



Consortium of Indo-Pacific
Researchers

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Greetings Colleagues,

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

Davos 2026: Pivoting US in a Fractured world

WORLD
ECONOMIC
FORUM



Figure 1: World leaders at Davos Summit, in Switzerland

The World Economic Forum Summit 2026 in Davos brought together political and business leaders from around the world. The top leaders from the US, Canada, the European Union, and other parts of the world delivered speeches that highlighted their differences amid an uncertain, unpredictable world. Amid the unpredictability in Greenland, Venezuela, Iran, Syria, Gaza, Nigeria, and Ukraine, the only predictability seems the dominant role of the United States.

The snowy mountain of Davos was heated by the comments and arguments of Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney, French President Macron, US President Trump, Ukrainian President Zelensky, and others. Davos 2026 witnessed the shattering of old rules, orders, formulas, and theories of international relations, and a call for a new rulebook for running the world with allies, partners, and adversaries.

Canada's Carney rang the bell for a [wake-up call for middle powers](#) to cooperate to build a “new world order that encompasses values for human rights, sustainable development, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, as the rule-based order is broken and cannot be restored.” He added, in the intense great-power rivalry, in the world of the strong and the weak, where the strong have no constraints, the illusion of allying with a superpower makes us prosper and feel secure, fades. He commented, now we should stop living in a lie. He further argued that "the middle powers must act together, because if we're not at the table, we're on the menu."

French President Macron also commented on a shift towards a world without rules. He advocated the simplicity and openness of Europe, its markets and innovation system.

On the other hand, US President Trump responded to the Canadian President's remarks, saying, "Canada lives because of the United States." Consequently, Trump rescinded Canada's invitation to the "Board of Peace"-the board that will maintain and manage peace in Gaza. He also [announced 100 % tariff on Canada](#) if Canada makes a deal with China. Interestingly, Carney concluded his visit to China last week and signed the joint statement of cooperation in various domains. These developments indicate ongoing tensions between the leaders of two historically close allies and neighboring countries.

Furthermore, Trump advised European countries to reform their policies on energy, trade, immigration, and economic growth to be a strong and the united West. Additionally, Trump made the case for acquiring Greenland to counter the risk to US national security, European security and global security. He stated that a weak Europe would be unable to defend Greenland, as was seen during World War II. He also added that Europe, due to its proximity, needs to work on defending Ukraine.

Trump's speech at Davos indicates a shift towards American unilateralism with the United States emerging as first among equals, while the NATO minus US is in a subordinate position. Also, the question of the contribution of allied forces surfaced. President Trump's speech marks a

historical shift in the alliance system, despite European countries' agreement last year to increase defense spending to 5 percent. Trump clearly put that American credibility comes from the US position of strength, not from a weak alliance system.

Additionally, [Ukrainian President Zelensky has echoed with Trump's](#) remarks and blasted European countries for "missing the political will" to stop the war in Ukraine. He also appreciated US President Trump's position to capture Venezuelan President Maduro and keep him on Trial in New York. He pointed to make "Coalition of Willing to Coalition of Action." He drew a stark contrast between what the US can do and what Europe can't.

While in Davos, the US dominated the headlines, the summit also highlighted a growing "middle-power" coalition. Leaders from France, Canada, and Germany urged fellow nations not to "capitulate to bullying" and to strengthen the rules-based order independently of Washington's shifts.

Trump Unveils the Board of Peace- A New International Organization

In Davos, US President Trump officially ratified the Charter of the Board of Peace that will deliver lasting peace and stability in Gaza. The Board under

the leadership of its Chairman (President Trump) will work on 20-point peace plan for Gaza for a stable future of its people as per the statement.

Key Western allies have decided the ceremony at the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. There are expressed concerns regarding the organization, particularly considering its potential to assume a role that could rival or replace the United Nations.

Some of the invitee countries to the board have been contemplating joining the Board and staying absent from the ceremony. The countries who have joined are Argentina, Turkey, Hungary, Bulgaria, Bahrain, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Qatar, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Morocco, Paraguay and Pakistan, and Indonesia. Russia, China, and India also received the invitation to the body but have not yet confirmed their participation.

NBC media reports, the board proposes a broad mandate of a new International Organization "seeks to promote stability, restore dependable and lawful governance, and secure enduring peace in areas affected or threatened by conflict." [Read More](#)

India Celebrates its 77th Republic Day

India celebrates its 77th Republic Day on January 26, 2026. The word "Republic" is enshrined in the Preamble to the Constitution of India and is called the "Soul of the Indian Constitution," as it encapsulates the fundamental

values the Indian Constitution aims to achieve. The Republic Day is celebrated in India's capital, New Delhi, at Kartavya Path (Path of Duty), formerly known as King's Way and later Rajpath. It stretches from Rashtrapati Bhavan (President's House) to India Gate. The President of India addresses the nation on the occasion. The first President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who was the head of the Constituent Assembly, delivered his speech on August 14, 1947, on the eve of Independence Day.

With the implementation of the Indian Constitution on January 26, 1950, India formally became a Sovereign Democratic Republic, marking the beginning of constitutional governance in independent India. With the 42nd Amendment Act in 1976, 'Socialist and Secular' were added, thereby making India a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic. [Read More](#)

US National Defense Strategy 2026, Counters China Through Strength

US Department of War releases its National Defense Strategy (NDS) emphasizing homeland security and the Western Hemisphere. In the Indo-Pacific US seeks to counter China "Through Strength, Not Confrontation." The United States aims to prevent any nation, including China, from gaining dominance over itself or its allies. Additionally, the United States seeks to establish a robust denial defense along the First Island Chain (FIC) and anticipates increased contributions from key regional allies and partners to

support collective security efforts. The United States will strengthen deterrence by denial to ensure that all nations appreciate the value of maintaining peace and exercising restraint. [Read More](#)

Indo-Pacific Quiz

Which country's senior-most general is accused of leaking information about the country's nuclear-weapons program to the U.S.

- a. China
- c. Russia
- b. North Korea
- d. Iran

What is Board of Peace?

- a. A United Nation's Agency
- b. A board to establish Peace in Gaza
- c. A board to end the War in Ukraine
- d. An international organization promoting peace globally

Consortium Highlights

- ❖ Article: Air Insurgents: The U.S. 14th Air Force in China and Lessons for Irregular Air Warfare by Consortium member Grant T Willis, [Read here](#)

- ❖ Webinar on US Sphere of Influence and Indo-Pacific, January 30, at 4:00 PM EST
- ❖ Upcoming webinar Election in Bangladesh and Geopolitics of South Asia

Indo-Pacific Quiz Key

Here are the **Answers** for January 18 Newsletter Quiz

Q. What percentage has Canada decreased the tariff on Chinese electric vehicles from the original 100%?

a. about 6

Q. Which country's opposition leader have shared its Noble Peace Prize 2025 with US President Trump?

b. Venezuela

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