TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

PRESSTV

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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GEOPOLITICAL INSTABILITY ESCALATES AS IRAN REDEFINES DEFENSE DOCTRINE AMIDST GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The geopolitical landscape of West Asia is undergoing a fundamental shift as Iran formally transitions its military posture from a reactive defense to an active deterrence model with "no geographical limits." Central to this development is the discourse within Iran's Assembly of Experts regarding a potential withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), a move framed as a necessary response to the perceived failure of international institutions to protect Iranian sovereignty against US and Israeli aggression. This doctrinal shift coincides with the "Third Imposed War," a full-scale conflict that has lasted over eight months, resulting in direct kinetic exchanges, including the recent IRGC destruction of an American radar system in Bahrain in retaliation for strikes on Iranian infrastructure.

The economic consequences of this prolonged conflict have reached a tipping point, with global fossil fuel import costs increasing by an estimated $330 billion. This "economic wrecking ball" has triggered widespread domestic instability across the West, manifesting in "blue tsunami" midterm election losses for the Republican party in the United States and massive labor strikes in Spain and France. The network portrays a fracturing Western alliance, where the US administration is consumed by internal finger-pointing—specifically targeting war secretary Pete Hegseth—while European nations face the "suicidal mission" of maintaining energy security amidst spiraling inflation and dwindling strategic reserves.

Concurrent with these shifts, the "Resistance Axis" has expanded its operational scope. Yemeni forces continue a sophisticated maritime blockade in the Red Sea and Bab-el-Mandeb, successfully leveraging asymmetric tactics to challenge global shipping and Saudi economic stability. The convergence of these events suggests a transition toward a new regional security order where the "Unity of Arenas" doctrine binds the various fronts of the resistance, aiming to end US military presence in the region and establish a multipolar reality independent of Western dictates.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Iran Redefines Strategic Deterrence and Defense Doctrine

- The Iranian Assembly of Experts has called for a formal review of the defense doctrine, including potential exit from the NPT, citing repeated threats to nuclear capabilities.
- The new doctrine of "strategic ambiguity" removes geographical restrictions on retaliatory strikes, vowing to target US and Israeli assets anywhere in the world.

- Senior military commanders report a "multifold increase" in domestic production of ammunition, drones, and ballistic missiles despite ongoing sanctions.

Direct Kinetic Escalation Between IRGC and US Forces

- The IRGC announced the destruction of an American early warning radar system in Bahrain, characterizing it as a warning against continued aerial violations.
- Iranian naval forces reported shooting down an American MQ1 drone off the coast of Siriq using indigenous capabilities.
- A liquified natural gas (LNG) tanker caught fire in the Strait of Hormuz after reportedly ignoring warnings from Iranian forces regarding unauthorized shipping routes.

Global Economic Fallout of the "Third Imposed War"

- War-related disruptions have cost global economies $330 billion in energy imports between March and August 2026.
- Wholesale LNG prices in Asian markets have risen 75% higher than pre-war forecasts, with crude oil prices jumping from $66 to $108 per barrel.
- The average American household has incurred approximately $1,184 in additional costs due to war-driven energy inflation.

US Midterm Election Results and Administrative Collapse

- The Democratic Party "flipped both chambers" of Congress in a "blue tsunami" widely attributed to public rejection of the war in Iran.
- Mounting Republican calls for the impeachment of Pete Hegseth, accusing him of encouraging war without an exit strategy.
- Donald Trump is described as a "lame duck" president, losing legitimacy and legislative power following the election disaster.

Expansion of the Yemeni Maritime Blockade

- Sana'a forces have implemented a "siege for siege" equation, targeting any vessels linked to Israel or the "Zionist entity" passing through the Bab-el-Mandeb.
- Israeli shipping has been forced to halt operations in the Red Sea, with 98% of its needs dependent on vulnerable maritime routes.
- Yemen warns it could shut the Strait of Hormuz entirely, potentially pushing oil prices to $200 per barrel.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- The transition to a state of total war has seen modifications to Israel's F-35 fleet, allowing direct round-trip missions to Iran without refueling.
- Iran has removed the previous 2,000-kilometer limit on its missile ranges, now claiming to be able to hit any point outside of northern Scotland.
- Heavy joint US-Israeli airstrikes continue to target residential areas and medical complexes in Gaza and Tehran.

Civil Unrest & Social Order

- Massive student protests in France have led to over 6,800 arrests, with reports of police brutality and harsh detention conditions for minors.
- A nationwide general strike in Spain—the first in 14 years—demands fair wages and affordable housing amid the economic crisis.
- Nightly rallies in Iran have continued for 260 consecutive nights in a display of national solidarity against external threats.

