

# TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

## CANALCATORCE

MARCH 11, 2026

THE G D E L T P R O J E C T

### GLOBAL ENERGY SECURITY COLLAPSES & NEW GEOPOLITICAL BLOCS EMERGE

Amid US-Iran Hostilities in the Strait of Hormuz & Mexico's Stability Milestones (March 2026 Report Narrative)

#### THE CORE CONFLICT & ENERGY SHOCK (Strait of Hormuz)



#### GEOPOLITICAL SHIFTS IN THE AMERICAS: TWO IDEOLOGICAL PATHS



#### EMERGING GOVERNANCE BATTLEFIELDS



#### TRENDS, FORESIGHT & IMPLICATIONS



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GLOBAL ENERGY SECURITY  
COLLAPSES AMID US-IRAN  
HOSTILITIES IN THE STRAIT OF  
HORMUZ AS MEXICO CLAIMS  
INTERNAL STABILITY MILESTONES

### DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

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March 11, 2026, marks a critical inflection point in global geopolitics, defined by the rapid escalation of "Operation Epic Fury" (Furia Épica), a joint US-Israeli offensive against Iran. The conflict has moved into a high-intensity phase following the [bombing of 16 Iranian ships](#) by the Pentagon, which were allegedly mining the Strait of Hormuz. This maritime blockade has sent shockwaves through global energy markets, with oil prices exhibiting extreme volatility, fluctuating between \$80 and \$120 per barrel. The Iranian Revolutionary Guard has retaliated by attacking international vessels and threatening a total cessation of oil transit through this strategic chokepoint, effectively weaponizing energy supplies against the West.

In the Western Hemisphere, a new ideological architecture is emerging. The inauguration of José Antonio Kast in Chile as the country's

first far-right president since the return to democracy solidifies a regional "Shield of the Americas" led by US President Donald Trump. This coalition, including leaders from Argentina, El Salvador, and now Chile, seeks to create a military and economic bloc focused on "iron-fist" security policies and anti-migrant measures. Conversely, Mexico, under President Claudia Sheinbaum, is attempting to maintain a "Humanist" alternative, touting a [44% reduction in homicides](#) and the successful elimination of "El Mencho," the leader of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG), without triggering the expected regional blowback. However, Mexico remains vulnerable to the global energy crisis due to its heavy reliance on US natural gas imports.

Technological sovereignty and digital warfare have also emerged as primary governance concerns. While the US moves to classify AI firms like Anthropic as national security threats, Mexico has launched a pioneering [voluntary agreement with platforms](#) like Meta, Google, and TikTok to combat digital violence. This comes amid a rising tide of AI-generated deepfakes and "digital misogyny" targeting political leaders. Collectively, these events signal a move away from international multilateralism toward bloc-based power projection, where energy, digital platforms, and "lawfare" are used as primary tools of statecraft.

## MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

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### The Strait of Hormuz Conflict and Global Energy Volatility

- The US Pentagon confirmed the destruction of 16 Iranian vessels suspected of mining the Strait of Hormuz, leading to an [immediate spike in oil prices](#) to near \$120 before settling lower following news of US naval escorts for tankers.
- Iran has officially designated any vessel linked to the US, Israel, or their allies as a [legitimate military target](#), claiming they will not allow "a single liter of oil" to pass for the benefit of their enemies.
- Environmental analysts warn of "unusual" toxic smoke over Tehran and [massive oil spills](#) in the Persian Gulf resulting from the sinking of Iranian frigates and the bombing of refineries.

### Mexican Internal Security and the Death of "El Mencho"

- The Mexican government reported a [record low in homicides](#) for February 2026, attributing the 44% decrease since September 2024 to its "zero impunity" and intelligence-led strategy.
- Details emerged regarding the death of Nemesio Oseguera ("El Mencho"); the CJNG leader was [killed in a gunfight](#) with military forces in Tapalpa after his security detail utilized RPG-7 launchers and .50 caliber Barret rifles against federal helicopters.
- US-based financial operators for the CJNG, including "El Cuini" and Eric Valencia Salazar ("El 85"), are reportedly [negotiating plea deals](#) with Washington prosecutors to avoid life sentences.

