

DPOLITIK

Issue 6 (2025/1), year IV

The new world order



preface

DPolitik is a magazine produced by internationalists and political scientists with the aim of expanding knowledge in these academic areas to as many people as possible who are interested in the topics covered by these fields of knowledge. In a world that is becoming increasingly complex and in which the great advance of new technologies presents itself both as a great tool at our disposal and as a threat to democratic regimes, our mission is to bring knowledge and clarification on the most relevant topics of the moment, keeping our readers well informed while maintaining the light-hearted nature of our publications. That's why we use lots of graphics and images and give tips so you can have fun while staying informed!



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A second Donald Trump presidency was already expected to bring about major changes in the world order. However, the combination of different crises, from the economic consequences of the pandemic to the wars of Vladimir Putin and Benjamin Netanyahu, has created the perfect storm to accelerate and amplify these transformations. The world order, shaped in the aftermath of World War II, is being rapidly altered by Trump, with repercussions in all aspects of international politics. In this new edition of DPolitik, we address the various scenarios in which these changes are manifesting themselves, seeking, in the end, to offer a positive and optimistic vision for the future.

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Caio Ponce de Leon R. F.
Editor-in-chief of DPolitik



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A brief explanation of Dependency Theory

Dependency Theory has been considered 'Latin America's greatest contribution to the social sciences'¹, as it used a *Latin American* perspective to understand the issue of *Latin American* development. Dependency Theory emerged in Latin America between the 1950s and 1960s, representing a critical effort to understand the new aspects and limits of economic development in the region. This is because, after the economic crisis of 1929, Latin American countries began to orient their economies towards industrialisation, seeking to replace imports of products from the countries of the economic centre. Brazilian economist Theotônio dos Santos, one of the leading figures in Dependency Theory, points out in his book, '*A Teoria da Dependência: balanços e perspectivas*' (Dependency Theory: Balances and Perspectives) (2002), that the development that began in the period mentioned was part of a global economic hegemony led by imperialist forces that, even in crisis, still had a lot of power in the world. Thus, Dependency Theory argues that the global political-economic system is essential to understanding national and regional units, with the economies of peri-



Theotônio dos Santos (1936–2018) was a Brazilian economist and one of the founders of Dependency Theory and a leading exponent of World-System Theory.

pheral countries conditioned by the development of central countries².

The UN Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC) was an important influence in the emergence of the theory. ECLAC scholars, known as structuralists, argued that Latin America's underdevelopment was directly related to the interests of the 'imperial centre', which sought a source of agricultural products and raw materials in the region

thereby discouraging industrialisation³. However, after the various civil-military coups that took place in Latin America in the 1960s, the structuralist perspective began to receive criticism from different segments, including left-wing researchers. It was from this context that the creation of Dependency Theory began.

The concept of underdevelopment is an important aspect of dependency theory. Celso Furtado, one of the leading theorists of this school, explains in his book 'The Myth of Economic Development' (1974) that underdevelopment is the result of the process of global industrialisation that began with the Industrial Revolution. The former originates from the increase in labour productivity generated by the reallocation of resources to obtain comparative advantages in international trade. The decisive factor for income distribution in underdeveloped economies is the pressure created by the modernisation process. This attempt to reproduce the consumption patterns of central countries reflects a process of cultural domination of developed nations over peripheral countries. The decisive factor for the dependence of the periphery on the centre is, therefore, the fact that underdeveloped nations remain cultural satellites of developed countries and have a much lower process of capital accumulation than the latter. The phenomenon of dependence then begins with the external imposition of consumption patterns that can only be sustained through the generation of surpluses in foreign trade.

Dependency Theory was the first contribution by peripheral countries to the study of development and provided important conceptual tools for understanding the Latin American case. Furthermore, it was the first theory in the region to overcome geographical barriers and influence the academic environment of developed countries. According to Theotônio dos Santos, Dependency Theory brought about a reordering of social science issues in Latin America, introducing new concerns for socio-economic analysis and new methodological options inspired by the theoretical foundations of researchers from this school⁴.

The accumulation of new methodological proposals in Latin America...

“ reflected the growing density of its social thinking, which went beyond the simple application of reflections, methodologies, or scientific proposals imported from central countries to open up its own theoretical field, with its own methodology, its identity theme, and its path to a more realistic praxis (dos Santos, 2002, p. 24).

An example of this influence was the creation of World System Theory, which Theotônio and several other authors consider an evolution of the Dependency School. Furthermore, it was not only in the academic field that Dependency Theory had an impact on Latin America. From its inception, the theory was influenced by the political landscape of the region, as the 1960s represented a time when left-wing revolutionary movements had suffered a temporary defeat and converged mainly in Chile to gather strength for a new offensive⁶. In 1964, the military coup in Brazil established a violent dictatorship, in which several left-wing thinkers were exiled, such as Theotônio dos Santos, Enzo Faletto, and Fernando Henrique Cardoso. They ended up meeting in Chile, and the country became one of the most important centres of Latin American resistance against dictatorships⁷. It was in this context of revolution that Dependency Theory was created.

Thus, the theory significantly influenced the design of Chile's Popular Unity (UP) programme, the party coalition that governed Chile between 1970 and 1973 under the leadership of President Salvador Allende. In addition to Chile, Dependency Theory influenced several political programmes throughout Latin America, such as Liberation Theology in Peru and the government of

Fernando Henrique Cardoso (FHC) in Brazil (1995-2002).

Dependency Theory focuses on *development* and critically analyses the relationships between peripheral and central countries, arguing that global structures condition the development of Latin America and other regions. The impact of Dependency Theory on both academic debate and political practice in Latin America is undeniable. However, this school of thought is not homogeneous; it has produced different theoretical currents and has been the subject of various criticisms and debates, especially with regard to its perceived economic determinism and insufficient attention to internal factors in peripheral countries.

Gabriele Caldas

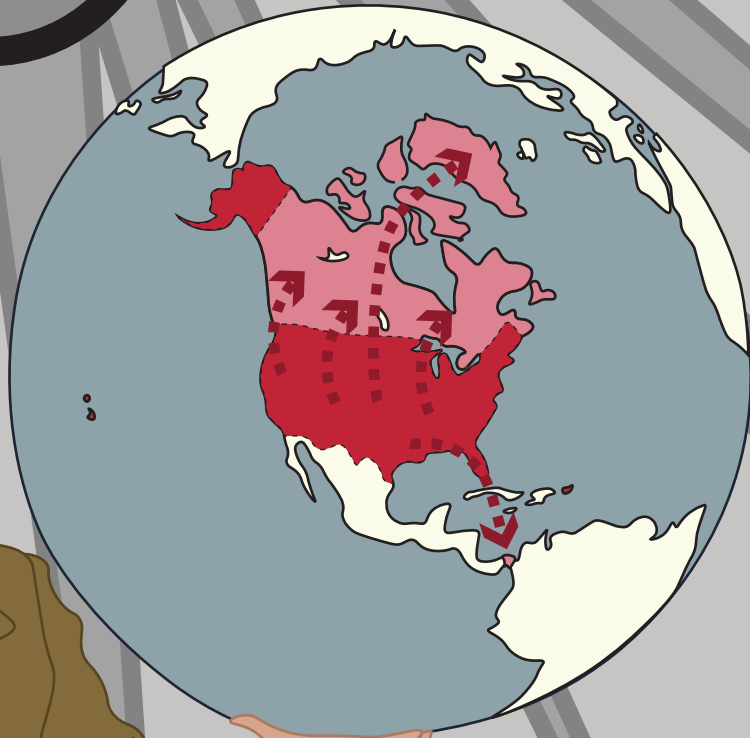
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For a more in-depth analysis of the theory and a case study on the FHC government and its relationship with Dependency Theory, you can visit our portal and read the article '*Dependency Theory and its impacts on Latin America*'.