Macroeconomics & Trade

- The Bank of England raised interest rates from 3.75% to 4% to combat war-driven inflation, despite warning of a permanent cost-of-living crisis.
- The IMF projects double-digit economic contractions for Bahrain, Kuwait, and Qatar due to regional instability.
- British public contracts worth $2.8 billion have been identified as involving companies linked to illegal settlements.

Information Warfare & Disinformation

- Israeli social media and media outlets are accused of "narrative seeding" to frame domestic opposition as a threat to national security.
- Iranian officials characterize Western media reports of internal divisions as "false propaganda" aimed at weakening the Resistance front.
- Psychological operations include the distribution of leaflets in Tel Aviv warning of infrastructure collapse if Iran is attacked.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The End of Unilateralism and the Rise of Asymmetric Economic Warfare

A recurring theme across the transcripts is the assertion that the era of Western unilateralism has ended. Analysts argue that Iran and Yemen have successfully weaponized the global economy as effectively as military hardware. By targeting key transit points like the Strait of Hormuz and Bab-el-Mandeb, the Resistance Axis has bypassed conventional military power to strike at the "Achilles heel" of Western governance: energy costs and supply chain stability. This has forced Western governments to chose between their military objectives and the economic survival of their own citizens, a choice that is currently leading to unprecedented domestic political upheaval.

Generational and Societal Shifts in the West Regarding Israel

Data presented by the network suggests a "historic development" in US public opinion, where for the first time in 25 years, more Americans sympathize with Palestinians than Israelis. This shift is most pronounced among those aged 18-34, where sympathy for Palestinians is at 53%. The broadcast interprets this as a growing realization among Western youth that their economic hardships are directly linked to taxpayer-funded support for Israeli military operations. This trend is framed as a foundational threat to the "Zionist lobby's" long-term influence over US foreign policy.

The "Unity of Arenas" and the Regionalization of Resistance

The transcripts highlight a deliberate effort to synthesize local conflicts—Gaza, Yemen,

Lebanon, and Iraq—into a single, interconnected narrative. This "Unity of Arenas" doctrine suggests that any strike on one member of the Resistance Axis will trigger a coordinated response from all others. This is seen in Yemen's blockade being tied to October 7th goals and Iran's refusal to limit its retaliation to the specific geography of an initial attack. The network emphasizes that the "sanctity" of national borders is no longer a constraint for the Resistance, creating a "no went situation" for Western military planners.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

United States: Partisan Fragmentation and Electoral Rejection

- The midterm elections are described as a "total, complete rejection" of Donald Trump, with his own party members distancing themselves from the "disastrous war on Iran."
- Protests have moved from the streets to the offices of top leadership, such as House Minority Leader Hakim Jeffries, as voters demand a decoupling from the Israeli agenda.
- Analysts point to a "republican civil war" with officials scrambling to shift blame for the military quagmire and its associated economic pain.

Iran: Nationalistic Mobilization and Martyrdom Culture

- The funeral of 350 "unknown martyrs" is used as a vehicle for mass mobilization, reinforcing a "culture of sacrifice" that is portrayed as the backbone of Iranian resilience.
- Public sentiment is described as highly unified, with citizens voluntarily signing up for defense campaigns to protect the country from "foreign invaders."
- The network emphasizes that women in Iran are taking a major role in resistance, countering Western narratives of oppression.

France and Spain: Labor Unrest and Institutional Decay

- France is experiencing its most severe police-civilian confrontation in years, with high school students forming "human chains" against "baton-wielding officers."
- Spain's general strike highlights a deep-seated housing crisis and wage insecurity, which the network explicitly links to the diversion of funds for militarization.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

The Frame: A Hostile Threat Matrix and the Collapse of Rules-Based Order

The network frames the international system as a "rule of the jungle" where the US and its allies act with absolute impunity. It characterizes the UN and international courts as "incompetent" and "behooven to the imperialists." In response, Iran is projecting power through "kinetic pain" and "strategic ambiguity," signaling a retreat from trying to resolve issues through a "flawed" diplomatic arrangement.

Strategic Maneuverability and Bloc Politics

- Iran is positioning itself as a superpower that is shouldering the responsibility for regional security, urging neighbors like Saudi Arabia and Bahrain to align with it rather than the US.
- The "Mecca Alliance" (Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey) is mentioned as a potential new security structure, although its stability is questioned given Saudi "duplicity."
- South Korea is reportedly being pressured by the US to expand naval operations in the Strait of Hormuz, indicating a Western effort to "internationalize" the conflict.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The global economic environment is characterized by a "super el nino" of crises, including energy shocks, fertilizer shortages, and a collapsing stock market. The network highlights that the "illegal war" has disrupted the primary transit routes for 20 million barrels of crude oil daily, leading to a staggering increase in refined fuel prices. Financial markets are reportedly in panic, with the "AI investment boom" at risk of sinking due to political instability.

