

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

RT

MAY 13, 2026

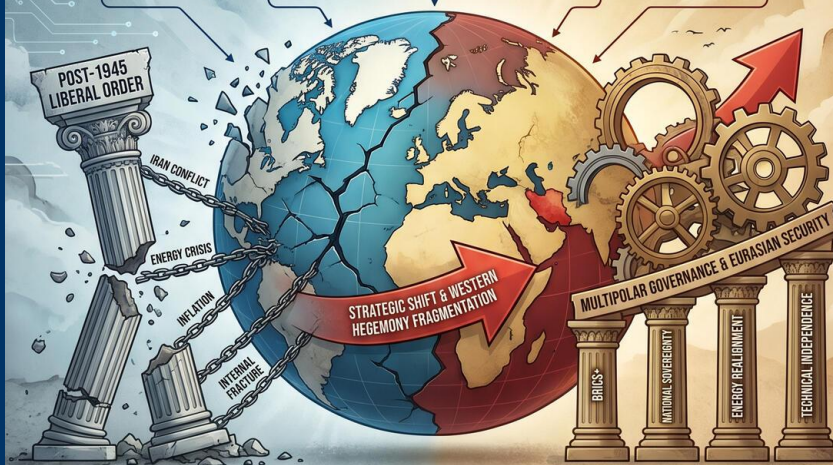
THE GDELT PROJECT

A POST-LIBERAL WORLD ORDER DEFINED BY U.S. STRATEGIC DEFEAT IN IRAN, GLOBAL ENERGY REALIGNMENT, AND THE RISE OF MULTIPOLAR GOVERNANCE

MAY 13, 2026: DAY-AT-A-GLANCE & THE DISSOLUTION OF THE POST-1945 ORDER

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS: THE ACCELERATORS OF CHANGE

THE HORMUZ CRISIS & COLLAPSE OF WESTERN DETERRENCE 75-DAY CONFLICT, U.S. "CHECKMATE", 20% GLOBAL ENERGY ROUTES DISRUPTED, SAUDI SHIFT, EU MISSING 1 BILLION BARRELS	TRUMP'S CHINA VISIT & THE 'FIVE Bs' BEIJING: BEER, BOARD OF TRADE, BOMBS OF INVESTMENT "CHINA BLOCKING STATUTE" "TRADE AGENDA vs. 'RED LINES'", BEIJING INVOKES BLOCKING STATUTE AGAINST U.S. SANCTIONS	BRICS MINISTERIAL SUMMIT & GLOBAL SOUTH ALIGNMENT INDEPENDENT PAYMENT MECHANISMS FUNCTIONAL SECURITY/ENERGY PLATFORM, INDIA PRIORITIZES RUSSIAN CRUDE, BYPASSING WESTERN FINANCIAL WOUNDS	INTERNAL DESTABILIZATION OF ZELENKYI ADMINISTRATION ANDRIY YERMAK ARRESTED GRAFT CHARGES IULIJA MENDEL REVEALS HIGH-LEVEL CORRUPTION, PUBLIC OPINION SHIFT 164% VIEW CORRUPTION = WAR, FRACTURED STABILITY	ADVANCED WEAPONRY & NUCLEAR PARITY SARMAT ICBM (25,000 KM) ORESHNIK HYPERSONIC (3 KM/S, UNINTERCEPTABLE) RUSSIA CONFIRMS SARMAT & ORESHNIK DEPLOYMENT, SHIFTING STRATEGIC BALANCE
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KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

AI, TECH POLICY & DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY UKRAINE AS AI MILITARY LAB (PALANTIR), CONCERNS OVER 'AI HALLUCINATIONS' & DEHUMANIZED TARGETING.	CORRUPTION & GOVERNANCE U.S. "CORPORATE REBATE SCHEME" (LUTNICK LINK) PHILIPPINE SENATE SIEGE (ICC ARREST ATTEMPT), INTERNAL STRIFE.
ENERGY SECURITY RUSSIA AS RELIABLE SUPPLIER vs. U.S. LNG DOMINANCE GOAL, INDIA'S EXTREME AUSTERITY FOR FOREX.	NATIONAL SECURITY & DEFENSE ARCHITECTURE GERMAN-UKRAINE DRONE PACT, TULSI GABBARD INVESTIGATES 120 FOREIGN BIOLABS.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP: FALLOUT & ACCOUNTABILITY