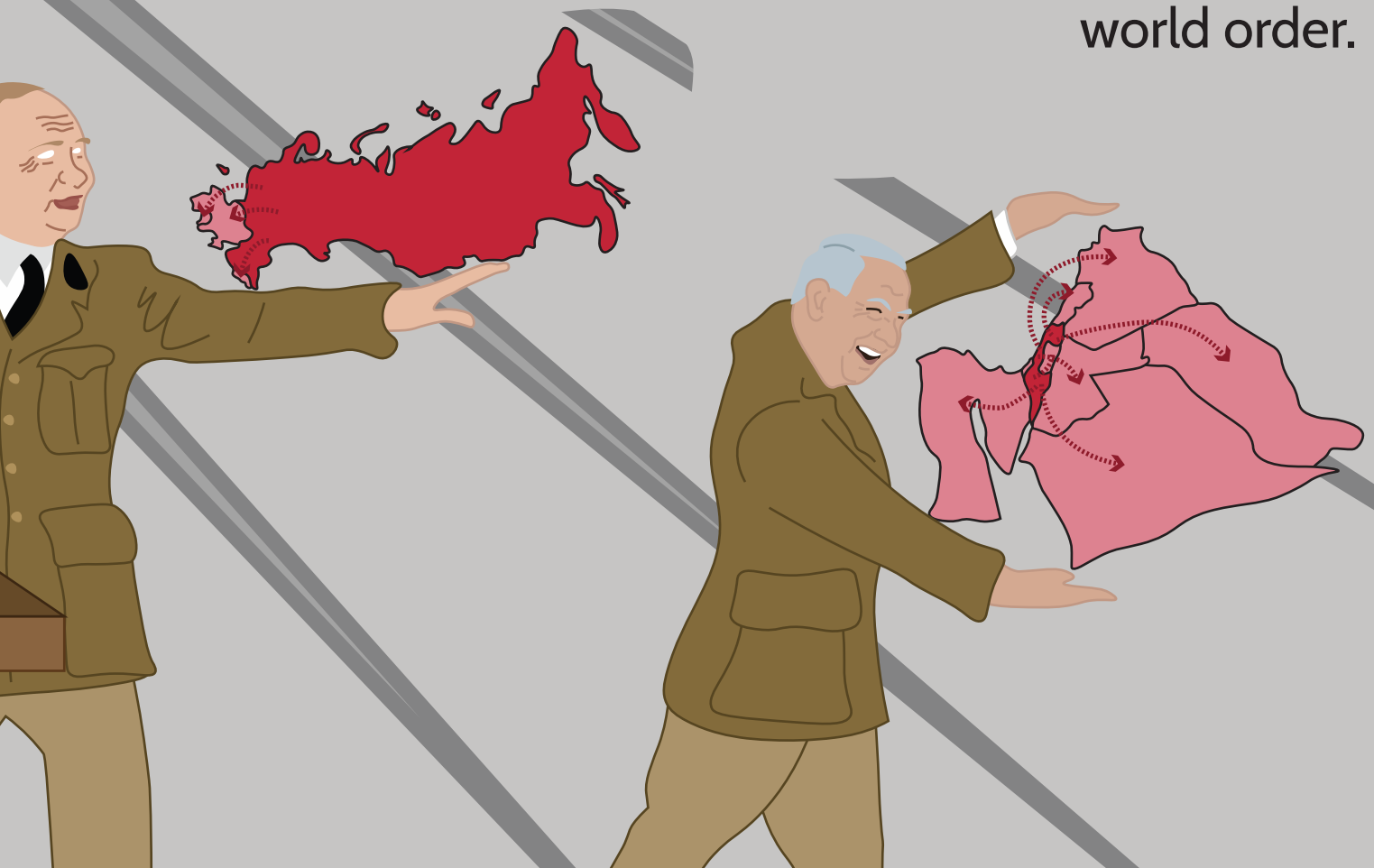
MAGA

**THE END
POST-WA**



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The movement of territorial expansion by leaders with imperialist biases was already a global reality. However, with the return of the 'MAGA' (Make America Great Again) movement to the White House, the United States, the world's largest economic and military power, joins the group of those who question global security, exacerbating the entire issue. In this edition, we take an in-depth look at specific cases that define this new and dangerous world order.



On the willingness to buy to that of invading: understanding Trump's Arctic interests

Although the issue was brought back by the then and current President of the United States, Donald Trump, the saga of US interests in the Arctic did not begin with the current White House incumbent. In fact, for about two centuries, US politicians have been trying to take control of the island, which has been under Danish rule since 1814, after the separation of the union between the kingdoms of Norway and Denmark.

In 1867, the first formal plans for the annexation of Greenland were suggested by American politicians. William H. Seward, who had negotiated the purchase of Alaska (at the time, territory of the Russian Empire), proposed the annexation not only of Greenland, but also of Iceland (also under Copenhagen's control at the time), as a way to expand American influence. A report published at the time by the US government considered the proposal to be very positive for Washington's interests. In addition to the riches that these territories could bring (from food to minerals), having these territories under US control could encourage Canada to enter (still willingly) into the federation.

The first proposal was for 5.5 million dollars in gold (equivalent to 124.5 million US dollars today). However, it was never implemented. It is argued that the reason was the lack of support in Congress for the purchase of the Danish West Indies (in the Caribbean). The association of Seward, a Republican, with the then Democratic President Andrew Johnson—who was not so popular among Republicans in Congress—is also cited as a reason for the failure of the proposal to move forward.

At the beginning of the 20th century, there would be a new attempt. Rumours suggest that the deal also involved interests in Copenhagen. The United States would receive Greenland and the Danish West Indies and, in exchange, would cede the islands of Mindanao and Palawan in the Philippines to Denmark. Copenhagen would use these islands to obtain the territory of North Schleswig in Germany.

In 1902, however, a treaty for the purchase of the Caribbean islands had already been agreed upon in the US Congress and in one of Denmark's legislative chambers, but it failed to gain support in the lower house, causing the proposal to fall

Territories in the Arctic

Greenland is located at a strategic point in the Arctic Ocean, allowing access to Europe and Russia.



through. During World War I, Washington would again attempt to purchase the islands, but recognising Danish sovereignty over the territory of Greenland. The treaty that allowed the acquisition of the Danish islands by the US stated that *'the US will not oppose the Danish Government extending its political and economic interests to the whole of Greenland'*. At the end of World War I, Canada proposed that the British Empire purchase Greenland to prevent the United States from acquiring it, thereby endangering Canadian sovereignty.

Following the Monroe Doctrine, Washington opposed any 'foreign expansion' on the American continent. And so, when Copenhagen requested official recognition of its sovereignty over Greenland from other nations, the British demanded a right of veto over a possible sale, and the Americans refused to accept these conditions.

During World War II, concern about obtaining the island returned after the Nazi invasion of Denmark. At the time, Greenland was home to the only significant mine of cryolite ore, which was

coveted by the Nazis. Seeing the Germans' desire to take control of the island and imagining that the British and Canadians might also have the same interest, US forces planned to invade the island.

Still neutral in World War II, the US forces that invaded Greenland were not associated with the country's army. From April 1941, a year after the Nazi conquest of Denmark, Greenland became a US protectorate. During the US occupation, air bases were built on the island. With the end of the conflict, Copenhagen hoped that Washington would leave the island (which did not happen). Unable to force its will on the US, the two countries entered into agreements that allowed Washington to maintain its air bases, but Copenhagen would retain control of the island (which would lose its colonial status with the new Danish constitution of the 1950s). During this period, the US tried to buy the island again twice, both times rejected by Denmark.

Until then, attempts to purchase the territory had been justified on economic grounds, related to oil and mineral extraction, and security grounds, to prevent Soviet attacks from across the Arctic. In this century, a new player (which has no territories in the region) has entered the fray: China.

While the US reiterates that China is not an Arctic power, Beijing has been striving, in cooperation with Moscow, to consolidate itself as a power with influence in the Arctic region, especially in its new plans for a New Silk Road, exporting goods to Europe.

