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GLOBAL

European Security: Realignment of normative transatlantic security objectives triggers a major shift in long term European security paradigm. The Trump administration's departure from the previously established mutual security objectives shared by the US and Western Europe has recast the US as a perceived unreliable partner to engage in cooperative international security efforts. This shift is demonstrative of the broad effect the Ukraine-Russia War is having on European security as Europe reacts to America's disengagement and acts to shore up their defenses against an aggressive Russia. In particular, pressure has increased on the seven European Union (EU)-North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members that currently contribute less than the required two percent of their GDP to their national defense budget – an expectation that was set more than a decade ago. On March 7, the EU announced a plan to free up an estimated 650-800 billion EUR to bolster the defense budgets of member states. A proposal to offer loans worth up to 150 billion EUR in order to buy new military equipment, with spending priorities to be based on lessons learned from the battlefield in Ukraine, was also put forward. A recent statement released by the Polish, Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian ministers of defense laid out their argument for withdrawing from the Ottawa Convention, which governs the use of anti-personnel mines. Withdrawal from the Dublin Convention banning the use of cluster bombs has also been floated – given the fundamental deterioration of the security situation in their region as states that all border Russia (including the discontinuous Kaliningrad region). This geopolitical shift is likely to permeate other dimensions of bilateral US-European and inter EU relations, including trade, travel, and civil unrest.



AMER

Haiti: Port-au-Prince is in danger of falling after renewed siege by gangs, worsening the security prognosis. As of 31 March, reports suggest the capital Port-au-Prince is teetering on the brink of collapse as heavily armed gangs intensify their coordinated assaults. The Viv Ansanm coalition originally formed in 2023 and led by notorious gang leader Jimmy “Barbecue” Chérizier, is responsible for orchestrating the recent attacks. This has allowed gangs to coordinate attacks more effectively and overwhelm isolated police outposts. Recent developments include their control of key neighborhoods – including Petion-Ville and Laboule – and parts of the presidential palace and police academy. Following the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021, a power vacuum and institutional paralysis created fertile ground for the gangs to expand their influence across Port-au-Prince. The Haitian National Police, lacking personnel and resources, struggled to respond as gangs filled the void by imposing curfews, collecting ‘taxes,’ and controlling access to basic services. The Kenyan-led United Nations Multinational Security Support (UNMSS) mission has faltered in halting the advancement of gangs due to understaffing and lack of adequate resources. In 2023, gang operations increasingly targeted strategic infrastructure – such as hospitals, airports, fuel terminals, and roads – disrupting supply chains, consolidating their grip on the countryside, and encroaching inward on urban centers. In 2024, gangs controlled an estimated 85 percent of Port-au-Prince. This territorial dominance has become further entrenched in 2025 with large-scale coordinated assaults, including the March 2 mass prison break and the March 23 seizure of government buildings – all indicating a near-total collapse of state authority in the capital. If Port-Au-Prince falls under total gang control, it will solidify Haiti’s instability and likely fuel a regional refugee crisis.



Costa Rica: Expect disruption and monitor developments surrounding Poas Volcano due to persistent volcanic activity. On 24 March, officials issued an orange alert, third highest on a four-tiered scale, due to increased volcanic activity, including moderate ash, substantial seismic activity, and substantial emissions of gases. Since mid-March, Poas Volcano, located approximately 50 km northwest of the capital San Jose, began exhibiting increased volcanic and seismic activity characterized by frequent eruptions of steam, elevated sulfur dioxide emissions, and recently ash plumes reaching up to 1000 meters above the crater. Additionally, the National Emergency Commission (CNE) has issued a Yellow Alert for surrounding regions, including Alajuela, Poas, Grecia, Sarchi, Naranjo, Zarcero, and Rio Cuarto. These areas have reported strong sulfur odors and minor ashfall, raising health concerns related to air quality which could exacerbate pre-existing respiratory conditions. The potential for future air travel disruptions should be monitored, although to date, Juan Santamaria International Airport has reported no ash accumulation on runways and operations have continued as normal. Given the volcano's persistent instability, travelers should avoid the vicinity of Poas Volcano, follow local authorities' directives, and stay updated on official safety advisories.

Chile: Avoid further demonstrations over the coming days in Valparaiso following unruly protests related to legislation aimed at redistributing quotas between artisanal and industrial sectors. On 25 March, in [Valparaiso](#), several thousand fishermen clashed with police, resulting in injuries to at least 15 officers and one protester. The proposed legislation initially allocated an overwhelming percentage of fishing quotas to artisanal (small-scale) fishers, but these percentages were reduced during Senate deliberations. This incurred accusations that lawmakers were succumbing to the interests of large industrial fishing companies. Protests began after the Senate Finance Committee delayed a vote on the controversial law,



and demonstrators erected barricades with burning tires and threw stones, prompting police to respond with tear gas and water cannons. Similar protests occurred later in the regions of [Coquimbo](#) and [Maule](#), where fishermen blocked the Pan-American Highway and engaged in violent clashes with law enforcement. The demonstrations have persisted for several days, with fishermen vowing to continue their fight for equitable fishing rights as legislative debates proceed. This unrest underscores a broader trend, as tensions between locals reliant on historic access to traditional industries, and the growing influence of large-scale corporate interests generate increasing civil unrest globally. Travelers should monitor the potential for disruptions over the coming weeks and avoid any protests.



