

Global Watch Daily Briefing

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The global news cycle on January 24, 2026, captured a world drifting toward harder power politics and thinner diplomatic margins. From Ukraine to the Indo-Pacific, military force is increasingly being used not as a last resort, but as leverage alongside stalled negotiations. Russia's intensified strikes on Ukrainian cities underscore Moscow's belief that battlefield pressure can shape diplomacy, even as U.S.-backed peace initiatives struggle for traction.

Washington's newly unveiled defense strategy reveals a parallel recalibration: prioritizing China as the primary long-term challenger while quietly reducing commitments elsewhere, from the Korean Peninsula to parts of Europe. This shift is unsettling allies, who now face greater responsibility for their own security amid rising threats.

Meanwhile, China's tech confrontation with the U.S. is entering a more complex phase, marked by cautious engagement rather than outright decoupling. Across regions, the message is clear: strategic competition is hardening, alliances are being tested, and the space for cooperative global governance is narrowing fast.

Here are top ten news articles describing what the world's power countries are upto today:

. Pentagon foresees 'more limited' role in deterring North Korea

The US Pentagon's new National Defense Strategy signals a shift toward a reduced U.S. role in deterring North Korea, pushing greater responsibility to South Korea while prioritizing homeland defense and countering China's Indo-Pacific influence.

🔗 <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/pentagon-foresees-more-limited-role-detering-north-korea-2026-01-24/>

2. Ukraine's two largest cities under Russian attack

Russian forces launched heavy bombardment on Kyiv and Kharkiv early Jan. 24, severely damaging energy infrastructure and leaving millions without power — part of intensified attacks amid winter and protracted war.

🔗 <https://www.reuters.com/world/ukrainian-capital-under-russian-attack-air-defences-operation-2026-01-24/>

3. Suicide bombing at Pakistan wedding kills 7, police say

A suicide bomber struck a wedding near Pakistan's Afghan border, killing seven and injuring others, underscoring persistent militant violence and challenges facing Islamabad's counter-terrorism strategy.

🔗 <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/suicide-bombing-pakistan-wedding-kills-7-police-say-2026-01-24/>

4. Russia launches 'brutal' attack on Ukraine as peace talks continue

Russia's large air and drone assault hit Kyiv and Kharkiv amid U.S.-brokered peace negotiations in Abu Dhabi, straining diplomatic efforts while intense combat persists.

🔗 <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/jan/24/russia-launches-deadly-strikes-on-kyiv-and-kharkiv-ahead-of-day-two-of-peace-talks>

5. Envoys travel the globe to push a US plan for ending Russia's war

U.S. diplomatic teams are actively advocating a multi-point peace plan to end Russia's war in Ukraine, engaging Moscow, Kyiv, and European capitals despite significant diplomatic hurdles.

🔗 <https://apnews.com/article/563358928ede87d5a08ed5f4082a4d7c>

6. US unveils national defence strategy to counter China in Indo-Pacific

The U.S. released a new defense strategy focusing on countering China's influence while strengthening alliances, avoiding direct confrontation over Taiwan, and balancing global military readiness.

🔗 <https://www.ft.com/content/a0153971-1e92-4ff8-b603-e393e7b6c93f>

7. Pentagon's new defense strategy strikes conciliatory tone on China

Analysts note the U.S. defense strategy adopts a more diplomatic posture toward China, emphasizing stability and communication, yet reinforces deterrence capabilities in the Indo-Pacific.

🔗 <https://www.wsj.com/politics/national-security/pentagons-new-defense-strategy-strikes-conciliatory-tone-on-china-03b0940f>

8. Moscow keen to relaunch trilateral cooperation under RIC format

Russia aims to revive the Russia-India-China (RIC) strategic cooperation forum to enhance dialogue and geopolitical coordination amid global tensions and shifting alliances.

🔗 <https://m.economictimes.com/news/india/moscow-keen-to-relaunch-trilateral-cooperation-among-russia-india-and-china-under-ric-format/articleshow/127098861.cms>

9. Taiwan offers talks with Ukraine on sanctions-busting cooperation

Taiwan's president proposed collaboration with Ukraine to tackle sanctions evasion involving arms and high-tech components, signaling expanded Taipei engagement in global security issues.

🔗 <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/taiwan-offers-talks-with-ukraine-weapons-sanctions-busting-2026-01-23/>

10. Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang in Shanghai amid China regulatory headwinds

Nvidia's CEO visits China amid scrutiny of AI chips by Chinese authorities, highlighting tech competition and regulatory pressures in the U.S.–China tech rivalry.

🔗 <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/nvidia-ceo-jensen-huang-shanghai-amid-china-regulatory-headwinds-2026-01-24/>

11. U.S. administration pushes out official tied to China tech restrictions

The Trump administration ousted a key Commerce official who led restrictions on Chinese tech, reflecting shifts in U.S. tech policy and China relations.

🔗 <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/trump-administration-pushes-out-official-whose-unit-banned-chinese-vehicles-2026-01-23/>

12. (Supplemental) Reuters live index: Russia-Ukraine war & global tensions

A live Reuters feed updated Jan. 24 covers Russia's major attack on Ukraine, diplomatic talks, global conflicts, and broader geopolitical developments tied to U.S., China, and allied strategies.

🔗 <https://www.reuters.com/>

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