



PUBLISHED BY **MIYOSHI LAW**

ESTATE & INTERNATIONAL LAW PRACTICE

February 2026

Volume 3 Issue 26

## The New **Financial Crisis Report II**

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2026

**Reporting What's Really Happening in America and the World**

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We are in the most economically unstable and socially tumultuous period in the history of the modern world. The period covered by the previous Financial Crisis Report was marked by extreme fluctuations in the stock, commodities, and currency markets accompanied by severe and sometimes violent and deadly social disruptions, including historic pandemics, conflicts, riots, and even regime-changing coups. This new Financial Crisis Report II covers the period that begins with the advent of the 47th president of the United States, who augured in the hope of a new America that promises justice for all through strength and the elimination of corruption. This is symbolized by the crest with the scales of justice balanced on a sword that replaces the photo of the writer. The writer believes this is an unprecedented opportunity for the financially astute investor, given the extreme global trade imbalances and distortions in the stock, commodity, and currency markets that will occur as America strengthens economically and militarily. The Financial Crisis Report II is a free compilation of the opinions of David M. Miyoshi, and of those advisors, he subscribes to (with appropriate credits given) on how to benefit during this historic crisis. The writer receives no compensation from advisors whose articles or ideas may appear in this Report II which is issued primarily for CRITICISM, COMMENTARY AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES. The reader is welcome to check on all sources of information mentioned herein. Because this writer's and other advisors' opinions and observations are provided herein without charge, the reader is asked to make his/her judgment on the contents. The writer believes the articles presented are honest and sincere empirical observations of what he believes to be the truth. The writer is not perfect, but his north star is the belief that there is truth.

**War is a place where young people who don't know each other and don't hate each other, kill each other, based on decisions made by old people, who know each other and hate each other, but don't kill each other. Hal Tuner, talk show host**



viewed by investigators shows the sparklers being lifted above the crowd, with sparks appearing to reach the ceiling moments before the fire erupted. Early assessments indicate that the ceiling's sound-dampening material may have been highly flammable, contributing to the rapid spread of the blaze. Officials continue to emphasize that there is no indication of intentional harm, and the investigation remains focused on safety compliance and the sequence of events that led to the tragedy.

Here are some quick observations of the events that transpired in January 2026. I hope you find them informative and edifying.

D. Miyoshi



**Alps resort town of Crans-Montana, during crowded New Year's celebrations. The blaze spread rapidly through the venue, resulting in the deaths of approximately 40 people and injuring more than 100 others, many of them young holiday visitors. Authorities believe the blaze was likely ignited by sparkler-style "fountain candles" attached to champagne bottles that were carried through the crowded venue during celebrations. Video evidence re-**

**January 1, 2026, a devastating fire broke out shortly after midnight at Le Constellation, a popular bar in the Swiss**



**January 3, 2026 — The United States carried out a rapid, overnight military operation**

**in Venezuela early Saturday, seizing President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, in one of the most dramatic U.S. actions in Latin America in decades. According to multiple news outlets, explosions and jet activity were reported across Caracas and other strategic sites as U.S. forces launched what President Donald Trump described as a "large scale strike." Fires and blasts were seen at key military installations, including the Fuerte Tiuna complex in the capital. Maduro and Flores were taken from their residence on a military base and transported out of the country aboard a U.S. Navy vessel. U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi announced that both now face narco-terrorism and related criminal charges in U.S. courts. The Venezuelan government declared a national emergency and condemned the operation as "extremely serious military aggression." Regional governments and global observers are**

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assessing the geopolitical fallout of the surprise action, which comes after months of rising tensions and U.S. military buildup in the Caribbean. The capture occurred exactly 36 years after U.S. forces arrested Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega on January 3, 1990, a historical parallel noted by several analysts. Uncertainty now surrounds Venezuela's immediate political future as the U.S. signals it may temporarily administer the country while a new governing structure is formed.



**January 7, 2026, a federal immigration enforcement operation in south Minneapolis ended in the fatal shooting of 37-year-old Renee Nicole Good, a U.S. citizen and legal observer, according to city officials.** The Department of Homeland Security says an ICE agent fired

“defensive shots” after Good allegedly attempted to ram officers with her vehicle. Local and state leaders sharply disputed that account, with Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey calling the federal narrative “demonstrably false” and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz urging the public not to “believe this propaganda machine” after reviewing video of the incident. The shooting occurred amid the recent deployment of 2,000 federal immigration agents to the Twin Cities region. Community members held a large vigil Wednesday night, and Minneapolis Public Schools canceled classes for the remainder of the week out of caution.



**January 8, 2026, The United States seized a Russian-flagged oil tanker, the Marinera (formerly Bella-1), in the North Atlantic after a dramatic weeks-long pursuit across the ocean.** U.S. Coast Guard and special operations forces boarded the vessel on January 7, acting on

sanctions tied to illicit Venezuelan oil shipments. The tanker had attempted to evade capture by changing its name, repainting its hull, and re-registering under the Russian flag, moves that drew intense international scrutiny as analysts tracked the chase in real time. Moscow condemned the seizure as a violation of maritime law, with some Russian officials escalating rhetoric and warning of potential retaliation, heightening concerns about a broader U.S.–Russia confrontation amid the ongoing Venezuela crisis.



**January 9, 2026, Iran entered its thirteenth straight day of nationwide unrest with the government imposing a sweeping internet blackout as protests surged across more than 30 cities.** Independent monitors report

at least 60 deaths amid clashes with security forces, making this the most serious challenge to the Islamic Republic since the 2022 uprising; The demonstrations—sparked by the collapse of the rial and a deepening economic crisis—have evolved into overtly anti-regime mobilizations. Chants of “death to the dictator” and public displays of support for exiled Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi underscore the political nature of the movement; Authorities have responded with mass arrests, lethal force, and a near-total shutdown of digital communications, a tactic that watchdogs say is aimed at obscuring the scale of the crackdown; Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has vowed not to back down, even as international condemnation mounts and foreign governments warn Tehran against further violence; While the protests remain decentralized and civilian-led, analysts note that the regime’s position is increasingly precarious: the economic freefall continues, security forces are stretched thin across multiple provinces, and the blackout has not stemmed the spread of demonstrations. With the death toll rising and public anger intensifying, Iran’s leadership faces its most volatile moment in years.



**January 9, 2026, President Trump escalated his push for U.S. control of Greenland, telling reporters at the White House that the United States will “do something on Greenland whether they like it or not”.**

Trump said he preferred to “make a deal the easy way,” but warned that if Denmark and Greenland refused, the U.S. would pursue the matter “the hard way”. He argued that American action was necessary to prevent Russia or China from gaining influence over the Arctic island; Over the following days, Trump repeated and expanded on the claim, framing U.S. control of Greenland as a national security imperative. By January 14, he publicly declared that American control of the island was “vital” for his proposed Golden Dome missile defense system. Danish and Greenlandic leaders rejected the statements, reaffirming that Greenland’s future is not up for negotiation.



## Observations



**January 11, 2026, a dramatic confrontation between the White House and the nation's central bank intensified as Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell revealed that the Department of Justice has launched a criminal investigation into his 2025 congressional testimony regarding the Fed's multibillion-dollar headquarters renovation project;**

**Timeline of Key Events;** Summer 2025: Powell testifies before Congress about the Fed's multi-year, \$2.5 billion renovation project, a process that later becomes the focus of political scrutiny; Late 2025: Tensions escalate as the Trump Administration continues pressuring the Fed to cut interest rates more aggressively; January 11, 2026: Powell releases a video statement announcing that federal prosecutors have issued subpoenas and threatened him with criminal indictment over his testimony; January 12, 2026: Political fallout begins, with lawmakers questioning the implications for the independence of U.S. monetary policy; Powell characterized the investigation as a politically motivated attempt to influence the central bank's decision-making, warning that such actions threaten the Fed's long-standing institutional independence. Analysts note that the standoff could inject new uncertainty into financial markets, potentially affecting borrowing costs and investor confidence.



**January 17, 2026, the DOJ opens a criminal investigation into Minnesota Governor Tim Walz and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey over allegations that they interfered with federal immigration enforcement operations during the recent wave of protests in Minneapolis.**

Federal officials say the probe centers on whether statements by the two leaders encouraged resistance to thousands of ICE and Border Patrol agents deployed to the region following the fatal shooting of Renee Nicole Good by an ICE officer on January 7; According to reporting from TIME and CNN, investigators are examining potential violations of 18 U.S.C. § 372, a statute involving conspiracy to impede federal officers. A federal grand jury has reportedly issued subpoenas to both officials, though their offices say they have not yet received formal notice; Walz and Frey have forcefully rejected the allegations, calling the investigation a political intimidation tactic by the Trump administration. Both leaders argue they consistently urged peaceful protest and were responding to community out-

rage over the ICE shooting, which city officials say contradicts the federal narrative; Democratic lawmakers nationwide have rallied behind the two officials, warning that the probe risks eroding public trust and diverting attention from accountability for the ICE shooting itself



**January 18, 2026, a major rail disaster struck southern Spain on Sunday night when two high-speed trains collided near the town of Adamuz in Córdoba province.**

Authorities report at least 39 fatalities and over 150 injured, with 48 passengers hospitalized and 12 in intensive care as of Monday morning; The incident began when an Iryo train traveling from Málaga to Madrid derailed, with several rear cars crossing onto an adjacent track. Moments later, the derailed cars were hit by a Renfe train heading from Madrid to Huelva, resulting in catastrophic damage. Drone and rescue footage show overturned carriages, shattered windows, and large-scale emergency operations continuing through the night; Spain's Transport Ministry has launched a full investigation, calling the derailment sequence "highly unusual." Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez canceled his planned trip to Davos and declared three days of national mourning as rescue and recovery efforts continue.



**On January 21, 2026, President Donald Trump addressed the World Economic Forum in Davos, renewing his push for the U.S. acquisition of Greenland, calling for "immediate negotiations" with Denmark while repeatedly insisting he "won't use force" to obtain the territory.**

Trump argued that only the United States can adequately defend the Arctic island and criticized the post-World War II decision to return Greenland to Denmark as "stupid". Although he emphasized restraint, he also remarked that the U.S. would be "frankly unstoppable" if it chose to use "excessive strength and force"—a line that drew sharp reactions from European officials. Denmark has reiterated that Greenland's status is not up for discussion.







## Observations



**January 21, 2028, at the World Economic Forum, President Trump announced that the United States and NATO have reached a preliminary “framework of a future deal” concerning Greenland and broader Arctic security.**

While the agreement

remains under negotiation, Trump emphasized that it does not involve U.S. acquisition of Greenland, reversing earlier rhetoric about territorial transfer. Instead, the framework focuses on expanded U.S. military access to the island and enhanced Arctic defense cooperation with NATO. Trump also withdrew earlier threats of tariffs on European allies and stated that the U.S. would pursue the arrangement without the use of force. Officials described the framework as complex and long-term, with detailed terms still to be finalized.



**On January 22, 2026, an internal ICE memo was revealed after whistle-blowers revealed it to Congress and the press. The memo, which was originally issued in May 2025, authorizes ICE agents to enter a private residence—using force if**

**necessary—to arrest an individual with a final order of removal, even without a judicial warrant.** Instead, the memo relies on administrative warrants signed by ICE supervisors, a significant departure from long-standing constitutional guidance that home entry requires either consent or a judge-approved warrant; Civil rights groups, legal scholars, and several members of Congress have raised concerns about the memo’s Fourth Amendment implications, noting that previous administrations of both parties maintained stricter limits on ICE home-entry authority. Oversight inquiries and potential legal challenges are expected as the policy’s existence becomes more widely known.



**January 24, 2026, China announced a sweeping purge of senior military leaders, including an investigation into General Zhang Youxia, the highest-ranking PLA**

**officer after Xi Jinping and Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC).** The Defense Ministry confirmed that Zhang is under scrutiny for “serious violations of discipline and law,” a phrase typically signaling political disloyalty or corruption. General Liu Zhenli, head of the Joint Staff Department, is also under investigation; These removals leave only one of the CMC’s original six members still in place—an unprecedented level of instability in China’s top military body. Analysts note that such a dramatic shake-up has not been seen since the Cultural Revolution era.



**January 24, 2026, a federal immigration operation in Minneapolis ended in the fatal shooting of 37-year-old ICU nurse Alex Pretti, a U.S. citizen whose death has sparked national outrage.**

Witness video and early forensic reviews appear to contradict key elements of the initial federal account, intensifying calls for an independent investigation. The incident is the second fatal federal-agent shooting in Minneapolis this month, deepening community concern over escalating use-of-force actions.



**January 26, 2026, a private Bombardier Challenger jet crashed during takeoff at Bangor International Airport, killing all six people on board as a severe snowstorm swept the region.** The aircraft flipped, caught fire, and

forced an immediate airport shutdown. Federal investigators are examining weather conditions, mechanical factors, and takeoff performance as potential causes.



**January 27, 2026, a powerful winter storm swept across more than 40 states from January 22–27, bringing heavy snow, crippling ice, and dangerous subzero wind chills to over 200 million Americans.** More than a million households lost power at the storm’s peak, and travel

ground to a halt as thousands of flights were canceled and major





## Conspiracies Theories

highways closed. Recovery efforts continue as frigid temperatures and widespread outages slow the return to normal conditions.



**January 27, 2026, the Trump administration removed Border Patrol Commander Greg Bovino from his post in Minnesota after newly surfaced video evidence appeared to contradict federal claims about the fatal shooting of ICU nurse Alex**

**Pretti.** The footage, reviewed by state investigators, undermined key elements of the initial federal narrative and intensified public scrutiny of the operation. The reassignment marks the most significant federal personnel action to date as calls grow for a fully independent investigation into the incident.



**January 30, 2026, former CNN anchor Don Lemon was arrested in Los Angeles in connection with his reporting at a January 18 protest inside Cities Church in St. Paul, Minnesota. Federal officials claim his presence constituted participation in the**

demonstration, despite a judge previously rejecting the arrest warrant. His attorney calls the move an unprecedented attack on press freedom, noting that Lemon was engaged in protected newsgathering.



**Dictionary Definition of a Conspiracy Theory:** A theory that seeks to explain a disputed case or matter as a plot by a secret group or alliance, rather than an individual or isolated act. “

**In my attempt to uncover and publish the truth, as I see it, I am often labeled a “conspiracy theorist.” So, I decided to subscribe to a publication that covers conspiracy theories called**



**This publication features articles written by authors who have been vetted for their expertise in the subject they cover. The author’s name appears under the title of their article. The authors claim that what they write about are facts the government does not want you to know. We should note that the term “conspiracy theory” was originally employed by the CIA to describe alternate explanations that diverged from official accounts of the government. Recently, RFK Jr. said the term is now used to discredit individuals or discourage critical thinking. Or, in other words, to prevent one from seeking the facts.**

**From time to time, I will provide selected articles from the Conspiracy Report that I believe are true. Some**





## Conspiracies Theories

articles have been shortened for brevity. I hope you find them interesting, if not edifying.