EMEA

Gaza Strip: Rare anti-Hamas protests highlight growing public dissent of civilian population and the weakening of the group's control. Since 24 March, thousands of Gazans took to the streets over three days to demand a ceasefire and an end to Hamas rule amidst the recently renewed conflict. Demonstrators voiced frustration at Hamas following new evacuation orders from Israel in the north as it expands its operations. On 27 March, Hamas retaliated against the protests by publicly torturing and killing prominent participants who they accused of being Israeli collaborators. While small sporadic anti-Hamas protests are not uncommon, large ones involving thousands of people directly criticizing Hamas are rare. Hamas has always reacted harshly to protests challenging its authority because they undercut the group's central ethos and messaging. The fact that these protests ballooned so large before the eventual crackdown highlights the damage Israel has done to Hamas' organizational capacity and their resultant weakening territorial control.

The demonstrations emphasize a central question to the conflict. While parts of the civilian population of Gaza are eager for a change in leadership, it remains unclear who could assume political power in their place and be accepted by both the Palestinian population and the Israeli government. Israel has been adamant regarding their aim to end Hamas' governance but has ruled out letting the Palestinian Authority (PA), which currently governs the occupied West Bank, from assuming governance of the Gaza strip. The structure of an alternative Palestinian-led government has not been articulated by either side. If Israel refuses to allow some form of Palestinian government for Gazans, they are likely to continue to support Hamas, rather than accept an Israeli military occupation or annexation. In the short-term, anti-Hamas protests are unlikely to persist given the violent crackdown. However, stakeholders should continue to track tension between Hamas and Gazans as it relates to the development of another ceasefire, a long-term peace



agreement, and the potential for an escalation in violence as Hamas exerts its authority over the coming weeks.

Sudan: Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) recaptures the city of Khartoum marking a notable shift in the momentum of the ongoing civil war with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The de facto formalization of SAF's control over the capital on 27 March marked a critical development in the civil war that began in April 2023. The SAF has gained control of the strategically important landmarks, including the Presidential Palace and Khartoum International Airport, essentially consolidating their control over central Khartoum. The salience of this victory has signaled a shift in the conflict's wider dynamics. The RSF had previously controlled the capital and used it as a stronghold for the past two years. The SAF's renewed control over Khartoum ensures a strategic advantage along the eastern Nile, secures vital military infrastructure, interrupts critical RSF supply lines, and positions the SAF for deeper offensives into RSF-held western Sudan. Concurrently, the recapture of the capital strengthens the SAF's push to consolidate political authority and international legitimacy, as evidenced by plans for a new SAF-led government and recent diplomatic engagements with regional powers. The SAF's control over Khartoum also enhances hopes for the reconstruction of the al-Jili oil refinery, potentially revitalizing Sudan's domestic oil industry and securing the group further economic leverage in the conflict. Concerns have been raised regarding a possible de facto partition of the country, dampening expectations for a swift end to the conflict. The conflict's ongoing dynamic will continue to significantly shape Red Sea and regional security dynamics, migration flows, as well as the oil industry. Stakeholders should monitor this shift for its impact on broader regional security dynamics as other conflicts in central and eastern Africa intensify.



Serbia: Accusation that an illegal sonic weapon, or usage of a Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD) to disperse largest protest highlights emerging global risk. On 16 March, 100,000 people descended on the capital Belgrade to participate in the largest anti-government corruption protest since the movement began in November 2024. Reports emerged alleging the use of a military-grade sonic weapon being used to disperse and incapacitate demonstrators. While the police and defense ministry have denied the weapon was utilized, Serbia has not denied the possession of such a weapon in their arsenal. LRAD weapons emit extremely loud noises that can be used over great distances. They induce severe pain that can permanently damage hearing – or in extreme cases rupture internal organs – and cause effective psychological impairment as victims becomes majorly disoriented. The use of LRADs against nonviolent non-combatants has been deemed illegal by most countries. They were initially characterized as a more humane mechanism for crowd control, system for the mass delivery of information, and weapon for war. However, the increased deployment of this method globally against protesters underscores a new risk at demonstrations that could impact attendees, bystanders, and passersby. LRADs have already been recorded in use for crowd control and dispersal in Australia, the Czech Republic, New Zealand, and the US. Notably, a far greater number of countries have LRADs in their possession and readily employ them for anti-piracy initiatives and migrant deterrence, leaving open the possibility of future abuse against protesters – especially amongst global democratic backsliding. LRADs are most likely to be used by more authoritarian regimes that do not have a strong civil rights protection. However, democratic states have employed the method in the past and the trend should be monitored globally due to the serious underlying risks.

