

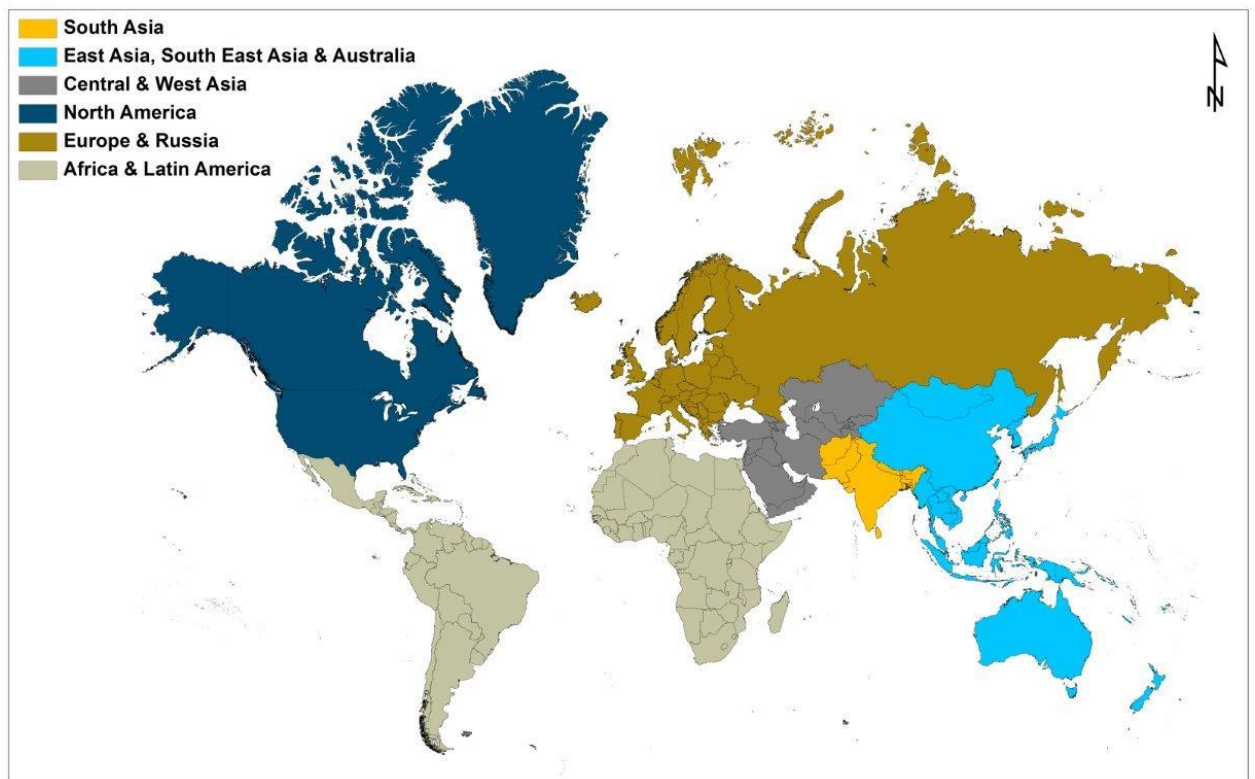


Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume V, Issue 22 | May 28, 2021

Delhi Policy Group

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

www.delhipolicygroup.org



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH Volume V, Issue 22

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.

Since 2016, in keeping with India's increasing global profile, DPG has expanded its focus areas to include India's regional and global role and its policies in the Indo-Pacific. In a realist environment, DPG remains mindful of the need to align India's ambitions with matching strategies and capabilities, from diplomatic initiatives to security policy and military modernisation.

At a time of disruptive change in the global order, DPG aims to deliver research based, relevant, reliable and realist policy perspectives to an actively engaged public, both at home and abroad. DPG is deeply committed to the growth of India's national power and purpose, the security and prosperity of the people of India and India's contributions to the global public good. We remain firmly anchored within these foundational principles which have defined DPG since its inception.

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

DPG Weekly World Watch is based on analysis of open source information. To subscribe please [click here](#).

Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Angana Guha Roy at angana@dpg.org.in.

