

TODAYS TRENDS ON CAPITOL HILL

JUNE 21, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

U.S. DIPLOMATIC PIVOT & DOMESTIC CRISIS: A NATION AT THE CROSSROADS (JUNE 21, 2026)

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE: CONVERGENCE OF GLOBAL DIPLOMACY & CONSTITUTIONAL FRICTION

EXTERNAL PIVOT (SWITZERLAND)



STRATEGIC LEVERAGE
(GAS PRICES, INFLATION)?

STRATEGIC LEVERAGE FOR
DOMESTIC ECONOMIC RELIEF
(GAS PRICES, INFLATION)?



TRADITIONAL
CONSERVATISM

POPULIST
RIGHT

PENCE: REJECTS POPULISM, CRITICIZES NATIONALIZATION

INTERNAL FRICTION (U.S.A.)



MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS & KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

JUDICIAL REBUKES & REGULATORY RISK



BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP
(SCOTUS WEIGHING)

ICE INVESTIGATION FILES
(STATE AGs SUING DHS)

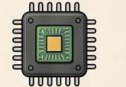
TARIFFS INVALIDATED
(IEEPA)

EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY CHALLENGED BY COURTS & STATES

ARMED CONFLICT & TECH SOVEREIGNTY



AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS
(DRONES) TIPPING POINT



DOMESTIC VACUUM IN
CRITICAL MINERALS & CHIPS
(ASIA DOMINANCE)

DAVID BALDACCIO SUES OPENAI/MICROSOFT (AI TRAINING DATA)

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY



OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL CENTER
DEDICATION
(DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONALISM)



NY DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY
DEBATES (FRACTIOUS:
ICE ABOLITION, AIPAC, GAZA)

STRUGGLE: INSTITUTIONAL CONTINUITY VS. RADICAL DISRUPTION

MACROECONOMICS & TRADE



MARKET HIGH
(52,000+)

REAL
WAGES/INFLATION

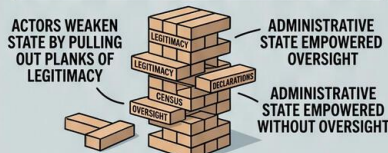
PROTECTIONIST-INTERVENTIONIST MIX
INFLATION & HIGH ENERGY PRICES REMAIN VULNERABILITIES

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS & THEMES

THE END OF 'AMERICAN INEVITABILITY'



'JENGA POLITICS' & INSTITUTIONAL DECAY



FUTURE OUTLOOK & RISK ASSESSMENT

HYPOTHESES

1. TECHNICAL STALL
(INTENTIONALLY PROLONGED)
2. BIRTHRIGHT FALLOUT
(CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS/UNREST)
3. G.O.P. FRACTURE
(POPULIST RNC CASH-STRAPPED)

RISK ASSESSMENT (HIGH IMPACT FLASHPOINTS)



STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

- SHORT TERM
(REACTIONARY PROTESTS,
SCOTUS RULING)
- MEDIUM TERM
(HORMUZ REOPENING,
INFLATION DIP THEN SPIKE)
- LONG TERM
(LOSS OF TECH LEAD TO
CHINA, UK-US TENSION)

TODAYS TRENDS ON CAPITOL HILL

JUNE 21, 2026

U.S. DIPLOMATIC PIVOT IN THE
MIDDLE EAST AMIDST SUPREME
COURT REBUKES OF EXECUTIVE
OVERREACH AND AN INTERNAL
G.O.P. IDEOLOGICAL CRISIS

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

June 21, 2026, marks a pivotal convergence of high-stakes international diplomacy and deepening domestic constitutional friction. Vice President J.D. Vance arrived in Switzerland to initiate technical negotiations intended to formalize a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** with Iran, signaling an effort by the Trump administration to wind down "Operation Epic Fury" [before the 2026 midterm elections](#). While the administration claims progress on reopening the **Strait of HORMUZ** and curbing Iran's nuclear program, foreign policy analysts warn that the U.S. may be **ceding strategic leverage** for temporary domestic economic relief, specifically regarding gas prices and inflation [impacts on voters](#). This diplomatic maneuver occurs against a backdrop of severe tension with Israel, as Prime Minister Netanyahu remains on a "collision course" with a U.S. presidency seeking to **extricate itself from active conflict** [in the region](#).