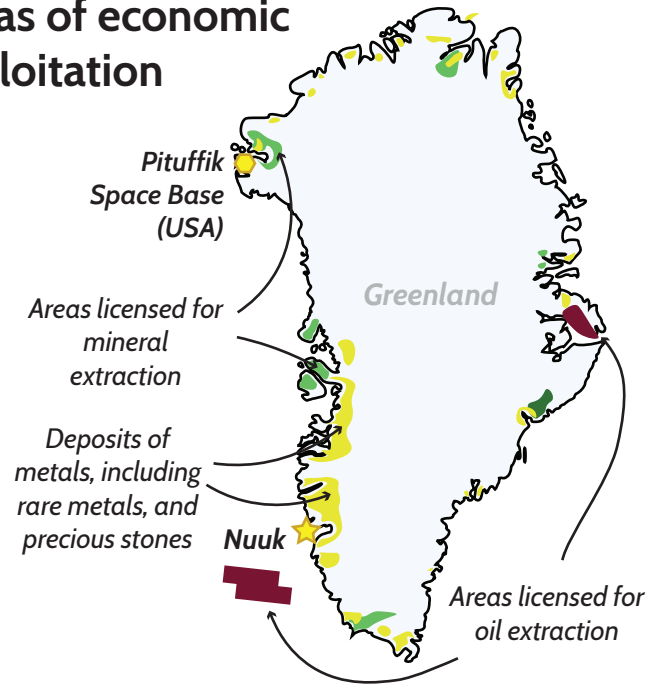
Routes for Chinese exports

The traditional route via Suez takes twice as long as the Arctic route.



Considering the climate changes that facilitate transit in the region and its economic use, the US sees cooperation between China and Russia as a threat to its interests in the region. In this sense, increased activity in a strategic zone close to US territory by these two nations, which are seen as enemies, is accompanied by a greater desire on the part of Washington to increase its influence in the Arctic region.

Areas of economic exploitation



Thus, Donald Trump's statements in 2019 and now in his second term are not new in themselves in the history of repeated US attempts to control the Arctic island. Trump's latest move, however, is unprecedented in the way it is presented: amid threats by the current US president to interfere in other countries and reform the international order in his own way, threats to take the island even using military force add a new layer of insecurity regarding the military defence of (still) European allies and, more globally, other countries in relation to the new world reality that would bring back the old realist logic, supposedly overcome in the post-World War II era, that the strongest rule and the rest obey. While he seems to show an interest in a relatively friendly relationship with Moscow, Trump continues to argue that annexing Greenland is necessary for national security in order to halt China's advance in the region.

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Sovereignty at stake: Canada faces the weight of Trump's foreign policy

Tensions between Canada and the United States (US) have been rising since Republican Donald J. Trump took office as head of the Washington executive branch. However, it is important to note that, historically, the countries have had a good relationship, with an emphasis on both economic and security cooperation. In this sense, why has there been a shift in the relationship between the two actors?

It is important to understand, as mentioned earlier, that the two countries had a good relationship. Therefore, diplomatic practices between the two actors have undergone a shift towards a process of deterioration. Canada's current prime minister, Mark Carney, commented in March this year that his country should rethink its relationship with the US, stating that the 'old bilateral relationship has come to an end,' according to CNN World. The reasons behind the Canadian reaction to relations between the countries were sparked by hostile remarks made by Trump, such as the idea that Canada should 'become the 51st US state.' The statement had such a negative impact that, according to Canada's Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, Mélanie Joly, Canadians are booing the American national anthem at hockey games because they are angry and disappointed with Trump and the US, according to BBC News. Nevertheless, the episodes that have deteriorated relations between the two countries have also profoundly affected Ottawa's domestic politics.

It is important to note that, at the beginning of 2025, Justin Trudeau was the prime minister of Canada. However, in a scenario marked by political tensions involving his nation and the US, Trudeau resigned, leading Mark Carney to fill the vacant position. This event was marked by the imposition of tariffs, a move that has characterised US foreign policy under Trump, on Canada. Less than two weeks after taking office, Carney requested the dissolution of parliament and called new elections for 28 April 2025. The political decisions made by Carney reflect his attempt to strengthen the Liberal Party, his party, in order to overcome the instabi-

lity caused by the scenario described above. The Liberal Party, however, was experiencing problems due to rising housing prices and economic downturns. Therefore, with the tariffs imposed, Carney—who was formerly governor of the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England—called for elections to revitalise his party, proving that it would be the best option over the opposition Conservative Party.

The elections were called at a time of growing Canadian nationalism, fuelled by Donald Trump's hostile advances. Thus, the candidate who

Desire for annexation

There were several attempts by the US to annex Canadian territory. From the attempt to join the provinces to the Thirteen Colonies for joint independence from the United Kingdom, to attempts to invade Canadian territory during the Civil War and the War of 1812 (between the US and the United Kingdom), Washington was unsuccessful in expanding its territory northward. After the Washington Treaty of 1871, which established friendly relations between the US and the United Kingdom and recognised *de facto* the existence of the 'Dominion of Canada', there were no serious attempts by US figures to annex Canada. Until Trump.



stood out as the most prepared to face the threat of an economic recession caused by these tensions would be the favourite to lead the country.

In this sense, the results of the April elections favoured Carney, leader of the Liberal Party, who took over as prime minister, despite having previously held the position due to Trudeau's resignation. The escalation of tensions between the two countries was driven by the imposition of tariffs, a measure that, according to Trump's logic, was intended to protect domestic jobs and retaliate against what he considered unfair international trade practices. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that Canada exports three-quarters of its goods to the US, which makes it a very important trading partner.

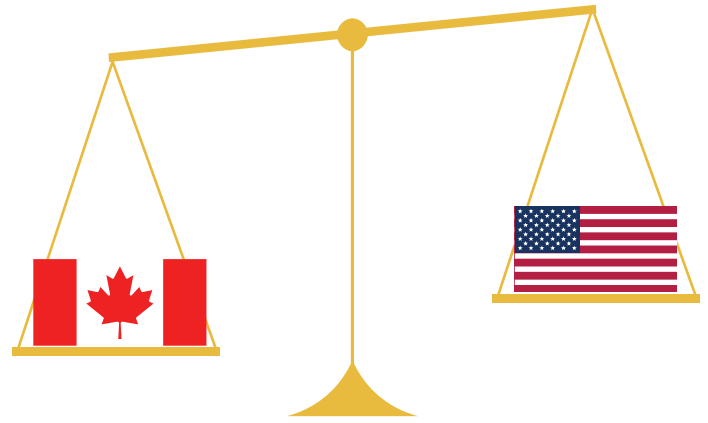
However, according to a BBC News report, Carney states that the country's foreign policy concern is not to reach the best agreement with the US, but rather to do what is best for the Canadian people. Therefore, amid tariff impositions, Carney highlighted protective measures for his economy, such as imposing tariffs on imports of aluminium—one of the main exported products—and wood.

It is clear, therefore, that Canada continues to resist bravely as relations with the US deteriorate. Amidst tariff impositions, which serve to leverage the narrative that Canada should become the 51st state of the US, Carney remains steadfast in overcoming challenges and asserting, once and for all, that his nation is sovereign and independent, and will never submit to the US. Despite everything, the Republican has addressed the issue on several occasions, stating that the United States does not need Canada, but that the opposite is not true. The plan, therefore, is unlikely to materialise, although the future of the relationship between the two nations remains uncertain.

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Current trade balance



In 2024, Canada was the third largest source of imported goods in the US, totalling US\$413 billion in imports by the US. On the other hand, Canada was the number one destination for US products in the same year, importing a total value of US\$349 billion. ***These figures give an idea of a deficit of around US\$64 billion for the US.***

Excluding services, however, Canada has had constant deficits with the US since 1985, which puts Trump's rhetoric about US losses in trade with its northern neighbour into perspective.

In the White House tariff hike, Canada initially received tariffs of 25% on its products, which were increased to 35% from 1 August 2025. Ottawa retaliated against the US with a 25% tariff on products from its neighbour. More retaliatory tariffs are planned by the Canadian government (but are currently on hold).

