

GLOBAL WATCH DAILY BRIEFING

BY KASWAR KLASRA

The international landscape on **January 21, 2026**, is defined by acute friction within traditional alliances and experimental diplomatic maneuvers.

At the World Economic Forum, the **U.S.** push to acquire **Greenland** has pushed **NATO** toward a structural crisis, forcing European leaders into a defensive posture while simultaneously pursuing a massive "mother of all deals" trade pact with **India**.

In the **Levant**, a transition is underway as **Israel** joins a **Trump**-led "Board of Peace," signaling a shift toward technocratic governance in Gaza. Meanwhile, the **Russia-Ukraine** conflict escalates in the gray zone; a massive swarm of 75 Ukrainian drones targeted Russian soil overnight, even as backchannel peace talks reportedly commence in Davos.

These developments suggest a volatile era where territorial ambition and unconventional diplomacy are superseding established post-war norms.

Here are ten news articles shaping world today:

World Economic Forum 2026 Day 2 LIVE: 'Grow baby, grow' is U.S. G20 priority, says Bessent

SUMMARY:

U.S. President Donald Trump descends on Davos for a high-stakes showdown with European leaders as his administration's bid to acquire Greenland threatens the NATO alliance, while the EU moves toward a historic "mother of all deals" trade agreement with India.

LINK: [The Hindu](#)

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

SUMMARY: On the 1,427th day of the conflict, Russian strikes killed at least three people in Zaporizhzhia and left over one million residents in Kyiv without power, while special envoys for Trump and Putin met in Davos to discuss a potential peace deal.

LINK: [Al Jazeera](#)

Israel's Netanyahu agrees to join Trump's Board of Peace

SUMMARY:

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced he will join the Trump-led "Board of Peace," an international body tasked with overseeing the Gaza ceasefire and supervising a committee of Palestinian technocrats to manage day-to-day affairs in the territory.

LINK: [NPR / Michigan Public](#)

Russia Downs 75 Ukrainian Drones Overnight

The Russian Ministry of Defense reported the interception of 75 Ukrainian drones across several regions, including 45 over Krasnodar Krai and several over Crimea, marking a significant escalation in aerial warfare as diplomatic efforts continue in Switzerland.

LINK: [Qatar News Agency](#)

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

President Trump was forced to switch aircraft shortly after departure for the Davos summit after Air Force One experienced an electrical fault, ultimately continuing his journey on a backup C-32 to meet world leaders for critical trade and security talks.

LINK: [The Guardian](#)

US trade with Southeast Asia and Taiwan surging despite Trump tariffs

SUMMARY:

Preliminary data for 2026 reveals that U.S. trade with manufacturing hubs in Taiwan and Southeast Asia is booming despite "reciprocal tariffs," as the global demand for AI hardware reshapes supply chains and complicates the Trump administration's trade deficit goals.

LINK: [Al Jazeera](#)

World Enters "Era of Global Water Bankruptcy" A flagship report released on January 21, 2026, warns that irreversible environmental damage has pushed major river basins beyond recovery, urging a fundamental reset of the global water agenda as scarcity becomes a primary driver of geopolitical instability.

LINK: [Global Issues](#)

A Guide to the Countries on Trump's Travel Ban List

SUMMARY:

Starting January 21, 2026, the Trump administration has indefinitely frozen immigrant visa processing for 75 countries, including Russia and Iran, under a "public charge" policy aimed at restricting legal pathways to the U.S. for national security and economic reasons.

LINK: [Council on Foreign Relations](#)

Trump zigzags through wins, foreign policy in one-year anniversary remarks

Marking one year since his return to office, President Trump delivered remarks in Washington highlighting his administration's "wins," including his controversial stance on the Panama Canal and his ongoing efforts to redraw global "spheres of influence."

LINK: [The Hindu](#)

Opinion | Trump's America and the Global Monroe Doctrine: When Power Becomes Policy

SUMMARY:

At the start of 2026, a new "Global Monroe Doctrine" has emerged as the defining philosophy of U.S. foreign policy, shifting the world toward a system where raw power dictates territorial claims over Greenland and interventions in Latin America and the Middle East.

LINK: [Daily News Egypt](#)