D. Miyoshi

### THE IRON DOME FOR AMERICA



**When President Trump announced the U.S. was developing its own 'Dome' defense system, you might have wondered if that meant we didn't already have one. Does that mean the U.S. is a sitting duck for enemy attack?**

By David Sussin

President Trump recently ordered the Pentagon to create a missile defense system like Israel's Iron Dome. It's a tall order - the U.S. is 446 times larger than Israel. But the Pentagon is all about tall orders.

The "dome" is a smart idea. It doesn't stop every missile, but it gets impressively close. Last year, Israel's Iron Dome faced two massive missile and drone attacks from Iran and proved its worth: the first attack, in April, involved 30+ cruise missiles and 120+ ballistic missiles.

The Iron Dome helped intercept 99% of the them. In October, the second attack came, sending 200 more ballistic missiles -- enough warheads to obliterate cities.

Again, most of the barrage was intercepted, with only minor damage suffered. After all the attacks were over and the dust cleared, there was only one fatality.

It's good to have a "dome".

When President Trump announced the U.S. was developing its own, you might have wondered if that meant we didn't have one. Does the U.S. not have a missile defense system? Are we just sitting ducks?

The answer is no. If Iran or Russia or China launched missiles at the United States, they would be met with a barrage of defenses very much in line with Israel's capabilities. The U.S. currently has land-based Patriot missile systems that are legendarily effective in actual combat, positioned in at least eight allied nations around the world.

This is paired with the ocean-based Aegis ballistic missile defense deployed on U.S. Navy ships, among other locations.

And finally, there's the infamous Ground-Based Midcourse Defense system, the one you see in movies about nuclear war -- tall missiles buried in secret silos with the sole mission of intercepting ICBMs in space before they enter the atmosphere and hit and turn into apocalyptic mushroom clouds.

So why the Golden Dome? It's better.

We would be adding more advanced layers of protection. If the enormous cost is approved (the Congressional Budget office estimates it will take \$542 billion), the plan is to add more resources to stop the newer, more advanced missiles.

Like the Hypersonic Glide Vehicles which can maneuver and fly lower than traditional ballistic missiles. The Golden Dome would add more defenses to destroy these new weapons and generally better handle a massive attack, should it ever come.

In all these cases, a missile defense system works the same way. First, finding the incoming missile - done through its heat signature using infrared radar. Then, tracking its trajectory so the missile can intercept. And this all has to happen in a matter of minutes.

But a recent research paper getting some attention suggests scientists may have figured out a way around all that. In fact, they may have uncovered a revolutionary new weapon.

Missiles - both offensive and defensive - use solid fuel. It has







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enormous advantages over liquid fuel in a missile that has to sit for decades but then suddenly need to launch in seconds. Simply put, solid fuel can be loaded into a missile ahead of time, sit for years in a silo, and then launch with the push of a button.

Liquid fuel has to be loaded just ahead of launch - if it sits in the missile too long it can become toxic and corrosive. Loading fuel takes time you don't have when an attack is launched against you. And launching with liquid fuel can take minutes, even after the fuel is on board.

But once the missile is launched, the advantage goes entirely to liquid fuel. Liquid rocket engines produce more thrust. And that thrust can be easily adjusted, increased or decreased or even shut off during flight. Imagine a deadly missile being able to change speeds. Solid rockets burn at a fixed rate.

In this new research paper, an idea is introduced to bring these liquid-fuel advantages to missiles powered by solid fuel. The idea was inspired by nuclear thermal rockets (NTRs). NTRs -- which may be used to power starships in the future -- use heat from a nuclear reaction to turn a light-weight gas into a super-hot gas.

When a gas gets super-hot, it expands. And when you force that expanding gas through a nozzle, you get enormous thrust. Even better, because light gas expands so easily, its "push" is significantly stronger. It's more efficient than normal rocket fuel.

The new idea presented is the "solid-gas hybrid rocket motor (SGHRM)". It works by using the hot gases from burning solid fuel to heat helium gas, which then expands and becomes a powerful thrust to propel the rocket. No nuclear reactor needed, but you get an efficient and powerful rocket.

This hybrid model creates strategic advantages that may prove deadly in the wrong hands.

First, the SGHRMs work by injecting helium gas into the exhaust stream, and this injection can be adjusted. That means an SGHRM can speed up, or slow down, or vary its flight pattern.

The missile could modulate thrust in mid-flight and make unpredictable maneuvers, even changing altitudes. Defense systems could be tricked, and finding a path to intercept would be near-impossible in tight time windows.

Second, the helium mix makes the exhaust temperature 2,420.6° F cooler than a normal solid fuel rocket. That's so much cooler, the plume may not even be detected by infrared sensors. These SGHRM missiles might not even be seen before it's too late.

SGHRMs may quietly mark the beginning of a new propulsion era, combining the simplicity of solid rockets with the dynamic control of more complex liquid systems. If weaponized, it could undermine current missile defense systems.

The idea is complex - it would require enormous cost and a high level of engineering skill to pull off. But there's a bigger concern with the idea.

It didn't come from the U.S. The research came out of Harbin Engineering University earlier this year. Which is in China.

We don't have to worry about this revolutionary weapon getting in the wrong hands, because it's already there.

Here's hoping the Golden Dome figures out a way to compensate.



**If you're worried about the government watching you, based on the text of the Big Beautiful Fill, we shouldn't be worried. So, what's the issue? Well, maybe nothing. But there are two things that make it concern-**





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ing...

By David Sussin

There's something a little suspicious in the Big Beautiful Bill signed into law by President Trump.

The law allocates \$2.8 billion for border surveillance technology. This includes -- and is not limited to:

Drones, tower-based surveillance, deployable ground sensors, vehicle and dismount exploration radars (radar on drones), seismic tunnel detection systems, advanced unattended surveillance sensors, mobile vehicle-mounted and man-portable surveillance, and fiber-optic sensing.

If you're worried about the government watching you, it's not a comforting shopping list.

Based on the text of the bill, we shouldn't be worried. All this technological power is explicitly restricted for use by border security. And there's nothing wrong or suspicious about funding border security.

As we're constantly reminded, this is what Mr. Trump campaigned on. Not sure if everyone was on board with masked police taking people off the street, but assuming the person is here illegally, it's hard to argue with the draconian point that the administration is doing what it promised.

So, what's the issue with making it a priority in the budget...?

Well, maybe nothing. But there are two things that make it concerning.

First, there is no longer a crisis at the border. The Trump administration has done an incredible job reducing crossings. People haven't stopped trying, but the decrease in numbers is beyond significant. It's downright impressive.

In June of 2024, 53,858 people were apprehended by the U.S. Border Patrol along the Southern border. This June, that number dropped to 6,070. For those of you who enjoy math, that's an 89% drop. Just to rub it in, there were more arrests in just the first three days of June 2024, -- 7,000 -- than the total month of June 2025.

In the big picture, this year apprehensions at the border are down a staggering 73%, dropping from 746,998 in 2024 (through June) to just 201,356.

Even more impressive, you could argue the actual number of immigrants coming into the country via the border has completely stopped. In May of 2024, under President Biden's catch and release policy, 62,000 apprehended migrants were then released back into the United States. This May, that number was zero. And this past June? Zero again.

The Trump administration should be popping champagne and flying a "Mission Accomplished" banner. But if they are celebrating, they are also acting like the crisis has gotten much worse, based on their budget increase for immigration enforcement.

This brings us to the second concern: the budget is overkill for the stated objective.

During the period where the crisis has been well handled, the federal budget for border and immigration was around \$28 billion.

In the bill that just became a law, there is \$170 billion devoted to immigration enforcement. This is an eye popping number. This would indicate a massive operation is about to unfold. Russia spends \$149 billion on their entire military, and they're in an active war.

In fact, aside from China and the U.S., no country on Earth spends anywhere near \$170 billion on their entire military, let alone border security.

This is not to say we shouldn't spend money on things if we have it to spend. It's to call out that this amount begs the question: why does the government feel it needs \$170 billion for a situation that ain't all that bad? Is there some other plan they have in mind? Is there some bigger mission all that surveillance tech might be repurposed for?

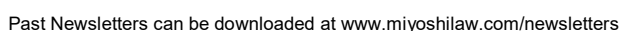
Well, we don't want to be paranoid. The bill explicitly requires the money be used for border security. There's no need to wonder if those powerful surveillance drones would be used on U.S. citizens.

Except this happens all the time.





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### Conspiracies Theories

the BCI measure electrical signals from his motor cortex and sent them wirelessly to a software program able to interpret brain waves.

When the signal looks a certain way, the software recognizes it as, for example, the user wanting to move a cursor to the left.

The experiment worked. According to the patient, "Now I can control the computer with my thoughts. It feels like I can move at will." The man with no limbs controlled a cursor and played video games on a physical computer in the real world.

It's not the first time science has successfully implanted a brain-computer interface (BCI) in a person with some version of paralysis...

As early as 2006, researchers at Brown University implanted electrodes in patients that allowed them to move robotic arms.

And there have been a handful of paralyzed patients since who've had similar implants, allowing them to move robotic arms or type using only thought.

The most recent success in the United States (certainly the most publicized) has been from Elon Musk's Neuralink. To date, three people have had the Neuralink implant surgically placed deep into their brain.

Hundreds of ultra-thin electrodes are placed several millimeters into their gray matter, making direct contact with cortical neurons. These complex signals are then sent back to software that turns their thoughts into action.

The results have been impressive. Patients have not only been able to play games, they've edited and narrated YouTube videos using AI, and made engineering designs with CAD software.

But China's first-ever successful BCI implant is different in two key ways. First, it's easier to implant -- it's not nearly as surgically invasive. The coin-sized device is the world's smallest, with a diameter of 26 millimeters and a thickness less than 6.

Moreover, it uses shorter micro electrodes that don't penetrate nearly as deep, avoiding tissue intrusion. This makes the actual surgery much simpler, and negates the need for the robotic thread insertion Neuralink requires.

Add to this, China's BCI sits just below the skull, relying on surface-level neural contact, with lower risk for surgical complications.

The signals aren't as complex as Musk's device, but Chinese firms use machine learning algorithms to give them generally accurate control, if not the precision of the Neuralink.

Of course the second major difference is, the group behind the effort is China, an authoritarian state. The motivations for implanting chips in the brains of its citizens are very different.

Elon Musk has a lofty goal with the Neuralink project. Short term, of course, the goal is medical: patients with neurological conditions like paralysis, blindness, epilepsy, Parkinson's, depression, or memory loss, would be able to control devices with their thoughts, and regain a good quality of life.

But long term, Musk sees a way for all people to merge their brains with AI via these implants, achieving what he calls "symbiosis" with AI, where the powers of large language models become tools we can access simply with our own thoughts.

In other words, Neuralink would improve us as individuals in ways bordering on giving us mental superpowers. Lofty indeed.

This is not China's vision, of course.

In February 2024, China's Communist Party issued national BCI guidelines promoting research into non-medical uses for the implants. They specifically mention memory regulation and exoskeleton control.

China's BCI policy openly talk about the implants as part of a strategic military technology. They view the BCI as part of "intelligentized warfare," potentially enabling faster soldier-machine coordination (like drone piloting by thought), battlefield communication through brain signals, and cognitive enhancement of soldiers.

Even more disturbing, their policy allows for BCI's to be integrated into surveillance and behavioral monitoring. This would go beyond just patients in need of medical help, but extend to workers in factories and students. China's BCI intentions tightly interweave military goals and civilian control.





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The fact they are more easily implanted makes China's vision of wide BCI implantation a reality worthy of our concern. You may be able to control video games with your mind, but it works both ways -- China intends to control you, too.

Fortunately for us in the West, Elon Musk and his successful Neuralink project are focused outside the political realm. He just wants to make us enhanced humans.

Except on July 5th of 2025, Mr. Musk announced he is leading a new political party.

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***Stuff in space can't fly around in circles on its own. It's Newton's first law: objects move in a straight line unless something with enough gravitational force pulls it into a curved path. That's what was odd about the discovery of Sedna...***

By David Sussin

If an object in space travels in an orbit, it's got to be orbiting something.

Stuff in space can't fly around in circles on its own.

It's Newton's first law: objects move in a straight line unless something with enough gravitational force pulls it into a curved path.

That's what was odd about the discovery of Sedna.

Astronomers found the object in 2003, when they were searching for distant objects beyond Pluto. There was this very distant, slow moving object, roughly 8 billion miles away -- three times farther than Pluto.

It was so far away, they didn't believe what they were seeing. It looked like a glitch. It sure wasn't on any map. But over the course of several nights, they confirmed it was there.

And the odd thing? It wasn't moving in a straight line. Something had caused it to settle into a curved path. It had been orbiting in deep space since the beginnings of our solar system. But orbiting what, exactly...?

They named it "Sedna" after the Inuit goddess of the sea -- an icy, remote character. When they calculated the object's orbit, they found it was locked in an 11,000-year loop, pulled in our direction by the Sun.

But planets that orbit the sun remain close. Sedna is 8 billion miles away. What other massive object pulled it so far afield?

For most objects orbiting the far reaches of our solar system, the answer is Neptune. But in the case of Sedna, Neptune's gravitational force doesn't reach anywhere near it. There had to be something else.

In 2012, another distant object was discovered that gave astronomers a clue. The object was named VP113, and it travelled a similar, stretched orbit. The vast distance of this "stretch" is truly mind boggling. Like Sedna, VP113 gets as close as 8 billion miles away. But at its most distant, it's as far as 42 billion miles







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away.

By comparison, if you got in your Toyota RAV4 and drove a billion miles, it would take you 2,000 years to get there. You would die, and there would still be over 1,900 years left in the trip. Just saying, these are extreme distances.

What is out there with enough gravitational pull to create these stretched orbits?

In 2016, planetary scientists at Caltech published a paper that answered the question. There must be a Planet Nine. This would be a super-Earth, ten times the size of our planet. It would be far beyond Pluto and Neptune, in an unimaginably remote region of space. And its existence would explain the highly eccentric orbits of Sedna and VP113.

From that moment on, the hunt was on for Planet Nine. It's been one of the most ambitious modern astronomical searches. An impressive amount of technology has been brought to bear.

