeared. This wasn't a Fukuyaman "end of history," in which one ideology absorbs or defeats all rivals. All the ideologies competing to shape the region have failed

[India's Rafale Jets To Have Hammer Missiles; Weapon That Was Used in Iraq and Syria](#)

July 28, 2020, DNA

It has been reported that India has decided to fit 'HAMMER' missiles on the newly-acquired Rafale fighter aircraft in view of the on-going border tensions with China, as the integration and trial of the Israeli-developed SPICE 2000 bombs were taking too long.

[Red Flags in Delhi Over Erdogan's Turkey Funding Anti-India Activities: Official](#)

July 30, 2020, Hindustan Times

It has been reported that Islamist radical organisations in parts of the country including Kerala and Kashmir are being supported and funded by Turkish outfits backed by Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government in Ankara.

[Pakistan, China and Iran Urged To Forge Trilateral Partnership](#)

July 30, 2020, Dawn

The suggestion was put forward at a webinar hosted by the Islamabad Policy Institute (IPI), which was chaired by Senate Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed.

[Iran Blasts Dummy US Aircraft Carrier With Missiles](#)

July 28, 2020, BBC News

Iran has launched missiles at a mock-up of a US aircraft carrier in the strategic Strait of Hormuz. The drill included fire so heavy that the US military temporarily put two regional bases on alert.

[Iran Runs Out Dollars, India's Basmati Rice Exports May Fall 20%](#)

July 30, 2020, Business Standard

India's basmati rice exports to Iran may decline 20 per cent this financial year as the West Asian nation fails to make payment due to US economic sanctions.

[IRGC Launches Underground Ballistic Missiles in Military Exercise](#)

July 29, 2020, Tehran Times

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force (July 29) successfully launched a series of ballistic missiles from well-camouflaged underground missile systems during a large-scale military exercise underway in southern Iran.

[Rajnath Singh Holds Telephonic Conversation With Israel's Defence Minister, Reviews Strategic Cooperation](#)

July 24, 2020, Livemint

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had a telephonic conversation with Israel's Defence Minister Benny Gantz amid ongoing military tensions between India and China and New Delhi looking to make emergency buys of critical weapons systems needed by its armed forces.

[India's Supreme Court Takes Serious View of Plea on Indians Stranded in Kuwait](#)

July 25, 2020, The Hindu

The Supreme Court has taken a serious view of a plea highlighting that Indians, mostly blue-collar job workers from Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country, are still stranded in quarantine camps and "open spaces" in Kuwait amid the COVID-19 pandemic, awaiting repatriation to their homeland.

[Lebanon-Israel Tensions Escalate Amid Hezbollah Calls For 'Revenge'](#)

July 23, 2020, Arab Weekly

Tensions are flaring this week between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah movement in Lebanon, with the Israeli military announcing the reinforcement of the country's northern border forces with infantry troops "in accordance with the situational assessment."

[Saudi Arabia Posts \\$29 Billion Deficit in Second Quarter as Oil Revenues Slump](#)

July 28, 2020, Reuters

Saudi Arabia posted a deficit of 109.2 billion riyals (\$29.12 billion) in the second quarter this year as low oil prices hurt revenues, a finance ministry report published (July 28) showed.

[Muslims Begin Downsized Hajj Pilgrimage in Mecca Amid Coronavirus Pandemic](#)

July 29, 2020, Al Jazeera

Hajj - the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca - has begun, but under dramatically different circumstances due to the coronavirus outbreak.

[Russia to Help Syria Build Replica Hagia Sophia Following Turkish Mosque Conversion](#)

July 29, 2020, The Moscow Times

Russia will help Syria construct a replica of the Hagia Sophia that will operate as an Orthodox cathedral, a Russian lawmaker has said after Turkey converted the iconic Istanbul museum into a mosque this month.

United States

United States

[Digital 'gatekeepers' face a moment of reckoning](#)

July 30, 2020, Financial Times

Most noteworthy about this week's showdown between bosses of Apple, Amazon, Alphabet and Facebook and the House antitrust subcommittee was how the chiefs found themselves bashed by both sides of the political spectrum.

[Trump's Spite-Germany Plan](#)

July 29, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

Beneath the din of media condemnation, it can be hard to sort the good from the bad in President

Trump's unorthodox foreign policy...Yet the Pentagon's plan to withdraw almost 12,000 U.S. troops from Germany is far from a stroke of populist genius. It's a blow to U.S. interests that won't fulfill the cost-saving objective Mr. Trump claims to be concerned with.