© 2021 by the Delhi Policy Group

Delhi Policy Group

Core 5A, 1st Floor,

India Habitat Centre,

Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003.

www.delhipolicygroup.org

Contents

South Asia.....	1
East & South East Asia	6
Central & West Asia	11
United States.....	15
Europe & Russia	17
Africa & Latin America	20

South Asia

India

[Ladakh has lessons for India's China policy](#)

May 28, 2021, Tribune India

The Chinese have hinted that India's active participation in Quad would harm its strategic autonomy. India has to create counter-coercion strategies on land and in the Indian Ocean Region. The priority must be to build credible deterrence from Andaman & Nicobar to Malacca Straits against the Chinese navy. Another area of concern is Chinese build-up in Tibet: a new military base opposite Bhutan; an airport at Yadong opposite Nathu La and new military facilities in Chumbi valley near Sikkim.

[China's PLA Upgrades Its Forces Along Disputed Border With India](#)

May 28, 2021, The Diplomat

Despite continuing talks between India and China, military preparations clearly are continuing, too.

[Indian Navy brings 340 metric tonnes of liquid oxygen, other supplies from abroad](#)

May 23, 2021, The Economic Times

The Indian Navy on Sunday brought to India 340 metric tonnes of liquid oxygen, more than 3,700 oxygen cylinders and other medical supplies from abroad as the country continued to reel under a severe second wave of the coronavirus pandemic. The supplies were brought by two warships from Singapore, Brunei and Qatar.

[S Jaishankar moots India-US vaccine partnership in talks with US NSA; MEA to meet Blinken](#)

May 28, 2021, Deccan Herald

The partnership between India and the United States on Covid-19 vaccines will "make a real difference", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said after a meeting with President Joe Biden's National Security Advisor Jack Sullivan in Washington D.C.

[What S Jaishankar's New York visit says about Indo-US ties](#)

May 27, 2021, The Indian Express

External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar's visit to New York and Washington this week highlights the new India-US synergy between bilateral, regional and multilateral issues. The new Indo-Pacific consensus in

Washington presents India and the US an enduring geography for regional cooperation. The Biden moment is about making multilateralism an important part of the India-US strategic partnership.

Pakistan

[China lauds Pakistan PM Imran Khan's remarks on CPEC project](#)

May 25, 2021, The Times of India

China on Tuesday said it appreciated Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's recent remarks on how the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project will bring economic progress not only to Pakistan but to the entire region.

[China defends contentious CPEC, says it is economic initiative and has not affected its stand on Kashmir issue](#)

May 24, 2021, The Indian Express

China again defended its controversial USD 60 billion CPEC project with Pakistan, disregarding India's protests as it is being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, saying it is an economic initiative and has not affected its principled stand on the Kashmir issue.

[Pakistan denies presence of US military or air base in country](#)

May 25, 2021, The Economic Times

Pakistan on late Monday denied the presence of any US military or air base in the country.

[Anti-corruption probe into Imran Khan endorsed Pakistan's Rawalpindi Road scam begins](#)

May 26, 2021, The Times of India

The Anti-Corruption Establishment in Pakistan's Punjab province has begun an investigation into the scam linked to Rawalpindi Ring Road project, which PM Imran Khan has endorsed.

['Israel has deep pockets, controls media': Pakistan FM accused of anti-semitism in CNN interview](#)

May 21, 2021, The Indian Express

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has been accused of propagating anti-semitic tropes during an interview with CNN.

Afghanistan

[Afghan forces, Taliban clash near capital](#)

May 24, 2021, The Economic Times

Afghan forces clashed with Taliban fighters in a provincial capital about 120 kilometers (75 miles) from Kabul, officials and witnesses said, prompting the defence minister to take charge of a counteroffensive.

[Taliban warn Afghan neighbours against allowing US bases](#)

May 26, 2021, DAWN

The Taliban warned Afghanistan's neighbours on Wednesday against allowing the United States to operate military bases on their soil, the insurgents insisting they would thwart such a "historic mistake".

[Airstrikes kill 23 Taliban militants in Afghanistan's Balkh province](#)

May 28, 2021 Business Standard

A total of 23 Taliban militants were killed in airstrikes that targeted hideouts in Afghanistan's Balkh province, an army spokesman said.

[Jaishankar reiterates unease over US pullout from Afghanistan](#)

May 27, 2021, Hindustan Times

Ahead of the most expansive in-person engagement yet by an Indian Cabinet member with top Biden administration officials, external affairs minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday reiterated deep Indian unease with stated US plan to withdraw all troops from Afghanistan for "political expediency".

Bangladesh

[Cyclone leaves coastal villages in eastern India, Bangladesh cut off by tidal surges](#)

May 27, 2021, The Economic Times

Hundreds of thousands of villagers along the low-lying coast of eastern India and Bangladesh were marooned by floodwaters on Thursday in the aftermath of a powerful cyclone that has killed at least five people, officials in both countries said.