Including the Dark Energy Survey in Chile -- among the most powerful wide-field camera in the world. The DES can detect objects as faint as 24th magnitude, which would be like spotting a candle flame on the Moon from the Earth.

Astronomers also used the Subaru Telescope at Mauna Kea in Hawaii. Subaru can detect objects as far as 1,000 astronomical units away, well within the range Planet Nine is predicted to exist.

Unfortunately, despite all the technology and expense, no one has ever found a planet that fits the bill.

Maybe it isn't there at all. If it was, we'd expect to find many more of these orbiting objects affected by Planet Nine's gravitation.

There would be what's called "orbital clustering", or a whole group of distant objects in space with similar paths. Every simulation done with Planet Nine indicates this orbital clustering should exist. There should be more "Sedna's".

In fact, there has been a strange gap where Sedna like objects have never been found. There's a zone between distant orbits, somewhere between 50 and 75 Astronomical Units away, we would expect objects to be discovered.

That's what makes announcement from the FOSSIL project (Formation of the Outer Solar System, and Ice Legacy), published in May of this year, so exciting. They found one. And it's exactly in this mystery gap.

The FOSSIL project is a collaboration of 16 different scientific institutions and universities, and over thirty astrophysicists and astronomers from around the world. The team used the Subaru Telescope and its Hyper Suprime-Cam (HSC), a cutting-edge wide-field camera, one of the most powerful tools in the world for surveying deep space.

And they found another object with a Sedna-like orbit. They call it "Ammonite", or officially KQ13, but we'll stick with Ammonite. Its orbit stays far beyond Neptune and follows a long, stretched-out path around the Sun, getting only as close as 66 AU, or around 6 billion miles. Which exactly fills that strange gap, completing the picture of the outer solar system.

Computer simulations reveal Ammonite has been in this stable, eccentric orbit for a staggering 4.5 billion years. All that time, it's never been affected by Neptune or any chaos in our solar system. Whatever drives its orbit, it's been there since our own solar system began.

The orbit of Ammonite is different enough from Sedna to suggest Planet Nine may be farther out than we thought, maybe as far as





## Interesting Facts

tions that range from the strategically sublime to the undeniably absurd. The U.S. government, in particular, has taken part in numerous clandestine projects — now declassified — that continue to inspire fascination and incredulity alike.

These operations tend to reflect the tensions (and prejudices) of the times, as well as the eccentricities of military and intelligence strategy. They underscore the lengths to which governments will go to maintain national security or undermine their rivals, while also highlighting a very particular intersection of imagination, fear, and ambition. Here are five of the strangest secret U.S. government operations.



Credit: [AngelaLouwe](#)/ Shutterstock

## Glowing Foxes

World War II saw an almost endless array of secret ops that ranged greatly in scope and levels of success. One of the most bizarre ideas was a program called Operation Fantasia, which aimed to scare the Japanese people with glowing foxes. It was the brainchild of [Ed Salinger](#), a psychological warfare strategist at the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), who ran an import/export business in Tokyo before the war.

Salinger believed that Japanese morale could be devastated by exposing soldiers and civilians to “real-life” *kitsune* — fox-shaped, shape-shifting spirits with magical abilities from Japanese folklore, considered tricksters and potential portents of doom. Salinger outlined his idea in a discriminatory memo, arguing that Japanese people were “subject to superstitions, beliefs in evil spirits and unnatural manifestations which can be provoked and stimulated.”

Carrying out this xenophobic plan was another matter altogether. One idea involved launching fox-shaped balloons, which had whistles that simulated fox sounds and released a custom-made fox odor, to fly over Japanese villages. Understandably, this idea was deemed impractical — but the OSS didn’t stop there. They then planned on catching live foxes, spray-painting them with glowing paint, and releasing them throughout Japan. The idea made it to the testing stage, when 30 glowing foxes were released in Washington, D.C.’s Rock Creek Park to gauge the reactions of

the locals. The project grew ever more bizarre and unfeasible, until it was eventually abandoned.



Credit: [mobrafotografie](#)/ Shutterstock

## Bat Bombs

Developed during World War II, Project X-Ray sought to weaponize bats in the war against Japan. The plan involved attaching tiny, timed incendiary devices to bats, which were then packed into bomb casings. The bombs would be dropped over various Japanese cities just before dawn, releasing the explosive bats to go roost under the eaves of buildings. The timed devices attached to each bat would then explode, causing widespread chaos and setting entire cities on fire — at the time, most Japanese buildings were made of wood, bamboo, and paper.

Extensive tests were carried out, involving thousands of bats and numerous setbacks. Many bats simply escaped after being released, and others steadfastly refused to participate. But after two years and \$2 million in research costs, the bat bombs were almost ready for war. At the same time, however, another weapon was being developed: the atomic bomb. This dreadful weapon soon overshadowed all others, including the bat bombs, and the U.S. Navy cancelled Project X-Ray in late 1944.





## Interesting Facts



Credit: [Grey Zone/ Shutterstock](#)

### Nuking the Moon

In the late 1950s, amid the space race and Cold War anxieties, the U.S. Air Force initiated Project A119, a frankly reckless and potentially catastrophic initiative with the aim of detonating a nuclear bomb on the moon. The reasoning behind the bizarre plan was to demonstrate the full force of American military power and technological prowess in order to shock the Soviet Union.

The now-declassified research paper behind the operation, which involved some of America's top scientists, bore the apparently harmless title "A Study of Lunar Research Flights, Vol 1." It outlined a mission to detonate a thermonuclear warhead, carried by an intercontinental ballistic missile, on the lunar surface to create a large flash of light that could be observed from Earth — meant to be a potent symbol of American dominance.

Thankfully, calmer heads prevailed. Scientists ultimately deemed the project too risky due to the potential for various unknown effects, including the possible contamination of the lunar surface, the complete alteration of the moon's orbit, and unforeseen ecological consequences involving Earth-moon interactions.



Credit: [CPA Media Pte Ltd/ Alamy Stock Photo](#)

### CIA Vampires

In the early 1950s, Philippine insurgents known as the Hukbalahap, or Huks, were a concerning presence for both local government and U.S. intelligence. To deal with the growing threat, a CIA operative, Lieutenant Colonel Edward Lansdale, was installed in the Philippines to get the movement under control. Lansdale began using psychological warfare against the Huks, by weaponizing local superstitions. He ordered a plane to fly over villages, broadcasting warnings in Tagalog that promised curses would befall anyone harboring insurgents, and he had "Eyes of God" painted outside the homes of other potential sympathizers.

While studying the regional folklore, Lansdale's team also learned of a creature that the locals believed to roam the hills: the aswang. This terrifying, blood-sucking creature was part vampire, part witch, and part werebeast, with a fondness for human blood and organs. Using this to his advantage, Lansdale had his team spread rumors that an aswang was feeding in the area. To ramp things up even further, the CIA operatives killed one of the patrolling Huks and made it look like an aswang attack. Upon discovering the body, and having already heard the rumors, the remaining Huks soon fled.



Credit: [Lukasz Pawel Szczepanski/ Shutterstock](#)

### The "Gay Bomb"

In 1994, the U.S. Air Force came up with one of the most misguided military research proposals in American history. The secret plan aimed to create what the press later dubbed a "gay bomb," which, when detonated, would make enemy soldiers "irresistible" to each other, according to government papers. The theoretical bomb would release an aerosolized chemical weapon containing potent aphrodisiacs that would attract enemy soldiers to each other, disrupting their combat effectiveness and incapacitating the enemy in some kind of loved-up miasma. Ultimately,



the bizarre project was shelved. The “gay bomb” later received an Ig Nobel award in 2007, a satirical award given for strange and surprising scientific ideas.

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by Melanie Davis-McAfee



worldwide, and its name stuck. So, in a way, umami is a nod to both the science behind taste and Japan's culinary traditions. That savory depth you get in a well-seasoned dish? That's umami working its magic! Is this a reason why Japanese food tastes good?





## Interesting Facts

individual — around 35 to 60 compared to the median 15 to 35. This makes them far more sensitive to flavor components of food and drink. Supertasters often find bitter foods such as spinach or coffee unbearably bitter, and it might not take much sugar for them to think something is cloyingly sweet.



## Taste Preferences Are a By-Product of Evolution

Food and drink provide much more than pleasant flavors to enjoy, although they certainly do that, too. They also give us energy-dense nutrients and help control our sodium levels, and our taste buds help us decide which foods we need. Our preferential tastes stem from the centuries of evolutionary processes that taught us that bitterness can be a sign of toxicity, sourness can indicate unripe or spoiled foods, and sweetness often translates to energy.

One of the most interesting evolutionary effects on taste has to do with bitterness. Humans have approximately 25 bitter flavor receptors on our tongues, allowing us to differentiate between bitterness associated with toxic, sickness-inducing plants and other substances and the bitterness associated with good plants like leafy greens, radishes, and cauliflower. In contrast, humans only have two taste receptors for less risky flavors, like sweetness.

Our relationship with sweetness shines a fascinating light on the connection between the foods we eat and the chemicals in our brain. While it's true that sugar provides energy, it can also be detrimental to our health when consumed in too-large quantities. Evolutionarily speaking, it would be reasonable to assume that we wouldn't crave a surplus of sugar if it were actually bad for our well-being.

However, consuming sugar releases serotonin, a feel-good brain chemical that can deplete when we're stressed, underfed, or in need of sleep. When we have intense sugar cravings, it's not necessarily that our body is looking for sugar. Our brains might be on the hunt for serotonin via a chocolate bar or fizzy can of soda. Similar mechanisms are behind our craving fatty, oily foods. Our brains have released serotonin in the past when responding to these unhealthy but delicious flavors, thus, we continue to crave

them.

Taste preferences can also vary by region and culture. A 1994 study found that Inuit populations are more sensitive to salt due to their heightened exposure to dangerous levels of saltwater in drinking water. The same study found that inhabitants of savanna landscapes have lower sensitivity to sweetness because naturally sweet foods, like fruit, are less common in the area. Cultural behaviors and norms can also affect taste.

Infants can form flavor preferences in utero based on what their mother eats. With enough generations of the same culture eating a certain food, some tastes will become naturally ingrained in our flavor palates as "good" or "bad." In Western culture, vanilla is associated with sweetness because it's so common in baked goods and sweet treats. But in east Asia, where vanilla is a common ingredient in savory dishes, these peoples don't have the same sweet association.



## It's Possible To "Trick" Our Taste Buds

The flavor-producing chemicals in foods and drinks are affected by the overall environment of our mouth. Alter the environment, and you can alter the flavor, essentially "tricking" the taste buds into perceiving something as sweet or bitter when it typically isn't. For example, artichokes contain an antioxidant called cynarin that binds to sweet receptors on the tongue without activating them (otherwise, artichokes would taste sweet). When we take a drink of water after eating an artichoke, we wash the cynarin off the surface of the tongue, activating the sweet receptors of the brain and making the water taste sugary sweet.

A similar phenomenon also explains why orange juice tastes so terrible after we brush our teeth. Toothpaste contains a cleaning agent called sodium lauryl sulfate that scientists hypothesize reduces our ability to taste sweetness and maximizes our sensitivity to bitterness. Thus, when we take a swig of morning OJ after brushing our teeth, we taste all the juice's acidity and bitterness and none of the sweetness.





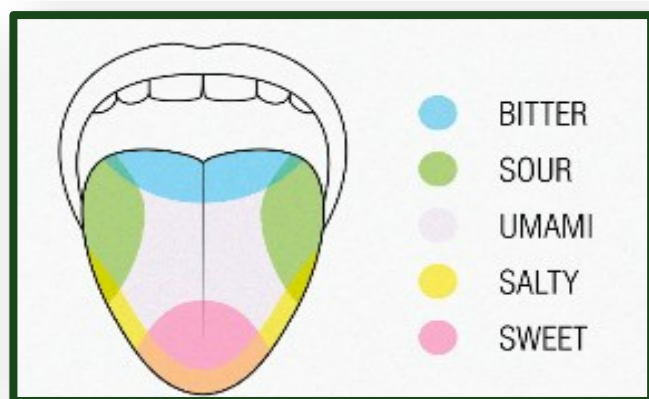


## AI Watch



### Eating Spicy Foods Activates Pain Sensors in the Mouth

Our brains perceive spicy foods as “hot” even if the foods themselves are cold to the touch. This “heat” comes from temperature-sensitive pain fibers in the mouth that equate certain sensations, such as the burn of capsaicin (found in chile peppers), with high temperatures. When capsaicin activates the pain sensors, these sensors send signals to the brain that make the body believe it’s overheating. That’s why eating spicy food can lead to redness in the face, panting, and sweating. So, no, we’re not just imagining that habanero pepper hurts to eat — according to our brains, the food is actually painful.



### The Traditional Tongue Map Has Been Scientifically Disproved

For years, we’ve based our understanding of flavor processing on a tongue map commonly taught in schools, which is based on a 1901 study by German scientist David Hanig that sought to explain the sensitivity of various parts of the tongue. The tongue map we’re familiar with divides the tongue into different taste zones, with bitter flavor receptors at the back of the tongue, sweet receptors at the tip, sour on the sides, and so on. Hänig’s

research correctly found that parts of the tongue have greater quantities of taste receptors than others, but his map suggested that only certain areas of the tongue can perceive certain flavors, an idea that’s since been refuted by modern scientists. In reality, all five flavors — and the thousands of flavor combinations between them — are perceptible in all taste buds, whether they’re on the tip of the tongue, the back of the throat, in the nasal cavity, or anywhere else taste buds can be found.

## AI WATCH



*Keeping an eye on the world of AI: what really happened this month, why it matters for everyday people and businesses, and what steps you can take to use the good while guarding against the bad.*

## February 2026 - AI Watch

The past January suggests that the central AI challenge is no longer innovation, but whether institutions can impose discipline before misuse becomes normalized.

### Headline of the Month

AI governance is moving from debate to enforcement as adoption outpaces institutional readiness.

### Subtitle

January’s developments show how law, liability, and real-world misuse are converging faster than regulatory consensus.

### Briefs

January’s most consequential AI developments did not center on model capability, but on **accountability**—specifically who bears responsibility when AI systems are deployed at scale.

One of the clearest signals came from **federal policy direction**. Early in the month, the U.S. administration advanced implementation steps tied to its existing AI executive framework, emphasizing national uniformity over a growing patchwork of state-level rules. The policy push reflects a strategic concern that frag-





## Scam Watch

mented regulation could slow domestic adoption while leaving liability questions unresolved. The emphasis was not on banning systems, but on defining guardrails around use, disclosure, and consumer harm—an important shift from aspirational ethics to enforceable standards.

