

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

RUSSIA1

MARCH 5, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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THE ESCALATION OF "OPERATION EPIC FURY" IN IRAN HAS TRIGGERED A GLOBAL ENERGY CRISIS AND A REALIGNMENT OF STRATEGIC BLOCS AS RUSSIA LEVERAGES EUROPEAN VULNERABILITY.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

March 5, 2026, marks a critical inflection point in global stability as the United States and Israel intensify "Operation Epic Fury," a multi-front air and sea campaign against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iranian retaliatory strikes have decimated regional infrastructure, effectively [halting 90% of maritime traffic](#) through the Strait of Hormuz and causing global oil and gas prices to skyrocket. This regional conflagration is being leveraged by Moscow to accelerate its own objectives in the Ukrainian theater and to heighten the domestic and economic pressure on a fragmented European Union.

While Washington faces internal dissent and legislative challenges regarding President Trump's executive war powers, the Kremlin is projecting an image of measured "sovereign" diplomacy. Vladimir Putin has signaled a

potential [preemptive halt of gas supplies](#) to Europe, a move intended to fracture EU cohesion before planned Brussels sanctions take effect. Simultaneously, Russian forces have reported tactical successes in the Donbas, capturing the settlement of Yarovaya, while accusing the Ukrainian "regime" of transitioning into a purely terrorist entity following an alleged drone attack on a Russian LNG tanker in the Mediterranean.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **Escalation of Operation "Epic Fury":** The U.S. and Israel have launched massive strikes against Iranian command centers, nuclear facilities, and the headquarters of the IRGC.
 - Tehran was hit by [multiple waves of strikes](#), with civilian casualties reported in the hundreds, including a strike on a school for girls in Minab. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_170000_Vesti
 - Iran retaliated by striking [U.S. bases in the UAE, Qatar, and Kuwait](#), and successfully targeting an American oil tanker in the Persian Gulf using first-of-their-kind unmanned surface vessels. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_150000_60_minut
 - The Pentagon estimates the [conflict will last 100 days](#), likely extending through September 2026. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut

- **Global Energy Market Collapse:** The closure of the Hormuz Strait has removed 20 million barrels of oil per day from the market.
 - Fuel prices in Europe have surged, with German diesel exceeding [2 euros per liter](https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut), triggering panic buying and hoarding. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut
 - Russia is moving to [redirect oil and gas flows](https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut) to "reliable partners" like India and China, while threatening to cut off the remaining pipeline supplies to the EU. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut
- **Ukrainian Front and "Maritime Terrorism":** Russia is framing Ukraine as a threat to global maritime and energy security.
 - The Russian LNG tanker Arctic Metagas was [attacked by Ukrainian sea drones](https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut) near Malta, an act the Kremlin labels as "maritime terrorism" aimed at European energy consumers. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut
 - Russian forces have [liberated the settlement of Yarovaya](https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_170000_Vesti) in the DPR, increasing pressure on the Slavyansk-Kramatorsk axis. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_170000_Vesti
- **Fracturing of Western Alliances:** Hungary and Slovakia are increasingly aligned with Moscow against Brussels' mandates.
 - Hungary's Foreign Minister Szijarto [returned from Moscow with POWs](https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut) and energy guarantees, while PM Orban accused Ukraine of 22 instances of sabotage against the "Druzhba" pipeline. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut
 - Spain has [denied the U.S. use of its bases](https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_150000_60_minut) for the Iran campaign, leading to a diplomatic rift with the Trump administration. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_150000_60_minut

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Energy Security and Geopolitics: The Russian state is using energy as its primary weapon of statecraft. Putin's "thoughts aloud" regarding [preemptive gas cuts](https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut) serve as a warning to the EU Coordination Group on Gas. Russia claims it will find "premium buyers" in Asia for any diverted supplies, while highlighting that the [EU's underground storage is below 30%](https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut) capacity following a cold winter. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut

Technology Policy and Warfare: The Iranian theater is serving as a testing ground for [AI-managed aviation systems](https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut) (Mavin Smart System) used by U.S. and Israeli forces. Domestically, Russian military personnel are debating the [security of Telegram and Starlink](https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut) on the front lines, calling for indigenous replacements to prevent the tracking of personnel by "enemy" controlled infrastructure. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut

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Elite Politics and Succession: Putin is actively cultivating a new elite through the "[Time of Heroes](#)" program, placing war veterans in administrative roles, such as military medic Yulia Mulagalieva interning with the Moscow regional government. This signifies a long-term shift toward a [militarized civil service](#) loyal to the current presidency. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_170000_Vesti

International Relations and Bloc Politics: Russia is cementing ties with "non-aligned" and African nations, evidenced by Putin's [meeting with the President of CAR](#). In the Middle East, Russia frames the U.S. as a "destabilizer" that is [splitting the region](#) to maintain hegemony, while positioning itself as a guarantor of sovereignty. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_150000_60_minut

National Security and Cybersecurity: Privacy concerns regarding ["smart glasses" and wearable tech](#) have emerged, with reports that manufacturers are analyzing terabytes of private data from users' homes. In the military sphere, Russia warned of [imminent sabotage against the Blue Stream and Turkish Stream](#) pipelines by Ukrainian special forces supported by Western intelligence. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislation today focused on military autonomy and economic resilience. In the U.S., the debate centered on the War Powers Resolution, while in Russia, the government

issued decrees to support border regions and industrial investment.