[The significance of the \\$200-million currency swap Bangladesh has approved for Sri Lanka](#)

May 28, 2021, The Indian Express

Bangladesh's central bank has approved a \$200 million currency swap facility to Sri Lanka, which will help Colombo tide over its foreign exchange crisis.

[Bangladesh outpaces India on per capita income](#)

May 21, 2021, The Indian Express

India has fallen behind its neighbour Bangladesh in terms of per capita income with the latter reporting its per capita income at \$2,227 in the financial year 2020-21, according to reports.

Nepal

[Internal matters of Nepal: India on political developments in Kathmandu](#)

May 26, 2021, The Indian Express

India said the recent political developments in Nepal are its internal matters and it is for the country to deal with them under its own domestic framework and democratic processes.

[Nepal opens fifth diplomatic mission in China](#)

May 25, 2021, New Indian Express

Nepal has inaugurated its fifth diplomatic mission in China with the opening of its Consulate General Office in the southwestern city of Chengdu, as the two neighbouring countries stepped up their bilateral relations.

Bhutan

[China slowly invading Himalayan neighbour Bhutan, says new study](#)

May 23, 2021, The Times of India

China has been gradually and stealthily invading its tiny neighbour Bhutan for years now, reveals new research findings. A paper published by journal Foreign Policy stated that China has built an entire town, replete with roads, a power plant, two CPC buildings, a communications base, military and police outposts and a warehouse, almost 8 kilometers into Bhutan.

Sri Lanka

[China's growing presence in Sri Lanka and India's concerns](#)

May 28, 2021, Financial Express

Hailing it as a source of investment (USD 15 Billion) and employment (200,000 jobs) which will provide a boost to the country's economy, the Sri Lankan Parliament refuted the Opposition's allegations that it compromised the country's sovereignty and will become a Chinese colony in Sri Lanka.

[India helps Sri Lanka Navy douse fire on container ship MV X Press Pearl](#)

May 27, 2021, India Blooms

India has promptly responded to an emergency request by Sri Lanka Navy and deployed multiple assets to douse the fire on MV X Press Pearl off Colombo on 25 May 2021, officials said.

East & South East Asia

China

[Cornerstone of China's strategic deterrence against the US: more nuclear missiles and warheads](#)

May 27, 2021, Global Times

As the US strategic containment of China has increasingly intensified, the author reminded that China has plenty of urgent tasks, but among the most important ones is to rapidly increase the number of commissioned nuclear warheads, and the DF-41s, the strategic missiles that are capable to strike long-range and have high-survivability, in the Chinese arsenal. This is the cornerstone of China's strategic deterrence against the US.

[Phone talks bode well for China-US trade ties](#)

May 28, 2021, China Daily

The latest phone conversation between Chinese and US economic representatives is a positive signal for business and trade ties between the world's two largest economies and will be beneficial to the global economic recovery, according to officials and analysts.

[China Blasts Defense Secretary Austin as 'Unprofessional and Unfriendly'](#)

May 25, 2021, US News

China on Tuesday slammed what it considers Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin's "unprofessional and unfriendly" behaviour after U.S. officials told multiple news outlets that the Pentagon chief believes Beijing has rebuffed his efforts to connect with his Chinese counterparts.

[Turkey to set up consulate general in Chengdu, open cultural center in Beijing amid strengthened trade and cultural ties](#)

May 28, 2021, Global Times

Turkey will establish a consulate general in Chengdu in Southwest China's Sichuan Province to expand its diplomatic presence in China, Turkish Ambassador to China Abdulkadir Emin Önen announced on Chinese social media platform Sina Weibo.

[Hyping Taiwan question in Japan-EU statement ill-intended attempt to push 'China threat': experts](#)

May 27, 2021, Global Times

Japan stepped up its interference in China's internal affairs as it brought up the island of Taiwan in a joint statement with the European Union (EU), the second time it has directly referred to the Taiwan question since the meeting with US President Joe Biden in April.

[Electoral reform bill passed in HK](#)

May 28, 2021, China Daily

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's legislature passed an electoral reform bill that aims to facilitate the full implementation of the "patriots administering Hong Kong" principle in the city.

[The Virus Lab Theory's New Credibility](#)

May 26, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

President Biden on Wednesday ordered U.S. intelligence to dig deeper into the origins of Covid-19, a reversal after he reportedly ordered a State Department investigative unit shut down. Mr. Biden is trying to cover for his embarrassing closure of the investigation because the dam has finally broken on the evidence that the virus may have escaped from the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV). The shame is that it took so long because the suspicious facts have been apparent from the start.

