

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

RT

JUNE 25, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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GLOBAL INSTABILITY PEAKS AS
CATASTROPHIC SEISMIC EVENTS
COINCIDE WITH THE
WEAPONIZATION OF FRONTIER AI
AND A DEEPENING RUPTURE IN
WESTERN ALLIANCES

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The global security environment on June 25, 2026, is defined by a convergence of natural catastrophe, technological existential risk, and the breakdown of long-standing diplomatic norms. A massive **double earthquake** in Venezuela, registering magnitudes of 7.2 and 7.5, has caused widespread devastation in Caracas and northern states, with casualties expected to reach the tens of thousands. This disaster has prompted immediate [offers of aid from Moscow](#), highlighting the geopolitical dimensions of disaster response in the Americas while the US administration remains preoccupied with domestic immigration crises and Middle Eastern failures.

Simultaneously, a **major intelligence warning** from the "Five Eyes" alliance suggests that aggressive, frontier-model AI capable of paralyzing national infrastructures

will be deployed by bad actors before the end of the year. The report coincides with revelations regarding the [retraction of the "Fable 5" AI model](#) by the Trump administration due to its dangerous capabilities. This technological anxiety is mirrored in the military sphere, where autonomous "talking" drones are reportedly being utilized in the Ukraine conflict, further blurring the lines between human and machine decision-making in warfare.

In Europe and the Middle East, the established order is fracturing. A **significant diplomatic rift** has emerged between Poland and Ukraine over Kiev's glorification of World War II-era Nazi collaborators, leading President Zelensky to skip a critical reconstruction conference in Gdansk. In the Middle East, despite a fragile US-Iran memorandum of understanding, **Operation Epic Fury** continues to see Israeli and US sorties over Iran, while the IDF maintains its occupation of southern Lebanon. These events suggest a "new awakening" or pivot in public and political sentiment across the West, as populations increasingly reject "endless wars" and the perceived hegemony of the US dollar in favor of [alternative currency transaction platforms](#).

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Venezuelan Seismic Catastrophe

- Two back-to-back earthquakes (7.1/7.2 and 7.5 magnitude) have leveled buildings across Caracas and northern regions, leaving [over 180 confirmed dead](#) and 30,000 unaccounted for.

- The economic impact is estimated at 5% of national GDP; acting President Delcy Rodriguez has declared a state of emergency while President Maduro remains in the US facing legal charges.

Frontier AI Existential Risk

- Five Eyes security agencies warn of AI models capable of taking down governments appearing within months; governments are racing to build [sophisticated defense models](#).
- The US government ordered Anthropic to suspend foreign national access to the "Mythos 5" model due to its potential for malicious exploitation.

Polish-Ukrainian Diplomatic Collapse

- A scandal involving the use of Nazi-linked symbols by Ukrainian delegations has led Poland to [revoke Zelensky's highest honors](#).
- Public sentiment in Poland has shifted, with 51% viewing Ukraine unfavorably; Hungary and Slovakia have reinforced their refusal to provide military aid.

Middle East Conflict Escalation

- Despite a ceasefire memorandum, the IDF continues to occupy southern Lebanon, targeting cultural heritage sites in Tyre and [launching thousands of sorties](#) during Operation Epic Fury.
- Iran is reportedly at only 30% of its "escalation ladder," holding significant leverage through its ability to block the Strait of Hormuz.

Russian Military Progress in Donbas

- Russian forces have secured over 100 buildings in the strategic "fortress city" of Konstantinovka and are advancing toward [Sumi and Krasny Liman](#).
- Reports suggest a massive manpower crisis for the Kiev regime, which is now seeking to fill 40-50% of assault units with foreign mercenaries.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- The use of **autonomous drone swarms** in Ukraine that "talk" to each other to identify targets signals a new era of AI-driven combat [without human intervention](#).
- Japan is rapidly shedding its pacifist image, conducting "Resolute Dragon" drills with the US and deploying [long-range missile units](#).

