

GLOBAL NEXUS BRIEF



ISRAELI AIRSTRIKES ON DAMASCUS

On July 16, 2025, Israel launched airstrikes on military targets in Damascus, Syria, hitting key government installations. The attack, which targeted Iranian-backed militia positions, resulted in 15 deaths and over 40 injuries. Israeli officials stated the airstrikes were necessary to prevent Iran from establishing a greater military presence near its northern border. Syria condemned the strikes as a violation of its sovereignty, vowing retaliation. International reactions were mixed: the U.S. supported Israel's right to self-defense, while Russia condemned the strikes, calling for de-escalation. This attack raised tensions further, with both Israel and Syria.

NORTH KOREA-CHINA RELATIONS

North Korea and China held a high-level meeting in Pyongyang to reaffirm their strategic military alliance and cooperation. North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and Chinese President Xi Jinping expressed mutual support for each other's leadership and reaffirmed their commitment to military-to-military cooperation. China has been North Korea's key economic partner, and the growing security ties between the two nations are seen as a response to the increasing presence of U.S. military forces in the region.

CONTINUED INSTABILITY AMID AU SUMMIT IN LIBYA



The African Union (AU) convened a summit to address the ongoing instability in Libya. Despite years of diplomatic efforts, the country remains divided with rival militias controlling different regions, and the summit failed to yield concrete steps toward national reconciliation. While some progress was made in pushing for elections, the political vacuum and competing factions continue to undermine efforts to stabilize the country.



Middle East

The escalating violence in Suwayda province, Syria, reached a critical point in July 2025 as sectarian violence between Druze militias and Bedouin tribes intensified. This conflict, rooted in political, economic, and social tensions, has led to widespread displacement, with over 100,000 individuals forced to flee their homes. Despite multiple ceasefires attempted by both local and international actors, the region remains volatile, with ongoing military clashes. The situation in Suwayda has exposed the vulnerabilities of Syria's fragile governance system.

In an unexpected development, Saudi Arabia and Iran made significant strides toward diplomatic normalization in mid-July. Following years of proxy conflicts in Syria and Yemen, both countries agreed to begin high-level talks aimed at stabilizing the region. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi exchanged messages acknowledging the need for peaceful cooperation, particularly in the wake of the 2025 oil market crisis.



Israel-Iran Ceasefire – Diplomatic Tensions

Israel and Iran, which saw airstrikes, missile exchanges, and cyberattacks, a fragile ceasefire was negotiated by the United States and Qatar. The ceasefire was hailed as a significant step toward de-escalation in the Middle East, but both sides remained skeptical. Israel's government expressed concerns over the long-term viability of any truce unless Iran fully halts its nuclear ambitions and military activity in the region. Iran, on the other hand, maintained that its nuclear program was peaceful and had the right to defend itself.



Iraq's Political and Security CrisisTies

Iraq's internal stability deteriorated further in July as ISIS remnants launched a series of coordinated attacks on security checkpoints and civilian infrastructure in the northern part of the country. The attacks targeted oil pipelines, government buildings, and military installations, further complicating Iraq's efforts to rebuild after years of conflict. The U.S. military, which maintains an advisory presence in Iraq, was put on high alert, while the Iraqi government struggled to address the growing insurgency.

Europe



U.K.-GERMANY DEFENSE AND TRADE TREATY

In July, the U.K. and Germany signed a landmark defense and trade agreement that will enhance cooperation on military matters, including joint defense initiatives, weapons procurement, and intelligence-sharing. This agreement comes at a time when both countries face rising security challenges from Russia and a more assertive China. The treaty also includes provisions for coordinated sanctions against countries violating international law, such as Russia.

EU Cybersecurity Framework



The European Union launched a new cybersecurity framework aimed at improving the region's ability to defend against increasing cyberattacks from state actors like Russia and China. The framework includes stricter regulations on critical infrastructure, enhanced data protection measures, and new initiatives to share intelligence on cyber threats among EU member states.

France's Domestic Unrest



France experienced a wave of domestic protests in July, sparked by the government's austerity measures aimed at addressing the country's growing national debt. Unions led mass demonstrations in Paris and other major cities, demanding wage increases and better public services. The protests turned violent in some areas, with clashes between demonstrators and police.

Italy's Financial Crisis

Italy faced a growing financial crisis in mid-July, with concerns over its high public debt and the stability of its banking sector. The country's economic growth has stalled, and Italy's debt-to-GDP ratio is approaching unsustainable levels. The European Union has expressed concern over Italy's fiscal health and its ability to meet EU budgetary requirements. In response, Italy's government has called for urgent reforms, but political infighting has slowed progress. The crisis has raised alarm bells within the EU, particularly given Italy's status as one of the largest economies in the Eurozone.

Africa



HUMANITARIAN CRISIS WORSENS

Sudan's political and humanitarian crisis deepened in July 2025, as the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) continued their violent confrontation. The conflict has displaced millions, exacerbating the already dire situation in the country. With widespread human rights violations reported, including ethnic cleansing and targeted attacks on civilians, international calls for ceasefire and intervention have intensified, though the violence remains unabated.

Jihadist Threat Intensifies



The Sahel region witnessed a significant increase in jihadist activity in July, particularly in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger. The threat from groups such as al-Qaeda and ISIS has escalated, and despite regional cooperation through initiatives like the Accra Initiative, combating these extremist forces has proven difficult. Ongoing attacks on local military forces and civilians have added to the challenges faced by governments in the region, with international support being ramped up to tackle the growing insurgency.

