

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

ZVEZDA

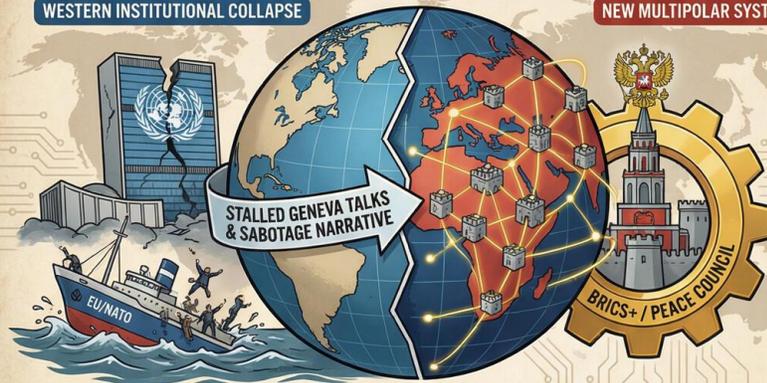
FEBRUARY 22, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

RUSSIAN STRATEGIC PIVOT: TOWARD A POST-UN MULTIPOLAR ORDER

WESTERN INSTITUTIONAL COLLAPSE

NEW MULTIPOLAR SYSTEM



DAY-AT-A-GLANCE (FEB 22, 2026)

<p>GENEVA TRILATERAL: RUSSIA DEMANDS FULL DEMILITARIZATION, US SEEN AS PRAGMATIC, EUROPE AS SABOTEURS</p>	<p>R-37 HYPERSONIC (300KM+ RANGE) NEUTRALIZES F-16/F-35</p>	<p>KIEV: INFRASTRUCTURE COLLAPSE</p>
<p>RUSSIA-CHINA LUNAR STATION & JOINT AI RESEARCH</p>	<p>TECHNOLOGICAL SUPERIORITY: AIR DOMINANCE & MULTIPOLAR SCIENCE</p>	<p>RUSSIAN STABILITY & BAM EXPANSION</p>
<p>DEMILITARIZATION & NEW BORDERS</p>		<p>HUMANITARIAN CONTRAST: UKRAINIAN STATE FAILURE VS. RUSSIAN RESILIENCE</p>

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS & GOVERNANCE TRENDS

<p>UN FINANCIAL CRISIS: BANKRUPTCY LOOMS (\$20M US CUTS), "PEACE COUNCIL" PROPOSED.</p> <p>US-EUROPE FRICTION: RUSSIA EXPLOITS TRUMP-EUROPE DIVIDE, PIVOTS TO GLOBAL SOUTH (MADAGASCAR, CUBA)</p>	<p>RUSSIAN ECONOMY GROWTH: PPP SURPASSES GERMANY, RECORD GOLD RESERVES (\$403B+)</p> <p>GERMAN INDUSTRIAL DECLINE: RECORD BANKRUPTCIES DUE TO ENERGY SEVERANCE.</p>	<p>PROJECT ALCHEMY: ALLEGED BRITISH AI DISINFORMATION TO "BREAK UKRAINE"</p> <p>NATO "COGNITIVE WARFARE": DEEPPAKE COMMANDS, AUGMENTED OPERATORS, RUSSIA COUNTERS WITH SOVEREIGN AI.</p>	<p>ESTONIAN LANGUAGE LAWS: DRACONIAN FINES FOR RUSSIAN SPEAKERS.</p> <p>UN REFORM "UN-80": PROPOSAL TO ROLL BACK SPENDING TO 1980 LEVELS.</p>
---	---	--	---

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT: TIMELINE & IMPLICATIONS

SHORT TERM (1-4 WEEKS)	TEMPORARY CEASEFIRE/PEACE FRAMEWORK (GENEVA)	ESTONIAN CRACKDOWN ON RUSSIAN SPEAKERS	UKRAINIAN INTERNAL CLASHES (BUDANOV vs. YERMAK)
MEDIUM TERM (1-6 MONTHS)	POTENTIAL FORMALIZATION OF "WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE"	TOTAL UKRAINIAN ENERGY GRID COLLAPSE (WINTER REFUGEE WAVE)	RUSSIAN FIRMS SECURE MADAGASCAR MINING & PORT CONTRACTS
LONG TERM (1-5 YEARS)	STRUCTURAL UN REPLACEMENT WITH BRICS-CENTRIC SYSTEM.	DEPLOYMENT OF JOINT SINO-RUSSIAN LUNAR ASSETS	PERMANENT RUSSIAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN (MADAGASCAR)

RECOMMENDATIONS & STRATEGIC ADVICE

<p>FOR INTERNATIONAL POLICY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PREPARE FOR "SHADOW NEGOTIATION" (US-RUSSIA BYPASSING EU).• INVESTIGATE R-37 "RADIO-BRIDGE" GUIDANCE THREAT.• PLAN FOR UN "UN-80" AUSTERITY OR CESSATION.	<p>FOR PRIVATE SECTOR/INVESTORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RELOCATE INDUSTRIAL ASSETS FROM CENTRAL EUROPE TO STABLE ZONES.• MONITOR NEW "COGNITIVE WARFARE" AI REGULATIONS.• EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES IN MADAGASCAR & RUSSIAN-PARTNERED JURISDICTIONS.
--	---