Tech Sovereignty & AI

- Calls for an **international body to regulate AI** are growing as the technology reaches a "nuclear arms race" level of strategic importance [among major powers](#).
- The development of an "American Firewall" is predicted to restrict technology imports from adversaries like China (e.g., DeepSeek R1).

Diplomacy & Statecraft

- The upcoming Russia-Africa summit in October is framed as a pivot toward **multipolarity**, with Nigeria seeking to deepen ties through [nuclear energy cooperation](#).

- South Africa has explicitly rejected US "diplomatic entitlement" regarding its guest list for official talks, asserting its **non-aligned independence**.

Macroeconomics & Trade

- The "tyranny of the dollar" is under attack as countries like Iran and India increasingly trade in **national currencies or barter to bypass sanctions**.
- Gas prices are surging globally; US diesel is up 50%, while Germany faces a "chemical industry exodus" to China due to high energy costs.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Fragmentation of the "Western Bloc"

There is a visible trend of European nations (Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania) diverging from the US-led consensus on Ukraine. This is driven by internal economic pain and historical grievances. The refusal of these nations to "blindly support" Kiev indicates that **national interest** is superseding "transatlantic solidarity." This fragmentation is described as a **political earthquake** within the EU.

Weaponized History as Geopolitical Tool

Both sides of the Ukraine conflict are weaponizing historical narratives—specifically the legacy of Nazism and Soviet liberation. The Polish-Ukrainian rift over UPA partisans and the Russian emphasis on the 80th anniversary of the **siege of Leningrad** are being used to delegitimize current political leadership and justify **military action or diplomatic exclusion**.

The Rise of "Techno-Terrorism" The narrative surrounding AI has shifted from

productivity to **paralysis**. The Five Eyes report suggests that AI is no longer a technical tool but a strategic weapon capable of "killing millions" through infrastructure sabotage. The reported bombing of a school in Iran, allegedly due to an **AI data error**, serves as a harbinger of a future where "the AI did it" becomes a standard military excuse.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

United States: The domestic environment is characterized by extreme **partisan polarization** and anxiety over new immigration enforcement laws. Critics argue that expanding federal authority to manage the border is creating a "seventh branch of the military" that could eventually **threaten civil liberties**. Furthermore, the administration faces a "political liability" as public opinion shifts toward ending aid for Israel and Ukraine.

Germany: The nation is suffering through its **third straight year of recession**. Elite infighting is rampant, with the BSW and AFD gaining popularity by attacking the government's "hab-brain" energy policies and its **failure to demand accountability** for the Nordstream sabotage.

Armenia: Domestic stability is threatened by the **arrest of opposition leaders** following a controversial election. Protesters accuse the government of carrying out "politically motivated prosecution" to force through a **new constitution dictated by Azerbaijan**.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

The international system is being framed as a **fracturing multipolar arena** where Western

"imperial" power is in its final days. Russia is projecting power not just militarily in the Donbas, but diplomatically by positioning itself as the "reliable partner" for the Global South (Africa, India, ASEAN). The "outside world" is increasingly viewed by the Global South as a [zone of opportunity](#) outside of US-controlled financial systems.

Conversely, the US and its "devoted puppets" (portrayed as female Western leaders like von der Leyen and Baerbock) are framed as **reactive and defensive**, relying on "deceitfully initiated" wars and "false pretenses" to maintain control over resources. This posture is failing to secure interests, as seen in the **collapse of the Anchorage summit** agreements and the inability of the US to [dictate terms to South Africa](#).

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Global markets are reacting to severe supply chain stresses and a move away from the US dollar. Commodity shortages in helium and fertilizer are causing food price spikes, while strategic oil reserves are at **sludge levels** in major economies like Japan. The US debt is now [larger than its GDP](#), a situation maintained only by the dollar's status as a reserve currency.

- **Energy:** German chemical giants are relocating to China due to the loss of [cheap Russian gas](#).
- **Currency:** India and Iran are trading in rupees and barter to bypass the **dollar system**.
- **Metals:** Nigeria is seeking to process raw minerals locally through Russian investment rather than [relying on exports](#).