Domestically, the administration faces a coordinated counter-offensive from the **Judicial branch and State Attorneys General**. Recent Supreme Court rulings have struck down the administration's unilateral imposition of tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and limited the **federalization of the National Guard** for domestic law enforcement [under 10 USC 12406](#). Concurrently, an internal ideological battle for the Republican Party has broken into the open, as former Vice President **Mike Pence** launches a book tour to champion "traditional conservatism" against the "populist right," specifically criticizing the **nationalization of private businesses** and the marginalization of the "Right to Life" as a purely state-level issue [in the new administration](#).

The day is further defined by the **dedication of the Obama Presidential Center** in Chicago, which served as a rally for Democratic institutionalism featuring three former presidents. This display of "Solidarity" contrasts with the **fractious New York Democratic primary debates**, where insurgent "Democratic Socialist" candidates are challenging establishment incumbents over issues of **U.S. complicity in Gaza**, the abolition of ICE, and the influence of **AIPAC and corporate PAC money** [on party policy](#). As the nation approaches its **250th anniversary (A250)**, the struggle between institutional continuity and radical disruption remains the **defining domestic fault line**.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **Technical Peace Negotiations Begin in Switzerland:** Vice President Vance joined delegations from **Pakistan, Qatar, and Iran** to begin technical talks following a preliminary MOU. Vance signaled a "turn over a new leaf" strategy, offering to **transform the U.S.-Iran relationship** if Iran abandons regional instability and long-term nuclear ambitions [in exchange for sanctions relief](#).
- **Judicial Rebukes of Executive Authority:** State AGs from California, Minnesota, and New Jersey highlighted major legal victories against the administration, including the invalidation of broad-based tariffs and the blocking of **military deployments to "failed cities"** [without gubernatorial consent](#).
- **G.O.P. Ideological Schism:** Former VP Mike Pence explicitly rejected the "siren song of populism," characterizing the administration's economic policies as **closer to "Karl Marx" than Reagan** due to the potential nationalization of American business interests [and protectionist trade barriers](#).
- **Bernie Sanders and the "AI Wealth Fund":** At a New York campaign rally, Senator Sanders introduced legislation to establish an **AI Wealth Fund**, which would give the public **50% ownership of major AI companies** to mitigate inequality caused by **technological automation of working-class jobs**.

- **Intensifying New York Primaries:** Congressional debates in NY-7, NY-10, and NY-13 revealed deep rifts over **ICE abolition and Israel aid**. Incumbents like Dan Goldman and Adriano Espaillat defended their records against challengers like Brad Lander and Darializa Avila, who characterize incumbents as "corporate Democrats" beholden to **AIPAC and real estate interests** [while neighbors face "abduction" by ICE](#).

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- Operation **Epic Fury** (Iran War) is entering a fragile cease-fire phase, though critics argue the administration has **lost the negotiation** by allowing Iran to hold the Strait of Hormuz hostage for concessions [on oil sanctions](#).
- The use of **autonomous systems (drones)** in Ukraine has reached a tipping point, with reports of Russian soldiers surrendering to land drones, necessitating a new U.S. strategy for **sovereignty in autonomous manufacturing outside of Chinese supply chains**.

Legal Warfare & Regulatory Risk

- The Supreme Court is weighing **Birthright Citizenship** (US v. Launius context), with AGs warning that 250,000 people per year could lose citizenship if the administration's **Executive Order is upheld by a 6-3 or 5-4 conservative majority**.
- State AGs are preparing to **sue the DHS** for withholding investigative files related to the shooting of Alex Pretti and Renee Good by ICE agents during **Operation Metro Surge in Minnesota**.

Tech Sovereignty & AI

- The "Priority Technologies" report identifies a **domestic vacuum** in critical mineral processing and drone component manufacturing, with 100% of leading-edge chips **currently made in Asia** [despite Chips Act investments](#).
- Authors like David Baldacci are suing **OpenAI and Microsoft** in the Southern District of New York, alleging the "theft" of every book and academic paper published in the **last seven years** to train large language models [without compensation](#).