Russian-Ukrainian conflict: three years of war and the resistance effort

Beginning on 24 February 2022, the war between Russia and Ukraine—whose rapid outcome was considered virtually certain by several military analysts—has now lasted more than 1,000 days, making it the largest armed conflict on European soil since World War II. But even before the invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 had already violated Ukrainian territorial sovereignty. The continuation of this conflict has run counter to a number of assumptions in international relations theory, particularly with regard to the strategic conduct of wars in the 21st century.

In the early months of the conflict, many doubted Ukraine's ability to sustain effective resistance. However, the first year of war revealed surprising resilience on the part of the invaded country, which managed not only to survive the Russian advance but also to recover important portions of territory. Ukraine's ability to adapt quickly and constantly innovate on the battlefield surprised scholars and international security experts, especially given the glaring asymmetry between the two armies.

Although technical, financial, and military support from Western countries—especially the United States and NATO members—has been important over the past three years, Ukraine's leading role has remained evident. The efforts of Ukrainian hands and minds are remarkable: from the massive and creative use of small drones to the refinement of electronic warfare countermeasures. Such initiatives embody, on the battlefield, the classic maxim of Prussian Marshal Helmut von Moltke: 'No battle plan survives contact with the enemy'.

The belief that modern weaponry would prevent a return to prolonged attrition wars proved unfounded. Not even the fear of tactical nuclear weapons was able to prevent the continuation of large-scale conventional warfare. This only reinforces the persistent difficulty of formulating effective strategies in times of uncertainty—something that even technological advances have been unable to overcome.

Concepts such as strategy, operational art, and tactics remain subjective and often depend on unpredictable factors. The 'fog of war', theorised by Clausewitz in the 19th century, has never been more present than it is today, in a scenario where Artificial Intelligence and disinformation coexist with traditional battles. War thus remains a game of probabilities, strongly conditioned by chance and the political will of the actors involved.

In this context, psychological and social factors are as relevant as military ones. Troop morale, civilian support, and public perception of the direction of the conflict directly influence the war effort. In Ukraine, the continuation of the war has imposed a high human cost. With the depletion of the available military contingent, the government has lowered the minimum age for compulsory enlistment, generating growing internal resistance. Today, there are increasingly frequent reports of protests, desertions, and physical confrontations during recruitment attempts. In Russia, although with less media visibility, there are also reports of tensions in more peripheral regions, especially among ethnic minorities and rural populations, who have been disproportionately mobilised to the front lines compared to residents of Moscow and St. Petersburg. In this sense, both countries have been

Current stage of the war in Ukraine

updated in early July 2025



Source of frontline data:
Institute for the Study of War

trying to attract foreign efforts, offering financial advantages and even facilities for obtaining citizenship—as in the case of Russia.

When it comes to technological innovation, war has been a veritable laboratory for experimentation. Although drones are nothing new in the military field, their use by Ukraine has taken on an unprecedented dimension. The systematic use of Class 1 First-Person-View (FPV) drones in attacks on strategic targets has challenged traditional concepts of warfare. An illustrative example was the coordinated attack against Russian Tupolev bombers stationed at air bases in the Ryazan, Chelyabinsk, Murmansk, Kursk and Irkutsk regions on 1 June 2025. Just 177 of these small drones were able to damage or disable approximately 30% of Russia's conventional air capacity.

The so-called 'Operation Spider's Web' not only exposed structural vulnerabilities in Russian air defence, but also reaffirmed the relevance of special forces and tactical intelligence in conventional conflict scenarios. However, as technological innovations expand asymmetric attack capabilities and reduce the predictability of military actions, strategic insecurity also grows, especially among nuclear powers.

Unlike the novelty of drones, nuclear weapons represent a continuation of a dilemma that has existed since the Soviet Union acquired this weaponry in 1949. For a brief period, the US remained the only country to possess this technology. However, from the moment the Soviet Union, whose main heir is Russia, acquired these weapons, the calculation regarding the use of nuclear weapons in conflict changed. Even in a conflict where only one of the actors is nuclear-armed, as in the case of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, there is a political cost to the use of nuclear weapons. Even China has already declared its objection to the use of nuclear threats. 'Nuclear weapons should not be used and nuclear wars should never be fought. The threat or use of nuclear weapons must be combated,' states a document issued by the Chinese government when the conflict reached its one-year anniversary.

Thus, although unlikely, the possibility of using this type of weaponry has loomed over Ukraine since the beginning of the 2022 invasion. Ukraine gave up being a nuclear-armed country, as heir to the Soviet legacy, having surrendered its arsenal in exchange for security guarantees from Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Clearly, what was agreed in the Budapest Memorandum (1994) has not been fulfilled, as the country was invaded and, although the US and the UK contributed to its defence against Russia, they were unable to guarantee it.

Operation Spider Web

map of Ukrainian drone attacks on Russian bases on 1 June 2025



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The conflict between Israel and Palestine and the resistance movements against neocolonialism

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the most complex and enduring in contemporary history, marked by nuances of territorial disputes, structural violence, and asymmetrical power relations. Although it can be analysed from different perspectives, it is important to discuss it through the lens of colonialism and Palestinian resistance.

Zionism, as a nationalist ideology, established in the 19th century the premise that the creation of a Jewish state required the demographic transformation of Palestine. This logic materialised after 1948 through a movement of mass expulsion of Palestinians and the establishment of colonial settlements that fragmented the territory and isolated communities, following a colonial logic in the territory.

The Israeli occupation is characterised as settler colonialism, in which land is taken and repopulated by settlers, while the local population is marginalised or expelled. The central objective of this process is based on economic exploitation and the symbolic and material elimination of the Palestinian people, either through annihilation or forced assimilation. This logic is sustained by military apparatuses inherited from external forces that act to control and repress Palestinian resistance against Zionist oppression. This militarisation of the territory, with physical barriers and systematic violence supported by foreign nations, reinforces a situation of segregation that prevents access to basic resources such as water and land, deepening Palestine's dependence and fragility.

It is against this backdrop that Palestinian resistance movements emerge as a direct response to colonial oppression. From the first Intifada (1987–1993), marked by popular protests and civil disobedience, to the actions of groups such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), resistance takes many forms, combining political, cultural, and armed strategies.

These movements seek to denounce Israeli violence, as well as reaffirm Palestinian identity and sovereignty, challenging the Zionist narrative that denies the people's right to the land.

The importance of resistance movements lies in their quest to oppose colonial forces and in their pursuit of justice and self-determination.

Evolution of Israeli control over Arab territory



While Israel continues its policies of settlement expansion and resource control, Palestinian resistance, as a direct product of colonial oppression, emerges in response to predatory actions. The strategies are aimed at the decolonisation of Palestine and ensuring that its existence is not destroyed, constituting liberation projects that confront structures of power, domination and oppression. More than a reaction to violence, resistance also asserts itself as a political project of decolonisation, challenging the international structures that sustain it.

Discussing these movements is a way of preserving the living memory of a struggle that continues to inspire oppressed peoples in different locations and conditions. Even in the face of power imbalances, collective organisation and the uncompromising defence of dignity continue to flourish. However, it is worth remembering that behind this resistance lies a visceral conflict which, in its complexity, continues to claim lives: thousands of Palestinians are killed in armed attacks or through the curtailment of basic rights. This ongoing violence, fuelled by decades of inertia on the part of the international community, shows that deaths in the Middle East do not shock the West. But as long as Palestine resists, there will be a reminder that no people will peacefully accept their own erasure.

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China and Taiwan: History, Dispute, and the Role of the United States in Balancing the Strait

Since the 16th century, Taiwan has been under Chinese influence. At first, this was seen as a positive thing, as it prevented European occupation of the territory. In 1684, the island was officially annexed to the Chinese nation. Over the years, this influence has fluctuated: after the First Sino-Japanese War, China lost the territory to Japanese rule, which was followed by several uprisings and resistance by the island's residents.