[Factory boss defiant as sanctions bite in China's Xinjiang](#)

May 25, 2021, Associated Press

A backlash against reports of forced labor and other abuses of the largely Muslim Uyghur ethnic group in Xinjiang is taking a toll on China's cotton industry, but it's unclear if the pressure will compel the government or companies to change their ways. Li Qiang, general manager of the Huafu Fashion yarn factory in Xinjiang, told reporters that even though the company lost money in 2020 for the first time in its 27-year history, it bounced back by shifting to domestic orders.

[Hong Kong Passes Xi Plan to End Only Open Elections in China](#)

May 27, 2021, Bloomberg

Hong Kong's legislature approved a sweeping, Beijing-drafted overhaul of the city's elections, dramatically curtailing the opposition's ability to participate in government on the same day that authorities banned a massive pro-democracy vigil.

[Taiwan's foreign minister says China is 'preparing for war.'](#)

May 25, 2021, PBS.

Taiwan, which China considers a breakaway province, is the most tense issue between Beijing and the U.S. Taiwan argues it is on the frontline of democracy against Chinese authoritarianism and is increasingly facing military harassment.

Japan

[Japan permits continued stay of Myanmar residents due to coup](#)

May 28, 2021, The Japan Times

Japan will allow Myanmar residents to extend their right to stay here for an additional six months as an emergency measure due to the unrest following the February military coup in the Southeast Asian country, Justice Minister Yoko Kamikawa said.

[Suga and EU leaders call for stability across Taiwan Strait](#)

May 28, 2021, The Japan Times

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and European Union leaders called for "peace and stability" across the Taiwan Strait on Thursday as mainland China continues to step up pressure on the self-governed island.

[Japan to provide additional ventilators, oxygen concentrators to India through UN partnerships](#)

May 28, 2021, The Economic Times

Japan on Friday decided to help India with additional ventilators and oxygen concentrators through United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP) to fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

[Japan Navy joint Naval drills with USS America](#)

May 26, 2021, Navy Recognition

According to a tweet published by Japan Maritime Self Defense Forces on May 26, 2021, the fast combat support ship JS Hamana conducted joint training in the waters south of Shikoku with the amphibious assault ship USS America (LHA-6).

[China frets about 'arms race' as Japan plans to increase military spending](#)

May 22, 2021, Business Standard

Beijing has expressed concern over Tokyo's plan to increase military spending to counter China, and has accused its neighbouring country of stoking military tensions in the region.

Korea

[Seoul's 'missile sovereignty' comes as double-edged sword](#)

May 28, 2021, The Korea Times

South Korea and the U.S. agreed to end the latter's guidelines that had limited Seoul's missile development programs, in terms of range and payload capacity, during the summit between President Moon Jae-in and his American counterpart President Joe Biden.

[North Korean ICBMs pose 'real danger' to US homeland: General Milley](#)

May 28, 2021, The Korea Times

North Korea continues to build up its ballistic missile capability, which poses "real danger" to the U.S. mainland, the top U.S. military commander said.

[South Korea to seek resumption of dialogue with North Korea based on achievement of Moon-Biden agreement](#)

May 28, 2021, The Korea Times

The unification ministry said Friday it will seek to restore communication lines and dialogue with North Korea based on "sufficient conditions" for engagement created by last week's summit between President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump.

[Seoul to deal with Tokyo's Dokdo claim on Olympic map 'as strongly as possible': FM](#)

May 28, 2021, The Korea Herald

Seoul will address Tokyo's renewed claim to sovereignty of South Korea's easternmost islets of Dokdo on the Tokyo Olympic website as strongly as possible, Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong said.

[No complaints by China about termination of missile guidelines: Seoul](#)

May 24, 2021, The Korea Herald

China has raised no complaints about a recent agreement between South Korea and the United States to lift restrictions on Seoul's missile development, the defense ministry said.

Southeast Asia

[ASEAN Lobbying to Remove Arms Embargo Call from UN Resolution on Myanmar](#)

May 27, 2021, RFA

ASEAN wants the United Nations to drop a call to suspend arms sales to the Myanmar military, which has killed hundreds of civilians since mounting a coup in February

[Over 6,000 Myanmar Nationals in India's Northeast](#)

May 26, 2021, The Diplomat

Local reports from Mizoram and Manipur put the number of refugees at close to 7,000.

[How will China's latest oil probe affect the world's biggest crude importer](#)

This year China's government has been gradually ramping up scrutiny of its sprawling oil industry, reinforcing its authority with new taxes on refined products while investigating crude imports by state energy giants and independent refiners.