Macroeconomics & Trade

- The S.C. Supreme Court's striking down of the **International Emergency Economic Powers Act** tariffs has removed a primary tool of the administration's "Pirate Ship" trade policy [against allies like Japan and the EU](#).
- South Carolina gubernatorial candidate Pamela Evette is pledging to **sunset all 80,000 state regulations** and eliminate the state income tax to compete with **Florida and Texas** [in the regional race for capital](#).

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The End of "American Inevitability": A pervasive theme across the day's discussions—from Justice Gorsuch's focus on the **contingency of 1776** to the "Priority Technologies" panel—is the realization that U.S. dominance is **no longer a given**. Whether in the context of **quantum computing** (where a "Quantum Winter" could let China set global standards) or **manufacturing** (where the U.S. has lost the

"know-how" for critical mineral extraction), there is a growing urgency to move past "naive optimism" [regarding the global trade order](#). Even Justice Jackson warned that the Court's use of the "Emergency Docket" is undermining **public confidence** in the orderly process of law, suggesting an **institutional fragility** that parallels the physical vulnerability of the nation's supply chains [and energy security](#).

"Jenga Politics" and Institutional Decay: Danah Boyd's concept of "**Jenga Politics**"—where various actors weaken the state by **pulling out planks of legitimacy**—is visible in the day's reporting on the 2020 Census and the administration's use of **emergency declarations** to bypass Congress. This decay is matched by a "shrinking world" of **forensic and cyber-espionage capabilities** that empower the administrative state even as the political branches fail to provide oversight [of rogue agencies like ICE](#). The tension is most acute in the **New York debates**, where the "Solidarity" narrative seeks to bypass a Democratic establishment that it views as **complicit in the erosion of immigrant and labor rights** [for corporate gain](#).

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

The United States is currently experiencing a **crisis of consensus** regarding the fundamental role of the federal government. The **Mike Pence** events at the Nixon Library and National Press Club underscore a **divisive struggle** within the Republican base between those who value "peace through strength" and institutional restraint versus those who embrace "**populist right**" tactics, such as the **unilateral use of force and protectionist tariffs** [that disrupt domestic agricultural markets](#). Pence reported

heartland anger over "lawfare" as a driver for Trump's support, yet expressed concern that the administration may use those same tools **to retaliate against political foes in a second term.**

Instability is also manifest in the **urban-federal divide**. Operation Metro Surge and Operation Metro Surge's **militarization of civil immigration enforcement** have turned states like Minnesota into zones of "state persecution of a state," leading to **economic contractions and social fear in SOMALI and Latino communities**. This is mirrored in the NYC debates, where the "abduction" of neighbors by federal secret police is being used to fuel a **Democratic Socialist surge** that seeks to defund traditional law enforcement and **abolish federal agencies entirely**.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

The U.S. is currently projecting a **fragmented global posture**. While the administration is pursuing a "technical negotiation" for peace with Iran, its **absence from the G7** (where partners offered "modest congratulations" but shifted focus to Ukraine) suggests a **retreat from traditional multilateralism in favor of transactional bilateralism**. The "outside world" is increasingly framed as a **competitor for "scale"** (China) or a **source of "inconvenience"** (the EU), rather than a stable alliance network. The "Freedom Plane" tour of founding documents **to eight U.S. cities** represents an attempt to use **nationalist history** to bolster internal cohesion as external influence **wanes in regions like the Indo-Pacific**.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Market sentiment is currently pricing in the "Stock Market shooting up like a rocket ship" every time peace with Iran is mentioned, yet **inflation and high energy prices** remain the primary vulnerabilities for the incumbent party **heading into November**. The administration's economic statecraft is characterized by a **protectionist-interventionist mix** that faces mounting legal and corporate resistance.

