



Consortium of Indo-Pacific

Researchers

Indo-Pacific Weekly Mail September 1-7, 2025

Greetings Colleagues,

The Consortium is pleased to share its latest newsletter for the Indo-Pacific. Press the reply button for your feedback and comments.

China's Victory Day Parade: A Projection of Power and Partnership for Global Dominance



Figure 1: Chinese President Xi Jinping at Victory Day Parade in Beijing, Russian President Putin and North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un at the event Sept.3, 2025,

For the tenth year in a row, China's WW2 Victory Day Parade on Sept. 3 has been quite a news story covered by all the media around the globe.

President Xi was flanked on Wednesday at [the 80th anniversary parade](#) by

Russia's Vladimir Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong Un. China demonstrated its military might and deepening partnership with Russia and North Korea. The Chinese leader praised the military's valor and criticized the “bullying behavior” of other countries.

The event marks the showcase of China's advanced technological weaponry, along with leaders from 26 countries. It seemed that China is ready to deal with Trump's tariff and clearly sent a positive message to its citizens about China's progress and growth. Xi has been engaging with leaders to promote the vision of a potential alternative world order that differs from the US led order. Notably, China initiated the Victory Day Parade in 2015 as a means to commemorate its historical achievements and promote its vision of global growth and success.

President Trump posted on Truth Social on China's military parade and the meeting with Kim and Putin: "May President Xi and the wonderful people of China have a great and lasting day of celebration. Please give my warmest regards to Vladimir Putin, and Kim Jong Un, as you conspire against The United States of America." It is worth mentioning that Chinese foreign minister issued a statement calling for the “correct” perspective of World War Two. China emphasizes its role alongside the Soviet Union in defeating Japan and Germany.

Earlier, Indian Prime Minister Modi visited Tianjin, China, and met with Chinese President Xi and Russian President Putin at the Shanghai Cooperation Summit (SCO), signaling the cooperation on maintaining supply chain flow that

has been exerted pressure by the US tariffs. India is the worst hit by 50 % of US tariffs, where 25% tariffs are imposed due to purchase of Russian oil.

Australia and Japan Holds 2+2 Consultive Dialogue

Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. IWAYA Takeshi, Defense Minister Mr. NAKATANI Gen, hosted the Hon Richard Marles MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defense of Australia, and Senator Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, in Tokyo. The leaders of Japan and Australia seek to [robust mutual partnership and elevate security cooperation](#) friendship to play a leading role in realizing a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" (FOIP).

Further, both countries plan to strengthen their defense and security partnership viewing the increasing assertive actions of China in the Indo-Pacific as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of their special partnership in 2026. Notably, Australia and Japan have signed a major defense deal that allows Australia to buy 11 Mogami-class Frigates from Japan. This deal, valued at about AUD 10 billion (USD 6.5 billion), marks Japan's largest defense export since World War II and strengthens the defense relationship between the two nations.

In a [joint statement](#), leaders of both countries reaffirmed their commitment to work closely together on issues related to North Korea, including its nuclear and missile activities, and its increasing military cooperation with Russia. Japan and Australia strongly condemned Russia's

aggression against Ukraine, expressed deep concerns about the worsening situation in Myanmar, and voiced their worries regarding the Middle East, particularly the deteriorating humanitarian crisis in Gaza. [Read More](#)

US Military Chief Joins 29 Nations Indo-Pacific Conference

The US Air Force Gen. Steve Nordhaus, chief of the National Guard Bureau, Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Adm. Samuel Paparo, commander of US Indo-Pacific Command, [joined the conference](#) with defense chiefs and senior military leaders from 29 Indo-Pacific nations. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Dan Kaine, said, "The story of the 21st century will be written in the Indo-Pacific."

"The Indo-Pacific, designated the DoD's priority theater, spans half the Earth's surface, from the US West Coast to India's western border and from Antarctica to the North Pole. Home to over 50% of the world's population, 3,000 languages, and five US treaty allies—Australia, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, and Thailand—the region is pivotal to global security."

The US National Guard integrates the 18 countries from the Indo-Pacific through DOD's State Partnership Program (SPP). The Indo-Pacific Chief of Defense (CHOD) conference is co-hosted in collaboration with Thailand.

“US Lost India to China,” says President Trump

US and India relation has been going through a litmus test, diverse views over US role in four-day India-Pakistan war and the highest tariff due to buying Russian oil. Trump and Modi friendship is stressed under preserving Make America Great Again (MAGA) and Make India Great Again (MIGA). Both leaders have nationalistic view and any compromise at domestic level could be devastating for their domestic policies that provided them with victory in the election.

Recently, [President Trump said](#) that “US lost India and Russia to deepest darkest China.” Last week, China hosted the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, attended by Russia's President Putin and India's Prime Minister Modi, along with leaders from over 20 countries and heads of 10 international organizations. China's "Uphold the Shanghai Spirit" initiative aims to strengthen partnerships with Global South nations and expand its influence, particularly as US tariffs affect these countries. China aims to challenge US global dominance by promoting an alternative to the US-led order.

Notably, US and India have comprehensive strategic partnership and are prominent members of QUAD, a significant non-military alliance in the US Indo-Pacific strategy. QUAD is a four-member grouping with Australia and Japan, and its annual summit is to be hosted in Delhi, India, this winter. However, US President Donald Trump's senior trade adviser, Peter Navarro,

has been [sharply criticizing India](#) for its trade and buying Russian oil. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Which country has changed the name of its Department of Defense to the Department of War?

- | | |
|----------|----------------|
| a. USA | c. Australia |
| b. Japan | d. South Korea |

Anutin Charnvirakul has been elected as the new Prime Minister of which country?

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| a. Singapore | c. Myanmar |
| b. Thailand | d. Malaysia |

Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Event Highlight: CIPR hosted the Report Discussion Event for the project, ***U.S.-Japan Alliance: Strengthening Defense and Security in the Indo-Pacific***, in Washington D.C., on August 22nd, 2025. [Watch Video Here.](#)

- ❖ VIP Podcast Episode 39: The Status of women in Afghanistan after Four Years of Taliban Rule. [Listen Here](#)
 - ❖ Upcoming Roundtable Discussion: South Asia Quagmire, Sept. 19, 9:00 A.M. EST
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Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for August 31 Newsletter Quiz

Q. When was Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) formed?

a. 2001

Q. Which Southeast Asian country got independence on August 31, 1957?

b. Malaysia

Contributions: Indu Saxena