Key Economic Vectors

- **Energy Costs:** $330 billion increase in fossil fuel import costs globally; crude oil at $108/barrel.
- **Inflation & Interest Rates:** UK inflation reaching 5%; Bank of England interest rates raised to 4%.
- **Supply Chain Disruptions:** "Sulfur crisis" threatening electric vehicle batteries and semiconductor manufacturing; Qatar helium supplies at risk.
- **Market Sentiment:** Stock market crashing as investors price in systemic risks from the Iran-Ukraine wars.
- **National Indicators:** IMF projecting double-digit contractions for Persian Gulf economies.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The current political environment is marked by significant erosion of authority in Western capitals and a consolidation of power within the Iranian establishment. The US "blue tsunami" and the potential impeachment of key cabinet members represent a major shift in the US executive branch's freedom of action.

- **Pete Hegseth (US War Secretary):** Facing impeachment threats from both parties for the lack of an exit strategy in the Iran conflict.
- **Donald Trump (US President):** Framed as a "lame duck" and "wild card" who has lost the mandate to govern effectively.
- **Zahran Mamdani (Mayor of New York City):** Characterized as a "token" who betrayed the Palestine movement by failing to fire zionist officials.
- **Masud Pasishan (Iranian President):** Portrayed as resilient and defiant, speaking at international forums to reject Western "bullying."
- **Jean-Luc Mélenchon (French Presidential Contender):** Banned by the Israeli regime from visiting occupied territories for his support of Gaza.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

Lead Stories: The most prominent coverage is given to Iran's new military doctrine, the IRGC strikes in Bahrain, and the economic "quagmire" facing the West. The 260th night of rallies in Iran and the funeral for war martyrs receive significant emotive airtime, emphasizing national unity. The narrative is heavily focused on the cost of war to Western civilians, framing it as an avoidable disaster caused by "Zionist influence."

Buried Stories: Mention of casualties in Gaza's NASA hospital is significant but secondary to the macro-geopolitical maneuvering of Iran. The "third imposed war" in Ukraine is mentioned briefly as an additional burden on Europe, but details are sparse. Internal Saudi dissatisfaction with the Yemen war is alluded to but under-reported.

Tone & Omissions: The tone is one of triumphalism regarding Western difficulties and reverence for Iranian military and spiritual leaders. Conspicuous by its absence is any critical analysis of Iranian civilian casualties or internal dissent within Iran. The network also avoids detailing any successful US-Israeli strikes, focusing instead on their "futile" nature.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The central pattern is the portrayal of the "Resistance Axis" as a competent, principled, and technologically advancing force, while the US-Israeli alliance is depicted as chaotic, inept, and morally bankrupt. This is supported by the narrative that Western leaders are "sore losers" dragging humanity into a "hell hole" to preserve their own power.

COUNTRIES

- **Iran**: Strong, principled, and scientifically advanced. Framed as the only nation with the "stomach" to resist imperialism.
- **United States**: Weak, chaotic, and "politically handcuffed." Portrayed as a declining power whose military ora has vanished.
- **Israel**: A "fake entity" and "Zionist regime" that is inevitably going down.
- **Yemen**: A highly organized and indigenous actor capable of defeating 20 countries simultaneously.
- **Saudi Arabia**: A "puppet" state facing strategic defeat regardless of its choices in Yemen.

LEADERS

- **Donald Trump**: A "Joker" and "wild card" who has been "stunned" by Iranian resistance.
- **Ayatollah Khamenei**: A visionary and steadfast leader whose directives are feared by the West.
- **Pete Hegseth**: An inept "chief cheerleader" for a failed war.

