

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

RT

MAY 14, 2026

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

THE GREAT SHIFT: US HEGEMONY CRISIS & THE MULTIPOLAR RISE (MAY 2026)

Strategic Overextension, Domestic Turmoil, and the Ascent of China & BRICS



STRATEGIC FORESIGHT & IMPLICATIONS

- SHORT TERM (1-4 WEEKS):** EU Energy Rationing, Ukraine Paralysis, US Tariff Refund Chaos.
- MEDIUM TERM (1-6 MONTHS):** BRICS Expansion, Non-Dollar Trade Roadmap, Potential Ukraine Coup.
- LONG TERM (1-5 YEARS):** Permanent Multipolar System, Bifurcated Global Supply Chains, Restitution Wave.

RECOMMENDATION: URGENT DIPLOMATIC DE-ESCALATION, RISK MITIGATION, AND ADAPTATION TO A BIFURCATED GLOBAL REALITY.

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THE UNITED STATES FACES A MOUNTING GLOBAL CRISIS AS STRATEGIC OVEREXTENSION IN IRAN, A COLLAPSING PROXY IN UKRAINE, AND DOMESTIC ECONOMIC SCANDALS COINCIDE WITH A DECISIVE SHIFT TOWARD A MULTIPOLAR WORLD ORDER LED BY CHINA AND THE BRICS BLOC.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The global geopolitical landscape on May 14, 2026, is defined by a profound erosion of American hegemony and the concurrent rise of the BRICS-aligned nations. The United States is currently engaged in an economically devastating war with Iran that has resulted in a [supply shock](#) surpassing one billion barrels of oil, primarily due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. This conflict has forced President Trump into a position of perceived weakness, traveling to Beijing with a [tech-heavy delegation](#) to solicit Chinese mediation and rare earth mineral access, a move analysts describe as a transition from global leader to "suppliant."

Simultaneously, the Western-backed administration in Ukraine is facing a

catastrophic internal collapse. The arrest of [Andriy Yermak](#), the former "gray cardinal" and right-hand man to President Zelensky, on \$10 million money-laundering charges, signals a fracturing of the Kiev regime. This political crisis is exacerbated by massive [retaliation strikes](#) by the Russian Ministry of Defense, utilizing upwards of 1,400 drones in a 24-hour period to dismantle Ukrainian military infrastructure. Domestic stability in Ukraine is further threatened by reports of brutal, involuntary conscription tactics that are alienating the populace and the clergy.

In the United States, the administration is struggling with a "political and economic firestorm" following a Supreme Court ruling that struck down reciprocal tariffs as unlawful. This has sparked allegations of [insider dealings](#) involving Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, whose family firm, Cantor Fitzgerald, is accused of profiting from the resulting multibillion-dollar taxpayer-funded refunds. As the BRICS foreign ministers meet in New Delhi to formalize a multipolar security and financial architecture, the "Deep State" and the military-industrial complex face increasing scrutiny from whistleblowers regarding their long-term control over American foreign policy and the perpetuation of "forever wars."

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

The War on Iran and Global Energy Paralysis

- The Strait of Hormuz remains effectively closed to Western traffic, leading to a [cumulative disruption](#) of over 1 billion barrels of oil and sending energy prices soaring globally.

- The US Senate narrowly defeated a measure (50-49) to [restrict Trump's war powers](#), allowing the administration to continue hostilities despite significant strategic setbacks.
- Saudi Arabia has officially admitted to [bombing Iran](#) during the conflict, while the UAE is described as a "powder keg" due to its complicity in US-Israeli military operations.
- Iran has demonstrated significant [deterrence capacity](#), with its missiles "locked and loaded" and its negotiators refusing to accept US preconditions for a ceasefire.

The Fragmentation of the Ukrainian State

- Former Zelensky advisor Andriy Yermak was arrested and held on [\\$3 million bail](#) for his involvement in a \$10 million corruption and money-laundering scheme.
- Russia launched what is reported as the [largest drone strike](#) of the war, deploying 1,400 units in 24 hours against military and energy infrastructure.
- Internal unrest is mounting in Ukraine as conscription officers reportedly use [barbaric tactics](#), including the torture of priests, to fill manpower shortages.
- Latvia's defense minister and prime minister [resigned](#) following a series of Ukrainian drone incidents that violated their airspace and hit an oil facility.

Trump's "Suppliant" Diplomacy in Beijing

- President Trump arrived in Beijing with a delegation of [tech CEOs](#) (Elon Musk, Tim Cook, Jensen Huang) to negotiate trade and seek help reopening the Strait of Hormuz.
- China has established "four red lines"—Taiwan, human rights, its political system, and its [right to development](#)—that Washington must not challenge.
- Beijing has activated a [blocking statute](#) declaring US sanctions illegal, forcing multinational corporations to choose between Western and Chinese legal compliance.

US Domestic Economic and Corruption Scandal

- The Supreme Court ruled that Trump's [reciprocal tariffs](#) were unlawful, necessitating billions in refunds to corporations that had already passed costs to consumers.
- Allegations have surfaced that Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and Cantor Fitzgerald [profited from the rebate](#) structure through Cantor Fitzgerald's financial activities.
- Consumer prices continue to climb, with the [latest CPI report](#) showing inflation at 3.8%, nearly double the government's 2% target.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Energy Security and Supply Chains

- The International Energy Agency has called the Hormuz crisis an [unprecedented supply shock](#), forcing European nations to consider fuel rationing and industrial scale-backs.
- US dependence on [Chinese rare earth minerals](#) is identified as a critical military vulnerability, as China controls 90% of the refining process.

