

COMPARATIVE

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REGIONAL OVERVIEW

THE “YEAR OF ELECTIONS” (FINALLY) ENDS

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The “year of elections” culminated in the allegedly (but not actually) “too close to call” US presidential elections on Nov. 5, which resulted in Donald Trump’s scheduled return to the oval office on Jan. 20, 2025. Trump has wasted no time identifying his preferences for key leadership positions in his incoming administration, some surprising, some shocking, and a few somewhat disturbing (to us, at least), although most of his national security/foreign policy choices appear more mainstream. While we would not be bold (or foolish) enough to make firm predictions regarding future policy, we will speculate on expected trends and characteristics, while acknowledging at the onset that Trump prides himself on being unpredictable (and has largely succeeded in this quest).

While elections elsewhere have gone largely as expected, two unexpected domestic political developments promise to impact US policy and regional stability; namely, the failed attempt by Republic of Korea President Yoon Suk Yeol to declare martial law which resulted in his impeachment, and the political turmoil in Japan that has left the Liberal Democratic Party for the first time in decades finding itself at the helm of a minority government. Elsewhere (and largely overlooked), the usual spate of multilateral meetings took place in the second half of the year — the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders’ Meeting, the G20 gathering, the East Asia Summit and companion ministerial-level ASEAN Regional

Forum (ARF), the BRICS Summit, etc. —amid enhanced military activity and enhanced trilateral/minilateral cooperation.

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Trump Triumphs



Figure 1 PM Modi made the remarks at the G20 session on “Social Inclusion and the Fight Against Hunger and Poverty.” Photo: Prime Minister of India official webpage.

There should be no repeat of the Jan. 6, 2020 mayhem as Vice President Kamala Harris graciously accepted defeat and congratulated president-elect Donald Trump on his Nov. 6 victory. Trump was quick in identifying his [planned nominees](#) for key national security posts, including Sen. [Marco Rubio](#) of Florida to be secretary of state and Florida Republican Rep. [Michael Waltz](#) as National Security Advisor. Rubio is expected to sail through the Senate confirmation process and National Security Council members are not subject to ratification. This holds true as well for Trump’s choice of former State Department official [Alex Wong](#) to serve as deputy national security adviser. Wong served as deputy special representative for North Korea during the first Trump administration and was closely involved in arranging Trump’s summits with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

One thing Rubio and Waltz and other national security-related potential nominees, like [U.S. ambassador](#) to the United Nations nominee Congresswoman Elise Stefanik (R-NY) and CIA Director-designate (and former Director of National Intelligence) John Ratcliffe have in common is strong anti-China and anti-authoritarian views. Prospective Secretary of Defense (and former Fox News host) [Pete Hegseth](#) would join this chorus if his nomination is approved (which seemed somewhat likely but is by no means assured at this writing).

The real wild card on the national security team is former Hawaii Democratic Rep. [Tulsi Gabbard](#) who Trump has chosen to serve as his director of national intelligence, a job for which (in our not-so-humble opinions) she is uniquely

unqualified. At this writing she appears to be the candidate most likely to be rejected by the Senate.

On the economic front, Trump has identified hedge fund CEO [Scott Bessent](#) to be Treasury secretary and billionaire [Harold Lutnick](#) as Commerce secretary. Both are strong proponents of tariffs; Lutnick, among other duties, oversees the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

Still to come will be the under-secretaries and assistant secretaries for the various Asia-related posts who will be presenting their bosses with policy alternatives and assessments. They in turn will be guided by the new administration’s key strategy documents such as the White House-produced National Security Strategy and the Pentagon’s National Defense Strategy.

What we think we know . . .

. . . based on what he's done before.

Unlike most who have come before or since, Trump is more transactional, more unpredictable (which he sees as a virtue and many others see as a vice), more confrontational (with friends and potential foes alike), and more mercurial. When it comes to the promotion of democracy and values-based policies, however, he is much less ideological (some would say less sanctimonious) than many of his predecessors. His foreign policy approach is more trade-based (or more accurately deficit-based), than security-oriented. He is more unilateralist than multilateralist and places less value in alliances and like-minded security relationships than both Democratic and Republican predecessors.

His focus is primarily domestic, not international, and while his policies can have significant impact on others, “America First” means how does it impact the US’ (or his own personal) bottom line, with little concern for the consequences to others. He also seemingly rejects any belief in US exceptionalism and all the burdens and responsibilities that it creates.

Most importantly, we have learned that you can’t take what he says at face value. Normally, if the president says something, it is usually seen as a policy pronouncement. But with Trump, it may just be a bargaining point, or a wild random thought, or even a deliberate lie (or “alternative truth”). Then-President Trump once [referred to Chinese President Xi Jinping](#) as a “brilliant

leader” and “great man” only a few days after calling him an “enemy” who is ripping off America. When pressed about this inconsistency, he [responded](#): “Sorry. It’s the way I negotiate,” further noting that “it’s done very well for me over the years, and it’s doing even better for the country.” Separating when he is speaking as “commander-in-chief” from when he is acting as “negotiator-in-chief” has been, and will remain, no easy task.

Someone once said “Wagner’s music is not as bad as it sounds.” The same can be said for Trump’s foreign policy in his first administration, if you focus on what he actually did and on stated policies in documents like the National Security Strategy, not tweets. Countering this somewhat comforting thought, however, is the fact that many of the internationalists surrounding and advising Trump during his first administration, like former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, former-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and his former UN Ambassador (and main primary opponent) Nikki Haley are not likely to be involved in the upcoming administration.

... based on what he's saying and doing now.

While the world has changed in many ways since he was last president, there appears to be very little change in the way Trump sees the world. While his relentless focus on the bottom line for the US and the disregard for other nations’ interests is often derided, the same can be said about virtually every national leader; they are elected (or self-appointed) to look out for their own country’s national interests, first and foremost. Americans like to believe we have been held, and/or have held ourselves, to a higher standard. Trump, in this regard, is more like every other world leader, and less like the ideal picture we have painted for ourselves.

Trump is also doubling down on his America First mantra, based on the eclectic assortment of potential cabinet and other senior officials being proposed thus far (and remember, with the exception of his national security advisory staff, most face confirmation hearings, a task made easier, but by no means certain even with Republican control of the Senate). On the other hand, unlike many of his domestic-oriented choices, most of his national security choices, as noted above, are mostly internationalists who are more pro-alliance and pro-engagement, and more anti-authoritarian than Trump often appears to be.

Meanwhile, the hardening of anti-China sentiment, which grew during the first Trump administration and then was at least perpetuated if not intensified during the Biden administration, appears likely to continue to intensify, for economic and ideological reasons as well as security concerns. To be fair, a lot of this is driven not by US preferences or predetermination but by Chinese predatory practices and increased aggressiveness, which also seem destined to continue if not increase.

Even before the failed declaration of martial law (more on this below), South Koreans were nervously awaiting the onset of Trump 2.0. The sense of urgency that drove the Biden/Kishida/Yoon administrations (now all gone or going) to further institutionalize the Camp David agreements was to prevent backsliding if Trump were reelected. Koreans were also nervous about a possible renewed “bromance” between Trump and Kim Jong Un; Alex Wong’s selection as deputy national security advisor has added to this anxiety. Trump’s intentions and desires (or lack thereof) aside, one wonders if Kim would agree to another summit even if one were proposed. He’s already gotten what he desired most (international recognition) and is unlikely to agree on the next diplomatic step, which would be a visit to Trump’s home turf. It’s also hard to imagine Xi or Putin pressuring Kim to make nice with Trump, at least not while Ukraine is still boiling over and China-US relations remain strained.

Despite headlines to the contrary, what Trump plans to do about Ukraine is also unclear. His fascination with Putin aside, his pledge to end the Ukraine War on day one requires Putin’s acquiescence. Note that Trump spokesmen have claimed the two have spoken and Trump has told Putin not to make things worse, advice Putin has clearly ignored. While Trump is likely to cut back if not curtail US financial support to Ukraine, he is equally likely to remove remaining restrictions on Ukraine’s use of US-provided weapons if Putin drags his feet, thus making the great negotiator look bad. Only time will tell.

... but really don't know!

While all that we have just said may very well continue to hold true, we must caveat it all by saying that, when it comes to Trump’s future policies, we are all guessing. Everything we just

said could be wrong. Or, even if it is initially correct, it could change. Biden, like many of his predecessors, has had, among other senior Cabinet officials, the same national security advisor, secretary of State, and secretary of defense he began with four years ago. Trump, in his first term, had four national security advisors, two confirmed and four acting secretaries of state, two secretaries of defense, and four chiefs of staff. With each leadership change came subtle and, on occasion, not so subtle policy changes; again, stay tuned.

More importantly, recall the words of former UK Prime Minister Harold MacMillan, when asked what had been the greatest influence on his administration: “Events, my dear boy, events,” he replied. Trump’s first administration didn’t see COVID coming, and the Ukraine invasion and events of Oct. 7 and its aftermath in Gaza had a profound impact on the Biden administration. Who knows what great challenge lies just around the next corner?