NON-STATE & CORPORATE ACTORS

- **IRGC**: A "competent" force that has "blinded" the US by taking out its radar systems.
- **Hezbollah**: A principled movement serving as the bulwark against Zionist expansion.
- **Fossil Fuel Corporations**: Framed as the only beneficiaries of the war, profiting while civilians suffer.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Narrative Seeding:** The network is active in seeding the narrative that Western economies are collapsing due to the "war on Iran," positioning this as an inevitable result of supporting the "Zionist regime."
- **Psychological Operations:** The broadcast highlights the use of QR-coded leaflets in Tel Aviv as a "psychological warfare effect" designed to terrify the Israeli public into opposing further strikes.
- **Propaganda:** The martyrdom funerals are framed not just as grief but as a "pleasure of allegiance" to the state, intended to signal to foreign intelligence that internal subversion is impossible.
- **Media "Spin":** While Western media might focus on "surgical strikes," Press TV focuses on the "brutality in graphic detail," framing every action as a war crime against civilians.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

Hypotheses

- If Iran follows through with NPT withdrawal, it will likely result in a preemptive nuclear or tactical escalation from Israel, which Iran anticipates and is using as a pretext for "total kinetic retaliation."
- The US midterm results will lead to a legislative freeze on war funding, forcing the US to rely more heavily on clandestine/non-state proxies or withdraw unilaterally.
- Saudi Arabia will likely face an internal institutional collapse if Yemen continues its "siege for siege" strikes on oil processing facilities at Abqaiq.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect an intensification of maritime harassment in the Persian Gulf. Retaliatory strikes on US bases in the region will likely increase in frequency as Iran tests the new "no geographical limits" doctrine. US political gridlock will worsen as Hegseth's impeachment proceeds.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): A formal shift in global energy trade routes as the Strait of Hormuz becomes a "tightened grip" by the Iranian Navy. European economies will face severe rationing as diesel and heating oil strategic reserves are exhausted during the winter months.

Long Term (1-5 Years): The establishment of a "new regional security order" where the US has no permanent military bases in West Asia. This may include a structural shift in the petrodollar system if Iran and its allies continue to bypass the global financial order successfully.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The current environment is saturated with high-impact risks that could lead to regional or global catastrophe.

- **Nuclear Escalation Flashpoint:** Potential for Israel to launch a tactical nuclear strike if Iran formally leaves the NPT. **Triggers:** Formal declaration of NPT exit. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Catastrophic/Global. **Mitigations:** Successful "Islamabad dialogue" or neutral diplomatic mediation.
- **Global Energy Grid Collapse:** Targeted strikes on internet cables and desalination plants in the Persian Gulf. **Triggers:** Another US strike on Iranian "energy facilities." **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Total economic shutdown in the Persian Gulf. **Mitigations:** Immediate regional ceasefire.
- **State Failure of US Allies:** Rapid contraction of Saudi/Kuwaiti economies due to Houthi blockade. **Triggers:** Sustained $100+ oil prices and blockade. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Regional chaos and unstable power transition. **Mitigations:** Saudi acceptance of Houthi "fundamental demands."
- **Mass Civil Unrest in Europe:** Widespread rioting in France and Spain over the cost-of-living crisis. **Triggers:** Winter heating failures. **Likelihood:** Very High. **Impact:** Collapse of governing coalitions in the EU. **Mitigations:** Direct energy subsidies and decoupling from the Iran war.
- **Infrastructure Sabotage:** Cyber and physical attacks on data centers and AI infrastructure in West Asia. **Triggers:** Deployment of new US electronic warfare tools. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Grinding modern life to a halt. **Mitigations:** Non-aggression pact regarding civilian tech infrastructure.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- **Iranian Internal Dissent:** The broadcast omits any mention of the economic toll of the war on the Iranian public or any domestic opposition to the "Third Imposed War."
- **Western Defensive Successes:** No information is provided on successful US/Israeli interceptions of Iranian missiles or the status of their actual military gains.
- **Chinese and Russian Roles:** Despite mentions of "bypassing the West," the specific strategic involvement or limitations placed by China and Russia on Iran's actions remain unclear.
- **Casualty Verification:** Claims of 74,600 Palestinians killed and specific hospital strike details are provided without independent verification or counter-narratives from the IDF.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

- **The "Brink of Collapse" Hypothesis:** The intense focus on national unity and martyrdom may be a desperate attempt to mask a crumbling internal infrastructure and war-weary population in Iran, using the external threat to prevent a second revolution.