At the same time, **litigation pressure intensified**. In January, copyright and intellectual-property lawsuits against major AI developers continued to move forward, with courts signaling willingness to examine how training data was sourced and whether existing fair-use doctrines apply at scale. These cases matter less for their immediate outcomes than for the precedent they may set: organizations integrating AI tools are being forced to consider not only performance, but upstream legal risk embedded in the model supply chain.

January also reinforced how AI misuse is no longer hypothetical. Law-enforcement and consumer-protection agencies expanded warnings about **AI-enabled impersonation**, particularly voice-cloning scams targeting families, executives, and public officials. These cases illustrate a recurring pattern: AI lowers the skill barrier for deception, allowing bad actors to scale trust-based fraud more efficiently than defenses can adapt. The risk here is not advanced AI autonomy, but mundane exploitation of human expectation.

Internationally, AI governance divergence became more pronounced. While the European Union continued advancing its comprehensive regulatory regime, several non-EU jurisdictions signaled preference for lighter-touch frameworks emphasizing industry self-governance and post-harm enforcement. January made clear that global AI norms are unlikely to converge quickly, raising compliance complexity for multinational firms and institutions.

## Regulatory Watch

Regulators are increasingly framing AI oversight through **consumer-protection and product-liability lenses** rather than technology-specific rules. January actions and statements suggest a preference for enforcing existing laws—fraud, misrepresentation, unfair practices—against AI deployments that cause harm. This approach lowers the barrier to enforcement while sidestepping unresolved debates about model classification.

## Verify AI Media

January offered repeated reminders that plausibility is no longer a reliable signal of authenticity. AI-generated audio and video continue to circulate faster than verification mechanisms, particularly during breaking events. The most reliable verification signals remain external: corroboration from multiple independent sources, original timestamps, and institutional confirmation. Visual realism alone is no longer probative.

## Legal Note

AI Watch summarizes current events and regulatory developments. It is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Readers should consult qualified professionals regarding specific applications of AI in their businesses or personal affairs.

## Closing Reflection

What stands out to me this month is that the AI challenge is no longer about whether institutions will adopt these tools, but whether they can impose discipline quickly enough to avoid locking in bad habits. January showed how governance is being shaped not by abstract principles, but by lawsuits, enforcement actions, and real victims of misuse. I see a widening gap between what AI systems can convincingly produce and what organizations are prepared to verify, defend, or legally stand behind. Closing that gap will require more than innovation. It will require restraint, documentation, and a renewed cultural emphasis on verification in a world where realism has become cheap.

## SCAM WATCH



January shows how modern scams succeed less through sophistication than by exploiting speed, routine, and moments of emotional pressure.

## Scam Watch - February 2026

The past January's scam environment reinforced a hard truth: fraud is no longer driven primarily by cleverness, but by timing, familiarity, and pressure. The most successful scams this month did not rely on exotic techniques; they relied on exploiting moments when verification habits break down.

One of the most consequential developments involved the continued spread of **AI-assisted impersonation scams**. During January, law-enforcement agencies and consumer protection offices warned of a sharp increase in voice-based fraud where victims received urgent calls purporting to come from family members, employers, or senior officials. In multiple reported cases, attackers used short, harvested audio clips to generate convincing voice messages demanding immediate action—often framed as legal trouble, financial emergencies, or confidential business matters. The effectiveness of these scams lay not in perfect imitation, but in emotional compression: fear and urgency narrowed the window for skepticism.





## Disputed Events

Investment fraud also remained prominent, particularly schemes tied to **current economic and geopolitical headlines**. Several January complaints described fake investment platforms and advisor outreach linked to themes such as “war-driven energy profits,” “AI infrastructure booms,” or “government-backed recovery funds.” These scams borrowed legitimacy from real news narratives, presenting fabricated dashboards, professional-looking documents, and time-limited opportunities. Victims often reported that the scam only became apparent when withdrawal requests were delayed or ignored—by which point funds had already been transferred through multiple intermediaries.

January also saw continued growth in **business email compromise and payment-redirect fraud**, especially targeting small and mid-sized organizations. In these cases, attackers inserted themselves into routine vendor communications, subtly altering payment instructions or banking details. The fraud succeeded not because the messages were extraordinary, but because they were mundane. Familiar invoices, expected payments, and normal workflow rhythms reduced the likelihood of independent verification.

Finally, consumer scams tied to **delivery services and account security** resurfaced after the holiday season. Text messages warning of “missed deliveries,” “account suspension,” or “fraud alerts” pushed recipients to click links or provide credentials. While these schemes are well-known, January reporting suggests they remain effective precisely because of their volume. Even cautious individuals eventually encounter a message that coincides with real activity, lowering defenses just long enough for compromise.

Across these examples, the mechanics are consistent. Scams succeed when they exploit routine, urgency, and trust—especially when people believe they are responding to something familiar rather than unusual.

### Closing Reflection

What strikes me this month is how fraud has adapted to modern life’s pace. Scammers no longer need elaborate stories; they need believable interruptions. The faster people are expected to respond—to messages, invoices, alerts, or crises—the narrower the margin for verification becomes. I see “scam fatigue” emerging as a serious vulnerability: constant warnings can dull vigilance rather than sharpen it. The most effective defense is not constant alertness, but deliberate friction—small, habitual pauses that slow decisions just enough to allow verification. In an environment engineered for speed, those pauses are becoming the last reliable line of defense.



## DISPUTED EVENTS

**“Where facts meet controversy — the stories too important to ignore, and too contested to settle.”**

Every month brings its share of news that sparks sharp disagreement — stories that divide experts, politicians, and the public alike. These are the events where facts collide with interpretation, where motives are questioned, and where the truth often depends on who is telling it.

The purpose of *Disputed Events* is not to resolve these arguments but to present them clearly. Each entry highlights a major controversy from the past month — political, military, economic, or social — and lays out why it matters. By putting these disputes side by side, the goal is to show how contested narratives shape the larger story of our time.

Readers should keep in mind that what follows is less about consensus and more about contention. Disputed events are the pressure points of democracy and global order — they reveal where society is most divided and where tomorrow’s headlines are likely to emerge.

I hope these reports will help you gain a better understanding of what is actually going on. Finding the truth has always been a challenge.

D, Miyoshi

### February 2026 – Disputed Events

The past month of January shows how speed and certainty now shape public understanding more than evidence, turning events into narrative contests before facts can settle.

January offered a clear view into how disputed events now function less as disagreements over facts and more as contests over meaning, timing, and narrative authority. Across domestic and international incidents, the pattern repeated: early interpretations hardened quickly, while factual clarity lagged behind public judgment.

One of the most prominent domestic examples followed a Janu-







## Civil Unrest Watch

ary law-enforcement confrontation tied to a protest escalation, where initial reports framed the event alternately as excessive force or justified response. Early video clips circulated widely, each reinforcing opposing conclusions. As additional footage and official timelines emerged over subsequent days, the incident proved more ambiguous than first claimed. Yet by then, public positions had largely calcified. The dispute itself—rather than the final factual record—became the enduring outcome, shaping institutional trust and political alignment more than the incident's actual resolution.

A second illustration came from misidentification during a high-profile violent incident, where an individual was incorrectly named and amplified across social platforms as a suspect. Despite rapid correction by authorities, the false identification spread faster than the clarification, resulting in harassment and reputational harm. This episode underscored how, in the modern information environment, error is not merely a byproduct of speed—it is an accelerant. Once a narrative attaches to an identifiable person, retraction rarely carries equal force.

Internationally, disputed meaning also dominated coverage of renewed strikes on urban infrastructure in an active war zone. While there was no disagreement that the attacks occurred, interpretations diverged sharply. Some framed the strikes as retaliation; others as deliberate terror or negotiating leverage. The disagreement was not over observable facts, but over intent—and intent is what policymakers, markets, and publics respond to. The same event produced incompatible conclusions, each driving different policy prescriptions.

Even economic data contributed to January's disputed landscape. The release of mixed inflation and labor figures led to immediate divergence in commentary, with some analysts declaring confirmation of economic resilience while others warned of delayed downturn risk. The numbers themselves were largely uncontested; the dispute lay in extrapolation. This reflects a broader trend: data no longer settles debates, but supplies raw material for parallel narratives.

Across these examples, the mechanics of dispute were consistent. Speed rewarded certainty. Context arrived late. Corrections were quieter than claims.

## Closing Reflection

What concerns me is not that facts are unavailable, but that patience has become scarce. January reinforced how quickly interpretation now outruns verification, and how difficult it is to reopen questions once narratives harden. Disputed events are no longer anomalies; they are the default condition of public life. The real risk is not disagreement, but premature confidence—because when certainty arrives before the record exists, institutions, policies, and reputations are shaped by momentum rather than evidence. In that environment, restraint is not passivity; it is analytical discipline.

## CIVIL UNREST WATCH



## February Civil Unrest Watch

**January shows how civil unrest is becoming a normalized feature of civic life, driven less by single causes than by sustained economic and institutional pressure.**

January reflected a continuation—and in some cases an intensification—of the pattern that has come to define contemporary civil unrest: fragmentation rather than convergence. Instead of a single national movement, unrest manifested through a series of discrete but thematically related events, each rooted in economic stress, institutional distrust, or identity-based grievances.

One of the clearest signals came from labor-driven protest activity, particularly in transportation and service sectors. In early January, coordinated job actions and demonstrations tied to wage disputes and staffing conditions disrupted operations at several regional logistics and transit hubs. While none of these actions escalated into prolonged shutdowns, their visibility reinforced how labor unrest has become a normalized bargaining tool rather than an extraordinary measure. The disputes were resolved unevenly, often through temporary concessions, underscoring a broader pattern of tension management rather than durable resolution.

Immigration enforcement also emerged as a recurring flashpoint. In multiple metropolitan areas, protests followed high-profile federal enforcement operations, with demonstrators attempting to block vehicle access, stage sit-ins, or pressure local officials to resist cooperation. These events remained largely non-violent, but they were notable for how quickly enforcement actions translated into organized response. Community networks appear increasingly prepared to mobilize on short notice, suggesting that immigration has become a standing, rather than episodic, catalyst for unrest.







## Winds of War

January also saw localized governance-centered protests, particularly in jurisdictions facing budget cuts or federal oversight. In Washington, D.C., organized demonstrations and public campaigns pushed back against congressional intervention in local fiscal decisions. Unlike street-level unrest, these actions relied heavily on civic symbolism, public messaging, and coordinated appearances at hearings—illustrating how unrest can remain institutionally focused while still expressing deep legitimacy concerns.

Finally, protest tactics themselves continue to evolve. Rather than relying exclusively on mass marches, several January demonstrations employed low-intensity but persistent methods—rolling protests, targeted boycotts, coordinated noise actions, and symbolic disruptions designed to maintain pressure without exhausting participants. This tactical shift matters because it allows movements to persist below the threshold that typically triggers decisive law-enforcement response or media fatigue.

Taken together, these events suggest that civil unrest is no longer best understood as a series of spikes, but as a steady background condition shaped by economic pressure and institutional skepticism.

### Closing Reflection

What I see in January is not a society on the brink of rupture, but one steadily recalibrating how conflict is expressed. Protest has become procedural. Disruption has become routine. That normalization carries risk. When unrest becomes an expected feature of civic life, institutions may learn how to absorb it—but they may also lose the incentive to resolve its underlying causes. The danger is not sudden upheaval, but gradual erosion: a public increasingly accustomed to friction, and a system increasingly comfortable managing dissent rather than addressing what drives it.

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## February 2026 – Winds of War

January suggests that global tension is no longer episodic, but structural—reshaping how states, markets, and alliances operate.

January opened with a reminder that today's geopolitical risks rarely arrive in isolation. Instead, pressure is building simultane-

ously across multiple regions, blending domestic instability, military signaling, and alliance strain into a single, persistent risk environment.

One of the clearest illustrations came from the Middle East, where the United States moved to reinforce deterrence amid rising regional tensions. In late January, a U.S. Navy carrier strike group led by the USS Abraham Lincoln entered the region, with U.S. officials framing the deployment as a stabilizing signal in response to threats against shipping lanes and coalition forces. Iranian-backed militias in Iraq and Yemen responded rhetorically, warning of renewed attacks, while Tehran itself appeared under mounting strain from both external pressure and internal unrest. The episode underscored how deterrence and escalation now coexist uncomfortably in the same strategic space.

That internal pressure became more visible through the continuation of nationwide protests inside Iran. Demonstrations that began late last year expanded into January, cutting across provinces and social classes. Reports of internet shutdowns, mass arrests, and forceful crackdowns point to a regime facing sustained domestic challenge at the same time it is managing multiple regional commitments. For outside observers, the significance lies not only in the protests themselves, but in how internal instability can constrain—or distort—foreign policy decision-making.

In Eastern Europe, the war in Ukraine continues to cast a long shadow over the global security landscape. While front-line dynamics remain largely attritional, analysts increasingly point to infrastructure targeting and long-range strikes as the most significant escalation risk in the months ahead. Even without dramatic territorial shifts, the conflict remains a source of strategic uncertainty, particularly as it strains European energy security, defense stocks, and political cohesion.

Beyond active conflict zones, strain is also emerging within alliance systems. A diplomatic dispute involving Greenland earlier this month briefly exposed tensions between the United States and European partners, reminding observers that strategic competition does not stop at adversarial borders. Even when quickly walked back, such episodes leave residue—raising questions about consultation, sovereignty, and alliance management at a time when cohesion is already under pressure.

Taken together, these events point to a broader pattern. From naval deployments to domestic unrest, from frozen battlefields to diplomatic friction, the international system is absorbing stress across multiple seams at once.

### Closing Reflection

What stands out to me this month is how normalized this level of





## YouTube Summaries

tension has become. None of these events, taken alone, signals imminent catastrophe. But viewed together, they reflect a world adapting to sustained geopolitical strain rather than resolving it. Internal instability now overlaps routinely with external confrontation, and alliance relationships are tested not only by adversaries, but by uncertainty among partners themselves. The danger for 2026 is not simply escalation—it is complacency born of familiarity. When pressure becomes the background condition, warning signs are easier to miss, and shocks, when they come, tend to arrive with less margin for error.