Key Economic Vectors:

- **The Markets:** The stock market reached a new **all-time high above 52,000**, but analysts warn of a "trickle-down failure" where gains are **not reaching the working class in terms of real wages**.
- **Corporate Mergers:** California AG Bonta confirmed the state is **actively investigating** the Warner Bros.-Paramount merger, despite federal DOJ approval, citing **anti-trust risks of job cuts and wage lowering**.
- **Compensation Funds:** The administration has reportedly established a **reparations fund of \$1.776 billion** to be paid to "allies" and individuals affected by **January 6th-related prosecutions and other political grievances**.
- **Energy & Logistics:** While the Strait of Hormuz is reportedly "open" according to CENTCOM, Iran claims it is **imposing 60-day tolls** on shipping as "reimbursement" for services rendered **to the Middle East**.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The current personnel landscape is defined by the **sidelining of traditional diplomats** in favor of personal envoys and "political

generals," alongside a **Democratic effort** to identify a "next Barack Obama" as his Presidential Center **opens in Chicago**.

- **Marco Rubio:** Characterized by some as the "leading diplomat" but notably **absent from the Iran technical talks**, leading to rumors he is being **sidelined by Vance, Witkoff, and Kushner to preserve his 2028 prospects**.
- **J.D. Vance:** Functioning as the **primary face of Middle East peace**, assuming a role that usually belongs to the Secretary of State, and building **direct donor lines** as RNC Finance Chair **for a potential 2028 run**.
- **Kari Lake:** Faced a hostile confirmation hearing for her **Ambassador to Jamaica** nomination; criticized by Senator Kaine for "undiplomatic behavior" and **fabricating cartel links to domestic political opponents**.
- **Phil Breast:** Introduced as the new **President of the American Constitution Society on the organization's 25th anniversary**.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The network's hierarchy for the day emphasized **Institutional Pride vs. Historical Injustice**. The "Lead Story" was the **technical negotiations in Switzerland**, framed as an ambitious, if messy, attempt to reset the Middle East. This was juxtaposed with the **Obama Presidential Center dedication**, which utilized a tone of **reassurance and Democratic nostalgia** to distract from current political instability. "Buried Stories" included the **specifics of the 1.8 billion dollar slush fund** for political allies and the **details of forensic evidence**

withholding in Minnesota, which were minimized in favor of **historical tours of the National Archives and Spy Museum**. **Conspicuous Omissions** include any detailed reporting on the **status of the \$300 billion reconstruction fund** for Iran mentioned in the technical talks—specifically, which "regional partners" (likely Gulf states) are providing the capital the U.S. **refuses to invest**.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The subtext of the day's framing reveals a world shifting from **rules-based order to "strongman" transactionalism**. Allies are increasingly viewed as **insecure dependents** (Ukraine, Lebanon), while adversaries are framed as **clever, wait-and-see predators** (China, Iran).

COUNTRIES and LEADERS

- **Iran / Supreme Leader's Son:** Framed as "smarter and more cunning" than U.S. negotiators, successfully using a **shipwrecked economy** to extort billions in "reparations" and **sanctions relief for signing a 2-3 page document**.
- **Israel / Benjamin Netanyahu:** Portrayed as an "expansionist" war criminal by some and an **embattled, desperate ally** by others; currently on a "collision course" with Trump as he **defends against Hezbollah in Lebanon without U.S. air cover**.
- **Russia / Vladimir Putin:** Framed as the "**unintended beneficiary**" of the Iran war, receiving a cash injection from energy price spikes, but now facing a "**reset**" of **U.S. attention** toward Ukraine and potential **long-range missile consequences from the West**.

- **China / Xi Jinping:** Implicitly characterized as a **"homogeneous" but rapidly catching-up power** that uses "soft-power" tools like **TikTok and EV overcapacity** to dominate Western markets [while the U.S. bickers internally](#).