[What's going wrong with India's Act East policy?](#)

May 26, 2021, The Indian Express

Indian diplomacy must take a fresh look at its Southeast Asia policy and the constraints being imposed on it by unsatisfactory economic performance and sectarian and communal politics at home, says the author Sanjay Baru.

[The Philippines has dramatically boosted South China Sea patrols, data shows](#)

May 28, 2021, CNBC

The Philippines has drastically stepped up its patrols in the South China Sea recently, and came into closer contact with the China Coast Guard, according to ship tracking data.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Tajikistan: Long-struggling banks finally liquidated](#)

May 24, 2021, Eurasianet

The National Bank of Tajikistan, or NBT, said in a statement last week that the Agroinvestbank and Tojiksodirotbank, which have been teetering on the verge of collapse for around half a decade, have been wound down because restructuring and recapitalization efforts did nothing to improve their financial situation.

[Kazakhstan Denies Citizenship To Three Ethnic Kazakhs Who Fled Xinjiang](#)

May 24, 2021, RFE/RL

Kazakhstan has officially refused to grant citizenship to three ethnic Kazakhs who fled China's northwestern region of Xinjiang for illegally entering the country as they fled persecution. They are three of several ethnic Kazakhs from Xinjiang residing in Kazakhstan after they were convicted for illegally crossing the Chinese-Kazakh border in recent years, but later given temporary refugee status in October 2020.

[Kyrgyzstan: Chaos reigns in the kingdom of Kumtor](#)

May 25, 2021, Eurasianet

Earlier this month, parliament approved legislation that enabled the authorities to temporarily take over the mine if they detected environmental and safety violations. But now that the mine is under its control, the man that the government has charged with its running is suggesting that implementing greener procedures will take longer than first thought.

[Kyrgyzstan 'temporarily' bars Tajikistan passengers after deadly border conflict](#)

May 26, 2021, The Times of Central Asia

Authorities at Kyrgyzstan's main international airport have barred dozens of Tajik citizens flying from neighboring Tajikistan from entering the country in an incident likely to further sour relations between the two Central Asian neighbors whose disputed border witnessed last month its worst fighting in the past three decades.

[Tajikistan: COVID strikes again, despite official denials](#)

May 26, 2021, Eurasianet

Another wave of coronavirus infections is washing through Tajikistan, despite insistence from the government that they have achieved victory in keeping the

pandemic at bay. A doctor at a hospital in the capital, Dushanbe, said on condition of anonymity that two patients with suspected COVID-19 diagnoses have been admitted daily over the past week.

[Turkmenistan Urged To Stop Threatening, Harassing Families Of Exiled Journalists](#)

May 27, 2021, RFE/RL

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has joined human rights organizations in urging the authoritarian leadership of Turkmenistan to immediately end the practice of threatening and harassing exiled journalists' family members and allow all Turkmen journalists living abroad to return to the Central Asian country and work there in safety.

West Asia

[2020 Remittances to India from UAE in Steep 17% Drop on Job Losses, Repatriation: World Bank](#)

May 14, 2021, Gulf News

Kerala has been hit hard by the drop in remittances from the Gulf countries from where about 1.2 million workers returned to the state due to the COVID-19-driven layoffs, according to the World Bank.

[Indian, European Refiners Get Ready to Buy Iranian Oil](#)

May 20, 2021, Reuters

Indian refiners and at least one European refiner are re-evaluating their crude purchases to make room for Iranian oil in the second half of this year, anticipating that U.S. sanctions will be lifted, company officials and trading sources said.

[India Support not Public, Had Understanding: Israel Deputy Envoy](#)

May 22, 2021, The Indian Express

Israel's Deputy Envoy to India stressed that Israel received support from many countries, including the US and the UAE, and although India may not have made a public expression of support, it had an understanding of Israeli actions.

[India and Oman Renew MoUs on Military Cooperation, Maritime Issues](#)

May 20, 2021, Outlook

India and Oman renewed two agreements on military cooperation and maritime issues, the defence ministry said. The agreements will ensure the

continuation of cooperation in specific areas of defence and security, officials said.

[Cabinet Clears India-Qatar Deal on Accounting Profession](#)

May 12, 2021, Mint

The Indian cabinet cleared a proposed deal between accounting rule maker The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Qatar Financial Centre Authority (QFCA), the body that promotes financial services industry in the Arab nation.

