

# GLOBALNEXUSBRIEF



## RESOLVING SUDAN'S CIVIL WAR

The United Kingdom, alongside Germany and France, is set to host a high-level conference on April 15 at Lancaster House in London, marking the second anniversary of Sudan's civil war. The conference aims to build a coalition among external stakeholders to demand a ceasefire and accountability for war crimes. Notably, representatives from the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have been excluded.

## ECONOMIC RISKS FROM U.S. TARIFFS

The Bank of England has expressed concerns over the UK's exposure to global risks stemming from the newly imposed U.S. tariffs. The Financial Policy Committee highlighted the potential for weakened financial systems and increased market volatility. With the UK being a globally integrated economy, the disruptions in international trade could have significant adverse effects, including heightened public debt levels.

## GLOBAL TRADE TENSIONS



President Donald Trump's announcement of sweeping tariffs, including a 104% levy on Chinese imports, has ignited a full-blown trade war. China retaliated with 84% tariffs on U.S. goods and imposed restrictions on American companies. The escalating tensions have led to significant market volatility, with global stock markets experiencing sharp declines.



## Middle East

### Iran Reaches Tentative Nuclear Framework Deal

Iran and Western negotiators reached a preliminary framework deal to limit Iran's uranium enrichment activities in exchange for partial sanctions relief. The agreement, brokered with European mediation, aims to revive elements of the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Under the framework, Iran will cap enrichment at 5% and allow expanded IAEA inspections.



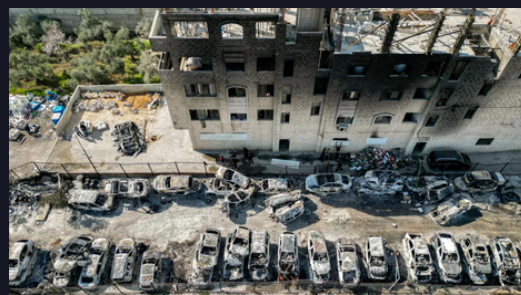
### Saudi Arabia Implements Sweeping Labor Reforms

The Saudi government enacted a landmark labor reform package aimed at improving workers' rights and aligning the kingdom with international labor standards. Key provisions include stricter oversight of recruitment agencies, caps on working hours, minimum wage guarantees, and the expansion of labor courts to address disputes.



### Escalation in Northern Syria Following Turkish Drone Strikes

Tensions flared in northern Syria after Turkish drone strikes targeted Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) positions near the town of Ayn Issa. The strikes came days after Turkish officials accused the SDF of planning cross-border attacks. Syrian Kurdish leaders condemned the strikes, calling them violations of sovereignty. Russia urged restraint from all parties while the United Nations warned of further destabilization in an already fragile conflict zone.



### West Bank Clashes Amid Israeli Settlement Announcements

Violent clashes erupted across the West Bank following Israel's announcement of plans to build 4,000 new settlement units near Nablus and Hebron. Palestinian protesters clashed with Israeli forces, resulting in multiple injuries and arrests. The UN, EU, and several Arab League nations condemned the expansion, stating it undermines prospects for a two-state solution. The Israeli government defended the decision as part of its long-term security strategy.



## Europe



### GERMANY FORMS NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT

Germany established a new coalition government led by CDU leader Friedrich Merz. The coalition emphasized national security and proposed reforms in migration and citizenship rules. Notably, the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) topped polls for the first time, reflecting public discontent during prolonged government negotiations.

### Prince William Visits Estonia



On March 20, Prince William arrived in Estonia for his first official international trip of 2025. During his visit, he met with British troops stationed under NATO's Operation Cabrit and engaged with Estonian leadership to discuss regional security concerns.

### "Sovereignty Protection" Law



Hungary's parliament passed a controversial law establishing a new government body with broad powers to investigate foreign influence in domestic affairs. The so-called "Sovereignty Protection Office" will have authority to probe NGOs, media organizations, and political figures suspected of receiving foreign funding or support.

### Netherlands Launches Major Offshore Wind Expansion

The Dutch government announced the launch of its largest offshore wind energy project to date, with new farms planned in the North Sea capable of generating 12 GW of electricity—enough to power 10 million homes. The plan is part of the Netherlands' aggressive climate targets to phase out fossil fuel use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030.

## Africa



### SUDAN ARMY LAUNCHES OFFENSIVE

The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) launched a large-scale offensive in the capital Khartoum and parts of Darfur to reclaim territory controlled by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The move comes after months of failed ceasefires and peace talks between the two sides, whose conflict erupted in April 2023 and has since caused thousands of deaths and widespread displacement.

### Mali and Burkina Faso



Mali and Burkina Faso have announced a joint cross-border military operation targeting Islamist militant groups operating in the Sahel region. The operation, dubbed "Operation Horizon Shield," involves coordinated air/ground assaults in northern Mali and southeastern Burkina Faso, aiming to dismantle terror networks affiliated with al-Qaeda and the Islamic State.