Domestic Politics Spill Over

Speaking of surprises, while considerable column inches have been devoted to the impact of Donald Trump’s return to the White House, domestic political developments in other countries have potentially significant consequences as well. Two—the collapse of the Kishida government in Tokyo and the botched auto-golpe by South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol—warrant mention here.

LDP turmoil. Kishida’s government collapsed under the weight of accumulated scandal and policy incoherence. The political funds scandal that decapitated the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was only the latest in a series of revelations about misbehavior that undermined public trust in the party. Kishida’s dithering response to the crisis exposed him as weak. His government’s inability to prioritize among competing objectives—increased defense spending, strengthening the social safety net, and more support for child care—further eroded public confidence.

The political funds scandal also deprived the LDP of its ability to organize party elections. The factions that were disbanded in the aftermath of the scandal served as the vehicle to distribute positions within the government and the party; without them, politicians were left to vote as they pleased in party elections rather than in

accordance with the backroom decisions of senior officials who served as faction heads. This vacuum allowed Ishiba Shigeru, the five-term contender for party president, to prevail in the October party vote and then be elected as prime minister.

While qualified to serve as PM and holder of views that align him with the party (and national) mainstream, he is reviled by the rightwing of the LDP for being “the anti-Abe,” adopting political positions and a style that were the antithesis of Japan’s longest-serving prime minister. Days after Ishiba’s victory in the LDP vote, Taniguchi Tomohiko, Abe’s speechwriter who carries the flame for his former boss and speaks for the group within the LDP, published a [commentary](#) that essentially declared war on the new prime minister.

A little over a month into his tenure, Ishiba clings to power but the media focus on his weakness reflects both the reality of his government and some nudging from the right. The truth is Ishiba is weak, leading a minority government in which small opposition parties are trying to maximize their influence and the prime minister has little alternative but to try to accommodate them.

This matters for our purposes because Japan has played a key role in regional politics in recent years, following Abe’s lead and with support from the US to step up. It is not clear that he has the diplomatic chops or the political power to maintain that leading position in the region, a shortcoming that will become palpable if Trump runs roughshod through the Indo-Pacific and the US-supported alliance structure as he did in his first term. Moreover, it isn’t clear that Ishiba has the power to deliver on the promise of increased defense spending that Kishida made and which is likely to be a key factor in, if not determinate of, relations with the US.

Yoon’s self-inflicted disaster. The second important domestic political development is the botched coup launched by President Yoon in early December. Yoon was a weakened political figure before he committed that act of self-immolation, and now his fate is now in the hands of the Constitutional Court, which has up to 180 days to determine if the impeachment stands. If so (which seems likely), a new presidential election must be held within 60 days of the court’s ruling. Until then (and even if the impeachment is overturned), he is a husk of a leader.

Again, for our purposes the issue is the durability of his foreign policy after he leaves office, in particular the rapprochement with Japan that he engineered. Yoon displayed real vision and no small amount of courage to push that project, and while it is [popular](#) among the South Korean public, relations with Japan have proven susceptible to political manipulation and Yoon's outreach to Japan has been severely criticized by the opposition. A politician determined to use history issues as a tool for advancement invariably finds fertile soil for such a strategy. A weakened partner in Tokyo and a disinterested White House could prove fatal to the rejuvenated bilateral and trilateral relationships.

More Multilateralism, Mostly under the Radar

There were, as always in the last half of the year, several multilateral meetings of note. First in the list was the 16th BRICS summit, held Oct. 22-24 in Kazan, Russia. The summit was a pageant for several reasons. It was the first BRICS meeting to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates as members—nine in all—who were joined by another 29 guests/observers. Even more important was President Vladimir Putin's role as host of the summit. That turnout and the continuing interest in the BRICS are proof that attempts to make Putin an international pariah have failed and he remains a powerful figure in world politics—and not only for his ability to wreak havoc and destruction.

The BRICS summit produced the [Kazan Declaration](#). It called for "comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council, with a view to making it more democratic, representative, effective and efficient," condemned terrorism, expressed concern "about the rise of violence and continuing armed conflicts in different parts of the world," and called for the peaceful resolution of conflicts. While endorsing an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, it was far less decisive when it came to the Ukraine war, merely recalling national positions on the Ukrainian crisis, and it "noted with appreciation relevant proposals" aimed at a peaceful settlement of the conflict through diplomacy. The statement also called for reform of the institutions of the global economic order, to reduce US influence (and that of the West more generally) and increase the role of developing countries.

Second was the **APEC Economic Leaders Meeting** on Nov. 15-16 in Lima, Peru. APEC represents 3 billion people – nearly 40% of the world's population—and almost half of

global trade and more than 60% of global GDP. That gathering produced the [Machu Picchu Declaration](#), which detailed the usual objectives. As always, the leaders called for enhanced economic cooperation to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth, and address regional challenges. In addition, the leaders endorsed the [Lima Roadmap to Promote the Transition to the Formal and Global Economies \(2025-2040\)](#) and the [Ichma Statement on A New Look at the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific Agenda](#). The leaders' Declaration had a [companion Chair's Statement](#), which addressed, as in most other similar meetings, the discussion on Russia's aggression in Ukraine and other geopolitical issues. Issuance of a separate statement reflects the inability of the group to reach consensus on those issues.

For the most part, the APEC meeting got little attention save for the seeming decline in US influence in Latin America. Considerable media [space](#) was devoted to the opening of a \$3.5 billion megaport in Peru funded with Chinese money and President Xi's attendance at that ceremony, a sign of growing Chinese influence in the region. Biden was [described](#) as "seemingly dazed" at the usual photo op, and thought to have been "dissed" when placed in the far back corner, between Thailand and Vietnam—even though the positioning is alphabetical.



Figure 2 Newly elected president Luong Cuong arrives at the National Assembly in Hanoi, Vietnam on Monday, Oct. 21, 2024. Photo: Minh Hoang/Associated Press.

The following week, many of those same leaders convened in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for the **annual G20 summit**. The summit [declaration](#) hammered home the meetings three priorities: social inclusion and the fight against hunger and poverty, reform of the institutions of international governance, and sustainable development and the energy transition. The

statement again failed to condemn the war in Ukraine—repeating the omission of last year’s declaration – because of Russian resistance. The leaders supported international trade and WTO reform, but the sections were lukewarm at best, calling for respect for rules without a forceful condemnation of protectionism. The climate sections were similarly tepid, again a product of a membership that includes major fossil-fuel producing countries. While more representative than other institutions of global order, we are inclined to agree with the observer who [cautioned](#) against expecting much of the G20, which because of its membership, is likely to “follow other international institutions in which little, if any, meaningful progress is made for the foreseeable future.”

Speaking of “little, if any, meaningful progress,” the 19th annual **East Asia Summit** convened in Vientiane, Laos on Dec. 6–11, absent a number of key leaders: the United States was represented by Secretary of State Tony [Blinken](#), Russia by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, and China by Premier Li Qiang. The [Chairman’s Statement](#) contained the usual bromides, reaffirming the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, safety, and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea,” expressing “deep concern over the escalation of conflicts and humanitarian situation” in Myanmar while reaffirming support for the ASEAN Leaders’ Five-Point Consensus (5PC), and expressing “grave concern over the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, which has been exacerbated following the 7 October attacks.” Regarding Ukraine, “as for all nations, [the leaders] continued to reaffirm our respect for sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity” and “reiterated our call for compliance with the UN Charter and international law.” The leaders’ words largely echoed the comments earlier in the year in the **ASEAN Regional Forum [Chairman’s Statement](#)**, also attended by Secretary of State Blinken.

Ever More Military Cooperation, and Rising Dangers



Figure 3 Multinational ships sail in formation July 22, off the coast of Hawaii during Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2024. Photo: U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Larissa T. Dougherty.

One of the great dangers that stalks the Indo-Pacific region these days is the threat of a crisis emerging from mistake or miscalculation. The immediate danger stems from the gray-zone tactics pursued by governments that seek to gain advantage and shift the status quo in their favor by subtle means that remain below the threshold of conflict.

Almost as worrisome—if not more so—is the proliferation of military exercises throughout the region. Many of these drills are intended to signal commitment and readiness to defend alliance obligations, along with the expanding capabilities of the US and its allies as they work together in new ways. In June, US, Japan and ROK held the first trilateral *Freedom Edge* exercise, a multidomain exercise that was announced at the summit of the three leaders last year at Camp David as part of their efforts to deter evolving nuclear and missile threats from North Korea.

In September, the Royal Australian Navy, Air Force, Japan’s MSDF, Royal New Zealand Navy, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the US Navy conducted a [Maritime Cooperative Activity](#) (MCA) within the Philippines’ Exclusive Economic Zone in the South China Sea. The MCA included training on routine multilateral surface operations, deck landings, hoisting, and search and rescue.

At the 14th Trilateral Defense Ministers’ Meeting (TDMM) that was held Nov. 17 in Darwin, the ministers—Australian Minister for Defense Richard Marles, Japanese Minister of Defense Nakatani Gen, and US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin III—agreed to deepen defense

cooperation by including Japanese forces in the annual US-Australia *Talisman Sabre* and *Southern Jackaroo* from next year. They also agreed to include or enhance Australia's participation in annual US-Japan exercises. That participation will boost "trilateral interoperability" among the three countries' militaries. (Their [statement](#) also included the usual talking points on "commitment to a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region," respect for rule of law, support for ASEAN centrality, concern about destabilizing actions by China and North Korea, the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, and the like.)