North Macedonia: Monitor protests over coming weeks as deadly nightclub fire ignites frustration over government corruption, emblematic of the growing



regional trend. On 16 March, a massive blaze erupted inside a club in Kocani, resulting from stage pyrotechnics. Fifty-nine people were killed and nearly 200 were injured in the ensuing crowd crush and trampling as attendees attempted to escape the fire. The club was reportedly operating at two times its occupational capacity and only had one exit that was locked at the time of the emergency. So far twenty people – individuals associated with the club and government employees – have been detained in connection with the incident, which authorities attribute to bribery and corruption. Many believe that endemic government corruption allowed the improvised venue to operate without a proper license and adequate safety measures. On 17 March, student and civic groups immediately called for demonstrations demanding transparency regarding the investigations into the tragedy. Protesters in Kocani attacked a bar smashing windows and ransacking it – due to allegations it belonged to the club owner – and also attacked the mayor's office with rocks and bottles. On 25 March, thousands of protesters marched through the capital, Skopje, to demand greater accountability. As investigations continue, protests can be expected to persist and grow in size. Prolonged anti-corruption protests have recently swept through Serbia and is a sentiment woven into other ongoing anti-government protest movements in Georgia, Romania, Hungary, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Future protests are likely to grow within major cities and run the risk of increasing escalations with law enforcement and further property damage.

Ethiopia: Heightened tensions with Eritrea and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) increase fears for a renewed regional conflict over the medium term. On 15 March, a dissident faction of the TPLF seized control of key government offices and a radio station in the politically salient and strategically important regional capital of Mekelle (Tigray region) – including Adigrat, the second largest city



in the Tigray region. Internal power struggles between senior members of the TPLF and within the Tigray interim administration over the past months had foreshadowed the possibility of a more serious breakdown. The current schism reflects the long-held disagreement over the role of the federal government within the Tigray region, an issue which first catalyzed the past brutal civil war in the Tigray region. The TPLF was the main rebel group involved in this separatist insurgency. The conflict's last iteration ended in 2022 when the TPLF and the Ethiopian government signed a peace agreement that created the current interim administration. However, delays in the full implementation of the agreement, especially regional elections, has fueled divisions within the TPLF. Eritrea previously supported Ethiopian government forces against the TPLF and never signed a peace agreement – their soldiers were accused of committing some of the worst atrocities and have allegedly remained within some occupied border regions.

In recent months, tensions between Eritrea and the federal government in Ethiopia have risen due to statements by Ethiopian President Abiy that he intended to regain control of a Red Sea port. His aggressive rhetoric has been interpreted by most to mean he is open to the use of force against Eritrea to achieve his aim – even as he claims to be committed to resolving the issue through negotiation. Eritrea issued a nationwide military mobilization in February 2025, mirroring Ethiopia's own movement of troops toward the border. Accusations that Eritrea is colluding with the dissident TPLF faction to foment turmoil in the region for their own benefit is uncorroborated, but would suggest, in conjunction with their other actions, an increased risk for a wider regional conflict. Abiy has made overtures to deescalate the situation in Tigray over the intervening weeks, calling for the public to elect a new leader of the TPLF – a call which has been widely rejected as an attempt to circumvent the TPLF's internal processes. War weary Tigray citizens have already been observed emptying their bank accounts and fleeing the region in anticipation of a renewed



open conflict – whatever shape that conflict may take, this would further destabilize the surrounding region.

France: Expect and avoid protests over the coming weeks following the sentencing of far-right National Rally (RN) party leader Marine Le Pen. On 31 March, Marine Le Pen was found guilty of embezzling approximately 6.8 million EUR in European Parliament funds to employ party staff between 2004 -2016. The trial, which began in September 2024, has drawn significant public attention, with Le Pen consistently denying any wrongdoing and framing the charges as politically motivated. Her conviction bans her from holding public office for five years – essentially barring her from the 2027 presidential race – and sentences her to four years in prison – two to be served under house arrest and two suspended. Whether or not Le Pen’s appeal is successful, either result would galvanize a significant portion of France’s population. In the interim, supporters of Le Pen have framed the trial as an attack on democracy, claiming it is a politically driven effort by the establishment to suppress dissent and eliminate a prominent opposition candidate ahead of the 2027 presidential race. This belief is likely to fuel public discontent among far-right supporters, and fuel protests across France, especially in urban areas. France has a strong precedent and tradition of civil disobedience that often manifests in widespread demonstrations that can involve violent confrontations with law enforcement. Travelers should anticipate the potential for ongoing civil unrest over the coming weeks that could cause transportation delays, as well as radicalize and motivate domestic violent extremists to potentially carry out attacks.