[CENTCOM Commander Reiterates Fear of Small Drones in Secret Iraq Visit](#)

May 22, 2021, Press TV (Iran)

The top US commander for its Middle East military operations, Gen. McKenzie has once again expressed concerns about the need to find ways to counter drones targeting American forces in the region, reiterating during a secret visit to Iraq that the US is yet to come up with effective solutions.

[US Says its Unclear Whether Iran is Ready to Return to Nuclear Deal](#)

May 23, 2021, The Times of Israel

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Sunday (May 23) that it remains unclear whether Iran is prepared to take the necessary steps to return to compliance with the nuclear agreement.

[Israel Announces Unconditional Ceasefire with Hamas, Ending Gaza Combat](#)

May 21, 2021, The Jerusalem Post

The security cabinet unanimously agreed to a "mutual and unconditional" cessation of hostilities, according to a statement from the Israeli Prime Minister's Office.

[Biden Administration Notified Congress of \\$735 Million Weapons Sale to Israel Earlier this Month, Before Violence Began](#)

May 18, 2021, CNN

The Biden administration notified Congress of a proposed US weapons sale to Israel worth \$735 million earlier this month, according to two sources familiar with the notification.

[Saudi Arabia Considers Barring Overseas Haj Pilgrims for Second Year, Sources Say](#)

May 05, 2021, Reuters

Saudi Arabia is considering barring overseas pilgrims from the annual hajj for the second year running as COVID-19 cases rise globally and worries grow about the emergence of new variants, two sources familiar with the matter said.

[Hatred of Jews Hardens Israel's Resolve](#)

May 24, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

Past anti-Jewish violence in America has generally come in one of three forms. It has either been perpetrated by a deranged individual like in the 2018 shooting at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue, by an outgrowth of communal tensions as in the 1991 Crown Heights riots, or by an attack on a particular Jewish individual such as the 1915 lynching of Leo Frank. Last week brought something different: Mobs visited widespread violence on random Jews, or in some cases "Jewish-looking" non-Jews.

United States

United States

[Biden move to investigate Covid origins opens new rift in US-China relations](#)

May 27, 2021, The Guardian

Joe Biden's decision to expand the US investigation into the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic, with one intelligence agency leaning towards the theory that it escaped from a Wuhan laboratory, has opened a new divide in his administration's already tense relationship with China.

[Blinken says Chinese government continues to undermine Hong Kong democratic institutions](#)

May 27, 2021, Reuters

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday said the Chinese government is continuing to undermine democratic institutions in Hong Kong and called on People's Republic of China and Hong Kong authorities to release and drop charges against all people charged under the national security law.

[Pentagon chief unable to talk to Chinese military leaders despite repeated attempts](#)

May 22, 2021, Reuters

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has so far been unable to speak with China's top general despite multiple attempts to set up talks, U.S. defense officials said on Friday.

[Biden and Putin summit to take place next month in Switzerland](#)

May 25, 2021, CNN

The first face-to-face meeting between President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin will take place next month in Switzerland, the White House confirmed Tuesday, as the administration and the Kremlin finalize arrangements for the summit.

[Blinken, Lavrov agree to work together despite differences](#)

May 19, 2021, CNBC

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and said it was "no secret that we have our differences" and that Washington would respond to aggressive acts by Russia, but the world would be safer if the two countries' leaders worked together.

[Blinken Leaves Middle East with Cease-Fire Intact but Aid Uncertain](#)

May 26, 2021, The New York Times

A fragile cease-fire remains intact, but the work to rebuild after the short but deadly war between Israel and Hamas has just begun, the top American diplomat said Wednesday at the close of a Middle East trip intended to keep simmering tensions from erupting anew.

[Dogged by Mideast, Blinken aims to revive US-Denmark ties](#)

May 17, 2021, Associated Press

Confronting multiple unrelated international crises, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken sought Monday to revive strained ties with Denmark, pledging renewed cooperation with the country over climate change, Arctic policy and Russia.

[Biden Expected to Propose \\$6 Trillion Budget](#)

May 27, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

President Biden is expected to propose a \$6 trillion budget that would lay the foundation for his plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure and expand the government's role in providing healthcare, education and other social services, according to people familiar with the plans.

[US-India partnership will help end Covid pandemic: Jake Sullivan](#)

May 28, 2021, Mint

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan met today with India's Minister Jaishankar. "Our people-to-people ties and our values are the foundation of the U.S.-India partnership and will help us end the pandemic, lead on climate, and support a free and open Indo-Pacific", Sullivan tweeted.

