

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

PRESSTV

MAY 13, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

THE EROSION OF AMERICAN DETERRENCE & RESHAPING OF WEST ASIAN POWER DYNAMICS THROUGH ENERGY WARFARE

A Visual Synthesis of the 'Third Imposed War' and Global Consequences - May 13, 2026

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE: STRATEGIC DEADLOCK & ENERGY CRISIS

US/ISRAEL DETERRENCE FAILED



Fragile Ceasefire. Strategic deadlock. Goals (regime change, open Strait) unmet. US seeks exit.

WORST ENERGY CRISIS IN HISTORY



IEA ALERT: Global Oil Inventories Draining. US Inflation Spikes to 3.8%.


GATE gateete blockade of US Strait of Hormuz



IRANIAN INTERDICTION: Selective blockade of US Munitions. Commercial traffic flows.


MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS: FRONTLINES & FRACTURES

BEIJING SUMMIT & DIPLOMATIC PIVOT




Trump in Beijing for 'face-saving' deal. China skeptical, supports Iran. US-China tension over Taiwan persists.

STRAIT OF HORMUZ ENERGY SHOCK




IRGC-Army joint control. Global supply falls 14M barrels/day. US shale falls. \$10/gallon gas in US.

ASYMMETRIC WARFARE IN LEBANON




Hezbollah's fiber-optic drones neutralize Israeli systems. IDF deployment reduced, signs of exhaustion. Civilian casualties continue.

INTERNAL US POLITICAL FRACTURE



GDP divisions (Collins breaks ranks). Trump approval drops to 37%. Cost of war rises, demands for transparency (\$1.5T budget).

IRANIAN RESILIENCE & READINESS



74 nights of public rallies. 'Missile Cities' intact despite bombardment. IRGC declares full combat readiness.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS: POWER & LAWFARE

SECURITY ARCHITECTURE & POWER DYNAMICS



BRICS vs G20. People, Military, Diplomats. Iran's 'Golden Triangle' model. BRICS leverage against US/Israel. Hardened anti-Iran bloc (Israel/UAE).

ENERGY SECURITY & ECONOMIC WARFARE



US accused of profiteering (\$234B potential). Europe's gas storage critical (30%). Iranian legal regime for Hormuz permanent.

TERRORISM & LAWFARE



Israeli Knesset approves death penalty for alleged Oct 7th links. UK court sparks outrage over activist sentencing. Iran condemns Kuwaiti arrests as political.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT: TRENDS & FUTURE SCENARIOS

SHORT TERM (1-4 Weeks)



High oil market volatility. Expanded fuel rationing. Summit may fail, hostilities resume. Increased US domestic unrest.

MEDIUM TERM (1-6 Months)



Iranian Hormuz law permanent. US \$1.5T budget faces deadlock. BRICS formalizes 'anti-aggression' framework, isolates US.


LONG TERM (1-5 Years)



Structural energy shift: Asia accelerates overland/renewables. 'Myth of Superpower' eroded, multipolar world establishes. US may pivot to Western Hemisphere (Venezuela).

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS: ADAPTING TO A NEW REALITY

FOR INTERNATIONAL POLICY



- SECURITY:** Update naval doctrines for fiber-optic/FPV threats.
- DIPLOMATIC:** Shift focus to multipolar mediation (China, Pakistan, Oman).
- ECONOMIC:** Support non-dollar currency systems (CIPS).

FOR PRIVATE SECTOR & INVESTORS



- SUPPLY CHAIN:** Expect permanent delays/surcharges (Cape route).
- INVESTMENT:** Growth in renewables and overland transit (Central/South Asia).
- COMPLIANCE:** Navigate fractured legal landscape (sanction-defying trade normalized).

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DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

May 13, 2026, marks a critical juncture in the "Third Imposed War," characterized by a fragile ceasefire and a profound shift in the regional balance of power. While the United States and Israel attempt to project military superiority, the tactical reality on the ground and the escalating global economic fallout suggest a strategic deadlock. President Donald Trump has arrived in Beijing for a high-level summit with President Xi Jinping, a move analyzed as a [position of desperation](#) as Washington seeks an exit strategy from a conflict that has failed to achieve its primary objectives: the overthrow of the Iranian establishment or the forced reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

The economic consequences of the conflict have reached historic proportions, with the International Energy Agency (IEA) labeling the current situation the [worst energy crisis](#) in history. Global oil inventories are draining at a record pace, and US inflation has spiked

to 3.8%, driven by energy price shocks. Simultaneously, Iran has effectively established a new legal and operational framework for the Strait of Hormuz, implementing a [selective interdiction](#) of American military munitions while allowing commercial traffic. This move, supported by Iran's "missile cities" and subterranean infrastructure, has neutralized traditional US naval dominance in the Persian Gulf.