[Donald Trump suggests delay to 2020 US presidential election](#)

July 30, 2020, BBC

Donald Trump has suggested November's presidential election be postponed, saying increased postal voting could lead to fraud and inaccurate results.

[Republicans to Trump: You can't delay 2020 election](#)

July 31, 2020, BBC

Top Republicans have rejected President Donald Trump's suggestion that November's presidential election should be delayed over alleged fraud concerns.

[What would it take to postpone the U.S. presidential election?](#)

July 30, 2020, Reuters

President Donald Trump raised the possibility of delaying the Nov. 3 U.S. presidential election, but the Constitution bestows that power on Congress, not the president.

[US to withdraw 12,000 troops from Germany in 'strategic' move](#)

July 29, 2020, BBC

The US is set to withdraw almost 12,000 troops from Germany in what it described as a "strategic" repositioning of its forces in Europe.

[Trump's military shuffle in Europe will take time and be costly](#)

July 30, 2020, Reuters

The United States will take years to move its main military command in Europe from Germany to NATO headquarters in Belgium and updating facilities will be costly, three former senior officials said.

[India a rising defence, security partner of US: Mike Pompeo](#)

July 23, 2020, Business Today

Describing India as one of the few trusted like-minded countries, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that New Delhi is an important partner and a key pillar of President Donald Trump's foreign policy.

[Senate hearing puts Mike Pompeo's defense of President Trump in sharp contrast](#)

July 31, 2020, ABC News

The top U.S. diplomat, Mike Pompeo battled Democrats on Russia, Trump's tweets and more.

[Australia to step up South China Sea defence cooperation with US – but won't commit to patrols](#)

July 29, 2020, The Guardian

Australia has pledged to increase defence cooperation with the US in the South China Sea – but stopped short of making any specific new commitment on freedom of navigation operations, despite American pressure.

[China and South China Sea dominate Australia-US defence talks](#)

July 29, 2020, In Daily

Australia's defence and foreign ministers have met their US counterparts in Washington DC for talks, with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo praising Australia for standing up to China despite "coercive pressure from the Chinese Communist Party to bow to Beijing's wishes".

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Germany urges continued US dialogue after troop pullout](#)

July 30, 2020, Deutsche Welle

Berlin must maintain "trustful dialogue" with the US after its announced troop withdrawal, a senior defense official tells DW. He also urged Washington to clarify its strategy behind redeploying soldiers around Europe.

[EU extends ban on American travelers - again - with US COVID-19 cases far outpacing European countries](#)

July 30, 2020, USA Today

For the second time this month, the European Union extended its travel ban on Americans, as COVID-19 infections continued to rise across the United States.

[China says UK has poisoned relations; some want new Cold War](#)

July 30, 2020, Reuters

China blamed the United Kingdom for deteriorating ties after Prime Minister Boris Johnson slapped a 5G ban on Huawei, accusing London of poisoning the relationship by meddling in Hong Kong's affairs.

[UK welcomes EU sanctions against China, Russia, N.Korea](#)

July 30, 2020, Anadolu Agency

The UK welcomed a recent decision by the EU to impose sanctions on North Korea, China and Russia under the bloc's cyber sanctions regime.

[China and EU to speed up negotiation on investment agreement](#)

July 28, 2020, Reuters

China and the European Union will accelerate negotiations in order to conclude a China-EU investment agreement by the end of this year, Chinese Vice Premier Liu He said.

Russia

[Trevor Reed: Ex-US Marine jailed in Russia for assaulting police](#)

July 30, 2020, BBC News

A Russian court has sentenced a former US Marine to nine years in prison for assaulting two police officers while drunk last year.

[What Is Russia's Vagner Paramilitary Group And What Was It Doing In Belarus Ahead Of Vote?](#)

July 30, 2020, Rferl.org

When authorities in Belarus conducted a high-profile operation to detain some 33 suspected Russian mercenaries near Minsk on July 29, officials were quick to connect the incident with the country's August 9 presidential election.

[Russia turns on Belarus over 'odious' detention of alleged mercenaries](#)

July 30, 2020, Reuters

Russia demanded an explanation from Belarus over what it called Minsk's wrongful arrest of a group of alleged Russian mercenaries accused of plotting acts of terrorism.

