

# U.S OBSERVER WEEKLY BRIEFING

**19-25 JAN 2026**

Last week's briefings reveal a decisive transformation in U.S. foreign policy toward a bluntly transactional order where leverage eclipses alliances. The Greenland standoff crystallized Washington's willingness to pressure NATO partners with tariffs to secure strategic access, accelerating Europe's push for strategic autonomy and independent defense capacity. Simultaneously, the launch of the U.S.-led "Board of Peace" for Gaza institutionalized pay-to-play diplomacy, sidelining multilateral institutions while reframing conflict resolution as an economic enterprise.

Across theaters, American power is now exercised through market pressure as much as military posture—seen in threats against Canada over China trade, shifting defense burdens onto allies in Europe and Asia, and selective engagement in Ukraine diplomacy. Markets responded nervously, driving gold to record highs as fears of multi-front trade wars mounted. Meanwhile, China maneuvered between confrontation and stabilization, balancing export controls with cautious diplomatic outreach.

Together, the week's developments signal the erosion of the post-war rules-based order, replaced by a fluid system where sovereignty, security, and peace are increasingly negotiated as transactional assets rather than collective responsibilities.

## **10** Most Important Articles of the Week

### **1. Greenland Acquisition Bid Triggers U.S. Tariff Threats Against European Allies**

Trump's administration threatened 10% tariffs on European nations to pressure Denmark into a Greenland deal, sparking outrage across the EU and raising fears of a fundamental rupture in transatlantic relations.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/1/19/dangerous-downward-spiral-european-leaders-slam-trumps-tariff-threat>

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### **2. Gaza "Board of Peace" Invites Nations With \$1 Billion Permanent Seats**

Washington unveiled a new U.S.-led Gaza reconstruction body charging massive fees for influence, bypassing the UN and reshaping Middle East diplomacy around financial commitments rather than multilateral consensus.

<https://www.theintelligencer.net/news/top-headlines/2026/01/more-countries-confirm-invites-to-trumps-board-of-peace-for-gaza-1-billion-buys-a-permanent-seat/>

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### **3. EU Prepares for ‘Acrimonious Divorce’ From Washington**

European officials warned the transatlantic partnership may be beyond repair as U.S. tariff threats over Greenland and trade deepen calls for economic and security independence from American pressure.

<https://caliber.az/en/post/politico-europe-prepares-for-break-with-washington-after-trump-s-greenland-threat>

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### **4. Gold Hits Record Highs as China-U.S. Trade Fears Intensify**

Escalating tariff threats across multiple fronts pushed investors toward safe havens, sending gold prices soaring as markets braced for a prolonged global trade confrontation.

<https://evrimagaci.org/gpt/gold-and-silver-soar-as-trump-threatens-tariffs-524480>

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### **5. NATO Nations Deploy Troops to Greenland Amid Crisis**

Seven NATO members established a security presence in Greenland to deter U.S. annexation pressures, marking an unprecedented standoff within the alliance itself.

<https://www.highnorthnews.com/en/seven-nato-members-deploy-troops-greenland-deter-annexation>

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### **6. Spain Refuses to Join Trump’s Board of Peace**

Madrid rejected participation in the U.S.-led peace architecture, reaffirming support for UN-centered diplomacy and highlighting fractures among Washington’s traditional allies.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/spain-will-not-join-trumps-board-peace-pm-says-2026-01-23/>

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### **7. Pentagon Unveils 2026 Defense Strategy Prioritizing Homeland and China**

The new U.S. defense blueprint shifts focus toward domestic security and countering China, reducing conventional commitments to allies in Europe and Northeast Asia.

<https://www.newsweek.com/pentagon-reveals-2026-defense-strategy-4-key-takeaways-11411386>

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### **8. Trump Threatens Canada With 100% Tariffs Over China Trade Deal**

Washington escalated economic pressure on Ottawa, signaling a hardened doctrine where allies engaging Beijing face punitive U.S. retaliation.

<https://apnews.com/article/trump-canada-china-trade-tariffs>

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## **9. Ukraine, U.S., and Russia Begin Trilateral Talks in Abu Dhabi**

The first three-way negotiations aimed to address territorial disputes and potential ceasefire frameworks as the war grinds into its fourth year.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/jan/23/us-ukraine-russia-abu-dhabi-talks-putin-witkoff-kushner>

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## **10. Nvidia CEO Visits Shanghai Amid U.S.-China Tech Rivalry**

Jensen Huang engaged Chinese officials as Nvidia navigated regulatory barriers and growing fears of China's push toward semiconductor self-sufficiency.

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

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