

U.S Observer Daily Briefing

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The international landscape on **January 21, 2026**, marks a definitive pivot toward a "Modern Manifest Destiny." At Davos, the **U.S.** administration has linked its **Greenland** acquisition directly to transatlantic trade, threatening **G7** allies with massive tariffs.

This transactional approach extends to the **Middle East**, where **Israel's** inclusion in the "Board of Peace" signals a U.S.-led effort to bypass traditional multilateral mediation in **Gaza**.

While trade with **Taiwan** surges due to AI demand, the **U.S.** is simultaneously pressuring the island to offshore its industry, a move **China** denounces as a "sellout." Whether in the Arctic or South Asia, American policy is now defined by raw leverage, forcing allies to navigate a world where security is treated as a purchasable commodity.

Here are top ten news items shaping the U.S Today:

World Economic Forum 2026 LIVE: Trump's address 'to focus on domestic policy' amid tensions over Greenland

Summary:

U.S. President Donald Trump arrived in Davos today following a presidential jet delay to deliver a special address. While focusing on domestic wins, the speech set the stage for a high-stakes confrontation with European leaders over his administration's aggressive bid to acquire Greenland.

Link: [The Hindu](#)

Russia-Ukraine war: List of key events, day 1,427

On day 1,427, over one million residents in Kyiv were left without power following Russian strikes. In Davos, U.S. and Russian special envoys reportedly held backchannel meetings to discuss a peace framework, reflecting Trump's campaign promise to end the conflict through direct personal diplomacy.

Link: [Al Jazeera](#)

Israel agrees to join Trump's Board of Peace as some European nations say no

Summary:

Prime Minister Netanyahu officially accepted U.S. President Trump's invitation to join the "Board of Peace" to oversee the Gaza ceasefire. This move highlights a shift toward a U.S.-centric mediation model, though allies like France remain skeptical of the board's potential to bypass the United Nations.

Link: [NPR / WYPR](#)

US trade with Southeast Asia and Taiwan surging despite Trump tariffs

Summary:

New trade data reveals that U.S. commerce with Taiwan is reaching record highs despite the "reciprocal tariffs" enacted by the Trump administration. The boom is driven by a massive U.S. demand for AI semiconductors, creating a strategic carve-out for Taiwanese tech in the global trade war.

Link: [Al Jazeera](#)

Mainland denounces Taiwan-US trade deal as 'sellout pact'

Summary:

Beijing issued a stern condemnation of the latest U.S.-Taiwan trade agreement, accusing Washington of "economic bullying." Chinese officials claim the deal forces Taiwan to move critical semiconductor manufacturing to U.S. soil, significantly hollowing out the island's domestic industry to serve American national security interests.

[China Daily](#)

Trump Lists 'Brokering Peace' Between India and Pakistan as 'Key Success' of His First Year

The White House released a "365 Wins" document today, highlighting President Trump's self-attributed success in halting a nuclear-capable conflict between India and Pakistan. The report claims U.S. intervention prevented an escalation following "Operation Sindoor," though New Delhi continues to maintain its policy of bilateral resolution.

[Indian Defence News](#)

Mark Carney tells Davos the old world order is 'not coming back' as Trump heads to Switzerland

Summary:

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney delivered a stinging critique of U.S. foreign policy at Davos, warning that Trump's "Modern Manifest Destiny"—including threats to annex Greenland—is dismantling the rules-based order. Carney urged world leaders to prepare for a transactional era defined by raw American power.

Link: [The Guardian](#)

U.S. Treasury's Bessent says he had positive meeting with Chinese official at Davos

Summary:

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent reported a "positive discussion" with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng in Switzerland today. The meeting focused on implementing the Trump-Xi economic agreement, signaling a cautious attempt to stabilize trade relations even as the U.S. maintains its aggressive tariff posture.

Link: [The Hindu](#)

Europe And US Clash Over Greenland Tariff Threats

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen promised an "unflinching" response to U.S. threats of 10% tariffs on NATO allies. The standoff reached a fever pitch today as Trump reiterated that U.S. control of Greenland is "imperative" for Arctic security against Russian and Chinese influence.

Link: [Grand Pinnacle Tribune / Evrim Ağacı](#)

Trump's Air Force One turns back to Washington after 'minor electrical issue'

A technical failure on the presidential jet delayed Trump's arrival at the World Economic Forum, causing the cancellation of a bilateral meeting with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz. The incident temporarily paused the diplomatic frenzy surrounding the U.S. administration's disruptive "America First" agenda in Davos.

Link: [The Guardian](#)