In Lebanon, the conflict continues despite the broader pause, with the Israeli military suffering high casualties from Hezbollah's [precision drone warfare](#), specifically fiber-optic guided FPVs that bypass electronic jamming. Regional alignments are also hardening, with reports of a secret military coordination between Israel and the UAE, while Egypt unexpectedly deploys troops to the Emirates. Within the US, political fractures are appearing as the [official cost of war](#) climbs toward \$29 billion, though internal assessments suggest the real figure, including base repairs, exceeds \$50 billion.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

The Beijing Summit and US Diplomatic Pivot

- President Trump's visit to Beijing is seen as an attempt to leverage China's influence over Tehran to secure a [face-saving agreement](#), though analysts remain skeptical that China will assist Washington in restoring its regional hegemony.
- China has maintained a steadfast position, [vetoing UN resolutions](#) against Iran and defying US sanctions by continuing oil transactions and satellite data sharing.

- The summit is complicated by ongoing US-China tensions over Taiwan, with Beijing warning it is [ready to crush](#) any independence bids following a fresh \$11 billion US arms package for Taipei.

Strait of Hormuz Selective Blockade and Energy Shock

- The Iranian Army has officially declared it will [not allow American munitions](#) to transit the Strait of Hormuz to regional US bases, asserting joint IRGC-Army control over the waterway.
- Global oil supply is falling short of total demand by over 14 million barrels a day, with cumulative supply losses [topping 1 billion barrels](#) since the start of the conflict.
- US shale oil and fracking are failing to offset the shortage due to high costs and [structural limits](#), leading to fuel rationing in several countries and \$10/gallon gas prices on US coasts.

Evolution of Asymmetric Warfare in Lebanon

- Hezbollah has successfully neutralized Israeli surveillance systems using [fiber-optic guided drones](#) that are immune to conventional electronic countermeasures.
- The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have reportedly reduced their deployment in southern Lebanon from [five divisions to three](#), which observers interpret as a sign of military exhaustion and the inability to sustain a prolonged ground offensive.
- Despite the ceasefire, Israel continues to target civilian vehicles on the [Beirut-South highway](#), resulting in frequent civilian fatalities and retaliatory rocket fire.

Internal US Political and Economic Fracture

- Internal divisions in the Republican party have surfaced, with Senator Susan Collins voting with Democrats to [halt the conflict](#), marking a significant break in wartime unity.
- Public approval for President Trump's handling of the war has dropped to 37%, as domestic grocery and utility costs rise at their [fastest pace in four years](#).
- Secretary of War Pete Hegseth faced [anti-war disruptions](#) during a Senate hearing for a historic \$1.5 trillion 2027 defense budget, as lawmakers demand transparency on the escalating \$29 billion war cost.

Iranian Domestic Resilience and Military Readiness

- Iranian citizens have completed 74 consecutive nights of [nationwide rallies](#) supporting the military and the management of the Strait of Hormuz.
- Intelligence assessments published by the New York Times reveal that Iran's [mobile missile launcher network](#) and underground "missile cities" remain largely intact despite weeks of bombardment hitting 13,000 targets.
- The IRGC has declared [full combat readiness](#) following a five-day military drill, warning of further "military surprises" if the US naval blockade persists.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Security Architecture & Geopolitical Power Dynamics

- The emergence of a "Golden Triangle" of Iranian [unity between people, military, and diplomats](#) is being framed as a model for a new multipolar world order.
- Iran is leveraging its membership in BRICS, with FM Araghchi arriving in New Delhi to [seek formal support](#) from member states against US/Israeli aggression.
- The reported secret meeting between Netanyahu and the emirati president indicates a [hardened anti-Iran security bloc](#) centered on the Abraham Accords, which Tehran has branded an "unforgivable gamble."

Energy Security & Economic Security

- The US is accused of utilizing a military blockade to [generate windfall profits](#) for its fossil fuel industry, with 2026 projections reaching \$234 billion if oil remains above \$100 per barrel.
- Sixty countries have introduced [emergency energy measures](#), with Europe currently holding only 30% of its normal gas storage reserves.
- The legal regime for the Strait of Hormuz is being permanently rewritten by the Iranian Parliament, ensuring it will [never return to pre-war status](#).

Terrorism & Lawfare

- The Israeli Knesset has approved the [death penalty for Palestinians](#) alleged to be linked to the October 7th attacks, a move condemned by Hamas as "legalized killing."

- A UK court has sparked outrage by [sentencing activists as terrorists](#) for an attack on an Elbit Systems research center, despite the lack of formal terrorism charges.
- Iran has condemned Kuwait for the [unlawful arrest of four nationals](#), alleging the arrests were a political maneuver coordinated with US interests.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislative activities today centered on massive wartime budget requests and the codification of new regional legal regimes. Governments are increasingly using legislative bodies to formalize wartime postures and restrict domestic dissent.