In 1912, the weakening of the monarchy reduced resistance against the Japanese empire. The end of the Qing dynasty in China ushered in a new era. After the republican and nationalist revolution against the emperor, the country was renamed the Republic of China. At that time, the country was very divided and its politics were highly fragmented. The political elites took advantage of this to exercise parallel governments in their zones of influence, making power over the territory diffuse. Therefore, the creation of zones of independence fragmented China, and as this process took place during the First World War, there was little international support.

During this period, there was also a strong division between the Nationalist Party (Kuomintang) and the Communist Party of China (CPC). The disagreements led to the first phase of the Chinese Civil War, in which the Nationalists fought the Communists and managed to drive them into isolated and rural areas. The two groups only united during World War II, in a military alliance against Japan. With the end of the war, China was highly valued by the international community because it was seen as one of the pillars in the defeat of the Japanese empire. As a result, it regained its lost territories, including Taiwan.

Between 1946 and 1949, China continued to experience civil war, in which the CCP gained support from the USSR to defeat the nationalists. To avoid a crushing defeat, the Kuomintang moved to Taiwan, declaring Taipei the new capital of the Republic of China and bringing with it a large influx of migrants to the territory.

In 1949, Mao Zedong, leader of the Communist Party, changed the country's name to the People's Republic of China (PRC). Both governments, that of the Republic of China—now based in Taiwan—and that of the PRC, claimed to be the true China,

and began to dispute which of the two governments had the legitimacy to represent China. In 1955, the Formosa Resolution formalised US support for Taiwan. The leaders never signed a ceasefire, and the issue remains unresolved. Both Chinas have adopted the 'one China' policy, which means that those who support one cannot have relations with the other.

Territorial gains by the communists in the Chinese Civil War *between 1946 and 1950*



- Communist areas in 1946
- Areas conquered in June 1948
- Areas conquered in December 1949
- Areas conquered in 1950
- ↓ Communist advances
- Important areas of nationalist resistance
- Areas held by nationalists after 1950

Since its creation, the UN recognised the Republic of China, but as mainland China gained greater international prominence, keeping it out of the organisation was no longer an option. In 1971, the UN recognised the People's Republic of China as the official representative of China, excluding Taiwan from the multilateral forum. More recently, in May 2025, Taiwan was also excluded from the World Health Organisation (WHO) assembly after opposition from China. Therefore, in international institutions, it is evident that Beijing seeks to reinforce its 'one China' policy, rivaling views that are contrary to this assumption. Taiwan sees the PRC as illegitimate, while the PRC sees Taiwan as a rebel island.

Another point to be analysed in relations between China and Taiwan is the position of the United States in this complex conflict. The US began investing in Taiwan to develop its economy and technologies during the Cold War. On 1 January 1979, the US officially recognised the PRC as the legitimate government of China. As a result, the country's diplomatic relations with the Taiwanese authorities were severed.

However, in April of the same year, the US Congress passed the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), which aimed to maintain commercial, cultural, and strategic ties with Taiwan, preserving US interests in the region. In addition, Washington committed to ensuring peace on the island, also authorising the sale of modern weapons to Taiwan.

More recently, the visit of US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan on 2 August 2022 was also an important milestone in relations between Washington and Taipei. The congresswoman's visit was the first time a US House Speaker had officially visited Taiwan in 25 years. Two weeks later, a US delegation composed of senators and representatives arrived on the island of Taiwan on 14 August 2022. These events highlighted not only a political conflict but also a trade conflict between China and the United States over the island nation. In 2024, US President Joe Biden stated that the US did not support Taiwan's independence after a party opposed to unification with China won the presidential elections in Taipei. At the end of the same year, the US approved the sale of US\$ 385 million¹ in military equipment to Taiwan, which generated conflicting opinions in Beijing.

In this sense, it can be observed that the relationship between the US and Taiwan is complex, without implicit diplomatic recognition. Even so, Washington's strategic—and ambiguous—position in the region, with military and economic

support, does not go unnoticed by the Chinese authorities and is often the result of conflict between the PRC and the US government. It is worth noting that China also conducts frequent military exercises around Taiwan, which are characterised as a 'stern warning' and reinforcement of Beijing's position in the region. With the election of Donald Trump to a new term, relations between Taiwan and the US have also been impacted by new trade tariffs imposed by the White House, which has raised the need for Taipei to consider new markets for its exports.

In short, the rapprochement between the United States and Taiwan, based on the Taiwan Relations Act, is seen as a threat to Chinese power in Asia, given that Taiwan is one of the main areas of influence of Xi Jinping's government. For this reason, military exercises and demonstrations of Chinese military supremacy around the island are frequent occurrences. Over the years, the US government has maintained economic and military relations with Taiwan, which reinforces Washington's possible deterrence strategy in the region. The US presence in Taipei would prevent China from moving forward with a plan to annex the island.

The new Trump administration presents a new approach by the United States to the conflict, seen not only in the tariffs and new economic policy adopted for Asia, but also in the president's statements. When asked in February 2025 whether the US would prevent China from taking Taiwan, he refrained from answering. Despite this, it is important to note that the China-Taiwan issue is of great importance to US security policy and, as set out in the Taiwan Relations Act, the country is formally committed to maintaining peace in the region. The question to be analysed in this scenario is to what extent this commitment could threaten the one-China policy and thus culminate in a possible conflict in the Taiwan Strait.

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Strategies and opportunities in the global (dis)order: European Union

Alexander Stubb—current president of Finland and former rector of the European University Institute—is one of several voices (see other articles in this volume) pointing to the unravelling of the post-Cold War global order, marked by US hegemony and an international system built on values such as human rights, free markets, democracy, etc. According to him, there is no clear direction, at least not yet, for the new world order that is being established. Therefore, in its transitional and uncertain phase, it is fundamentally a disorder.

This is not to say that world powers do not have their own agendas and opinions on how the new order will be constructed, but rather that the success of implementing these worldviews is still uncertain. According to Applebaum, for example, China and Russia have adopted discursive and practical strategies to reshape the global order into a pragmatic, no longer evaluative system. Both promote notions such as ‘Right to Development,’ ‘win-win cooperation,’ and ‘mutual respect’ as alternatives to human rights, the rule of law, and liberal democratic values. In the Chinese case, this rhetoric is formulated in vague and conciliatory terms, but with significant implications, as it reconfigures rights as exclusively national prerogatives, beyond the reach of international accountability mechanisms. Russia, on the other hand, adopts the rhetoric of multipolarity as the foundation of a less Western-centric international system, articulating it with a narrative of resistance to colonialism, even though its actions (and diplomatic training)—such as the invasion of Ukraine and the military presence of the Wagner Group in African countries—reveal a logic of imperial power.

Trump's recent election victory marks a break with America's European allies, shifting the American focus to East Asia in an attempt to contain its current biggest competitor in terms of security—China. Territorial and maritime containment are well-known strategies from the 19th century, also used against the USSR during the Cold War. The shift in American focus, at first glance, seems to point not to a concert of powers (in which the great powers divide the globe into exclusive zones of influence), but rather to a return to the traditional balance of power (in which the great powers

divide the globe into exclusive zones of influence), but rather to a return to the traditional balance of power (in which the great powers compete with each other for influence in the globe). This means that, even though the US has discursively ‘abandoned’ Europe to Russia's advantage, it is doing so in order to compete with China in East Asia.

US territories at the time of the Monroe Doctrine (1824)



The doctrine called for 'America for Americans' in order to prevent the continent from becoming a sphere of European influence, keeping it as a US sphere.

Not only that, but there is no way to say yet that the American discursive ‘abandonment’ will actually result in de facto ‘abandonment’. First, ‘abandonment’ is institutionally costly - since there are a number of barriers such as the 2023 law that prevents the president from withdrawing from NATO without Senate approval or legal approval by Congress; the strong interrelationship between US and EU intelligence groups; the interrelationship between the US Department of Defence and the Department of State and their counterparts in Europe; and even the costly halting of institutional processes involving hundreds of thousands of workers and collaborators (an effect known in the literature as path dependence).