China's Economic Initiatives



In July, Namibia successfully implemented the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), marking a milestone in its integration with the continent's economy. By facilitating the first shipment of goods to Nigeria, Namibia is positioning itself as a key player in Africa's economic transformation. This move comes as part of the nation's efforts to diversify its economy, focusing on manufacturing and industrialization to drive future growth.

Resilient Economic Growth Faces Regional Challenges

Countries in East Africa saw positive economic growth in July 2025, with Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda showing promising figures in sectors like agriculture and energy. However, structural challenges such as high public debt, inflation, and the vulnerability of economies to climate change remain significant obstacles to sustainable growth. These issues could undermine long-term stability, particularly in light of global economic uncertainty.



Asia

Southeast Asia is facing significant development challenges as Western nations, particularly the U.S. and the EU, have reduced aid to the region. A report from the Asian Development Bank revealed that development financing to the region is expected to fall by over \$2 billion in 2026. This reduction is attributed to the global economic downturn and shifting priorities within donor countries. This decline in foreign investment poses a serious risk to the stability of the region.

Myanmar's political crisis reached new heights in mid-July, as pro-democracy protests intensified following the military junta's continued crackdown on ethnic minorities and opposition groups. The junta's forces, supported by airstrikes and artillery, targeted key rebel positions in regions like Shan State, leading to widespread displacement of civilians. The United Nations estimates that over 3 million people have been displaced within Myanmar, with many fleeing to neighboring Thailand and Bangladesh.



South China Sea Tensions

In late July, tensions in the South China Sea flared once again after China conducted live-fire military exercises near the contested Spratly Islands. The exercises, which included missile launches and naval operations, were condemned by regional countries such as the Philippines and Malaysia, who have competing territorial claims in the area. The U.S. Navy responded by sending warships into the South China Sea as part of its "freedom of navigation" operations, increasing the risk of direct military confrontation.



Taiwan: Enhanced Defense Measures

In response to increasing military pressure from China, Taiwan has intensified its defense posture. The annual Han Kuang military exercises, held from July 8–18, included new drills and systems aimed at improving Taiwan's defensive capabilities and resilience against potential aggression. These exercises were conducted on offshore islands such as Penghu, Matsu, and Kinmen, highlighting their strategic importance in a potential cross-strait conflict.



America

The United States is facing a potential debt ceiling crisis, as Congress struggles to pass a new spending bill. With the national debt approaching \$35 trillion, political gridlock between Democrats and Republicans has made it increasingly difficult to reach a compromise. The Biden administration warned that if the debt ceiling is not raised by July 15, the U.S. could default on its debts for the first time in history. This would trigger significant economic turmoil, affecting the global financial markets and potentially leading to a downgrade of the U.S. credit rating.

Venezuela continued to spiral deeper into political instability, with President Nicolás Maduro facing increasing international pressure over his authoritarian rule. The country remains economically isolated, with skyrocketing inflation, widespread poverty, and a collapsed health system. The Venezuelan opposition launched a series of protests calling for democratic reforms and the release of political prisoners. These demonstrations were met with heavy government crackdowns.



Brazil's Green New Deal

In an ambitious move, Brazil announced the launch of a new Green New Deal aimed at reducing carbon emissions and transforming its economy into a more sustainable model. The plan, unveiled by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, includes investments of \$75 billion in renewable energy, particularly solar, wind, and hydropower. The initiative aims to address deforestation in the Amazon rainforest, which has been a major point of contention in international climate discussions.



Argentina's Economic Crisis Deepens

Argentina is facing a deepening economic crisis, as inflation continues to spiral out of control, reaching 120% annually in July 2025. The country is experiencing severe shortages of basic goods, including food and fuel, as USD shortages and international sanctions exacerbate the situation. President Javier Milei has promised bold economic reforms, including currency devaluation and austerity measures to stabilize the economy, but these moves have sparked widespread protests and strikes.



Raging Wildfires: A Global Crisis Unfolding in 2025

In July 2025, wildfires ravaged multiple regions, intensifying global debates about climate change and its devastating impacts. In North America, California's Madre Fire burned over 80,000 acres of land in San Luis Obispo County. This fire, along with others across the state, resulted in the destruction of thousands of homes, countless fatalities, and severe air pollution.

Canada also struggled with devastating wildfires in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, where more than 200,000 acres were scorched, forcing the evacuation of tens of thousands of residents. The smoke from these fires severely affected air quality in the U.S. and Canada, leading to health advisories and a strain on emergency services.

Meanwhile, Europe faced its own fire crisis. In Turkey, wildfires in İzmir Province led to the evacuation of more than 50,000 people, while Greece and Spain were hit by deadly fires, exacerbated by an intense heatwave that affected much of the Mediterranean.

The fires led to significant destruction of property, lives lost, and vast landscapes reduced to ashes. Spain and Greece, already struggling with high temperatures, found their firefighting resources overwhelmed, drawing international support from neighboring countries to contain the blazes.

In the Middle East, Syria's Latakia Governorate became a hotspot for wildfires, which ravaged forests and agricultural lands. Syria, already suffering from a protracted civil war, lacked sufficient firefighting resources, which hampered efforts to control the fires.

The conflict in the region, along with the country's strained infrastructure, made it harder for authorities to contain the wildfires, resulting in severe environmental damage and loss of livelihoods.

Thank you for reading!

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