APAC

Nepal: Continue to surveil pro-monarchy protests over the coming weeks after demonstrations lead to deadly confrontations. On 28 March, two individuals were killed and 45 were injured when thousands of supporters of the former king clashed with police in Kathmandu, the capital. The protest became violent after some monarchy supporters drove a vehicle into a police barricade – colliding with several officers – and set fire to fourteen buildings and several vehicles. The police subsequently deployed tear gas and water cannons on the crowd. The protests reflect growing frustration within the electorate regarding government corruption that has inspired a nostalgia for the previous system of monarchy. A pro-republic counter protest took place across the city during the same timeframe. While the two demonstrations did not clash directly during this instance, the possibility of escalation is increased within the future risk landscape given the presence of two energetic, unruly, and opposing sides. A curfew has been imposed by the government in Kathmandu until 5 April. Stakeholders should monitor the expansion and persistence of protests over the coming days, further government destabilization, avoid any political rallies or potential flash point landmarks, and reconfirm travel plans.

China: Chinese Communist Party (CCP) continues to attempt to rehabilitate the global perception of the domestic business environment. On 25 March, China opened the Boao Forum for Asia, often referred to as “Asia’s Davos,” which offers a platform from which the CCP can broadcast its new business-friendly direction. On 28 March, President Xi Jinping held a rare meeting with global CEOs in a bid to boost foreign investment and tamp down trade tensions that scare away investors. These actions follow a high-profile meeting in February 2025 between Xi and prominent



Chinese CEOs, in addition to the announcement of various initiatives during the CCP's annual two-session parliamentary meeting aimed at repairing the current hostile relationship between private business and the government. Both domestic and international businesses have faced increasing scrutiny and constraints within the Chinese market over purported national security concerns and potentially counter-CCP stances. In turn, over the past couple of years, the CCP has been struggling to accelerate sluggish growth, combat low consumer spending, and manage the housing market bubble. Strategizing how best to respond to America's escalating overtures to initiate a possible a trade war has fueled Xi's increasingly robust outreach to the international business community. He has sought to emphasize continuous safe opportunities for foreign investment and the importance of stable global supply chains. Companies are advised to cautiously explore opportunities in China, but remain cognizant that the domestic economy suffers from a critical lack of transparency and severe over capacity in many industries. The CCP is highly unpredictable and liable to retaliate if they believe their authority has been overstepped by private enterprise.

Indonesia: Monitor reemergence of student-led demonstrations over the coming weeks responding to passage of controversial amendments allowing military personnel to hold key government positions. On 27 March, protests that broke out in the capital Jakarta near The People's Representative Council Parliamentary building have quickly spread across urban centers. Protesters threw petrol bombs, firecrackers, and rocks prompting police to respond with water cannons. The amendments will alter a 2004 law to allow active military officers to assume civilian roles within various governmental bodies such as the Supreme Court, the Attorney General's Office, and the Ministry for Political and Security Affairs – echoing for many the 30-year military rule of Suharto. Current President Prabowo



has attempted to downplay his former role as a special forces commander under Suharto. However, recent actions have exposed his affiliation for Suharto's autocratic tendencies. Anti-government student demonstrations first began on 27 February 2025 in response to slashes in funding for education. The reemergence of the student led-movement, in response to this democratic backsliding, suggests that protests are liable to persist and grow over the coming weeks – increasing the risk of violent confrontation with law enforcement. Travelers are advised to avoid any political demonstrations or rallies and exercise heightened situational awareness.

Myanmar/Thailand: Expect residual disruption following powerful earthquake that resulted in extensive damage, fatalities, and injuries. On 28 March, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck the region and was followed by strong aftershocks. The epicenter was reported to be Mandalay (Myanmar) – the second largest city in the country. Prosegur advises deferring travel to Bago, Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing regions, in addition to the Naypyidaw Union Territory and Shan state in Myanmar. Due to the ongoing civil war within the country, the full extent of fatalities, injury, and destruction is difficult to accurately assess from the outside. Humanitarian organizations have documented significant damage to urban roads and critical highways including the Yangon-Mandalay expressway. Essential inter-city and overland movements should only be attempted after liaising with local contacts to confirm the feasibility of travel due to road conditions and the collapse of many urban buildings. Both the Mandalay and Naypyidaw international airports are currently not operational for civilian flights. In Thailand, the seismic event effected the Bangkok area killing at least ten people, injuring hundreds, and collapsed a high rise building under construction in the downtown area. Expect residual travel delays and difficulty accessing public services over the coming weeks within Myanmar due



to damaged infrastructure and diminished government capacity for effective disaster relief.