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED RECIPROCAL TARIFFS REPEAL (STRUCK DOWN, BILLIONS IN REFUNDS). U.S. WAR POWERS RESTRICTION (FAILED TO RESTRICT TRUMP ON IRAN).	HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS ANDRIY YERMAK BAIL HEARING (\$4M). TULSI GABBARD BIOLAB BRIEFING (PROBE CONFIRMED). IULIJA MENDEL INTERVIEW (CRITICISM OF ZELENKYI).
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DEEP DIVE: TRENDS, THEMES & STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

TRENDS & THEMES THE DEATH OF THE 1945 ORDER FAILURE OF U.S. TACTICS, RISE OF CIVILIZATIONAL FORCES (RUSSIA, CHINA, INDIA, PERSIA), U.S. VIEWED AS "BULLY". PRIVATIZED PROFIT & SOCIALIZED LOSS SYSTEMIC "DOUBLE-DIPPING", 8-SHARP ECONOMY ACCELERATING MIDDLE CLASS BURDEN. WEAPONIZATION OF THE 'GLOBAL SOUTH' NARRATIVE STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT, FRAMING ENERGY CRISIS AS NEOCOLONIAL EXPLOITATION, "SPIRIT OF RESISTANCE".	STRATEGIC FORESIGHT (TIMELINE) <table border="1"><tr><td>SHORT TERM 1-4 WEEKS HEIGHTENED CIVIL UNREST (MANILA), OIL MARKET VOLATILITY (MAY 16 WAIVER DEADLINE).</td><td>MEDIUM TERM 1-6 MONTHS ROMANIAN TECHNOCRATIC GOV ATTEMPT, SARMAT MISSILE COMBAT DUTY (U.S. RECALCULATION).</td><td>LONG TERM 1-5 YEARS EURASIAN SECURITY UMBRELLA (NATO PERIPHERAL), NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AS "GUARANTEE OF SAFETY".</td></tr></table>	SHORT TERM 1-4 WEEKS HEIGHTENED CIVIL UNREST (MANILA), OIL MARKET VOLATILITY (MAY 16 WAIVER DEADLINE).	MEDIUM TERM 1-6 MONTHS ROMANIAN TECHNOCRATIC GOV ATTEMPT, SARMAT MISSILE COMBAT DUTY (U.S. RECALCULATION).	LONG TERM 1-5 YEARS EURASIAN SECURITY UMBRELLA (NATO PERIPHERAL), NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AS "GUARANTEE OF SAFETY".	RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS INTERNATIONAL POLICY STRATEGIC AUTONOMY (DIVERSIFY PARTNERS), MULTIPOLAR MEDIATION (BRICS ROLE), LEGAL DE-ESCALATION (RE-EVALUATE ICC). PRIVATE SECTOR/INVESTORS SUPPLY CHAIN HEDGING (NOBLE GASES/FERTILIZERS), REGULATORY COMPLIANCE (U.S. vs. CRINA STATUTES), AI ETHICAL RISK (REPUTATIONAL/LLEGAL).
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IN IRAN, GLOBAL ENERGY
REALIGNMENT, AND THE RISE OF
MULTIPOLAR GOVERNANCE

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

May 13, 2026, marks a pivotal moment in the dissolution of the post-1945 international order. The United States and Israel are currently navigating what analysts describe as a "strategic defeat" following a 75-day conflict with Iran that has effectively contested the Strait of Hormuz and exposed the limitations of American military power. Even prominent neoconservative figures have admitted that the U.S. is [suffering total defeat](#) in a conflict that has disrupted 20% of global energy routes and triggered a massive inflationary spike. Domestically, the U.S. faces a burgeoning constitutional and financial crisis as the Supreme Court struck down "reciprocal tariffs," leading to allegations of [insider trading and corruption](#) involving Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and his family's financial interests.

In Asia, President Donald Trump has arrived in Beijing for a high-stakes summit aimed at

mitigating the Hormuz crisis and securing trade concessions, though China has already established "red lines" regarding Taiwan and its political system. Simultaneously, the BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting in New Delhi has focused on building independent [payment and settlement mechanisms](#) to bypass Western financial sanctions. This geopolitical shift is mirrored in the Philippines, where the Senate was besieged by military forces in a botched attempt to arrest a senior lawmaker wanted by the ICC, a move critics label as a U.S.-backed effort to [eliminate domestic opposition](#).