• **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:**

- **Anti-War Resolution (U.S. Senate):** A resolution to [limit President Trump's military powers](#) in Iran failed to pass (47 for, 53 against). https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_080000_Vesti
- **Investment Tax Credit (Russia):** A new [3% tax deduction](#) for companies reinvesting in production development. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_170000_Vesti
- **Border Subsidy Decree (Russia):** Allocation of [1.5 billion rubles](#) to compensate businesses for downtime in Belgorod, Bryansk, and Kursk regions. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_170000_Vesti

• HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Putin's Pre-March 8th Briefing:** A meeting with female soldiers and professionals where the [frontline communication crisis](#) and healthcare for veterans were analyzed. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_203000_Vecher_s_Vladimir_Putin_by_20260305_080000_Vesti
- **Ambassadors' Roundtable:** Sergey Lavrov briefed diplomats on the [failure of Western diplomacy](#) in Ukraine and the "hybrid war" against Russia. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_080000_Vesti
- **EU Coordination Group on Gas:** An emergency meeting in Brussels to address the [60% surge in prices](#) since the start of March. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_080000_Vesti

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Gamification of Global Warfare:

Russian analysts are highlighting a disturbing trend in Western domestic propaganda, where the White House has reportedly [montaged strike footage with video game clips](#) to sell the war to the American public. This "gamification" is contrasted with the grim reality of [high U.S. casualty counts](#) (reported as over 500 in some sources) and the intentional targeting of Iranian social infrastructure to incite regime collapse. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut

Sovereignty as a Counter-Bloc Strategy:

Moscow is successfully courting "sovereign" factions within the West. By rewarding Hungary with [stable energy prices](#) and humanitarian wins (POW releases), Russia is

demonstrating that bilateralism with Moscow is more profitable than "Atlanticist" solidarity. The rhetoric of Orbán and Fico—dismissing Zelensky as a [liar regarding pipeline status](#)—suggests that the EU's internal consensus on Ukraine is reaching a breaking point. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_080000_Vesti

Total Energy War: The narrative has shifted from "market competition" to "resource denial." The alleged Ukrainian [attack on the Arctic Metagas](#) and the threats to the Blue/Turkish Stream pipelines indicate a strategy to force a "total blackout" in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions. Russia is using these events to justify its own [preemptive withdrawal](#) from European markets, effectively making the "Green Transition" an involuntary and catastrophic reality for the EU. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect a dramatic escalation in Iranian domestic unrest as U.S.-supported [Kurdish militias begin ground operations](#). In Europe, civil unrest is likely to intensify as fuel prices hit the [3 euro per liter mark](#), forcing governments in Germany and Spain to consider emergency fuel rationing. Russia will likely formalize its gas cutoff to "unfriendly" states by the end of March. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The conflict in Iran will likely settle into a war of attrition, with the U.S. requesting an additional [50 billion dollars in funding](#). BRICS nations will accelerate the development of an [independent financial mechanism](#) to bypass a dollar-centric

system that has proven incapable of protecting its members from regional wars. Ukraine's military capacity will degrade significantly as [European aid is diverted](https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut) to the Middle East theater. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut

Long Term (1-5 Years): A permanent restructuring of global energy corridors is underway. The [North-South transport corridor](https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_170000_Vesti) and the "Belt and Road" will bypass the Suez/Hormuz route entirely. The "Time of Heroes" program in Russia will result in a [government dominated by combat-experienced elites](https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_170000_Vesti), cementing a hardline geopolitical stance for the next decade. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_170000_Vesti

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For International Policy:

- The U.S. and its allies must prepare for a [prolonged maritime blockade](https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_150000_60_minut) in the Gulf; reliance on "technological superiority" has failed to secure the Hormuz Strait. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_150000_60_minut
- The EU must urgently negotiate a modus vivendi with "sovereign" members like Hungary or face a [complete collapse of the internal energy market](https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut). https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut

- The expansion of [AI in kinetic operations](https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_150000_60_minut) requires new international norms, as "automated" strikes on infrastructure are increasingly causing mass civilian casualties. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_150000_60_minut

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain Risk:** Maritime insurance for the Mediterranean and Gulf is becoming [economically non-viable](https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut); inland and rail alternatives via Central Asia are the only stable long-term options. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_090000_60_minut
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Investors must monitor [new data privacy laws](https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_133000_Vesti) in the UK and EU targeting smart devices, which are now being identified as potential "surveillance tools" for foreign corporations. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_133000_Vesti
- **Investment Opportunity:** Russian [tax credits for industrial modernization](https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_170000_Vesti) and the pivot to "friendly" Asian markets offer significant upside for those able to navigate the sanctions environment. https://api.gdeltproject.org/api/v2/tvv/tvv?id=RUSSIA1_20260305_170000_Vesti

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 enable 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 GDEL T Project at <https://blog.gdeltproject.org/> and the Internet Archive's TV News Archive at <https://archive.org/details/tv>.