### South Africa-Economic Growth



The International Monetary Fund highlighted the necessity for South Africa to improve its business environment, strengthen governance, and reform labor markets to achieve economic success. These recommendations aimed to address the nation's ongoing economic challenges and stimulate growth.

## Humanitarian Crisis Escalates in West and Central Africa

The humanitarian situation in West and Central Africa deteriorated, with multiple crises unfolding between March 4 and 10. Countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo faced significant challenges, including health emergencies and displacement, necessitating urgent international assistance.





## Asia

### Devastating Earthquake Strikes Myanmar

On March 28, a powerful 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck the Sagaing Region of Myanmar, near Mandalay. The quake resulted in over 5,350 fatalities in Myanmar and 36 in neighboring Thailand, with thousands injured and hundreds missing. The disaster caused extensive damage to infrastructure, including the collapse of mosques during Friday prayers, leading to significant casualties among worshippers. The ongoing civil conflict in Myanmar further complicated relief efforts, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis.

### Central Asia - Unprecedented Heatwave

Central Asia faced an extraordinary heatwave in March, with temperatures soaring up to 10°C above average. Record highs were recorded in several locations, including 30.8°C in Jalalabad, Kyrgyzstan, and 29.4°C in Namangan, Uzbekistan. This climatic anomaly raised concerns about the accelerating impacts of climate change in the region.



### Student Protests Erupt in Indonesia Over Budget Cuts

In early March, Indonesia witnessed nationwide student protests triggered by significant budget cuts in education and public services. The demonstrations escalated into violence in regions like Papua, reflecting deep-seated frustrations over government policies and economic challenges.



### Thailand's Tourism Industry Hit by Earthquake Aftermath

Following the Myanmar earthquake, Thailand's tourism sector experienced a downturn, with international arrivals decreasing by an estimated 10–15%. The Thai Hotels Association reported a significant number of cancellations, particularly in Bangkok, as safety concerns grew among potential visitors.



## America

### U.S. Markets Plunge Amid Escalating Trade Tariffs

U.S. stock markets experienced a dramatic downturn after President Donald Trump's administration announced sweeping new tariffs on a wide range of imports from China, the European Union, and Mexico. The Nasdaq officially entered bear market territory, with tech giants like Apple, Microsoft, and Tesla seeing double-digit percentage losses in just days. Analysts attributed the panic to fears of rising costs for consumers, disrupted supply chains, and retaliatory trade measures from global partners.



### Millennium Tour Brings Nostalgia to Texas

The Millennium Tour, a nostalgic celebration of early 2000s R&B and hip-hop, drew thousands of fans to Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas. Featuring artists such as Trey Songz, Omarion, Bow Wow, and Pretty Ricky, the concert delivered energetic performances and evoked emotional responses from longtime fans. The sold-out arena was filled with attendees reliving iconic moments from their youth, underscoring the continued cultural impact of Y2K-era music. Social media buzzed with highlights from the night.



### U.S. Defies Court Order on Deportations to El Salvador

Despite a federal court's injunction against deporting asylum seekers to El Salvador, the Trump administration continued to carry out deportation flights, sparking widespread outrage from immigration advocates and legal experts. Human rights organizations condemned the move as a violation of both U.S. judicial authority and international refugee protections.



### U.S. Bombs Yemen, Causing Civilian Casualties

U.S. airstrikes aimed at Houthi militant positions in Yemen resulted in dozens of civilian deaths, according to international humanitarian groups. The strikes, conducted in coordination with Saudi-led coalition forces, were part of a renewed military campaign against Houthi-controlled areas following drone attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea.





## Mass Protests Over Leadership and Democratic Backsliding

In March 2025, both the United States and Turkey experienced significant waves of protests, reflecting deep-seated political tensions and public dissatisfaction with their respective administrations.

On April 5, 2025, millions of Americans across over 1,400 cities participated in the "Hands Off!" protest movement, targeting President Donald Trump and his advisor, Tesla CEO Elon Musk. The demonstrations spanned major cities including New York, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, and Los Angeles. Protesters expressed outrage over policies attributed to the Trump administration and Musk's influence, particularly concerning cuts in social services such as Social Security, Medicaid, and consumer protections. The rallies also criticized what they perceived as the administration's transfer of public resources to the wealthy, especially under Musk's controversial Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). Despite the scale of the movement, the protests remained largely peaceful, with no arrests recorded by midday Sunday.

In Turkey, widespread protests erupted following the March 19, 2025, arrest of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, a prominent rival to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Imamoglu was detained on charges of corruption and alleged links to an outlawed Kurdish group, accusations widely viewed by his supporters as politically motivated. Protesters demanded Imamoglu's release and called for early elections, expressing broader frustrations over authoritarianism, economic hardship, and limited freedoms. The government responded with a heavy police presence, using tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse crowds, and detained over 2,000 individuals. President Erdogan dismissed the protests as "street terrorism" and warned that such demonstrations would not be tolerated.

These concurrent movements underscore a global trend of citizens mobilizing against perceived governmental overreach and the erosion of democratic institutions.

*Thank you for reading!*

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