The conflict in Ukraine has transitioned into a "testing ground" for advanced technologies, with the CEO of Palantir announcing a joint [AI military model](#) based on combat data, while internal stability in Kyiv fractures under the weight of high-level corruption charges against former top officials. In Europe, the collapse of the Romanian government reflects a broader trend of public disgust with [austerity and militarization](#) mandated by Brussels. Collectively, these events suggest a rapid fragmentation of Western hegemony in favor of a decentralized, multipolar reality where energy security and technical sovereignty dictate national survival.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

The Hormuz Crisis and the Collapse of Western Deterrence

- Prominent analysts suggest the U.S. has entered a "checkmate" scenario in Iran, where escalation threatens a [global economic reset](#) through the total cutting of hydrocarbon routes.

- Saudi Arabia has reportedly broken its neutrality, [admitting to strikes](#) against Iranian targets, while simultaneously facing a shift in its domestic mood as American forces are increasingly viewed as a liability.
- The 75th day of the Iran war has left global supply chains in "a mess," with some European estimates suggesting the continent is missing [one billion barrels](#) of oil.

Trump's State Visit to China and the "Five Bs"

- President Trump is pushing a trade-centric agenda focused on "Boeing, Beef, Beans, Board of Trade, and Board of Investment" to [secure domestic political wins](#) for his base.
- Beijing has invoked its blocking statute for the first time, declaring U.S. [unilateral sanctions illegal](#) and warning businesses against complying with Washington's pressure regarding Iranian oil.
- Controversy surrounds Secretary of State Marco Rubio's inclusion in the delegation, given his [previous human rights lectures](#) toward China and his confrontational rhetoric regarding Venezuela.

BRICS Ministerial Summit and Global South Alignment

- Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov emphasized that BRICS must move beyond issuing statements to becoming a [functional platform for security](#) and energy safeguards.
- India has reiterated its refusal to stop [buying Russian crude](#), prioritizing national interest over Western secondary sanctions.

- Discussions in New Delhi aimed at finalizing [safe mechanism platforms](#) for settlements in national currencies to ensure immunity from Western financial whims.

Internal Destabilization of the Zelensky Administration

- Andriy Yermak, Zelensky's former right-hand man, appeared in court on [graft charges related](#) to a \$10 million construction scheme.
- Former press secretary Iuliia Mendel revealed a "dark side" of the administration, alleging that Zelensky [approves money laundering](#) schemes and uses forced mobilization as a tool for personal vendettas.
- Public opinion in Ukraine has shifted, with 54% of citizens now viewing [corruption as a greater threat](#) than the war with Russia.

Advanced Weaponry and Nuclear Parity

- Russia confirmed the successful test launch of the [Sarmat intercontinental missile](#), described as the most powerful in the world with a range of 35,000 km.
- President Putin highlighted the deployment of the [Oreshnik hypersonic system](#), which travels at 3 km per second and is claimed to be impossible to intercept.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

AI, Technology Policy & Digital Sovereignty

- Ukraine has effectively become an [R&D lab for military AI](#), with Palantir developing real-time battlefield analytics using combat data.

- Concerns are rising over AI "hallucinations" and the [dehumanization of targeting](#), following reports of an AI-directed strike on an elementary school in Iran.

Corruption & Governance

- The U.S. Commerce Department is under fire for a "corporate rebate scheme" where Cantor Fitzgerald, linked to Secretary Howard Lutnick, reportedly [bought up rebate rights](#) for pennies on the dollar.
- The Philippine government faces accusations of attempting to [kidnap Senator Bato dela Rosa](#) to send him to the ICC to weaken political rivals of President Marcos Jr.

Energy Security

- Russia is positioning itself as the only [reliable energy supplier](#) capable of bypassing the Hormuz blockade, while the U.S. reportedly aims to seize European energy assets for LNG dominance.
- Indian Prime Minister Modi has issued appeals for [extreme austerity measures](#), including working from home and avoiding gold purchases, to preserve forex reserves.

National Security & Defense Architecture

- Germany and Ukraine signed a drone production agreement, potentially making German [production facilities legitimate targets](#) for Russian counter-strikes.
- Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard has launched an investigation into [120 foreign-operated biolabs](#), including those in Ukraine previously dismissed as "propaganda."