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## CHARLIE KIRK ASSASSINATION COVERUP



In this YouTube video, Dave Hodges presents a compelling two-part argument for Trump's actions regarding the Charlie Kirk assassination, emphasizing the critical need to preserve Middle East alliances and, more significantly, to protect the Trump administration's "institutional integrity" from potential negative associations with TPUSA. Hodges describes how the U.S. Navy had done a cover-up of the death of its Commander James Morrison, who died in an underground bunker that was destroyed in the 1941 Pearl Harbor attack, because the discovery of the bunker and the body of Commander Morrison could indicate mistakes made by the US Navy in detecting invading Japanese planes. Thus, to protect the "Institutional Integrity" of the Navy, they hid the destruction of the bunker and the body of

Commander Morrison for more than 52 years. Hodges uses this historical anecdote as a parallel to illustrate the concept of the Trump administration covering up for a greater perceived good, making the argument thought-provoking and well-supported within the video's narrative.

## Main Arguments

**Preserving Middle East Peace Agreement:** Trump's primary reason for not seeking justice for Charlie is to preserve the Middle East peace agreement and maintain Israeli support, as exposing potential Israeli involvement in the Charlie Kirk assassination could destabilize the alliance, especially with NATO's current stance.

**Protecting Institutional Integrity:** Trump and FBI Patel are allowing the investigation to stand to protect the institutional integrity of the Trump administration, avoiding association with TPUSA, which is described as a "rogue organization" potentially involved in "funny money business" and foreign entanglements.

## Unique Perspectives

**A Main Point of Realization: Purposely Sloppy Investigation by the FBI:** Hodges theorizes that the investigation into Charlie's situation was made purposely sloppy to encourage independent investigators like Jimmy Door, Project Constitution, and Candace Owens to keep digging and uncover the truth.

**Compromised Presidential Decisions:** Hodges suggests that Trump and Patel might have made a compromised decision regarding the investigation, weighing world events and political realities against the pursuit of absolute justice, similar to the dilemma faced by the Navy in the historical anecdote involving Commander Morrison

## Supporting Evidence

**Pearl Harbor Cover-up Analogy:** The story of Commander James Morrison, who died sealed in a Pearl Harbor bunker and whose death was covered up for 52 years to preserve the Navy's institutional integrity, is presented as a direct parallel to Trump's alleged actions regarding Charlie.

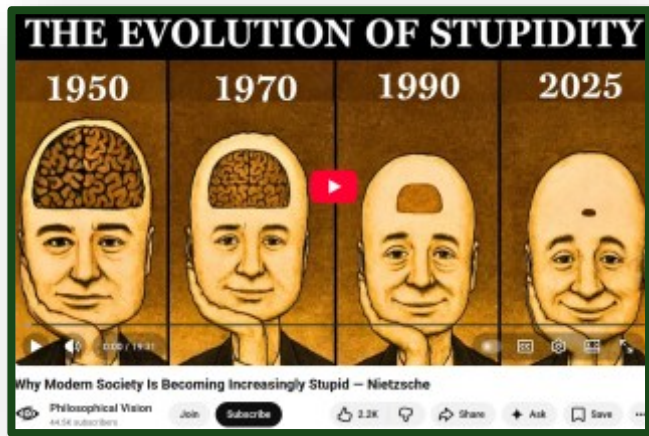
**Refusal to Release Documents:** Patel and Trump's chief of staff reportedly refused to release documents that could implicate foreign (Israel) involvement in Charlie's killing, indicating an active cover-up to protect certain interests.

## Thought-Provoking Question

**Justice vs. Political Stability:** Hodges directly asks the audience if they would have taken the approach of "let justice prevail" regardless of the consequences, or if they would have made a compromised decision given the complex world events and political implications.



## YouTube Summaries



This video provides an exceptionally well-explained and comprehensive analysis of the decline in modern societal intelligence. It meticulously traces the historical evolution from a necessity-driven era of critical thinking to the current state of cognitive atrophy, highlighting the roles of economic shifts, educational changes, technological advancements, and social dynamics. The creator effectively uses historical context and philosophical insights to support the argument that this decline is a systemic adaptation rather than a mere accident, making a compelling case for the dangers of functional stupidity.

Modern society is becoming increasingly stupid because cultural, economic, and technological shifts have systematically eroded critical thinking, rewarded mental passivity, and fragmented attention, leading to a population that prioritizes superficiality and conformity over deep understanding.

### Synopsis

Human intelligence is regressing at an exponential rate, an observable diagnosis, not merely philosophical pessimism.

Despite vast access to information, there's an inability to process it into real knowledge, stemming from an absence of consciousness and a refusal to exert cognitive effort.

From 1950-1965, thinking was a necessity for survival, with immediate negative consequences for errors in judgment, forcing minds to function as pragmatic tools.

The environment during this period naturally selected against stupidity by punishing bad outcomes without intermediaries.

From 1966-1985, growing economic stability and social protection systems created distance between decisions and consequences, initiating cognitive atrophy.

The growth of institutions and standardized protocols made independent thinking less advantageous, rewarding efficient conformity over creative problem-solving.

Formal education became massive but shifted from teaching how to think to how to reproduce correct answers for evaluation, measuring memorization over analysis.

Each added convenience in consumer society (e.g., specialists for cars, industrialized meals, GPS) represented a mental capacity that ceased to be exercised.

Stupidity advanced because the environment stopped selecting against it and began to reward mental passivity disguised as practicality.

From 1986-2000, cultural acceleration made depth a defect, valuing speed and superficial processing of vast data over deep understanding.

Complexity became synonymous with inefficiency, nuanced arguments were seen as indecision, and thinking in multiple dimensions became "analysis paralysis."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's observation that "stupidity is a more dangerous enemy of the good than malice" is highlighted, noting that stupidity began to be sold as a virtue.

Functional stupidity became a model of economic efficiency, as the market preferred consumers who responded quickly to stimuli rather than thinking deeply.

From 2001-2010, the internet democratized access to knowledge but simultaneously destroyed the capacity to know, leading to minds less capable of transforming information into understanding.

Attention fragmentation reached pathological levels, with minds constantly scanning and unable to sustain prolonged focus, creating the illusion that exposure to information equates to being informed.

The democratization of voice on the internet did not produce wisdom but a cacophony where signal and noise were indistinguishable, and social validation replaced logical consistency as a metric of truth.

Modern stupidity emerged as being informed, confident, articulate, yet completely shallow, capable of quoting statistics without understanding methodology or holding strong opinions without deep study.

From 2011-2020, critical thinking became a social crime, with society organizing into ideological tribes where belonging depended on conformity, not reasoned conviction.

Truth was subordinated to psychological well-being, with maintaining comforting illusions becoming more important than confronting inconvenient facts.

Digital echo chambers and algorithms curated personalized realities, eliminating exposure to divergent perspectives essential for critical thinking.

Cancel culture institutionalized the punishment of divergent thought, leading to fear replacing intellectual curiosity and people self-censoring.





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Stupidity ceased to be an individual flaw and became a socially rewarded behavior, with conformity elevated to supreme virtue and intelligence suppressed if it threatened group consensus.

From 2021-2025, minds are fragmented to the point of dissolution, with the average human attention span falling below that of a goldfish (8 seconds).

Digital platforms are designed by behavioral neuroscientists to maximize usage time, with infinite feeds and dopamine-spiking notifications weaponized against cognitive autonomy.

Cognitive outsourcing to AI (recommendation algorithms, search engines, virtual assistants) means people no longer need to make decisions about what to think, as systems provide ready-made conclusions.

Thinking deeply now causes real physical discomfort for minds accustomed to quick rewards, leading to abandonment of complex cognitive tasks.

**Principal Realization:** Stupidity not only dominates, it keeps the system running: a population incapable of sustained thought is a perfectly controllable population, not through violent repression, but through the administration of stimuli.

This is not a conspiracy theory but systemic logic, where institutions, corporations, and governments operating according to their own incentives naturally lead to massive cognitive involution.

The system doesn't need thinkers; it needs operators, and it is producing them with increasing efficiency each generation.

## Main Arguments of the Video

Human intelligence is regressing: The core thesis is that human intelligence is regressing, not due to a lack of data, but from an absence of consciousness and a systematic refusal to exert the cognitive effort required to distinguish appearance from essence.

Comfort replaced necessity: The post-war period, where critical thinking was a survival tool, gave way to an era of growing economic stability and social protection systems that cushioned errors, leading to a silent process of cognitive atrophy.

Simplification became a virtue: Cultural acceleration transformed depth into a defect, valuing speed and superficial processing of vast data over deep understanding, with complexity becoming synonymous with inefficiency.

Digital age destroyed capacity to know: The internet democratized access to knowledge but simultaneously fragmented attention, replacing deep understanding with data accumulation and social validation through likes and shares.

Stupidity as a system enabler: Critical thinking became a social crime, conformity was rewarded, and functional stupidity is now evolutionarily stable within the current context, ensuring predictability and control for institutions, corporations, and governments.

## Unique Perspectives

Modern stupidity is an absence of consciousness: The video argues that contemporary stupidity is not a lack of data or formal education, but a systematic refusal to exert the cognitive effort required to distinguish appearance from essence.

**Main Observation:** Environment selects for mental passivity: Unlike the post-war period where immediate reality punished stupid choices, the environment in later decades stopped selecting against stupidity and began to reward mental passivity disguised as practicality.

Functional stupidity as economic efficiency: The market doesn't want consumers who think deeply but those who respond quickly to stimuli, making functional stupidity a model of economic efficiency.

**Principal realization:** Thinking deeply causes physical discomfort: Minds accustomed to quick and constant rewards now experience anxiety when forced to sustain prolonged focus on complex problems, leading to abandonment of cognitive tasks and a return to easy stimuli.

## Supporting Evidence

Post-war survival necessity: In the 1950s-1960s, errors in judgment had direct existential weight, such as miscalculating resources leading to hunger or misinterpreting weather leading to lost harvests, forcing pragmatic and functional intelligence.

Education shifted from thinking to regurgitation: Formal education became massive but transformed from teaching how to think about real problems to teaching how to reproduce correct answers to artificial questions, measuring memorization over analysis.

Consumer society offered ready-made solutions: The emergence of consumer society offered solutions to problems that previously required reflection, such as taking a car to a specialist instead of understanding mechanics, or using GPS instead of developing spatial orientation.

Attention span below a goldfish: The average human attention span has fallen to 8 seconds, making sequential reasoning for complex understanding nearly impossible due to information consumption structures destroying neuroplasticity.

AI replaces basic mental functions: Artificial intelligence now replaces basic mental functions, with recommendation algorithms, search engines, and virtual assistants filtering, organizing, and presenting ready-made conclusions, leading to cognitive outsourcing.





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### Thought-Provoking Questions

Why deny participation in cognitive regression?: The video poses the question of why, despite the observable diagnosis of regressing human intelligence, no one wants to admit they are part of this phenomenon.

Is access to information equivalent to knowledge?: Generations are being educated to believe that having access to information is equivalent to possessing knowledge, blurring the critical distinction between the two.

Do you recognize these patterns in yourself?: The video directly challenges the viewer to reflect on whether they recognize the described patterns of cognitive atrophy and functional stupidity in their own behavior.

## HOW ELITE EDUCATION SHAPES POWER AND SUCCESS

By Professor Jiang Xueqin



Professor Jiang Xueqin delivers an insightful yet highly controversial lecture that examines the true function of elite American universities. He argues that institutions like Harvard operate as venture capital firms, strategically selecting students not purely for academic merit but for their potential to achieve extreme success, often driven by psychological traits such as desperation and insecurity. The lecture provides a critical historical context for the "holistic" admissions system, revealing its role in maintaining institutional power and fostering a "Hunger Games" environment that perpetuates a cycle of trauma and relentless achievement, ultimately shaping global power structures.

Elite education shapes power and success by prioritizing the selection of individuals with specific psychological traits like desperation and insecurity, fostering intense competition, and leveraging a "holistic" admissions system to cultivate future leaders who will enhance the institution's brand and maintain its influence.

### Summary

The meritocracy theory posits that success is based on talent, ability, and hard work, leading to the best students attending elite universities for top jobs.

America's university admission system is uniquely complicated, considering transcripts, standardized tests (SAT, TOEFL), extra-curriculars, teacher recommendations, and essays.

Early American universities, including Harvard, were founded in the 1600s by Protestants (Dissenters/Puritans) to train ministers for biblical study, establishing education as a divine imperative.

As America grew wealthier and less religious, Ivy League schools evolved into social clubs for the rich, focusing on cohesion and networking rather than academic rigor.

State schools (e.g., A&M) were later established to train tradespeople like farmers, engineers, and soldiers, supporting American industrialization.

Research universities (e.g., University of Chicago, Johns Hopkins) emerged around 1900, modeled after German institutions, to advance science and technology.

Feeling their relevance diminish, Ivy League schools introduced scholarship programs and the SAT to attract top academic talent.

The influx of academically strong but non-rich students led Harvard to create a "holistic" admissions system, emphasizing "character" to balance academic merit with alumni relations.

**Insight 1:** The "holistic" admissions system, with its focus on "character" and secrecy, was designed to maintain institutional power by allowing elite universities to select for specific traits and exclude certain groups, rather than purely academic merit.

The concept of "character" was initially used to exclude academically strong Jewish students and is now applied to keep out Asian students.

The current elite admissions system relies on secrecy (not disclosing reasons for admission/rejection) and discretion (the ability to admit anyone for any reason).

**Insight 2:** Elite universities are not interested in educating smart people, but rather in graduating rich and powerful people who will become heads of companies, famous figures, or presidents, thereby enhancing the university's prestige.

**Insight 3:** Elite universities like Harvard view themselves as venture capital firms, seeking high-risk, high-reward students



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who are most likely to achieve extraordinary success and boost the university's brand recognition.

Professor Jiang Xueqin explains his own admission to Yale, despite an average academic profile, by highlighting how admissions officers identified traits like desperation, insecurity, and a willingness to break rules, which he terms "dissociative personality disorder."

**Insight 4:** Elite universities, like Yale, foster a "Hunger Games" environment where students are in relentless competition, cultivating a deep sense of insecurity and an endless drive for achievement, which the universities believe leads to greater success.

This competitive environment, extending from universities to high schools and parenting styles, creates trauma by demanding constant achievement and fostering insecurity.

Parenting styles that prioritize achievement and neglect emotional needs are seen as producing the driven, insecure individuals sought by elite institutions.

The current meritocracy is described as "destroying America and the world" by perpetuating this cycle of trauma and relentless competition.

## Core Concepts

**Definition of Meritocracy:** The ideal of meritocracy suggests success is based on talent, ability, and hard work, forming the theoretical foundation of the school system where good students attend top universities for the best jobs.