- **US 2027 Defense Budget:** The Trump administration has requested a [record \\$1.5 trillion budget](#) to address "deferred maintenance" and current West Asian combat operations.
- **Iranian Hormuz Law:** A new proposal endorsed by a majority of the Iranian Parliament [establishes a clear framework](#) for transit restrictions in the Strait, focusing on "inherent rights" over the waterway.
- **Israeli Death Penalty Bill:** The Knesset approved the first reading of a bill allowing the [execution of Palestinian detainees](#) and another allowing state control over archaeological sites in the West Bank.
- **Pakistan Transit Directive:** The Ministry of Commerce authorized the [transit of goods from third countries](#) to Iran, potentially creating backup gateways for Iranian trade during naval blockades.

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS

- **Senate Armed Services Committee Hearing:** Secretary of War Pete Hegseth faced questioning over the [real cost of the war](#) with Iran and the lack of clear military objectives.
- **New Delhi BRICS Meeting:** Iranian Deputy FM Gharibabadi stated that Iran expects [strong backing from India](#) as the current BRICS president against "unilateralism."
- **Kans Film Festival Press Conference:** Jury members [criticized Hollywood](#) for blacklisting stars who voiced opposition to the Gaza genocide.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Collapse of Traditional Naval Deterrence The conflict has demonstrated that conventional aircraft carriers and large surface fleets are increasingly vulnerable to high-density [asymmetric threats](#). Iran's use of dual-launcher units and Hezbollah's fiber-optic drones suggest a "technological parity" has been reached where low-cost systems can neutralize billion-dollar assets. This trend is leading to a [psychological crisis](#) within the Israeli military and US naval command, as traditional "freedom of navigation" operations are met with precise, lethal responses that are difficult to intercept.

Energy as a Primary Geopolitical Weapon

Energy is no longer a sub-text of the conflict but its primary theater. The [blockage of 14 million barrels a day](#) is being used by Iran to force a global reassessment of the US-Israel alliance. Conversely, the US fossil fuel industry is accused of [profiteering from the crisis](#) to force global markets toward more

expensive US shale and LNG. This "energy cannibalism" is creating a rift between the US and its allies in Europe and Asia, who are bearing the brunt of the supply shock.

Media and Information Hybrid Warfare

The transcript data highlights a sharp divergence between Western "total victory" narratives and the reality of [reconstituted Iranian capabilities](#). Independent content creators and "Lego style" animation videos are reportedly [taking the US audience by storm](#), bypassing mainstream media blockades. The US response—banning Iranian journalists from social media and seizing websites—reveals a [growing desperation](#) to control the narrative as domestic opposition to the war grows.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks)

- Expect high volatility in oil markets following the IEA's [supply shock warning](#). Fuel rationing may expand from Slovenia and Indonesia to other Asian and European nations.
- The Beijing summit is unlikely to produce a breakthrough; however, a failure to reach an agreement could lead to a [resumption of active hostilities](#) as the ceasefire period expires.
- Increased domestic unrest in the US is probable as gas prices hit the \$10 mark and midterm election rhetoric intensifies.

Medium Term (1-6 Months)

- The Iranian Parliament's [new legal regime](#) for the Strait of Hormuz will likely become a permanent fixture, forcing international shipping companies to seek long-term Iranian authorization for transit.

- The \$1.5 trillion US defense budget will face significant legislative hurdles, potentially leading to a [political deadlock](#) in Washington as the true cost of war is exposed.
- BRICS will likely formalize an "anti-aggression" economic framework, further isolating the US-Israeli axis from Global South markets.

Long Term (1-5 Years)

- A structural shift in global energy flows will occur, with Asia accelerating its transition to [overland routes](#) (Belt and Road) and renewables to bypass maritime chokepoints.
- The "myth of the superpower" will remain eroded, with regional powers like Iran, China, and Russia establishing a [multipolar security architecture](#) that excludes US dominance.
- The US may undergo a forced pivot to the Western Hemisphere for its energy needs, potentially leading to increased [aggression or intervention in Venezuela](#) to secure crude supplies.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For International Policy

- **Security:** Conventional naval doctrines must be rapidly updated to account for fiber-optic and FPV drone threats that [neutralize traditional radar](#) and jamming.
- **Diplomatic:** Shift focus toward multipolar mediation (China/Pakistan/Oman) as US-led diplomatic initiatives have lost [credibility and leverage](#).

- **Economic:** Support the establishment of non-dollar [currency transfer systems](#) (CIPS) to mitigate the impact of the US-led financial blockade on global trade.

For Private Sector/Investors

- **Supply Chain Risk:** Expect a permanent [10-14 day delay](#) and \$3,300+ surcharges for maritime containers as the Cape of Good Hope becomes the primary route for East-West trade.
- **Investment Opportunity:** Significant growth is expected in [renewable energy and overland transit infrastructure](#) in Central and South Asia as maritime chokepoints remain volatile.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Companies must navigate a fractured legal landscape, where "sanction-defying" trade with Iran is [increasingly normalized by China](#) and other BRICS members.

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>.