- **Western De-escalation as a Tactical Lull:** The "lame duck" status of Trump and the midterm losses may be deliberately exaggerated to lull the Resistance into a false sense of security before a major, coordinated Western-Israeli strike on Iranian leadership.
- **Economic "Black Swan":** A sudden discovery or release of massive strategic oil reserves by non-OPEC nations could crash oil prices, bankrupting the Iranian war effort and ending the leverage of the maritime blockade overnight.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- **Security:** Prepare for "no-limit" retaliatory strikes on domestic infrastructure; harden data center security.
- **Economic:** Accelerate decoupling from Middle Eastern fossil fuels to mitigate the "$330 billion cost" of regional war.
- **Diplomatic:** Formalize channels with the "Resistance Axis" to avoid miscalculations as US executive power diminishes.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chains:** Reroute all maritime logistics away from the Red Sea and Persian Gulf; the "liability is through the roof."
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Audit all public contracts for links to Israeli settlements to avoid legal risk and public backlash.
- **Capital Allocation:** Hedge against systemic risks in AI and semiconductors by diversifying away from regions dependent on West Asian helium/energy.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Governance across the featured nations is increasingly defined by emergency measures and the redirection of funds to militarization. In the US, the legislative agenda is paralyzed by impeachment proceedings and a loss of partisan control.

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **Iranian Defense Doctrine Review:** A formal proposal to authorize withdrawal from the NPT and remove geographical limits on kinetic operations.
- **UK Defense Investment Plan:** A budget allocation aiming for 3.5% of national output for military spending by 2035.
- **US Impeachment Resolution:** A Republican-led effort to remove Pete Hegseth from office for war-related failures.

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Islamabad Dialogue:** Ongoing negotiations between major players to reach a settlement on the West Asian conflict.
- **31st UN Climate Change Conference (Turkey):** Used by Iran to denounce the environmental impact of US-Israeli military operations.

KEY STORIES

- **IRGC Radar Strike in Bahrain:** Destruction of a US radar installation in retaliation for attacks on Siriq city infrastructure.

- **US Midterm "Blue Tsunami":** Democratic Party re-takes both houses of Congress, leading to a "lame duck" presidency for Trump.
- **The $330 Billion Fossil Fuel Shock:** A massive global economic report detailing the unintended costs of the war on Iran.
- **Yemeni Maritime Blockade:** Strategic use of asymmetric warfare to halt Israeli shipping and threaten the Saudi economy.
- **Iran-Iraq War "Martyr" Funerals:** Mass burial of 350 unknown soldiers used as a contemporary rally for national defense.
- **French Student Protests:** Violent clashes between police and student activists in Paris, resulting in thousands of arrests.
- **Spain General Strike:** First nationwide strike in 14 years over housing and energy prices linked to the war.
- **NPT Withdrawal Debate:** Senior Iranian officials arguing for the end of nuclear inspections and the adoption of strategic ambiguity.
- **NASA Medical Complex Strike:** Missiles hit the main surgical department in Gaza, killing six and injuring dozens.
- **US MQ1 Drone Shootdown:** Iranian navy destroys an American surveillance drone off the southern coast.
- **The "Unity of Arenas" Summit:** A high-level meeting of Resistance Axis commanders in Tehran to coordinate global strikes.
- **UK Interest Rate Hike:** Bank of England moves to 4% as inflation remains out of control.
- **Ajamu Baraka's Journey:** A documentary following an American political activist witnessing Iranian resilience first-hand.
- **The "Sulfur Crisis":** Disruption of trade in minerals essential for EV batteries due to the Hormuz blockade.
- **Hakim Jeffries Office Protest:** Arrest of four protesters demanding the House leader step down over his support for Israel.
- **Gaza Shelter Crisis:** 70,000 tents destroyed by flooding and hypothermia during winter storms.
- **The Hegseth Impeachment:** Movement to remove the US war secretary following the midterm election loss.
- **Banning of Jean-Luc Mélenchon:** Israeli regime denies entry to a French presidential contender.
- **Sana'a Siege for Siege Equation:** Houthi forces announcing that any port closed to Yemen will result in an Israeli port being closed.
- **Iranian Missile Range Expansion:** Lifting of the 2,000km limit, placing all of Europe and Africa within reach.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Today's Media Trends is a public interest experiment in applying deep thematic trend analysis to television news coverage from around the world to explore how responsibly applied advanced AI can help journalists and scholars better understand the overarching trends, themes and patterns of our global world.

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

Each morning, in collaboration with the Internet Archive's TV News Archive, we apply Google's Gemini 3 to deeply examine yesterday's coverage from each television

news channel to tease out the overarching themes and trends of its news coverage into a richly annotated thematic analysis. Each high-level insight is connected back to the original broadcast, allowing journalists and scholars to understand the dominate themes and trends and instantly click out to the underlying sources for details.

By helping journalists and scholars see the broader trends and patterns of global news coverage, this analysis helps them identify relevant stories and coverage they might not otherwise have encountered and uncover connections, emphases and narrative shifts that enable more comprehensive reporting and deeper, evidence-based research.

This report is entirely machine generated using Gemini 3 and may include errors and omissions. Please verify all findings. No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

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