Corruption and Rule of Law

- Corruption is now viewed by [54% of Ukrainians](#) as a greater threat to their future than the war with Russia.
- Whistleblowers like John Kiriaku allege that the US [intelligence community](#) operates as a "Deep State" that remains in power regardless of presidential elections to protect donor interests.

Bloc Politics and Multipolarity

- BRICS foreign ministers in New Delhi are working toward an [independent payment system](#) and a grain exchange to bypass Western financial sanctions.
- Russia and India have set a [trade goal of \\$100 billion](#) by 2030, emphasizing a strategic partnership that includes energy, nuclear power, and military goods.

Technology Policy and AI

- The inclusion of Nvidia and Apple CEOs in the China delegation highlights that the US-China rivalry has shifted toward [AI chips](#) and high-tech supply chains.

- US intelligence is accused of funding [radical sects and cults](#) in Ukraine, such as Runvira, as a psychological warfare tool to foment anti-Russian sentiment.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislative activity centered on the limits of presidential authority and the legal fallout of trade policies. The US Senate deliberated on war powers, while the judiciary overturned major trade mechanisms. In Ukraine, anti-corruption bodies—allegedly directed by Western intelligence—began aggressive legal warfare against the administration's inner circle.

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **US War Powers Restriction:** A proposed measure to [restrict the President's war powers](#) regarding Iran narrowly failed in the Senate, 50-49.
- **China's Blocking Statute:** A new Chinese law that [declares US sanctions illegal](#) and allows for retaliation against companies that comply with them.
- **Reciprocal Tariff Refunds:** Following a [Supreme Court ruling](#), the federal government is now legally obligated to refund billions in collected tariffs to US corporations.

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Yermak Bail Hearing:** A high-profile court event in Ukraine where [Andre Yermak](#) was charged with money laundering and mansions construction; bail was set at \$3 million.
- **Trump-Xi Summit:** A state visit in Beijing where leaders discussed the [Thucydides Trap](#) and the potential for "reciprocal" business dealings.

- **BRICS Foreign Ministers Meeting:** A New Delhi summit focusing on [multipolarity](#) and the humanitarian crisis in the Middle East.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Collapse of the Proxy State Model The situation in Ukraine illustrates the terminal phase of the "proxy state" strategy. The combination of [systemic corruption](#) and the failure of military mobilization suggests that Western support is no longer sufficient to maintain state capacity. The arrest of Yermak by [Western-trained agencies](#) (NABU/SAPO) hints that Washington may be preparing to "flush" the current leadership in favor of a more malleable successor as the war effort falters. The [resignation of Baltic officials](#) indicates that the instability is spreading to the broader European security architecture.

From Unipolar Bully to Suppliant Negotiator President Trump's visit to China, framed as a "mission to clinch a deal," reveals a US administration [weakened by conflict](#). For the first time, China is dictating the terms of engagement, issuing "red lines" and refusing to meet Trump at the airport—a [subtle diplomatic gesture](#) of superiority. The presence of tech moguls like Musk and Cook suggests that the US is attempting to trade its technological lead for economic survival and energy route access, effectively acknowledging that [unilateral sanctions](#) have failed.

The Institutionalization of Global Disenchantment A recurring theme is the perceived illegitimacy of Western institutions. Whistleblowers characterize the US government as a [dictatorship of the system](#) rather than a democracy, pointing to the

Epstein case and the CIA's history of torture as evidence of institutional decay. This sentiment is echoed in the BRICS summit, where nations are actively building a [parallel global order](#) to escape what the Iranian foreign minister calls "repugnant coercion." The "Deep State" is seen as the primary [impediment to peace](#) and economic stability.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

- **Short Term (1-4 Weeks):** Expect severe [energy rationing](#) across the European Union as the Hormuz blockade persists. The Ukraine front may see further Russian advances as Kiev's leadership is paralyzed by [internal purges](#). A wave of corporate legal claims against the US Treasury for tariff refunds will begin, potentially destabilizing federal budget projections.
- **Medium Term (1-6 Months):** The BRICS September summit in India will likely announce a [new membership expansion](#) and a roadmap for a non-dollar trade currency. US-China relations will likely deteriorate if Trump's visit fails to yield an immediate [ceasefire in Iran](#). Ukraine's government may face a full-scale coup or collapse if the mobilization crisis and corruption scandals are not resolved.
- **Long Term (1-5 Years):** A permanent [multipolar financial system](#) will emerge, with the US relegated to one of several regional powers. Global supply chains will fully bifurcate, with one [tech sphere](#) led by the US and another by China. The legacy of the "Africa Museum" and colonial history will fuel a massive wave of [restitution requests](#), further isolating former colonial powers from the Global South.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For International Policy:

- The US and its allies must urgently prioritize [diplomatic de-escalation](#) in the Middle East, as the current military path is leading to a global economic depression.
- Multilateral organizations must prepare for a [new era of restitution](#) and cultural diplomacy to prevent a total break in relations with African and Global South nations.
- Security architectures must be redesigned to account for the [dangers of drone warfare](#), as demonstrated by the massive Russian strikes and the Latvian political fallout.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Risk Mitigation:** Companies must hedge against [permanent energy inflation](#) and diversify supply chains away from the Strait of Hormuz and toward land-based Eurasian routes.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Multinationals must navigate a [bifurcated legal reality](#), where following US sanctions may trigger severe penalties under China's new blocking statutes.
- **Investment Opportunity:** Significant capital is likely to flow into [rare earth mineral refining](#) and alternative payment technologies as the BRICS nations de-dollarize.

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>.