**Evolution of Ivy League:** Initially founded as religious institutions (e.g., Harvard to train ministers), Ivy League schools later transformed into social clubs for the wealthy, and then, to maintain relevance against research universities, adopted merit-based admissions (SAT) before shifting to a "holistic" system.

**"Holistic" Admissions as Exclusionary Tool:** The concept of "holistic" admissions, emphasizing "character" beyond academic scores, was introduced by elite universities like Harvard to manage their student body composition, historically used to limit the admission of academically strong groups like Jewish students and later Asian students.

**Elite Universities as Venture Capital Firms:** Top universities like Harvard and Yale operate like venture capital firms, prioritizing high-risk, high-reward investments in students who have the potential for massive, world-changing success (e.g., presidents, billionaires) over those who promise steady, moderate achievement, to maximize brand recognition.

## Breakthrough Ideas

**Revelatory Point :** Meritocracy's Traumatic Cycle: The meritocracy not only seeks out individuals with existing trauma (desperation, insecurity, transgressive ambition) but also actively creates trauma through its relentless competitive demands, starting from parenting styles, through high school, and into elite universities.

**"Best" Means "Most Likely to Succeed":** From an elite university's perspective, "best" students are not necessarily the smartest or most academically oriented, but rather those most likely to achieve significant power and success in the world, regardless of academic prowess.

**The "Hunger Games" of Elite Education:** Admission to an elite university like Yale is not an end to competition but the beginning of an intense, zero-sum "Hunger Games" environment where students are constantly judged and compete against the world's most driven individuals, fostering deep insecurity and an insatiable drive for achievement.

## Key Connections

**US Admissions vs. Global Systems:** Unlike most countries (e.g., China's Gaokao) that rely on a single examination for university admission, the US system is uniquely complex, incorporating transcripts, test scores, extracurriculars, recommendations, and essays, a complexity rooted in historical attempts to balance academic merit with social engineering.

**Parenting as a Meritocratic Training Ground:** The demands of the meritocratic system extend to parenting, where a conditional love model (rewarding achievement, neglecting emotional needs) can create the trauma and insecurity that drives children to relentlessly compete for elite university admission.

**Global Spread of Meritocracy:** The American concept of meritocracy, originating at Harvard, has now conquered the entire world, influencing educational systems and societal values globally, contributing to widespread societal issues.

## Practical Applications

**Identifying Elite University Targets:** Elite schools look for students demonstrating desperation (life-or-death drive for success), insecurity (a void filled by endless achievement), and transgressiveness (willingness to break rules to succeed), as these traits predict high-risk, high-reward outcomes for the institution's brand.



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**Understanding Elite School Investment Strategy:** Elite universities diversify their "investment portfolio" by admitting a majority of "safe" students (e.g., legacies, athletes from wealthy families) who are guaranteed success, alongside a small percentage (around 1%) of "risky" students with high potential for world-changing impact, like the speaker.

## IS CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING FINISHED?



**D**r. Steve Turley presents a compelling YouTube analysis suggesting that recent purges within China's military, particularly the removal of General Jang Yosha, signify a genuine mutiny rather than mere corruption. The rapid, extensive dismantling of the People's Liberation Army's high command, coupled with the military's heightened alert status, points to a severe internal power struggle threatening President Xi Jinping's authority. While this crisis may temporarily delay a Taiwan invasion, the long-term consequence is Xi consolidating power with unquestioningly loyal generals, making the regime potentially more dangerous.

On January 24, 2026, China's defense ministry announced General Yang Yosha General, a 75-year-old combat veteran and son of one of Mao's founding generals was under investigation for "serious violations of discipline and law," with the process taking only five days, much faster than the usual 6-8 months for a senior purge. Reports indicate a major power struggle in Beijing, with Chinese President Xi Jinping reportedly purging General Yang his childhood friend and second-highest military commander.

## Main Arguments

Xi Jinping faces a real mutiny: Reports indicate a significant power struggle within China, with Xi Jinping allegedly facing a mutiny among his highest-ranking generals, leading to mass arrests and a regime in crisis.

**Purge of General Jang Yosha:** Xi Jinping reportedly purged his childhood friend and second-highest military commander, General Jang Yosha, in what is seen as either a preemptive strike against a brewing military coup or a counter-coup following an assassination attempt.

**Nuclear spy narrative as propaganda:** The official charge against General Jang of leaking nuclear secrets to the CIA is largely disbelieved by China analysts, who view it as propaganda designed to deflect attention from a deeper internal power struggle.

**Xi Jinping barely survived:** Analysts believe that Xi Jinping barely survived an attempted arrest or assassination on January 18th at the Jing Xi Hotel, which led to a violent ambush and the subsequent rapid purge.

## Unique Perspectives

**The Principal Insight:** Nuclear leak story masks true power struggle: The narrative of General Jang leaking nuclear secrets, exclusively reported by Western media and ignored by Chinese state media, is a propaganda tactic to portray Jang as a Western asset and divert attention from the actual, significant internal power struggle within Beijing.

**Military response indicates mutiny, not corruption:** The unprecedented military response following Jang's arrest—including the suspension of the PLA's general staff command, direct orders via encrypted telegrams, level one combat readiness, troop freezes, and armored vehicles in Beijing—is indicative of a mutiny, not merely a corruption case.

**Purges aim for long-term loyalty, not immediate de-escalation:** While the dismantling of the PLA's high command might temporarily delay a Taiwan invasion, Xi's long-term goal is to install loyal, unquestioning commanders, which could make future military escalations more dangerous.

## Supporting Evidence

**Jang's deep ties to Xi and high rank:** General Jang Yosha was a 75-year-old combat veteran whose family fought alongside Xi's family during the Chinese Civil War, and he was convinced by Xi to stay on as second in command of the entire military in 2022, making his purge highly unusual.

**Unprecedented speed of purge:** The announcement of Jang's investigation took only five days, a stark contrast to the normal 6 to 8 months for senior purges within the Communist Party, highlighting the urgency of the situation.

**Details of the alleged coup attempt:** A Chinese-Canadian human rights activist, Shang Yu, reported that Jang and General Leo Jun Lee planned to arrest Xi Jinping on January 18th, but the plan leaked, leading to an ambush where nine of Xi's guards and over a dozen of Jang's people were killed.

**Massive military purges since 2022:** Since 2022, only one of the six generals appointed to the Central Military Commission remains, nearly the entire leadership of the Rocket Force has been purged, and Bloomberg counts at least 17 generals formally in-



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investigated, with nearly a million officials punished for corruption in 2025 alone.

## Thought-Provoking Questions

Why would a top general risk everything?: Given General Jang's immense power and status as the second most powerful man in China, what conceivable rational motive would he have to leak nuclear secrets to the United States, knowing it would lead to a death sentence while remaining within China?

What are the true implications for Taiwan?: While the current military crisis might buy Taiwan time by delaying an invasion, how does Xi's consolidation of power by installing unquestioningly loyal generals affect the long-term threat to Taiwan?

How stable is an authoritarian regime in crisis?: If authoritarian regimes "lurch from crisis to crisis until something breaks," what does the current unprecedented internal power struggle and military purges in China signal about the long-term stability of Xi Jinping's rule?



By Andrew Mitrich

Japan is now selling its huge store of US Debt which marks a seismic shift in global finance. For decades, Japan held over \$1.2 trillion in US debt, subsidizing American borrowing and keeping rates low. Now, with the yen collapsing, domestic bond yields surging, and fiscal pressures mounting, Japanese investors are pulling back. In Q3 alone, they sold \$62 billion in US Treasuries. This isn't temporary diversification—it's a structural exit. Wall Street analysts warn of potential market Armageddon as US borrowing costs rise. Mortgage rates near 7%, credit card rates at record highs, and the risk of carry trade unwinding threaten global stability. Japan's debt stands at 235% of GDP, its bond auctions are disappointing, and its new leadership faces escalating tensions with China. The 40-year era of cheap American borrowing is over. This video by Andrew

Mitrich breaks down what's happening, why it matters, and how to prepare for a new financial reality where volatility becomes the norm.

For your convenience and consideration, here is the summary of this YouTube video.

Japan's necessary retreat from financing US debt marks the end of America's four-decade era of cheap borrowing, causing Wall Street panic and rising costs for Americans.

## Synopsis

- Japan is stepping back from financing America's debt, causing the yen to tumble and Wall Street to watch nervously.
- A massive multi-billion dollar stimulus package approved by Japan's government has destabilized its financial system, leading the yen to tumble to near year-lows.
- Japanese finance officials, including Minister Satsuki Katayama, have issued verbal warnings about possible intervention to counter volatile market moves.
- The yen has lost around 6% of its value since Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba came into power, driven by aggressive spending policies and ultra-loose monetary policy.
- A rare and unsettling situation is occurring where Japanese government bonds and the yen are falling simultaneously, signaling capital flight and deep market distrust.
- For decades, Japan served as America's financial anchor, buying more US Treasury debt than any other country, holding up to \$1.2 trillion in US bonds.
- Rising yields on Japanese bonds, now at decades-highs, give Japanese investors a reason to keep their money domestically instead of lending it to America.
- In the third quarter alone, Japanese investors sold nearly \$62 billion in US treasuries, signaling an exit from its 40-year role.
- Wall Street analysts, including those at Croup and Charles Schwab, warn that this shift could trigger a "global market armageddon" and push US yields even higher.
- Americans are already feeling the effects with mortgage rates near 7%, credit card rates at record highs, and rising car loan rates.
- Japan's retreat is structural, driven by a rapidly aging population, debt worth 235% of its GDP, and an escalating economic confrontation with China.
- The "carry trade," a global financial machine built on borrowing cheap yen to buy higher-yield assets elsewhere, risks a violent unwinding if Japan loses control of bond yields and currency stability.
- Americans should prepare for a world where money is no longer cheap, making locking in fixed-rate debt essential and diversification into assets like real estate, gold, and commodities necessary.





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**The AHA point:** The 40-year arrangement that allowed America to borrow cheaply while Japan picked up the tab is over, as Japan is out of money, out of demographic strength, and out of illusions about its ability to keep playing this role.

### Conclusion Insightful Analysis

This video provides an insightful analysis of Japan's economic crisis and its profound implications for global finance, particularly for the United States. Mitrich effectively argues that Japan's necessary retreat from its role as America's primary debt financier marks the definitive end of a four-decade era of cheap US borrowing. The analysis highlights critical metrics like the yen's decline, surging Japanese bond yields, and the structural reasons behind Japan's inability to continue subsidizing US debt, making a compelling case for a turbulent financial future with higher borrowing costs for everyone.

## Seeking Truth with Lies



### How deception exposes reality but erodes trust

Exposing corruption through distortion deepens the crisis of credibility.

*Project Veritas* calls itself a seeker of truth, but its methods tell a darker story. Through deception, it has unearthed uncomfortable realities — yet at the cost of integrity and trust. In this critical article on *Project Veritas*, we explore the paradox of “Seeking Truth with Lies” and what it reveals about the deeper crisis of credibility in journalism, politics, and finance.

### The Paradox of *Project Veritas*

In an era when public trust in institutions is already fragile, few organizations embody the contradictions of modern media more starkly than *Project Veritas*. Founded in 2010 by James O’Keefe, the group presents itself as a crusader for transparency, a watchdog exposing corruption and bias in government, corporations, and the press. Its name — Veritas, Latin for “truth” — suggests noble intent. Yet its methods tell a different story.

Hidden cameras, staged encounters, and selectively edited footage have become its signature tools. These tactics generate headlines and outrage, but they also raise a troubling question: can truth be revealed through deception? Time and again, Veritas has claimed victory in exposing misconduct, only to see its work discredited in courtrooms, fact-checks, and the very institutions it sought to undermine.

### Case Studies in Deception

#### ACORN (2009–2010)

*Project Veritas* first gained national attention with undercover videos targeting the community organization ACORN. The footage appeared to show employees advising on illicit activities. The scandal led to ACORN’s defunding and eventual collapse. Yet later investigations revealed the videos were heavily edited and misleading. The damage was irreversible, but the credibility of the exposé was fatally compromised.

#### Planned Parenthood (2015)

Veritas released videos alleging Planned Parenthood was involved in the illegal sale of fetal tissue. The sensational claims fueled political outrage and congressional hearings. Subsequent investigations found no evidence of wrongdoing, and courts later ruled that the videos were deceptively edited. Planned Parenthood sued, and Veritas faced significant legal setbacks. Here, the pursuit of “truth” through distortion undermined legitimate public debate.

#### The Washington Post Sting Attempt (2017)

In an effort to discredit mainstream media, Veritas operatives tried to plant a false story with The Washington Post about Roy Moore, then a Senate candidate. The Post exposed the sting before publication, revealing Veritas’s intent to trick reporters into printing fabricated allegations. Instead of catching the paper in bias, the operation highlighted Veritas’s own willingness to manufacture lies to prove its point.

#### Truth Unearthed, Integrity Lost

The uncomfortable reality is that *Project Veritas*’s tactics, while deceptive, have occasionally surfaced genuine misconduct. ACORN’s vulnerabilities, Planned Parenthood’s internal practic-





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es, and even lapses in media judgment were brought into public view. Yet the way these revelations were obtained — through hidden cameras, false identities, and selective editing — undermines their legitimacy.

This is the paradox: deception can oftentimes expose truth, but it simultaneously corrodes the very trust that truth depends upon. In the end, the method contaminates the message. The tragedy is not only that deception was used, but that it worked — leaving us with truths tainted by the very dishonesty that revealed them.

## The Crisis of Credibility

The story of *Project Veritas* is not just about one organization's tactics. It is a symptom of a deeper crisis: the erosion of trust in the institutions that shape our civic and financial lives. When truth itself becomes negotiable — when deception is dressed up as transparency — the consequences ripple far beyond politics.

Markets depend on confidence. Investors rely on accurate reporting, regulators depend on honest disclosures, and citizens make decisions based on the information available to them. When that information is manipulated, whether by a hedge fund hiding losses or a media group staging "exposés," the result is the same: instability, suspicion, and the corrosion of public trust.

*Project Veritas* may claim to expose corruption, but its reliance on distortion only deepens the crisis of credibility. In a time when financial systems, governments, and communities are already strained, the lesson is clear: truth cannot be manufactured through lies. To rebuild trust, we must demand transparency grounded in evidence, not theater — and hold accountable those who profit from deception.