The meeting announced establishment of the "Trilateral Defense Consultations" to support alignment of policy and operational objectives of the JSDF, the Australian Defense Force, and US forces from peacetime to contingency. The statement identifies ways to promote or strengthen trilateral cooperation from intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, enhanced trilateral air interoperability, Japan's participation in AUKUS under pillar 2, and increased interaction among the three countries defense industries.

The next week, Australian Minister for Defense Industry Pat Conroy, Japanese DM Nakatani, Philippine Secretary of National Defense Gilberto Teodoro, Republic of Korea Minister of National Defense Kim Yong-hyun, and Secretary of Defense Austin met for the first time in Vientiane, Lao PDR, along the sidelines of the 11th ASEAN Defense Ministerial Meeting-Plus (ADMM+). They repeated the [commitment](#) to advance a vision for a free, open, secure, and prosperous Indo-Pacific, where international law and sovereignty are respected, and emphasized the importance of close multilateral cooperation to secure regional security and stability. (The [ADMM+ meeting](#) itself was largely uneventful, with the [Joint Vision Declaration](#) containing the usual platitudes about "peace, security, and resilience.")

This spirit of cooperation was realized in December when the three militaries joined for [Yama Sakura 87](#), which was held simultaneously with the first US Army Warfighter command post exercise held in Japan Dec. 6-14. YS 87 features the first full participation from the U.S. III Marine Expeditionary Force with expanded ADF participation for the second consecutive year. Participants in the US-Japan Extended Deterrence Dialogue took a side trip from their meeting to observe the exercise.

While strategists and planners cheer the cooperation and growing interoperability of their forces, the sheer volume of the exercises and the logistics involved court dangers. There is an extraordinary number of military assets crossing the region and the possibility that some could bump or collide without any genuine intent to do so is real, and exacerbated by the tendency of other governments to observe, and sometimes interfere, with drills as they take place. There is also a cycle of action and reaction as one country or group of countries holds drills and the ostensible target responds with its own exercises to show that it is not deterred or intimidated. A detailed list is available in the chronology, but note

- The tendency of North Korea to have missile tests immediately after the US and South Korea hold their drills (in May and June).
- China's joint naval and air exercises around Scarborough Shoal the day after the five country MCA in Philippine waters.
- The increased tempo of China-Russia exercises in East Asia as the US and its allies step up their exercising in the region.

AUKUS, JAUkus, ROKAUKUS, or

Finally, it is worth noting the continuing debate over the future of the Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) enhanced strategic partnership, the multidimensional agreement to cooperate among the three nations that is emerging as "the cool kids club for hard security in the Indo-Pacific." Most attention has focused on Pillar 1 of the plan, which will transform Australia's submarine force, and likely its defense industrial base as well. There have been doubts about the viability of the project, even as the three governments continue to voice support for it. The first set of obstacles have been overcome as the US [modified](#) restrictions on the export of advanced technologies that would blocked the entire project. Now, however, questions swirl around the capacity of the US industrial base and its ability to build the subs demanded by the deal. Simply put, it isn't clear that the US can meet its own needs and that has US lawmakers concerned about the commitment to build boats for its ally. Supporters insist that all can be constructed, but the debate will continue.

Most experts believe that for all the attention to the subs, the substance of the AUKUS agreement is in Pillar 2, which aims to develop new defense technologies. This pillar has aroused the most interest among other countries when they contemplate joining the group. In May, the ROK government [said](#) that it was thinking of joining Pillar 2, and the US DoD [announced](#) the next month that Japan was being considered for membership as well. (In October, Tokyo sent [observers](#) to an AUKUS exercise.) In May, New Zealand was [reported](#) to be involved in “information gathering discussions” on joining but a decision was far off. That triggered a [warning](#) from China to Wellington about doing so.

In September, the three members [said](#) that they in discussions with Canada, Japan, and New Zealand about potential collaboration. Most of the reporting, however, suggests less enthusiasm about expanding the group, with an Australian diplomat [characterizing](#) the addition of members as “complicated.” Reportedly, the chief concern is dilution of the focus on getting Pillar 1 done, while information security remains a worry. Other observers note a shift in focus regarding Pillar 2, with the three governments indicating that the goal of the work in that area is now regulatory harmonization rather than product innovation. “They are quietly moving the goal posts,” [explained](#) Tom Corben of the US Studies Center in Sydney..

Logic and common sense would argue that all these exercises and initiatives would continue during the upcoming Trump administration since they support US national interests. It remains to be seen if this will indeed be the case. It also raises the [question](#) as to who will step up if the United States steps back?

CHRONOLOGY OF REGIONAL OVERVIEW

MAY-NOVEMBER 2024

May 1, 2024: Australian officials [decline](#) to comment on reports that two Indian spies were secretly expelled from Australia four years ago.

May 1, 2024: South Korea [considers](#) sharing advanced military technology with the US, UK, and Australia through AUKUS.

May 2, 2024: US [sanctions](#) 20 companies from China and Hong Kong that have allegedly assisted Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine.

May 2, 2024: France and Japan [agree](#) to start formal talks on a reciprocal troop access deal.

May 2, 2024: South Korea's foreign ministry [raises](#) the terrorism alert level for five diplomatic offices in the region citing intelligence that North Korea may attempt to harm its officials.

May 2, 2024: Philippines [summons](#) a Chinese diplomat to protest Beijing's use of water cannons against Filipino vessels at a disputed shoal in the South China Sea.

May 2, 2024: Taiwan's defense ministry [says](#) that China has carried out a "joint combat readiness patrol" near the island for the second time in a week.

May 3, 2024: China [publicizes](#) what it claims is an unwritten 2016 agreement with the Philippines over access to South China Sea islands.

May 6, 2024: President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. [says](#) the Philippines will not use water cannons or any offensive weapons in the South China Sea.

May 6, 2024: Australia [says](#) that a Chinese fighter jet endangered an Australian military helicopter during an "unsafe" and

"unacceptable" confrontation over the Yellow Sea.

May 6, 2024: French President Emmanuel Macron and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen [warn](#) China's Xi that the EU needs to protect itself from cheap Chinese imports to rebalance trade ties and urge him to curb support for Russia in its war in Ukraine.

May 6, 2024: President Macron [hosts](#) China's Xi for private meetings after a high-stakes state visit in Paris dominated by trade disputes and Russia's war in Ukraine.

May 9, 2024: The senior US official for North Korea [discusses](#) the country with Chinese counterpart in Tokyo and expresses concerns about the forcible repatriation of North Koreans from China.

May 9, 2024: India [replaces](#) 80 soldiers on the Maldives with civilians after a demand by President Muizzu who has pivoted the archipelago's ties toward China.

May 9, 2024: China's military [criticizes](#) a US destroyer's passage through the Taiwan Strait.

May 9, 2024: India [says](#) that Canada has shared no evidence to back its allegation that the Indian government was involved in the slaying of a Sikh separatist leader in Canada last year, despite the recent arrests of three Indian men in the crime.

May 10, 2024: Philippines' national security adviser [calls](#) for the expulsion of Chinese diplomats over an alleged leak of a phone conversation with a Filipino military official.

May 15, 2024: Top envoys from the US and China [talk](#) in Geneva to discuss ways to ensure

that emerging artificial intelligence technologies don't become existential risks.

May 16, 2024: Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi [agree](#) to deepen their "strategic partnership" while scolding the US for moves that they said threatened their countries.

May 16, 2024: South Korea's finance minister [says](#) Seoul and Beijing should seek better economic cooperation on the supply chain for raw materials.

May 17, 2024: North Korea [fires](#) suspected short-range ballistic missiles off its east coast, a day after South Korea and the US flew powerful fighter jets in a joint drill.

May 17, 2024: Cambodia and China [begin](#) 15-day military exercises as questions grow about Beijing's increasing influence in the Southeast Asian nation.

May 17, 2024: Sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, Kim Yo Jong, again [denies](#) that her country has exported any weapons to Russia, and labeled speculation on North Korea-Russian arms dealings as "the most absurd paradox."

May 19, 2024: China's commerce ministry [launches](#) an anti-dumping probe into POM copolymers, a type of engineering plastic imported from the EU, US, Japan, and Taiwan.

May 20, 2024: Philippines [challenges](#) China to open Scarborough Shoal to international scrutiny after it accused Beijing of destroying the shoal's marine environment.

May 20, 2024: Taiwan President Lai Ching-te [asks](#) China to stop its military and political threats, saying in his inauguration speech that peace was the only choice and that Beijing had to respect the choice of the Taiwanese people.

May 23, 2024: US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen [says](#) that she wants market-driven countries to present a "wall of opposition" to

China over its state-driven industrial policies, an issue she is pushing at a G7 finance meeting.

May 23, 2024: China's military [conducts](#) two-day exercises around Taiwan in response to "separatist" forces seeking independence.