Secondly, as Brooks and Vagle point out, the decoupling of Western and Chinese economies would affect China in the medium and long term by several orders of magnitude more than the United States, if done in support of its European allies.

If the 'abandonment' is effective, the US would lose an excellent opportunity for deterrence against China. Finally, the 'abandonment' is politically costly, as Europeans have a strong presence in lobbying and even in terms of value in the American political imagination. It is therefore through these strategies that the EU would be able to articulate itself to avoid the end of American security guarantees, which would leave it vulnerable.

Meanwhile, the discursive 'abandonment' serves to foster a paradigm shift in the EU. The bloc now advocates for greater autonomy and protection of the resources strategically necessary for member countries in the form of 'Open Strategic Autonomy' (more details in the column available on the portal: 'History Of Energy Security In An Insecure World'). The need for dynamism in decision-making and greater European leadership not only vis-à-vis the rest of the world but also in maintaining well-being in Europe itself are now driving political and economic pressure for reform of the EU's slow and complex bureaucratic system. Global geopolitical insecurity, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the historic increase in German security investment and the discursive 'abandonment' converge to give greater bargaining power to those who preach a common European security policy, with an integrated army and a fostered war industry. If its spokesperson, Macron, manages to overcome his domestic challenges and a slow, conservative, and costly supranational bureaucracy, they could revitalise the bloc's geopolitical role.

The EU's shift towards greater intra-bloc security and independence from extra-bloc countries could be a unique opportunity for candidate countries such as Serbia. According to Nikolić, Serbia has sufficient reserves of lithium and other critical materials—necessary for the development of technologies, defence and security, and even energy distribution—that are vital for greater resilience in the EU's supply chain of critical raw materials. On the other hand, the country's entry into the bloc would strengthen its democratic institutions and minimise the current conflict situation (more details in the column 'The Price of Forgetting').

Spheres of influence/alliances in Europe today



Giulliano Renato Molinero Jr.
M.A. in European and Global Policies from the University of Tampere, Finland.

Strategies and opportunities in the global (dis)order: medium and small powers

But what about small and medium-sized countries, or even regional powers with little global influence? As argued in the specialist literature on the subject, these countries and regions have five clear options, namely bandwagoning, anti-hegemonic balancing (or balance of power), multipolar balancing, pragmatic equidistance, and uncritical neutrality. Bandwagoning is the strategy of allying oneself with the hegemon—the dominant power in the international system—in order to avoid conflicts, guarantee security and other gains (sometimes negotiated with the hegemon in advance, sometimes only expected gains). A famous example of bandwagoning in history is Western European support for the US, which later resulted in the possibility of European integration thanks to the security guarantees provided by the Americans. In turn, anti-hegemonic balancing consists of smaller powers forming alliances with powers competing with the hegemon in order to contain or confront a dominant power perceived as aggressive. As with bandwagoning, the goal is to avoid conflict, ensure security and other gains (whether negotiated or not). An example of this is the Warsaw Pact between the USSR and communist countries in Eastern Europe.



Weaker states engaged in bandwagoning or anti-hegemonic balancing may experience greater or lesser influence from their respective allied powers depending on their geographical proximity to them. This is why the specialised literature deals with offshore balancing and offshore bandwagoning, common strategies in which smaller allies that are geographically distant from their larger powers

use their alliances as a way to maintain or expand their regional influence (since the hegemon or its competitor is not in the region to overshadow them). A famous historical example was the alliance between Nazi Germany and imperialist Japan, which enabled Japan to project influence widely across Asia.

Multipolar balancing is a strategy in which smaller and/or medium-sized powers ally themselves with each other, sometimes as a third axis of power to counterbalance a hegemon and competitor. Some of the advantages of this strategy are symmetry of power and economies; institutional agility; the possibility of specialisation; and increased voice/bargaining power. Symmetry ensures that allied states do not force their policies on each other and that they can negotiate the terms of the alliance without major risks. It is an alliance in which gains are shared more democratically.

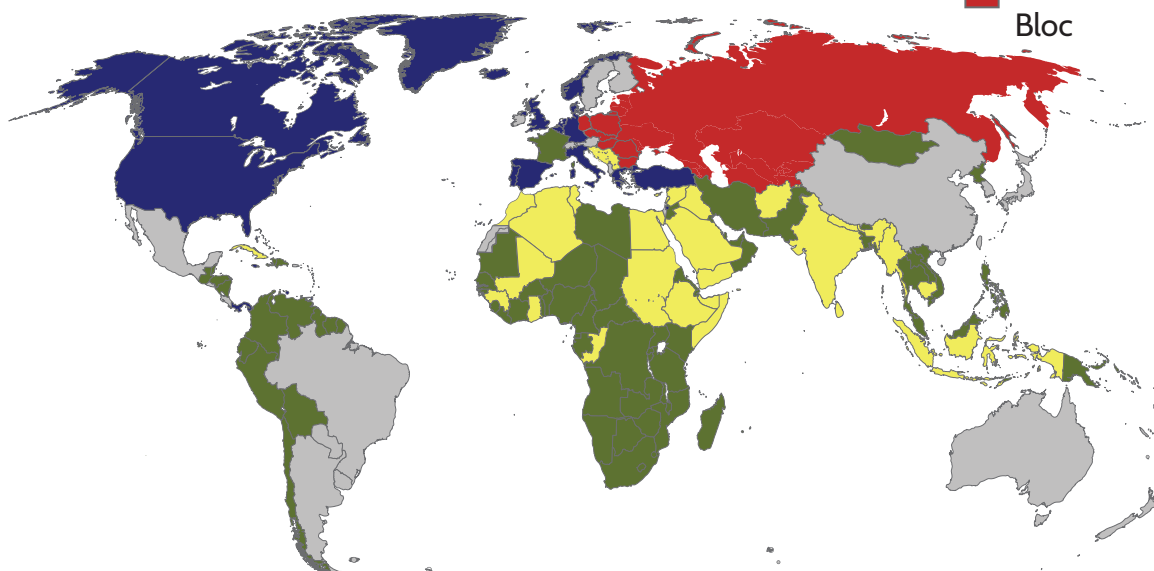
Smaller powers are generally more agile in their decision-making and adaptability, while larger powers have more responsibilities and institutional interrelationships with other countries, making their decision-making process slower and their ability to adapt less. While larger powers need to deal with a myriad of agendas—since their influence carries weight in each one—smaller powers can specialise.

Aligned and non-aligned countries during the Cold War

-  Non-aligned countries (original group from 1961)
-  Non-aligned countries (currently)

 Soviet Bloc

 Western Bloc



By focusing on specific policy areas, small states can develop in-depth expertise, increasing their credibility and influence. Finally, smaller powers have little voice. By joining forces, their positions carry greater economic and political weight. Perhaps the most famous historical example is that of the non-aligned movement during the Cold War.

Pragmatic equidistance was a concept created to explain Vargas' foreign policy towards Nazi Germany and the United States. The strategy is pragmatic in nature and uses the possibility of alignment, both bandwagoning and anti-hegemonic balancing, as bargaining power, without ever actually aligning itself. The idea is that the hegemon and competitor compete for the alignment of the smaller power, injecting money, logistical support, and even a certain guarantee of security to try to convince it. It happens, in periods of less geopolitical stability, that smaller powers end up succumbing to the pressure of alignment, but not before having developed or secured themselves thanks to 'positive' competition.

In addition to the example of Vargas, who ended up allying himself with the US, another long-standing historical example was the Paasikivi-Kekkonen doctrine, better known as Finlandisation, which recently came to an end with Finland's entry into NATO.

The last, uncritical neutrality, is less a strategy and more a political behaviour, outlined by a protectionist and isolationist position that ignores the geopolitical changes around it, without taking a stand on them. In *The History of the Peloponnesian War*, Thucydides presents the case of Melos, an uncritically neutral island in the competition between Sparta and Athens (431–404 BC). When Athens invades Melos and is questioned by the island's inhabitants as to why—since they were neutral in the conflict—the Athenian envoys famously respond to the Melian with 'The strong do what they can, and the weak suffer what they must.'