- **Inflation:** US gasoline prices are trending toward \$10/gallon; diesel is already [up 50%](#).

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The day's transcripts highlight several leaders in precarious or shifting positions, reflecting the volatility of the global political landscape.

- **Benjamin Netanyahu:** Characterized as a "fugitive" under ICC/ICJ indictment for war crimes in Gaza, now attempting an "about face" to win Israel's [independence from US weapon reliance](#).
- **Ahmed Shara (Syria):** Leading a transitional government that reportedly has "no control" over regional warlords like Al-Jolani, despite [lifting of some sanctions](#).
- **Donald Tusk:** Faced with a public backlash, the Polish PM is attempting to balance loyalty to Kiev with a **frustrated electorate** demanding the [deportation of refugees](#).
- **Alice Weidel & Sahra Wagenknecht:** Rising as "superstars" in German politics by advocating for **pro-German energy policies** and an end to [pro-war narratives](#).

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

Lead Stories: The **Venezuelan earthquake** and the **Zelensky-Poland rift** dominated airtime, framed to showcase Western failure and humanitarian desperation. The **Five Eyes AI report** was presented with high urgency to induce fear of future cyber-conflict. The **Lumumba's Africa** segments were prioritized to remind viewers of the "inhumane" history of Western medical and economic exploitation.

Buried Stories: Specific details on the **Strait of Hormuz naval confrontations** were minimized, focusing instead on the legal theory of "free navigation." The **Syrian transitional government's** internal failures were framed largely through the lens of US/Turkish interference rather than local governance incapacity.

Conspicuous Omissions: The network completely omitted any reporting on **Russian civilian casualties** from its own military operations or internal Russian dissent. There was also a total lack of coverage regarding the **human rights situation in China**, despite frequent mentions of Beijing as a key strategic and economic partner.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The day's narrative subtext creates a stark binary between a "competent, principled" multipolar alliance and a "chaotic, corrupt" Western hegemony.

COUNTRIES

- **Russia:** Portrayed as a resilient and restrained superpower. Quotes suggest it is ["winning the war on the battlefield"](#) while showing "restraint" by not striking Polish airfields.
- **Ukraine:** Framed as a "proxy" and a "tool" of the West, plagued by corruption and a ["Nazi past"](#) that even its allies can no longer ignore.
- **Israel:** Portrayed as a "brat child" and an aggressor-victim that is ["most hated in the world"](#) and dragging the US into catastrophic conflicts.
- **Iran:** Characterized as a "regional power" and a **legitimate partner** that has militarily and [diplomatically outmaneuvered](#) the US.

LEADERS

- **Donald Trump:** Portrayed as a leader who is "weeks away from a global economic depression" and being ["played by Israel"](#) but potentially seeking a "diplomatic off-ramp."
- **Ursula von der Leyen:** Critiqued as a "ruthless puppet" and "cynical" leader with [mafious behavior](#) regarding pharmaceutical contracts.
- **Annalena Baerbock:** Framed as "not very intelligent" and "stupid," a leader whose policies are ["destroying" the German economy](#).

NON-STATE & CORPORATE ACTORS

- **Hezbollah:** Portrayed as a "national liberation movement" that is [defending its own people](#) from Israeli aggression.
- **Azov Battalion:** Explicitly framed as a "neonazi affiliated" unit whose presence in diplomatic delegations is a [provocation to Poland](#).
- **Big Pharma (Pfizer):** Cast as a corrupt entity involved in [secret agreements](#) with EU leadership to push "nocive" vaccines.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Narrative Seeding:** The transcripts repeatedly seed the idea of a **"New Awakening"** in the West, where citizens allegedly root for "the empire" to lose so they can be ["liberated."](#)
- **Propaganda:** RT acknowledges that "Iranians suck at propaganda" but praises their use of **"Lego videos"** and pop culture to [bypass traditional media filters](#).