May 24, 2024: Taiwan [tracks](#) dozens of Chinese warplanes and navy vessels off its coast, the second day of a large military exercise launched by Beijing to show its anger over the island's inauguration of new leaders who refuse to accept that Taiwan is part of China.

May 24, 2024: Philippines [says](#) it will continue to build security alliances and stage joint combat drills in disputed waters to defend its territorial interests.

May 24, 2024: Two men [are](#) to go on trial for allegedly helping Hong Kong authorities gather intelligence in the UK.

May 24, 2024: A former CIA [officer](#) and contract linguist for the FBI accused of spying for China for at least a decade pleads guilty Friday in a federal courtroom in Honolulu.

May 27, 2024: North Korean rocket [carrying](#) its 2nd spy satellite explodes shortly after launch.

May 28, 2024: North Korea's unsuccessful satellite [launch](#) likely involved a new rocket that uses a safer fuel, experts say, as the country advances its rocket technology with Russian assistance.

May 28, 2024: Taiwan opposition [passes](#) contentious bill to empower legislature to launch investigations and hit non-compliant individuals with a criminal "contempt of parliament" charge.

May 28, 2024: A US State Department spokesperson reiterates the [need](#) for China to play a "productive" role in countering North Korea's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programs.

May 28, 2024: Hong Kong national security police [arrest](#) six people across the city under a new security law for alleged seditious intent, including a pro-democracy barrister already behind bars.

May 29, 2024: North Korea [launches](#) hundreds of balloons carrying trash and manure across the inter-Korean border, Seoul's military said Wednesday.

May 29, 2024: Japan's Kishida [meets](#) senior Chinese diplomat, pledges to “fully utilize” all available dialogue platforms with China.

May 29, 2024: Philippines and Brunei [sign](#) deal on closer maritime cooperation, with eye on Beijing in South China Sea.

May 29, 2024: South Korea and the United Arab Emirates [agree](#) to expand bilateral exchanges, in areas from energy to investment, as the two countries aim to strengthen their relationship.

May 30, 2024: Hong Kong court [convicts](#) 14 democracy activists in 'HK47' security case.

May 30, 2024: China [launches](#) four satellites from the sea in push to finish Internet of Things constellation by end of year.

May 30, 2024: Foreign governments and activists [criticize](#) Hong Kong security law verdicts, which China defends.

May 31, 2024: China and US defense chiefs [spar](#) over Taiwan at Shangri-la Dialogue.

May 31, 2024: North Korea [says](#) leader Kim Jong Un supervised drills simulating preemptive attacks on South Korea.

May 31, 2024: US [imposes](#) visa restrictions on Chinese, Hong Kong officials.

May 31, 2024: North Korea [conducts](#) GPS jamming attack for 3rd day. South Korea [warns](#) of “unendurable” actions against North Korea unless it stops provocations.

June 3, 2024: North Korea [says](#) it will stop sending trash-filled balloons into South Korea but will resume if South Koreans send anti-North leaflets over the border.

June 3, 2024: South Korea's National Security Council decides to [suspend](#) 2018 inter-Korean tension reduction pact following North Korea's trash-carrying balloon campaign.

June 4, 2024: South Korea [restores](#) all border military activities restricted under 2018 pact with North Korea.

June 4, 2024: China [expresses](#) “firm opposition” against South Korea for “erroneous” remarks on the Taiwan issue in trilateral discussions with the US and Japan.

June 4, 2024: India's Modi-led [alliance](#) clinches narrow win in elections.

June 4, 2024: China's Chang'e-6 [lifts](#) off from far side of the moon with rock samples.

June 5, 2024: South Korea's National Intelligence Service [detects](#) signs of North Korea demolishing part of Donghae inter-Korean railway.

June 5, 2024: Turkey [urges](#) Chinese authorities to protect cultural rights of Muslim Uyghurs.

June 5, 2024: Japan [approves](#) treaty for next-gen fighter development with the UK and Italy.

June 6, 2024: South Korea defector group [sends](#) leaflets to Pyongyang in defiance of North Korea's previous warnings.

June 6, 2024: Philippines [accuses](#) Chinese coast guard of “barbaric” blocking of medical evacuation.

June 6, 2024: Two British judges [resign](#) from Hong Kong court. One cites the city's “political situation.”

June 6, 2024: South Korea's Navy fleet to [leave](#) for Hawaii to join biennial RIMPAC exercise.

June 6, 2024: Japan, US, and South Korean coast guards [hold](#) first joint drill off Japan's coast as China concerns rise.

June 7, 2024: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi is [elected](#) as leader of coalition and set to form new government.

June 7, 2024: North Korea, China, and Russia are [expanding](#) nuclear arsenals at "breakneck" pace, says Pranay Vaddi, senior director for arms control, disarmament and nonproliferation at the US National Security Council.

June 10, 2024: Indian PM Modi [names](#) Cabinet for his coalition government despite his party's losses in the most recent elect.

June 10, 2024: North Korea leader's sister [warns](#) of "new responses" against South Korea's loudspeaker broadcasts and leafleting.

June 10, 2024: US ambassador to Japan [urges](#) Tokyo to help quickly replenish US missile inventory.

June 11, 2024: China [urges](#) broader BRICS role as Western sanctions mount.

June 11, 2024: Hong Kong's chief executive [fires](#) back after a UK judge warns of "totalitarian" turn, claiming some officials seek to "weaponize" UK influence.

June 11, 2024: Four US instructors at a Chinese university are [stabbed](#) in park.

June 11, 2024: Taiwan's Lai [sends](#) legislative power bill back to opposition on grounds that it is unconstitutional.

June 11, 2024: US, Japan, and South Korea announce they will [launch](#) trilateral coordination body this year.

June 12, 2024: India [urges](#) Russia to return its citizens recruited by Russia's army after two die in Ukraine.

June 13, 2024: Chinese Premier Li Qiang and New Zealand's Prime Minister Christopher Luxon [hail](#) close ties as they sign trade deals in Wellington.

June 14, 2024: South Korea and Uzbekistan [sign](#) a critical mineral supply chain agreement.

June 14, 2024: Japan and Ukraine [sign](#) a deal for long-term support at the G7.

June 14, 2024: Chinese journalist who [promoted](#) #MeToo movement is sentenced to five years in prison.

June 14, 2024: South Korea calls on Japan to [address](#) the "entire history" of Sado mine in UNESCO Heritage application.

June 17, 2024: Indian suspect in plot to [kill](#) Sikh separatist pleads not guilty in US court.

June 17, 2024: Philippines pledges to [resist](#) China's "reckless behavior" in South China Sea.

June 17, 2024: Chinese premier [agrees](#) with Australia to "properly manage" differences.

June 17, 2024: NATO chief [calls](#) for close ties with Indo-Pacific partners amid Russia's alignment with North Korea and China.

June 18-19, 2024: Russian President Vladimir Putin [visits](#) North Korea as ties deepen.

June 18, 2024: Philippine officials [say](#) Chinese forces seized two navy boats in disputed shoal, injuring sailors.

June 18, 2024: Thailand's former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra [indicted for royal](#) defamation.

June 18, 2024: South Korean soldiers [fire](#) warning shots after North Korean troops cross border, apparently in error.

June 18, 2024: China [accuses](#) US of “malign intention” to discredit its COVID vaccines following revelations that the US spread information questioning the efficacy of China’s vaccines in the Philippines.

June 19, 2024: Malaysia [reaffirms](#) one China policy and rejects Taiwan independence.

June 20, 2024: US and China [hold](#) high-level talks on anti-narcotics cooperation.

June 20, 2024: North Korean soldiers [cross](#) border for third time in June, according to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

June 20, 2024: Putin [signs](#) at least a dozen deals with Vietnamese counterpart and offers to supply fossil fuels, including natural gas, in bid to shore up ties in Asia to offset Moscow’s growing isolation.

June 21, 2024: Philippines says it did not [consider](#) invoking US pact over South China Sea clash.

June 21, 2024: China [threatens](#) death penalty for “diehard” Taiwan separatists.

June 21, 2024: Taiwan opposition [rejects](#) review of controversial legislative power bill.

June 21, 2024: South Korea [summons](#) Russian ambassador as tensions rise with North Korea.

June 21, 2024: China [says](#) Japan has “no right to intervene” in sea dispute with Philippines.

June 21, 2024: Putin [warns](#) South Korea's arms supply to Ukraine would be “very big mistake.”

June 21, 2024: China and Australia announce that they will [issue](#) five-year visas for tourism and business.

June 24, 2024: South Korea and US [sign](#) a MOU on diplomatic intelligence cooperation.

June 24, 2024: US report [returns](#) South Korea to Tier 1 group for human trafficking elimination efforts.

June 24, 2024: UN aviation agency [voices](#) grave concern over North Korea's GPS signal jamming.

June 24, 2024: North Korea [sends](#) trash-carrying balloons again to South Korea.

June 24, 2024: Philippines [accuses](#) China of using “illegal force” to deliberately disrupt resupply mission.

June 25, 2024: India’s foreign minister expresses [concern](#) about violence in Myanmar in a meeting with his Burmese counterpart and urges early democratic transition.