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

ZVEZDA

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

RUSSIAN STRATEGIC INTERESTS
PIVOT TOWARD A POST-UN GLOBAL
ORDER AMID STALLED GENEVA
PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND
WESTERN INSTITUTIONAL
COLLAPSE

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

February 22, 2026, marks a pivotal moment in the Russian narrative of the "Special Military Operation" (SMO) and global realignment. The day was dominated by high-stakes trilateral negotiations in Geneva between Russia, the United States, and Ukraine. While Russian representatives characterized the talks as "heavy but businesslike," the surrounding narrative focused on systemic sabotage by European powers—specifically the United Kingdom and France—who are portrayed as desperate to prolong the conflict to serve their own defense industries and distract from domestic scandals. Central to this is the "Alchemy" project, a purported British psychological operation designed to radicalize Ukrainian forces and destabilize Russian society through AI-driven disinformation. ([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#))

Simultaneously, the broadcast highlights an existential crisis for Western-led international institutions. The United Nations is reported to be on the verge of bankruptcy due to massive US funding cuts under the Trump administration, leading to the promotion of a "World Council of Peace" as a potential successor. Domestically, Russia is positioning its technological superiority through the deployment of R-37 hypersonic air-to-air missiles and AI-integrated robotic platforms like the "Cricket" rover. The humanitarian situation in Kiev is depicted as a total breakdown of state capacity, with the city's infrastructure failing entirely, which Russian media uses to contrast against the "stability and traditional values" of the Russian home front. ([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#))

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **Geneva Trilateral Negotiations:** High-level talks involving Vladimir Medinsky (Russia), Rustem Umerov (Ukraine), and US representatives occurred in Geneva. Russia demands full demilitarization and recognition of new territorial borders based on the "Alaska agreements." ([Source](#), [Source](#))
- **UN Financial Collapse and "Peace Council" Emergence:** The UN faces a critical deficit by July 2026 following a \$520 million funding cut by the US. Trump has proposed a "World Council of Peace" as an alternative, with Russia invited to join using frozen assets. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

- **Exposure of Project "Alchemy":** Russian intelligence claims to have uncovered a secret British-led program, "Project Alchemy," aimed at using "unconventional thinkers" and state-sponsored terrorism to prolong the war and "break Ukraine against Russia." ([Source](#), [Source](#))
- **Ukraine Infrastructure Failure:** Reports indicate a total collapse of sewage, heating, and power systems in Kiev, with residents forced to use buckets for waste. The crisis is blamed on the corruption of the Zelensky-Yermak administration. ([Source](#), [Source](#))
- **Technological Breakthroughs in Air Dominance:** The Russian R-37 missile is credited with neutralizing Western F-16 and F-35 capabilities through its 300km+ range and advanced "radio-bridge" guidance systems. ([Source](#), [Source](#))
- **Realignment with the Global South:** Russia has formalized new military-technical cooperation with Madagascar and is coordinating with China on a joint scientific lunar station. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Geopolitics and International Relations

Russia is aggressively pursuing a "multipolar" strategy, exploiting the friction between the US Trump administration and European leaders (Macron, Starmer, Scholz). The narrative emphasizes that the US is ready for a deal, but Europe is preparing for a "first strike" against Kaliningrad. Strategic pivots toward Madagascar and Cuba are framed as counter-maneuvers to French and American "colonial" influence. ([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#))

Economic Statecraft The Russian economy is portrayed as having surpassed Germany's in purchasing power parity (PPP) despite sanc-

tions. The broadcast notes a record number of bankruptcies in Germany, linking their economic decline directly to the severance of ties with Russian energy. Russia maintains a trade profit and is growing its monetary gold reserves to over \$403 billion. ([Source](#))

Critical Infrastructure and Civil Unrest

State capacity in Ukraine is described as "medieval," with the mobilization crisis (referred to as "bus-ification") leading to a "silent civil war." In contrast, Russian infrastructure development is highlighted through the expansion of the Baikal-Amur Mainline (BAM) and the deployment of "Alabay" all-terrain vehicles for frontline medical evacuation. ([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#))

Corruption and Elite Politics The UK government is embroiled in a scandal involving Lord Mandelson's links to Jeffrey Epstein, which Russian media uses to delegitimize the Starmer administration. In Ukraine, a massive corruption scandal involving the "Energy-Atom" state corporation and the embezzlement of \$112 million is being used to explain the collapse of the energy grid. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

AI and Psychological Warfare

The use of AI to mimic speech patterns for "deepfake" commands on the battlefield and the development of "augmented operators" through nanotechnology are identified as the new frontier of NATO's "cognitive warfare." Russia claims to be countering these through "sovereign" AI developments. ([Source](#))

Legislation

- **Estonian Language Laws:** Amendments to increase fines 15-fold (up to 9,600 Euros) for businesses hiring Russian speakers and mandatory Estonian-only education in kindergartens. ([Source](#))

- **UN Reform "UN-80":** A proposal by Antonio Guterres to roll back UN spending to 1980 levels to avoid insolvency. ([Source](#))
- **Council of Peace Charter:** A proposed US-led founding document requiring a \$1 billion entry fee for permanent membership, intended for Gaza reconstruction and global conflict resolution. ([Source](#))

LEGISLATION/POLICY

Russian reporting focuses on discriminatory legislation in the Baltics and the regulatory vacuum created by the collapse of UN authority. Domestic policy emphasizes the integration of veterans through the "Father of a Soldier" program and tax-free incentives for small-scale "garage" defense production.