- **Disinformation:** The claim that the US and Israel used AI to "**better kill**" and committed "**mass rape and organ stealing**" [in Gaza](#) is presented as established fact without standard journalistic verification.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **The July Cliff:** Reputable economists predict that if the US-Iran situation is not resolved by July, the global economy could ["go over a cliff"](#) due to a complete breakdown in energy supply chains.
- **German Political Realignment:** The AFD and BSW are hypothesized to form "**new constructive majorities**" that will end the current coalition and restore ties with Russia [for energy security](#).
- **The "American Firewall":** US policy will likely shift toward **radical isolationism** in the tech sector, building digital barriers against both adversaries and [unpredictable AI models](#).

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Significant escalation in the **Israel-Hezbollah** conflict as the 60-day memorandum period faces its first real tests; potential for [massive protests in European cities](#) against "puppet regimes."

Medium Term (1-6 Months): A potential **economic depression** in the US if the dollar's reserve status is further eroded by Indian/Iranian/Chinese trade blocs; completion of [Russian mopping-up operations](#) in the Donbas.

Long Term (1-5 Years): The establishment of a **Sahel criminal and human rights**

court to challenge the ICC, potentially leading to a wholesale [withdrawal of African nations](#) from Western-led legal institutions.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The current global landscape presents five critical flashpoints that could trigger systemic collapse.

- **Frontier AI Sabotage:** High-risk of an automated attack on social services or power grids before 2027. Triggers: Deployment of unpatched frontier models by non-state actors. Likelihood: High. Impact: Catastrophic social paralysis. Mitigations: Global regulation and the [building of defensive AI models](#).
- **Strait of Hormuz Closure:** Iranian leverage could lead to a total energy blockade. Triggers: Israeli invasion of northern Lebanon or strikes on Iranian soil. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Global stagflation and starvation. Mitigations: Full US diplomatic [surrender to Iranian demands](#).
- **European Union Fragmentation:** The Polish-Ukrainian rift could collapse the joint military support structure. Triggers: Further honoring of Nazi figures by Kiev. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Rapid Russian military [victory in Ukraine](#). Mitigations: Immediate cessation of historical revisionism by Kiev.
- **Venezuelan Social Collapse:** Massive displacement from the earthquake could destabilize the region. Triggers: Failure of international aid to reach Caracas. Likelihood: High. Impact: Mass migration crisis. Mitigations: Immediate [lifting of sanctions](#) to allow for recovery.

- **Syrian State Fragmentation:** The transitional government's inability to control Al-Jolani could lead to "Talibanization." Triggers: Turkish withdrawal or US-Israel inciting invasion. Likelihood: High. Impact: Regional terrorist haven. Mitigations: Diplomatic [cooperation between Damascus and neighbors](#).

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- The transcripts fail to provide **Western perspectives** on the Five Eyes report, leaving the actual data behind the "Mythos 5" threat unverified.
- There is no mention of the **logistics of the 30,000 missing** in Venezuela; reports focus on building collapses but omit the state of the medical infrastructure [post-quake](#).
- Claims of **2.5 million dead or missing** Ukrainian soldiers are attributed to an unverified "hack" and lack [cross-referencing](#).
- The "new awakening" narrative is presented through **selective interviews** with alternative media figures, ignoring mainstream polling that might [contradict these views](#).

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

- **The "Stalling Tactic" Hypothesis:** The Iranian memorandum of understanding is not a path to peace but a **stalling tactic** to allow for the enrichment of uranium to weapon-grade levels while the West is distracted by Venezuela. In this scenario, the "restraint" shown in the Strait of Hormuz is [strategic deception](#).