June 25, 2024: Taiwan [reports](#) that China has conducted a “combat patrol” near the island as Beijing vows to hunt independence “diehards.”

June 25, 2024: Interfax says Russia will [resume](#) direct passenger trains to North Korea in July.

June 26, 2024: North Korea [says](#) it successfully conducted multiple warhead missile capability test.

June 26, 2024: North Korean missile launch [ends](#) in mid-air explosion amid possibility of hypersonic missile test.

June 26, 2024: North Korea [sends](#) trash-carrying balloons to South Korea for third day.

June 26, 2024: Sri Lanka [reaches](#) \$5.8bn debt restructuring deal with Japan, India, and others.

June 27–Aug. 1, 2024: 29th iteration of Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) takes place around the Hawaiian Islands, involving 29 nations, 40 surface ships, 3 submarines, 14 national land forces, more than 150 aircraft, and 25,000 personnel.

June 27, 2024: South Korea and US [wrap](#) up 4th round of talks on defense cost sharing.

June 27, 2024: South Korean military [dismisses](#) North Korea's claim of successful multiple-warhead missile test.

June 27, 2024: South Korea [slaps](#) sanctions on North Korea's Missile Administration, 4 Russian vessels for violating UN resolutions.

June 27, 2024: South Korea, US and Japan [hold](#) 1st trilateral "Freedom Edge" exercise.

June 28, 2024: US, UK and France [clash](#) with Russia at UN over allegations that Moscow has violated arms embargo North Korea.

June 28, 2024: Yoon vows to [overcome](#) North Korean threats through cooperation with the US and Japan.

June 28, 2024: South Korea and US chip lobby groups [discuss](#) ties in technology and the supply chain.

June 28, 2024: South Korean military [unveils](#) video of North Korean missile exploding in midair, a dismissal of North Korea's claim of a successful test of a multiple-warhead missile.

June 28, 2024: Australian diplomat [describes](#) adding AUKUS partners as "complicated," suggesting additional members will not be added to the tripartite pact.

June 28, 2024: North Korea [claims](#) successful multi-warhead missile test

June 28, 2024: Japan [protests](#) sex assault cases involving US military on Okinawa and their delayed disclosure.

June 30, 2024: Japan successfully [launches](#) advanced Earth observation satellite on new flagship H3 rocket.

June 30, 2024: Surveys [show](#) Chinese economy growing but at modest pace.

June 30, 2024: North Korea test-[launches](#) two ballistic missiles, after end of new US-South Korea-Japan drill.

July 1, 2024: North Korea [says](#) it test-fired new tactical ballistic missile capable of carrying super-large warhead.

July 1, 2024: South Koreans [surge](#) to sign online petition to impeach president, resulting in delays and disruptions.

July 2, 2024: CSIS report calls North Korea's [sending](#) of trash-filled balloons a "form of soft terrorism."

July 2, 2024: South Korea [resumes](#) border artillery drills on land for the first time in six years.

July 2, 2024: China and Philippines [hold](#) talks to ease tensions after clash in disputed waters.

July 2, 2024: Taiwan says China [seizes](#) fishing boat near Chinese coast.

July 2, 2024: Indonesia announces hefty [tariffs](#) on Chinese-made goods.

July 2, 2024: Taiwan [raises](#) alert level for travel to China after new legal guidelines targeting "Taiwan Independence."

July 2, 2024: Malaysian court [tosses](#) jailed ex-Prime Minister Najib's bid to serve graft sentence in house arrest.

July 3, 2024: Leaders of Russia and China [meet](#) at a Central Asian summit in show of deepening cooperation.

July 3, 2024: Taiwan says it was [warned](#) by China to not interfere in the detention of Taiwanese boat crew.

July 3, 2024: Australia spy agency [moves](#) intelligence data to cloud in Amazon deal.

July 4, 2024: Man who [stabbed](#) South Korea's opposition leader Lee Jae-myung sentenced to 15 years in prison.

July 4, 2024: Philippines turns [down](#) US help amid South China Sea tensions - military chief.

July 7, 2024: Sister of North Korean [calls](#) South Korea's live-fire drills "suicidal hysteria."

July 8, 2024: Elite North Korea military trainees [visit](#) Russia amid deepening ties.

July 8, 2024: Yoon says Russia should choose whether South Korea or North Korea is more important.

July 8, 2024: Australia [pledges](#) more funds for Pacific banking amid China interest.

July 8, 2024: Philippines [rejects](#) China's accusation of environmental damage in South China Sea.

July 8, 2024: Putin [meets](#) Modi in Russia on his first visit since Moscow sent troops into Ukraine.

July 8, 2024: Japan and Philippines [sign](#) a defense pact in the face of shared alarm over China.

July 8, 2024: Chinese student pleads [guilty](#) to violating US espionage act.

July 9-11th: United States hosts the 2024 [NATO Summit](#) in Washington, DC.

July 9, 2024: Yoon pledges to [enhance](#) combined readiness with US against North Korea.

July 9, 2024: Chinese carrier [passes](#) close to Philippines on way to Pacific drills, Taiwan says.

July 9, 2024: Japan must [strengthen](#) NATO ties to safeguard global peace, PM Kishida says.

July 9, 2024: North Korea-Russia [arms](#) trade a global threat, says South Korea President Yoon.

July 10, 2024: Thailand [announces](#) new senate, replacing army-appointed lawmakers.

July 10, 2024: New top US envoy to Taiwan [pledges](#) to help the island with self-defense as threats from China loom.

July 10, 2024: NATO leaders strongly [condemn](#) North Korea's weapons exports to Russia.

July 10, 2024: China [launches](#) investigation in response to EU probes of solar, wind power, and other products.

July 10, 2024: NATO [labels](#) China a "decisive enabler" of Russia's war efforts.

July 11, 2024: US and South Korea [sign](#) agreement on integrated nuclear deterrence for Korean Peninsula.

July 11, 2024: Taiwan [monitors](#) Chinese military surge, calls China a threat to stability.

July 11, 2024: South Korea will [deploy](#) laser weapons to shoot down North Korean drones this year, becoming the world's first country to deploy and operate such weapons in the military, the country's arms procurement agency said.

July 11, 2024: China [criticizes](#) a communique from the NATO summit in Washington that described it as decisive enabler of Russia's war effort in Ukraine as biased and "sowing discord."

July 11, 2024: New Zealand PM [Luxon](#) says that his country needed to stand up for the international rules-based order as potential military flashpoints loom in the Indo-Pacific region.

July 11, 2024: Japan navy destroyer [enters](#) Chinese waters near Taiwan, prompting Beijing complaint.

July 12, 2024: Philippine Senate [orders](#) arrest of mayor probed for alleged Chinese crime ties.

July 12, 2024: US renews [call](#) on China to stop aggressive actions in disputed South China Sea.

July 12, 2024: Solomon Islands and China [strengthen](#) ties, worrying the US and its Pacific allies.

July 12, 2024: Australian army private and husband are [accused](#) of spying for Russia.

July 15, 2024: South Korea [warns](#) of end of North Korean regime if Pyongyang uses nuclear weapons.

July 15, 2024: North Korean leader's sister [bristles](#) at anti-Pyongyang leaflets, vows strong response.

July 16, 2024: China, Russia [kick](#) off live-fire naval exercises in South China Sea.

July 16, 2024: Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump says Taiwan should [pay](#) for its own defense, sending TSMC stock down.

July 16, 2024: Taiwan firms [shift](#) supply chains to India from China, trade body chief says.

July 16, 2024: Former North Korean diplomat [stationed](#) in Cuba defected to South Korea last year, Seoul's spy agency says.

July 16, 2024: Korean-American expert on North Korea, Su-Mi Terry, is [accused](#) of acting as agent for South Korea.

July 16, 2024: UN report [condemns](#) North Korea's "extensive, multilayered" system of forced labor.

July 17, 2024: South Korea's KHNP named [preferred](#) bidder to build nuclear plants in Czech Republic.

July 17, 2024: Vietnam files UN [claim](#) to extended continental shelf in South China Sea.

July 17, 2024: China says it has [halted](#) arms-control talks with US over Taiwan.

July 17, 2024: CCP [charts](#) technology- and security-focused development for reviving the economy.

July 18, 2024: US [opens](#) embassy in Vanuatu in latest step in China competition in the Pacific.

July 18, 2024: South Korea [conducts](#) loudspeaker broadcasts at North Korea.

July 18, 2024: North Korea leader Kim [discusses](#) military cooperation with Russian official, KCNA says.

July 18, 2024: Taiwan says it is [committed](#) to strengthening defense after Trump's comments.

July 18, 2024: Japan and the Pacific Islands will [boost](#) security ties as China's influence grows.

July 18, 2024: Jokowi [appoints](#) President-elect Prabowo's nephew as Indonesia vice finance minister.

July 21, 2024: Taiwan [starts](#) annual war games, aiming to closely mimic actual combat.

July 22, 2024: China, Philippines [agree](#) on "provisional arrangement" for South China Sea resupply missions, Manila says.

July 22, 2024: Sirens sound and streets are [deserted](#) as Taiwan simulates Chinese missile strike.

July 22, 2024: Philippine president [orders](#) shutdown of Chinese-run online gambling industry employing thousands.