NON-STATE & CORPORATE ACTORS

- **AIPAC:** Framed by New York primary challengers as a **distorting force** that buys "corporate Democrats" to fund **"Netanyahu's wars" at the expense of local affordability**.
- **ICE:** Portrayed by State AGs and NYC activists as a **"paramilitary institution"** that has moved from civil enforcement to **"rogue" abductions and constitutional violations in blue jurisdictions**.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

The metadata of the day suggests a sophisticated **narrative seeding effort** by the administration to characterize the Iran deal as "Peace through Strength," despite expert analysis suggesting it is a **surrender of leverage** to lower gas prices before the midterms [in November](#). Concurrently, a "cognitive warfare" effort is evident in **digital literacy challenges**, where algorithms feed a "steady stream of distractions" to prevent a common understanding of facts [regarding immigration or the economy](#). The **A250 "Freedom Plane"** tour is a classic "spectacle" used to **reclaim the patriotic narrative** while the administrative state undergoes "Jenga Politics" **plank-pulling behind the scenes**.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **The "Technical" Stall:** The technical negotiations in Switzerland will likely be **intentionally prolonged** to ensure gas prices remain low through the midterm election, with a "final deal" remaining elusive until **January 2027**.
- **Birthright Fallout:** If the Supreme Court strikes down birthright citizenship, it will trigger an **immediate constitutional crisis** and mass civil unrest in California and Texas, potentially leading to the first **modern test of the Insurrection Act**.
- **G.O.P. Fracture:** Mike Pence's coalition will likely fail to win back the base but will **succeed in siphoning off 10-15% of traditional donors**, leading to a **cash-strapped populist RNC** heading into 2028.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect **reactionary protests** in NYC and Minnesota as primary results come in and ICE investigative files **remain suppressed**. The Supreme Court will likely issue its **Birthright Citizenship ruling**, causing a "shockwave" through **immigrant legal defense networks nationwide**.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The **reopening of the Strait of Hormuz** will lead to a temporary **inflationary dip**, but the 12-month consequences of supply chain disruptions in **natural gas and fertilizer will hit agricultural prices by winter**. "Jenga Politics" in the civil service will accelerate **resignations in the EPA and State Department**.

Long Term (1-5 Years): The U.S. will likely lose its **standard-setting lead in Quantum and Bio-manufacturing** to China unless a "sustained reliable investment" backbone is **restored through Congress** [outside of executive whim](#). The **UK-US alliance** will remain tensed over the **unaddressed legacy of slavery** [in the Atlantic world](#).

RISK ASSESSMENT

The operating environment is currently defined by **low-probability, high-impact flashpoints** that could derail the administration's pre-midterm stabilization efforts.

- **Risk of Israel-Iran War Escalation:** Triggers: A "chicken and egg" problem where an Israeli strike on Beirut **prompts a HORMUZ closure** despite the MOU. Likelihood: **Moderate**. Impact: **Global economic catastrophe** and U.S. re-entry into kinetic war. Mitigations: **Vigorous regional cease-fire** [enforcement via Qatar/Pakistan](#).
- **Collapse of Public Trust in SCOTUS:** Triggers: Another "leak" of a **major decision** or an unpopular Birthright ruling on the Shadow Docket. Likelihood: **High**. Impact: **State-level nullification** of federal rulings. Mitigations: **Mandatory ethical codes** and an **end to Shadow Docket overuse**.
- **Supply Chain Shock in Critical Minerals:** Triggers: China **weaponizing its 90% dominance** in rare earths to block U.S. "scale out" of EV/Defense manufacturing. Likelihood: **Moderate**. Impact: **U.S. inability to produce modern missiles and wind turbines**. Mitigations: **Advanced market commitments** [with allies like Australia](#).

- **Social Media Radicalization of Youth:** Triggers: AI chat-bots **sexualizing or inciting self-harm** in vulnerable teens. Likelihood: **Confirmed/Ongoing**. Impact: **Total "metaphysical" disintegration of the youth workforce**. Mitigations: **Banning algorithms for kids under 18**.
- **Electoral Malfeasance:** Triggers: Administration **rigging of voter rolls** via the DHS or "seizing voting machines" under emergency pretexts. Likelihood: **Low (Judicially blocked)**. Impact: **The end of the American experiment**. Mitigations: **Federal unmasking of ICE** [and strict DHS oversight](#).