[Russia-aligned hackers running anti-NATO fake news campaign – report](#)

July 30, 2020, The Guardian

Hackers "aligned with Russian security interests" have been engaged in a sustained campaign to compromise news websites in Poland and Lithuania to plant false stories aimed at discrediting NATO, according to a new report.

[Russia prepares joint investment projects for China worth \\$20 blb](#)

July 30, 2020, TASS

The Ministry of Economic Development noted that this was the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Russian-Chinese Commission for Investment Cooperation in 2020.

[Ten Suggestions For A 'Russia Strategy' For The United Kingdom](#)

July 29, 2020, War on the Rocks

The release of a long-delayed report on Russian interference in the United Kingdom by the British cross-party Intelligence and Security Committee has inevitably revived the debate about how a democratic state can best resist Moscow's meddling.

[Cyprus says Putin to help defuse East Med tensions with Turkey](#)

July 30, 2020, Al Jazeera

Cypriot gov't official said Russia's Putin made the promise in a 45-minute telephone chat with the Cypriot president.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[It's time the U.S. reflects on its strategy toward Latin America](#)

July 30, 2020, CGTN

In the U.S.' global strategy, Latin America has always taken an important and special position. The U.S. has long regarded Latin America as its "backyard," believing that it has unparalleled dominance and influence. Therefore, the U.S. attaches particular importance to the management of its role in the Western Hemisphere.

[Latin America Shows Supply Chain Resilience In A Time Of Disruption](#)

July 30, 2020, Forbes

Latin America is made up of many different countries – all with different national responses to the crisis. Most have shut down their borders – significantly if not entirely – thus disrupting otherwise finely tuned supply chains. In response, companies have had to get creative. The medium for this creativity has been resilient supply chains.

[US frowns upon Iranian supermarket in Venezuela's capital](#)

July 31, 2020, Yahoo News

U. S. officials frowned upon the opening of an Iranian supermarket in Venezuela's capital, saying that any presence of Iran in the Western Hemisphere is "not something we look very favorably on."

[Coronavirus reshapes Belt and Road in Latin America](#)

July 30, 2020, Dialogo China

China-backed infrastructure projects are slow in the region while new opportunities emerge in health and digital technology

Africa

[China's Infrastructure-Heavy Model for African Growth Is Failing](#)

July 30, 2020, The Diplomat

The strategy of "infrastructure-led growth", also known as "China Model" seems to be showing its limits in Africa. In Ethiopia and Kenya, the attractive illusion of the "China model" has had grave financial consequences.

[EU wants to keep its status as one of Africa's largest trading partners](#)

July 29, 2020, The Africa Report

Although the pace of the partnership may not be to the same levels as that with Beijing; Brussels is still comfortably ahead in the race.

[Golden age for Africa's national and regional energy transition](#)

July 30, 2020, ESI-Africa

Egypt and Morocco are championing renewable energy as a pillar of future expansion of power generation, while Tunisia is attracting investment to its much smaller renewables market. In Algeria, bureaucracy seems to be impeding what enthusiasm there is from the government to diversify the generation mix. Libya's ongoing conflict makes it an unlikely destination for power sector investment in the near-term, despite its hydrocarbons resources and massive solar potential.

[The US and Kenya launch negotiations on a free trade agreement. Will they succeed?](#)

July 29, 2020, Brookings.edu

Despite the coronavirus pandemic, the Trump administration and Kenyan government launched trade negotiations in early July. Depending on the outcome of the negotiations, which were held virtually, the trade agreement could be the most significant development in U.S-Africa trade relations since the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) passed Congress in 2000.

[Libyan authorities shot dead three Sudanese migrants: UN](#)

July 28, 2020, Al Jazeera

Libyan authorities have shot dead three Sudanese migrants who tried to escape after they were intercepted by the coastguard in the Mediterranean Sea and returned to the North African country, the United Nations said.

[Sudan peace talks offer little hope for protesters in Darfur](#)

July 29, 2020, News 18

Efforts to bring stability to Sudan's conflict-ridden Darfur region have failed to reassure residents fearful of rising violence which has cast a shadow over peace negotiations.

[El Sisi: Nile dam must benefit Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan equally](#)

July 28, 2020, N World

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi said the Nile's water was a gift that his country would never surrender and any deal with Addis Ababa on its new dam must be of equal benefit to Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan.



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