July 22, 2024: Leader of Myanmar's army government is [named](#) acting president so he can renew state of emergency.

July 23, 2024: Belarus' foreign minister [arrives](#) in North Korea for talks expected to focus on Russia cooperation.

July 23, 2024: Trash [dropped](#) by a North Korean balloon falls on South Korea's presidential compound.

July 23, 2024: Japan protests [against](#) Russia's entry ban on 13 mostly business leaders over sanctions.

July 24, 2024: NORAD says it [tracked](#) Chinese and Russian long-range bombers off Alaska.

July 24, 2024: Japan's population [falls](#) for 15th year with record low births and record high deaths.

July 24, 2024: Philippines and Singapore [broaden](#) defense ties with a new agreement.

July 25, 2024: US [sets](#) up \$10 million reward for info on North Korean malicious cyber actor.

July 25, 2024: China issues rare [praise](#) to Philippine president for ban on Chinese online gambling operators.

July 25, 2024: Ethnic armed groups in Myanmar [claim](#) capture of regional military headquarters and gem mining center.

July 25, 2024: North Korean hackers are [stealing](#) military secrets, the US, UK, and South Korea say in joint statement.

July 25, 2024: India and China agree to [approach](#) border issues with urgency.

July 25, 2024: European Union and Singapore [conclude](#) a digital trade agreement designed to ease cross-border data flows and shape global rules for data.

July 26, 2024: US tells Philippines it [made](#) "missteps" in secret anti-vax propaganda effort.

July 26, 2024: Southeast Asian diplomats [meet](#) with China as friction mounts over Beijing's sweeping maritime claims.

July 26, 2024: Eighty nations strike [deal](#) over e-commerce despite lack of US backing.

July 26, 2024: China and South Korea should [avoid](#) external interference, Chinese foreign minister says.

July 27, 2024: East Asia Summit takes place in Vientiane, Laos. President Biden does not attend, with Secretary of State Antony Blinken in attendance instead.

July 30, 2024: Philippines and US [hold](#) 2+2 foreign and defense ministers' dialogue.

July 30, 2024: Malaysia formally [applies](#) to become a member of BRICS.

July 30, 2024: US [hands](#) \$500 million military aid boost to Philippines amid China tensions.

Aug. 1, 2024: During the 30th round of border talks held in New Delhi, China and India [agree](#) to speed up negotiations over border disputes.

Aug. 3, 2024: Vietnamese President Tô Lâm is [named](#) general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the nation's top position, replacing Nguyen Phu Trong, who died two weeks earlier.

Aug. 6, 2024: Indian President Droupadi Murmu [visits](#) Fiji, New Zealand, and Timor-Leste as a symbolic visit that includes the first visits to Timor-Leste and Fiji by an Indian head of state.

Aug. 6, 2024: New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Winston Peters will lead a delegation to [visit](#) Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Palau.

Aug. 7, 2024: US military [eyes](#) Australian-owned Cocos Island for a new Pacific Deterrence Initiative.

Aug. 8, 2024: China [launches](#) its first batch of satellites in a major step toward its own version of SpaceX's "Starlink" network.

Aug. 9, 2024: Pacific Islands Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting [commences](#) ahead of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting.

Aug. 10, 2024: A drone [attack](#) on Rohingya fleeing Myanmar kills dozens of people, including families with children, several witnesses said.

Aug. 11, 2024: Revamped AUKUS agreement [reveals](#) that the US or the UK could pull out of the submarine deal with a year's notice if either nation decides it weakens their own nuclear submarine programs.

Aug. 12, 2024: Super Garuda Shield, a series of joint military exercises led by Indonesia and the United States, [commences](#). The drills are expanded this year with troops from Australia, Canada, Japan and South Korea—important US allies in the Indo-Pacific region.

Aug. 14, 2024: Japan Prime Minister Kishida Fumio [announces](#) that he will not run in the party's presidential election scheduled for late September.

Aug. 16, 2024: US State Department [approves](#) exemptions from ITAR controls for Australia and the United Kingdom that will allow defense contractors in the two countries to build US military technology without a lengthy licensing process.

Aug. 16, 2024: Asian Development Bank's Pacific Economic Monitor (PEM) [projects](#) that the Pacific region's economy will grow by 3.3% in 2024 and 4.0% in 2025.

Aug. 18, 2024: Japan Prime Minister Kishida, US President Biden, and President of the Republic of Korea Yoon Suk Yeol [issue](#) the Japan-US-ROK Joint Leaders' Statement to commemorate the progress in the trilateral cooperation over the past year.

Aug. 18, 2024: President of Vietnam Tô Lâm [arrives](#) in China for a three-day state visit, Tô's

first overseas visit since becoming president and general secretary.

Aug. 19, 2024: China's coast guard [accuses](#) the Philippines of deliberately crashing one of its ships into a Chinese vessel in a new wave of increasing confrontations on the South China Sea.

Aug. 22, 2024: Thousands of Rohingya have [fled](#) from their homes in Myanmar and escape on dangerous boat journeys after being targeted by armed rebels, a UN official announces.

Aug. 23, 2024: During a meeting in Kyiv, Prime Minister Modi [urges](#) Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to end the Russo-Ukrainian War and volunteers to act as a mediator in talks between Zelenskyy and Russia.

Aug. 23, 2024: US Treasury [unveils](#) a massive tranche of sanctions that targets 400 people and entities from Russia and China who allegedly support the Russian supply chain and defense base.

Aug. 26, 2024: Japan's Ministry of Defense [announces](#) the first incursion into its airspace of Chinese military aircraft after a Shaanxi Y-9 surveillance plane flies over the Danjo Islands in Nagasaki Prefecture.

Aug. 26-30, 2024: Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Leaders Meeting [starts](#) in Tonga with more than 1,000 attendees expected for the week-long event.

Aug. 28, 2024: Myanmar junta [launches](#) major counteroffensive in southern Kachin State to battle anti-regime forces controlling the nearby towns of Momauk and Mansi.

Aug. 30, 2024: Taiwan [assists](#) Marshall Islands climate resilience efforts and advances a bid by the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Sept. 2, 2024: Japan's defense ministry [requests](#) a record budget allocation for next fiscal year as

it aims to ramp up its military capabilities at a time of heightened regional tensions.

Sept. 4, 2024: China [started](#) a five-day joint maritime exercise with Singapore to “promote practical exchanges and cooperation” between the two countries, Chinese defense ministry said.

Sept. 5, 2024: Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said the country will not [stop](#) its oil and gas exploration in the South China Sea despite claims by Beijing that Malaysia was infringing on its territory.

Sept. 5, 2024: PM Modi [meets](#) with Singaporean counterpart Lawrence Wong, sealing a series of deals to strengthen collaboration in semiconductors and digital technologies with India's largest foreign investor.

Sept. 6, 2024: Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn [swears](#) in Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra and 35 Cabinet ministers, ushering in a new government in Southeast Asia's second-largest economy after a period of political turmoil.

Sept. 7, 2024: US and Indonesia on Friday [concludes](#) two-week-long joint military exercises that include the recapture of remote islands, with Japan, South Korea, and other countries taking part to show a deeper unity toward stability in the region, including South China Sea.

Sept. 9, 2024: Head of Bangladesh's interim government, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus, [calls](#) for fast-tracked third-country resettlement of Rohingya Muslims living in his country, as a new wave of refugees flees escalating violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

Sept. 10, 2024: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un [said](#) Pyongyang is moving to steadily increase its nuclear arsenal, claiming that the country is a “responsible” nuclear state.

Sept. 13, 2024: South Korea's military recently [removed](#) about 1,300 Chinese-made surveillance cameras installed at its bases, concerned about potential security risks, *Yonhap* reports.

Sept. 17, 2024: US State Department said on Sept. 16 that it had [approved](#) a possible sale to Taiwan of military spare parts valued at about \$228 million, which Taiwan's military said will help it maintain combat readiness in the face of China's gray-zone intrusions.

Sept. 17, 2024: Hong Kong's leader [warned](#) that US businesses will suffer if Washington adopts a bill to shut the city's US trade offices.

Sept. 19, 2024: North Korea [tests](#) new tactical ballistic missiles using super-large warheads and modified cruise missiles on Sept. 18 led by leader Kim Jong Un, who called for stronger conventional weapons and nuclear capabilities, state news agency *KCNA* reports.

Sept. 20, 2024: China and Japan [reach](#) an agreement in a yearlong dispute over treated wastewater released from the latter's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Sept. 21, 2024: Cambodia has [withdrawn](#) from a decades-old regional economic development deal with Vietnam and Laos, Prime Minister Hun Manet said in a surprise concession to critics concerned about the kingdom losing territory to its neighbors.

Sept. 21, 2024: Russia and China [started](#) naval exercises in the Sea of Japan on Saturday, Russian news agencies cited Russia's Pacific Fleet as saying.

Sept.23, 2024: Former Prime Minister Noda Yoshihiko [won](#) leadership election of Japan's main opposition party, which is gearing up for a possible snap election likely to be called by the winner of the ruling party's presidential contest later this week.