The choice of strategy depends on each case. Taiwan, for example, already naturally opposed to China and in need of the US to defend itself, loses the options of anti-hegemonic balancing and pragmatic equidistance. Given its history of civil-military preparedness, uncritical neutrality does not seem to be a natural option. In a similar position are the other countries that compete with China in the South China Sea, which are now gaining American support and attention. Countries such as Hungary or, more recently, Romania naturally lean towards equidistant pragmatism, given their participation in the EU but political proximity to Russia and China. Brazil, with less clear choices, needs a quick plan before it resembles Melos.



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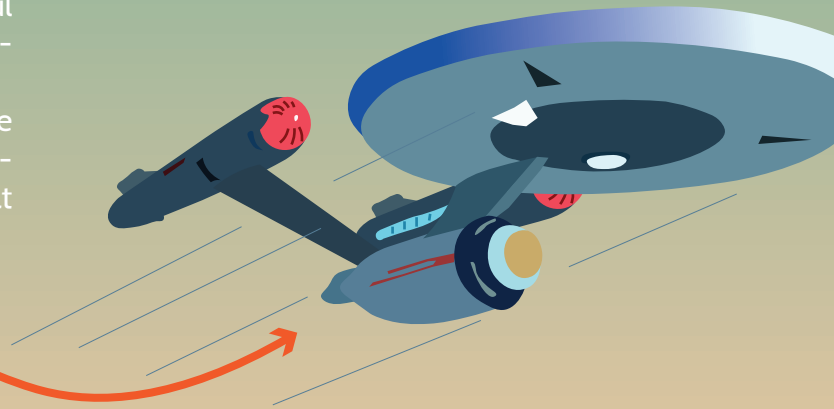
Star Trek and the issue of the military use of science

Star Trek: Strange New Worlds is the 11th series in the famous Star Trek franchise. Produced by the streaming channel Paramount+ since 2022, the series delves into a classic era of space exploration, set in the 23rd century (a decade before the original series from the 1960s), bringing a modern sensibility that echoes discussions of our time. In this new story, viewers are reunited with the USS Enterprise, under the command of Captain Christopher Pike. As usual, the Enterprise crew focuses on peaceful exploration missions, encounters with new civilisations, and a philosophy of respect for life.

However, even in this idealistic universe, the reality of war and technology as a weapon is ever-present. Space-folding technology, an engine that

allows for faster-than-light travel, is the perfect example of how something designed for peaceful exploration can be transformed into a tool of power and destruction.

See in this section how the series addresses issues relevant to the field of Political Science and International Relations analysis.



USS Enterprise

It is the flagship of **Starfleet**, the military and exploration organisation of the **United Federation of Planets**. The Federation is a political entity composed of several planets that have united with the aim of pursuing peace, scientific exploration, and diplomacy. As a utopian (and much stronger and more active) version of the United Nations, the Federation is sometimes seen as a military threat to other peoples who have technology but have not joined it.

The Space Arms Race

In *'Strange New Worlds'*, the Federation deals with conflicts with the **Klingons** and the **Gorn**, driven by technological competition.

The possession of faster and more efficient warp ships is seen as a critical factor for survival and military superiority, reflecting the dynamics of the Cold War on Earth and the nuclear arms race.





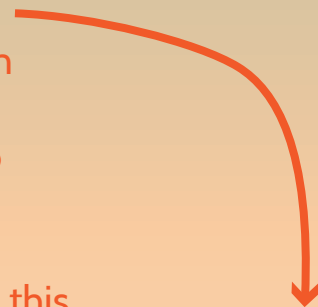
The 'Warp Bomb'

In one of the episodes of *'Strange New Worlds'*, the crew of the Enterprise deals with the discovery that a less advanced civilisation, from the planet Kiley 279, has developed a weapon of mass destruction based on warp technology, the 'warp bomb'. This crucial point demonstrates that the problem is not just Starfleet using the technology for warfare, but also the inherent risk that this powerful science could be copied and used by other civilisations without the same ethical restrictions. Technology which would be used to explore new worlds becomes a global danger, threatening the existence of entire star systems. Outside the Star Trek universe, the story is associated with the use of nuclear technology in the real world, which can be both scientific for peaceful purposes (for energy generation) or military (for the construction of weapons of mass destruction). The series invites the viewer to reflect on this very current situation in the current international context.

The principle of non-interference and the moral dilemma it poses

The use of warp drive as a weapon is also intrinsically linked to the **Prime Directive**, one of Starfleet's most important rules. This directive prohibits interference in the development of less advanced cultures.

The militarisation of warp drive raises the question: to what extent can technology that you use peacefully influence, corrupt or even be replicated by other civilisations for military purposes? The series explores this dilemma by showing the moral weight of Starfleet in maintaining its ideal of peace, while the technology that enables this peace can also be the cause of devastating wars on other planets. This moral dilemma between following one's ideals or relativising them according to circumstances is highlighted in the series.



“Strengthening Outcome Harvesting Analysis With Ai-Assisted Causal Mapping”

Authors: Heather Britt; Steve Powell; Gabriele Caldas Cabral

Published: March 2025 by “Causal Pathways”

Type: Case study



This case study explores how AI-assisted causal mapping can enhance data collection analysis, revealing interrelationships between outcomes and identifying new actors contributing to change. The pilot demonstrates how this approach can provide actionable insights and strengthen causal analysis in data collection. It emphasises the importance of a principled analysis plan and human expertise to guide the AI process.

Accessible via the link: <https://www.causalmap.app/resources/cp-oh>



“A workflow for collecting and understanding stories at scale, supported by artificial intelligence”

Authors: Steve Powell; Gabriel Caldas Cabral; Hannah Mishan

Published: April 2025 by European Evaluation Society

Type: Scientific paper - peer-reviewed

The article proposes an AI-assisted causal mapping method for collecting and analysing stakeholder perspectives on a large scale, combining automated interviews, data coding, and causal relationship visualisation. Tested in interviews on US issues, it showed efficiency and potential for rapid assessments, but requires human supervision due to limitations and ethical issues.

Accessible via the link: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/13563890251328640>

“Expanding the Definition of Atomic Veterans to Redress Harms to Service People in Nuclear Missions”



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs

Authors: Larissa Truchan; Sofia Alvarado Carmen; Maria Mont Serrat Bomfim Mariano dos Santos; Siddhie Patil; Mahlet Sebsibe; Nadia Hashid

Published: June 2025 by Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Type: Book chapter

The article criticises the narrow definition of ‘Atomic Veteran’ in the US, which limits benefits to specific cases of nuclear exposure, and proposes a more inclusive reconceptualisation that covers all military personnel, dependents, and civilians exposed to radiation, recognising physical and psychological damage and aligning with historical data and updated laws.

Accessible via the link:

<https://basicint.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Nuclear-Harm-Reduction-v10.pdf>

“The Power of the ‘Fourth State Power’: To What Extent Did Regional Press Coverage Influence Regional Voter Turnout in the 2024 European Elections?”

Authors: Caio Ponce de Leon R. F.

Published: July 2025 by Springer Nature Link

Type: Book chapter

The study investigates how digital coverage by the regional press influenced voter turnout in the 2024 European elections. The research quantitatively analyses headlines published one month before the vote, examining whether the attention and bias of the regional media impacted turnout at the polls in different regions of the EU.

Accessible via the link: https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-89455-8_30



“Artilharia, Drones e Mísseis na Guerra Russo-Ucraniana” (translated title: “Artillery, Drones, and Missiles in the Russian-Ukrainian War”)

Authors: Augusto W. M. Teixeira Jr.; Maria Mont Serrat Bomfim
Mariano dos Santos; Cinthya Araújo Gomes

Published: August 2025 by Brazilian National Defence College

Type: Book chapter

The war in Ukraine serves as a case study of the relationship between technology and military strategy. Artillery, missiles, and drones stood out as the main elements of combat. Russia employed a strategy of attrition with high firepower, while Ukraine compensated with the tactical use of drones. Drones proved to be force multipliers for reconnaissance and precision strikes. The conflict demonstrates that victory does not depend on a single weapon system, but rather on the integration of mass, precision, innovation, and operational adaptation.