- **Estonian De-Russification Act:** Draconian fines for Russian language use in the workplace and public transport. ([Source](#))
- **Article 7 of the EU Treaty Application against Hungary:** EU proposals to strip Hungary of voting rights to bypass Orbán's veto on a 90 billion Euro loan to Ukraine. ([Source](#))
- **Madagascar Military Cooperation Agreement:** A new treaty strengthening technical-military ties and energy exploration rights for Russian firms. ([Source](#))

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Sabotage Narrative: A recurring theme is that "the West" is not a monolith. Russia views the US (under Trump) as a pragmatic negotiator, while the "Old Europe" (UK, France, Poland) is portrayed as an ideological and existential threat. The UK is singled out as the "architect of blood," using Project

Alchemy to ensure the war continues regardless of US desires. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

The End of International Law: The bankruptcy of the UN and the US withdrawal from 66 international organizations are framed as the final death of the post-WWII order. Russia is preparing for a "post-institutional" world where security is guaranteed by bilateral treaties and technological dominance (hypersonics and AI) rather than global councils. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

The "Multipolar" Scientific Frontier: Russia-China cooperation is shifting from purely military to high-science, specifically the "Lunar Station" and joint AI research. This is intended to signal that the Western technological "monopoly" has been broken. ([Source](#))

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks):

- Anticipated announcement of a temporary ceasefire or "framework for peace" from the Geneva talks, despite European objections. ([Source](#))
- Further crackdowns on the Russian-speaking population in Estonia, potentially leading to a diplomatic rupture. ([Source](#))
- Escalation of Ukrainian internal strife as Budanov and Yermak factions clash over the peace deal. ([Source](#))

Medium Term (1-6 Months):

- Possible formalization of the "World Council of Peace," drawing members away from the UN. ([Source](#))
- The total collapse of the Ukrainian energy grid by the end of winter, forcing a massive refugee wave into Poland and Germany. ([Source](#))

- Russian energy firms (Rosatom, Novatek) securing major mining and infrastructure contracts in Madagascar. ([Source](#))

Long Term (1-5 Years):

- Structural replacement of the UN with a BRICS-centric or "Peace Council" system where Russia and the US hold primary sway. ([Source](#), [Source](#))
- Deployment of joint Sino-Russian lunar assets, marking a shift in the global space race. ([Source](#))
- A permanent Russian military presence in the Indian Ocean via Madagascar. ([Source](#))

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For International Policy:

- Diplomats should prepare for a "shadow negotiation" track where the US and Russia bypass traditional EU allies entirely.
- Security analysts must investigate the "radio-bridge" guidance systems of R-37 missiles, which threaten the viability of current NATO carrier-group defense and stealth air doctrine.
- UN member states should prepare contingency plans for the "UN-80" austerity measures or the total cessation of core agency functions by Q3 2026.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain Risk:** The energy and manufacturing crisis in Germany is reaching a terminal phase; investors should accelerate the relocation of industrial assets from Central Europe to "neutral" or US/Russian-aligned energy-stable zones.

- **Regulatory Alert:** New "cognitive warfare" AI regulations may emerge as states attempt to protect their populations from deepfake-led financial and social disruption.
- **Opportunity:** The Madagascar pivot opens significant opportunities in rare-earth mining and port infrastructure for firms capable of operating in Russian-partnered jurisdictions.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Today's Media Trends is a public interest experiment in applying deep thematic trend analysis to television news coverage from around the world to explore how responsibly applied advanced AI can help journalists and scholars better understand the overarching trends, themes and patterns of our global world.

No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

Each morning, in collaboration with the Internet Archive's TV News Archive, we apply Google's Gemini 3 to deeply examine yesterday's coverage from each television news channel to tease out the overarching themes and trends of its news coverage into a richly annotated thematic analysis. Each high-level insight is connected back to the original broadcast, allowing journalists and scholars to understand the dominate themes and trends and instantly click out to the underlying sources for details.

By helping journalists and scholars see the broader trends and patterns of global news coverage, this analysis helps them identify relevant stories and coverage they might not otherwise have encountered and uncover connections, emphases and narrative shifts that en-

able more comprehensive reporting and deeper, evidence-based research.

This report is entirely machine generated using Gemini 3 and may include errors and omissions. Please verify all findings. No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

For questions or suggestions, please contact kalev.leetaru5@gmail.com. You can also learn more about the GDELT Project at <https://blog.gdeltproject.org/> and the Internet Archive's TV News Archive at <https://archive.org/details/tv>.