D. Miyoshi

## THE GREAT DECEPTION



## ETS, UFOs, 3 I ATLAS, PROJECT BLUE BEAM, ARE ALL PART OF THE GREAT DECEPTION!

Here in this article, Dave Hodges of the *Common Sense Show* presents a compelling argument from a Christian eschatological perspective, asserting that phenomena like UFOs, ETS, and Project Blue Beam are all orchestrated as part of the biblical "great deception." He supports this by citing multiple Bible verses (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12, Matthew 24:23-24, Revelation 13:13-14) which describe false prophets and miraculous signs designed to mislead humanity. In his YouTube video program of Dec 22, 2025, Hodges warns that even AI development is intertwined with this overarching demonic plot, emphasizing the critical need for faith in Jesus Christ to avoid eternal deception.

The following is a summary of Hodges' main points.

I hope you find this illuminating as I did.

D. Miyoshi

## Main Arguments

**Alien Life as the Great Deception:** The core premise is that the concept of "alien life" is the central component of a "great deception" orchestrated by demonic forces in the end times.

**Demonic Origin of "Alien" Phenomena:** What people perceive as UFOs and alien abductions are not extraterrestrial but rather manifestations of demonic technology or advanced human technology intertwined with demonic influence.

**Project Blue Beam as Human-Demonic Partnership:** Project Blue Beam is identified as the human element actively participating in this "demonic deception," forming a partnership to create counterfeit miracles and signs.

**AI as a Tool for Deception:** Artificial Intelligence is presented as another critical part of this great deception, potentially leading to a scenario where "no flesh would be left alive" if not for divine intervention.

## Unique Perspectives

**The Main Finding: Sci-Fi as Predictive Reality:** Hodges rein-





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interprets popular science fiction, like Stargate SG1, not as fiction but as being based on real-world, classified technologies such as DARPA's time travel and teleportation, which he believes sets the stage for the "alien" deception.

**Challenging Perceived UFO Sightings:** Hodges acknowledges personal experience with UFO sightings (the Phoenix Lights) but asserts that even these widely witnessed events are part of the "great deception" rather than genuine alien encounters.

**Spiritual Foundation Against Deception:** The ultimate protection against this multifaceted deception is an "unabiding faith in the Lord Jesus Christ," which is presented as the only foundation that will last eternally.

## Supporting Evidence

**Biblical Prophecy of Lawlessness and Deception:** Second Thessalonians 2:9-12 is cited as the most direct reference to the great deception, detailing how the "lawless one" will use "all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie."

**Warnings Against False Messiahs and Prophets:** Matthew 24:23-24 is used to highlight Jesus' warning about false messiahs and prophets who will perform "great signs and wonders to deceive if possible, even the elect."

**Revelation's Deceiving Beast:** Revelation 13:13-14 is presented as evidence of a "second beast" or "false prophet" who deceives the world through miraculous signs, including causing "fire to come down from the heaven to the earth."

## Thought-Provoking Questions

**Personal Discernment in the Face of Deception:** Hodges directly challenges the audience, asking, "Question is, will you be deceived?", prompting self-reflection on one's ability to discern truth from falsehood.

**The True Nature of Unexplained Phenomena:** Hodges implicitly asks viewers to reconsider whether phenomena like UFOs and alleged alien abductions are truly extraterrestrial or if they are part of a deeper, spiritually-rooted deception.

**The Role of Faith in Navigating End Times:** The emphasis on an "unabiding faith in the Lord Jesus Christ" raises the question of how one's spiritual beliefs directly impact their ability to withstand the predicted "great deception."

## THE WAYS AI POSES A THREAT TO HUMANITY



From the Common Sense Show

## The Erosion of Truth and Democratic Processes

Artificial intelligence (AI) poses multiple dangers to humanity that span social, political, economic, and security dimensions. One of the most pressing concerns is its role in eroding truth and democratic processes. Generative AI can mass-produce persuasive fakes, including text, audio, and video, at unprecedented scale, thereby supercharging disinformation campaigns and undermining elections and public trust (Brundage et al., 2018; Reuters, 2024; Stanford HAI, 2024).

## Bias, Discrimination, and Civil Rights Harms

Another danger lies in bias, discrimination, and civil-rights harms. Because AI systems are trained on historical data that often reflects systemic inequities, they can perpetuate and even amplify unfair outcomes in areas such as hiring, healthcare, lending, and policing. These outcomes, cloaked in the appearance of objectivity, pose serious risks to justice and equity (NIST, 2023; NIST, 2024; European Commission, 2024).

## Privacy and Surveillance Risks

AI also raises profound concerns about privacy and surveillance. Advanced facial recognition and behavioral analysis technologies lower the costs of pervasive monitoring, allowing for powerful tracking and inference of individuals and groups. Such capabilities have already led to debates on the limits of government and corporate surveillance, prompting legal restrictions such as those in the European Union's AI Act (European Commission, 2024; NIST, 2023).

## Cybersecurity Amplification

In addition, AI intensifies cybersecurity threats. By automating phishing campaigns, vulnerability discovery, and intrusion tac-





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tics, it amplifies the offensive capabilities of malicious actors, requiring urgent innovation in red-teaming and defensive practices (UK Government, 2023; NIST, 2023; AISI, 2024; Reuters, 2024).

## Biosecurity and Dual-Use Science

Another emerging danger is AI's role in biosecurity and dual-use science. Frontier models may lower barriers to acquiring technical expertise needed to design or misuse biological agents, leading policy experts and organizations to call for new safeguards and monitoring frameworks (RAND, 2025; Sandbrink, 2024; OpenAI, 2024; Frontier Model Forum, 2025; Longview/CLTR, 2024).

## Autonomous Weapons and Accident Risk

Similarly, the integration of AI into autonomous weapons and command systems creates the possibility of miscalculations, escalation, and accidents, a risk that international agreements like the Bletchley Declaration have flagged as particularly catastrophic (UK Government, 2023; Brundage et al., 2018).

## Labor Market Disruption and Inequality

The economic implications of AI also carry danger. As AI increasingly automates tasks, it threatens to disrupt labor markets and widen inequality unless robust worker transition strategies and safety nets are implemented (Stanford HAI, 2024).

## Concentration of Power

At the same time, the concentration of AI development and control within a small number of corporations and states risks entrenching dependency, reducing competition, and centralizing power over critical infrastructure (European Commission, 2024; Stanford HAI, 2024; NIST, 2023).

## Systemic Accidents and Alignment Failures

Finally, as AI grows in autonomy and capability, systemic accidents and alignment failures become a significant concern. Misaligned objectives, reward gaming, and cascading failures could produce high-impact incidents, highlighting the urgent need for rigorous evaluation, transparency, and governance before deployment (UK Government, 2023; NIST, 2023; NIST, 2024).

## Conclusion

Together, these risks demonstrate that while AI offers transformative benefits, its misuse or mismanagement can endanger humanity in profound ways. Policymakers, researchers, and indus-

try leaders agree that coordinated action, international cooperation, and rigorous governance frameworks are necessary to mitigate these dangers and ensure AI develops in ways that are safe, fair, and aligned with human values (NIST, 2023; European Commission, 2024; UK Government, 2023).

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## WHY GREENLAND IS VITAL FOR THE US



The Russian presence in the Arctic now includes six army bases, 10 radar stations, 14 airfields, and 16 deep-water ports.

By John Haughey, Autumn Spredemann

January 21, 2026

Taken from **The Epoch Times**

U.S. President Donald Trump has said that the United States must purchase, annex, or, if necessary, militarily seize Greenland “for the purpose of national security” before Russian or Chinese interests are entrenched in the area.

The autonomous Danish territory straddles key sea lanes, includ-







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ing trans-Arctic shipping corridors, and is rich in critical minerals and rare earths.

Trump has said that “whether they like it or not,” Greenland will soon belong to the United States. Possible scenarios include Greenland becoming a U.S. territory, such as the Virgin Islands, or a freely associated state in a compact with the United States.

The United States has similar compacts with Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau, granting them substantial economic aid, while the United States has authority over security and defense.

The president first expressed his intention to buy Greenland in 2019, and the second Trump administration has voiced increased urgency in incorporating the world’s largest island.

U.S. Vice President JD Vance and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio met with Danish and Greenlandic officials on Jan. 14. After the meeting, Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen called it a “frank but also constructive discussion” and said disagreements remain.

The Trump administration is also backing mining projects in Greenland, focusing on the island’s rare earths.

Incorporating Greenland—nearly 50 percent bigger than Alaska and three times the size of Texas—would be the largest territorial expansion in the nation’s history.

## Competing for Dominance

Trump has consistently expressed concern about the Russian and Chinese presence in the region.

In 2007, Russia planted a Russian flag on the North Pole seabed. Since that time, it has revitalized more than 50 old Soviet military installations. The Russian presence in the Arctic now includes six army bases, 10 radar stations, 14 airfields, and 16 deep-water ports.

“It is important to consistently strengthen Russia’s positions in the Arctic, comprehensively develop our country’s logistics capabilities, and ensure the development of a promising Arctic transport corridor from St. Petersburg to Vladivostok,” Russian President Vladimir Putin said in November 2025.

Russia’s coast frames more than half the Arctic Ocean, and it has more icebreakers, including nuclear-powered ice-crushers, than the rest of the world combined, according to an August 2025 report from the Atlas Institute for International Affairs.

The United States, in contrast, has no bases directly on the Arctic Ocean. It has five bases in the Arctic, four in Alaska, and Pituffik Space Force Base in Greenland.



The Russian nuclear-powered icebreaker at the North Pole on Aug. 18, 2021. Russia has more than 60 icebreakers, while the United States only has two, according to Rep. Mike Waltz. Ekaterina Anisimova/AFP via Getty Images

Eric Cole, a former CIA officer and CEO of Secure Anchor, said the importance of Greenland from a national defense perspective is no small matter and will increase with time.

“Greenland’s geographic position places it directly beneath the shortest flight paths between North America, Europe, and Eurasia, making it a natural vantage point for monitoring air and missile activity,” Cole told The Epoch Times.

“Sensors based in Greenland can track aircraft, space objects, and missile launches that would otherwise go undetected until much later in their trajectory. This early detection is critical for both U.S. and NATO forces, as it expands warning times and improves coordinated response options.”

For land- and space-based defense systems, Greenland has ideal access to the polar orbit because of its geographical location.

“Polar-orbiting satellites are particularly critical for modern intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities because of the unique view these orbits provide of the Earth,” space operations expert Pat Jameson told The Epoch Times.



Sensors based in Greenland can track aircraft, space objects, and missile launches that would otherwise go undetected until much later in their trajectory.

*Eric Cole, CEO, Secure Anchor*

The region also serves as a hub for fusing data from satellites, radar arrays, and maritime sensors into a unified operational picture, according to Cole.

“As Arctic routes open due to climate change, Greenland’s role





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as a surveillance anchor only grows,” he said. “In effect, it acts as a forward lookout post for the entire North Atlantic security architecture.”

China in 2018 declared itself a “near-Arctic state,” announcing that it would be “an important stakeholder in Arctic affairs” in building what it called a “Polar Silk Road” access ramp to its global Belt and Road Initiative.

A 2024 RAND Corp. analysis highlighted that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has been increasing its Arctic presence since the 1990s, with state-sponsored Chinese companies investing in oil, gas, mineral exploration, infrastructure, and in developing trans-Arctic sea routes.



A map featuring Greenland, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, and Denmark is displayed inside the Greenland Representative's office in Copenhagen, Denmark, on March 25, 2025. Greenland, which became a Danish colony in the early 19th century, was granted limited self-rule in 2009, allowing the island to run its domestic affairs while preserving Danish control over its defense and foreign policies. Leon Neal/Getty Images

## Defense Strategy

Former diplomat and U.S. War Department official Armand Cucciniello told The Epoch Times that Greenland is becoming increasingly important to U.S. defense strategy.

“It has five main strategic and operational benefits to the United States: Positioning early warning radars, space surveillance capabilities, monitoring naval movements in the North Atlantic, access to new shipping routes, and deposits of critical minerals and rare earth elements used in modern technologies,” Cucciniello said.

“With polar ice caps melting, the region is becoming an arena for increased great power competition, most notably with Russia but also China.”

Greenland is framed by the only two waterways linking the Arctic Ocean to the North Atlantic: the Davis Strait on the Baffin Sea to the west, and the Greenland-Iceland-UK Gap in the Denmark Strait on the Greenland Sea to the east.



With polar ice caps melting, the region is becoming an arena for increased great power competition, most notably with Russia, but also China.

*Armand Cucciniello, former communications manager, Department of War*

Thule—now Pituffik Space Base—remains the only official U.S. military installation in Greenland, a key early warning outpost of 150 military personnel within a strategic eye-blink of Russian airbases on Arctic Ocean islands, including Nagurskoye Airbase—where satellite imagery has shown Russian deployment of powerful MiG-31 “Foxhound” fighters.

But now Greenland may even be more important geo-strategically than it was during World War II and the Cold War, analysts say.



The Arctic landscape surrounds the nation of Greenland on May 4, 2025. John Fredricks/The Epoch Times

## Trade Routes

Gaining the upper hand on Arctic expanding trade routes could have far-reaching benefits for the United States, according to Juan Carlos Lascurain-Grosvenor, CEO of Grosvenor Square Consulting Group.

Modern supply chains aren’t fragile because of distance but rather concentration, Grosvenor, a commerce and trade analyst, told The Epoch Times.

“Too much trade still depends on a handful of chokepoints and jurisdictions that can be disrupted politically, militarily, or through sanctions,” he said. “Arctic routes offer an additional axis for energy, bulk commodities, and strategic cargo, which in





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turn reduces systemic risk.

The real economic impact of a U.S. acquisition of Greenland would be in 'sovereign supply planning' for commodities such as liquified natural gas and critical minerals, Grosvenor said.

"For European and North American markets, this is less about shaving days off transit times and more about insurance against geopolitical shocks. From a pricing standpoint, even the existence of alternative routes lowers risk premia over time. That matters to insurers, lenders, commodity traders, and governments alike."

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Ocean trade is widely considered the backbone of the global economy because it's the most cost-effective way to move bulk amounts of heavy goods. Cooperation or control over what are often referred to as "maritime chokepoints"—such as the Panama and Suez canals—is vital, he said, especially because hostile regimes can restrict access to these critical waterways and drive up the cost of goods or create shortages.



A Royal Danish Navy vessel prepares to dock in the city of Nuuk, Greenland, on May 4, 2025. President Donald Trump has been pushing since 2019 for the United States to incorporate the world's largest island. John Fredricks/The Epoch Times

Should Russia or China be allowed to "set the rules in the Arctic," the macroeconomic consequences could be negative and long-lasting, according to Grosvenor.

"Russia has already demonstrated that it treats energy, logistics, and geography as political weapons. China uses infrastructure

control and financing dependency to lock in influence over decades," he said. "Neither model produces efficient markets, transparent pricing, or legal certainty, all of which global trade and capital markets require."