Accessible via the link: <https://www.gov.br/esd/pt-br/central-de-conteudo/publicacoes/producao-academica-da-esd/livros-capitulos-de-livros/OqueaprendemoscomaguerranaUcrania.pdf>

In the world of politics (both national and international), there are also many bizarre occurrences. Below are some of the most recent ones!

“Gotta Catch 'em All. Pokémo...” eh... Protesters?

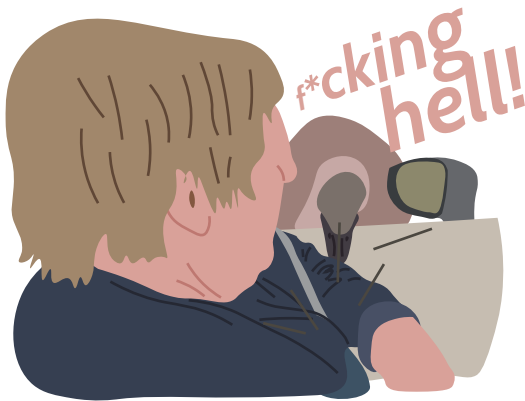
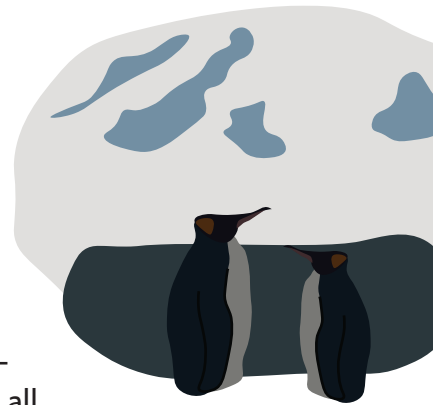
Amid protests against Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's increasingly authoritarian government in Turkey, one scene made headlines and went viral on social media around the world. After the arrest of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, the Turkish president's main rival, on 19 March, several protests broke out across the country. More than 1,900 people were arrested for participating in the protests. Amid the crowd fleeing from the police, the video that went viral was of a person dressed as Pikachu, from the cartoon 'Pokémon'. The character became a symbol of resistance, as pro-government media began to accuse him of being part of a plot orchestrated by the

opposition. Pikachu was seen as a form of 'psychological warfare' that would make the protests more acceptable to the population, causing more people to take to the streets.



Tariffs even for penguins!

Amidst the unrestricted tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump on all countries in the world, no piece of land on the planet has been left behind. Not even those that only have non-human inhabitants. Such is the case of the Heard and McDonald Islands, 4,100 kilometres from Australia, home to penguins, seals and other birds. The territories, which are part of Australia, can only be visited by humans with special permission from the government. If permission is granted, visitors still have to spend 10 days on a ship to reach the islands. Even though they are in a state 'virtually untouched by human activity,' as the Australian government claims, the islands have not escaped the 10% tariff imposed by Trump on all exports to the US. Washington has even made life difficult for the economic life of foreign fauna.



Known for its oddities, he's got a new one to add to his list.

After giving a speech at the UN about the dangers of 'chickens without limbs' and exterminators of the future, and stating that he wanted to invade the Netherlands during the pandemic to steal vaccines, former British Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson went viral again in the headlines and on social media in April this year. While on a family safari in Texas, Johnson was 'attacked' by an ostrich. As he drove through the park, the bird approached and slowly put its neck inside the car while being filmed by Johnson's

wife. Moments later, the ostrich pecks the former prime minister's arm, who screams and quickly moves away from the animal. His wife shared the scene on Instagram with the description 'too funny not to share.'

The video went viral on social media, bringing Johnson back into the headlines after years away from Downing Street.

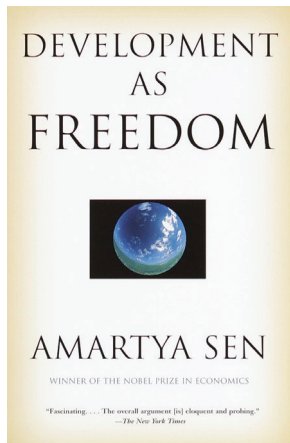
Mystical counter-sanction

Among US President Donald Trump's threats to Brazil's sovereignty, his attempts to interfere with the functioning of the Brazilian judiciary, and the imposition of heavy tariffs on Brazilian products, a Brazilian organisation has decided to impose exemplary counter-sanctions on the US. The Cacique Cobra Coral Foundation, which has been providing esoteric services to US companies since the Ronald Reagan administration, announced that it will suspend 50% of its 'climate assistance' to the country. According to the entity, its work is based on mystical interventions in time to prevent important events from being disrupted. Medium Adelaide Scritori, president of the foundation, said it was a measure of reciprocity. The announcement was

made on 9 July. Coincidentally, the US was hit by a severe series of extreme weather events days later, such as storms and hurricanes.



In this section, we give you some tips on what you can do to have fun while applying some of your knowledge of domestic and foreign policy! Take a look below!



Development as Freedom

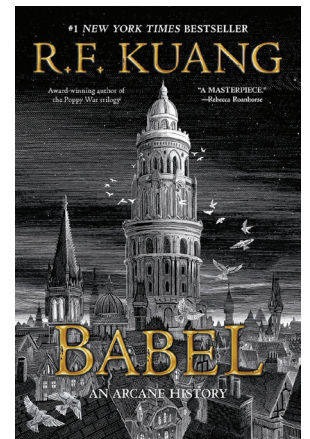
what: book pages: 384
where: bookstores published: 2000

Amartya Sen, winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics, challenges the traditional notion of development linked solely to income growth. In his book 'Development as Freedom,' he proposes that real progress is the expansion of the freedoms that people can enjoy. For Sen, poverty and oppression are forms of deprivation of freedom, and genuine well-being is linked to the ability to live a dignified life, have opportunities, and be free from avoidable harms. The work offers an essential perspective for understanding development in nations such as Brazil.

Babel: Or the Necessity of Violence

what: book pages: 560
where: bookstores published: August 2022

In R.F. Kuang's 'Babel: or the Need for Violence,' Chinese orphan Robin Swift is taken to London to study at the Royal Institute of Translation in Oxford. He discovers that translation is a form of magic that gives Britain power, but finds himself torn between his loyalty to the institution and his homeland as war between the two countries looms. The narrative, which rewrites Chinese colonial history and the Industrial Revolution, addresses themes such as colonial resistance, the power of language, and the necessity of violence in revolution.



The Seed of the Sacred Fig (Dane-ye anjir-e ma'abed)

what: film length: 2h47min year: 2024
where: streaming country: Germany, France, Iran
platforms

Amidst the political turmoil in Tehran, Iman, a newly promoted judge, struggles with paranoia and mental exhaustion. The pressure of his new position and the mysterious disappearance of his gun lead him to distrust his own family. Consumed by suspicion, he imposes strict rules, straining family ties. The plot explores how social crises and power can erode personal relationships, showing Iman's journey as he loses himself between professional duty and the devastating consequences of his mistrust.

Soundrack to a Coup d'Etat

what: film length: 2h30min year: 2024
where: streaming country: Belgium, France, Netherlands
platforms

The documentary 'Soundtrack for a Coup d'État' explores the decolonisation of the Congo and the assassination of President Patrice Lumumba in 1961. The film shows the connection between music and politics, revealing how musicians such as Abbey Lincoln and Max Roach protested against international intrigues, while Louis Armstrong was used as a distraction tool by the US. The work analyses the relationships between imperialism, capitalism and jazz in the context of the Cold War and civil rights struggles.



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