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- **The 300 Billion Dollar Question:** Transcripts mention a "\$300 billion plan for reconstruction" of Iran funded by "regional partners." It remains unclear if this is **actual capital or mere "guarantees"** [that Iran will likely reject](#).
- **The Absence of Rubio:** While Rubio is the "top diplomat," his **absence from Switzerland** is never adequately explained, leaving a gap in the **Strategic analysis of factional battles** [within the cabinet](#).
- **Status of Nuclear Enrichment:** The MOU demands a **20-year halt** while Iran offers 10. The gap in the **ground truth of Iran's current enrichment level** (potentially enough for 10 bombs) [is a critical unknown](#).
- **Economic Impact of "The Slate":** The NYC debates mention "Taxing the Rich" to fund \$21 billion projects (Sunnyside Yard), but fail to account for **capital flight from New York to SC/Texas**.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

- **The "Vance Distraction":** Far from seeking peace, the Technical talks in Switzerland are a **stalling tactic** intended to freeze Iran's response long enough for **Israel to finish degrading Hezbollah**, after which the U.S. will **resume "Operation Epic Fury"** once the midterms are secured [in late November](#).
- **The "G.O.P. Trojan Horse":** Mike Pence's "traditional conservatism" is not a rejection of Trump but a **coordinated efforts to manage the "Never Trump" donors** and keep them within the Republican ecosystem, ensuring that **Marco Rubio** remains a viable standard-bearer for **all factions in 2028** [after the populist surge has peaked](#).
- **Black Swan Event:** A **massive cyber-attack** on the U.S. electrical grid by a "non-state actor" (proxied by Russia/Iran) that **coincides with a Supreme Court ruling on Birthright**, creating a "perfect storm" of physical darkness and **legal chaos** that forces the first **legitimate use of the Insurrection Act** [on American soil](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- **Security:** Shift from "Operation Epic Fury" to **Maritime Convoy operations** in the Red Sea to ensure the Strait of Hormuz is not replaced by **another chokepoint** [controlled by Iranian proxies](#).

- **Economic:** Implement "**Advanced Market Commitments**" to build a **domestic magnet industry** and break the 90% dependence on China [for priority defense tech](#).
- **Diplomatic:** Formalize the **U.S.-Canada-Mexico** "North American Fortress" immigration strategy to counter the **failing G7 multilateralism** [of the 20th century](#).

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain:** Treat the "Technical Talks" as **unstable**; maintain high inventories of **natural gas and critical minerals** to avoid the "Quantum Winter" scenario [where processing stalls](#).
- **Compliance:** Anticipate **state-level anti-trust litigation** (CA/MN/NJ) for any major M&A activity, even if **federal approval is granted** [by the current DOJ](#).
- **Capital Allocation:** Focus on "**Scale-Out**" **hardware firms** that integrate AI as a copilot for **local manufacturing**, leveraging the "Priority Technologies" [framework for subsidies](#).

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The legislative environment is dominated by **bipartisan civics reform**, attempts to **curb**

AI monopolies, and a fierce debate over **federal immigration funding**.

• **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:**

- **The CIVICS Act:** Bipartisan bill to **mandate Constitutional education** for grant recipients; intended to restore "Digital Literacy" and **Institutional trust** [in a polarized electorate](#).
- **The AI Wealth Fund Act:** Sanders proposal to give the public **50% stake in AI firms** to fund **Universal Childcare** and compensate for **technological automation** [of jobs](#).
- **The Robin Hood Act:** Goldman (NY-10) proposal to tax **loans against billionaire assets**, targeting the "1% tax rate" of **Silicon Valley oligarchy** [to fund social programs](#).
- **The Block the Bombs Act:** Progressive proposal to **cease all offensive arms sales to Israel** until a **two-state solution** is initiated [and the Gaza siege ends](#).

• **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:**

- **Kari Lake Confirmation Hearing:** Senate Foreign Relations; strategic intent to assess fitness for **Ambassador to Jamaica** amid gang violence surge [and China influence](#).
- **Switzerland Technical Briefing:** technical negotiations between **U.S. (Vance), Pakistan, and Qatar** regarding the **Iranian Nuclear Program** [and the HORMUZ MOU](#).
- **American Constitution Society 25th Anniversary:** Multi-state AG panel defending the **Rule of Law** against **unconstitutional executive orders** [on citizenship and militarization](#).