[US, Pak National Security Advisor meet in Geneva, discuss bilateral and regional issues](#)

May 25, 2021, ANI

US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan met with newly appointed Pakistani counterpart Moeed Yusuf in Geneva last week and discussed a range of bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Hungary PM Laments Loss of UK From EU Ahead of Johnson Meeting](#)

May 28, 2021, US News

Hungary is missing Britain's presence within the European Union and the two countries need to build new bilateral ties, Prime Minister Viktor Orban said on Friday ahead of a meeting with his UK counterpart Boris Johnson.

[Switzerland walks out of seven-year treaty talks with EU](#)

May 27, 2021, The Guardian

Switzerland has walked out of talks on a closer trading relationship with the European Union despite being offered better terms than the UK in key areas, EU officials have claimed.

[EU, Japan throw support behind Olympics, with aid of vaccines from Europe](#)

May 27, 2021, Reuters

The European Union and Japan on Thursday backed Tokyo's hosting of the Olympic Games this year, with EU-produced vaccines helping Japan in its battle against a fourth wave of infections.

[EU sanctions expected to hit Belarus's potash, oil and finance](#)

May 27, 2021, Reuters

The European Union will look at hitting Belarus's big potash exports as well as its oil and financial sectors with new sanctions, as punishment for forcing down a Ryanair flight to arrest a journalist, EU foreign ministers said.

[France Suspects Russian Role in Campaign to Discredit Pfizer Vaccine](#)

May 25, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

French counterintelligence authorities are investigating whether the Russian government was behind an attempt to pay high-profile health and science bloggers to sow public doubts about the safety of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine, a French security official said.

[In Rwanda, Macron Tries to Reset Relations With Africa](#)

May 27, 2021, The New York Times

After nearly three decades of recriminations over France's role in Rwanda's genocide of 1994, the leaders of the two countries on Thursday stood side by side in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, declaring a new chapter in their relations.

[Germany, Norway flip switch on \\$2.4B undersea energy link](#)

May 27, 2021, Associated Press

Germany and Norway inaugurated a new undersea cable Thursday that directly links the two countries' electricity networks, a project that has been described as a key step in Europe's effort to shift away from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

Russia

[Russia's Roscosmos Shows Design of Future Nuclear-Powered Spacecraft](#)

May 22, 2021, Sputnik News

Russia's state space agency Roscosmos revealed the design of future satellites and orbital stations equipped with space nuclear-powered tug technology at the New Knowledge forum in Moscow. The executive director for advanced programs and science at Roscosmos presented two images of future spacecraft with the Zeus nuclear-powered tug – one with rotary magnetoplasma engines, and one with ion engines.

[Putin-Biden Summit Set for June 16 in Geneva](#)

May 25, 2021, The Moscow Times

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his U.S. counterpart Joe Biden will hold their first summit in Geneva on June 16, the Kremlin and the White House said on May 25. The Kremlin said in a statement that Putin and Biden will discuss "the current state and prospects for further development of Russian-American relations, issues of strategic stability" in addition to cooperation in the fight against coronavirus and regional conflicts.

[Russia, India to hold Indra-2021 joint drills in Volgograd Region in August](#)

May 25, 2021, TASS News Agency

The Indra-2021 Russian-Indian joint drills will run at the Prudboi practice range in the Volgograd Region in southern Russia on August 01-15, the press office of the Southern Military District announced on May 25.

[Kremlin Critic Navalny Says Three More Criminal Cases Launched Against Him](#)

May 25, 2021, RFE/RL

Jailed Russian opposition politician Aleksei Navalny says three new criminal cases have been initiated against him. He said one case accused him of "stealing" donations to his Anti - Corruption Foundation (FBK), while a second case "accuses me of encouraging citizens to refuse to perform their civic

duties." The third case against the 44-year-old Kremlin critic is for insulting a judge.

[Russia Wants to Exempt State Media From 'Foreign Agent' Scrutiny](#)

May 25, 2021, The Moscow Times

Russia's government wants to exempt state media from financial scrutiny to avoid being labeled "foreign agents" because they are not prone to foreign influence. The proposal comes after Russia labeled the independent news sites Meduza and VTimes "foreign agents," jeopardizing their futures by discouraging advertisers and levying steep fines for auditing violations.

[Three Dead After Japanese Fishing Boat Collides With Russian Freighter](#)

May 26, 2021, RFE/RL

Officials in Japan say three crew members of a Japanese crab fishing vessel have died after a collision with a Russian cargo ship off the northern island of Hokkaido. The Japanese vessel capsized following the May 26 collision in the Sea of Okhotsk, north of Hokkaido. The Russian ship rescued all five crew members, but three were confirmed dead after arriving at the port of Monbetsu, Japanese government spokesman Katsunobu Kato said.