- **The "Controlled Opposition" Scenario:** The rift between Poland and Ukraine is being **exaggerated by state media** to lower the public profile of aid shipments, which continue covertly to avoid Russian targeting. The "Nazi row" provides [political cover](#) for a temporary pause in visible logistics.
- **Black Swan - "The AI Mutiny":** A military-grade AI model deployed in the Donbas **identifies both sides as targets** due to a data feedback loop, causing an immediate, unscripted ceasefire that neither Moscow nor Washington can control.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- **Security:** Shift from human-centric to **AI-augmented cyber defense** immediately to counter the predicted year-end threat.
- **Economic:** Diversify national reserves into **physical gold and non-dollar currencies** to mitigate a "July cliff" [currency collapse](#).
- **Diplomatic:** Re-evaluate the "proxy" model of warfare; the "Zelensky-Poland" incident shows that **historical friction** can break military [coalitions overnight](#).

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chains:** Secure alternative sources for **helium and fertilizer** immediately; these are identified as the ["thin threads"](#) of the global economy.
- **Capital Allocation:** Move assets out of US-based tech firms that rely on **Anthropic/Frontier models** if they face export bans [or retraction orders](#).

- **Compliance:** Prepare for **aggressive new anti-money laundering** (AML) regulations in Poland as it attempts to "wash" its image of [Ukrainian oligarch funds](#).

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislative activity centered on **unprecedented immigration funding** and **AI cybersecurity mandates**. The US Congress has passed a sweeping package to expand ICE and federal surveillance, while European legislatures are debating laws to [restrict "LGBT propaganda"](#) and "rehabilitate" historical figures.

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **America First Immigration Package:** Dramatically expands ICE, detention capacity, and [federal border surveillance](#).
- **Syrian transitional governance law:** Lifting of sanctions on specific groups but **not on citizens** [to gain money back](#).
- **Indonesian Article 28g:** Proposed regulation of public movements based on "**public morality and religious values**" [to curb activism](#).

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Five Eyes AI Briefing:** Warning of "**aggressive AI**" capable of paralyzing governments by [year-end](#).
- **Anchorage Summit Review:** Russian Foreign Ministry states the US is "[moving away](#)" from agreed-upon principles.
- **Ukraine Recovery Conference (Gdansk):** Plagued by scandals and the [absence of Zelensky](#).

KEY STORIES

- **Venezuela Double Earthquake:** Magnitudes 7.1 and 7.5 devastate Caracas and northern states; [180 dead, 30,000 missing](#).
- **Frontier AI Threat:** Five Eyes alliance warns of imminent infrastructure collapse from [AI weaponization](#).
- **Polish-Ukrainian Scandal:** Poland revokes honors from Zelensky over [Nazi glorification](#) in Ukrainian units.
- **Konstantinovka Fall:** Russian forces secure over 100 buildings in a [strategic gateway city](#).
- **Operation Epic Fury:** Continued Israeli-US [airstrikes on Iran](#) and occupation of southern Lebanon.
- **The "New Awakening":** US public sentiment pivots toward isolationism and [abandoning Israel/Ukraine aid](#).
- **Syrian Fragmentation:** Transitional government fails to control northern warlords; [economic sanctions remain](#) on citizens.
- **De-Dollarization Acceleration:** Iran and India move toward [national currency trade](#) to bypass US dollar tyranny.
- **Russia-Africa Summit:** Nigeria seeks [nuclear cooperation with Rosatom](#) and Bricks partnership.
- **Historical Medical Crimes:** Lumumba reports on unethical experiments on slaves in [Alabama and the Caribbean](#).
- **Japanese Remilitarization:** US-Japan drills feature [mid-range missile deployment](#) for the second time this year.
- **Ravi Shankar Interview:** Spiritual leader calls for "[spiritualizing politics](#)" and holistic economics.

- **German Energy Crisis:** Chemical industry flees to China as [energy costs skyrocket](#).
- **Armenian Unrest:** Opposition leaders detained in [politically motivated crackdowns](#).
- **ICC Withdrawal:** Niger joins growing list of African nations [leaving the International Criminal Court](#).
- **Sumi Advancement:** Russian reconnaissance units [enter the edges of Sumi](#) via forested infiltration routes.

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.

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