Sept. 25, 2024: China publicly acknowledges that it successfully [launched](#) an intercontinental

ballistic missile into the Pacific Ocean, in a move likely to raise international concerns about the country's nuclear build-up.

Sept. 25, 2024: Indonesia [requests](#) to join the Trans-Pacific trade pact to widen its export markets, says its chief economic minister.

Sept. 26, 2024: Taiwan's Defense Ministry says that it [detected](#) a surge of Chinese warplanes flying off its east, west and south coasts, in what a security source said was China simulating attacks to prevent foreign forces helping during a conflict.

Sept. 26, 2024: US President Joe Biden [meets](#) Vietnamese President Tô Lâm for talks on Wednesday, aiming to deepen relations with the Southeast Asian country and manufacturing hub and counter its ties with China and Russia.

Sept. 26, 2024: Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force vessel [sailed](#) through the Taiwan Strait for the first time on Wednesday, in a move likely to anger Beijing.

Sept. 27, 2024: China's coast guard says the Philippines [sent](#) a civilian ship to ferry daily necessities to a warship at the Second Thomas Shoal that Beijing says is illegally "beached" in the disputed waterway of the South China Sea.

Sept. 27, 2024: Ishiba Shigeru [wins](#) presidency of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, succeeding prime minister Kishida Fumio.

Sept. 27, 2024: Fijian President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere [called](#) for "respect for our region" and a stop to missile tests in the Pacific Ocean after China launched an intercontinental ballistic missile.

Sept. 28, 2024: Five countries including Japan, the US, and the Philippines [hold](#) a joint maritime exercise in the South China Sea, as tensions with China remain high in the region, Japan's Defense Ministry says.

Sept. 28, 2024: China [carries](#) out joint naval and air exercises around the Scarborough Shoal on Saturday, as US and Philippine forces took part in five-way military maneuvers in the South China Sea within Manila's exclusive economic zone.

Sept. 29, 2024: Taiwan's Defense Ministry [said](#) on Sept 29 that it was on alert after detecting "multiple waves" of missile firing deep in inland China, days after Beijing said it had carried out a successful test launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile.

Oct. 2, 2024: Japan's new Prime Minister Ishiba [vows](#) to push a strong defense under the Japan-US alliance.

Oct. 18, 2024: North Korea [sends](#) troops to fight with Russia in Ukraine.

Oct. 19, 2024: At least seven killed as MILF factions [clash](#) in Maguindanao del Norte.

Oct. 20, 2024: Indonesia [swears in](#) former Gen. Prabowo Subianto as president.

Oct. 21, 2024: Gunmen [kill](#) seven people working on a key tunnel project in India's Kashmir.

Oct. 21, 2024: Philippines [jails](#) 17 Abu Sayyaf kidnapers who were members of an Islamic State-linked militant group for life over Malaysia resort abductions.

Oct. 21, 2024: Vietnam [appoints](#) army general Luong Cuong as new president.

Oct. 23, 2024: India and China [reach](#) agreement on military disengagement along their border.

Oct. 23, 2024: Chinese leader Xi [calls](#) for strengthening communication between India and China as Modi welcomes the India-China border agreement.

Oct. 27, 2024: Japanese Prime Minister Ishiba's ruling coalition [loses](#) majority in the 465-seat lower house in parliamentary election, a

punishment by voters over the party's extensive financial scandals.

Oct. 29, 2024: US [announces](#) \$8 million in new funding for the modernization of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) following a bilateral military dialogue.

Oct. 30, 2024: European Union [slaps](#) tariffs on Chinese electric vehicle to as high as 45.3%.

Oct. 31, 2024: 18 [dead](#) in MILF clash over land row in Maguindanao Sur.

Oct. 31, 2024: North Korea [conducts](#) the longest intercontinental ballistic missile test to date as a warning to enemies threatening the country's security, according to KCNA state news agency.

Oct. 31, 2024: Chinese navy [holds](#) first dual aircraft carrier drills in South China Sea.

Oct. 31, 2024: Vietnam [urges](#) China to "immediately release the fishermen and fishing vessels that were illegally detained" in the South China Sea.

Oct. 31, 2024: Indonesia to "[respond](#) appropriately to secure its territory" in South China Sea.

Oct. 31, 2024: India and China troop [disengagement](#) "almost complete" after historic border pact.

Nov. 1, 2024: North Korea [moves](#) 8,000 troops that may engage in combat to the Ukraine border as assessed by the US.

Nov. 1, 2024: North Korea to [stand](#) by Russia until victory in Ukraine, will expand its nuclear arsenal.

Nov. 1, 2024: North Korea's foreign minister [accuses](#) US and South Korea of plotting a nuclear strike against her country.

Nov. 1, 2024: Thailand [set](#) to be the first country to join both Chinese and US-led space initiatives.

Nov. 1, 2024: Japan and EU [announce](#) a security and defense partnership as regional tensions rise, the first security partnership that the EU has concluded with an Indo-Pacific country.

Nov. 2, 2024: Chinese EV makers [see](#) EU sales slump as tariff row deepens.

Nov. 2, 2024: South Korean ministers [say](#) all scenarios under consideration for aiding Ukraine.

Nov. 2, 2024: US [sanctions](#) five Singapore-based firms for 'enabling' Russia's war in Ukraine.

Nov. 2, 2024: US and South Korea [express](#) concerns over China's recent "provocative actions," military drills around Taiwan.

Nov. 3, 2024: Taiwan reports [rise](#) in Chinese military activity as US elections nears.

Nov. 3, 2024: US nuclear bomber [joins](#) military drills with South Korea, Japan, after Pyongyang missile test.

Nov. 3, 2024: Indonesia's Prabowo [visits](#) Papua to oversee a key food estate project.

Nov. 4, 2024: EU's foreign policy chief [visits](#) South Korea amid alarm over North Korean troops in Russia.

Nov. 4, 2024: Malaysia [sends](#) complaint letter to Vietnam over South China Sea reef expansion, a rare bilateral escalation not including China.

Nov. 4, 2024: Indonesia, Russia navies [hold](#) first joint military training drills in Java Sea following newly inaugurated President Prabowo's pledges of closer ties with Russia on defense.

Nov. 4, 2024: China [urges](#) France to push the EU toward palatable electronic vehicle trade solution.

Nov. 4, 2024: Australia [cancels](#) multi-billion dollar military satellite project with Lockheed Martin to instead shift its focus to a multi-orbit system.

Nov. 4, 2024: Ukraine [attacks](#) North Korean troops near Russia's border, according to officials.

Nov. 5, 2024: China is [building](#) new villages on its remote Himalayan border with Bhutan, some appear to have crossed the line.

Nov. 5, 2024: Philippines [renews](#) demand that Beijing pay \$1 million for South China Sea clash damages, China yet to respond.

Nov. 5, 2024: North Korea [fires](#) at least seven short-range ballistic missiles, condemns military drills.

Nov. 5, 2024: G7 and allies [warn](#) Russia over use of North Korean troops in Ukraine.

Nov. 5, 2024: Taiwan must [show](#) new US president it is determined to defend itself, says defense minister.

Nov. 5, 2024: South Korea [fines](#) Meta about \$15 million over the collection of user data.

Nov. 5, 2024: Former President Donald Trump defeats Vice President Kamala Harris, will become 47th president of the US in January.

Nov. 6, 2024: China officially [unveils](#) its new 5th-generation stealth fighter, the J-35A, at the Zhuhai Air Show.

Nov. 7, 2024: Japan defense chief [boards](#) visiting South Korean warship, the first time Japan's defense minister has boarded a South Korean military vessel.

Nov. 7, 2024: Philippine forces [practice](#) retaking island in mock combat as China's navy watches.

Nov. 7, 2024: China [congratulates](#) Trump, says it respects America's choice.

Nov. 7, 2024: Philippines envoy expresses [confidence](#) in US alliance under Trump amid China tensions.

Nov. 7, 2024: China and Solomon Islands [agree](#) to mutual visa-free arrangement.

Nov. 7, 2024: Putin [suggests](#) Russia could hold military drills with North Korea.

Nov. 7, 2024: Ukrainian President Zelenskyy [says](#) North Korean troops have suffered losses in clashes.

Nov. 7, 2024: France [summons](#) North Korea's general delegate to protest the deployment of troops in Russia.

Nov. 7, 2024: Thai PM [meets](#) Myanmar junta chief on sidelines of a regional summit in China.

Nov. 7, 2024: NATO chief [says](#) North Korea-Russia ties are also a threat to US security.

Nov. 8, 2024: Philippine President Marcos [signs](#) new laws to assert South China Sea rights, China lodges "stern protest."

Nov. 8, 2024: Peru and China to [sign](#) strengthened free-trade agreement during Xi's APEC visit.

Nov. 8, 2024: China [summons](#) Philippines ambassador to express objection to new maritime laws.

Nov. 8, 2024: Taiwan coast guard to [harness](#) "people power" to report Chinese activity at sea, including warships or submarines.

Nov. 8, 2024: Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co will [suspend](#) production of

advanced AI chips for China, *Financial Times* reports.

Nov. 8, 2024: South Korea [says](#) pro-Russia hacking groups responsible for cyberattacks after North's troop dispatch.