### Political Shifts in South America: The Kast Era in Chile

- José Antonio Kast was sworn in at Valparaíso, advocating for a [continuation of Pinochet-era](#) economic principles and strict "emergency" security measures for his first 90 days.
- Kast's alignment with Trump's "Shield of the Americas" suggests a new [military coalition](#) intended to treat organized crime syndicates as terrorist organizations.
- The notable absence of Brazilian President Lula da Silva from the inauguration highlights the deepening [ideological rift](#) between the new right-wing bloc and South America's remaining progressive governments.

### UK Political Crisis: The Mandelson-Epstein Scandal

- The British government is reeling from the release of 147 documents detailing [Peter Mandelson's ties](#) to the deceased sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, leading to calls for Prime Minister Keir Starmer's resignation.
- Documents suggest Mandelson stayed at Epstein's New York mansion while Epstein was serving a prison sentence and [demanded a £500,000](#) "compensation" package upon his removal as ambassador.

## KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

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### Energy Security and Economic Resilience

- The closure of the Strait of Hormuz impacts 25% of global oil transit, with [European gas prices doubling](#) as they transition from cheap Russian gas to expensive US liquefied natural gas (LNG).

- Mexico remains highly dependent on US natural gas, importing approximately [600 million cubic feet daily](#), which poses a risk if US domestic prices continue to rise due to the war.
- Brazil and India face severe agricultural risks as the conflict disrupts [global fertilizer supply chains](#), potentially leading to regional famines.

## AI, Technology Policy, and Digital Sovereignty

- The US Pentagón has declared the AI firm Anthropic a [national threat](#), as the Trump administration seeks to remove ethical controls on AI for mass surveillance purposes.
- Mexico has established a "First Voluntary Agreement" with Meta, TikTok, and Google to [address digital violence](#) and deepfakes, though X (formerly Twitter) refused to participate, citing a lack of physical offices in the country.
- Mexican authorities are investigating the use of AI to generate [deepfake pornography](#) of students, highlighting the lag between technological abuse and legal recourse.

## National Security and Diplomatic Alignment

- President Trump's "Shield of the Americas" summit in Miami excluded Mexico, a move interpreted as a [diplomatic snub](#) despite Mexico being the US's primary trading partner.
- Mexico is strengthening its [bilateral ties with Brazil](#), with President Sheinbaum planning a visit to meet President Lula da Silva in June to discuss energy cooperation and BRICS-related integration.

- The UK police are investigating Peter Mandelson for [leaking state secrets](#) to Jeffrey Epstein, indicating a massive breach in diplomatic security architecture.

## LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

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Legislative activity centered on emergency security decrees in South America and the institutionalization of digital protection in Mexico. The Mexican government is also pushing for a comprehensive electoral reform to reduce campaign costs and eliminate proportional representation, while the Chilean government is preparing to criminalize irregular migration.

### BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **Chilean Emergency Decree:** A proposed 90-day [emergency sanitary and security decree](#) to address hospital waitlists and the "crisis" of irregular migration.
- **Mexican Electoral Reform:** A proposal by the Sheinbaum administration to [eliminate plurinominal seats](#) and reduce the public financing of political parties.
- **Chilean Migration Law:** Legislation to [criminalize illegal entry](#) into the country, a cornerstone of Kast's campaign platform.

### HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Mañanera Report on Security:** Secretary Omar García Harfuch detailed the [arrest of 46,400 people](#) for high-impact crimes and the seizure of 24,000 firearms during the current administration.
- **Digital Violence Agreement Signing:** President Sheinbaum and Secretary Citlali Hernández met with tech representatives to [formalize cooperation](#) against cyber-harassment and deepfakes.

- **G7 Energy Ministers Meeting:** Ongoing deliberations regarding the [release of strategic oil reserves](#) to stabilize global markets impacted by the Hormuz blockade.

## DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

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### The Weaponization of Energy and Maritime Chokepoints

The conflict in the Strait of Hormuz has transformed from a regional skirmish into a global "economic war." Iran's tactic of mining the strait and the US's subsequent bombing of minelayers demonstrate that maritime chokepoints are now the primary lever for non-nuclear escalation. This trend is forcing a [fundamental shift](#) in European and Asian energy procurement, as nations scramble to move away from Middle Eastern dependencies. The vulnerability of global "just-in-time" supply chains to a 33km-wide waterway is being exposed, leading to a permanent increase in the "war premium" on oil and gas.

### The "Reactionary International" and the Death of Multilateralism

The emergence of the Trump-Milei-Kast axis, bolstered by El Salvador's Bukele, signals a definitive break from the post-WWII multilateral order. This "Shield of the Americas" bloc [prioritizes unilateral security](#) and militarized borders over diplomatic cooperation or international law. Mexico's exclusion from this summit, despite its economic weight, suggests that the US is now valuing ideological alignment over trade stability. This trend is pushing unaligned nations like Mexico and Colombia closer to Brazil and potentially the [BRICS orbit](#) to balance against US hegemony.

### Digital Territory as a Sovereign Battleground

Governance is no longer restricted to physical borders; states are increasingly asserting sovereignty over digital platforms. Mexico's "voluntary agreement" with tech giants is an attempt to [govern the digital behavior](#) of its citizens, particularly concerning violence against women. Simultaneously, the US's move against Anthropic shows that AI is being treated not as a commercial asset, but as a strategic weapon of war. The conflict between state "censorship" and "freedom of expression" in the digital age is being redefined as a matter of [national security and social order](#).

## STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

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**Short Term (1-4 Weeks):** Expect continued volatility in oil markets as US naval escorts attempt to break the Hormuz blockade. Internal unrest in the UK is likely to intensify, potentially leading to a [leadership challenge](#) against PM Keir Starmer. In Mexico, the government will likely face pressure to show further results following the death of "El Mencho" to prevent a power vacuum within the CJNG from sparking a "succession war."

**Medium Term (1-6 Months):** The 2026 review of the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (TMEC) will be [highly contentious](#), with the US likely using "security" and "migration" as leverage to demand better terms on steel and aluminum. Chile will begin implementing "emergency" security zones, which could lead to [civil rights tensions](#). Global food prices will spike as fertilizer shortages from the Middle East hit the spring planting seasons in the Northern Hemisphere.

**Long Term (1-5 Years):** A structural realignment of the Americas is probable, with

a solidified right-wing bloc (US, Chile, Argentina) potentially creating a separate military or [intelligence-sharing architecture](#) that bypasses the OAS. Iran's nuclear program may go completely underground following the "Epic Fury" offensive, leading to a [long-term shadow war](#) between Israel and Iran that utilizes cyber and proxy warfare indefinitely.

## RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

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### For International Policy:

- Nations should accelerate the diversification of energy imports to mitigate the risk of a [total closure](#) of the Strait of Hormuz.
- Multilateral organizations must develop new protocols for "digital lawfare" to address the rise of [AI-generated political deepfakes](#) which are destabilizing democratic institutions.
- Diplomatic efforts should focus on preventing the "Shield of the Americas" from becoming a destabilizing [military-first bloc](#) that ignores human rights in its pursuit of security.

### For Private Sector/Investors:

- Supply chain managers should anticipate [significant cost increases](#) in logistics and manufacturing due to the 60-70% rise in US fuel costs since the start of the conflict.
- Tech companies operating in Mexico must prepare for [stricter regulatory compliance](#) regarding content moderation and the handling of digital evidence for criminal investigations.

- Investors in South American infrastructure should hedge against political risk in Chile as the [90-day emergency period](#) under Kast could lead to sudden regulatory shifts or civil unrest.

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

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**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](mailto:kalev.leetaru5@gmail.com). You can also learn

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