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislative activity today focused on the fallout of court rulings and international warrants. In the U.S., the judiciary has invalidated major trade policies, while in the Philippines and Romania, the executive branch struggles to maintain control over legislative bodies. Legislative hearings have shifted toward accountability for pandemic-era spending and trade rebates.

• **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:**

- **Reciprocal Tariffs Repeal:** Struck down by the Supreme Court, forcing billions in [taxpayer-funded refunds](#) to corporations.
- **U.S. War Powers Restriction:** The Senate narrowly failed to [restrict Donald Trump's war powers](#) regarding the Iran conflict.

• **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:**

- **Andriy Yermak Bail Hearing:** Set at a [colossal \\$4 million](#) in a Kyiv anti-corruption court.
- **Tulsi Gabbard Biolab Briefing:** Confirmed a full-scale probe into [gain-of-function research](#) in labs funded by the Department of Defense.
- **Iuliia Mendel Press Interview:** Described Zelensky as "emotionally uncontrollable" and a [political novice](#) whose myth was created by the West.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Death of the 1945 Order

The day's reports suggest the post-WWII liberal order "died in 2025" and has been replaced by a [post-liberal age](#). This is

characterized by the failure of U.S. military tactics to achieve political outcomes in Iran and the simultaneous rise of civilizations (Russian, Chinese, Indian, Persian) as [stabilizing continental forces](#). The U.S. is increasingly viewed not as a global arbiter but as a [bully in a real estate deal](#), unable to comprehend existential threats felt by ancient civilizations.

Privatized Profit and Socialized Loss

A recurring theme is the systemic "double-dipping" by multinational corporations. Whether through U.S. tariff refunds or Ukraine's [wartime profiteering](#), the financial burden is consistently shifted to the middle class. The "K-shaped" economy is accelerating, where the [upper 10% thrive](#) while the general populace faces soaring prices for basic goods like [groceries and fuel](#).

The Weaponization of the "Global South" Narrative

The "Global South" is no longer just a demographic term but a strategic alignment. Leaders within BRICS and analysts from Toronto to Tehran are framing the current energy crisis as [neocolonial exploitation](#) where the West starts conflicts and the South pays the price. This has fostered a "spirit of resistance" seen in the Philippine Senate and the [streets of Tehran](#), where independence from U.S. imperialism is prioritized over internal reform.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks)

- Expect heightened civil unrest in Manila as the standoff between the Senate and the [Marcos administration escalates](#).

- Oil market volatility will intensify as the May 16th deadline for U.S. [oil sanctions waivers](#) approaches, potentially forcing a further extension to prevent a Western economic collapse.

Medium Term (1-6 Months)

- The Romanian presidency will likely attempt to install a [technocratic government](#) to appease Brussels, though this is expected to fail to address the underlying public "disgust" with militarization.
- The transition of the Sarmat missile to [active combat duty](#) by year-end will force a recalculation of the U.S. missile defense strategy.

Long Term (1-5 Years)

- The creation of a [Eurasian single umbrella association](#) will likely render the OSCE and NATO peripheral to the security of the continent.
- The proliferation of nuclear weapons may become seen as the only "guarantee of safety" for middle powers, as the U.S. [preventive war paradigm](#) continues to threaten sovereign states.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For International Policy:

- Strategic Autonomy: Nations like India and Saudi Arabia must continue [diversifying energy and security](#) partners to mitigate the risks of U.S. "clickbait" policy-making.
- Multipolar Mediation: BRICS should formalize its role as a [crisis mediator](#) in the Middle East to fill the vacuum left by the collapse of Western diplomacy.

- Legal De-escalation: Re-evaluate the utility of the ICC, as its perceived [neocolonial bias](#) is actively destabilizing democratic institutions in Southeast Asia.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- Supply Chain Hedging: Anticipate long-term [disruptions in noble gases](#) (helium) and fertilizers (sulfur/phosphate) as a direct secondary effect of the Hormuz blockade.
- Regulatory Compliance: Multinational firms must navigate the emerging conflict between [U.S. sanctions and Chinese blocking statutes](#), which creates a zero-sum environment for trade.
- AI Ethical Risk: Defense contractors using [Ukraine as a testing ground](#) face significant reputational and legal risks regarding "slaughterbots" and civilian casualty margins.

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 GDELT Project at <https://blog.gdeltproject.org/> and the Internet Archive's TV News Archive at <https://archive.org/details/tv>.