KEY STORIES

- **VP Vance Switzerland Briefing:** VP Vance and leaders from Pakistan and Qatar announce the start of technical negotiations with Iran. Vance claims "great progress" on **reopening the Strait of Hormuz** and ending the nuclear program [in Bergenstock, Switzerland](#).
- **Supreme Court Birthright Citizenship Oral Arguments:** The Court hears a challenge to Trump's Executive Order ending **jus soli citizenship**. Donald Trump personally attends the argument, **a first for a sitting president** [according to AG Bonta](#).
- **Obama Presidential Center Dedication:** Obama, Michelle, Biden, Clinton, and Bush gather in Chicago for the center's opening. Speeches focus on **Democratic citizenship** and the "Proactive Task" of improving the nation [amidst rising authoritarianism](#).
- **Mike Pence NPC Book Launch:** Pence rejects the **"populist right,"** specifically criticizing the **slush fund for J6 insurrectionists** and the "nationalization" of businesses [at the National Press Club](#).
- **US v. Launius SCOTUS Case:** Oral arguments regarding whether **regular marijuana users** (habitual users) can be disarmed under the Second Amendment. Discussion centers on the "Habitual Drunkard" **historical analog** [from the founding era](#).
- **Priority Technologies Panel:** Elisabeth Reynolds and MIT faculty warn of a "Quantum Winter" and the **U.S. loss of manufacturing dominance** to China in **drones and semiconductors** [despite Chips Act funding](#).

- **Medal of Honor Ceremony:** President Trump awards the Medal of Honor to **Major James Capers Jr.** (the first Black Marine officer promoted from sergeant in combat) and **Army Major Nicholas Dockery** (who signaling enemy positions with smoke grenades during a Taliban ambush) [at the White House](#).
- **New York Democratic Primary Debates:** Candidates for NY-7, NY-10, and NY-13 clash over the **BDS movement, ICE abolition, and AIPAC money**. Insurgent challengers like Darializa Avila accuse incumbents of "**abandonment**" of the immigrant community [to real estate interests](#).
- **Operation Metro Surge Litigation:** Minnesota AG Keith Ellison confirms a **criminal investigation** into ICE agents who shot **Julio Sosa-Solis through a closed door**, refuting federal claims of self-defense with **CCTV evidence** [during Operation Metro Surge](#).
- **David Baldacci AI Lawsuit:** Number one best-selling author discusses his name-plaintiff role in a lawsuit against **OpenAI and Microsoft** for "scraping" every book and paper **without compensation to train super-intelligence**.
- **Fables for the Semi-Quincentennial:** Matthew Mehan introduces "The American Book of Fables" at Hillsdale College, intended to rebuild a "**shared memory**" of American virtues through **animal allegories** [for the A250 celebration](#).
- **Lukas Book Prizes:** Danah Boyd (Data are Made, Not Found) and Kareem Zeidan (In the Shadow of the Cage) discuss the **administrative state collapse** and the **radicalization of youth through MMA culture** [at the 2026 awards](#).

- **The Crown's Silence Book Launch:** Brooke Newman discusses the British monarchy's "unambiguous and extensive" **financial involvement in slavery** [at the Virginia Museum of History](#).

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Today's Trends On Capitol Hill is a public interest experiment in applying deep trend analysis to the daily business of the United States Congress to explore how responsibly applied advanced AI can help journalists, scholars and Congressional staff better understand the overarching legislative trends, themes and patterns of Congress.

No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

Each morning, we apply Google's Gemini 3 to deeply examine yesterday's Congressional activity to tease out its overarching themes and trends into a richly annotated thematic analysis. Each high-level insight is connected back to the original source material, allowing journalists and scholars to understand the legislative themes and trends and instantly click out to the underlying sources for details.

This inaugural report is based on deep analysis of CSPAN, CSPAN2 and CSPAN3 coverage in collaboration with the Internet Archive's TV News Archive. It is currently limited to the Congressional business covered on those three CSPAN channels and thus may not include all major Congressional business, may include activity from previous days that aired on a later date, and/or may include other major federal, state and local governmental business. We will continue to refine this report to incorporate a growing array of Congressional information sources. This report is entirely machine generated using Gemini 3 and may include errors and

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