Military and commercial traffic has increased significantly in two intermittent Arctic sea lanes in the past two decades: the Northwest Passage that skirts the Canadian Arctic coast and the Northern Sea Route, which spans Russia's vast Arctic shorelines.

The 900-mile Northwest Passage is only reliably open for short windows, but transit lanes increase as ice shields decrease.

From 1906 to 2006, there were only 69 complete transits through the Northwest Passage, according to a report from Harvard's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. That number was matched in the next five years alone, with 69 full voyages taking place between 2006 and 2010.

Russia and China are developing the Transpolar Sea Route, a direct route across the North Pole that would be shorter and deeper than the Northwest Passage or Northern Sea Route.

More than a dozen ships made the passage in 2023, with a similar number in 2024, a Canadian International Council analysis reported in December 2025.

By the 2030s, commercial cargo ships may be able to reliably sail through the Northwest Passage and other parts of the Arctic Ocean without icebreaker escorts for increasingly longer spans, according to the University of Fairbanks Center for Arctic Policy Studies.

The international legal status of the Northwest Passage is disputed, the Harvard report notes. The United States asserts that it constitutes an international strait, while Canada claims sovereignty over the entire passage, which trims nearly 3,500 nautical miles off ocean cargo shipping from western Europe to Asia via the Panama Canal.







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Canadian Brigadier-General Daniel Riviere, commander of the Joint Task Force North, shows the closeness between the Canadian Arctic and other northern nations in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada, on Jan. 23, 2025. The area represents 40 percent of Canada's territory and 75 percent of its coastline. Ottawa has just announced a buildup of its military and diplomatic presence to reinforce its claim to region. It is essential for Canada to act now, because "the Northwest Passage will become a main artery of trade," Riviere said. Sebastien St-Jean/AFP via Getty Images

Russia supports Canada's claims, according to the report, because of its own sole-possession claim to the 3,500-mile Northern Sea Route.

Its fleet of eight nuclear-powered icebreakers is keeping the route clear for increasingly long spans, according to Russian nuclear energy corporation Rosatom.

Moscow is marketing the sea lane as a time-is-money alternative to the Suez Canal, reducing sailing time between Europe and Asia by up to 50 percent, according to a report from the Arctic Institute.

Russia and China are cooperating to develop arctic sea routes, including the development of the Transpolar Sea Route, a direct route across the North Pole that would be shorter and deeper than the Northwest Passage or Northern Sea Route. A Chinese icebreaker was one of the first ships to use this route in 2012.

### Rare-Earth Minerals

While Trump has stressed Greenland's importance to U.S. national security in the context of geo-strategic competition with Russia, analysts say its geology makes it important in the context of usurping the CCP's dominance of global metals and minerals markets.

Investing in Greenland would perch U.S. assets near rapidly expanding sea lanes, challenging Russia's dominance and disrupting China's polar ambitions by placing U.S. interests on top of potentially lucrative critical mineral deposits.

China-based processors dominate the global market for critical minerals. The United States relies entirely on China for 15 of the

54 commodities on the U.S. Geological Survey's recently updated Critical Minerals List. It relies partially on Chinese imports of at least 31 more.

China produces more than 70 percent of the world's processed metals and 90 percent of the rare earths needed by U.S. manufacturers and defense contractors.

Greenland is rich in iron ore, graphite, tungsten, palladium, vanadium, zinc, gold, uranium, copper, and oil.



Geologist Thomas Varming show findings of rare minerals and precious metals on a survey map at the University of Greenland during an interview with AFP in Nuuk, Greenland, on March 5, 2025. Varming said that Greenland had the potential to be a player in making the world less dependent on China for these natural resources but added that climate, infrastructure, and environmental laws make it challenging. Odd Andersen/AFP via Getty Images

But the territory's estimated 1.5 million metric tons of rare earth elements are attracting the most attention to a harsh environment that is difficult to mine.

Only nine mining ventures have been launched on the island since World War II, according to a report this month from the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). There are just two operating on Greenland now, the White Mountain anorthosite mine and the Nalunaq gold mine.

At least three planned projects have been proposed to extract rare earths from large deposits in Tanbreez and Kvanefjeld in southwest Greenland.

The Trump administration is backing one, maybe two, of those projects.

In June 2025, the U.S. Export-Import Bank sent a letter of interest to Critical Metals Corp. for a \$120 million loan to fund its Tanbreez rare earth mine, according to the CSIS report. The loan, if approved, represents the administration's first overseas mining investment.

Critical Metals Corp. bought into the project after the United





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States lobbied Tanbreez to prevent the sale of the deposit to a Chinese buyer.



The city of Nuuk, Greenland, on May 2, 2025. Investing in Greenland would perch U.S. assets near rapidly expanding sea lanes to challenge Russia's dominance and disrupt China's polar ambitions. John Fredricks/The Epoch Times

Canada-based Amaroq is negotiating with the Trump administration for U.S. investment in exploring for gold, copper, germanium, gallium, and other critical mineral deposits in Greenland.

Also in June, the European Union designated the Amitsoq graphite project as a strategic project under its Critical Raw Materials Act. In December 2025, Greenland issued a 30-year exploitation license for the Amitsoq deposit to London-based GreenRoc Mining, the third permit granted by Greenland last year.

However, development at the Kvanefjeld site, which contains significant deposits of neodymium, dysprosium, and other rare earths, has stalled since 2019 over concerns about Chinese investment in the project. Although an Australian company, Greenland Minerals, has majority ownership in the project, a Chinese rare earth company, Shanghai Resources, is the largest shareholder and strategic partner in the operation, according to an Atlantic Council report this month.

Officials have also expressed concern that, unlike the Tanbreez area, there is an estimated 270,000 tons of uranium in the Kvanefjeld deposit, making it the eighth-largest uranium deposit in the world, but illegal to mine under Greenlandic law since 2021.

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## THE DONRO DOCTRINE FOR AMERICAN DOMINANCE



Trump's "Donro Doctrine" (a takeoff of the classic Monroe Doctrine) represents a fundamental shift in U.S. foreign policy, using economic coercion and military threats to reassert American dominance in Latin America and counter China's extensive economic influence, thereby setting the stage for a prolonged great-power collision where neutrality is no longer an option for regional nations.

### Main Arguments

The "Donro Doctrine" as a fundamental foreign policy shift: The US is reorienting its foreign policy to prioritize the Western Hemisphere, viewing non-hemispheric competitors (China, Russia, Iran) as existential threats, and explicitly superseding the 200-year-old Monroe Doctrine.

China's extensive economic penetration in Latin America: China has effectively "bought" Latin America through massive trade and infrastructure investments, displacing the US as the top trading partner for major South American economies and controlling critical infrastructure like ports and power grids. [00:01:18]

US strategy of economic coercion and military threat: The Donro Doctrine employs tariffs, secondary sanctions, and the explicit threat of military force (as demonstrated in Venezuela) to compel Latin American countries to sever economic ties with China and align with the US.





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Inevitable great-power collision: China cannot afford to lose access to Latin American resources (iron ore, copper, lithium, oil) which are existential inputs for its economy, meaning it will fight back against US attempts to force alignment, leading to a "second cold war" of sustained economic warfare and proxy battles.

## Unique Perspectives

**The Main Realization:** The Monroe Doctrine was gutted by trade, not tanks: The traditional US sphere of influence in the Western Hemisphere was undermined not by military invasion, but by China's economic strategy of shipping containers and power lines, a far more effective and subtle form of penetration.

**China's "backup plan" for canal access:** Should the Panama Canal become untenable due to American pressure, Nicaragua's revived plan for a 445 km interoceanic canal, capable of handling mega-ships and outside American influence, presents a strategic alternative directly pitched to Chinese investors.

**Vulnerability of the Donro Doctrine:** The US is attempting to win a competition through coercion that it already lost through neglect, demanding loyalty from countries that Washington ignored for a generation, potentially pushing fence-sitters towards China by its aggressive approach.

## Supporting Evidence

**China's trade growth in Latin America:** China's trade with Latin America surged from \$12 billion in 2000 to \$518 billion by 2024, a 40-fold increase, making China the top trading partner for Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, and Argentina.

**Strategic infrastructure control:** China's COSCO owns the \$3.5 billion deep-water mega-port of Chancay in Peru, bypassing North American ports, and China's State Grid Corporation controls critical portions of Brazil's electrical grid with over \$12.5 billion invested.

**Lithium Triangle dominance:** Bolivia, Argentina, and Chile hold 60% of the world's lithium reserves, and until recently, Bolivia had billion-dollar deals with China's CATL (world's largest battery manufacturer) and Russia's Uranium One, critical for the American green transition.

**Panama Canal influence shift:** Following a US ultimatum, Hutchison Holdings (Hong Kong) is selling its port

assets at both ends of the Panama Canal to an American consortium, and Panama has withdrawn from China's Belt and Road Initiative.

## Thought-Provoking Questions

**Can Brazil maintain strategic autonomy?:** As the world's ninth-largest economy with significant resources, can Brazil avoid choosing sides when both superpowers demand alignment, especially given its strong ties to both China (BRICS, investments) and the US (markets, military)?

**What if the US assumption is wrong?:** The Donro Doctrine assumes Latin American countries will ultimately choose Washington over Beijing, but what if economic pressure and military threats are insufficient to roll back two decades of Chinese integration, leading to a failure of the doctrine?

**Will Latin America become a battlefield?:** With the Donro Doctrine forcing a choice and ending the era of multi-alignment, will Latin America become a battleground for great power collision, similar to Korea, Vietnam, or Central America during the Cold War, where small nations suffer?

## Summary

The 2026 U.S. intervention in Venezuela, involving the capture of President Nicholas Maduro, was primarily about China, not just Maduro or drug charges.

The "Donro Doctrine" is presented as the most consequential American foreign policy shift since the Cold War, aiming to counter China's significant economic penetration in Latin America.

China's trade with Latin America surged from \$12 billion in 2000 to \$518 billion by 2024, becoming the top trading partner for major South American economies like Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, and Argentina.

In November 2024, China opened the \$3.5 billion deep-water mega-port of Chancay in Peru, majority-owned by a Chinese state company, creating a direct maritime corridor to South America that bypasses North American ports.







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China's State Grid Corporation has invested \$12.5 billion in Brazil's power sector, controlling critical portions of the electrical grid supplying major cities and planning an additional \$40 billion investment by 2030.

The "lithium triangle" (Bolivia, Argentina, Chile) holds 60% of the world's lithium reserves, essential for the American green transition and EV industry, which China has been actively securing through deals.

The American National Security Establishment views China's actions as building a resource extraction empire in America's strategic backyard, effectively gutting the 200-year-old Monroe Doctrine.

Trump declared the Monroe Doctrine superseded by the "Donro Doctrine," articulating a fundamental reorientation of American foreign policy.

The Donro Doctrine prioritizes the Western Hemisphere, explicitly identifying non-hemispheric competitors (China, Russia, Iran) as existential threats and using leverage to induce countries to reject Chinese investment.

The doctrine employs economic coercion, including baseline tariffs and secondary sanctions, forcing Latin American countries to choose between trading with China or the U.S.

Military force is explicitly on the table, as demonstrated in Venezuela, with the doctrine expanding the Monroe Doctrine's geographic scope and increasing military deployments.

The U.S. uses a carrot and stick approach, offering financial aid and technology transfers to countries like Bolivia that terminate Chinese and Russian contracts, while allies like Argentina's Javier Milei align closely with Washington.

Key pressure points include Mexico, due to its role in Chinese supply chain circumvention and the USMCA renegotiation, with potential for U.S. military operations inside Mexico.

Brazil presents a challenge as a major economy attempting to maintain strategic autonomy between the U.S. and China, despite U.S. tariff threats and ongoing Chinese investments.

Argentina's Ushuaia port, vital for Antarctic operations, is a flashpoint, especially if a future Argentine government considers Chinese investment in Patagonian ports.

Nicaragua's revived plan for a 445 km interoceanic canal, pitched to Chinese investors, could offer a permanent alternative to the Panama Canal, outside American influence.

China cannot simply leave Latin America because its economy relies on resource imports such as Brazilian iron ore, Chilean copper, Bolivian lithium, and Venezuelan oil, making access to these resources existential.

China is fighting back, conducting military exercises simulating blockades of Taiwan's ports, explicitly noting Trump's willingness to use force in Latin America as justification for similar actions.

The situation creates an "escalation trap" and structural competition over global economic arteries, leading to a long confrontation, potentially a second cold war in America's backyard.

The Main Realization: The Donro Doctrine isn't just a policy; it's a declaration that neutrality is no longer an option for Latin American countries, ending the era of multi-alignment.

The Donro Doctrine assumes America can win this competition, but China is adapting by offering investment without conditions, infrastructure without lectures, and partnership without ultimatums.

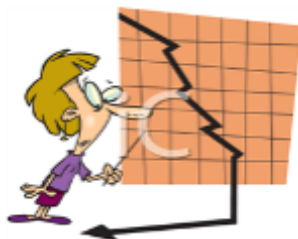
The U.S. offered ideology while China offered concrete infrastructure, creating a vulnerability at the heart of the Donro Doctrine, which tries to win through coercion what it lost through neglect.



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While some countries will comply due to proximity and weakness, others will resist and maintain Chinese relationships, potentially pushing fence-sitters towards China and uniting Latin American nationalism against American imperialism.

The outcome is uncertain, but the Donro Doctrine will shape the century, potentially leading to a restoration of American power or the moment America loses its backyard.

### Conclusion Insightful Analysis

This video provides an insightful analysis of Trump's "Donro Doctrine," detailing its aggressive reassertion of American influence in the Western Hemisphere against China's growing economic presence. It effectively uses specific examples like the Peruvian port of Chancay, Brazilian power grids, and Bolivian lithium deals to illustrate China's deep integration. The analysis highlights the doctrine's reliance on economic coercion and potential military force, predicting a prolonged great-power collision and a forced choice for Latin American nations, making it a compelling examination of a critical foreign policy shift.

D. Miyoshi



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## Trust and Estate Corner



My clients are always inquiring about wills, trusts and estates. Each publication of *Financial Crisis Report II* (Reporting What's Really Happening in America and the World) will feature a simple factoid on Trusts and Estate Planning. For more information you may consult my website at [www.miyoshilaw.com](http://www.miyoshilaw.com)

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**In California, unless you change the seniority of the beneficiaries of your estate in a Will, the order goes: spouse, dependents, parents, siblings, nieces/nephews, grandparents, aunts/uncles and cousins.**



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