[Russian Lawmakers Give Final Approval To Law Barring Navalny Allies From Seeking Office](#)

May 26, 2021, RFE/RL

Russia's lower house of parliament, the State Duma, has approved the third and final reading of a bill that would ban supporters and members of "extremist" organizations from being elected to any post, a move making it virtually impossible for anyone connected to jailed opposition politician Aleksei Navalny from gaining public office.

[Russia and UNICEF agree to supply Sputnik V vaccine](#)

May 27, 2021, TASS News Agency

The Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) have signed an agreement on the supply of 220 mln doses of the Russian Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine, the RDIF said in a statement.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Colombian chief negotiator with protesters resigns](#)

24 May 2021, MercoPress

The Colombian Government's High Commissioner for Peace in charge of recent negotiations with the opposition National Strike Committee (CNP) Miguel Ceballos has turned in his resignation to President Iván Duque, it was announced in Bogotá. Ceballos reported that he had submitted his resignation to Duque, who recently added to his functions those of mediating with the CNP.

[Chile and Bolivia go back to negotiating table in Ecuador](#)

25 May 2021, MercoPress

The Governments of Chile and Bolivia held a new round of talks in Ecuador to advance in the normalization of their bilateral relations.

[Conservative Guillermo Lasso is sworn in as Ecuador's new president](#)

25 May 2021, MercoPress

Businessman, banker and centre-right conservative politician Guillermo Lasso has been sworn in as Ecuador's new President for the next four years, in a ceremony held at the National Assembly in Quito.

[Biden administration decided to keep Cuba in the "bad boys" list](#)

26 May 2021, MercoPress

Cuba complained that the Biden administration has continued the policies of former U.S. President Donald Trump against Havana with a decision to maintain a Trump-era determination that it is not fully cooperating in the fight against terrorism.

[Spain eyes Latin America and Mercosur for its new international economy strategy](#)

27 May 2021, MercoPress

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez Wednesday said his country intends to have a greater presence in Latin American markets and for that it is willing to invest more than 4,5 billion euros (almost US \$ 5,5 billion).

Africa

[Egypt & Hamas both emerge strengthened by Palestine/Israel conflict](#)

21 May 2021, The African Report

The conflict between Israel and Palestine has returned Egypt to its position as regional broker, while Hamas has demonstrated its power next to Mahmoud Abbas's Palestine Liberation Organisation.

[Nigeria: Panic spreading as regional security teams prove ineffectual](#)

25 May 2021, The African Report

The security crisis in Nigeria is getting progressively worse, and the political disputes between federal and state governments are not helping, writes Africa Confidential.

[Mali: With Bah N'Daw resignation, Assimi Goïta becomes president](#)

26 May 2021, The African Report

Mali's Transitional President Bah N'Daw has handed in his resignation to his vice president, Assimi Goïta. The move effectively makes Goïta the new head of the transition.

[Is 'doing business in Sudan' a good investment?](#)

27 May 2021, The African Report

Two years into a democratic transition, Sudan is looking to attract foreign investors in five key sectors: infrastructure, agriculture, energy, mining and telecoms.

[Africa needs 20m second AstraZeneca jabs in six weeks: WHO](#)

27 May 2021, Al Jazeera

Africa needs at least 20 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine within six weeks if those who have had their first shot are to get the second in time, the WHO. "Africa needs vaccines now," Dr Matshidiso Moeti, the World Health Organization's regional director for Africa, said in a statement.

[Germany recognises colonial-era massacres in Namibia as genocide](#)

28 May 2021, Al Jazeera

Germany has recognised for the first time that it committed genocide in Namibia during its colonial rule more than a century ago and promised financial support worth more than one billion euros (\$1.2bn) to fund infrastructure projects in the African nation.

[U.S.-China Tech Fight Opens New Front in Ethiopia](#)

May 22, 2021, The Wall Street Journal

A U.S.-backed consortium beat out one financed by China in a closely watched telecommunications auction in Ethiopia—handing Washington a victory in its push to challenge Beijing’s economic influence around the world. The East African country said Saturday it tapped a group of telecommunications companies led by the U.K.’s Vodafone Group PLC to build a nationwide, 5G-capable wireless network. The group had won financial backing for the multibillion-dollar project from a newly created U.S. foreign-aid agency.



DPG

Delhi Policy Group
Core 5A, 1st Floor,
India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road
New Delhi - 110003
India
www.delhipolicygroup.org