Nov. 8, 2024: Putin [says](#) China is Russia's ally, backs its stance on Taiwan.

Nov. 9, 2024: North Korea [jams](#) GPS signals, affecting ships, civilian aircrafts for the second consecutive day.

Nov. 9, 2024: China [increases](#) military flights near Taiwan by 300%, according to US general Kevin Schneider.

Nov. 9, 2024: Europe [seeks](#) "normal, fair" China trade ties in wake of Trump win, says EU envoy Jorge Toledo.

Nov. 9, 2024: President Xi [urges](#) Indonesian leader Prabowo to join China in leading Global South.

Nov. 11-17, 2024: APEC summit [takes place](#) in Lima, Peru, ultimately producing a statement that in support of deeper global trade but revealing tensions over environmental policy, China's influence, and other matters. On the sidelines, Biden and Xi [meet](#) for the final time on Nov. 17, where Xi signals that he is prepared to work with Trump.

Nov. 10, 2024: Putin [signs](#) into law a mutual defense treaty with North Korea.

Nov. 10, 2024: Chinese EV makers [look](#) to Africa as rivalry with US and Europe heats up.

Nov. 10, 2024: US [orders](#) Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC) to halt shipments of advanced chips to Chinese customers.

Nov. 10, 2024: China [unveils](#) "Killer Whale" stealth drone ship.

Nov. 10, 2024: Indonesia [calls](#) for collaboration with China after signing \$10 billion in new deals at a business forum.

Nov. 11, 2024: Taiwan [considers](#) big US defense purchases, including Patriot missiles, an Aegis destroyer and possibly F-35 fighter jets, as overture to Donald Trump.

Nov. 11, 2024: Japan's Parliament [re-elects](#) Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru.

Nov. 11, 2024: Indonesia [insists](#) that it has no overlapping South China Sea claims with China.

Nov. 11, 2024: South Korea introduces legislation to [aid](#) chipmakers to avert potential threats from the US market.

Nov. 11, 2024: Russian and Indonesian navies [hold](#) joint counter-terrorism drills.

Nov. 12, 2024: Philippines [says](#) China is pushing it to cede claims in South China Sea.

Nov. 12, 2024: Vietnam's Communist Party head Tô Lâm [congratulates](#) Trump on election win and discusses ways to boost economic ties.

Nov. 13, 2024: Chinese embassy [warns](#) Philippines over new maritime laws, to cease any "unilateral actions."

Nov. 13, 2024: Indonesian President Prabowo meets Biden and speaks with Trump, [pledging](#) cooperation.

Nov. 13, 2024: China [says](#) TSMC chip curbs undermine interests of Taiwan companies.

Nov. 14, 2024: Indonesian President Prabowo [vows](#) to safeguard sovereignty in South China Sea.

Nov. 14, 2024: South Korea, the US, and Japan [kick off](#) 2nd trilateral Freedom Edge exercise.

Nov. 14, 2024: Malaysia to [protest](#) to the Philippines over its new maritime laws.

Nov. 14, 2024: Taiwan central bank chief expresses [doubts](#) that Trump administration will penalize Taiwan.

Nov. 14, 2024: China and Philippines [spar](#) over baseline drawings in the South China Sea.

Nov. 14, 2024: China's coast guard [circles](#) Scarborough Shoal after the Philippines stakes its legislative claim.

Nov. 15, 2024: North Korean leader [orders](#) mass production of suicide drones.

Nov. 15, 2024: South Korean opposition leader [receives](#) suspended jail sentence for violating election law.

Nov. 16, 2024: China to [tighten](#) export curbs on critical metals ahead of Trump's return.

Nov. 16, 2024: Thailand [detains](#) 70 migrants believed to be Rohingya from Myanmar.

Nov. 16, 2024: South Korea's Yoon [tells](#) China's Xi cooperation needed on Russia and North Korea.

Nov. 16, 2024: Biden [meets](#) South Korean and Japanese leaders for pre-Trump huddle on risk.

Nov. 17, 2024: India successfully [tests](#) domestically developed long-range hypersonic missile.

Nov. 17, 2024: Japanese troops to [train](#) with Australian and US militaries in Darwin.

Nov. 17, 2024: Taiwan's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) representative [invites](#) Biden to visit the island.

Nov. 17-18, 2024: 2024 G20 Rio de Janeiro summit [takes place](#), producing a statement that condemns war without casting official blame. Russian President Vladimir Putin, facing an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court, does not attend.

Nov. 18, 2024: North Korea may [send](#) 100,000 troops to Russia, as Kim tells military to "go all out."

Nov. 18, 2024: Philippines and the United States [sign](#) military intelligence-sharing deal.

Nov. 18, 2024: South Korean foreign minister says he is "strongly confident" US alliance will [thrive](#) under Trump.

Nov. 18, 2024: Chip powerhouse Taiwan [calls](#) for economic partnership deal with the EU.

Nov. 19, 2024: China [rebuffs](#) meeting with US defense secretary.

Nov. 19, 2024: New Zealand to [tighten](#) espionage laws against foreign interference.

Nov. 19, 2024: South Korea [pledges](#) 45% increase in World Bank fund contribution.

Nov. 20, 2024: Northern Mariana Islands governor [backs](#) \$800 million US military upgrade amid China threat.

Nov. 20, 2024: Japan says it will [watch](#) China's military activity after Beijing admits violating Japanese airspace.

Nov. 20, 2024: US State Department [approves](#) sale of F-15 aircraft upgrade to South Korea.

Nov. 21, 2024: South Korean police [confirm](#) that hackers linked to North Korea's military intelligence agency were responsible for an Ethereum cryptocurrency heist in 2019.

Nov. 21, 2024: Putin [gifts](#) zoo animals, including lions and bears, to North Korean zoo.

Nov. 21, 2024: Military help for Ukraine "too sensitive" but a representative office remains a goal, [says](#) Taiwan envoy.

Nov. 21, 2024: Hong Kong democracy activist Jimmy Lai [denies](#) inciting hatred toward China in trial.

Nov. 21, 2024: China and Myanmar's law enforcement agencies [claim](#) "wipe-out" of large telecom fraud centers in northern Myanmar.

Nov. 21, 2024: China [blames](#) US policy on Taiwan for defense leaders not meeting.

Nov. 21, 2024: US [backs](#) Philippine forces in South China Sea with a special task force.

Nov. 22, 2024: China declares willingness to [talk](#) with the US to push forward bilateral trade.

Nov. 22, 2024: Weeks after Trump's election, Kim Jong Un [accuses](#) US of stoking tension and warns of nuclear war.

Nov. 22, 2024: South Korean official [says](#) Russia provided anti-air missile to North Korea.

Nov. 23, 2024: Philippine VP [says](#) she would have President Marcos assassinated if she were killed.

Nov. 23, 2024: North Korea [condemns](#) US military drills with South Korea and Japan.

Nov. 24, 2024: Japan and US to [form](#) a missile plan in case of Taiwan emergency.

Nov. 24, 2024: Philippine VP's assassination threat against president to be [treated](#) as "a national security matter" by the Philippines security council.

Nov. 25, 2024: South Korean opposition leader [cleared](#) of forcing witness to commit perjury.

Nov. 25, 2024: Philippines' ex-president Duterte [urges](#) military to correct Marcos' "fractured" governance.

Nov. 25, 2024: South Korea and Malaysia to [boost](#) cooperation in the defense industry.

Nov. 25, 2024: Taiwan [reports](#) Chinese balloon over the sea to their north for the first time since April in what Taiwan views as a "pattern of harassment."

Nov. 26, 2024: China sends naval and air forces to [shadow](#) US plane over Taiwan Strait.

Nov. 26, 2024: Myanmar rebel army says it is [ready](#) for dialogue with junta, with China's help.

Nov. 27, 2024: Vietnam PM [urges](#) US to lift high-tech export restrictions.

Nov. 27, 2024: ICC prosecutor [seeks](#) arrest warrant for Myanmar military leader over Rohingya campaign.

Nov. 27, 2024: Russia to [respond](#) if the US places missiles in Japan.

Nov. 27, 2024: China [warns](#) New Zealand against joining AUKUS.

Nov. 28, 2024: China says it will [defeat](#) secessionism ahead of Taiwanese president's trip to Hawaii.

Nov. 28, 2024: Russia to [use](#) all weapons at its disposal if Ukraine acquires nuclear weapons.

Nov. 28, 2024: China's military to [conduct](#) air and sea patrols around the disputed Scarborough Shoal in South China Sea.

Nov. 29, 2024: US [approves](#) \$358 million worth of arms sale to Taiwan.

Nov. 29, 2024: US [sets](#) tariffs for solar panels from Southeast Asian nations.

Nov. 29, 2024: Chinese and Russian militaries [conduct](#) joint air patrol over the Sea of Japan. Chinese and Russian military planes [enter](#) South Korea's air defense zone.

Nov. 29, 2024: Russia's defense minister [visits](#) North Korea.

Nov. 29, 2024: South Korea [completes](#) ballistic missile interceptor to counter any threat from the North.

Nov. 30, 2024: Myanmar navy [fires](#) at Thai fishing boats and detains 31 fishermen.

